

DECEASED FRIENDS FROM ANN ARBOR MEETING, 2024-25

Six members of the Ann Arbor Friend Meeting community died within the last year, and five were members. One, Phyllis Reynolds, who died on May 1, 2025, had attended Evanston Friends Meeting for many years, but lived in Ann Arbor for the past year and a half. Our members who died include Alan Connor, in September, Catherine McClary, in December, Ruth Zweifler, in January, Anne Ogren, in March, and Robin Warner, in May. We have memorial minutes prepared for Al and Anne, which we will read. Memorial minutes are planned for Catherine, Ruth, and Robin, and we expect to submit them to the LEYM Annual Records and website. For now, we will just say a few words about each of the latter three.

Alan Connor Memorial Minute [separate file]

Anne Ogren Memorial Minute (provisional) [separate file]

Catherine McClary died suddenly on December 2, 2024, just a few days before her planned retirement from her long-time position as Treasurer of Washtenaw County, Michigan. Altogether she spent 40 years serving the residents of our county, having become the youngest person to serve as a County Commissioner in 1974. The values she held dear spoke through her actions in public life. Catherine was dedicated to equity, and, as County Treasurer, helped create initiatives to address housing affordability and disparities in generational wealth. As a County Commissioner, she was instrumental in founding a haven for victims of domestic violence, and earlier worked on the successful creation and passage of the 1974 Michigan Criminal Sexual Conduct Act, a law that became a national model and redefined rape in terms of hostility and violence rather than as a crime of passion. Catherine became a member of Ann Arbor Meeting in 2010. She, her husband, Mike Merrick, their children, and granddaughter, were faithful attenders for decades. Catherine was a member of the Meeting's writers' group and supported many Friends with words of encouragement. She leaves behind her husband, Mike, and granddaughter, Amera, as active members of our Meeting community.

Ruth Zweifler, who died at age 95 in January 2025, was also a strong advocate for justice and equality in the public sector. Her special concern was in the realm of education, where she saw that children of color were disadvantaged in the public school system and worked to correct that. More than 50 years ago she founded the Student Advocacy Center (SAC) in

Ann Arbor to support and encourage young people who were marginalized and served as its director for decades. Under Ruth's leadership, SAC successfully sued the Ann Arbor School District in 1977 in what has become known as the Black English case, claiming that the school failed to meet the educational needs of children because of their use of African American Vernacular English, or Ebonics. Ruth became interested in Quakerism as a student at Bryn Mawr, marrying fellow student Andy Zweifler in 1955. They were members of the Ann Arbor Meeting community for many decades, with Ruth joining as a member in 1962. Ruth was a pivotal member of the Meeting's Peace and Social Justice Committee and advocated tirelessly for Gazans through the Meeting's Palestine-Israel Action Group. Ruth and Andy opened their home to numerous family and friends who needed a place to stay, whether for a night or a year. She challenged all of us to see and understand the problems of the world and, above all, to take action.

Robin Warner died at the age of 81 on May 5, 2025. He attended Earlham College, then the University of Michigan, and lived at Friend Lake Community in Chelsea, Michigan for some time. Robin was a machinist who became interested in computers and worked in IT for many years. In his retirement he planted hundreds of trees each year, turning the land he lived on outside of Dexter, Michigan, into the Dexter Tree Farm. He primarily planted native trees, trying to restore species that had become rare in Michigan. Robin and his wife, Helen Welford, were avid contra, country, and vintage dancers, often travelling to events in the U.S. and abroad. Robin joined Ann Arbor Meeting in 1964 and was a regular at our early Meeting for Worship. He served on the Board of the Friends School of Detroit for nine years, including several years as Board Clerk, and also lent his considerable tech talents to the School. He served on the Ann Arbor Meeting's Property Committee and Finance Committees. Robin's lively but quiet presence in our meeting will be missed.