

## **Memorial Minute for Anne Elisabeth Ogren**

### **February 18, 1945 – March 12, 2025**

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, to Donald and Margaret (Vandenburgh) Ogren, Anne was the middle child of three. She was raised within the Des Moines Friends Meeting, and her family lived out the values of social justice, embracing others, and community service – values that she lived by throughout her life. Her family home was filled with music and singing, and she began playing violin at an early age. After studying at Drake University and Earlham College, she earned a degree in violin performance from the Cincinnati Conservatory, a Master's degree in music theory from the University of Wisconsin, and a Master's in music education from the University of Michigan.

Anne's passion for music never diminished – she played violin professionally with orchestras every place she lived, including the Ann Arbor Symphony for over 30 years. She was also a founding member of Childgrove, an English country dance band with whom she traveled across the U.S. and even to France. She taught countless private violin students out of her home, and dedicated 17 years to teaching orchestra at Abbott Middle School in West Bloomfield Public Schools, inspiring generations of students.

Anne became active in Ann Arbor Friends Meeting in the mid-1990s, eventually serving on eight committees, most notably the Membership and Outreach Committee for twelve years, convening or co-convening it for five years. She joined the Meeting as a member in 2004. In the pre-COVID years, Anne was one of the beloved caring grandmothers who looked after the Meeting's youngest children in the nursery.

Anne was an adventurous traveler who embraced cultures from around the world. Her journeys took her to some twenty countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Central America. She was captivated by the music, traditions, and natural beauty of every place she visited. Her five trips to Kenya had a profound impact on her and she made lasting connections there, supporting the education of young Kenyan scholars as well as teaching violin classes for the Meru Music Program.

Anne inherited a love of birdwatching from her parents and passed this knowledge and passion on to her daughters. She was known for her easygoing disposition, her wonderful sense of humor, and full laugh. Anne made indelible friendships throughout her life, and lovingly nurtured these connections.

In March 2025, Anne passed away at the age of 80, with her loving daughters by her side. At the celebration of her life, on April 13, 2025, at the Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, Friends remembered her love of family, her kindness, her healthy cooking (and the ever-ready availability of homemade granola at her house), her deep concern for social justice, and generosity without boundary. Anne is deeply missed by her three daughters, Heidi (Steve) Snyder, Abigail "Abby" Alwin, and Rebecca "Becky" (Rich) Cox; her grandchildren, Zach (Becca) Snyder, Drew (Emily) Snyder, and Rebekah Snyder; her great-granddaughter, Junia Snyder; and her brothers, Paul (Cherie) Ogren and Ben (Joyce) Ogren.