

Memorial Minute for Hanna Deutsch Clampitt (Birmingham)

May 27, 1933 - November 5, 2022

Hanna Deutsch Clampitt died quietly on November 5, 2022, in the company of her beloved husband, Philip Clampitt, in Troy, Michigan. They were married for more than 62 years. She is survived by her husband and their two adult children, Ted and Holly, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Hanna was born May 27, 1933, in Vienna, Austria. She joined her brother, Michael, three years older, to the delight of her parents, Emil and Regina Deutsch. In 1938, with the rise of Hitler and anti-Semitism, the Deutsch family moved from Austria to England and then, in 1939, to the United States. In July 1939, they were welcomed by the Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees, a former Quaker boarding school near West Branch, Iowa, which, during the war, was turned into the hostel.

By 1943, refugees were no longer able to leave Europe safely. As Scattergood was no longer needed for refugees, it reopened as a boarding school in the fall of 1944. Hanna and her brother, Michael, attended as students and both graduated from Scattergood. After Scattergood, Hanna attended Earlham, a Quaker college, in Richmond, Indiana, earning her Bachelor of Arts.

Hanna married Philip Clampitt under the care of the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting in Iowa on June 12, 1960. The honeymoon, which started their many adventures together, took them to California, which was the first in a long life of travels and road trips. Their son, Ted, was born in Iowa City, Iowa. After the family moved to Michigan, their daughter, Holly, was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Hanna was an advocate for youth and worked with them in various capacities throughout her life. Hanna was gifted not only in working with youth but in working with adults as well. To further this skill, she earned a master's degree in Humanistic and Clinical Psychology in Detroit at the Center for Humanistic Studies. She worked for over ten years at Chippewa Valley High School, providing support for struggling students. She provided a safe environment for individuals and groups to talk. She initiated many activities so students could interact and get to know each other in a positive, non-competitive atmosphere. She was elected to the Ferndale School Board, where she served for over eight years.

Hanna, even in her 60s, seemed to have the energy and enthusiasm of a 25-year-old. She was active with the Society of Friends in her local Meeting in Birmingham, Michigan, as well as participating in Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

Hanna had endless love for her family and friends, and always had a listening ear for those in need. With her smile and sparkling eyes, she spread her continuous love and joy of life to all who came in contact with her.