

Memorial Minute for Regula Kummer-Josi (Broadmead)
May 15, 1943 – September 16, 2022

Regula Kummer-Josi, beloved member of Broadmead Monthly Meeting of Friends, died on September 16, 2022, in Toledo, Ohio, where she had lived for many years.

Regula was born in Switzerland in 1943 and came to Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the mid-1960s to work on a research project. She fully intended to return to Switzerland when the project was complete, but, while here, she met Martin Kummer, a fellow Swiss, who was teaching at the University of Toledo. Regula and Martin were married in 1967.

Regula and Martin began attending the Toledo Worship Group of Broadmead Friends Meeting in the 1990s and quickly became an integral part of the Meeting. Both Regula and Martin played the recorder and, together with others from the Meeting, started a practice of having music in the half hour before the beginning of worship.

In Meeting they were sensitive to small things that can make a big difference, such as making certain that people with transportation problems got to Meeting or arranging for a member with limited funds to get new eyeglasses. If Regula took a friend to a doctor's appointment, and that friend requested that they take a side trip to visit "the old neighborhood," Regula would make time for the side trip.

Regula also helped start the "afghans for Afghans" project after the bombing began in Afghanistan. For the project, she personally knitted hundreds of rectangles that were then put together artistically by other members of the Meeting. This small group spent many hours together assembling the blankets and shipping them overseas. More than 100 afghans were made and donated, but, equally important, Regula's gift created a wonderful sense of Quaker community among all those who helped on the project.

Both Regula and Martin believed that it was important to be of service to the community, which led to their volunteering to tutor young people who were at risk of becoming involved in the legal system. Regula expressed her belief in service to the community by becoming a CASA/GAL (Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem) for neglected or abused children.

She was devoted to the individuals she represented and known for the creativity and tenacity she brought to her work. She received numerous awards and recognition for her CASA service, most significantly when she was named as the 550th “Point of Light,” in President George H. W. Bush’s 1000 Points of Light.

Regula and Martin both loved travel and the arts. Thanks to Martin’s work, they, along with their son, Lukas, were able to travel and live in several different places, including New York City, Switzerland, and Canada. In Toledo, they enjoyed Toledo Symphony concerts, hiking and cross-country skiing, and nature. Together, they brought a sense of European sophistication to our Midwestern meeting that was a breath of fresh air.

After Martin’s death, Regula continued and expanded her volunteering. She became active with Hospice of Northwest Ohio, where staff remember Regula for her reliability, understanding, and flexibility. During this period, Regula also became a devoted volunteer with *El Porvenir*, an organization that works with rural villages in Nicaragua to educate communities about clean water and to build infrastructure in the form of latrines, wells, and washing facilities. Regula began joining the work trips early in the organization’s existence and worked alongside local residents in digging foundations, building walls, and all manner of physical labor. In the early years of the work, the accommodations for volunteers were minimal, but Regula accepted it with a shrug and threw herself into whatever tasks were needed. Later, another member of Broadmead, Janet Smith, joined her on the work trips.

During one of these trips, Regula became aware of a local girl working with the group who was profoundly deaf. Regula was convinced that the young woman would benefit from having a cochlear implant. She returned to the U. S. and to Broadmead Friends Meeting determined to raise the money necessary for the young woman to travel to Costa Rica for the surgery. The money was raised quickly enough, but there remained the bureaucratic

issues of getting the young woman and her grandmother (and guardian) to Costa Rica, where the surgery was available. Even more complicated was the issue of transferring the money to pay for the surgery in a safe and legal manner. During this time, Regula's determination and attention to detail were strongly in evidence. The young woman received the implant as well as follow-up treatment and a computer to assist with her therapy.

Regula always enjoyed travel, returning to Switzerland often to visit family. She was a proud Swiss her entire life and absolutely convinced that, if a product were made in Switzerland, it would certainly be the best possible product of its type. She frequently traveled with friends, especially Janet Smith and other Quakers. With her wide cultural knowledge, skill with multiple languages, and curiosity about new things, she was an engaging and compatible traveling companion.

From the time she began attending Broadmead Monthly Meeting with her husband, Regula was a mainstay of the group. When she was not traveling, she was always present, arriving early and helping to tidy up at the end. In later years, her health failed, and she was unable to attend in person. When the pandemic arrived and the Meeting turned to online-only meetings, Regula was a faithful attender again, always in a box on our screens, even until the Sunday before her death. Her quiet, steady presence is deeply missed.