

**Memorial Minute for Rose A. Gaus Conrad
(North Columbus)**

June 12, 1927 – January 9, 2023

Rose Conrad passed away on Monday, January 9, 2023. After moving to Columbus from Chicago in 2002, Rose and her husband, Wallace, were very active in our Meeting for as many years as their strength and stamina allowed. Wally passed away in 2013, and Rose's attendance at Meeting gradually declined in the years following.

The wick of the family's connection to Quakers was first lit when Wallace (Wally) began attending Meeting in Chicago after the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. He never

took formal membership, reserving his right to use force against a future dictator like Hitler or Stalin. He brought their children to Oak Park Meeting at an early age and introduced silent meeting with a light touch. At North Columbus Friends Meeting (NCFM), Wally served on Nominating and Ministry & Nurture committees.

Rose joined NCFM's House Committee and is fondly remembered for her enthusiasm for service on the International Festival Committee. She always managed to be present for the International Parade. She was by nature an activist and had no barrier to protest on street corners when an issue like entry into the Iraq war occurred.

Rose and Wally both loved Potluck Sunday and cleared their calendar to sit with Friends casually. Their desire was to be of help in Meeting business and to offer physical assistance to Friends, as possible. For example, they took on the task of pruning the shrubs on the front lawn without being asked, hauling the many trimmings back home for yard waste pick-up. They always showed up for house workdays.

Rose's daughter Shelby Conrad was active in NCFM for 20 years, beginning in 1997. Shelby served on many committees, including M&N, PSAC, Audit, Newsletter, Nominating, Finance, and many ad hoc efforts. The connection continued more recently through granddaughter Veronica Barron, who is active with Cambridge Friends Meeting in Massachusetts.

During the pandemic, Rose's daughter Amy Barron (Veronica's mother) began virtually attending the Cambridge Prayer Group. After a prayer meeting in which she was particularly distraught about Rose's needs, Amy's heart opened, and it became obvious that the Columbus family needed support. Amy felt moved to reach out to old friends/Friends and even Rose's dentist, in December 2022, as Rose was not doing well.

Several NCFM Friends (and her dentist!) spent time with Rose at Wesley Glen Retirement Community during the few weeks that

the family was waiting for Rose to be transferred to the Memory Care unit. Much appreciation has been expressed for these visits, which gave great hope. Rose is also survived by son Forrest “Woody” Conrad, who lives in Massachusetts, and Willa Conrad-Burleigh, who lives in suburban Philadelphia. Rose and Wally are survived by their children, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.