

MARY LOU BAKER GOULD - A MEMORIAL MINUTE

With the passing from this life of Mary Lou Baker Gould we pause at this time to commemorate the vital and vibrant role she played in the life of Newtown Friends Meeting for more than fifty years. While her absence may be lamented, she was so much a part of each one of us that the mere thought of her will recall a vision of her smiling countenance, sitting in her accustomed place on the front row bench at the East end of the meeting room. So, she has not really left us.

Mary Lou was born "some years ago" into a Quaker family in Southern New Jersey, the ancestry of which dates back more than 300 years ago to the 17th century. She also claims descent from a member of the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont. She was a graduate of George School, Class of 1946. Following her graduation, Mary Lou entered Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey) where she earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Education, with a Reading Specialty. She was a volunteer tutoring foreign students at Princeton University in order to help them become acclimated to this country.

Following their marriage she and her husband, David F. Gould II, built a modest ranch style house at the edge of a wood lot north of Newtown. It was here that they raised their two sons - David F. Gould III and Geoffrey C Gould. Part of the charm of this location was the fact that there was no sound from the traffic on Washington Crossing Road. It was from here she and David would ride to the Meetinghouse on their bicycles. They were both very fond of cycling.

Mary Lou became a willing and dedicated member of this Meeting. She served on a number of committees and applied her teaching skills in the First Day School, where she was much loved by her students. She had a keen interest in the business of the meeting where her sound judgment was greatly respected. She had strong and positive ideas about the business of the Meeting, yet, she never stood in the way of the sense of the Meeting.

Mary Lou was open and friendly with everyone, and especially went out of her way to make new members feel at ease in their new spiritual home. Accordingly, she was much loved by the Meeting.

Mary Lou is survived by her husband David and her two sons: David and his wife Susan, and their children - Crystal and her husband Marcus, - Lee and his wife Elizabeth, and Shaun, and her son Geoffrey. Also surviving are four great grandchildren - Griffin, Bryer, Adeline and Edith.

This Minute is submitted for consideration and approbation by a regularly scheduled Meeting for Worship with a Focus on Business. Upon its approval, it further recommended that this Minute be made a part of the records of the Meeting and a copy thereof sent to Mary Lou's family.

Respectfully,



Paul Kester, Scrivener