



Barbara Ann Bennett Mays

February 13, 1944 - September 13, 2020

RICHMOND, Ind. – Barbara Ann Bennett Mays, age 76, of Richmond, Indiana, passed away on Grandparents Day, September 13, 2020, at Golden Living Center – Golden Rule, where she had resided for five years.

Born February 13, 1944, to parents, Pete and Esther Bennett, Barbara Ann was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, aunt, and friend. She served her family and community graciously with a fierce, yet quiet devotion to honesty and justice. When not reading and writing, Barbara Ann could be found teaching dance (her life-long passion), making gifts for family and friends, and camping at the local reservoir.

While working toward her Bachelor of Arts in journalism at Indiana University (1965), Barbara Ann wrote and edited for the Indiana Daily Student. Through her writing career, she served as an administrator, teacher, writer, and editor, primarily with Quaker schools and publishers. Barbara Ann did her best to walk the Quaker talk of simplicity, integrity, and equality for peace in her home and throughout the world. After her youngest child graduated from high school, Barbara Ann simplified her obligations and served several years as resident staff at Pendle Hill Quaker Conference Center, Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

Barbara Ann's hymns are published in "Worship in Song: A Friends Hymnal". She was pivotal in the publication of several Quaker pamphlets and books, including "Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice" by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye (2009, Quaker Press of FGC) and "Black Fire - African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights" edited by Harold D. Weaver Jr., Paul Kriese, and Steven W. Angell (2011, Quaker Press of FGC).

Barbara Ann contributed to the evolution of Earlham School of Religion's writing program while serving as an adjunct professor in the Ministry of Writing emphasis (2001-2009). She also served several years with United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg. In the late 1970s, while a full-time homemaker with three young children, Barbara Ann co-

founded the Friends Preschool Academy (a school of excellence to this day) in Muncie, Indiana. Generally modest, she was proud to have raised three artists.

Barbara Ann is survived by her three children, Jim Hollingsworth, John Hollingsworth, and Megan Hollingsworth; grandson, Eli; stepbrother, Rick Parke; nieces and nephews; cousins; and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; aunts and uncles; and several cousins.

A private, unprogrammed burial service was held Saturday, September 19, 2020, at Earlham Cemetery. A Celebration of Life is planned for September 2021.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at www.doanmillsfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

Earlham Cemetery

1101 National Road West

Richmond, IN, 47374

Comments



“ I knew Barbara partly by working with her at Charles Elementary School, but mostly from doing ballroom dancing with her and Rex for several years as part of the Whitewater Ballroom Dance Club, and a grateful participant in their weekly ballroom dance lessons. I will always remember Barb's quiet humor and grace, and passion for the joy of dance.

Erica Pearson

Erica Pearson - September 21 at 11:22 AM



“ I was Barbara's student at Earlham School of Religion, and later I was her assistant at Friends United Press. She was a great teacher and boss. She's also the only person I ever met who loved the film Strictly Ballroom as much as (possibly more than) I did. While I'm saddened by news of her death, I am gladdened to recall the intersection of her life with mine!

Jeff Crim - September 21 at 09:46 AM



“ Barbara's ability to write meaningful songs and hymns and her extraordinary careful work with the committee compiling the most recent Friends hymnal, WORSHIP IN SONG, used in Quaker circles everywhere, will stand as her legacy. Her editing and teaching were all first class, as well. I'm glad to have known her for many years and call her my friend among Friends.

Peggy Ann Hollingsworth - September 19 at 05:04 PM



“ Sharon and Eldon Harzman have fond memories of Barbara, from our first visit with her in our home in North Carolina to the many years of friendship in Richmond, Indiana, especially the years she worked at Friends United Press and she and Paul were at Quaker Hill.

Eldon Harzman - September 19 at 09:25 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Whitney Lantz and the Staff of Doan & Mills - September 18 at 03:57 PM