

### **Memorial Minute for Mary Lou Baum**

Mary Louise Hudson Baum was born in Spokane, Washington, on January 3, 1920. She graduated from George Washington University in 1942, and received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Columbia University, in 1945. She and her husband, Werner Christian Baum, settled in Delmar, New York, where they raised their two daughters, Marilyn and Marjorie. She also enjoyed her six grandchildren as they grew and thrived.

Mary Lou enjoyed a long career at Parsons Child and Family Center in Albany, starting in 1962 as a social worker, and retiring in 1996 at the age of 77. While working for Parsons, she went so far as to travel to South Korea to pick up children to be adopted. Her colleagues there describe her as “an outstanding administrator, clinician, and teacher, who was highly respected at the agency and by professionals in the community.” She also had the opportunity to teach English as a Second Language while living in China.

She extended her world travels far and wide, in order to indulge her love of opera as well.

Mary Lou was an active member of Albany Friends Meeting for more than 60 years, serving on many committees, as well as being Clerk of the Meeting itself. Her contributions to the Meeting in other ways were generous and thoughtful, such as purchasing a grave marker for a member who had passed on, and donating money to help fund a trip to Guatemala by several other AFM members. She served on several committees of New York Yearly Meeting as well, including Indian Affairs and Disability Concerns. She remained a contributing and valued person in the Albany Meeting, even after her move to independent senior living, in East Greenbush, New York.

Although Mary Lou was a “46-er” with the Adirondack Mountain Club, having climbed all 46 peaks, her main interests while leading hikes centered around the flowers, plants, and other phenomena that she found “off-trail”.

She was a shining example of all the Quaker testimonies - simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality, but she demonstrated the value of stewardship above all others. Her love of nature and support for the preservation of the earth and its ecosystems were unfailing.

In the last year of her life, Mary Lou was lovingly cared for by her daughter Marilyn, and passed away at Saratoga Hospital on November 21, 2015. A memorial service for all who knew and valued Mary Lou took place on Saturday, April 30, in Albany, New York.