

MIRIAM LINDSEY LEVERING
October 4, 1913 - November 10, 1991

Miriam Lindsey Levering, a member of Friends Meeting of Washington since 1935, died suddenly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 10, 1991. Her family and her many friends share their loss and grief, and celebrate a life well lived. Miriam was an extraordinary woman and leader. She was an enthusiastic and concerned worker for many causes aimed toward the betterment of the human condition - world wide and at home. She made great contributions to Quakerism and peace and justice.

Miriam was an extraordinary woman, but also a very ordinary one. She loved a good chat - about her children and yours, about interesting books, fun occasions, interesting people. You had a problem; she had a problem - you discussed them. You never had to dissemble with Miriam. You could be yourself. She made you feel you were her very special friend. You appreciated her warmth and genuineness. She listened and questioned; she gave advice with sweetness, humor and wisdom. She accepted your help with much graciousness.

Miriam Levering was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1913. Her parents, Earl Lindsey and Lois Whitmarsh were members of the Methodist Church, in which her father was a minister. She married Samuel Levering, June 18, 1934, the day she was graduated from Cornell University. From 1935 to 1939 they lived in Washington, D.C., where they joined the Friends Meeting of Washington. Miriam worked for the National Council for the Prevention of War, organizing support for peace by traveling and lecturing.

They moved to Ararat, Virginia, to become orchardists. They were growers of trees and nurturers of plants, but Miriam and Sam always felt their most important legacy was their family. Over the next 25 years they raised four daughters and two sons, and as the years went by the family increased; they found joy and pride in their children and their nine grandchildren, three of whose presence we value as members of Friends Meeting of Washington.

In 1964 and 1965, Miriam returned to college for education courses at Wake Forest. Following her mother's footsteps, she taught in the Ararat High School in the late sixties and early seventies. This was a time for school integration, a time when Miriam's gentleness, intelligence and gift for motivating us to work for higher values in our lives were greatly needed.

In 1972, Miriam and Sam returned to Washington to work together on the Law of the Seas Treaty. While Sam was a lobbyist with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Miriam worked for the Ocean Education Project of the American Freedom Foundation, to keep law of the seas issues in the public eye. In 1975, she and Sam went to the Law of the Sea Conferences in Geneva, Switzerland, Caracas, Venezuela, and Jamaica. Representing the Friends World Committee for Consultation, they talked with delegates from many nations and presented working papers during the conferences.

Miriam was an active leader in many organizations, including North Carolina Yearly Meeting, United World Federalists, the United Society of Friends Women, and was founder of the Church Center for the United Nations, and a trustee of Guilford College. Her nurturing leadership was

evident at a recent annual meeting for the Friends Committee on National Legislation when, as a member of the Futures Committee, she spoke about her vision for FCNL's work in the next fifty years. At the time of her death she was traveling to a meeting for the governing board of the National Council of Churches, where she was to have represented Friends United Meeting.

During her many trips to Washington we valued Miriam's ministry in our Meeting.