

LILLIAN FREDERIKSEN

1936 - 2014

Don read the memorial minute for Lillian Fredericksen, which we approved for forwarding to the yearly meeting to be read there.

#### 2015.03.04 Lillian Frederiksen Memorial Minute

Lillian Frederiksen was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 17, 1936 and died in Austin Texas on July 5, 2014. The daughter of a machinist and house cleaner, she graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and devoted herself to a career in social work. She served in hospitals, in poverty relief programs, and later in her career found a calling in marriage counseling.

She authored a book on the topic, whose title carried her consistent message of self-compassion: *Marry Yourself First*.

She was active in the struggle for racial equality, and was recognized for her efforts in a personal letter from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lillian came to Austin from Newburgh, New York in 2010 to live near her only child, her beloved son, Paul. Soon after arriving Lillian became a regular attender and active member of Friends Meeting of Austin.

What stands out when we think of Lillian is her warmth and kind interest in others, her graciousness, and her courageous honesty. She looked at herself, her limitations, and her connection to Friends with a clear, direct focus. In her vocal ministry she used few words but each word was carefully chosen. She sometimes jolted us awake, to acknowledge the pain of aging or the fragile and precious connection between herself and our community. She had the courage and intellectual discipline to interrogate every situation with unflinching honesty. We learned from her and greatly miss her presence and ministry amongst us.