

Memorial Minute for Helen Horn
April 11, 1932 – April 29, 2018

With great sadness, Athens Friends share the news that our beloved Helen Horn lost her life in a traffic accident on April 29, 2018. Helen was a lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends and helped to found the Athens Friends Meeting. Known for her tenacious, passionate activism for social justice, Helen also illuminated our lives with her poetry and her love of nature and music. She led workshops using the arts and small group sharing at Pendle Hill as well as in Ohio. In 2008

Helen delivered the Annual Meeting plenary address, “Centered Enough for Peacemaking?”

Daughter of Douglas and Dorothy Steere, Helen was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, David Horn. Survivors include her sister, Anne Steere Nash of Newton, Massachusetts, her daughter, Becky Ferguson (Douglas) of Albany, Ohio, and her grandchildren, Andrea and Eric Ferguson.

Excerpts from the obituary notice for Helen appear below:

Helen Steere Horn was born April 11, 1932 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Dorothy and Douglas Steere of Haverford, Pennsylvania. She received her B.A. in history from Oberlin, an M.A. in Education from Radcliffe College, and an M.A. in counseling from Ohio University. She taught in Boston and Chicago and at Alexander High School. She was a peace and justice activist, a community counselor, and an oral historian. A video featuring her interviews and stories of women in local mining towns, “The Other Half Speaks: Reminiscences of Athens Co. Coal Town Women, 1900–1950,” won a 1991 award from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums.

Helen was a prolific poet; her poems often express the resonance she felt between things in the natural world and her inner experience. She was known by many for her kindness and generosity.

A Memorial Service was held at the Athens Friends Meeting on June 23.