

**Memorial Minute for Ruth Pino**  
**(November 2, 1922 – December 24, 2016)**

Ruth entered this world on November 2, 1922. She was raised Method-ist and spoke often of her family's activities helping others during the Great Depression.

Ruth came to Quakerism when, as an adult, she discerned a need for a community more active in peace and social action work. Ruth and her first husband, John Copps, moved from Madison, Wisconsin, to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where they were active in the earliest days of Kalamazoo Friends Meeting. She served as clerk of the Meeting several times, both in those early days and again later when she was in her 80s.

Ruth and John were the parents of twin sons, Bob and Jim, who were born in 1952.

After Ruth and John were divorced, she continued her activities with Kalamazoo Friends Meeting, serving on Peace and Social Action, Hospitality, and many other committees.

Ruth and her second husband, Jim Pino, were married in 1993 under the care of the Kalamazoo Friends Meeting. They lived on Quaker Brook Farm in Nashville, Michigan. Ruth [had] loved raising her sons close to nature and surrounded by the various "critters" on the farm. She loved sharing her joy in nature with others in her community. She enjoyed hosting gatherings on the farm and is remembered as a very good cook.

Nature, social action, and community nurtured her spiritually. Ruth was always pragmatic, never pious, and always curious about the thoughts and activities of others. She was creative – turning the poetry of Mary Oliver into watercolor paintings, and lumps of clay into beautiful pieces of pottery. She was fearless, traveling to Cuba, Russia, and Nicaragua as a witness for peace and a social-justice activist.

Ruth nursed her husband Jim Pino during his long and difficult final illness. She made the difficult decision to leave Quaker Brook Farm and move into Kalamazoo.

Fiercely independent, Ruth remained physically active all of her life. She gardened and cross-country skied well into her 80s. She participated in rallies, protests, and vigils throughout her life, inspiring others with her commitment and her energy.

Ruth struggled with accepting the limitations of her aging body. In her 90s she complained that she did not seem to "have the knack" of dying. She expressed her desire to move on to "whatever happens next." On December 24, 2016, Ruth slipped away from her body and went on to discover "whatever happens next."

She was preceded in death by her first husband, John Copps, her second husband, Jim Pino, and her son Bob Copps. Her son Jim Copps resides in Kalamazoo.