

Celebrating the Life of
Jack Leonard Joy
February 10, 1928 – February 8, 2025



Friends Memorial Meeting
Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
July 19, 2025

Jack Leonard Joy was an extraordinary visionary, a scholar, and an international 'public servant' who retained his passion to help people and to make the world better. His career in academia and public service spanned decades and continents. Highlights of his public service include his time as a consultant in Papua New Guinea, the former-Soviet republic of Georgia and many other countries, as well as offering guidance for the World Bank and the United Nations. Late in life, Leonard co-founded the Quaker Institute for the Future and served as a United Nations Association chapter advisor and supported their annual workshops.

He and his brother, Richard, grew up with working-class parents. His mother, Ivy, was English, and his father was born in London in 1903 to Italian immigrants. Leonard's father, known as Jack, changed his surname from *Jaquarello* to *Joy* in 1923. In part, this was because his Italian family disowned him when he announced that he was marrying an English girl, but it was also to avoid the stigma of being Italian at that time.

As a young child, Len witnessed the Jarrow Hunger Marchers (coal miners who marched 400 miles to Parliament to protest their living standards). Watching from his father's shoulders, Leonard heard his father say, "It doesn't have to be this way," a statement that shaped his life. Leonard became passionate about creating a better world and saw economics as a tool to make significant change. Leonard's parents inspired him to think politically

and support equity for all. (The march led to the formation of unemployment insurance).

Leonard was one of the 800,000 children separated from parents during operation Pied Piper and later the first Blitz during WW2. He remembered the people who took him in as a lovely family. They were "church people" and he joined the church and sang in the choir. After his return home, Leonard was a bike messenger and rode through bombed areas to deliver military messages.

Towards the end of WW II, Leonard served in the Royal Air Force, involved in radio communications, which he loved, and which taught him that he could learn anything that he put his mind to. This determination and his technical experience set him up to study at the London School of Economics.

Throughout his professional life, his dining engagements, and when celebrating important events including dancing at age 95, svelte Leonard wore the same Savile Row suit that he got for free for his first job interview when he was 20. His mother was a seamstress in Savile Row and he helped by carrying her fabrics. The suit was made for someone who never picked it up and it fit him perfectly.

Leonard's career started out with a focus on the economics of development with a special interest in agriculture and rural institutions (including credit and cooperatives). He served as a Lecturer in Agricultural Economics at Makerere College, the University College of East Africa, Uganda.

During this time Leonard was married to Doreen Joy and they had a son, Richard.

Leonard's work in agricultural economics led him to a specific interest in malnutrition, irrigation systems development, and global/national policy management. He taught courses and conducted research at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge University, England, and at the London School of Economics. He moved to the University of Sussex, where he was a Professor and Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, followed by serving as Deputy Director of IDS for several years. For a year, Leonard taught agricultural economics at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi. Leonard's next academic appointment brought him to California in 1976 where he spent the remainder of his life. He served as a Visiting Professor at both UC Berkeley and UC Davis, teaching and developing graduate programs.

Leonard was very proud of the course he developed at the London School of Economics, "Problems in the Application of Economic Analysis," which the last time he checked, was still being offered. He was even more delighted at being voted by students as "The Best Teacher at the London School of Economics".

Leonard had a particular interest in participatory governance decision-making structures. He worked on redesigning national public administration systems. This resulted in consultancies spanning forty years with governments in many countries under sponsorship of leading UN agencies. Starting in 1981, Leonard served as

an international consultant for numerous agencies and governments, including the Commonwealth National Council of Education, Overseas, World Bank, United Nations Development Program, UN Office for Human Rights, USAID, and UNICEF. During his work with the United Nations, he was a strong advocate of “Process Consultation,” an approach to organizational development that was developed by Professor Edgar Shein. Using this approach, Leonard developed a training program that was used by the UN Development Program to support systemic change within the public sector. During this period, Leonard married Amy Block and they had a daughter, Judith.

Throughout his career, Leonard’s work took him to nearly every continent, often spending long periods of time consulting with local leaders. Some of these countries included (in chronological order): United Kingdom, Uganda, India, Sri Lanka, Uganda (again), Tanzania, Honduras, India, Egypt, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka (again), Ghana, Government of Georgia, Mongolia, Malawi, Armenia, Cambodia, Ukraine, and Tamil Nadu.

Throughout his travels, Leonard had “blessed opportunities with wild animals.” A lion brushed his body while it chased off cheetahs in a Nairobi game reserve; as he photographed a giraffe, a python slithered up to him, then decided he was too big to eat; lions (luckily very full) woke him in the morning when he had camped unknowingly in their den in the Serengeti; and an elephant sat on his travel car. His favorite “Blessed” animal encounter story was in

the Amazon when a Tapir, with which he had locked eyes earlier in the day, returned later to give him a kiss while he was in a hot tub.

Leonard was passionate about Quaker process and decision-making, which supported both his professional and spiritual life. He was introduced to Quakerism in Uganda. He later became a member of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Berkeley, California, where he served as alternate clerk of Meeting and as co-clerk or member of several committees, including Mutual Care, Care of the Meeting, and Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness. He was an instrumental member of the writing committee that drafted Pacific Yearly Meeting's 2001 Faith and Practice. In 2004 Leonard co-founded the Quaker Institute for the Future, and he served as the first Clerk. He was part of the writing team for QIF's first book project, *Toward a Moral Economy* (published by Berrett-Koehler Inc. as *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*) and he authored QIF's focus book, *How Societal Transformation Happens*. For many years, he worked closely with Brian Hall on understanding values development in individuals and societies, including its significance for technical assistance generally, and for governance development in particular.

His career shows his immense intellect and confidence, but it was his heart - his empathy, compassion, and heart-centered curiosity in other people, that led people to respond to him with such openness, and which helped make him a valuable member of any community that he was part of. Leonard cultivated and valued friendships that lasted through many decades. Late in life he found love

with his partner of five years, Sara, who shared many of his passions. Sara and Leonard lived in both Berkeley, CA. and Lewes, England. They remained friends for the rest of his life.

As much as Leonard valued work in the world, he also loved classical music and spending time in nature, especially long walks with friends and birding. While working in Uganda, he helped to design some of their gardens, and remained interested in birds and plants. One of his most precious books was his *Birds of Africa* – which he asked that his son, Richard, who shares this passion, receive.

During Leonard's last decade, his work shifted to exploring the challenges of climate change and its effects on governance and the most vulnerable. He remained on the board of the Quaker Institute for the Future, was active with the United Nations Association, participated in lively discussions with fellow Quakers and other affinity groups, and shared deep friendships with many individuals. Many of us have appreciated his deep listening, his concern for individuals as well as the world, and his systemic approach to understanding politics, ecology and economics. He will be missed.

We gather today to remember and celebrate the life of Jack Leonard Joy

A Quaker Celebration of Life follows the same form as a Meeting for Worship, which is the core of Quaker Practice.

As a community who knew Leonard, today we gather in silence to remember and celebrate his life. We come in both sadness and celebration to share our memories, thoughts and feelings. Friends believe that there is that of God in everyone. We seek to mark that of God that lived in Leonard, remembering and rejoicing in his spirit that we now carry with us.

The responsibility for the spiritual depth of the meeting rests with each attender. Those who keep silence as well as those who give a vocal message, do their part when they yield their minds and hearts to the guidance of the Spirit.

As we sit in expectant quiet, we may be moved by Spirit to share a message. Please do so without undue length, being mindful that others may also be moved to share. Everyone participates equally and all are welcome to speak. You may be moved to share prayers, poems, anecdotes or song. We ask that you use a microphone so people joining on Zoom can hear your message. Please allow a few moments to hear and reflect on each message before offering yours.

Program

We will worship together for about an hour. The convener will close our time of worship by exchanging greetings with those nearby, a signal to all of us to greet those next to us, followed by a reception.