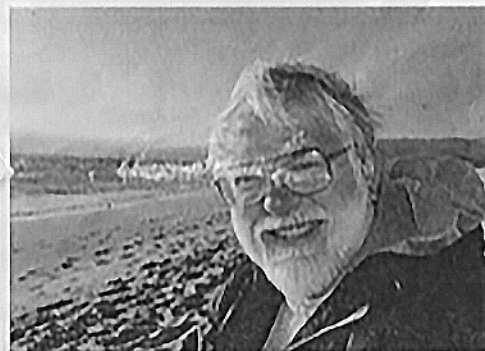


MEETING FOR WORSHIP ON THE OCCASION  
OF  
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
KENT WOLCOTT

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Two o'clock

Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga, CA



Kent's ready smile on recognition was always welcomed by those who took refuge in his unique theology. Laughter was never far under the surface, even though his life wasn't easy. He showed us how to soldier on in the face of whatever impediments life offered, without losing interest in the game itself. We will miss him and wish him well in this crossing.

Kent Wolcott was born in Sacramento in 1942. He grew up in Palo Alto where his parents were involved with the Palo Alto Friends Meeting. He was old enough to hammer nails when the first Friends Meeting house was built there. When he was nine, the Wolcotts moved next to the Hidden Villa Ranch in the Los Altos Hills. Frank and Josephine Duveneck were close friends with the Wolcotts and mentors for Kent. This led him to experience hiking, horseback riding, and canoeing. He became a camp counselor at Hidden Villa, which led to later work in open space conservation and campaigns in Castro Valley and Orinda. In his twenties, he was also an activist in the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. Although Kent had been born very nearly blind, his mother had helped him overcome the worst of the blindness. Despite having gone through most of his education without being able to read a blackboard, he was able to graduate from San Jose State University and even to become a licensed instrument-rated pilot. As a teacher, he always championed the rights of the underprivileged and female students in his classes, as well.

In 1967, Kent married Diane Mastin. Right away, they went to Sweden for a year of graduate study in political science. They returned from there to Chicago where Diane did graduate studies, and Kent worked as a social worker, went to night school and then taught high school math. They returned to California to Castro Valley where Kent taught math classes for the next thirty years. Their daughter, Sara, was born in 1981.

*(continued on reverse)*

Later in life, Kent contracted diabetes, an illness that had contributed to his mother's death. He nearly lost his ability to walk, see or speak multiple times over the course of his struggle with the disease. He frequently recovered from near-fatal medical disasters. The loss of his mother in 2006 impacted him greatly. His struggle with diabetes led him to take early retirement from teaching and eventually led to the renal failure that brought about his death.

Although a birthright Quaker, Kent didn't let seeing God in the other person get in the way of his critical opinion of anyone or any institution, which, on occasion, worked to his advantage. He seemed to have no fear or shyness with strangers and, in fact, would quite charm and befriend them: bank clerks, local farmers market vendors, or shop keepers. His self-deprecatory style of discourse eased adult conversation and could lead to fast friendships that are rare these days.

Kent died peacefully in, as he wished, his own bed in his own home on September 21, 2014, just one week shy of his 72nd birthday. Sara's vision from the following night: Kent, in his prime, rowing his canoe across that dark water to the golden shore on the other side.

*About a Quaker Memorial Meeting*

*A Quaker memorial meeting follows the same form as a Meeting for Worship, which is the core of Quaker practice.*

*As a community who knew Kent Wolcott, today we gather in silence to remember and celebrate his life. We come in both sadness and thanksgiving 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 Kent and to affirm those things we now carry with us.*

*If you have arrived early, please help us prepare the room for worship by remaining silent.*

*The responsibility for the spiritual depth of the meeting rests with each attendee. 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 the Spirit to share a message. Please do so without undue length, being mindful that others may be so moved. Everyone participates equally and all are welcome to speak. You may be moved to share prayers, poems, anecdotes, or song. Please allow a few moments to hear and reflect on each message before offering yours.*

*We will worship together for about an hour. The clerk will close our time of worship by shaking hands with those next to her, a signal to all of us to shake hands with those nearby.*

*After this memorial meeting, we will gather for a reception at the home of Marianne Kearney-Brown and Steve Sitta.*