

Jearline "JW" Wostal
1941-2019

J. W. Wostal
Friends Meeting of Austin
Memorial Minute

We of the Friends Meeting of Austin knew Jearline Wostal as “J.W.”. One time in a small gathering of friends, she was asked what J.W. stood for. Before she could answer, Pauli Adams said “Just Wonderful.” And she was just wonderful and so that became our name for her. That is what J.W. stood for to us.

The membership records show that she became a member on June 3, 2001 and that she was released from membership at her request July 2, 2006. She probably withdrew from the Meeting for a period of time. However, she came back with commitment and energy for the Meeting at large and for committee work. Committees in which she was a member included, adult religious education, nominating, *Friendly Notes* and community relations. Among other responsibilities, the community relations committee is charged to oversee, schedule and post on the website the calendar for the use of the Meeting House for ourselves and for community groups in Austin. J.W. took on that project and did it with her whole self for years. The request for space by the East Austin Community of Al-Islam came through the community relations committee and J.W. became their main contact to the Meeting. She was the face of the Meeting to outside groups.

When committees she worked on became stuck in their proceedings, she often was the person who would present a new perspective that would allow the committee to see a way open to God’s will in the matter. And, likewise, when a committee was following Quaker process successfully, she would be the one who sometimes offered a fresh perspective that would delay finding God’s will. Offering new and fresh perspectives was her predilection.

There were some years that a group from the Meeting met weekly for worship and shared experiences important us. J.W. told us about inheriting some jewelry which included a string of pearls that she took to a jeweler to find out if the pearls were real. The jeweler said, “I can tell they are real because they are not perfect.”

She was not perfect, and we are not perfect, but we are blessed that she chose to be part of us.

A Friends Memorial Meeting

It is the custom of Friends (Quakers) to gather together to remember and celebrate the lives of community members who have passed away.

As with other Quaker meetings for worship we gather together and settle into a spirit-seeking silence. Whenever one is touched by the spirit, he or she may rise and share a ministry: a thought, a memory, sometimes a song that may be taken up by others in the group.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in this way. At a memorial meeting we focus our thoughts and prayers on the departed and their family members and freely share our memories and our celebration of these lives.

We like to pause in silence and reflection for a few moments, at least, between each message.

When an appropriate time has passed a friend will rise and shake the hand of the nearest person to signal the end of the meeting. All present do likewise.

We hope that you will stay for a while and share some refreshments and conversation.

In Memory of Jearline (JW) Wostal

June 20, 1941–January 23, 2019



**A Meeting for Remembrance and
Celebration of JW's Life**

*Friends Meeting of Austin
February 4, 2019*

Jearline (JW) Wostal

June 20, 1941—January 23, 2019

Jearline Wostal (JW) was loved by her numerous nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters in law, cousins, colleagues and friends.

JW joined Friends Meeting of Austin in 1995 and served the community in several ways over her many years as a member. Most recently she was part of the Community Relations Committee and in that role often became the face of the meeting for the broader Austin community.

She was born June 30th, 1941 in Robstown, Texas and grew up with three brothers and four sisters: Joe, Mary, Catherine, JD, Steve, Patsy and Genevieve.

In 1959, JW began her career with Southwestern Bell, starting as a switch board operator and retiring in 1992 as an Engineer.

She married Clinton Wostal in 1959 and raised two children, CJ and Vicki as well as fostering over twenty other kids. Later, she became the grandmother of Caitlin.

She took great joy in holidays when she could be with family and friends. She enjoyed arts and crafts as well as baking and over the years she baked many wedding cakes for family members.

She will be gravely missed by all who shared the blessing of knowing her.