



## Marietta F Donovan

January 2, 2017

Marietta Donovan, 79, of Riverton NJ died peacefully on Jan. 2, 2017 at her home after a battle with cancer. Marietta was born Oct. 27, 1937 in Dunmore, PA. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, El Paso, and a master's degree in education.

Marietta worked for the Philadelphia School Board for more than 30 years as a special education teacher. A particular joy was teaching severely and profoundly impaired children at Greenwich Home. Since many of these children were wards of the state, she would often invite a student to stay with her family during the holidays.

She was a member of the Westfield Friends Quaker Meeting and formerly a member of Haddonfield Friends Quaker Meeting. A long-time resident of Riverton, NJ, she also lived in Haddonfield, NJ, for over 20 years, where her children were raised and went to school.

Marietta was a great cook and everyone looked forward to what she would bring to potlucks. She was an avid volunteer and was still cooking and bringing people meals until a few months before her death. She volunteered at The Garden Project, an urban garden and halfway house in Camden, NJ for female residents under the supervision of the Department of Corrections. Marietta loved classical music, poetry and reading, but she was happiest when surrounded by her family.

Survived by devoted daughters Jennifer Donovan of Collingswood, NJ and Amanda Donovan Drake of Wayland, MA, grandson Charlie, and sister Carol Fine of Clark Summit, PA. Her brother was the late Dr. David K. Brown of Morgantown, West Virginia.

A celebration of Marietta's life will be held Sat. Jan. 7, 2017 at 11 am at the Westfield Friends Meeting House at 2201 Riverton Rd. Cinnaminson NJ. (Rt. 130 and Riverton Rds).

In lieu of flowers, we suggest a donation on Marietta's behalf to: NARAL ([naral.org](http://naral.org)), the

National Resource Defense Council (NRDC.org), or The Garden Project (via check to Haddonfield Friends Meeting, with "FTSS Garden Project" in the memo section. Send to Haddonfield Meeting, 45 Friends Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033.)

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Westfield Friends Cemetery**

**JAN**

**Memorial Service**

**11:00AM**

**7**

Cinnaminson, NJ,

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Westfield Friends Meeting House

2201 Riverton Road, Cinnaminson, NJ, US, 08077

# Comments

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“ Marietta was a good friend. Her beautiful daughter, Mandy, is my daughter-in-law. Marietta and I kept in touch with weekly phone calls, comparing notes on many topics, and especially focusing on the topic of our precious, handsome and "genius" grandson, Charlie. Marietta's greatest regret was that she wouldn't see Charlie grow up. Marietta was one of the kindest, most warm-hearted and caring person I ever met. I will never forget "Nona" Marietta.

**Carol Critsley Drake** - January 25, 2017 at 07:55 PM

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“ Marietta was truly a doting mom. I could tell from how proud and excited she was at Mandy's graduation ceremony way back when. She was so kind and sweet and welcoming to me and all of mandy's friends. I know Mandy will do her proud and carry on her legacy. -rachel

**Rachel Cohen** - January 12, 2017 at 12:39 PM

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“ I knew Marietta through the Riverton tai chi class. Marietta enthusiasm was a model for the class. Although some of the moves were difficult for her, she never gave up trying. We she first told us of her illness, she said it without pity or self denial. Marietta was indeed a brave lady.

I had planned on attending the memorial service this morning, but I am rather snow driving-challenged. I would like Marietta's daughter to know that in the brief time I knew your lovely gracious Mother it was certainly my pleasure that our paths touched. I shall remember her fondly.

**Iris Gaughan** - January 07, 2017 at 11:56 AM

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“ I met Marietta at tai chi class in Riverton. She was such a positive member of the class. Marietta never complained and her determination to practice tai chi was an inspiration to us all. When she told us about her illness, it was without self pity...she was very brave in facing the reality of her cancer. I have a great deal of admiration for Marietta's willingness to continually try to enlighten her life with new experiences.

I planned on attending the Memorial Service today, but I am snow-driver-challenged. I would like to say to the daughters of Marietta, your mother was a lovely lady and I'm so glad I had to chance to cross her path.

**Iris Gaughan** - January 07, 2017 at 09:40 AM

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“ Marietta was one of the kindest, most generous, most caring people I have known. Her work history is an honest, real reflection of who she was. I shall miss her wonderful cooking, which I happily enjoyed many times, her warm and generous friendship, her willingness to share the poetry which moved her, and her enthusiasm for classical music.

**Michael Lane** - January 04, 2017 at 04:42 PM

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“ I am a fellow Quaker teacher who values the wisdom that Marietta shared with me about her teaching experience. Kitty Mizuno

**Kathryn Mizuno** - January 04, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ Marietta was an angel in disguise. She walked her talk at every moment. She is in Eternal Meeting for Worship.

**Alvin J Figueroa** - January 04, 2017 at 06:24 PM



“ Marietta was one of the kindest people I have ever met. She lovingly cared about many from all walks of life. She was a wonderful role model in so many ways. I will truly miss her friendship.

Sheryl Harrison, member of Haddonfield Meeting

**Sheryl Harrison** - January 04, 2017 at 10:08 PM



“ "You have to read the poem, WILD GEESE", Marietta said. "It's by Mary Oliver and published in her book, DREAM WORK."

"Read it and then we can talk about it when you come."

I did and when I visited Marietta in the fall for what would be our last visit together we talked about the meaning of WILD GEESE. How it seemed the poet was saying the key to peace is through self acceptance and love.

We didn't read the rest of the poems in the book but we talked about Marietta's coming death and her peace with what was to come. Marietta felt comfortable with who she was and with her place in life. She related to the wild geese returning home.

Their patterns, their flights and their place "...in the family of things."

During our visit she did all the thoughtful hostess things she had always done through the years. She rented videos on art and architecture because she knew I liked these subjects. She bought special food and of course Marietta cooked.

Marietta wanted me to experience the magic of the river as she had for so many years. so we ate on the balcony whenever we could and each evening watched incredible river sunsets.

We stayed up till the wee hours of the morning talking about everything. Our long history, our families, our relationships. Two sisters-in-law summing up their lives.

It was a good visit.

I will miss you, dear one. Rest in peace, Love, Joan

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**joan I hall** - January 05, 2017 at 08:25 PM



“ An old friend who remembers Marietta as such a "positive light!" She was a wonderful and caring mother and a true friend to those who were lucky enough to share precious time with her.

Sandy Peth

Crosswicks Meeting

**Sandy Peth** - January 06, 2017 at 02:10 PM



“ Marietta faithfully cooked with the women from a prison half way house. Everyone wanted to work with Marietta in the kitchen. When women were celebrating returning to their communities, Marietta would let them choose what she would make them. Her desserts were rich and made with much love. She gave with her whole heart.

**Mary Noland** - January 06, 2017 at 02:57 PM