

MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR LUCILLE CHAWLA

Lucille Chawla was born February 16, 1919, in Minneapolis. Her parents, Martin and Lena Zehrol, had immigrated from Latvia. Later the family moved to Chicago where Lou spent most of her childhood and early adult years. She related some of her childhood experiences to members of her Port Townsend Writers' Group. The Chicago years were difficult financial times for the family and were especially difficult for Lou and her older sisters after her mother died.

Lou was highly regarded in the Port Townsend community for her devotion to many causes in support of peace and justice. She was a member of University Friends Meeting in Seattle and transferred her membership to Port Townsend when the Worship Group became a Monthly Meeting. She was also active in the Port Townsend Unitarian Fellowship. Lou was the leader of the "Write Stuff," as her group of writers called itself. The group met Wednesdays for more than ten years. Many interesting stories came out of this group, which compiled a collection of short stories and poems, published in 2000 with the title Glimpses.

Lou studied Cross Cultural Child Development and received her B.A degree from Western Washington University at age 65. She then founded a school in India and also worked in the Philippines and in Taiwan. She traveled widely in the Far East and Europe.

Lou died at the age of 83 from complications resulting from a fall. She is survived by her daughter Shawn Gatz of Poulsbo, her son Michael Malloy of Toronto, Ontario, four granddaughters, one great granddaughter, one great, great granddaughter, as well as a niece and a nephew in Port Townsend. The memorial service held in Port Townsend, October 8, 2002, was well attended. Lou was honored by many heartfelt accounts of her deeds and of the stories of her comings and goings. Her community of friends miss her sunny smile, warmth, sense of humor, pluck, generosity, creative spirit and her love of life.

Prepared by David Walker

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