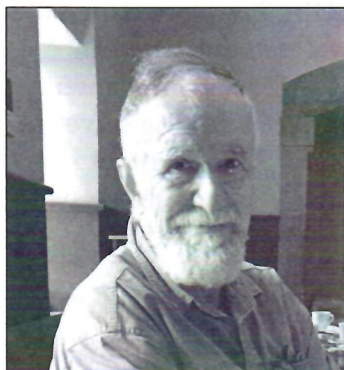


MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR WADE WRIGHT



Wade Wright was a big man with big ideas who lived life large. But he always attributed his successes to the work of Spirit. When he developed and anchored Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Spiritual Formation program for 25 years, he trusted and affirmed that Spirit was in charge. His retrospective assessment of how things went was that he brought people to "the feet of the Teacher" through the program. Of his faithful work, he would happily say: "I was well used."

Wade Howard Wright was born on November 23, 1946 in Washington, DC. His parents were Mary Ruth Allen of Hamburg, Arkansas and Ernest C. Wright of Ames, Iowa. Because his father was a lieutenant colonel in the US Army Chemical Corps, Wade's youth was peripatetic, with the family living in England, Germany, Alabama, Texas and Maryland. In Maryland, Wade graduated from Bel Air High School in 1965. He was third in his class and a celebrated student athlete. Four years later he received a BS in Behavioral and Sociological Sciences from Johns Hopkins University.

At that time, the Vietnam War was in full swing. But when Wade (who was not then a Quaker) was called to serve in the military, he declared himself a conscientious objector. He did his civilian alternative service at Ecumenical Campus Ministry in Baltimore, which served several colleges. He became involved with the Mid-Atlantic Training Committee, the Movement for a New Society, and nonviolent anti-war direct action.

In 1974 Wade and his partner Carol FitzGerald settled in Baltimore, where they restored a 19th century rowhouse near Patterson Park. For their home business, the Marvelous Toy Works, Wade and Carol made wooden toys which they sold in their storefront shop and at arts and crafts fairs. They homeschooled their children and were involved in urban gardening and beekeeping. In 1991, they decided to move to Stillwater, Pennsylvania, where they could expand their gardening into a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) market garden while continuing the toy business by mail order.

The realtor showing Wade houses said, as he drove by one building, "There's a Quaker meetinghouse." Later, after they had purchased their farm and settled in, Wade remembered the meetinghouse and said, "Why don't we try it?" When they walked in with their children, Jesse and Dillon, they were warmly greeted. Wade was quickly invited to join Millville's Worship and Ministry Committee and soon afterward, he was invited to be clerk of that committee.

Wade also became an early member of PASA, the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture, and became certified as a trainer of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. He himself was an INFP, defined as "individuals who gain energy from solitude (Introversion), favor conceptual thinking and potential outcomes over concrete realities (Intuition), base decisions on emotional considerations and personal values rather than detached analysis (Feeling), and appreciate adaptability and open-ended experiences over fixed plans (Perceiving). People with this personality type tend to be creative, idealistic, caring, and loyal. They have high values and morals and are constantly seeking ways to understand people and best serve humanity." <<https://www.simplypsychology.org/infp-personality.html>> That certainly sounds like Wade!

For 15 years Wade worked as PYM's Regional Field Secretary for the Upper Susquehanna Quarter, supporting the Quaker meetings of that region. He completed the School of the Spirit program. And he participated in Eastern Mennonite University's Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) program, which inspired him to pursue chaplain training through Geisinger Medical Center's Clinical Pastoral Education program. He finished his training at Hershey Medical Center. He served as a chaplain at three different hospitals. "That work," he wrote, "was the most effective spiritual training I ever received: how to be a listening presence, how to trust that the Divine will always be there to support, uphold, and care for you if you wait expectantly with confidence and faith."

Wade was always mentoring people and bringing them into the Spirit. He was the leader in developing PYM's Spiritual Formation program, now called the Spiritual Formation Collaborative. He and Jane Cadwallader worked together for 20 years in that enterprise, with Friends from Lancaster Meeting among the participants. The Collaborative continues its work with a team of eight Friends offering annual retreats at Pendle Hill, 9-month programs at Meetings and even single day or weekend programs. Their last retreat in May 2026, attended by 35 Friends, was dedicated to Wade's memory.

Wade had many other interests. He loved his pet Basset hounds. He loved music and played the banjo, and with Pete Seeger as his model, he loved to lead group singing. He was a student of blues piano, swing dancing, and tap dancing. He was interested in family genealogy and kept a personal journal, as have many Quakers before him. He loved nature: he was a birdwatcher and a stargazer.

His gardens were Wade's pride and joy. With his usual buoyant optimism, his gardens were big. When he decided that he needed a blueberry patch, he planted 30 blueberry bushes (enough for commercial production). When Jane expressed a desire for some flowers, he got 15 cuttings from rose bushes and nursed them into flower production. Sometimes he planted an extravaganza of zinnias.

And always, he touched many lives with his humor and optimism.

Since 2014 Wade resided in Red Lion, Pennsylvania with Jane Cadwallader. They were married at Lancaster Friends Meeting in 2022. In July 2025 Wade became a resident at Nottingham Village Retirement Center in Northumberland, Pennsylvania. In November he came under the care of Compassus Hospice. He died peacefully on March 25, 2026 with Jane at his side..

Wade is survived by his wife Jane Cadwallader; former partner Carol FitzGerald; son Jesse Wright-FitzGerald (Wendi Svoboda); daughters Dillon Naylor (Justin Naylor) and Adrian Wright-FitzGerald; grandsons Peter Naylor, James Naylor, Thomas Naylor and Benjamin Wright-FitzGerald; brothers Ernest Wright (Claire), Allen Wright (Betsy Wieseman); cousins Ginger Allen and Julie Grace; niece Enid Boeding (Ron); great-nephews Andrew Boeding & Ellis Boeding; and his feline companion, Wally Boss.

Gifts in Wade's memory can be made to Millville Friends Meeting, 351 E Main St. Millville, PA 17846; Lancaster Friends Meeting, 110 Tulane Terrace, Lancaster, PA 17603; or PA Association of Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), 1631 N. Front St, Harrisburg, PA 17102.