

Minute 10-16-22:04: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following memorial minute for Beth-Ann Buitekant.

Beth-Ann Buitekant died on August 22, 2022, and a memorial service celebrating her life was held at the Friends School of Atlanta on September 10, 2022. There are a few people in this life whose belief in human goodness shines even more brightly amid the dark social and economic times of these past few years. All who encountered Beth-Ann Buitekant knew her as such a person – a humanitarian, an uncommonly keen and kind listener, and a consistent voice of hopefulness and encouragement. Born in Ridgefield, New Jersey, on February 15, 1946, to Rubin and Sylvia (Bickwit) Buitekant she grew up with Jewish traditions and a focus on social action. Beth-Ann was the younger of two children, whose brother Michael, died in 2008. She attended Illinois Wesleyan University and graduated with a B.S. in Nursing in 1968, a pivotal moment for the U.S. anti-war and Black freedom movements, in which she became deeply involved.

Beth-Ann's adult life was framed by her enduring commitments to racial and social justice, peace, and feminism. During her 20s and 30s, she worked full time as a nurse throughout her years as a farmer and found joy and comfort in country living. She moved to Atlanta in 1981 and continued her work as a nurse and as a peace activist.

She met members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting at a peace demonstration of The War Resisters League and began attending the meeting in 1981. She said she found that "Quakers put words to what I already believed". Speaking about her spiritual journey in 2020, she said that the words, "Here I am", remind her to live in the present, and to be present to others. She worked as a volunteer at WRFG radio, hosting interviews for the "Just Peace" program, and when the meeting began renting space to Congregation Bet Haverim for services, Beth-Ann became a part of this community as well. Beth-Ann realized a lifelong dream of becoming a mother when her daughter Ruby-Beth Essra Yakira Ifetayo Bueitkant was born in 1987. She spoke of her daughter as her greatest gift and favorite person. They enjoyed sharing their love of nature by going to the Meeting's cabin in north Georgia and traveling to US National Parks on camping trips.

Beth-Ann returned to school in the 1990s and earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Georgia School for Professional Psychology. She became the counselor for the Friends School of Atlanta and established a private family therapy practice, which she maintained until 2021. She was honored to help run the race conscious parenting collective with Charis Circle, a feminist community she was connected to for decades. With her counseling skills and deep spirituality, she was a spiritual nurturer for the Quaker Voluntary Service Program and opened her home to many young people needing support. As her physical health plummeted, she exchanged sight for insight, possessing an optimism that was dimmed at times but never extinguished. She entered hospice care in July 2022. Her survivors include daughter Ruby-Beth Buitekant and son-in-law Taylor Grandchamp, who served as her tender primary caregivers, as well as grandchild Lazuli Jaq Buitechamp, of who she was vastly proud. She also leaves behind beloved dog Veijo and cat Poppyseed. Beth-Ann was a mother, sister, or auntie to a powerful network of loving friends too numerous to list here. She is forever missed. Beth-Ann was buried at the Honey Creek Woodlands Preserve in Conyers, GA.