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I had a family that was oppressive.

*I now have a family that is supportive
and – well, wonderful. In fact,*

*I think it is the hope
of the world.*

Janet Lugo



JANET LUGO

In JANET's WORLD, she brought authentic life to AVP and to people everywhere...just as it really was. She was probably my favorite facilitator, perhaps because of rather than in spite of her "rough edges." *Delightful Doug*

Memorial Minute

Janet Lugo, 77, died on July 4, 2006, in Saratoga Springs, New York. A member of Saratoga Meeting at the time of her death, she was known throughout New York Yearly Meeting for her Quaker witness.

Born Janet Elizabeth Lippincott on August 17, 1928, in Schenectady, New York, she was the daughter of Charles D. and Mary Neil Lippincott. Janet received a degree from Cornell University in 1950 and served as an interpreter for the Organization of American States in Washington, DC, from 1950 to 1970. She was equally at home in English and Spanish. In the 1970s she moved to New York and worked as a proofreader-editor for Time magazine.

Her spare time was devoted to putting her Quaker principles into action. She was very instrumental in bringing Quakerism into prisons, helping to start Quaker meetings in a number of New York prisons. She served for a number of years as the clerk of New York Yearly Meeting's Prisons Committee. She was one of the founders of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), which grew out of a collaborative effort by prison inmates and the Yearly Meeting's Quaker Project on Community Conflict to design experiential workshops for conflict resolution and personal growth and transformation. As a member of AVP's Education Committee, she was a major author of the manuals and exercises used in the workshops. With many dedicated Quaker volunteers like Janet, AVP eventually spread throughout the state, to communities and

schools as well as prisons, and has now spread to other parts of the world. In 2004, Janet was honored at an international AVP gathering in New Zealand.

Janet’s fluency in Spanish was often put to good use in the prison workshops, and she also established good relations with Native American and Muslim inmates. She worked on a National Council of Churches project to reduce U.S. reliance on prisons. Since AVP needed to stay non-political, Janet started the Quaker Information Center on Criminal Justice to take a stand and work for justice, spreading knowledge of what was going on in the prisons; the information center was staffed by released prisoners.

Throughout her witness work she had the ability to stand up to authority and speak her mind honestly, in the best Quaker tradition of “speaking truth to power.” She served as a role model for strong, independent women.



Janet noted that her involvement in Quaker prison work harked back to her seventeenth-century English ancestor Richard Lippincott, who defended the early Quakers’ right to criticize the Anglican Church and was imprisoned along with them. Ensuing generations of the family avoided prisons

entirely, and Janet’s father strongly disapproved of her involvement, but her conscience spoke even more strongly. Fortunately, she found in AVP not only a fulfilling avocation but also a supportive community, and a close personal friendship with the family of Ellen Flanders.

Janet was a welcome presence at Saratoga Meeting, with her friendly smile and her faithful participation in events and discussions. She was proud of being a birthright Quaker. She held membership in various meetings over the years, but truly she was a member of New York Yearly Meeting, where her presence was so strongly felt.

Janet was predeceased by her daughter Julie Lippincott Lugo, and is survived by her cousins James Rice and Ruth Passmore Thompson.  *more...→*

Janet's World (continued from page 15)

I came to deeply respect her for her experiences for her outlook on life and her sense of justice. She was a rebel and a stirrer...Janet was a true fighter of the good fight and my meeting her left a lasting impression on my heart and soul...again... in Aotearoa I was thrilled to see her. – *Valuing Vivienne*

She was a remarkable woman who helped me grow and see the brighter side of prison, people and our journey as servants. Give her family my sympathy, prayers and love. – *Peaceful Pichy*