

VERNICE GRAYBILL BEHRE
1-23-1901 to 1-9-1974

Vernice Behre was an integral part of the Friends Meeting of Washington since 1942, when she and her husband C. Edward Behre came to this area after almost 20 years in New England. They transferred their membership from the Friends Meeting in New Haven where they were charter members in their first union with Friends. Those who remember the 1940s recall Vernice as an active member in the spheres of the Washington Meeting's life, and as especially innovative with small children in the First Day School.

Vernice Graybill was born in Spokane, Washington in 1901. When a Freshman in the University of Idaho she met the young professor C. Edward Behre. Their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated in 1970.

Vernice was a tender and understanding mother and, with her vitality, originality and artistic bent, shown in her pastels, a stimulus to her children. With a special interest in cooperative projects, she and other mothers assisted at the Burgundy Farm Country Day School in its early years.

Moving to Friends House in Sandy Spring, Maryland in 1967, Vernice and Edward Behre together were a dynamic influence in setting the tone and shaping the life of the new community. Vernice was invaluable, tireless and imaginative, in coordinating the evening programs which included the informative and the entertaining. Her friendly presence was very helpful to residents and visitors alike.

After her death on January 9, 1974, her grand children, remembering her, drew symbolic pictures of a bird released from suffering and confinement flying toward the setting sun.

Loved and respected as a true example of a faithful and practicing Friend we can well say, as Paul to the Philippians; "We thank God on every remembrance" of Vernice Behre.