

LAURE B. SCHMITTER
1909 - 1984

Laure Schmitter was a person of remarkable strengths and talents --tremendous energy and initiative; her enthusiasm, cheerfulness optimism; her practical and efficient expertise were directed toward all tasks and projects she made her responsibility. She accepted many. She wanted to be involved and channeled her skills into helping where there was a need.

For many years she was an active member of Friends Meeting of Washington. She was a founding member of Bethesda Meeting where she participated on the Ministry and Worship, Peace, Social Order, and Finance and Property committees. In the larger community she gave much time and effort to working with the poor, sick and elderly. She was on the board of Friends Non-Profit Housing, a trustee of Friends House at Sandy Spring, and a tireless worker for the Bethesda organization, HELP.

At home she was a doer as well. She took pleasure in domestic arts and pursuits. Laure was an ardent and successful raiser of vegetables and flowers, a skilled seamstress, and an avid "stitcher," having learned as a child in France to knit, her needles were forever busy.

When Laure's husband died early in life, to ease family finances she became a business woman, and at the same time guided her three children toward achieving professional careers. In her later years Laure cherished and nurtured her seven grandchildren. They were the joy in her life.

Some remarks at the Bethesda Memorial Service for Laure reveal how she touched and enriched the lives of her friends and family:

"I remember Laure's smile and hearty laughter. When she smiled her whole face participated --so did her whole being." -- "you were constantly aware of her energy and that she was mobile and looking forward to the next thing she was going to do." -- "She was always here as a friend -- loyal, generous, sharing her experiences. She had instant rapport with her grandchildren. I have never seen that duplicated." --"She was interested in everything from the way the corn grows, the flight of the flies, cultivation of blueberries, and she was interested in principles." --"Hers was an unflinching honesty. She never allowed friendship to get in the way of an excuse against honesty," --"She had a lot of ideas to share. I was glad that I was old enough to share them with her. More young people should share with older people." --"I was jealous of her energy without hope." --"She would have been delighted you were all here, she would have been even happier had she been able to get you to do something useful." --"She was a wonderful guiding force."