

Elizabeth Riggs '72 Endowed Scholarship

I established the Elizabeth Riggs Endowed Scholarship to honor Elizabeth's memory and offer inspiration and support for other Quaker women in pursuing their dreams at Earlham. Elizabeth's time and memories of Earlham (and the "Liz" I didn't know), were an important part of her life. Elizabeth met her challenges and health struggles valiantly during her 70 years.



I met Elizabeth "in passing" the fall of 1985 on the last day of an American Lung Association bike trek. A few months later, in the spring of 1986, we truly met and realized that we were both seeking a life partner. We were married under the care of New Garden Friends Meeting on Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) 1990.

Elizabeth began her life's journey in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she attended Shady Hill School - a private elementary school, up to 7th grade. She loved nature and liked to poke around the dirt looking for beetles and other bugs. Science class outings to "Hell's Half Acre" for banding birds were particularly enjoyable. She was also drawn to writing and worked on some short stories and a play.



Her family then moved to Scarsdale, New York, and she found the transition from the small private school to a large high school quite challenging. The summer after moving, the family (father, mother, sister, two brothers and Elizabeth) took a camping trip to the southwest so their father could share with them his experiences from years before, when he served as a conscientious objector. Elizabeth found this trip to be a mind-expanding experience.

During the summer before enrolling at Earlham, she encountered two challenges. First, she was not able to attend her high school graduation because she was in the hospital recovering from lung surgery. Then a



couple months later, while attending the New York Yearly Meeting with her father, he had a fatal heart attack.

At Earlham, she participated in studies abroad to Denmark and some time in Norway. She studied psychology and sociology, receiving a B.A. in Human Relations in 1972. After graduation, she set off on her own to Albuquerque, New Mexico in search of “cleaner air” for her compromised lungs. While there, she developed a passion for cycling and participated in amateur racing. After 6 years, she moved to Austin, Texas, and 4 years later moved to Greensboro, North Carolina. During that time, she worked as a special education teacher for deaf-blind children and also received an M.A. in Special Education from the University of New Mexico.

When she moved to Greensboro, she continued as a special education teacher and set in motion her dream of being an occupational therapist. At the age of 38, she received an M.S. in Occupational Therapy from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. She worked as an occupational therapist in the local school system for many years, and after retiring in that position, she pursued training in Healing Touch. She became a Certified Healing Touch practitioner and enjoyed its therapy, which relieved some of the lifelong issues with her lungs.

If you too would like to honor Elizabeth’s life, you can send a contribution to the Elizabeth Riggs Endowed Scholarship at Earlham College. Contributions can be made on line at earlham.edu/giving and directed to the Elizabeth Riggs Endowed Scholarship. Or, your contributions can be mailed to Earlham in the enclosed envelope.

With affection,
Charlie Cameron

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