

BETTY KOYL

[14 January 1917 – 21 April 2006]

With saddened hearts, yet happy on her behalf, we said farewell to dearest Betty today. Taking her flight to the Abhá Kingdom on the first day of Ridván, B.E. 163 (21 April 2006), at the age of 89, she closed the last chapter of a book brimming with stories and memories of a life in total service to the cause she loved.

Hers was a life of true pioneering: Of being imbued with the spirit of the Faith and filling up energy in New York and Chicago; of travelling to the southern states with her mother in the early fifties; of the thrill of sharing the glad tidings of Bahá'u'lláh and then demonstrating by example the equality of the races in places like Little Rock and Winston Salem; of moving to Norway in 1960 to help form local spiritual assemblies on the mild south-west coast and in the cold east interior. In the past thirty years she has remained on her post as an active member of the Bahá'í community of Lillehammer, adding knowledge, colour and her trademark wry sense of humour to an exemplary life of servitude, steadfastness and sacrifice.

Ever since her retirement Betty said individually directed prayers for some fifty souls (the list expanding), – every year, every day, every morning. Many of them have passed on, and she was looking forward, in the severe pains of the last few weeks, to join them in the heavens and share news of positive developments on earth. Her prayer beads, which belonged to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and were given to her by the Kinneys of New York, will be sent according to her wish to the Bahá'í Archives in Wilmette.

Betty would want us to mention her dear companions through these last three decades, her cats Bimbo, Mimi and Celine. She outlived the first two, Celine outlived her.

God's speed, Betty. We shall miss you.

In loving memory,
the Bahá'í friends of Lillehammer
– on behalf of all the unnamed ones