

AVP and Rockland Friends (*excerpt from Spark, September 2002*)

Our meeting feels a particular connection to the Alternatives to Violence Project through the person of Lee Stern, who was an active member of Rockland Friends and of Fellowship of Reconciliation for three decades. Lee's ardent pacifism and dedication to nonviolence are a continuing inspiration even to Friends who never knew him. He was imprisoned for 37 months as a conscientious objector in World War II and actively protested the bombing of North Vietnam. Then, choosing a constructive path to reducing the violence in our schools, prisons, and communities, he helped found the Children's Creative Response to Conflict, was a trainer in the Quaker Project on Community Conflict, and was involved in AVP from its earliest days, becoming its vice president in 1979. We are glad that AVP will continue its valuable work from Lee Stern's former home. [AVP NY, Blauvelt, NY]

Linda Glasgal, clerk, Rockland Friends Meeting