

305 Wakewa

Gloria Kaufman

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April 14, 2004

Dear Family & Friends--

I'm sending this news to a small number of people who have expressed concern over my health lest you find yourself hit with sad news in the near future. The truth is always less dramatic & less hurtful. I appear to be losing my battle with stage 4 ovarian cancer, and I don't know how much more time I have.

As of now, my energy is quite low, and I rarely speak on the phone. (I have always preferred to avoid the telephone and my current condition gives me the perfect excuse to indulge) but Sam, Miriam, and David (who's been here for 3 separate weeks) are happy to report on my status. I have very little pain, and what pain I do have is fairly easy to control with medication. My doctor tells me that I will likely have very little or no pain before the end, and it seems most likely that I will die peacefully at home without needing to go to the hospital.

On the positive side, which is the important side, I am working in the studio almost every day and Miriam & I are creating some exciting new video poems--one of which will probably be a world premier at the First Annual FURCADIA FESTIVAL that will take place in March 2005 in Austin Texas. (I am so proud that David's Furcadia game now has so many players that it's large enough to warrant its own festival !)

Miriam has told me that she will be arranging some showings of our videopoetry in New York later this year and she also plans to release collections of our video poems on DVD and VHS. I'm also thrilled to report that I have finally achieved the kind of controlled mix I sought using three different video sources so that the effects I get are designed and not random. This is a real breakthrough for me in my art, and as far as I know, has not been done before. It can now be seen in "Air #2", which will probably be released sometime next year, pending the musical setting.

Altho my activities are limited, I walk outside everyday, enjoying our flowers and the splendid budding trees in the park by our home. My mobility is excellent. Since I can control my environment, and people are not making unreasonable demands on me ("Gloria, save the world,"), I am having some very enjoyable days, and I am continuing to love and to live. I am deeply blessed by a loving, creatively supportive and fun-making family. I am very blessed in dear messages from wonderful friends. THANK YOU! And thank you for sharing our lives so meaningfully in the past. The past lives on.

One last word. The world appears to be in worse messes than those we have all our lives lamented. Most are calamities beyond our reach. In the face of these catastrophes, join me in arrogantly pushing acts of goodness, of kindness, of creativity into the world. Look for, and create chances to laugh rather than lament. Life has no value unless we go for JOY, and joy is contagious. I wish you more & greater joy. Now more than ever is the time to embrace what is positive. BE ARROGANTLY JOYOUS!

With specific love to each of you,

Gloria

"I am so pleased to have seen the fruition of my peonies!"

Gloria Kaufman May 2004

Cherokee Indian Prayer

I give you this one thought to keep,
I'm with you still. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone
I am with you still, in each new dawn.
Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep.
Do not stand at my grave and cry
I am not there, I did not die.

"I am so pleased to have seen the fruition of my peonies!"

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