

April 25, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

DANCING FORWARD

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

DESMOND TUTU

Reflection

My best friend was first diagnosed with cancer in her forties. For our generation, this was unusual. Chalk it up to a genetic roll of the dice, as her mother had also experienced a similar circumstance, resulting in her death when my friend was 14. This indelible trauma of pain and loss was deeply imprinted on her being. Fighting through the memory of this tragedy, my buddy pursued treatment for her cancer, which included surgery, radiation and chemotherapy.

The first course of treatment was surgery -- who would have thought this initial effort would start a tradition? Now, my pal loved to dance and she was quite

good at it. At the first surgery, in the midst of the uncertainty, fear, and anticipation, as she was being rolled toward the operating room, my friend started belting out Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive." Before you know it, all of us, a group of friends as well as the surgery team, were joining in and dancing with gusto. For subsequent surgeries, and there were a few, dancing and singing were requisite.

My friend danced toward the light every time she encountered dark times, carrying a hopeful vision of the future, joyfully engaging each moment with positivity. With a heart that was full of adventure, creativity, and curiosity, she participated in a life filled with music, theater, and community. She trusted in a future filled with possibilities. A deeply spiritual person, hope buoyed her to end of her existence on earth. Of blessed memory.



Friends Dancing on a Field
Photo by Ron Lach

For Pondering

- What is the meaning of hope to you?
 - How significant a virtue is hope to you in energizing your spiritual life?
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For Prayer

*Gracious One,
thank you for a vision toward tomorrow,
for the possibility of light in darkness,
for trusting that you will be there
to give me strength to continue through hardship,
and to recharge my heart and soul with your hope-filled Spirit.
Amen.*

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