

Kate Waterbury

...our beautiful sister, lover, mother, grandmother and friend, a true healer of body and spirit, unforgettable story teller, pink or purple school bus traveler, lover of family, desert, art, music and all that is divine, left her body and her loved ones behind at 8:32 on the morning of February 18, 2009. After a brave, and sometimes even cheerful, struggle with cancer, she died peacefully in the loving embrace of her son, Day, in the home of her younger son, Arlo. She was happy to receive the angelic visit of her granddaughters Morgen Star and Evening Rose the night before she passed. A third granddaughter, Deija, had been with her often during her last weeks.

Kate is survived by one brother, Paul Smith, three sisters, Gwenda Eliason, Raedene Vanden Heuvel and Robyn Bailey, a daughter, Wendy Skovo, and three sons, Rock Skowbo, Day Waterbury and Arlo Waterbury. (Her youngest son, Andy Ray, preceded her in death, taken by cancer at age 5, and her youngest brother, Brent, had been killed in a plane crash on Christmas Day 1976.) She is also survived by 8 grandchildren: Zoe, Nike, Mitchell, Zachary, Jacob, Deija, Morgen and Evening.



Kate was born Karen Kay Smith, in Kadoka, South Dakota, on December 18, 1942, the 2nd of six children: Raedene, Karen, Paul, Gwenda, Robyn and Brent. Her parents, Raymond and Catherine Smith were devout Christians.

Raymond was manager of Belvidere State Bank in Kadoka. Catherine was a wife and homemaker.

Kate was an imaginative and creative child. In high school and on into her adult life, she told stories, played the French horn and dreamed of someday becoming a musician or a writer.



But the practical reality of needing to make a living interfered. She graduated from Kadoka High School in 1960 and succumbing to family pressure attended the West Suburban School of Nursing in Oak Park, Illinois from which she graduated in 1963 as an RN. Soon afterward she married Gary Skowbo. The couple had two children, Rock and Wendy.

In time Kate met Wayne Morgenthaler, who was to become the father of three more sons, Day, Arlo and Andy. They lived in Santa Barbara and Goleta California, stayed briefly on Steven Gaskin's commune, "The Farm", in Tennessee, and established a small commune of their own, "Tanager" in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Kate attended the University of Oregon in 1986, studying psychology. In Eugene she worked as a psychiatric nurse for Sacred

Heart Hospital, at Serenity Lane, and for Oregon Trails, a rehabilitation center for youth. She also wrote occasional articles for the Eugene Weekly.

In 1989, with two sons, Day and Arlo, she took a cross-country journey by hippie bus to northern New York, where she stayed for a year, working as a daycare center nurse and studying Healing Touch. Kate returned to Eugene as a practitioner and teacher of Healing Touch herself. Here in Eugene she studied mysticism at the Center for Sacred Sciences and was part of the Hopi Survival Spiritual group.

Kate had always had an affinity for the desert, and eventually made her home in Socorro, New Mexico, where she worked as an advocate against smoking. She loved the dry bright air of New Mexico, the magnificent views, and the native American influences in the culture, but when she discovered her cancer, she decided to return to Eugene where her support system of friends and family was rich.



We Love you, Kate!

Celebrate Kate Waterbury

*DECEMBER 18, 1942 -
FEBRUARY 18, 2009*



*2pm Wednesday
March 4, 2009
at
DHARMALAYA
345 Horn Lane
Eugene OR*

*(...POTLUCK... PLEASE
BRING FOOD, LOVE AND
MEMORIES...)*