



## **We Are**

### *Our Joys:*

- Life
- Singing
- Our children
- She said, "Yes!"
- A drive in the country with Dad
- Hearing our children perform
- Our daughters-in-law
- Our AVP children
- 1000s of students
- Births of our children
- Raising our children
- Watching new life emerge from ourselves, our loved ones,  
and the women we have cared for
- Being with family
- Stories from friends
- Sharing adult lives and joys with our children

### *Our Griefs For:*

- Our fathers, mothers, husbands, children, loving grandmothers and mothers-in-law  
who left us too soon
- Our brothers, lost twice through estrangement and death
- The loving childhood we didn't have
- The dogs we had to put down

### *Our Losses:*

- Relationship
- Family
- Trust and innocence
- Safety in our own homes
- A workplace that felt like home
- A future we will never have





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We remember . . .

- Reading under the covers with a flashlight
- Sitting under rhododendrons in our space
- Happy memories of our children's childhoods
- Bicycle adventures on summer mornings
- Hearing and seeing Leonard Bernstein conduct Mahler's 1st Symphony at Lincoln Center
- Sailing with my sisters on a pea-green mattress-ship
- The weekend my father returned from Vietnam, where every meal marked a holiday we missed in the previous year and a half
- Walking in the woods in the spring
- Hearing my name on a radio show which directed me to find a Tiny Tears doll under my bed on my birthday when I was 5 years old.
- Going to Lake George
- The '77 blizzard
- Wandering off to be with my thoughts
- Being with family
- Summers on my grandmother's farm in Oklahoma
- Unstructured, creative play

We heard . . .

- "You did a good job."
- "I love you."
- "Thank you for everything you do."
- "You are my role model."
- "You deserve to be happy."
- "You're pregnant!"
- "You're a grand dad!"
- "Thank you for raising me to be the person I am."
- "Seeing you is like taking an aspirin."
- "Thank you for making me learn the violin."
- "Really have to think about this one."



## We Are

- “You have been well-used.”
- “You are loved.”
- “You can find hope in the darkest circumstances.”

When we consider God . . .

- We can point to the moon or the mother hen
- We can feel grace and sacred force
- God dwells within us as us
- God gives us a sense of what we can and cannot be
- If God feels distant, it’s us who moved
- While defining the word “God” may limit or confuse our understanding, we can still experience “goodliness” and divine love and light.