

Funeral Service for Alice Mager

Alice Mager
1949 - 2018

Funeral Service

Saturday, April 21st, 2018

Funeral Service for Alice Mager

At the Festival Hall, Minister's Introduction

Dearest friends, we gather here to honor and celebrate the life of our beloved friend, Alice Mager.

Welcome to all of you; welcome to our Beloved teacher. And our loving thoughts to John, Alice's loving husband and companion for so many years.

Let us stand and remember our friend Alice in silent presence.

Silence

Thank you, please be seated.

Our Teacher says, 'Ascending souls finish their roles very well prepared, having received the presence allotted to them in this lifetime.'

Through our being and our efforts, each student forms a stem on the living tree of our school. The lifetime of each student, as they create their true Self, raises our School, enriches our lives, and leaves a profound legacy. A legacy of which we are proud, yet which instructs and humbles us as well.

Our Teacher says, 'Things do not go on indefinitely here, so that they can go on eternally there.' Alice's return to the divine source reminds us of our own journey. Her leaving reminds us to treasure this mystical journey of life.

Reading: Goethe, read by Michael Lester

'I must work very hard,' said Goethe, 'to keep myself up, and to support myself under this sudden separation. Death is something so strange, that, notwithstanding all experience, one thinks it impossible for it to seize a beloved object; and it always presents itself as something incredible and unexpected. It is, to a certain extent, an impossibility which suddenly becomes a reality. And this transition from an existence which we know, to another of which we know nothing, is something so violent, that it cannot take place without the greatest shock to the survivors.'

Music: Bach, by Justin McKay and Zoila Munoz

Eulogy for Alice Mager, given by Kevin Brown

Students are Heroes; and the process of becoming a complete being is often a long and torturous journey. Heroes stay the course, weather every shipwreck, and emerge stronger and lighter, all the while knowing that they are guided to their destiny by Influence C.

Alice is one of the heroes.

Born in the Bronx, Alice was raised by parents who had very little. From them she learned the value of householder and of hard work. Qualities she brought with her in serving the school and other students. Qualities that determined the consistency of her inner work. And how she participated, invisibly, in many octaves.

Joining in Portland, she then went to help open the Buffalo center, during the worst winter in decades. After which, she spent time in various Bay Area centers, supporting and directing, where she met and married John, her companion on the path. Moving to Apollo in 1998, following Robert's request, John and Alice made their home.

Alice and John based their marriage on the work and transformation. They realized that wherever they went, their problems would follow; so, they committed themselves to using their marriage for awakening. John said that they succeeded, reflecting this thought from Rilke:

"love consists in this - that two solitudes protect and border and greet each other."

I admired the way she accepted her numerous long-term health issues without complaining. She did not inner consider about asking for help and took care to be in householder and not to be a burden to her helpers. She always had emotional energy to give.

Despite her physical difficulties, Alice always looked for ways that she could help others, friends as well as students she had just met. If her friends needed financial help, she would bring many students together for support, something we learned from our Teacher. She dedicated herself to this kind of help because it helped her transform her many difficulties.

Highly perceptive, Alice could often see what a person needed to in order to help them – a double-edged sword, as this often meant judgment of others and of herself. She overcame this, summoning the qualities of empathy and compassion.

She had a bubbly humor and loved to dance and be joyful. She would find any excuse to celebrate, to bring joy. Gathers of her friends for dinners at the Galleria were very special for her.

Alice had an uncompromising integrity, which meant that she inspired absolute trust – the kind of trust one has in one's Teacher and Influence C. Fiercely loyal, her integrity with her friends kept them honest. She kept me honest. If you were her friend, she would not accept insincerity or nonsense and she did not hesitate to let you know if you fell short of that. And we loved her for that.

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Alice's integrity extended to keeping confidences, as few can. John mentioned to me that he discovered something about a friend, only to find out that Alice had known for ten years and had never told him.

Alice had many tragedies to overcome in her life. At the age of twenty, several weeks after the birth of her daughter, she was rushed to hospital with acute appendicitis, leaving her daughter with friends. When she returned, she learned that her daughter had suddenly died. She said that this experience helped her reorient her life to higher purposes.

Dear Alice, I am made better from knowing you. Your friendship shows that none of us are alone.

Music: Bach, by Justin McKay and Zoila Munoz

Reading: Rilke, read by Elizabeth Blake

You are not surprised at the force of the storm—
you have seen it growing.
The trees flee. Their flight
sets the boulevards streaming. And you know:
he whom they flee is the one
you move toward. All your senses
sing him, as you stand at the window.

Summer was like your house: you knew
where each thing stood.
Now you must go out into your heart
as onto a vast plain. Now
the immense loneliness begins.

Through the empty branches the sky remains.
It is what you have.
Be earth now, and evensong.
Be the ground lying under that sky.
Be modest now, like a thing
ripened until it is real.

Minister's Conclusion:

An ancient king said, 'Although I am a child in the eyes of the Gods, without ceasing, day and night, I act in harmony with heaven.' Alice is now part of the light that beckons from above. She forms part of a new succession in the celestial world, made lovelier still because she bore her part, and by her example, changes us for the better.

Dear Alice:

May your honesty and diligence bring us closer to the Real Self.

May your compassion guide us in our love for Our Teacher and for each other.

May your invisible service help us appreciate the intangible influence of Higher Forces.

Dearest Alice, we thank thee. Now and forever.

Candle ceremony

'Our body is just a shell, our soul will continue.'

Extinguish and light the candles.

Please stand.

Funeral procession, to the reception area.

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At the Cemetery, Minister's Introduction

Dearest friends, we gather here to witness the completion of a cycle, the life of our beloved friend, Alice Mager. Here in this sacred place, consecrated by those here present, and by those whose bodies lie here, we release Alice to hers, and our true home, even as we return her remains to the earth from where it sprung.

Reading: Walt Whitman, read by Patrick Stuart

There is something that comes to one now and perpetually,
It is not what is printed, preach'd, discussed, it eludes discussion and print,
It is for you whoever you are, it is no farther from you than your hearing and sight are from you,
The light and shade, the curious sense of body and identity,
The wonder every one sees in every one else he sees, and the wonders that fill each minute of time forever,
In things best known to you finding the best,
In folks nearest to you finding the sweetest, strongest, lovingest,
Each man to himself and each woman to herself, is the word of the past and present, and the true word of immortality;
No one can acquire for another—not one,
Not one can grow for another—not one.
The sum of all known reverence I add up in you whoever you are,
All else giving place to men and women like you.

Minister

The earth returns to the earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, as we look toward eternal life.

Urn is lowered. Family places earth into the grave.

Minister's Conclusion

Minister guides funeral party in placing rose-petals into the grave.

Rabia said, 'Love comes from eternity, and returns into eternity'. A divine flame returns to its divine source. The circle of life is complete. We part, only that we may meet again.

Let us withdraw to the Gazebo for a toast to our Beloved Friend Alice.

Toast for Alice Mager

Here we are now, at the Mystery-of-Mysteries — the lower and higher, body and soul. We have just placed Alice's body remains in the Earth, back from where they came. Higher Alice has returned to the Beyond-the-Far-Beyond. Yet, for we who remain, she still has a presence within us, just as we have a deepening presence within each other.

So now we toast to the Presence Within, for we not only honor Alice but also each other, ourselves, and this Mystery-of-Mysteries. To the Presence Within.