

Tribute for Trudy

Jo Nell Sells Hanley

Trudy and I met in 1993 when I began my undergraduate studies at the U of A. My major was in Sociology and I had a minor in American Indian Studies. My first AIS class was one taught by Trudy. On the first day of class I knew I had just met a very special person. We had lunch right after class...we talked about home (Navajoland), ceremonies, the holidays and family tradition. Being from Rough Rock, I knew all the places she asked about and also many of the people she called her family. We had such a great time! This is a very vivid memory as if it happened yesterday.

I continued to take AIS classes taught by Trudy and our friendship grew even more. It was more than friendship...Trudy became my family away from home. She introduced me to many new foods, healthy foods! She also helped me with my writing and putting my thoughts, stories and feelings on paper. I don't remember which book she was writing, but she asked if she could write about me. I agreed but never had the chance to read what she wrote. I hope it was good. *smile* She invited me to her home so she could take pictures (of me) for the book but the camera broke!! That was so funny! We both agreed that I broke the camera even from across town! I wish I could be there to share the many stories I have of Trudy but I regret not being able to come. I am so grateful for being able to share many of my accomplishments with her and her husband which include graduation from U of A with a B.S., graduation from NAU with a Masters in Counseling, my marriage and the birth of my daughter. She was such an inspiration. She is a person of integrity, respect, genuineness, and full of love and compassion. She taught me to be optimistic through the tough times, encouraged me through times of uncertainty, and reassured me that the divine power is protecting me.

I will miss receiving letters and post cards telling me of her adventures, her trips to Hawaii and California, Australia, the conferences she attended the progress on her writings, her courage and healing, her grieving, the repainting of her house...the dog stories and her hiking. *tears* I love you and will truly miss you.

Thank you,

Jo Nell Sells Hanley