

In Memory Karel Eskes

On July 28, 2009, my dear friend, colleague and Director of The Goodfield Instituut NL Karel Eskes passed away. In all my life, with a few exceptions, I have never met a person so loyal as a friend and so committed to my life's and in fact his life's work the Goodfield Method. I may have founded the method but it was Karel who expounded the method. Through thick and thin, good times and bad he was always at my side. He gave and gave for himself as anybody who knew him would attest. We said good-bye to him on August 1 in Holland. We stood with those who loved and admired this fine man I called my dear friend.

“CARLOS” AKA (KAREL ESKE): A Moment of Memory

The only bad thing about a good thing is when it ends. I have said that quote to a member of a group of mine more than 40 years ago. Today as we gather here to bid a final goodbye to a man who played the game of life and clearly won. Like all games we enjoy, it always seems somehow too short when it ends. And so it is with the half century plus we shared with Karel.

In life we do things sometimes not because we want to, but because we must and because it is right. Today is such a day.

Husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, friend, mentor, tooter, teacher and one of the best psychotherapist I have ever known. It was none of the afore mentioned that brought me some 6000 miles to be here today. It was Karel Eskes the man who brought me here and made it impossible to not share these fleeting moments of farewell with you.

On behalf of Karel, I want to thank you Marlies, for the last few years he spent here with us. Like a drop of water or tear drop that magnifies that which is its focal point. Your health issues helped a man who was often predisposed with others past and present problems to live more in the “here and now.” Marlies you magnified his moments and made his life bigger and even more worth living and he passed this gift on to others.

I know he would want me to thank you and ask you to continue to magnify the moment for yourself and those who live and love you here and now. You must not quit; you must go on, as there is so much living to do until you two meet again.

To his children and grandchildren he mentioned the pure joy and pride he felt in the gusts of growth and jolts of joy you gave him as he followed your

steps taken towards adulthood. Tom you went from son and adult “roommate” to Tom the “sole mate” as peril became pride.

Aimee your love of life and presentation of life, in birth and rebirth gave great joy to a father and grandfather of this you may be assured. I heard this many times as I watched Karel’s ironic smile filled his face.

Mignon, his love was always reflected in his concern that life treated you well.

He loved all of his children and grandchildren, Patrick and Daisy always put a smile on his face. Always.

It has been said that the mark of a person’s life can be measured in three ways. The planting of a tree, the writing of a book, or the birth of a child.

Karel Eskes planted not just the seeds of life as one plants when growing a tree; Karel planted the seeds of a GOOD LIFE made so by honest, true and clear words and deeds. This was done with each and every one of the people he guided and counseled as he shared his wit and wisdom in his chosen path as a therapist. He saw a world in need of clear decision and direction and he was just the man to “tell it like it is.”

As Karel’s mentor what must I say? I shall miss you as a man misses a stout strong developed tree in a well-known and as yet unfinished forest. One of my life’s “book ends” is gone. It was always Karel and Wim. Always. Now we change the protocol.

It was not supposed to be that way! But that is merely the feelings a friend who loved the MAN and that for which he stood. You devoted much of your life to a dream we mutually shared –“The Goodfield Method.” I always thought you would be standing here lying about how wonderful I was, and explaining my actions as you regularly did. Now it falls upon me to tell the final truth of your gift. You gave a gift to me and to many others. The lives you touched are only matched by the lives you changed.

Karel one last thing, I will say the last words I said to you in life, as a farewell now; “I love you” and now I add I always will. Now I say the words we often say in Arizona “Vaya Con Dios.” Go with God. Next!