



H.U.G.S.

Those who know me would agree that I am perpetual “hugger”. I love to give and receive hugs. Ever since I was young, showing affection continues to be important in my life. I was thinking about this having just returned from a friends wedding in DC.

From the time I spent at the gate waiting the departure of our plane until returning home I witnessed dozens and dozens of hugs. The airport is a perfect place to watch people hugging. You see weary business people reconnecting with loved ones, grandparents greeted by grandchildren, re-united lovers, roommates, children with their parents, and individuals grateful and happy to be together again. What a great picture! I just stood there smiling and eavesdropping.

While no one greeted us upon our arrival at Dulles Airport, the same scene I had observed in Atlanta repeated itself there. As we entered the terminal everywhere I looked people were embracing. It was obvious that friends and family members were happy to see one another and feeling joy at being together. Hugging is a universal language!

Everyone who joined our celebration was frequently seen hugging. Whether it was in the hotel lobby, being surprised on the elevator, bumping into one another along the streets of Evanston, following the wedding ceremony, on the dance floor or during the frequent toasts over dinner, everywhere guests greeted guests with hugs. It looked and felt like one big hug-in!

What is it about hugging that has me feeling this happy? I think it's the realization that every hug conveys a message from someone to someone that says, “I choose to share a special moment with you.” Know that when I give you a hug, I, too, feel our closeness. I am **Honoring U, Gentle Spirit**.....

Personally Speaking
“My view on life as I live it”
Bonnie Ross-Parker
Volume 1 / Article 10

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