



Meet the Author

Barbara Jackman &
Nancy Schwichtenberg

The Angels I Hold In My Arms
Hospice Vignettes & Visions of Nancy Schwichtenberg

Book Release and Signing

April 28, 2007

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Tacy's House, 332 Center Street in Mankato

Nancy Schwichtenberg's dream of having her experiences published will be realized in a new book, *The Angels I Hold In My Arms, Hospice Vignettes and Visions of Nancy Schwichtenberg*, written by Rev. Barbara Jackman and published by Minnesota Heritage Publishing.

Originally from Minneapolis, Nancy Schwichtenberg has lived in the Mankato/St. Peter area for 45 years. In 1991 she and her husband Roland established Nancy's Comfort Care in their home in rural Kasota, Minnesota.

"Ten years ago while serving as a chaplain for a small hospice organization," said Jackman, "I first entered the hospice home known as Nancy's Comfort Care and became aware of a holy silence, a peacefulness and warmth, similar to what I've felt in monasteries and some churches. I could sense a welcoming spirit of hospitality even in the entryway where Nancy called out to join her in the kitchen. As we sat at the kitchen table eating cinnamon rolls warm from the oven, she told me about the person I was there to visit. Nancy's compassion for her guests was evident, but while listening I became aware that there was a feeling of something more in the room. I felt myself looking around for that something. I never saw anything, other than shelves of angels. Though I knew there had to be a story about all those angels, that story would have to wait for another time."

"As weeks turned into months, then years, I continued to visit hospice clients at Nancy's, and heard them share Nancy's angel stories. And over time as we sat at the kitchen table, Nancy began describing her own visions, as well as the visions some of her guests experienced. Such stories weren't new to me, for over the years while serving as pastor and chaplain, I have often heard from others about similar visions. Nancy, however, has had more of those experiences than anyone else I've ever known."

"Early in 2006, while I was visiting Nancy, she revealed her cancer diagnosis, and I asked her the question I ask almost everyone: "Where or what is your hope right now?" Without a moment's hesitation, Nancy responded, "My hope has always been to have a book written about the angels I've held in my arms, to share how they've inspired me and to give others hope." For months afterward as she recovered from surgeries and chemotherapy, suffering excruciating pain and exhaustion, while lying in her bed or on the couch, or on good days sitting at the table, Nancy described her angel visions and hospice vignettes. The final stories were shared when Nancy was back in the hospital having more scans and more tests, coping with the news that the cancer was spreading. Even as Nancy lost weight and grew weaker, she became animated hearing how her stories were being shaped into this book. Nancy's eyes sparkled as she realized her hope was about to be fulfilled."

The following is an excerpt from *The Angels I Hold In My Arms*:

Gently they lifted her up, up, and further up. They floated over the room divider, and just as they were about to pass through the door, they turned back. Their smiles radiated pure joy, and a feeling Nancy described as ultimate peace filled the room.

Then they were gone. Nancy looked down on the bed and saw that the elderly woman was no longer breathing; her body lay lifeless on the bed. Her soul was now somewhere with the angels, with her children, and with her God in eternal bliss.

To order books by mail, send check for \$11.00 (includes shipping & handling) to Betsy-Tacy Society, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 or for more information visit www.mnheritage.com