

Parent

08-11-2014 by Harry Zirkelbach

There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth though they have long been extinct.

There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world though they are no longer among the living.

These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark.

They light the way for humankind. Hannah Sennach 1921-1944.

So now that the topic is known, the introduction chosen, what is the tale?

Yesterday, after Catholic Mass, before the Bronco loss at Seattle, Barbara and I attended the 90th birthday party for a long time friend, met when her family moved to Denver years ago. Our beginning families remained neighbors in northeast Denver for years. Part of her history, she had fifteen siblings. Only one brother of that family has died. Few moved to Denver, yet all stay in contact regularly on the telephone.

We would never meet her parents, few of her siblings. But her family, her husband dead 30 years now, have remained friend in all the separations caused by both leaving that initial neighborly closeness.

They were tireless workers, interesting conversationalists, who smiled through everything, attacked every challenge with gusto. Our age, they exhibited a maturity we found rewarding, as if they were an extension of our parents and siblings.

Yesterday we shared with her neighbors and family in fun and games, drinks, food, as she and children took turns whacking at a piñata hung from the back yard tree. Then, all diving for the goodies on the ground when the sides of the mythical animal were shattered. An ancient great-grandmother, her daughters, their children, grandchildren, all laughing as children in that shared celebration.

In such joyous moments,
it is challenging to determine who is acting the parent.

Later in that celebration of her anniversary, we learn she is considering a move here to Windsor Garden, with a daughter whose husband died this spring.

They will act a parent to each other.

Please reread the first four lines from Sennach.

