

October, 2021

Dr. Garely,

It is impossible to express one's gratitude sufficiently when life has been restored by the hand of another's extraordinary skill. My family's history, though rich in color, does not boast of large numbers in the years we get to live well. For that reason I have attempted to live my allotted years prudently by engaging the ability to extrapolate meaning from every challenge from which I have emerged triumphant or defeated.

When an arrogant young physician attempted to condemn me to the acceptance of being an old woman at the mere age of 75, I searched for the woman in me who has never agonized over the gift of celebrating another birthday. I found that woman and chose to follow the perfectly aligned stars that led me to the team of Pappas/Garely (or if you wish, Garely/Pappas) who gave me the beginning of my best life going forward.

So, having said all that, I am also one who greatly lives by metaphor. The gift I have chosen to give to you was designed by me and created by a talented artist. It is a symbol of the power each of us has to look at the colors of our life, and in spite of how dark they may seem in the moment, with our own fingers we can spin those colors to bright and light.

Therefore it is my hope that each and every day of your life going forward, you will see the meaning in the symbol on this metaphoric artistic creation designed just for you. Please know that there is someone out there who will forever remember the gift you gave to her. You have enabled me to greet each new "birth" day, daily as well as yearly, without the cumulative dread of discomfort and disgust each morning I will get to add to my allotted years.

With much gratitude,

*Eileen and Irwin Silversmith*

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