

**Liberty Hall
Lawrence, KS
A Celebration of Life, Jana Mackey
July 9, 2008
Sarah Jane Russell
Executive Director, GaDuGi SafeCenter**

Friends...we gather this day July 9, 2008...in celebration of Jana Lynne Mackey. We are here together to bear witness to the Truth of this woman's passionate life. And it seems to me in this time of shared witnessing and on this Beautiful day...we are being given the opportunity to Stand to all that is right and good in our world because of this woman. We are being given the opportunity to listen to each other and to hear the voices in unison speaking "The Work Jana Believed In Must Continue On". **This is a Truth.**

In my office at the GaDuGi SafeCenter, hangs a t-shirt imprinted with the words "Honey on Steel". Jana would touch those words each time she entered the room. She would smile to herself...and then she would smile at me...in acknowledgement of a shared wisdom...from one generation to another.

Taped on the shirt is the following reading – the author is unknown:

A Strong Woman works out every day to keep her body in shape....a Woman of Strength builds relationships to keep her soul in shape.

A Strong Woman isn't afraid of anything...a Woman of Strength shows courage in the midst of her fear.

A Strong Woman won't let anyone get the best of her...a Woman of Strength gives the best of herself to everyone.

A Strong Woman makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future..a Woman of Strength realizes life's mistakes can also be Unexpected blessings and capitalizes on them.

A Strong Woman wears a look of confidence on her face...a Woman of Strength wears grace.

A Strong Woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey....a Woman of Strength has faith that it is in the journey she will become strong.

Jana held in her heart the wisdom and essence of "Strength"...she was Honey on Steel. **This is a Truth.**

This woman walked in the **Willingness** to live her life courageously.....to serve others without fail.....to bring joy and laughter to all.....to act with integrity by respecting all equally and without judgment. She fiercely believed in the Power and the Strength of a Community who agrees to join together to do the work that needs to be done. **Jana...we thank you for these Truths.**

This Day....July 9, 2008.....**we must ask ourselves**....what is the Truth of our own lives? And it seems to me...by answering the call of this question with **actions** that speak truth to power...and that push for change.. we will honor and bear witness to the passionate life of Jana Lynne Mackey.

Jana...Hear These words written by Deepak Chopra.... “**You are** fearless, free, immune to criticism, beneath no one...superior to no one... fear no challenge...and, Beloved Sister, you are full of Magic, Mystery and Enchantment.” In Strength and Solidarity on this day.....this Beautiful Day.
Thank you.