Find your own well my, lad, for the arid times to come. They dry up who steer clear of sources
Cathal O'Searcaigh



Medicine Wheel, Rotch Park 1992

Dear Friend

In 1987 a small group gathered in a San Francisco storefront to document the lives they feared history would forget this action served as the beginning of The Names Project, Also known as the AIDS Memorial Quilt. On December 1, 1998 A Day Without Art began as a National day of mourning in response to the AIDS crisis.

I recently ran into the Theater Offensive's Artistic Director, Abe Rybeck.; he was being honored by the History project for among other things taking the message to the streets. In those early days of dying; groups like his, ACT Up AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, Visual AIDS and others demanded acknowledgement that something horrifying was happening! I thought back to our earliest Medicine Wheels and said to Abe, "what were we supposed to do? " My answer and that of the many of you who joined me was take it to streets, not as a political action but rather to create a space to hold the stories, the grief and the sorrow.

It is hard to believe that this year will be the 24th incarnation of the Medicine Wheel Vigil, now the longest running Day Without Art event in Boston. As we gear up for the 25th 12/01/2016 we invite you all to join us by going back to our sources.

In the earliest years we would set Medicine Wheel up in Rotch Park in the South End of Boston and carry it in processional to the Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama building for a 24-hour vigil. This year we will return to Rotch Park for the full 24 hours of December 1, marking the hours of that day with artistic and prayerful offerings. We will hold a series of Medicine Wheel events over the year leading up to the 25th Medicine Wheel, when it will return to the Cyclorama

Medicine Wheel was created to create a safe place for people affected by AIDS to gather, reflect and remember. You have been partners in this effort for a quarter of a century now and once I again I turn to you for help. Donations can be sent to:

Medicine Wheel Productions
110 K Street
South Boston, M A02128

Or made on our web site at Http://Mwponline.Org/Wordpress/Donate/

Yours,

Michael Dowling