

Dear Friends,

In a time of such sadness for so many who have been affected by the chaos of war and Hurricane Katrina, I sit at the window of a coffee shop and see below me people sharing a cold drink, quietly reading, or rolling around in the grass. It is a lovely day here. Life feels uncertain, and there is so much out of my control. But I know that there must be joy or we'll forget what it is that we are fighting so hard to save. Sunday night at the Roots gathering we did the Elm Dance, and put in the names of beings and places we want to see survive. Holding the circle, I do believe we'll make it through.

So we'll hold a place for the peace of the grass, the wind shaking the leaves on this tree-lined street, and the blessings of the warm sun and a good, deep breath of air. I also commit anew to raise awareness of the global warming that caused Katrina to be so much worse than it would have been, and the racism that has allowed such injustice against poor people of color in the days leading up to and following this horrific event. Last night I composed some lyrics to go with the traditional song, "Farther Along". It was inspired by a comment I kept hearing from victims of Hurricane Katrina: "We kept expecting help to arrive but nobody came." Those lyrics follow this note.

I am somewhat amazed to find myself getting ready to celebrate my 60th birthday. It's a wonderful time to reflect on the choices I've made, and the incredible gifts I've been given on this journey through life. Mostly, I am grateful for all of you who have encouraged me to lift my voice in so many ways. You have been my mentors, my angels, my loyal friends and family, my challengers and my critics. You have helped me to define my life and my passion. I am so very thankful for each one of you.

"Where I Stand", the new CD, will be in my hands on Thursday, just in time for the Raging Grannies Un-Convention and my New York tour. Thanks to all of you who pre-ordered and have been waiting patiently for your copy. It will be coming to you soon. And for anyone else who might want to order a copy, I'll continue to pay the postage through October. There are fourteen songs and seven chants/rounds/dances on this project --which helps explain why it took so long! There are songs about Rachel Corrie and Julia "Butterfly" Hill. There's a song about standing up for what you believe, and a song about getting out of bed in the morning. There's a song written after the Tsunami that holds painfully true for victims of Hurricane Katrina. And there's a brand new song about the young Ethiopian girl rescued by lions. There is despair in a song about 9/11 and the beginning of the Iraq invasion, and hope that we will "rise higher and higher, on the wings of compassion, justice and hope". If you'd like to help get this CD around, please think about ordering one for your local library, or request songs on your local radio show. I'll be happy to send them a copy. Or consider bringing

me to your church, school, convention or living room!

My web pages are in the process of being updated with information about the new CD and my current itinerary, including my trip to New York, my birthday party, and an upcoming tour to Oregon. Just click here, or copy & paste: [www.lindasongs.com](http://www.lindasongs.com). Soon you'll be able to hear sound clips and order on-line -- just give us a few weeks to get it all up. In the meantime you can download the order form and do it that way, or just email me. There's a special sale on older cassettes, so those of you who still like best to hear cassettes in your car, here's your chance! \$5.00 each. The web site will also soon include a scrapbook of photos, and lyrics from all the recordings.

I'd like to close this letter with the words of the final chorus from "Lions", with thanks to Anne Feeney for some critical word help:

"Make me a lion.  
With a roar like thunder that shakes the ground  
I'll free the ones who once were bound,  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Make me a lion:

May we all find our own way to roar in these times when there are those trying so hard to silence us.

Blessings and peace,  
Linda

NOBODY CAME words 2005 Linda Allen,  
tune: Traditional hymn: Farther Along  
They told us to leave, Lord, before Katrina hit land  
We had no car, so, we just took a stand  
But the water kept risin', we were sure help would come  
For many a soul, it, was too late to run

Nobody came, Lord, Nobody came  
We were cryin' and dyin', and calling your name  
But ain't it a sin, Lord? Ain't it a shame?  
The water kept risin', and nobody came

The storm it was raging, and it tore up our home  
Stuck on a roof top, we tried to call on a phone  
We called for the police, they said they would try  
Guess they were scared of the looters, they just passed us by

To the Convention Center they took some that day  
Guess they thought they'd go looting, so they locked them away  
For three days, no water, no food and no pride  
I'd like to see Bush or Cheney live like they did inside CHORUS

In a forgotten rest home, the nurses cried out  
"The people will die if you don't get them out  
They all deserve better!" they waited in vain  
Ain't it a shame, Lord? Nobody came

They came for the tourists in their fancy hotels  
But it seemed like the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward could just go to hell  
There's a body on my street, two weeks, in the sun  
We keep asking and asking, but nobody comes CHORUS

There's many an angel who did all they could  
They're saints and they're heroes, they're brave and they're good  
But Iraq took our Guard, and, politicians took time  
Too many folks died, and I say that's a crime.

God, You gave us two strong hands, two eyes that can see  
For helping our neighbors through life's stormy seas  
We got to hold up each other, it's not You that's to blame  
But the water kept risin' and nobody came. CHORUS

Dr. Linda Allen  
October Rose Productions  
360-734-7979  
<http://www.lindasongs.com>