

# Grandmothers Circle of News

Weaver's Note: Grandmothers Shirley Tassencourt and Allegra Alquist gave a workshop at the AZ Council of Grandmothers Gathering, Rex Ranch, just south of Tucson. The workshop was titled, "Awakening with Age." Grandmother Shirley made her presentation first; then Grandmother Allegra followed.



Grandmothers Allegra Alquist and Shirley Tassencourt, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering, 2010

### Grandmother Shirley:

I'd like to introduce you to Carl Johan Calleman. He has written the book The Mayan Calendar and the Transformation of Consciousness. He began his studies in 1974 and now lectures throughout the world.

We need to understand the implications of this ancient calendar for our time as we approach 2012. The time is speeding up – 20-fold since the turn of the century, 2000. You might have noticed.

In the Mayan calendar, The 4th World of the Sun always enhances the right hemisphere of the brain, generating a more spiritual worldview, opposing constriction, seeking freedom. The flower children, the Hippies, grew up in the 4th World; it prepared us for the women's movement, the ecology



Mayan Temple

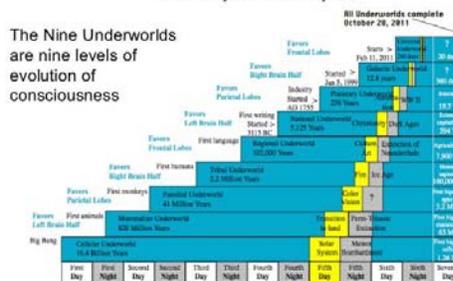
movement, the new age movement time has come. We all sit around

the circle and suppose; Mayan Calendar sits in the center and knows. The Mayans have been at it for 5,000 years, and they planted seeds for human emergence. Even their massive temples are records of their unusual vision of the nine steps of consciousness – each building from the one below and integrating it into the whole.

The ancient Mayans envisioned that consciousness began at the cellular level, then moved to the mammalian, then familial, next tribal, then through cultural (spoken language), national, and planetary (industrial), and now technical, which they term Galactic.

The first level, cellular, took 16 billion years, the tribal 2 million, spoken language 100,000 years, written language 5725 years, the industrial period 256 years (1769-1999), the technical or Galactic will take 12.8 years (1999 to Oct 28, 2011).

The Levels (Underworlds) of Evolution of Consciousness of the Mayan Calendar System



It's easy for us to look back over history, but how did the ancient ones look forward to 2012? No need to follow the numbers, but you might note that each level declines in years. We are running out of time. Just as the calendar stops at October 28, 2011, this is the date of 13/13 AHOW, a very sacred number for the Mayans.

Instead of abstraction just think of the time it took you to have the consciousness you have. All the incredible multiple parents you have way back, way back in time to obtain life and consciousness. And now we reach the pivotal crown of consciousness in 2012.

Thousands of devotees for thousands of years sought for oneness. We seem to have incarnated at the right time. We may be enveloped in a wave of fortune that will be taking us there for free. It hardly seems possible, knowing the discipline and hard work of those faith achievers that we might float in on the wave of unity in this coming year.



There is a 20-fold rise in the frequency of change since 2000: burnout, stress, multitasking as well; this has become a major condition of people today. The ego mind cannot survive at the high frequency of time when the period of Universal Time takes over for 260 days in March 2011, continuing until October 28, 2011. They say there is not an end to the world but an end of time as we know it in 2012.

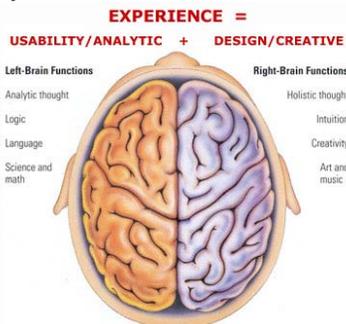
The mind without "self" can manage the high frequency. Just be in the Now Forever – Now, Now, Now, Now. Eckhart Tolle has been instructing this for years.

Right now we are in the 4th World of the Sun in Mayan tradition as the calendar predicts. The last occasion of the 4th World of the Sun prevailed in the 60s and 70s with an uncanny burst of rebellion from young people all over the world. (cont'd page 2)

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They refused authority, refused a career, sought enlightenment from the East. Some called it naïve, but right brain at its best is always what the left brain calls “naïve.”

So here we are again in the 4th World of the Sun right now, with the Sun in our right brain. This is another road to enlightenment. It involves peace within our own bodies, between our right and left hemispheres. We have been duped into age-long thinking that reading, writing, arithmetic, argument and analytical thinking is the way to go. In school we are drilled in it. Our left hemisphere of the brain dutifully accepts this. But it's time for “upside-downside-inside-out thinking” – A change in the weather. Now the right hemisphere of the brain fosters peace, wholeness, mysticism, meditation fun, love,



all kinds of art, nature and freedom.

The stress of the left brain will be balanced by right brain recovery in this World of the Sun. This was the Hippies' rebellion. Those of you who started this are now in your 50s and 60s. You will do the “right brain thing” in a more elegant and effective way.

Shiva, the destructive lady, will be busy taking away all the things we don't want – like material excesses, credit cards, greed, carbon oil – so a new life can begin. The women's movement will be re-fined, the ecology movement will get a burst of speed. The new age

will be a golden age.

Hoorah for the 4th World of the Sun! It's preparing us to think with our whole brain – a mind truly unified and whole. As Lincoln said, “a nation divided cannot long endure.” We are in the process of re-evaluating our world. It may be just in time.

Upside-downside-inside out – How wonderful. Divine design is doing fine. Duality is going blind. **HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS.**

### Grandmother Allegra Alquist:

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could ride the ninth wave of the Mayan calendar into enlightenment next year as Shirley has posited? Buddha and Jesus have said we are already enlightened but we just don't know it. Maybe it's time for the cloud in our minds to be lifted.

We have the intellectual understanding that we are all One, that this is a holographic universe, that there is no separate self, that time is circular, that the only time is Now. Yet our usual experience is that we and everything around us is solid and separated. We can feel scared, isolated, vulnerable, worried about getting older, having pain and finally death.

We elders grew up trained from childhood to be rugged individuals in linear time. We had nuclear families. We protected our boundaries from anything foreign, took care of ourselves and our own, tried to “get ahead.” Now everything is turned upside, downside, inside out. It's more obvious what the ancient wisdom teachings have emphasized—that we are all one, that everything is connected with everything in the universe, that everything we think, say, or do has an effect on the whole.

How should we live our lives? Where is our refuge when things get rough, as we feel in our gut they will? We will continue to look for answers. Jesus said, “Seek and ye shall find.” T.S. Eliot wrote a poem during the darkest time of World War II, when Britain was burning:

“Four Quartets” (an excerpt)  
We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.  
Through the unknown,  
unremembered gate  
When the last of earth left to discover  
Is that which was the beginning;  
At the source of the longest river  
The voice of the hidden waterfall  
And the children in the apple-tree  
Not known, because not looked for  
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness  
Between two waves of the sea.  
Quick now, here, now, always—  
A condition of complete simplicity  
(Costing not less than everything)  
And all shall be well and  
All manner of thing shall be well  
When the tongues of flame are in-folded  
Into the crowned knot of fire  
And the fire and the rose are one.”

A comment on the lines “A condition of complete simplicity (costing not less than everything)” This might mean to give up all of our cherished concepts, a complete surrender of ego self to whatever comes. And the next lines “All shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well”... Eliot took from Julien of Norwich, who wrote this during desperate times in the Middle Ages. “And the fire and the rose are one” could be interpreted

(cont'd page 3)

When the Grandmothers speak, the world will heal.

(cont'd from page 2)

as the end of our perception of duality, when heaven and hell are seen as our own creations.

What can we do now in our lives to co-create the 9<sup>th</sup> wave of unity? To experience Oneness, go beyond just words? First of all

**SLOW DOWN!**



Practice being in the Now, the only time there is. Here are two possible directions for bringing on experiences of no separation from who and what we think is “out there.” First is an expansion of boundaries and second is shrinking them into nothingness.

Deliberate expansion of boundaries is to include into our consciousness as much as we can of what we think is “out there.” This requires opening the heart, walking in the shoes of others, noticing the aliveness of everything. Engaging with Nature. Dogen Zenji wrote in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, “In the assemblies of the enlightened ones there have been many cases of mastering the Way by bringing forth hearts of plants and trees. This is what awakening the mind for Enlightenment is like.”

Many right brain activities soften us for expansion. Praying with others, cooking and eating together, circle groups, making love in sacred manner, important life rituals like birth, death, marriage, lying on rocks, under trees, making fires and reading embers, standing naked in the rain, watching messages in clouds, sleeping outdoors under stars alone or with others, being WITH sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset, change of seasons.

Music, dance, poetry, group chant, energy work, sports or any activity which requires total attention.

Some of us have been doing these things for years, perhaps in preparation for the second approach, or in conjunction with it.

The second one can be more challenging, but also can bring the greatest reward. It requires shrinking the boundaries through complete concentration, total awareness and connection with what we are thinking saying of doing. Being totally awake! Our usual self can become absorbed into nothingness and complete silence. There are stages for dissolving the subject - object relationship which can begin by carefully watching the mind, observing how EVERYTHING changes, clearing the mind so we can see everything as it is. Dogen Zenji said “To study the Buddha way is to study the self. To study the self is to forget the self. To for-get the self is to be enlightened by the 10,000 things.” The 10,000 things in ancient Japan meant the Universe. This takes discipline.

Yet all the Christian, Buddhist, Sufi and other wisdom traditions say we can't get there by trying; but we must remain in a longing, receptive space. Meditation and prayerful contemplation, time alone in quiet can prepare the way to tranquility and the knowledge that “All shall be well.” They say we will all awaken eventually. In the end I've concluded we just have to surrender our feeling of separateness, our egoist craving, our own will. Might say, “Surrender to God, surrender to Love, and never forget to laugh, especially when things get tough.”



## GRAMOTHER JOURNEYS

*Weaver's Note: Ah, sisters – yet another idea for Grandmother expression. In having the humble experience to speak with so many Grandmothers and hearing their stories, I am encouraging GM's everywhere to write these stories – the column is to be “Grandmother Journeys”- these may be serious, fun, mysterious, or just a day in one's life. This is the third submission of one of those journeys and is brought to us by our dear Grandmother Connie Spittler.*

### “Coming Home”

By Connie Spittler

Late last spring, Bob and I moved from Tucson, AZ, to Omaha's Brook Hollow.

Now, we experience the scene change, from Southwest landscape to a small nest of wooded cul de sacs. The finger of a rivulet reaching across our backyard replaced our deep, desert wash. Blue dragonflies, not orange, whispered on the pond, not the pool.



Before, layers of intense heat encircled palo verde and mesquite. Now, cool breezes chased through the tangle of elm branches that sheltered us. Magically, summer's lizards became robins. Javalina transformed into raccoon. On humid afternoons, no furry black tarantula hid in the sand, but a woodchuck lazed upon the grass. Yes, coyote and roadrunner were gone, but ducks and ducklings swam by. Frogs spoke with croaky voices and snapping turtles crossed the road. In the beginning, Canada geese came to call, trailed by fuzzy goslings. Somehow, the rabbits stayed the same, regardless of



locale.

(cont'd page 4)

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The promise of red fox, wild turkey and deer once spotted in our neighborhood caught our interest. The visible creatures and rumors of other possible sightings, led me to believe that we'd moved into a kind of never land, similar to Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. I waited for Mr. Toad to leap through the grass and peer through the sliding glass door of the downstairs patio. Instead, a small grey possum paused to check us out after the sun went down.



Admittedly, I came back to the Great Plains in an uncertain mood. I dearly miss our Arizona friends, neighbors and groups, my desert writings and readings, the ever-present sunshine and even temperatures. But Bob presented the finest selling point of all: family. Two daughters, three grandkids, one son-in-law and sister.

In fact, Valerie, our Lincoln, NE daughter developed a serious case of Crohn's Disease and underwent an MRI, CT Scans and liver biopsy that fortunately, came out ok. In the fall, she began Romercaid treatments. Through it all, we're grateful to be close by.

Other significant moments of proximity surface. In a grocery store parking lot, our Omaha daughter, Fae, drove by and waved. Later, she said that when she came across me unexpectedly, tears welled in her eyes. Her mom was back.

Living in Nebraska, we saw granddaughter Zoey in a play. We visited granddaughter Hannah in her first college apartment. On my birthday, grandson Noah cooked and wrote a special poem for me.

Bob watched football with son-in-law Mike and his dad Ed. Bob's sister Marilyn shared her homegrown tomatoes and hot peppers.

Certainly, a different time zone swings to its own rhythms. Autumn mornings tingle. Black squirrels scurry after brown ones as they forage in our woodland. Yesterday, a crowd of blackbirds gathered in the trees, before swooping off on their mission of migration. Cardinal, jay, junco, chickadee, downy woodpecker, and rose breasted nuthatch stop by for seedy power lunches. For the first time in a long while, oak and maple leaves change color before our eyes, then like squadrons of gold and scarlet paper planes, they're off, floating through the air.

I know that winter's cold shadow waits in the wings to test our spirits, skies of pewter, days of snow and ice. For now, I watch for little things to surface, sending me life messages. Like a walking stick, I adapt.

For whatever reason, I believe most of us, most of the time, are in the place we're supposed to be. And Bob and I find ourselves in Brook Hollow. Or put another way, we're walking through the pages of *The Wind in the Willows*.

### (Noah's Poem)

#### "Mimi Knows"

By Noah Sterba

There must be something about growing old,  
Something secret bestowed upon those traveling further into life,  
Maybe it's that all things are just big and little circles?  
Or maybe, they are all one big spiral?  
Maybe the distinction doesn't even matter,  
It very well could be, but I bet

Mimi knows.

Could it be that

Nothing is more and nothing is less?

Nothing is better and nothing is best?

Yet while we're all alike, we are just a little bit different?  
Is it possible it's the realization that

Sometimes we need noise and sometimes we need silence?

Sometimes we need peace and sometimes we need tension"

Sometimes we must laugh while other times, let our eyes moisten?  
It's definitely possible, but I am not for certain.

I think it's more than symbols could express on a page,  
And more than all the words I could make.

It has something to do with the way we breathe,

the ways we shape our mouths, and

the rhythm in our steps

But even those,

I cannot be so sure.

There has got to be something

wonderful about growing old

Because I need not even squint to see that

Mimi knows.



(And oh, yes, my eyes moistened. I thought of us all, our needs of more and less, our differences and sameness, the way we walk and talk and laugh. I remembered the noise of the Grandmothers' desert drums, and the deep, silent breathing of our meditations. Noah's right. There must be something wonderful about growing old. And sometimes we need to be reminded of it. All in all, it looks like Bob and I are where we are supposed to be. There's a pond and huge trees to console us for leaving the desert.)



## Grandmothers Gathering for Gitchigaaming (Lake Superior)



By Lorraine Norrgard



Gathering at the Shore of Lake Gitchigaming, 2010

It was a gorgeous sunny day as grandmothers rode the ferry across a bay in Lake Superior to come together from far and wide for the first Grandmothers Gathering held on Madeline Island, a sacred place the Ojibwe call *Mooningwanekaningminis*. The gathering was coordinated by nine women with Lorraine Norrgard as weaver. In a beautiful cedar wood facility, 50 grandmothers from 12 states came to appreciate Lake Superior and all waters of the Earth. Our intention was to gather diverse elder woman and welcome all women to celebrate and express gratitude to Lake Superior and all water as one with each other and the community, and to create and communicate a vision of all water as healthy, vital, and balanced, now and for future generations.

The group was diverse with seven women pipe carriers from different tribes, including Margaret Behan, a Cheyenne/Arapahoe grandmother from Lame Deer, MT, and one of the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers. Josephine Mondamin and her sister, Ojibwe women from Thunder Bay, Canada, came and shared their stories of a commitment to walk around all the Great Lakes to bring attention to the importance of health of the lakes. Six facilitators from the Arizona and

Gulf Coast Councils came to help with the small circles.

We took four trips to Lake Superior to meditate, pray, sing, give offerings, hold pipe ceremonies, and swim. On the third day, we held a public intergenerational event. More than 150 men, women, and children came to meet the grandmothers at a free traditional feast of venison, wild rice, Lake Superior white fish, and trout donated by local tribes. After the feast, an Ojibwe woman hand drum singer welcomed everyone to the big tent. The Ojibwe women of the Three Fires Mide Lodge brought out the sacred Little Boy water drum and performed a water ceremony. This was followed by the eloquent, informative, and humorous words of thirteen grandmothers from the gathering who shared the knowledge they had gained from their time with Lake Superior. Marion Sinclair made 13 ceramic globes for water that each grandmother held as she spoke.

The microphone was then turned over to the public and many spoke about the importance of the Lake, the Grandmothers, the Island, and our prayers for the future. Everyone who spoke was given a little birch bark 'Thank You' tag to tie on their faucet. It was a profound experience.

Workshops themes included Dr. Emoto's work, poetry writing, guided visualization, spoon bending, and singing. On the last day, we stood in a line at the shore, sang the Nibi Wabo song, and sent a group offering bundle into the Lake. Our hearts were soaring and the Lake felt blessed. We could not have hoped for a more perfect gathering, and we appreciate all the support from the Arizona, Gulf Coast, and Texoma grandmothers who attended.



Josephine and Marge Green



Small group at Madeline Island



Diana Lampsa Madeline Island



Margaret Behan and Julie



Margaret Behan and Peggy Ryan

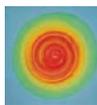


Lake Gitchigaamingi

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After this first outstanding experience, we have decided to hold the next gathering at Gitchi-gaaming/Lake Superior on Madeline Island, August 11-14, 2011. For more information, contact Lorraine Norrgard at lnorrgard@aol.com.



## UPSIDE, DOWNSIDE, INSIDE OUT

### Council of Grandmothers October 21-24, 2010

By Shelly Jermain



Altar AZ Gathering, Rex Ranch, 2010

This year, the Council returned to beautiful Rex Ranch in Southern Arizona. A large, sprawling complex of buildings, the Ranch allowed our Council to expand to 53 grandmothers. Most of our days enjoyed the warm fall sunshine known to the Southwest; we were even gifted with rain...always a blessing on the desert. Beginning with our Opening Circle, grandmothers came together to share and explore the theme "Upside, Downside, Inside Out." In the first presentation by two original grandmothers, Allegra Ahlquist and Shirley Tassencourt, we began the spinning of a transformative experience. Talking about the coming change as informed by the Mayan Calendar, Shirley opened our minds with new possibilities. Allegra continued that opening by

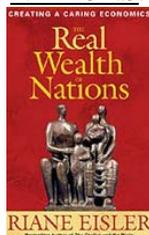
drawing us into a magical circle, embraced by a ringing crystal bowl and ancient sounds of grief, as all were blessed with feather cleansing and clearing.

The evening continued our captivating experience as Mary Brown Bear opened the wonders of the pipe ceremony. For those who stayed, individual experiences were gifted as Mary brought the pipe to each of us.



Our next morning, as all mornings at the Arizona Council, started as early as each wished, with outside meditative movement Mending the Sacred Hoop led by Nancy Masland, followed by meditations and early morning chanting. Small circles gathered after breakfast to continue exploring our theme. Throughout the gathering, many impromptu offerings were held: water blessings, Mayan Calendar teachings, chair massages. Friday afternoon, original grandmothers came together to share their experiences of how the AZ Council came to be; stories were told that made us laugh, cry and sing! This sharing led directly into our next workshop offered by long-time grandmother Kathie Murtey who led a discussion entitled "Finances: An Inside-Out Perspective — What's Good for Women is Good for the World," based on Riane Eisler's latest work, *The Real Wealth of Nations*.

### THE REAL WEALTH OF NATIONS.



She talked about how different our ideas of wealth and business would

be if non-paid work were taken into consideration.

From these didactic approaches to change, grand-mothers then gathered with new-to-us grandmother Yolanda Ronquillo, who led us on an inward journey to capture a memory and record it by each of us making a book.



Yolanda Ronquillo

That evening marked the full moon in October, the traditional time grandmothers have gathered for the Arizona Council. In a ceremony created by grandmothers at the gathering, we welcomed the full moon with ceremony, song, and dance. (See "Full Moon Ceremony, page 7.)



Small circles continued on Saturday with the traditional give-away. In the afternoon, the Elder Council was held where grandmothers over 70 shared wisdom (and often hilarious) stories with all. (See "Elder Wisdom," p 7.) In the evening,

we gathered to share our gifts of music, storytelling, and performance. We were delighted with a trio of fluting aliens,



Barb Nelson, Kathryn Twinfeathers and Lorraine Norrgard – AZ 2010

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a wickedly funny Halloween story told by a real Witch, (Marion Sinclair), Perry's dramatization of our life's ordinary accomplishments, beautiful dancing, and many, many, many musical performances. We were all enchanted!

Sunday morning was the end of our Council. Brief small circles were held for leave-taking, followed by our Closing Circle and releasing of the energies gathered when we began on Thursday. All left filled with sights, sounds, music, laughter, stories, memories, conversations, insights—everything that makes the Arizona Council of Grandmothers so memorable and keeps many of us coming back year after year.

The Planning Circle continues its weaving; we'll gather in January to start the spinning for the 2011 Council. Stay tuned for final dates, possibly the full moon of October.



**Arizona Grandmothers  
October 2010 Full Moon  
Ceremony  
by Judith Bobbitt**



When Bobbie Goodman asked me to do the Full Moon Ceremony for the AZ Gathering, I replied, I don't know anything about doing a Full Moon Ceremony, but I will do

it. After I hung up, I wondered why on earth I had said yes?

After panic subsided, I promptly went to Google and arrived at some very strange sites. My computer froze, kicked me off. Nothing worked, including my brain! I emailed a friend who does a lot of ceremonies and asked for help. She emailed me back and said you know how to do one. *Trust.*

This 2010 October Moon was very significant, a blue moon about intention, releasing our blocks, receiving blessings, and moving ahead on our spiritual paths. I lit my Grandmothers candle, ask-



ing Creator and Spirit Guides to remove my ego and from my heart put together the ceremony. The message came through loud and clear. *Trust!* Open your heart and be guided to the people who need to be part of the ceremony. I then knew there would be grandmothers at the gathering filled with great knowledge to guide and help.

Arriving the day before the Gathering, I was calm, knowing the right people would appear. I would begin early the next morning. At 7:40 a.m., I was awaked by my friend asking if I was ready for breakfast. My alarms had failed to awaken me! Later that day, I caught up with Nancy Masland. We made a breakfast date for the next morning to work on details and get people to help with the ceremony.

Next morning, I was sleeping so soundly, my roommate thought maybe I was extremely tired and needed the sleep. I awakened at 7:55am! Again, my alarm did not work. Racing to breakfast, I found Nancy Masland with four other ladies. Suddenly, all of my fears

disappeared. I recognized here at the table were the key people to help create the ceremony. Two had arrived at the very last minute. I smiled, took a deep breath and Spirit took over. Within a few minutes, we had the outline together. I knew grandmothers needed to release blocks. Mary Brown said she could teach us how to do prayer ties.



Small square yellow, red, black or white cloth, pinch of tobacco placed in center, tie sinew around closed square tightly, making prayer as tie the square.

Perfect! But there were Grandmothers whose fingers could not make the ties. As Spirit guided us, we decided we would gather people that afternoon to make them for all grandmothers. For two hours, we prayed for the grandmothers, for peace, for release of blockages and clearing the way for the blessings yet unknown.

That evening, as Grandmothers entered the circle, they were given a prayer tie. Mary Brown taught us the meaning behind the colors, called in the guides from all directions, and together we prayed and blew our intentions into our prayer ties. The angelic voice of Margarita Acosta sang a Mayan Moon song.

Younger grandmothers came then and escorted the elders outside to the fire circle. Elders led all grandmothers to place their prayer ties into the fire. Extra ties were put in for those who could not attend, for peace, for guidance, for healing.

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Most of the day rain and cold wind danced around. As we began the ceremony, clouds gently moved into a rim around the glorious moon, and the weather turned



mild. In the fire and moon glow, grandmothers danced, played instruments, sang, laughed, and shared. Others went back inside, some shared their gifts of healing, others left to rest, to sleep, to appreciate Spirit.

I learned you can have quite a journey when you let go of ego, step aside and trust. Spirit has quite a sense of humor. The morning after the ceremony, I awakened at 5:45 a.m., my phone was working. Very funny, Spirit.

My sisters and Grandmothers, thanks to all of you for co-creating the Full Moon Ceremony, to be held in sacred space by Creator, Spirit Guides and the other invisibles.



## Elder Wisdom AZ Gathering Elders Council

Weaver's Note:  
thanks to Bobbie Goodman, Diane Cook, and Taylor Michael for taking notes; any misquotes are the fault of the compiler, Eleanor Gallagher. Also, apologies from the Weaver: photos of some GM's were not available for this article.

**How has our theme "Inside, Outside, Upside Down" impacted you?**

**Do you have a "bucket list"?**  
**What advice do you have to offer?**

**Sandra Stephenson** – It's time to come out of my shell—turn my

caterpillar into a butterfly and let my colors show, be vocal, give more thought to global issues.

**Hella Gutjahr** – There is much pain in losing loved ones, but I'm in peace, not in pieces. I can be a mother to many people. I'm gathering global family members to become my family.

**Nancy Garrity** – Growing older means being happy and healthy; there are 27 levels of energy of the body, mind, and spirit. Be positive always, especially with yourself; be authentic.



Nancy Garrity, Rex Ranch, AZ  
Gathering 2010

**Mary Lundeen** – Cultivating art of happiness is the most important task to complete in life.



Mary Lundeen, AZ Gathering, 2010

**Paula Olch** – Nothing is constant but change; go with the flow. I've had a 6-month relationship with a man online, and I'll probably never meet him, but I'm a new woman and enjoying the heck out of it! I want to live long enough to see my 10-year-old granddaughter grow up.



Paula Olch, Rex Ranch 2010

**Barbara McDonald** – I came here upside down. I'm not used to the kind of compassion you all have in your heart. I recently put my partner in a home for Alzheimer's. His family says I'm not supporting him, but I look at my own life. How much do I need to do to maintain my own integrity? We're leaning all the time.

**Diane Wilson** – Sacred space has been created so we can turn ourselves inside out and upside down in safe hands. Take that courage out to the world—laughter is the best connection.

**Judith Bobbitt** – Each day is a gift; take care of yourself; eat well; follow passion; grow spiritually to mentor and love those who are falling down in their path. I kick as many boulders out of the way that I can.



Judith Bobbitt, Rex Ranch, AZ  
Gathering, 2010

**Kathy Murtey** – My bucket list is regularly evaluating my life. Am I doing something that's not making me happy? Every year, taking at least one out that's not making me happy and something that is or might result in adding the life I love.



Kathy Murtey, Rex Ranch, AZ  
Gathering, 2010

**Judith Billings** – I'm in a stream that carries me wherever it will. I'm not in charge and I'm not planning it. Bucket lists bewilder me; there are no lists in streams.

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Opportunities pop up; dabbling is fun and I like it.



Judith Billings, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering 2010

**Barrie Ryan** – The theme represents the world right now. In the chaos, one sits in meditation until one knows what to do. Accept chaos; meditate until you have your awareness. Be wild; be free; be happy; do what you need to do.



Barrie Ryan, Rex Ranch 2010

**Nancy Masland** –I'm changing the energy of the world so I can live in peace, mending the sacred hoop. Be wild, be free, dance. Start a serious spiritual practice *now*.



Nancy Masland, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering, 2010

**Elinore Detiger** – Upside down is heaven on earth. Inside out is giving birth. Earth's expression is like a new soul. What is our legacy going to be? I do pray I have enough time to complete what I have started. It's a beautiful dream to be here.



Elinore Detiger, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering 2010

**Barb Nelson** – My life has been long and full. Life is change and as long as you are alive, expect and embrace changing. Open.

**Kit Wilson** –I always wanted to teach and give service but I've recently learned the value of letting people give service to me.



Kit Wilson, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering, 2010

**Marion Sinclair** – Being the artist in the group, upside down- inside out is my usual. This theme is my life; for once, I'm normal! The more chaos the better – it's the way it should be.



Marion Sinclair, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering 2010

**Irene Walden** – Registration was chaotic!



Irene Walden, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering 2010

**Judy O'Leary** – Chaos is really disordered design.



Judy O'Leary, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering 2010

**Lupe Rodriguez** – I look around the world and community and family and feel it all upside down. Change is inevitable but flexibility is up to you – it makes life a lot easier. Take care of Mother Earth– conserve water, recycle, clean.



Lupe Rodriguez, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering, 2010

**Nonine Anderson** – I see the theme as the chaos we have all around us, like putting dots on a paper until one day a dot makes it all a beautiful pattern. Maybe you or I will be that next dot.



Nonine Anderson, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering, 2010

**Donna DeHann** – I feed the dog, let the cat out, the cows in, and write.



Donna DeHann, Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering 2010



Marion Sinclair, Kit Wilson, Allegra Alquisit, Shirley Tassencourt, Ilse Swihart Rex Ranch, AZ Gathering 2010  
(cont'd page 10)

(cont'd from page 9)

**Joan Marker**– The theme describes my life, life on tilt, still struggling to figure out who I am

**Ilse Swihart** – I strive to stay always present - just around the bend there is space and awareness. Chaos is in us; confusion is a part of life. Decisions are at every corner. I am paying more attention to be forgiving of myself and of whatever happens. If I forgive, I meet life with an open heart. The top of the pyramid is love.



## Peace Across the Planet Shiva Listening Winter Solstice 2010

Weaver's note: this peace movement activity was introduced several newsletters ago. For new readers, go to [www.peaceacrosstheplant.org](http://www.peaceacrosstheplant.org)

In addition the **Winter Solstice** is at 4:38pm Mtn time on Tuesday, Dec. 21. Karleena will host a Listening Ceremony gathering starting at 4pm at her home. The ceremony itself will start about 4:30 and last for 10-20 minutes. If you are in the Tucson area and wish to attend, contact Karleena at 520-743-0991 for more information

What a time this is!  
This is our moment This is the now  
we have called forth.  
with immense joy.  
All the Elementals and all the Earth  
Spirits  
stand tall and sweet  
amongst us.  
Sing out!  
Sing out with the boldness of a  
free heart.  
We are home.

We are home to the peace  
we are co-creating  
and accepting utterly  
Now.

This season of change asks  
everything of us  
and gives even more  
in return.

The Earth Mother and our Star  
families  
join us all  
in a continually intertwining  
Soul.

We are one.

We are unconditional love.

We are unlimited acceptance.

We are home.

We are peace

Now.



Karleena and the Shiva Lingam at her home in Tucson – 2009



## News from the Councils



Weaver's Note: This Council was formerly known as the Texoma Council and had an Intention of meeting for five years. At the end of the last Gathering, there was an emergence that this council would continue but was unclear until recently how that would manifest itself. So, the following represents that manifestation.

## Dreamweavers Council of Grandmothers 2011 Gathering

**June 15-18, 2011 –location to be determine but most likely within the Tucson area.**

“When the Grandmothers Speak, the Earth Will Heal!”The balance of Yin and Yang brings transformation. Our Earth has Yang energy out of control and Yin energy impotent, this must be corrected!!! '13 Grandmothers of the Star Lodges... We have come to help bring the balance and offer Yang Energy “The Clock of Comfort.” This is Divine Feminine Sacred Energy Time ....DO NOT FRET!

**THEME: EMERGENCE=to show fully, NOW!**

**COLORS: black and white.**



Details will be forth coming.  
Contact Nonine Anderson (520)-888-1762 for more info.

## Gulf Coast Gathering April 7-10, 2011 at Visitation Monastery in Mobile AL

(founded in 1833 and is part of the Mobile Historic Preservation Society. They offer retreat facilities to diverse groups.)

**THEME: “Turtle Path”**

...connecting our innerlives...with our outer surroundings....

“When the grandmothers speak the earth will heal.” We invite you to come sit in circle and explore your wisdom, creativity and power. For more information, contact Carolyn Garbett E-mail [paris98@gmail.com](mailto:paris98@gmail.com) or 251-0945-1295.

(cont'd page 11)

When the Grandmothers speak, the world will heal.

(cont'd from page 10)

## Mark Your Calendar!

**October 12, 2011**

### Arizona Gathering

More information in the next newsletter. Or, for more information, contact Shelly Jurmain, Weaver, at (520) 751-3879 or e-mail or E-mail: [sjurmain@comcast.net](mailto:sjurmain@comcast.net)

### Gathering for Gitchigaaming (Lake Superior)



Madeline Island,  
LaPointe, WI

**August 11-14 2011**

### Planning in Progress

More information will be in the next newsletter OR, contact Lorraine Norrgard, Weaver, at [lnorrgard@aol.com](mailto:lnorrgard@aol.com).



### Aurora Borealis Gathering Minnesota, May, 2011



Dates and other information will be announced later. Nancy Garrity and a core group of women are planning this event. For more information, contact Nancy at 612-889-0721 or [nitakik@gmail.com](mailto:nitakik@gmail.com)



### The Fruit of B's Loom

Greetings  
Grandmothers!  
from B Campbell



HO! Once again, I sit at my desk—

the sky is filled with abundant sunshine and boy-howdy, is it cold – well, yes, I know that is all relative – but for Tucson, it is cold. Going for my morning walk at the park around 7:30 AM, there were patches of ice on the pavement where the puddles had frozen and the entire athletic fields were covered with frost! And to think I use to live in the mountains of Colorado. By now, friends still there report feet of snow, not inches and near zero temps at night. So, all in all, while watching the beautiful cardinal at the feeder, it's not so cold after all. Life is good!

My grandchildren (Olivia, 13, Tom, 16) and daughter, Kelly, will be here for the holidays. My husband, Stephen and Kelly both remain cancer free!

**YES! Life is good.** I also plan to visit my mother in March next year for her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday – bless her.

I send peace, harmony and blessing to all of you as this year ends and we bring in 2011....2011.....how strange that sounds to me. I will turn 65...even stranger. Wasn't it just 1963 and I was graduating from high school instead of just 5 more years until I enter the elder circle? Trickster is always with us! Life is still good. PS. As newsletter went to press, Tucson is back to that gorgeous winter weather with abundant sunshine! Yeaaaaa!

### TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK



Date for submitting materials for the next issue is **April 1, 2011**. Please attempt to limit articles to approximately **500** words. If your article exceeds this amount, contact me ("B") directly. Articles may be sent to : B Campbell, 735 W.

Annandale Way, Oro Valley, AZ 85737; however, my preference when possible is by E-mail to: [bluechablis@comcast.net](mailto:bluechablis@comcast.net)



As final issue for the year, I would like to thank all of the newsletter team for their help, with special thanks to Eleanor Gallagher for editing and Joanne Reichlin for assistance with mailing the newsletters and contacting subscribers! COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT EVERYONE!



*Weaver's Note: The intention of this column is sharing information regarding the whereabouts of Grandmothers, events or general happenings. If you have something to share, to B Campbell, 735 W Annandale Way, Oro Valley, 8573 OR email, [tobluechablis@comcast.net](mailto:tobluechablis@comcast.net) OR better yet, call me, (520) 572-1470 – I so love talking to Grandmothers!*

### Here's the latest:

**GM Kit Wilson** says to tell every one she remains grateful for all of the Grandmother energy coming her way and appreciates it. She says nothing has changed in her condition other than the "unwanted visitor" remains with her. Kit continues to work, seeing clients as before, goes to the gym regularly and continues to travel. As a matter of fact, she will soon take her yearly trek to Widbey Island for her long standing Circle. Kit does appreciate the Grandmother energy but asks to please limit contact via cards and E-mail - [kitw@cox.net](mailto:kitw@cox.net) or 3907 E Campbell, Phoenix, AZ 85018

**GM Gracie Rogers** has now reached six months of remission since treatment of her lymphoma. I had a wonderful conversation with

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*(cont'd from page 11)*  
**MORE PHOTOS AZ  
GATHERING 2010**



**AZ Gathering, Rex Ranch, 2010**



**Heading Back Home**



**Marion Sinclair, Nancy Masland  
and Ilse Swihart**



**Sharing Meals**



**Ha Ha! Young GM's Eleanor  
Gallager (sitting, tongue out) and  
Trish Savage, standing**



**Precious Time Together! Sharing,  
Caring and Nourishing**



**LaVearn Camp and Joan Bliskie**



**Barb Nelson, Kit Wilson, Jackie  
Blue and Irene Walden (standing)**



**B Campbell, Mary Brown Bear and  
Lorraine Norrgard**



**Margarita Acosta, Joanne Weiner and  
Judy O'Leary**



**Allegra Alquist, Shirley Tassencourt,  
back row Nancy Masland, Jackie Blue  
Rex Ranch, 2010**



**Judith Bobbitt and Shelly Jermain, Rex  
Ranch, 2010**



**Bobbie Goodman and Elinore Detiger  
Rex Ranch 2010**



**Lorraine Norrgard, Rex Ranch, 2010**



**Kathryn Twinfeathers, Rex Ranch, 2010**

When the Grandmothers speak, the world will heal.