

CIRCLE OF GRANDMOTHERS

Volume 2 Number 6

December 1995



NEWSLETTER EXPANDED

At the end of this newsletter you will notice a heading, **DESERT CRONES** which is another group of old women to which I belong. We needed a way to keep in touch and I didn't want to do another newsletter so just added it to this one. You all will be having an opportunity that you wouldn't have otherwise had to read about each other. Please let me know if you have comments.

from Oregon & Florence

The October issue of *Circle of Grandmothers*, with the vivid accounts of those who attended, was next best to being there. Those of us who were bodily absent could feel a part of the continuation of the dreams and accomplishments of the very first gathering. And what a wonderful experience that one was!! Like a first child, it will always have a special importance as The Beginning. If it is at all possible, I am already hoping to participate in Gathering Three. So vivid is the report of the 1995 one that I don't want to miss the excitement again! . . . I continue many of the same activities I have reported previously. Involvement in several community social action groups, (especially focusing on the shelterless, which is a more accurate term than "homeless") . . . A two-day pow-wow and gathering of the eight Native American tribes in Oregon and others from adjoining states offered programs open to the public . . . I am also about to embark on a new venture by being a volunteer as a mentor to a high school girl under the Networking for Youth program that assists at-risk high school youngsters. For those of you who are members of the Institute for Noetic Science, you will be interested to know that a group has just started here in Eugene, and at the organizational

from Ruth, Typist/Mailer

To those for whom this newsletter is new, the logo on the masthead is by Virginia Hall of Tubac, AZ. The triangle represents the triune of Maiden, Mother, Crone reminding us that is from whence we come.

Triangles represent the female principal, particularly when depicted with the point down. Circles are also one of the primary feminine signs. They represent protected, consecrated space in matriarchal civilizations. A circle, which is without beginning or end, embodies the capacity and function of the feminine to move through cycles.

As stated above, I am a typist mailer and the contents of this production are from you, the readers. Send in whatever you think will be of interest to the other Grandmothers; particularly about who you are, your activities and your insights.

Anyone who wants to receive newsletters, please send me \$10.00 and your name and address. Last year there were 6 issues and I'm planning on that number again this year but it depends on the amount of material I receive. If there is too much for a certain issue, I may edit it or hold it for the next issue.

meeting, I was amazed to see about 50 in attendance. It will be another chance to be a sort of a model and spread a bit of grandmotherly whatever because the group was largely middle-aged or younger.



Grandmother's Gathering pictures by Brett Bravo

from Connie Spittler

THE GRANDMOTHER VIDEO

"Grandmothers Speak: Healing the Earth", a 48 minute video documentary of the first Grandmother gathering, is now available from Connie Spittler, ConText Productions. The philosophy, insights and perceptions of the 16 women who met at Mary Diamond's Cielo En Tierra are interwoven with the cottonwood trees, the full moon, flowers and butterflies, and a rippling stream. These are wonderful women speaking words of wisdom in an inviting, tranquil place. They are seeking to heal the world. They are looking for new solutions to old problems. They are dedicated to making a difference.

TO ORDER "GRANDMOTHERS SPEAK: HEALING THE EARTH" VIDEOTAPE:

The original Grandmothers can send \$20+\$2 shipping and handling
All others, the price is \$29 +\$2

Send check to:

ConText Productions
5405 N. Estelle Drive
Tucson, AZ 85718

The video will be shown on Access Tucson, the community cable station, but no schedule has been determined at this time.

MEET EDNA WARD

I attended the Women of Vision conference in the Berkshires in November, and while in Boston had a wonderful luncheon with Edna Ward, the author of the book "Celebrating Ourselves, a Crone Ritual Book". She will be in Tucson this spring from March 13 to 21. Edna said she would love to meet the Grandmothers and the Desert Crones, so we are planning to arrange the monthly Crone meeting around her schedule and will set the date far enough in advance to extend an invitation to the Grandmothers via the next newsletter. Edna is a member of the Feminist Spiritual Community in Portland, Maine, a group that started in 1980, has between 20-30 members and is still going strong. If you are interested in meeting Edna Ward, please call me, Connie Spittler, at 520 888-4292. We can't set the date yet but will plan on publishing it in the February newsletter and you can call me within the next couple of weeks.

from Malka Golden-Wolfe

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CRONES AND GRANDMOTHERS

The magical 13 grandmothers are meeting in March to set an intention and plan the future. You are invited to join the newly formed International Council of Crones and Grandmothers.

- A network of women over age 50 acknowledging our wisdom, sharing our courage, choosing our work yet to do, and growing old creatively.
- A quarterly newsletter informs you of events, helps recast all we have learned and supports our work and each other.

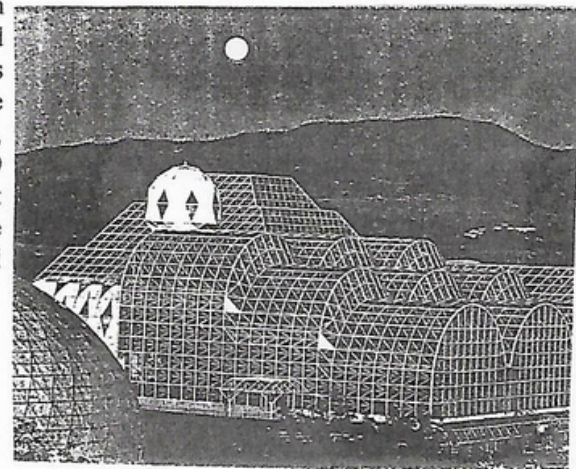
- Receive discounted registration fees for our annual conference and other related events.
- The Council is a coordinated effort to celebrate the joy of being Watch Women of our world. Individual and organizational memberships available.

Choices for Memberships to the International Council of Crones and Grandmothers:

1. First year individual membership is \$35.00.
2. Institutional membership is \$100.00 This entitles one individual to a free membership with other group members entitled to join for just \$25.00 per person for one year membership.

Make checks payable to Sedona Children & Elders Project, (a non-profit corporation) at:

135 Kachina Drive
Sedona, AZ 86334
Telephone: 520 282-9769



Moon over Biosphere II by Brett Bravo

from Redmoonsong

My friend picked me up in Albuquerque and we headed north on I-25. The fuel pump started acting up, so we stopped and put gasoline in the carburetor to get off the freeway. I was driving my friend's van with the inside engine cover off. She was pouring gasoline into the carburetor when the whole engine caught fire!

I opened the door and jumped out, still hanging on the door. I didn't know what to do. The fire was so hot!

(Luckily, we were only going about 10-15 mph). Finally, I dropped off on my left side as the van went over a curb and into a vacant field, flames shooting out the windows and doors. I jumped up and saw my friend bail out about two seconds after I did. Her skin was hanging in six inch shreds from her arms and hands. I felt burned and nauseated.

Cars were stopping; I heard sirens, then ambulances. I sat down on the grass, waiting. Everything had changed in one thoughtless moment.

We were put in ambulances and taken to the burn unit of U. of NM Hospital. This happened on Tuesday, October 10 and we were operated on Friday. I only had my right arm burned and grafted. My companion had much more damage and fluid loss. Morphine really helps in pain management but there was lots of pain just the same. I was in for a week.

I'm healing well. I'm staying in Albuquerque till I go to Austin. I've been reading, writing and regrouping (all my equipment is gone, the van was totaled). I am learning the lessons of fire - death & rebirth, purification.

People have been so loving and generous, even strangers. We never know when we're gonna' need each other, that's for sure! This month has definitely been from ecstasy to agony - and everything in between.



We cannot live the afternoon of life according to the program of life's morning. For what was great in the morning of our lives will be little at evening. What was true in the morning will by evening have become a lie. by Carl Jung

Presented by Nancy Masland

- To sense the balance of the Mother/Father, Father/Mother within one's own being, one's own nature is a way to renew the Earth, to renew our hearts, and to renew our vision. Dhvani Ywahoo

- We must be liberated to contact each other in truly and expanding ways. Charles Bates

- When sleeping women wake, mountains move. Chinese proverb

- The true nature of mind: a cloudless sky. Rebecca Rodner

- We are on a spiritual search to fulfill a yearning for connectedness: to find Divinity internal/immanent and external/transcendent.

Kimberley Snow - *Keys to the Open Gate - Women's Spirituality Sourcebook*. (These keys match the one's we shared at The Conference.)

- Women have consented to accept full spiritual responsibility ourselves: teachers for each other. The time has come for women to accept spiritual responsibility for our planet.

S. R. Anderson and P. Hopkins - *The Feminine Face of God*.

- The purpose of ritual is to become totally unified with our origins.

N. Douglas and P. Slinger - *Sexual Secrets: The Alchemy of Ecstasy*.

Develop One's Own Testament (This exercise is great, fulfills what I imagine our legacy to be - Nancy)

1. Things loved in life, tasted, saw, smelled, heard, touched, and lived for.
2. Experiences cherished.
3. Ideas which brought liberation
4. Beliefs outgrown.
5. Convictions lived by.
6. Insights gained into: God, world, human nature, Christ, love, religion, prayer.
7. Risks taken and dangers courted.
8. Sufferings seasoned.
9. Lessons taught.
10. Influences shaped: people, occupations, books, events.
11. Scripture lit path.
12. Life's achievements.
13. Regrets
14. People enshrined in heart.
15. Unfulfilled desires.

End with poem, prayer, or picture. Anthony de Mello, SJ - *Hearts On Fire: Praying With Jesuits*.



HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE

HAPPY HANUKKAH

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DESERT CRONES

DESERT DRUMMERS

Desert Drummers will meet Sunday, December 17 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at: Kennedy Park Ramada 40. It is located on La Cholla Blvd. Second turn-off to the left north from Ajo. Or from Starr Pass first right turn-off after 44th. St. Bring rattles, drums, whatever you have. Any questions call: Lois Lockhart 883-0377.

DESERT CRONES MEET

- December 9th at 1:00 PM the Crones will meet at Tucson Main Library in the Children's Room Meeting Room.. The discussion topic will be: Joys and pains of getting through the winter holiday season.
- January 13th at 1:00 PM the Crones will meet at Tucson Main Library in the Children's Meeting Room The discussion topic will be: My images of what I will be doing after death.
- February 10 at 1:00 PM the Crones will meet at Tucson Main Library in the Children's Meeting Room. Any questions call: Grace Eggert 624-8477.



DESERT CRONE HISTORY

by Ruth Gardner:

During some public showings of the video, *Celebration of Age*, a number of women requested that there be gatherings of old women for the purpose of sharing with one another and receiving support. This was late 1994 and early 1995.

In the beginning we met at various times and days and my memory is the group decided against any formal organization. We wanted instead, to meet, talk and share with other old women. Although most of us wanted it more often than once a month, we decided we were too busy, so at present the group meets just once a month.

Eventually, it was decided that a set day was easier than a changing one so Saturday was selected as being most convenient for most women.

Grace Eggert and Irene Naylor volunteered to telephone the list of interested women to notify them of the upcoming meetings. Grace also has been making the reservations for the meeting place which for the past several months has been the Downtown Public Library.

Anyone interested in helping with the organizational tasks of this unorganized group please call Grace at 624-8477 to volunteer.

There also is a strong possibility that we may have to find another meeting place. If anyone has any suggestions please call Grace and share that information.

CRONE COUNSEL III

Three hundred and five Crones met in October in Scottsdale. It was an inspirational and celebratory time. Malka Golden-Wolfe spearheaded the conference doing a magnificent job. The workshops were well organized and presented, the merchandise room spacious and attractive and the Crones beautiful and wise. Of course, Malka didn't have anything to do with our

beauty and wisdom but the Desert Crones who attended all gave Malka top honors for the job she did. From the comments overheard at the gathering, raves about her accomplishments were widespread. Thanks again, Malka!

TEXAS CANYON

by Lois Lockhart

Piles of rocks, pebbles to boulders,
from tall hills to grains of sand,
Haphazardly scattered along the
highway, which cuts through
The middle of this awesome, inspiring,
astonishing display.
Glacier sludge and heaving
earthquakes created this Wonderland.
Now their edges are smoothed and
rounded by rain, snow
Wind, and sun. Chips and rock dust
have sifted and settled
Into crevices and slits, providing a bed
for vegetation to sprout,
To be sheltered, to accept moisture.
The pleasing contrast of toast
And sepia slabs with the range of
verdancy could be lost on travelers
As they whiz by. Sitting amid the
quiet solid jumble of rocks
One can experience varied emotions:
acute sadness or bubbling laughter;
Piercing loneliness or heartfelt kinship;
deep peace or burning turmoil.
Quiet reflections on events, be they
happy, disturbing, or stormy,
Absorbing the stillness, the endurance
of the living granite,
And gathering their strength to cloak
me, hoping the dusty fragments
That fall into my fractures and chinks
will produce similar
Vibrant greenery and nut-brown
loveliness to endure past my lifetime.

