



# CroneTimes

[WWW.CRONESCOUNSEL.ORG](http://WWW.CRONESCOUNSEL.ORG)

JULY 2007, VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2

## What Crones Counsel Means to Me

### A TRANSFORMING EVENT

I discovered the summer of 1993 that there was in my home town a women's pagan group that was going to hold a conference of some sort called **Crones Counsel** — this in a town that referred to itself as Zion! I was intrigued. My sister, Cathy Crawford, told me what an amazing woman Shauna Adix was and so over the summer Cathy and I talked ourselves into going. That first Counsel was one of the most moving, exciting, transforming events of my life. It seemed almost to create itself. There wasn't much of an agenda, but women kept offering their wisdom and talents on the spur of the moment. Workshops just sort of appeared. The first No Talent Required Night was simply amazing. A woman who had never studied dance got up and performed, just because she had always wanted to dance for an audience. A woman who had had a double mastectomy performed a piece about Inanna's descent into the underworld, which was the most powerful theater piece I've seen before or since. The excitement, wisdom, energy, nerve of that first Counsel changed how I looked at the world forever. I was going through a rough patch in my life. My marriage was rocky and I was very seriously considering a divorce. I was about to start a job I had no idea if I could do, but when I left the Counsel I knew just how wise, tough, resilient, creative, and brave women are and that all we needed to do was to love ourselves and each other — something our culture works very hard at dissuading us from doing. (Who's going to buy anti-aging cream, if they're not afraid of aging?)



ELLA EAGLE portraying the agony of Inanna as Death strips her identity.

As I went to more Counsels and interacted with more and more older women (I was in my mid-forties when I first started going.), I kept thinking, "That's who I want to be when I grow up!" Now that I'm sixty I look to the women in **Crones Counsel** of all ages and see how much they have contributed to my

life. The life stories women have shared, the wisdom and patience they've given in wisdom circles, just the incredible lives they are living fill me with hope and joy.

I love the **Crones Counsel** because it is one of the few places in our world where women can share everything they feel — grief, joy, disappointment, success, fear, courage, whatever — and know that those feelings will be honored and respected. I can remember Shauna passing around tissues at storytelling

and shouting, "Don't you be ashamed to cry!" **Crones Counsel** is a place to try your wings, to take a leap. I have always been morbidly shy (it's an actual diagnosis: shy unto death), but when I went to the Salt Lake **Crones Counsel**, I decided to get up and read my poetry. I'd read to groups of ten or so, but never to a group of more than two hundred. When I was done, I was elated. I felt so listened to and appreciated. **Crones Counsel** is a truly spiritual experience. It's rowdy and loud and full of the kind of spirit that can't be faked. I hope to keep meeting every year with women who know what spirituality is all about.

— CLAUDIA VAN GERVEN

### WHAT I NEEDED AND WANTED

I was introduced to CRONE at **Crones Counsel III** in Scottsdale, Arizona. My sister had seen a notice for the gathering at an alternative bookstore so we both decided to attend our first Counsel. [We have attended several others together since then.] It was all new to me and after I returned home to Denver, I became active in our local Denver Crones. My involvement in

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### IMPORTANT!

The dates for **CELEBRATING WISE WOMEN — ASILOMAR** are  
**September 5–9**

After Boulder, we were able to add an extra day.  
Please make your plans to arrive on **Sept. 5th.**

**Registration: 3:00 pm**  
**Opening Ceremony: 7:30 pm**

# President's Message



by Nancy Lehto

Spring is finally here in the Rockies. Buds are bursting from trees and birds are singing. The old has moved on so that the new can bloom, bringing forth new energies into the world. Growth and change are wondrous things to behold.

**Crones Counsel** is ever changing as well. The new Board is working smoothly and feverishly to create the structure for the next gathering. We can create the basics, but it is you the participants and gracious donors of workshops, programs, storytellers and circle leaders who give the gathering its heart and soul. We are returning to Asilomar, in Pacific Grove, California, where we have had three previous amazing gatherings. This next gathering will again be oh, so wonderful, meeting by the sea. For many, the water element brings renewed life and energy — just being near the ocean with crashing waves and salty air adds to the magnificence of life. For some, like me, who are so earth-based, there is a need for trees and green growth to find that life energy. For those among us who are “air,” you just can’t beat the fresh, clean air near the shore. No smog here. As for the fire folks, we will have a bonfire one evening to enhance our already great drumming and dancing. Asilomar has it all — pine trees, deer wandering through, fresh air, and of course the ocean. Please come and join us for our *fifteenth* Crones Counsel Gathering of Wise Women.

Changes are happening in my life again. Just as we were getting our house ready to sell, our daughter and two grandsons (and a dog and cat) needed to come home to live for a while. We are grateful to have part of our family close and get to know our grandsons better. Especially when our son and his family (two-year-old twins) just moved from Colorado to Virginia and we no longer get to see them as often. Downsizing our home will have to wait — it gives me more time to attack the clutter.

My local Crone circle, the Colorado Circle of Wise Women, is always evolving and changing, which I think is wonderful. This year we are organizing a Croning ceremony for five of our ladies. We are having the group ceremony in a park in July. We have committees working on the ritual, gifts, and decorations, food, and site. We’ve decided it will become an annual event for our circle — to celebrate the wise women among us.

Celebrations and change go hand in hand. As we make changes and have small successes, we can celebrate those events. We do not need to wait for the end result or the big event to have a celebration. Often, celebrating the small success gives us the motivation and inspires up to continue, to take the next step that will eventually get us to the end or the “big event.”

What motivates you? Where do you get the energy to take the spiritual steps toward your purpose in life? Or the physical steps to reach a goal? Whatever it is, celebrate it. You can throw a party and rejoice or you can pat yourself on the back or you can take yourself out to lunch. Whenever you accomplish a small step, celebrate it. Acknowledge your accomplishments, however small. Then keep moving on toward the end goal.

Over the past few months we have had various challenges with the **Crones Counsel** website. It is functioning once again and registrations to the gathering are coming in to the registrar. If the Internet is not your thing, registration forms can be printed and mailed to Meera. See the gathering information for registration information, housing information, and ways to gift the gathering. We will continue to make small changes to the website in order to meet our needs. Our website is one way of connecting to many Crones around the world. Some new ideas to enhance our website have included an e-store, where we can sell not only our CC logo items like T-shirts and calendars, but our vendors that make the gathering Crone Marketplace so amazing would be able to link their own websites or list products to sell. Another idea submitted was a database of local circles, Wisdom

Circles, or women’s circles by any other name. One of the many questions asked is where can I find a circle of wise women? This would provide contact information so women from around the globe

could make connections. We have had a workshop at the last two gatherings and often before on how to start a circle. We will again offer such a workshop.

Always, I am interested in your thoughts and ideas around supporting our Crone sisters. What else would help you connect with others? The Board is listening and open to ideas. Either write to me or any Board member. And please join us for the Town Meeting, a sharing of ideas among all participants of the gathering and a place to ask questions of the board.

## Crone Circles

**Crone Circles** will meet every morning following Storytelling. These more intimate groups will provide continuity with the same group of women that will make it easier to share. Every woman has a story, and it often flows more naturally in a small group that meets together 3 days in a row with the help of a facilitator. **Crone Circles** provide an opportunity to get to know other women in a special way. There will be nothing else scheduled during **Crone Circles** time.

*You don't want to miss it. Please look for the **Crone Circles** sign-up sheets in the registration area when you arrive at Counsel and be sure you are assigned to a **Crone Circle**.*

**If you feel called to be a facilitator this year, we do need you.** Please contact Mnimaka by e-mail, telephone, or mail: [mnimaka@sprynet.com](mailto:mnimaka@sprynet.com), 858/676-1151, 12256 Casero Ct., San Diego, CA 92128.

# Celebrating Wise Women

by Sharon Hoery

**W**e often lament the lack of strong independent female role models in our traditions, thanks to the emphasis on male role models presented as the heroes. Conversely, female figures have tended to be martyred or victimized. This long suffering, passive image of the female has been the role model for the feminine. Those who were independent and intelligent were the ones tortured and most likely burned as witches in our history's past. This is a memory that some of us may say is still all too clear and real. However, we have heroines and wise women who have lived their lives by pushing past the norms and cultures of their times. History does give us some insights into some of these wise women and I believe if truth were to be known, there are many more who have been women of wisdom and heroines. History is written by the ruling class and many wise women were wiped out because they dared to be. We do not know their individual names; however, we should still remember them.

Women of wisdom and heroines walk among us today. They have influenced us, have been our mentors, given us inspiration and by their own honesty and integrity, have given us permission to live our own lives more fully. Croners of wisdom are seasoned heroines and they are among us. Please share your "wise" woman by writing a paragraph as to why she is a heroine to you. These will be shared at the Celebrating Wise Women 2007 gathering.

A poem written by Barbara G. Walker in *Women's Rituals*, reminds us to honor the women of wisdom who are among us.

*Celebrate the heroine, honor the heroine:  
Healer, thinker, adventurer, fighter,  
Wise woman, strong woman, life-giving woman,  
Woman of spirit, woman of power, woman of peace.  
All hail, all honor, blessed be.*

Please email or send your paragraph about the wise woman who has made a difference in your life to: [rshoery@aol.com](mailto:rshoery@aol.com) or mail to Sharon Hoery, 9074 Hunters Way, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129.

**T***"The next morning 305 women began pouring into the hotel, quickly filling it with high energy and movement. Croners screeched their joy in reuniting with friends not seen since last year."*

— **ALTA HAPP WERTZ** and **TELIA NUNN**, CC III,  
Oct. 26-29, 1995, Scottsdale, Arizona

## WHAT CRONES COUNSEL MEANS TO ME

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ment in our group has been ongoing since then as I was retired, so I had not only the time and energy to devote to our group but also the need for a nurturing community of women. It has been what I needed and wanted and more.

Spending my time with other older women is stimulating to me. At our age we have usually found a degree of comfort with our lives and ourselves and that seems to make our present circumstances and current thoughts easier to share. Our local group has not only continued its emphasis on individual and group spiritual growth but also includes activities within our meetings to inspire, provide fun, and give information. For example, in our particular group we have worked together to simplify and de-clutter our lives. That support has helped with the practical, as well as the spiritual balance for which I was searching.

Our annual **Crones Counsels** continue to be very important to me. I have attended twelve gatherings and look forward each year to the next one to meet again with those others who have also attended over the years. Sometimes it has been difficult for me to adjust to the absence of some women who no longer come; however, instead of focusing on that, I have found my favorite time during the gatherings to be when we meet as Wisdom Circles. Getting together with the same women several times provides me with the opportunity to share with new, as well as old, friends on a more intimate level. Each year these gatherings are a blessing to me.

— CAROL FRIEDRICH



## MY EARS PERKED UP

I started hearing about "**Crones Counsel**" a couple of years before the one that was held in Salt Lake City. The second or third time it was mentioned, my ears perked up and I wondered if the universe was talking to me. When SLC hosted, I signed up and attended. I loved the Wisdom Circles. I met several amazing women and learned their stories. The next one I attended was at



A HIGHLIGHT of the gathering is the evening when we honor our oldest elders

Asilomar. The warmth and caring I experienced convinced me that

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## WHAT CRONES COUNSEL MEANS TO ME

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I belonged with this group of women. The stories I hear during storytelling time resonate with me. Sometimes they are telling my story. The “Honoring of the Elders” has made me look forward to turning 80. I have met vibrant, busy, active women who are great role models. I know I belong with this group.

— JUDITH NEIHART

## WITHOUT THE STAB OF SHYNESS

Okay, I admit it. I'm shy. People who know me are stunned when I say that. To them I appear friendly and outgoing. I am. But I am also shy. That said, you understand when I say that the most important thing to me about **Crones Counsel** is the community. It's not just any community, either.

It's like Milagro in Tucson, the co-housing community where my dear friend Ruth Gardner lives. The twenty-eight households that make up the community are kindred spirits. Anyway, I am not fortunate enough to live in that kind of interaction with my neighbors. But when I come to **Crones Counsel**, I feel relaxed, open, curious, enthusiastic, gleeful, and silly – without the stab of shyness.

— WIN FIANDACA



## MY FAVORITE MOMENT

This is always my favorite moment of **Crones Counsel**. We link hands, snake through the hall, sway as we sing: “How could anyone ever tell you are anything less than whole? How

## CRONE MARKETPLACE CC XV — ASILOMAR

*Our Crone Marketplace will be filled  
with wonderful wares.*

**Here's a great opportunity to share your magic  
with receptive Crones who gladly support you.**

If you are registered for **CC XV** and wish to sell your own creations, contact **Marta Quest**, [martaq@midrivers.com](mailto:martaq@midrivers.com), P.O. Box 261, Ekalaka, MT 59324, or call her at 406/775-6664 for more information.

**The deadline for submitting applications to be a vendor  
for CC XV is AUGUST 15, 2007.**



could anyone fail to notice how deeply you're connected in my soul?”

At this national meeting, our connection blossoms and blooms. We share from the depths. Let our hearts have ears. Support and surprise,

expecting the unexpected. We laugh, learn, and celebrate our wit and wisdom. We dance and drum. Begin and renew friendships, including friendship with ourselves. Always, we honor our elders. And we realize again, how powerful we women are, as we gather seeds of action, transplanting them across the world.

— ROBIN R. KRUPP

## WOMEN'S UNDERSTATED STRENGTH

I am a woman who is more comfortable with her masculine side. It took me well into my adult years to accept myself as a woman, let alone a woman who loves women. I'll spare you all the grubby details of the process, but I will share with you one aspect of that process.

I always thought women were weak and demure, at least I thought my mother was. It wasn't until years later that I started to listen, really listen to her stories. Imagine it is December of 1954 and your husband is stationed in Hawaii. You have to get your household and five children from Nebraska to Hawaii and it's Christmas time. Your oldest son is not quite 12, your oldest daughter is about 10½, your other son is about 5½, and your two youngest daughters are 14 and 3 months old. Yes, your two youngest are only 11 months apart and you have two children in diapers. Oh, and you are using the glass baby bottles, as you were never able to nurse any of your children.

A few years ago I asked my mother how she managed to do all that. Her reply was simple. “Oh, it just had to get done.” It was then that I realized my mother's strength was not measured in tangible ways, but in the enduring strength of her love, commitment, service, and, yes, sacrifice.

Shortly before my fiftieth birthday, a friend invited my partner and me to go with her to **Crones Counsel**. That was three years ago. There, in Las Vegas, I got to hear story upon story of women's understated strength, a strength that transcends time, being passed from generation to generation in stories of survival, service, and sacrifice. I've come to realize that a woman's strength is simply that she sees something that needs to be done, rolls up her sleeves, and does it.

I am still more comfortable with my masculine side, but now



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# Celebrating Wise Women

## CRONES COUNSEL XV

Wednesday, Sept. 5 – Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007

## ASILOMAR, CALIFORNIA

For 2007 we will be CELEBRATING WISE WOMEN CC XV by returning to the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California — “Refuge by the Sea” — with pine trees, sandy beach, and walking paths. Once again we will be eating together in the spacious dining room. Please note that we are meeting earlier this year. Honoring the special holidays, as well as securing available space at Asilomar has pushed our usually October gathering time to an earlier September 5-9 date.

### CELEBRATING WISE WOMEN CC XV REGISTRATION

Until July 31, 2007 — \$150 members, \$165 non-members  
After August 1, 2007 — \$180 members, \$200 non-members

<b>Arrival:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday, September 5, 2006</li><li>• Registration from 4:00 - 6:00 PM</li><li>• Opening Session 7:00 PM.</li></ul>
<b>Departure:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday, September 9, 2007</li><li>• Closing session: 8:30 AM.</li><li>• Checkout by 12:00 noon</li></ul>
<b>Refunds:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cancellation to July 31, 2007, will be refunded less a \$25 processing fee.</li><li>• No cancellation refunds after August 1, 2007.</li></ul>
<b>Location:</b>	Just 71 miles south of San Jose and 120 miles south of San Francisco. Conveniently served by the Monterey Peninsula, San Jose, San Francisco, and Oakland airports. Just a 10-minute drive from the Monterey airport.
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals are served semi-cafeteria style at Crocker Dining Hall. The group will be seated together at designated tables. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breakfast 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.</li><li>• Lunch 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.</li><li>• Dinner 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.</li></ul>
<b>Weather:</b>	In September in will enjoy warm days with a slight contrast in the crisp evenings.
<b>Special Needs:</b>	Special physical and dietary needs can be accommodated. Be sure to notify the Asilomar Conference Center when checking in.

## ACCOMMODATIONS' INFORMATION

Asilomar has changed its reservations' policy. First, register for the gathering with Meera, then she will send a special housing form. Crones Counsel, Inc., is under the Group Rate at Asilomar; this includes three meals a day.

### ADA Certified

Asilomar is dedicated to a natural ecological environment, as well as having buildings constructed between 1913 and 1982. Visitors with special needs please contact the Manager on Duty at 831/372-8016 to arrange for the most appropriate lodging. There are a limited number of rooms that are wheelchair accessible plus a limited number of disabled accessible features in some rooms. If you have need for any of these features please plan accordingly.

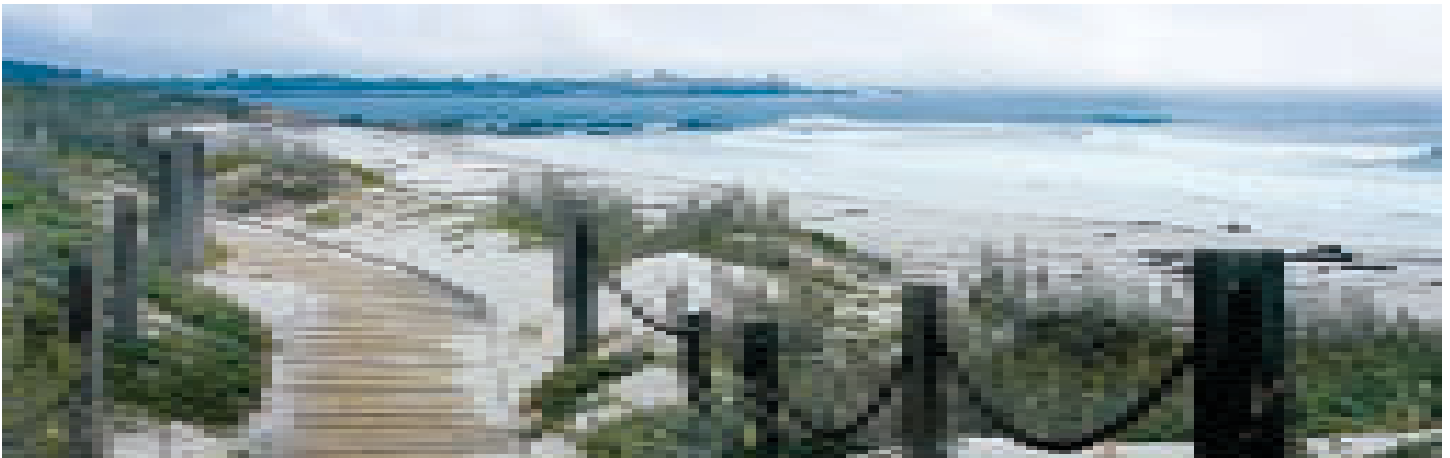
**ALL WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND CRONE CIRCLE LEADERS ARE GIFTED TO THE GATHERING BY WOMEN WILLING TO SHARE THEIR WISDOM AND CREATIVITY. OUR GATHERING RELIES ON THESE WONDERFUL WOMEN.**

**To gift Crones Counsel XV, contact:**

**CRONE CIRCLE LEADERS:** For Crone Circle information, please contact **Mnimaka**, 12256 Casero Ct., San Diego, CA 92128, 858/676-1151, Email: [mnimaka@sprynet.com](mailto:mnimaka@sprynet.com).

**CRONE MARKETPLACE:** For vendor information, please contact **Marta Quest**, P.O. Box 261, Ekalaka, MT 59324, 406/775-6664. Email: [martaq@midrivers.com](mailto:martaq@midrivers.com)

**WORKSHOP:** Workshop offerings may be mailed or e-mailed to: **Kianna Bader**, 9425 Montevideo Dr., Wilton, CA 95693, Email: [Kianna4064@gmail.com](mailto:Kianna4064@gmail.com)



# CELEBRATING WISE WOMEN CC XV REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print Clearly:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: (Street, Apt., P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*We may communicate a lot by email, so if you have an email address, PLEASE include it.*

*We really need your birth date for our honoring of the elders ceremony.*

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Is this your first time at a Cronos Counsel gathering?  Yes  No

If No, how many gatherings have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_

Need a Roommate?  Yes  No

Smoking  Nonsmoking room

## SCHOLARSHIPS

I WISH TO SUPPORT MY SISTER CRONES WITH A DONATION OF: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## OUTREACH FUND

*These funds are given to assist a local group in the gathering area with their work with elders.*

I WISH TO SUPPORT THE CRONES COUNSEL OUTREACH FUND WITH A DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please include with your registration check. **Thank you.**

**Amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**REFUNDS:** Any cancellation up to July 31, 2007, will be refunded less a \$25 processing fee. No cancellation re-funds after August 1, 2007.

Make <b>checks</b> payable to:	<b>CRONES COUNSEL, INC.</b> c/o Gay (Meera) Messmer, 8055 E. Coronado Road, Tucson, AZ 85750 Phone: 520/760-3905 Email: <a href="mailto:Gmessy2@aol.com">Gmessy2@aol.com</a>
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<b>Credit Cards</b> may be used by registering on line at:	<a href="http://www.Cronescounsel.org">www.Cronescounsel.org</a>
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**Waiver:** Everyone attending a Cronos Counsel gathering must sign a waiver of liability, just as you would if attending an Elder Hostel or other such outing. **Please sign and date the waiver below.**

## LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

I have read the activity description and voluntarily enroll in the Cronos Counsel gathering. I understand and realize activities involved in the program involve risks, which may result in injury to me. I knowingly and voluntarily assume all such risk, which I may sustain in connection with the above program, including but not limited to injury sustained while traveling on highways and over rough terrain, forces of nature, falling, slipping, and any accident or illness which may occur while I am enrolled in the program.

Furthermore, in consideration of the permission granted to me to participate in the above program, on behalf of myself, my heirs, legal representatives, I release and discharge Cronos Counsel, Inc. and their officers, from liability for any injuries or property loss or damage I may sustain while participating in the above activity. I fully realize and accept the responsibility to myself and my companions to carry out all program activities according to Cronos Counsel procedures and in a safe and prudent manner. This release does not apply to acts of gross negligence or wanton and reckless conduct.

I also agree I shall be responsible for any expenses incurred or damages suffered as a consequence of my personal injury or property loss or damage; that I shall carry adequate accident and health insurance for this purpose and I shall not hold Cronos Counsel, Inc. responsible for such expenses.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## WHAT CRONES COUNSEL MEANS TO ME

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I am no longer disappointed or afraid of my feminine side, in fact, I enjoy it. I have even chosen the goddess name, Aisha, a name that I gave myself when I was a small child. But, that's another story.

— STACIA IRELAND

## INSPIRATION

In one word, **Crones Counsel** means to me “INSPIRATION.” For the last 10 years, I have found a way to travel to different cities to commune with amazing and genuine women of age. From the moment that I enter the gathering until the last second, I am surrounded with women honestly telling their truth. It happens during the storytelling from the podium, but it also occurs when I am sitting at lunch, walking down the hall or talking to someone before the wisdom circle begins.

I have heard about women who have survived the disappointment of a daughter's drug addiction, become building contractors for their own home after their husband's death, followed a dream to build homes with Habitat for Humanity, found ways to honor the death of a parent with creative rituals, and face a diagnosis of cancer with courage.

Any dowdy feeling of “being too old” disappears after the conference, and I am left with a warm sense of companionship and a stirring courage within: I'm glad to be a Crone supported by wise women from all over the world on a journey to change the picture of aging. I have made friendships at conference that continue during the years despite the distance in miles. Where else could I discover brave women who would travel out to Death Valley with me to hike in the heat,



walk around the rim of a volcano, drum, and create a “crone initiation” beneath red rock canyon walls. Hey, we're ALIVE and wild fun is the name of the game. My man-

tra is “This or something better.”

And there is no better place to be than **Crones Counsel**.

— DIANE CORNELL

## MORE THAN I THINK I AM

**Crones Counsel** fills me up. It's truly wonderful to be with women from 50 to 100 and see how my role models are enjoying life. I don't hear elders talking about their limitations and

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## Do you have photos to share with our Historian?

Our Historian, Susan Ann Stauffer, is working on scrapbooks for each year of Crones Counsel. Do you have any pictures, old or new, from any of the gatherings that you would be willing to share for these scrapbooks? Any other memorabilia would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Susan Ann Stauffer, 95-1202 Wikao Street, Milihani, HI 96789 or by e-mail: [sastauffer@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:sastauffer@hawaii.rr.com)

## Who Are We?

**CRONES COUNSEL, INC.**, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and celebrating the lives of older women. We use the word *Crone* to refer to and reclaim the original meaning of the term: A Crone is an elder woman who embodies wisdom, one who embraces both the light and the dark sides of her life. At our national gatherings, we conduct workshops, exchange information, and enjoy singing, dancing, and drumming. As we listen to each other's stories, we share laughter and tears, always honoring one another, especially the eldest in our midst. As a result, we are able to go out into the world with more power, knowledge, and energy for the paths that lie ahead.

**CRONETIMES** Our quarterly Members' newsletter.

**Publisher** — Crones Counsel Inc.

**Editor/Designer** — Marta Quest

**Reporter** — Kianna Bader

**Contributors** — Betty Brown, Sue Chase, Ginger Child, Diane Cornell, Win Fiandaca, Carol Friedrich, Sharon Hoery, Christina Horst, Stacia Ireland, Robin R. Krupp, Nancy Lehto, Judith Neihart, Claudia Van Gerven



## CRONES COUNSEL Marketplace

**T-SHIRTS:** Silkscreened with our beautiful logo printed on a silver gray shirt. Available in all sizes. Cost is \$18.00 and includes shipping.

Send your order and payment to **CRONES COUNSEL Inc.**, P.O. Box 485, Ekalaka, MT 59324

## Letters to the Board

Dear Crones Counsel,

*I just got the latest issue of CroneTimes and it is truly beautiful! I wanted to make one correction in the letter I wrote about my sister Mary's passing. At the end, when I refer to a shawl, someone put in parentheses [Shauna's]; this shawl (there is a picture of my back with the shawl on with Mary to my left on the front page of CroneTimes) was gifted to me by Mahtowin when she turned 62. When I turn 62 (January 2008), I will gift it to another crone. Vita Laumé (who has a beautiful story about the origin of this shawl), when she was 62, was the first to gift the shawl and chose Mahtowin and thus the lineage of the shawl was born. I am just beginning to absorb all that this gift of the shawl is and delight in relaxing and listening to her teachings.*

— Katherine Barr

Dear Crones Counsel,

*I received the new CroneTimes on Monday, and it is great! It looks good, it's great to read comments by a number of crones, and to have a longer, more substantive publication. I love it!*

*A lot of work goes into the newsletter production, and I would like to see credits for that work. Someone did a lot to persuade individuals to write (and each writer is credited), then to decide just what to use, then do some editing/refining ... and then the design and layout. I don't know just how all those tasks are coordinated now, and I assume that Marta still is doing those final tasks. I think we should list an Editor, or Managing Editor, or some sort of designation — serving two purposes — giving recognition for the work, and giving a name so that if someone wants to volunteer to write something, or to complain about something, she knows whom to contact.*

*I am quite pleased with this issue — thanks for the good work!*

— Jackie Gentry

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*“... **t**his past October was truly remarkable. It stands apart from other conventions because nearly all the content was created by the people participating. Each morning was Storytelling. Anyone could tell a story from her life, and ask for a Standing Ovation. The stories were amazingly varied: we talked about ourselves or other women. As we heard the heartfelt stories, we became respectful of our differences (inclusive), accepting of our aging, joyous at our courage in the face of the challenges we face, exuberant with standing ovations honoring each other.”*

— RHODA MEAD, CC VIII,  
October 11-15, 2000 — Asilomar, California

## ELDER'S STORY

### *Lessons Before Fifty*

When I was about 47 years old, I landed a job in a senior center. [I hadn't even known that such places existed. At that time, I was that far removed from the elderly population.]

During the next 14 years on that job I found myself attracted to the seniors who were both interesting and interested. On the other hand I became weary of the whiners and complainers.

In retrospect, it was a good age to hone my skills to age successfully by keeping an open mind, continuing to evolve, making that effort to understand what makes people tick, and trying to accept whatever comes my way ... graciously [pretty tough for me to do], but that's my goal!

— CHRISTINA HORST, age: pushing 82

*“CC VII was wonderful — so nourishing and energizing. I'll be attending them for the rest of my life. I'm putting my daughter on notice that she has to take me when I can't get there on my own. HA!”*

— Win Fiandaca, CC VII, October 14-17, 1999 —  
Estes Park, Colorado



## A Call for Workshop Presenters for CC XV

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF  
PRESENTING A WORKSHOP?

*Here's your chance!*

You do not have to be a professional or an expert. All it requires is a passion for something special in your life. Do you like to write, to grow herbs, to make special gifts for your grandchildren, to journal, to do rituals, to plan croning ceremonies, to work with older women? Whatever your heart desires to share... we need your wisdom. Please consider gifting Celebrating Wise Women with a workshop this year.

We must have your completed proposal by **August 5**.  
Write to: Kianna Bader, [kianna4064@gmail.com](mailto:kianna4064@gmail.com)

# COME! *Celebrate Wise Women* BY THE SEA

*Rest, relax, and renew by the sea.*

*Meet new friends and embrace  
those friends of old.*

*Listen to the waves as they breathe  
in and out ... following  
the ancient rhythm of time.*

*For it is within time we have learned  
the oneness of all.*

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## *Celebrate Wise Women*

SEPTEMBER 5-9, 2007  
ASILOMAR, CALIF

### Register Today:

Make Checks payable to **Crones Counsel, Inc.**, c/o Meera Messmer, 8055 E. Coronado Road, Tucson, AZ 85750. Phone 520-760-3905, Email: [GMessy2@aol.com](mailto:GMessy2@aol.com). Or Credit Cards may be used by registering online at: [www.CronesCounsel.org](http://www.CronesCounsel.org)

Until July 15, 2007: \$150 members,  
\$165 non-members.

After July 15, 2007: \$180 members,  
\$200 non-members

*Asilomar has changed its  
reservations' policy. Register with  
Meera first, then she will send a  
special housing form to us. We  
cannot choose buildings; it is  
first-come, first-served.*

*See you by the Sea*



CRONES COUNSEL

## WHAT CRONES COUNSEL MEANS TO ME

[Continued from Page 8]



what they “used to do.” I experience them doing what they can do now. As someone once said, “It is not my desire to live to be a certain age but to live at whatever age I am.”

The Crone women listen to my stories and influence me to make decisions to create challenges for additional life enrichment. This Crone energy helps me feel more than I think I am. Thanks Crones Counsel for making the time and space for miracles to happen. — BETTY BROWN

## THE CRONE CALLED TO ME

The Crone called to me in 1997, and, lucky for me, it was in time to attend **Crones Counsel** right here in San Diego! I was immediately made to feel welcome, and I came to realize that this was my “tribe”! Storytelling was electrifying for me, both in listening and sharing. I was able to tell about my realization that I had been born to be Crone, that everything up till now has been preparation for the work I came to do. I’m still feeling out how that is expressing, but I know it is spiritual and about peace and love. (Which, of course, means lots of challenges for me in these realms!)

**Crones Counsel** showed me a society of women I never knew existed. I was stunned and estatic that there was no “cause” to support. That we were together to honor each other. Period. What a concept! To matter to the group just because I am me? Amazing! Generally shy around strangers, I did not feel like a stranger at that gathering. I felt welcome to walk up to any small group and know I was welcomed.

After that transforming **Crones Counsel**, when I saw other older women, I felt that I was one with them. The empowerment I felt the next week enabled me to sail through an unpleasant confrontation that would have had me to my knees a week earlier. I walked away feeling “Well, that was boring”! Whew!

That was my first and not my last **Crones Counsel**. And storytelling is still my favorite part! I am always awed at the wonderful beings we women are! So much courage! See you in Asilomar!  
— GINGER CHILD

## AN IMMERSION

To me, **Crones Counsel** is an immersion. Each fall I look forward to diving into the world of sister crones for a few days. **Crones Counsel** provides a respite from the daily world of multiple tasks, bad news, corrupt politics, and though I adore some of them, men. It’s a dynamic respite, full of love, wisdom, humor, tears, creativity, contemplation, drumming, dancing, singing, and lots of color and high fashion — crone style. It’s a place where I know I will learn to listen better and also be heard. It provides both a quiet sanctuary and a place to be wild and boisterous.

Connecting to sister crones encourages a more authentic me, and that’s what I take home as a gift from **Crones Counsels**.

— SUE CHASE



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# Mark These Dates 2008 in Seattle! Sept. 17-21, 2008

# THE YEAR 1906

*Here are some statistics for that year:*

The average life expectancy was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average wage was 22 cents per hour.

The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year; a dentist \$2,500 per year; a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000; and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at *HOME*.

Of all doctors 90 percent had *NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!*

Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

## Five Leading Causes of Death in 1906

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, "*Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.*"

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the *ENTIRE United States!*

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

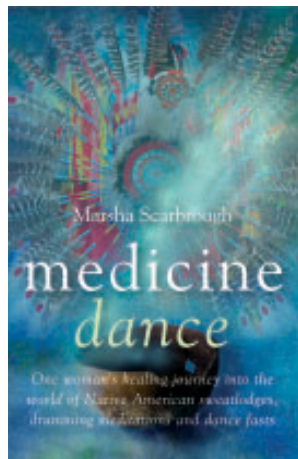


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by Marsha Scarbrough

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