



CroneTimes

WWW.CRONESCOUNSEL.ORG

JULY 2009, VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

BY ANN EMERSON, AGE 95

On Wisdom

*Crone*s are credited with having wisdom.

At Counsel gatherings, it is a tradition to give an evening to honoring women over eighty, the eldest being expected to share gems of wisdom. I was always thankful there was someone older than I attending because I couldn't think of any wisdom I had to share. At Boulder they asked each of us to record our wise thoughts to be shared. All I could think of were some of my mother's sayings. I felt the need to gather some wise thoughts.

As I aged, I learned to deal with my emotional wounding while growing up, adjusting to the world. When I gave up resentments and feelings of anger from perceived slights and injustices I realized I needed to forgive, accept, and love myself before I could truly love and forgive others. In my ardent search for Truth over the years, I found a way of life that works well for me, so presumably is based on wisdom.

While truth is infinite, eternal, and unchanging, I am finite and mortal, so my truth is only a small piece of Eternal Truth. Others' pieces must be just as valid for them as mine is for me.

The futility of arguing about personal truth was illustrated in the poem, "The Blind Men and the Elephant," wherein each man judged by the part he was touching to be the whole and argued that the elephant was like a rope, a tree, a wall. "And each was partly in the right, and all were in the wrong." So it is with us.

I have a right to my truth but so does everyone else. We each choose our truth from our conditioning and experiences and decide reality is this way. Or we choose what someone we trust, admire, fear, or consider an authority tells us is true. It took a long time for me to realize it is not up to me to convince others of my truths, no matter how wrong their beliefs

seem to me to be, nor do they have a right to insist on my accepting theirs. That relieves me of a lot of fruitless effort.

I have come to see that Love, not hate, is the opposite of fear, and the two cannot coexist. Fear leads to worry, suspicion, aggression — often cruel, even criminal behavior. It becomes an "us or them" obsession, making us oblivious to another's humanity and worth, blinding us to our own often-despicable actions.

Unconditional Love and Respect works wonders in my relationships. It seems to ray out and draw people in surprising ways. When I don't judge, I am much more likely to see worth and specialness. Those I meet seem to do the same for me. When we look to similarities rather than differences a wonderful change has begun.

We are coming to realize how we as Americans have alienated ourselves from the rest of our fellow humans by our myopic absorption with our own advantages and the unfounded fears our controlled press has repeatedly fed us. We haven't looked with discernment at the contrived reasons for our preemptive strikes or paid any attention to the unfounded justifications that have been used over the years to invade and take advantage of sovereign countries that have done nothing to us to deserve our interference and exploitation. We have absorbed the repeated idea that others are our enemies and want to hurt us even when there is no proof it is true.

It is long past time that we recognize we have been programmed with implanted fears by those who profit from ruling us. We need to examine our perverted patriotism and give up our unconscious illusion of specialness just because we are Americans who live in a land of plenty, often to which we have contributed or are contributing little or nothing.



ON WISDOM, continued on Page 2

President's Message



by Nancy Lehto

HAPPY SPRING!

It's Spring in the Rockies as I write this message to my sister Cronos. I'm sitting outside on the swing, near the waterfall, enjoying the sound of birds, water, and wind. This is a special spot for me where I often come to write and just ponder what's going on in my life.

One of the joys in my life is Cronos Counsel. It is such a special time – I look forward to our yearly gathering. I especially love going to new places each year, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. This year our Atlanta friends are hosting the gathering at a very special place, a retreat center very much like Asilomar in Northern California. It's right on the Chattahoochee River and has wonderful walking paths and a large labyrinth. We will be staying in the same lodge where most of our meetings will take place. We will have our meals together in a nearby building.

In thinking about the 2010 gathering, we do not have a local group to host it, so the board is working on selecting the location. We'll let you know in October what we find.

Please let me know how I (and the board) can support our sister Cronos. I am always available either by email or phone. The website is working well now – does it meet your needs? Is there anything else it should contain? How about the gatherings? That is the primary focus of the board – to ensure our gatherings happen each year and they are what you want to attend.



With prices rising every year, we are doing our best to provide the gatherings at the lowest cost but with the highest quality. Let me know what you think. I am truly interested in your thoughts.

ON WISDOM *Continued from Page 1*

There are encouraging signs that we are at last beginning to look at ourselves through the eyes of other nations. Hopefully this is a signal of our realizing we need to join with the rest of the world to solve the tremendous problems facing our planet. There are reports of untold innovative works of renewal being done all around our world in countries, cities, towns, villages, communities, tribes, families, and by individuals working to help right humanity's ills. Unsung, uncredited, and in incalculable numbers projects are being undertaken to feed the hungry, restore justice, alleviate the suffering from war, give disadvantaged people help, to conserve the resources of our

earth and thus create a better world for everyone.

There is no headquarters for or certain people in charge of all these inspired and innovative projects; nor is there an ideology or creed one has to accept to participate. It is a spontaneous global uprising — something that has never happened on earth — a trend that is growing exponentially and seems to be unstoppable. We can join.

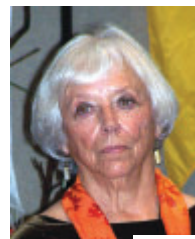
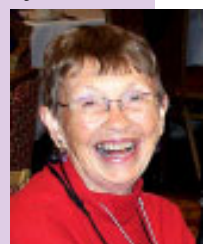
I believe this burgeoning movement of concern and caring is the beginning of the salvation of our world. When we let fear go and learn acceptance instead of suspicion of those who look or seem different, we learn they are like us under the

skin, mostly well-meaning and wanting the same things from life and for their children as do we. Giving up our absorption in ourselves we begin to work together for the common good of all, which in the long run is for our own best good, too.

Take responsibility
for my actions.
*It isn't always someone
else's fault.
Face the problems that
present themselves. Do
something to correct them,
rather than deny they exist.*

*Always laugh a
lot with friends
and family.*

— Honored Elder
BETTY ROCKWELL,
age 80



— Honored Elder **DONNA LOVE**, age 81

In 1986 I was one of 400 who walked from Los Angeles to Washington, DC, in the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament. For nine months, we were told by authorities, "This is logistically impossible." Still, we did it. I learned anything is possible.

A Personal Crones Counsel Perspective

By Marian Karpisek

As the plane touched down at the Jackson Airport [Jackson Hole, Wyoming], I was filled with anticipation and, also, a little apprehension. What would this Crones Counsel that I was attending be like? What might I expect? Would the women be friendly? Would I fit into this gathering of women, none of whom I knew?

OLD FRIENDS RECONNECTING

My concerns were calmed the moment I boarded the shuttle bound for the Snow King Lodge and introduced myself to several crones arriving from San Francisco. It felt like we were old friends reconnecting after years of being apart, and this same acceptance and camaraderie extended throughout the entire Counsel, as strangers before the gathering quickly became friends.

For me, highlights of the first Counsel included Shauna Adix and her amazing ability to bring women together and to elicit the best in each one, the heartfelt stories that were shared, and Susan Wildwood and her morning drum meditations. The entire gathering seemed like a magical oasis, outside the boundaries of time.

Over the years, I have come to appreciate Crones Counsel even more as each gathering offers new treasures and friendships. I have been involved as a workshop presenter, a planner, and a participant, as Crones Counsel has progressed through the years. I appreciate the addition of "Wisdom Circles" and the "Honoring of the Elders" ceremony, both of which add richness to the tapestry of the gatherings.

A LOST CONCEPT

I am sad that the true concept of a women's circle, where decision making is shared and each woman has an equal voice (a core principle in the beginning), has been lost. As the board became more structured, they became less open to letting the women hosting a Counsel plan the gathering as they envisioned it; bureaucracy took the place of possibility and creativity. Perhaps this was inevitable as Crones Counsel grew, but I think something was lost in the process.

What does the future hold for Crones Counsel? I am sure that the gatherings will continue to evolve and mature, as will the women who participate. The welcome and inclusivity extended to all will enfold new crones into the mix and these women will provide new insights and direction.

Crones are making a difference in the world because of our loving, joyous, and enthusiastic approach to life. We cannot

know the impact made by our coming together at Crones Counsel, but we are helping many others gain a new appreciation and understanding of what aging, especially the aging of women, means for our society.

I still am not certain how I came to be included on the mailing list for that first Crones Counsel, I did not personally know any of the founding women and I was not aware of crone circles. However, going to that first Crones Counsel was one of the best decisions of my life, and I continue to learn and grow from each gathering that I attend.



Death at 101

By Sally Reed

*For my mother-in-law,
Alvina Reed, Feb 9, 1902
to Sep 3, 2003*

Don't worry, this won't be a sentimental poem.

My mother-in-law died today, as unwise as the day she was born.

The world of dementia entered all our lives several years before today.

Vi's kinfolk gathered in Chicago from California, Colorado, and Wisconsin.

A heartwarming eulogy was written. There will be talk of the Depression, the single mother and six children, wearing hand-me-down clothes, poor but happy.

How Ma's sense of humor saved many days from despair and, How Ma could feed the family with a can of soup, and then Hopping on her bad knee, race to the movies to arrive before the prices changed.

How Ma hoarded her treasures and never, never, ever threw anything away.

How Ma crawled up the stairs with her strong arms, dragging her bad knee,

Until she was 95. Then her apartment caught on fire.

Things were different then. Before she went to the nursing home, we watched the steady decline of her understanding. She lost the names of her children and all who were dear to her. She was afraid and frightened by hallucinations. To bathe her and smell those strong odors and watch her loss of dignity was heartbreaking. She lost her very "Alvina-ness."

Now death has brought redemption and I will only remember her with those German blue eyes filled with mirth and hopping to the movie theatre (before the prices changed).





What can I tell you that will make you jump up and say, "I gotta go to Atlanta. I won't miss this Gathering!" Well, I could tell you that ... there is a dedicated group of twelve women working on:



- ◆ **Opening and Closing Sessions** you won't want to miss. They will be rich with dance, song, ceremony, and group journeying. Come early Wednesday and leave after lunch on Sunday. ...
- ◆ **A Friday Outing of a Special Family-Style meal after touring Antebellum homes** in our town of Roswell (all prepaid). ...
- ◆ **A special meditation room** designed by a Southern artist that portrays a sacred journey through the cycles of life — from dreams and visions to wisdom and enlightenment —with the elements, seasons, directions, and moons depicted in paintings of 13 marvelous women. ...
- ◆ **A Reader's Theater** called "She Rises through the Sickle Moon" written by a Southern author honoring women of action throughout history. ...
- ◆ **Wonderful workshops** with everything from "Detox Your Body" to "Mayan Record keeping" to "Inner Soul Integration with Collage" to "Spiral Dance of the Sun and Moon" to "Planning and Doing a Croning Ceremony" and, much, much more. ...
- ◆ **Storytelling, Crone Circles, Honoring the Elders Ceremony, Marketplace, Drumming and Dancing, No-Talent Show, singing, exercise, food, fine weather, the 227-Acre Retreat Center, fall leaves, rocking chairs, a labyrinth, a flowing river, easy access everywhere, Southern hospitality, sights in and around Atlanta to visit before and after the Gathering, a chance to give to Outreach, have your picture taken and put in the 2010 calendar, attend a Town Meeting and express your views, maneuver the impressive airport, ride a bus in Atlanta traffic, journey spiraling in and out, transform yourself yet again, tell your friends you ate grits, hear people "talk southern", or find out, "What the heck is kudzu?"**

Yes, I could tell you all those things but will that really make you jump out of your seat, fill out that application, book your flight, pack those bags, and say, "I gotta go to Atlanta, I'm not missing this gathering!?" I think not. I think what makes us all do special things for others and ourselves is expressed with one simple word – LOVE.

You and I both won't miss this gathering because we want to spend special time with wonderful peer and older women feeling connected and juicy. We want to talk with and be listened to by those who value who we are. We want to feel important and never marginalized. We want to experience life fully, age consciously, and share our mutual energy force. If all this isn't an expression of LOVE and the reason why you come to Atlanta – to continue your journey – then mere tantalizing tidbits will fall short.

So ... We'd LOVE to have you come on down and strike up the chorus, "We'll Have a Real Good Time, Yes M'am ... We'll Have a Real Good 'Loving' Time!"

LET'S PLAN A PARTY

by Glenda Martin

You are invited to dust off your imagination, play, and creative skills to help plan a Crones Counsel Gathering. Gather friends and like-minded other women and let us come play in your town or favorite place.

The Planning Guide gives a very detailed and complete blueprint to make hosting this event easy. Timelines and exact duties are covered as a general outline. Your group will fill in the flavor and texture that make each event a special occasion.

If there are any questions or help is requested, the Board is always on hand to assist.

In the past a few groups have hosted the Gatherings more than once. Now is your opportunity to step up and begin to put things in motion to host this in your locale.

Each of us have unique gifts to contribute to make every year a very special one. Let this be your time to offer your "give-away" and hostess the party.

Please contact **Nancy Lehto** at cronenancy@whispertel.net to volunteer or for more information.

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CRONE #2 debuts August 1.

Issue 2 includes our special in-depth retrospective on fifteen years of Crones Counsel.

128 pages of ad-free croning wisdom. *Crone* magazine is not available in stores, issue 1 is SOLD OUT.

Subscribe today to reserve your copy of this special issue.

Yes, I want my Crone!

Please start my 1 year (2-issue) subscription to *Crone* with issue #2. (\$22 in U.S., \$30 in Canada, \$32 overseas.)

I've enclosed payment OR

Please charge my credit/debit card below

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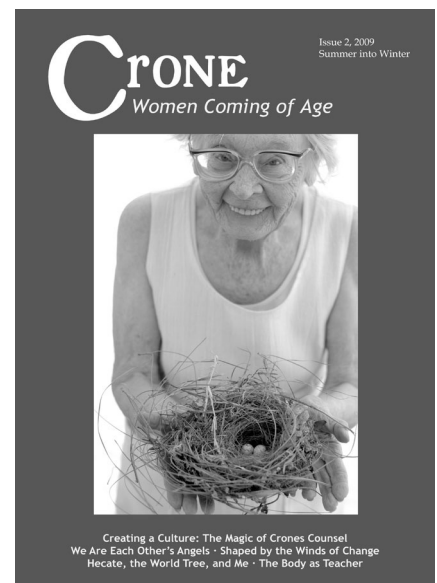
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ARTISANS' MARKETPLACE

It's time for all our creative Artisans to sign up for the Atlanta Gathering. Melissa Meder promises you the best display room at Simpsonwood.

So keep those hands moving and email or call **Amy Mitchell** at amydmitch@yahoo.com, 678/592-7720 to sign up for a terrific fall showing of your talents.

CRONE CIRCLE FACILITATORS

After daily storytelling, at the gathering, we meet in small groups to give everyone a chance to share and be heard. It takes special facilitators to help make this happen.

If you are a facilitator who loves small group dialogue, we need you. Contact: **Jeanne Shaw** at 404/550-9057 or forcouples@mindspring.com to volunteer your talents.

(Facilitator Orientation at 5:15 on Wednesday.)

Monitor your thought processes.

Instead of thinking about past mistakes or possible future losses, focus on your dreams and future goals. Store up good memories by focusing your thinking on the delights inherent in each day.

— Honored Elder

MYRTHALYNNE THOMPSON, age 83



CRONES COUNSEL MISSION STATEMENT

To reclaim the Crone archetype through the creation of gatherings of women which model processes that: *promote equality, encourage diversity, support empowerment, and honor the value to society of older women's wisdom and accomplishments.*

Acceptance and forgiveness are the vital words to making life a joy. If applied to life's peaks and valleys, the peaks and valleys are

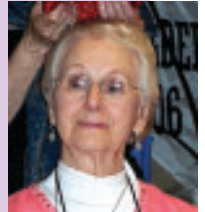
much easier.

Remember the perfection of your

core being.

— Honored Elder

JAN SODERLING, age 81



Honor/Remember Someone Special to You

AND SUPPORT CRONES COUNSEL AT THE SAME TIME

Show someone that you care and make a donation to

CRONES COUNSEL:

- ★ In Honor of someone, ★ In Memory of someone,
- ★ In Celebration of someone's birthday, anniversary, retirement, special achievement, etc.

Your name and the name of the person you are honoring will be printed in the next issue of *CroneTimes*. Please limit your wording to one line.

Send your wording and donation to **CRONES COUNSEL, INC.**, P.O. Box 485, Ekalaka, MT 59324

CRONES COUNSEL, INC. is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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 is our quarterly Members' newsletter. *Publisher*—Crones Counsel Inc., *Editor/Designer*—Marta Quest, *Editor/Reporter*—Kianna Bader, *Contributors*—Ann Emerson, Nancy Lehto, Marian Karpisek, Sally Reed, Carol Friedrich, Alexa Aho West, Glenda Martin. THANK YOU!

CRONES COUNSEL XVII

Wednesday–Sunday, October 21–25, 2009 — Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Atlanta, Georgia

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: _____

BIRTH DATE: _____ EMAIL: _____

*We need your birthday for ceremony.
Please provide.*

*We communicate primarily by e-mail.
If you have one, please include.*

Is this your first time? Yes ___ How did you learn of CC? _____

Which CCs have you attended? _____ Do you have special needs? _____

Do you want us to assign a roommate to share a Double/Triple/Quad Room? Yes ___

If you have a roommate preference, please indicate her name _____

NOTE: All roommates must request each other. Please do not name a roommate without confirming with her first.

<u>CC FEE:</u>	<u>till 8/15/09</u>	<u>After 8/15/09</u>	<u>Elder (80 & Over)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$ _____

LODGING & FOOD: (Includes lodging per person 4 nights, 3 meals, and 2 snacks each day)

<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Triple*</u>	<u>Quad*</u>	
\$525.76	\$332.84	\$285.49	\$254.00	\$ _____

**Note: Triples & Quads are vintage rooms, some with lofts, and not a crone-exclusive building.*

I wish to support my Wise Sisters with a 2009 donation to:

Outreach fund \$ _____ CC Scholarship \$ _____ Crones Counsel \$ _____ \$ _____

TOTAL (Fee, Lodging & Food, and Donation) \$ _____

Please make check payable to CRONES COUNSEL, INC., and mail to:

**Crones Counsel Registrar, c/o Meera Messmer, 8055 E. Coronado Rd.,
Tucson, AZ 85750-9659. Phone: 520/760-3905. E-mail: Gmessy2@aol.com**

To pay by credit card, please register online at www.cronescounsel.org

SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarships are available on a limited basis. For information on scholarships and any registration questions, please contact Meera Messmer at the above address or phone number.

REFUNDS: Cancellations up to July 31, 2009, will be given a total refund less a \$25.00 processing fee. Cancellations between August 1 and September 9 will be given a total refund less a \$50.00 processing fee. No refunds for lodging or CC registration can be given after September 10, 2009.

On Page 8 please see and sign ...

Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement

LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

WAIVER – Anyone attending a Crones Counsel gathering must sign a waiver of liability, just as you would when attending an Elder Hostel or other such event.

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE FOLLOWING:

I have read the activity description and voluntarily enroll in the Crones 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, and legal representatives, I release and discharge Crones Counsel, Inc., and its officers from liability for any injuries, 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 Crones 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 that I shall not hold Crones Counsel, Inc., responsible for such expenses.

Signature

Date

NOTICE TO ALL REGISTRANTS

Payment of all monies for *Crones Counsel XXVII — Atlanta* room and board is NOW DUE. **MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE JULY 21.**

Single: \$525.76 Double: \$332.84
Triple: \$285.49 Quad: \$254.00

Please send check to Meera Messmer, 8055 E. Coronado Road, Tucson, AZ 85750-09659, or go to www.cronescounsel.org pay by credit card.

Crones Counsel strongly encourages you to make all your payments by check. Credit card companies are charging us very high fees. This results in our losing money and thinly stretches our budget. By paying by check, you help Crones Counsel with this and future gatherings. Thank you!

CRONES COUNSEL XVII — ATLANTA

ALL WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND CRONE CIRCLE LEADERSHIP ARE DONATED TO THE GATHERING BY WOMEN WILLING TO SHARE THEIR WISDOM AND CREATIVITY. OUR GATHERING RELIES ON YOU WONDERFUL WOMEN.

ARTISANS' MARKETPLACE: Contact Amy Mitchell – amydmitch@yahoo.com or 678/592-7720, 1026 Willivee Dr., Decatur, GA 30030

CIRCLE LEADERS: Contact Jeanne Shaw – forcouples@mindspring.com or 404/550-9057, P.O. Box 420114, Atlanta, GA 30342-0114

Please NOTE: All contributors must be registered for the gathering. In the case of artisans, the products you offer for sale must be your own creations.

Frequently Asked Questions

I cannot walk far. Am I going to have trouble getting to workshops, dining, etc.?

No, Simpsonwood was chosen because of its easy accessibility. We are planning to have sleeping rooms and all workshops in one building with an elevator and the dining room is a short, level 60 yards away.

When will I get additional information about what to bring, events, etc.?

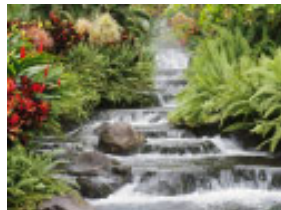
Between 4-6 weeks before the gathering you will receive all pre-gathering information in the mail.

I want to spend a few extra days in Atlanta to see the sights. Can I stay at Simpsonwood longer?

Yes, if you want to stay before or after the conference, reserve the days directly with Simpsonwood. Tell them you are with the Crones Counsel gathering and they will honor the rate. Simpsonwood will not assign specific rooms until they receive our rooming list. They will then add these days to the same assigned rooms for the gathering and you should not have to move.

I hear there's lots to do in Atlanta. I'm staying a few extra days. What would you recommend?

Yes, Atlanta is a terrific city. Most people like our new international aquarium, the High Museum, CNN tours, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, and the World of Coke. If you have a car – Stone Mountain is high on the list, Six Flags for thrills, and the zoo for laughs. An hour away is Dahlona (eastern gold discovery), and there are many day trips all around Atlanta.



Here's some tour options for non-drivers furnished by our planning committee member – Jan Truslow – who is a travel agent. For special help you can reach her at 404/378-7684.

◆ The Trolley Tour – runs continuously around downtown Atlanta and is 115 minutes long. The cost is \$33.00 total and you can stay on the trolley or get on and off as you wish. It is narrated with 14 stops and good until 6:00p.m.

◆ A city pass is \$78 total and gets you into most major Atlanta attractions if you have a few days to spend. Jan can tell you more if interested, as well as some additional tours and tour companies you might want to try.

Someone mentioned that there is cheaper lodging at Simpsonwood with rooms that will hold four people for the same daily rate. Is this true?

We have reserved rooms for back-up in case our main building fills. Currently we have reserved one entire building for crone sleeping rooms and activities. These other rooms are more vintage. Some have bunk beds, old furniture, and lofts with 45-degree stairs that could be difficult for some crones. We suggest registering and making a special request for this type accommodation if they become available. The prices are below or on the Registration Form.

Finally, the more local Atlanta/contributing crones are being encouraged to not stay home and will be given access to these rooms first.

How do I get to Simpsonwood from the airport?

You have a few options: Rent a car at the airport, which will run \$25-45/day (Enterprise has good rates).

Use Sir Ellison's Shuttle Service (866/747-2661). Reservations are required two weeks in advance. The rate when you mention Crones Counsel is \$45.00 one way or \$75 round trip. A 5% discount will be given if several go together. There is an additional cost for before 8:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m. You must call, give your name, flight number, and arrival time. The driver will meet you at the baggage claim area with a Crones Counsel logo sign. Payment is directly to service.

Atlanta's train service can be taken for \$1.75 one way to the end of the Dunwoody line but the taxi will cost about \$45.00 from there.

Taxi's from the airport will run \$75.00 one way or \$150 round trip.

Can I stay somewhere other than Simpsonwood and just have meals and participate in the gathering?

Yes, you can. However, you might want to consider the costs carefully to see if it makes sense.

With fully paid registration the program/meal day rate is \$75.00. So, with 3 full days it will be \$75 x 3 or \$225.00. Wednesday night or Sunday morning would be \$35/each. If registration has not been paid, it would be \$125.00/day with prorated registration. Now look at the costs with lodging:

With paid registration – lodging/meals/events/tax included.

	Per Day	4 nights/5 days
Single	\$131.44	\$525.76
Double	\$ 83.21	\$332.84
Triple	\$ 71.37	\$285.49
Quad	\$ 63.50	\$254.00

So, to save money, why not get a friend or two to share a room and enjoy all the time with other Crones?

Into the Green Valleys of Silliness



By *Alexa Aho West*

In 1993, at the first Crones Counsel in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, I was an earnest 50. I savored my newly found crone status and draped it importantly around my shoulders. In the 16 years since then, my importance shawl has slipped off and puddled on the ground, and my pride in being a crone has turned

into an Obama-like, "Yes, I can!"

This spring I turned 66 and I decided to make it my own personal Route 66. I intend to "get my kicks" on year 66 by trying 66 new things. I was inspired by Ludwig Wittgenstein's quote, "Never stay up on the barren heights of cleverness, but come down into the green valleys of silliness." And, so it began: laughter, silliness, and new things.

A DEEP CLEANING

I began my birthday by gifting my body with a two-hour, life-giving massage by a remarkable healer. If indeed, as an Indian proverb says, "Everyone is a house with four rooms, a physical, a mental, an emotional, and a spiritual," then all four rooms got a deep cleaning that day.

My next gift was to visit a 90-year-old crone who shared wisdom, laughter, and a vortex over a stream that flowed through her house. The silliness came when we played dress-up with her collection of hats. She said she had "one good relationship left in her" but that all the 80-year-old men were so stuck in their ways ... Her zest for life inspired me.

Continuing my 66 new things, I agreed to be a plus-sized model in a fashion show for Dillard's. What silly fun, feeling good in my brightly colored spring clothes, and feeling no qualms for my body size or presentation. Ah, crone energy and well being!

I learned to drive a double-seated off-road vehicle just before my birthday, but I'm counting it anyway! There I was on an ORV in Anza-Borrego State Park in California. I am not mechanically inclined, but despite gear grinding (and teeth grinding by my beloved), I managed to drive and saw the most spectacular desert bloom!

OTHER SNAPSHOTS

Other snapshots of "thus far" on my 66 new things include: watching ostrich races; watching camel races; going to a Mexican rodeo that featured three bands, only four bulls, and was conducted entirely in Spanish; doing a Public Service Announcement for Utah Public Radio; going to see Arlo Guthrie on his Lost World Tour and remembering that Woodstock was 40 years ago!

Oddest year 66 knowledge? Ask me about the sex life of date palm trees! You will never look at Wondra flour in the same light.

Atlanta in October is also on my Route 66 ... See you there, sister crones!



YOU HAVE YOUR DRUM. NOW, LET US PAINT IT!

These are a few of the designs we've painted. Tell us what you want — we'll create it.

If you DON'T have a drum, we will HAPPILY make one for you to bring to Crones Counsel — Atlanta!

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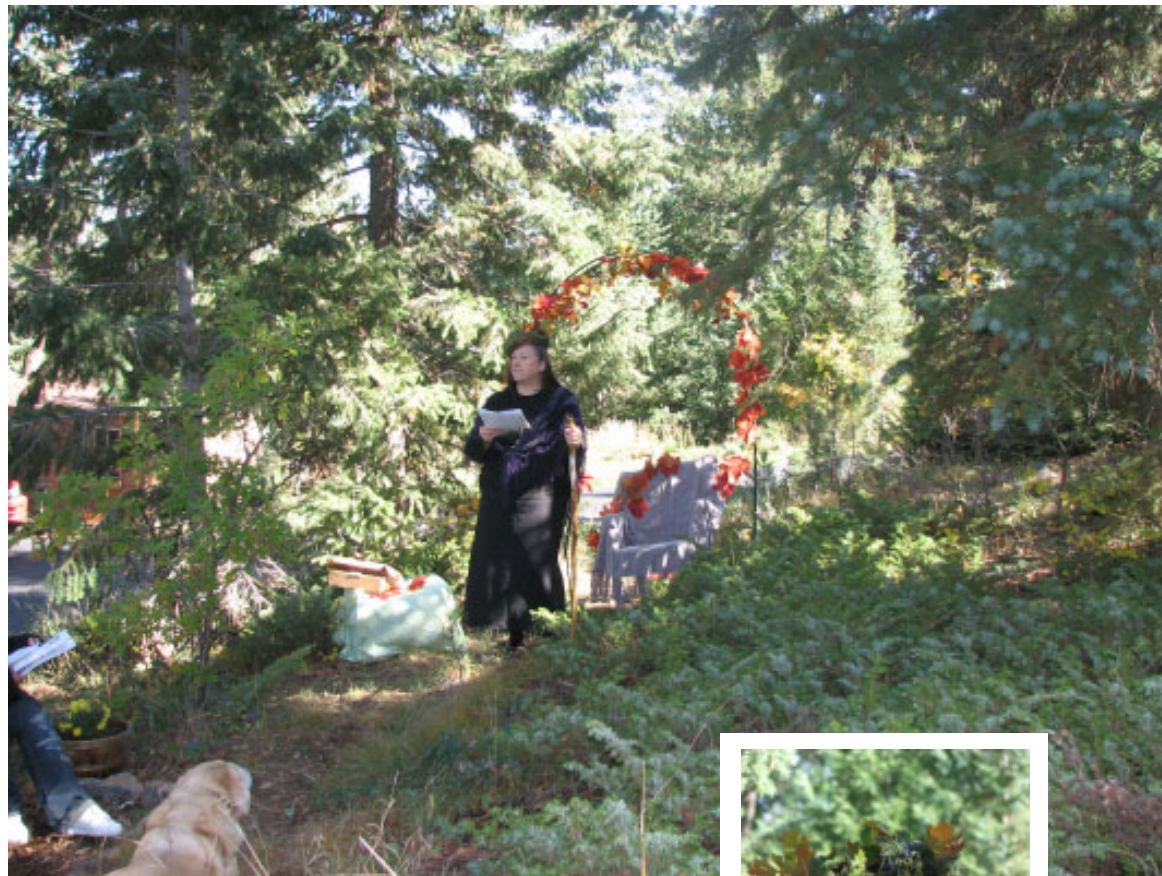
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Have faith in yourself and never give up! Tell yourself "I can do it!" Don't wait for approval from others. If you have a passion, pursue it!



— Honored Elder ELLEN FAWCETT, age 85



Sherry, her daughter, placed the crown on her head — made of grapevine and fall leaves and flowers. Gifts were then given to Crone Annie by the Maiden — a chalice symbolizing love; by the Mother — a staff symbolizing crone wisdom, and by the Matriarch — a tree symbolizing Crone power and growth. A reading given by a Crone talked of Annie’s life path, and Annie’s eldest granddaughter, Marissa, read the Crone responsibilities. Finally, Crone Annie pledged to honor the Crone within her for the rest of her days.

Songs and drumming accompanied the ritual.

Gifts from Annie to her guests were stones with Crone wisdom printed on them. She then invited her guests for a fall harvest feast in her home for lovingly prepared soup, bread, and dessert.



Welcome Crone Annie Cailleach

by Carol Friedrich

It was a beautiful autumn day for a croning. Nancy Lehto had invited many of the most important women in her life to share in her celebration from “Nancy” to “Annie”. This name change marked her transition from “matriarch” to “crone” as she chose to honor herself for the fourth stage of a woman’s life in her sixty-fifth year. She had wanted to have this name all of her life, and now it is hers.

Nancy chose October 15, 2008, for her special day. She readied an area near her home by her waterfall in which to have her croning by marking the directions with the appropriate elements and placing chairs for her guests and a chair for herself under a fall-decorated arch. Next to this area she designed and built a small labyrinth for which guests were asked to bring stones.

Her granddaughter, Sierra, was the Maiden who honored the East; her daughter-in-law, Sue, the Mother who honored the South; her crone friend, Susan, the Matriarch who honored the West, and another crone friend, Carol, the Crone who honored the North.

Crone Annie, we honor you!



Guests at Annie’s Croning Ceremony

Jackie Gentry

Jackie Gentry, past president of Cronos Counsel, M.C. for the follies, song leader for some outrageous women's songs sung yearly, and beloved crone sister was in an automobile accident. Here is the most recent update. If you wish to keep up with Jackie's progress toward recovery and leave her a message, please check this website: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jackiegentry>.

Background Story

Jackie's terrible car accident occurred March 3, 2009, as she was returning home after her voice lesson in the afternoon. I doubt that we will ever know what happened in that left-front impact with a pickup truck, but EMT response, removal from her car, and flight to medical treatment was relatively quick.

Jackie suffered severe, diffuse brain trauma and fractured bones in each of her four extremities. She has been receiving excellent care. ... The major bone fractures have been repaired surgically, so bone healing is started and the general limb swelling is beginning to subside. These are all great signs!

So this story and its updates as she moves out of the hospital are primarily about her journey and her progress from this point onward. It will undoubtedly be a slow path, but strong women like Jackie will not be deterred; with the help of her family and friends from all over the world, she will take the slow, small steps to become the best that she can be!

— Sally Phillips

Latest Update

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009 9:16 AM

Hey everybody Sally here with Jackie's update

For Jackie it could best be called a "plateau" week. She seems to be resting/sleeping more and less engaged, but Jackie still really enjoys the hour in the wheelchair when we go exploring around the hospital and go outside. Her coma score has actually gone down a couple of notches, but that is because she has not been very cooperative when the speech therapist was testing her. Sometimes I think that she is just taking a "time out" ... and getting a little tired of everyone asking her the same things and continually restraining what little movement she can do. It really must be very frustrating for her; she has started staring at the ceiling!. They now have a full leg brace on her legs (one leg at a time) to prevent the knees from becoming "locked" into a flexed position. She really seems to be fighting the range of motion exercises, too. I



have become more vocal to the hospital administration about the proper (or improper) timing and placement of the braces as well as the frequency of turning her in bed. As a result she is getting more attention people moving and proding her all the time!

On a more positive note, she has been breathing completely on her own

for over 10 consecutive days. Before they could consider pulling the trach out, the lung doctor wanted to get a complete observation of both her upper and lower airways to be sure everything was OK. The procedure is called a bronchoscopy (little camera at the end of a flexible tube, inserted either through her nose or through the trach). The lungs looked very good, and it was fascinating to see the various "tunnels" in the lungs. Viewing the upper airway was tough on Jackie, but she did really well. There were more secretions than they expected, so they had trouble seeing everything really well. I was most interested in the vocal cords they are intact, symmetrical and working (amazing views), but they found an area just below the cords that looked like a blister or cyst that was blocking about 1/2 of the airway. This probably explains the why she can't vocalize. She will be referred to a throat specialist in the coming week. Other updates: the wound on her backside was debrided some more yesterday but there is healing progress; the wound on the back of her head is scabbing over now; the Botox shots don't seem to have helped the elbow flexor problem; her blood pressure cannot be maintained for more than 10-15 minutes when she is stood up. I suppose this is more than you wanted to know!



Mother's Day visit with Jenny, Jake, Bryse, Jeff, and Georgia — both of Jackie's kids and all the grandchildren