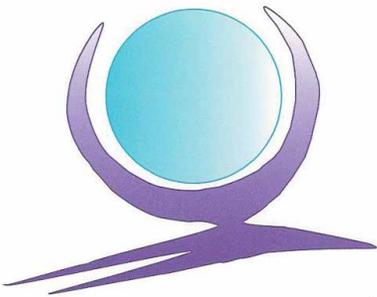


# CroneTimes

CRONES COUNSEL, INC.

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## HOLDING THE VISION

Stepping forward from the Crones Counsel IX *Thresholds* theme, our 2002 gathering marks a decade of mani-festing the crone spirit for today's world. But a new vision begins to emerge when we pass a threshold, even if it may now exist only in our dreams and intentions. Melding past experience into the shimmering, indistinct outlines of the new vision, we hold on — feeling renewed energy, seeing fresh possibilities, working to make the vision our new reality.”

—JACKIE GENTRY

## GREETINGS!

In an effort to hear the voices of our sister crones and give you the opportunity to have input on agenda items before the Board of Directors, this first Crones Counsel newsletter is being published.

Crones Counsel gatherings can only succeed if they meet the needs of those attending, and we can only know those needs if you are a part of the decision-making process.

We hope to put before you new ideas or changes in procedure as they come up for decision making so that your voice will be heard. We will also be using e-mail to inform you and ask your opinion about issues and keep you informed of the workings of the board. Also, check our website, [www.cronescounsel.org](http://www.cronescounsel.org), for updates and use the forum to express your ideas and opinions.

The board has also begun the promotion of a gathering on the east coast for 2003 and the possibility of holding gatherings on both coasts in future years with a central Mother Gathering every other year.

There are a lot of new and exciting ideas coming forth, which the board believes will generate a crone energy that will expand the vision we are currently holding.

We are looking forward to spending an exciting four days with you at Asilomar where we will begin to *Hold the Vision* as a collective group and take home to share with our families, friends, and women's groups.



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

*Mahtowin*

In the herstory of Crones Counsel, Inc., I am only the third president. I am feeling a great responsibility as I follow Shauna Adix and Constance Clover to maintain the group's energy, and will rely heavily on the Board of Directors or, as I call them, the Board of Wise Women.

Shauna held the vision and co-created Crones Counsel gatherings with a knowing hand, humor, and a gift of wisdom that embraced all who entered her creation. With her passing, Constance took hold of the reins and has successfully led us through the past five years of transition. She has held the vision and incorporated procedures that after regional groups stopped stepping forward to produce the gatherings created a working board to continue the gatherings.

I have been asking for guidance in what my role will be, because the groundwork has been established by these two women, and feel very strongly that we are now at a point where we will create ways of including all of you who choose into the



decision-making process.

This newsletter is one more way to include you in the decision making and keep you informed as to what is going on in our crone world. The board and I are open to your ideas and input, and hopefully, you will see the result of your ideas put into action throughout this and future gatherings.

I am honored to serve as your president and will make myself available to listen to your needs, requests, and ideas, and take them before the board.



## LOGO CONTEST

While each year we have a logo that depicts the theme of our gatherings we have never had an official logo for Crones Counsel, Inc. With the birthing of our newsletter we are suddenly in need of a logo that will encompass the meaning of Crones Counsel, Inc.

We are asking you who have artistic talents to enter your original creations for consideration. You may submit more than one entry, preferably in color.

We are offering one (1) free registration to the 2003 gathering to the logo best representing Crones Counsel, Inc. If you are coming to the gathering, please bring your entry with you so that it can be posted for viewing and voting. If you cannot join us this year, you may send your submission to: Crones Counsel, c/o Mahtowin, P.O. Box 261, Ekalaka, MT 59324, or e-mail to [BWV@midrivers.com](mailto:BWV@midrivers.com). Mailed entries must be received by 10/1/02.



## OPEN COUNSEL

This is a new concept for our gatherings. We are going to sit in circle and talk about how we want our gatherings to be. What a concept — we get to have it the way we want it!

Some of the topics that will be intro-

duced at the Visioning Circle will be:

1. Would we like to consider having dual smaller gatherings on the East and West coasts with a larger Mother Gathering every other year?

2. Would you like to see the newsletter be semi-annual or quarterly?

3. Would you consider a membership fee?

4. Do we have local groups willing to make a commitment to take responsibility for future gatherings?

5. What do you see as the vision for crone gatherings?

You can be thinking about these questions ahead of time and be ready to share your thoughts when we gather in circle.



## FIRST TIME ATTENDING?

If you are new to Crones Counsel, we offer you special greetings and a warm welcome. Soon you will be hearing from board member, Jackie Gentry, who will greet you at our gathering and answer questions about what to expect during the gathering.



## CRONE CIRCLES

*Mnimaka* and *Susan Ann Stauffer*

Crone Circles have become a more intimate way for women to share their stories, meet new women, and create a safe womb space with other women.

Crone Circles will meet every morning of the gathering following storytelling. These groups will provide



## MISSION STATEMENT

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



continuity with the same group of women over several days that will make it easier for every woman to share. Crone Circles are a place to listen and be listened to more deeply. Every woman has a story, and it often flows more naturally in a small group that meets together three days in a row, with a facilitator to help and focus the discussion.

It is recommended that you not register for the same circle as your friends, to give everyone an opportunity to listen to new voices, and be heard in a new way.

There will be nothing else scheduled during Crone Circles time.

Please look for the Crone Circles



Following our honoring of elders, a group honoring ceremony will be held for those women who wish to participate.



If you have a product that you would like to share please contact Mahtowin at [BWV@midrivers.com](mailto:BWV@midrivers.com) or 406/775-6664 and a vendor form will be sent to you.



## CRONE FOLLIES

*Jackie Gentry*

One of the funnest events of Crones Counsel involves you and your talents! It's the annual Crone Follies — a venue where you can perform! So ... if you sing, play an instrument, have a stand-up comedy routine, dance, or something else to show off, bring whatever you need to perform in the 2002 Crone Follies. Sign-up materials will be available at registration. We will have a sound system and a piano, and we can arrange for a cassette and CD player for the performance.



## EMPTY CHAIR

This space is set aside to remember those Crones who have made their transition. If you know of a Crone who you would like remembered with special crone energy you may want to visit this area.



sign-up sheets in the registration area on Wednesday afternoon and sign up for your Circle.

We have a great need for facilitators. If you feel called to be a facilitator this year, please contact us by e-mail, telephone, or mail. Susan Ann Stauffer may be reached at [sastauffer@sisna.com](mailto:sastauffer@sisna.com), and Mnimaka at [mnimaka@sprynet.com](mailto:mnimaka@sprynet.com), 858/676-1151, or 12256 Casero Ct., San Diego, CA 92128.



## CRONE ARTS AND CRAFTS

It's not too late to sign up for a booth in the vendor room. One of the highlights each year is to take a stroll through the vendor room and see all of the wonderful creations that our sisters manifest.

The vendor room becomes the hub of activity during the gathering with shoppers stopping outside at the Crone Café for a refreshment or just sitting in the sun visiting with friends.



## HONORING OUR ELDERS

*Mnimaka, Constance Clover, Jean Stein, and Virginia Tennies*

Honoring the Elders is an integral part of Crones Counsel. Our second evening together will be devoted to an honoring ceremony during which women from each decade will stand together to be recognized for the age she has attained. A special honoring will be given to each woman age eighty and over. It is always a special blessing for all of us when our elders speak to us.



## WORKSHOPS

A rich array of workshops are planned for the CCX gathering. Among the workshops are:

- ◆ Women in Relationships
  - ◆ Tantric Harmonics: Freeing the Voice of the Goddess
  - ◆ Looking Inward Together: An Interactive Grieving Process
  - ◆ Who Are You Really? Changing Your Name to Reflect Your True Self
  - ◆ Mask Making
  - ◆ Gifts of the Shadow, Projections and the Loyal Soldier
  - ◆ Eco-Crone Consciousness
  - ◆ The Soulcentric Developmental Wheel: A Lifespan Model of Development from Infancy through Authentic Elderhood
  - ◆ The Tree of Life
  - ◆ Prayer Beads
  - ◆ Stepping into Light: Honoring Death as Transformation
  - ◆ Singing, Laughing, Writing Songs
  - ◆ Genograms
- ... and more



## CRONE GRANT PROGRAM

*Connie Dawson*

Crone Counsel, Inc., has established a grant program to encourage the tradition of crone gatherings, the dissemination of crone wisdom, and the em-

powerment of older women through financial support of a series of local and/or regional crone gatherings. The Croness Council hopes that, once established, the meetings will continue periodically.

Over the years of national Croness Council gatherings it has become apparent that many women interested in exploring the crone concept have not attended Croness Council national gatherings because of limited financial resources and/or other demands on their time. All national gatherings have been in the western United States, and a few participants have come from the other areas of the United States.

Croness Council will provide initial support for as many as five gatherings in the United States through its 2003 Grant Program. Grant awards up to \$1,000 can be applied to expenses for the planning and operation of a local or regional gathering. Interested applicants submit a written proposal detailing the purpose, plan, and budget for a gathering. The board reviews proposals and makes decisions on the grant awards. Croness Council grants provided support for a 2001 gathering in Arizona and a 2002 gathering in Minnesota.



If you have or want to start a group in your area that would be interested in creating a regional event, you may contact Connie Dawson at [cdawson@whidbey.com](mailto:cdawson@whidbey.com) to receive more information about grant proposal guidelines and dates for submission.



## CRONES COUNSEL WEBSITE

Please check out our website. You can read about our herstory and past gatherings as well as future gatherings. We also have a forum in which you can have dialogue with one another and board members, ask questions, and make suggestions. This is the place where you can keep in touch all year long with other croness.

Let us know what your group is doing. Find out what might be going on in your area. Link up with us. Take a look at [www.cronescounsel.org](http://www.cronescounsel.org).

**Croness Council, Inc.**

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