

CroneTimes

CRONES COUNSEL, INC.

FEBRUARY 2003

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1



CRONES COUNSEL INC. TO HOST TWO EVENTS IN 2003!

Celebrate the Wisdom and Power of Older Women

Crones Counsel is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting equality, encouraging diversity, supporting personal empowerment, and honoring the value to society of older women's wisdom and accomplishments. Longer life spans have afforded women the unparalleled opportunity to live the extra years of their lives with passion and purpose. Participants in **Crones Counsel** gatherings empower themselves and each other, and they leave with renewed energy and vision for promoting older women's contributions in the world.

Personal storytelling is a centerpiece of **Crones Counsel** gatherings. Other events include Crone circles for small group discussions, varied workshops and forums, Crone Follies talent night, ceremonies, honoring our Elders, fun, and merrymaking.

Crone Counsel XI — Expanding the Vision

Weaving the Fabric of the Future

This year, for the first time, the national gathering will occur in the eastern part of the USA. Women at the **Crones Counsel** will celebrate the summer solstice weekend June 19-22, 2003, at the MeadowView Marriott in Kingsport, Tennessee. We anticipate that many women who live east of the Mississippi will have their first experience at a Crone Counsel. And of course, it's a fine time for our western friends to visit the southeast! Southern hospitality is too good to miss!

We will have a special ceremony to mark the summer solstice weekend, as well as a unique program honoring the history and legacy of Appalachian women.

The room cost includes all meals and amenities, and the MeadowView has lots of comfortable features – pool, health club, tennis courts, jogging trails, golf course, and well-appointed rooms. Even a Starbucks! The Meadowview offers complimentary parking for guests and a free shuttle to

*“We’ve got a lot to
Crone about!”*

BE A
JUICY
CRONE

Celebrate
Summer Solstice
at
CRONES
COUNSEL XI
with
Fire and Passion!



CRONES COUNSEL XI, from Page 1

and from the Tri-Cities Airport.

Storytelling is a key element in the Crones Counsel gatherings, and it is an important part of the local culture – nearby Jonesborough, the oldest city in Tennessee, hosts the annual National Storytelling Festival. Bays Mountain Park and Warriors Path State Park are close to MeadowView. And don't forget about relaxing at one of Tennessee's lakefront resorts or hiking the Appalachian Trail!

Get ready for a wonderful new experience down South!

A Second Event!

Returning, Remembering, Renewing

Expanding the vision even further, **Crones Counsel** will have a western gathering October 9-12, 2003 at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise, Idaho. Look for details in our next newsletter.

Register for a **Crones Counsel** gathering at the Crones Counsel website: www.cronescounsel.org; the cost is \$130 for the three-day event.

For room reservations, call the MeadowView Resort, Kingsport, TN, at 800/228-9290, or the Doubletree Riverside, Boise, ID, at 800/222-TREE (8733). Special room rates have been contracted for a limited number of registrants, so mention **Crones Counsel** and register early. For more information contact Nancy Lehto, Registrar, by email: nancylehto@att.net, or write to Crones Counsel, Inc., P.O. 311, Indian Hills, CO 80454, or visit the website www.cronescounsel.org.



DATA BASE UPDATE

We are correcting and adding to our Crones name and address data base. If you have a correction or would like to add a friend, please email Nancy Lehto, registrar, at nancylehto@att.net, or send a card to Nancy at Crones Counsel, P.O. Box 311, Indian Hills, CO 80454

WANT A CRONES COUNSEL IN YOUR TOWN?

by Connie Dawson

Hook up with another crone or two. See if you have some people to help you, and identify a site that would work. If you determine to move ahead, contact the **Crones Counsel**. Here's how it worked a few years back in Colorado, for example:

Two women got the idea, then sought and received the go-ahead from the Board.

They belonged to the Evergreen Crone Circle but invited Denver, Fort Collins, and Boulder crone groups to ask for volunteers.

The volunteers met, envisioned crones coming to Colorado, put their vision on paper, and made an intention: We will implement a gathering of great quality for ourselves and our sisters.

The women took on different jobs. They did their tasks and reported their progress at the next meeting, to cheers and smiles. Creativity ruled!

The group met once a month. They brought food and enjoyed a warm time together as they got their business done. At the outset, they agreed to ground rules with which they would conduct all of their business. Working easily, smoothly, and cooperatively, they looked forward to the meetings.

These women put on a gathering in Estes Park. The wonderful spirit created by the Women Who Planned permeated the experience for everyone.

You don't have to start from scratch! The **Crones Counsel** board can help a local or regional sponsoring group. We have a website where women can register and get information, as well as a mailing list and an e-mail list and can do your registration. We have "consultants" who will assist you in program development.

For more information or to express interest in getting started, call Mahtowín at 775/537-6184 or email bwv@midrivers.com

BRING YOUR ACT TO CRONE FOLLIES

by Sharon Hoery

Talk about talent! Crone Follies is soooooo much fun. The professionalism and pizzazz that takes the stage each year at the Crone Follies deserves top billing. I have laughed so hard I cried. There were also times so moving that I could not stop the tears flowing down my cheeks. Crones — talented, testy, saucy, unbarred, magical, and reaching into the depths of life — this is Crone Follies. This is the place for all you budding actresses and pros to strut your stuff or the act that has been hidden away — talent that is just bursting to be in the lights, Crone Follies is your stage.

All this wonderful talent takes the stage each year at Crones Counsel. Bring your acts to the follies. This is not to be missed!

P.S. Acts must be limited to five minutes each or we would not be able to leave on Sunday because of all the talent.



MUSINGS FROM A CRONE IN TRAINING

by Susan Ann Stauffer, CIT

It was the face on the cover of the book that captured me. Mesmerized by the image looking back at me. I held the book in my hands trying to make sense of what I was feeling. The face ... ah, still to this day, it is hard to describe in words, the power of that face. Lined deeply inscribed, entirely patterned, and firm. It may be that the image had taken me back to my mother, old, in her hospital bed, looking so frightfully terrible and fierce that I had to walk out of the room as soon as I had entered, just to gain my composure. Struggling outside the door, I knew I had to go back in. I did. Or, it may be, that something very ancient in me was summoned as I held the book in my hands, a tremor moving through me. Perhaps this image is an ancient archetype. Carl Jung describes archetypes as 'archaic remnants' - mental forms whose presence cannot be explained by anything in the individual's own life and which seem to be aboriginal, innate and inherited shapes of the human mind."

It was Barbara Walker's book, *The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power*. The word *crone* meant nothing to me, having never heard it before. I was only 35 years old; my children were teenagers, and I, long married. I took

the book home, tried to read it, put it down. It was 1985.

In 1993, I found myself at the very first Crones Counsel gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The story of how I got there is widely circuitous – a mystical synchronistic phenomenon that somehow seemed perfectly timed for my benefit. Crones Counsel I was a magical,

sible love – in the guise of Shauna Adix, the founder of Crones Counsel. She was amazing, as was every other crone face there. The call had come from that fierce face on the cover of the book.

It is now 2003, She, CroneFace has moved alongside me now for 18 years. I have been well tutored. This CIT – a Crone in Training – has learned much.

HONORING THE ELDERS

by Susan Ann Stauffer

"Honoring the Elders" is a ceremonial ritual that occurs during every Crones Counsel Gathering. We give attention and respect to the oldest women at the gathering. As the "wise women," "oracles," and "speakers of cultural truths," their presence at the Gathering assumes great meaning. By doing communal ceremony, due compliment is accorded to their sagacity, years of survivorship, their insight, heightened perception, their clarity of vision, their sharper sense of the ridiculous. The CroneFace women are recognized as tradition-bearers, wisdom-keepers, seers, mobilizers, and mentors. The entire gathering collectively honors these elder women in ceremony and they then have the opportunity to grace the gathering with their words, their truth, and very often, their humor and wit.

I will have some part in arranging the Honoring Ceremony in Tennessee this June. The "Honoring" is always a highlight of the Gathering. I'll look forward to sharing with you the "CroneFace Women Elders."



life-altering event. Eight years later that CroneFace image on the cover of Walker's book was looking at me again – this time with almost incomprehen-

The CroneFace image, in triple form as the Maiden/Mother/Crone, hangs over my mantle and graces my hearth fire. I live with her.

She/Crone is a powerful mythological image in our collective *unconscious*. It appears to me that the time is ripe to enliven all of the symbols by which we have been *unconsciously* motivated and to begin to integrate and merge them with our other ascending powers for the greater good of women. The all-encompassing energy and force field of CroneFace needs to be seeded into the world.

To that end, I write a brief note in this newsletter. I think the purpose of our longevity as elder women is to bring this power – the power of fierceness, compassion, and blessing – into the world. "We are the ones we have been waiting for."

I have not been sum-



CALLING FOR WORKSHOPS

WHERE: Crones Counsel XI

WHEN: Every afternoon

WHO: YOU!

Crones Counsel does not pay for outside workshop presenters, so **WE NEED YOU**. Please gift us with your talents — volunteer to present a workshop, and help create a fabulous gathering.

Send your proposals or questions to Anya Silverman, anycrone@aol.com. All presenters must be registered participants at **Crones Counsel XI**.



THE EMPTY CHAIR

by *Connie Dawson*

When we gather every year, someone is missing. The circle is not complete. There is a space that was filled with a living presence who had created a place among us. When we meet again, and the presence we have known is not there, we feel incomplete. "Where is she?" the women ask. "Something is different. Someone is missing."

Because we are Crones, the loss of age mates is part of our reality. As Crones, we know that death is closer and the veil between life and death becomes thinner. As our friends leave, we must know of their leaving so we can mark their passing from us and celebrate it in our individual ways.

To that end, each Crones Counsel will have an Empty Chair. The women who know of the passing of one of us will tell us. Those who have made their transitions during the prior year will be acknowledged by having their names placed on the Empty Chair.

We all have a place. We all have our circles. We all have an effect on others, as others have an effect on us. We acknowledge our blessings. We hold the Circle.

***I'm not 40-something.
I'm \$39.95, plus shipping
and handling.***

CRONES COUNSEL, INC.
P.O. Box 311
Indian Hills, CO 80454

**SUPPORT EMPOWERMENT •
HONOR THE VALUE TO SOCIETY
OF OLDER WOMEN'S WISDOM
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.**

CRONE IN TRAINING, from Page 3

moned; you have not been called, in folly. Rather, we may very well be the harbingers of a powerful generative force; old women who guide and protect, tell the stories, bear the traditions, midwife communities of women, perform the function of moral and historical guardianship, sing praises and howl our pain.

It was the face on the cover of the book that captured me. It's the vision/dream of older women's wisdom brought into real time that keeps me captive.

**Jung, C.J. (1964). Man and His Symbols.
Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company Inc.*

GATHER THE WOMEN

MARCH 8, 2003

International Women's Day will be celebrated around the globe on March 8, 2003, by women gathering in circles dreaming and celebrating collectively to bring harmony, balance, and peace to our beloved Mother through our loving embrace, our focused intention, and our sacred connection.

***Gather your women friends
and circles and plan a day of
joyful celebration.***

*In the '60s people took acid to
make the world weird. Now the
world IS weird and people take
Prozac to make it seem normal.*

ARTS & CRAFTS WOMEN WANTED

A vendor room will be available for women attending the gathering to sell their crafts and arts. The spaces are limited — apply early.

You must be registered for the gathering and products you sell must be your own creation.

For information contact:
Crones Counsel – Vendors,
c/o Mahtowin, 1680 N. Blagg Rd., Pahump, NV
89060, or e-mail BWV2@usintouch.com



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