

# CroneTimes

CRONES COUNSEL, INC.

AUGUST 2003

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## CRONES COUNSEL XI WEST — BOISE, IDAHO

by Susan Wildwood

### RETURN, REMEMBER, RENEW

BOISE, IDAHO, JEWEL OF THE GEM STATE, is the setting for **Crones Counsel XI — West** in 2003. Those of you who attended Crones Counsel IV may remember this big-little town and the fun we had together, drumming, Honoring the Elders, dancing, sharing, and simply hanging out near the Boise River. Boise has grown since then. But it is still easy to get from the airport to the Riverside Hotel, as well as to downtown, the Mall, and anyplace else you want to visit.

October is a stunning time. We should be early enough for you to enjoy the autumn color, warm days and cool/cold nights. We may or may not get precipitation at that time, so bring a variety of clothing. There are restaurants in the hotel and you can get to others not too far away. Downtown has wonderful shops and outdoor restaurants that may still be open some evenings.

Those of you who are new to Crones, or did not attend the Boise Gathering will have a chance to Return, Remember, Renew with us October 9 through 12, Thursday evening through Sunday morning.

**Crones Counsel** is Returning to the original format of a member-sponsored, rather than Board of Directors-sponsored

gathering. We will Return to Boise as part of the spiraling back into our Herstory.

Susan Wildwood, who has attended most of the Gatherings, is the Boise Coordinator. She also coordinated the original Boise Gathering. She promises to Return to and weave back into our Crone



Tapestry some of those earlier threads and create the space for new ones for us to weave together.

### A Time to Remember

We will Remember our roots and beginnings, even as we take into our future, all of this wonderful experience that is so richly represented by Crone. This will be a time to Remember all of the Selves that dwell within us and those Crone sisters who cannot be with us because of health or financial reasons, or who have passed through the Gateway ahead of us. Crones are uniquely positioned in today's frantic, chaotic world to hold form, to create peace in the midst of turmoil and Remember, until the young can experience it, what serenity is in the face of the illusion of adversity.

Together we will Renew our Selves, filling our hearts at the Fountain of Crone Wisdom. Laughter, tears, meditation, Snippets of Crone experience, new ideas and information, dance, music, good food and solitude shared will soften the edges of our lives and bring us new opportunity to Return to our daily lives, Remembering the richness of the lives we have lead, Renewed in our commitment to being Wonderfully Outrageous Older Women!

*See you in Boise!*

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*Wisdom comes from the continuing integration of everyday experiences. It is incrementally built and always present.*

— SHAUNA ADIX

# CRONES COUNSEL XI EAST — KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE

by Mahtowin

Who said you can't go home again? And who said home is where the heart is? Maybe **Crones Counsel** didn't physically go to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the first Counsel was held, but we certainly went to the heart home of the Counsel gatherings in Kingsport, Tennessee.

In the spirit of "Expanding the vision" the board made a bold decision to bring **Crones Counsel** to the eastern part of the United States and stepped into that scary unknown world of the creative Crone. The board struggled to find a location in this unfamiliar part of the country. We attempted to get out advertising to women who were strangers to us. We worried over low registration numbers and our financial obligations to the Meadowview Resort. We asked pondered several times, "Should we go forward or should we cancel?" Each time we voted to continue.



*WEAVING RIBBONS into wreaths in a  
Crones Circle.*

This step into the darkness of the creative void was perhaps the boldest step any **Crones Counsel** board has ever taken. Control was taken completely out of our hands and we were left to trust. We would have a gathering in Tennessee regardless of the numbers of attendees. As time drew nearer for the gathering, we questioned the decision we had made when we first put our toes into these new waters and began to paddle as the waters now seemed to be

ready to consume us. Thank goodness we continued to swim, for the gathering that birthed itself was filled with a magical essence that consumed all of us present.

Because our numbers were small and the board had completed all business before the gathering opened, board members were free to be attendees of the gathering. We attended workshops, crones circles, met new women, ate our meals with them, and had fun. What a concept for a board member to actually have fun at a gathering!

Together, we created a flowing environment where we were all held in the safety of the womb of creation. Women shared their stories, sang, danced, hula hooped, yo yoed, drummed, and embraced the divine in one another. Without knowing what to expect or what was to happen, the women created the essence of the first gatherings where there was a free flow of thought and agendas. Many of the women who had attended the first gatherings commented that this was what they longed for once again at the gatherings.

On the night of our Honoring the Elders we began with an elegant ceremony followed by a raucous evening of drumming. At the end of the evening a bridal rehearsal party came down the hall and passed our room. Soon we had several little people standing at our door with big round eyes looking at us having so much fun. We invited them in and they joined us in drumming. It seemed so appropriate to have the eldest and the youngest all celebrating together. It was just one more piece of the magic.

For those of us from the west, the pace was slower and more gentle. The Meadowview Resort exceeded our every expectation. We experienced true "Southern hospitality."

I, for one, had a little adjustment period to the southern accent. My first night there a young woman kept telling me about her "fonce." I smiled like I knew just what she was talking about. When a young man entered and she introduced me to him I realized that this young man was her fiancé. Another one

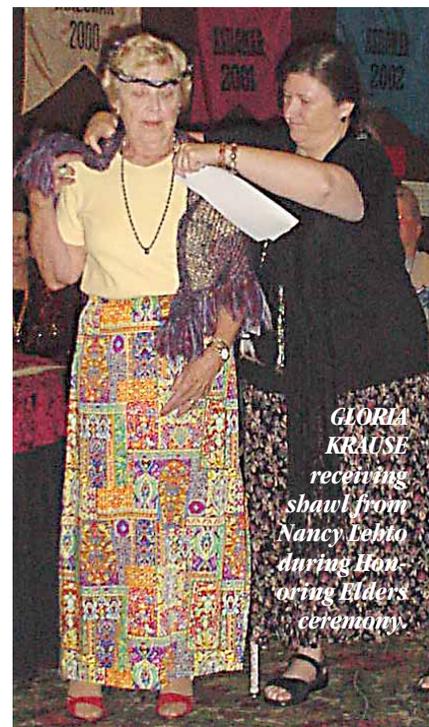


*YOUNGSTERS AND  
ELDERS playing  
together in Kingsport.*

spoke about "momenem." Turns out she was speaking about her "mom and them." I wonder if we sounded as strange to them?

This gathering was the last one to be board sponsored, and from now on gatherings will return to being created by local groups, which will give us the opportunity to drink from the creative well of regional groups once again. The Kingsport gathering renewed my belief that there is a richness to be gained from regional gatherings that carry the flavor of the place and people where the gatherings are held.

If you missed **Crones Counsel XI** in Kingsport you still have an opportunity to gather and celebrate with us in Boise, Idaho. Susan Wildwood and her crew are sure to create a special time for all of us to get together once again. Susan has hosted an earlier gathering and her ability to create a magical atmosphere of spontaneity will assure us of a wonderful time together.



*GLORIA  
KRAUSE  
receiving  
shawl from  
Nancy Lehto  
during Hon-  
oring Elders  
ceremony.*

# CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR CRONES COUNSEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Jackie Gentry

In 2004, the **Crones Counsel** will seek candidates to join the Board of Directors beginning in January 2005. An individual may nominate herself or another

are expected to work on behalf of the organization throughout the year.

The board is especially interested in candidates who are experienced in website development and oversight.

If you are interested in being a candidate for Board membership, you may apply with a letter outlining (1) your experience working with and for women/crones; (2) what you bring to the Board; (3) why you want to be on the Board; (4) your vision for **Crones Counsel**; (5) your age, how many gatherings you have attended, and your e-mail address.

The timeline for applications is **March 1, 2004**. New members will begin their terms January 1, 2005.

Send letters of application to: Anya Silverman, 3945 Harrison Ave #22, Oakland, CA 94611.

women and their sacred journey financially, spiritually, and physically.

Other donations were received and applied toward this fund and **Crones Counsel** was able to gift \$200.00 to the Shepherd Center of Kingsport to support their efforts in assisting older adults. It was a special part of the closing morning of our gathering in Tennessee as we felt pride in helping elder citizens of the community through this gift to the Shepherd Center.

The Shepherd Center provides services and programs that enable 2,200 older adults to live safely and independently in their own homes. Its program Provide-A-Ride volunteers offer needed transportation to elders. They may also run errands for homebound senior adults. Handy Hands is a Shepherd Center program whose services include home repairs and telephone reassurance calls. Additional resources for services are also provided.

The **Crones Counsel** Outreach Fund will be funded by donations. The women who attended the gathering in Kingsport donated \$300.00 toward the next gathering in Boise, Idaho, where we will find an organization or group to support in their work in that area.

A wise parent once said to his children as they pulled up their campsite: "Remember, always leave your campsite better than when you found it." As wise Crones we will do just that. Contributions to the Community Outreach Fund should be sent to Crones Counsel, Inc., c/o Sharon Hoery, 3850 Old Gate Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80104.

ONE OF THE CRONES CIRCLES facilitated by Mnimaka.



SPIRAL DANCE during Closing Ceremonies in Kingsport.

individual, and is required to:

- ◆ be at least 50 years old,
- ◆ have attended at least two **Crones Counsel** gatherings,
- ◆ have access to and be proficient in using e-mail correspondence,
- ◆ submit a letter to the current Board outlining your skills and experience that can contribute to sound management and decision making for the **Crones Counsel** organization.

New members will be elected by the current Board, and appointments are made for a term of five years.

The purpose of the Board is to plan, direct, and oversee all administrative and program activities of the **Crones Counsel**, a nonprofit corporation.

Board members are volunteers and do not receive any fees for their service. However, expenses are paid for certain required activities and for out-of-pocket costs incurred in carrying out authorized tasks for the organization.

The Board meets at least twice each year — once at a national gathering, and once in early spring. And members

## CRONES COUNSEL OUTREACH FUND

Expanding the Vision has been the theme the **Crones Counsel** board of directors has chosen for their direction in 2003. As a result of that theme the board has implemented a **Crones Counsel** Outreach Fund with the goal of giving back to the communities in which we have a gathering. This fund was begun at our gathering in Kingsport, Tennessee, in June.

To seed this fund, \$100.00 was taken from the general fund and directed to the Outreach Fund in the memory of Jeffrey Joel, Ann Kreilkamp's (co-founder of Crones Counsel, Inc.) husband, who died suddenly in January. Jeffrey was a supporter of **Crones Counsel**, *Crone Chronicles* magazine, and assisted



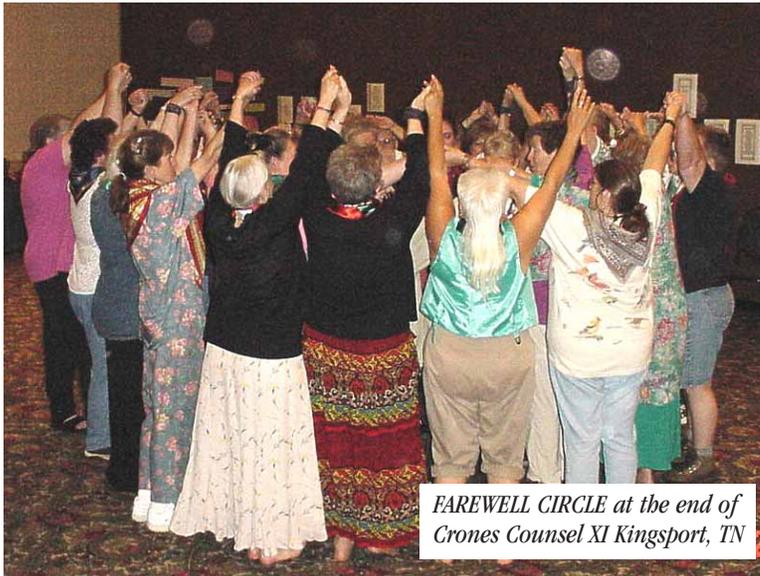
## MEADOWVIEW REVIEW

Dear Crones Counsel Board,

*Congratulations on the success of Weaving the Web ... success is after all not always measured by our expectation.*

*So many of us were touched in a special way because of the intimacy of this gathering. From the talk I overheard, more than one regional gathering will likely come out of this one. We were able to meet the Atlanta crones (what a dynamic bunch!), and we won't soon forget wonderful Sarah Worthington and her Footsteps of the Grandmothers.*

*It is good to find that the Crone is alive and well, and wonderful crone work is being done and being valued*



FAREWELL CIRCLE at the end of Crones Counsel XI Kingsport, TN

*all across this land.*

*I don't know about you, but I'm still doing catch up and it's been more than a week since I've been home.*

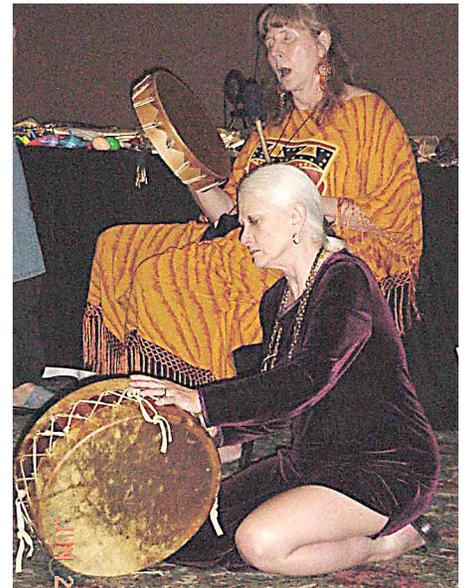
— Namaste, Mnimaka

### A Policy Level Suggestion

*The gathering in Kingsport was superb! I am writing this to acknowledge and deeply thank you for all the many many hours each of you spent in putting this gathering together. The "container" you put together and held for us all was safe, intimate, vulnerable, and waaaaay fun! And I am so glad that you held to the vision of you all being able to participate in the whole gathering — that was really wonderful*

*for all of us.*

*I do have one suggestion that might be considered at a policy level. I was distressed about Ila having to place herself at the back of the room near an open door because she*



BETTY BROWN and BETH MORRIS of Georgia, acting just like Crones at Kingsport!

*is chemically sensitive. And I was saddened that she felt apologetic about this and had to advocate for herself. I am suggesting that **Crones Counsel** in the registration information that is sent out in BOLD letters that you request that everyone comes with and uses UNscented products. I look at this in the same way that you require a facility to be handicapped-accessible. I feel we should do this as a matter of policy, regardless if anyone with chemical sensitivity issues comes or not.*

*Thank you for listening and thanks again for a GREAT **Crones Counsel**.*

— KATHERINE BARR

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