

# CroneTimes

CRONES COUNSEL, INC.

JULY 2004

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2



## SACRED PLAY! Crones Counsel XII

AT THE ALEXIS PARK RESORT

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

OCTOBER 14-17, 2004

Register on-line at [www.cronescounsel.org](http://www.cronescounsel.org)

or contact Arlene Madsen, Registrar,

P.O. Box 135, Farley, MO 64028,

[asmadsen@earthlink.net](mailto:asmadsen@earthlink.net)

## COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

### Enticements Galore

This year, you won't have any trouble finding our gathering/vendor rooms as they are right next to each other! Everything is on one floor and all are in the same building.

We can hold up to eight workshops a day in each of the two main rooms (Athena and Pegasus) and have an additional room (chapel) available for drumming, dancing, and loud noise, making for two more workshops. That's 18 workshops each day (Friday and Saturday) for a total of 36 workshops! They will run from 1:30 to 3pm and 3:30 to 5pm each day. This means we need LOTS of workshop presenters. Please contact Renee Durkin at [renedurkin@aol.com](mailto:renedurkin@aol.com) if you can volunteer your time and talent. (Remember that all workshop presenters must be registered attendees.)

### Pajama Party

We went with a breakfast buffet for Sunday morning. It's the "Eye Opener" — just what we'll need after our Saturday night revelry! We'll enjoy assorted chilled juices, warm ham & cheese mini croissants, assorted fruit yogurts with granola, fruit kabobs, assorted granola bars, and freshly brewed tea and regular or decaffeinated Colombian roast coffee. Just about everything will be easy to grab and go if you're short on time! Please contact Renee Durkin at [renedurkin@aol.com](mailto:renedurkin@aol.com) if you have any special dietary requirements/restrictions.

We thought it might be fun to come to breakfast in our pajamas. Some of you may be short on time on Sunday morning with early flights out, but for those who choose and have time we are looking forward to having a pajama party at breakfast and closing ceremony.

# TIME TO PLAY

Sharon Hoery

The words that have been ingrained into my approach to life have been, "When your work is done you can play." Now what this translates into is the work never seems to be done. Play? To play with the pure abandonment and joy of playing is something that was not a part of my upbringing. Living under the shadow of poverty and alcoholism I also learned to be invisible. Crone's Counsel, Estes Park, laughter, so much so that tears ran down my face, women sharing and connecting was my first counsel. Each gathering since my first experience has had a different spice added to the mix. However, this next gathering has my full attention . . . **Sacred Play**. The child that has been hidden and told she could only play if her work was done now has a place to play! Not only a place but others to play with . . . won't you come and play with me? The work is done!

*"Many arrived by airplane, some drove, and one hitchhiked from Washington, D.C. This was as natural and instinctive a migration as any bird or animal makes each year. We were drawn together in this place as if returning to the great womb of Mother Earth. There was an ancient and sacred connection between us that reminded us of our relatedness."*

— Mahtowin, CC IV — Oct. 24-27, 1996,  
Boise, Idaho

## STREAMLINED ORIENTATION

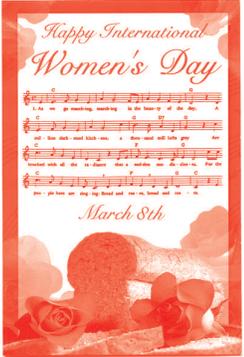
We (Carol and Nelda) are working on the orientation process to streamline it and make it fun. You will get an information/agenda packet in a small reusable (as a tote or book bag) carry all so you will know just what's going on, a way for you to know who is who (in case you need to know anything but were afraid to ask!), and a "little black bag" to go with everything. We think the Gathering will be a lot of fun for all. We are looking forward to seeing everyone this fall in Las Vegas.

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*"From the first evening friendships were reactivated and new ones initiated. The beginning of our weekend was stamped by the colors and feelings of words like Fellowship, Warmth, Support, Understanding, Empathy, Compassion — and perhaps at the top of the list, the Freedom to speak openly in a safe environment, whether in telling one's own story or just to express an opinion or point of view during one of the many well-planned and useful workshops."*

— Alta Happ Wertz, CC II — Oct. 6-9, 1994,  
Silverdale/Bremerton, Washington

## CRONE CIRCLES

Mnimaka

Crone Circles have become a more intimate way for women to share their stories, meet new women, and create a safe space with other women. There will be nothing else scheduled during Crone Circles' time.

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

Please look for the Crone Circles sign-up sheets in the registration area on Thursday afternoon and sign up.

### FACILITATORS NEEDED.

**If you feel called to be a facilitator this year, please contact us by e-mail, telephone, or mail.**

**Mnimaka may be reached at [mnimaka@sprynet.com](mailto:mnimaka@sprynet.com), 858/676-1151, or 12256 Casero Ct., San Diego, CA 92128**



Celebrate & support conscious aging with the **Denver Area Crones** twice a month (first Sunday and third Saturday) through sharing, storytelling, writing, painting, discussions and lots of fun. Drop-ins always welcome. Contact:

**Carol Friedrich**  
[cdotfried@earthlink.net](mailto:cdotfried@earthlink.net)  
(303/373-5135)

**Nancy Lehto**  
[nancylehto@att.net](mailto:nancylehto@att.net)  
(303/697-6016).

# To All of the Women of Crones Counsel

Susan Ann Stauffer, *Crone in Training*

We shall not cease from  
exploration  
And the end of all our  
exploring  
Will be to arrive where we  
started  
And know the place for the first  
time.  
— T. S. Elliot, *Little Gidding*

Hello, sweet women. I am already planning for Las Vegas. I will be coming to the Gathering this year clear from Hawaii, where I will have returned to live with my husband after four years of being geographically separated.

So, I am busy connecting with every Crone I know. I will want to spend time with all of my sisters. I know I will be hungry to hear stories, to connect, to fall in love, to swim in the dream of sisterhood that happens every time at Crones Counsel. And Las Vegas? Well, I have never liked it. But, over the last two years it has meant something different to me. My husband and I rendezvous there because it is less expensive for him to fly there from Hawaii than to fly to Salt Lake. We have friends who live there. And now, Crones Counsel! Yes! Yes! Yes!

In a previous *CroneTimes*, I wrote about being a Crone-in-Training and how, in 1985, I came into contact with Barbara Walker's book *The Crone*. I described what it was like to hold the book in my hands and look at the face on the cover. I did *not* explain that as I

began to read the book I could not make sense of anything I read. It was as if I were reading in an unfamiliar language. I put the book down and did not finish reading it.

*In 1993, I found myself at the first Crones Counsel in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. At the turn of the millennium, I was in a doctoral program where the focus of my research became Crone women and the organization they birthed. By some circuitous, synchronistic turn of events, I began to ex-*

*"I can hardly believe these individuals get up in front of a group of hundreds of women, take a microphone, and speak candidly and extemporaneously. Before too long, I realize how this happens. There is an amazing overall atmosphere of love and acceptance."*

— Marie Buckley, CC VI, Oct. 22-25, 1998, Salt Lake City, Utah

*plore that which I had been deeply drawn to and mesmerized by, but could not comprehend. The poet Rumi once wrote he was a "fool for God." I became a fool for Crone.*

It has been nineteen years since I picked up Walker's book. I have been on an unceasing journey of exploration. The journey has carried me around full circle many times. There have been many places and many journeys. I now arrive back at the place where I stood when I began my research: *What is Crone?*

*What is Crones Counsel? And what does it all mean? Zora Neale Hurston wrote: "There are years that ask questions and years that answer them." I have lived into the answers of many of my questions. The ink is now beginning to dry on my completed research manuscript, entitled Crones Counsel: A Unique Model.*

I am hoping, with all my heart, to share a little of what I have learned from Crones Counsel, my journey, and all of you. Most of all, I want to hear

from you about your vision for the future of Crones Counsel, what you think Crones Counsel means to elder women, and where you see Crones Counsel going in the future. That would be wonderful.

I look forward to sitting in circle with you in Las Vegas in Sacred Play, dreaming the future.

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## CRONES COUNSEL BOARD MEMBER WANTED

# A Few Good Crones Seek Another!

If you are looking for more involvement with Crones Counsel, and would like to serve on the Board, please read on. The seven women who currently serve on the Board are looking for one more to join them. We work hard but also have fun – we are women who are passionately committed to bringing the message of Crone and Crones Counsel to of our sisters.

We are seeking candidates for a position on the Board of Directors, for a term beginning at the end of the Las Vegas gathering. An individual may nominate herself or another individual, and every candidate is required to:

- ◆ be at least 50 years old,
- ◆ have attended at least two Crones Counsel gatherings,
- ◆ participate in the spring Board meeting and the national gathering,
- ◆ have access to and be proficient in using e-mail correspondence,
- ◆ show prior involvement and commitment to women's issues
- ◆ submit a completed *Intention to Serve* application to the current Board outlining her skills and experience that can contribute to sound management and decision making for the Crones Counsel organization.

The purpose of the Board is to plan, direct, and oversee all administrative

and program activities of the Crones Counsel, a nonprofit corporation. Each new member is elected by the current Board, and appointments are made for a term of five years. In the near future, Board priorities will include website enhancement, outreach to new participants, and fostering the establishment and growth of local crone groups.

As volunteers, Board members do not receive fees for their service. Their 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 twice each year – once at a national gathering, and once in another season, typically winter or early spring; travel expenses are paid for the winter/spring meeting. Members are expected to work on behalf of the organization throughout the year, contributing to group deliberations and decision making in

meetings, telephone conferences, or electronic communication, and carrying out individual responsibilities for specific program activities.

The application process this year will be done electronically. If you are interested in being a candidate for Board membership, or if you want to nominate someone else, please send an e-mail note to Jean Stein at [jstein4444@aol.com](mailto:jstein4444@aol.com). When Jean hears from you, she will send you the application form. **Completed applications must be returned to Jean by September 1, 2004.**

We plan to announce the new Board member selection during the Las Vegas gathering in October.

*"... this 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, Oct. 11-15, 2000,  
Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California

## CRONES COUNSEL, INC.

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