Sacred Play!

Remembering Crones Counsel XII – Las Vegas

by Sharon Hoery

It is always fun when my Crones Counsel calendar arrives because I get to relive CC one more time. As I paged through the months, each page was filled with women, smiling, laughing and hugging. I knew that Crones Counsel’s magic had once again come to the gathering. Now, I would be the first to say I had my doubts about Las Vegas, the city. Never once did I question the Pahrump, NV, crones who took up the task of hosting Crones Counsel XII.

A circle of friends had come together to drum with Mahtowín and Marta during their winter stay in Pahrump. Now, you know if these two are about, things are happening. Three of these Pahrump women attended their first Gathering in Boise. The rest of the women had never been to a Crones Counsel. And they said they would host CCXII!

Host it they did. What an outstanding job! They invited us to come play and we did. We were welcomed by jesters, given our playing money and then entered a room filled with stuffed toys, which were donated to a local shelter. In this main meeting room hung the banners from all the previous CC’s years along with magnificent drawings by Michele Lester. We had fun introducing ourselves to each other. As you might surmise, women (crones no less) introducing themselves to each other is like herding cats. Off we went to connect and re-connect, now getting us back — well? CCXII had begun.

Storytelling is always the highlight of Crones Counsel. When we stand in our truth and speak from the heart, walls that can seem between us come tumbling down. Storytelling connects us all. We laugh, we cry, we are one.

Crone Circles have been a tradition at CC and we again found our circles. I love how we have learned how to improvise. As we started to go to our circles we realized the cards had some tricks of their own. But not with crones, we found the perfect circles for ourselves and settled in. In these smaller circles we have the opportunity to be authentic, for one is surrounded with unconditional listening.

Crone Follies, the talent and fun that we are graced with each year is one of the highlights of CC. This year it was hard to get through Thanksgiving-every turkey was a self-effacing turkey. How could I cook this bird; shouldn’t we sit down and have a discussion instead?

We drummed, danced, sang, and went to workshops — we empowered each other as we reclaimed the wise woman.

Within the circle there are many circles that cannot be measured. They are not planned but we innately understand them. It is the circle of the crone. Pahrump Crones and Maggie, you did it! Thanks from the bottom of my heart — still have the Ace in my pocket.

I will be marking my calendar until we meet again in San Diego. After San Diego’s presentation of “Crone Vibrations,” I don’t think you want to miss Crones Counsel XIII.

See you in San Diego!

Jan Lindsay, Beth and Meggie Kilmurray, Renee Durkin of Pahrump, NV — facilitators and hosts.

Nelda Goode and Carol McGovern, our Registrars and bosts.

Teresa Fuller and Michele Lester — facilitators and bosts.

Crones Counsel would not be Crones Counsel if we did not celebrate the wisdom and age among us, honoring our elders, those who have walked this earth walk longer than any of us. It is time we walk this talk. It is by our actions that we know our hearts. If there is a line anywhere, any time, and our elders are present, step aside, for they should not be kept waiting. No words need be spoken. (A lesson from a very wise woman among us.) Our culture is void of how to treat our elders with respect. We can be the change.
Celebrating Wise Women

by Jackie Gentry, Crones Counsel President

As so many wise women ... Thanks to everyone who worked on the Las Vegas gathering – and a very special thank you to the women of Pahrump, Nevada, whose creativity and leadership made Sacred Play a fantastic experience!

In Las Vegas a number of you participated in the “Town Meeting” where we discussed Crones Counsel operations, structure, and programs. In a wide-ranging, thoughtful discussion, you gave some clear messages to our board: You called for more communication during the year and more written materials about Crones Counsel. You favor a transition to a membership organization and would like for us to have an identifying logo. You would like for us to encourage the development of local crone groups and serve as a sort of “clearinghouse” for information about local groups around the nation. And many of you volunteered to help! Thanks for your ideas and your willingness to pitch in!

We heard you, and we are taking steps to respond to your challenges and requests:

♦ We sent e-mails asking participants to suggest a “tag line” for Crones Counsel – that is, a few words or a phrase that captures who we are and what we do – it will accompany the Crones Counsel name and logo as an organizational identifier. What a fantastic response we had! So many of you offered not only words and phrases, but also many well-considered comments on aging, crones, the structure of our organization, and what the Crones Counsel experience means to you. Thank you! And the final version will be:

CRONES COUNSEL:
Celebrating Wise Women.

♦ Check the article on Page 3 to learn about our request for logo proposals. We hope to select a Crones Counsel logo very soon!

♦ A committee is working to define the administrative steps and costs involved in making the Crones Counsel a membership organization (see the article on Page 3).

♦ Others are working on developing a Crones Counsel brochure and determining what other publications would be useful for individuals interested in local crone groups or our national organization.

♦ At the San Diego gathering we plan to take more steps to encourage the formation of local crone groups, and over the next few months we will work on ways to establish regular communication with existing crone groups.

Would you like to help with any of these activities? Let us know! Also look for details in the summer issue of CroneTimes about our next call for individuals to become candidates for the Crones Counsel Board of Directors.

We are ever learning, ever changing. Thank you for being part of Crones Counsel!
Transition to Membership

by Sharon Hoery, Membership

Crones Counsel (CC) is rich with energy, expertise, and influence. CC has been and is sustained financially and in spirit, by those who believe in her mission and visions for women of age. Women year after year volunteer their skills, talents, and knowledge at the gatherings. There is a wealth of profound wisdom sewn into each banner that marks the years of Crones Counsel gatherings.

As CC learns, grows, and seeks to expand its horizon, the proposal to become a membership organization has been placed before the Board and all who attend the gatherings. This will be a structural shift, and we now have a committee wrestling with such questions as: How much should be the membership dues? Will there be special consideration for those over a certain age? Will the expectation of Crones Counsel services and activities change? Who will handle the administrative processes required to track membership data, dues payments, and reminders to pay dues?

How will becoming a membership organization affect the allocation of funds – both for operating expenses like website, data management, marketing, and mailings, as well as for programs such as OutReach, Scholarships, and activities at our national gatherings?

I personally believe Crones Counsel to be unique. CC belongs to you. Many attended the Town Meeting in Las Vegas and volunteered their expertise. A few women already are studying this important undertaking, and at its spring meeting, the Crones Counsel Board will make important decisions about membership structure. If you feel that you could lend a hand in planning the transition to a membership organization, please email or call Sharon Hoery promptly:

rshoery@aol.com or 720/733-6155.

ATTENTION CRONE ARTISTS

We need a logo!

As we move toward becoming a dues-paying organization, the Crones Counsel Board solicited suggestions for a “tag line” – a concise phrase that reflects who we are and what we are about. After reviewing all those sent in, with much thought and deliberation, a committee and the board selected: CRONES COUNSEL: Celebrating Wise Women.

Now we need a LOGO for Crones Counsel, and we invite you to submit a design that could be used as a graphic symbol of our organization. The logo should reflect your concept of Crones Counsel, as well as the tag line, because the logo and the phrase will be used on our website, publications, correspondence, and more. Designs must be submitted by April 8, 2005. They will be reviewed by a committee and submitted to the board at the spring meeting. We hope to include the new logo in the summer issue of CroneTimes.

These are the guidelines to follow if you wish to propose a logo design for consideration:

1) The logo must symbolize the statement: CRONES COUNSEL: Celebrating Wise Women;
2) Write a brief explanation of how your design fits the statement;
3) Submit your design/s by April 8, 2005.

E-mail or snail mail to: Kianna4064@aol.com, or mail to: Kianna Bader, 9425 Montevideo Dr., Wilton, CA 95693.

If an individual’s graphic design is selected as the official logo for Crones Counsel, that person will be asked to sign an agreement transferring all rights for use of the design to Crones Counsel, Inc.

We look forward to seeing your great ideas and creations!
**CALL FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTERS**

Do you have knowledge, insights, or creative activities that you are willing to share with your crone sisters? The Crones Counsel XIII Planning Committee is seeking women who are willing to gift their knowledge and expertise to their sister crones by presenting a workshop during the Counsel. Workshops are one of the most valued parts of the Counsel and always include a wide range of options with diverse appeal.

There will be three or four workshop sessions held during the Counsel with five to seven workshops offered per session. Each workshop will be approximately 90 minutes long and the form and format is flexible. Presenters must be registered participants at the Counsel.

A form to submit your proposal for a workshop is available in this newsletter on Page 6, on the website, or e-mail Marian Karpisek at kargypsies@aol.com for more information.

A committee has been chosen for workshop presentation. Selection will focus on providing a wide range of topics, space availability, and completeness of proposals submitted. **Deadline for applications is July 15, 2005.** All applicants will be advised no later than August 31, 2005, of the status of their workshop presentation.

**Crone Entrepreneurs!**

Tell 2,000+ WOMEN about your work.

Advertise your business, service, products, artwork in the next issue of CroneTimes!

Purchase a business-card-sized ad in the next issue for only $40!

By June 1, 2005, send your $40.00 check payable to CRONES COUNSEL, and a business card or logo and brief info to:

MARTA QUEST
PO Box 261, Ekalaka, MT 59324
hosc@midrivers.com

**Who Will Host a Gathering in 2007?**

All Crones Counsel gatherings have been envisioned by many crones who have volunteered to host them. Let your creative selves prepare a space for all crones to share their stories. Herstory is in your hands and hearts.

**Envisioning 2007, where will the magic continue?**

**Contact any Board Member**

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**Crones Counsel Scholarships**

For Crones Counsel XIII in October 2005, the CC Board can offer some partial and full scholarships for registration. We thank the women who gave donations in Las Vegas for providing a small fund for a limited number of these scholarships.

To apply for scholarship assistance, please contact Jean Stein by email JStein4444@aol.com or phone 619/318-2236 or mail 4202 Fourth Ave. #308, San Diego, CA 92103. Your statement of request should be completed and returned by June 1, 2005. Anyone attending the October Crones Counsel in San Diego may apply. Statements of request will be re-reviewed by a committee including the CC registrar, treasurer, and three non-Board members. Statements will be ranked with regard to financial need, travel expenses, special circumstances, and in consideration of age. Partial scholarships may be awarded.

Those receiving scholarships will be notified by July 1, 2005. Scholarship recipients agree to volunteer for some activities at Crones Counsel XIII.

Please request your application soon.

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**CRONE CRAFTERS**

We want you!

A large part of every Crones Counsel is the Vendors Space.

Here’s a great opportunity to share your magic with very receptive Crones who willingly and gladly support you.

For more information about being a Vendor at Crones Counsel XIII – San Diego, contact:

MARTA QUEST 406/775-6664  hosc@midrivers.com

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**Dearest Shelagh,**

You will always be in my heart.

Love, Anya

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**JOIN US IN HONORING SHELAGH WILSON AND HER LOVE OF CRONES COUNSEL BY DONATING TO THE CRONES COUNSEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND — WWW.CRONESCOUNSEL.ORG**
Please Print Clearly:
NAME: __________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: (Street, Apt., P.O. Box) __________________________________________________________________________

(City, State, Zip) __________________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE: (Home) __________________________ (Office) __________________________

EMAIL: _________________________________ BIRTHDATE: __________________________

We will communicate often by email, so if you have an email address, PLEASE include it. We really need your birthday for our honoring of the Elders ceremony. We WON’T share it with anyone.

Special Needs? ___________________________________________________________________

Is this your first time at a Crones Counsel gathering: Yes No

Need a roommate? Yes No Smoking / Nonsmoking room? Please circle

CRONES COUNSEL XIII REGISTRATION

Until July 31, 2005 — $150. After August 1, 2005 — $190

Any cancellation up to September 1, 2005, will be refunded LESS a $25 processing fee. NO CANCELLATION REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2005.

SCHOLARSHIPS
I WISH TO SUPPORT MY SISTER CRONES WITH A DONATION OF:

$25 __________  $15 __________  $10 __________  Other $ _________________________

OUTREACH FUND
These funds are given to assist a local group in the gathering area with their work with elders.

I WISH TO SUPPORT THE CRONES COUNSEL OUTREACH FUND WITH A DONATION OF:

$ _____________________

Please include with your registration check. Thank you. Amount enclosed: $ _____________________

Scholarships are available on a limited basis. For information on Scholarships, contact:
Jean Stein, 4202 Fourth Avenue #308, San Diego, CA 92103, 619/295-1028, jstein4444@aol.com

Make checks payable to: CRONES COUNSEL, INC. Mail this form and registration check (no credit cards) to:

CRONES COUNSEL, INC., c/o Arlene Madsen, P.O. Box 135, Farley, MO 64028, Phone: 816/330-4045, Email: asmadsen@earthlink.net

Print out more registration and workshop forms at: www.CronesCounsel.org

*** PLEASE SIGN AND DATE WAIVER OF LIABILITY ON REVERSE ***
Waiver: Anyone attending a Crones Counsel gathering must sign a waiver of liability.

LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

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, legal representatives, I release and discharge Crones Counsel, Inc., and their officers, from liability for any injuries or 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 I shall not hold Crones Counsel, Inc. responsible for such expenses.

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Crones Counsel XIII — San Diego

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________

Street
City State Zip

E-Mail: ___________________________ Phone: __________________________

Workshop Title: __________________________________________________

Brief Description of Workshop: _____________________________________

Room Needs: Size: ________________________________________________

Maximum Number of Participants: _______________________________

Arrangement: _______________________________________________

Audio Visual Equipment: _______________________________________

Other: _________________________________________________________

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Return completed form to: Marian Karpisek, 3247 E. Fox Run Way, San Diego, CA 92111-7747 or E-Mail: kargypsies@aol.com
CRONES COUNSEL XIII: “Crone Vibrations”

Note change of dates:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 through MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005

Bahia Resort Hotel on Beautiful Mission Bay, San Diego, Calif.

Ah! We love the colorful clothes crones wear and the way our laughter lingers in the air.
Ah! Crones Counsel is so much fun and there’s more this year with sand and sea and sun.

Can you feel the crone vibrations? Calling crones across the nation. Please accept our invitation. San Diego is the destination.

Ah, Bahia is on the bay, and there’s gonna be a full moon on the way.
Come! Crones Counsel is so much fun, in a perfect place with sand and sea and sun.

Come celebrate the Crone in the perfect place, the Bahia Resort in San Diego, at our thirteenth Crones Counsel. Spend three days connecting with other crones who share your wildwoman enthusiasm for life. Please note, this year the dates have changed to Friday, October 14 through Monday, October 17, so that our Jewish sisters can observe Yom Kippur on Thursday, October 13.

There will be soulful storytelling, fabulous workshops, moving rituals, passionate celebrations, dancing and drumming around a bonfire on the beach under the full moon, and time to connect heart to heart with other Crones. Watch the magic happen!

Our theme this year is “Crone Vibrations” and our logo reflects this. Vibrations and the energy of the wave cycle are symbolic of the sacred spiral of life. The moon governs the tides and all phases of the feminine here on earth. The three birds represent Maiden, Mother, and Crone.

For those who want to arrive on Thursday, October 13, the same special rates at the Bahia ($109 single/double, $15 each additional person) will apply. Enjoy some of San Diego’s attractions and then join local crones for a no-host dinner that will let you experience some of our favorite restaurants.

October is normally one of the nicest months of the year in San Diego. It is still the dry season with seldom a drop of rain. Temperatures are warm (not hot) during the day and cool (not cold) at night.

The Bahia Hotel Resort is located on a private peninsula on beautiful Mission Bay, just steps to the Pacific Ocean. It is centrally located with the quaint shops of Mission Beach close-by and most attractions within 15 minutes’ drive. The airport is 10 to 15 minutes’ drive via cab or limo service.

The grounds are lovely with many amenities, including a pool and whirlpool, fitness center, tennis courts, and the Bahia Belle sternwheeler to cross the bay. All of this is set amid swaying palm trees, ocean breezes, and tropical gardens. What better place to spend a perfect October weekend? Register today at www.bahiaghotel.com or call 800/576-4229 (1-800-233-8172 from Canada.)

The San Diego circle, Women of Ancient Wisdom, is hosting this gathering and we’re having a lot of fun planning to make it special for each of you. “Feel our Crone vibrations calling you across the nation.” Join us in our beautiful city for a fantastic Crones Counsel.

And the ‘Worm’ Award Goes to ...
by Arlene Madsen, Registrar

Some of us “old birds” changed our feathers and became “Early Birds” when the San Diego group organizing the next Crones Counsel gathering offered a special price for “Early Bird” registrations at the Las Vegas gathering last October. All who registered before December 31st were given a price reduction. The statistics are in and we have 49 REGISTRANTS for the San Diego gathering! Yes!

We would like to thank all of these Crones who energetically infused our coffers in advance. It allows us to go forward with enthusiasm and early funding to prepare a great gathering in San Diego at the Bahia Resort Hotel on Mission Bay, October 14-17, 2005 (note, this is Friday thru Monday).

The registration process is ongoing, so you may register at any time ... the sooner, the better. Just send in your registration form and check to Crones Counsel Registrar: Arlene Madsen, PO. Box 135, Farley, MO 64028.
Note change of dates:

Friday, October 14 – Monday, October 17, 2005

SEE CRONES COUNSEL XIII REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 5.