“The greatest distance in the world is the 14 inches from our minds to our hearts,” Agnes Baker Pilgrim is fond of saying.

Grandmother Aggie, as she is known, is the oldest living female of the Takelma Band of the Rogue River Indians in Oregon. She is also a member of the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers, a group of grannies with a mission. Facing a world in crisis, these wise women believe solutions will come if we can shrink that mindheart distance to zero.

The Grandmothers have taken on some ambitious long-term tasks, such as pressuring the Vatican to rescind the 500-year-old Papal Bulls that enabled Europeans to strip First Nations peoples of...
GRANNIES WITH A MISSION, continued from Page 1

their inherent sovereignty in the Americas. They have also received $250,000 to donate to causes of their choice from the Flow Fund Circle, a philanthropic model that empowers visionaries, healers, and social innovators to give away money.

With these funds, the Grandmothers are having a direct impact on people in their homelands, supporting such projects as Death to Meth, a drug-abuse prevention program for Lakota youth in South Dakota; the Santa Casa de Saude, a center for healing with traditional plants in the Brazilian rain forest; the Tibetan Children’s Village in Dharamsala, India; and the Mazatec Women’s Weaving Cooperative in Oaxaca, Mexico.

A new documentary film, For the Next 7 Generations, chronicles the Grandmothers as they travel to New Mexico and South Dakota, India, Gabon, Mexico, and Italy, galvanizing thousands of people who respond to their message of both urgent need and drastic hope. Emmy and Peabody Award-winning producer-director Carole Hart captures them as they hold their twice-yearly public gatherings for prayer, ceremony, and outreach, and act as spokespersons for such issues as ending uranium mining. The Grandmothers help people connect to what they call the sacredness of the web of life. “And once people make that shift in their own consciousness, it affects their behavior enormously,” says Hart, whose film has been generating a buzz since its premiere last summer. Audiences are often moved to tears.

Perhaps the Grandmothers’ biggest impact has been the one that’s impossible to measure, as their powerful and loving presences open minds, heal hearts, and transform individuals from the inside. At one of their gatherings, a non-Native American mother brought her adopted Native teenaged daughter because the girl had never had the experience of being with her own people. “We brought her up to the front and called on people who were from her tribe to come up and stand with her,” recalls Grandmother Mona Polacca, a Hopi/Havasupai/Tewa elder from Arizona. “We had a special song sung for her, and she was received and welcomed into her nation. We had about 400 people at this event, and they were all standing with her as she became recognized.” The experience was life altering not only for the girl but, says Grandmother Mona, “for everyone who witnessed it.”

The Grandmothers’ agenda is simple, yet potentially revolutionary: “Our number one priority is promoting peace and good relationships with everyone in the world,” says Grandmother Mona. Adds filmmaker Hart: “They are helping people see the world from an indigenous perspective, which says that we are all part of a web of life that connects us, and not just people but every living thing on the planet. I would like everybody who watches the film to take that trip from the mind to the heart that Grandmother Aggie was talking about.”

The 13 Grandmothers’ website (www.grandmotherscouncil.com/), the site for the new documentary about the Grandmothers (www.fortbenext7generations.com/trailer.php), Diana Rico’s website (http://www.dianarico.com/).

ALBUQUERQUE GRANNIE

Flordemayo from Wikipedia

An indigenous Grannie who lives in Albuquerque. Born the youngest of 15 children in the highlands of Central America, Flordemayo was found at an early age, like others in her family, to have the gift of Sight. By age four she was being trained in the art of curanderismo, which had been handed down from mother to daughter for many generations. Flordemayo’s mother was a midwife and healer, and taught her daughters in the use of herbs, women’s medicine, and how women are to honor and care for the Earth.

Flordemayo now lives in New Mexico. But you won’t find her at home much. She is a frequent presenter at international conferences. Since 1999 she has been part of the Wisdom of the Grandmothers’ Foundation. She is the recipient of the Martin de La Cruz Award for Alternative Healing, a prestigious honor given by the International Congress of Traditional Medicine. Flordemayo is also a founding director of the Institute for Natural and Traditional Knowledge. This organization has many active projects, including the establishment of an organic seed bank and educational outreach in support of traditional agriculture.

“Humanity is at a crossroads, we can only go one way, as one can’t go in two directions at the same time. We do not know what we need to do as a human species, there is only one place to go and that is into the light, as one tribe.”

Calling All Elders

Are you one of our honored elders?

If you are 80 or above or will be 80 this year, and are attending Crones Counsel in Albuquerque in September, please contact Tricia Layden (yeslife@earthlink.net; 17341 Military Rd. South, SeaTac, WA 98188; 206/244-4264). We want to honor you and need to chat with you about who it is we are honoring.
Christina Horst
By Kianna. Excerpted from the Memory Book made by Lane Franz at Crones Counsel XVII

Christina, the youngest of four children, was born in 1925 in San Francisco to parents from Scotland. When she was nine years old, her parents split up and she moved to England with her mother and two siblings. In 1939, the war started, and they moved to Scotland. Because of the bombing threat, her boarding school was evacuated out of Edinburgh and the school children were sent to a 400-year-old castle in the countryside!

A year after graduating in 1942, Christina joined the Royal Navy along with her sister; her brother joined the army, and her mother joined the air force. Christina was suddenly on her own and she loved the freedom it gave her. She had attended a girls’ boarding school and now she was out dating and dancing and the 10 p.m. curfew was a treat! However the navy had other ideas for her, and soon she was training to be a torpedo mechanic!

When the war ended, she stayed on in England working on a farm, milking 40 cows and caring for turkeys and chickens.

In 1949 she joined her mother and sister first in Canada and then in California. After many different jobs, she ended up as a mechanic at Boeing where she met and married her husband.

When her youngest began school, she found a job at a senior center where she first saw older people as being great role models for her retirement years. This inspired her to go back to school and earn a Certificate of Study in Aging from the University of Washington.

When her five children were grown and she and her husband retired, she discovered she was great at “Empty Nesting.” She took up crafts: knitting, spinning and weaving, and volunteering at the Seattle Zoo.

Christina attended the first Crones Counsel in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and has attended 12 Crones Gatherings since that time!

Today Christina is still a docent at the Zoo, giving tours and teaching children, she travels with her daughter, is active in church groups, and sings with the Rolling Crones.
STEP UP AND GROW

by Betty Brown

It’s no secret that I’ve enjoyed being part of eight or nine gatherings with Crones Counsel. It was work but a real charge to get friends and a few Crone pros to plan last year’s event in Atlanta. The fulfillment to give back to this wonderful organization was finally realized after receiving so much from each and every one of you over these past years. Yes, it was a pleasant, challenging experience but so too has been being part of your CC Board.

When asked to serve five years on the Board, I was more than hesitant. (It’s been changed to three with a two-year option.) I was sure three years would be more than enough. But, I have now picked up the two-year option. Why, I asked? Haven’t I been on enough boards over the 35 years of business and several non-profit Boards? I certainly thought so, but I’m glad it did not keep me from saying YES.

This Board is not about personalities, it’s about doing a good job for an organization we love. We all have different backgrounds and skill sets but everyone is a worthy contributor. Our meetings run smoothly and efficiently with fun times in between and a feeling of accomplishment at the end. We also get together in the spring at each year’s site visit and to meet with the local committee or further our own gathering planning. This spring when we met in Albuquerque I was able to tack on a longer personal trip to see a cousin who has terminal cancer. This would not have been possible if it hadn’t been part of the Board trip. Many say that the best way to experience something is to get involved, and Board service is a way to be part of something bigger all year long.

As current members rotate off the Board there is an opportunity for some of you to step up and contribute and grow. Contact Secretary Kianna Bader, kianna4064@gmail.com, for an application. You owe it to yourself … and Crones Counsel.

A PERSPECTIVE ON STORYTELLING

by Patricia Layden

It seems to me that storytelling is all about connection. For women, especially, telling our stories is a way of weaving ourselves into the fabric of life together, the circle of womanhood. As I tell you a story about who I am or where I’ve been on my life’s journey, you may hear not just my story, but a bit of your own as well. You respond with some of your story, and we connect in a profound way.

Storytelling at Crones Counsel is part of this connecting, part of this weaving. For me, one of the best things about the gathering is hearing our diverse stories, connecting through both our common and our disparate experiences; for this reason we don’t try to persuade anyone to our views, whether philosophical, religious, or political. That’s not to say we never share our way of looking at the world, we just share it as part of our story rather than an opinion piece. This way, as we open our hearts to one another, our differences give our relationships texture, and we recognize the richness of diversity we carry as women.

About CroneTimes

CroneTimes is the official newsletter for Crones Counsel Inc. It is published twice a year, in January or February and July. When you attend a gathering, you will receive the next four issues (or two years’ worth). It is also on our website: www.cronescounsel.org.

Publisher: Crones Counsel Inc.
Editor/Designer: Marta Quest
Editor/Reporter: Kianna Bader
Contributors (this issue): Diana Rico, Kianna Bader, Annie Lehto, Betty Brown, Patricia Layton, Gay Barker, Simone LaDrumma, Yvonne Pennington, Carol Friedrich, Marta Quest, Wikipedia. Thank you!

Calling All Artists

Are you coming to Albuquerque for Crones Counsel? Are you a craftsperson or have you written a book or made a CD? Are you interested in having a table in the Crones Counsel Marketplace in September?

If so, email, write, or call Tricia Layden: yeslife@earthlink.net, 17341 Military Road South, SeaTac, WA 98188, 206/244-4264, so I can send you an application. We have room for 18 tables and intend to include a wonderful variety of artistic offerings.
I HATE GROWING OLD

by Simone LaDrumma

Getting older isn’t everything it’s cracked up to be. I know we’re supposed to be all “I never felt better” and “Aren’t we wise and we’re still beautiful but in a ‘different’ way,” but let’s face it: Sometimes, getting old sucks.

It especially sucks when you’re single and lonely and wondering if you will ever again find L-O-V-E. Me, I’ve been single for so many years, I can’t even remember what it was like to go to bed angry!

I am 68 years old and when I take my clothes off, I look like I need to be ironed. Just kidding. I really do look great naked — as long as I stand on my head. I’m starting to understand why they call that force “gravity.” This is a grave situation! Help! My face has fallen down and I can’t get it up again!

Ladies, if you ever “get lucky” in the boudoir again, make sure you’re in the supine position, looking up. That way your face will fall back onto the pillow and you’ll appear twenty years younger. (Unfortunately, that man looking down at you — assuming he’s no spring chicken either — will resemble a Shar Pei. Carry a rubber band for that eventuality and see if you can surreptitiously slip it over his face so you don’t get smothered with his saggy skin.)

Then there’s the problem of noisy bodily functions. I was watching a rerun of Golden Girls the other day and Sophia, Dorothy’s mother, is telling someone how youthful Dorothy still is, “except for the fact that you can tell her body isn’t digesting raw vegetables very well anymore.” Tell me about it. If I had a nickel for every time I passed gas … What would I do if I was out on a date? Can you explode from holding in too many farts?

Then there’s the joints — and I don’t mean the ones we used to smoke “back in the day” (yesterday). I’m talking about those vocalizations we make when we get up after sitting for a while, or after we’ve been on our feet for too long and we finally sink into a chair. I have a theory: You can tell how old a person is by how LOUD that sound is. Hey, it could be a new branch of science! The older you get, the longer and louder the sound. I would call it Gruntology.

And have you noticed how everything gets BIGGER as you age? The tables get taller, the chairs get taller. My sinks have gotten taller, for god’s sake! Now I need a step stool to reach practically everything. Well, there is one exception. One thing actually gets smaller as you age. Your clothes, damn it.

And take our hair. No, on second thought, don’t. Mine’s leaving my head fast enough as it is. By the way, have you noticed that as women age their hair naturally turns blond?

Then there’s what I think of as hardening of the mental arteries; it’s thinking that what you can’t understand must be bad. Take rap, for instance. One day I would like to meet one person over the age of 50 who doesn’t give rap a bad rap. (Sorry, I couldn’t resist.) Hey, I’m no different than you. I can’t understand what they’re saying in that torrent of words that rushes by either, but I’m trying not to condemn it.

And speaking of rushing torrents of words, I notice that nowadays when youngsters talk, they talk too fast for me. But kids have no trouble understanding each other. It began to dawn on me that maybe my ability to process words was aging, too. But when I mention this to my friends, they insist that “kids are speaking faster now than ever.”

Yeah, sometimes it’s really hard to accept that the old gray matter ain’t what she used to be, isn’t it?

Well, at the end of the day, there’s always laughter.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Crones Counsel XVIII
Wednesday-Sunday, September 22-26, 2010
ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO

We will gather in beautiful New Mexico, land of enchantment. We weave our intentions and dreams into a blanket of friendship. To savor the people and the history of their land, we will stay in Hotel Albuquerque – a short walk to Old Town, which is filled with art galleries, restaurants, museums, and historical buildings.

Imagine the look of a blanket started, but the weaver has momentarily stepped away. The frame is the intent, many years ago, of women who wished to gather to share stories and wisdom the years have given them. It is in learning and reaching that imbues the good and sturdy heartwood that anchors the warp threads, those threads that are perpendicular to the frame. They symbolize the before — 18 Crones Counsels — that connect to this frame reflect the commitment of time, energy, and women who hosted and attended the gatherings. The weft threads, which weave in and out on the horizontal plane, are the women who have participated. The threads are woven in and out of the lives of not only those who were there, but the lives of all they have touched in one way or another. This has created a beautiful pattern that is reflected within and without each person blessed with Crone energy. The unseen but acknowledged weaver is The Crone. She, in her wisdom, is who holds the common thread that binds all of us together and keeps bringing us back to gatherings in person or in spirit to help us all be who we truly are.

TO OBTAIN A REGISTRATION FORM:
1. See Page 7 of this CroneTimes — there is a registration form included;
2. Call our registrar and ask for a form to be mailed or emailed to you [see Page 9];
3. Go online and print one;
4. Register on line at www.cronescounsel.org

Weaving the Warp and Weft of Crones Counsel in beautiful Albuquerque!
REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly

NAME: ____________________________________________

NAME YOU WANT TO BE KNOWN BY: ________________________________

ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: ______________________________________________

BIRTH DATE: _______________ EMAIL: _________________________________
We need your birthday for ceremony. We communicate primarily by e-mail.
Please provide. If you have one, please include.

Is this your first time? Yes__ No__ How did you learn of CC? ______________________

Do you have special needs? ____________________________________________

Do you want us to assign a roommate to share a Double Room? Yes___ No___
If you have a roommate preference, please indicate her name ____________________

CC FEE: Before 9/1/10 After 9/1/10 Elder (80 & above) Amount
$185.00 $210.00 $100.00 $________

I wish to support my Wise Sisters with a 2010 donation to:

Outreach fund $ _______ CC Scholarship $ _______ Crones Counsel $_______ $_______

TOTAL (Fee and Donation): $_______

Please make check payable to CRONES COUNSEL, INC., and mail to:

Crones Counsel Registrar, c/o Judy Neihart, P.O. Box 9446, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109
Phone: 801/466-3923
To pay by credit card, please register online at www.cronescounsel.org

SCHOLARSHIPS:
Scholarships are available on a limited basis. For information on scholarships and any registration
questions please contact Judy Neihart at the address or phone number above.

REFUNDS:
Cancellations up to July 31, 2010, will be given a total refund minus a $25.00 processing fee.
Cancellations between August 1 and September 9 will be given a total refund minus a $50.00
processing fee. No registration refunds can be given after September 10, 2010.

On Page 8, please sign
Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement
LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

WAIVER – Anyone attending a Crones Counsel gathering must sign a waiver of liability, just as you would when attending an Elder Hostel or other such event.

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

_____________________________________________ ______________________________
Signature Date
A SPECIAL CRONE

DOTTIE HOFFMAN
by Carol Friedrich

A woman of many talents, Dottie Hoffman turned 83 years old this past March. No longer able to attend Crone gatherings because of her declining health, Dottie loved attending the ones she did. A recent highlight of her life was attending Crones Counsel XV, the 2007 gathering in Pacific Grove at which she was honored for the first time as an Elder, having turned 80 that year. (She wanted to be called “Love Angel” there.) The trips to the Gatherings were made with much effort and help, but once there Dottie enjoyed seeing her old friends. In particular she loved dancing for the Follies.

She had belonged to the local Evergreen,Colorado,Crones while it was an active group. Each of the following former members of the Evergreen Crones remembers her fondly. Connie Dawson describes Dottie as “loving to move her body, gliding and sweeping like a bird in her fine feathers. Dottie did not miss a meeting and often came after swimming for an hour. When she left the meeting, she might be on her way to play tennis.” Marilyn Sackaria-son says, “What I remember about Dottie is her ‘flamboyant energy’ — she just has to move. That is what she is about.” Nancy Craft remembers that, before she and her husband moved to Tennessee, Dottie called her to come to have lunch with her at her little house. “I got to see all the stories she brought to life by making them into little scenes on tables, the floor, and just about everywhere. Only Dottie could have come up with that.” I had asked her if she would take our two little birds that we had tried to be good parents to — but discovered that birds in cages really aren’t the best thing to do. She had put them in a room so they could fly about and feel ‘freer.’ She wanted me to visit them one last time.”

As a certified Watsu instructor, she taught for many years in her community a form of body therapy performed in warm water. Until her mid 70s, she led a very active life and was known to frequently play tennis, especially in doubles’ tournaments. Until her health prevented her from doing it, she swam every day until last year. In recent years she joined Mountain Writers of Colorado, seeing herself, however, not as a writer but still as a dancer. Dancing had been her life and she loved to write and talk about it a lot.

Dottie is indeed a unique and talented crone.
A Long Way from 55

By Marta Quest

On July 1, I will have reached the 65-year mark. I am amazed and feeling somewhat cautiously optimistic.

I remember in my twenties that I thought in the year 2000 I would be 55 years old. Oh my! That seemed so old, and I wondered whether I would “make it” that long. I did … royally! I believe I was afraid all that was left for a woman “past her prime” was sitting in a rocking chair knitting (which I don’t know how to do), waiting for her grandchildren to visit and, the highlight of the day, going to the doctor! Well, for me, that path is the farthest thing from my life, and I am so glad. Hmmm, “glad” implies I didn’t have anything to do with it!

Crones Counsel has had a profound effect on my life and on my way of being. Surrounding myself with women who celebrate their age is WONDERFUL. And we are hardly past our prime, we’re just getting started! Hearing at Storytelling an 88-year-old Elder say she went parachute jumping on her birthday, and the year before rode a motorcycle across the States with her grandson is so inspiring and encouraging to me. I have a vision that I’ll “croak” (seems an appropriate word!) after finishing a cruise with my great-grandchildren. To where? Who cares!

The audacious women I’ve met in the fifteen years I’ve attended Crones Counsel have given me cause for rubbing my hands together and saying, “What’s next?”

I didn’t know that when I left California 12 years ago (at age 52), my life would transform into what I had said I wanted for so many years. Because I kept myself stuck in a rut in San Diego as a graphic designer, I didn’t do all the things I dreamed of doing. I had to move 1600 miles north and be forced to try something else to make a living that I finally got the chance to PAINT … houses, drums, signs, pictures, furniture. Who knew? But! The good news is that I DID it; I left my pity party, claimed my worth as a painter (and crone), and am having a ball! My next journey is to move to Oregon. There was a time in my life when moving was the last thing I wanted to do, especially to a “foreign” place. Now that I’ve “gotten my feet wet” relocating to Montana, the process of going to Oregon will be easy breezy. And I’m so looking forward to creating EXACTLY what I choose to be, do, and have.

So, THANK YOU Crones Counsel, and all the fabulous women I’ve gotten to cherish as friends through the years. You have TRULY made a difference in my life and for that, I am eternally grateful.

THE BOARD IS FALLOUT

by Betty Brown

Q. Why does the board host gatherings?

Answer: The Crones Counsel Board of Directors’ responsibility is to tend to the overall health of the organization both fiscally and operationally. It follows a set of prescribed operating procedures and works to maintain the continuity of its founding purpose.

At the core of this purpose is the yearly gathering of Crone women. It is the objective of the Board to have local/regional entities sponsor these gatherings in their home cities like Atlanta and Seattle have done for the past two years. When a local group does not come forward with a proposal, it falls on the Board to host the gathering in a location of their choosing, for example, 2010 in Albuquerque. Because there has been no proposal for 2011, the Board must continue this role for two years running.

The Board actively encourages individuals/groups to step forward with a gathering proposal. We can give you a terrific set of guidelines in planning/preparing for a gathering. It’s important for everyone to help this organization survive/thrive by volunteering work and fresh ideas. Please think and act on what YOU can do.

A Call for Workshop Leaders

Would you like to share your expertise with us in Albuquerque? Our theme is “Weaving,” so perhaps you can weave your workshop into our gathering.

The number of workshops will be limited, due to the free time we have allowed for visiting Old Town. Get your application in soon. Write Kianna at Kianna4064@gmail.com for an application, or by snail mail: Kianna Bader, 9425 Monte-video Dr., Wilton, CA 95693. 916/687-7507.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LIFE!

“Granny D” passes

Excerpted from Wikipedia

Doris “Granny D” Haddock died March 9, 2010, at her son’s home in Dublin, New Hampshire, following a bout with respiratory illness. She achieved her 100th birthday on January 10. She was a liberal political activist from New Hampshire.

Granny D achieved national fame when, between the ages of 88 and 90, starting on January 1, 1999, in Southern California and ending on February 29, 2000, in Washington, D.C., she walked more than 3,200 miles across the continental United States to advocate for campaign finance reform.

Haddock requested a name change of her middle name to “Granny D,” the name by which she had long been known. On August 19, 2004, Haddock’s request was officially granted by Judge John Maher during a hearing at the Cheshire County probate court. Also in 2004, at 94 years of age, she ran unsuccessfully as a Democratic challenger to incumbent Republican Judd Gregg for the U.S. Senate.

Personal Life

Ethel Doris Rollins was born in Laconia, New Hampshire. She attended Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts, for three years before marrying James Haddock. Emerson students were not allowed to marry at that time, so she was kicked out of college but awarded an honorary degree in 2000.

After marrying, she had son James, Jr., and daughter Elizabeth. She worked during the Great Depression and was employed in a shoe factory in Manchester for 20 years.

Granny D and her husband retired to Dublin, New Hampshire, in 1972. Her husband died after a ten-year struggle with

THOUGHTS AT 69 GOING ON 70

You, Who Are You?

by Diane Bader, March 2, 2008

Written after an afternoon singing with Betsy Rose in Davis and an evening SCSO concert of The Dream of Gerontius.

The Feast of Life

I am woman, a seeker after truth, knowledge, and Wisdom
One who travels secretly, inwardly, on this journey of life,
One who seeks to know the Feminine,
Who seeks to know the Divine.
I hunger and thirst for inner truth
As I read voraciously,
As I feed upon the wisdom and knowledge of others
Always seeking nourishment for guidance along my own path of discovery.
When I find such words,
I feast hungrily upon them
Until I find another who adds to the feast
And yet another …
I am refreshed by the sweet nectar
As similar thoughts flow together
To resonate with my soul.
As years flow seamlessly into years,
The urgency of living lessens.
It is my time to grow ever more deeply and
Meditate upon the feast spread before me.
I choose the choice bits
And make them my own
No longer “out there” — someone else’s thoughts
They are my soul food.
They belong to me.
Rarely do I find the words to share them,
Rarely do I find an Anam Cara to hear them.
My soul yearns and pines
For the courts of the Divine.
Only then will the feast be complete,
Only then will my soul be satiated.

Meanwhile, I journey upon Mother Earth
Seeking to nourish her and preserve her
For future generations.
I trod gently, very gently
As I enjoy glimpses of the Divine presence
In her sunsets, her gentle rains,
Her rich harvest.

When I see brilliant vermilion and orange
Spread across the evening horizon,
I know they are for someone special
Who has just passed from this temporary dwelling
Into the next,
And I am again enriched
By the abundance of such Divine Beauty.
Alzheimer’s disease. In 2005, Granny D’s daughter Elizabeth also died of Alzheimer’s.

Haddock had eight grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. She was a life-long Christian.

**Political Career**

In 1960, Granny D began her political career when she and her husband successfully campaigned against planned hydrogen bomb nuclear testing in Alaska, saving an Inuit fishing village at Point Hope. Granny D and her husband retired to Dublin, New Hampshire, in 1972 and there Granny D served on the Planning Board and was active in the community.

**Campaign Finance Reform Advocate**

After efforts to regulate campaign finances through eliminating soft money failed in 1995, Granny D became increasingly interested in that reform and spearheaded a petition movement. On January 1, 1999, at the age of 88, Granny D left the Rose Bowl Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, in an attempt to walk across the United States to raise awareness of and attract support for campaign finance reform.

Granny D walked roughly ten miles each day for 14 months, traversing California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, making many speeches along the way. The trek attracted a great deal of attention in the mass media. When Granny D arrived in Washington, D.C., she was 90 years old (celebrating two birthdays en route), had traveled more than 3200 miles, and was greeted in the capital by a crowd of 2200 people. Several dozen members of Congress walked the final miles with her during the last day’s walk from Arlington National Cemetery to the Capitol on the National Mall.

**Arrest at the Capitol**

On April 21, 2000, Granny D, along with 31 others, was arrested for reading the Declaration of Independence in the Capitol and was charged with the offense of demonstrating in the Capitol Building. It was said to be a peacable assembly, but the demonstrators were arrested by the Capitol Police.

She entered a plea of guilty, but made a statement to the court where she explained the purpose of her actions.

“Your Honor, the old woman who stands before you was arrested for reading the Declaration of Independence in America’s Capitol Building. I did not raise my voice to do so and I blocked no hall. ...

“I was reading from the Declaration of Independence to make the point that we must declare our independence from the corrupting bonds of big money in our election campaigns. ...

“In my 90 years, this is the first time I have been arrested. I risk my good name — for I do indeed care what my neighbors think about me. But, Your Honor, some of us do not have much power, except to put our bodies in the way of an injustice — to picket, to walk, or to just stand in the way. It will not change the world overnight, but it is all we can do. ...

“Your Honor, to the business at hand: ... if it is a crime to read the Declaration of Independence in our great hall, then I am guilty.”

Rather than impose a $500 fine and six-month prison term, the judge in the case sentenced Granny D to time served and a $10 administrative fee.

**Post-election**

Granny D wrote two books, both co-authored with Dennis Burke. In 2005, she gave the commencement speech at Hampshire College. She was awarded an honorary degree by Franklin Pierce College on October 21, 2002.

Granny D became the Democratic candidate for a U.S. Senate seat in New Hampshire during the 2004 election when the Democratic candidate left the race unexpectedly because of a campaign-finance scandal. Haddock was, at 94, one of the oldest major-party candidates to ever run for the U.S. Senate. True to her “clean elections” ideals, Mrs. Haddock accepted only modest private-citizen donations. She captured approximately 34 percent of the vote (221,549), losing to incumbent Republican U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, as he sought his third term.

In 2007 HBO released a documentary, *Run Granny Run*, directed by Marlo Poras, about Granny D’s 2004 Senate campaign. She is a signatory to the 9/11 Truth Statement.

She continued to be active in politics to the end of her life, and celebrated her 99th birthday by lobbying for campaign finance reform at the New Hampshire State House.