Finding My Inner Drill Sergeant or...

HOW TO CREATE AN OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONY

By Karuna Chapman, Crone

In May 2012, I retired and then discovered that the next National gathering of Crones Counsel would be held at Asilomar, in my own backyard. I offered to help and Annie Lehto accepted. Annie asked me to find the next year’s Charitable Outreach Recipient, and I happily agreed. Next, Sandy Eno approached me to ask if I would take on the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the gathering. Hmmmm, a little more daunting, but since I had been involved with a Sacred Circle of Women who gathered throughout the year to celebrate the Pagan Holy Days, I thought I might be able to carry it off. I said yes, with the rider that I would have two weeks to change my mind. I was concerned that my friend Diane Cornell, who for the past ten years or so, has single-handedly run our local Crones Circle, might want the honor. When I asked Diane, she did not feel able to undertake the commitment, and so I stayed with my yes.

To start, I just sat and thought and dreamed and imagined what a celebration of “Soaring High” might look like. I understood about calling in the energies of the four directions and knew there were powerful birds associated with each one. I read about Eagle and Condor and Red-winged Hawk and Snowy Owl and Raven. Sandy had especially requested Raven be included because of the beautiful logo for this year’s Crones Banner. Well then, which bird for which direction? I asked a Native friend of mine and she told me to ask the birds! What a concept, and what an empowering answer. I did and each bird found a direction with a special mention of Raven as the guardian of the circle. Right about here the concept of a bird banner for each direction came up and I began to gather materials.

When I introduced the idea to our next Crones meeting, the response was enthusiastic, and Diane sent around a sign-up sheet for anyone who was interested in being part of the process. I had the names of eight eager crones and the support of numerous sacred sisters. Things were looking good. I felt encouraged. An unexpected challenge arose when I belatedly asked my Inner Guidance if I should be doing this. My Guidance was: “This is not your job.” Eeeek. I had already made the commitment to the Board to do this; Diane was not able to take it on—how then could it happen, and what was my role? I mulled this for a couple of days and finally got it. It was not my job it was OURS.

Meanwhile I had a script, an order of events, some materials for creating banners, and a committed number of experi-
enced participants. Linda Johnson agreed to take on the Despatio prayer table, Laurie Lotus, Seraphina, Maggie, and Kaya would call in the directions. There was excitement and interest by the Crones and my Sacred Sisters and things were moving along. When I asked Diane for her input, she replied that it could be a simple and sincere ceremony and I agreed. I only called three rehearsals including the pre-opening run-through at Asilomar. Everyone would make up her own words and speak from the heart.

Merritt Medusa, an experienced and deep ceremonialist, agreed to play the singing bowls with me as we called in the Goddess and the Ancestors and Crones gone before. Diane and Joan Forest agreed to play the heartbeat on a drum while unknowingly and in perfect synch, Lavelle agreed to come to Crones Council with Marta Quest and bring her wonderful Mother Drum. She then gave us permission to play it. Lena and Diane, having visions of Long Wing Feathers, were researching how to make some for us when Merritt suggested bird kites on sticks soaring down the aisle. Diane jumped on it and had bird kites for our second rehearsal. As there was no Condor kite, Diane and Kaya added just the right touches to transform a hawk into a condor and also created two ravens from scratch. It was looking good.

Well life was heating up for me. I was also pursuing a training for giving spiritual workshops and had to miss the final two meetings of our local Crones group. I received two emails saying some of the Crones were feeling excluded and although my first response was less than kind, I was able to see the perfect workings of the Universe and sent out an invitation to all who were interested in being a part of the ceremonies to join us for the first rehearsal. It was big and noisy and full of ideas and suggestions and chatter and not much rehearsing. I learned this: It may not be my job, but if I was to be the leader, I must lead. I must step up and bring some kind of order to the chaos. A second rehearsal was called and I received an email from Barbara Sanderson suggesting we all share our intentions for doing the ceremony. A great suggestion and I was beginning to get it about how it was not my job.

At the second rehearsal our circle was larger. We started with a few moments of centering and then each person got to state her intention for doing the ceremony. Harmony was established. We decided what to wear, practiced with the bird kites, formed our final direction callers and bird carriers, and it gelled: still spontaneous but with definite form. I had found my inner drill sergeant.

Meanwhile Pat Hanson and I were searching possibilities for the charitable outreach. Unbeknownst to each other, we both agreed on the final recipient, a safe house for women and children fleeing abusive home situations, run by the YWCA in Salinas, California. When I learned that Asilomar started out as a YWCA summer camp exactly 100 years previously, I got goose bumps and again recognized how much this really was “not my job”. Cheryl McCormack is the director of that YWCA and she gave an excellent outreach talk. Our hearts were touched and she was crying when she received our donation of almost $1500. Cheryl loved being there with us and plans to attend next year. Crones Rock! But I get ahead of myself.

On the opening day we all gathered for our final run through of the opening ceremony. The banners were hung, the kites were ready and everyone looked splendid. Julie Horst showed up to do the music and slide show part of the presentation and it went well. Each woman did her part with ease, spontaneity, and right on cue. With that kind of heart and presence, it couldn’t go wrong and many ladies told me afterward how much they enjoyed it.

When it was time to do the closing ceremony, I was feeling exhausted, but no worry. Each woman stepped up and did her...
If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.  
—MOTHER TERESA
Comments on the Gathering

What Memories Do We Savor?

by Honored Elder Dottie White

How wonderful it was to be honored as an elder at beautiful Asilomar. Sharing that adventure with my daughter Wendy was priceless.

What draws one to Crones Counsel and what memories do we savor on our return? For me it is seeing old friends and making new friends as we share our stories. When women offer their stories of deep wisdom and courage, our hearts expand. This is especially true in the Wisdom Circles. The intimate sharing of stories in the small circles enables us to form closer bonds.

And as Crones we laughed together. There was a lot of nonsense and fun as we gathered around the tables at mealtime. Belly laughs abounded at the Follies. We like to have fun and it was evident as talented Crones performed a variety of acts.

For a Colorado gal, the ocean is a big draw. I loved walking the beach and watching the surfers. It is also a place for quiet reflection. Our hearts and minds were drawn to the disaster in Colorado as flooding mountain streams destroyed roads, bridges, and communities.

We do indeed soar when we are in community together. Thanks to all the wonderful women who worked so hard to make this event possible.

As for me, I can’t wait until we can be together again.

This Year Was the Best So Far

by Nere Lartitegui

I came out of Crones Counsel 2013 with the sweet and empowered sense of feeling validated and inspired. Crones Counsel is always a highlight in my year. Nevertheless, this year was the best so far. It was quite special to have all our meals together at Asilomar, to sit with different women and have personal, meaningful life encounters. I don’t remember the names of all the women I met, but surely they left a distinct imprint on me.

“Soaring High” was the theme: “To rise, fly or glide high and with little apparent effort.” That definition of soaring greatly expresses how I felt during those days, and after that, now, back in my everyday life.

I felt validated in who I am and what I am about, without comparisons, additions or discounts, validated exactly for who I am. I didn’t realize how important validation was for me, until I received it. Wow, how soothing and empowering validation is. It’s like those 100+ women with their presence and energy were shouting to my being: who you are is valuable, unique; we are thankful for having you in our midst.

I believe making myself quite visible and involved made the whole experience more valuable to me, receiving enriching input from other crones. I could feel the sincerity in their comments. Truly I felt empowered with the validation.

And then inspired! Witnessing you, listening to your stories and receiving your authenticity was quite inspiring.

I felt inspired, inspired to be the best, authentic, possible me. Now, back home, I feel empowered and inspired to continue my cherished old involvements, as well as adding new ones as part of my soaring. And I plan to do all that with ease, just soaring with all of you, my special birds in migration.

Thank you to all of you at Crones Counsel for your unconditional love and acceptance you poured out. I received it with an open heart. And it made a difference. Until Crones Counsel 2014 in St. George, Utah.

Whether Joyous or Heartbreaking

by Claudia Van Gerven

What most intrigued me about Crones Counsel XXI was the way the weather seemed to amplify what I love best about all of Crones Counsel. When I arrived at Asilomar, it was brilliantly sunny. By the time I got to the beach, dark clouds loomed behind the last surfers and bobbing kelp forest. And both of those weathers were beautiful! I have always loved Crones Counsel because it is one of the few places where I can show up just as I am—all of me—and where others will show up as whole people too. I can laugh till it hurts when the Silver Beavers take the stage, or Sharon Hoery demonstrates the joys of trying on a bra. And both of those weathers were beautiful! I have always loved Crones Counsel because it is one of the few places where I can show up just as I am—all of me—and where others will show up as whole people too. I can laugh till it hurts when the Silver Beavers take the stage, or Sharon Hoery demonstrates the joys of trying on a bra. But I can also cry when a member of my circle has the courage and trust to share a heartache. I love storytelling precisely because the stories—whether joyous or heart breaking—are real. To be in a space where you can
laugh at yourself or share your most painful secret is a blessing we’re not often allowed in our culture. Because **Crones Counsel** is a sacred space, everything becomes sacred—laughter, tears, and everything in between.

**“I’m Baaack!”**
*by Ginger Child*

Joyfully, I stepped up to the mic, threw open my arms, and grinned, “I’m Baaack!” It had been about six years since I was able to attend **Crones Counsel**, and there had been many changes in my life.

Storytelling is my very favorite part of **Crones Counsel**! Feeling cared for, seeing old familiar faces, having a history with these women, gives me assurance that my story wants to be heard! What an incredible feeling this is! I wish every woman could experience such freedom and safety. I know this freedom and safety is an inner job, but the love expressed at storytelling time is like open arms, welcoming me.

The second part of my delight at being there, was listening to your stories: your joys and fears, laughter and tears. I am enriched by your stories and always feel a sense of awe at how magnificent we are! The power of the Sacred Feminine grows mightily when we are together. Thank you, every one of you, for sharing yourselves, and letting me share myself. You are dear to me, more than I knew.

Truly, “There’s no Counsel like **Crones Counsel**!” When I was invited to lead the group in this song I wrote a number of years ago, my joy knew no bounds! Thank you, Thank you!

**Crones Don’t Whine**

“There is a medieval sound to the word ‘crone’ and a mischievous note to the suggestion that a woman would aspire to be one. ... To be a crone is about inner development, not outer appearance. A crone is a woman who has wisdom, compassion, humor, courage, and vitality. ... She does not avert her eyes or numb her mind from reality. ... She has learned to trust herself to know what she knows. Whining is conduct unbecoming a crone. ... The crone is an archetype we can grow into being. Exceptional men can be crones. Crones together can change the world.”

Caring for Sunny
by Marian Karpisek

As we age, most of us worry about dementia. How will it feel to lose our memory? Will our friends disappear as well? This is a terrifying possibility and one that haunts us whenever we misplace our car keys or stumble over finding a word.

One of our crone sisters, Sunny Harper-Owen, came face-to-face with this reality when she was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's more than two years ago. A bright, loving, and creative woman, Sunny began losing her ability to function in the world. As friends, we saw that Sunny was no longer able to interact with us as she had and we despaired of a future for Sunny that looked very bleak.

However, rather than turning away and ignoring the situation, some of us decided that we were not willing to lose Sunny from our lives and we were not ready to see her relegated to a life without friends.

And so the Supporting Sunny Group (SSG) was born. Six friends agreed that we would be there for Sunny to give her a continuing sense of friendship and involvement in activities that she enjoys. Each member of the SSG commits to spending a few hours once every six weeks doing something with Sunny that would bring her enjoyment and keep her in touch with her old friends and activities.

Each member of the SSG creates time with Sunny based on something they know Sunny enjoyed in the past or that she enjoys now. Lunch is always a part of these activities. Watching a vintage musical, such as “Gigi” or “The Sound of Music” and singing along creates a happy afternoon for Sunny. A picnic lunch, eaten on Sunny’s favorite bench at Sunset Cliffs while watching the surfers, waves, and pelicans, always pleases her.

Attending our San Diego crones’ dinner and “Women of Ancient Wisdom” circle each month is important since Sunny was one of the founding mothers. Shopping, getting her make-up done, and having a manic/pedicure are activities that Sunny responds to with great pleasure.

Not every activity with Sunny has been successful. There was a movie set in Paris, where Sunny had lived, that she hated because the Paris of 2012 was not the Paris she remembered from the 1960s. There was a lunch at a ’50s diner that was a wild success one time but failed totally the next.

At other times, Sunny’s changing sense of taste means that something she once enjoyed is no longer palatable to her.

However, we learn and adopt as we move ahead with Sunny. After each outing, the woman who has been with Sunny that day writes an e-mail describing Sunny’s responses and current state.

As a result of our weekly outings, Sunny continues to enjoy being in contact with her friends and keeping in touch with the outside world. We don’t know what the future holds or how long we’ll be able to continue these outings, but we plan to continue supporting Sunny however we can.

Sunny is not the only one who benefits from our endeavors; we have all been enriched by the love that Sunny shows to each of us.

Crones Counsel XXI at Asilomar
By Suzanne Gruba, Web Mother

Every gathering is wonderful, but this one was especially so because we had returned to Asilomar, the refuge by the sea where I experienced my first gathering. It was a time to reconnect with dear old friends and make delightful new ones.

Each gathering is a transformational experience for me, either by accident or by design. This year I brought a couple of troubling issues with me to share with my crone sisters to get feedback, support, and information. I find that I get the best information from my peers as opposed to medical and psychological experts. With that in mind, I shared with my Wisdom Circle about a pesky problem I had with one of my siblings and got a new perspective on the issue and the support and courage to resolve the situation. After sharing about my plantar fasciitis foot pain with several women, I received numerous great ideas that two months later led to resolution of the pain.

On another level, I claimed and stepped more fully into my role as Crones Counsel Web Mother and geek by embracing and sharing my love of technology with many of my Crone sisters. My roommate asked me if I needed an iPad as I was drifting off to sleep one night, and I said no, I didn’t think I needed one right then. Well, she came over anyway and handed me an eye pad to cover my eyes so I could go to sleep while the light was on!

Now my love for technology and communication has led me to help create the new monthly digital Crones Counsel Newsletter, which in addition to CroneTimes, is designed to keep crones in touch all year long.
CRONES COUNSEL XXII

Luminous With Age

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We look forward to gathering for Crones Counsel XXII to share in Storytelling, Workshops, Ceremonies, Decades Honoring, Follies, and Marketplace in the nicely-mild-in-the-late-fall city of St. George, Utah. Renew old friendships and make new ones.

“Bask in the beauty of the Southwest landscape.”

The city of St. George is located in the southwestern part of Utah on the Utah-Arizona border. You may fly directly into the beautiful new St. George Airport from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and Denver. The hotel is only minutes away and transportation from the airport to the hotel will be arranged.

The Abbey Inn is St. George’s premier hotel and conference center. It is beautifully decorated and centrally located. With an on-site outdoor pool, indoor hot tubs, exercise room, and laundry you couldn’t ask for more. Every room has a TV and free Wi-Fi.

ROOM RATES: We have arranged a mix of single king rooms and double queen standard rooms. The cost for these rooms is $80/night plus tax. There are suites with a single king or two queens with sitting areas for $98/plus tax. If there are more than 2 people per room, the cost remains the same. You will make your own reservations with the hotel once you have registered.

Calling the Maiden, the Mother, the Matriarch, and the Crone. Come celebrate with us!

Gathering details are on the Crones Counsel website, www.cronescounsel.org Call or email Joyce Perata, Registrar, (303) 449-1728, joycedp7@gmail.com To register online go to www.cronescounsel.org.

MEALS: A daily complimentary breakfast buffet is included in the room rate. The food is delicious and the ambiance is lovely. There is a refrigerator and microwave in every room. We will have a Meet & Greet one of the first evenings and either a lunch or evening banquet. There are restaurants close by within walking distance. We may even arrange to take you out on the town one evening!

SPECIAL NEEDS: The hotel has wheelchair accessible rooms. Just let us know what it is you need and we will do our best to accommodate it.

All ceremonies, workshops, programs, and events are created, designed, and gifted by the Crones Counsel membership. All contributors and artisans must be registered for the Gathering. Artisans’ products offered for sale must be Crone creations.

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“What Can I Do to Help Our Planet?”

by Laurie Dameron,
http://www.facebook.com/WhatCanIDoS SpaceshipEarth

“What can I do? What Can I Do? What can little old me do to help this planet?”

That is what kept echoing over and over in my head when I started a hike in the autumn of 2007 in my favorite spot on the planet, Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. I finally wrote an entire song in my head during my four hours in the magical, spiritual, wonderful Utah desert.

After that I started doing, “What Can I Do?” concerts and tours where I performed my usual mix of folk, blues, and jazz but dedicated a special portion of the shows to singing my “Environmental/Social” songs and speaking about environmental issues.

In January of 2012 I was contemplating what I should be doing with my life. My spiritual coach asked me, “Laurie, what is the most important thing to you?” Without even having to think, I said, “This beautiful Earth!”

I have been in awe of the beauty of nature and felt a deep connection with her as far back as I can remember. I grew up in the little town of Berea, just south of Cleveland, Ohio. In the 1960s, something happened there that made a huge impact on me. The Cuyahoga River was so polluted that it used to catch on fire! In 1969, the thirteenth time that happened, it caught the attention of TIME magazine. That was great, as it spurred the creation of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency).

So in 2012 I thought wouldn’t it be cool to make a multimedia presentation for my, “What Can I Do?” concerts. I got excited imagining I would reach large audiences and make a strong impact. Honestly I have had trouble with attendance but the feedback has been tremendous!

I created a 45-minute Powerpoint presentation with slides showing photos of the Cuyahoga River on fire. I talk a bit about the history of environmentalism, how our National Parks began, and I share some websites for national and local agencies such as the Sierra Club.

I created some slide shows featuring the photography of John Fielder and Karl Snyder set to live music. The presentation also includes trailers for two documentaries.

I thought all this would be so easy and it’s been a lot of satisfying work. But I have run into quite a bit of opposition, one being venues where I want to present and I’m told, “We need to stay away from political issues.” For me it’s about loving our planet! One other big obstacle has been people thinking that I am, “preaching to the choir,” especially where I live in Boulder.

In some cases I feel I am being misunderstood: they think I’m only interested in furthering my music career. In fact, I am trying to use my gift of music combined with my passion for art and the environment to reach people in a fun and different way.

My highest aspiration is that this presentation will raise awareness and inspire people to be better stewards of our beautiful planet. Music is a language that spans many interpretations. My original compositions reinforce these sustainable concepts in an alternative way for people to learn and absorb.

Though I have run into difficulties, I have also encountered great support! Recently I received a wonderful message from Jan De Courtney. We are both members of Skillshare, an online time bank. As she told me some of the actions she lives by (and she really “walks the talk”), I felt very inspired and realized I just need to focus on the positive. We don’t have to be a Jan De Courtney overnight. But we can strive to do a little bit at a time. I really do believe it’s the little things that can make a big difference! Remember you are a part of the solution! Just ask yourself, “What Can I Do?”

MEA CULPA

Two of the elders in our 2014 calendar were incorrectly named. One is Dottie White, not Dottie Little, and the ??????? is Joyce Keller. Your humble editor regrets the errors.
The Camping Crones

by Kaya Kotzen kkwisdomwoman@gmail.com
and Diane Cornell info@osefun.com

For ten years, a number of us have elected to go camping after Crones Counsel—anywhere from three to six days. It started in Boise, Idaho, probably the rainiest time we ever had where we ate in restaurants and soaked in hot mineral springs when we had a sunny window.

It all started, thanks to Diane Cornell of Santa Cruz who, for many years, has led small groups of women on camping trips to her favorite places in the Southwest—Sedona, Zion, Anza Borrego Desert, Estes Park, Colorado, and Santa Fe areas, to name only a few. It seemed that a few of us at Crones had gone on some of her trips, so we talked about just getting together for the sheer delight of having the opportunity to camp with women after Crones Counsel. Some years there have been two or three of us, but usually there are at least four. This year was awesome, with seven of us there for the first two days, then five of us for the last four days.

Typically we hike, sit around the campfire, sometimes even “reading” the coals. We can choose to have lazy mornings or afternoons if we like, while some of the group hikes. We manage quite easily to make group decisions and it always seems to flow. We were blessed to have Laurie Dameron sing to us by the fire this year. Some years we have awakened and done stretching or yoga. Some of us may start the day in meditation or take time to soak up the sun and sit and journal.

I look forward to this time almost as much as Crones Counsel itself, since I really don’t know people at home who choose to vacation this way, or have the funds to travel West to do it. This has been an enormous gift and a blessing in my life.

Did I mention that one of our favorite things to do is to camp where there are natural hot springs in the area? Since Boise, Idaho, we have gone to Ojo Caliente near Santa Fe, and Breitenbush Spa, a few hours from Portland.

This year, Diane and I even managed to snag a connection, which got us into Esalen and its hot tubs for part of a day—such a treat! I have wanted to visit there since my twenties.

We are not always in tents. Maggie Dickson often has her RV with her, and Doris (Pete) Bailey sometimes meets us in her Rialto Van. Occasionally we may seek refuge in a cabin, like the year KB, Diane and Kaya camped before Crones Counsel in Atlanta, and the weather was in the high thirties, a bit too chilly for us Crones!

We have learned to go with the flow, no matter who is with us, what the weather is like, and where we are.

Each day we call in the directions to create sacred space and then gather each morning to share how we feel and connect with a prayer for ourselves, others, and the earth. Through sharing suggestions of activities for the day, we use a process of group consensus to form intentions. It’s easy to see where consensus and agreement form. This is the same decision-making process used by tribes—relaxed, everyone has input, and is learned in medicine wheel training…follow nature trails, enjoy the beauty of the land, play in creeks, choose medicine cards and share the meaning for each of us... We are spontaneous—and the best things in life just show up in front of us. The question is: “Will we notice them?”

We are prone to make a plan and then ask the “creator” to fulfill our plan; the best thing is to ask the creator what the plan is and then be available! Life is good when lived in the moment.

So, if you like to camp or never have but want to try it, and can join us after the next Crones Counsel, do contact Kaya or Diane, a few months or weeks in advance. This always seems to come together be it at the last minute or with a few months’ planning.

We are the Camping Crones. ... Hmmm, I think we need to write a song about this. Look for us in the Crones Follies next year!
About My Mom, Elder Pat Sheya

by Sheri Sheya

Mom (Pat), asked me for a photo to go along with her brief article about being 85 (published in the July issue of CroneTimes). “Brief,” is such a brief word! I had to tell you more about my amazing mother.

She’s a scuba diver, hunter, fishes all the time, hikes mountains and hillsides, goes four-wheeling in the deserts with friends, socializes with women for lunches, breakfasts, and dinners.

She and my father never believed in staying home. The outside was our life: waterskiing, boating, sledding, tubing, skiing, camping, and discovering the State and National Parks and reservoirs.

Wallpapering, painting, redecorating were never in our vocabularies. Discovering, exploring, learning, playing, laughing, river running, adventures; those were our experiences and remain our memories. Because of our remarkable mother and father, the five of us are passing those memories on to our children. Fact is: Dad hit on Mom while they were both waiting in the ski-lift line at Brighton Ski Resort. That’s how it really started. During the summer months, she heads back to Utah for Salt Lake City weather, family, and play.

Pat gazing at Mt. Tetakawi. The “Tetas,” as it’s nicknamed, is a landmark in San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico.

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Pat tending her garden full of succulents, saguaro cactus, and other native plants of the region in San Carlos, Mexico, as well as a 20-year-old lemon tree that produces luscious, juicy lemons.

While I was visiting her, we attended a Harley Davidson “parade.” About 200 Harleys motored from San Carlos into Guaymas, took a brief break, and motored back. Free shots of locally made tequila were offered at the San Carlos starting point. Pat’s perched on a friend’s Harley. Later, we rode on the back. There’s nothing to compare to riding on the back of a Harley Davidson motor-cycle ... except driving one.
HIGHLIGHTS OF CRONES COUNSEL XXI

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Soaring
by KayaKotzen (read at closing of 2013 Gathering)

We who are birds of this flock of crones
soaring silently in the strong V
that we are knowing that when one falls out, another will fly
forward in her place
understanding that it is the steadfastness of the formation
that makes us strong.

Inner wisdom guides us all as we each soar on a path
we call our own.

From the eagle in the east, we have learned to fly
higher and to grasp the joys that await us as we soar.

From the condor in the south, we have learned to go
with the flow, as we glide and soar.

From the red-winged hawk in the west, we are
reminded to always be peaceful in our dealings with the world ... and to be visionaries.

From the snowy owl in the north, we have gained the wisdom
that we have claimed as crones, we have learned to
embrace our darkness without fear, knowing that we have
the support of our flock to sustain us.

These birds make up a wondrous and diverse flock
each one stronger because of the whole from which she came.

As we prepare individually for our solo journeys home,
we have become stronger in the midst of our community
we acknowledge our accumulative wisdom and energy.

May we each take flight back to our homes
on wings of light
with hearts of gold and on fire
to share the compassion, the clarity and the wisdom
of this she-flock that we are and always will be.

Moving Toward the Millionth Circle:
Energizing the Global Women’s Movement

“In Jungian analyst Jean Shinoda Bolen’s writing, sym-
bol, archetype, and synchronicity combine with activism to
create the potential to change the world. In her latest
book, ‘Moving Toward the Millionth Circle’ ($18.85),
Dr. Bolen inspires women to be the millionth circle, heart-
centered activists who will bring about a tipping
point. While still about women’s circles, her new book
focuses more on activism and how
these circles can help to sustain and support (and be a sanctuary for) women working for change in their lives and in the world.

Bolen is the author of the
ground-breaking book, ‘Goddesses in Everywoman.’”

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