



# GRANDMOTHERS CIRCLE OF NEWS



A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 19: Number 3 Spring 2013

## LISTENING WOMAN

*Echoes of the Ancestors  
Ride the Winds of Change ...*

*Singing Spirits on the Breeze,  
Waves crashing to shore,  
Teach me how to listen.*

*Clan Mother of Stillness  
I listen for your whispers ...  
I'm searching for the inner voice  
that lives within my heart.*

Listening Woman is the  
Clan Mother of Tiyoueh,  
the Stillness.

This Moon represents  
"seeking an answer."

This Clan Mother teaches us  
how to enter the Silence and  
how to listen to the  
messages of  
Nature, our Hearts,  
the Spirit World,  
the Viewpoints of Other  
Humans,  
the Creature Teachers, and  
The Great Mystery.

In Seneca Tradition,  
entering the Silence is called  
Tiyoueh. Once we can access  
the Stillness and can hear the



Pachamama.

By Colombian artist and activist, Ana Maria Vasquez  
View her art work at: [www.bridgesacrossborders.org](http://www.bridgesacrossborders.org)  
or contact her at: [bucbucdao96@gmail.com](mailto:bucbucdao96@gmail.com)

small, still voice within, we have  
the potential to realize personal  
wholeness, because we have  
accessed the voice of inner  
truth.

Listening Woman  
teaches us to listen to all of the  
viewpoints represented in our  
world in order to learn the  
Harmony that can be found  
through allowing each life form  
to have its Sacred Point of  
View.

This Clan Mother  
shows us the crooked trail of  
having to talk all the time;  
when we are talking,  
we are not listening.  
When we ignore or cut off the  
voice of another person who is  
telling us something  
we don't want to hear,  
we may be stopping  
our own growth.

Many times we are wounded and  
do not want to hear the truth  
because we feel that  
it hurts us ...

The willingness to listen to the  
truth about oneself when it is

delivered with loving compassion is a great talent and can heal old wounds.

How to know when someone is speaking the truth?

Some humans lie to cover their fear of retribution or punishment; some people tell lies to feel included or important.

If we develop the art of Listening, we can detect untruths.

Listening Woman uses her gift of prophecy to send us warnings when we are off balance and  
encouragement when we are walking with grace.

(Excerpts from: The 13 Original Clan Mothers by Jamie Sams)





**NEWS FROM THE GRANDMOTHERS**

Last year on June 25th, 2012, Fern Naomi Sargent Cleghorn went into the Spirit World. She was born in Kodiak, Alaska, in 1914, one of 13 children. She attended San Francisco State College and was very active in progressive political issues for many years. She married James Cleghorn, a composer and later Music Department Head for the main library in San Francisco. Fern and James had 3 sons.



Fern was always very proud of her advocacy in support of retirement medical coverage, which was adopted despite heavy opposition. Our condolences go out to her family and friends. She was one of our beloved Grandmothers, a wonderful woman, and her good humor will be missed.



Vivian "Maya" Levy of Hammond, Louisiana, passed away on May 9th, 2012, at North Oaks Medical Center. She was 72.

Maya was born on November 30, 1940, in Hammond, LA. She founded the Hammond Cultural Foundation and was responsible for turning the Levy Building into an art center. She was a prolific artist, published author, playwright, actress, director and teacher. She was a Fulbright awardee. There is an endowed scholarship for Theatre and Art at Southeastern Louisiana University in her name. Maya loved her family, the arts, and playing bridge. We send condolences to her family and friends. She had beautiful insight into the wonders of living and loving ... and the most wonderful gift she gave was the giving of HERSELF in all ways.



Last year's Gathering in Arizona once again brought together our Elder Council Grandmothers: Irene Walden, Kit Wilson, Ursela Gurao, Allegra Ahlquist, Marion Sinclair, and Barb Nelson



Verlie, and her friend Mary Strange, at her 90th Birthday Party last year!

HAPPY  
90TH  
BIRTHDAY  
ABUELAS...  
THANK YOU  
FOR THE  
BLESSING OF  
YOUR  
HEARTS  
IN OUR  
LIVES!



Looking forward to the Céilidh this year at the Arizona Grandmother Gathering... so much fun last year with our Mistress of Ceremonies Grandmother Eleanor Gallagher



Allegra began celebrating her 90th YEAR at the end of April 2013!





Lee Carter, City Of The Sun, NM. She will be 90 this year!

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

SPRING EQUINOX

Hello Grandmothers, Friends and Relatives ... here we are once again, celebrating the beginning of Spring. Today I'm thinking about a Zen couplet:

 "The wind stops,  
but the flowers still fall.   
A bird sings and  
the mountain is quieter still."

I am so thankful for the blessing of living here in the Cochise Stronghold ... beloved mountain that holds us all inside with love and power. This year we celebrated the Spring Equinox with friends from our community and from Tucson. We gathered in a circle at a place that brings memories of Vision Quests and other celebrations.



Many grandmothers and even a few grandfathers came. We heard the soothing sounds of crystal bowls and poetry that had been ripening for over 40 years. A wondrous woman who we hadn't met, but who we knew about, came and played her didgeridoo, which brought ancient memories into our hearts and minds.

One of the highlights was the appearance of three children who delighted us with their laughter and their stories. The little one reached for the drum when we were having refreshments and kept the beat going for a few minutes ... he also smiled joyfully as he blew the flute ... His sister looked beautiful in the black hat that she found in the Giveaway box;

and his older brother had fun playing with the children's instruments. A Mohawk friend remembered her mother and also brought a letter from a woman about to be released from prison who is looking for friends ... we hope to have a ceremony for her when she comes out, to welcome her into a life of freedom that we often take for granted.

I don't know if this is happening to you, too, but for me life is moving very fast. I can't believe that a quarter of this new year is already gone ... there are great projects in the wings, but sometimes I can't wait for them to mature, and I get impatient with myself and others.

I find myself reading over and over again the words of Shodo Harada when he interprets, in the Zen tradition, the discourse of the ancient teachers, revealing to us a deeper truth:

 "First, I went following the  
fragrant grasses ...  
Now I return chasing the  
falling leaves." 

These lines are from the Blue Cliff Record. Harada tells us that one day the priest Chosha Keijin went for a long walk in the mountains. When he returned to the monastery, the head monk was waiting for him. The monk asked, "Master, where have you been? There are many disciples gathered here for training -- what are you doing, just wandering around?"



Chosha responded, "I went to the mountain to play a little. The cherry and the peach flowers were so beautiful, and while I was looking at them, they pulled me



right into the deep mountains; and then, the clover and the dandelions were blooming and the butterflies were dancing, and while looking at them, I arrived home again."

Harada tells us that the meaning of life is found in the encounters of each and every moment. Although we need to have goals, if we aren't acting playfully within each and every second of realizing our goals -- if we think, while in the midst of living and struggling, that we have to wait until later to play -- then we aren't realizing the true value of life.

I recognize that our lives cannot be lived in a vague way. We have to keep our sight on each footstep and live fully and throughly in each second. Life isn't about enduring pain every day and looking forward to something else that will come along later and far away.

When each and every moment is true, when our goal is to have a deep worth, to be complete ... then in each and every moment we will find deep wonder and amazement and joy, and the value of life will be clear. We must hold this kind of life precious.

 I'm learning to be patient  
by seeing my impatience ...   
I feel the love of others by  
loving myself and them deeply.  
I'm staying smoke-free and cherish my  
sister and niece who  
are walking this path with me today!  
Maybe soon my nephew will join!

 With love, light and songs ...   
Margarita

I play with flowers and their fragrance  
clings to my clothes  
I scoop out water and  
the moon is in my hands  
MASTER KIDO



# FREQUENCY: THE POWER OF PERSONAL VIBRATION

by Penney Peirce (excerpts from her book)

## Inca prophecy concerning the coming Golden Age



In their book, *The Tenth Insight: An Experiential Guide*, James Redfield and Carol Adrienne quote Elizabeth Jenkins, director of the Wiraqocha Foundation:

"The prophets of the Andes, the holy men and women, say the time period from 1993-2012 is a critical period in the evolution of human consciousness. We have entered the time they call the 'Age of Meeting Ourselves Again.' During these times the Andean people believe we will make a transition from the third level of awareness to the fourth. The challenge is to cleanse our collective fears and gather enough spiritual energy so humankind can pass collectively into fourth-level consciousness."



Willaru Huayta, an Incan Spiritual Messenger from Peru, says: "The children of the Sun have existed since ancient times -- since the last Golden Era. Even as there are four seasons of the year, so the four great Cosmic Ages follow one another. After the Golden Era, came the Silver Era. Then the Bronze Age. Then the Iron Era, the present era, consisting of the last thousand years. This last metallic era has a strong materialistic quality and has been an era of darkness, as people have fallen into egotism, using the forces of Mother Nature in a negative way. It is a time of wars, of the coldness of metal ... The Age of Iron, like a long winter, is now

closing. The new Golden Age, like Spring, is announcing itself throughout the world.



We must return to the ways of Nature to receive illumination, to recognize the cosmic laws, and our bodies as temples. Each person is a Sacred Temple. The altar of that temple is the heart. The fire of love, a reflection of the greater light, burns upon this altar. This light within, must be acknowledged, cared for, and venerated. This is the religion of the Sons and Daughters of the Sun."



## Home Frequency Message

Read these pieces of inspired writing as a way for you to shift from your normal, speedier reading mind to a deeper kind of direct experience. Through these messages, you can intentionally change your personal vibration.

The following message is meant to transport you into a way of knowing the world that's close to the way you'll experience life in the Intuition Age.

Downshift to a slower, less hurried pace. Take a slow breath in and then out, and be as calm and still as possible. Let your mind be soft and receptive. Open your intuition and prepare to feel into the language. See if you can experience the deeper realities and feeling states that come alive as you read.

Your experience may take on a greater dimension in direct proportion to the amount of

attention you invest in the phrases. Focus on the words, a few at a time, pause at the punctuation marks, and "be with" the intelligence delivering the message -- live and right now -- to you. You might speak the words aloud, or close your eyes and have someone else read them to you and see what effect they have on you:



## START BY BEING PRESENT

Just be, right here, right now.  
Listen for the quiet.  
Feel the relief.

There is nowhere else, nowhere to go.  
You are surrounded by openness  
and in that space is:  
awareness.

It seeps through you--it is your own refined presence,  
your next level of self,  
the presence of the divine.  
This awareness contains everything you've ever known, been, and will be, and everything anyone else has been, is, and will be.



You are centered in the open heart of Love,  
in a vast field of truth.

Here you are real,  
here you are

continually being born.

There is nothing you have to do.

Feel how the all-knowing,  
all-loving,

all-supporting awareness has you.

It will never abandon you.

You are safe.

Here you have unlimited energy and imagination.

If thoughts occur,  
you don't own them--you are just becoming aware of things floating around;



and if they seem interesting,  
 you stop them for a while.  
 You can identify with them,  
 or let them go;  
 or you can add energy into them  
 and shape them,  
 \* and then let them go. \*



There is no right thing to do,  
 it's just creativity, it's just fun,  
 it's just your soul expressing itself.  
 Be in the moment, be soft.  
 Let realities come and go.  
 Your energy and awareness radiate  
 through and beyond your skin,  
 out and out ...  
 and you don't end,  
 you just discover different types and  
 patterns of knowing.



As you include this in yourself and  
 blend with them,  
 you experience yourself in new ways.  
 You are in all things and  
 all things are in you;  
 and whatever wants to be known  
 or created,  
 simply appears in you as an idea, or  
 expresses through you as an act.  
 You can't make it happen, it's  
 simply happening.



When you leave this experience  
 of the moment,  
 you will miss yourself.  
 You will miss the experience of your  
 own soul expressing  
 through your body,  
 enlightening, enlivening your body  
 and making it happy,  
 \* just happy to be. \*



Meanwhile, in the center of  
 everything, in the center of the  
 awareness that runs through the  
 world, there is always:  
 what you are looking for.  
 There is your answer:  
 to everything, freely given,  
 waiting for you to fall back into it.  
 In this moment: the answer,  
 the just right answer for you,  
 right now.

### Home Frequency

The old world is slow because of  
 separation, gaps and fear.  
 The new world is fast because of  
 interconnection.

As we approach unity,  
 life is more instantaneous.

Our lives work by new rules based  
 on the speed of the  
 present moment.

It's time to relax and let go!

Life compassionately gives you a  
 connecting link, a phase between  
 the old and the new.

Like a ship going through the  
 Panama Canal, you too, will move  
 through the "locks" of  
 consciousness, gradually changing  
 from a lower level to a higher one.

To experience this period,  
 all you have to do is relax.

You don't have to know everything  
 about what your future will be or  
 how your transformation  
 is going to work.

You can exhale, be less concerned  
 with externals, and stop pushing.

You don't owe other people the  
 description of your likes and  
 dislikes, successes and failures, or  
 plans for the future.

You can be like your dog or cat:  
 perfectly real, perfectly happy, and  
 perfectly undefined.

You are a mysterious force peering  
 out from two beautiful,  
 liquid eyes and radiating out from a  
 happily vibrating body.

You can be yourself without  
 maintaining an ego.



### Letting Go



Letting go is not about  
 sacrifice, nor does it breed lazy  
 inactivity; it's simply a return to

Being. It is a shift from an  
 assertive focus on action and  
 results to a softer, intuitive state  
 where you will "be with," notice, and  
 appreciate what's in the moment  
 with you. It's about moving from  
 noise into silence.

When done right, letting go  
 is about centering, and it always  
 leads to your Home Frequency

It's hard to grasp that a  
 breakthrough can be about Being,  
 when you are in the midst of the  
 drive for action and results.

Solutions look like they must  
 be about more doing and having: If  
 I had different neighbors. If I  
 made more money. If I could get  
 enough healing clients. The ego  
 wants a full-blown strategic plan in  
 ten clearly defined steps to be  
 accomplished in a week.

Yet without putting the ego  
 on "pause," the soul's magic can't  
 happen. Your Home Frequency will  
 surface as soon as you stop paying  
 attention to what's not vibrating in  
 harmony with your most childlike,  
 joyful, curious self.

You'll start to feel it  
 as soon as you turn your thoughts  
 toward soul qualities.

It's waiting for you when you stop.  
 It's in the Silence,  
 and it meets you half way when you  
 walk toward it.



**It is up to you  
 to choose how you want to feel**

Are you waiting to feel  
 good? Everyday, in small situations  
 or large, you have the choice to be  
 either contracted and anxious ... or  
 at home in the center. It is up to  
 you how you want to feel and who  
 you want to be. No one else can

create the conditions for you to feel good if you haven't decided to feel good.

There comes a point in everyone's life when we must simply decide to be fine, to feel healthy, and not to wait for situations to clear up or problems to be solved. Life is short; we might as well enjoy it.

This is where we must be brutally honest and ask ourselves the withering, humiliating, yet liberating questions. Am I being miserable to punish others? Am I stalling my growth because I stubbornly want others to make me feel safe or do things for me? Am I hesitating to have a good life because I don't want to admit I've made a mistake? Am I maintaining my pain because I am too lazy to think of anything better? Am I proud of myself? The biggest question of all is: Am I willing to let go of the old, transform, and know how truly good it can be when I am not in control?

As you contemplate the answers to these questions, notice what your excuses are. How do you explain your lack of courage to yourself and others? We all have justifications for why we don't live fully. Yet each time you recite yours, it actually generates shame at a deep level, making it harder to let go.



IF I CREATE FROM THE HEART,  
NEARLY EVERYTHING WORKS;  
  
IF FROM THE HEAD,  
ALMOST NOTHING.  
  
MARK CHAGALL

*Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once,  
but of stretching out to mend the part of the world  
that is within our reach.  
Any small calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul,  
to assist some portion of this poor suffering world,  
will help immensely.  
It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom will cause the  
critical mass to tip toward an enduring good.*



**Clarissa Pinkola Estes**



## INTUITION

In today's competitive society, what makes people cooperate?  
We may have intuition to thank.

A recent study published in Nature Magazine suggests that intuition encourages cooperation.

Careful reasoning, on the other hand, promotes selfishness.

Scientists at Harvard University studied thousands of participants during a game of "Me versus Us."

After being placed into small groups, each person was given money. They were then asked to either keep their cash or to contribute to a pool, benefiting their small group.

To test whether impulses were cooperative or selfish, scientists watched how quickly participants made their choices. Faster decision-makers gave more generously to their group pool, while those who stopped to think contributed less.

Scientists then ran the same experiment, but forced participants to make their decision quickly.

In the next study they asked participants to stop and think. Again, results showed that faster deciders contributed more to the group.

In their final experiment, scientists told some people to think about the benefits of intuition and others to think about the value in reasoning before deciding where their money went.

Those who thought about intuition were once again more generous.

"In daily life, it's generally in our interest to be cooperative," says researcher David Rand who helped conduct the study.

"If we internalize cooperation as the right way to behave, then when we come into unusual environments, our first response is to keep behaving the way we do in normal life." Harvard professor Martin Nowak emphasizes the importance of creating a more cooperative society.

Intuition and careful thinking are both essential, he said, "as we face global problems which require cooperation on a massive scale. We need to understand where cooperation comes from historically and how to best make it happen here and now."



**Paul R. Scheele**







# GRANDMOTHERS CIRCLE OF NEWS



## GRANDCHILDREN'S SECTION



Felix Finkbeiner at home, near Munich  
Photo: Christian Kain

By Harry de Quetteville

At first glance, Felix Finkbeiner does not seem cut from the cloth with which celebrity is fashioned. While some adolescent boys can induce hysterical adulation in young girls, Felix, 15, is no Justin Bieber. His stringbean physique is complemented by a pair of wire-rimmed glasses and a pudding-bowl haircut. And yet, on a wet Sunday afternoon in southern Germany, he finds himself besieged by a gaggle of young female devotees.

"I really like Felix," 11-year-old Emilia says, beaming as she shows off his autograph. Felix is neither child actor, pop star, nor sports prodigy. Instead, Emilia and girls like her want him to sign their copy of his book, **Tree by Tree**. Felix, from the unremarkable town of Pöcking, near Munich, is an environmental superstar at the helm of a global network of child activists whose aim is to mitigate climate change by reforesting the planet. Behind his apparently unprepossessing facade, Felix is really an action hero.

His organization, **Plant for the Planet**, recently achieved its target of planting one million trees in Germany; now Felix is spreading his message around the world. **Plant for the Planet** is up and running in 131 countries. A British chapter has also been established, with the aim of planting a million trees over a period of a few years. Individuals or planting groups can either 'pledge' to plant a certain number of trees or make a cash donation: one Euro (€1) buys one tree.

The results are logged on the **Plant for the Planet** website. Today, Felix is not only celebrated by his schoolmates and contemporaries, he is also revered as one of the world's most important environmentalists, appearing on one newspaper's recent list of the 20 most influential 'Green Power' activists, along with Brad Pitt (a builder of environmentally responsible homes) and the Prince of Wales.

**Plant for the Planet** started as a school project four years ago. "I was supposed to give a presentation on a Monday," Felix says, "so over the weekend I Googled stuff on climate change and came across Wangari Maathai's campaign."

Maathai, the daughter of Kenyan farmworkers, who won a scholarship to study biology in the US, began her own tree-planting campaign, the Green Belt Movement, in 1977, as a method of tackling soil erosion and encouraging local communities, particularly women, to stand up for themselves ... not only environmentally but also politically. In 2004, 45 million trees later, she won the Nobel Peace Prize. "She achieved so much with so little," Felix says. "So I had the idea that we children could also do something."

His presentation about climate change had a great response from his classmates at the Munich International School. Two days later, his teacher encouraged him to give the same speech to the school's student council, and shortly afterwards Felix repeated the performance for his head teacher. Soon he was speaking in front of other classes.

On March 28, 2007, Felix planted the first sapling of his million-tree campaign ... a crab apple. Today, he admits: 'I didn't know that this crab apple would become so famous!' News of Felix's campaign reached other schools. Within a week he was fielding calls from students who wanted to join **Plant for the Planet**; others offered help in building a website.

"It began to get busy, so I said to my parents, 'If we got the money for an employee, could we have one?' When the answer was positive, Felix called a big car company with green credentials: Toyota.

Reflecting on this now, the Finkbeiners don't seem to find anything unusual in a nine-year-old boy asking a multinational firm for €40,000 so that he could hire his environmental group's first full-time staff member. Apparently neither did Toyota.

With the money in place, Felix kept campaigning, kept delivering his climate-change talk. Six months after the planting of the first tree, he delivered his message to a local rotary club. In the audience was the CEO of Toyota Germany, Lothar Feuser, who was keen to hear what he was getting for his money.

So impressed was he that he invited Felix to that year's annual gathering of German Toyota dealers. There, the company subsequently noted, Felix made a speech so compelling that participants at the meeting spontaneously pledged €11,000 in donations for **Plant for the Planet**. The dealers also started their own tree-planting schemes through schools in their own areas. Suddenly the local project had a national framework.

In April, 2008, Felix, still only 10 years old, called a press conference to announce that 50,000 trees had been planted. The conference was packed, and Felix's news was relayed around the country in the press and on television. It was then that the scale of **Plant for the Planet** hit home. From then on, Felix's commitments snowballed. In June, 2008, he attended the UN Children's Conference in Stavanger, Norway, and was elected to the junior board of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). That November he addressed the European Parliament. In 2009 he travelled to the UNEP conference in South Korea, explaining the three-year process required to plant a million trees. With that goal in sight in Germany, he invited other nations to start their own **Plant for the Planet** groups. At age 12, Felix was a star at the Cancun Climate-Change Conference.



Meeting Felix in the flesh, it is initially hard to imagine quite how he has managed to beguile so many people for so long. There is nothing new in the facts and figures about climate change that he uses in his presentations. He is not a scientist. Get him off the topic and he sounds like any other child of his age. But start him on climate issues and a change overcomes him - he starts talking in the fluent, self-confident tones of the skilled public speaker. He writes his own speeches. Global warming, he intones, is caused by too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Trees capture this carbon dioxide. The answer to looming climate catastrophe: trees, lots of them.

What about the climate change skeptics? "We children discussed this often," he told delegates at the UN in New York in January. "We have an answer.

If we follow the scientists who tell us there is a crisis and we act, if in 20 years we find out that they were wrong, we didn't make any mistake. But if we follow the skeptics and in 20 years we find out that they were wrong, it will be too late to save our future."



"Adults," he cheekily told the assembled diplomats, "are like monkeys. If you let a monkey choose if he wants one banana now or six bananas later, he always chooses the one banana now. We children [have] understood we cannot trust that adults alone will save our future.

We have to take our future into our own hands."

Felix is a gifted orator, unfettered by self-doubt or by the complexity of the climate debate, and without the smug self-satisfaction that makes many overachieving children unbearable. He is all unaffected charm. Most of all, however, he has an ambition and instincts that are hard to characterize as anything other than political.

For example, 'we children' is a phrase that he uses again and again, so often that it becomes clear that, as with Maathai, he is interested in achieving the political empowerment of a disenfranchised group through environmental work. While Maathai championed the rights of women, Felix is determined that children should have a voice. His reasoning is straightforward: "For most adults the future seems to mean 20, 30 or even 40 years. But for us children, 2100 could still be in our lifetime. For adults it is an academic question if sea levels rise three centimeters or seven meters by the end of this century. But for we children, it is a question of survival."



**Plant for the Planet**

reminds us that the world is full of inspiring visions about the future and the children are leading ...

For example check out this YouTube of a m a z i n g 15-year-old Kelvin Doe

Memorial tree planted by the AZ Grandmothers in 2012 during our Gathering at Kenyon Ranch



from Sierra Leone, Africa <http://youtu.be/XOLOLrUBRBY>



FROM OUR READERS

Dear Margarita & Joanne,

I received the newsletter which had my Vultures story and was delighted with the illustrations. What a wonderful idea. And it was just as imaginative for Shirley's, as well as all through the publication. Creative grandmothers, you. I will be sending a check for the e-mail version. It is good to see how the Circles are doing across the country, as envisioned by Mary Diamond many years ago. I'm so glad you found me. Blessings to you both.



*Connie Spittler*



Margarita,

Muchas gracias for the incredibly beautiful and readable newsletter with its interesting stories! Rest assured I will be mailing out my subscription tomorrow. I love what you are doing with the Grandmothers Circle of News, and look forward to reading it and participating. I will also recommend it to my PeerSpirit Circle -- the Hummingbirds -- at our next monthly gathering. Cuidate mucho,



*Ruth Geraci*

Dear Margarita and Joanne,

With much pleasure I found the latest newsletter in my mailbox, and have just settled down to read it. I mean really read it. What a lovely collection of story,

writing, poetry and spirit. I was delighted to see my article in it; to be honest, I'd forgotten all about having sent it to B some time ago! I loved the one by Shirley T., dove into the one by Barbara Adams Mowat about Helen Luke, and appreciated your introductions to all of us who have not yet met you two.

Thank you for putting on the cloak that maintains the Center and keeps the Circle intact. I'm out here on the Rim, holding my space. (by the way, I've had much experience with Christina and Ann, 1994 - oh gosh, until when? The early 2000's sometime. I was in the Circle Collaborative with Kit Wilson for a few years.)

I love dear B Campbell for keeping the Newsletter going as long as -- and longer than -- she possibly could. Blessings on your heads,

you must be fine women.

*Edna C. Groves*



Dear Grandmothers,



Please take time to view this 40 seconds video I put together and SMILE! Please pass it along to other Grandmothers ! Click on this and enjoy!

<http://www.magisto.com/video/awJGYQRTQWIKDUVh?source=facebook>

*Blessings,  
Shayna Towah*



Dear Margarita and Joanne:  
Receiving this makes me happier than I can tell you, for I was afraid our Circle had unraveled!  
GOOD FOR YOU/US!

I'll look forward to your next issue,  
Thank you for taking it over.



*Joyfully,  
STAR STARSKEY*

Dear Margarita and Joanne,  
Thank you for all that you do to keep us Grandmothers connected; this is so meaningful to me.

I want to thank you for taking responsibility for this newsletter, which is a welcome and strengthening part of my nearly 81-year-old world. Thank you for giving your time, attention and expertise to what is a meaningful connection for me and for many other women.

I would like to express my Gratitude for the Grandmothers, for many of the women I've met over the years; for learning so much through Circle work, facilitators training, etc.

Although I have not attended a Gathering for 3 years due to physical mobility issues, there remains a strong -- yet sweet -- knowing of the value, wisdom and courage of many women; women willing to learn, to share, to explore, to adopt new ways of being.

Circle work and experience have taught me to really listen to others, and perhaps most importantly, to honor Spirit ... with others ... with a lighted candle. I learned from a Facilitator Training, over 14 years ago, how to respect others while we all move along in life and experience.

To this moment I am so grateful to know many women, some from Tucson -- some from other parts of the country -- who reside in my heart, my meditations, and my thinking when Life presents them to me. I am grateful for those women who have offered their time and

experience to and for the ongoing Grandmother Gatherings and for the ones that still do.

Know that your faces,  
your Spirits,  
add to my Life,  
now and always.  
Thank you,  
each one, for being You.



Joanne Reichlin

P.S: This prayer was given to me by a Grandmother, I don't remember who it was, some years ago; and I find myself either sharing it with others or using it myself and thereby would like to offer it to others:

**Aboriginal Morning Greeting**

Hello Divine Oneness.  
We stand here within you.  
We thank you for this day.  
We thank you for each other.  
I thank you for me.  
We dedicate our day to  
the honor and purpose of  
Oneness.  
We ask that everything we need  
be provided for ...  
We ask that everything  
we do today,  
say today,  
hear today  
be only in the highest good  
for all concerned,  
and in the highest good  
for all of life  
everywhere throughout  
the universe.



(TRAVELING TONGUE)  
(MARLO MORGAN TRANSLATOR)

Thank you for being,  
Margarita and Joanne:

"And it came to pass" that ... Marion and I received the printed in-color newsletter by land mail!" I phoned her yesterday and had a wonderful "circle" appreciating the "News" with heartfelt depth and truth.

In my understanding and life experience, the Story, Song and Symbol, are the clear vision and intention of any group. I appreciate the spirals in the Newsletter header. Virginia (original grandmother and Buddhist artist in the town nearby Pocket Sanctuary) drew the first spiral, with three parts: maiden, mother and crone.

When Kit and John transferred the newsletter editorship to me, Kit invited me to come stay with them and spend 3 days with the transfer ... a poignant, deep and as-calm-as-we-could-craft-it time for each of us.

I appreciated Kit and John's stamina; and experienced sorrow and joy when I "gave it up," and passed it on to B.



I especially celebrate the use of our wisdom words,



"WHEN THE GRANDMOTHERS SPEAK  
THE WORLD WILL HEAL"

Adding

"AND THIS IS WHAT OUR  
GRANDMOTHERS ARE SAYING"

is profoundly accurate in my sense of the movement of the Gatherings.

Stellar, having a PeerSpirit Circle column and how to connect with the skills. Would you be willing to have this be a "regular" column?

With a granddaughter, Zan, now 8 years old, I appreciate the Grandchildren's Section with the story/book/art and reflections by children!

The Quantum Activist article I will share with Camilla Blossom's son who is graduating high school in June and is

interested in computers and physics and on the robotic team going to state competition. I'll offer a Circle with him for us to explore the topic.

Camilla came with me to the Gitchigaaming Gathering and, she is supporting me in calling a Grandmothers Gathering here in the Columbia Gorge. Thank you for being, Joanne and Margarita (Greeting and parting introduced by Adelina at a COD Ranch, Arizona Gathering, when she was blessing us as she presented the bundle to us.)

Love, Light, and Delight ...  
Robbie Lapp



.....  
"This is the time  
to call the Grandmothers  
together in sacred circles.  
We elders  
hold the memory of the past and a  
clear vision of the future.  
Our experience reflects a change in  
consciousness that  
gives birth to a new paradigm.  
As midwives, we Grandmothers  
need to support our continued  
growth as responsible members of  
the human family.  
With sorrow we see that  
compassion and heart have been  
squeezed from our institutions.  
We are confronted with  
much pain and suffering.  
As we stand at the end of our lives,  
aware of death and  
new beginnings,  
our work is to heal and  
secure a future for our  
grandchildren."



.....  
From the meeting of the Grandmothers  
during the first Grandmothers Gathering  
at Mary Diamond's "Cielo en Tierra" in  
1994 as it appears in :  
A Gathering of Grandmothers,  
edited by Lynne Namka, Ed.D.  
.....



**PEER SPIRIT CIRCLE**

The Circle is an ancient form that has gathered people into respectful conversation and story sharing for thousands of years.

Christina Baldwin and Ann Linnea are group process pioneers who have designed a modern adaptation of circle that synthesizes the attributes of circle over time and across cultures.

*Peer Spirit* is named to honor the equality of voice and presence fostered by circle (*peers* at the rim), and the synergistic center that houses the purpose for meeting (the *spirit* of the group).

For more information go to:

[www.peerspirit.com](http://www.peerspirit.com)



**A TANGO OF METHODOLOGIES  
BY CRISTINA BALDWIN**

We have a handout we often use when introducing Circle to new folks: it shows a tree whose roots are marked "Circle" and whose branches illustrate the modern adaptations of this ancient social form.

We are more and more making sure in our training and consulting work that we introduce people to several of these circle-based methodologies, and we speak with excitement and hope about the uprising of "a global culture of conversation."

*welcoming sign*



In our recent time with Eileen Fisher company in NY, we used World Café with 70+ people to gather ideas between the company and the newly developing Eileen Fisher Community Foundation which focuses on leadership development for women and girls and promotes the understanding of ethical and collaborative business practices as a movement for social good. A great afternoon ... and it prompts me to write a bit about the adaptations we are experimenting with to enhance the harvest of the Café form.



In a World Café round, a table group of four participants addresses the question for (in this case) 25 minutes. Then one person volunteers to stay at the table and host the space, the others leave and look for a new match to seed the conversation widely throughout the room.



In October, I had done this with 120+ people at the Sage-ing International Conference and had the joy of having Juanita Brown and David Isaacs, designers of the World Café, in the room doing it with us. Early on, I overheard Juanita make a comment about looking at aging from a multi-generational perspective. Ninety minutes later, when we harvested the insights of the café, a variation of her comment showed up at 9 out of 24 tables. Discovering both diversity and cross-pollination is the genius of World Café.



You can also imagine that clearly capturing essential statements can be a challenge. People are talking, doodling, listening, and moving on with their excitement or interest...

How to build something coherent from the rounds and each table? Our current experiment is to place blank sheets at each table asking for ... **three essence statements** from each round.



So before a group disbands, they spend the last 5 minutes in a circle check-out process deciding what was most significant for them and writing it down. Then when 3 new people cluster for the next round, the host has talking points, so do all the new voices at the table.



This seems such a little adjustment, but we have found it immensely helpful in focusing the harvest of the conversation. The bigger the group, the more this is needed.



*Posted*  
by Christina in her Blog at  
*Peerspirit Circle Tale,*  
Feb. 28/2013

**THE ARIZONA COUNCIL OF GRANDMOTHERS**

Would like to thank you for your contributions to this newsletter.

Please send your letters, stories, poems, photographs, artwork and news to:

**GRANDMOTHERS CIRCLE OF NEWS**  
Margarita Acosta and Joanne Weiner  
[cochisestronghold@gmail.com](mailto:cochisestronghold@gmail.com)  
or P.O. Box 808, Pearce, AZ 85625

# NEWS FROM GRANDMOTHERS COUNCIL GATHERINGS

## Dream Weavers

### Council of Grandmothers Gathering

2013, Tucson, AZ

Nonine Anderson

[coachcwa@yahoo.com](mailto:coachcwa@yahoo.com)



The Gathering will be held at Picture Rocks Retreat Center 7101 W. Picture Rocks Road, Tucson, AZ May 24 through May 27, 2013

If you have questions, please call Nonine Anderson at 520-888-1762.

## The Gulf Coast Grandmothers Gathering Alabama, 2013

By Ruth Geraci

In February, 48 women gathered at Camp Beckwith on the shore of Weeks Bay in Fairhope, Alabama. Our intention was to acknowledge, honor and perpetuate for the next seven generations our sacred connection with each other and with Mother Earth. The theme of this Gathering of Grandmothers was:

**“The Power of the Stories We Tell and ... How Will They Be Retold?”**

During the four-day weekend, Grandmothers from the four compass points of the U.S. sat in small circles each day sharing their personal stories. Using Christina Baldwin’s PeerSpirit Process the Grandmothers responded to questions based on readings from The Wizard of Us by Jean Houston.

We also had workshops on crafts, storytelling, and sound/spirit. There was an evening Fire Ceremony and an Elder Ceremony, where women who had arrived at the wise age of 70 were croned and honored.

The Giveaway Ceremony provided us with the opportunity to practice non-attachment; while the Céilidh included skits, readings, music and much laughter.

The weekend provided opportunities to rest, relax, meditate, enjoy local food, commune with nature, and connect with one another.

Our next year’s Gathering will be held in the same location March 19-23, 2014.

To receive information when it becomes available, send a request to [uuruthg@gulftel.com](mailto:uuruthg@gulftel.com)

## 2013 Grandmothers Gathering for Gitchigaaming (Lake Superior)

Lorraine Norrgard sent us this wonderful invitation:



August 15-18, Madeline Island, WI



[www.grandmothersgathering.org](http://www.grandmothersgathering.org)

“Grandmother” is a fondness term for all women over 50. Younger women are welcome also!

### The Call:

GRANDMOTHERS, IT IS TIME TO GATHER!



The women, as “keepers of the waters,” are gathering at Moningwanekaaning-minis (Madeline Island)

August 15-18,

Thursday-Sunday!

Won't you come with us to this sacred Island in the largest lake on Earth that holds 10% of the world's fresh water- Gitchigaaming (Lake Superior)?

She will benefit from our prayers and be influenced by our gifts of appreciation. We are gathering on Madeline Island for her, won't you come?



There is an indigenous saying,

“WE ARE THE ONES WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR!”

**Grandmothers, it is time to speak:** Gitchigaaming (Lake Superior) is listening. It is time for YOU to speak your prayers, time to sing your songs, time to give your gifts,

Recently we received a letter from Nonine, thanking us for the Newsletter and also sharing a little bit about their Gathering ...

“... When we had our first Council in Mead, Oklahoma in 2006, there were four of us honoring the directions: Reecie, Terry, Caroline, and me. It was important to us not to, in any way, seed a Gathering that took our consciousness from spiritual growth.

That has made our Council somewhat different - no drinking, very limited space for smoking, and no parties. We have taken a couple of hits down through the years but, as a result we’ve learned about the Mayan Calendar, the amazing power of the Crystal Skulls, a lost civilization in the Andes, our Solar System’s Council of Planets and how and why we are here -- to name just a few things that have changed our perspective of life.

Last year at our retreat we had five indigenous tribes represented: Navajo, Ute, Sioux, Choctaw and Cherokee. This year we are looking into our *Seeds of Perfection* and examining our *Conclusion*.

Thank you again, Nonine



DREAMS are the way Tomorrows talk to Today ... and Yesterdays correct their mistakes



and time to hold the vision of a clean, healthy Gitchigaaming (Lake Superior) for the future generations. Your prayers, songs, ceremonies, and visioning will impact the Lake.

**Grandmothers, it is time to join together:**

WE ask that YOU, women of all four directions, from near or distant lands ... all nations, all beliefs, all races, all backgrounds ... come together as ONE to strengthen our prayers, to expand the beauty of all our gifts, and to amplify the voice of our songs of appreciation for the health of this Great Lake, Gitchigaaming, together.

Grandmothers ... We are the ones we've been waiting for, who must come together now, to remember and acknowledge the spirit of Lake Superior, to love her as she loves us, to encourage the voices of the elder women to speak, pray, and ...

GIVE THANKS TOGETHER FOR THIS AMAZING LAKE AND FOR ALL WATER.

**It is Time! Please come!**



At the Gulf Coast Grandmothers Gathering in Alabama, 2013, Margaret Gordon (AL) receives the purple shawl representing her crone status from Elder Grandmother Verlie Barton (NM), as Sharon Svejda (MI) looks on.



Grandmothers Gathering for Gitchigaaming ... We Love Water and Each Other... For We Are Water!

**ARIZONA COUNCIL OF GRANDMOTHERS GATHERING**

20th Annual Gathering  
October 17th - 20th, 2013  
Kenyon Ranch, Tumacacori, AZ



Our Theme:  
**Presence in the Present is the Present**



WHEN  
THE GRANDMOTHERS SPEAK,  
THE WORLD WILL HEAL

**Contact:**

Judith Bobbitt, Weaver, at  
(520) 575-0802 or  
e-mail [jmbobbitt@comcast.net](mailto:jmbobbitt@comcast.net)

Irene Walden, Registrar, at  
(520) 795-0400 or e-mail  
[iwalden@cox.net](mailto:iwalden@cox.net)

Please put **2013 GM** or  
**2013 GM Gathering**  
in the subject line of your e-mails.

**POETIC CORNER**

**FEATHERS ON OUR DOORSTEP**

by Pam Ballingham

What is this wind  
living beneath our stories  
that sings us into being  
and does not begin with  
once upon a time  
or end with amen?



What is this wind  
that keeps us alive  
and whispers the Muse,  
stirs the Chi  
and holds us up,  
breathing us forward  
though mostly  
we have forgotten

except Raven  
who remembers and  
Mockingbird  
who tells the naked truth  
just before first light.



What is this wind  
that slips  
between our lines  
like incense to dream us  
painting the canvas and  
writing the poem,  
birthing our children  
and setting us free,  
winging us thru  
the dross  
leaving feathers  
on our doorstep?

**At 13, I Walk on Eggshells**

by Susan Taylor Brown

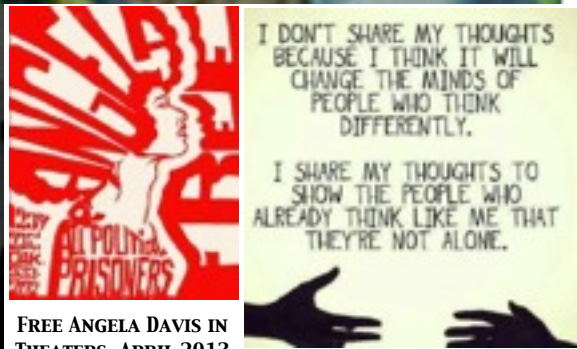
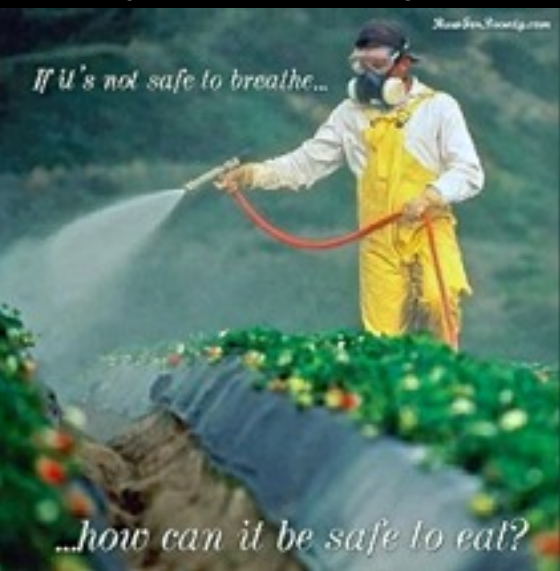
More than the way your hands  
paint bruises the world can't see  
I fear your words,  
and the way they tattoo themselves  
in my brain  
creating a chorus of put-downs that  
play in an endless loop,  
reminding me of all I am not,  
in your eyes.



Your words are my only gift from you and  
I carry them close,  
like the most precious of jewels.  
I can't help myself.

In this house, non-confrontational  
is just another word for survival.





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c/o Margarita Acosta  
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