

Circle of Grandmothers

Volume 9

Number 1

March 2003

Wisdom from the Council of Elders

Each year at the Grandmother Gatherings in Arizona and the Gulf Shores one of the highlights of the gathering is the Elder Circle. This is the time when the younger women who are present seek the wisdom of the "Elders", the women who have attained the age of 70 or older. At this time, when there is so much pain in our country and our world, it seemed appropriate to offer to our readers who were not present, some of the reflections of the 2002 and 2003 Councils of Elders. The women responding to the questions ranged from age 70 to age 88. There were 15 women in the Arizona Elder Circle and 6 in the Gulf Shores Elder Circle. Here are some of their words. Ed.

Question: What sustains you through loss?

"I've had lots of loss: people, my own faculties, even loss of myself. It's scary, unknown. You wonder what's next."

"I dwell on what I can gain, not what I have lost. Keep trying. Keep in mind your gains."

"Life is like a bowl of cherries. The sweet things in life are loaned. So how can you lose what you never had owned?"

"Create and have fun. Accept mystery."

"I wrote my obituary. It was fun!"

"Laughter is the best thing. I will laugh even if it is not funny. Keep busy while laughing."

"Cry it out. Accept the double entries of gain and loss. Accept grief."

"Scream, curse, watch sad movies and cry. I have a huge curiosity about the process."

"Trust divine order. Focus on what I can do."

"Get it off my chest so I can move on. I wept three days over my dog's death."

"My loved ones are on to something better. Nothing is lost, just misplaced."

"Denial helps! We never lose our capacity to love."

"My daughter and my friends sustain me. Be here now."

"Take a deep seat. Just love, love, love, love, love so you have no regrets."

Question: Could you share an experience that was a deep connection with spirit, a bright spot in your life?

"In an emotional foxhole, I invited God to be with me. A time of exquisite anguish. If prayers don't help, try tears."

"There has not been a big one. A lot of little ones each day."

"A rush of wind, a sense of protection."

"When I was 9, I crawled into my closet and had a direct talk with God. I have felt safe ever since then."

Request: Please share with us a wisdom or personal truth.

"I am an ENTJ and tend to be critical. Be positive. Look for the good. Minimize the negative. Everything will be okay."

"Do all things with love."

"Life is in Divine Order."

"Take personal responsibility. Don't take life too seriously. Be like Abe Lincoln who said people are about as happy as they decide to be."

"I ask myself three questions—Is it kind? Is it true? Is it necessary?—before I speak to another. It has to be all three or I shut up."



"Live, love, laugh. Find someone or something to love."

"All I put into the lives of others comes back to me."

"I have had a long life so I could learn to love."

"Everyone is deeply flawed and magnificent. You can't love unless you know the flaw as well. In my family, we have a saying, 'The supply of my advice always exceeds the demand'."

"Show up at the Council of Grandmothers. Get the newsletter."

"Speak one's truth, not just go along in life."

"I remind myself that at this moment, I am feeling a certain way and I take responsibility for it. This frees me to know whether to express a negative feeling or not."

"Be positive."

"Nobody can tell you about your aging. Be aware of your own life. There is sweetness at the bottom of an unstirred cup."

"Teach your kids to speak the truth. And if you can't do that, be aware of what they are saying to you."

Question: What knowing/doing/being keeps you healthy, nurtured and spiritually alive?

"Knowing that I am a child of God."

"Oneness with God and self. Praying unceasingly every day. Centering all of the time. Being careful of thoughts, words, and deeds."

"Exercising, lifting weights, and walking. Being by the water."

Wisdom cont'd on page 6

When the Grandmothers speak, the world will heal.

Reflections on the Fourth Gulf Coast Council of Grandmothers

by Robbie Lapp

This fourth gathering offered many firsts and although life and the councils are not a contest, this one did seem right fine as is expressed locally to note high praise. The full moon of February, 2003 found forty-four women sitting in circle for 4 days and three night in Alabama. The day of the full moon we were joined by ten more grandmothers who were able to spend one day with us. Many were returning from previous councils.

For the first time we invited these "day trippers" to join our ongoing small circles for the first session and be a part of them as they journeyed on and we sat for the next three days. The


facilitators of circles broadened their ranks by including one in Michigan for the year and one from Illinois the week of the council as we grew from four to needing five small circles.

Three sets of mothers and daughters were present. Our youngest grandmother in training led the ceremony of the giveaway circle, passing on our Gulf Coast tradition to all who participated. Many requested that the story and the way of the giveaway be available to all who want it.

This was our first year with color as a part of our theme. We acquired this practice from the Arizona gathering. Red and purple blessed us with there

presence in clothing, printing and decor as we explored and experienced Women's Ways of Wisdom.

At the rising of the full moon, we processed around an altar circle center created of items from the Isle of Iona, Scotland Women's Circlers of September 2002. For five minutes we listened as bard Fiona's harp music played and then stood in silence to deepen, spread and connect circle on our planet.

Next year our fifth council will be February 6-10 with four nights and five days. Weaver of the 2003 council Judy McKee will be co-weaver and Melva Mellinger will be weaver. 

Editors Corner

Last Sunday was a windy, chilly day in Phoenix Arizona, thunder showers rolling in from the west every hour or so. At seven o'clock, just as the dark descended over our desert city, I stood, with over a hundred other Americans, joining millions of men, women, and children across the city, the country, and the globe in a final, prayerful vigil for peace. We turned to each other, stranger to stranger, tenderly shielding our wildly flickering flames, relighting candles blown out by the wind, silent and gentle with one another as we let our eyes meet, struggling to keep candles and hope burning in the unwelcoming night.

Now, one week later, I turn on CNN to "watch the war" (just the phrase seems the ultimate insanity). On the monitor is another desert city, 10 time zones away, flames shooting skyward into the night. And, for me, amidst my sadness for the innocents experiencing that terror, there is some comfort in remembering the good people who left the warmth of their homes last week and came to stand on a street

and pray for peace. I guess we did what we could.

Still, one would think that having attained the age of 75 I would be less confused by this turmoil, more able to come up with some wise words, some clarity about what, in fact, is the "right" thing to do. My position, since the end of World War II, has been, and remains, strongly pro Peace and anti War. And yet, I lived through that war. I know we all wore blinders while Hitler built the infrastructure and proceeded with the holocaust. How many lives would have been saved by acting sooner and with more force?

When I start that kind of second guessing I go back to my "troublesome times agenda": I send out as much love as I can. "Love those in front of you", as my friend Christina Baldwin says. And then let the ripples spread. I pray. I do at least 15 minutes of activism a week, usually following the suggestions of moveon.org. And I try to "practice peace".

Meanwhile, at our house, the remodeling continues. It's interesting to see how living in rubble and chaos

makes me feel closer to the chaos in the world. However, a few things have begun to come together. And as we all know, that's as it should be. As I always tell my clients, chaos precedes integration. Meanwhile John lives at his girl friend's house. I am living and working in his new bedroom. And Shadow, Jacob, and Keeper are in varying stages of "freaked." I'll keep you posted.

This issue of the Newsletter is lacking in News. Too much Kit Wilson. Too little from the rest of you. So please: send personal stories, feature articles, reflections on life, death, and the state of the world, poetry, recipes, book reviews. Remember. This is your Newsletter.

John and I love you all. 

The **Circle of Grandmothers** Newsletter is a labor of love published four to six times per year. Subscriptions are \$15 for a January to December year (simplifies bookkeeping).

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When the Grandmothers speak, the world will heal.

Heartland Updates

By Marti Beddoe

Dear Grandmothers

This message is to share with you news of our gathering and to thank you for your continuing support and prayers.

On January 17, six grandmothers met in the Parlor of the Loretto Center from 10 until noon. In the circle's center was a lovely sculpture of 7 women in a circle around a purple candle plus the orange candle from the Arizona Council and the bottle of bay water from the Alabama Council. Sitting at the rim of the circle were Julie Haverty, Edna Groves, Sr. Arlene Ashack, Anne Marie Crowe, Sis Kiel and me. At our backs were each of you and the spirits of our sisters around the world!

We opened with a meditation and prayer led by Julie. Then we read the messages of support sent by Katherine Lohr, Virginia Schwabel, Paula Olch, Betsey McIntyre, Judy O'Leary, Ilse Swihart, Kathie Murtey, Nancy Masland, Terry Bourne, Penney Baker and Bethany. After that, Grandmother wisdom was clearly invoked!

We reviewed PeerSpirit principles, practices and agreements and quickly moved into council sharing. We had three rounds of questions including:

What called you here today?

What are you longing for at this time in your life?

What do you know of the Council of Grandmothers and what about it inspires you?

What gifts do you envision offering and receiving the Council?

Now what?

As usual the container of the circle allowed for a deep and meaningful connection. One woman said she wanted to be with seekers and dreamers and if our circle was anything like the CofG, she was willing to take the next step. We agreed that the next step is to continue our conversation about what is calling us at this time and how we envision the Heartland Council of Grandmothers. We will gather again on March 6 at the same time and place and bring other women if we can. I will send you an update then.

Two things are clear to me: The Heartland Council of Grandmothers was

called into being with that circle; and that the women who will create it are being gathered in by Spirit's calls.

Next week, Julie and I journey to the Gulf Coast gathering. I am excited to continue my learnings and to meet more grandmothers!

Thank you for your wise guidance and your loving support! It made all the difference!

My fondest regards,
Marti

Dear Grandmothers,

Thank you for the prayers you have sent and the candles you have lit for the birthing of the Heartland Council of Grandmothers (HCGM). We acknowledge Spirit's guidance and appreciate each and every woman who is loving us into existence!

On March 6 for two hours, seven women gathered at Loretto Center for the second circle to discuss forming the HCGM. In addition to Julie Haverty, Arlene Ashack and me, new to the rim of our circle were Penny Baker and Jeanie Frattallone of Paw Paw, MI; Jean Okroi of Orland Park, IL; and Robbie Lapp of Pensacola, FL. Absent and there in spirit were Anne Marie Crowe, Sis Kiel and Edna Groves.

The intention of the circle was to raise and answer questions about creating the HCGM and to agree on next steps. We each offered a question and then agreed to speak on "What meaning do you make of the saying 'When the Grandmothers Speak, the World will Heal'?" Though we felt quite pressed for time, the council sharing was rich, deep and wise. Several women spoke about the importance of the council being an experience beyond our own personal growth, that we give some form of healing to others. It is clear that each woman is giving careful thought to envisioning this council and her contribution and commitment to it. Arlene said she wanted to keep meeting until an "Aha" moment occurred for her. That resonated with each of us.

As for me, I will continue to gather women to this circle to envision the Heartland Council of Grandmothers until we have 8-12 strong women who

feel strongly called to participate in its creation.

We agreed to continue our reflection at Jean's home on May 2 from 10 a.m. until 2:00, bringing a bag lunch. This will give us more time in council together and shorten the trip for Penny and Jeanie. We also agreed to invite other women to join us. Julie and I will facilitate and will work on refining our circle practices while keeping the process welcoming and inclusive of newcomers. We closed the circle by singing Terry Bourne's beautiful Grandmother Song.

I am grateful to each of you for your loving support and wise counsel. My love and heartfelt prayers for peace on earth go out to you,

Marti

When the grandmothers speak, the world will heal.



News of a Celebration in Idaho

From Megan Garcia Grey Wolf in Colorado and Rose Poulin in McCall Idaho comes news of another gathering which Megan says "continues to bring forth Mary Diamond's vision of saying "Yes" and working to heal "our part of the earth". In part the brochure reads:

Wise Woman Celebration To Sing the Dream Awake

June 10 through June 15, 2003

The University of Idaho Field Campus on Payette Lake, McCall, ID

Cost \$300: Includes lodging in rustic log cabins in an old growth pine forest and 3 family style meals a day.

The Celebration highlights a "friends night out", Ya Ya Sisterhood Movie, a day at the Hot Springs, a walk to Crystal Mountain, a performance of the play Mother Wove the Morning, and various rituals and ceremonies. There will be opportunity to "create your own experience".

For a full brochure or further information contact:

Rose Poulin: 208 634-3918 or Megan Grey Wolf: 970 249-6247 (after May 15th)



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Profiles in Living — A Look in the Grandmother Mirror

The fifth in a series of profiles of the women who were part of the first Council of Grandmothers. *Compiled by Joanne Reichlin.*

An Interview with Kit Wilson

Question: Tell us when and where you were born and a little bit about your family.

Kit Wilson: Born Mary Ellen Dimelow, August 24th, 1928 in York, Pennsylvania. My father was the youngest of six children and the only one not born in England. He taught me about roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, good literature, and the importance of values. My mother was the second youngest of six children in a tight-knit Pennsylvania Dutch family. She taught me to appreciate beauty, love sauerkraut and mashed potatoes and about the importance of friends. My maternal Grandfather was a Lock and Gunsmith. He was a typical "Papa-Is-All" patriarch who demanded that his children be present for Sunday dinner. And so we were. Every Sunday. I was an only child and the only child at the Sunday gatherings. I got lots of dollar bills from the aunts and uncles, read the funnies and heard all about what was wrong (or right, depending on what Party was in the White House) with the way things were going in our country.

Q: What have you done in your life that has been important to you: work, profession, hobbies, and spiritual pursuits?

KW: I've loved living. (Most of the time.) Growing up in a small city, college the first time, 25 years of marriage and raising kids, small town New England politics, bridge, living in a log cabin in the woods, an old farm house, a villa on the Bay of Naples, VW bugs, VW buses, 10 summers taking young adults on camping tours of Europe, developing alcoholism, recovery and AA, working as a sales rep for KLM, divorcing, college the second time, the Women's Movement, feminism, working in a bookstore, working in a psychiatric day treatment center, living in a tiny apartment across

the street from Marty's Adult World, social work, psychotherapy, psychodrama, moving to Phoenix, the cabin in Oak Creek Canyon, transpersonal psychology, holotropic breathwork, hospital work, private practice, conscious aging, hospice work, Phoenix and helping to build a neighborhood, the Grandmother network, the Newsletter. Etc. Woven into this tapestry a lifetime of spiritual questioning and searching and incredibly rich relationships.

Q: How did you meet Mary Diamond and attend the first Gathering?



KW: I had been looking at our American emphasis on youth and didn't like what I saw. Particularly how the normal signs of aging affected women's self esteem, what women were doing to "stay young", and the lack of respect for elders. Meanwhile I was 65 and was getting long term care ads in the mail. So I started investigating alternative ways to do aging. I went to a conscious aging conference in Connecti-

cut and began actively seeking women my age who were spiritually oriented, shared my values about the earth and cultural diversity, and who were into getting older. A friend of mine mentioned me to Mary, I ended up on her list, and as soon as I got the invitation I knew I had to be at Cielo.

Q: Since you are one of the "original" Grandmothers, do you think our intention has changed through the years?

KW: Mary was an incredible networker and as I understood her vision it was to create a web of older women who would come together and respond to the native

American teaching "When the Grandmothers speak the world (or the earth) will heal". At that first gathering the 16 of us met in a council circle every afternoon. We composed a letter to President Clinton expressing our specific concerns and created a poem to go with the letter. It was an extraordinarily powerful time. Probably each of us came away with a slightly different idea about what was to happen next. My understanding was that for 7 years we would meet at the full moon in October, and that Mary hoped each of us would return home and start circles of elder women. (I know I took that as a mandate and called a circle here in Phoenix with my friend Jo Norris. That circle still meets monthly.) As to the gathering, each year is a

different mix of women, many old faces, and some new. What happens depends largely on the ingredients in the soup - who shows up for the yearlong task of planning and orchestrating the gathering and who comes to participate. However, I think Mary's dream was that what she created would grow and would make a contribution - for elder women and for the earth. I feel we are, at least in some part, individually and collectively, fulfilling

Kit con't on page 5

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New Books by Grandmothers

that dream. And the most exciting thing is that the Arizona Gathering has seeded an annual Gathering on the Gulf Coast and now, I understand, there will soon be one in the mid-west, headed by Marti Beddoe and friends of Sr. Virginia. Also, one may be seeding in Oregon.

Q: What can you tell us about your life and your world at this time in your life?

KW: I still love being old, although some of the lessons, particularly the physical ones, aren't totally to my liking. And my involvement with all of you Grandmothers has helped make this part of my life rich to the point of bursting.

Q: Speaking out of your own wisdom, what would you like to tell your grandchildren?

KW: Show up for life. It's the only game in town. And love the people in front of you. Don't be afraid to be who you are.



The Landscape Of Light, A Book Of Poems

by Robbie Lapp is a collection of poems of the sands of the seashore, lake and desert. Many were inspired and written at grandmother councils. The colorful cover collage and first poem were created at The Palettes and Pens: The Creative Healers Within Workshop. Christina Baldwin's Self as the Source of the Story writing week spawned another poem and fuller meanings for much of Robbie's writings. Published many times in The Circle of Grandmothers and other places, this is her first volume of her poems. A second book with lake poems by Robbie and photographs by her daughter Cynthia is in process.

The Landscape Of Light is available by mail. Send \$15.00 to Robbie Lapp,

17119 Perdido Key Drive, Pensacola FL 32507

Judy Moore's new book **Song Of Freedom, My Journey From The Abyss** is a powerful narrative of her "spiritual journey from the depths of covert government mind control experiments to the height of healing and awakening." Judy's poetry, drawings and photography grace the book with beauty and reality. Working through the fear with the strength of love, Judy's sharing of her life experience gives new meaning to the word freedom.

Song of Freedom is available for \$24.95 through Judy's website, www.cropcirclesrevealed.com



\$ \$

Scholarship: "A financial award to someone seeking to pursue her studies, usually as the result of a competitive examination" Webster's Dictionary.

And to the Council of Grandmothers, Scholarship offers the possibility for financially challenged women to attend the **Tenth** Annual Gathering, in Amado, Arizona October 8-12, 2003.

As long as I have been keeping records, about 7 years now, I know that, on average, we have requests for financial assistance from up to 25% of the women attending, 8-15 Grandmothers each year. Contrary to Webster's definition, there is **no** competitive exam. The Council has followed Mary Diamonds' belief, that women will come who need to be there and that spirit will provide.

In the first years of the Gathering, scholarships were connected to service—an exchange of value. Although this was helpful to the scholarship recipients, it wasn't totally satisfactory. There wasn't much service work to do at the gathering except help with the meal preparation, serving and cleanup. This was difficult for the women involved. They were pulled away from workshops, activities, and private time to work in the kitchen an

hour before and after meals. There were women physically incapable of doing the work. Other women were unable to complete what they were participating in, sometimes even missed getting what they came to the Council to give and receive.

In re-evaluating this practice and reviewing the intention of the Council (to honor and recognize elders) connecting scholarship with service no longer seemed like a good match. We moved then to hiring two "younguns", to assist in the kitchen. From then on, all that Scholarship applicants needed to do was register for the Gathering and ask for financial assistance. The key word here is **registration**. That is all that needs to be done. Financial assistance requests are forwarded to the scholarship circle and contributions are stretched as far as possible.

Mary's thinking, supported by the Planning, Facilitators, and Scholarship Circles is to trust that those who need will ask and spirit will provide. For those who have worked on the Gatherings and for those who have given and received financially, there have been times of challenge. Sometimes there didn't seem to be enough money to go around and

then someone would appear with another gift. Once or twice a scholarship recipient found she couldn't attend, which left funds for another applicant. Sometimes when scholarship funds were short the individual received money from another source. It continues to be a challenge which is why I'm writing to you now.

The financial generosity of you women who read our newsletter and/or attend the Arizona Gatherings, has provided many women over the past 9 years an experience of more than a financial reward.

Contributions to Scholarship are thankfully appreciated and can may be made to:

Council of Grandmothers
c/o Trina Mickells
9801 E. Vista Montanas,
Tucson, AZ 85749.

I send you blessings and will see you in Arizona

(judy)
Judy O'Leary
Meridian, Idaho
gmccouncil@aol.com



When the Grandmothers speak, the world will heal.

Wisdom con't from page 1

“Laughing and loving people-and people loving me back. Being grateful.”

“Being curious all of the time. I know that I can get away with things from strangers that I might not have when I was younger.

“No matter where I am, I keep a smile on my face.”

Question: What do you wish you had known sooner?

“Knowing that I could rely on myself, my friends, and my Heavenly Father.”

“Knowing that I have my own mystery and enjoying the mystery of others.”

“Knowing that a person can be who they are and be comfortable with it.”

“I wish I had known that I didn't have to fix everything.”

“That I am Divine and you also are Divine.”

“How to love myself. I am still learning.”

Question: What is your wisdom about claiming an identity you have not before embraced?

“That is a hard question, because I've been an actress since age 18 and I can act out all of my identities.”

“Reinventing ourselves. Go for it, but be willing to pay the price.”

“I tried to be dignified, but that didn't work, so I finally decided to be myself.”

“Later in life, I ran off with a man and lived in Gulf Shores.”

“I've had many roles, most recently a widow, but I'm still me. You don't throw away your old self to assume a new one.”

“To assume a new self, you don't throw away the old one, you just show different aspects of your being.”

Question: What is the best/worst advice you ever got about sex?

“The worst advice came from my mother who said-Don't do it if you don't have to/kissing is just swapping spit. I didn't listen. The best advice is-be careful!”

“The advice I got was the best and the worst - once you start having sex, you'll want more. I didn't get much more because no one talked about it. I got most of my information from Life Magazine in

the 1930's. It showed childbirth.”

“Are you supposed to enjoy it? Yes!”

“Best and worst-you have to get married because it's so great.”

“I never got advice because no one talked about it. But I had four children, so I guess I learned by experience.”

“Sex was disgusting and awful because I was raped at age 13. It is not good if you don't want it.”

Question: What role has humor played in your life?

“Everything. Self-defense. What would I do without it? I find it everywhere.”

“Just look at the Dalai Lama. God gives joy. Have and give happiness to others.”

“It is my main purpose in life!”

“I like the quote that says, you grow up the day you can laugh at yourself.”

“Humor can get you through tense times.”

“Humor and laughter can be used as self-defense.”

Question: How do you deal with losses (people, things, physical capacities, etc.) at this time in you life? Was this always your way of coping?

“Dealing with the loss of a person is totally different than losing a thing-a breast, or a uterus. I sought counseling. Losing a person creates a huge void that can never be filled. I rejoice that my husband is out of pain. Although I still grieve for him I know that grief is selfish.”

“I don't do it well. Had lots of losses in my early life. I sealed off parts of myself and went into denial. I formed attachments to a place. Recovery came when I recognized my feelings. I opened doors to self that I had shut off. I became more philosophical.”

“I've buried 3 husbands (some of them I even miss). I was blessed with strength and a good support system. I understand that loss is a part of life. When I released my grief and turned it over to God, He gave me back more than I could ever have asked for.”

“Losses are an on going part of life. They go on and on like waves on the ocean. You feel like you can't get a breath. You can't get out. After awhile, it doesn't hurt so much. It's part of life. Be aware,

but don't dwell on them.”

“Things don't matter, people do. It doesn't get any easier. I am the last one on the vine in my family.”

“I don't believe in loss. I lost Trust at age 13, but I learned to be responsible for me. I accept that we are all one spirit, so you're already in me. I allow family loss to be. Things go back to the maker. I don't mourn. I don't have much to lose. I handle my life myself, with acceptance. Be happy with who IS here. You never really lose them. They are here. I can find you anytime I wish. I can feel their Presence. We can be closer when they are gone, closer to Divine Spirit.”

Question: What do you treasure most about growing older?

“We get away with a lot more. I didn't like my teen years. I've grown spiritually and I even read a book on physics and understood it.”

“I had a lot of catching up to do. Life is continual unfoldings and full of new experiences. It's not what I thought it would be. In this time there are so many opportunities.”

“I treasure my health and feeling no pain (only an occasional spell of bad disposition). I plan to live to be 120 years old.”

“Aging is about freedom. I don't have to take care of anyone else. I never knew before just what birds do. Now I'm much more aware and grateful for new experiences with things I didn't notice before.”

“There are always new things to learn. Aging is not for sissies! I have learned to be alone. My body doesn't always cooperate with my mind.”

“I don't think of age. I can restore trust in God. I can live as long as I chose. I rely on myself. Freedom to think and rely on power that I know is there.”

Question: Can you help us know how to bring peace in the world?

“I think we are headed for one of the worst messes ever. It would take Divine Intervention and a miracle to bring the world leaders together, but I don't see the super egos really giving in. War won't change anything. There are so many cultures and everyone thinks that theirs is right. I'm very concerned because I

Wisdom con't on page 7

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Wisdom con't from page 6

have an 18-year-old grandson. They should fight with Bic pens.”

“We sing ‘Let There Be Peace On Earth,’ but road rage is the reality. I don’t feel very optimistic.”

“We can only control ourselves. We must continue to find peace within ourselves and pray that it will spill out to others.”

“I don’t think there will ever be peace on earth. We don’t work very hard to change things. We need to call congressmen and senators or march for peace.”

“Unfortunately, we humans seem to be warlike creatures. The idea of killing anyone is a terrible thing.”

“There is no one answer. We’re each responsible for our own peace. In the beginning was the Word. What we put out is what we get back.”

Question: What is silence?

“Accept that I live alone and don’t talk to myself. I love friends that I can enjoy without constant chatter. The biggest detriment to silence is the media.”

“Silence is powerful in that it is an opportunity for Divine Intervention.”

“I just know that I don’t have it yet.”

“It is peace and listening.”

“Silence is not only shutting our mouths, but stopping the ego mind. It is the journey to Divine Mind. We only meet God in silence. If we could get in silence, we could hear the answers. If you stay still long enough, you’ll know God when He speaks. It’s the only way to find the way back to the Source, back to the beginning. When silent enough, we can sound only primal sound. We will hear and know and be at peace. All men-brothers-sisters. There’s only one problem, the one sin is separation. In silence we realize there is only one world, one sun, one moon, one path, one people. Silence is the Way. It can raise our consciousness to God and we will know peace.”



Para Sailing

*By Nancy Masland
Puerto Vallarta, December ‘02*

A swarthy, bare-chested, scarred, long-haired native declared: “You are my first customer, all the others are too scared. Are you? The hard part is the ending.” (In life, it always is, I think)

“Take nothing with you, bare feet is best. When I blow the whistle twice, and wave the red shirt, Pull hard with your left hand over your left shoulder, if you don’t, you’ll land in the water.”

(What if I can’t pull? I think of my neck operation and wonder. Well, the ocean is warmer than the pool I was in this morning, and I really don’t want to crash into that blue tower anyway. But what about the Bobcat earthmover right in front of me removing the remains of Hurricane Kenna? Oh well, ‘que sera sera.’)

“Remember, pull hard or you’ll land in the water; use both hands if you have too. Now lift your feet high and put them in this harness, hold on to the straps above you, run a few steps, maybe more, when I tell you, sit down.”

(I am thinking that Wilma would not be able to do this, and I am sad, as she was the one who suggested it.)

No time to think, the rope plays out as the boat guns away, and suddenly I am up, up and away, in total silence; AWESOME- I am over the gulls, the frigate birds, the beach, the resorts, in utter QUIET. Left behind is the raucous loudspeaker by the pool, the roar of the bobcat, the devastation and restoration, everything. I can see privacy shattered by collapsed walls, cranes building anew, children swimming- History and hope. Power of water and air overwhelm me. Exhilarated, I wave both arms and feet cautiously. I wonder if I will hear the whistle, and then I do. I need both hands, and am pulled out of my seat as I swing in toward the blue tower. I decide not to pull anymore, look down and see a red shirt waving urgently and the signal to keep pulling; so-o-o I tentatively

Words from the Weaver

By Trina Mikells, Weaver

**2003 Arizona Council of Grandmothers
10th Anniversary Celebration
Grandmothers Gathering at Rex Ranch
October 8 through 12, 2003**

This will be our third year at the lovely rustic and spiritual Rex Ranch outside of Tucson, AZ.

A dynamic group of Grandmothers have volunteered to be part of the Planning Circle this year. The group consists of some “old faithfuls” and several new women who bring fresh ideas to the planning process. Working with me to weave an exciting tapestry of events are Judy Atwell, Jackie Blue, Marion Sinclair, Virginia Schwabel, Judith Toone, Marie Turano, and Kit Wilson. We are backed by the wisdom and support of the Facilitators Circle: Bobbie, Goodman, Paula Olch, Barrie Ryan, Marion Sinclair, Marie Turano, Clare, Ilse Swihart and Kit Wilson. The “Facilitators” also meet monthly, provide occasional input to the “Planners” and hone their skills as Circle practitioners and small circle facilitators at the Gathering. This group has also traditionally orchestrated the three large circles when we meet in October.

Our plan is to make this 10th Anniversary a particularly festive coming together. Be sure to put the dates on your calendar now and begin to make your plans for attending.

As always, the Gathering will be limited to 50 women. Look for the Registration Forms in your June Council of Grandmothers Newsletter. When yours comes be among the first to reserve your space. See you there!



do, but see the bobcat right in my path, I close my eyes, feel hands on my straps, feet in sands, and I am back, safe, grateful, and uplifted...ready to be stiff tomorrow. Scared? Naw, not me.



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