



Welcome to the second edition of our Circle Connections Quarterly Member Newsletter. **CONNECT!** is published on the first of March, June, September & December.

**It Started with a Longing:
The Magnificence
of Circle Expo &
Retreat Review**
By Rhonda Hull, Ph.D.



It started with the longing of 3 women, Carol Hansen Grey, Rhonda Hull and Ann Smith. Synchronicities made it evident that it was time to weave our talents together to awaken and re-ignite the passion of women by coming together in circle. We held the intention that through recognizing our magnificence as women we would bring forth the highest good in ourselves, our circle, and beyond.

Connection was the seed that was watered and organically tended to by our common call and the Magnificence of Circle Expo & Retreat emerged from this fertile soil. From it the Rose Circle sprouted into action circles. The women of the Prosperity Circle share regular conference calls. They are dedicated to clearing limiting beliefs and to declare a new relationship with money, marketing, and promotion so women can thrive as they do the work they love. The Best Practices Circle of women share support and pool ideas that will eventually be compiled in a col-

laborative book to foster circles becoming mainstream.

Through these enriching calls and the personal connections born from our time together, and with the support offered through Circle Connections, we join our power and talents. Together we envision all the ways to reshape and strengthen the relationships of women, expand our reach and potency personally and professionally, give birth to a new paradigm, foster peace, and join our hands to make a meaningful difference.

Following are just a few of the reflections about our time together:

CLAUDETTE POWERS:

“Attending the Magnificence of Circle Retreat at Mercy Center was the most enriching, enlightening, validating, warm, supportive experience of all the years (66) I have been alive. After experience this retreat, I felt I had a right to actually own my gifts and talents without apologizing. I am still basking in the warmth of that experience. Each time I am faced with an obstacle, I remember what I heard, experience and lived that weekend. That experience has propelled me to another level of my purpose here on earth.”

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Circle Connections, Inc. is a membership organization that helps people start, revitalize, sustain and connect their circles within the United States and Canada. Our intention is to be a resource hub that makes it easy for us to be accessible to one another. **CONNECT!** offers ideas, inspiration, stories and news about circles, circle events, and circle leadership.

www.circleconnections.com

It Started with a Longing (continued from p 1):

CHERYL TOMCHIN:

"I'm slightly surprised there is such a strong follow-up as most other "weekend workshops" end when it's over--obviously due to the three core members efforts and the need/desire for circle community. "

NORMA COLE:

"Connecting with so many women involved and interested in circles confirmed and inspired me in my own circle work."

NANCY GRANDFIELD:

"The Magnificence of Circle satisfied all of my passions. New hearts to hear, new hands to hold, laughter, tears, abounding creativity, articulate wisdom, and a couple of new scarves to enfold me in future circles. Thank you all for making it happen. I look forward to being together for years to come."

LAUREN OLIVER:

"I met wonderful women with a shared passion for circles. I am enriched particularly by the knowledge and energy around using Internet technology, creating prosperity, and marketing."

Women at the Event named themselves the Rose Circle and co-created an intention statement that was then graphically illustrated by Carol Hansen Grey



MAKING A DIFFERENCE SHOPPING

Give the gift of CIRCLE to the women in your life. Introduce them to our ever widening circle of involvement where they will learn the joy of being in a sacred circle, take part in the in-depth tele-conference conversations on such topics as creating prosperity and the importance of taking time out, receive our newsletter, and have the opportunity to participate in events that are making a positive difference.

One-year membership is \$35.00. For the holiday season only, every membership you gift to someone, you will receive as our gift to you, Carol Hansen Grey's Lighten Up CD, an \$18 value. This CD makes a love-filled gift to give to someone else thus creating circle of giving, receiving, giving. This offer expires on Dec. 20. See www.circleconnections.com to download a Gift Membership Application.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 6, 2007 Magnificence of Circle with Meditation in Motion, Happehatchee Center, Estro, Florida. Contact Ann Smith for info.

February 16-18, Women's Planning Retreat for the US Social Forum 2007 (www.ussf2007.org), Cedar Hill Conference Center, near Atlanta, GA. This 3-day retreat for representatives of women's organizations to plan and co-create women's participation at US Social Forum 2007 (USSF). Space is limited to 30. If you are interested in attending contact Ann Smith.

February 25-March 8, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women annual meeting, New York City. Circle Connections members and other organizations will attend to host Circle gatherings and to lobby for a 5th World Conference on Women and a women's agency at the UN. For more information contact Ann Smith at annlsmith@comcast.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS

June 27-July 1 US Social Forum, Atlanta, GA
July 10-15 Int'l Women's Peace Conf., Dallas.

MEET OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

Introducing Rev. Ginny Doctor



I was raised on the Onondaga Nation Territory in Upstate New York and am a member of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River, Ontario, Canada. As an Episcopal missionary in the Diocese of Alaska, I have served in a variety of capacities at both the local and national level including the Council for Women's Ministries, the Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latina organization and as a founding member of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Women. Leader development is one of my passions. I am a Women of Vision trainer and have gone to Kenya to provide that training. I have been to many communities in Alaska and across the United States providing training to lay leaders and have written a number of articles for publication. I see my fundamental mission as "restoring the spirituality of the people."

The Healthy Pathway in Alaska

by Rev. Ginny Doctor

In Alaska, there is great focus on healing. In order to have strong, effective leadership, people need to be whole and healthy. Our Native folks have experienced many losses – loss of land, culture, language, etc. These losses often manifest in an inter-generational post traumatic stress disorder. This disorder can often lead to other socio-economic troubles. The Indigenous Woman's Pathways (IWP) program is an effort to restore balance in our woman.

The IWP was first held in Fairbanks, Alaska, last February. In May of 2006, the women gathered again to continue their healing journey. The women decided that they needed to continue meeting following the IWP design.

The third gathering was held November 3-5, 2006. The emphasis was on appreciation for self. Thursday evening began with a traditional

meal and welcome. The planners of the meeting decided to show the Maori film from New Zealand, "Once Were Warriors." This film is a raw but powerful depiction of the many issues that confront indigenous women; issues that stem from colonial racism and oppression. The women then discussed the film using three questions:

- What stood out for you in this movie?
- What related to you in this movie?
- Where did you see hope?

After the discussion, Cynthia Faust talked about racism and white privilege. They are at the root of the many issues that Indigenous women confront on a daily basis. The Ven. Anna Frank and I, in a bold move, did the binding up of a young woman. We had first seen this at the Anglican Encounter women's meeting in Brazil many years ago. The young woman's eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet and heart were bound with cloth and with each binding there were negative words. Lastly her head was lowered. After a period of silence, the women were asked, "What are you going to do for this young woman? What are you going to do?" Several women rushed forward to un-tie her and give her affirmations. This was so powerful that the mothers and grandmothers became angry at the facilitators. We processed it out and many admitted that they had similar experiences when they were growing up. They really felt the oppression that comes from only hearing negative things about who you are. This led into a discussion of appreciation of self and how important it is to take time to that to maintain a healthy balance. Each woman was asked to think of five things that he appreciated about herself.

"The first woman to speak, an elder, started appreciating the river, the moon, the earth. I stopped her and asked what do you appreciate about what you do with the river?"

Then she got it and talked about being a fish cutter and putting up fish for her family. Several could not name five things so others helped them by telling them what they appreciated about them.

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The Healthy Pathway in Alaska (continued)

There was much talk about personal histories and each woman was able to share her story. While some were painful, these stories are also filled with hope and joy. A true inspiration was the 80 year old Grandma. Her story filled the room with laughter, a really healing laughter. Elder's like her bring us great hope. They left with a buddy to hold one another in their healing pathway and a commitment to gather again. The journey continues.



CIRCLE TIPS

by Ann Smith

Shared Leadership

Instead of assigning tasks, list them and have the planning circle choose those that they want to accomplish. When we organize around what we like to do the energy stays positive and the tasks get done. The Canadian women's leadership circle did this in planning their Gather The Women event in Canada as well as the planning circle of Gather The Women of South Florida. It works!

Lessons From Geese

by Milton Olson

FACT 1: As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

FACT 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where

we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

FACT 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies to the point position.

LESSON: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents or resources.

FACT 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

LESSON: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

FACT 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

ONLINE TIP by Carol Hansen Grey

Using the Global Women's Forum (GWF)
www.globalwomensforum.org

This project sponsored by Circle Connections provides a vehicle for women from around the world to connect and share information and resources. It also provides a space for members of Circle Connections to list and interconnect their circles.,

To read the resources listed simply click on the post -- there is no need to log in. However, if you wish to post a resource, log in with your Living Directory Account ID & password, navigate to the forum that you wish to post in and click on the red NEW POST button on the right. Type your post and click the ADD button.