

WOMEN OF WISDOM CELEBRATION OCTOBER 31, 2021 SCRIPT

There will be opportunity for READERS throughout the Celebration.

OPENING

Three Breaths

READER

Approach the threshold: As you inhale the first breath, be aware of what you are *leaving behind*.

As you exhale, let go of that which would hold you from *moving forward*.

Prepare to cross the threshold: As you inhale the second breath, feel the *anticipation* of something new.

As you exhale, feel the *assurance* of what is before you.

Step over the threshold: As you inhale the third breath, *step over the threshold* into the space and time that is new.

As you exhale, let your spirit embrace the *adventure* that is ahead of you.

The Phases of our lives and Honoring the Directions, Elements, and Earth Cycles. **READER**

East, Air (Life), the Maiden/Younger Woman, New Moon, Spring

The new moon is a time for new beginnings and growth, for blessing, initiating, and re-energizing creative projects. The Maiden is curious, calling forth ways to activate life direction. This is the time of *developing*.

South, Fire (Energy), the Mother/Nurturer, Full Moon, Summer

The full moon is the nurturing phase, the period of giving. The Mother/Nurturer is fulfilled through giving of herself and her gifts, and through nurturing others. This is a time of *actualizing*.

West, Water (Flow), Crone, Waning Moon, Autumn

The waning moon has given the fruits of the summer for harvest. The self-described woman moves from nurturing of others to awareness of her own wisdom, growth and interests. She supports others on their own paths while paying attention to her own. This is a time of *acknowledging*.

North, Earth (Grounding), Sage, Dark Moon, Winter

This phase of the moon is the time of mystery, of gestation, of rest. There is deep understanding of what needs to be held, what needs to be let go, and what needs to be transformed in the continuous cycle of existence. This is the time of *surrendering*.

Power of the Center. (You are welcome to light a candle where you are.)

Feel the love of the Goddess and show that love to others. May we find a place where our hearts give and receive love. It is hoped that we can bring the inner and outer truths into fusion - creating the great "wholeness" within ourselves. When wholeness occurs there is an energy from within - an illumination which touches all the corners of the self.

Creating the Circle: *Helen*

Inviting others to join—In this special time of Sanhaim, I would like to name participants of our group who have gone before: Alice Gifford and Mary Perkins in 2017; Lois Whitcomb and Ruth Butts in 2020; and Phyllis Cudmore in 2021.

You are welcome to name others to join us.

We welcome you who may not have been part of Goddess/Earth Circle.
May we feel the energy from our opening breathes, the connections from our faces and voices, and sky energy from above meeting the earth energy from below within, and the presence of those whose names we called and we cast the circle to create special time and place.

The circle is cast. We are between the worlds – the worlds of our lives as we came in and the worlds of our lives when we leave; the world of light and the world of dark, the physical world and the energy beyond the physical. What we do here between the worlds affects all worlds.

Sharing: Everyone is welcome to share. Wear or bring decorations: witch’s hats, cats, owls and other decorations with you and show as you share.



Witch’s Hat A Witch’s hat is the “cone of power.” The power comes from the heavens/moon (point) and flows down and is dispersed to the surroundings (rim of hat flared outward). This power is the wisdom of experiences.

How is it with your spirit today?

PHASES OF OUR LIVES

READER

We have been exploring the concept of phases of the lives of Goddesses and of our own lives. The Tri-Goddess (Maiden, Mother, Crone) model that has been part of our focus since the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven in the 1980’s. An additional phase seemed warranted, considering the lengthening lifespans. So we added Sage after Crone We developed guidelines to keep the phases dynamic.

- Phases are descriptions of our life journey rather than judgment of where we are – movement through life rather than meeting outcomes.
- We have wisdom in all phases. Wisdom gained in one phase leads onto the next.
- Phases are not exclusive. We may identify with elements from more than one phase at a time. We each define *for ourselves* where we are in the phases, including different naming (such as Elder for Sage, or Queen rather than Crone)

We are taking excerpts from *The Phases of the Goddess and Our Lives* for this celebration. The full text is on the UCC website or ask afterwards for a copy.

READER

READER

Phase One: *The Maiden*: (developing) The Maiden full of love and curiosity, experimenting with life, trying new things and having new experiences. She carries the seeds of potential: anything is possible and all possibilities are within her.

The Maiden's job: To come to know her own thoughts, ideas, values, and purpose, and to dream and generate vision for her life, to find her own voice. She needs encouragement to explore and believe in herself, especially when other people’s opinions of her take on more power than her own journey of self-discovery.

Phase Two: *The Mother/Nurturer*: (actualizing) The Mother/Nurturer is filled with strong nurturing energy, care, self-expression and patience. A path of some kind must be chosen and her responsibility and commitment to it established. In her choosing, lies the creative responsibility for her life, such as children and creative endeavors.

The Mother/Nurture's job: To actualize the dreams of the Maiden This is a stage where she learns to put someone or something before herself, her ego. For some, a spiritual awareness is discovered as the ego is tempered and humbled by love, service and creation.

Welcoming a New Crone/Woman of Wisdom: Heide Munro

The Cakes for the Queen of Heaven brought the concept of croning in the 1980's. The word crone is derived from the word *cronus* (time) and it signifies wisdom gained through life experiences. We describe the Crone as the changing from focus on others to recognize and function more from our own wisdom, interests and needs. Our celebration has been at the beginning of phase three, following Mother/Nurturer. By its own nature, we left it there as a transition point for phases of Crone and Sage.

This year, we are welcoming Heide Munro as a new Crone/Woman of Wisdom. Crossing the threshold into cronehood can be a major event in a woman's life. It's a celebration of what you have learned and what you will come to know in the future. The word crone should now be a word of power for you, so celebrate it. (When I was croned, it was not so much that I was wise but acknowledgement that I had wisdom, permission to use my wisdom, and a sense of commitment to keep developing and sharing my wisdom. Croning marked a transition.)

Heide, we would like to hear from you on this occasion of being recognized as a Crone/Woman of Wisdom.

Giving her the crone bag. *Ida*, please read the notes.

The Candle represents the light of wisdom. Use your wisdom to lighten the lives of all those for whom you love and care; and with them remember and celebrate all that is good in life.

The Three Stones represent your life - past, present and future. It does not matter which is which, for we are all interconnected, all in process. Like a stone, may your wisdom be firm.

Sea Glass is worn and smoothed by the waters of life. Our experiences expand our understanding that there are many ways of doing things, not just our own way. As the sea glass has come to us from unknown travels, so our wisdom comes from far and near.

The Sand Dollar has the design of five tears on it's top. Inside are corresponding five parts of shell shaped like doves for hope. Tears and hope are the balance of life.

Salt Take this salt and remember; Eternal Wisdom, as a woman of experience, you are the salt of the earth. Enrich and preserve all the rich flavor of life.

OWLS are associated with wisdom of the soul. The owl on Athena's (Greek goddess of wisdom) shoulder revealed unseen truths to her and had the ability to light up Athena's blind side, enabling her to speak the whole truth. May you have such a companion.

And so today, among the people gathered here, Heide, you are entering a new stage in your journey through life. May you receive wisdom and courage to take hold of the rest of your life and live it to the fullest. Fulfill your dormant ambitions, discover new talents and find the time and space to enjoy your life.

Be understanding. Be wise.

Have patience.

Feel free in giving advice and guidance

for your years of experience have acknowledged you as woman of wisdom.

Have no fear and let not the ways or words of others give you unease.
 For your spirit of wisdom and love will see you through the years ahead.
 Now go forward into the days of your future.
 May they be good and long upon the earth
 From Rev Lesley Edwards MA BTh, *Choice Ceremonies*, website, adapted

Unison: *We are women! We are **women**. We are **WOMEN OF WISDOM***

READER

<p>Phase Three: <i>The Crone</i>: (acknowledging or awakening) This is a time for women to work through reclaiming themselves after decades of care to others. This is a powerful transition for women. At this passage in life the focus will shift from the exterior world of conventions to the freedom of being the ruler of your own inner realms.</p> <p><i>The Crone's job:</i> To renegotiate her boundaries, realize and actualize her power and knowledge, and use her expertise for the good of all.</p>	<p>Phase Four: <i>The Sage</i>: (surrendering) The Sage has foresight, offers guidance to help another, and at the same time let other choose the path towards destiny. She can be honest because she is centered in her power. She holds the wisdom, teaches and shares stories. In this phase, we recognize the life and death that is present all around the Universe.</p> <p><i>The Sage's job.</i> It is associated with self-reflection and understanding. She returns the seed of vision back to the Maiden. We lose so much of ourselves, within and without when we lose connection with the wisdom of the Sage.</p>
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Recognition of Phyllis Frances Cudmore (April 18, 1944 - July 5, 2021)
 Bell (Kay)

Remembrance: (Kay) - Altar of Remembrance - (photo?, tobacco, sweetgrass, sage)

Dear Phyllis,

My hand does not want to write these words, because if I do, you must really be gone – your soul lifting off like a great blue heron arcing toward the endless sky.

I have to keep reminding myself: Phyllis died. Each time, I recoil as if from a blow. And it is a blow, knocking the breath from my body and doubling gravity in my heart.

How can I ever put into words what your friendship means to me? Your courage to embrace your truest self has strengthened me on my journey to live from my heart.

For the last year and a half of your life, Covid-19 kept us apart. I believed the days were counting down to when we could share a hug again soon. You've reminded me that all in life is fleeting, and the nature of this life is temporary.

May your spirit soar, dear friend, in peace and power, in love and honor.

I miss you, and yet know you are never gone.

In remembrance, I share "When Death Comes" by Mary Oliver

When death comes

like the hungry bear in autumn;

when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse
 to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;

when death comes

like the measles-pox

when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,

I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?

And therefore, I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,

and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,

and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,
tending, as all music does, toward silence,

and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.
When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.

I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.
I don't want to end up simply having visited this world

Kay - Invite the attendees to offer brief words in memory of Phyllis

Life is a walking together. (*Helen*) You who have walked with Phyllis have given and have received. Come in gratitude and humility for the richness of her time with us. The sadness comes when we realize that the way of walking together has changed. Death makes us aware of the unpredictability of life, of dreams that may not have come to fruition, and of varied life spans. In spite of the grief, remember the walking.

(Kay – ring the bell)

SHARING OUR WISDOM The Celebration of Women of Wisdom added the concept of the WOW Book in 2016. The compilation of the first five books were sent to participants with the suggestion that we reflect on our statements over the years and where we find ourselves in the phases of our lives as we develop our wisdoms to share for the Celebration. The WOW Book 2021 will be compiled after the celebration. However, we would like to hear a short excerpt at the celebration.

Sharing will be in the chronological order of croning

1995 Hannah Faulkner 1996 Helen Zidowecki Aug.1, 2010, Dexter Lorna Athena Doone March 2012 Maggie Ricker November 2012 Ida Gammon Judy Gallant Linda Findlay Marilyn Gordon Mary Shifman Nance Caldwell Nancee Campbell Priscilla Jenkins	November 2015 Beth (Nasberg) Olsen (inactive) Terry Culligan October 2016 Darlene Bassett (inactive) Jean Sizelove October 2017 Kay Fritz October 2019 Naomi Konesky October 2021 Heide Munro
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THIRTEEN PRINCIPLES FOR WISE WOMEN READER

- 1.Take time to listen to your inner wisdom.
2. Have the courage to speak the truth as you see it.
3. Live in the present moment and don't feel sorry for yourself.
- 4.Be yourself and express your thoughts and feelings with confidence.
- 5.Stay involved and engaged with life.
- 6.Nurture yourself and cultivate things that bring you joy.
- 7.Tune into the wisdom of your body; take

care of your physical needs.

- 8.Let go and move on when changes occur in your life.
- 9.Trust your instincts.
- 10.Choose wisely and take responsibility for your actions.
11. Speak out about injustice, betrayal and abuse.
- 12.Cultivate a sense of humor and share laughter with other crones.
- 13.Enjoy your life and be grateful to be alive.

REFLECTION OF OUR TIME TOGETHER

You are welcome share your reflection of this celebration.

CLOSING

READER

We live our wisdom every day, at all ages. Consider the women who you would call wise. Do not compare yourself with them; you are wise within yourself. Know that you are, indeed, counted in their number. Come, share your wisdom as you live. Acknowledge wisdom as part of your being. Wisdom shared is wisdom growing, enriching all who you touch – including yourself.

As we extinguish our candle(s), we release the energy of the directions and open the circle. We return to the world changed by our time together.

To the spirits that have joined us, we thank you for your presence in our circle.

Go if you must, stay if you will.
Tis with great love and gratitude we bid you farewell.
The circle is open, but not broken.

Response: UNISON

By the earth that is her body, And the air that is her breath,
By the fire of her bright spirit, And the waters of her living womb,
May the peace of the goddess be ever in your heart.
Merry meet, merry part, And merry meet again. Blessed be.