THE LLLI ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Continuum

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"The continuum of an individual," writes Jean Liedloff, "is whole, yet forms part of the continuum of [her] family, which in turn is part…of all life."

The LLLI Alumnae Association is part of a continuum as well—growing, developing, emerging into a strong and important part of its bigger family, La Leche League International.

The transformation of THE LLLI ALUMNAE NEWS *into this new look and new name (inspired by Liedloff's 1975 book,* The Continuum Concept*) embodies this movement and growth.*

We hope the spirit of this publication reflects the continuum that we all are on—as individuals, as family and LLL members, and as an organization of women linked by LLL philosophy and traditions.

Beholding the crone years

It was a simple comment, but it has lingered in my mind now for months. "Good-bye, my crones in training," said our friend—gray hair askew, long gauze skirt billowing over bare feet—as we left her tucked away, memento-laden bungalow near the shores of Lake Michigan last summer.

Crone. I hadn't thought much about the word for a dozen years, not since receiving *The Crone*, by Barbara Walker, as a fortieth birthday gift from my husband. I had smiled at his thoughtfulness (or was it a practical joke?) but at the time, didn't feel at all connected to the withered, wrinkled wise woman gazing out from the book jacket.

Now that I've been labeled, I've been wondering just what *is* the path for a crone-in-training? Who becomes a crone? How and when does one "graduate" to cronehood? Is it a destiny all women share? Do we even get to choose?

Who becomes a crone? Is it a destiny all women share? Do we even get to choose?

Perceptions of the crone appear to be even more diverse than the women who hold them. "I am not going there," was the definitive response of one friend, while another has begun planning a croning ceremony for her sixtieth birthday. My own vision of cronehood includes internal wisdom, acceptance, and calm; my colleague, on the other hand, sees action and a certain degree of rabble-rousing.

"In ancient matriarchal societies," writes Walker, author of my crone book, "the older woman was revered as a powerful elder, a woman of great wisdom and judgment who functioned as a healer, teacher, and priestess. Symbolized as the Crone…[she] was considered to have prophetic wisdom, theological knowledge, and legal judgment; she was a decision maker as well as a moral and intellectual leader of her family or tribe."

With the emergence of patriarchal religion and society, this image of crone was replaced by one which depicted the crone as hag, witch, evil-doer. Still today, dictionaries refer to crone as "an ugly, witchlike old woman."

As the meaning of crone is debated, redefined, and rebirthed, what appears certain is that a whole movement of women is consciously celebrating their "coming of age." For some, this includes resurrecting old beliefs and embracing the crone within; for others, the markers are placed as far as possible from the dictionary depiction of crone. But are we really traveling in opposite directions?

Martin Buber writes in *The Way of Man* of an old Hasidic story about Rabbi Zusya, who realized shortly before his death that in the world to come, God would not ask "Why were you not more like Moses?" but "Why were you not more like Zusya?"

However we label our aging journey—and whichever path we take to our end days—is not our central destination point one that allows each of us to unfold into our fullest self?

So, am I becoming a crone? The wrinkles will be easy. Already my 15-year-old daughter has a great time playing with my emerging pockets of soft, sagging skin. I trust that my path in the coming years will lead me to myself. Whether that turns out in the end to be a crone may just depend upon the eye of the beholder.

Sue Christensen, Indiana USA

Was there a family bed at your house?

David Servan-Schreiber, MD, PhD, and author Maria Goodavage are putting together a project on the family bed and would like to interview moms and dads who have older/grown children who shared a bed with them. They're also looking forward to talking to some of these older/grown children about their fond and cozy (or other) memories of the family bed.

In addition, they're interested in finding about any well-known people, present-day or historic, who co-slept.

If you or anyone you know would like to be part of a project that could make the family bed much more acceptable in our culture, please call Maria toll-free at (888)FAMILYBED (888-326-4592) or (415-242-6283. You can also e-mail her at: mariagood@earthlink.net

Author search continues

Many LLL Leaders and retired Leaders are authors of books on topics ranging from breastfeeding to history to romance novels.

The LLLI Alumnae Association is developing a listing of LLL authors to share at the LLLI Conference this summer and also post on its Web site.

If you are a published author, or know of someone who is, please tell us:

- author's name
- LLL Leader status, when and where accredited
- book title, publisher, date
- fiction or nonfiction
- topic, 1-2 sentence description
- purchasing info, if available
- web link, if available

Send information via mail, e-mail or fax to Sue Christensen (address, p. 6).

House bill promotes lactation-friendly workplace

A new bill on breastfeeding was introduced in Congress on March 17 by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY): H.R. 1163, the Breastfeeding Promotion and Employers' Tax Incentive Act of 1999.

The bill encourages employers to set up a safe, private, and sanitary environment for women to express (or pump) breast milk by providing a tax credit for employers who set up a lactation location, purchase or rent lactation-related equipment, hire a lactation consultant, or otherwise promote a lactation-friendly workplace.

For more information about the legislation, visit: <http://www.house.gov/maloney/breast.htm> For the full text of the bill: <http://www.congress.gov/>

There are currently four bipartisan cosponsors to the bill: Connie Morella (R-MD), Barney Frank (D-MA), Christopher Shays (R-CT), and Jim Moran (D-VA). The bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

There is not set date for any further action on the bill—its future will depend on the response from Members of Congress. Now, therefore, is a good time to write your representative and share your views. (Write to The Honorable _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Or call 202-225-3121 to find out who your representative is.

Members of Congress who cosponsored lactation legislation last year often did so because of the constituent letters they received. Otherwise, a Member of Congress may never learn about the bill.

Businesses that have a lactation program are encouraged to write to Rep. Maloney (U.S. Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, 2430 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515) in support of the bill. She would also like to know about current lactation programs that businesses have in place (when and why they began, how the program has helped the company, etc.).

Organizations that would like to endorse the legislation can send an endorsement letter to Rep. Maloney at the address above. Letters can also be addressed to other Members of Congress encouraging their support for the legislation.

Because there is no current bill in the U.S. Senate, letters might also be sent to Senators encouraging them to introduce the bill in the U.S. Senate.

It's another

LLLI ALUMNAE DONATION DRAWING!

Don't miss out on your chance to win one of the following:

Silver necklace from Mexico · Mother and child statue ·Handmade Irish knit sweater (donated by Joan Crothers) · Exquisite hand-sewn earrings (donated by Kathy Hays) · Alumnae items · And more great surprises!

If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact:
Sharon Fairborn, 1021 E. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, California 92661
Phone: 949-673-2741 · e-mail: jsjls@aol.com

Tickets will be on sale throughout the LLLI Conference:
1 for $2, 3 for $5, 8 for $10 · You don't need to be present to win!

LLLI seeks Deputy Director

To streamline the job of the Executive Director and to enable the voice of the Leader to be closer to the LLLI worktable, the position of Deputy Director has been established. A qualified person is currently being sought to fill this position.

The Deputy Director will be responsible for exchanging and sharing field data during and throughout administrative and implementation stages at LLLI as well as during the fiscal year budgeting process. This responsibility involves two-way communication into LLLI from the field and out to the field from LLLI.

Requirements for Deputy Director:

- Must be an LLL Leader
- Ideally the person will work on site at LLLI
- Leaders who are available to travel to Schaumburg once a month for various days at a time will be considered
- Has had significant LLL administrative experience
- Has had LLL International experience
- Is an excellent communicator in the English language
- Has excellent interpersonal skills
- Has computer skills
- Has experience in developing, executing, and evaluating plans
- Has the ability to handle multiple priorities
- Has teamwork skills and a collaborative work style
- Has a track record of conflict resolution skills (HRE)
- Is willing and available to travel for LLLI
- Is sensitive to language and cultural diversities
- Preferably speaks another language other than English
- Preferably has additional non-LLLI administrative experience

The Deputy Director will form a close working relationship with the Executive Director, who:

- is responsible for the effectiveness of LLLI worldwide operations and fostering excellence in international staff and volunteers to effectively meet the needs of the membership and to achieve the LLLI Mission;
- ensures that the resolutions, policies, and directives of the Board are implemented by setting procedures in place, in consultation with staff, to achieve accountability for such policies;
- provides regular (at least annual) evaluation of staff performance, holding staff accountable for fulfillment of their responsibilities to oversee the development and maintenance of standards of performance with respect to all programs and services; and
- delegates responsibility and assigns accountability; facilitates, coordinates, and considers input from staff in planning and implementation of programs; guides staff to develop and enhance their capabilities; facilitates productive collaborative relationships among staff and provides information and support.

If you think you are the Leader for this position, please send your curriculum vitae/resume by mail to:

Paulina Allen de Smith
Executive Director, LLLI
1400 North Meacham Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-4840 USA
or fax to: (847) 519-0035
or e-mail to: mexsmith@compuserve.com

Interviews will begin upon reception of resumes.

Marian Tompson to receive award

Marian Tompson, LLL co-Founder and past president, will be recognized on Tuesday, May 18, 1999 by The New York Society For Ethical Culture for her "courageous, pioneering, lifelong work on behalf of children and mothers."

The Ethical Humanist Award is presented annually to honor individuals who have "acted with extraordinary moral courage, without regard for the sanction or acclaim of peers or of society, and whose actions have had broad humanizing implications."

The public is invited to the award presentation, which will be held at the organization's headquarters, 2 W. 64th Street at Central Park West at 7 p.m.

In remembrance…

Marilyn Yoder, HRE Instructor Trainer for LLLI, died of cancer on April 4, 1999. Marilyn touched many Leaders in Indiana and throughout the United States with her longterm work in the area of Human Relations Enrichment. A mother of three daughters, she became a Leader in 1972 and an HRE Instructor in 1978.

In search of the Leaders who helped LLL grow

The LLLI Alumnae Association is receiving some exciting results in its search to identify the local "founding/pioneer" Leaders in Areas and countries throughout La Leche League. Search letters were sent to ACLs and other administrators worldwide last fall. Each Area or country is determining which Leader or Leaders started the first LLL Group there. These special Leaders will be honored at the Alumnae Association Reunion and Tea on July 4, 1999 at the LLLI Conference.

Listed below are Areas and countries where local "pioneer/Founders" have not been confirmed due to lack of information, or in some cases, conflicting information. If you can shed some light on the origins of LLL in any of these areas, please contact the current ACL. A copy of the information should also be sent to: *Judy Steele, 8 Briargate Circle, Aurora, Illinois USA 60506; phone 630-499-1534; fax 630-208-2554; e-mail: judyste@ibm.net*

USA: Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Dakotas
Hawaii
Idaho
Iowa
Louisiana
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Utah
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

Canada: Francais
British Columbia
Yukon &
Northwest Territories

Deutschland
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Eastern Europe

Japan and other
Asian countries

Middle East
(except Israel)

Africa (except South
Africa, Zambia,
and Zimbabwe)

Cuba
Panama
Puerto Rico

Coming to the LLLI Conference?

We could use your help! This is an exciting time as the LLLI Alumnae Association Conference Planning Team gets ready for the sessions and events at the LLLI Conference in July! Won't you consider helping us? Joining with other LLLI Alumnae Association members to volunteer will not only be of great help with all that is planned, but will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with many others.

The events/tasks where we could use some assistance are listed below, along with the days and times that help is needed.

If you are able to donate an hour or two at any time during the conference, please contact Beverly Morgan (address, p. 6) by June 1. You will receive more details as plans are finalized. Thanks so much for your help—as you can see, we need lots!

We need your help!

Move boxes to Alum exhibit and departmental rooms
(Fri &/or Sat, July 2 - 3, time flexible)

Price "for sale" items *(Fri &/or Sat, July 2 - 3, time flexible)*

Distribute Cirque tickets *(Fri, July 2, 3:30 - 5:30 pm, hotel lobby or 7:30 - 8:15 pm, outside Cirque theatre)*

Sell "Donation Drawing" tickets
(July 2 - 6, throughout the conference)

Work at Alumnae conference registration table, 2-hour shifts
(Sat, July 3, 10 am -9 pm; Sun, July 4, 7 am - noon; Mon & Tues, July 5 - 6, 7 - 8:30 am)

Greet and assist mothers with children and bags as they check into hotel, 2-hour shifts
(Sat. July 3, 10 am - 5 pm; Sun. July 4, 7 am -12 noon)

Help with one or more of the following room set-ups:
Alumnae Departmental Rooms *(Sat, July 3, 9 am until done)*
Alumnae/Funding Development exhibit *(Sat, July 3, 9 am - noon)*
Rejuvenation Sessions *(July 5, 3 - 4 pm; July 6, 2:30 - 3:30 pm)*
Alumnae Member Reception *(July 5, 3:30 - 5 pm)*

Help out at the World Faire Alumnae table *(Monday, July 5)*:
Set-up *(6 - 7 pm)*
Work at Alumnae table, 1 hour shifts *(7 - 10 pm)*
Assist with break-down *(10 pm until done)*

Keeping the connection: notes from the Web

Every day, the LLLI web site <http://www.lalecheleague.org> *receives well over 1,000 hits, many from long retired Leaders just stopping by to "say hello." The following comments are a sampling of the messages sent La Leche League's way.*

Alissa Weller, North Logan UT: I absolutely loved my experience as an LLL member and Leader. I made friends that I dearly love, whom I probably would not have met if it weren't for LLLI! The experience and knowledge I gained as a Leader enabled me to prepare for and pass the exam to become a Board Certified Lactation Consultant, a credential I now use as an employee of the lactation clinic associated with my local hospital...Thanks for the enriching experience I enjoyed in La Leche League.

Deborah Ann Oorne Guy, Hattiesburg MS: My husband was the first to be allowed in the delivery room on the Gulf Coast, and possibly in the state of Mississippi on October 24, 1974. We had an audience the whole time, and two of the nurses who had double shifts clocked out and stayed for the "natural" delivery. I nursed all three of my children for a total of about eight years, with all the social pressure, trials and happiness. Pretty good for someone who was just "trying" to breastfeed! Delayed thanks for the courage and information my husband and I received all those years ago.

Suzanne Miller, Murfreesboro TN: Although it has been many years, I still recall with great fondness the friendships, wonderful parenting skills, and good times I shared during those years in LLL.

Lynn Lichtenfels (formerly Fagan), Austin TX: I am currently enrolled in a masters program in Early Childhood Intervention at the University of Texas in Austin focusing on maternal infant interaction and attachment behavior. I am also a counselor in private practice. I credit my training as an LLL Leader with much of the understanding of human behavior that has resulted in my professional development. Thanks to the Founders and to all of you who supported me as a breastfeeding mother and as a Leader.

Thanks, LLL, for the difference you have made in my life!

Heidi Schwenk, CA: I recently retired from La Leche League, thinking that I would attend meetings occasionally and put my extra time into my oldest son's public school. But, in January I received a call from an old friend asking if I'd be interested in working on a project to design products and provide information to the breastfeeding community at large. I have enjoyed using all of my knowledge and resources on this new endeavor and feel so validated about being a woman and breastfeeding mother. LLL comes up all the time in my conversations and I feel like I have never left "my" La Leche League. I look forward to getting involved in the Alumnae Association and continuing to spread the word about breastfeeding. Thank you La Leche League.

Sue Sippy, Janesville WI: It's just amazing how issues related to breastfeeding keep coming back into my life. The knowledge I gained from LLL while nursing 4 of my 5 children has certainly stayed with me and been passed on to the next generation. What a joy to see my children now nursing their children. I am particularly aware of how instrumental effective leaders can be in helping women (and men) grow in loving parenting. Thank you LLL for the difference you have made in my life!

Colleen Brown, Plantation FL: [LLL] was a very important experience in our family life. For seven years I had a built-in family, no matter where I moved. My 2 children experienced instant acceptance and had ready-made friends and playmates. They carry forward those values even today as young adults. Bravo for all the work you have done, and are continuing to do for the benefit of our children. They are truly your legacy.

Cynthia L. Kutz, Kempton PA: I have made many mistakes as a parent and I'm sure I'll make more, but I never regretted breastfeeding my children. I will always cherish that special time we had together.

Lacey Dean (Wilson), Brookline MA: A great big overdue thank you to the many women with LLL who helped me become the mom I wanted to be to Garrett. ..Yes, I am still a single mom, and am now working in television at Boston's PBS station. I have dispelled many myths about single parenting and breastfeeding and being available for my son as he grows. I know a great part of this was from the encouragement I always received from LLL. Thanks!

Continuum

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International

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New AARs appointed

The following Area Alumnae Representatives have been appointed to assist the Alumnae Association at the Area level. A full listing of AARs can be viewed at the LLLI web site: <www.lalecheleague.org/alumnae>

Delaware
Julie Boozer, 1 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE 19901
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Billings, MT 59106
406-652-3536

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Bethel Park, PA 15102
412-833-4560 · bela5504@sgi.net

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San Antonio, TX 78209
210-824-9136 · NSchweers@aol.com