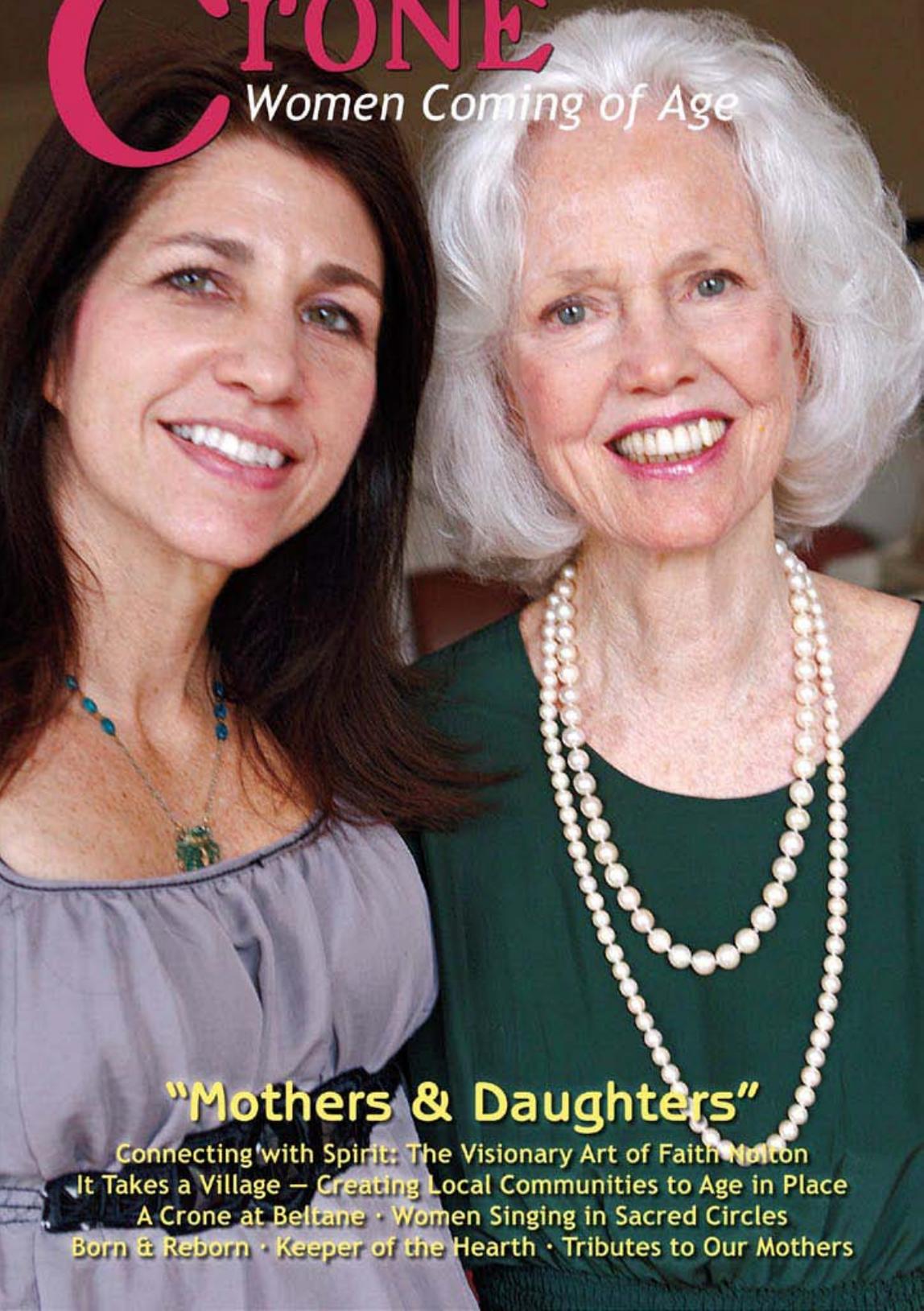


CRONE

Issue No. 7

Women Coming of Age



"Mothers & Daughters"

Connecting with Spirit: The Visionary Art of Faith Walton
It Takes a Village – Creating Local Communities to Age in Place
A Crone at Beltane • Women Singing in Sacred Circles
Born & Reborn • Keeper of the Hearth • Tributes to Our Mothers



Magazines that feed your soul and liven your spirits.



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Focus From the Editor

Mothers & Daughters



I had a mother, just as we all do. But my mother, Margery Ann, didn't want to be one. From first to late, motherhood was a terrible trial for her. The rapid changes that transformed mothering over the course of the 20th century were just a little too late for her. It took a hysterectomy (that her Catholic doctor sent her to a Jewish colleague for after she hemorrhaged giving birth to her fifth child) to end her too-long childbearing years.

Today, it is no longer assumed that a woman will bear children; and the child-free (formerly "childless") lifestyle is considered a perfectly acceptable and rewarding way of life. My mother would have loved that opportunity, but she was (as she often said) doomed to "give up my life for my children." As for me, having children (three sons, as it happens) has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

You, our readers responded to the topic of "motherhood" by telling your stories. Stories are more than simply reportage of names and dates: a good story, a *true* story, carries the ineffable scent of emotion that transports us to even the most distant time and place. As the saying goes, "that which is remembered, lives."

In "Table Talk," Katherine Phillip weaves a tale of four generations united by a legacy of love. Lizann Bassham comes from a long line of "uppity women," and in "Born and Reborn" she reflects on how the women of her motherline were born, "died," and rebirthed themselves within the length of a single mortal span.

Like many of us, Clara Oropeza has a fraught relationship with her mother. In "Dancing with Mystery" she explores the myth of Demeter and Persephone, and shares how embracing the divine Mother within has brought her a sense of compassion and peace.

For many, if not most, women of our mothers' and grandmothers' generations, life was centered around the kitchen. In "Keeper of the Hearth," Fiona Stewart muses on how that pivotal symbol of motherhood has transformed in her lifetime, and how those changes are reflected in her own experience.

Kathleen Phillips is back (she also penned our lead story "Table Talk") with the delightful story of her adventures with her grandchildren in "Searching for Bones," while Micki Morrency shares a very special birthday with her amazing mom in "A Queen at Heart."

Speaking of amazing, I love the artistic visions of our featured Crone artist Faith Nolton. Marian Van Eyk McCain's wonderful interview with this creative crone positively glows with love, compassion, and connection with all life. (If you get a chance, be sure to visit Faith's website to see her visions in color.)

Our departments are full of vision, too: Crone Adventure takes us to a faraway land of the matriarchal past in "My Sojourn in Crete," while closer to home, the vision of living independently surrounded by friends comes into focus in "It Takes a Village to Age in Place." We also have Crone Encounters with the Goddess Hekate, a crone has a brush with a late-in-life crush (with a much younger partner), and a daughter reflects how her mother's life choices might have been feminist, after all.

Our Crone Circles story relates how the beauty of women's voices lifts spirits in "Healing Through Song," while our Featured Poet, Donna Emerson, shares her voice in tales both uplifting and poignant, including this issue's Loss and Transformation feature poem, "She Lay Asleep, Wearing Oxygen."

We introduce several new columnists in this issue: Petra Perkins ("Crone Heart,") Seba O'Kiley ("Southern Fried Crone,") and Claudia Anderson ("Humoring the Goddess") all share a wry sense of humor that enlivens and leavens their consideration of the croning experience. We welcome you!

Our returning columnists take to our theme with gusto, and add their tales of the mother-daughter relationship. Sprinkled throughout this issue are a selection of poems that accent, complement, and emphasize the threads of women's longing, living, and loving that are woven through this issue. Add a double-helping of book reviews (there's some in this issue you will want to add to your book list right away,) and letters from our readers and *voila!* this complex, surprising, and most of all, compassionate issue draws to a close.

As we reflect on the mothers we had (or have), on the mothering we do (for ourselves and others) and the mothering we need, may this issue enfold us in the loving arms of our sisters and fellow crones.

Be Well,



Anne Newkirk Niven

Call for Submissions

Crone #8

"Friends & Companions"

Deadline March 31, 2015

Please share stories of lovers, spouses, friends, plants, companion animals, nature, and the Divine. We also need writers to interview crones (by email), submissions for all departments, reviews, and poetry. Call Anne 503-430-8817 or email editor2@bbimedia.com.