



This month's Circle Tale comes to us from Sahara Chaldean. Sahara is devoted to facilitating Relational Presence, especially with the natural world. She is a Certified Speaking Circle Facilitator and created a small company called "True Nature's Presence". She is currently video recording Elders' life stories within her community.

Circle Tale, September 2008 The Circle That Never Ends

I've had the great opportunity to be in Circle with Ann Linnea and Anne Stine for three **Elder Passage Wilderness Quests**. And even though I was there as a base camp support and not as a designated quester, I was still part of each Circle and quest.

As Guides, Ann and Anne create the Circle before the group ever meets. They welcome us into the Circle by sending out a letter letting us know who else has been called to participate in the quest. They make it clear that the moment you decide you are being called to participate is the moment you are on the quest! What they don't tell you until later, is that in that moment, you have also become part of a much larger community of Elders who have gone before us.

Being up in the Inyo mountains, with the basecamp overlooking the beautiful eastern Sierras, we are camping and in Circle with many other beings. During the day, the smell of sagebrush permeates the air. The oldest trees on earth, the Bristlecone Pines, stand guard above us on the ridge. When we are sitting in Circle, the California Juniper that shades us is included as one of the Elders. In the evenings, owl and coyote like to show up - one with her swooping, quiet presence and the other with his howling voice.

My experiences of participating in three Elder Quests have been filled with anxiety, physical discomforts, personal challenges, as well as great joy and a sense of finally coming home to myself. And most importantly, a renewed awareness that I belong to and am supported by a community of compassionate, wise Elders.

What I've learned is that the Circle of deep listening and heartfelt sharing that's created on the Sacred Mountain, continues after I've returned home to my everyday life. Many of the Elders stay in touch through email, conference calls and prayers. Some of us continue to sit in Circle and are committed to meeting annually. But, even if we never were to meet again, there is no doubt that this Circle never ends. Once you're in, you're always in!

If you have a tale to tell, contact the PeerSpirit office and we'll help you share it.

*For more information on many applications of circle, visit our web site at www.peerspirit.com and subscribe to our monthly Circle Tale newsletter using the subscription mechanism at the top right of the page. Your e-mail address will **not** be shared or used by anyone other than PeerSpirit, and you can unsubscribe yourself at any time.*