



SPEC Elders Circle Reclaiming Elder Wisdom

Elders Circle Salon, July 28, 2016: Evaluation Summary

Total number of returned evaluations: **25**

Survey Range:

0=Not at all 4= very effective

1. How effective was the salon at enabling you to explore Elder Wisdom?

10 people marked "4."

15 people marked "3."

Average: 3.4

Comments:

- Greatly valued the process of individual sharing—triad sharing and your talks and info sharing
- Carol's introduction of the 5 characteristics of Elders was fabulous and brought it all together for me. That should be incorporated in some way as a Vision for our circle. Plus story telling.
- [I gave it a 3] because I came late—as I always will have to on Thursdays—I didn't quite get enuf time to settle in
- Keeping things open is a very good way
- The 15-minute discussion circles were fantastic. Maybe 20 minutes? 30 minutes?
- It was a terrific intro; we need to be even more focused and go more in depth.
- Could have used more time in each sm. group
- I thirst for more discussion time among elders
- Thank you. A worthwhile evening spent engaged with others.
- Very effective group process
- Enjoyed small group conversations

2. How effectively did we explain the SPEC Elders Circle and invite you to participate?

17 people marked "4."

7 people marked "3."

1 person marked "2."

Average: 3.64

Comments:

- [Having marked 2]: I'm still not sure...however, I leave feeling better (more relaxed??) for the sharing than when I arrived even though I usually avoid small group break outs.

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- Good to have a takeaway paper. Thanks.
- I thought the last question [Because we are reclaiming Elder Wisdom,...] might have been phrased in the singular, to encourage personal honesty.
- Very inviting
- I am very impressed by the planning and execution of the program
- Some of this is on the website?
- Wonderful.
- *Great! I'd like to do future events.
- Allowing people to participate in a useful way
- I was very excited to join when Barbara presented the concept to SPEC's zero waste committee. Thrilled to be a part of it.
- Excellently—very informative and motivating to participate
- It is a very interesting activity to share experiences and to think about what we can do in the future.

3. Please share your ideas for future Elders Circle events and activities.

- Need to think about it. Think the concept of 'salon' is a good one.
- ?? at this moment
- Mentoring—how to share wisdom with youth
- Can there be a way for participants to frame discussion topics and prioritize our use of time?
- Ideas:
 - A meeting in Mother Nature-forest/beach
 - Potluck gathering
 - Watch a short film and discuss
- An opening floor session can be include for free discussion and exchange of ideas
- I appreciate Christina's leadership and skills, yet I wish we could be 'led' by an elder. This doesn't seem to be in the cards, and I imagine there are good reasons for this.
- Brain health and aging
- Meditation
- Overlap with other environmental citizen groups
- Non-verbal expressions of wisdom
- The "wisdom" of relationships and faithfulness
- How to "grow down" (roots)
- I look forward to more of these evenings....space to grow into my own wisdom---- I'm not sure about "reclaiming." As though it's a concept rather than something it's my challenge, privilege, honour and delight to discover and share.
- Need to reflect on this
- School events
- I want to hear everyone's life story
- Add some singing and dancing? OR special gathering on big days like Xmas, Easter?

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- Events are very well organized, maybe some more younger people could be invited and asked about their expectations
- Folk song sharing!
- Some small groups:
 - Moving to keep healthy (easy natural)
 - Secrets of our food shared
 - Exploring meditation and friendship
 - The vision of earth recreated—through our own mind power
- Events like picnics, theatres, parks...
- Thank-you! 😊 😊

Because we are reclaiming Elder Wisdom . . .

- We are powerful and we can sleep the sleep of the clear-conscienced
- Our coming together and co-creating, we can bring forward our generosity and serve the creative/healthy/unfolding global community
- We can influence the world. We must go out and take an active part in our small world.
- Our future journeys as elders seem to be full of fun instead of uncertainty
- We better get involved with younger generations
- Some old ideas may come back to help us improve our society
- *If we are reclaiming Elder Wisdom, I wonder when such a wisdom existed and when it was lost—who or what took it & what prevents it being a universal aspect*
- We are on a journey of self-discovery and growth
- I have a much greater perspective on life and my surroundings
- There is a cause for great joy!
- I feel the world could be a better, less foolish, crazy, safer (or softer) place
- There will be more understanding and respect between generations
- There will be more listening in the world
- Harnessing the power of our experiences
- I have hope for a dignified and meaningful role in community in my latter years
- Our lives are a magic adventure into the unknown
- I hope to become more of an enabler to share with others
- We are reclaiming our ancestral position
- I will continue to share with others in this stage of life the joys of being engaged in life with people of all ages
- We will help our communities find accord
- We learn and grow and become whole
- We will continue positively
- The youth can remember and be part of the cycle of memories and lessons learned before I was conceived
- I enjoyed a simple three hours without cell phones and instead full of life and breathing
- Things will be better for all generations
- We have enriched ourselves and the peoples' lives we have touched and the community we are a part of
- Curiosity as to roles for elders