

Council of European Grandmothers
Report for the 7th Council Meeting in Sodertalje, Jarna, Sweden
Topic: Life

Present Grandmother: Aldona, Beate, Bette, Elisabeth, Erika, Helga, Irene, Isabel, Madeleine, MaryAnne, Monika, Pascale, Soizig, Tina

Absent/with us in spirit:

Grandmother: Daiva, Mary, Sabina, Sofia, Swami Nitya, Toni, Wenche



Friday, 17th June 2022 - INTERNAL COUNCIL MEETING (Morning)

Morning meditation at 7am and then breakfast. 10-12 am: Grandmothers met for the first time in three years due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid19 pandemic. A morning walk together down to the ponds in Ytterjärna Trädgårdspark. "A garden meets a park that meets a landscape" it says about this place - Ytterjärna Conference Center - a bit outside Järna by the Baltic sea, 5 miles south of the Capital Stockholm. By the ponds near by the sea we have a women's gathering ceremony together with Dagomara Ullman and her son Yeshua. In the ritual we also receive the seed of life in the form of the small vivid seed of marigold.



Opening the Council Meeting

After lunch the 7th Council opens with an internal Ceremony and Council Meeting for the Grandmothers that makes a platform and a bowl for the Council and for the official part of the Council.



Visiting Södertälje: In the afternoon we went into the main centre of Södertälje. The multicultural City was in a festive mood, celebrating its status of having recently reached a population of 100,000 inhabitants. And a few hours later (in the church) we also celebrated the number of 100 hundred, but as a symbol for the diversity as something to honour and reconcile with. And gather in that centre hall to put the light on the importance of diversity as a solution for balance in societies and in nature.



The Grandmothers, together with members of the Edda Sweden team and friends, went by bus to the city of Sodertalje where they met with Marlen Ablahad Eskander at The Reading Promotion Institute (LFI) for a successful integration and bridge builder organisation with the written and spoken word and Culture as a method to welcome people to Sweden and Södertälje. Its activities aim to strengthen democracy and increase integration and participation in society [LINK](#)



Bus Driver and Sweden host Siri Lundström together with host Isa Tibbling, Edda Team

Visiting The Reading Promotion Institute

Marlen Ablahad Eskander described her experiences as an immigrant to Sweden from Iran and how that led to her putting the lessons she learned to good use in forming an Association and platform which now makes integrating into a new life in a new country fun, attractive, serious and much more simplified. The Cofounder Marlen described her experiences as an immigrant to Sweden and how she could put her lessons to good use forming "The Reading Promotion Institute" [LFI](#), an organisation that simplifies integrating into a new country.

7 pm Concert - the official program for the Council Meeting started

After free time in the city of Södertälje, the Grandmothers and friends from Europe met together with visitors from Sweden and attended a Free opening Concert in the 900 year old St Ragnhilds Church in the middle of Södertälje, which was a co creation between The Council of European Grandmothers/Edda Sverige/Swedish Church in Södertälje/Reading promotion institute.

It was a most enjoyable woven composition of music, song, formation design and storytelling, where life's meaning and need for diversity was honoured and described. It began with a fanfare for life and peace, continued with a Reconciliation ceremony in 4 steps between gender, generations and then between cultures/peoples and the Mother earth. The heart of this ceremony was a ritual of forgiving between the female and the male, performed by grandmother Madeleine and Frank D Winter. And the concert ended with a diverse circle of some 101 (as a symbol for the first year of the new 100 years of voting rights and determination for care of life). Ebba Svensson sang "A world full of life" in Swedish and women and youngsters of different ages from different European countries participated and made the big circle. Then the men stepped in and completed the circle and then we sang together in English "Circle of life" by Elton John.

In the closing Circle was both women and men participated from Ukraine, Russia, Finland, Norway, Sapmi, Sweden, Island, Germany, Lithuania, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Iran, Peru, Chile, Africa...

<p>Musik: Ebba Svensson & Jonathan Ed Tobias Fjälling & Daniel Lundbäck Mathilda Lindgren Siri Lundström</p>	<p>Host: Madeleine Söderström Malin Sommanö Hanna Lönneborg Gunilla Gustavsson</p>
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Saturday, 18th June 2022

Meditation and Breakfast

The grandmothers gathered to prepare for the day ahead.

Water Ceremony by Grandmother Erika Völker-Elshof, Germany



The stated objective of the Council was to conduct a “A dialogue process in three parts” over the Saturday/Sunday where women/men/hen from different countries dialogue and process about the subject of life from different directions. We turn and twist the truths to find the "acupuncture point" that we see can make a difference. We ask ourselves questions such as:

- ❖ Do we know enough about the innermost essence of life, its power and needs since our life systems are currently disintegrating its conditions?
- ❖ In Sweden, the road to a new 100 years of women's voice and decision-making begins this year. What do we want to create during this decade with our vote and both through and outside the right to vote?
- ❖ What do we want to do so that the care for life on earth becomes central, so that beyond blocks and boundaries it can permeate decisions and choices both for humans and for an entire life system/nature/society?

Daily Meditations



Council Meeting Dialogue

At 10.00 am the Council Meeting Dialogue Part One began in the form of “The Art of a Multi-Dialog’ where different areas of life come together in one dialog and where different approaches can converge. The Theme of the day was: “WHAT IS LIFE, HOW DOES IT ARISE AND WHAT SUPPORTS ITS CONDITIONS”.

With Maria Bergbäck's excellent leadership, dialogues, interactions and activities were held around the theme of life and that there is a clear, fragile and powerful thread that supports all life on our planet. It was investigated how it arises and what supports its conditions. This dialogue allowed the sharing of different thoughts and natural wisdom on the topics: how to care for all living things, taking into account the needs of what nature/climate, peace, laws, economics and the relationship between all life on the planet needs. For the council dialogue, the participants had pre-booked their participation in advance (40 places). 40 women and men of different ages, individuals and organizations from 12 European countries participated.



Participants/
Grandmothers



Juntos para nutrir
la vida del planeta



Facilitator: Maria
Bergbäck

Free public open programme

There was a break for lunch at 12.00 to 14.00 and opportunities for the conference members and also for local visitors to attend any or all of the following events and visitors could come and be a part of :

- ❖ A talk by Elisabeth Ubbe, a midwife, journalist and photographer who had an Art Exhibition on the theme of "Life's First Second on Earth". She showed images from births in hospitals and in homes, where women gave birth through and embraced by what she calls the "Power of Love".

- ❖ An outdoor Meditation in the Rose Garden Arbor led by Celloist, Eva Fasth.
- ❖ A talk by Pella Thiel on the theme of 'END ECOCIDE' - as leverage and support for life, society, climate, nature and business conditions. A talk by Pella Thiel on "END ECOCIDE LAW" - a desired fifth article of the Rome Statute that will be a lever and an important support to protect our common living conditions; a support for a global behavioural and systemic change to be possible and with less friction in the transition. And also an important support for business, social, climate transitions.

		
<p><i>Elisabeth Ubbe - Life Seed</i></p>	<p><i>Participants/Grandmothers</i></p>	<p><i>Pella Thiel - End Ecocide</i></p>
		
<p><i>Grandmother Helga and Soizig</i></p>	<p><i>Grandmother Beate, Sapmi & Artist Eike, Germany</i></p>	<p><i>Grandmother Tina and Tina visitor from Germany</i></p>

Part Two of the Council Dialogue continued on the theme of “What do we want to do with our right and maternal obligation to influence development so that care for life on earth is and will be important?”

It was noted that Women have an important role to play in the change we need to bring about now in the world. Sweden had just reached 100 years of women's suffrage. In 2022, the new 100 years will begin and it is therefore important to stop in year 101 and ask questions:

- ❖ What do we want to create in this decade through and beyond the right to vote?
- ❖ What do we want to do with our right and maternal duty to influence development so that caring for life on earth is and becomes important?

Food and kindness with the earth, the plants and all living things

The conference was held in a district in northern Europe's largest contiguous area of organic farming. We grandmothers wanted to support natural agriculture- and food systems with as little impact on nature as possible. In this area people have been working for many years to support nature's ability to flourish together with man through natural purification systems and cultivation. This has inspired many farmers in Sweden to work in harmony with mother earth and with resilience and permaculture as guidelines.



		
Ecologic and Biodynamic Food	Ytterjärna Conference Center	Team "Culture Food"

Silent walk in nature in the magic nordic summernights - Solar eclipse period

In the evening, the grandmothers were joined by Swedish volunteers on a **Quiet walk** in the heart of nature. This was an opportunity to meet life in the forest on a summer night and experience the magic of nature's soil and Sweden's evening light, which in June shines over everything and everyone during all hours of the day. We were then treated to Swedish hospitality around a campfire by the water's edge.





Sunday 19th June 2022

Part Three The focus of Part 3 of the Council Meeting Dialogue was to condense the weekend's dialogue on what we want to do with our right and motherly duty to influence development so that care for life on earth is and will be important? The main points were:

- ❖ What does the acupuncture point look like?
- ❖ How do we give ourselves the mandate to influence the future?
- ❖ What narrative do we need to promote?

In the evening the Grandmothers were accompanied by Swedish volunteers on a **Quiet walk** in the heart of nature. This was an opportunity to meet life in the forest and experience the magic of nature earth, soil and Sweden's night light. And to accept Swedish hospitality around a campfire at the water's edge.

Free public open programme running throughout the weekend

At lunchtime on Saturday and Sunday there was the opportunity to participate in all or some of the following activities:

- ❖ An exhibition and a talk by Elisabeth Ubbe, midwife, journalist and photographer on the theme "The first second of life on earth". Pictures and authentic stories of births in hospitals and homes, where women gave birth through and embraced by what she calls "the power of love"
- ❖ A talk by artist Eike Eschholz from Germany who shared her thoughts on her exhibition of 13 women - 13 qualities - 13 countries. A social art project - Wahlfart - where Eike travelled to 13 different countries to explore the female qualities of 13 different European countries. She shared her thoughts and the need for cooperation between countries, people and the feminine qualities to create peace and support life on earth.
- ❖ An exhibition by artist Ute Drexel - "The beauty and magic of nature".
- ❖ Another exhibition by visual artist Elisabeth Cardell on creativity.
- ❖ An exhibition by photographer Tom Jonasson " the forest - the forest - the forest"

- ❖ Stories for children and adults: by storytellers: Isa Tibbling, Sweden and the Sami grandmother Beate Heide.
- ❖ Another outdoor meditation in the rose garden led by cellist Eva Fash.
- ❖ Outside guests also came in and participated freely in the various open events.



The Closing Ceremony - Together for the care of life on earth

The Ritual involved several aspects and was Attended by: “Peacedance” Kirsten Nisted, Sweden and Grandmother Lithuania; Aldona Ciutiene, Grandmother Austria; Soizig Le Guennece Paget, Grandmother Germany; Erika Völker Elshof - With participants from YIP Youth project and people from 21 countries:

Meditation led by
 Circle Dancing led by
 A meditative Labyrinth Walk

Eva Fash
 Kirsten Nistedt
 Grandmother: Aldona Ciutiene, Soizig Le Guennece Paget, Erika Völker Elshof

Evening

Grandmothers had a **Sing Song Summer Solstice Fire** by the Baltic Sea



Monday, 20th June 2022 – INTERNAL COUNCIL MEETING (Morning+Afternoon)

Breakfast followed by an outdoor *Butterfly meditation* led by Grandmother Pascale Joris, Belgium

Internal Council Meeting closing dialog and Ceremony

Lunch

AT 13.30 Morya Short, who is helping to create a new website for the Council addressed the meeting and explained the importance of being able to use technology to communicate more easily among ourselves and with the 'world'. After her departure the meeting discussed the Potential offered by the new technology. It was agreed that the website team of Erika, Irene, MaryAnne and Madeleine would continue in that role, and liaise with Morya. There was dialog about the practicalities of paying the cost of the upgrade and the ongoing costs. It was agreed that Irene, Elisabeth and Soizig and Helga would share the costs incurred to date (which includes reimbursing Helga who had paid monthly and annual fees since the installation of the original website).
The Council meeting closing ceremony is 12 am.

Unofficial evening program for those who stayed:

Evening: Dinner together. Martin D Winter and Frank Prellwitz shared the film they had produced following the Wallfahrt event in Echinforde in Germany in 2021 hosted by Eike.Elliot and Tanya were acknowledged for their contributions to the film.It was noted that Martin and Frank have expressed their desire to visit all of the grandmothers in their home countries with a view to creating another film.



In the late evening there was a 'surprise' opportunity to visit Skyview, with a meditation under the stars, a gift from Eliot Wilson and Isabell Livingstone to the Grandmothers.

The Swedish Team thanks you for visiting our country and sharing your wisdom with our wisdom and your determination to support life on our earth for the next coming seven generations.

We send a big warm thank you to all the visitors from all the countries. Thank you to the visitors from Sweden and from the Town Södertälje. Thank you to all the women and men from Sweden who supported this event in various ways: Thank you to...

Siri Lundström, Aili Lundström, Malin Sommenö, Eva Fasth, Hanna Lönneborg, Gunilla Gustavsson, Marlen Ablahad Eskander, Maria Bergbäck, Kirsten Nistedt, Isa Tibbling, Elisabet Cardell, Dagomara Danza Ullman, Ebba Svensson, Petronella Sjöo, Tobias Fjälling, Mathilda Lindgren, Daniel Lundbäck, Jonathan Ed, Anette Arenberg, Anna Gran, YIP and to Ytterjärna Conference centre and Foodculture/Matkultur. And thank you to the film team: Martin D Winter and Frank Perlwitz

Report written by Grandmother: Erika Völker Elshof, Irene Keller Gubler, Madeleine Söderström, MaryAnne Gosling

Photo Gallery





Grandmother
Soizig - Erika - Beate - Pascal



Outdoor Activities
With Youngsters from YIP



YIP
Youth International program



FILMTEAM:
Frank Prellwitz
Martin D Winter
Eckanförde, Germany

