



GLOBAL  
*GRANDMOTHERS'*  
COUNCIL NETWORK

*Voices of Wisdom in Times of Chaos*

Magazine

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Issue 07

Juneteenth!

THE  
EARTH IS  
MY/OUR  
SOURCE

pride

SPIRIT  
LANGUAGE

HEARTIST IN  
RESONANCE

ARTISTS | HEALERS | POETS | TRAVELERS | VISIONARIES

When I was asked to write something about myself for this magazine, I had no clue where to start. Should I begin way back in my childhood growing up in a ski town, North Conway, NH in the White Mountains, where my family ran a ski lodge?

For in truth, I would not be who I am today - a writer, activist, organizer, then gardener, herbalist, and natural perfumer (and mother/grandmother too!) if it wasn't for my rather feral childhood, and a father who spent so much time in the woods it was a family joke that he had a mistress out there!





Nanny and me

My mother was a strong, social, wise woman with a laugh that embarrassed me as a child. Today, I have her laugh! My friends would take their concerns to her, and she even instructed some of them in menstrual care because back then (early 60s) some mothers were too embarrassed to talk about such things!

Whenever I hear  
Joan Baez's song,  
"Honest Lullaby":  
"And often have I  
wondered how the  
years and I survived I  
had a mother who  
sang to me An  
honest lullaby"



Nanny, Daddy,  
Jason (2 mos), me



Nanny and MJ  
in the pool

When I was in junior high, Daddy's mother, Nanny Meeker, moved into a cottage next to our house. She left CT for NH after breaking her hip which didn't heal correctly, so she was unable to work full-time. Nanny, born in 1901, was huge in my life. Before we moved to NH, we lived in separate apartments but in the same house. After we moved to NH, whenever we visited her, she was the best playmate! Nanny, who was raised Catholic, broke with the church in favor of her own spirituality. I remember her reading Unity publications, and her Bible.

*She taught me that Love is the most powerful healer, and that God, rather than a stern man in the sky like the nuns taught, was Love.*

She was fascinated with Edgar Cayce and reincarnation and we'd spend hours talking about spirit, Love, and life after death.

*She taught me that prayer isn't about begging but about being grateful.*

I was very fortunate to have Nanny in my life. She gave me a firm foundation in the truth of Love, God, Prayer, Gratitude . . .

I was an only child for the first seven years of my life, then my sister, MaryJean, was born in 1959. In the mid-1970s, I met Peter, who would be the father of my three sons, and we moved from NH to Central Vermont, as part of the “back to the land movement”. We had chickens, turkeys, geese, and even a cow for a short period of time. Our first two boys, Jason and Ethan, were born at home. A tiny, ramshackle “cabin” that was all we could afford.

In 1981, Peter’s family purchased a farmhouse in Worcester, VT, and we moved into it while I was pregnant with Colin, our third (and last) son. That same year, my sister was in a tragic car accident, suffered a severe brain injury, and lay in a coma for eight weeks, and my mother, who had been diagnosed with gall bladder cancer, died while MaryJean was still in the coma. Colin was born the day after MaryJean went to the rehabilitation hospital. 1981 was a painful and also seminal year for me.

I learned what it feels like to trust my deep inner knowing even when (especially when!) it is counter to what the professionals say. I’m currently writing a memoir, some of which is being shared on my Substack, that tells this story as part of the journey of my life.



After Colin was born, Peter and his father, Richie Lowry started the first newsletter for Social Investors, GOOD MONEY, out of the house in Worcester. I was encouraged to participate and created Catalyst, a newsletter focusing on “investing in social change.” My work resonated, and I was invited to speak on panels and teach workshops on alternative economics with a focus on new models and structures offering grassroots, community-based options to the status quo.

GOOD MONEY was about avoiding, for example, corporations doing business in South Africa or with nuclear weapons or energy, while directing investment money towards publicly traded companies that were “better”. That was not enough for me!

Right from the beginning, I integrated Earth with economics, and I was the first person to do so in a public way. I was also the first person in the US to use the term “Gaian Economics”. Even “Ecological economics” was unheard of back then. It was an exciting time! I met and worked with many brilliant, creative people who respected me despite the lack of letters after my name.

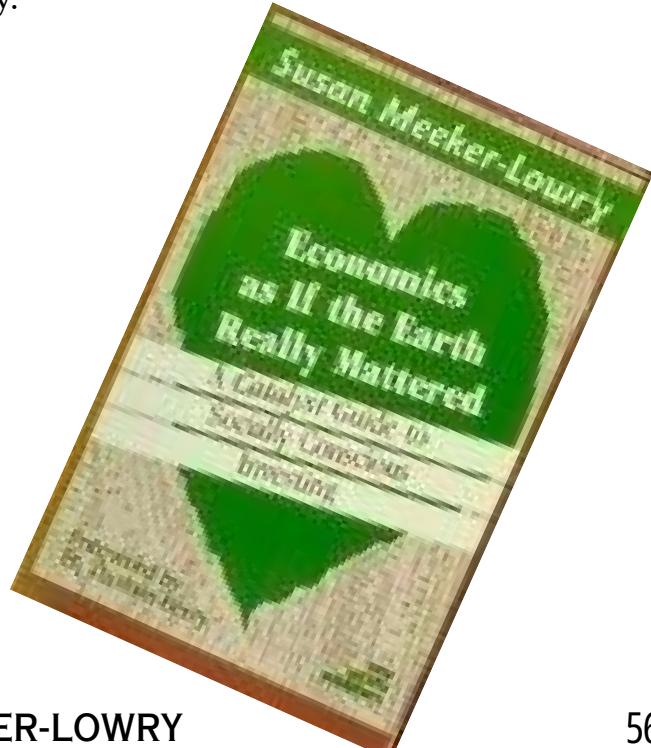
I was creating a whole new framework and perspective for economics!

In 1986, I met David Albert, the founder of New Society Publishers, at a bioregional gathering on the shores of Lake Michigan. These magical gatherings took place in different bioregions every other year.

My work in Gaian Economics became an important part of the bioregional movement. One afternoon, David came to me and said, “we’re going to publish your book”. “What book?” I asked. “The book you’re going to write for us,” he replied. And so it came to be!

That book, Economics as if the Earth Really Mattered, 1988, was one of “the first full-length treatments of how individuals could have an impact on global ecology through impact investing and social enterprise. This was followed by a later book, Invested in the Common Good (1995) that included many case studies of the potential effectiveness of these approaches.”

(From New Society Publisher’s website in its history section). I dedicated both books, “To Daddy, Who Understands”, and both had forewords by Thomas Berry.





After Economics as if . . . was published, my work really took off. I keynoted conferences, spoke on panels, and taught workshops. My marriage, however, did not survive. Peter and I divorced (it was hard, messy, painful). Catalyst was separated legally from GOOD MONEY, and papers were filed with the IRS to incorporate Catalyst as a 501 c 3. We rented an office on Main Street in Montpelier to work out of, with an extensive resource room, and many projects, including conferences and events, a community currency, a national coalition to stop clearcutting of old-growth forests, All-Species, corporate research, and so much more! And, of course, continued publishing the newsletter, Catalyst: Creating an Economy for the Living Earth.

In 1996, Daddy had a stroke and shortly after, had to move to a nursing home. Since MaryJean could not live alone, Colin and I moved to Maine (his brothers were already on their own), to live with and care for my sister. I published a journal called Gaian Voices for nine years, and also started a large, magical garden with over 60 different herbs, as well as flowers and some veggies. After learning to make herbal skin care goodies and medicine cabinet staples, Gaia's Garden Herbals was created to sell them. I became fascinated with natural perfumery and shifted towards creating my own blends in 2012.

Then, in 2013, Jason, my oldest, a month after he turned 36, died of an opioid overdose, leaving two young sons, Nick and Sylas. His struggle with addiction had been an on and off again affair for a while, but the last year of his life was especially hard on all of us. Jason was the best man, father, son. I know this may sound strange given how he died, but it's the truth. I did not want to survive. The pain was so intense it felt like my limbs were being torn from my body. I remember the summer evening a couple of weeks after his death when I went to the garden and leaned against the potting bench he had built for me, and keened. The sounds that came out of me were unrecognizable. Karen, an elder woman who lived in her trailer on our land for a few years, came out and stood, witnessing. After I was done, and turned to walk back into the house, she asked,

*"Are you okay?" I replied.  
"No. But I will be."*

It took almost 3 years (and lots of ice cream and weight gain) before I felt like I was going to live. And then I stopped eating ice cream, lost the weight (most of it anyway), and...

As luck or grace would have it, a new friend came knocking on my door who knew of my activist history. She pulled me, kicking and screaming, to a meeting at her house to discuss how to stop Nestle from building a water bottling plant in our town. I was not ready. I resisted. I felt weak, like I had

lost my voice. But . . . I knew I had skills that were needed. And Earth, right?



Jason's death, like my sister's accident and recovery, was another seminal time in my life. I learned about grief. The pain of it and the gifts it brings. And I also learned firsthand that there is WAY more to life than meets the eye. In fact, Jason, his spirit, is who guided me through. I miss his hugs, his voice, his sparkling eyes, and his crooked smile. But his heart and his spirit are strong and always here when I need them.

In 2018, MaryJean and I sold the house in Maine and moved to NY. Almost three years ago, we found a nice senior community where MaryJean has her apartment with her kitty, Dash, and the active social life she craves (but that I don't). For the first time since before the boys were born, I am on my own!

No matter what form my work has taken, Earth has always been my first love and focus. I knew from an early age that I was born with a very specific purpose: "Listen to Earth, write what she tells me, and share it with others". It would take different forms, but the "bottom line" is Earth.

I have never questioned the reality that Earth is a living being, and that humans have the ability, the responsibility, to be active participants WITH Earth. We are, in fact, living within the living body of Earth, like our cells live within our bodies. I insisted in integrating this reality into all my projects, books, articles, and presentations.

In the 1980s and 1990s, my message was "We need to fall in love with Earth like we love our friends, our lovers, our families". Because when we love someone, we don't deliberately set out to cause them harm. And if we blow it, and we're humans, so we do blow it sometimes, we make amends and try to do better in the future. Guided by the love in our hearts, we will know what to do and when to do it. I would also share that each one of us was born with gifts, and our purpose in this life is to find them and share them with others. We are living in frightening, concerning times. Yet, we still have the power to transform. And Love is the key.

*My grandmother taught me  
that Love is  
the most powerful healer.*

When my sister lay in a coma, and we were told that she would die or be a vegetable, I chose to trust the power of Love to keep us connected and to heal her. When she was in the coma, I talked with her every day, and at night I'd ask her to send me a dream. And she did. Each step she made, each tiny bit of progress fed my knowing, though there were dark days and times when I questioned whether I was just being delusional. But then my inner voice said, "No, Susan. You are just tired." After all, I was pregnant too! Eventually, even her doctors pronounced her life a miracle.

*How could I have any doubt about the power of Love after such an experience?*

Certainly, our current reality is bigger than anything in my little life. But the energy, the process, the truth of it is real, and applies to all situations.

An excerpt from Invested in the Common Good:

"The Earth is My/Our Source": "The knowledge that the life force running through trees, rivers, animals, insects, and plants is the same life force running through me gives me hope and adds meaning to my daily activities. The power and the connection this implies make my heart sing. Beyond this, it brings home the fact that we, as humans, are not alone in our struggle. What more can we ask than a partnership with Earth, with Creation herself?"

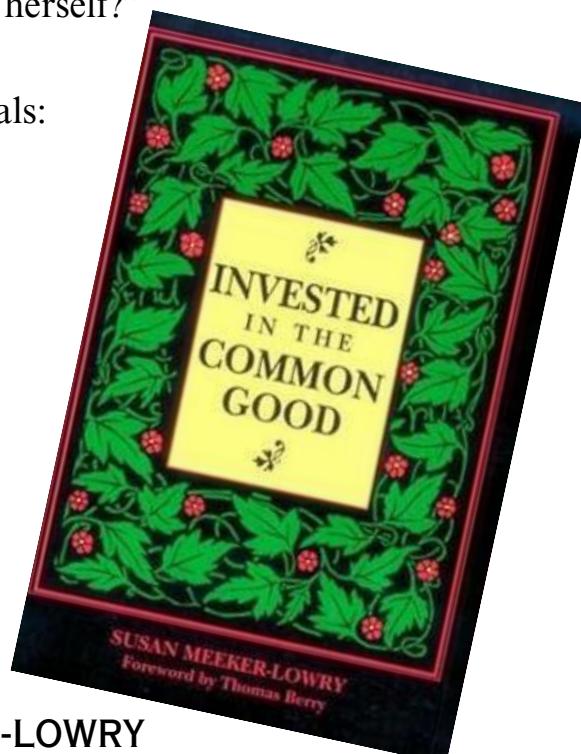
Visit Susan's Etsy shop, Gaia's Garden Herbals:

[www.etsy.com/shop/GaiasGardenHerbals](https://www.etsy.com/shop/GaiasGardenHerbals).

Find her Substack,

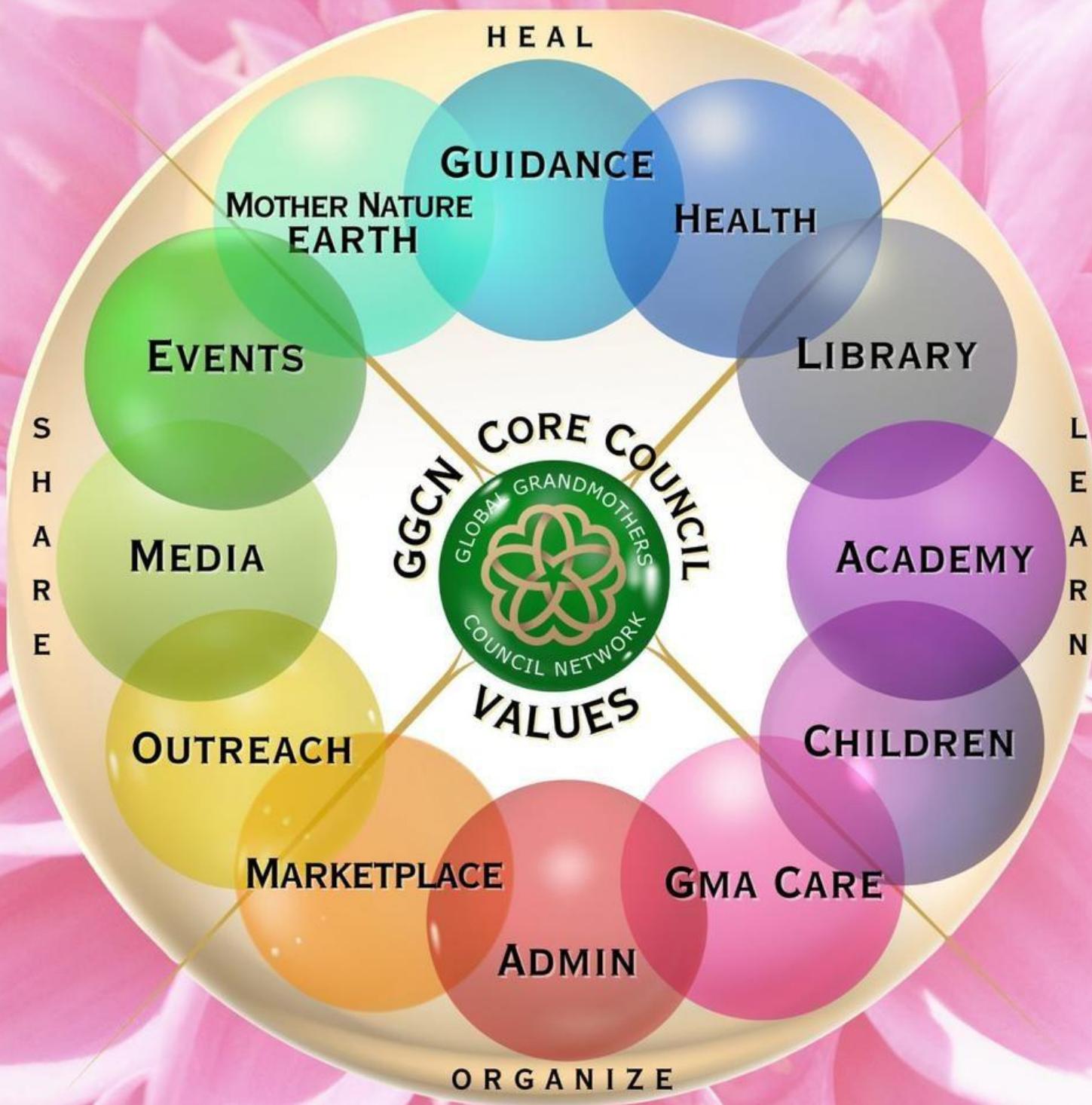
The Magic is Real at:

[susanmeekerlowry.com.substack](https://susanmeekerlowry.com.substack)



SUSAN MEEKER-LOWRY

# GGCN COUNCILS



As we sit in Council together as Grandmothers in an organization, we become the GGCN Network we have envisioned. Providing structure for on the ground, local Grandmothers' Councils and Circles to connect, collaborate and communicate. We also sit in Sacred Council and Circle together online. for a new world for our children's children's children.

***'We Belong' and are 'Better Together'***

Many Positions Available for Women Leaders  
Contact: [circle@globalgrandmotherscouncil.org](mailto:circle@globalgrandmotherscouncil.org)



**Global Grandmothers' Council Network is looking for bright young minds and hearts to support our movement!**

We are over 54,000 grandmothers from 50+ countries who are gathering our wisdom; preserving and sharing it for a world that works for ALL

**ESPECIALLY YOU! OUR FUTURE!**

**6-10 HOURS PER WEEK ~ YOUR SPACE**

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

**CONTENT CREATION:** Get Quotes from our Grandmothers out there!

**VIDEO EDITING:** create shorts from our interview with Grandmothers

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** create campaigns, schedule posts, track stats, etc.

**WEB DEVELOPMENT:** GoHighLevel and Edirectory platforms in use

**GRANDMOTHER SUPPORT:** assist uploading content and creating profiles

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:** schedule zooms, create databases, manage emails

**COURSE CREATION:** assist Grandmothers with their teachings

**CLICK TO APPLY**

- Reference Letters from Experienced PROS
- 501(c)3 experience for your Resume
- Personal Guidance for your life (if desired)
- Recognition in Grandmothers' Magazine
- Opportunity to submit your VOICE in Grandmothers' Magazine (GET PUBLISHED)
- Opportunity to continue beyond 6 weeks
- Opportunity for paid work as we grow
- Dual Mentoring - you mentor us and we mentor you





With deep spiritual awe and enduring sisterhood, We honor the wisdom shared across these pages—each word, each image a heartbeat in the collective rhythm of our grandmothers' legacy. May this offering continue to illuminate, nourish, and connect us across generations and geographies.

#### Disclaimer

“Imagination awakened  
Images and words midwifed by AI.”

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While AI contributes to their form, the soul of each piece is rooted in our collective storytelling and healing vision.

We embrace this digital collaboration as part of our evolving creative journey, honouring both innovation and intuition.

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# GGCN Directory

Connect, Share, and Grow

## Grandmothers, Elders, & ALL Heartists

Add your Business, Organization, Group, or Circle to the Directory

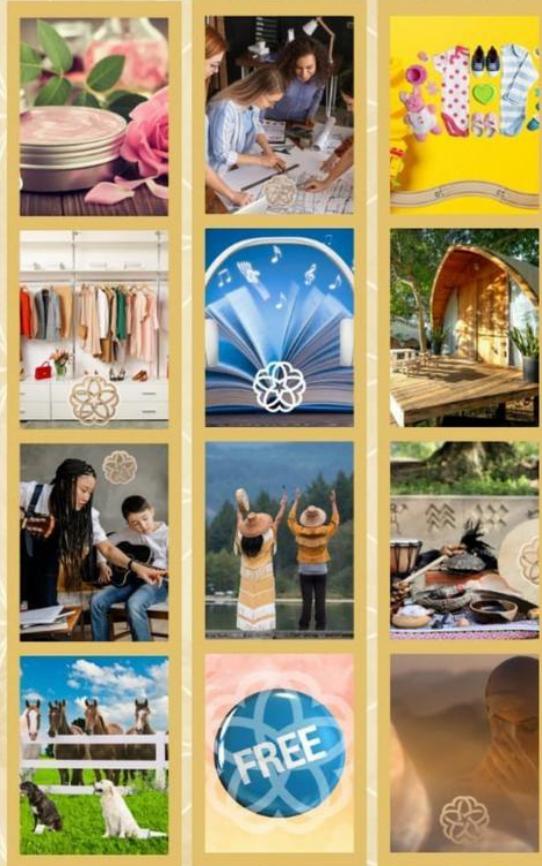
### LISTINGS

Here is where you list your business, group or organization



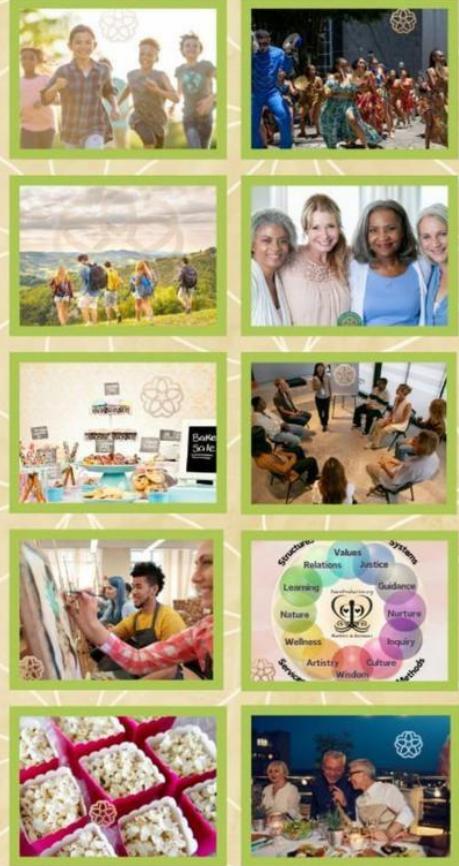
### CLASSIFIEDS

Here is where you offer your goods and services



### EVENTS

Here is where you post your events & happenings



## GGCN SUBSCRIPTIONS



FREE

Register and create your profile.  
Free to Join - for all who walk with wisdom, care, and kinship.

FREE

Get started

#### SEED - Individual

**\$5.50**/month  
or \$55.00/year

10 days free trial

Unlock exclusive content

1 Event Basic

#### SPROUT - Buy one Give one

**\$11.00**/month  
or \$111.00/year

10 days free trial

Unlock exclusive content

1 Listing 1st level

3 Articles

4 Events 1st level

3 Classifieds 1st level

#### BLOOM - Programs & Circles

**\$22.00**/month  
or \$244.00/year

15 days free trial

Unlock exclusive content

12 Classifieds 1st level

12 Articles

12 Events 1st level

2 Listings 2nd level

#### TREE - LEADERS IN COMMUNITY

**\$33.00**/month  
or \$366.00/year

15 days free trial

Unlock exclusive content

3 Listings 3rd level

30 Unlimited Events 3rd level

30 Unlimited Classifieds 3rd level

30 Unlimited Articles

1 Banner Large mobile



*Design, She Shines*



[kalinadigitalmedia.ca](http://kalinadigitalmedia.ca)