Well Behaved
Women Rarely
Make History

Saturday, May 16, 2009
St. Mary’s Academy Theater

Matinee
4:00 pm

Evening Performance
8:00 pm

Joan Szymko, Director
emma’s revolution, Guest Artists

Aurora Chorus
powerful women singing peace

www.aurorachorus.org
A Message from the Board of Aurora

Welcome! We think we have a terrific concert for you. Aurora sings this concert about bold women from our hearts. Aurora empowers us to give voice to our desire for peace and justice in our community and our world. We honor some of the women who inspire us.

We are proud to present Emma's Revolution and to have the amazing treat of singing with them. Their music fits our values and mission so well. Their CDs are available in the lobby.

We are further honored that significant women from our community answered our request for readers. Many thanks to them. They and other women of this area have inspired others with their community service and activism.

We have had such a terrific year...now almost to a close. We had a benefit for No More Victims in the fall. Last month we ventured into a non-musical field and offered Lunafest, an evening of films by and about women.

We are also nurturing a new relationship. The board identified a goal of finding ways to be more present in the community. We decided that we would like to find ways to partner with an organization whose mission and values echo ours.

We have begun to partner with Home Free, one of many programs of the Volunteers of America. Home Free serves women and children from violent homes—until they are “home free”. The services address the myriad of difficulties encountered by their clients in their journeys to safe and free homes. They have a table in the foyer. We encourage you to stop by and find out why we are so excited about what they do. We have guests and staff in the audience from VOA programs. We honor what you do in our community!

Aurora's financial support comes from ticket sales, our members’ fees and contributions. We appreciate that you support us by attending our concerts. There are Aurora items for sale in the foyer. We also invite you to support the chorus by making a donation.

Again, thank you for joining us. We hope you will be inspired to honor the women who have led you to “do the things you thought you could not do”.

Wishing you the courage and audacity it sometimes takes to do what is needed.

The Board,
Peggy McComb - Chair
Mary Hull Caballero - Vice Chair
Laura Day - Secretary
Barbara Blackstone - Treasurer
Annie Herring
Megara Kastner
Marilyn Lindberg
Judi Ranton
Joan Szymko - Ex-officio
Bill Leissner - Recording Secretary
Lan Fendors - Bookkeeper

Artistic Director's Greeting

Good Evening

What began as the selection of an attention grabbing concert title has become, for me, an education. I spent countless hours online, researching the misbehaving women whose words we hear tonight. I am deeply humbled and awed by the audacity and courage of these women, and wish we could share more of their stories with you. The quotes and passages that “made the cut” are barely a glimpse into the history of the women we celebrate; and were selected to support the songs you'll hear. And there are so, so many more “dangerous women” who didn't or who won't give up, shut up, or put up with your version of reality* whose lives, I hope, this concert will inspire you to explore.

Malibongwe Igama Lamakhosikasi! Let Women Be Praised!
Joan Szymko, director Aurora Chorus

* From “I am a Dangerous Woman” by Joan Cavanagh
Aurora Chorus Roster

FIRST SOPRANO
Michelle Ahonen
Phyllis Auger
Claudine Blake
Kristan Burkert
Jennifer Childs
Joyce Follingstaad
Kirsten Hays
Christine Hayward*
Cathryn Heron
Annie Herring
Frances Hicks
Laurel Hortsch
Wendy Howard
Jade Jensen
Constance LaGue**
Peggy O'Neill
Nancy Otis
Judi Ranton
Bonnie Singer
Wendy Street
Stacy Watts
Ann Wilson

SECOND SOPRANO
Sarah Aaserude
Katelin Brewer-Colie
Patricia Cormann
Julie Earnest
Kate Grogan
Nancy Hamer
Robert Jortner
Static Kaeder
Lisa Kron
Lani Jo Leigh
Linda Meadows
Jane Nash
Linda Nichenko
Ruth Palmer
Rebecca Pepper*
Georgia Pinkel
Gwen Porus
Regina Sackrider
Sheri Sheridan
Kimber Warden
Barb Wood
Jean Wright**

FIRST ALTO
Susan Abe
Claire Adamsick
Annie Auxier
Micki Barney
Brenda Brischetto
Carol Bunten
Karen Carpenter
Barbara Gray
Terri Grayum
Joni Hattmann
Dominique Hoffman
Amy Jackson
Marylyn John
Diane Kenedy
Mary King*
Gayle Koszegi**
Jeanne Krinsley
Dana Little
Marilin Lindberg
Bunny Marechal
Peggy McComb
Lisa Molina
Mary Ellen Morrison

SECOND ALTO
Liz Bartell
Pat Blanco
Carolyn Briggs
Rachel Brooks**
Ceara Carder
Cynthia Cascante
Olivia Clark
Jan Corwin
Erica Daniels
Jeanette Hankins
Marya Hazilla*
Colleen Mumford
Patricia O'Shea
Mary Patman
Jackie Rose
Sharon Rose
Debby Schaufler
Gillian Schmidt
Sasha Schwenk
Simone Sunderland
Carol Walker
Kathy Wolf
Andeasha K'Treva
Virginia Malone
Jennifer Mangieri
Martha McCormack
Linda Milone
Gail Murphy
Claudia Nadine
Nancy Ryan
CJ Timper
Mary Anne Wakefield
Andrea Wiener

* Administrative Section Leader  ** Music Section Leader

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EILEEN SPENCER FUND FOR AURORA

A singing member of Aurora for 13 years, Eileen Spencer died on October 16, 2008 at age 64. She was passionate about the chorus. In spite of a ten-year struggle with cancer, Eileen gave generously of her time and talents. She was an independent, adventuresome woman, never aspiring to be described as "well-behaved."

In honor of Eileen's passion that Aurora continue to flourish, we have established the Eileen Spencer Memorial Fund. It will fund scholarships so that more women can sing together about peace and justice.

Checks: Aurora Chorus - Eileen Spencer Fund

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AURORA CHORUS | WELL BEHAVED WOMEN RARELY MAKE HISTORY
KUDOS, Joan!

We at Aurora lift our voices in a chorus of huzzahs for the well-deserved recognition that Joan Szymko has received from the American Choral Director’s Association. They have given her this year’s Raymond W. Brock Commission, for a new piece to be premiered at divisional Conferences of the ACDA in 2010 all across the country, an honor given yearly to a composer who writes quality repertoire of lasting significance. Joan joins such composers as Daniel Pinkham, Gian Carlo Menotti, Morten Lauridsen and Gwyneth Walker. We are delighted that the ACDA has acknowledged and celebrated Joan’s creative spirit and accomplishments, and appreciates, as we do, the power and beauty of her dreams.
Aurora Chorus | Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History

Aurora Chorus, since 1992, has honored the strength and beauty of women's lives through the fine art of choral singing. In Aurora, the beauty and power of music to heal, to inspire, and to reflect a universal yearning for peace blend together in an atmosphere of inclusiveness and respect.

Led by director Joan Szymko, Aurora Chorus consists of over 100 women from the Portland area. Through concerts and special events across the US, Aurora presents music that speaks to the power of human connection and the need for compassion and understanding.

Aurora presents two concerts each season and also appears at community events. Two full-length CDs, "Full Circle" and "Solstice!" are available in the lobby and through the chorus' website, www.aurorachorus.org, where you can also read about future events and find out how to join the chorus.

We are honored to have these women of note from Portland join us as readers:

- Pia De Leon, community organizer and director of social ministry, St. Clare Parish
- Antoinette Edwards, Diversity Director, Oregon Trail Chapter, American Red Cross & community activist
- Emily Harris, host of OPB's "Think Out Loud"
- Genny Nelson, co-founder, Sisters of the Road and homeless advocate
- Lillian Pitt, artist and activist

In the first concert, they will be joined by:

- Frances Storrs, physician and activist
- Kay Toran, president & CEO, Volunteers of America Oregon

For the second concert only:

- Carolyn Tomei, state legislator
- Emma Kurita, writer and artist
- Genny Nelson, co-founder, Sisters of the Road
- Emily Harris, host of OPB's "Think Out Loud"
- Antoinette Edwards, Diversity Director, Oregon
- Genny Nelson, co-founder, Sisters of the Road

We are thrilled to have these women of note from Portland join us as readers:

Emma's Revolution

Dancing on the edge of folk and pop there's a revolution: Emma's Revolution. "Bold, profound, moving, hilarious and transformative. The sound of passion, the sound of revolution." Emma's Revolution brings their uprising of truth, hope, and a dash of healthy irreverence to the forefront. Through "peace, salaam, shalom" and "keep on moving forward," they create an atmosphere of inclusiveness and respect for our community. Their music has been featured on NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Democracy Now!" and on Portland's "Finding Our Voices" documentary.

Emma's Revolution's latest CD, "roots, rock & revolution," is a source of strength and inspiration for our community.

Women of Note

We are honored to have these women of note:

- Carolyn Tomei, state legislator
- Emma Kurita, writer and artist
- Genny Nelson, co-founder, Sisters of the Road
- Emily Harris, host of OPB's "Think Out Loud"
- Antoinette Edwards, Diversity Director, Oregon
- Genny Nelson, co-founder, Sisters of the Road

We are thrilled to have these women of note from Portland join us as readers:

Women of Note
Artistic Director
Joan Szymko has led choruses in the Pacific Northwest for over twenty-five years. Originally from Chicago, she studied choral music education at the University of Illinois (Urbana, 1979) and composition and ethnomusicology at the University of Washington. She moved to Portland from Seattle in 1993 to take leadership of Aurora Chorus. She brought with her extensive experience in conducting women's voices, composing and arranging skills, and a wide knowledge of peace and justice repertoire. Fifteen years later, she continues to inspire and motivate women of widely varying musical abilities to come into their own voice and to aspire to choral excellence.

Szymko began composing in the early 1980's to fill a need for mature, substantive, contemporary pieces for adult treble ensemble. Her music is widely performed and she has over fifty pieces published. A nationally recognized choral composer, Joan has made a significant contribution to the body of literature for women's voices. "Joan Szymko...has continued to provide opportunities for women's choruses to stretch beyond the ordinary and the expected to the refreshing and powerful." [The Choral Journal] A frequently commissioned composer, she has recently written new works for Wellesley College Choir, Miami University Choraliers, the ACDA Women's Composition Consortium and other distinctive choruses around the country. Szymko was recently honored by being selected by the American Choral Directors Association as the recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission for 2010. This new work will be premiered next spring by select SATB choirs at the seven regional conferences of the ACDA.

Thank You, Diane Syrcle!
Aurora Chorus would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Diane Syrcle, our guest conductor for the first six weeks of this term. Diane has been the Executive Director of the Portland Youth Philharmonic since 2003 and has been a frequent presence in the Pacific Northwest music scene. Diane has performed with many of the region's major ensembles, including the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, and the Portland Opera. She has also been a passionate advocate for arts education in Oregon, serving as a member of the Governor's Arts Council and the Oregon Arts Commission. Diane is a gifted pianist and has performed with some of the region's top musicians, including pianist Signe Lusk, who will be performing with the choir this weekend.

Accompanist
Signe Lusk studied piano accompanying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and then continued her studies in Stuttgart, Germany. Upon returning to the United States, she worked for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra as a staff pianist and then continued her studies in Portland. Since then, she has performed with many of the region's top orchestras, including the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, and the Portland Opera. Signe is known for her versatility and her ability to adapt to a variety of musical styles, from classical to contemporary. She is also a frequent performer at the Oregon Bach Festival, where she has appeared with some of the region's top singers and instrumentalists. Signe is passionate about music education and has taught at many of the region's top music schools, including Portland State University and the University of Oregon. She is a member of the Oregon Arts Commission and a frequent performer at the Oregon Bach Festival and other major music events in the Pacific Northwest.
Program Notes

SHE WHO MAKES HER MEANING CLEAR
Throughout the centuries, women have used their voices to educate, advocate and effect change for those marginalized by society. Those who made their meaning clear through passionate writings and vocal support of feminism and racial issues were often criticized and persecuted for behaving badly. Sappho, whose words are translated for our first piece ‘Tell Everyone’, was the greatest female poet of antiquity, who led an aesthetic movement away from themes of gods to themes of individual experiences. She infused her personality and emotions into her poetry, which was later considered vile, resulting in the loss of much of her work. In modern times Audre Lorde, or ‘Gamba Adisa’ wrote about topics that were important to her as a woman of color, as a lesbian, as a mother, and as a feminist. Today, women continue to be a creative force for change by speaking out and acting powerfully in the strength of their vision. We can show younger women what they have to look forward to.

SAPPHO (ca. 625-570BC) was a Greek lyric poet, the greatest female poet of antiquity. Her vivid, emotional manner of writing has influenced poets through the ages. AUDRE LORDE (1934 - 1992) was an African American poet, essayist and autobiographer, known for her passionate writings on lesbianism, feminism and racial issues. Before she died, Lorde, in an African naming ceremony took the name ‘Gamba Adisa’, meaning ‘Warrior: She who makes her meaning clear’. She is remembered as a great warrior poet who fought so many personal and political battles with her words.

OH, FREEDOM!
The call to freedom is not a quiet one! The women who inspired this portion of our program were definitely NOT well behaved. Whether brashly outspoken or intensely private, all were driven by a fierce call to service, propelled by personal adversity never to stand still or remain in the same place. They were our “firsts” on the path to freedom, and their sacrifices were many and profound—beatings, solitary confinement, personal indignities, loss of home, children, health, and livelihood. Spiritual women all, they believed they were doing God’s work but called on their own strength to bring that work to reality. Their spirit lives on in “Ella’s Song,” written in honor of Ella Josephine Baker, to remind us that “Until the killing of white men, white mother’s sons is as important as the killing of black men and black mother’s sons, we who believe in freedom cannot rest...”

FANNIE LOU HAMER (1917-1977) began her career as an advocate for universal suffrage by boarding a bus in 1962 carrying freedom fighters to register to vote. She bolstered the courage of her fellow riders by singing Christian hymns. During one such trip, she was arrested and severely beaten, but she continued to lobby for civil rights for the rest of her life. Her tombstone reads, “I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.” Seventy-one years before ROSA PARKS (1913-2005) helped launch the American Civil Rights Movement by refusing to give up her seat on the bus that historic day in 1952 in Montgomery, Alabama, a young IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT (1862-1931) filed suit against the Ohio and Southwestern Railroad after being forced off a train for refusing to make room for a white man and move to the “Jim Crow” car. She won, but the decision was later overturned. ELLA JOSEPHINE BAKER (1903-1986) spent over five decades campaigning for civil and human rights. Passed over for leadership positions because she was a woman, she nevertheless mentored some of the freedom movement’s most important figures. Her work lives on in a generation of African American leaders who carry on the struggle for civil and human rights worldwide.

I AM WOMAN, HEAR ME ROAR
We hear from the first wave of feminists, who transformed their lot, and in doing so, transformed our world view. SOJOURNER TRUTH (1797-1883) was such a woman. Born into insufferable slavery, she dedicated her life to eradicating racial and gender inequality. She was in good company with the radical GRIMKÉ SISTERS, (Angelina 1805-1879, Sarah 1792-1873) who found inequality of any kind intolerable. We know ELIZABETH CADY STANTON and (1815-1902) LUCRETIA MOTT (1793-1880) and SUSAN B. ANTHONY (1820-1906) as fear­less suffragettes whose solidarity against slavery was second only to their passion for women’s rights. From their combined efforts, the first American Women’s Rights Convention was held in 1848. MARY HARRIS “MOTHER” JONES (1837-1930) left the world of a well-behaved woman to become a political “hell-raiser”. She was passionate about the abolition of child labor and the rights of workers. Opponents called her “the most dangerous woman in America”, a name she wore with pride. Out of the same cloth emerged self-proclaimed anarchist, EMMA GOLDMAN (1869-1940) champion of free speech, birth control, women’s equality and labor unions. Both Jones and Goldman endured imprisonment.

Fast forward to the second wave of noteworthy feminists who profoundly changed our world. ROBIN MORGAN (b. 1941) was destined to shake up ‘business as usual’. She emerged from the ranks of equal rights and anti-war groups in the 1970’s to speak the new language of radical feminism. BILLY JEAN KING (b. 1943) sought and attained gender equality in the world of professional tennis. Known for winning the famed “Battle of the Sexes” match against tennis champ and critic Bobby Riggs, she lobbied successfully for financial parity for female athletes.

We must also celebrate activists GLORIA STEINEM (b. 1934) and BELLA ABZUG (1920-1998) who turned this country upside down and inside out; Gloria also founded the National Women’s Political Caucus. Fierce opponents of any form of inequality, they worked tirelessly to lobby for the Equal Rights Amendment. Though we continue to wait for the day when this amendment will pass—and it surely will—the banner once carried by these remarkable women will be picked up and shouldered by the next wave of women who believe in freedom.

COMING INTO OUR STRENGTH
Who are we, who were we then and who have we become? Each decade of our lives brings new lessons, revelations and discoveries, an experience from which to tell our story and discover what is good and what needs to be discarded. Are we wild women or passive bystanders? As we come into our years, our age and wisdom let us use the rest of our days with greater freedom and clarity.

We also recognize and honor that uniquely American musical form, the blues, and the role of blues singers like Gertrude “Ma” Rainey (1886-1939) in the struggle for equality for all women. Women who sang and wrote the blues in the early part of this century offered, as a recent PBS documentary says, “a powerful alternative to the narrow, mainstream image of women as domesticated wives and mothers, creating a new feminism that drew on the fight for women's rights in the voting booth and the work place that took place between 1913 and 1919, and prefiguring the later women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s.”
Women Rarely Make History

She Who Makes Her Meaning Clear

Tell Everyone
(from “And You Muses”)

She Who Makes Her Meaning Clear
(Gamba Adisa)

Finding Her Here

Joan Szymko
poem by Sappho, trans.
by M. Barnard

Joan Szymko
text by Audre Lorde

Joan Szymko
poem by Jayne Relaford Brown

Oh Freedom

Bridges: Harriet Tubman, Ida B Wells, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker

Harriet Tubman

Ella’s Song

Malibongwe Igama Lamakhosikasi!
(Let Women Be Praised)

Walter Robinson
arranged by Jean Mohr & Szymko

Bernice Johnson Reagon

trad. South African freedom songs

On the National Mall

America

I am Woman, Hear Me Roar

“If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion...”

Suffrage Song

Let Us All Speak Our Minds If We Die For It

Bread and Roses

trad. / Julia Ward Howe

Brough & Maeder

arr. Szymko

Mimi Farina

poem by James Oppenheim

“...the woman of today arises”

I Am Woman (excerpt)

Woman Am I

Helen Reddy & Ray Burton

arr. Szymko

anonymous, arr. Szymko

AURORA CHORUS | MAY 16, 2009
Listening to Our Voices

"I am not afraid... I was born to do this"

Joan of Arc

Ruth Huber

"Tomboy. Alright, call me a tomboy..."

I Want to Be a Real Cowboy Girl

Soloists

C. Prentis Forrester

4pm: Terri Grayum

arr. Szymko

8pm: Lisa Krone

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do"

The Beauty of Your Dreams

Joan Szymko

words of Eleanor Roosevelt, adapted by the composer

INTERMISSION

emma's revolution

Pat Humphries & Sandy O

emma's revolution & Aurora Chorus

Silent Spring

Pat Humphries & Sandy O

Code Pink

Sandy O & Pat Humphries

Not Ready to Make Nice

Dixie Chicks with Dan Wilson

Aurora Chorus

Coming Into Our Strength

"Speak your mind... even if your voice shakes"

Coming Into My Years

Soloist

Betsy Rose, arr. Szymko

4pm: Joni Hartmann

8pm: Bonnie Singer

Wild Women Don’t Get the Blues

Althea Dickerson & Thomas Dorsey

Still I Rise

arr. Ruth Huber

solo trio:

Rosephanye Powell

Jean Wright, Annie Herring, Judi Ranton

"...A revolution of the heart"

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Pat Humphries & Sandy O

Concert program researched, scripted and edited by Joan Szymko
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Lynne Joy Nesbit, M.S., N.C.C.
Director/Founder, Wise Counsel & Comfort

We celebrate
the wise women
of Aurora and all
women making history!

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VISIT: www.culturaltrust.org for more information.

Are You Moved...

To sing with Aurora?
Aurora Chorus welcomes singers of all skill levels from the Portland metropolitan area. We will gladly provide you with information regarding membership, answer your questions, or add your name to our waiting list for next term. Write us at join@aurorachorus.org

To help but maybe not to sing?
Aurora Chorus is always looking for volunteers to join our community of strength and inspiration, and to support our vision of “Powerful Women Singing Peace.” We have a place for you here!

To learn about sponsorship opportunities?
Aurora Chorus is looking to expand our reach into the community, and is seeking sponsors who support our vision. Would you like to contribute to the financial health of Aurora?

Please Call: 503.AURORA.1 (503.287.6721)
Email info@aurorachorus.org, or
Visit www.aurorachorus.org

AURORA CHORUS | WELL BEHAVED WOMEN RARELY MAKE HISTORY
Join the Aurora Chorus in supporting one of Portland's most comprehensive domestic violence intervention programs.

Come chat with us in the lobby after today's concert! Sign up for our E-Newsletters and Informational Roundtables.

(503) 771-5503  www.voaor.org

Assist adults and children surviving domestic violence to move not just toward safety, but toward freedom and all that the word home suggests.
Dedications

Liz Mullaney is a natural leader who advocates for the disadvantaged. I'm inspired by her lifelong resistance to social conformity. She has courageously told the truth regardless of consequences and has inspired me to choose social justice over personal gain...
– Mary Ellen Morrison AI

To Ann, the bravest, most badly-behaved woman I know. “Your courage inspires me to hold on.” – Love, Jeannie

To my California Clementine, I love you as much as Sadie the Little Brown Dog. We’ll get through this together.
– She Who Must Be Obeyed

Lorraine Drougas. From my youth, you taught me to recognize inequality between the sexes. I saw and admired your struggle, fight and perseverance. You gave me one less truth to figure out on my own. Your daughter, Linda

To my Mom, who studied voice and played piano. She would be so pleased that I am singing now. She worked hard to teach me to conform, but then she role modeled breaking most of the rules. She hated snobs and respected all...independent and listening to her inner voices. Thanks for the great start you gave me in music and in social justice. – Peggy

Bun, you are a constant inspiration and guide to me, loud-mouthed when defending me, brave through good times and bad. This is dedicated to the one I love. – Murph

Johanna Elizabeth Stein Wiener Lessner never turns her back on life, inspiring us to believe in our dreams, and do the things we think we cannot do. A well-behaved woman who nonetheless makes history! – Andrea Wiener

To three crones who helped shape my middle years and whose courage inspires me: Betty McFarlane, Ann Huntwork and the late Mary Kavet Anderson. Thanks for kicking butt! – Terri Grayum

Maude Everett Blackstone – my grandmother – who went to the Middle East in 1929 with a woman friend because Grandpa didn’t like to travel. He happily stayed home with my then 13-year old father. My favorite picture, and one that inspires me, is of Grandma and her friend on camels in Egypt in their skirts and hats!
– Barbara Blackstone

Laurette Hupman dear friend who filed a discrimination suit in the early ‘70s against Rand McNally after a new, young man was appointed her boss and dismissed her despite excellent reviews for many years. – Barbara Blackstone

It was an honor to have known Mary Rost A real cowboy girl who loved her family, her horses, and her dogs. She fought cancer with grace and dignity and was a true friend with a rascally sense of humor. – Frances Hicks

For Kate Schwenk My beautiful sister and best friend: the world is an amazing place because you’re in it.

To Susan McCormick:
I dedicate this concert to my best friend Susan who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Her positive attitude, sense of humor, and most importantly her faith has been an inspiration to all.
If anyone can beat cancer, it is Susan.
With love, Annie Auxier

For Patty Brewer from Katelin-Brewer-Colie, S2: Thank you for making the history of extraordinary women part of my life. Starting with the Greek myths! I’ll always think of the pin you wear: HISTORY -HER STORY -MY STORY -MYSTERY. I love you.

Mami, To a well behaved woman who has so generously accepted me into her family as a daughter and a friend. My life is richer and more joyous because of you. Love Always, Joni

To my mother Irene as she slips slowly from this earth, Thank you for helping me grow into the person I am and for bringing the joy of music to my life. Your style and flair mark you as the daring, vivacious and beautiful woman you are. Love Joni

To Mary Jo, who taught me to live one day at a time, to keep on learning, to love as much as I can, and to laugh whenever anything tickles my fancy. I love you, Mom! – Judi Ranton

To Alison, who is growing through experience (far different life experiences than I’ve ever or will ever experience!) learning patience with time, raising five boys to be thoughtful (this will come in time), seekers of knowledge, and to pursue their talents. I love you and respect you! – Judi Ranton

To the women in my life, past and present, who have taught me to keep on keeping on - especially when the night is long and the going gets tough. Love to you all. – Lani Jo

Shirley Anne Mann: My beloved mother, my first hero. You taught me how to love, how to believe in myself, how to sing, how to laugh, and how to see the best in everyone.

Jessa Jos Laake: My friend, my lover. You danced into my life and colored everything with bright, bold love. Even from beyond the veil, your music, love, courage, sparkle, and integrity grace my path.

For Ozmena Fletcher, AKA Mama A complex and varied woman; passionate of thought and action; with vivacity and courage: Mom, you’ve been the wild woman, the red hat wearing woman, the self possessed-take charge-can do woman that inspires me.

Save the Date
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Calling in the Spirits
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