



*This monthly article, by one of our Elder Council Members, is sponsored by Healing Touch Program and Healing Touch Professional Association. We are especially happy to bring these stories to you as part of our **20th year celebration** of Healing Touch Program. Our HT Community is rich with practitioners and instructors who were with Janet Mentgen when she created her Healing Touch Program. Many remain active today - all have experiences and stories that contribute to our "Healing Touch Historical Roots."*

HTP and HTPA have joined together to develop the historical stories of Janet Mentgen's Healing Touch Program by documenting the memories and experiences of those that were in the first classes, attended the first gatherings, witnessed the early growth and held the Vision with Janet. They supported her and blazed the trail with & for her and for those who came later. These individuals are the Elders.

Note: Because each Elder story is a unique personal memory back in time, we recognize the potential challenge of accuracy; we appreciate, accept and will publish corrections if needed.

When we initiated the idea of the Elder Council early in 2008, we did so to honor those who had supported Janet Mentgen, our Healing Touch Program Founder during the early days of developing Healing Touch. We also wanted to have them share their stories during this 20th year of celebrating the birth of Healing Touch. Now it is apparent that these Elders hold history that cannot be told in one story but rather needs to be told and unfolded over time. We look forward to carrying on the Elder Wisdom articles and we also invite everyone to connect with these Elders personally to ask about their journey learning Healing Touch, about their experiences with Janet and don't hesitate to request their wise guidance.

This past year we expanded our Elder Council to sixteen members and expect to add more as we uncover those who were with Janet during the first years of her Healing Touch program development (1989 to 1991). We were honored to have all but ? of these elders with us at our 2009 Healing Touch Program Worldwide Conference in Denver.

Of course there are hundreds who were supporters, students, practitioners and even (uncertified at the time) instructors during the early years of Janet's development of Healing Touch and we

honor each and everyone who pioneered the way for all of us coming after. All on the Elder Council are still supporting Janet's wishes as they continue to bring Healing Touch forward through Healing Touch Program, as she requested her legacy to continue.

We are grateful to the Elder Council for agreeing to share their contact info with our whole Healing Touch Community:

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Above: Some of the members of the Elders Council: (from left) Jane Hightower, Sue Hovland, Carol Komitor, Kathy Sinnett, Barb Hart, Rita Kluny, Sharon Scandrett-Hibdon, and Barb Dahl.