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 one 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:

- **Cindy Aspromonte**, RN, CNP, AHN-BC, HTCP/I Denver, CO aspromontec@exempla.org
- **Anne Boyd**, MDiv, HTCP/I Asheville, NC homelight@aol.com
- **Nancy Burns**, RN, CMT, HTCP/I Arvada, CO jeburns@ecentral.com
- **Barb Dahl**, RN, BSN, HTCP/I Seattle, WA barbdahl@aol.com
- **Mary Ann Geoffrey**, RN, Minister, HTCP/I Loudon, TN thdtenn@charter.net
- **Barb Hart**, RN, HTCP/I Tucson, AZ bhart19@cox.net
- **Jane Hightower**, BA, HTCP/I, DALFH Martinez, GA janehightower@comcast.net
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- **Sue Hovland**, RN, BSN, CMT, HTCP/I Littleton, CO suehovland@aol.com

**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.
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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.