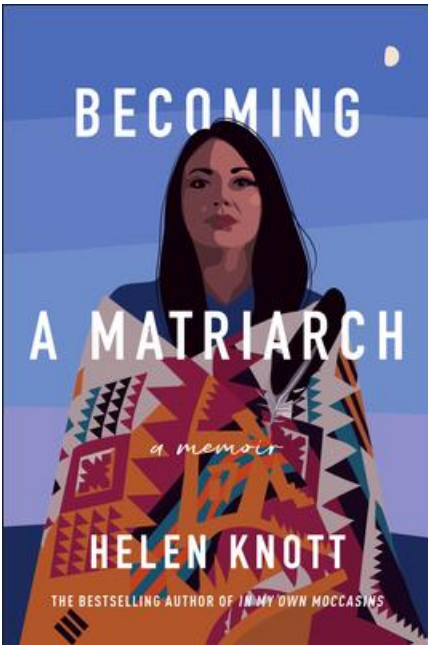


INVITATION TO TRINITY FNMI FALL TALKING CIRCLES September 2024



In her book **BECOMING A MATRIARCH: A MEMOIR** published by Alfred A. Knoff Canada in 2023, Helen Knott shares the impact of the losses of her mother Shirley Big Foot and her Asu June Big Foot within six months of each other. Without these women to care for her, Helen Knott grows into the role of caring for members of her extended family and in her Indigenous community in Fort St. John in British Columbia.

As a member of Prophet River Dene Zaa Nation in northeastern British Columbia, Helen Knott identifies herself as a Dreamer as well as a poet and a storyteller.

She is also an activist, protecting the lands and waters in the Peace River watershed in the construction of a hydro dam.

Helen Knott also has Cree and Metis roots from northwestern Alberta. Treaty 8 was signed in 1899 by representatives of the Crown and leaders from First Nations, covering about 840,000 square kilometres in northeastern British Columbia, northern Alberta, northwestern Saskatchewan, and southwestern Northwest Territories.

This vast area is home to 39 First Nations. Helen Knott notes that her great-great-grandfather Chief Makenecha signed the last adhesion to Treaty 8 in 1911, having participated in an act of protest in the 1890's by pushing more than seventy wagons used by miners and settlers over the cliffs along the Peace River into the waters below.

In her own journey of healing, the deaths of her mother and grandmother provide Helen Knott with the challenge to live into her life's purpose.

In these **Fall Talking Circles**, we seek to explore five sections of Helen Knott's book.

The first question for each session gives each participant opportunity to put to words what we are learning:

What catches your attention in this part of this book?

The rest of us listen to what others are learning.

In Talking Circles, each participant is equal, no matter how long one has been on the journey of learning about the history of relationships between Settler-descendants and Indigenous Peoples or one is just beginning this journey.

Some background information and a set of further questions based on the content of that particular section will be provided to help in the exploration of that part of this book.

The Trinity Office Administrator Kelly Clark will send this information and a ZOOM link out to each participant weekly.

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Over five Talking Circles, we explore our understanding of each section of Helen Knott's book:

OCTOBER 17 BEGINNINGS:

BIRTH: AN INTRODUCTION; WHEN THE NORTH CALLED HER BACK; INTERLUDE #1; DREAMS
pp 1-54

OCTOBER 24 STEPPING INTO THE ROLE OF A MATRIARCH:

INTERLUDE #2; FORETELLING; INTERLUDE #3; MEMORY KEEPER; (BEFORE THE BIRD TOOK FLIGHT)
pp 55-92

OCTOBER 31 REMEMBERING EVENTS FROM LONG AGO WHILE LIVING FULLY IN THE PRESENT:

INTERLUDE #4; TRANSITION; INTERLUDE #5; INTERLUDE #5 1/2; A SCREAM LIVING IN MY THROAT
pp 93-126

NOVEMBER 7 WAITING FOR A DREAM PLANTED OVER MY MOTHER'S CASKET TO GROW

INTERLUDE #6; PULLING SOUND; INTERLUDE #7; THE MEN
pp 127-164

NOVEMBER 14 WALKING AT THE FRONT ON THE TRAIL

INTERLUDE #8; WHEN DEATH COMES TO THE DOOR; SPIRAL; INTERLUDE #9; DREAM; ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
pp 165-207

BECOMING A MATRIARCH: A MEMOIR (Alfred A. Knoff Canada, 2023) is available at Inigo/Chapters, Amazon, and Good Minds in paperback for about \$23.

This book is also available as an audible book for those who like to listen to stories. There are **no** copies of this book at the office of Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora.

Please register with the Trinity Office Administer Kelly Clark in Aurora by calling her at 905-727-6101, providing your email address and telephone number in case some difficulties arise in sending or receiving our ZOOM link.

Each of the Talking Circles begins at 7:30 pm and ends at 9 pm.

Nanockashee Jacob Charles from the Chippewas of Georgina Island will share his knowledge and experiences with us. As a Drummer, Nanockashee will gather us together with a Welcome Song and send us on our way with a Travelling Song.

If you have any questions, please call the Reverend David Franks at 905-715-9997.