

Nancy VanArsdall

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Nancy VanArsdall always wanted to be an *authoress* and wrote her first five-chapter book at age ten. *The Secret of the White Carnation* (inspired by Nancy Drew) sadly was lost among the attic dustbunnies as was her aspiration, for all too soon, she surrendered to the social norms of her time: marriage and motherhood...until the years when those traditional norms began to be questioned and eventually, for her, unraveled.

She returned to Butler University, completing the undergraduate degree she'd abandoned to marry, and immediately turned to the acquisition of a Master Degree. Her path became clear when she discovered *Feminism As Therapy*. She would be a psychotherapist. Seeking a place to do the required internship, she was led to a feminist counseling center—the quintessential center for women in the 70's where her traditional values were redefined. Through supervision and therapy, the inevitable re-evaluation revealed a woman being radicalized as a feminist who became impassioned to join the fight for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

It was during a session with her supervisor—a feminist American Baptist minister and therapist—that the concept of relationships—like the moon—appeared to be cyclical. The idea, though compelling remained undeveloped until several years later when a mentor insisted “You must write a book about this idea.”

Coming Full Circle, Honoring the Rhythms of Relationships was published in 1997 by a courageous feminist press, Third Side Press.

While *The Thousandth Telling* is not an autobiography, it was conceived when her curiosity about her own herstory was squelched by her mother who could do no more than hint at her own mother's story. Grandmother just may have been a Suffragist, through the WCTU.

Her passion was indelibly ignited when, during early research at the Indiana Historical Society, she discovered—and actually held in her trembling hand—a notebook which recorded the minutes of a 1917 WCTU meeting. That there was a possibility the handwriting could have been her grandmother's sealed her commitment to writing *The Thousandth Telling*.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Author of *The Thousandth Telling* (LuLu, 2018)
- Author of *Coming Full Circle* (Third Side Press, 1996)
- Author of the online journal “Musings of a Feminist Writer” (nancyvanarsdall.com/journal/)
- Editor of RCGI's *Seasonal Salon* (rcgi.org/news/seasonal-salon)
- Ordained Wiccan Clergy
- Former coordinator of the National Women's Music Festival Spirituality Series
- Creator of *Lavender Visions*, a quarterly publication for and about women, published from 1988 to 1993.