

319 words, column #3  
Java Talk  
(for May 10 to May 16, 2007)

## **Every Age Is The Best Age**

### *The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering*

Sharon Mehdi wrote *The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering* for her new granddaughter, but she says it is also “a little story about peace for anyone who thinks she can’t save the world.”

The story is about two grandmothers who set out to save the world by standing in a park. A busboy, who works in a nearby café, is the first to notice them. He asks if anyone knows what is going on. When a five-year-old girl says that one of the women is her grandmother and that they are saving the world, there are plenty of hoots and howls of laughter from customers. This is no way to save the world, they say. That night, the busboy tells his parents about the two grandmothers. He and his dad hoot and howl with laughter, too, but his mother phones her friends. The next day, some of the customers from the café and the busboy's mother and her friends, join the two women in the park. Soon after, a newspaper reporter writes a derisive article about the women, but when it is published, hundreds of women come out to take a stand, too. Then, the police are called to remove the women, but they are only standing there, and not breaking any laws. By now, there are 2223 women and one five-year-old girl standing in the park; and word about how they are standing to save the world continues to spread.

Mehdi invites everyone to “please consider standing, if only for a few minutes, at 1 o'clock on Mother's Day, May 13, 2007. Maybe, just maybe, this spontaneous wave of heartfelt intention will be the tipping point.”

Her story is available in twenty languages at [www.standingwomen.org](http://www.standingwomen.org), where you can also find out where others will be standing, and more about how to take a stand, “for the world’s children, and grandchildren, and for the seven generations beyond them.”

Deidre Hill