

Poet speaks to women's group

The following poems were written by Carolyn Demientieff after she attended the recent Statewide Native Women's Organization convention in Anchorage:

WOMEN SHARING

*These women: Tlingits, Haidas,
Tsimshians
Their claim to fame
Steeped in history
And call to culture*

*Meeting together in convention
Recognizing each unto the other
Speaking and paying attention
To the young and old alike*

*Saluting, singing, decision making
Dancing in welcome
Making new history
In love and fun making*

*Presenting resolutions in solution
Holding honor for one another
In order and harmony
Among the chaos of this present
world.*

*This dancing; depicting history
Signifying exercise of the entire
being
The mind, the body, the spirit
Knitting together in unity!*

*All these ages and make bold to
say
An invitation to the future
And follow up the action
Proving what they're saying!*

So they select their leaders

*Swearing their best in from of all
To uphold each other
And again seal their commitment in dance*

*Salute to their social interaction
Topping this vital need
As a yearly activity and impart
A Strength; a tool; a harmony*

*These women: Tlingit, Haida,
Tsimshian
And I quote:
"Love and respect for one
another
Guiding in unity,"
And: "Walk before them with
humility"*

*Come up on their own
To teach us women things
They know how to do*

*Things they've been doing
For many years, eons before
And very very successfully*

Sharing, Caring...

*Walking carefully
And as they said
In humility
Before us, even!*

*So! We acknowledge
And gratefully thank
You, our sisters,
So freely given*

*It is enough to just say
"Thanks"
For caring, daring,
Coming forward...
Until we meet again
God Bless you as you have us!*