

THE GROVE THROUGH POEMS

2001 ODE TO THE BELIZEAN GROVE

By: Carolyn Chin



To Belize and Temptation Island, we went to retreat,
Via planes and boats for a unique chance to meet,
Outstanding and highly accomplished women galore,
With talent, brains, soul and much, much more!

Judy's history on the Bohemian Grove with redwoods and drink,
Stories of male rituals, power, crossing the river, made us think
How lucky we are that we could all instead chare,
Our life, experiences, our dreams and our soul could bare.

We talked, told stories and shared lessons to learn,
Under glorious sun and skies, but we didn't burn,
We beat the mosquitoes, flies, and myths away,
And wowed that strong women would be here to stay.

Trends, Internet woes, how to make dough,
I've got, you've got, and so on and so,
The tales of divorce and parents to care,
Gave us great stories and advice on how to dare.

We enjoyed the food, the drinks, the band and beautiful beach,
The absence of phone, fax, e-mail- - we were impossible to reach!
We jumped on the papers as soon as they arrived
But managed to cope with isolation- - we all survived.

There was the snorkeling and stingrays and sharks that played,
And the boat trip from hello as we bumped and swayed!
Picnics, more boats rides and trips to learn and relax,
Yoga, aerobics, massages, and hot tub to help our backs!

There was the trip to San Pedro for shopping and dance,
For some, there were hopes for a lucky chance- -
To buy art, T-shirts, funky chairs or jewelry,
Or, meet fisherman for some reverie!

Unlike the Bohemian Grove, the trees were safe,
And animals cared for, as Amber adopted a waif.
Some hoped to adopt a villa down the road,
And, Diane and Ali were anxious to have them sold.

We all had an experience that was special and rare,
A chance to meet and make special friends and let us share,
Out lives, our loves, our lessons learned and pain,
What we each got in return showed none was in vain.

Thanks to Susan and her leadership, hard works and insight,
To all those who came down and helped left and right,
To Jane for carting that wine for the hospitality suite,

For fine drink as we took more time to talk and meet.

To Belize we will return again next year,
With new stories and problems for all to share.
We will add new friends to grow our Belizean team,
More friends and a stronger women's network is our dream.