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Contact: Pat Rose/ 415-978-2665 x101  
prose@rwwbooks.com

April 2011

## **Like a Tree**

*How Trees, Women, and Tree People Can Save the Planet*

**Jean Shinoda Bolen**

**“This is a conversation with the Tree tribe  
not to be missed or dismissed.”**

**—Alice Walker**

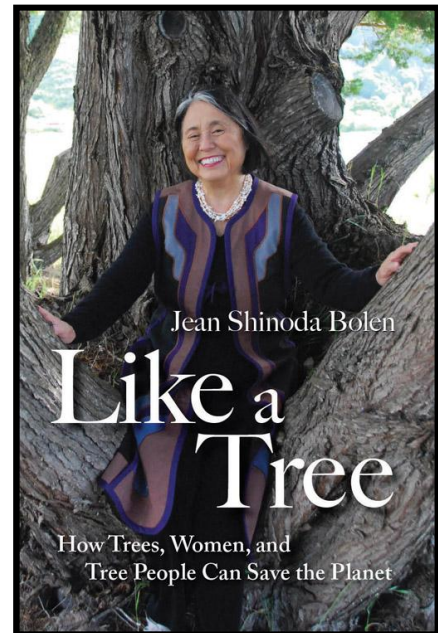
The loss of a huge and beautiful Monterey Pine that was cut down in her neighborhood is the inspiration for best-selling author/activist Jean Bolen’s latest book, **Like a Tree: How Trees, Women, and Tree People Can Save the Planet (Conari Press, April 2011)**.

The tree came down while Bolen was at the United Nations in New York, attending the annual Commission on the Status of Women meeting, where she lamented about her unsuccessful attempts to save the tree to Gloria Steinem. Steinem reminded her that “you are a writer, and a writer has the last word.”

**Like a Tree** is a wide-ranging examination of trees, from their anatomy and physiology to their importance as archetypal and sacred symbols. It is a strong and positive call to ecological activism, with stories of the organizations and “tree people” who are trying to save our forests and the planet: the Greenpeace Kleercut campaign, Wangari Maathai’s *Greenbelt Movement*, Earth Child Institute’s *2.2 Billion: The Power of One Child + One Tree = A Sustainable Future for All* campaign and tree activists such as Julia Butterfly Hill, Linda Milks, Hilary Huntley and others.

“As I went deeper and deeper into the subject of trees, I entered a complex and diverse forest of knowledge, from archeological to mystical,” writes Bolen. “I learned that we wouldn’t be here at all—we, the mammals and the humans on this planet—if not for trees. I learned that reforestation was the difference between cultures that stayed in place and thrived, and those that cut down the trees and did not: these are very applicable object lessons for humanity now.”

**Like a Tree** is also a call to save women and girls, who, like trees, are survivors of worldwide oppression. “Women and girls are a resource,” says Bolen. “Educate a girl and she will marry later, have fewer, healthier children, and almost all her earnings will benefit her family. A convincing case can be made that participation by women is the key missing element in finding solutions for the financial, environmental and military problems that underlie the instability of our world. Valuing girls is like valuing trees. It’s good for them and for the planet.” She reports on the organizations working to





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stop the violence against women, from Amnesty International and UN Women, to Betty Makoni's Girl Child Network in Zimbabwe.

In **Like A Tree**, Bolen offers a unique vision based on metaphysics, psychology, mythology, and global gender politics. She writes eloquently about deforestation, global warming, overpopulation, and gendercide, as well as about her own work to establish a UN 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women.

**Like a Tree** is a poetic, educational, inspirational, and spiritual look at how we can all save trees and save the planet.

**The publisher will donate a tree for every book sold with Earth Child Institute's Power of One Child + One Tree campaign in Togo, West Africa**

**Jean Shinoda Bolen, MD**, is a psychiatrist, Jungian analyst in private practice, former Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center, an internationally known lecturer, author and activist. She is the author of numerous books including *Goddesses in Everywoman*, *Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the Women and Save the World*, *Crones Don't Whine*, *The Millionth Circle*, and *Close to the Bone*. She is also a leading advocate for a UN 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women ([www.5wcw.org](http://www.5wcw.org)). Visit her at [www.jeanbolen.com](http://www.jeanbolen.com)



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Pat Rose 415-978-2665 x101 [prose@rwwbooks.com](mailto:prose@rwwbooks.com)

**ALL OTHER INQUIRIES:**

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