

Yule Celebration 2002

3:00 set up – put altar stuff in corner, food on table, sit on blanket on floor in circle, middle of circle is empty, any personal or fragile stuff keep to edge of circle.

4:00 Wendy, Jean, Kimi Jo, Julia: smudge everyone upon entry; Say "Welcome _____", each of us state person's name

Jean—Salute to 4 directions—put in 4 corners of the room

4:30 Wendy--invoke to solstice

Welcome darkness; share why darkness is important (warmth; quiet; respite, etc.) (whoever introduces, asks for spontaneous and brief sharing)

4:45 Julia—"Everyone get comfy. Lay down completely with your heads to center of room, leaving a circle of empty space. This space symbolizes the void, the darkness and freedom of winter solstice. I'd like to share with you a modern day parable written by Ursula Le Guin. When I first read this story a few years ago, I was struck by how much this story represents the feeling of this time of year. To me this time of year represents the time between death and life. Samhein, the time of death and Candlemas, the time when we set our intentions for the year to come. Followed by Spring Equinox and birth. In a sense this celebration is about the time in between incarnations, when one is pure spirit." Harp music.

Story—She Unnames Them, by Ursula Le Guin.

"Unname. Unname yourself. Drop the name which is not yours. Drop the name which was given to you but which is not yours. Drop labels which have been put on you which are not yours. Drop images which have been put on you which are not yours. Let yourself be the pure spirit which is within you." Pause.

5:15 Julia—"We will be drumming next. You are invited to drum within the feeling of pure spirit. If you wish to move within this feeling, feel free to do so. Blankets and personal stuff should be moved to the edge of the room. Let yourself be free—free to be the pure spirit of your being. Jean has the mother drum, setting the heart beat and pace for this drumming and movement. When you hear it calling with rapid short beats, know that is the time for a change. "

Drum about 15 minutes; Jean drums for ending; then rises and leads us in a simple spiral inward, as we keep on drumming. Julia leads us out of the spiral. Repeat. End in a circle.

5:30 Julia—"The next activity we will do is a group movement. All instruments should be put aside; any blankets or other things on floor should be moved aside." Jean keeps her drum accessible. Wendy or Kimi Jo puts on CD. Wendy, Kimi Jo, Jean, and Julia space themselves evenly around circle. (Julia lead the movement)

a-gather everyone, circle round

b-spiral in; out

c-lead under tunnel of last person

d-tunnel for everyone; pair up

e-another spiral

f-line dance

g-break into a few lines, with Wendy, Kimi Jo, and Jean as leaders, and weave or group

decides, spontaneous group movement

h-end with circle

i-drum beat to calm down; music off

j-pause; silence

6:00 Kimi Jo—(Suggest everyone take a bathroom break now?)

"As you get ready to sit, gather your sit thing, your candle, and your goddess figure."

"Now is the time to celebrate the welcoming of the light to solstice. Just as the earth turns back and reaches to the sun, so too, we turn and embrace the light. Our spirits are rekindled as we remember our kindred to the light."

"We will be creating and bringing our altar to the center of the room."

"First we will be bringing in the space and the main candle, which represents the source of all light." (Wendy)

"Next, candles for 4 directions." (Jean)

"Next, these goddess cards to define the circle around the altar." (Wendy?)

"We will go around circle one person at a time. (If time is later than expected, suggest that we share briefly.) Light your candle from the center candle. Tell of your goddess figure. Choose a goddess card in front of you and choose a goddess name for yourself."

7:00 Julia—" We will be closing with a few songs. The first song is called Circle of Light. We will be lighting extra candles and placing them behind us to create a second circle for our altar; a circle that includes us."

Second circle is called Round and Round the Earth is Turning.

Close with May the Circle be Open and Unbroken.

7:15 eat

Jean—4 direction candles, drum

Kimi Jo—goddess cards

Julia—Harp, story, music for songs, hot cider and cups for food table, *30 candles in cans for circle of light*

wendy?

Need smudge, center candle, matches, cloth to define center void, CD for group movement, matches, napkins, table ware