*The notes below were in preparation for one of our rituals. The information was compiled from the complete articles you can find on this website.*

**Notes for One of our Summer Solstice Rituals**

Colors: Royal purple for the sun’s temporary enthronement at the pinnacle of Heaven

From Beltane to Summer Solstice: From Diana to Aphrodite, from maidens first blood to onset of sexuality at its fullest, from budding sexuality to sacred marriage, and from blossoms to full bloom, this is passion at its peak.

Solstice Goddesses: Sul, Atthar, Glory of Elves, Aphrodite (Greek goddess of love), Litha (European-North African), Cerridwen (rebirth), Ishtar (Babylonian), Asarte (Canaanite), Yemaya or Oshun (Brazilian, Aine (Irish)

Themes: Light, clarity, fulfillment, abundance, consummation, the turning of the wheel of love and fortune, women and goddess mature reign, fertility, power, order

It’s a time for: positive energy, making resolutions and vows that require inner strength, rules to live by, laws of the goddess, aspirations, blockages should be faced and exorcised.

Celebrating courage, intellectual competence, heroine figures, female rulers, self-confidence and direct effective approach to problems, openness, reason, frank-free communication, magical mystery, entrances into the unknown, and fulfillment of wishes and love.

It is: the shortest night of the year, midsummer’s night. The circle wanes toward darkness and winter’s mystery, though winter is far away. Energy is vital, strong, and ecstatic surrender. It is the ½ way point of the year.

Tonight is lover’s night all over the world. Christians renamed the St. John’s day. In the Hopi Road of Life, the time is Niman Kachina, the Home Dance, when Kachina spirits leave Earth for the underworld until Winter Solstice’s Soyal. Also it is the decent of Inanna to the underworld in her jewels. Persephone enters Hecate’s realm. Earth is at her greatest fulfillment and consummates and embraces the other side. It is the time of the year for the greatest bounty. Birth and death are linked as one.

Passionate love between people engenders great creations, ideas, revolutions, babies, poems and causes.

We celebrate the free wild spirit of Aphrodite or woman’s ability to bask in her fires, yet keep her selfhood. Grown to womanhood, she encounters her divine lover. She undergoes death and rebirth of self that occurs when merging with another. She is impregnated and made fertile with future creations.

“Aligning ourselves with energy waves, sexual, lunar, earthly, solar, magnetic and so on, this is what this ritual is all about. It is now know that plants literally excited by the presence of lover’s in their vicinity stimulate growth. The most important thing is to acknowledge and affirm Aphrodite in our lives. The ecstatic waves of passion can be understood as a mysterious life force; waves of Kundalini or Shakti in motion, arousing chemical and spiritual magnetism between beings.”(1)

Rose: The symbol of the Cosmic Mother on the water, her life giving element.

Water: Wash away their cares and worries leaving them floating away, dissolving.

Fire: Ancient people lit fires to encourage it to shine and ripen their crops. Old wives claimed that the summer’s grain crops would grow as high as they leapers were able to jump; so they exerted themselves for the benefit of the crops-for protection for the coming yuear and purification from sorrow. In Ireland, cattle are driven through fire to purify sickness.

Boats: Wishes, dreams, and desires travel to the goddess of oceans, to Yemaya, gentle mother of birth and the solstice.

1. Aphrodite (Summer Solstice) article; an un-cited article in our binder.