

## Spring Equinox 2004

### Upon arrival:

Women will be directed to put their food contributions on the tables on the porch that are set up for the feast. When all have arrived, Luisa may say a few words of welcome to her home and to this celebration, bring up her suggestion that each woman consider being photographed, and direct them to carry their drum, altar offering and whatever they brought to decorate their wand with to the entrance of the chakra corridor, explaining that they should wait to come down to the start till the woman ahead of them has entered the first veil when they finally get to the circle in the meadow to please walk the complete circle before taking a place in the circle and to begin drumming while they wait for all to join the circle. (seating will already be set up and we shall have placed our own instruments in the spots marked by directional markers: Luisa to the south, Marci to the east, Jenn to the west and Wz to the north)

### Anointing and beginning the walk through the chakra corridor:

Weezie will ask each woman as she approaches : "Who walks on this path and wishes to be renewed in the spirit of the birth of spring?". They should then announce their name (a way for those of us who may not yet know all of the women in our circle to connect with their name) and Wz will anoint each woman with oil explaining the significance of the choice of these oils (dragon's blood, sage and frankincense to invite sacred energy, purification and protection and myrr to invite healing and inner peace), and send them on to Jenn. Jenn will smudge each woman with these same incenses (with a brass swinging incense burner) and speak to them about the chakra corridor journey they are about to enter. (she will also make some kind of card with a reflection for each chakra that they will read as they pass through each one.)

### Emerging from the chakra corridor:

Luisa will receive each woman as she emerges and adorn them with butterfly wings Luisa will say when placing on the wings. : Here you leave today and enter the world of yesterday, tomorrow and fantasy."-

and Marci will crown them with a starry wreath and send them on to the circle. (30-45 minutes from anointing through emergence) "

Drumming circle:

Drumming will continue for about 5 minutes after we have all joined the circle. And Marci should signal the end of the drumming and begin the blessings of the directions.

Blessing the directions:

(each of us should have taken up a place where Luisa has marked the directions with stones: Marci to the East, Luisa to the South, Jen to the West and WZ to the North). To allow both for artistic flow and individual expression I am suggesting that we each begin our blessing to the direction we are assigned with the part that is **IN BOLD PRINT**, and make our own ending to the blessing (or use the prayer as it was originally written, whatever suits your individual preference and intention).

**Marci: We call to the East, the place where the sun rises, the place of new beginnings. We call to the element Air, come be with us today.**

Remind us of our first breath. Be with us in the newness of every breath.

**Luisa: We call to the South, the place where the sun rides through the sky all day. We call to the element Fire, come be with us today. Show us great passion and the power of transformation in the name of the child.**

**Jenn: We call to the West, the place where the sun sets and looks back on the day. We call to the element Water, come be with us today.**

Bring us the tides and the flow of life. Help us to move around our obstacles with grace.

**WZ: We call to the North, the place where the stars dance in a spiral of darkness. We call to the element Earth, come be with us today.**

Keep us grounded and centered. Show us the rich soil that turns decay into new life.

**All 4 leaders: We call to the sky above us. We call to the whole planet beneath us. We call the Spirit and Love within us. We call all that is around us, the Great Spirit that moves in all things. Come be with us today. We celebrate all that is with deep gratitude. We give our joy to renew this miracle again and again. (5-10 minutes)**

Myth reading (Persephone and/or Inanna) and herb planting ritual:

Weezie will do a reading and tie it in with a planting of herbs in egg shells. (reading is attached). As each of us plant our seeds, we will share intentions of what our seeds metaphorically represent and that we would wish to be planting in our own lives, that we are ready to take into our dark earthy selves to sprout, take root and hope to blossom in the seasons ahead.(30-45 minutes)

Wand making project:

Marci will begin moving us into a more magical and playful energy with a creative wand making project, using the power symbols each of us has brought to be the center point of our wands. (aprox. 30 minutes)

Fairie ritual:

Continuing the magic, Jenn will lead us through a fairie meditation ritual. (10-15 minutes)

Closing circle: Perhaps Luisa could move us from fairie ritual to closing of the circle. In this we thank the elements of each direction for being in our circle.

Confetti easter egg hunt:

Luisa will direct us to hunt Easter eggs on the way back to the dining area, and introduce the playful ritual of "blessing" each other by smashing them on each other's heads. (20 minutes or so) In Pagan times the egg represented the rebirth of the earth. The long, hard winter was over; the earth burst forth and was reborn just as the egg miraculously burst forth with life. The egg, therefore, was believed to have special powers. It was buried under the foundations of buildings to ward off evil; pregnant young Roman women carried an egg on their persons to foretell the sex of their unborn children; French brides stepped upon an egg before crossing the threshold of their new homes. But today, in the spirit of playfulness and fun, we shall have an egg hunt. These eggs are filled with confetti and when you find one crack it upon someone's head and the confetti flies. Hold nothing back in the name of fun, may no egg be left uncracked – now let the wild rumpus begin. HO!

Then we make our way up to the deck to eat.

### Feasting:

When everyone is gathered around the table we will have 7 women read blessings that are laminated on cards. At the end of the meal each of us will take a plastic egg home with us (part of our table centerpiece?) which will be filled with goodies and an individual blessing for us to use for a personal quiet moment during the spring days ahead to take our blessing out when we have need for one.

### Ritual site set up:

A chakra corridor will be the entrance, symbolizing a re-birthing process for each of us. The ritual circle will have already been set up for seating around a fire in the center. Our alter shall be set up on the south side of our circle as the South is a place of innocence and would honor the gifts that we are given to learn from that aspect of the Medicine Wheel. Creative work stations will be determined for both the wand activity and the planting activity. (I'm thinking that perhaps the planting stuff can just be in front of each sit place, since we plan to share our intentions, it might flow easier from this circle arrangement.)