6/16/2017

**Summer Solstice 2017** with Judy, Lee Ann, Sandee and Anne

Women arrive, we take their food and belongings, distribute to ice pool/coolers and to circle, while they have time to socialize. Expect women to gather, chat, talk about their costumes, light, hilarity, high energy.

**2:00:** Song (to bring everyone into an informal circle) Lee Ann – “Rise up Oh Flame”

A short Welcome and explanation of the stations, and invitation to involve themselves as they like. (Sandee)

4 stations set up in front of theatre curtain, perhaps we can come up with a name for the Theatre, for the play, related to meeting our inner masculine, and make a sign/markee to that effect.

1. Make-up
2. Props (Phallus making)
3. Costumes
4. Name yourself (write on nametag, at their place)

**2:30:** In a line, women enter thru the theater curtain, and walk around the circle, while song plays "Walk Like a Man" (Jersey Boys). Find their chair after song completed

Want to smell like a man? -Offer to dab them with patchouli or rum.

**Call in the Directions:**

**East:** Spirit Keeper of the East, be with us in the time of birth, of coming to life. Just as the sun God comes over the horizon, out of the night sky, we too come out from the womb, and into the light of the world.

Safeguard during birthing; encourage us to adventure and experience all things. Let our childlike ways abound. Let us be boisterous, and giddy. With your loving eyes and guardianship, protect us, assure that we grow and learn all that is possible, that is good, beautiful and true, inside and all around us.

May we know the innocence and magic of childhood, the simplicity of true emotion. Smile and laugh with us; soothe us when we cry; teach us the ways of the world- to be strong and courageous, just and honest.

**South:** Spirit keeper of the South, be with me in this sweet summer time of youth and sexual energy. Watch over me as I test the world and my own abilities. Help me to remember to love and feel compassion for all. Help me to walk my path with joy and love for the two legged, for the four legged, the winged ones, the plants and all creation upon Mother Earth.

Show me it is right for me to make decisions with my heart, even if at times my heart becomes hurt. Help me to use my adolescent energy to grow and nurture myself and my community.

**West:** Spirit keeper of the West be with us in our adulthood as we reap the harvest of hard work. Briing healing to the people we love and to ourselves. Bring into balance the physical, mental and spiritual, so that we are able to know our place on this earth, in life and in death. Heal our bodies. Heal our minds, and bring light, joy and awareness to our spirit.

**North:** Spirit keeper of the North be with me. As each day passes, help me to surrender with grace the things of my youth. Help me to listen to the quiet and find serenity and comfort in the silences as they become longer. Give me wisdom so I am able to make wise choices in all things which are put in front of me, and when time for my change of worlds has come, let me go peaceful, without regrets for the things I neglected to do, as I walked along my path.

**Litha Prayer to the Sun: (Judy)**

The sun is high above us

Shining down upon the land and sea,

Making things grow and bloom.

Great and powerful sun,

We honor you this day

And thank you for your gifts.

Ra, Helios, Sol Invictus, Aten, Svarog,

You are known by many names.

You are the light over the crops,

The heat that warms the earth,

The hope that springs eternal,

The bringer of life.

We welcome you, and we honor you this day,

Celebrating your light,

As we begin our journey once more.

**2:50: Brainstorming: (Listing the aspects of the masculine within that we feel, know or imagine.)**

*So, we have arrived, on the hottest and longest date thus far of 2017, for Summer Solstice, the celebration of the first harvest, of the hot and resilient sun and among all the celebrations, one that speaks of the masculine element.*

*Just last year at this same celebration, we all awaited the election and the suggested theme of that celebration was to FACE OUR FEARS of MASCULINE POWER by using our feminine tools of surrender, trust and self-care. I found no other notes of the masculine in my collection of paperwork from years of celebration, though we certainly have broached the subject. As we met to plan we were surprised to find that we had never delved deeper into this important aspect of life, of ourselves.*

*Surely, we have become stronger women over the years of participation. BUT we are human beings first and a mix of feminine and masculine…*

*We hope the dress up, the dance, the prayer and directions thus far are bringing up ideas of your own masculine, of the masculine in the world at large.*

*Now let us brainstorm about this masculine aspect. What are the aspects of masculine within that we feel and know or those that we see in the world, that we shun, or that we seek. Are our masculine characteristics immature or mature, of the darkness or divine, and of the light? What is our reaction to these aspects, elements.*

*We want to hear your comments, Judy will write down the words, or their essence on the poster board, please speak freely but not over each other.*

*We will write out the words expressed by members, on poster board.*

3:00: **Tao warrior reading and Warrior Poses** – (Judy): From a book titled, *The Three Ways of Tao: The Peaceful Warrior,* by Flavio Daniele, 2012.

"The warrior inside us calls us to be brave and to fight when necessary, for ourselves and for others. He is equipped with unshakable faith, not blind faith, not faith in dogma, but a faith in a final goal.

His conduct is unorthodox, actively involved in making use of everything as a means to obtain that goal. His survival is linked to his ability to adapt. He must be able to transform anything or any circumstance to his advantage. He must activate a revolutionary and extraordinary approach to life which allows him to alchemically transform the negative energies and forces of the heart.

He knows that what cannot be overcome must be exalted and utilized.

Just as a wise gardener whose uses manure to nourish his splendid flowers, the warrior must guide his mind in a way that all his vices and virtues serve as nourishment for his spiritual flame. The real war is against the inner enemies: hatred, desperation and sloth. It is the courage to face these inner dragons that enables us to confront the outer ones with intelligence, self-discipline and wisdom."

“Knowing others is intelligence;

Mastering others is strength;

Knowing yourself is true wisdom.

Mastering yourself is true power”

From Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

3:15 Theatre: little boy PLAY, weapon PLAY, superhero battles Sandee

During this time, will play music in the background from Pirates of the Caribbean. Women will have time to be up and move about the property, nature pee, get wet

**3:30**:  **Imagery**: *Now we deepen, and are initiated and blessed by a male elder, and come to know the mature masculine within.* (Anne)

Get comfortable, maybe a quick drink and a splash of water to cool you.

Breathe in deeply and slowly, focus on your exhalation, emptying yourself of all that has past, and come to this present moment.

Briefly feel your physical self, in your chair or on the tarp, in contact with the Mother Earth, the hot air of Father Sun around you. Take another deep and cleansing breath in and exhale fully.

Find yourself in a landscape that is safe, private and inviting. Allow yourself to see details of the place.

As you walk in and around the landscape, be aware of a circle of men of varied ages, features, skin colors and dress. Some may be familiar, others strange perhaps ancestors. They are chanting and drumming. There is a King, a Warrior, A Lover and a Magician among the group.

You are warmly invited to the circle and a place is made for you. Take time and share with them in any way you wish. Watch and feel what occurs, is there a desire, a willingness, an ability to look at each other, to communicate with these men. Is there a trust between you and the men of the circle?

Be aware of your reactions, your feelings, your curiosity, judgement, resistance that may be happening. Is there a particular situation you want to talk about? Listen and receive the messages given.

Now focus on a specific male, let your eyes meet, and interact as you choose, ask him what you need at this time for your growth, to come into your masculine power, to support the masculine and feminine individually or to create harmony within.

Receive his blessings and his guidance. Listen carefully. Watch how you receive. He offers you a gift, something to remind you of the circle of supportive men here, of the masculine energy of this divine circle, and he tells you to return as needed, for their support and wisdom.

Step back and begin to walk out of the landscape. Walk a bit, and notice you have come to a calm, clear lake. There is time to sit and absorb all that you have just experienced.

Lean forward and look into the glassy surface, and see who is looking. Is it you, in your current female form, or you as the male masculine you dressed as today, that you are exploring today?

Breathe in and let the energies, of your physical form whatever it is, your feminine and masculine aspects connect. Together you are one, there is union, each sees and accepts the other. Is there a message exchanged?

When you are ready, and you open your ideas to the Butte Creek meadow where we are gathered, stay in the quiet of the moment. We will perform a hand-fasting ceremony, wrapping your two hands together to symbolize the union of masculine and feminine.

**Ending with Hand Fasting**: Each of us will walk around and lightly wrap a ribbon around each of our friend’s hands, signifying the union of masculine and feminine, a complete human.

**3:40: Journaling**

**4:00: Sharing** (Judy)

**5:00: Litha Blessing** (Lee Ann)

I draw the summer sun into my soul

and hold my power high today.

As Solstice energy courses through my veins,

and connects me to the ancients, my ancestors,

and all who have gone before,

I am divinely alive.

I feel the warmth of

my beloved sun

as its ray’s dance upon my skin,

on this,

the longest day of the year.

**Closing songs (LeeAnn) / Then Food and Creek**