Samhain Celebration October 29, 2005 (Team-Anne, Julia, Lyn, Wendy, Weezie)

General information

The celebration will be held from 5-9 at Weezie's house < team

will provide the meal: Wz-soup and bread, Wendy-cider and green salad, Lynn-dessert (apple pies), Julia-dessert (cookies and/or squash pies?), Anne-some kind of salad. Wz will create the invitation. We will instruct the group to: wear black and dress in a way that honors the crone, bring photo or symbolic representation of a loved one (human or animal) who has passed away for the altar, dress for both inside and outside activities, sit things (with a note that some couch and living room furniture will already be there, so not necessary for all).

Set up

Alter will be located on the dining table with objects the team wishes to bring to honor the season and space for all to place photos and candles. We will provide black candles and votive glasses for each member on the alter. Sit things will be added to couch and other chairs to create a circle in the living room. A fire circle will be set up on the side of the house. Luminarias will line the sidewalk and the path to the fire circle. Art center will be set up in the office and/or the picnic table with items to create the symbolic floating casket to burn. Galvanize tub will be filled with water to float the boats and placed near the fire pit.

Upon arrival

We will keep the group gathered at the beginning of the sidewalk, sit things may be taken from them if they brought them. They will carry their photo/symbol with them. When we are ready to begin, they may come in 2's down the walk....about a quarter of the way down they will be anointed by Wz . (oil of pine or fir, frankincense, patchouli) (Wendy should be anointed first to be able to be inside at the beginning of the circle time?)

Wz: Welcome (name)...to the rituals of Samhain....it is a season of change, a time to name and honor those attributes within you that are of the Crone, a time of going inside to nurture seeds of your changing within as the earth holds the seeds in the ground....it's a time for remembering and connecting with those we love who have passed over....As you proceed, hold this thought: "what is remembered in your mind, your voice and your heart, Lives." (anoints the forehead, throat and heart)

Then they will move a bit further down the sidewalk (about halfway) to be saged by Anne.

Anne: (while moving the sage bundle over each): Welcome (name)...Breathe in love, compassion and freedom. Breathe out fear, uncertainty and chaos. Breathe in wisdom, grace, calm and beauty. Breathe out pain, shame and frustration. And with each breath, be mindful of your true self.

Then they are sent to Lyn and Julia (about i down the sidewalk-near the picnic table). Lyn will be draped in a black veil and will remain silent and faceless and hold a basket of apples. Julia will read this invitation to each of us:

"Release old fears and open your heart to the magical powers of transformation and connection.

With your first bite a new cycle begins.

Take a moment now to make this conscious decision or keep your apple until that moment arrives."

Lyn silently offers each an apple then we will be directed to go inside and join the

circle (Wendy will already be sitting in the circle) ( a cd of Tibetan bowls music will be

playing as we are all seated)

Timing: begin by 5:15 and allow 15-20 minutes?

Rituals in the house circle

When all have settled into the circle and a few moments have passed for the last to join to have a bit of time to collect and ground themselves, Wendy will welcome the group and read this introduction to the celebration:

“We meet within these blessed bounds to celebrate Samhain, the time of passing from one season to the next, passing from the old year to the new, passing from life to death to life. The pumpkins are ripe in the fields as the North wind chills the air. The Earth is dark and cold and brown-the Earth that was so fair. The Wheel has turned full cycle, from birth to death at last; and we look back for knowledge from the life that now has passed--the knowledge that is the seed of all we will be and feel—the knowledge that comes from living the turning of the Wheel”

(timing: 3-5 minutes)

At the conclusion of Wendy's welcoming words, we (the team) will all stand and point wands to the center. Lyn will count as we circle our wands in a counter clockwise direction nine times.

Lyn will then present a ritual creating a chi field (timing: Lyn, 10 minutes? )

On this dark and sacred night we come togetherto honorthis special time which marks the shift of

attention from the physical to the spiritual from that which is seen to the power and wisdom of the

unseen.

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We invoice this love, guidance and insight byjoining together in thought as well as heart feeling as we create a magic field of connection.

Expanding out through the top of the head we spread out effortlessly into the slcy, the heavens, the

stars the radiance of the cosmos, the spiralinggalaxies with their magnificent ability to cleanse

the soul while restoring peace., the black holes in all their mystery. We honor the sacred space.

Relaxing all of our senses we begin to listen to the voice of Mother P arth through the soles of our feet. We extend our listening abilities further, like deep roots they penetrate into all nooks and crannies. Any secret doorways and paths to the (Jnderworld are touched as we avail ourselves even more deeply to open to the world of magic, fairies and P arth Orones with their deep understanding of the ways of Nature. We honor this sacred space.

We expand our consciousness to the direction before usjoining with the Spirit Or°nes. Here we connect with their power to dream and to affect the world of dreams.

We relax into the realms behind us, merging with the Rire £rones. We humbly acknowledge their cauldrons of transformation and we allow ourselves to be purified by them.

We allow the right and left sides of the body to open, soften and release outward into the spiritual field of wondrous information. The Water Crones await us with their powers of divination, always ready to assist yet quiet until we ask.

In all directions we continue to release and spread our antennae out into the universe- releasing stagnant energies, while letting go of our hold on old patterns that no longer serve us.

As we continue this expansion

We connect with our ancestors

our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers Aunts, (Uncles, cousins (grandparents and Great (grandparents C)ear friends who were our family....

With those who have come before us And those who have spent time with us....

We honor those beings who are yet to "be”

We connect in the heart with these spirits

And together

Expand further into the infinite space

Then gently and slowly

We shift the direction

And bring our attention back to the body.

Back to our physical being.

Knowing we have created much room in our inner chambers

We relax and trust that through this vehicle

We will have greater capacity to speak to and be spoken to by loved ones,

New insights await our call

And healing love prevails in our hearts.

We honor this sacred space.

Lyn will then begin the introducing of ourselves and naming our crone attributes and direct the rest to do the same around the circle.

Julia will then present the ancestor rituals beginning with the invitation for each of us to name our loved one and place their photo or symbol on the alter and light a candle to place in front of it. Then she will guide a meditation ending with a time for each to write what they wish to remember about the experience on paper (available in the center of the room with pens)

*(timing: ?? 30-45 minutes including the journaling*) *here are Julia's notes about this meditation:*

Meditation: HONORING LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED OVER Brief intro into the meditation itself (summary of why and what the meditation is about)

Lighting the candles for "loved ones" for altar Preparing chakra channel

Bringing in golden light

Setting up flame of light in heart chakra Setting up flame of light of "loved one"

Joining together

Memory of loved one and oneself

Imagery work of loved one and oneself

Separation

Witnessing of loved one returning to source

*(30 minutes for meditation, 15 minutes for journaling)*

Before going outside we will stand in our circle and WZ will lead in a few rounds of "My roots go down."

Chorus:

My roots go down, down to the earth; my roots go down, down to the earth

My roots go down, down to the earth, my roots go down,

My roots go down, down to the earth, my roots go down, down to the earth

My roots go down, down to the earth, my roots go down.

Rituals outside the house (and preparing to get there)

Wz will present the segment on the dying or releasing of something negative we are letting go of and would want to release in a ritual burning. After a short commentary of what that might mean for us:

Something like:

In Celtic traditions, Samhain marked the beginning of the year. And just as in our culture, we make 'New Year's Resolutions" time is taken on this new year celebration to reflect on those qualities, patterns, habits we may feel that hold us back or no longer serve our greater good. So as we go into our new year ritual, reflect on the events, thoughts, people and undesirable situations and emotions of this past year that you no longer want to have an influence on the upcoming year. Be mindful of how these elements; which you may now find undesirable may have served you and awakened you in your personal journey and be grateful rather than judgmental toward those aspects. Then consider what your life would look like if you allowed those elements to be released. Would you be stronger, happier, less fearful, and

be more at peace with yourself? What would you bring into your life

instead?

We will spend the next bit of time creating a symbol to represent those aspects of our lives which we would choose to release tonight, *(explain and demonstrate the making of toothpick people on a funeral pyre)* we will

create a funeral in which we will set fire to our symbolic creations with the intention that in this simple ritual, we release what is undesirable and allow the smoke that rises to carry away the essence of those aspects which we release and perhaps see in the light of the flames, new ways to bring in health, love and peace into our lives.

*(She will invite the group to the art area and explain the making of a ritual ’doll' or any other symbol they may choose, and that when they have completed their creation they should carry it out to the fire circle and sit in reflection till they have further instructions.)*

*When we are all gathered at the fire, Lyn will lead us in a five minute chanting of:*

When you were born you cried

And the world rejoiced

Live your life so that when you die

The world cries and you rejoice.

Lynn will signal the ending of the chanting by chiming her Tibetan bowl; which we will take as a cue to begin to quite the chant and fade it out.

After the chanting, Wz will instruct each to come to the water container and place their boat in the water saying a few words out loud or silently if they wish about what it is they are releasing:

They may use this prayer of intention:

May the pain, sorrow and uselessness of that which I now release be carried out of my life and may I welcome peace, love and the intention to awaken and grow in the Love of who I truly am.

and then torch it, releasing that energy. After each release we shall all recite this chant: (Copies will be distributed throughout the circle so that all may join in the chant.)

"Go into the darkness, go into the light,

Go without fury, go without fright,

Go with the coming, go with the going,

Here is the reaping, here is the sowing.)

This closes the releasing of our negative 'stuff' segment

(timing: 30-45 minutes)

Before leaving the fire, Wendy will present a purification ritual with little scripted verbiage, but lots of encouragement for movement. WZ will beat the heartbeat drum quietly in the background then beat a while longer while we move about (timing: 5-10 minutes) This would conclude the purification aspect to the celebration.

Back in the house

At this point we direct the group back to our original circle in the house, where we will take some time to 'share' about our experience. At the end of sharing, Anne would read the following poem:

I awoke this morning in the gold light turning this way and that

Thinking for a moment

It was one day like any other.

But the veil had gone from my darkened heart and I thought

It must have been the quiet candlelight that filled my room

It must have been the first easy rhythm with which I breathed myself to sleep

It must have been the prayer I said speaking to the otherness of the night.

And I thought this is the good day you could meet your love

This is the black day someone close to you could die.

This is the day you realize

How easily the thread is broken between this world and the next

And I found myself sitting up in the quiet pathway of light.

The tawny close grained cedar burning round me like fire and all the angels of this

Housely heaven ascending through the first roof of light the sun had made.

This is the bright home in which I live

This is where I ask my friends to come

This is where I want to love all the things it has taken me so long to learn to love.

This is the temple of my adult aloneness

And I belong to that aloneness as I belong to my life.

There is no house like the house of belonging.

We would then do the closing of the circle, the supper and the exodus to the Prairie Biscuit "Night of the Dead" party at the Women's Club.

Stuff we need (sign up for what you will bring...and if my list looks unfairly long, remember I already live here and stuff is already here ©

Alter decorations-wz has some animal skulls (not sugar, sorry Julia)....anne will bring grapevines, dried and fresh flowers....we will all contribute other appropriate alter things Black tablecloth?-wz

Clear glass votive cups-wz has some, anne and Julia also will bring some Black votive candles-wz Anointing oils-wz Sage bundle-anne

Stuff to create burnable toothpick dolls-wz has toothpicks everyone can bring threads, tissue papers and whatever to decorate dolls leaves to float the dolls on-wz's yard has plenty

Papers and pens to write stuff on the dolls-wz has an office full of that stuff here Apples for Lyn's apple ceremony-wz

Outside chairs for the fire circle-wz has at least 10 canvas ones, 2 metal ones, a couple wooden ones and I think about 6 folding ones, Anne has about 8 and Julia has 4 or five....i think that will cover us Luminerias-Julia

Blankets and shawls just in case we need to help people stay warm....wz has some here, Anne will bring some