

Celebrating the Circle

Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
<http://www.celebratethecircle.org>

Litha/Lughnassadh 2004

Volume 13, Issue 2

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Work = Love Made Visible

Becky Starr

When I first agreed to assist with the CTC Litha ritual I was unsure of the theme. When Dick told me that it had to do with love and work, I thought he was crazy. To be honest, my perception of work has been colored by a company that has been going through numerous layoffs in the last 3 years - several of which have touched dear friends of mine. I had much to learn.

A portion of the ritual was a reading from *The Prophet*, a book of poetry by Kahil Gibran (1883-1931). It was a unique perspective on valuing the work you do as part of truly living life.

But I say to you that when you work you fulfill a part of earth's furthest dream, assigned to you when that dream was born,
And in keeping yourself with labour you are in truth loving life,
And to love life through labour is to be intimate with life's inmost secret.
Work is love made visible.
The Prophet - Kahil Gibran

There were also affirmations about work, one of which touched me in this time of uncertainty and change.

*I bless my present job with love,
Knowing that it is only a stepping-stone on my pathway.
Even better things lie before me.*

To love my job is a struggle at this time, but this affirmation now hangs in my cubical. I also understand that by doing the best work I can, I honor not only myself but the work I do. And by continuing to work with a heart, grateful for the experience, I am growing and being prepared for future adventures.

To work with love on something that is dear to you - a hobby, a relationship, a project - is easy! To work with love during challenging times takes more effort. But often, the benefits and blessings that we are rewarded with are greater!

CTC Schedule of Learning Circles and Rituals

August 8 - Abundance Spells

In the immortal words of Jerry Maguire, "Show me the Money!" This Learning Circle focuses on spells and rituals for wealth, money, and abundance. We will discuss abundance spells and rituals from various paths, examine our own issues around the accumulation of wealth and abundance, and do a few attraction spells to bring the green and gold into our own lives. Facilitated by Tamia, whose been performing financial magic on a professional basis for over 20 years.

August 15 - A Universal Pantheon: Gods in the Heavens

This series is an exploration of universal archetypes expressed as deity. Man has often looked to the sky for inspiration. An exploration of solar and lunar deities from around the world. Facilitated by Eliza.

August 22 - Paganism in Flicks

There have been witches and wizards in movies long before *Harry Potter*. During this learning circle we will discuss Hollywood's treatment of paganism. Facilitated by Dick.

(Continued on page 2)

Celebrate the Circle

CTC is an on-going interest group of the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. CTC holds regular learning circles on Sundays, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Room 7 of the Care Building. Rituals are held for the eight sabbats. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.celebratethecircle.org>

CTC is a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). For more information on CUUPS, visit the website at <http://www.cuups.org>.

Celebrating the Circle is a quarterly publication of the CTC interest group. While it provides information on the activities of CTC, it also serves as a forum for members to express their views. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the CTC, its Steering Committee, CUUPS, or ERUUF and its administration.

Forward your articles, letters, rants, dates, and responses to the editor at info@celebratethecircle.org. Deadline for the next issue is Monday, October 4.

(Continued from page 1)

August 29 - Paganism & Politics

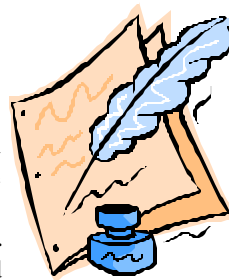
With the current furor over Separation of Church and State, how can Pagans combine both their religious and political beliefs? How can we as a religious group cope with the ever-growing Judeo-Christian focus in U.S. Politics? Facilitated by Amy.

September 5 - A Universal Pantheon: The Guardians

This series is an exploration of universal archetypes expressed as deity. The concept of the four quarters or cardinal directions and their guardians is common to many cultures. Who the guardians are, what they do, and thoughts on the modern guardians of the watchtowers. Facilitated by Eliza.

September 12 - Tarot Explorations: Minor Suites III

We continue our studies with the Six through Ten of Swords. Swords are the suit of intellect and thought, and action and struggle. We will discuss the attributes of the Ace through Five and share our stories of the Tarot. Please bring your Tarot decks and stories to share! Facilitated by Lance.



September 19 - Mabon

This year's Mabon ritual will honor the loss of light and heat that characterizes autumn, as well as the reunion of the mind with the shadow self that it brings. We will tell the story of Surya, a Hindu Sun God, and his wives Sanjna and Chaya, conscience and shadow. Unable to bear the searing heat and blinding light of her husband, Sanjna takes refuge in the cool forest, leaving Chaya, her shadow, in her place. But Surya chases after his love and makes the greatest sacrifice of all, he gives of himself. Each participant will bring home a part of Surya. Chose your piece well and it will bring a deeper realization of your true self. Facilitated by Eliza.

September 26 - Administrivia

Let your voice be heard! What subjects would you like CTC to delve into? What do you desire to teach? The place to share what you want to see taught, what you want to teach, and how the circle is celebrated.

October 3 - Making Simple Rhythm Instruments

The use of rhythm instruments is as old as mankind. There are many forms of instruments that one can make and use for rituals, cleansings, and more. Join us as we make shakers, clapping sticks, sistrums, and simple drums. Facilitated by Amy and Tamia.

October 10 - Zoo Trip

CTC's going to the zoo! Meet at ERUFF as we travel to the Asheboro Zoo. Who knows what insights we may glean from the earth's more exotic inhabitants!

October 17 - Familiars

Witches are often pictured with a black cat. And truth be told, many "witches" do own a cat or two (be it black or not). What is it about these mysterious felines that seems so mystical? And what about other animals? Can they be familiars too? Facilitated by Amy.

October 24 - A Universal Pantheon: The Destroyer

This series is an exploration of universal archetypes expressed as deity. Everything that begins must someday end. This series began with a creation myth, and it is only fitting that it end with destruction. A look at the darker side of deity. Facilitated by Eliza.

October 31 - Samhain

Facilitated by Tamia & Lance.

November 7 - Tarot Explorations: Minor Suites IV

We continue our studies with the Ace Through Five of Cups. Cups represent our heart and souls, our emotions. We will discuss the attributes of the Ace through Five and share our stories of the Tarot. Please bring your Tarot decks and stories to share! Facilitated by Lance.

November 14 - Aromatherapy & Herbalism in Healing Rituals

The medicinal practices of Aromatherapy and Herbalism are used by many pagan practitioners in their everyday lives for healing and health maintenance. This learning circle focuses on incorporating these healing modalities into Healing Rituals. Come prepared for some hands-on healing magick. Facilitated by Tamia.

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Administrivia Minutes

At the previous Administrivia (June 13, 2004), in addition to setting the schedule of Learning Circles and Rituals for the next six months, attendees cleaned out CTC's "Broom Closet."

The closet at ERUFF where CTC stores its supplies had not been organized in a couple of years, and it was a mystery to members what exactly was in there. Among the surprises were the "Bowl of Earth," a gift from former CTC members, Greg and Lori, who moved out west in 2000.

Many thanks to all who attended and helped clean out the closet. With the combined efforts of several members, the closet was emptied, inventoried, and re-filled in no time. We know now what exactly we have in our closet and where to find it.

The next Administrivia will be held September 26 in Room 7 of ERUFF's CARE Building.

Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2004

Assets	
Cash	448.31
Loan receivable	<u>300.00</u>
Total assets	748.31
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (CNC-PLC)	314.37
Net Assets	<u>433.94</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	748.31
Statement of Financial Activities For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004	
Income	
Donations	256.90
CNC-PLC registrations	<u>764.37</u>
Total Income	1021.27
Expenses	
Newsletters	126.17
Learning Circles & Rituals	264.42
Web Site annual fee 150.00	
PagaNet postage & handling	150.00
Carolina Spirit Quest grant	200.00
CNC-PLC expenses	<u>450.00</u>
Total Expenses	1340.59
Net Deficit	319.32

CTC was the fiscal agent for the Central North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference (CNC-PLC). Hence the income and expense transactions on their behalf. We still have \$314.37 of CNC-PLC money.

CTC donated \$200 to Carolina Spirit Quest and loaned them another \$300 in the fall of 2003. The loan is at no interest and with no specified payback schedule.

CTC's cash is on deposit with our parent congregation, ERUFF.

Fairies in Summer

The woods are full of fairies!
The trees are alive.
The river over flows with them,
See how they dip and dive!

What funny little maidens!
What dainty little dears!

They dance and leap,
And prance and peep,
And utter fairy cheers.

- Annon.

Clarification

It was brought to the attention of the CTC Steering Committee that the history of the CTC website was inaccurate in our last newsletter. .

Jenna Tigerheart states, "I created the web site on Angelfire and maintained it for awhile. I can't give you specific durations, it was just too long ago. Maintenance slowly passed from me, to Dick, to Gryphon, who did do a wonderful job maintaining it."

CTC strives to publish as accurate a newsletter as possible. If you wish to report a mistake or omission please contact info@celebratethecircle.org. We will publish the clarification/correction in the next newsletter.

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Letters to a Witch: "Candle Ritual Meltdown!"

Gryphon Rosemead

Hey there Gryph-

I have a question I thought you could answer. I was doing a protective candle ritual for a friend. I lit the candle and held it to charge it by concentrating on my intentions. It became very hot and went out. Is this a bad sign? I just left it alone till the next night in case I charged it a little too much. What do you think?

S.M.

Hey, S.M.!

I do not see this as a bad sign necessarily. Often, there is a reason candles go out, incense does not burn, or you can't find that last item you need for your planned Working. Perhaps the time was not right, or what you were visioning was a little out of focus. Could be, as my Father sometimes tells me, "you just didn't hold



your mouth right."

What you did was pretty much what I would have done. Wait a while and try again. Once in a while, we are not ready to Work what we think we are ready for. Luckily, there are sometimes benevolent Be-

ings, or currents, that gently move us away from what we want to do and help us to align ourselves more precisely with what we SHOULD do.

I have found on more than one occasion that I should listen closely to the soft tap on the shoulder. That keeps me from getting the anvil on the head.

Let me know how the second charging went.

Gryph

Gryphon Rosemead has been practicing the craft since the early 70's and has given Workshops and done Rituals at many public and private gatherings from WV and NC to NY. She is a public Pagan, High Priestess, Elder and has earned a BS and MEd from the University of Georgia. Gryph is a National Board Certified Agriculture Teacher in the mountains of NC and lives with her cats, Grandmother and Josh and her K-9 companion, Skye. For more information visit her website at <http://www.angelfire.com/nc/gryphon> Have any basic questions? She can be contacted at gryph@pobox.com



(Continued from page 2)

November 21 - Constructing a Book of Shadows I

Facilitated by Rachel.

November 28 - Constructing a Book of Shadows II

Facilitated by Dick.

December 5 - Creating Personal Sabbat Altars: Yule & Imbolc

Decorating for the holidays is second nature in most households and many office buildings. Altars are natural extensions of that practice in our pagan tradition. Altars that change with the wheel of the year can be quietly incorporated into mundane settings - or celebrated flamboyantly in our private spaces. Bring your own ideas and altar objects with you to this circle for discussion and sharing of ideas for Yule and Imbolc altars. Facilitated by Tamia.

December 12 - Tarot Explorations: Minor Suites V

We continue our studies with the Six through Ten of Cups. Cups represent our heart and souls, our emotions. We will discuss the attributes of the Six through Ten and share our stories of the Tarot. Please bring your Tarot decks and stories to share! Facilitated by Lance.

December 19 - Yule

Facilitated by TBA.

December 26 - Consumption of Holiday Beverages

Facilitated by Dick.

January 2 - Administrivia

Let your voice be heard! What subjects would you like CTC to delve into? What do you desire to teach? The place to share what you want to see taught, what you want to teach, and how the circle is celebrated

SPECIAL REPORT

Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans General Assembly, Long Beach, CA

CUUPS Annual Meeting

Lance Brown

The CUUPS Annual Meeting for 2004 was held June 26th at the General Assembly of the UUA. About 25 people attended the meeting. There was a lot of good news to be shared with the membership this year! CUUPS currently has about 500 members and 80 chapters, an increase in both individual and chapter memberships since last year, and the increase in revenue from dues and merchandise sales has helped CUUPS, Inc. regain a solid financial stance again.

CUUPS Convocation 2004 was held the weekend of Ostara at *The Mountain*, a UU retreat center in western North Carolina, with 70 attendees. Carole Eagleheart started off the weekend with a song she wrote especially for CUUPS and the re-visioning process the Board is working on. The attendees enjoyed a tightly structured series of workshops and rituals including participating in the re-visioning process for CUUPS. The Board is looking at holding Convocation 2005 at *The Mountain* as well and offering leadership training with *The Mountain* staff as an add-on for Thursday/Friday before the weekend. They are also considering possibilities for youth programming at Convo and a day long program track for musicians and artists.

The Greensboro Triad CUUPS chapter will serve as the Polling Committee for the upcoming election of CUUPS Board members with three members to be named as contacts. The Nominating Committee delivered a slate of three people: Lydia Smith, Judy K. Craft, and Monique Posa. Lydia and Judy are currently on the board. No nominations from the floor were presented and the slate was passed on a vote. Members as of June 30th, 2004, will be eligible to vote in this election.

Coming into the Annual Meeting the Board had two volunteers for the Nominating Committee for next years elections, Susan Shaw and Heidi Bayer Tomkins. During the discussion of duties for the Nominating Committee Lance Brown also volunteered to be on it and Mary Gelfand, the current President of the CUUPS Board nominated Bob Sunday. These people will be searching for CUUPS members willing to run for the board in 2005.

CUUPS Solstice Ritual

Ursa Madre

Ace of CUUPS, the CUUPS chapter of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, led the General Assembly CUUPS Solstice Ritual on Sunday evening, June 27, 2004. Approximately 160 participants gathered on the Long Beach Promenade to celebrate the Solstice. The Promenade was a perfect venue for celebrating the longest day of the year, drenched with full sunshine and cooled by the moderate sea breeze.

Four women, dressed in directionally-colored sarongs, invited in the directions. Four men, adorned with Sun crowns and sarongs, drew down the Sun on a veiled woman in the center. The ritual celebrated the generative power of Father Sun and Mother Earth, with Mother Earth personified by revealing the veiled figure as a

CUUPS on the Web

- Ace of CUUPS - www.aceofcuups.org
- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans - wwwcuups.org
- Conejo Valley UU Fellowship - www.cvuuf.org

pregnant young woman with a spiral-sun rendered in Mendhi upon her rotund belly. The ritual team led the attending children in a dance with yellow and red streamers. Then, the participants charged a basket of nectarines and a chalice of liquid with the wishes for a better world and abundance in our lives. Following a stately spiral dance, the Goddess proclaimed that our days be filled with Joy, and our nights with Passion. Drumming and dancing followed the acknowledgement of the directions.

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Celebrate the Circle
Eno River UU Fellowship
4907 Garrett Road
Durham NC 27707

The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Lammas

Sunday, August 1, 2004, at 5 PM
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As the first harvest approaches, the Goddess of fruits and blossoms, Pomona, and the God of Autumn Winds, Vertumnus, celebrate the abundance of the season.

Lammas is traditionally the time of harvest fairies to give thanks for abundant flocks and crops, to settle up the annual accounts and rents on the farms, and to set aside a share of nature's bounty for the deities and for the next season.

Join Celebrate the Circle on August 1 at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to welcome the harvest season.

Gather at 5 p.m. for ritual beginning at 5:30.



Pomona and Vertumnus
Francesco Melzi
1517-20