

Celebrating the Circle

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

Ostara/Beltane 2004

Volume 13, Issue 1

Inside...

New Website for Celebrate The Circle!

We are proud to announce CTC has a new website at <http://www.celebratethecircle.org/>. After discussion in several Administrivia meetings, the Steering Committee began the process of designing a new site and procured the domain name [celebratethecircle.org](http://www.celebratethecircle.org). Lance Brown arranged hosting for the website on a computer owned by Dwight Ernest, a Unitarian Universalist living near Boston, MA. Dwight is a long-time UU and computer geek. The computer lives in a commercial hosting facility and has fast Internet access.

Amy Brann and Lance Brown developed the new site design using a software package called WebGUI. WebGUI automates many of the tasks associated with maintaining a website. For example, the Upcoming Events calendar on the home page always displays the next several events, and events automatically move from the Calendar page to the Past Events page. WebGUI also makes it easy for regular users, with just a little bit of training, to perform tasks such as adding stories and articles to the website without having to know how to write web pages and HTML. We will be doing further work on the website such as automatically sending out email announcements of upcoming events.

On behalf of all members of Celebrate The Circle, The Steering Committee would like to thank Gryphon Rosemead for her many years of service in maintaining the CTC website on Angelfire.com. She got us online to begin with and kept us there!

CTC Schedule of Learning Circles and Rituals

May 9 - Herbal Propagation

Spring is an excellent time for establishing a new herb garden - whether a window box or a large formal pasture. Join CTC for some hands on training about growing herbs - and take a few back for your own herb patch. Facilitated by Tamia.

May 16 - Tarot Explorations: Minor Suites I

The Minor arcana of the Tarot provide the depth and fine detail of the Tarot. We will begin our exploration of the Minor Arcana by examining the structure of the Minors: four suites (Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles) comprised of ten numbered cards (Ace through 10) and four Court cards (Page, Knight, Queen, and King). Please bring your Tarot decks and stories to share! Facilitated by Lance.

May 23 - Esbats for Solitaries and Small Groups

A discussion for the reasons why we celebrate the esbats, what makes them especially suited for solitary practice and smaller groups, and how to construct and carry out an esbat ritual. Facilitated by Eliza.

May 30 - Hands on Healing

Overview and discussion of some bodywork techniques and how they can promote healing and wellness in both the physical and energetic bodies. We will do a bit of massage and polarity work to illustrate. Facilitated by Dick.

June 6 - Palmistry

Facilitated by Rachel.

June 13 - Administrivia & Closet Cleaning

Let your voice be heard! What subjects would you like CTC to delve into? What do you de-

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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, June 21.

CTC Schedule of Learning Circles and Rituals (cont.)

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sire to teach? The place to share what you want to see taught, what you want to teach, and how the circle is celebrated. Also, CTC will be cleaning out it's "Broom Closet"!

June 20 - Litha

Facilitated by Dick

June 27 - Red Moon

Throughout time, the moon and women have shared a special bond. We will look at how women today relate to the moon each month, through the hag, virgin, mother, and enchantress. This is a co-ed LC, men will doubtless find it informative to learn about the "other half." Facilitated by Amy.

July 4 - Independence Day Picnic

Meet at ERUFF.

July 11 - Paganism in Fiction

Do you have a favorite book that just seems Pagan? Have you ever wondered if Marion Zimmer Bradley was Pagan after reading "Mists of Avalon"? Or do you have a favorite series that has a Pagan undercurrent. Please bring your favorite books to this discussion of fiction with a pagan focus or tint. Facilitated by Rachel.

July 18 - A Universal Pantheon: Mother Earth and Father Sky

This series is an exploration of universal archetypes expressed as deity. The story of mother earth and father sky shows up again and again in the mythologies of the world. We will discuss the various versions with special attention to what they have in common. Facilitated by Eliza.

July 25 - Tarot Explorations: Minor Suites II

Facilitated by Lance.

August 1 - Lughnasadh

Facilitated by Tamia.

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 accumula-

tion 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.

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

Facilitated by Lance.

September 19 - Mabon

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 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!

(Continued from page 2)

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 TBA.

Administrivia Minutes

At the previous Administrivia (March 28, 2004), members attending discussed and decided the following:

- Members discussed the option of adding a printable link to the website
- Requested implementing a “Driving Directions” button to the website
- Discussed the website logo contest
- Approved a gift of \$150 per year to Dwight Ernest for hosting CTC’s website
- Authorized the Steering Committee to spend up to \$50 for 4-5 new altar tables
- Discussed the account balance with CNC-PLC

Filling the Chalice from the River Lethe

Ursa Madre

Our Ostara ritual had its roots in the 2003 Mabon ritual. At Mabon, we traveled with Persephone into the Underworld to examine the realm of Shadow. Some, choosing to partake of the cakes and ale offered by Hades, embraced the shadow for six months.

At Ostara, those of us that did not eat or drink in Hades traveled to the Underworld to check on our compatriots – and bore witness to Demeter’s petition to restore her daughter to the world above. Ever compassionate, Persephone convinced Hades to hear the individual petitions of those that had eaten at Mabon. Some petitions were granted, and the participant was released into Persephone’s care and returned to the light. Some petitions were rejected and the participants remained with Hades.

Like only two or three others, I had not eaten at Mabon. With my plate already overflowing, I was afraid of tempting the fates to heap more on. I had no intention of eating at Ostara either – not with so many tasks to complete for Spring Quest. Yet, I found myself petitioning Hades to allow me to drink from the River Lethe – the River of Forgetfulness – and to rest within the realm of Erebus. And my petition was granted.

While I surprised myself at the time, I realize now that this was the beginning of a process of letting go. Letting go of past hurts that

continued to cloud my present relationships. Letting go of material items that don’t serve my current needs, but only clutter my house and my spirit. Letting go of responsibilities that can be better filled by others with more energy and enthusiasm. Letting go of self-defeating attitudes.

In the hour before the ritual I had remembered the River Lethe and knew that my soul was parched. I had remembered the realm of Erebus where the soul is purified, healed, and restored to be reborn in the Upper World at a future time. And I knew that I was soon going to need to rest and regenerate. So I seized my chance and filled my chalice from the River Lethe.

I have drunk deeply from the cup. Plunging into the depths of shadow work, I have become reacquainted with the other Rivers of Hades as well: Acheron – the River of Sorrow; Cocytus – the River of Lamentation; Phlegethon – the River of Fire that burns but does not consume; and Styx in its awesome fullness – the River of Hate. All have their function in the Shadow Realm, and Lethe washes my spirit, and I can let go.

Forgiving has been a relatively easy task. Forgetting has been difficult – and thus my real stumbling block. And so, I raise my cup and drink from the River Lethe.

Namaste.

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CTC Logo Contest

As part of the “roll-out” of the new CTC website (www.celebratethecircle.org), we are holding a contest for a CTC logo. The designers of the website would like to have graphics to use for each of the eight sabbats (Yule, Imbolc, Ostara, Beltane, Litha, Lughnassadh, Mabon, and Samhain).

Contest Rules are:

- Graphics must be 170x170 pixels
- Graphics must be original work
- Graphics should be based on one idea with variations for each Sabbat
- Graphics should be in .gif or .jpg formats
- Logos should be enclosed in the UU Double Circles
- Graphics **should not** be animated.
- Deadline is June 1, 2004

Email entries to info@celebratethecircle.org. The Steering Committee will judge the graphics and announce the winner at the June Administrivia (June 13th). If you have any questions, please email info@celebratethecircle.org.

So, how do you get to a CTC event?

Celebrate the Circle holds its events at the Eno River UU Fellowship in Durham or the UU Congregation of Hillsborough.

ERUFF

ERUFF is located at 4907 Garrett Road in Durham. From Chapel Hill take U.S. 15/501 North. Turn right at the Garrett Road traffic light, go 7/10 mile south and turn left at the Eno River Unitarian Universalist sign. In the parking lot turn left and proceed to the second building on the right. This is the CARE Building. Learning Circles are usually held in Room 7 of the CARE Building.

From Raleigh take I-40 West toward Durham. Take the NC 751 (Exit 274) and turn right. Turn left at the Garrett Road. Travel approximately 2.5 miles and turn right at the Eno River Unitarian Universalist sign. In the parking lot turn left and proceed to the second building on the right. This is the CARE Building. Learning Circles are usually held in Room 7 of the CARE Building.

From Hillsborough take I-40 toward Durham. Get off at the 15-501 exit and turn left. Turn right at the Garrett Road traffic light, go 7/10 mile south and turn left at the Eno River Unitarian Universalist sign. In the parking lot turn left and proceed to the second building on the right. This is the CARE Building. Learning Circles are usually held in Room 7 of the CARE Building.

UUCH

UUCH is located at 1710 Old NC 10 in Hillsborough. From Durham take I-85 towards Hillsborough. Get off at Exit 165 (NC 86) and turn left (south). Go back over I-85 and go about 1/2 mile to the first public road to the east (left). That is Old NC 10. Go about 1/2 mile to the corner of Lawrence Road. UUCH is on the left on the NE side of the intersection. Driveway is about 100 yards past Lawrence Road. Mailbox beside drive has "UUCH 1710" on it.

From Burlington take exit 165 and turn right at the top of the ramp coming off I-85. Go about 1/2 mile to the first public road to the east (left). That is Old NC 10. Go about 1/2 mile to the corner of Lawrence Road. UUCH is on the left on the NE side of the intersection. Driveway is about 100 yards past Lawrence Road. Mailbox beside drive has "UUCH 1710" on it.

From the south or south-east take I-40 west past US 15-501 exit. Take second exit, New Hope Church Road. Turn right (east) at top of ramp and go to traffic light at NC 86. Turn left (north) on 86. Go almost all the way to I-85. Just past a sign on the right for Joppa Oaks trailer park, look for Old NC 10 on the right. Turn right (east) and go 1/2 mile to corner of Lawrence and Old NC 10. Church is to your left front. Drive is 100 yards past Lawrence Rd intersection on the left. "UUCH 1710" is on the mailbox.

Around the Triangle What's Happening in the Pagan Community

Full Moon Drumming

Come out to One Spirit in Pittsboro to celebrate the full moon. For a schedule of events, please see www.angelfire.com/nc2/onespirit/.

Pagan Pride Day

Pagan Pride Day will be held Saturday, September 18 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. If you are interested in volunteering, email knightraven23@yahoo.com

Tarot Night

Sacred Spiral holds a Tarot night the fourth Monday of each month from 7:30-9:30 p.m. For more information please visit the Sacred Spiral website at www.sacred-spiral.org

Children's Circle

Children's Circle meets the Saturday closest to the Sabbats at the UU Congregation of Hillsborough. Gather at 10:00 a.m.; ritual is at 10:30.

The School of Living Paganism

The School of Living Paganism meets Wednesdays in room 4 of the ERUFF Religious Education Building. All classes are free though donations are accepted. For more information, call 489-2575, or email: mail@shanddaramon.com.

Carolina Spirit Quest

The Spring Event was held April 16-18 at Camp Lapahio in Umstead State Park. The theme was "Our Sacred Paths, Our Sacred Community." At the event, the theme for Spring Quest 2005 was announced: "With our Hearts and With our Hands."

Winter Quest will be held in January at Fairystone State Park in Virginia. The theme will be "Behind the Mask, Your Inner Spirituality."

For more information and dates, please visit www.carolinaspirtquest.org.

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Full circle weekend with CNC-PLC

Amy Brann

Recently, two members of the CTC steering committee, Lance Brown and Amy Brann, attended the Central North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference as representatives of Celebrate the Circle. This weekend long intensive was held March 12-14 at ERUFF.

Beginning in 2001, with the National Pagan Summit, the goals of the Pagan Leadership Conference were to establish dialog, network with fellow pagans, share ideas, and build bridges. Following the national meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Pagan Leadership Conference followed in August 2001 and the first North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference in January 2002. At the NC-PLC, a decision to split North Carolina into three regions (Western, Central and Eastern) was made with the hope it would foster the goals the National Summit set in 2001.

The Central North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference was the first - in the nation - of these local PLC's to be held. CNC-PLC had representatives from pagan groups from Winston-Salem to Raleigh, from Mount Airy to Fayetteville, as well as solitaries. The opening ritual was held Friday night - inviting participants to state what they were hoping to gain from the weekend.

Saturday was focused on brainstorming. The conference attendees broke up into three groups and brainstormed ideas on "What are the Pagan Community's Highest Priority in the next few years?", "How can we best meet the identified needs?" and "How can we coordinate our efforts?" Many ideas were generated, and while it shouldn't be a surprise, many of the groups had the same answers to the questions.

Saturday evening, a social event with a Mardi Gras theme was organized, giving attendees much needed down time and socialization time. During Sunday's wrap-up, consensus was met to start a mailing list for the attendees and invite representatives from other pagan groups in the area who did not attend, as well as solitaries.

Finally, everyone gathered in the grove behind ERUFF for a closing ritual facilitated by the Knights of Herne from Winston-Salem. Coming full circle, at the closing ritual everyone was able to share what they had gained from the weekend.

CTC Beltane Ritual

**Sunday, May 2, 2004, 5:00 PM at the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Hillsborough**

On this Beltane, the May Queen and Green Man will teach us how to cultivate fertility in our lives: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The divine couple will show us how the elemental gifts of information, infatuation, inspiration, and initiation work together for a bountiful outcome. Facilitated by Amy. This ritual will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Hillsborough. Please gather at 5 p.m., and the ritual will begin at 5:30. There will be a potluck afterwards. UUCH has a full kitchen, so you can refrigerate and/or heat items.

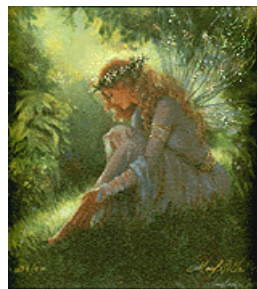
The Spring Fairy

My Lady Spring is dressed in green,
She wears a primrose crown.

And little baby buds and twigs,
Are clinging to her gown.

The sun shines if she laughs at all,
But if she weeps the raindrops fall.

- Annon.



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The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here