

Celebrating the Circle

Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
www.celebratethecircle.org

Summer 2005

Volume 14, Issue 3

Inside...

Learning Circle
Schedule, Cont 2

What makes a totem
animal? 3

Lughnassadh 4

Summer's Child

By Eliza Osenbaugh-Stewart

I sat down several times to write a reflection on the joys of childhood and the sheer beauty of youth. But the words came out all wrong.

I could talk about the memories I have. I remember playing "town," a game where the neighborhood children set up shops and sold ice cream cookies and star-shaped cutouts to each other in exchange for leaves. I remember learning to ride a bike and the shock of crashing to the earth when grandpa took the training wheels off. I remember hours upon hours reading Nancy Drew novels and the babysitters club in the safety of my willow tree.



What I don't remember is writing anything reflective. It goes against the very nature of children to analyze and think through their action and feelings. I butted my head against this wall several times writing the words for the ritual. My first set of quarter calls was poetic and filled with phrases like "childlike curiosity" and "adventurous spirit." I conjured up a perfect

picture of the perfect child. When I was finished, I read the words again to find that they were hollow. I was chasing some ideal of the innocence of youth. Something out of Robert Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay."



What is the inner child? I don't know. But I know the Universe is telling me to relax and just let it come. That is the real lesson of this Litha.

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf,
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day
Nothing gold can stay.

Robert Frost m

CTC Schedule of Learning Circles and Rituals

August 7 - Creating Personal Sabbat Altars: Mabon & Samhain

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 Mabon and Samhain altars. Facilitated by Tamia.

August 14 - Screwed by the Stars? Planetary Returns

Many a pagan cringes when they approach that 29½ year mark. Ack! The Saturn Returns. But is it all bad? Aren't there good aspects to having a planetary return? There are! We'll discuss what the significance of planetary returns are in our lives, and how to best use the energy the Saturn - and Jupiter too! Facilitated by Amy.

(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, gather at 5 p.m., ritual at 5:30 p.m. For more information on events, visit the website at www.celebratethecircle.org

CTC is a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). For more information on CUUPS, visit the website at 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, poetry, artwork and responses to the editor, Amy Brann, at info@celebratethecircle.org. **Deadline for the Summer issue is Monday, October 3, 2005.**

(Continued from page 1)

August 21 - Open Discussion

Facilitated by Rachel.

August 28 - Pagan Movie Day: "Sirens"

Facilitated by Tamia.

September 4 - Tarot Explorations: Minor Suites XI

We continue our study of the Court Cards in the Minor Suits of the Tarot with the suit of Pentacles. What energies and meanings does the Pentacle Court bring to your readings? How do they represent the financial and material world for you? Please bring your Tarot decks and stories to share! Facilitated by Lance.

September 11 - The Pagan Book of Weaving & Dyeing

Facilitated by Abby.

September 18 - Mabon

Meet in the CARE Building, Rooms 4&5. Facilitated by Abby & Steph.

September 25 - 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 2 - Broommaking

What's a witch without a broom? Well, pout no more. We'll gather together to discuss broom folklore and uses of different types of woods as we assemble our own small brooms from responsibly harvested materials. Materials will be provided, but you can bring your own if you prefer. Facilitated by Rachel.

October 9 - Tarot Exploration: Minor Suites XII

We continue our study of the Court Cards in the Minor Suits of the Tarot with the suit of Cups. What energies and meanings does the Cups Court bring to your readings? How do they represent the realm of emotions and our hearts for you? Please bring your Tarot decks and stories to share! Facilitated by Lance.

October 16 - Tarot Spreads

This Learning Circle will look at Tarot spreads for a variety of uses. We will explore several different layouts and discover the best spread for the type of information desired – from easy 3 card spreads to more elaborate 15 card ones. Some experience with tarot is recommended, but not required. Bring your decks to use for readings or to share!! Facilitated by Becky.

October 23 - Pagan Movie Day: "The Thirteenth Warrior"

This 10th century setting provides the viewer with a unique opportunity to see how ancient Nordic and Celtic religions may have been followed. Facilitated by Amy.

October 30 - Samhain

Meet in the CARE Building, Rooms 4&5. Facilitated by Amy.

November 6 - Creating Personal Altars

Facilitated by Tamia.

November 13 - Polarity

Facilitated by Dick.

November 20 - Kabbala I: Involution

Kabbala is the study of the tree of life, a bridge between the divine and the physical. The simplest way to understand the tree is as an out-pouring of divine power and knowledge that leads to physical manifestation. This process is often called involution. In this first circle we will discuss the basic structure of the tree, with

the emphasis on knowledge coming down the tree and the connections to magick. Facilitated by Eliza.

November 27 - Tarot Explorations: Minor Suites XIII

We continue our study of the Court Cards in the Minor Suits of the Tarot with the suit of Swords. What energies and meanings does the Swords

Court bring to your readings? How do they represent the sharpness of intellect and our minds for you? Please bring your Tarot decks and stories to share! Facilitated by Lance.

December 4 - Screwed by the Stars? Retrogrades

About four times a year, Mercury goes Retrograde, bringing with it a cascade of screw-ups, glitches and breakdowns. But you don't have to hide inside during a retrograde. Instead, join us as we find out how to turn a retrograde in our favor. Facilitated by Amy.

December 11 - 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.

CTC's schedule of Learning Circles and rituals is subject to change. For the most accurate & up-to-date schedule, please visit www.celebratethecircle.org for CTC's Calendar of Events



CTC Member Profiles

Ever wonder who makes up Celebrate the Circle? Recognize a face, but don't know what name goes with it?

CTC's website has a member profile page (www.celebratethecircle.org/members). We would love to include you in it! We encourage members, new and old, to include a small biography and optional photograph.

If you would like to add a new member profile or update an existing one, send your biography and photograph to info@celebratethecircle.org.



Summer Comes

 The Little darling Spring has run away

 The sunshine grew too hot for her to stay

 She kissed her sister, Summer, and she said

 "When I am gone, you must be queen instead"

 Now reigns the Lady Summer, round

 whose feet

 A thousand fairies flock with blossoms

 sweet.

 Anonymous

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Eno River
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship

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What makes a totem animal?

By Amy Brann

A few years ago, I sat beside a Lammas fire and asked the Universe to show me my totem animal. I realized soon afterwards it was one of those "Be careful what you ask for" moments.

Anyone who knows me will learn rather quickly I have a terrible case of arachnophobia. So, you can imagine how the next morning I was rather shaken after dreaming all night about spiders.



I have come a bit in my efforts to get to know Grandmother Spider, but I'm still not very comfortable with her. She's not really a creature I work with, I just get too freaked out by anything with eight legs. There are days when I wonder if my arachnophobia is somehow tied into a fear of what lessons Grandmother Spider may have for me that I'm simply not willing to learn yet.

So, in the meantime, what animal do I turn to?

I had an opportunity several months back to meet an animal guide during a guided meditation. And which "animal" showed up? A sock monkey. Yes, a sock monkey.

Where do you even **begin** to research the spiritual meanings behind a sock monkey. It's not even a real animal. OK, so, I can look up "monkey" but it was a SOCK monkey. What spiritual meaning does a grey sock have? I keep meaning to go to a toy store and pick up a little sock monkey and deposit him on my altar, but I just haven't yet. I'm having a hard time taking the sock monkey seriously as a totem animal.



I have muttered and moaned about lack of a spirit animal to my friends. Many of whom are so familiar with their bears, foxes, dragonflies, or salamanders.

Am I stuck with a spider? Or that sock monkey?

Asking myself the question "which animals do I find myself most simpatico with?" gets a quick answer of cats and sea creatures. Fitting since I've been devoted to Bast going on ten years and am a Pisces.

My cats are treated like demigods at home, much to the amusement of my partner. I thoroughly enjoy spending time with them. I get not only a sense of peace, but a sense of energy from them. But wouldn't that be more "familiar" than "totem"?

So onto those fish and sea mammals. Could one of them be a totem animal?

But as much as I love all the creatures of the water, I simply cannot label them "totem" - isn't totem supposed to mean an animal that will guide you and change you? Most sea creatures seem to be so much *me* that I wonder if they are a good guide. A good mirror - absolutely. A good teacher - the jury's still out.

In the meantime, I'll just sit with my sock monkey and keep the spiders at bay. And maybe one day I'll find a totem animal that's a living creature AND I'm not deathly afraid of. m

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The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Lughnassadh ~ “The Egyptian Epagomenal Days” Sunday, July 30, 2005, at 5 PM Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Join CTC this Lughnassadh as we celebrate the Egyptian Epagomenal Days. In Ancient Egypt, these days were five days out of time set aside to honor the births of Osiris, Horus, Set, Isis, and Nephthys.

As we honor, Osiris, the Lord of All Earth, we will give thanks to the universe for all its bounty.

In celebration of Horus, He Who Is Above, we will contemplate our lofty goals and plans for the future.



In reverence to Set, the Lord of Storm, we will banish the harmful the burdens of the past.

The Mistress of Magic, Isis, will be glorified as we joyfully share our accomplishments and successes of the year.



We will rejoice with Nephthys, the Lady of the House, by seek our inner mysteries and connect with them to transform dream into reality.

Join us in Rooms 4 and 5 of the CARE Building. Gather at 5 p.m. The ritual will start at 5:30.

We will feast after the ritual so please bring a dish to share. Need ideas? Foods found in Ancient Egypt include beef, lamb, fish, duck, carrots, turnips, cel-

ery, radishes, leeks, peas, lentils, spinach, lettuce, garlic, barley, chickpeas, onions, dill, fennel, thyme, sesame, parsley, dates, plums, figs, pomegranates, watermelon, grapes - just to name a few!

