

Celebrating the Circle

Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

<http://www.angelfire.com/nc/celebratethecircle>

Beltaine/Midsummer

Volume 11, Issue 2

The 2002 Durham Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 20, 1 - 6 pm (rain or shine)

Historic Durham Athletic Park
500 W. Corporation Street

Admission is FREE!

The 2002 Durham Earth Day Festival will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Historic Durham Athletic Park, 500 W. Corporation Street, in downtown Durham. Come celebrate our wonderful world.

This will be the best Durham Earth Day Festival yet -- we'll have more than 50 booths, music, food, a bike ride, a scavenger hunt, a raffle, a discussion area, a giant puppet parade, and more! Plus lots of hands-on demonstrations and environmental information. Don't miss this chance to connect with the Triangle's environmental community!

For schedules, participant information, activities, directions, volunteer opportunities, and other details please visit <http://www.durhamearthday.org/>

Need another reason to go to the Festival? Here are a dozen!

1. Visit with local environmental organizations, find out what they do, and get involved to protect our environment.
2. Enjoy an eclectic mix of music and performances.

3. See live birds of prey and learn about these magnificent animals with the Carolina Raptor Center.
4. Take a look at alternative fuel vehicles, and learn more about the new transportation technologies reaching the market at the Alternative Fuels Tent.
5. Get a massage, check your blood pressure, and learn what to do during natural disasters and other emergencies at the Health and Wellness Tent.
6. Browse through selections offered by local artists and vendors.
7. Discover our local museums, including the Museum of Life and Science, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.
8. Investigate local plants and animals with the Schoolhouse of Wonder.
9. Drop off your mixed paper to be recycled.
10. Buy a compost bin or exchange your old showerhead for free.
11. Express your creative and artistic self with the Scrap Exchange.
12. Find the answers to our "scavenger hunt" questionnaire, and enter to win in our raffle.

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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, contact the website at <http://www.angelfire.com/nc/celebratethecircle>.

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 CTC, its Steering Committee, CUUPS, or ERUUF and its administration.

Put CTC NL in the subject line and forward your articles, original artwork, letters, rants, dates, and responses to the editor at:

Oakgrove@nc.rr.com

Deadline for the Beltaine/Midsummer edition is Tuesday April 2, 2002.

Get on the mailing list by e-mailing your address to Labrown@nc.rr.com.

Upcoming Learning Circles, Rituals, & Gatherings

Sunday, April 14: NOTE: There is no Learning Circle today; CSQ Weekend. For more information about this wonderfully magical weekend, check out the Carolina Spirit Quest webpage at <http://www.carolinaspiritquest.org> and see article in this newsletter.

Sunday, April 21: Archetypes IV; Lover. Dick. Robert Moore and Douglas Gillette have had great influence in the mythopoetic men's movement, stemming from their original classic, King, Warrior, Magician, Lover. The authors' thesis is that the patriarchal structure of Western civilization, which victimizes men as well as women, is a result of immature Boy Psychology. The book presents four archetypes of mature masculine Man Psychology (and their Dark Side) in the vision that men will be able to integrate these four aspects into their own lives. This learning circle will examine the Lover archetype.

Sunday, April 28: CTC Beltane Ritual. 5:00 p.m. Kumasi Hill. Facilitated by Cynthia. See article in this newsletter. (NOTE: there is no learning circle today)

Sunday, May 5: Moon Magick; Waning Moon. Gryphon. The Moon has long been associated with magic. She waxes (grows), is full, and then wanes (grows smaller) in a regular, reliable cycle. We will discuss the lore and traditions surrounding the phases of the Moon, go on a guided meditation, then make some magic! This LC will involve the Moon in her waning phase, a sharp sickle of experience and knowledge. Come share, journey, grow, and make some Moon magic with CTC.

Sunday, May 12: The Friendly Stimulants – Jenna "Tigerheart" Moore Ginger, Rosemary, and Peppermint are a few of the herbs that can give you a little pep in the morning. Each of these herbs has other healing powers as well. We will discuss some of the ways to use these three powerful herbs. Feel free to bring you own recipes and items to share.

Sunday, May 19: Mother-Laura Come explore this aspect of the Goddess in

part two of a 3-part series on the Maiden/Mother/Crone! Together we will discuss common and uncommon aspects of the Mother, associations, and learn how to incorporate this energy into our lives--whether or not we have children. (Note – this is a CSQ Board Meeting Weekend)

Sunday, May 26: No Circle Activities – Enjoy your Memorial Day Weekend.

Sunday, June 2: Tarot Explorations – Lance

Sunday, June 9: Crone-Laura Come explore this aspect of the Goddess in part three of a 3-part series on the Maiden/Mother/Crone! Together we will discuss common and uncommon aspects of the Crone, associations, and learn how to incorporate this energy into our lives--even if we have not physically reached this stage in our life cycle.

Sunday, June 16: CTC Midsummer Ritual. 5:00 p.m. Kumasi Hill. Facilitated by Ursa Madre. See article in this newsletter. (NOTE: there is no learning circle today.)

Sunday, June 23: Animal Augury: the cat family. DolphinMoon.

Sunday, June 30: Journaling. Sharon. This workshop requires a journal – a few will be available at the circle. Discussion of techniques, purposes, and experiences related to journaling. Includes discussions of books on the subject and doing some writing exercises. Attendees will be encouraged to start a journaling practice and report back at Sharon's next circle.

Sunday, July 7: Administrivia.

The place to share what you want to see taught, what you want to teach, and how the circle is celebrated. Newsletter Deadline is Monday, July 8.

Sunday, July 14: Bastille Day Rituals. Jenna.

July 14 is Bastille Day, which is celebrated in France and is similar to the American Independence Day. This day marks the beginning of the French Revolution in which the French people put an end to the Monarchy. They stopped allowing others to rule them and started

(Continued on page 3)

The Spring Equinox has come and gone and every thing in our lives is in perfect balance!

Well, OK so we hopefully have some pieces in balance. It is not too late to work on that (better get busy) and we will have another chance in six months. Meanwhile, here comes Beltaine which is definitely not set to balance all; soon after comes Summer Solstice which is way way way beyond balance. So if you are a bit tipsy, spiritually speaking of

course, look out for a wild ride over the summer months, and no I don't mean that kind of wild – spiritually wild. If we are not in balance the Goddess and Gods may have their way with us – spiritually speaking, of course. Remember that they do like to play, and we are "It."

Get ready to frolic with the sprites and fey folk for they love pranks and might take a fancy to tricking you.

Learning Circles *(Continued from page 2)*

ruling themselves. Today we will be celebrating our own freedom from the prisons in which we have found ourselves at times. Please bring any drums or instruments you would like to use during the energy raising.

Sunday, July 21: Medicine Wheel-Dick Merritt. A tool for meditation and spiritual growth common to many Native American nations. We will discuss ways this tool can support a variety of neo-pagan spiritual practices.

Sunday, July 28: Early Christian Magick II. Blake. Early Christian Magick II is obviously a spin-off from

part one. In the first session, we discussed Gnosticism, Kabala, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Early Christian Magick II will focus on the presence of the Goddess in the religion's developing stages and how Her magick was performed. Participants are encouraged to bring their thinking caps, as well as an open mind. A discussion is to precede a solid exercise in finding and developing the Consort to Christ from within. Those who are interested in attending who missed part one of this presentation are heavily encouraged to contact me for some pre-class suggestions in catching up.



Next
Newsletter
Deadlines

Monday, July 8.

Monday,
September 30



Letters to a Witch

Gryphon Rosemead

Do you have any basic questions about Paganism, Wicca, Earth-centered Spirituality or other related areas? Address correspondence to:

**Gryphon Rosemead
PO Box 1202
Creedmoor,
NC 27522**

*or email me at:
gryph@pobox.com*

Doing it to Others"

Someone that teaches young people should be a better role model than to act like a idiot and proclaim herself a high prestist of a group of idiots that think that rolling around in the dirt is a religion. Brace yourselves, you have quite a awakening coming. You say you don't have to worry about sin, don't worry you will.

So stupid, such a waste, and to think you have the ear of youth. The really sad thing is that besides doing it to yourself you will probably be responsible for doing it to others. Beware there are specfic passages in the Bible referring to causing others to stumble.

Wake up. It's not to late even for such as yourselves.

Concerned Christian

Dear Concerned Christian,

Although I am not familiar with the "rolling around in the dirt" Pagan contingent, earth is part of the sacred creation and I can understand this view. I do not accept the burden of original sin, but I am concerned about taking responsibility for my actions. For everything that we do, there are consequences that will balance—for the positive or the negative. "An it harm none, do what you will."

I do not teach Paganism in the public school system—I teach Agriculture. I am very careful to keep my spiritual views out of the classroom, as I tend to respect the separation of church and state, as I am sure you do. I never broach the subject of my beliefs and NEVER "witness" at my students, try to convince them to believe as I do or even doubt their own religious convictions. Many have no idea of my religious preference. I live my life according to my Pagan beliefs, honoring and respect-

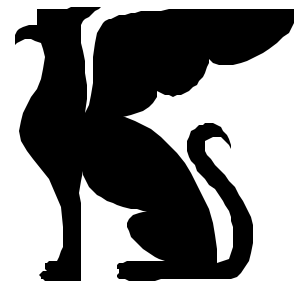
ing others' freedom to do the same.

My school system does not support my religion; they do not care about it. Their concern involves having quality teachers in the classroom. My religious practice, although known to them, has never been a factor in my job performance or evaluation. And I am a quality teacher. Not only am I pursuing National Board Certification this year (the highest professional level a teacher can achieve), but I have also earned perfect yearly evaluations for the last two years. I am listed in Who's Who among High School Teachers and am receiving the A+ Award for Employee Excellence in April.

Indeed I do consider myself a role model for our youth, and a good one.

We are so fortunate to live in the USA, where we can practice our very differnt religions. I will stand solidly shoulder to shoulder with you to defend your right to worship the way you chose to, just as you would to protect my freedom.

Gryph



Carolina Spirit Quest

April 12-14, 2002
Millstone Camp, NC

Greetings,

Carolina Spirit Quest is coming up very soon, April 12-14th, at Camp Millstone near Ellerbe, NC. We are *NOT* full and I would encourage anyone who is interested in attending, but thought we might be full, to go ahead and register. There are a lot of slots open still!

We have a wide range of workshops lined up this year! Here is the schedule breakdown:

Friday Intensive Workshop: Polyamory for Pagans

Friday PM

Newcomer's Workshop Day trip to
Indian Mound
Pyromancy

Saturday AM

Rituals for Large Groups
Building a Spiritual Sauna
Spinning Workshop
Introduction to Tarot
Sword Meditation
Developing a Personal Pagan
Practice

Saturday PM

Belly Dance
Flute Making
Carolina Spirit Quest Visioning
Elements of Magic
Tarot Making
Animal Spirit Circle
Spiritual Sauna
West-African Drumming

Sunday AM

Reiki Wheel of the Year
The Shadow
Votary of Isis
Storytelling
Spiritual Sauna

We also have three wonderful rituals planned: Opening, Main, and Closing. Meals are being covered by Bill Elston again, the menu he has planned for us will make your mouth water regardless of your dietary preferences, a masquerade ball Saturday evening with a Silent Auction, drumming circles, and LOTS of opportunity to network and make new friends in the pagan communities stretching across Virginia and the Carolinas!

Full information about CSQ 2002 can be found on our website at <http://www.carolinaspirtquest.org>, including PDFs of the catalog and registration forms.

We look forward to seeing you soon!!!!

Lance
Co-Director, CSQ 2002



When I was a Solitary Practitioner, I spent a lot of time planning and implementing Rituals. Not only did I recognize the eight major Holidays as well as Full Moons and New Moons; I also observed the quarter phases of the Moon. I would spend a couple of hours setting up and planning the Rituals, at least ½ to 1 ½ hours in Ritual, then it would take another half hour to an hour to clean up and put all my paraphernalia away.

The more I got involved in planning and presenting Learning Circles and organizing public Rituals, the more my personal Ritual practice fell by the road side. First the quarter Moon Rituals, then the New Moon. The Full Moon and sun Rituals soon followed, until all my attention seemed to be focused on making magic happen for others.

The movement of focus from myself to others has been a deeply leaning and satisfying experience. But as I spent less and less time with just the Gods and myself, the more disconnected I became. Finally, I realized that I had replaced meditation of the reflection of the moon on the water at the top of my list of priorities with making talismans for a class I was teaching or writing calls for an upcoming large Ritual.

One of my resolutions this year is to get back in touch with my Solitary Practice, at the same time not turning my back on my public responsibilities and privileges.

Years ago in Brea I lived in a farm house with a pond. It was a Full Moon night and I had, as usual, planned a long and intricate Ritual. Driving home late from work (after dark) I was already making plans to pack items up and tote them out to the Sacred Circle in the woods behind my house that I frequently did Ritual in. I had the list ready and was thinking about cakes and ale as I turned into the driveway.

The Moon was already up and bright in the dark starry sky. As I got out of the car Her light fell on me and She called to me. I figured I would briefly go to the pond before I began to gather up all my stuff to do the planned Ritual.


I walked to the pond and Her light made a trail in the water. I walked to that trail and knelt down. I did not have my Athame; I did not have my chalice or my salt or pentacle plate. But the wind played in my hair and I welcomed it; the warmth in the breeze touched my divine spark, the water lapped, lapped, lapped; the Earth smelled sweet and felt firm under my knees. My heart opened up and the song within it was in perfect harmony with All There Is.

We sang together for a while; how long, I do not know. When it slowly, gently ended, I was whole and peaceful and happy.

So when I begin thinking of my resolution to bring back my Solitary practice, my first thought was of all the time I had spent in the past planning and implementing my Solitary Rituals. But my memory of one of the most powerful and meaningful Rituals is still kneeling on the sweet Earth by the pond, singing with the wind, feeling the Moon caress the fire of my soul.

So when one of my friends pointed out that a good Ritual might only last 5 minutes, I knew that I would be able to balance my Solitary Practice with my Public practice; I just had to shift my paradigm. And I started at this past Full Moon.

Instead of a formal Ritual, I pulled my pad and comforter out onto my balcony under the Full Moon's light. I snuggled in, called the Directions, thanking them for the Moon, soft breezes, moisture in the air, the smell of the Earth and my very own spark of divinity. Then I went to sleep. In the morning, I thanked and released the Directions, threw my stuff into the bedroom and started my day.

With these two Rituals in mind, I am really looking forward to all of the different and interesting Rituals that will happen, because... It happened without incense! It happened without herbs! It happened without chalices,  candles or robes!

And the Grinch, with
his Grinch-feet ice-
cold in the snow,

Stood puzzling and
puzzling: "How could
it be so?"

"It came without rib-
bons! It came without
tags!

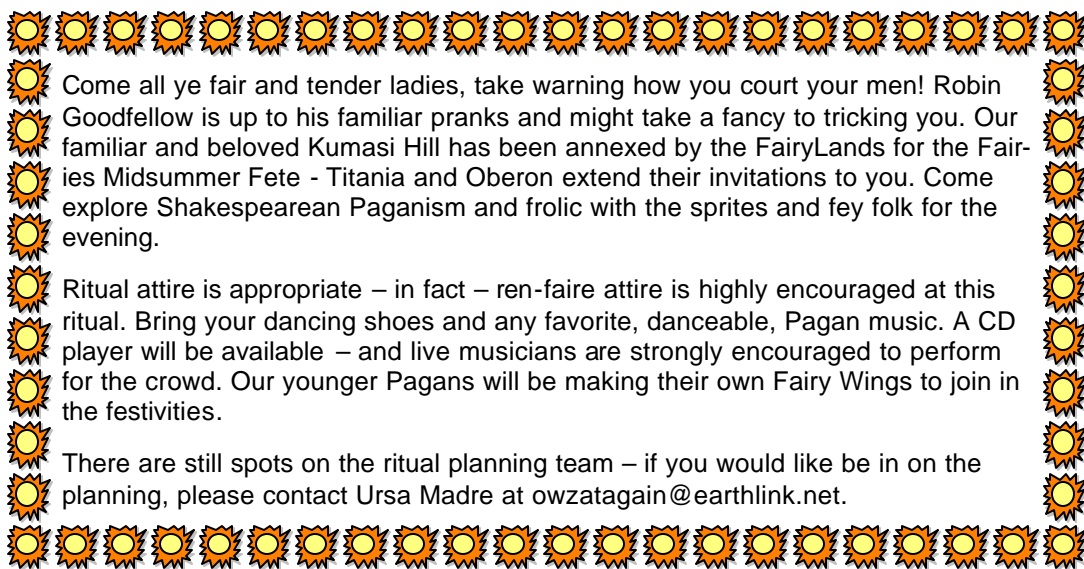
"It came without
packages, boxes or
bags!"

-- Dr. Seuss, How the
Grinch Stole Christ-
mas

CTC Midsummer Ritual - 5:00 p.m. Kumasi Hill

Sunday, June 16

Facilitated by Ursa Madre and Friends.

 Come all ye fair and tender ladies, take warning how you court your men! Robin Goodfellow is up to his familiar pranks and might take a fancy to tricking you. Our familiar and beloved Kumasi Hill has been annexed by the FairyLands for the Fairies Midsummer Fete - Titania and Oberon extend their invitations to you. Come explore Shakespearean Paganism and frolic with the sprites and fey folk for the evening.

Ritual attire is appropriate – in fact – ren-faire attire is highly encouraged at this ritual. Bring your dancing shoes and any favorite, danceable, Pagan music. A CD player will be available – and live musicians are strongly encouraged to perform for the crowd. Our younger Pagans will be making their own Fairy Wings to join in the festivities.

There are still spots on the ritual planning team – if you would like be in on the planning, please contact Ursa Madre at owzatagain@earthlink.net.

The Rattle And The Moon

Full Moon Drumming/11-22-99

Tammie Ward

As I rattle to the moon
She looks down at me
Peeking from behind clouds and branches
And I realize
Life, Music, Love, Magic
Is so easy
I make it difficult

Thank You Note from ERUUF

Celebrate the Circle
ERUUF

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the "Currents" folding committee I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$200 to the cost of the state-of-the-art folding machine. It will aid in speeding up the process of mailing out the newsletter twice a month.

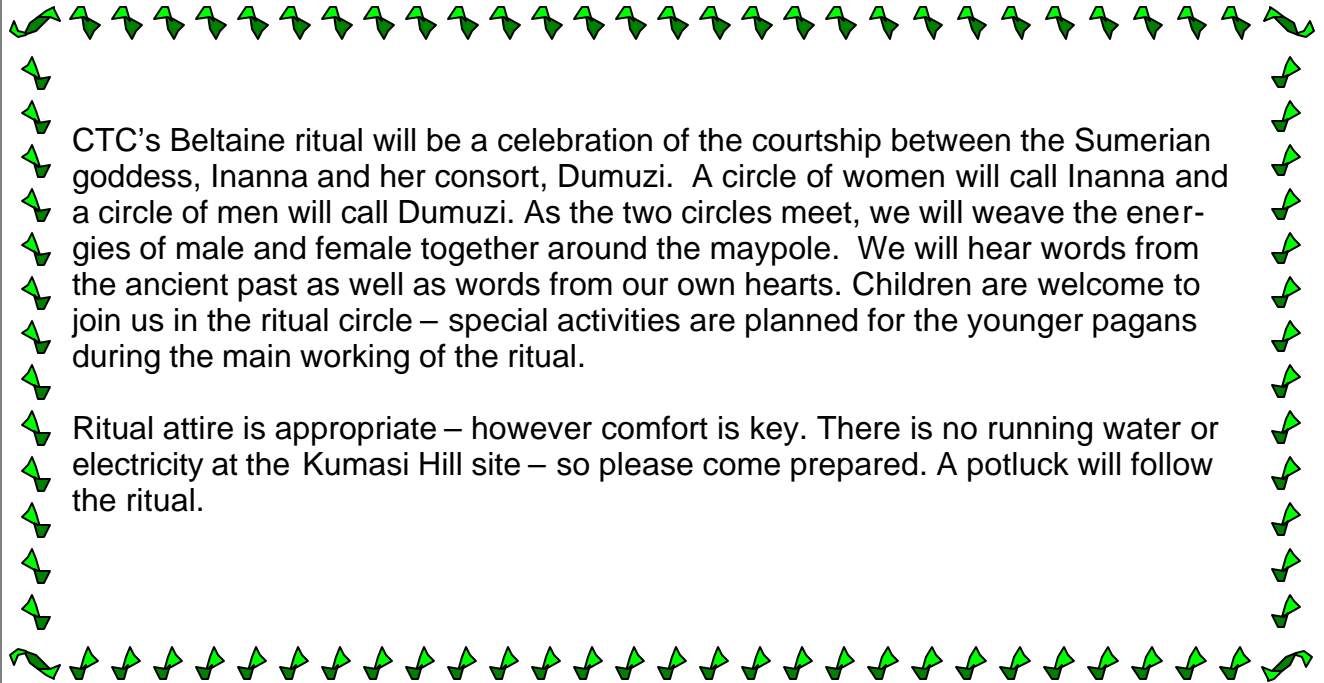
Thank you very much again.

Sincerely,

Sally Gude



Kumasi Hill, Sunday, April 28, 2002, 5 PM



CTC's Beltaine ritual will be a celebration of the courtship between the Sumerian goddess, Inanna and her consort, Dumuzi. A circle of women will call Inanna and a circle of men will call Dumuzi. As the two circles meet, we will weave the energies of male and female together around the maypole. We will hear words from the ancient past as well as words from our own hearts. Children are welcome to join us in the ritual circle – special activities are planned for the younger pagans during the main working of the ritual.

Ritual attire is appropriate – however comfort is key. There is no running water or electricity at the Kumasi Hill site – so please come prepared. A potluck will follow the ritual.

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

**The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here**