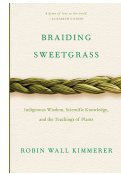


Member Contributions

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THROUGHOUT THE
NEWSLETTER



WOMENSPIRIT
BOOK CLUB
PAGE 8



SPRING EVENT
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ORGANIZATIONAL
NEWS
PAGE 4

SHE SPEAKS



Dear Sisters,

It has been my great honor to share my thoughts and words with you over the last three and a half years. It's been an even greater honor to have you share your thoughts, words, and art with me through your contributions to this newsletter. As evidenced by the lateness of this edition, my life and commitments have sped up and I'm no longer able to

give the newsletter the attention it deserves. This will be my last edition for now, but I look forward to enjoying the next iteration that I'm sure will be born from the efforts of one of our talented sisters. I look forward to seeing you all on The Mountain.

Be well,
Shannon Browning-Mullis



All llama related images throughout this issue were created by our own talented photographer, Shawna Ireland. Read more about her llama adventures on page 9.

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Welcome New Members!

We'd like to recognize the following new members of UUWomenspirit, who have joined us for the first time in 2023. Your membership is vital to the foundational support of the organization, and we hope you continue your support and enjoy our programs for many years to come. For more membership information, you can contact Judy Padgett at treasurer@uuwomenspirit.org.

Welcome new members! We're glad you've chosen UUWomenspirit as a way to connect with other women in celebrating the Feminine Divine. We hope to see you soon at one of our events.

Jennifer Allred – Lawrenceville, GA
Emily Cameron – Black Mountain, NC
Anji Clubb – Tacoma Park, MD
Jaye Dodds – Fort Worth, TX
Denise Galpern – Pittsburgh, PA
Susan Hardy – Old Fort, NC
Angel Jett – Indianapolis, IN
Alberita Johnson – North Fort Myers, FL
Carole Latino – North Fort Myers, FL
Tonielle Reed – Otto, NC
Diane Trice – Silver Springs, FL
Rah Bickley

Save these dates for our next in-person events!

October 4-8, 2023
May 15-19, 2024
Oct 2-6, 2024

News from the CoCo

The Coordinating Council, or CoCo, is the governing body of UUWomenspirit. The current members are Nina Brewer-Davis (Marketing and Outreach Coordinator), Volunteer Coordinator (Position Unfilled), Christine Grewcock (Registrar), Judy Padgett (Membership Coordinator and Treasurer), Rev. Maggie Lovins (Program Resource Liaison), and Communications Coordinator (Position Unfilled).

Greetings friends, from the CoCo. Merry merry Beltane! I hope your lives and hearts are full in this season of full flowering abundance.

The CoCo is working hard to support the PC for the upcoming event. We look forward to being with you soon. Join us at Mayan Wisdom for Birthing the New Dawn! May 17-21, 2023.

The CoCo approved a budget for 2023. We decided to end our account with Survey Monkey, as the cost was increasing by quite a bit. We have had a bit of turnover this winter and spring. Two hardworking members of the Coordinating Council resigned in the past few months. One of our Searchette positions has transferred to a new person, and as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, our Editor is also stepping down. We thank all of them for their time and work helping to keep UUWomenspirit going in the periods between events. The Coordinating Council is working diligently to ensure that all tasks are completed on schedule, while our Searchettes are in the process of filling those positions. In unrelated news, we added to the Sacred Text the requirement that volunteers who have ongoing positions of responsibility in UUWomenspirit should become members at the start of the year (membership renewal happens in January!). UUWomenspirit has joined The Mountain at a "Family Membership" level. The Book Club is going strong. It is now open only to members of UUWomenspirit, for the sake of adding value to membership and strengthening our community connection. So far this new approach is working.

Proposed ByLaws Change

The CoCo proposes a change to the bylaws, for the review and subject to the approval of the general membership. You have already received an email about this change as well. This proposed change will be offered at the general membership meeting on Friday of the Spring Event and if affirmed by consensus, will be adopted.

Current language:

ARTICLE V Fiscal and Membership Year

A. The fiscal year is from August 1 through July 31. All members of the Coordinating Council, the Search Committee, and Coordinating Council Committees, except the Event Planning Committees, will serve terms that have these beginning and ending dates, even though these terms vary in one, two, or three year increments. The Event Planning Committees will serve for twelve months, beginning with the tenth month before the event and continuing two months after the event.

News from the CoCo Continued

Proposed change:

ARTICLE V Fiscal and Membership Year

- A. The fiscal year is from January 1 through December 31. All members of the Coordinating Council, the Search Committee, and Coordinating Council Committees, except the Event Planning Committees, will serve terms that have these beginning and ending dates, even though these terms vary in one, two, or three year increments. The Event Planning Committees will serve for twelve months, beginning with the tenth month before the event and continuing two months after the event.

The CoCo recommends this change to the membership in order that new volunteers start in January, a relatively quiet time for our organization, rather than in August, one of the busiest times of the year, when registration is about to open or has already opened for the fall event. This change also brings into line our volunteer terms (other than PCs), membership year and current accounting practices. If these changes are approved, current terms will be shortened by 5 months to align with the new fiscal year.

From our Treasurer/Membership Coordinator -

Our bank balances remain healthy, with no unusual expenses incurred in the current year. We recently transferred our 2 CD's into new accounts with a higher interest rate. Membership numbers at publishing time are approximately 80+, which is already 80% of our total for all of last year. So we may be on track for our numbers to exceed last year's numbers. Thanks to all who have joined so far this year!

In Faith,
The Coordinating Council





Revisiting BELTANE 2020

In many ways, Beltane is the other side of Samhain. Both mark a thinning of the veil, but while Samhain focuses on death and those who have passed on, Beltane is a celebration of life and all living things.

At Beltane, the world renews itself as flowers bloom, eggs hatch, and the sun warms the soil and our souls. It is a time of creating and fertility, a time to begin new projects and new phases. It is also the holiday of love and pleasure, all kinds of love and pleasure. The physical and emotional love of married or mating couples, the intense and evolutionary love of parents for their children, the fulfilling and confident self love we all need to survive, the deep connection of sisterhood, the vital and primordial connection to the land, and many other forms of love are validated and celebrated. Beltane is a time to turn outward into the world and begin a new creation.

Revisiting our Beltane 2020 articles

BELTANE RITUAL

Decorate your alter and ritual space with flowers, greenery, and fabric, anything that evokes life, love, and pleasure for you. Take an intentional and languid shower or bath with aromatherapy, and then decorate your body in a way that makes you feel sensual and free.

Open a circle in the way that is customary for your practice. If it's comfortable for you, stand in the center of your circle and begin to slowly sway. As you sway, contemplate pleasure and sensuality, not just sexual pleasure, although that's good too, but think of the pleasure of smooth fabric rubbing your skin, of the breeze lifting your hair, of the scent of jasmine floating through the night air, and the taste of fresh raspberries on your tongue. As you sway faster, begin to feel the heartbeat of the earth coming through the soles of your bare feet. Feel it pulsing in your body as you begin to dance to the primordial rhythm of the life force. Allow yourself absolute freedom. Allow your mind and spirit to follow your body as it is led to move. Allow the energy and ecstasy of your dance to building to a cone of power.

When the time is right, cast all that energy, love, and power out as a healing force to all things. Collapse onto the floor. Feel roots grow slowly from your body and into the earth. Allow them to grow deep and interlink with the roots of other beings. Slow down and feel the combined life force flowing through you and connecting you.

Stay here for a while, part of the living web of existence. When you are ready, which could be a few minutes or the next morning, close your circle, go outdoors and experience the natural world.



Womenspirit Book Club Review

Braiding Sweetgrass
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

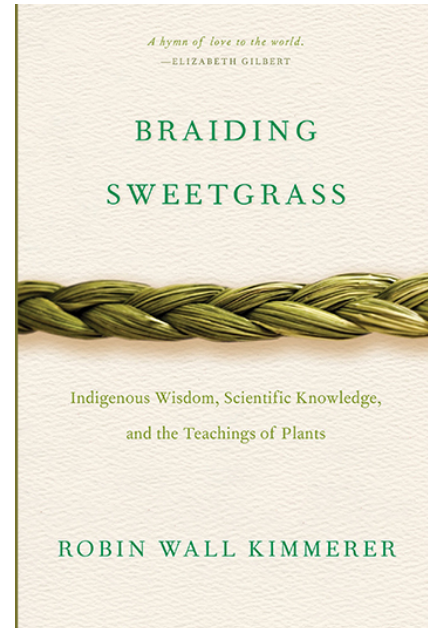
Robin Wall Kimmerer weaves together Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of the Plants in this beautifully written book.

Join us on April 11, 2023 for the first chapter, “Planting Sweetgrass” led by Jennifer Evans. This is a time to listen to the wisdom of the author, as well as the wisdom and experiences of our women friends in our community.

The Book Club usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month on zoom at 7:30 pm EDT.

Everyone is welcome whether you have read the chapters or not. Come enjoy the Women and their sharings.

Zoom link will be the same each month.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88071357922>



From Shawna Ireland

When I was on the Spring 2022 Planning Committee, unfortunately one of our members had to withdraw from the committee. I know this happens all the time for a myriad of reasons. But when Em Stecker told us that she had to withdraw because she bought an alpaca farm, I was first off sad that we were losing such a valuable member of our committee, but then I was wildly intrigued by this new adventure she was taking on. I finally got a chance to visit her at her farm a few months ago and take pictures of the alpacas (goats and dogs too)!!! Em gave me a tour and I got to see firsthand just how much work goes into running the alpaca farm. If you are anywhere near the Pittsboro area in NC, please stop in and visit Em and support her and the farm.
<https://www.carolinasunshinealpaca.com>





Beltane's Love Story
c. 2023 Elaine Silver Music, BMI

It's a springtime Portal to other sacred Realms
Nature's own Love story God and Goddess at the helm
Reunited on May Day as mid-Spring gives yield
Honoring fertility and growth upon the Fields

These sacred fires lit by Love caused by a sacred Spark
Manifesting into Light reflected from the Heart
The Harvest now awaits us all once Summer moves to Fall
But without the flame of Beltane there would never be this call

Hail to the Fires of Beltane!













Mayan Wisdom for Birthing the New Dawn May 17-21, 2023

The Mayan elders say it is time for ancient indigenous wisdom to be shared with the world to help birth the New Era, a new Great Cycle that is a balance of Divine female and male energies. They say we must be the “midwives” who will help with this Awakening.

We will walk together what the Maya call the Sacred Road, The Sac Be, by learning about and honoring the days KAWOQ, AJPU, IMOX, IQ, and AQ’AB’AL. KAWOQ is the midwife that births AJPU, the Spiritual Warrior within us, and through our dreams and ideas (IMOX) we align our voices (IQ) to bring in AQ’AB’AL, the Dawn of New Consciousness. Each worship service will honor these days in sequence, through invocation, prayer, song, dance and inner journeying.

We have a variety of tracks and workshops. We will also have activities such as silent auction, healing circle, chapel, and tea and talk. We will also have the favorites that include cabaret, drumming and dancing, and sacred circle dancing.



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