



CIRCLE NEWS

Winter Solstice 2009

CIRCLE, Inc. Community of Individuals Revisioning and Celebrating Life On Earth
a non-profit educational organization

www.circleinc.org

A Note from Heron

It seems like this year has gone by very fast and yet much has been accomplished. We had a successful year at Shequaga as we continue to attract new like-minded groups to this beautiful space. As you know we are focusing on getting the new well drilled and have received about \$2500 in donations so far. We have begun the work but we still need more funds to complete the project, especially the hook up and new hot water heater (no sulfur!). Any donations are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible. This year ends with a Blue Moon Eclipse on Dec 31st at around 2:30 PM. We plan on celebrating this grand finale of the year of eclipses in the yurt. Check the calendar for details. Joy and blessings for the coming sun cycle!

Heron

Elkhide drum painted by Joseph Inverso will be raffled off at the Winter Solstice. Tickets in the yurt – one for \$1, 6 for \$5, and 20 for \$15. Don't miss out on this one!



Gratitude

We are deeply grateful to all those who have donated time and money to support CIRCLE programs this year. A special thanks goes to the *New York Water Environment Association, Genesee Valley Chapter Industrial Issues Committee* and the *Genesee Finger Lakes Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association* who both provided grants that allowed mothers and daughters to attend the Earth School Camp at Shequaga where they participated in environmental education activities.

Congratulations to Nina Ricci who has been awarded \$100 from the Agatha and Esmeralda Scholarship Fund to further her studies at the University of Buffalo where she is working toward her dream of earning her doctorate of pharmacy!

News from Shequaga

X-country skiing, sledding and perhaps cutting cattails on the pond ice are in store for the winter months. Check the website and your email for information. Workdays will begin in April of 2010. They will be posted on the website and we will send an email as well. **Remember, for every hour worked you earn a CIRCLE dollar which is worth \$10 towards workshops (up to 1/2 the workshop fee) or camping fees.** Contact: CIRCLE office at circleincoffice@aol.com or 585-924-5620

2010 SHEQUAGA PROGRAMS

Look for a more detailed flyer at the Yurt or check the web site for more info and registration.

Medicine Circle – Women’s Vision Quest – Friday June 4 – Sunday June 6

With Tracy Dreaming Bear Bell and Linda Heron Wind

Time to be in your circle of power out in nature to find direction for your life.

Mother-Daughter Earth School – Friday July 23 – Sunday July 25

With Grandmother Singing Wind, Grandmother Pesha, Grandmother Turtlekneader, and others

Girls age 5-14 and mothers (or other adult woman) learn to be in balance with Earth, each other, and themselves as they play, sing, dance, and make art together.

Empowered Girls – Friday Aug 6 – Sunday Aug 8 Contact Barb Lucke 585-582-1669

Teen girls empowerment weekend with women mentors.

Beauty Way – Sacred Art - Friday Aug 27 – Sunday Aug 29

With Chris Luna Pink, Artist and Art Therapist

Come and join us for a weekend of sacred art! Drums, rattles, baskets, masks, stone carving, beadwork and lots of other fun things. We will sing, dance, play and eat good food. What more could you want than a divine weekend of crafts and fun in loving community at Shequaga!

Winds of Change - Friday Sept 17-Sunday Sept 19

contact Barb Lucke 585-582-1669

Women’s ritual to celebrate turning 30, 40, 50, 60, or more, along with women of all ages! Wonderful weekend of women’s ceremony

<h2 style="margin: 0;">CONTINUING COMMUNITY GATHERINGS</h2>

Women’s Circle

Come join our community of inspired women as we continue to explore our spirituality together. Women’s Circle meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome. See the calendar for topics. Donations \$1-5. Current members of the Women’s Council are Deb Appleton, Holly Dubois, Helena Listowski, Sarah Merrill, & Heron Wind. If you have any suggestions or would like to bring a teaching/topic to a Women’s Circle, please contact one of the council members.

Butterfly Lodge (previously known as Mother-Daughter Circle) -

Butterfly Lodge provides many exciting discoveries and awakenings for girls between the ages of 4 and 13, and their mothers or significant female adult. Self-discovery and enhanced honoring of our gifts and talents is the focus of our time together. Mothers, Grandmothers, and special Aunties are encouraged to explore their relationship with the unique girl or girls in their life through the Mothers talking circle time. Additional hands and hearts from CIRCLE women are always needed to assist the girls in the art projects and their talking circles.

This year we will continue to explore the folk arts of our ancestors as we learn about ourselves. Each family will have an opportunity to bring a craft, story, dance, and/or

song from their heritage, for our monthly gathering. We will weave these traditions into the ceremonies we typically do and arrive at new ceremonies that incorporate the ancient wisdom with our present experience. In this way we may discover more about who we are now. We will also continue our studies of the Medicine Wheel using the book Dancing with the Wheel. We may discover ancient uses of circles and wheels during the search into our ancestry!

Butterfly Lodge meets EVERY MONTH on the 2nd SUNDAY from 2-4 at the yurt. Donations of \$1-5 are greatly appreciated. Contact Singing Wind at singingwind00@hotmail.com or call 742-1969 for info

Changing Moon Lodge

The next meeting will be March 30th and we will be continuing to work with shields and medicine bags. Any women over 40 are welcome. Sponsored by Grandmother Lodge, we center our meetings around topics that address the transition into the Wise Woman phase of life. We meet quarterly on Tuesdays from 7-9 in the yurt. Contact Heron to be put on the email list for meeting notices. Donation \$1-5.

Grandmother's Lodge

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 7-9 in the yurt to share wisdom and the journey of the Wise Woman. At the annual Grandmother Lodge inductions five new Wise Woman were inducted: Pat Tweet, Molly Stone, Patricia Ferrara, Susan Neal, and Kathy Chiavaroli. In lieu of a January meeting we will be having a Grandmother's Tea on January 23rd. An email will be sent with details. Contact Heron for more information. Donation \$1-5

Shamanic Practice Circle

Join the community of shamanic healers on the First Friday of the month to explore shamanic traditions for personal and community growth and healing. Dec meeting will be on the second Friday – the 11th. Donation of \$1-5. Contact Heron Wind 924-5620 LHWind@aol.com or Carol McCoon 742-1969 or circleincoffice@aol.com

New this Winter!

Grouse Medicine Society – Grouse holds the energy for sacred drumming and dancing. The project for this Winter will be to create a teaching DVD for the songs, drumming, and dances that we do in CIRCLE ceremonies. This will help those who want to learn how to lead the dances or share them with other groups. Anyone is welcome. First date for filming will be Feb 20th from 1-4 pm.

Spider Medicine Society – Spider holds the energy for creativity and sacred art. There will be a gathering on a weekend for those who would like to make sacred art that CIRCLE sells at the Psychic Fair and Alternative Fair each year to raise funds. Free to those who are willing to make items for CIRCLE to sell. Day and time to be announced – check the calendar on the website.

NOTICE

The list of Other Area Services and Events will be posted on the CIRCLE website. For those of you who have been on the list, we will be contacting you shortly to update your posting. The CIRCLE Membership Form is also on the website. We will be contacting you by email to let you know when your CIRCLE membership expires. Please keep us updated if you change your email address by contacting circleincoffice@aol.com.

The Current Board of Directors: Linda Heron Wind(924-5620) President, Libby Ford(461-9104) Vice-President, Carol McCoon (742-1969) Secretary, Betsy Tantalo (370-5252) Treasurer, Carol LaRosa (244-1948), Tracy Bell (406-0127), Pam Muxworthy (394-2836), Pat Tweet (301-1290), Gary Graves (872-5420), Janice McNamara (586-5070), and Rita Cronise (924-7936).

Your donations keep CIRCLE going

Baby Turtle - \$50
Turtle Level - \$100
Hummingbird Level - \$250-499
Bear Level - \$500-749
Buffalo Level - \$750-999
Eagle Level - \$1000+

Shequaga Cookbook - \$10

CIRCLE Songbook - \$5
Circle of Song CD - \$10
Heron's Songs - \$10

CIRCLE T shirts - \$10

Celebration of the Seasons

We come together as a community of Earth's children on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days to acknowledge Earth's cycles as well as our own. These celebrations are open to women, men, and also to children who are old enough to enjoy ceremony. Donation of \$1-\$5.

Winter Solstice, Monday, December 21, 7-9 PM On the longest night we gather to tell stories, call back the sun, and celebrate the beginning of a new cycle. Bring a snack to share.

Blue Moon Eclipse Celebration, Thursday, December 31, 1:30-3:30 PM Celebrate the final eclipse of 2009 in a releasing ceremony. Bring a snack to share.

Candlemas, Tuesday, February 2, 7-9 PM The Goddess walks across the land, waking all the little creatures from their winter sleep, calling them to celebrate the return of the light. Bring a snack to share.

Spring Equinox, Saturday, March 20, 4-7PM Come celebrate the beginning of Spring and the seeds within that are sprouting. Bring a dish to pass.

CALENDAR OF CIRCLE EVENTS

Dec 2009-Mar 2010
(Unless otherwise noted all activities are held at 8042 Main St. Fishers in Victor, NY)

*W	Dec 8	Women's Circle: North Initiation 7-9 pm
*	Dec 11	Shamanic Circle 7-9 pm
*W	Dec 13	Butterfly Lodge 2-4 pm
*W	Dec 15	Grandmother Lodge 7-9 pm
*	Dec 21	Winter Solstice 7-9 pm
*W	Dec 22	Women's Circle: Healing Circle 7-9 pm
*	Dec 31	Blue Moon Eclipse Celebration 1:30-3:30 pm
*	Jan 8	Shaman's Circle 7-9 pm
*W	Jan 10	Butterfly Lodge 2-4 pm
*W	Jan 12	Women's Circle: Divining the Future 7-9 pm
*W	Jan 23	Grandmother's Tea – place to be arranged
*W	Jan 26	Women's Circle: Releasing Techniques 7-9 pm
*	Feb 2	Candlemas 7-9 pm
*	Feb 5	Shaman's Circle 7-9 pm
*W	Feb 9	Women's Circle: Wise Heart 7-9 pm
*W	Feb 14	Butterfly Lodge 2-4 pm
*W	Feb 16	Grandmother Lodge
*	Feb 20	Grouse Medicine Society 1-4 pm
*W	Feb 23	Women's Circle: Creating Mandalas 7-9 pm
*	Mar 5	Shaman's Circle 7-9 pm
*W	Mar 9	Women's Circle: Initiation in the East 7-9 pm
*W	Mar 14	Butterfly Lodge 2-4 pm
*W	Mar 16	Grandmother Lodge 7-9 pm
*	Mar 20	Spring Equinox 4-7 pm
*W	Mar 23	Women's Circle: Healing Circle 7-9 pm
*W	Mar 30	Changing Moon Lodge 7-9 pm

* indicates events for which there is no charge, donation only

W indicates events which are for women only

M indicates events which are for men only

(S) indicates held at Shequaga