



Ostara 2008
24th Anniversary KHC

Keepers of the Holly Chalice, Coven of the Rowan Star, Oak and Willow, Weavers of the
Moonfire, Guardians of the Windsword, Fellowship of the Ancient White Stag,
Troupe of the Starry Door, Chalice of Living Stars
Moon entering Cancer - March 15, 2008
Newark, DE

Preparation - Quarter altars are set up and decorated with elemental decorations and flowers on each altar. Packets of seeds are emptied onto 8 fabric squares. Each pile of seeds is bundled up and tied with cords matching the colors of each coven. Seed bundles are placed on their corresponding quarter altar. The Cauldron and Keeper's white pillar candle are placed in the center of the circle. Leanne leads us in deep breathing, humming, and toning exercises to prepare our voices for the casting.

I Purification - We purify ourselves with incense (Nanette) and water and enter the circle from the Northeast gate.

II Circle of Sound - The circle is cast using the Circle of Sound. All join hands and ground and center. Gretchen leads us through the sacred grove visualization. All drop hands. Gretchen will Aum and pass the energy by grabbing the hand of the person on her left while the "mmm" of her toning still vibrates. The person to her left then chants Aum. The energy continues to be passed with each person toning Aum and grabbing the hand of the person on their left. The toning of the Aum from one person to the next should overlap so that there is no gap in the sound. When the energy comes back to Gretchen, she will send some energy clockwise through the linked hands to affirm this step. Gretchen and four other casters (Jim Scroggs, Mark, Leanne, and Helena) will then step out of the circle and walk clockwise around the outside of the circle until they reach Gretchen. The rest of the group will continue to hold hands. The five casters face outward and join hands. They will then tone (overlapping their voices to keep the sound continuous) and walk clockwise around the perimeter of the circle. When the casters have completed one rotation around the circle, they join hands with the rest of the group. The whole group then raises one Aum together.

III Invoking the Great Ones - Ostare and Herne are invoked by Jen and Jim Welch as are the powers of Spring.

IV Welcoming of the Patron - Avoel, the Assembly's Patron is invited to be present in this rite by our Elder, Michael.

V Opening of the Tools - Starting with the Chalice, all of the tools of the Assembly are opened in order of their creation.

VI Opening of the Cauldron -

The Tool Bearers of each coven form a circle around the Cauldron and it is opened:

We Stand Before the Great Ones , At the Center of the Wheel
Cauldron of Creation, Vessel of Our Light
Light that Shines within Us, Let it Shine Without
Cauldron of Creation, Spinning Through the Night

VII Statement of Intent - Janice offers our statement of intent to include honoring Keeper's work, weaving together of all covens of the Assembly, and affirming our work both as a magical group and for the community.

VIII Keeper's Anniversary Blessing – Leanne talks about the history of Keeper's and the Assembly and she offers a blessing for this Anniversary.

IX Charging the Seeds – A Seed Bearer from each coven takes their coven's bundle of seeds from the quarter altars. We pass the seed bundles from hand to hand, clockwise around the circle while we chant:

Holy Earth Mother, Flesh of the World
Quicken and Kindle, With the Seeds of Birth

As we pass the seeds from one to another around the circle, each person is adding a bit of their own energy to each bundle. When the seeds have been passed around at least one full rotation, the Seed Bearers take their seeds to the center alter and empty each bundle into the Cauldron and in doing so mix together our energies. When the seeds have all been added, the Tool Bearers each approach the Cauldron in turn, pour some energy from their tool into the Cauldron and energetically stir the seeds, further weaving together the group mind of the Assembly. We end the chanting after all of the Tools have added energy to the seeds.

X Spring Visualization - Keeper's pillar candle is placed on a pedestal in the center of the Cauldron among the seeds (if possible) and lit. Ivo guides us through a visualization that weaves together the group mind of the Assembly. We focus on what we will grow and harvest both personally and as a group.

XI Ringing of the Cauldron - When the visualization is over, the cauldron is rung three times by Robin to seal the work that has been done and to bring us back to this space.

XII Cakes and Ale - A blessing is offered by Jim D. and Becky for the cakes and ale. We eat and share insights from the visualization as desired.

XIII Thanks and Closing –

Michael, Jen and Jim offer thanks to the Patron and the Deities for their presence in this rite.

Gretchen leads us in closing the circle by guiding the group to listen with their inner ear for whatever sound best defines the essence of this place and moment (folks are encouraged to sit down or kneel if able). Then as a group we make whatever sound is most true for each of us in that moment and we direct the energy earthward. Everyone grounds and centers.

XIV Merry Meet, Merry Part, and Merry Meet Again !!

Happy Spring !!!!!

***Following the ritual, everyone should take a pinch of seeds from the Cauldron to plant later at home. When planting, recall the many layers of connection that were woven when the seeds were charged and what you had personally planned to grow and harvest. Individual pouches will be provided.**

