

From: "Judith Wendell" <judith@sacredcurrents.com>
Subject: **Please Post after 21st Newsletter - The Ritual of Halloween + Preparing for the 'Darker Half' of the Year**
Date: January 6, 2011 1:21:47 PM PST
To: "Kathy Canfield Shepard" <kathy@canfielddesignstudios.com>

SACRED CURRENTS

feng shui



Halloween Rituals and preparing for the 'Darker Half' of the year

October 29, 2010

Halloween has become such a celebrated occasion, I thought it deserved a closer look. In my internet digging, I found out that some historians link Halloween to the Celtic festival of 'Samhain'. The name is derived from Old Irish and roughly means "summer's end". The festival of Samhain celebrates the end of the "lighter half" of the year and beginning of the "darker half", and is sometimes regarded as the "Celtic New Year." This sounds very much like the concepts of Yin + Yang that I've written about in [previous newsletters](#).



The ancient Celts believed that the border between this world and the 'otherworld' became thin on Samhain, allowing spirits (both harmless and harmful) to pass through. The family's ancestors were honored and invited home while harmful spirits were warded off by the wearing of costumes and masks. Bonfires also played a large part in the festivities. Sometimes two bonfires would be built side-by-side, and people and their livestock would walk between them as a cleansing ritual. Another common practice was divination, which often involved the use of food and drink (always a good idea in my book!)



We all know the present day ritual of Halloween involves candy eating and general partying. Yet, perhaps we should consider this 'darker half' of year, with a ritual of our own to honor, cleanse and prepare our lives for this new phase. My class described below is a great introduction to this work which most of us in the West have very little experience with. If you can't attend, [please be in touch](#) and we can discuss the options for preparing your home or business for the next 6 months.

Hope to see you in this world or 'the other.' **Judith**

The energetic cleansing or clearing of an environment to uplift and enliven the life force of the space is an ancient ritual practiced in every culture. Scientists and mystics agree that the universe is composed of energy, which pervades and affects everything in our lives. Clearing stagnant energy from our home and workplace can help to improve all aspects of our lives. In this class, we will learn how to perform specific techniques, rituals, blessings and chants from a variety of traditions to cleanse, consecrate and empower our environments so that they can better support us in fulfilling our intentions. The material covered will include: clearing a space with smoke, dowsing and sound; the importance of intention; and the use and construction of altars and flower offerings.



A WEEKLY COURSE
(3 sessions) Mondays, November 22, 29
December 6, 8-10pm
10FS105T

Members: \$90 / Nonmembers: \$100

[register here](#) IF, you can't make all 3 classes, not to worry!...simply call the registration office and tell them I've approved you coming for only 1 or 2 of the classes...hey it's a busy season!...BUT if you can make all 3 classes you'll be thrilled!

BTW, Monday November 15th there is a FREE Introduction Class, so please come on down and join us!

The New York Open Center has moved to:
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