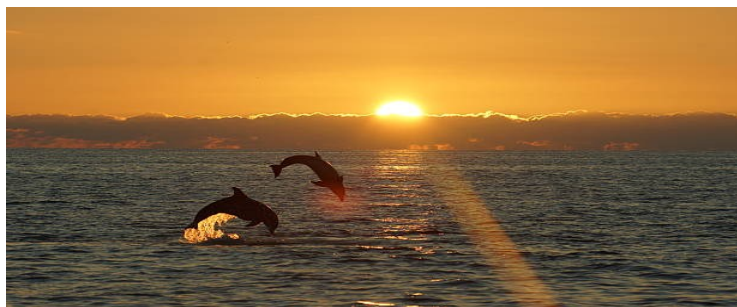




CUUPS QUARTERLY

Winter



There are many places in the northern hemisphere that feel the cycle of winter differently. We here in the South West of Florida have a season of winter and we do feel a change yet it is not snow and Ice. The cycle is winter and that means a time of quiet. In a modern time we have to really be in tune with the land, the constant go and hype takes its toll, our inner ways call to be quiet, sit at home, create, listen to stories be with our chosen people. This is the cycle of winter. In our area we are in the dry time, rain is little, temps are very moderate and sometimes quite cool. Still remaining is a quiet embrace of the land. It is in its sleep mode although here it is a growing time, yet still we can feel the energy of the planet as preparing for the next cycle. At the Winter Solstice the universe does something spectacular and we can feel it. Divine love is beamed down to the planet and we feel love and hope. The sun stays stationary for three days and then on the eve of the 24th comes a shift and the sun starts its time bringing forth warmth and nurturing, we start to head towards spring. A lot of winter yet for we must go within and plant seeds for action to come. The light that warms our blood, ripens the seed, that sings to bulbs hidden, that keeps oceans moving and winds alive, has entered its deepest inward breath. It is like the intake of a breath before we raise voice in song. We are not separate or passive observers of this mystery, our bodies know the turning, our bones register the long night. Our dreams deepen because the Sun has drawn away. This is relationship. It returns because the cycle holds. There can not be spring without winter and so the great wheel turns as the stars come, the moon shines and a new day arises. If we honor the cycles, we are in balance with the great round and with it comes the gifts of the universe.



January Shenanigans



Year of the Horse; we went from the year of the snake in the Chinese new year now in 2026 year of the Fire Horse!

This time signifies freedom, power for new ideas, forward momentum.

Symbolism; Power, beauty, independence, vitality, success and nobility.

Energy of the year; Encourages bold action, travel, and pursuing dreams. Brings momentum from feeling stuck, opportunity, breakthroughs for ones feeling trapped or stuck.

The Fire Horse adds intensity, creativity, courage leading to rapid changes and techno advances.

Culturally horses are revered, providing transport, symbols of the land and symbols of sovereignty. Symbols for leaders and status. So we have some interesting times ahead. Work on your seeds to plant, keep love in your heart and remember your song to the universe.

January calendar dates for Cuups events

Jan 11; Coffee service for the congregation. Meet in the hall at 9;30 FOR SETUP. Service is at 11:30. Bring something to share. They love us for it.

Jan 24; Important meeting! This is our planning meeting for the first few months. We would like to know what you want to do in the group. We are as good as all together, we want too help each one seek what will nurture your soul! This takes commitment of you. We need hands to setup events, to cleanup, to create ritual in any form you want but it is what you want! We also have a commitment to the UU ways. Shire lane is our home, it is magical and beautiful, We make a donation each year to help with things for there is not another place with land likes ours so lets step up and help it. Going back to the creative aspect, crafts of the cycle? Workshops, we have some ready to go but again– what do you all want to know about? We have some very spiritual and talented ones in our group, What do you want to learn from them? Please think about what does commitment mean? If you need to take a break that is a given , voice to your pagan family, we understand, what we don't understand is when there is no communication, for that is not empowerment on all parts.

Jan 31; 3:00 Imbolc Ritual, Hall, fire circle. TB planned at Jan meeting

Dues! Once a year we ask that we all pay 20.00 to contribute to stuff we might need, ritual, crafts, etc. We decided to make life easier on all, dues is due In January. We will be collecting money at the January meeting.

February, The time is Imbolc



It is still winter yet beneath the land a call is felt. The sun has been returning and what was planted by design of the universe and our aspirations are now feeling the urge to come forth. It is a time of fire and ice. In many cultures it is a time to honor the triple aspect of the divine feminine. This is time of Bridhe, Bridget, Brigantia. This is the lady of the hearth, of poetry and healing. Her flame is tended constantly as is

the Sacred well. She is offered milk and honey and her ritual is a beautiful honoring to the earth, and the light that shines. She is honored by gifts of song and poetry, oat cakes and the weaving of a Celtic knot in the form of a cross, often hung on the door or window of a home to bring blessings and health for the year to come. We gather around the hearth fire and pay homage to her. This is a very important time, the wheel of the year again turns and the nuance of a cycle continues. Yet there is another indicator of things. A tradition of the groundhog coming out to take a look whether he needs to go back to sleep for a bit, in the northern places we have the beautiful small white flower that blooms in the snow. The snowdrop, delicate but so hearty to stand up to snow and ice. Many flowers bloom in our native lands here in SW. Fla and it is such a great time taking a leisurely jaunt to find such treasures. This is Imbolc— a time of hearth fires, poetry and song with the focus on our seeds to harvest in the coming months. The sun gets a little stronger each day, bringing a sparkle of hope, hard work and satisfaction. We start to feel a bit of wanderlust to go outside— hence known as cabin fever.

Important Calendar dates For February

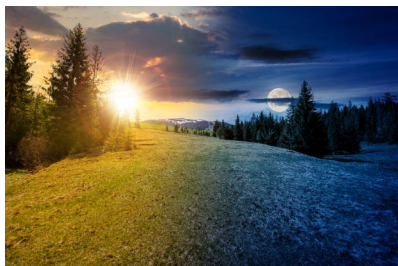
Jan 31, 3:00 pm Imbolc Ritual

Feb 8th; 10:30 Coffee service for congregation, Setup 9:30, service 11:30

Feb 28th; 1pm meeting. craft for the cycle, questing and answer time— energy work. Walk on the eland.



March, Vernal Equinox, Time of Balance.



The wheel once more turns and we now welcome the coming of the next cycle. The air is full of change, new growth, possibilities. Vernal equinox is about equal times of light and dark, before we go into a blaze of growth,

the wanting to go out on walks, the smell changes in the air. Birds come out more, either in migration or to find a mate. First flowers and greens are seen which is where all those spring tonics come from. Your body requires a different energy now. Here in our land our next cycle still with the great round is a fire cycle. It is very dry yet we have spring within the earth. Some of our native trees such as the scrubby pine need fire to start their seeds. The migrating Swallow tailed kite can be sent circling on the winds. The mimosa trees are in bright yellow blooms. This is the time when our inner plans and seeds need to be worked. We need to grow as a seed nurtured. Oh and we always see bunnies running around for Vernal Equinox is the herald of spring.



March Calendar Events

Sunday March 8th, Coffee service, setup 9:30, service at 11:30, Theme is springtime.

Sat March 21st, Equinox ritual, 3:00 pm gathering, outside if weather permits. Theme; balance, what do you want to plant. Planning TBD at Jan meeting, finalized at feb meeting. .

Sat March 28th, 1:00 pm, meeting- Craft time, another walk into the land and a gathering time—what do we see and feel. Talk to trees.

We now go to our next cycle of the turning wheel, we are in spring with all that comes. Do we need to let go of things that may hold us back from moving with the tides to the next lessons as the year goes on. By now you are seeing we are looking at the turning of the planet and all that we celebrate within us and the universe. This is the wheel of the year and you can research as you feel it. We can plug in all those extras from sto-
ries, foods, creative
workings and
hands on land
work. This is a
guide.to...



Please refer to our website for additional info and copies of previous newsletters