

New Members Information Pack



This document has been designed as a handy reference for new members and includes information about Spheres Of Light's Full Moon Circle practices and requirements.

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Website: <http://spheresoflight.com.au>

Our website contains a multitude of information about SOL and Paganism and includes an active forum.

Who are Spheres of Light?

Spheres Of Light is an association of individuals from a variety of Pagan paths who seek to share experiences, understandings and teachings and who come together to celebrate and to connect with the cycles of the Earth through Lunar and Solar gatherings.

Spheres Of Light sees all life as sacred and interconnected, we therefore honour the natural world as the embodiment of divinity, immanent as well as transcendent. We celebrate the circles of life and the seasons through ritual, and we experience the divine as both feminine and masculine.

We are dedicated to the development our own unique philosophy and practice which incorporates the honouring of ancient shamanic forces, as well as the integration and adaptation of ancient mysteries from other traditional and ancestral Pagan cultures. To this end, we seek to draw upon this accumulated knowledge to further develop and deepen our own understanding and practice of evolutionary witchcraft.

“We stand in our power. The spark within us is one with the eternal flame that guides and sustains us on our journey.”



Full Moon Circles

Spheres Of Light holds regular Full Moon Circles near Engadine on the Friday before each Full Moon. These Full Moon gatherings are Open Circles, meaning that

all Pagans are welcome to come along any time and experience a Full Moon circle with us.

TIME: arrive at 7:45pm for an 8:00pm start

WHAT TO BRING: a plate of food and/or drink (non-alcoholic) to share at supper afterwards.

WHAT TO WEAR: casual attire - cloaks/robes/ritual clothes may also be worn if desired.

COST PER CIRCLE: \$10 per person to help cover hall rental and other ancillary costs.

Dark Moon Circle

The Dark Moon circle, known as the Inner Realm Of Ynys Witrin (an ancient Celtic name for the Isle of Avalon meaning Isle of Glass or Isle of Seeing), is a group of dedicated seekers from Spheres Of Light who are embarking upon a journey of discovery to know themselves and to experience new realities.

The Dark Moon circle is held during the dark moon of each month. Our activities are focused on integrating and adapting ancient teachings and shamanic techniques into our own perspective of evolutionary Witchcraft. Each member brings to this Circle their own unique skills, knowledge and qualities, which help to make the experience of the Circle a valuable resource of learning.

Membership to the Inner Realm of Ynys Witrin is by invitation only. It is a working circle where people can work on their inner self and develop their individual abilities.

Ritual Structure

For Full Moon circles, only a member of the Dark Moon group can do a quarter call or invoke the God & Goddess. This strengthens our magical abilities as a group. One of the problems in conducting open full moon circles that do not have attendance requirements is sporadic attendance. This means that participant numbers can vary widely from meeting to meeting. This also means that levels of knowledge & experience will vary as some people will not have worked together before, it can be hard to achieve any kind of group mind or fully participatory rituals. It is therefore



important that the core group should attend regularly and build up a good system for working and holding the energy together. When this happens it presents a good solid base for newcomers, who may attend regularly if the group appears stable.

One should also dress appropriately to reflect the unity of the circle and the sanctity and importance of the ritual. Following is a basic step by step process for performing our rituals:

Purify - We begin the ritual by cleansing and sanctifying the circle this can include the use of sage, saltwater, sound or incense which is used to cleanse your body and mind, and the space where the ritual is performed.

Casting the Circle - Using an athame, crystal or finger a circle member walks the circle to define the sacred space and to allow the participants to get into the ritual mindset and to focus their energy. Once the circle has been cast no one should enter or leave the circle without cutting and closing a doorway. This is to ensure that the sacred space stays intact and is not breached by unwanted energies. Only a Dark Moon member may cut open and close a doorway.

Opening Quarters



We always open the circle by opening the four directions of the circle by calling either the element of that quarter or an associated deity or spiritual being. When opening each direction, we project a blue flaming pentagram from our dominant hand towards the quarter being opened. It is important that when the quarters are opened it is done meaningfully and rich in symbolism appropriate to the invoked element. It is also helpful to visualize the element with as much imagination as possible, hear the hissing of the flames of fire, feel the coolness of water, feel the solidity of the earth, feel the breath or breeze of air etc.

Invoke/Evoke Goddess and God

Invocation can be through spoken word, silent meditation, dance, song or any other way that is suitable to inviting deity into the sacred circle.

Arms Raised to the sky to call in the Goddess.

Arms Crossed over chest (the Osiris pose; right arm over left) to call in the God.

Intent - Every ritual has intent. World peace, personal healing, being in sync with the energies of the moon sign or the sabbat etc.



Raising the Cone of Power – Adds energy to your intent so that it can become a reality. To raise power there needs to be an activity, which can be through drumming, dancing, singing, meditation etc.

Close circle – At the close of the ritual we thank and dismiss God, Goddess, elements and then we ground any surplus energy back into the earth or send it somewhere for healing.

Supper - It's very important to eat something after ritual to help you ground. No one should leave without grounding. This time is our social time, a time to relax and be ourselves

.Ritual Correspondences

Quarters/Directions & Correspondences

We usually open the circle sunwise, beginning our quarter calls in the East and ending in the South. When closing the circle we go in reverse by farewelling the South first and the East last.

East=Air; Dawn, spring, feather, incense, yellow, mountain tops, wind, knowledge, intellect

North=Fire; Noon, summer, candle, wand, red, desert, volcanoes, cleansing, empowerment

West=Water; Dusk, autumn, chalice, shells,

blue, ocean, stream, purification, emotions

South=Earth; Midnight, winter, salt, crystal, green, caves, forest, manifesting, fertility

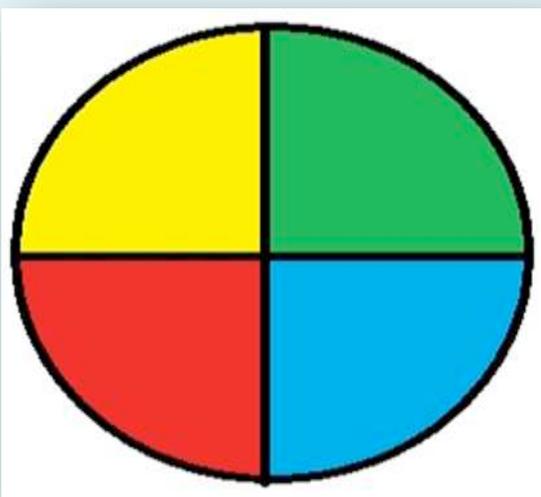
Wheel of the Year

During the year we celebrate the sabbats these are:

The 4 greater Sabbats which are Samhain, Imbolc, Beltane & Lammas

The 4 lesser Sabbats which are

Yule (Winter Solstice), Ostara (Spring Equinox), Litha (Summer Solstice) & Mabon (Autumn Equinox).



Mission Statement

Spheres Of Light will endeavour to create gatherings and environments that are educational, empowering, healing and fun and which will support seekers in their journey to realise their own inner truths and potential. We seek to do this through ritual, group work, classes, meditations and social functions.

Statement of Ethics

Members of Spheres Of Light, are committed to uphold and exemplify the following ethics and values:

- * Each person within the SOL community is worthy of respect, love and consideration.
- * Each person has the right to share their ideas and opinions in an appropriate manner, and has an obligation to listen.
- * Each person within SOL has the right to belong, and should allow others to belong or not belong according to their own free will and choice.
- * Each person has the right to change their mind about belonging to SOL, and should show consideration to SOL members by informing them when they do so.
- * Each person has the right to do as they will, without violating other person's rights, and have an obligation to take responsibility for their own actions.
- * Every person has the right to structure their lives and beliefs in the way that is appropriate for them, and to respect the structure within which they choose to operate.

Circle Etiquette

In order that circles may run smoothly we ask:

- * That alcohol is avoided prior to circle. Please note that no alcohol can be brought to circle activities conducted on council properties.
- * That if you use any mind affecting drugs you discuss this use with a circle leader prior to attendance.
- * If you suffer from any mental illness - including depression and borderline disorders that you discuss this with a circle leader prior to attendance.
- * That you have read and understood the statement of ethics and are prepared to abide by these while at circle.
- * That you contribute fairly to the circle - by paying attendance fees, contributing towards supper and by generally helping out. There is a \$10 attendance fee for Full & Dark Moon Circles.
- * That you be punctual - please arrive between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. It can be difficult for others if circle runs late if we have started late. Equally, people entering and

leaving circle erratically can be disturbing for others, so if you need to leave the circle at any time, please let one of the circle leaders know, so that this can be done discreetly.

Clothing

We do not conduct our circles or other activities sky clad. Dress is casual and yes, you can dress up if you wish.



Workshops, Classes, & Various Gatherings

From its beginnings, Spheres Of Light has placed a strong emphasis on training across a wide spectrum of diverse topics. All of the classes and workshops are highly interactive and experiential, focusing on participation and engagement of participants. The Full Moon and Dark Moon circles also allow for a group experience of the practices and energies that we ourselves have connected with through our explorations and learning. While for those that seek a simple connection to nature & its elemental forces, informal meditation groups are conducted in various parks and places of natural beauty.

Pathway of Initiation

While there will often be workshops/discussion groups/classes associated with the spiritual progress of the individual. It is our intent that as far as is possible, people who choose a path of initiation are able to discover for themselves the knowledge needed for each stage of the initiation process. Each person must be aware that Spirit will initiate a seeker when they are spiritually ready and that the circle initiation ritual is only a formalisation of that process. Commitment to both the circle and to service in general is a prerequisite for initiation.



Axis Mundi eMagazine: <http://axismundi.spheresoflight.com.au>

A free monthly online magazine that provides topical information so you can keep up to date on news and developments in the Pagan community.



Website: <http://soulsearchers.spheresoflight.com.au>

One of the many things you will find unique about the SOuL Searchers team, unlike the majority of other paranormal investigators is that we undertake our investigations from a shamanic perspective.

Our mission is to investigate all logical explanations of environments that are associated with paranormal activity. We use a common sense scientific approach to all our investigations but also have an open mind to all theories and methodologies. Our SOuL Searchers team is composed of individuals with a variety of talents both scientific & psychic including sceptics and believers.

SOuL Searchers Paranormal Magazine

<http://soulsearchers.spheresoflight.com.au/index.php?page=SOuL-Searchers-Magazine>

This free bi-monthly online magazine was developed from SOuL Searchers Investigations as a way of communicating our experiences and to further our explorations into the realms of the supernatural and the unexplained.

SOL's Web Content



Crone and Sage is a website that is dedicated to our pagan elders who want to share their knowledge and wisdom, magic and life experiences in the form of articles, poetry, recipes, artwork and music.



The Spheres Of Light Holistic Centre has within its members practitioners who can provide Spiritual Healing in a variety of natural healing modalities.



If you want to know about current topics click here. This is a place where you can discuss ideas and catch up on general news. So if you want to participate please become a member as we would love to hear from you.



The National Pagan Directory is a Spheres Of Light initiative to help Australian Pagans connect with each other in their local area. It is a FREE listing & provides links to information about covens, groups, workshops, retreats & other special Pagan events, plus Aussie Pagan businesses & services. If you would like your coven, group, regular meet-up to be listed in

the NPD please send us your details. To list your one-off or special events please use our Australian Pagan Events forums. We also invite Celebrants in the Pagan community to promote their services in the NPD. For further information & contact details click on the banner above.



Would you like to help sponsor our free eMagazine and advertise your pagan-friendly business in Axis Mundi? Click here for more details.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

14th of each month

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SOL Contact Details

Janine Donnellan ~ Group Leader

inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au

Mobile: 0408 025 268

*The majority of the information was compiled by Jenwytych (Jenny) and Janine and was sourced from the SOL website.





Spheres Of Light

ABN 46 385 794 818

PHONE: 0408 025 268

EMAIL: inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au