

## Athens Area Chapter News

### **Fall Book Discussion**

Starting in the autumn, we will be having regular discussion on Starhawk's book, *Spiral Dance*. Come to all of the discussions or only the ones you are interested in. They will be scheduled throughout the year. Check out the events calendar for more information. We ask that you read in advance the chapter to be discussed. For information on ordering your copy of the book, contact Melinda. Thank you!

### **Ritual Setups**

We will be setting up for the Mabon Labrynth ritual the night before. While anyone is more than welcome to come and help, those who didn't get to take part in the ritual last year might want to opt out of helping. The ritual will have more impact for you that way.

There will also be set-up for the Crystal Ball before the ritual and party begin. If you'd like to help with the decorating, contact Sally (see below for info).

Rehearsal for the Samhain Memorial Rite is scheduled for Saturday, October 28th. The time will be announced (determined) at the next planning meeting, which is Sunday, October 1st. If you'd like to help, please let Sonja know.

**Wanted:** volunteers to participate in a research project focussing on Pagans. I am looking for Pagans, Goddess Worshipers, Wiccans (solitaire and those in covens), and other Earth-centered individuals to participate in my Master's Thesis in Sociology from Ohio University.

The research will consist of in-depth interviews focusing in part on individual (or group) spiritual histories, the misconceptions other groups have about Pagans, Wiccans, and other Earth-centered religions, and the subsequent problems this can present for the Pagan community.

I am also hoping to participate in and/or observe Wiccan ceremonies or works with either a coven or individuals.

Protecting the identities of my participants is my primary concern, and I promise to use pseudonyms at all times. In addition, all information relating to employment, places of residence, age, or any other identifying characteristics will be carefully disguised so as to be indistinguishable. All interviews and transcripts of my research will be kept in a locked box, and will be destroyed when my thesis is completed. Of course, I can make special accommodations for any participants who have specific concerns.

If you think you would like to be a part of this project, or simply have questions for me, please give me a call or drop me an email!

Thanks!

Sally Lasko

Mailing Address:  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Ohio University  
Athens, OH 45701-2979

Phone:  
(740) 589-7712  
Email:  
slasko@frognet.net

### **Crystal Ball**

The year marks the ninth annual Crystal Ball and the first year the party will start with an opening ritual. The short ritual should only take half an hour and will add a new dimension to the event. Afterwards, it's food, music, divination and fun! Come in costume, or not, and enjoy yourself. The admission donation of \$7 gets you a ticket for a tarot or rune reading.

## **Getting Together**

### **Rituals**

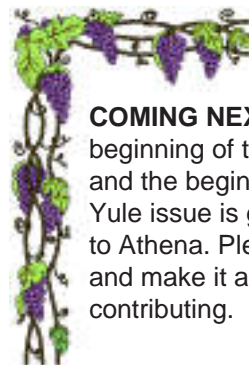
Most CUUPS rituals are usually held at the Unitarian Fellowship on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. They range from the very simple to the elaborate. A potluck and time of fellowship follows. Rituals are open to anyone interested and we would love to have you join us!

### **Business/Planning Meetings**

Regular meetings of CUUPS are held at the Unitarian Fellowship on the 1st Sunday of the month at noon - usually. (We sometimes have to make adjustments for other fellowship goings-on. If you would like to become involved in the planning and organizing of CUUPS events and rituals, we would love to hear from you. Meetings are open to anyone interested in CUUPS.

### **Classes/Workshops**

Most classes and workshops are held on Tuesday evenings at the Fellowship, usually running from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please note that beginning in May, many of these will be craft-related (as opposed to Craft-related) in some way and we will be charging a small materials fee, usually between \$5 and \$10. This is to help defray costs and enable us to offer a more diverse selection of events.



**COMING NEXT ISSUE:** Marking the beginning of the newsletters second year and the beginning of the 21st century, our Yule issue is going to be dedicated entirely to Athena. Please help mark the occasion and make it a truly special issue by contributing.

**WANTED:** Your ideas, suggestions, poems, stories, essays, artwork, and celebratory tidbits. Send any and all of the above, plus whatever else you come up with, to Melinda, care of AA CUUPS. Help make The Pellet more you and less me.