

Greetings Friends,

The first thing I wish to offer you is an inspiration, given by the Hopi Elders in the year 2000. I hold this as a key to a shift my life made this past year & I feel it is relevant to what many of us are experiencing now:



Water

***There is a river flowing now very fast
It is so great & swift that there are those
who will be afraid.
They will try to hold onto the shore.
They will feel they are being torn apart
And they will suffer greatly.
Know the river has its destination.
The elders say we must let go of the shore,
& push off into the middle of the river,
Keep our eyes open, & our head above the water.
And I say, See who is in there with you and Celebrate.***

***At this time in history,
we are to take nothing personally.
Least of all ourselves.
For the moment that we do,
Our spiritual growth & journey comes to a halt.***

***The time of the lone wolf is over,
Gather yourselves!
Banish the word struggle from your attitude
and your vocabulary.
All that you do now must be done
in a sacred manner & in celebration.***

"We are the ones we have been waiting for..."

If you have been experiencing a sense of time speeding up as I have, it is because it is. Our consciousness is expanding rapidly & there are more life-affirming & life-threatening possibilities present for us now than ever before in our collective history. Going with the flow has never been more necessary. I will be addressing this more deeply in this newsletter. At last I am feeling more optimistic & empowered to choose unconditional life.

So for me, another year has passed all too quickly. We, here in Nelson, had hardly any snow this winter & it has been sunny for weeks now. Very unusual, as unusual as many weather patterns seem to be around the world. This year, I finally completed my series of mandalas for each of the elements. You can see them in this letter.

I find it a bit difficult to talk about what last year was about as I'm so absorbed in the intensity of what I am opening to this year - filled for me with travel to far away places . We will spend time in both Peru and India this year. What a surprise the flow has brought to me. I want to speak to how last year has

quickened the possibilities in my life this year. I begin with an announcement & then share some exciting & good news of my life & some perceptions & intuitions of life in general.

Tarot, Symbol & Ritual Workshop - August 27-30 2005



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Fire

Last August I lead a “Tarot & Tree of Life Mythology” course at Johnson’s Landing Retreat Center here in the Kootenays of British Columbia. This January & February, I developed & offered an expanded version of this workshop to my community here in Nelson. This workshop will be offered again in 2006 as it is a prerequisite for people interested in The Mystery School which I hope to offer again in 2007. Both of these workshops were very inspiring as many new levels of consciousness arise from what I have been experiencing over these years since the last Mystery School cycle ended.

This summer, I will be offering a different, more experiential workshop, again at Johnson’s Landing. It too is preparation for the kind of work we do in The Mystery School. For those of you who are interested in attending one of my workshops, this is the only one scheduled this year. “Tarot, Symbol & Ritual” takes place August 27 to 30th, 2005. For further information or to register for this workshop, call 1-877-366-4402 or visit their web site at: www.JohnsonsLandingRetreat.bc.ca If you register before May 1, you receive an extra night meals & accommodation at the end of the workshop. Very useful.

Peru for May, June, & July - Future Peru Trip Offerings



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Air

As many of you may know, I had a deep involvement with Peru from 1987 to 1997. Over these last 3 years, I am astounded to feel such a clear call back to Peru for a whole new level of discovery & learning. I am currently in a process of re-editing my book, Sacred Memory, Holy Yearning, The Birth of Inkari, about my spiritual experiences of living in Peru all those years ago. It’s likely there will be some new chapters to add now.

This year my partner Jim, & our house- mate, Terence, & I are returning to live in Peru for 3 months: May, June, & July. We will live in a small village about an hour from Cuzco. Two years ago, Terence

made connection with an amazing group of Peruvians called the “Winay Taki Allyu” which Jim & I subsequently met & fell in love with.

Allyu, pronounced “I-You”, is a Quechua word for a network or family of individuals who organize around a purpose or function. “Winay Taki” means “Forever Song.” They are a family of musicians & ceremonialists - brothers, sisters & their spouses & children - who have dedicated their lives to living in the old Inka tradition of Earth worship, before the Conquest by the Spanish. This choice is very radical yet they have demonstrated to me a return of an ancient way of being I ‘saw’ or ‘remembered’. It is a return to consciousness of something beautiful. This remarkable group of people are truly conscious of what they carry. This year, the three of us hope to spend this 3 month period of time learning more directly from them about these ancient ways. What a privilege this will be.

Winay Taki Allyu is also dedicated to creating a center for their indigenous reality & so we are helping them to do that through trips we have organized. During this year we will be leading two groups of people, mostly from our local community, for a 2-week journey. Terence initiated this process last June when he organized the first trip for a group of friends from Nelson to meet Winay Taki. This trip occurred around my birthday so, as a surprise, Jim & Terence gave me the gift of this trip. I turned 60 years old at Machu Picchu in the company of my local community! It was such a beautiful & rich experience for us that the three of us decided to do it again this year for others from our community who had expressed an interest in what we were doing. Our intention is to build an energetic & consciousness bridge between the Andes & Kootenays so that both communities will benefit. Our design is not a normal ‘tourist trip’ but rather to offer an opportunity to enter the ritual & ceremonial landscape of how these people live with the land & each other. We may be offering these journeys more widely in the future so, if you are interested, let me know & I will put you on a list of those to be notified.

Community: Seasonal Ceremonies & Sweat Lodges in Nelson



Earth

As many of you know, Jim & I came to Nelson 10 years ago with an intention of creating a way of living in community that was more conscious of our connection with the Earth. This past couple of years, out of time spent with Joanna Macy, Jim initiated groups from the community to gather together & to create a cycle of ceremonies for the Equinoxes & Solstices each year. We thought that maybe we would begin with small groups but from our first offering, we have drawn participation from 60 to over a 100 people for each ceremony. What a delightful surprise!

Also, this past summer Jim & his friends, Stuart McKinnon & Duncan Grady, got together to build a sweat lodge on land Terence bought for ceremonial purposes. When I looked at the lodge after it was just built, I wondered at how they hoped to fill it. It was huge, as big as the largest Sundance sweat lodge I had ever been in. Then when they gave an open invitation to monthly sweats to our community, each time, 30 people (with a waiting list) came., They came even on the coldest, snowy days of deep winter.

What these two offerings have shown to us is the great longing that exists in people right now for ceremony, for gathering together in spirit of connection with the Earth as a Community. We have joyfully & truly exceeded our expectations here. What a blessing!

Inspirations for the Year: Star Dreams & The Mayan ‘Tun’ Calendar

This is one of the most exciting, life-affirming topics of last year’s learnings. I can see clearly now that many of us are in the slipstream of what Joanna Macy called, a “Great Turning” in our collective consciousness. Such a time of great change has been predicted by many cultures throughout history. What has taken me personally into a deeper understanding & appreciation of the dramatic nature of this turning, came to me this year in two forms.

Early this past year, a friend named Eveline, sent me a card with a Crop Circle in the form of the Tree of Life. I hadn’t paid much attention to this phenomenon but this card peaked my attention. Synchronistically, the very next week, a Canadian named Robert Nichol came to Nelson to show a film he had produced called “Star Dreams”. Robert had gone to England the year before to document this phenomenon of Crop Circles that have been appearing in England (sometimes over 300 a season), as well as in other parts of the world for many years now. I went to see the film out of curiosity & found that it was so well documented with such grounded commentators that I couldn’t resist becoming an advocate for the film, showing it to everyone I could in the months that followed. Given I have spent my life working with symbols, it cannot be a surprise that I was fascinated by the clarity & power these breathtaking symbols created in the fields of the world. Crop Circles have been growing in incredible complexity & design over the years. It was shocking to realize how little attention the world has paid to this amazing mystery. What messages are these symbols offering to us? Eye witnesses said they appear in 7 to 10 seconds. I encourage you to check out Robert’s web site at:

www.stardreams_cropcircles.com

You can order his film there if you wish. This film is guaranteed to astound & to offer you hope for the future as well as a sense that we may not be as alone as we often feel. The inspiration & beauty of mystery is great here!



The Tree of Life at the Center of the World

Lastly, over this last year, I also have been able to link my understanding of the evolution of consciousness through my work with the Tarot symbols and the Tree of Life to the Mayan Calendar which I was introduced to last time I was in the Amazon. This particular calendar is called the “Tun Calendar.” It is said to measure the evolution of creation or consciousness since the beginning of time. The Maya believed that at the center of the Earth was a Great World Tree sending impulses of greater consciousness in the form of 9 levels or cycles out into the world. Called the prophetic calendar of the Maya, it has been only recently explored, written & talked about by two men: Carl J. Calleman & Ian Lungold. It reveals an incredible connectedness of the Maya to the really Big Picture.

I found such a strong resonance between a view I have been exploring for 27 years & the Mayan view of evolution, that, as a result of the stimulus of this information, I have been stunned & boggled by the beauty of what I have seen for life ahead in spite of the challenges that are also there. Creation is indeed moving very fast now, like the river the Hopi Elders refer to above. Many of us are learning how to let go of the shore of habitual responses so the greater consciousness we are, can be affirmed & arise. This is crucial for each of us now. Let's go into flow of our hearts, allow yourself to move more intuitively, & honor our personal knowing & acknowledge what we are truly 'for' in life. Surrender to this love within you rather than focusing & reacting to what you are 'against.' This is the best advice I can give for now.

This is key to the expression of this shifting consciousness, a consciousness we have carried within our DNA from the beginning of time. Throughout this year, according to The Mayan Calendar, Creation or Spirit is now inspiring a slow growing & ever-deepening consciousness of "A New Foundation in Human Relations". The many new offerings & the responses occurring now to these offerings, some mentioned above in Community, is evidence of this as well.

The purpose of this one-of-many steps, taken at this time in our history, is to awaken a more profound consciousness of Ethics. 'Ethics' offers humanity a different ground for all our relationships than what has been offered by what we have called 'Morality'.

Morality grew out of ideas that there is a clear & true 'right/wrong' or 'good/bad', & that we are here to define & do something about what is called 'immoral'. Morality is a concept based in mind-made fears. This concept continues to generate the inner & outer polarities that foster & maintain our disconnection from Source as the mind's focus is usually on controlling life rather than entering into a relationship with the experience of life.

For those of us who have spent the last 40 or so years in therapy & growth groups, we Know that there are other ways of effectively dealing with what doesn't work: "Heal instead of Perpetuate". So Ethics can be defined as a heart-based way of conducting our lives in community. Through Ethics we are on a road of seeking to welcome, celebrate & benefit from the diversity of life & in so doing, to bring healing & reunion to the separated. Morality is exclusive, Ethics, inclusive. Morality fosters a blind, rule-bound kind of justice where Ethics is Justice, a justice that can see with "eyes of the heart" & will respond in deeply appropriate, often unexpected or surprising ways that help to heal all life.

It's likely a good year to let go even more of the shores of any old, life-negating forms of relating to yourself, to others, & to life & to allow new forms of consciousness & connection to self, others & life to arise. From the 30 years I have been working with others utilizing the gift of the Tarot & mysteries of The Tree of Life, I can affirm & express a sense of the miracle that We are, each one of us! We are each a part of a much bigger picture & each of us belongs in some way to the whole! Last year I found the worlds "I am inevitable!" I believe this is essentially true for all of us in what we love in our hearts. It is good to get a glimpse of that from time to time & orient your life toward that great river. There is much to celebrate! None of us are alone and each of us is a miracle of uniqueness.

For your reflection, here is the list of themes for the consciousness cycle we are currently living in, according to the Mayan Calendar. Read, reflect & remember what these years have held for you! See if you can resonate with what is here....

Mayan Vision of the 7 Days & 6 Nights of 360 day cycles before 2012 (The Galactic Consciousness Cycle)

1st Day Jan. 5, 1999 to Dec. 30, 1999	Seeds of Consciousness Planted
1st Night Dec. 20, 1999 to Dec. 24, 2000	Consciousness Activated
2nd Day Dec. 24, 2000 to Dec. 19, 2001	Polarity Displayed
2nd Night Dec. 19, 2001 to Dec. 14, 2002	Old & New Consciousness Collide
3rd Day Dec. 14, 2002 to Dec. 9, 2003	Truth Rolls Out, Like It or Not!
3rd Night Dec. 9, 2003 to Dec 3, 2004	Adjustments to the Truth, Don't Hold on but Flow
4th Day Dec. 3, 2004 to Nov. 28, 2005	New Foundations of Human Relations
4th Night Nov. 28, 2005 to Nov. 23, 2006	Ethical Procedures are Implemented
5th Day Nov. 23, 2006 to Nov. 18, 2007	We Meet Our Galactic Neighbors
5th Night Nov. 18, 2007 to Nov. 12, 2008	The End of Manufactured Lack
6th Day Nov. 12, 2008 to Nov. 7, 2009	Consciousness Surpasses Technology
6th Night Nov. 7, 2009 to Nov. 2, 2010	Bliss, We will Need Practice
7th Day Nov. 2, 2010 to Oct. 28th 2011	We Evolve to Conscious Co-Creation

If you have been aware as I mentioned earlier of time speeding up, it's because we were born in the Planetary Consciousness cycle. Shifts from day to night to day again, like above, occurred every 19.7 years. Remember the idea of the "generation gap"? Now there is as much possible to happen in 360 days as occurred, when we were growing up, in 19.7 years. So, as Ian Lungold says, "Time is not speeding up but Creation is". He holds that we are "on a schedule" that began 16.4 billion years ago & will complete in October 28, 2011 . What Ian says is beyond that is uncertain except we will be living without the primary orientation of time and space. Imagine that! I can.

I hope this is illuminating & useful to you as it has been for me. And this is only the tip of the iceberg of what has been discovered here by these two men, in this fascinating contribution to human consciousness. So I encourage you to look further into this calendar which Carl Calleman believes is more of a "World Calendar" than a Mayan Calendar now, worth paying attention to. I agree with him.

The source of what I have been sharing here is a lecture on the Mayan Calendar teachings, called "Welcome to the Evolution" by Ian Lungold. You can order a talk presented last year in the Yukon at: <http://www.mayanmajix.com/> Also have a look at Carl J. Calleman's book The Mayan Calendar & the Transformation of Consciousness.

Last Words: Adventure, Gratitude, Remembering

This year, the river of my life will also be taking me on a fall trip to India with six others as a substantial experiment in 'ally' I should think. I cannot say 'why' we are called to go there now, just that we are called. India, as those who have gone there know, is a great complex of vital spiritual energy dancing upon this Earth. It exists right outside of the box of Western civilization. We will spend some time touching the Himalayas, traveling to the source of the Ganges, which might offer me some balance to having spent so much time in the Andes. We intend to travel then to Varanasi, Bodh Gaya and further south as a pilgrimage to sites of Sacred Awakening in many teachers. Perhaps in time, we will add our experiences to the mix of what we now offer to others in our community. Who knows?

Gratefully, the Tarot Symbols continue to offer me & others a map with such beautiful guidance & wisdom to quicken this flow moving us toward an awakening of that which 'We truly are.' This year, I have felt that my work in readings & workshops is less about communicating information & more about a ceremony of deepening connections & quickening intuitive memory. This is work, as ceremony, is both profound to the mind & quite natural to the heart. Humanity in general & so many individuals in particular have faced some really dark times in the last few years. I know I have. I imagine that we can all agree that collectively we are in a time where it matters deeply, to all life, that we enter into the exquisitely spiritual practice of choosing the mystery of love over fear!

Remember, "We are the ones we have been waiting for!" Let's continue to grow together in our love, wisdom, clarity, strength & the energy, life force or power to live all that right now. Why not? With wonder that we exist & deep & abiding love for all the ways we meet each other & share, many blessings to you, Carol



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