

Beltane, 2013

Happy Beltane! Happy May Day!

A big cheer for the many celebrants who braved the light rain to come out to our Beltane Pilgrimage to the Sacred Spring, Maypole Dance, and Fire Ritual. A big thank you to so many who helped make our Ziraat Spirit and Nature celebration flow so flexibly. Much appreciation to Roger and Libby for all their work in preparing and beautifying the land and the spring. To Roger and Christine for making the gorgeous sun and garland to top the Maypole. To Hamid, Nur, and Hayat who helped with the music and in many other ways. And thanks to Pat, who provided the third tent that kept Hamid dry as he played guitar for us to dance.

Our theme was the Sacred Marriage, the fertility and creativity of masculine and feminine, of sun and moon, of fire and water. Last year the sun greatly blessed us. This year it was the water! A highlight for me was us, all moist from the rain, dancing the Beltane Brand and E Malama around the warm fires! Here are some photos to enjoy:

With love,
Hakima Betty Lou

In many cultures May 1st is the day to “dress” sacred wells with flowers and prayer ribbons, giving gratitude to the water and seeking purification and healing. Here we are honoring the Sacred Spring (and all fresh waters) with an offering of flower petals in preparation for the pilgrimage:



Preparing the altar under Grandmother Apple Tree.



Tying our prayer ribbons onto the Maypole:



There are no words to describe the beauty of the sun and the garland atop the Cedar Maypole, the Axis Mundi, the World Tree. In spring in many cultures the Sacred Tree is honored with garlands and beautiful ribbons, songs, and circle dancing:



Look at the beautiful pattern that we are weaving with our prayer ribbons! The prayers of the community will stay here, reaching up to the heavens, until Samhain. Then we will cut them down and offer them, still tightly woven together, looking for all the world like a huge shed snakeskin, to be carried up in the smoke of the Samhain bonfire.



Lighting our Beltane brands from the twin fires during the fire ritual:

