



Imbolc, Candlemas, Sacred Swans Day

Reflections

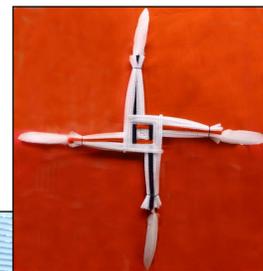
January 30, 2016

Many thanks to the whole great Imbolc team, Hayat, Farrunnissa, Hamid, Merlyn, Melissa, Nancy, Howard, Ann, and Vanessa, and to all the participants who so eagerly and openheartedly joined us in welcoming the return of the sun, the renewal of nature, and the re-emerging energies of the Divine Feminine in her Celtic form as Brigid, Goddess of Transformation. This year we celebrated her in her aspect as White Swan while we honored the mythic migration of our native tundra swans and their embodiment of hope, peace, and love. Thanks to Tristan Chaika for editing our *Wild Swans* video and to Cynthia Crossen for her *Wild Swans* song.

On the pilgrimage participants made offerings, in gratitude, to prepare the ground and ourselves for the first stirrings of Spring.



We made Brigid's Crosses, solar symbols, to call back the sun and to align ourselves with the transformative flame of Brigid.



Here we are watching the last of the winter evergreens burning, crackling, during the opening fire ceremony.



After the pilgrimage, participants visited the Earth, Air, Fire, and Water altars for purification with the Elements.



With Brigid as Healer, Farrunnissa led a beautiful candle dance during the blessing ceremony in which we witnessed the commitments we each made for healing or for creative development during this newly emerging cycle of growth in nature and in psyche.



We called upon Brigid as Goddess of Inspiration as we shared our talents through poetry, story, and song. Howard graced us with the lovely *Song to Brigid*, Betsy and Farrunnissa sang Betsy's wonderful *In the Temple*. Merlyn led us in singing the very timely *Here Comes the Sun!* Our musicians were amazing as I led *We circle around...Wearing our long wing feathers as we fly...*

Gratitude to the Highstrung Irish Jam musicians for again playing some lively tunes for us during potluck.



With blessings to all of you, as we share our love for the spirit of this season and of this sacred land,

Hakima Betty Lou Chaika, coordinator of the Ziraat Circle, Rose Heart Sufi Community



Mark your calendar!

The 2016 *SpiritandNature* Cross-quarter Celebrations:

Beltane

Saturday, April 30, TBD

Lughnasa

Wednesday, August 3, 7-9pm, at the Pittsboro Senior Center.

Samhain

Sunday, October 30, TBD