A Prayer to the Ancestors by Patti Wigington

This is the night when the gateway between our world and the spirit world is thinnest. Tonight is a night to call out those who came before. Tonight I honor my ancestors.

Spirits of my fathers and mothers, I call to you, and welcome you to join me for this night. You watch over me always, protecting and guiding me, and tonight I thank you.

In many earth-centered traditions, the year is divided into two parts, the lighter half in the summer and the darker half in the winter. Samhain is the division between these halves – the end of the Harvest, and the time when the veil between our world of the living and the world of the dead was at its thinnest. Oíche Shamhna (October 31) is Halloween and Lá na Marbh (November 1) is the Day of the Dead, or All Saints Day, when those who have passed away are remembered.

Spirituality Club – Sunday at 9am in the Chapel. Join us this week for a recap of the Parliament of World Religions which took place last week in Salt Lake City, Utah. Katiemae White will regale you with stories of this fantastic interfaith event. (Imagine 10,000 people representing 70 faiths and 50 countries.) Cinnamon buns and coffee are also on the agenda!

Sharing Circle – Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm in the Chapel. This is a new group designed to be a supportive gathering space for Christian students, faculty and staff as well as those who want to know more about this tradition. If you are interested, you are welcome! (If this time does not work for you, please let me know as I would like to include everyone who wants to be a part of the circle.)

Guided Meditation- Wednesdays from 11:30-12:00 and Fridays from 2:30-3:00 in the Chapel. All are welcome to participate in practicing this great form of mindfulness. We experiment with a variety of approaches, so each week is geared toward those who are present and meeting them right where they are. No expertise required!

Judaism as a Living Tradition with guest speaker Rabbi Michael Cohen – Friday, October 30th from 1:00-2:15 in the Chapel. Come and learn more about Judaism. Rabbi Cohen also works with Arava, a leading environmental academic institution in the Middle East and will be bringing Colleen Yout to talk a bit about opportunities for semesters abroad.

Your Chaplain, Shirley Oskamp, is available for one-on-one meetings or small group discussions by appointment. Just send an email to: Shirley.oskamp@greenmtn.edu