



As we approach the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the days grow short, the darkness comes early and in the PeerSpirit office we take time to reflect on events of the past year. This Circle Tale is written by Ann Linnea and Christina Baldwin, founders of PeerSpirit, Inc.

Circle Tale, December 2009 Circle Tale at Year's End

How can the sun be setting behind the mountains at 4:00 p.m.? It doesn't seem possible that we are coming to the end of another year! On the other hand, it's a bit of a relief to turn on the holiday lights, have dinner on the table by 6:00, and be tucked into a good book (or more emails) around the fire by 7:30 p.m. Winter/north/winding down.

We know that this is not the same kind of seasonal shift happening everywhere—and next year at this time we look forward to writing about returning from spring Down Under—but the cold and gray green edge of Puget Sound is what lies before us this December as we take a breath at the end of 2009. Before we head into our **annual retreat and office closure, December 19- January 4**, we are tidying up from a year of strenuous and satisfying work that we managed while at the same time writing our new book on ***The Circle Way*** and Ann's book, ***Keepers of the Trees***.

In the midst of this we traveled to Seattle, San Diego, Los Angeles, Columbus, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Portland, OR, San Antonio, Sacramento, San Francisco, Denver, upstate New York, Ashland, OR and Asheville, NC. Outside we held circles on Whidbey Island, wrote about nature's wisdom overlooking the Columbia River gorge, quested on the east slope foothills of the Cascade Mountains, high in the Inyo Mountains, and along the coast of the Olympic Peninsula.

In the summer, Ann turned 60, Debbie Dix and her family traveled to Europe, and while madly editing the circle book we also planted, tended, and harvested two gardens. The year has been one of "talk nationally—eat locally..." What all this travel represents is the opportunity to meet hundreds of wonderful people who have welcomed "circle, quest, and story" into their lives in a broad spectrum of situations in communities, organizations, churches, and families. What amazing replenishment we derive from engaging with this consistently expanding cadre of people who are defining and holding the core values of their lives together in the midst of great change.

As you gather for various holiday events this season, we invite you to call in a space for conversation that includes a center, a talking piece and a question to invite stories that honor the core values holding *your* lives together. What is a highlight from the year? Tell a story of a moment you loved being in nature? What gave you hope this year? What piece of legacy work did you do? Tell of a moment of delight? Surprise? An unexpected gift? Frame the question, pass the talking piece, and enjoy each other's stories.

Thank you to each and every one of you who have bought a book, attended a lecture, or participated in a PeerSpirit seminar. These are challenging fiscal times for all of us and we gratefully appreciate your support as we work to help sustain a world where people speak thoughtfully, listen carefully and rise up to do good work.

We at the PeerSpirit office all wish you a blessed holiday season. Christina and her long-time Glory; Debbie and her new dog, Charlie; Ann and her new puppy, Grace.

If you have a tale to tell, contact the PeerSpirit office and we'll help you share it.

*For more information on many applications of circle, visit our web site at www.peerspirit.com and subscribe to our monthly Circle Tale newsletter. Your e-mail address will **not** be shared or used by anyone other than PeerSpirit, and you can unsubscribe yourself at any time.*