



Making Offerings to the Spirits : pages 52-55



Psychic Surgeons of the Philippines : pages 6-14



Visiting the Zuni People : pages 18-25

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THE IMPOSSIBLE TOUCH 6-14
The Psychic Surgeons of the Philippines have long courted both cries of amazement and of fakery. **Howard G. Charing** looks at the tradition, and shares some personal tales.

CALL OF THE BABAYLAN 15-17
Shamanism has a long tradition on the islands of the Philippines, where it is a woman's spiritual tradition. We give a brief overview of its tradition and practice.

JOURNEY TO ZUNI 18-25
When dreams of a Zuni Sun face figure invaded **Dr Steven Weiss's** consciousness, he had to set out for the ancient Zuni Pueblo in New Mexico to find out what was behind it.

THE STONES ARE ALIVE 26-29
The use of carved stone animal fetishes have been a feature of traditional Zuni medicine ways for hundreds of years. We explore this fascinating sacred, ceremonial art.

THE RAINBOW AND THE BLUE MAN . . . 30-33
In late August 2017, Oglala medicine man and writer **Ed McGaa Eagle Man** passed into spirit. We republish an article we had from him, back in 1997 as a memorial for him.

SHOOTING THE SPIRITS 34-39
The trials and tribulations of shooting a feature film about shamanism, in the winter chills of Mongolia, by **Amalia Rubin** and **Aminaa Batmunkh**, two producers of the film

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Zuni Stone Animal Fetishes : pages 26-29



A Shamanic Feature Film in Mongolia : pages 34-39



Women's Shamanism in the Philippines : pages 15-17

A PRIMAL HOMECOMING 40-43

Humanity is becoming increasingly out of touch with nature.

Geral T. Blanchard looks at the importance of keeping a close connection to the reality of the natural world.

NATURE CONNECTION 44-51

Raised in Australia with a childhood of playing in the Bush, **Damh McTavish** makes an impassioned plea for taking some small risks in the natural world and reconnecting.

BRING BALANCE - FEEDING THE SPIRITS . . 52-55

With the ongoing situation between North Korea and America, **Nicholas Breeze Wood** shares a ceremony making offerings to the ancestors and spirits to bring empowered peace.

BOOK AND MUSIC REVIEWS 56-59

PEOPLE ON THE PATH EVENTS DIARY 60-64

THE FOUNDING INSPIRATION FOR SACRED HOOP MAGAZINE IN 1993
"Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and around and about me was the whole hoop of the world... I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit and the shapes of all shapes as they must live together like one being. And I saw that the Sacred Hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight and in the centre grew one almighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father, and I saw that it was holy."
 (From the vision of Nicholas Black Elk Lakota Holy Man: 1863 - 1950)

From the Editor



Welcome to our largest ever issue of Sacred Hoop, eight pages larger than normal. I hope you enjoy the read. As you probably know, I never plan the issue, I make it up as an 'invention test,' using the articles which Spirit drops into my inbox. A theme normally emerges and I trust the process - after all this is issue 97. We seem to have two main themes in this issue, the spirits, and re-connecting to what really matters in life.

So, we move through the issue in and out of those two themes. We drop in on the psychic surgeons and women's ancient shamanic traditions of the Philippines, through to the medicine ways of the Zuni people of New Mexico and their wonderful spirit fetishes, and on to reflect on the life of one of my own Native American medicine teachers, the Oglala medicine man Ed McGaa.

Ed passed into spirit the day before I wrote this editorial, I have good memories of working with him, and his teachings changed the way I live my life. We first published his article in Sacred Hoop twenty years ago, but reading them today - when I made the decision to include his article in this issue - they seem even more important and relevant than they did all those years ago.

But hey; 'lights, camera, action!' Life goes on - and what better for a change of subject than a freezing cold winter photoshoot for a new feature film, in a haunted location in Mongolia?

And yet movies - and all that goes with them in our digital, disconnected, often urban life - is a cause of deep disconnection from the natural world. Why freeze our own butts off, when we can watch someone else do it for us, from the comfort of our warm sofas?

So we have two articles, two heartfelt calls, to reconnect, and stay connected, with reality and the natural world.

And we end the issue with a ceremony that you can do yourself, to bring balance and to feed the spirits. I was moved to offer this - a gift from my spirits - to help the people and spirits of North Korea. And I share the ceremony here, not only for that reason, but as a blueprint for many other occasions where you might feel moved to do a ceremony in order to strengthen the spirits.

It feels like a lot is going on globally at this time, we need to know where our connections are, and we need to feed and honour that connection. We are all connected and we forget that at our peril

Blessings to all Beings
 Nicholas Breeze Wood