

The Secret Art of Ceremony

A Nine-Week Tele-Course in the Heart of Ceremony



Ceremony is an intentional act of creation inviting us to go deeper into our most profound relationship with the Divine.

-Reverend Misa Hopkins

What hidden and unspoken needs are you helping yourself and others fulfill through ceremony? What are the basic components of meaningful ceremony? Can anyone create and offer ceremony?

What are your responsibilities when you are offering ceremony? What should you know as you take people further into mystical realms?

Have you been thinking about creating and offering some kind of special ceremony? Do you offer ceremonies now and would like to make them deeper more enriching experiences?

If you are a ceremonialist.....

You are probably someone who is an initiator that likes to start new things. You notice the gaps in people's needs and do your best to fill them with meaningful experiences. You are someone who loves people and gathers them together. You listen to Spirit with great care. You love mystical reality and the wonders that occur when people come together in unified intention.

Creating new avenues of spiritual expression can be a lonely job

Initiators and innovators often feel like they are out there on their own, champions to new ways of thinking and living. If you have the desire to or have created ceremonies on your own—thank goodness for you.

What if you could deepen your own experience, and that of others, by sharing ideas with like-minded, like-hearted ceremonialists?

Imagine how much more confident you would feel if you could get empathetic and wise council before you offered a brand new ceremony. Imagine how much deeper you could take yourself and others with insights from knowledgeable ceremonialists.

We don't have to be mavericks all the time. We can give ourselves permission to broaden our circle of knowledge, influence, and experience by holding hands with other men and women who are compassionate and committed to the art of creating ceremony.

Soon you will have the opportunity to join with other people, some experienced, some new that offer or want to offer heart-felt ceremonies.

You don't have to be a full-time minister or ceremonialist. All you need is a desire to enhance your abilities to offer one or more ceremonies.

You will meet every Monday for nine weeks on the telephone to discuss matters of ceremony. Your explorations will be led by Cynthia Mills, an experienced ceremonialist for over 12 years and professional facilitator and teacher for over 22 years.

We are looking for dedicated people who would like to further their ability to offer evocative, inspiring ceremonies. Together you will explore:

- The difference between ritual and ceremony.
- The basic elements of meaningful ritual and ceremony.
- How to prepare yourself for ceremony.
- Identifying and fulfilling unspoken needs of participants.
- Responsibilities and ethics of wise ceremonial practice.
- Taking people into the mystical realms.

If you are familiar with the Women's Water Ceremony and would like to apprentice to offer these ceremonies yourself, participation in this class is a pre-requisite for apprenticeship.

Reverend Misa, who designed the Secret Art of Ceremony class, has really been creating and offering ceremonies since she was about 10 years old where she could be found playing priest and offering mass in the basement of her childhood home. She began formally offering non-denominational ceremonies as an adult over 12 years ago. Shortly after her adult initiation into ceremony, a Native elder took her into apprenticeship and began teaching her the ways of Cherokee ceremonies.

Since then she has participated in ceremonies of various denominations, developing a great appreciation for the power of ritual from people of all spiritual traditions. Reverend Misa now offers a variety of ceremonies on a regular basis, including full moon ceremonies, initiations, commitments, transitions, sweat lodge, house blessings, spirit cleansings, sound medicine circles and Song Quest, which is similar to a vision quest and is now in its tenth year.

Reverend Misa is a trained educator who has offered spiritual development classes for adults and healers around the country on such topics as Sound Medicine, Dream Analysis, The Art of Ceremony, The Essential Lessons of the Celestine Prophecy, Psychic Development, and Energy Healing.

She has studied ceremony across cultures and counsels individuals in their unique spiritual journeys. Reverend Misa is committed to helping individuals develop their own methods for bringing ceremony into the lives of others; thereby enriching the planet with more rituals of the heart.

Misa was born to create ceremony. Her deep love for Spirit, nature and people, is evident in everything she says and does. Misa magically weaves together just the right elements of prayer, ritual and song in a beautiful, breathtaking fashion. I have had the privilege and honor of participating in numerous ceremonies, counseling sessions, and classes with Misa since 1995. Misa colors her life and the lives of those who have the joy of being close to her with rich depth and meaning. -Snow Thorner,
Life Coach and Director of Safe Cell Phone Now, Ashland, Oregon

Misa holds sacred energy and ignites others to participate within that creative flow of expression. Her gifts of sensitivity to those she holds sacred space for are complete and professional. She is a shining star within the dark night of space. -Feather Jones, Clinical Herbalist

When it comes to ceremonies I can't think of anyone I would rather have facilitate than Misa. Misa has personally helped me through several transitions in my life using ceremony as a tool. She facilitated a personal manifesting ceremony in the moonlightand another releasing ceremony with a small group of women to help me let go of an abusive relationship. Both ceremonies were instrumental in helping me move past my blocks and claim what was mine by divine right.... As a facilitator of ceremony Misa knows her stuff!.... She brings with her a very strong intuitive side that guides her to do just what is needed at just the right time. I highly recommend her to anyone considering a Ceremony for any purpose. -Kaleah LaRoche, singer /songwriter, Sedona, Arizona

Your Teacher for the Class:

Cynthia Mills, M.A.. Ms. Mills is an ordained Keeper of the Women's Water Ceremonies, with a Masters degree in Vocational Rehabilitation and undergraduate degree in Social Work. For over 50 years, Ms. Mills has offered numerous ceremonies and initiations, uniquely created as well as ceremonies from various traditions. She describes herself as an avid student of history, religion and culture, including metaphysics and the mystical realms. She has been trained in both Hawaiian and African forms of Shamanism, Vedic practices and Reikki. And she is knowledgeable in Native American, Hispanic, Celtic, Catholic and Bahai traditional practices. Having been a teacher for over 30 years, Ms. Mills has taught classes in meditation, self-realization, performing arts, poetry, mantras, mudras, metaphysics, personal empowerment, and communication. Using her creative talents, she

developed and co-developed programs for alternative counseling, handicap assistance, women's crisis, and learning disabilities at the University of Southern Colorado. Ms. Mills has a strong commitment to helping people discover their hidden talents—recognizing what service they have to offer while acknowledging their personal intrinsic value.

The Art of Ceremony Class was very informative and covered the many aspects of ceremony in detail. We went over how to prepare for and hold ceremony; how to hold space; and how to prepare sacred objects. In preparation for becoming a Keeper of The Water Bowl Ceremony, I participated in and created ceremonies and held a talking circle. I learned how to create ceremony with respect and honor. Cindy has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with those who are taking the class. —Cynthia Tierra

Participating in "The Art of Ceremony" class was such a sweet experience on a very personal level. It gave a clear voice to so many aspects of ceremony that before had been somehow not clear. By offering basic details (difference between ritual and ceremony, elements of ceremony, what makes something a sacred object, etc) I have a clearer vision of how to create and hold sacred space for myself and others. Although holding sacred space is something I have done intuitively in the past, I lacked the awareness of how to do it with conscious intent. This class created a stable foundation for me to expand my intuitive inclinations into a more focused, conscious path. I wish there had been some written material to go with the class, perhaps an outline that I could have added my notes to. I believe I will reference the material we covered many times in the future and some written material might have assisted me. I found Cindy to be an extraordinary wealth of information and insight. She is very supportive and approachable. I miss speaking with her and learning from her every week. —Kim Wight

It was so supportive to have Cindy as our teacher for this series. Her experience in ceremony is very rich, her inner sight is profound, her heart is beautiful, and her devotion and willingness to give are extraordinary. I learned a great deal from one who has dedicated her life to Spirit's call and the expression of ceremony.

Through her experience leading circle and ceremony, Cindy offered much wisdom referencing situations that she encountered and dealt with expertly that never even occurred to me. I have already experienced the benefit of this gift as a couple of similar situations have presented in my circles over the course of this training period. I feel so much better prepared and more confident in my ability to lead and to manage unexpected situations.

It is clear that Cindy has benefited from your guidance as well. I wish to express my deep gratitude to both of you. In the short time of my exposure to your collective influence, my heart's awareness of what is possible from me and through Spirit has deepened. This awareness has resulted in clearer and more defined personal expression. —Susan Gold

**Teleclasses are on Mondays, August 23—October 18
5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, 8:00 Eastern**

Investment in Your Journey

Investment is \$199. Payment is due before the first class begins. Guarantee—Full refund after the first class and before the second class is allowed if the class does not work for you.

Welcome to the next part of your incredible, spiritual journey!