Tree Planting Ceremony

By Celebrant Charlotte Eulette

Celebrant: The Connor family, their friends, I Charlotte Eulette, Celebrant, come together today in their back yard to celebrate “renewal” and plant a new Blue Spruce Evergreen next to where a proud, beautiful Evergreen tree once stood and was lost to the devastating snow storm that came through the northeast on October 29th, 2011.

The old majestic Evergreen that graced their homestead stood more than 40 feet tall and was a home and a shady oasis for many living creatures above and below the ground. The Connors estimate their tree was close to or more than 60 years of age, according to the numerous trunk rings.

READING

Celebrant: Tanya Connor, the eldest child in the Connor family has a poem to read that she hopes will make us smile and inspire our new sapling to grow just as big and strong as its forbearer.

Tanya: O sweet spontaneous by: e.e. cummings

O sweet spontaneous
earth how often have
the
doting

fingers of
prurient philosophers pinched
and
poked

thee,
, has the naughty thumb
of science prodded
thy
beauty, how
often have religions taken
thee upon their scraggy knees
squeezing and
buffeting thee that thou mightest conceive
gods
(but
true
to the incomparable
couch of death thy
rhythmic
lover
thou answerest
them only with
spring)

FAMILY SAPLING PLANTING RITUAL

Celebrant: I ask the Connor clan to come on up and place a memento or a wish written on paper in the tree-crib hole that we have dug for our new sapling tree and tell us what their wish or memento is.

Stevie (age 8): When I was small I was playing in the yard, digging around and I found this cool little metal fire truck and I kept it in my room for a long time. It had to belonged to the boy that lived in our house long time ago before we moved here. He was playing outside and probably lost it. I’d like to give it to our tree to have.

Danny (age 6): I’m going to put some water in the hole so it can drink it …and put Dot’s old dog bone in.

Tanya (age 13): Here’s the poem I read. I’d like to put it in now, like a wish.

Ellie (parent): George and I chose a Blue Spruce Evergreen tree because when George was a boy his father planted a Blue Spruce in their backyard for him and measured him against each year to see who would grow faster the tree or George. In the long run, as you can imagine, the tree won out.
George (parent): I’d like to put pieces of the old tree in with our new tree to give it some ancestral fortitude and pass on fond memories and good teachings.

Celebrant: I ask Stevie to bring our Blue Spruce over here and lower it to its new crib hole. Danny, will take our trusty garden hose and give our little tree a good soaking. Let’s all push the dirt into the hole and in and around the little tree, and give it a pat. Let’s stay here for a moment and give the earth and the tree our wonderful, loving good vibes and feel the tree’s good vibes coming right back at you. OK, you can stand all up and brush off the soil from your pants and paws.

FAMILY NURTURING AFFIRMATIONS

Ellie: This tree is now a part of our family and we are a part of its life. I affirm that as a family we will:

- Care for it
- Protect it
- Spend time with it
- Get mad at it sometimes
- Share it
- Ripen with it - for it will certainly live much longer than us, and then the next generation or family will make it their own and do the same

CLOSING, READING & TREE NAMING

Celebrant: We stand together as family, friends & fans of our new tree that together we’ve planted in the rich, good smelling soil. By the way, Stevie informs us that he’s come up with a great name for our new tree, he’s named it “Auggie” because, he tells us, we planted him in August!

I close our tree planting ceremony for Auggie with this augmented poem by Australian poet, philosopher, cartoonist, great guy and naturalist, Michael Leunig:

The Path to Our Tree by Michael Leunig

The path to our tree
Is the path within
Is made of animals
Is lined by flowers
Is lined by thorns
Is stained by wine
Is it by shadows and light filled dreams
Is washed with joy
Is swept with grief
Is blessed by the lovely traffic of art
Is known by heart
Is known by prayer
Is lost and found
Is always steadfast
The path to our tree.

Celebrant: Let’s take a moment and send our tree “Auggie” happy and fruitful energy, along with our love.

Thank you all, you too Dot (the Beagle) and we especially thank our Mother Nature.

Let’s feast now!

~ This is the end of the ceremony but the beginning of a wonderful life as a majestic tree ~