



[CF&I Ritual and Ceremony, Primary Source for References and Research](#)

The ritual observance of rites of passage and seasonal changes has ancient and widespread roots, and over the centuries has grown to encompass the practices of myriad religions and philosophies both living and dead, civic and political events, and personal milestones. As society worldwide, especially Western society grows increasingly more pluralistic and secular, many individuals, families, and organizations are seeking ways to mark important junctures in a manner that respects the variety of diverse points of view and beliefs, while allowing the beauty and relevance of the ceremony to shine forth.

The Celebrant Foundation & Institute, believes that everyone should have access to ceremonies and rituals that have the most meaning to them, and was the first organization in the United States to provide training in this discipline through a direct lineage from the International College of Celebrancy in Australia, the birthplace of the modern celebrancy movement.

As the practice of modern celebrancy grows, so does the interest in investigating the impact that personal, religious, and secular rituals have on our inner and outer experiences, as well as on society at large. While early scholarship, chronicled by Arnold Van Gennep, Ronald L. Grimes and Mircea Eliade, focused on age-old and universal practices, modern academics and contemporary authors are viewing ritual and ceremony with fresh eyes, documenting the changing cultural landscape.

We are a species through which the desire to mark threshold crossings is strong, and through which ceremonies flow in an unending stream. From ancient celebrations of the Winter Solstice to entering a monastery, from crowning a monarch to welcoming a child into the tribe, from Japanese tea ceremonies to Victorian mourning practices, and on to contemporary events as varied as celebrating 50th wedding anniversaries and the dedication of the 9/11 memorial, we know that ritual is one of the defining characteristics of being human.

The Celebrant Foundation and Institute honors all threshold crossings on the human journey, and is proud of its rigorous training programs and emphasis on continued learning opportunities. The sources we have gathered here range through peer-reviewed journal articles and classic texts to popular blogs and contemporary concepts. This places ceremony and ritual into historical and sociological contexts while offering you a broader and deeper view of the role of ritual in your own life. Whether you are a perspective client, a potential or current student, a practicing celebrant or a rite-of-passage enthusiast, we trust that you will find something of interest in the web-links and resources listed below. And please visit this page often to catch up on new postings. .

Sincerely,

Carole Wallencheck, CF&I Ceremony Research Developer

Pioneering Australian Celebrant - Dally Messenger's, keynote address at the launching of the USA Celebrant Foundation [currently know as Celebrant Foundation & Institute] at Montclair Library in New Jersey on June 5, 2002

<http://www.collegeofcelebrancy.co.uk/PgsArticles/LaunchUSAFound.html>

On-going research projects

Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project

<http://www.pewforum.org/>

Pluralism Project at Harvard University

<http://www.pluralism.org/>

University of Oxford Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology - Ritual, Community, and Conflict Project

<http://www.icea.ox.ac.uk/research/ritual/>

Surveys on Religious and Secular Affiliations in the United States

ARIS (American Religious Identification Survey) – General American Population, 2008 – conducted by Trinity College, Hartford, CT.

http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/files/2011/08/ARIS_Report_2008.pdf

ARIS (American Religious Identification Survey) – American College Students, 2013 – Conducted by Trinity College, Hartford, CT

http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/files/2013/10/ARIS-2013_Students-Oct-01-final-draft.pdf

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life / U.S. Religious Landscape Survey (done in 2007)

<http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>

Blogs

Threshold Ceremonies – Barbara Parker - <http://canmoreceremonies.ca/ceremony-years-2/>

Sweetgrass Ceremonies - Kristine Bentz –

Weddings and Unions - <http://weddings.sweetgrassceremonies.com/>

Memorials and Natural Departures -<http://memorials.sweetgrassceremonies.com/>

Inclusive Ceremonies – Cristina Kollett - <http://inclusiveceremonies.com/blog/>

Suggested Reading

The Art of Ritual: A Guide to Creating and Performing your Own Rituals for Growth and Change
- Renee Beck and Sydney Barbara Metrick

Deeply Into the Bone: Re-inventing Rites of Passage - Ronald L. Grimes

From Beginning to End: The Rituals of Our Lives - Robert Fulghum

Hero with a Thousand Faces – Joseph Campbell

Rites and Symbols of Initiation: The Mysteries of Birth and Rebirth - Mircea Eliade; translated from the French by Willard R. Trask

The Rites of Passage - Arnold van Gennep; translated by Monika B. Vizedom and Gabrielle L. Caffé

Ritual: Power, Healing and Community - Malidoma Patrice Some

Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice - Catherine Bell

The Water of Life: Initiation and the Tempering of the Soul - Michael Meade

Written and researched by Celebrant, Carole Wallencheck. Feel free to reach out to Carole at naturecelebrant@hotmail.com with any comments and ideas. Thank you.

###