

Topic #5 2012: How Do We Play? – May 2012
Ingathering and housekeeping: such as next meeting place day and time.

Light the Chalice

Check-in

Opening Words:

What I notice is that every child or adult I give a set of Crayolas to goes a little funny. The kids smile, get a glazed look on their faces, pour the crayons out, and just look at them for awhile. Then they go to work on the nearest flat surface and will draw anything you ask, just name it. The adults always get the most wonderful kind of sheepish smile on their faces—a mixture of delight and nostalgia and silliness....If you want an interesting party sometime, combine cocktails and a fresh box of Crayolas for everybody.

*Robert Fulghum, **All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten***

Topic Introduction:

Every person needs to take one day away. A day in which one consciously separates the past from the future. Jobs, lovers, family, employers, and employees can exist one day without any one of us, and if our egos permit us to confess, they could exist externally in our absence. Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us. We need hours of aimless wandering or spates of time sitting on park benches, observing the mysterious world of ants and the canopy of treetops. If we step away for a time, we are not, as many may think and some will accuse, being irresponsible, but rather we are preparing ourselves to more ably perform our duties and discharge our obligations.

*Maya Angelou, **Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now***

Sharing deep listening:

- **Do you play? What do you do that is play? How important is play to you? Why or why not is it important?**
- **How do you use play? As a break from work? As a way to learn a new skill? As a way to meet new acquaintances? As an excuse to get together with friends? As a way to grow? As a way to deepen your self-awareness? As a way to have fun?**
- **Does play have a part in your personal growth? What is it? How does play enhance your life?**
- **What advice would you give to someone who has difficulty playing?**

Topic discussion

Likes and Wishes

Closing Words:

The child is father of the man...

*William Wordsworth, **My Heart Leaps Up***

Extinguish the Chalice