

# Did You Love Emily?

## Emily Dickinson & Shamanism: "My Life had stood--a Loaded Gun"



For over a hundred years untold numbers of young women have been transformed by the work of Emily Dickinson. Commentary on the great erotic love poems such as "Wild Nights--Wild Nights!" and "Struck was I, nor yet by Lightning" privately written by Emily Dickinson will be the central discussion. Recent literary analysis and criticism in an examination of the works of Dickinson has revealed her relationship to Shamanism and homoeroticism. A rich body of source material will be offered for discussion of these themes in the historical context in which her work was created. Dickinson's interest in the fate of the soul after death, her seclusion, her fascination with landscape's mystical content, her quest for immortality through art, and human passions become less enigmatic. We will use Emily's "Volcanic Fire" in the Full Aries Moon, to each let a poem emerge. No prior writing experience needed.

If you have a brief and favorite Dickinson poem please bring to share. But such material will also be provided as we both honor Emily and our own deep passion in a circle reading.

**Saturday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 4-6pm at the Russian River Senior Center, 15010 Armstrong Woods Road, in Guerneville.** Twenty Dollars suggested donation, sliding scale. Those with no coin are encouraged to attend and bless us with spirit!



About the Presenter: **Chenae Anu Meneely** is an Integration Artist, using intermedial forms and interventionist techniques to weave and reflect ancient and future vision. Chenae has more than four decades of experience in Sacred Circles and Women's Spirituality studies. Walking between many worlds she has studied with varied formal teachers such as with Joanna Macy, Gabriella Roth, Michael Harner, and Victor Anderson, but meets new teachers on every sidewalk. Born in 1949 in California, her artwork has been incorporated into a lifetime of political, spiritual and cultural activism. Primarily a visual artist she has worked in many mediums.

The poet Judy Grahn has mentored her written work and poetry. After decades of employment as a Registered Nurse and Community Organizer she is now a graduate of the Creative Inquiry MFA program at California Institute for Integral Studies (CIIS) in San Francisco. Her academic work is centered in the emerging field of NeuroAesthetics. Her life has been a dance of the arts, magic and science and she continues to blend her varied experience in unique and changing forms. Now living in Guerneville CA, Chenae works between the Redwoods and the Ocean, surviving and thriving with her beloved Daughter and at least five black cats.

More Information: [www.russianriverwomensweekend.org/Chenae](http://www.russianriverwomensweekend.org/Chenae) or email: [Chenae17@gmail.com](mailto:Chenae17@gmail.com)