

The Journey...S

Official Newsletter of Church of the Spiral Tree
an Ecumenical, Faerie Faith church

Issue 7
Summer Solstice, 1999

Our lunar rituals still going nicely. The Hawthorn lunar was held at Moondance. We decided to do the ritual on the far side of the hill in the next valley, and most of us were sapped out, so we all hopped in Craig's truck—nothing like 12 pagans in a pick-up truck! (You know you're a redneck pagan if your High Priestess takes you to the ritual site in the back of a truck...) The site was beautiful, and the energy just came right up almost instantly. The ritual was great; we did a healing on Pelayah that left her buzzing the rest of the night.

Moondance itself was a blast. Everything went right—I don't know exactly what happened, but it all worked. Very harmonious, very good energies. Even the rain we had on Saturday was fun—it came during a drumming class, and we had about 30 naked and half-naked pagans cavorting in the rain to the sound of drums. Lots of fun!

NEWS: We are now officially tax-exempt! We're recognized by the IRS as a Section 501(a) organization under 501(c)(3) of the code.

For those of you who wish to form a local group or become ordained as a minister, if you're somewhere besides Alabama or Georgia, you just need to let us know a bit ahead of time. For the group and the ministership to be legal, we need to be registered in your state. This takes a little time to get the paperwork

done and sent in. We will register in other states as needed, as there's a bit of expense involved. Your membership fees and the fees for ordination (\$35) and forming a group (\$35) help pay for these costs. CST is already registered in Georgia, so anyone wishing to put together a local CST group there can do so. Full info on starting a CST grove and becoming a minister is now on the web site, < <http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree> >.

Faerie-Faith Link: Don't forget that you have the option of participating long-distance in our rituals, both lunar and sabbat. All you have to do is let us know that you want to do this, and tell us which rituals, either lunar, sabbat, or both, and before each of our planned rituals, we will mail, email, or FAX a copy of the ritual to you, along with the "kick-off" time and date of the ritual. This way, members who wish can do the same ritual the rest of the group is doing, at the same time, on the same day.

Let me know if you're interested in participating this way. As our rituals sometimes are not completely written till the night before, I'll need either an email address or FAX number to quickly send you the ritual. However, you will know the date and time of the ritual well enough in advance (at least 2 weeks) to make plans for it.

-Linda Kerr

Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher Linda Kerr

CST Board of Directors:

President Craig Kerr

Vice President Rob Von Allmen

Secretary/Treasurer Linda Kerr

Member-at-Large Cathy Rankin

CST Staff:

Hospitality Officer Odessa Crenshaw

Church of the Spiral Tree

PO Box 186

Auburn, AL 36831-0186

334-821-4683 (Linda Kerr)

spiraltree@mindspring.com

<http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree>

Who Are We?

The Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical pagan/wiccan church, designed to foster a sense of community and family among pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world. It is an ecumenical church in that it encompasses all traditions, and is non-exclusive. It welcomes all who revere the Earth Mother and adhere to the tenets of the Wiccan Rede ("An it harm none, do as you will"), regardless of which tradition one is affiliated with. CST is also a Faerie Faith church, in that it has a goal of spreading the teachings of the Faerie Faith to all who are interested, and giving people better access to this ancient and beautiful Irish belief system. The Faerie Faith itself is a non-exclusive faith; one who is studying the Faerie Faith is always free to study other traditions or join other organizations.

If you would like to help with any of our projects, have any further ideas for the church, or have any resources which would be of benefit, please contact us. CST is also seeking volunteers to help with various parts of the church, such as:

Writers and artists for the CST newsletter; editing and publishing the CST newsletter; handling networking contacts, including publishing lists in newsletter; other business and administration associated with the newsletter

CONTACTS:

Remember, you get a free listing with your paid membership. You may also submit your listing at any later time.

Ametisi Hawthorne (Merilee Barber): 36, new student, stones, crystals, herbs, books on the craft. Alone here in Mobile. P.O. Box 91781, Mobile, AL, 36691.

Cliff Landis: I'm a laid-back kitchen witch interested in sharing knowledge and fun. Harper 109, Auburn, AL, 36849, <wiccadog@yahoo.com>.

Frank Palmer: #546776, 2101 FM 369N, Iowa Park, TX, 76367-6568. Eclectic Druid student (nearly full Druid priest), male, feminist, seeking anyone who wishes to correspond. I study Ayurvedic Healing, plus any other healing methods. I'm knowledgeable in several forms of magic and divination. Please write? I practice a zoomorphic form of Druidism and am a 2nd year Shaman student.

Lora Melendez: P.O. Box 8202, Dothan, AL 36304.

Marijane Wilcox: Crone goddess, minister/spiritual counselor/herbalist. Email: <marijane@mindspring.com>.

Melody Pettus: I would welcome meeting or writing to any like-minded Faery trained folks in the Atlanta area. 2347 Melinda Dr., Atlanta, GA 30345-1914, or email to <mpettus@telco.com> or <mpettus@atl.mediaone.com>.

Morgain: 40 yr. Old eclectic witch (bi). Enjoys the outdoors, tarot, Pathway cards, children, crystals, and stone people. Open minded to all the universe has to offer. Seeking pagan/metaphysical friends. P.O. Box 16536, Panama City, FL 32406.

"Skippy" Rob Von Allmen: Tired? Bored? Wanting to find true love and happiness? Well, what are you doing talking to me?! I don't have all the questions, much less the answers. But I do have a clue (I found it in a cereal box) and am licensed to share the wisdom of the ages (answered an ad in Rolling Stone). If you also ponder such mysteries as "Is there life after death?," "Was he a man dreaming he was a butterfly...?," and "Where am I parked?," then please drop me a line at: 3512 Clairmont Ave. #501, Birmingham, AL 35222.

Steven D. Richert: Celtic shaman, still new to this path, is seeking any others of like mind to correspond with while I'm in prison and out. Steven D. Richert #17987, W/D-128-T, U.S.P., P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT, 84020.

Stormy: stormycloud@mindspring.com, earthdance@mindspring.com, <http://www.mindspring.com/~stormycloud/>.

Willow Blue: <willowblue21@hotmail.com>.

Music and Sound in Energy Work

compiled by Lady Eire (*Melody Pettus*)

In classical science, energy is defined as the capacity to do work—to “make things happen.” Sound is categorized as “kinetic” or vibration oriented energy. It is only when the vibration rate or *frequency* rises above 20 hertz that your ears perceive them as merging into one continuous sound.

Each object has its own natural frequency of vibration. Two objects vibrating at the same frequency level are said to be in “resonance” with each other. Naturally occurring musical sounds are special because they are not just a pure tone. They contain *harmonic frequencies* which are in tune with the fundamental note and so please our ears and minds.

The Universe exists in a state of duality—to and fro, expansion and contraction, up and down, energy and matter—are all manifestations of the duality of existence. This polarization is a primal state of existence that pervades the cosmos. Sound is no exception to the prime duality. It exists as a result of polarized vibrations of atoms, molecules, and larger objects. An element is partly defined by its vibrational rate. The human body is a manifestation of vibrational states—a ‘cohesion of matter, sound and light.’”

We know that planetary life is a web of interaction, each part depending on the other. Music symbolizes and expresses the principal of mutual communication. Music gives us “shapes in sounds” and certain forms lend themselves well to certain types of workings:

1. *Phrase Construction* - a two fold symmetry which expresses complementary duality (Question and Answer forms) - i.e. a Hymn or Traditional Folk Song.
2. *Ternary Structure* - two similar music patterns with a differing middle section - good for working with the concept of transformation without destruction.
3. *Rondo form* - verses linked by a recurring chorus. Relating the old with the new - i.e. a Ballad or “Story-Song.”
4. *Air and Variations* - self expressive form. A central musical statement expressed differently each time. Difficult to use in group work - best for solitary workings. Reflects the multiple self - i.e. Jazz.

Our reality is a “vibratory reality.” When we think, our brains produce rhythmic electric currents. The very nucleus, protons and electrons of the atoms in our body are all associated with characteristic vibratory rates. As we enter meditative states—our bodies begin to vibrate coherently at 7 cycles per second. This harmonic is the same as the Earth’s electrical field. As our planet is a conscious entity, it pleases her to no end to have us accompany her tune.

Throughout history, special sounds (“Words of Power”) have been viewed as sonic formulae. As witches, we know the power of words. We seek to conduct ourselves in the highest ethical manner possible—and with the complete assumption of responsibility for our actions and all potential repercussions.

In utilizing sound in energy work, we aim to create and transmit vibrational energies, which act in concert with other forms of the duality, to bring benefit and healing to the individual and collective consciousness. Sound energy is communication; and music, with its universal nature, is total communication. In the deepest mysteries of music are the inspirations and the healing which lead to oneness and unity.

MINUTES

CHURCH OF THE SPIRAL TREE

Annual Membership Meeting

May 30, 1999

The meeting was called to order by Craig Kerr at 10:30 am, at Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA, with the following Directors and members present:

Linda C. Kerr, President; James C. Kerr, Vice-President; Rob Von Allmen, Member-at-Large; Rowan Kerr, Cathy Rankin, Odessa Crenshaw, Cliff Landis, Don Mikovitz, William & Linda Moore.

New Business

Nominations for election of officers and directors of the church:

President: Craig Kerr; Vice-President: Robert von Allmen; Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Kerr; Member-at-Large: Cathy Rankin.

Those present at the meeting, plus 3 proxy votes from the grove in Atlanta, voted the new officers in unanimously.

Odessa had an idea for fundraising. Set collection boxes out at dorms and apartments near campus at Auburn University to collect things the students throw away at the end of each quarter. Then sell these items at flea markets, pawn shops, and yard sales. Odessa can store things at her house. Cliff will be in charge of this effort, Linda will make flyers and get permission from various places, Odessa will pick items up from the boxes.

After some discussion, it was agreed to try this idea this quarter (this week) and then again at the end of fall quarter in December.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

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CST Calendar:

June:

June 19, Summer Solstice, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 7:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.
June 26, 7:00 pm, Oak Moon ritual.

July:

July 31, Holly Moon and Lammas ritual, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 7:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

August:

August 28, 7:00 pm, Hazel Moon ritual.

September:

September 25, Vine Moon and Fall Equinox ritual, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

October:

October 23, 5:00 pm, Ivy Moon ritual.

November:

November 6, Samhain, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.
Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.
November 20, 4:00 pm, Reed Moon ritual.

December:

Yule and Elder Moon ritual, December 18, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 4:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

For info on any of the above, email Linda Kerr at <spiraltree@mindspring.com>.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Earthdance	Sep. 10-12, 1999	FDR State Park, Pine Mtn, GA
FallFling	Nov 11-14, 1999	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Moondance	May 25-29, 2000	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA

MINUTES

CHURCH OF THE SPIRAL TREE

Board of Directors

May 3, 1999

The meeting was called to order by Craig Kerr at 2:45 pm, at 1831 Opelika Road, Auburn, Alabama, with the following Directors and members present:

Linda C. Kerr, President; James C. Kerr, Vice-President; Rob Von Allmen, Member-at-Large; Rowan Kerr

Old Business

Linda did the taxes for the church, which consisted of filling out the Alabama Franchise Tax form and sending it in with a letter stating our officers and our registered agent. We don't have to pay anything on this tax. We are also not required to pay and state or federal taxes, until our gross receipts equal \$25,000.

New Business

We ordered several trees for planting on the property in Waverly; 7 hazelnuts, 5 green ash, 2 rowan, 2 quaking aspen, 26 hybrid willows and poplars (for privacy from the road) and 30 free misc. trees (don't know what type yet - probably river birch). We'll have a work day when they come in. This is part of the effort to plant the land with all or most of the sacred trees of the lunar calendar.

Had to spend some money on May Pole ribbons, but these will last a few years before we need to buy more. Also, the \$1 collected from each non-member present at May Day helped defray this cost a bit.

We received some donations over the May Day weekend, a total of \$30.

May Day went very well. The next CST lunar, Hawthorn, will be held at Moondance. We still need someone to take care of the Summer Solstice ritual.

Notices about the Annual Membership Meeting to be held at Moondance, plus absentee ballots for those unable to attend, have been sent out.

More things have been added to the Spiral Tree web page, and it is being constantly updated.

Kat and Leslie are still working on the homeschool program. Discovered that it should be very simple, just have to mail in student enrollment forms for each child in the program to the superintendent. We do not need the Board of Education's yes vote or approval to start the school. We do need to come up with a name for the school, and we need a director for the school and a co-director.

A local grove has been started in Atlanta, with 3 members, called "Uisce Beatha O Fand." Their charter was sent to them in March.

The next two meetings were scheduled to be held August 1, 1999, and November 7, 1999 in Auburn, Alabama.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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Church of the Spiral Tree

Membership Application

Legal Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be listed in the **Contacts** section of the newsletter? If so, please use the space below to write your listing exactly the way you want it published. Be sure to include a way for people to contact you. **WRITE LEGIBLY!** We are not responsible to errors due to "chicken scratch."

We have several different types of memberships available to suit your needs. All include full membership benefits, and run for one year, with a renewal notice sent to remind you next year.

_____	Individual	\$20.00	
_____	Student/Poor Person:	\$15.00	(please attach a short note demonstrating financial need)
_____	Family (includes kids):	\$35.00	(must be in immediate family only, same address)
_____	Sustaining Member:	\$50.00	(receives all benefits plus our undying thanks)
_____	Contributing Member:	\$100.00	(receives all benefits, our eternal thanks, and a listing in the newsletter once a year)
_____	Patron(ess) Member:	\$200.00	(receives all benefits, our everlasting gratitude, a yearly listing in the newsletter, and a certificate)

OTHER:

_____	Donation to CST	\$5 & up	(all donations are tax deductible; you will be sent a receipt for your records, as well as our undying thanks)
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Make checks out to: The Church of the Spiral Tree, Inc., and mail to:

Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 186
Auburn, AL 36831-0186
334-821-4683

spiraltree@mindspring.com

Visit us at our web site! <<http://www.mindspring.com/~spiraltree>>

Church of the Spiral Tree Incipient Grove Application

Responsibilities and advantages of the local Grove are listed in the Bylaws and in the General and Specific Rules for Groves and Branches. It is the responsibility of the governing body of the local group to know and understand these responsibilities. The Incipient Grove will become active once this application is received and properly recorded at CST's headquarters. It will remain active only as long as the points of the agreement are kept. CST's Board of Directors reserve the right to suspend or revoke the charter if any of the specific or general rules governing Groves are not met.

WE, THE PROPOSED INCIPIENT GROVE, AGREE:

1. To abide by the General and Specific Rules for Groves and Branches.
2. To abide by all the laws of the local, state, and federal governments.
3. To meet monthly and report quarterly to CST. This quarterly report will include services held, special meetings, attendance, and a treasury report.
4. To pay a yearly fee of \$20.00 by December 31. The application fee includes the first year's fee.
5. To maintain a governing body of at least three active members, including a Grove Steward, of legal age whose signatures appear below. CST is to be notified immediately of any change in the governing body or of any change in address.
6. That any charter granted is subject to be suspended or revoked if the specific or general rules governing Groves are not met, in which case all assets will revert to CST Central.
7. That each Grove is a largely autonomous body which is responsible for its own financial affairs. The signatories promise that they will indemnify, save harmless, and defend CST from all liability from damages to persons or property in any suit at law arising out of any charter granted. The signatories acknowledge that CST is not responsible for any debts incurred by the local Incipient Grove.

NOTE: The above agreement does not preclude the general and specific rules governing Groves.

We, the undersigned, having read the general rules governing CST Groves and Branches and the specific rules for Groves, do hereby apply for status as an Incipient Grove. We understand that after a period of at least a year and a day, we may apply to CST for full Grove status. We further understand that granting of any charter is upon approval by the Board of Directors.

Member #1

Name (Print): _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____
Legal Signature: _____
Date: _____

Member #2

Name (Print): _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____
Legal Signature: _____
Date: _____

Member #3

Name (Print): _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____
Legal Signature: _____
Date: _____

Proposed Name for Incipient Grove:

Application & 1st Year's Fee: \$35.00

**Please include a check made out to
Church of the Spiral Tree, Inc.**

The charter activating the Incipient Grove will be returned to you along with a file number. Use your file number on all correspondence to us. If you should move please send your old and new addresses immediately so your file can be changed quickly and correctly. Please advise us immediately of any change in officers.

Return this application with original signatures to CST, P.O. Box 186, Auburn, AL 36831-0186. Please keep a copy for your records. Also keep a copy of the quarterly reports submitted to us.

CST Calendar:

Board of Directors' meetings:

August 1, 1999, Auburn, Alabama; November 7, 1999, Auburn, Alabama

Annual Meeting of the General Membership:

May 28, 2000, Moondance, Dragonhills, near Carrollton, Georgia

Lunar Dates (all subject to mundane schedules, of course):

Lunar	Date of Full Moon	Date of Ritual
Birch	January 2	January 2, 1999
Rowan	January 31	January 30, 1999
Ash	March 2	February 27, 1999
Alder	March 31	April 3, 1999
Willow	April 30	April 30, 1999 (Friday) (Note: date may change!)
Hawthorn	May 30	May 29, 1999
Oak	June 28	June 26, 1999
Holly	July 28	July 31, 1999
Hazel	August 26	August 28, 1999
Vine	September 25	September 25, 1999
Ivy	October 24	October 23, 1999
Reed	November 23	November 20, 1999
Elder/Birch	December 22	December 18, 1999

Sabbat Dates:

Imbolc	January 30, 1999
Spring Equinox	March 20, 1999
Beltane	May 1, 1999
Summer Solstice	June 19, 1999
Lammas	July 31, 1999
Fall Equinox	September 25, 1999
Samhain	November 6, 1999
Yule	December 18, 1999

Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 186
Auburn, AL 36830

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED