

The Journey...

Official Newsletter of Church of the Spiral Tree
an Ecumenical Pagan church



Issue 21
Yule, 2002

NEWS

New Editor: In case you didn't already notice, we have a new editor for The Journey! Melissa did this issue, and the last issue, and is doing a great job!

Pagan Prisoner Committee: Cliff and VioletJade (Deanna) have formed a Pagan Prisoner Committee, to help out our incarcerated members. We have a web page where we list addresses of those inmates who wish to receive letters and information (<http://geocities.com/violetjade11/>). If you'd like to be part of this committee, just email and let us know!

We Need Volunteers: CST needs a "PR" person, who can do things like mail out birthday cards to the Sacred Grove students, send greeting cards to potential donors, arranging fund-raisers, putting out flyers, etc. Please email if you're interested.

Rituals: If you would like to contribute rituals to be placed on the CST web page, you can email or mail them to us. Rituals can include spells, handfastings, wiccanings, funerals, etc.

Business Classifieds: If you run any time of business or offer any type of service, you may advertise for free in The Journey. Your ad should be in the form of a classified, and be kept brief, but descriptive. Please email or mail these in to us.

Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher Melissa Lynn
Reporter Cori Tindragon

CST Board of Directors:

President/Vice President Cathy Rankin
706-596-0052; <cathycst@yahoo.com>

Secretary/Treasurer Linda Kerr
334-821-4683; <cst@spiraltree.org>

Member-at-Large Don Mikovitz
912-328-3463; <nion011@aol.com>

Member-at-Large Deanna Freeman
205-621-9938; <violetjade11@yahoo.com>

334-821-4683 (Linda Kerr)

cst@spiraltree.org

<http://www.spiraltree.org>

Church of the Spiral Tree
PO Box 186
Auburn, AL 36831-0186

Who Are We?

Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical pagan/wiccan church, designed to foster and celebrate a sense of community and family among pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world. CST celebrates the unique pagan family: parents, children, elders, and extended family. 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 was incorporated in August 1997 to provide a legal, tax-exempt status to the Pagan community. This status enables us to offer to the community a variety of open rituals that anyone may attend, to ordain ministers, and to extend our tax-exempt status to sub-groups of CST. One of our projects has been the forming of a Pagan cover school program for homeschooling families in Alabama (Sacred Grove Academy). CST also has a Disaster Relief Fund, so we can collectively donate money in the name of an established Pagan church to disaster relief efforts, including the American Red Cross.

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. Call us with ideas!

Info About Our Services:

Ministers: CST, being a church, may ordain any member over the age of 18 a minister. The fee for this is \$35.00, and you must also be a paid member. This ordination is for life; you do not have to maintain your membership to continue to be a CST minister, but we would really appreciate it. Each year we have to renew our "Registered" status in various states in order for our ministers to be legal, and your continued membership fees help pay for this. Ministers are entitled to perform legal weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Ordination as a minister does not automatically confer "Elder" or "High Priest/ess" status upon anyone.

Subordinate Organizations: The main form of a local CST group is a Grove. This can be formed by at least three paid church members, who apply to CST for a charter. If you are interested in forming a Grove, simply find two other like-minded friends, and encourage them to send in their membership to CST, then apply to us for a Grove charter. The application and first year's fee is \$35.00. Note that whomever forms a Grove and runs it, including writing and performing rituals and teaching mysteries, does not automatically become a "High Priest/ess."

Note on Ministers and Groups: 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.spiraltree.org>>.

Ritual Link: You have the option of participating long-distance in our rituals. All you have to do is let us know that you want to do this, 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 us know if you're interested in participating this way. As our rituals sometimes are not completely written till the night before, we need either an email address or FAX number to quickly send you the ritual.

Natural Family Planning: Cathy, a health services professional, is offering counseling on natural methods of family planning, both fertility and contraception. For more info, email her at tabbatcat@yahoo.com.



CST Calendar:

Church of the Spiral Tree welcomes church members, beginners, newcomers, solitaries, and anyone else interested in participating in rituals honoring the Sabbats. You need no experience or knowledge to participate, but we do request you come with an open mind and heart, and show respect for your fellow participants. Email us for directions. We share a potluck dinner after each Sabbat, so those who come are asked to bring some type of food to share.

Please wear something comfortable and appropriate for outdoors. Ritual robes are welcome but not necessary. No skyclad, please! Children of all ages are welcome. Donations to the Church are entirely optional but appreciated.

6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Also CST's bi-annual General Membership (non-voting) meeting.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Moondance	May 22-26, 2003	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	August, 2003	Hard Labor Creek St Pk, Athens, GA
FallFling	October, 2003	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA



2003:

Imbolc: February 1, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Spring Equinox: March 22, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

May Day: April 26, Waverly, AL, 9:00 am. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting. CST is co-hosting with Pantheon.

Summer Solstice: June 21, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

Lammas: August 2, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Pagan Pride Day/Fall Equinox: September 20 OR 21, Pagan Pride Day, including the Fall Equinox ritual, at the Arboretum, on the Auburn University campus, Auburn, AL. CST is co-coordinating with Pantheon.

Samhain: November 1, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Yule: December 20, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at



MINUTES

CST Board of Directors

November 2, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Linda Kerr at 8:30 pm, at Waverly, Alabama, with the following Directors and members present:

Cathy Rankin, Vice-President; Linda C. Kerr, Secretary-Treasurer; and Deanna Freeman, Member-at-Large.

Old Business

Melissa did a great job with the last newsletter! Her efforts were commended by the BOD.

The Samhain ritual, just held this evening, November 2 at Waverly, was really good - Violet Jade (Deanna) and Kari did a really good job, and Den was great in it too.

New Business

This winter CST will probably buy a trimmer/mower to keep Waverly neat looking. They run about \$250.00. We can just store it out at the barn in Waverly.

CST is applying for a credit card, and will be getting cards for some CST members like Melissa, so she can pay for postage and printing for the newsletter, and Linda, and Deanna. We will need social security numbers from everyone to do this. We'll probably apply for these around mid-November.

We need to renew CST's membership in Sam's Club. We can offer discounted memberships to about 8 people, but the savings is only about \$5/person. Linda will check on this in about two weeks.

Linda is looking at getting new Rubbermaid containers for the CST Library, that will do a better job of keeping bugs and mice out of the books. We need to go through and re-organize the Library. Maybe we could ask someone to be our "librarian." Cathy has a building she could donate for the Library. if we could figure out how to move it from Columbus to Waverly. Cathy will find out on November 5 if she can in fact move the building.

We need to email Nion and see if he will write up some guidelines for the Pagan Prisoner Committee members. Maybe even call him - will check newsletter for his phone number.

The calendar is done for 2003 and the web page is updated. If anyone wants to volunteer for future rituals, we have plenty of books and rituals they can use and CST will reimburse them for props and supplies used.

Ideas & Things to Do

We need to make a post on the internet for a "PR" person, to send cards for birthdays of the Sacred Grove student, and to potential donors, etc. This person would be responsible for keeping flyers up-to-date, arranging raffles, etc.

If anyone wants to contribute rituals they can email them and we will place them on the CST web page. These would include spells, handfastings, wiccanings, funerals, etc.

Recently we have been offering advertising space, rather like classifieds, in the newsletter to members who run businesses or offer services. No one has yet taken us up on it, so we need to email people again to remind them.

Upcoming Events

The CST Yule ritual will be December 21. Craig will be doing it in a Norse-style. There will be a non-voting membership meeting afterwards.

Other Business

The next two BOD meetings were scheduled to be held February 1, 2003, and April 26 or May 3 (whenever the May Day is scheduled) in Auburn, AL. The bi-annual membership meeting (non-voting) will be held at the CST Yule ritual, December 21, 2002, at Waverly.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.



Contacts:

Remember, you get a free listing with your paid membership. You may also submit your listing at any later time. **NEW SERVICE:** You can send letters to CST, and we will forward them to your intended recipient.

Carla Ann Nelson: P.O. Box 155, Cottonton, AL 36851, email: <rcarlats1@cs.com>.

Cori Tindragon: <cori_tindragon@hotmail.com>.

Densho: <densho@knology.net>, from Montgomery and all points thereof.

Frank Palmer: (a.k.a. Bridget), Druid (always in training!), seeking friends to correspond. I am incarcerated, please don't let that deter you. Frank Palmer, a.k.a. Bridget #546776, Box 9200, New Boston, TX 75570-9200.

James A. Roesch: Advanced adept in multiple disciplines and orders. Hermeticist/Qabalist, A.A.S.R. 320, Rosicrucian. Will advise, guide, or discuss the Craft as any may desire. Write to: James A. Roesch #049547, Hamilton Work Camp, 10650 SW 46th St., Jasper, FL 32052-3732.

Jimmy Pesci: Encouraging all members to contact me for intellectual and spiritual rewards. Jimmy Pesci, Box 495, F.C.C.C., 13613 S.E. Highway 70, Arcadia, FL 34266.

Lori Irey: (Magickal Name: Reverend-Priestess Aradia) Practice Avalonian and Druidic Mysteries, located in the Orlando, FL area. Contact info: <ireytribe@mindspring.com>.

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: Swann's Tr. Pk. #1, Lot 130, Auburn, AL 36863, <skippy_the_witch@yahoo.com>, 334-826-3953.

Scott Moore: Looking for like-minded people to correspond with. Scott W. Moore #22154, U.S.P., P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT, 84020-0250.

Shane Smith: Looking for like-minded people to correspond with. Shane Smith #31594, OQ 1-105-B, U.S.P., P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT, 84020-0250.

Stacy Lim: <sbandura@tuckercapital.com>.

Steven D. Richert: Beginner Asatru Gothi and still new to this path, recent CST Minister and general all-around eclectic Celtic and Norse pagan. I'm looking to write with anyone who will write an inmate in prison. Steven D. Richert #17987, S-208-L, IC/USCF, 2136 N. Main St., Cedar City, UT 84720.

Timothy Hornsby: Seeking pen-pals who are Wiccan/Pagan. Interested in all subjects: divination, Pagan philosophy, ecology, self-improvement, Irish and Welsh traditions. Timothy Hornsby #166781, C-3, 565 Bibb Lane, Brent, AL, 35034.

Timothy O'Brien: Sincere, mature, responsible Irish pagan seeking correspondence - prisoners welcome. Interests: all Wiccan-Druidic-pagan related topics/studies, self-transformation, music, fantasy art, environmental issues. Working to become spiritual counselor and pagan clergy of depth and character. Mentors needed. Timothy O'Brien, #69221, P.O. Box 1010, Canon City, CO, 81215-1010.

Tony Jackson: Just an ole Pagan Seeker with a desire to know fellow members - do you have rune, herb, folk lore, or Fairie Faith knowledge you wish to share? I could be your captive audience. Tony C. Jackson EF 183981, Dodge State Prison, Q2 16T, P.O. Box 276, Chester, GA 31012.

Violet Jade: Interests are gardening, herbology, stones, reading, spirituality, drumming, wicca, shamanism and currently studying Faerie Faith. (205) 621-9938, P.O. Box 55 Alton, AL 35015-0055, <violetjade11@yahoo.com>.

Notices:

Wiccan/Pagan Fellowship Club

The Circle of the Goddess sponsors an international pen friend club for shut-ins. What we do is match up people with similar interests from the "free world," with those who find themselves shut-in.

The program has been in operation for over ten years now is ever growing. Many great friendships have developed over the eight years we have been going at this little labor of love.

We are looking for outside people to get involved via the inky trail.

If you are interested please contact the address below and information will be sent to you. Any requests for information will be just that, information only. You will be sent membership forms and full details, and then if you are still interested you can return the forms.

Douglas H. Lagossy (Aspen)

P.O. Box 760

Campbellford, Ontario

Canada K0L-1L0

The following organization puts out a newsletter for prisoners:

The Millennial Kingdom

681 North Second St.

Pottsville, PA 17901

Rev. Paul Salem or Louise Salem

Newsletter: Rays of Light Newsletter

Cost: 4 postage stamps per issue (quarterly) for prisoners

A prisoner may send 4 stamps initially, requesting the most recent issue of the newsletter, and then go from there.

(From: Timothy O'Brien)

Lock of Love web site: <<http://www.locksoflove.org/>>

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children across the U.S. under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

We meet a unique need for children throughout the United States by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses we provide help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers. You can help by donating your hair after a hair cut!

The Breast Cancer web site: <<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/>>

You can click a button on this site to help fund mammograms for women in need.

Important Dates

Board of Directors' Meetings:

February 1, 2003, Auburn, Alabama; April 26 or May 3, 2003, Auburn, Alabama

Annual Meetings of the General Membership:

December 21, 2002, Yule Ritual, Waverly, AL; May 25, 2003, Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA

CST Sabbat Dates:

<i>Imbolc</i>	<i>February 1</i>
<i>Ostara</i>	<i>March 22</i>
<i>May Day</i>	<i>April 26 OR May 3</i>
<i>Summer Solstice</i>	<i>June 21</i>
<i>Lammas</i>	<i>August 2</i>
<i>PPD</i>	<i>September 20</i>
<i>Samhain</i>	<i>November 1</i>
<i>Yule</i>	<i>December 20</i>

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P.O. Box 186
Auburn, AL 36830

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED