

The Journey...



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

Issue 25
Yule, 2003

NEWS

Library: The fundraising events we held at FallFling in October went great! We earned nearly \$700 for the CST library. We are currently in the process of setting up a small shed that was donated by Charlotte in LaGrange, GA, and will be moving all the books into it, putting them in new Rubbermaid tubs, and organizing the latest book donations into the collection. CST members can borrow any book out of the library at any time; just call Linda at 334-332-3065 to set up a time to go out to Waverly where it is located (Linda & Craig live in Auburn, Alabama, about 20 minutes away from Waverly). Or you can check out a book when you come to the next ritual at Waverly. If you cannot make it to Waverly to check out a book, you can request one by mail. The current list of library books can be found on our web page, at <http://www.draknet.com/spiraltree/library.books.htm>, or we can mail you a copy of the list.

New Grove: Lee & Nion are starting a new CST grove in Carrollton, GA. The grove is still in the planning stages, but they are already meeting for rituals. For more info about forming your own grove in your area, see our web page at <http://www.draknet.com/spiraltree/localgroups.html>

Membership Expiration Date: You can always find the date of the expiration of your membership on the back of the newsletter, on your mailing label. It's always listed underneath your name and address, in italics, like this: *Individual 10-31-2003*. Each time a newsletter is due to be mailed out, I go through the list of members, and check the expiration dates. Those that are coming up within the next 2-3 months get a letter mailed with their newsletter reminding them to renew. Those whose memberships have already expired get a postcard reminder, but no newsletter. Letters will be sent at least once, sometimes twice; postcards are sent only once. Those who do not renew their memberships after 30 days are considered inactive. So please remember to renew!

Disaster Relief: This take two parts: 1) collecting household items (no clothes) to give to community members in times of need; and 2) collecting monetary donations to send checks to disaster relief agencies (mostly Red Cross) in the wake of disasters. To help with these efforts, we need to collect items and build up our Disaster Relief Fund. We will have donations boxes for items and money at FallFling and other upcoming festivals and gathering. Please consider donating to effort—all donations are tax-deductible (remember to ask for a receipt!).

Pagan Prisoner Committee: Join this committee! Write letters! Be an important link to members on the inside!! Currently, the members of the Pagan Prisoner Committee are Cliff Landis, Violet Jade, Nion, Eugene Chapman, and Tarl Hoch. The purpose of the committee is 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, linked to the CST web site. If you'd like to be part of this committee, just email and let us know!

Want to Review Books? CST receives new books from various publishers quite often. The publishers are hoping we'll read these books, and publish a review in our newsletter. *I* don't have time to read all these, but if someone else would, that'd be great! Just let me know, and I'll mail you the book. By the way—you get to keep it if you review it! A list of books for review is inside this issue on page 6.

- Linda

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!

CST Board of Directors:

President Cathy Rankin
706-596-0052; <cathycst@yahoo.com>
Vice President Don Mikovitz
770-830-8681; <nion011@aol.com>
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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."

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 cathycst@yahoo.com.

Meet Your BOD Members

Hello, I would like to introduce myself. I am Cathy Rankin, president of the Board of Directors of the

Church of the Spiral Tree. I sort of inherited this job from the last president and then got elected in abstentia at Moondance. That's okay with me, though, because this church means a lot to me, and so do its members and affiliates. My beliefs are very eclectic; I enjoy rituals and classes in almost all pagan paths. I work as a women's health nurse practitioner which I find very rewarding. I am also a natural healer, using a variety of modalities individualized for the person being healed. I am an ordained minister through the Church of the Spiral Tree. I performed my first wedding in March, then later as a nurse practitioner, had the honor of telling the couple that they were pregnant. I just recently visited their beautiful baby boy on the day of his birth. I also find many people being sent to me, sometimes in the strangest of ways, to be helped, especially with grief issues. It is much harder work than weddings and births but very important work to me. I sincerely believe that how we touch the lives of others is one of the ways we define who we are. I truly hope that I can not only do a good job in my capacity as president for our church but also for each and every one of its members and affiliates. Please feel free to contact me. The contact information for the BOD and staff is in every issue of *The Journey*.

CST's Recent Fundraising

by LeePhether

This year at Fall Fling at Dragon Hills in Georgia, we decided to try something new to get money for CST's library and disaster relief fund. We set up booths to raise money. At different times we had palm readers, a couple different tarot readers with their cards, a massage therapist, and a reiki booth going the whole time. We also had a kissing booth where several people took turns. We even allowed for sneaky kisses and enlisted some of our merchants to assist us there. What fun! We set up a silent auction. Some of us went begging to all the merchants. These are the coolest people any time, but when asked to donate an item, their generosity poured forth. We took the donations back to the booth and people could come and bid on them. At 4:00 the place was jammed as everyone tried to put their name last for that wanted item. It was a lot of fun too. Right after that the slave auction began. Several people took their turn as the auctioneer. Slaves had agreed to give two hours of their time to raise money. All together, the whole fundraising event raised \$698.00 in cash and checks. Thanks to everyone who assisted in any way, especially Cathy who brought the tables, tent, signs, etc., and then worked herself doing some of everything. I think everyone had fun and it definitely was profitable.



The Poem

From the thoughts of Firedancer

When the big silver birds begin to fly,
And houses reach up to touch the blue sky.
When the beauty of the lions are all gone,
And frogs stop singing their mating songs.
When butterflies cease to flutter in the summer air,
And the clouds become toxic acid burning without care.
When computers become the master making mankind their slave,
And willpower of humans' spirit will weaken to go astray.
Yet, Mother Earth will live to rebuild with endless supplies,
And a new breed of creature will control that has survived.

A Point in Time - A Circle of Mind

(Rosicrucian Gnosticism Meets Buddhist Tantrism)

by Frater Yod (James A. Roesch)

In human form we are, and remain tied to, matter. We are held in dimensions of time and space that are not universal in the cosmic order. Time and space are the limits within which we must move and develop in our current form. But this was not always so, nor will it always be. This cycle of life or human wheel of existence spins ever faster, the spokes beginning to blur. Soon we may depart this realm to re-enter the infinite circle of mind.

The symbol of the circle or of the sphere is often used by man in his feeble attempt to explain the power and glory of a supreme being - whomever or whatever we perceive Her to be. This symbolism is never more than an approximation because these images also come from the three-dimensional world of man's life on earth. The infinite mind from which all existence flows does not express itself through what is perceptible to the five senses. It is impossible to impart form and impose physical laws on that which knows neither—the limitless nothingness that is everything.

Nature of the Circle or Sphere

The sphere is a perfectly harmonious symbol. Each cut through the axis gives a perfect, congruent circle. The sphere is therefore composed of an infinite number of circles of the same size, and can therefore represent and symbolize eternal harmony and pure harmonic states. As Pythagoras, the great Greek philosopher and father of modern geometry, postulated in his work, "A Harmony of Spheres," the circle circumferences everything. It has not beginning and no end. The distance between each point of the circumference and the center of the circle is the same. The point of mind is the center of the infinite which has surrounded itself with itself. There is nothing else outside of the circle and the Supreme Architect of the Universe, God, and ALL, or however you may wish to refer to Her, is the infinite mind.

Our three-dimensional intelligence, which is tied to an earthly or mundane time and space, can barely grasp this notion. To do so with increasing comprehension one must turn inside and seek internally these universal truths. The answer does not lie in the ephemeral and ever-reconfiguring realm of the senses. The eyes cannot see the infinite nothingness of a universe consisting only of energy (spirit). We must "look" with the mind. We must "see" with the soul. To find our true essence we must lose our concept of physical existence. To reunite with the spirit of all that "is" we must remove our minds from this prison of matter.

The gnostic principals that center on the Creator and man's coming to know Her (or Him if you are masculine-centric) posits that we are projections or creations of a Supreme Being who was, for want of a better term, amusing Her/Himself.

Tibetan Buddhism has cultivated meditational techniques which are effective at separating the mind from the ego-centric self. Tantric practice involves visualizations and realizations of mental realms beyond that which is limited by and formed from the five senses. By synthesizing a middle path between pure Tantric meditation and its integration with the astral plane, a practitioner can project the mind into the purely abstract, where it is more easily susceptible to the "mystical visions" of God and Her Path to Salvation. Fusing these two elliptical concepts into one foci or center, one can transcend the hindrances of a mind dominated with emotions and physical sensation. Having arrived at this point of mind or "samadhi" as it is known in Buddhism, the aspirant finds liberation from suffering and release from the ego state. This is nirvana or heaven.

Further suggested reading:

The True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order, by Paul Foster Case, available from Builders of the Adytum, 5101 North Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90042, www.bota.org.

Creation and Completion: Essential Points of Tantric Meditation, by Jamgön Kongtrul, available from Wisdom Publications, 199 Elm St., Somerville, MA, 02144, www.wisdompubs.org, email to info@wisdompubs.org.



MINUTES

CST Board of Directors

November 2, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Rankin at 1:415 pm, at Auburn, Alabama, with the following Directors and guests present:

Cathy Rankin, President; Don Mikovitz (Nion), Vice-President; Linda C. Kerr, Secretary-Treasurer; Lee Mikovitz, and Craig Kerr.

Current and Past Business

The fundraising at FallFling went very well - we made \$698.00. There were some adverse comments about having the "slaves" take off some of their clothes on stage. We will make that known next time to the auctioneer. Some merchants complained about their business being taken away by the auctions, but CST was participating at FallFling with permission from the organizer, Linda Kerr, the same as the other merchants.

The membership drive is going pretty good. We have maybe five new members so far. Lee and Nion will have about 13 people joining.

Lee and Nion are starting a CST grove in Carrollton. They haven't yet decided on a name, but are currently getting their members and officers together.

Craig bought a backpack sprayer for Waverly, to combat fire ants and poison ivy in the ritual and camping areas.

We had about 20 people at the CST Samhain ritual in Troy on November 1 - a very good turnout! This number included some students from Troy State University who are in a class on Witchcraft (actually an anthropology class) who were interested in paganism and wanted to interview some practicing pagans and see the ritual.

Linda ordered more CST ink pens - "This Pen Stolen From Church of the Spiral Tree."

Ideas & Things To Do

We need to put something in the next Moondance and FallFling flyers that the festivals are not CST events, that CST is there as a vendor too. There is a misconception that CST runs these things.

Need to think about fundraising for Moondance. We can go to WalMart and other stores and ask for donations of items. Could do a raffle on a big item. Maybe we could bring canned drinks and sell them for \$1.00. We could ask people to bring (donate) soft drinks to the rituals, and we can save them and sell them at the festivals.

Cathy heard that some folks said CST rituals tend to be disjointed. It's probably because we have different people, and a lot of times, new people, doing the rituals. We really need a ritual coordinator to look at the ritual ahead of time to make sure it is good, it flows, and is appropriate, etc. Cathy will be our temporary Ritual Coordinator until we can find someone.

We can put something on the CST website under "News" about new groups, names of their officers, etc., maybe put in newsletter, too.

We should have some CST thank-you cards made up with our logo.

Christopher Rummage is creating a CST logo. He showed us several designs at FallFling, and we chose one. He's going to finalize it and mail it to us soon. Linda will email him about it.

We could choose some charities to make regular donations to every quarter or so. Or maybe adopt-a-child. We'll each think of a few that we like, and try to decide on them at Yule. It'd be nice as a pagan church to help out good for our image, like some groups have their name on the Adopt-a-Mile signs.

Upcoming Events

The next CST ritual will be Yule, December 20, at William and Pelayah's house in Loachapoka, near Auburn. The dates for 2004 are set, but the locations are not.

Other Business

The next BOD meeting was scheduled to be held January 25 in Carrollton, GA, at the Hong Kong Palace on Maple Street.

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



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.

Note: For all upcoming sabbats, we need someone to volunteer to write and run the ritual, and in some cases, we may need someone to volunteer to host the ritual at Waverly in Linda's stead, or to host the ritual at a different location.

2004:

Imbolc: January 31, location TBA. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Ostara: March 20, location TBA. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

Beltane: May 1, Waverly, AL, 9:00 am. CST is co-hosting with Pantheon. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Summer Solstice: June 19, location TBA. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

Lammas: August 7, location TBA. 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 18, Pagan Pride Day, including the Fall Equinox ritual, Auburn University Arboretum, Auburn, AL. CST is co-coordinating with Pantheon.

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

Yule: December 18, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 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):

FallFling	October 9-12, 2003	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Moondance	May 27-31, 2004	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	September 2004	Kolomoki Mounds St. Pk., Blakely, GA

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

CST receives new books from various publishers quite often. The publishers are hoping we'll read these books, and publish a review in our newsletter. If you would like to read one of these and write a review on it for The Journey, we'll mail you the book (you get to keep it if you review it!).

Dunwich's Guide to Gemstone Sorcery - by Gerina Dunwich

When Someone You Love is Wiccan - by Carol McColman

Exploring Native American Wisdom - by Fran Dancing Feather & Rita Robinson

Wicca for Couples - by A.J. Drew

Karmic Tarot - by William C. Lammey

Balance Point (Searching for a Spiritual Missing Link) - by Joseph Jenkins

Asteroid Goddesses - by Demetra George & Douglas Bloch

Mastering Candle Magick - by Patricia Telesco

Aradia or the Gospel of the Witches - by Charles G. Leland

A Wiccan Bible - by A.J. Drew

Star Signs at Work - by Debbie Burns

Before You Cast a Spell - by Karl McColman

The Alchemist - by Paulo Coelho



Letters

Dear Linda,

My contact with CST has had such a positive impact on my life that I can't even begin to tell you! I'm still following the reading list Cliff sent me. I've grown in my understanding more in the past year by reading those books than in all the time I've studied prior to then.

We are currently working on a settlement with D.O.C. officials regarding the practice of Wicca. Hopefully that will be resolved very soon. I will be allowed to observe Mabon on the 23rd. I'll write you soon with an update on the situation. Please tell everyone hello for me.

Bright Blessings,
Timothy O'Brien



Book Reviews:

Tarot for Your Self, by Mary K. Greer. New Page Books.

Without fail I cannot begin an instructional book such as Tarot for Your Self unless I first turn to the bibliography and/or index to see just what sources were tapped by the author. Mary K. Greer's references are as solid and as well-chosen as her writing style. With the giants of Tarot/Kabbalah/astrology/numerology (Paul Foster Case, Oswald Wirth, Arthur Edward Waite, et al.), Ms. Greer has crafted a text that is easily one of the top five books on Tarot, weaving her own synthesis of the ancient wisdom.

This book is an easily followed workbook that has the reader actively involved in learning "the deck." Obviously Ms. Greer has participated in the Builders of the Adytum School (Paul Foster Case) and has built a considerable knowledge of the esoterica of Tarot of her own. There is much for anyone at any level in this fine treatise: novice, neophyte, or master. I couldn't resist working through every lesson in the entire book. And I definitely feel that it was time well spent. (Five stars out of five)

Any seeker would do well to study Tarot for Your Self along with Wisdom of the Tarot by Elizabeth Haich, The Mystical Qabbalah by Dion Fortune, and The Kybalion by Three Initiates (Paul Foster Case). These four books are four very strong pillars of wisdom teachings, such as we all should know.

- Reviewed by James A. Roesch (Frater Yod)



On the Back Porch With Nion

Reflections on a Life's Journey

So Now That I Am A Pagan

(Editor's Note: This is an old article by Nion, one of our Board of Directors members, which was originally published in The Hazel Nut, Issue 14, April/May 1995.)

Hi ya'll, Nion here again. As I was sitting on the ceramic throne the other day pondering my existence and contemplating my naval, the thought struck me that maybe there are some more, recently dedicated pagans such as myself who are still seeking their own particular niche or path to follow. Well, as I was finishing the all-important paper work that all good jobs seem to require, I decided to pass on to ya'll some of what we are going through.

According to my own research in quite a variety of sources, the central theme of most, if not all, western pagan and Native American beliefs is the love and reverence of nature in all her glory and aspects; the seasonal times such as planting, harvesting, and hunting; and the acknowledgment of a creator source/Godhead as typified by a female Goddess/Earth Mother, and a male God/consort/Sky Father. By the way, if anyone takes exception to what I'm saying, PLEASE enlighten me further, because as Michael Valentine Smith says (and the way I feel), "I'm just an egg."

Well, now that I touched upon what I consider the central unifying concepts of most western pagan beliefs, what about the different paths and traditions of paganism? Personally, as I see it, it's the same as Christianity and Islamic's subdivisions (i.e., Protestant, Methodist, Baptist, reformed or orthodox Judaism, etc.), just a different way of interpretation of the same book/Bible/Koran or Torah, based upon the same underlying things. Just a short while back, me and my H.P. went to a Native American Shaman's lecture on Ceremonial Aspects of the Sweat Lodge, and what fascinated me was the many similarities between paganism and the Native American beliefs, the use of correspondences, the spirits in various things, the quarters, the circle or medicine wheel, the use of visions, meditations, and spirit journeys. Even though we call things by different names, the basics and the flavor of what we believe is still there.

Having said that, where do you look for information? Sometimes you hear things by word of mouth; from a friend of a friend of a friend, etc., etc.; on a bulletin board in a New Age shop or a bookstore; or

in this day and age, on a computer bulletin board service. You may have started by finding like-minded seekers getting together in study groups and pursuing the various books found openly on most book shelves; or you may have contacted a local circle, coven, church, etc., and were accepted for training; or you may have just studied by yourself and became a homegrown pagan/witch working alone. Anyway you came to the Craft or belief, as long as it nourishes your inner being/heart/soul, is cool.

Unfortunately, along with all the good and brightness, there seems to always be the unscrupulous and self-centered folk who just want your money or your psychic energy. As a new seeker, if you run across someone who will offer WITCHCRAFT 101 in 13 easy lessons for only \$666, run like hell, cause the only thing you're gonna learn is how fast your pockets or checkbook gets empty. And, particularly if you're a young, impressionable, good-looking chick, that the Great Rite or sex magic is always seeming to be done or proposed for minor things, guess what, lady? You have been screwed (in more ways than the obvious). But to me, one of the worst of all folks who give honest, caring pagans a bad name is that egotistical, self-centered, Knower of ALL Things who always seems to thrive on YOUR stamina, draining YOUR energy, and just plain fucking-up YOUR psyche and mental processes. If you're ever unlucky enough to run across one of these psychic vampires, leave quickly, and please remember there are far many more genuine, caring and loving pagans out there. Don't give up.

The last thing I'll touch on is ethics. There are many, many articles and Craft books that cover ethics, but the underlying theme is that if something goes against your nature to do, DON'T, and if it don't feel right, IT AIN'T. To me personally, the Wiccan Rede "An ye harm none, do as ye will," if truly followed and lived, can be a much stronger code of ethics than even the Ten Commandments.

Guess I'll get off my box for now and finish this off. Remember all you fledgling pagans, who like me, are just starting our journey; Seek, Care, Love, and always Question, and keep true to yourself. Blessed Be!



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.

* = listed on CST's Pagan Prisoner Committee web page,
<http://www.geocities.com/violetjade11/prisonerlist.html>.

Carla Ann Nelson: P.O. Box 155, Cottonton, AL 36851, email: <herblore@bellsouth.net>.

Cori Tindragon: <cori_tindragon@hotmail.com>.

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

Firedancer: I am a prisoner in Texas and may not write to other inmates. I am a practicing Native American which is very close to the Wiccan ways. I wish to share my beliefs and ceremonies and am writing a book called "The Vision Quest Phenomenon." Ronald F. White (Firedancer) #368431, Estelle Unit, 246 FM 3478, Huntsville, TX 77340.

***Frank Palmer:** (a.k.a. Bridget), Druid (always in training!), seeking friends to correspond. I enjoy role playing games, primitive living, and am looking for pen pals of all interests and faiths. I am incarcerated; please don't let that deter you. Can receive any mail less than 1/4" thick. 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, E1-122-U, Jefferson Correctional Institution, 1050 Big Joe Rd., Monticello, FL 32344.

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.

***Rev. John Jacob Samulski, Jr.:** I am an extremely open minded person; an outdoorsman; have many interests in most religions. I am a strong believer in "national socialism" and a believer in separatism. I would love to hear from anyone on interests or without interests. John Samulski, #22408, P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT 84020.

***Justin Jessop:** #30967, Utah State Prison, P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT 84020.

***Michael Fugger:** #844334, P.O. Box 9200, New Boston, TX 75570-9200.

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.

***Timothy Hornsby:** Seeking pen-pals who are Wiccan/Pagan. Interested in all subjects: divination, Pagan philosophy, ecology, self-improvement, Irish and Welsh traditions. Can receive up to 20 pages in one letter. 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.

Violet Jade: Interests are gardening, herbology, stones, reading, spirituality, tarot, drumming, wicca, and currently studying Faerie Faith. (205) 981-9890, P.O. Box 55 Alton, AL 35015-0055, <violetjade11@yahoo.com>.

Notices:

Prison Writing Program

A program for people in prison who like to write; be it fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, memoirs, jokes, etc. They also have a listing for Pen Pals, books for writers, a directory of small magazines that *pay* for inmate writings, a list of book programs for prisoners that give free books to all that are in a cage, info on opportunities for education, and a punctuation guide. This is all FREE to inmates. Write them and ask for "Handbook for Writers in Prison."

Prison Writing Program
PEN American Center
568 Broadway, Suite 401
New York, NY 10012-3225

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: 6 postage stamps per issue (quarterly) for prisoners

A prisoner may send 6 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.

Notices (continued):

Greenpeace: <<http://www.greenpeaceusa.org>>

Greenpeace began in 1971 and for 30 years, Greenpeace has tackled environmental issues. Today their work focuses on six major efforts: Saving ancient forests, stopping global warming, eliminating persistent organic pollutants (POPs), protecting the oceans, eliminating the threat of genetic engineering, and ending the nuclear age.

Contact information:

<http://www.greenpeaceusa.org>

Phone: 1-800-326-0959

9:30 am - 5:00 pm Eastern, Monday-Friday

You can join Greenpeace for as little as a \$5.00 donation.

Writer Seeking Memories

Dear American Pagan Community:

I am an American Indian researching history topics; I plan on developing into articles and books. I hope to make contact with Pagan persons (including Elders) who have memories to share. Two topics are on WWII history and the respondee need not have been "out" about his or her beliefs during the war years. I will use a pseudonym if someone wants one. Any anecdote or story, no matter how brief is sought.

Seeking anyone who experienced unusual phenomena or strange happenings during the war. Includes: hauntings, ghost tanks or ships, premonitions, good luck charms, psychic bonds between relatives or buddies, visits to fortune tellers, seances, out of body (near death) experiences, foo fighter sightings, strange animals or sea creatures, vampirism, lycanthropy, Halloween or other Pagan holiday observances, telekinesis, encountering magical beings/creatures, extraordinary coincidences, or any event a person deems to be supernatural or paranormal during the war. Especially, interested in any person (solo) or covens who did spells of protection around individuals, cities or nations.

Seeking any patriotic Pagan who served in the military, Civil Air Patrol, Red Cross, USO, merchant marine, civil defense or held a war industry job during WWII.

For a more contemporary topic, I am researching gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and 2-spirited people's experience with the supernatural and paranormal. If any GLBT2S person can relate experiences like those mentioned in the previous topic, contact me. I am also, interested in any information on this topic as it relates to persons of the past. Sometimes persons are aware of an ancestor's sexuality. Any lesbian distant cousin who had premonitions in the 1800s? What of a bisexual grand uncle who believed he saw a ghost in the 1920s? Contemporary or historic information is sought.

I am researching women's contribution to medicine, natural history, conservation and related fields. As many Pagans have matriarchal influences, I want to know of women who had knowledge of botany, herbalism, midwifery, etc. Does anyone know of women involved in nature preservation, bird watching, scientific illustration, hawking, etc? Women could have been from any century and even brief references are sought. Especially, wanting to hear from Pagans who have pursued natural history or science careers, because a female ancestor or mentor was interested in such fields.

I also, seek any freely donated materials (books, articles, photographs) on paranormal topics for a developing archive. Any freely given responses or donations are appreciated.

Robert J. Clark

PO Box 685

Collinsville, Illinois 6223

Important Dates

Board of Directors' Meetings:

January 25, 2004, Carrollton, GA; May 1 (?), 2004, Auburn, AL

Annual Meetings of the General Membership:

May 30, 2004, Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA (includes election of officers)

Dates of Sabbats for 2004 (not ritual dates):

Imbolc	February 1
Ostara	March 20
May Day	May 1
Summer Solstice	June 21
Lammas	August 1
Mabon	September 22
Samhain	November 1
Yule	December 19

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED