

The Journey...



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

Issue 26
Ostara, 2004

NEWS

A great big THANK YOU!! goes to Ceredwyn for typing this issue of “The Journey”! I broke my right arm last weekend, and so my typing is seriously hindered right now. Also, I apologize for the lateness of this issue, but mundane life intruded, unfortunately.

Fundraising: We will have another CST fundraiser at Moondance. This will probably consist of a Silent Auction and a Slave Auction again, but plans have not yet been finalized. Please consider participating, helping out, and/or donating items to be auctioned! You may contact Cathy at <cathycst@yahoo.com> about the fundraising efforts at Moondance.

New Grove: There is a new Grove, called Cedar Grove, in Salem, Alabama. 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 9.

- 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>
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Kerr
334-332-3065; <cst@spiraltree.org>
Member-at-Large Deanna Freeman
205-621-9938; <violetjade11@yahoo.com>

Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher Linda Kerr
Reporter Cori Tindragon

Church of the Spiral Tree
PO Box 186
Auburn, AL 36831-0186
334-332-3065 (Linda Kerr)
cst@spiraltree.org
http://www.spiraltree.org

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.

“Thank You”s, & CST’s Recent Fundraising

by LeePhether

We would like to publicly thank the following businesses and individuals who donated their time and merchandise for the Slave Auction and the Silent Auction held at FallFling, October 2003, at Dragon Hills. We greatly appreciate your donations, and we look forward to another great fundraiser at Moondance 2004!

Silent Auction:

Ancient Merchants, Newnan, GA
Aroma Harbor, Franklin, GA
Belit-ili, Birmingham, AL
Bio-Buzz, Albany, GA
Books of Light, Newnan, GA
Clan of the Stone People, Acworth, GA
Dragonflies to Dragons, Jacksonville, FL
Dragon Lady’s Lair, Eatonton, GA
House Midgard, Knoxville, TN
Living Essence Naturals, Auburn, AL
Moonstruck, Muscadine, AL
Mystical Treasures, Iva, SC
Pagan Yaga, Decatur, AL
Phiona and Little Bears T-Shirts, Harlem, GA
Silver Cauldron & Torchstone, Fletcher, NC
Raven’s Moon Design, Norcross, GA
Wren’s Magick, Clarksburg, WV
Willow Point Herbals, Fayetteville, GA
Belinda, Franklin, GA
Grover, Winston, GA
Mike, Gillsville, GA
Nion & LeePhether, Carrollton, GA
Sue (Fire Iris), Perry, GA
Tim, Acworth, GA

Slave Auction:

Baxter Ceredwyn
Chris Dankita
Dave Dean
Jeff Melissa
Scott Sigg

And “Thank You” To:

Ceredwyn for typing this issue of “The Journey”
Rowan & Rosehawk for doing the CST Imbolc 2004 ritual, and to Lee & Nion for hosting it at their house in Carrollton, GA
William & Pelayah for doing the CST Yule 2003 ritual
Cori for hosting the CST Samhain ritual at her house in Troy, AL
Carla for doing the CST Lammas 2003 ritual
Cori for doing and hosting the CST Summer Solstice 2003 ritual at her house in Troy, AL
Cori for doing and hosting the CST Imbolc 2003 ritual at her house in Troy, AL

The Journey of Evolution

by Frater Yod (James A. Roesch)

Even after one hundred years of intense controversy and heated debate, the concept of evolution continues to evoke polarized responses. Our schools are loath to teach it, our religious leaders are reluctant to discuss it. Even our highest courts wrestle mightily over it. Yet to deny the reality of evolution is ludicrous. All things evolve and/or devolve. Everything in nature is cyclical, nothing is stagnant. Everything ebbs and flows, rises and falls, is born and then dies. To admit any less is to deny the obvious truth.

Evolution has many forms, as it affects all systems, species matter, and even consciousness. Yes, the human mind is constantly evolving, at an ever increasing pace. Consciousness as we know it is rapidly expanding toward its source: Divinity. This type of evolution is the one which is the most interest to us in the Church of the Spiral Tree, as it should be to anyone not caught in the quagmire of religious dogma.

In this year, 2004, Human Consciousness is our most exciting frontier. Mind Science—Consciousness Studies—these are going forward swiftly, solving many complex problems, explaining intricate functions while discovering yet deeper mysteries.

Personal explorations are very possible and in fact are strongly encouraged amongst our members. Such inner explorations of mind are possible individually, in couples (for those of you fortunate enough to have a significant other), or as a group. It is suggested that anyone considering group study should first do some individual exploration. A significant personal journey inward using meditational and visualization techniques aimed at fusing and integrating the self/I consciousness to the higher soul is strongly recommended. Once an aspirant is fused in a state of inner harmony and equilibrium then the excited stimulations of group consciousness study is less likely to negatively affect.

Perhaps the brightest aspect of consciousness exploration today is the wealth of published work available. We owe much to those seekers who tried the Path before us, recording their observations, reporting their discoveries, marking their course of ascent. We need not stumble up a darkened path. There is Light to show the way! We can embark on our Journey from an upper plateau rather than a low valley as it was just two centuries ago.

Just as was so in the period from 1875-1925 we seem to be in another period of intense mental stimulation, a “consciousness explosion”, as it were. Just as it was in the first “Golden Age of Enlightenment”

there are numerous savants, adepts, sages, and teachers coming forward. Out of the past we gained the likes of Rudolph Steiner, H.P. Blavatsky, A.E. Waite, Harold Percival, G. I. Gardjieff, Alice Bailey, Dion Fortune, and Aleister Crowley. Who will be the new leaders? Using the foundational works of these great minds as a springboard we all have the potential to reach the stars!

So who might be in this group of latter day mind trekkers? There are many who could make the list: Stephen Hawking, John Nash (“A Beautiful Mind”), Gene Kieffer (The Secret Teachings), Elizabeth Haich, Gopi Krishna—they all would fit.

The fields that encompass “consciousness study” are diverse. The significance of one’s findings is hard to quantify and should not be generalized. The assignment of value to a particular work is best done by the partaker of the material on an individual basis. One man’s treasure is another’s junk! But the point I labor to make remains: that to climb to our highest potential (to evolve) we should acknowledge and must utilize the “cleared roadway” in the form of published works, left so lovingly by those who came before us. And yes, there will always be some who prefer to “go off the beaten path.” There is plenty of room for them too!

In earlier “Journey” articles I laid out some basic esoteric teachings on symbols and their use in comprehending and understanding higher states of consciousness. Our verbal speech is simply inadequate to communicate such vast concepts as contained in Qabalah, Tarot, Runes, Astrology, Esoteric Numerology, etc. Symbols can encompass limitless spaces or areas of human development (evolution) that spans the entire history of mankind or even the universe. What would require many volumes to explain can be represented by a mere (Leo), (Libra), or (Sagittarius).

As a teacher of esoteric science I am often asked, “What is the greatest tool for comprehending the cosmos or mysteries of mankind?” The answer is simple: silence. To listen is to hear. To quietly observe is to see. To silently contemplate is to feel. To meditate is to know. The answers to the riddles of the universe are within. Have a nice journey.



MINUTES

CST Board of Directors

January 30, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Rankin at 1:15 pm, at Carrollton, Georgia, with the following Directors and guests present:

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

Ideas and Things to Do

CST is going to have a new Library located in Waverly, Alabama to house its books and references. Plans are also being discussed for the Disaster Fund and future CST fundraisers.

Need Volunteers

Craig, Nion, Jeremy, and Kull will be in charge of erecting the new 6x10 building that will house CST's Library. Other volunteers are needed to help.

At Moondance, Cathy Rankin will need help setting up the CST fundraisers: raffle, slave auction, and silent auction.

Things To Buy

Plywood for Library floor, materials for stairs and a small porch.

Matting for the two beautiful paintings that Firedancer (Ron White) sent to CST in order to be raffled off at Moondance for fundraising.

Rituals/Festivals

Moondance... Will be May 27-31 of 2004, arranged by Linda Kerr but not affiliated with CST. Linda will put a note and disclaimer in the Moondance flyer stating that the festival is not affiliated with CST to avoid any unnecessary confusion. However, CST will host many of its own fundraisers at this event: a raffle, slave auction, and a silent auction. Other ideas were suggested during the meeting: a table where CST could sell donated goods, Tarot readings, oil wrestling where you must pay to participate...

Jeremy volunteered to help out with a booth for goods donated for CST to sell. Christi Stephenson will be in charge of the silent auction.

More guidelines were needed for the slave auction, details of which were to be worked out online.

Plans for Future Rituals... Once CST starts growing, perhaps there could be simultaneous sabbat rituals at different locations so that more of the community could attend. Or maybe the dates and locations of the multiple rituals could be alternated.

CST's Disaster Fund

The Fund is available to help the community, with funds to be given to area charities and those local pagans who are in need of assistance in hard times. During meeting it was also suggested that funds could be used towards shipping a livestock animal such as a milk cow or egg-laying hen to a family in need elsewhere, in the name of a pagan church, at Ostara each year. This would be done from a catalog that Linda has acquired. Other ideas were tossed around, and it was decided that this should be discussed further online.

Other Business

The next BOD meeting was scheduled to be held April 10 in Auburn, AL.

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



God and Goddess; Within and Without: A Jungian Perspective on Divinity and Magickal Ritual

by Timothy Hornsby

When I first began studying Wicca and magick I became easily confused about concepts and beliefs that are central to our belief system and religious practice. I was so in the habit of thinking in dualistic terms that I found it difficult to make statements like “Thou art God” and “Thou art Goddess” with much conviction. Why should I meditate? Why should I perform magick and ritual? A brief study of the psychology of Carl Jung gave me a really good perspective on these practices and a better understanding of the Wiccan view of reality.

Jung taught that there are three aspects of consciousness in man. The conscious mind is that which is aware of perceptions and sense experience, as well as feelings at this moment. The personal unconscious is described by Jung as, “Everything of which I know, but of which I am not at the moment thinking; everything of which I was once conscious but have now forgotten; everything perceived by my senses, but not noted by my conscious mind; everything which involuntarily and without paying attention to it, I feel, think remember, want, and do; all the future things which are taking shape in me and will sometime come to consciousness: all this is the content of the unconscious.” (CW8, par. 382). The other aspect of consciousness is the collective unconscious which contains a priori, inherited qualities such as “instincts as impulses to carry out actions from necessity, without conscious motivation. Archetypes are found in the collective unconscious. These are universal and of regular occurrence in the human mind.” (CW8, par. 270) He further explains that the collective unconscious is omnipresent, universal, unchanging, and having identical qualities between individuals that form the substratum of the psyche.

The collective unconscious is what nature gives us. It is the foundation of consciousness; the personal unconscious and the conscious mind arise from it. The collective communicates with the conscious mind through the personal unconscious. The personal unconscious filters the information from the collective and applies a symbol which is part of the subjective content of the personal unconscious that best represents the information, and then presents it to the conscious mind. These symbols, which are part of the content of the personal unconscious, are for the most part unique to the individual. These symbols are the language of the unconscious. For example, if I dream of a red bird, a

childhood pet, and you dream of a red bird, one that leaves droppings on your car each morning, the red birds in our dreams will represent totally different ideas. The personal unconscious will apply the emotional value to the red bird unique to ourselves.

This is why it is so difficult for us to interpret symbols of dreams, visions, and meditation for others. These symbols from the personal unconscious are unique to our life experience. The collective will sometimes arrange the contents of the consciousness. Certain experiences will constellate around a particular archetype and it will be energized and rise into consciousness. We can only identify an archetype by observing the contents which have become conscious. They are identified by the motif of the content of the dream or vision, rather than a particular symbol in the dream.

Jung used the term PLEROMA to designate the most transcendent state. Describing the Pleroma, he said, “A thing which is infinite and eternal hath no qualities since it hath all qualities. This nothingness or fullness we name the Pleroma. Therein, both thinking and being cease, since the infinite and eternal possess no qualities. In it, no being is, for he then would be distinct from the Pleroma, and would possess qualities which would distinguish him as something distinct from the Pleroma. In the Pleroma there is nothing and everything.” [Seven Sermons of the Dead (Sermon I)]. In the Pleroma, every opposite is in complete balance and they cancel each other out. The archetypes exist in the Pleroma eternally. The Pleroma is the source of, and the archetypes the organizers, the cause of order, the blueprint of, existence on every level; physical, mental, and spiritual. The archetypes are the fundamental structure of nature and of consciousness.

Archetypes, although eternally present in the Pleroma, appear from time-to-time in the world of space-time, and struggle for expression. Their appearance occurs irregularly and unpredictably. Since the archetypes are both mental and physical, they may express themselves both mentally and physically at the same time. Jung called this phenomena “synchronicity.” Synchronicity would be a psychological event accompanied by a meaningful physical event.

The archetypes are the connecting principle between the natural world, consciousness, and the spiritual worlds. They are transcendent entities.

Together, they are the Creative Force, and individually they are the gods and goddesses. The archetypes are both present and imminent. The gods and goddesses are just as much a part of me as they are of the universe. At the center of everything is the Divine. At my center, I am Divine. "Thou art God" and "Thou art Goddess" are simple statements of fact. In saying it, we are acknowledging the Divine Within. We are acknowledging the Creative Force of the universe that is us.

Now I understand why meditation is important. We are opening the conscious mind to the center, building a bridge between it and the gods and goddesses. When we are open to our center, we can receive guidance that will help us to build a positive and productive life. The conscious mind will be ordered and so will our lives. We may receive information in dreams although it will come sporadically and irregularly. Meditation gives us more control over this process so information doesn't get lost if we can't remember the dream.

Jung said that we perform ritual to experience the numinosum at will. Jung coined the term numinosum from Rudolph Otto, defining it as, "...a dynamic agency or effect not caused by an arbitrary act of will. On the contrary, it seizes and controls the human subject, who is always its victim rather than its creator. The numinosum is an experience of the subject independent of its will. It...causes a peculiar alteration of consciousness." (CW11, pars. 6-9) This change in consciousness is typically described as, "They came to themselves, they could accept themselves, they were able to be reconciled to themselves, and thus were reconciled to adverse circumstances and events." This is often termed a spiritual awakening.

People who have this experience, experience a profound change in their attitude. This is what we seek in ritual. In magickal ritual, we are taking control of the appearance of these forces in our lives. We translate our desire into symbols, the language of the unconscious, using gesture, ritual tools, incantation, etc. We are speaking to the unconscious, telling it what we want. The unconscious then delivers our message to the collective, a reverse of the process whereby the collective sends messages to the conscious mind as in dreams and visions. Instead of the collective sending symbol messages to the conscious mind, the conscious mind is sending symbol messages to the collective.

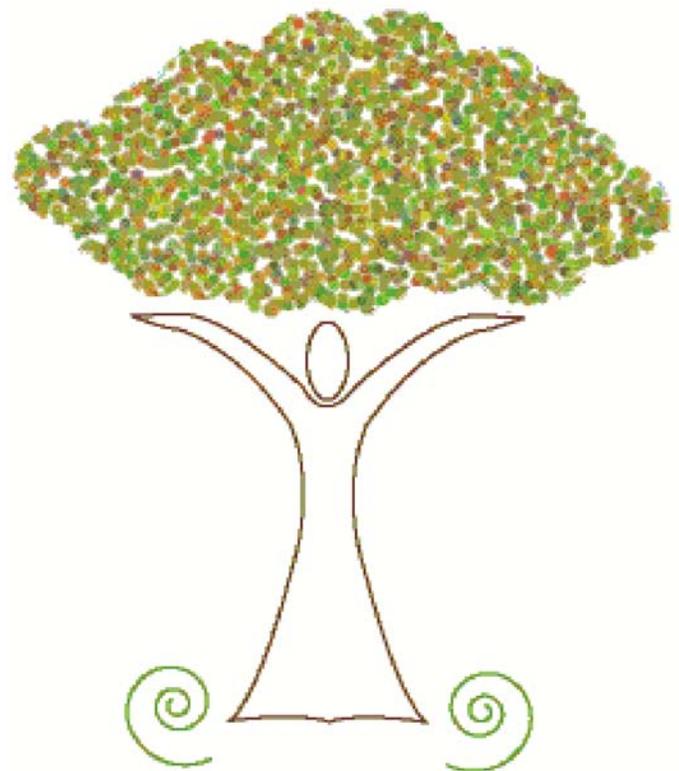
The gods and goddesses, the archetypes, are activated and their creative power is unleashed into our lives. The archetype reorganizes the contents of consciousness and we are instinctively driven toward our goal. The archetypes also organize nature to meet this goal and the set stage rushes to meet the magician.

Magick is primarily a means for inner change. When we have need of a god or goddess, we can access them through ritual. They are within us in a state of potential, waiting to be activated. Rather than having them appear erratically, we can initiate the contact and they will respond. We have the creative power of the universe within us. We truly are God. We truly are Goddess.

Sources:

[The Collected Works of C. G. Jung Vol. 8: The Structure and Dynamics of the Psyche](#) by Carl Gustav Jung, William McGuire (Editor), Princeton Univ Press, 1970.

[The Collected Works of C. G. Jung Vol. 11 : Psychology and Religion - West and East](#) by Carl Gustav Jung, Herbert Read (Editor), Princeton Univ Press, 1970.



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:

CST Board of Directors' meeting: April 10, noon, Linda's house, Auburn, AL (will meet there and then travel to a local restaurant).

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

CST Annual Meeting: May 30, 2004, 10:00 am, Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA (includes election of officers).

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: October 2, 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.

Stone People Lodges (Salem, AL) - Part of Cedar Grove:

April 24-25 - Annual Spirit Dance

May 22 - Sweatlodge

June 19 - Sweatlodge

July 17 - Sweatlodge

August 14 - Sweatlodge

September 25 - Sweatlodge

October 9 - Sweatlodge

November 20 - Sweatlodge

December 4 - Sweatlodge

Those wishing to attend please contact us for more info and to RSVP: <lightfoot1953@cs.com>; <ajagr1972@yahoo.com> ; 334-448-7296.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Moondance	May 27-31, 2004	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	Sep. 17-19, 2004	Kolomoki Mounds St. Pk., Blakely, GA
FallFling	October 7-10, 2004	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, 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!).

The Meaning of Witchcraft - by Gerald Gardner

When Someone You Love is Wiccan - by Carol McColman

Wicca for Couples - by A.J. Drew

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 (Using Astrology for Success & Harmony in the Workplace) - by Debbie Burns

Before You Cast a Spell (Understanding the Power of Magic) - by Karl McColman

Authentic Spirituality - by Richard N Potter

Grimoire for an Apprentice Wizard - by Oberon Zell

Pocket Spell Creator - by Kerri Conner

Book Review:

Karmic Tarot, by William C. Lammey, Third Edition, 2002, New Page Books.

Having reviewed Tarot For Your Self by Mary K. Greer in "The Journey," Issue 25, the obvious expectation is to compare Karmic Tarot to it and make differentiations. This technique would not serve here, as the two books are complimentary and of equal stature. The editors who review for publication at New Page were paying attention when they decided to offer both of these books. They are each gems of Tarot wisdom. No serious student of Tarot should miss either of them.

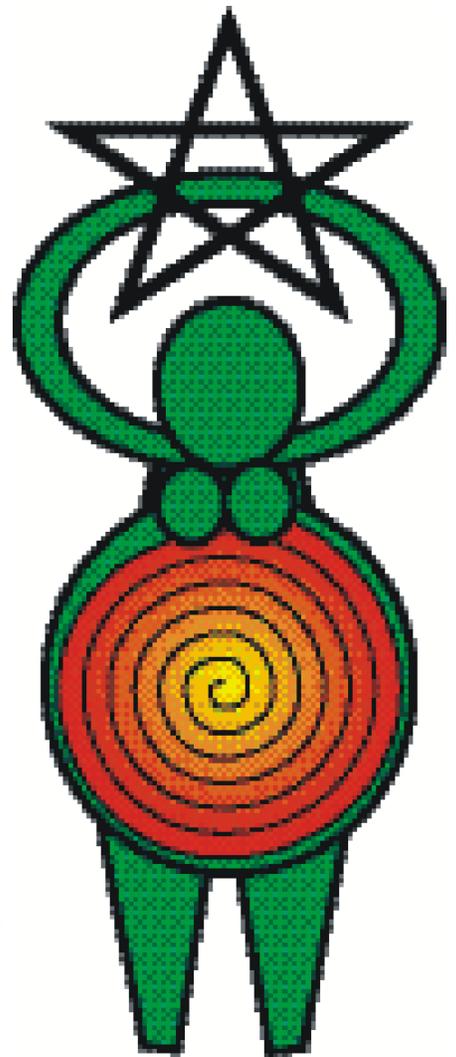
Author Lammey wastes little ink in thrusting yet another theory of how Tarot originated and the history of it into a long-winded spiel. Mercifully, Lammey dodges this tendency of Tarot writers and relegates this to an "honorable mention" in the Introduction (thank you, William!).

As for technical exposition, this book soars. Again, all of the right sources are tapped. A.E. Waite, Paul Foster Case, and H.P. Blavatsky, to mention a few, are solid references that no serious writer of esoteric science can ignore. Lammey leaves no room for supposition or speculation as to how to properly read Tarot from his "karmic spread." Anyone can follow his system and I urge anyone interested to use this book. (****) of 5.

Memorable Quote: Karmic Tarot is an Evolution of Consciousness.

"At various speeds. we are all waking up to the reality of what we really are. Modern physicists are now finally saying and proving what metaphysicists have always known: everything is energy! I believe the Tarot, both major and minor arcana, was conceived with this knowledge of "all is energy" in mind." (Yes, Lammey, "all is energy" but energy is but spirit seeking return to the Divine Source.)

- Reviewed by James A. Roesch (Frater Yod)



On the Back Porch With Nion

Reflections on a Life's Journey

Whadda You Mean, Turn the Other Cheek?

(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 15, June/July 1995.)

Howdy ya'll, Nion here (yet again). I'm back upon the box again and been mulling over and over in my head, just what the Wiccan Rede "An ye harm none, do as ye will" really means and just how it applies to the "real world" in everyday life. As I have stated before in a previous article, if you try and live by that, I feel it is a code of ethics just as strong as the Ten Commandments, BUT a lot more fun, because it don't have all the "Don'ts." And if it doesn't harm yourself OR ANYONE ELSE, physically, financially, emotionally, or in any other way, then ethically everything is OK. (Again, folks, I welcome and appreciate any feedback pro or con so I can continually grow.)

Does that mean if someone womps me up the side of the head that I'm gonna turn the other cheek so as not to harm someone else? HELL NO, it doesn't mean that. I'm gonna do the best that I can to physically prevent another lump to the old gourd cause it has enough lumps as it is, and besides, being a dead pacifist puts me into another reality a mite quicker than I'm really ready to go. (I got too much to learn still in this one yet.) The way I see it, self-defense is self-defense, and defense against physical assault, rape, or endangerment to your life or limb, or any of your significant others' life or limb doesn't go against that code. It's the original aggression that bears the karmic burden, not your defensive response. That's how I interpret it.

Is there harm caused if you're a bit randy and want to get a little on the side, outside of a marriage or monogamous relationship? To me that is a "depends" question. If your significant other DOESN'T know or agree to your extracurricular activity, then Yes, you may cause harm emotionally, and that would go against the Rede. However, if your significant other or even anyone else with an emotional stake KNOWS and doesn't mind or even wants to jump in, consenting adults is consulting adults (damn, them value judgement sure are hell, ain't they?). I guess that how I see it, if you deliberately and knowingly do something that causes emotional distress to others, you are not living up to the Rede.

How about psychic attacks? Well, I'm gonna pass this

topic up, as at this particular stage in my development, I wouldn't know a psychic attack if it hit me like a 2x4 between the eyes. It would be so far above my head (figuratively and literally) that I probably wouldn't recognize it for what it is. So, I'll leave this one for any of you with more experience than I to answer. I guess my only comment would be that if you know enough to protect yourself, psychic selfdefense wouldn't be a violation, but aggressiveness on your own part would be. Any comments out there? By the way, if any of you has suggestions for me or any of the other new pagans/Wiccans out there on this or any other topics, please enlighten us; we may not know without someone turning on the light for us.

Speaking of us new pagans/Wiccans, it is always beneficial to our continual growth spiritually and intellectually to network with those older (and not necessarily in years) and wiser practitioners out there who are willing to share with us their experience, and with others of differing paths and traditions so as to help broaden our own personal knowledge base and maybe avoid the pitfalls. That is all part of growing, and ultimately, no matter how we name them, we all pretty much believe in the same things, and in our honor and love to the Gentle Lady and her Consort.

Well, in summation, I guess in my own personal understanding of the Wiccan Rede "An ye harm none, do as ye will," the deliberate and knowingly doing of harmful actions or the lack of action that causes any sort of ill to others goes against the Rede, but personal actions that are defensive and appropriate to the situation is not. That's how I see it. Comments??

Well, I guess I'll mosey along. Until next time, bye for now, and may the Gentle Lady always smile upon ya'll. 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 Cherokee religious practitioner, writing a book called "The Vision Quest Phenomenon."

Seeking Mother Earth practitioners who understand the inner origin from the enchanted looms of our mind.

Well-educated from old Cherokee holy-man, and litigating pagan rights against Texas prison system. Write 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, foe 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:

April 10, 2004, Auburn, AL; 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