

The Journey...



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

Issue 28
Fall Equinox, 2004

NEWS

From The CST President, Cathy Rankin: The annual membership drive for CST is nearing an end. I plan to renew my membership before the deadline of Samhain. I started thinking about why I am a member of CST and why, as president, I have become so invested in our church. I decided that the most important reason was the Bill of Rights which guarantees freedom of religion. Working as your president of your church is my small way of doing what I can to ensure that this right will survive the current trend toward conservatism, and at times downright totalitarianism, with its incumbent lack of tolerance that has infested our country at this time. CST does not dictate dogma or doctrine. CST encourages its members and associates to explore and share many paths and many personal beliefs systems in an atmosphere of acceptance and respect. CST provides an opportunity for pagans to be an active, positive force in their communities through our home school, our outreach programs, our assistance to individuals and families, pagans and non-pagans alike, and our donations to our chosen charity, The Red Cross. I am so proud to be even a small part of such a group of people who spread light and love in the world touching other lives and making those lives better. CST is not about religion and most certainly has absolutely nothing to do with organized religion. As president, I can guarantee that the only thing that is organized about CST is Linda and she just can't help herself. CST is about people who are proud of who and what they are, people whose hearts shine the kind of light that maintains the balance in the universe. Bless each and everyone one of you as you are blessings to so many others.

Helping the Community: Since January of this year, CST has given monetary donations to seven families, who were dealing with issues ranging from being out of work and thus not being able to pay their family's bills, to having their house burn down, to severe injury, to death of a spouse, for a total of \$2250 in donations. We also recently donated \$500 to the American Red Cross to help with their hurricane relief efforts. Thank you to everyone who has bought a membership, enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy, or participated in one of our fundraisers!

Membership Drive: Once again, CST is having a membership drive! This yearly drive takes place each year from Lammass (August 1) till Samhain (November 1). If you join or renew during this time, Individual memberships are just \$12.50 (normally \$20), and Family memberships are \$20 (normally \$35). All memberships are good for one year. Tell your friends!

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 5.

- 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 LeePhether
770-830-8681; <LeePhether@aol.com>

Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher Linda Kerr

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.

MINUTES

Church of the Spiral Tree

September 12, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Rankin at 4:00 pm, in Columbus, Georgia, with the following Directors and members present:

Cathy Rankin, President; Don Mikovitz, Vice-President; Linda Kerr, Secretary/Treasurer; Lee Mikovitz; and Audrey Roberson.

Old Business

Linda sent a \$500 donation to the National Red Cross last month for the hurricane relief efforts.

New Business

For a fundraiser for FallFling, we will do a silent auction only. We also need to find an item to raffle. Linda will make a poster: "Where Your Donation Goes."

For the Samain ritual in Salem, sponsored by Cedar Grove, CST will pay for firewood, soft drinks, etc. It will start about 9 pm, with a party afterwards. There will be no charge for either for attendees.

There was discussion about doing something to honor Stormy, such as making her an honorary "lifetime" member, or presenting a plaque to her or her family with a donation.

It was decided to send a donation to Blue Crow, along with a card. Blue Crow recently fell from a horse and broke his pelvis, and is still in critical condition. He is the co-owner of Dragon Hills where Moondance and FallFling are held.

We should list in the newsletter what we do to help people - not specific names, but "helped family after fire," etc.

Cathy wants to do a Pagan Pizza Party and blood drive with the Lee County Red Cross - get pizza and cokes donated. Maybe do in conjunction with Pagan Pride Day, Pantheon, and CST. Linda will check with Pantheon and Red Cross. Will ask Pantheon to send Cathy some flyers for PPD to post around Columbus.

Linda mentioned that since Violet Jade is no longer on the Board of Directors, she was asked to mail back her CST credit card.

It's almost time to renew our Sam's card; Nion wants one this year.

Cathy wants to get clergy bumper stickers for all our ordained ministers; will check on and report back.

For festivals, we need to purchase an EZ-Up, which will be easier to set up and take down than what we currently have.

Current Business

Densho, our librarian, has the CST library at his house, and is handling requests for books by mailing books out.

We still need a logo: Chris Rummage, who designed the rough draft of the one we all liked last year, has moved and dropped off the face of the earth, so we still don't have one. Maybe we could do a contest, and the winner could get a free lifetime membership in CST.

Cedar Grove, the CST Grove in Salem, AL, will host the CST Samhain ritual in Columbus on October 30. This will take the place of the November 6 ritual at Waverly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.



Power of the Circle

by Firedancer

Many people who see the circle of Stonehenge, created about 1900 BC or before Year 1, do not allow their minds to conceive the “cone of power” within the circle. Those who open their minds to the essence of life will feel the forever circle of power where all things meet their opposites. Both the Wiccan and Cherokee spiritual practitioner have learned to use the endless power of the circle.

I find it odd how Mother Earth’s energy forces what we Cherokee spiritualists call the “adanuto,” pronounced “ah-day-noo-taw,” as always being written about in high-tech terms. A true spiritual practitioner of rituals or ceremonies knows from their inner essence the force or adanuto is the spark of life itself. Our language is Christian-based and it is difficult to identify our “creator.” I keep finding so many who are confused by the word “creator,” thinking of it being the image of man, when in fact, it has no image at all. It is an electro-chemical reaction, or a “force.”

The circle is a created protected space between the physical world and the spiritual world. We call it a circle, but in reality, it is a “force field in a power cone,” which allows anyone to enter, if you know rituals or ceremonies, into the spiritual world and return. Both a “witch” and a Cherokee spiritualist casts a circle by using simple tools and the power of our minds, when we learn the proper procedure to enter this circle. You will learn from all the wisdom from the inward journey of the “cone of power” to work your paranormal enchantments.

The traditional simple circle or “cone of power” for one person, to conjure their powers, is about seven or nine feet in diameter, but whatever you feel comfortable with will work. Being Cherokee, I use seven as it is our spiritual number and nine is the witches’ spiritual number. I wish to note: a cat may pass through a “cone of power” without disturbing the force field.

You should mark the ground showing the circle’s boundaries at the Earth’s bisect and to focus your mind’s power force. Always move clockwise in the circle. You may use stones, sand, rope, string, a set of Runes, or Tarot cards to mark the circle outline.

Next, you must clean and bless the “cone of power.” We Cherokee use the burning of herbs which is called “smudging,” which is used to clean the negative energy off all things and the circle. I once knew a witch who used her “besom” or broom in a ceremony to clean with the burning of incense.

Now, you must cut a doorway into the “cone of power.” There are many ways this can be done, but I always face north, closing my eyes and allow the mind to move the power point, east of the circle to move counter-clockwise about three feet. Now, take all items you need to conjure any spell workings or ceremonies through to door, moving clockwise in the circle. Again, closing your eyes, allow your mind to close the door. You must exit the circle the same way. Unless you wish to keep the “cone of power,” you may clean the boundaries which will dissipate the power force.

I find my Cherokee ceremonial ways are very close in the actions of Wiccan ways. I am always seeing ever so many who only “play” Indian or Witchcraft as Christianity’s ways have contaminated their minds with controls of fears from a hate god.

Ask any true witch what the five points of the pentacle mean. It is very simple and has been practiced over ten thousand years. The lower two points are earth and water, the right side is wind, with the left side being fire. The top point is the human mind, as without the four elements there would be no physical body to contain the energy force of the mind... so simple!

There were many more forms of Homo Erectus, but all must learn to live in harmony with Mother Earth, all contributing to the welfare of those of like-minds. The Homo Erectus’ lives would seem dangerous and very crude to us, yet they became the survivors, and we are the descendants of these wild explorers. They traveled outward to live physically, but they learned to travel inward, awakening the force of life that is our spirituality. Thus, the old spiritual feelings began... All from the wisdom within the enchanted looms of our brain.

Learn to create the power of the circle, and learn from within how the external circle of birth, death and rebirth keeps the same spark of life’s energy. Energy is never lost; it only moves to the next form of four elements to contain the spark of life.

In the spirit of the Ghost Dancers.... Blessed Be!



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:

Pagan Pride Day/Fall Equinox: October 3 (Sunday), Pagan Pride Day, including the Fall Equinox ritual, Auburn University Arboretum, Auburn, AL. CST is co-coordinating with Pantheon.

Samhain: October 30, Salem, AL. Ritual will be held later than usual (9:00 pm), so parents can take children

trick-or-treating first. There will be a party afterwards, but no potluck. Hosted by Cedar Grove, a CST grove. For more info, email <cedargrovecst@yahoo.com>.

Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Yule: December 18 or 19, 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:

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):

FallFling	October 7-10, 2004	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Moondance	May 26-30, 2005	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	September, 2005	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!).

Transformative Meditation - by Gayle Clayton

Beginner's Guide for the Recently Deceased - by David Staume (Llewellyn Publications)

Asteroid Goddesses - by Demetra George & Douglas Bloch

Star Signs at Work (Using Astrology for Success & Harmony in the Workplace) - by Debbie Burns

Your Magickal Name: Using Astrology, Numerology, Myth, and Meaning to Choose the Perfect Name - by Phyllis Vega & Debra Vega

On the Back Porch With Nion

Reflections on a Life's Journey

How Young is Too Young?

(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 17, October/November 1995.)

Howdy ya'll, Nion here (once more). I was B.S.-ing the other day with a fellow Wiccan who had some young'uns moving into his household. We started talking about kids and paganism; how much is appropriate to pass on to them, and how do you know if they are ready. Well, after mulling it over for awhile, and because my kids are already adults, my own personal viewpoints are STRICTLY hypothetical, but here they are.

I guess as in a lot of value judgements, it's very situational, depending on whether the kids were brought up early on within a pagan household where rituals and pagan/Wiccan paraphernalia abound, or whether they are coming in at a later time where they either had a more conventional Christian upbringing, or whether there was no spiritual guidance whatsoever.

With kids in an established pagan household, it's akin to nudism; it would seem natural in every respect. Looking forward to the seasonal events of the wheel of life and nature, the honoring of the Sabbats and Esbats would be a seasonal and monthly occurrence. I guess the important point would be that you would expose your child to as much as they are ready and WILLING to take in, and not push YOUR views (and prejudices) onto them, which is how so many of us pagans were put off by our conventional religious upbringings.

In the early tribal society era, rites of passage for womanhood usually started with the first menses, as that indicated adulthood, fertility and marriageable status. In manhood, the young men had to go out in the wilds and make their solo kill(s), or to on some sort of solitary quest, to prove that they could become one of the tribe's hunter/warriors in order to provide meat or protection for their tribe/family. In our own modern-day society, neither necessity is/was applicable, so there is no really clearcut passage into adulthood (although some rednecks around here think that if you can hold yer liquer, spit your chaw without choking or dribbling down your chin, shoot enough deer, or beat up undesirables, that qualifies you to be a 'man').

A Wiccan couple whom I know gave their son his rite of passage into adulthood with ordeals and trials

and a manhood ceremony, and are getting ready for their young daughter's first menses and a resulting celebration of womanhood for her. I think the neatest thing would be to participate in a family tradition like that, as I started later in life and my own kids are grown and established in their own beliefs. Pauline Campenelli's book, *Rites of Passage*, has an excellent chapter on this subject. Other books concerning children and Wicca are *The Family Wicca Book* by Ashleen O'Gaea and *WiccaCraft for Families* by Margie McArthur.

If you came into paganism at a later stage in life, and your kids are already established on their own paths, the worst thing that you can do is try to force your own beliefs on them. Only if THEY are interested should you discuss or recommend literature, books, articles, etc. In a similar vein, if someone else's teenager wants to know more about your path, you can recommend books for them to inquire further. But WITHOUT their parent's permission, I wouldn't invite them to an open circle or celebration (but if both parents and child agree, that is another story); and absolutely never to a ritual where magic, sex, or nudity is practiced. That is a quick way to get you hung up by the cahones (figuratively, of course) by parents, the authorities, and the fundamentalists (and rightly so, in MY opinion), because if the child is under 18, the legal and societal ramifications of what you may do even with good intentions can cost you and the rest of the pagan community dearly.

How about those young adults who are in it for the sensationalism of it, or as an expression of rebellion against authority, so they can act "bad," wearing their inverted pentagrams, and playing with satanism, chaos magic (?), or the "dark side," or as an excuse for sex and drugs? Or what about the unscrupulous adult pagan who condones or even actively supports or guides them? My OWN personal opinion is that the rest of the pagan community should ostracize them and give absolutely no recognition to them so as to validate their "practices," and if things are dicey enough, a discrete call to the authorities probably wouldn't be a bad idea. That's my opinion; what's yours?

Continued on page 9

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: <herbllore@bellsouth.net>.

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 G. Harvey: Merry meet! 30 year old intelligent SWM incarcerated eclectic Pagan looking for fellow followers of a magical tradition for an exchange of ideas/knowledge as well as friendship. I have a lot to offer anybody willing to give me the chance. James G. Harvey #222760, P.O. Box 500 #5B-26T, Mitchells, VA 22729. Blessed be!

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, Okaloosa Correctional Institution, 3189 Little Silver Rd., Crestview, FL 32539.

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.

Ken Carnes: Seeking friends who believe in open minds/open hearts, love nature, breezes, mountain views, salt air, computers and gadgets, rock-n-roll. My friends are my greatest treasure. To my brothers: Strength; to my sisters: Courage! Ken Carnes, # 191999, CWC, P.O. Box 500, Mitchells, VA 22729.

R. Butler: Male creator/inventor enjoys science. At solemnity with Mother Earth. Desires natural alternative medicine and machines that are environmentally friendly. Ste. 280-344, Mitchells, VA 22729-0500.

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.

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@mindspring.com>, 334-826-3953.

Robert Batts: Single male very interested in a new way of thinking in terms of revering Mother Earth and the Pagan community. I am very interested in meeting a male or female that would be a friend in assisting me in my learning process. Hope to hear from you soon! Robert Batts III #216382, P.O. Box 500, 6B 3TOP, Mitchells, VA 22729-0500.

Robert Beckeor: I'm new at this. You are water and I'm a sponge. Fill me up with your knowledge. I'm thirsty. Robert Beckeor #1209446, Rt. 2 Box 500, Teague, TX 75860.

Samara: <kvsmith@farmerstel.com>.

Scott Bingham: 34 year old new member, very interested in learning. Scott Bingham, #26622, C.U.C.F., P.O. Box 550, Gunnison, UT, 84634.

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.

Contacts (continued):

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>.

Book Reviews:

The Meaning Of Witchcraft - by Gerald Gardner, Weiser Books, 2004

The point of view I gained from reading The Meaning of Witchcraft by Gerald Gardner: enlightened my previous perspective. I now know witchcraft is beliefs and practices of old religions, not "devil worshiping!" Its history dates to days before "the devil" was born. Thank you Gerald Gardner for opening my eyes.

Reviewed by Scott Bingham

Balance Point - by Joseph "Joe" Jenkins, Jenkins Publishing, PA, 2000

I highly recommend everyone to take a moment in time to read the "search for Joseph's spiritual missing link." The book is about how the death of Joe's great aunt Lucy, a well-educated professor of physics, started his quest to find his own inner "balance point." Balance point is in everyone, but religious "beliefs" have confused the humans' inner essence which is your ego's link to spirituality. The author, very uniquely, tells his story giving details of his reluctant journey, and how Wiccan, Native American, and Shamanic ceremonies or rituals can save Mother Earth. The story is the awakening of how foolish ego-based beliefs of human greed is destroying our earth's life support system at an alarming, devastating rate.

At a very early age, I experienced my connection to Mother Earth and all my relations who we all must live together in harmony with on this very fragile third living rock from Father Sun. Joe's book is the work of a spiritual prophet, but it is we humans who must seek out the many paths to change the known destiny of "global poisoning." Joe has included many pathways all humans must take to save their own life. Yet, without a spiritual messiah movement to lead the foolish, greedy humans, the obvious will soon come to pass.

Read Balance Point, as your life and the next seven generations truly depend on your spiritual awakening. You must order the book by calling 1-800-639-4099, or go to <<http://www.jenkinspublishing.com/balance.html>>.

Reviewed by Firedancer

When Someone You Love is Wiccan - by Carl McColman, New Page Books, 2003

In reviewing When Someone You Love is Wiccan, it basically came down to one question: would I give this book to someone in order to help them understand my choice of religious path? Probably not.

As a whole, When Someone You Love is Wiccan does offer a basic explanation of Wiccan beliefs and practices. But some of that explanation comes off as oversimplified and "bubble-gum" to me, and, I think that some non-Wiccan readers would get such an impression as well. After their reading of it, I would feel compelled to explain most things myself anyway. Which is why (after reading it twice through) I would not bother with this overpriced book to begin with. There are other books, internet sites, and even pamphlets out there that will do a much better job of opening the door of understanding. So my recommendation is don't bother. You can do much better with your \$13.99.

Reviewed by Timothy O'Brien

On the Back Porch, continued from page 6

Well, I guess in summary, young children already brought up in a pagan household would be more apt and ready to search and question and follow paganism at a much early age if emotionally mature enough to understand. Underage teens who inquire because of what they hear or see from their friends, or who are not content in their own present beliefs and seeking guidance, should be directed toward any bookstore to read the literature that's so commonly available on the shelves. Then further questions may be answered WITH their parents' permission, which can also include their attendance at open circles on Sabbats/Esbats, if the parents have no objection.

That's all I have for the moment; again, I welcome any comments whatsoever on this or any other article. May the Gentle Goddess and Her consort always smile upon you. Blessed Be.



A list of occult suppliers, provided by Firedancer (thank you!)

Runa-Raven Press
P.O. Box 575
Bastrop, TX 78601

The Conjured Night
P.O. Box 16844
Chapel Hill, NC 22516

The Sorcerer's Apprentice
2103 Adderbury Circle
Madison, WI 53711

Earth Magic Productions
3110 Portland St.
Eugene, OR 97405

Tenth Muse Productions
11 Piling St.
Haverhill, MA 01832

Gate of Tara
P.O. Box 557
Smithville, TX 78957

Capestries
Snow Hill
Appleton, ME 04862

Dragonz of the Heart
P.O. Box 367
Snowflake, AZ 85937

Wand Works
P.O. Box 5063
Chula Vista, CA 91912

Ancient Forest Essences
372 Franklin Ave.
Redlands, CA 92373

Vault of Eden
P.O. Box 51283
Provo, UT 84603

Moonscents & Magical Blends
P.O. Box 381588
Cambridge, MA 02238

Rosewind's Simples
453 Proctor Rd.
Manchester, NH 03109

Crystal Portal
P.O. Box 1934
Upper Marlboro, MD 20773

Cerridwen's Garden
P.O. Box 386
Perry, ME 04667

Abyss Distribution
48 Chester Rd.
Chester, MA 01011

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:

August 1, 2004, Auburn, AL; October 31, 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