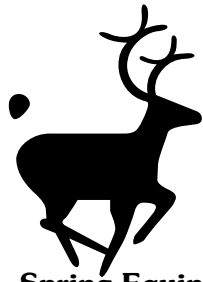


The Journey...



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

Issue 30
Spring Equinox, 2005

NEWS

Another Loss: Since the last newsletter was published, we've lost another good friend. Patricia J. Hembree, aka RoseHawk Blue, formerly known by Cherokee Rose or Myra, passed away on January 1, 2005. She is survived by her mother and daughter, Amanda. RoseHawk was an inspiration to many, having gone through many personal battles. After working a 12-step program successfully, she began sharing this method with other pagans at gatherings. She was the first to do a 12-step program during a gathering at Dragon Hills. There were several memorials held in her honor, including the first memorial where her family requested her Wiccan friends, fellow CST members, her Bird Clan friends, and her 12-step brothers and sisters to each come together by the river to honor her in their own way; a fire walk in her memory; and a sweat lodge. Her laughter will always be remembered as well as her spirit of service.

Staff Changes: We have some new staff members! Tim Hornsby is the new chairperson of the Pagan Prisoner Committee; and Siryn Dolphinson will be taking over as newsletter editor starting with the summer issue. Kristi Weldon is helping with all manner of things, including fundraisers, mailings, etc. In fact, we are nominating her to be the new Secretary/Treasurer this year (I have her named currently as the Goddess of Everything, for lack of a better title)! Finally, Den is still maintaining the Library, and doing a great job of it - he has all the books out of the boxes and organized onto shelves.

Who to Write To: Since we have these wonderful new staff people, the Auburn, AL address will no longer be the only contact address! Look on the next page for our full listing of officers, along with their new contact addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. So if you have questions about anything relating to the Pagan Prisoner Committee, or to things related to inmates in general, write to Tim. If you have questions about the Library, or book requests, write to Den. If you have something for the newsletter, write to Siryn. If you have questions about groves, ordination, and general CST questions, write to Cathy. And after the elections in May, if you have membership questions or anything that the Secretary/Treasurer would handle, write to our new officer (I'll still be here, but will be concentrating on Sacred Grove Academy).

Raffles: As a fundraiser, CST is having two raffles, for some gorgeous tables that Hans Brandt made and gave to us at FallFling 2004. We will have more photos of the tables soon, as well as physical dimensions, but as you can see from the photos on the web page, these tables are absolutely beautiful! The pentacle table opens to a storage compartment, and the three moon tables together are very striking. Any of these would be the perfect centerpiece for an altar or other ritual space. We will draw for these raffles at Moondance 2005 (<http://www.faeriefaitth.net/Moondance.html>), but you do not have to be present to win! Tickets are only \$2 each per raffle, and you can view the tables and buy your tickets at the CST raffle web page: <http://www.spiraltree.org/raffletables.html>.

- 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 who respect themselves and others, 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 Community Relief Fund, so we can collectively donate money in the name of an established Pagan church to individuals in need and to disaster relief efforts, including the American Red Cross.

CST Board of Directors:

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Vice President Don Mikovitz
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P.O. Box 186, Auburn, AL 36831-0186
(334) 332-3065;
<homeschool@sacredgroveacademy.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."

Pagan Prisoner Committee

by Tim Hornsby

Hi Everyone. This is a note to introduce myself to those of you I haven't met and to our members who are incarcerated. Until January 10, 2005, I was incarcerated and a pagan prisoner CST member. I joined the church in 2002 and began a correspondence with Cliff Landis and Violet Jade. At that time I was the same angry and defeated person who was incarcerated years before. I did consider myself a Wiccan before I ever contacted the church but I just hadn't changed.

With a little compassion and patience on their part and a willingness to change on my part, the course of my life was altered forever. Eventually other people in the Pagan Prisoner Committee began to write me. Cam and Christy were the most loyal pen pals I had and I still count them among the best of my friends. I am so grateful to the people who took the time to write me. Without them I would not have been able to stand.

Through the influence of my pen pals I discovered that to be happy I would have to face myself. This was and sometimes still is the hardest thing I have ever done. And while it has been the hardest thing I've ever attempted, it has been the most rewarding thing I've ever done. It is scary to face the things that I had kept hidden within myself all these years. And my pen pals encouraged me not to give up.

I was released and attended the CST Imbolc ritual where I was warmly welcomed and found a lot of friends. I am still amazed at how accepting everyone in the Pagan community has been. I was honored by being elected as chairman of the Pagan Prisoner Committee. I am so grateful for this opportunity because I am passionate about working with incarcerated pagans. There will be an article in The Journey devoted to the PPC. Its purpose is to focus on the needs of our incarcerated members and to bring awareness of the issues our incarcerated members face to the "freeworld" church members.

The first thing I'd like to focus on is making sure that all of our incarcerated members have pen pals. Letters are so important to someone in prison. Never underestimate the influence each of us possess. Did you know that most state prisons have banned all forms of Paganism? Yep. Many prisons won't even allow Pagan literature to be read! I can't describe how frustrating it is to have authorities block any attempt to pursue Pagan religious study.

So a lot of incarcerated Pagans rely on letters alone

as learning tools. And many of you know how difficult it is to try finding your way in the dark on your path. We all need guidance. Imagine being the only Pagan in your world with no festivals, no email, no internet, no chat rooms, and no minister who will teach you. Imagine having to hide your literature for fear that it will be taken from you by some prejudiced officer.

These are the things many of our members face. The only outlet they have is your letter. It is our duty to make sure that when anyone stretches out their hand for guidance that CST has also extended its hand in compassion to offer them guidance and friendship. You can make a difference just by simply sending a letter to them. When they get a letter it lets them know that they are cared about.

When you know that someone else cares about you it can give you a sense of value. I remember the time before I discovered CST when "d write 50 letters a week trying to make contact with someone and never get a response. That was so discouraging. We need to make sure that our members on the inside don't experience this. And besides, what is greater than seeing someone rise out of self-defeat into health? We need more volunteers to be a pen pal to one or more of our incarcerated members.

The rest of this article is directed toward our incarcerated members. If you just want a pen pal, that's what you'll have. But you can have so much more! Use us to facilitate your growth. If you have a need, let us know how we can help. All of your letters sent to the PPC address (CST Prison Outreach, P.O. Box 45, Wetumpka, AL 36092; PPC@spiraltree.org) will be answered. It may not be an immediate answer as some of your requests require research. But they will all be given attention.

If you have any recommendations, suggestions, or complaints, let us hear them. I am placing myself in your service. We care about you and your spiritual well being. Note that the main P.O. box address is for requests to the church. Pen pals use their own return address so if it is different than the main P.O. box; use theirs for their correspondence. I would like for all of our incarcerated members to send the name of their pen pal, or something to let me know that you don't yet have a pen pal. That would be a big help. Thanks guys.

Until the Summer Solstice issue—Blessings!!!



Finding Your Hands

A Dreamwork Exercise

by Wayne Guy Carter

In one of Carlos Castenada's books, I forget which, possibly "Second Ring of Power," he makes reference to 'finding your hands in your dreams.' He does not get into it that deeply—not even a chapter.

At the time of the reading I was already doing dreamwork, so it didn't seem that big a deal to do this. I figured in 30 days I could find my hands in my dreams, surely. Not! It took a year to **truly** find my hands as opposed to taking note of them and remembering it upon waking.

There is an element of stalking in this quest, but it is not mandatory. These phases, or steps, are the ones I took in this exercise.

- 1) Take note that you even *have* hands in your dreams. Note and **locate** your hand/hands; preferably you want both of them in the picture.
- 2) **Focus** on your hands. Where are they? What are they doing? Driving a car? Opening a window?
- 3) After steps one and two, the third step comes a little quicker (for me, two months), and that is: Getting your hands to do your will (let go of the steering wheel, pull over, put it in park; lock/unlock the window, raise/lower the window).
- 4) The fourth step is the hardest and never-ending one: Controlling your hands. Directing your hands to accomplish something you choose.

Now **this** takes you into some wild hinterlands of your subconscious—the *dreamscape* if you will. I say "wild" primarily because no matter how much you tell yourself in the waking world "I'm going to direct my hands to lead me here/there" it just never seems to work out that way, for when you are *dreaming* at this level, waking world choices seem irrelevant. You will **maybe** have the **thought** but in my experience the *dreamself* **always** says "let's go this way." Spoken as a suggestion, not an order, I've never disagreed, so I don't know where that would lead you—but following the lead can lead you into memorable places and the lessons they impart. Which of course leads to dream interpretation, which is an individual art for the most part, and this is a dreamwork exercise.

My taking a year and a half to get any kind of direction and control is due to my own fogginess and lack of clarity. I've shared this exercise with others who have "got it" quicker than I. Those with Native American blood seem to "get it" quicker than most. This is not necessarily a good thing either, for when it came easily, every one of them tended to discount it and lost interest, thus not getting any benefit from the exercise. Failing to find the beauty in it, if you will.

My personal experience is a strengthening of psychic energy and focus. This is a very subtle thing, not immediately felt or recognized; no laser light show nor heavenly chorus.

Whatever this space is, whatever name it may be known by, or unknown by for that matter, it is an energy space, and to tap into it causes psychic energy to expand and be known in the waking world. In my case clearer Tarot readings and heightened intuitive powers. It took two more years to realize that. Duh!

Hopefully by sharing this exercise I'll save some dreamworkers some time and effort so the lessons can begin. I want to also say this is not on the style of lucid dreaming techniques, though each work well with the other.

The "finding hands technique" has worked well for me, once I gained enough experience in it. So in my humble opinion, lucid dreaming is a shallower form of dreamwork, but again, that's just my opinion. Dreamworkers all travel in a pathless land; there are definitely no absolutes here except the ability to fall asleep (insomniacs have a difficult time with it).



MINUTES

CHURCH OF THE SPIRAL TREE

Board of Directors

February 27, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Rankin at 12:15 pm, in LaGrange, Georgia with the following Directors and members present:

Cathy Rankin, President; Don Mikovitz, Vice-President; Linda Kerr, Secretary/Treasurer; Lee Mikovitz, Member-at-Large; Timothy Hornsby, Pagan Prisoner Committee Chairperson; Craig Kerr; Tracy; and Joanie.

New Business

New officers: Siryn will take over *The Journey* (newsletter). Linda will get with her about the address to submit articles to. Tim Hornsby is now the Chairperson of the Pagan Prisoner Committee. Densho is still the Librarian, and is doing a great job. Linda will retire as Secretary/Treasurer by the end of this year. Kristi Weldon has volunteered for this position; the Board agrees she would be a good choice, and nominated her for this position.

Our current Registered Agent for Georgia is WillowBlue, but since we're centered now towards Columbus, it'd be good to have that person be closer to that area. Cathy suggested her mother, who is at home during the day, and called her to make sure it'd be okay. So now our new Registered Agent for Georgia is Margaret Scott in Columbus. The Board gratefully recognized and thanked WillowBlue for faithfully serving as Registered Agent for several years.

If our officers need hardware or software or other items in order to do their job, CST will fund it, with stipulation that it be returned to CST when they give up the position.

Siryn volunteered to do a logo for CST. Cathy will contact her about that. Linda will have t-shirts made from the logo, before Moondance.

Camenaes has volunteered to do flyers for rituals, fund-raisers, etc.

Linda has up to ten email addresses through the CST domain hosting service (Drak.Net). Three are already being used. Could assign one to the newsletter. These are available for officers, groves, the librarian, prisoner committee, etc.

The committee members, Librarian (Densho), the grove members, and other interested members are always invited to attend our BOD meetings. We will begin emailing members prior to the meeting date to invite them, or will post notices about meetings on the CST website.

Tim will write an article introducing himself, and will have an article for the prisoners in each issue of the newsletter. He needs a PO box in his town. Linda will get him the link for all the prison addresses. He needs to post guidelines for writing to prisoners. Nion will be BOD member advisor for PPC. Camenaes has volunteered to do a flyer. Tim suggested we buy a subscription to Paganet News for each of our inmate members; he can get these for half price. Linda will send a check with a note, saying this was approved by Aranea for Tim Hornsby.

Fundraisers: We need to promote our raffles—the Pentacle Table raffle, and the 3 Moons Tables raffle—heavily, before Moondance. We need to get Camenaes to make flyers for the raffle! We will draw for the raffles Saturday night at Moondance, on stage, after the potluck. People expect us to have a silent auction and a raffle at festivals. We'll do a silent auction on Saturday, noon till 3 pm. Linda wants to make sure that the vendors don't feel like the *have* to donate, especially now since she is charging vendors for booth space at Moondance and FallFling. Alternatively, we could go to stores in our area and ask for donations, tell them it is tax-deductible. We have a raffle item for FallFling already: skippy donated a brand-new DVD player, still in the box, in lieu of paying his yearly membership dues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 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.

2005:

May Day: April 30, Waverly, AL. We will hold our traditional May Day celebration, which does not include a ritual in the usual sense, but will be a lot of fun! Plan to arrive at our place in Waverly by 10:00 am, (morning!!) and bring some sort of fun costume to wear. There'll be a pot-luck and party that night at the same location. Please bring a tent to camp. Please RSVP, so we know how many ribbons to cut for the May pole. Cost: CST members are free; others \$2.00 to pay for ribbons. Most anybody is invited, but please ask first! We don't want spectators there, as this is one of our chances to get wild and crazy and go with the energies of the season. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

General Membership Meeting: Sunday, May 29, during Moondance, at Dragon Hills near Carrollton. Includes election of officers.

Summer Solstice: June 18, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

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

Pagan Pride Day/Fall Equinox: Date TBA, Pagan Pride Day, including the Fall Equinox ritual, at the Arboretum, on the Auburn University campus, Auburn, AL. CST is co-coordinating with Pantheon. Time is from noon-7:00 pm, with the Equinox ritual starting at 5:00 pm Central time. Admission is two canned food items per person, to be donated to the East Alabama Food Bank.

Samhain: November 5, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Yule: December 17 OR 18, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards.

Maka Wakan (Salem, AL) - Part of Cedar Grove:

Hello Brothers and Sisters: We are very excited and will be expanding as the year goes on. We are blessed this year to be working closely with the Bird Clan of the Free Cherokee. Camping available. For questions, please call Helen at (334)-790-0044 or email at <realestatered@yahoo.com>.

Mar. 25-27 - BirdClan Corn Dance

Mar. 25 - Star Lodge

Mar. 26-27 - Various Activities, Dancing in of the corn, Maiden's ceremony, egg hunt and much more, This will be a great weekend, Camping available, bring your tents, chairs and join in the fun.

Apr. 23 - Stone Peoples Lodge

Apr. 24 - Mens and Womens craft-together time

May 14 - Stone People's Lodge

May 15 - Crafts, ceremony

June 24-26 - Honoring Spirit Dance #4. This is a dance to honor all our relations. We need drummers and dancers and support people.

July 2-4 - Women's Beach Weekend. Ceremony on the beach to honor the waters of life, lots of fun.

July 15-27 - Sundance in South Dakota

Aug. 20-21 - Stone People's Lodge; Women and Men's workshop weekend

Sep. 1-5 - BirdClan Vision Quest, Reverie

Sep. 23-25 - Ripe Corn Dance, BirdClan Sponsored

Oct. 30 - Children's Day Ceremony. Dress up, Dancing,
Native American New Year.
Nov. 11-13 - 4th Annual Native American Festival,
Auburn, AL
Nov. 12 - Late evening Stone People's Lodge
Dec. 3-4 - Stone People's Lodge, Men and Women's
weekend
Dec. 16-18 - Fifth Annual BirdClan of East Central
Alabama's Winter Solstice PowWow, location TBA

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Moondance	May 26-30, 2005	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Earthdance	September 3-5, 2005	Kolomoki Mounds St. Pk., Blakely, GA
FallFling	October 6-9, 2005	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!).

Review guidelines: Please write whatever you think of the book; be honest. When sending in your review, please write neatly, and list the book title, author, publisher name, publisher location, and year of publication.

Witch on the Go: A Book of Spells to Take With You - by Cal Garrison

A Wiccan Formulary & Herbal - by A.J. Drew

Amulets & Talismans for Beginners - by Richard Webster

Candle Magic for Beginners - by Richard Webster

Buckland's Book of Saxon Witchcraft - by Raymond Buckland

Queen of the Night: Rediscovering the Celtic Moon Goddess - by Sharynne MacLeod NicMhacha

The Golden Builders: Alchemists, Rosicrucians, & the First Freemasons - by Tobias Churton

Magickal Mermaids & Water Creatures - by D.J. Conway

The Path of the Feather: A Handbook & Kit for Making Medicine Wheels & Calling in the Spirit Animals - by Michael Samuels & Mary Rockwood Lane

One Nation Under God (Fiction): A Fresh Look at the Dangers of Theocracy & the Importance of a Secular Government - by Vincent M. Wales

Book Reviews:

Exploring Native American Wisdom - by Fran Dancing Feather & Rita Robinson, New Page Books

A very well-written spiritual reference book of ceremonies to help control your spirituality. It is a “must have” book in all your spiritual ceremonies or ritual libraries.

I was born into the Cherokee spiritual path of the “Red Road.” I have a very modern understanding of the scientific physics of how and why the ceremonies work. The book is not written by a Christian anthropologist but by two true spiritual practitioners.

As a Wiccan, you will see how very close Native American and Wiccan ceremonies or rituals are practiced. The two authors have joined their spiritual minds to offer the reader a true path to follow. You will see that ceremonies or rituals are to help keep the mind in focus to the inner spiritual path. You must obtain your wisdom by education and experiences. This book is the first step on anyone’s quest to enter the spiritual world. We Pagan-Mother Earth based minded humans obtain our “divinity” from within and not from a man-god from an outside source.

I highly recommend this book as a reference book to maintain in your library. To order, call 1-800-CAREER-1 or on-line, www.newpagebooks.com, or www.careerpress.com.

Reviewed by Firedancer

A Wiccan Bible - by A.J. Drew, New Page Books

A Wiccan Bible is definitely not your run-of-the-mill book on Wicca. A.J. Drew has written the type of book we need to see more of from Wiccan/Pagan authors, a book about the deep application of Wicca as a personal religion. Right from the preface, through discussion of such topics as basic Wiccan ritual formula and Wiccan rites, creation, the number three (which, in itself, I found wonderfully enlightening), belief in the existence of evil, fate, the Wiccan soul, familiars, dogma and doctrine, Wiccan community, the state of the environment, the afterlife, and much more; this book will make you think—a lot!

A Wiccan Bible, as a demonstration of the author’s character and value as a member of the Wiccan community, shows that A.J. Drew is one stand-up Witch. And I greatly appreciate that he wrote this book, as it led me to ask numerous questions of myself, and answer them as well.

As quoted in A Wiccan Bible, “Our creator is evidenced by our creativity.” I would add that our Wiccan spirituality is evidenced by our personal application of Wiccan in our lives. So, if you are looking for a thought-provoking and spiritually refreshing book on the application of Wiccan beliefs and philosophy, then A Wiccan Bible is a book for you. My highest recommendation.

Reviewed by Timothy O’Brien



On the Back Porch With Nion

Reflections on a Life's Journey

Who Rules the Religious Roost?

(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 19, Imbolc 1996.)

Howdy ya'll, Nion here. I was discussing with some other pagan friends the other day the difficulties at times of being in a household whose spouse or significant other happens to be Christian, and who may or may not be very tolerant. Well! Since I happen to be in that circumstance, I thought I'd pass on my observations on the subject.

In the beginning of my search for a spiritual path and involvement in the pagan community, my spouse and I had some very serious arguments concerning my activities. She had difficulty in understanding my NEED to search out my own inner spiritualism and growth, because of her own religious upbringing and her rejection of anything not Christian. At that particular time, as far as she was concerned, it was at least the lesser of two evils to be an atheist (as I was for quite a while), just as long as I wasn't doing them "heathen" things.

Actually, I had an easier time with my in-laws who were even more fundamentalist, because once I satisfied them that I wasn't devil worshiping or sacrificing babies, they at least tolerated my differing spiritual viewpoint. Of course it did help that when they asked me what I did on the full moon, I told them that I sing and dance nekked around a bonfire and howled at the moon (of course, they THOUGHT I was joking), and that put them at ease; because they have always thought I was a bit "weird" and that sounded just like what I would probably do anyway. I suppose it does help to be unconventional all your life. Ha! Anyway, being the family heathen has its moments.


It also helped that my kids are grown up and semi-set in their own ways, so I haven't "polluted or contaminated" their Christian upbringing too much, although my daughter, now 21, is showing more interest in paganism. So it might be interesting to see how the next year or two will come out.

Back to the monthly arguments that occurred come time for the Full or New Moon esbats or the seasonal Sabbats (or even pagan gatherings like Moondance), of why I should go off and worship at night or spend a lot of time at pagan functions. Well, after several months of this, I finally had it up to here, and got pissed off at her and

told her my "religious" services and activities were no different from her going to church twice on Sundays, her very active involvement in the youth programs and choir, her one and two week summer camps, and her meetings on the board of directors of her church. I just do it at different times, and would she kindly (actually, I don't think I was THAT polite at the time) SHUT UP because I didn't want to hear anymore about it. Anyway, that DID shut her up, and so now we agree to disagree about our differing religious outlooks and don't discuss it much anymore, though she does get a bet grumpy around "my" nights out. The only thing that I required (actually, demanded) from her was that she accord me the same respect to worship and follow my spiritual path that I give her in her own spirituality.

Also, to keep the peace around the homestead, I do make concessions at home in what paraphanelia I have laying around. I do have a corner of a spare bedroom with my "stuff" on it, and slowly, bit by bit, my activities at home, though at this time somewhat low key, are gradually increasing without too much comment, other than why am I burning candles or incense at times. If she does ask what I'm doing, I simply tell her, and she just rolls her eyes, gives me a disgusted look and goes her way. If I need to do anything major, I have friends who help me out with a place to work and who provide physical, spiritual, and at times emotional support. Thank the Goddess.

Overall, being in a "different" faith than a spouse or significant other can be at times trying, sometimes demanding on your emotions and self-control, requires some give and take (all sounds like keeping a marriage alive and well!) and mutual respect to follow whatever path you choose. You can only try not to interfere or be blatant and push your own beliefs on someone else, because that is just as wrong as Christian intolerance to ours. With genuine love and caring between spouses or significant others, a lot of faith in the Lord and Lady, and sometimes emotional support from fellow pagans, it can all work out.

Well, guess I'll mosey along for now, so bye, and may the Gentle Goddess and the Horned One keep you smiling and strong at heart. Blessed Be. 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.

Alice Lynch: skyhy@charter.net.

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

Ceirde Branwen: I have been a practicing Scottish witch since 1997, my life studies include Scottish witchcraft and Native American practices. I study and observe the Fire Feasts and solstices with a wonderful group of people in Albany, GA. Slan beo. I can be contacted at <scottish.witch@earthlink.net>.

Densho: From Montgomery and all points thereof. Email: <densho@knology.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.

Jay Lynch: dragonwolf@ancientmerchants.com.

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.

John Empey: Looking to connect with others who are seeking friendship. I am eager to learn more and to grow in the religion. Blessed Be! John Empey #22166, C.U.C.F., FIR C-03, P.O. Box 550, Gunnison, UT 84634-0550.

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.

Lady Bridget: Coven of Bridget Well; 517-541-1511; lady-bridget-82160@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Stephen "Tyernan WaterOak": An intuitive medium and natural healer. Within his Eclectic Witch path, he does tarot reading, Rootwork, Chakra balancing, crystal healing, energy work, and Reiki. Stephen owns Bio-Buzz Botanica, a metaphysical supply and service oriented business. In ordainment, he offers legal communions, handfastings, handpartings, wiccanings, and requiems (passing on rites). At the store and across the US, Stephen and his partner Siryn offer ongoing classes, workshops, and various teachings. The store is also the home of Albany Pagans bi-weekly discussion group and P.A.T.H.S. Center, a non-profit organization for those of non-mainstream belief systems, which has its own private temple and library. Stephen A. Bradford a/k/a Tyernan WaterOak, 612 N. Slapppy Blvd., Albany, GA 31701, 229-438-5878, email: tyernan2003@yahoo.com.

Siryn Dolphinsong: An intuitive reader who does Chiromnomy and is a Chiromantist. She is also a healer who uses natural stone heat therapy, crystal healing, pendulum centering, grounding and balancing along with some energy work. As a returning spirit, she also helps with Past life regression. Her work as a minister includes offering legal communions, Croning/Sagehood, handfastings, handpartings, wiccanings, and requiems (passing on rites). Born into a Witch family, Siryn does in-depth classes, workshops, and seminars at their store Bio-Buzz Botanica as well as traveling as guest speakers across the US along with her partner Stephen. Join albanypagans@yahoogroups.com to receive updates on their next traveling seminar 'True Witchcraft', which will begin Fall '04 in Florida. Siryn Dolphinsong, 612 N. Slapppy Blvd., Albany, GA 31701, 229-438-5878, email: bretonwitch@yahoo.com.

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.



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 and 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. 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

Millennial Kingdom

They publish a newsletter, Rays of Light, 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)

The Millennial Kingdom
Rev. Paul Salem or Louise Salem
681 North Second St.
Pottsville, PA 17901

Wiccan Course

Gail Wood offers a Wiccan course that deals a lot with meditations. She also created The Coven of the Barbed Pentacle just for the incarcerated. (From Tony Curtis Jackson)

Gail "Blaze" Wood
P.O. Box 15
McLean, NY 13102-0015
witchwood@mindspring.com

SYDA Foundation

For those interested in meditations. They offer a Siddha Yoga meditation course free to prisoners: a 12 year course, two lessons a month. (From Tony Curtis Jackson)

SYDA Foundation
Prison Project
P.O. Box 99140
Emeryville, CA 94662

Church of the Spiral Tree

Absentee Ballot

2005 Annual Membership Meeting

May 29, 2005, 12:00 pm

Moondance, Carrollton, GA

Election of Board of Directors/Officers:

President

- Cathy Rankin
 _____ (write-in)

Secretary/Treasurer

- Kristi Weldon
 _____ (write-in)

Vice-President

- Don Mikovitz (Nion)
 _____ (write-in)

Member-at-Large

- Linda Kerr
 _____ (write-in)

Change to Bylaws:

Remove the sentence "all who revere the Earth Mother and adhere to the tenets of the Wiccan Rede ("An it harm none, do as you will")" in both the Preamble and in Article III and replace with "all who revere the Earth Mother and respect and honor themselves and others". The current phrasing is shown below:

PREAMBLE

Purpose: The Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical pagan/wiccan church, designed to foster a sense of community and family among pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world. It is an ecumenical church in that it encompasses all traditions, and is non-exclusive. It welcomes ***all who revere the Earth Mother and adhere to the tenets of the Wiccan Rede ("An it harm none, do as you will")***, regardless of which tradition one is affiliated with.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

3.1: The purpose of this Corporation shall be as outlined in the Articles of Incorporation; and specifically the following:

3.1.1: To foster and celebrate a sense of community and family among pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world, and to recognize and celebrate the unique pagan family: parents, children, elders, and extended family;

3.1.2: To provide an ecumenical church that 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 already affiliated with, recognizing that all paths are one path;

- Approve Disapprove

Comments on any of the above:

NOTE: You must be an active (paid or inmate) member at the time of the Annual Membership Meeting for your vote to count!

If you choose to vote absentee, you cannot change your vote or vote again in person at the meeting.

Your vote will remain confidential, but for our records, please provide your name and current address.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Please mail to CST, P.O. Box 186, Auburn, AL 36831-0186 no later than May 22, 2005.

Important Dates

Board of Directors' Meetings:

Held four times a year; check website at <<http://www.spiraltree.org/officers.html>> for date of next meeting

Annual Meeting of the General Membership:

May 29, 2005, Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA (includes election of officers)

Dates of Sabbats for 2005 (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 21

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED