

# The Journey...



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

Issue 31  
Summer Solstice, 2005

## NEWS

**A Special Thanks:** This 2005 Moondance carried an extra special CST members' meeting. It was very fitting that Linda Kerr was recognized for all the hard work she has done for the Pagan/Wiccan community, the pagan prisoners, the Sacred Grove Academy, and CST in it's entirety! Now, with more staff to share the duties Linda used to take on, she can concentrate on the Sacred Grove Academy and her festivals. For myself there's no surprises, I know I have big shoes to fill. I'm just glad she'll hopefully have more time for herself and family.

**Staff Changes:** We have some new staff members! Tim Hornsby is the new chairperson of the Pagan Prisoner Committee. Siryn Dolphinson is newsletter editor of The Journey, with this being the first edition. Kristi Weldon is the new Secretary/Treasurer this year and is helping with many tasks, including fundraisers, mailings, etc. and Den respectively continues to maintain the Library - he has all the books out of boxes and organized onto shelves.

**Who to Write To:** For the first time, Linda's Auburn, AL address will no longer be the only contact address. The next page is a full listing of officers, along with 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, write to Densho. If you have something for The Journey newsletter, book reviews, or book requests from the list on page 8, please write to Siryn. If you have questions about groves, ordination, and general CST questions, write to Cathy. Any questions you have regarding memberships, or anything that the Secretary/Treasurer would handle write to Kristi. Lastly, any needed information on home schooling or the Sacred Grove Academy should be written to Linda. Whatever you do, never hesitate to write one of us!

**Raffles:** As a fundraiser, CST had two raffles at Moondance 2005, for some gorgeous tables that Hans Brandt made and gave to us at FallFling 2004. The pentacle table opens to a storage compartment, and the three moon tables together are very striking. After manifesting what she wanted, it was no surprise Leephether walked away with the three moon tables. Then, James Andrews arrived to hear his name drawn for the colorful pentacle table. All together, the raffles for the two tables brought in \$144 for CST.

The silent auction made \$283 on the silent auction. A very special thank you goes out to all the vendors and individuals who donated items for the silent auction. With out all of you it would be impossible!

The 50/50 for the pagan prisoner committee made \$90, \$45 went to winner, Brian Tant and \$45 to the PPC for postal expenses.

-Siryn

## 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 home schooling 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.

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### CST Board of Directors:

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## Info About Our Services:

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

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

# The Journey... with me!

**B**lessings Everyone! I just wanted to give a big “Hello” to all of you.

In the last newsletter, you were told some chick named ‘Siryn Dolphinsong’ would be taking over as editor/publisher of The Journey. Yep, that’s my name, I’m here and ready to go.

First though, I will tell you some about me. I am a 39 year old Eclectic Witch, who loves to heal, hug, and hang with people I love.

I won’t go to much into my path, other than to say that I am open-minded, listen all the time, and love to be a sponge to other points of view. I can’t ever get enough knowledge. I’ve been on the path for many years, and respect each person’s right to individuality.

For more than three years now, I have attended Linda’s festivals and enjoyed them all thoroughly. That’s where I first learned about the Church of the Spiral Tree. After becoming a member, I knew it was only a matter of time before I would have to do some hands-on volunteering. It started with a logo, and before I knew it, I was getting newsletter instructions from Linda. I’m always willing to help and The Journey fits right in at home.

Even though at this point in my life I only do freelance, writing is a passion and was a previous career for me. You see, two years ago I left our local daily

paper to join my life-partner with his metaphysical store Bio-Buzz Botanica and have never looked back.

At the paper, there was only so much freedom, and the daily responsibilities definitely out-weighed doing much in the way of creative expression. How many times can you make Real Estate sound passionate! After five years, I left to pursue writing books and articles on the spiritual path I love.

Today, I am a published pagan author with a top-line publisher and more book writing is in the works as we speak. Plus, my partner Stephen, and I are also creating a meditation CD in a studio, which should be ready by fall. We hopefully will get enough copies to make available for CST members by request!

So, there’s a little about me. I hope to keep up to par with the previous editions of the newsletter and hope you enjoy the read.

A little request though...if any of you would like to submit an original article or other written material to be included in the newsletter, it would deeply be appreciated for future editions.

My contact information is on page two, and I really look forward to getting to know those who I have yet to meet! 🐾

**-Siryn**



# Mother Earth Healing: A Celebration of Shamanism

*(Summary: Twelve Shamans from around the world gathered to share ceremony to heal Mother Earth. These excerpts from the diary of Shaman Elder Maggie Wahls describe the 3 days of sharing and healing work.)*

September 10, 2004. I agreed to attend a Shamanic healing for Mother Earth. Twelve Shamans from different cultures meet in Lake Tahoe for 3 days to sing and dance and pray together. Today we built a sweat lodge and purified ourselves for the work we were there to do. The camaraderie was high and we all enjoyed meeting each other. At night we built a large bonfire and roasted chicken and corn around the edges. We then opened our ceremony with a prayer to bless the earth and to bless each one of us. We offered tobacco and burned sage. We passed a talking stick and each had a turn to tell about our homes, our practices and our prayers we brought to this meeting. We ended the night with a song and dance. Some people went into their journeys as we danced but I sang and enjoyed the night air. I climbed into my tent quite worn out from the big day and slept to the aroma of cedar and pine. Very healing.

September 11: We went up into the Sierras to an elevation of 7,500 feet where we built a medicine wheel. Everyone participated and each brought something to add to the wheel. Then four Native American Shamans held ceremony, dedicated the wheel and offering it purpose for healing Mother Earth. We began a dance and song with drumming and as we danced we saw the wind become visible and turn into a vortex over the medicine wheel. It was white and spinning very fast directly over the center of the wheel and it slowly rose up into the sky and departed taking our prayers for healing and peace with it. It was awesome. I don't think I had ever seen the air so visible before. We went back to our camp and had a wonderful lunch of bread and salmon and vegetables. Everyone was so cooperative and helpful to each other. It was though we had all known each other forever.

There were Native American and South American Shamans and 2 Celtic Shamans, 3 European Shamans like myself and one Shaman from Australia so we were representing the whole world. We spent the afternoon resting and preparing ourselves for the big ceremony that night.

A program had been developed allowing each Shaman to give something of his or her own practice to the group. As the sun sank in the west and bonfire reached into the night sky the Native American Shamans began the ceremony with a song to Mother Earth. We all followed them in procession to our seats around the campfire and watched as they honored the four directions. Then a beautiful prayer was read aloud and time was given to let it rest upon us. The Australian Shaman brought out his didgeridoo and played an ancient song for us. It really took me back to some distant past time, some universal time of antiquity and connected me to all of history, all of time, to the Oneness of everything.

Then the Celtic Shamans sang a song from their culture that was absolutely haunting and by now the whole thing was extremely surreal! The power was being gathered to effect a healing for Mother Earth and all her people.

It was time for the European Shamans to make their

offering so the 3 of us put on a play of one of the old fables of our culture. I told the story of the wolf and the eagle while my two fellow Shamans took the roles of the wolf and the eagle in portrayal. You could feel the totem animals present all around us outside the light of the bonfire.

The South American Shamans passed the pipe of tobacco for us all to share. This communion is a unification of all people everywhere and tobacco is a standard gift to the powers that be as well. It is a ritual to establish intent and was a very sacred act by all those present. I took my tote of tobacco and blew the smoke into the bonfire carrying my own intentions of healing for myself, my loved ones and those intentions I had brought with me as requests from friends, students and clients. I could feel those intentions combining with the tobacco smoke of all the other shamans and uniting with the smoke of the bonfire.

Suddenly the bonfire grew to twice its size and the flames leaped into the night sky with incredible vigor. The drums began beating and a song was begun softly in chumash. We all joined in the singing of the song and it slowly gained strength and momentum and speed and volume and then we were all on our feet dancing together and chanting the song openly, freely and with great feeling.

The rest of the evening was great singing and dancing and many people sat to journey in their own way and time. I wore myself out and put myself into my sleeping bag for another wonderful night under the starry night to the smell of cedar and pine and the sound of distant drumming. How beautiful! I will not describe my own personal journey here as it was something very special and private for me alone. But afterwards I found that every intention I had brought with me had indeed been manifested.

September 12: our last day together. We made a wonderful breakfast over open fire of bacon and eggs and pan bread. Then we sat once more in circle and passed the pipe. After an opening prayer and salute we shared the talking stick and gave each shaman a chance to tell about his or her experience the night before. It was fascinating to hear the stories of these great healers as they described their journeys to the Inner Worlds and the beings they encountered there. One Shaman told of a healing journey for a patient of his and was sure that a cure had occurred before he even returned home. Others had journeys about healing the Earth Mother. Some had personal journeys about their own practice or an insight to an issue that was bothering them. These were incredible stories from astute healers sharing their wisdom with all of us. I felt so honored to be counted among these people!

We stood and sang one last song together with our arms wrapped around each other in community that would last far beyond just this time and place. We gathered our tents and belongings and made our way back down the mountain to civilization, to our cars and buses and back to our homes. I am so glad I was able to participate in this healing of Mother Earth and to bring my friends and clients healing there as well. I hope someday you too will be able to experience this great feeling of brotherhood and unity in healing. 🌿

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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, Member-at-Large; Timothy Hornsby, Pagan Prisoner Committee Chairperson; Kristi Weldon; and Joanie.

**New Business:**

Siryn is working on a logo - she is tweaking the one she already did for us.

All requests for equipment and supplies have to be approved by the President and the Secretary/Treasurer.

We will get new credit cards for all who need one when we open our new bank account. Cathy, Linda, Kristi, Tim, and Siryn will get one. For now will just use the cards we already have.

Kristi will need a laser printer to print letters, certificates, etc. Siryn may need one for the newsletter. Tim needs a printer, but not a laser printer. Either Cathy or Lee will loan him one.

We need to set an amount for certain types of donations, so it doesn't appear that we're playing favorites. Lee suggested we give money only to CST members, and get non-members to do some sort of fundraising. Or maybe we could have non-members who are in need be nominated by a CST member. Let's set the amount to \$200 for people in need - has to be brought before CST and approved by the President and Secretary/Treasurer, and it will be a one-time donation. For deaths, we will give \$100 for immediate family members, \$200 if the person was a CST member. Cathy suggested we give new parents a gift of \$50 to acknowledge the birth, but it won't come out of the Community Relief Fund, but rather out of the general fund. However, much objection was made, and it was decided that CST will just send a card to acknowledge a birth.

Cathy suggested that we should give grants to CST groves. Several objections were made, and it was decided to let groves raise their own money.

There was a discussion about selling art created by inmate members - they're donating it to CST, but they may also want some money back to help pay for supplies. We will probably sell any donated art at sidewalk art sales, coffee houses, or local arts festivals, rather than raffle it. Any proceeds can be used for Pagan Prisoner Committee supplies. Tim said that prisoners may expect a certain amount of money from the sale of their artwork, but we cannot guarantee any amount. We need to be up front with the inmates ahead of time - we are not professional art dealers, and don't have those connections. If they inmates do want some money sent to them from the sale, then we will split the proceeds with them 50/50. Inmates of course may also donate arts and crafts free and clear, with no stipulation or expectation of having any part of the proceeds sent to them. Before accepting any artwork or items, we need to make sure both CST and the donating person are in agreement on what will be done with any resulting money.

The Silent Auction at Moondance will be held on Saturday from 1-3:30 pm, at the Kitchen. CST helpers need to be at the Kitchen at 11 am to help set up and go get donation. For the tables raffles, we will put the tables in the Kitchen. We need raffle boxes and cash boxes for various locations. Sid & Chuck, Dallas & Debbie, registration booth. We will announce the winners of the tabs at 6:00 Saturday at pot-luck before we eat. We will have a 50-50 raffle on Sunday for the Pagan Prisoner Committee. We'll give helpers tickets at the Sunday meeting, also will have some at the registration booth. It will end at 6:00 pm Sunday, can mail a check to the winner if needed.

We need to email our members to remind them of all this. Linda can check the gate list to see which CST members will be at Moondance.

Cathy wants pictures of CST happenings at Moondance and other events to be posted on-line.

Tim wants to buy books for inmate members, or ask companies for free books. We can have a used book drive at FallFling.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. 

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The meeting was called to order at by Cathy Rankin at 12:00 pm, at Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA, with the following Directors and members present:

Cathy Rankin, President; Don Mikovitz, Vice President; Linda Kerr, Secretary/Treasurer; Lee Mikovitz, Member-at-Large; and other members.

**New Business:**

Linda announced her retirement from Secretary/Treasurer, but agreed to hold the Member-at-Large position. Nominations for election of officers and directors of the church: President: Cathy Rankin; Vice President: Don Mikovitz; Secretary/Treasurer: Kristi Weldon; Member-at-Large: Linda Kerr; and, Public Relation Coordinator: Danielle Carroll.

Results of election were unanimous for President: Cathy Rankin; Vice President: Don Mikovitz; Secretary/Treasurer: Kristi Weldon; and Member-at-Large: Linda Kerr.

The announcement and final art of the new CST Logo created by Siryn Dolphinson was presented and approved.

Linda was presented with an MP3 player as a small token of our appreciation for all her hard work and years of dedication. A luncheon then followed. Lastly, a cake was presented in Linda's honor.

With no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm. 🙏

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## CST's Inmate Member Guidelines

Any and all pagan inmates are welcome to join Church of the Spiral Tree (CST). CST offers free membership to pagan inmates who are otherwise unable to pay their membership dues. This free membership is good as long as the inmate is interested and is in prison, plus one year after release from prison, to allow time for the former inmate a chance to settle in, make contacts, and get in shape financially. After this one year period after release, the former inmate may apply for discounted membership to CST if he/she is still unable to pay the full amount for membership.

All pagan inmates who are CST members are eligible to be listed on the web page under "Incarcerated Members Mailing List" at [\[link\]](#), in the Yahoogroup "PaganPrisoners" database, and in the Contacts section of CST's newsletter, "The Journey." CST's free inmate members receive the same benefits as regular paid members: a subscription to "The Journey" which comes out four times a year, and the right to vote once a year by absentee ballot in CST's board of directors elections, and in any other votes.

Once an inmate has joined CST, his/her name will be placed in the database for the Pagan Prisoner Committee (PPC). Please note that joining CST does not guarantee that an inmate member will get a "pen-pal," but we will make every effort to have each inmate member written to. Also note that in order to be listed on the PPC database for letters, an inmate must become a CST member by filling out the membership form.

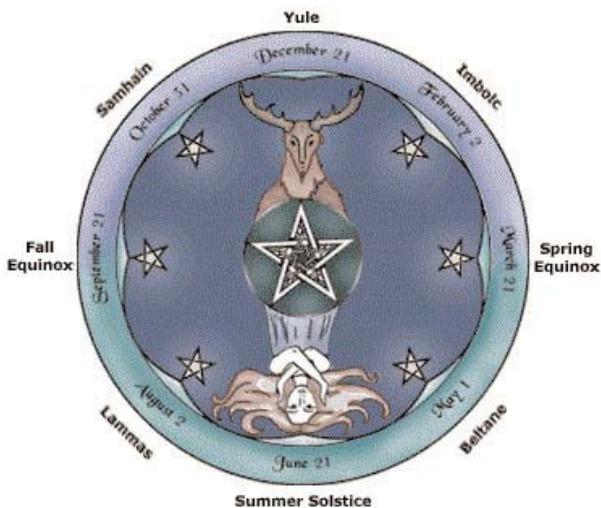
# CST Calendar:

Church of the Spiral Tree welcomes church members, beginners, newcomers, solitaires, 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:



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

**Lammas:** Yet to be determined, so TBA. 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>.

- 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):

- 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.*

- A Wiccan Formulary & Herbal - by A.J. Drew
- Amulets & Talismans for Beginners - by Richard Webster
- Candle Magic for Beginners - by Richard Webster
- 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
- One Nation Under God (Fiction): A Fresh Look at the Dangers of Theocracy & the Importance of a Secular Government - by Vincent M. Wales
- Magic of the Celtic Gods and Goddesses - Carl McColman and Kathryn Hinds
- Cakes and Ale for the Pagan Soul - Patricia Telesco

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## Just a reminder...

Want to Review Books? Please keep in mind that CST has a policy regarding requested books. If we send you a book, we never ask for any monies, all we ask is to receive an honest review regarding your thoughts about the book you've read. Our policy states that if you do not send a review, your book request privilege will be suspended. We do keep records of who receives which books.

So far, we are still awaiting reviews on the following books that have been sent to members:

- *Witch on the Go: A Book of Spells to Take with You.* - Cal Garrison
- *Buckland's "30th Anniversary Edition" Book of Saxon Witchcraft* - Raymond Buckland
- *Star Signs at Work: Using Astrology for Success and Harmony in the Workplace* - Debbie Burns
- *Irish Witchcraft from an Irish Witch* - Lora O'Brien
- *The Beginner's Guide for the Recently Deceased* - David Staume
- *The Pocket Spell Creator: Magickal References at Your fingertips* - Kerri Connor

# Book Reviews:

## **Your Magickal Name - by Phyllis and Debra Vega,**

This book contains a lot of different ways you can name your self or some one else. It is full of historical and cultural facts. The unique way the authors combine the different arts of Astrology and Numerology to produce original names is fascinating. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is searching for the meaning or powers attributed to theirs or anyone else's' name.

*Reviewed by Robert Becker*

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## **Transformation Meditation - by Gayle Clayton, Llewellyn Worldwide Books**

This book showed me that there was a lot I still needed to learn about meditation, and Gayle Clayton did an excellent job of teaching me.

It was filled with many easy-to-understand exercises. Gayle Clayton goes into extensive detail about group meditation as well as how to focus on these energies. There are even sections for those Pagans interested in learning how to incorporate Eastern meditational philosophies with Pagan principles.

A great read, and definitely a must for any personal library

*Reviewed by James G. Harvey*

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## **Learning Ritual Magic - by John Michael Greer, Clare Vaughn, and Earl King, Jr., Red Wheel-Weiser Books**

I was seriously unimpressed by this book. It was one of the worst books about the Western Mystery Traditions that I have ever read.

It was very confusing for those who are new to the subject. If you have read "Golden Dawn System of Magic" by Isreal Regardies, there isn't much more this book can teach you.

The only suggestion I can give regarding this book, is if you happen upon it in a library or bookstore, just keep walking!

*Reviewed by James G. Harvey*

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# On the Back Porch With Nion

## Reflections on a Life's Journey

### Which Wars?

*(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.)*

**H**owdy ya'll, Nion here. This article is in a little more serious vein than my usual cockeyed view of the Pagan world, although it does relate to it. As I have previously mentioned in other articles, I believe that most organized groups and circles in this neck of the woods are on good cordial terms with each other and usually have very good--if informal--ties. But, there does seem to be a few, and I'm sure it's the case everywhere, Pagans/Wiccans who for various reasons use their "power" to adversely influence or actually harm others. They are usually either the egomaniac/maverick who has few ethical standards, or, probably the majority, those who "dabble" in the Craft with enough "knowledge" to be dangerous to others but not enough understanding of the Laws, or a blatant disregard for the welfare of others, just because they can "do it."

The sending of poppets or "voodoo" dolls for harmful purposes is a very questionable ethical practice, because it DOES constitute a threat to a person. A non-Craft person may laugh it off; but to those who take magick seriously, the receiving of one constitutes a threat or an attack and they have every right to defend themselves in ANY manner they deem necessary. And in my view, whatever retaliatory action or retributive return was dealt--magickally or mundanely--would be highly deserved. Speaking of sending poppets to someone you are trying to adversely influence, even I as a novice know enough to know that you DON'T send that sort of thing to the recipient of the magick, because you just GAVE that person your "power" and a means of retaliation or retribution. Obviously, anyone who doesn't know or disregards even the basics of the Craft is most likely just a "dabbler" whose limited knowledge and lack of ethics clearly shows.

To me, what is also disturbing is that some practitioners condone or support such abhorrent behavior, either by action or by attempting to 'cover-up' for those who take the action, on the pretext of not taking Craft problems to outsiders. BULLSHIT!! Personally speaking, if a poppet, voodoo doll, threat to use black candles for harm, or any other such was sent and you openly discussed it, it would be a service to the Pagan community, as we have a duty to neutralize such "psychotics" in whatever way available. We, as a minority community, have a bad enough name among the non-Craft without the mavericks and dabblers making it worse.

By the way, MY definition of a dabbler is one who gleefully shows you their athame and other "neat" Craft stuff to show off, and who obviously has only a little knowledge but doesn't comprehend the ramifications of what they are actually doing. Dabblers also tend to use their limited knowledge of magick to threaten others with magickal attacks for the least provocation or perceived slight. Not usually a direct threat, unless lashing out indiscriminately, are those who have been in the Craft for a little while and who constantly see themselves being under psychic and magickal attack on all fronts (from under the bed, behind the cupboard, in the woodpile, etc., etc.), usually from imaginary foes, for every conceivable misfortune that occurs to them. I guess they either never heard the phrase "shit happens," or they have sent out enough bad vibes themselves that they are always quick to think the worst all the time. I just don't understand that type of thinking or behavior. To me, the Craft is a wonderful tool to try and help others physically, mentally, or spiritually, not one that should harm. Oh well, guess I've become part of the "real world."

As a newbie in this different and, at times, very strange world, I guess like other beginning Pagans, the thought of being on the fringe of 'witch wars' and punitive and retributive strikes here and there scares the hell out of me. I have heard of only a few mavericks on the outer fringes of the mainstream Pagan community, or troubled dabblers, or disgruntled coveners who were unable to maintain their covens due to ego or "power-gone-to-the-head-itus" that seem to be quick to send shit to other, or cry the loudest of being the recipients of every imaginable magickal attack possible. In the two years of my being a Pagan, I've met many, many friends and acquaintances, here and at festivals, etc. Out of all those I've met, the vast majority of them believe in one form or another of the Rede or equivalent code of ethics, and the Law of Karmic Return, or both. I personally and strongly believe that the vast majority of Craft, following the ethical mores of most mainstream Pagans/ Wiccans, need to police ourselves more closely and act to prevent or neutralize those that seem to do more "harming" than good; so as to minimize the detrimental public image we have at times when the "mundanes" hear of our 'darker' endeavors. What do You think??

Boy! That was heavy...well, guess I'll go and recharge the gray stuff holding my ears apart. So, bye for now, and may the Lord and Lady of us all keep shining Their blessings on 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 directly 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>.
- **Ceirdre 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>.
- **Charles Nile Mixon:** Incarcerated male Pagan, age 29, looking for pen-pal to share friendship and smiles with. Many blessings! Chalres Nile Mixon #1013584, Lynaugh Unit, 1098 S. Highway 2037, Fort Stockton, TX 79735.
- **Densho:** From Montgomery and all points thereof. Email: <densho@knology.net>.
- **Firedancer:** I am a practicing Native American which is very close to the Wiccan ways. I wish to share my beliefs and ceremonies and am writing a book called "The Vision Quest Phenomenon." Ronald F. White (Firedancer), 3230 Forrester Dr., Pearland TX 77584-6684.
- **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.
- **Jerry Lewis Franks Jr:** Incarcerated male Pagan, age 30, looking for pen-pal to share friendship and knowledge with. Blessed Be! Jerry L. Franks Jr. #1101823, TDCJ Lynaugh Unit, 1098 S. Highway 2037, Fort Stockton, TX 79735.
- **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.
- **Michael "Lucian" Greer:** I'm a Wiccan inmate, first degree witch. I'm a member of the American Ring of Wisdom, Darkmoon Path tradition, the Coven of the Barbed Pentacle. I also study the Red Witch tradition. I'm looking for a pen pal to write me about Wicca or other traditions, or anything they would like to write about. I'm open to the wisdom of others. Michael Greer, #EK-6134, 301 Morea Rd., Frackville, PA 17932.

## Contacts (con't.):

- **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.
- **Siryn Dolphinson:** Started an in-person discussion group many moons ago ('95), has an online entity on Yahoo, to join go to [albanypagans@yahoogroups.com](mailto:albanypagans@yahoogroups.com) to receive updates and to network. Co-proprietor of 'Bio-Buzz Botanica' and loves to meet and share with those of a like mind. Siryn Dolphinson, 612 N. Slappey Blvd., Albany, GA 31701, 229-438-5878, email: [bretonwitch@yahoo.com](mailto:bretonwitch@yahoo.com).
- **Stephen “Tyernan WaterOak”:** Owns The store 'Bio-Buzz Botanica' 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. Always ready to meet new folks and network. Stephen A. Bradford a/k/a Tyernan WaterOak, 612 N. Slappey Blvd., Albany, GA 31701, 229-438-5878, email: [tyernan2003@yahoo.com](mailto:tyernan2003@yahoo.com).
- **Timothy Hornsby:** Interested in all subjects: divination, Pagan philosophy, ecology, self-improvement, Irish and Welsh traditions. 392 Old Central Plank Rd., Wetumpka, AL 36092.
- **Timothy O'Brien:** Sincere, mature, responsible Irish pagan seeking correspondence - prisoners welcome. Interests: all Wiccan-Druidic-pagan related topics/studies, self-transformation, music, fantasy art, environmental issues. Working to become spiritual counselor and pagan clergy of depth and character. Mentors needed. Timothy O'Brien, #69221, P.O. Box 1010, Canon City, CO, 81215-1010
- **Tony Curtis Jackson:** Ole Pagan Seeker desiring to share and gain Path knowledge. Interests: Greencraft, Faerie Faith, AmerIndian, folk medicine, herbs, rituals, meditations. Tony Curtis Jackson #10406, Dodge State Prison, A2, P.O. Box 276, Chester, GA 31012.

# 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

# Important Dates

## **Board of Directors' Meetings:**

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

## **Annual Meeting of the General Membership:**

Held each year at Moondance in May.

## **Dates of Sabbats for 2005 (not ritual dates):**

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Imbolc   | February 1   |
| Ostara   | March 20     |
| Beltaine | May 1        |
| Litha    | June 21      |
| Lammas   | August 1     |
| Mabon    | September 22 |
| Samhain  | November 1   |
| Yule     | December 21  |

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