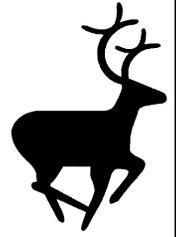




The Journey...



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

President's Point

The primary missions of Church of the Spiral Tree are to promote a sense of community among Pagans and to provide a safe venue to practice Pagan spiritual beliefs without discrimination. There are other Pagan organizations that also are trying very hard to foster a sense of community. Instead of competing with each other, most Pagan organizations are trying to network and pull together to serve the greater good of the entire Pagan community. I think this is an important concept for all Pagans to embrace.

Even though Paganism is growing by leaps and bounds through all of its paths, Paganism is still a minority religion, no longer in its infant phase but still a toddler. Paganism can grow to its full maturity through fostering a strong network of cooperation between all Pagan paths and organizations. In unity, Pagans can make a major difference in the world by working together to help those in need, to actively work to preserve Mother Earth's resources, to influence government policies to ensure our freedom to practice our chosen religions, and to expand understanding and tolerance of all religious belief systems. It is important to celebrate our differences and individuality even more than our commonalities.

Pagans can be examples to the world that religion and spirituality does not have to be a dividing factor amongst humans, but can actually be used to build

understanding, tolerance, acceptance, and respect for all our planet's inhabitants.

So Mote it Be.

- Cathy Rankin, President, CST



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Fall Equinox 2011, #44

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CST Directors:

President	Cathy Rankin
Vice President	Linda Kerr
Secretary/Treasurer	Stephen Bradford
Member-at-Large ...	Chris Iskiwitch
Member-at-Large	Cynthia Jurkovic

CST Staff:

CST Admin Assistant	Linda Kerr
Sacred Grove Academy Director ...	Patricia Greer-Middleton
Sacred Grove Educational Consultant	David Michael M.Ed.
Pagan Prisoner Ministry	Linda Kerr
Military Affairs ...	Vincent Andrews
Newsletter Editor	Linda Kerr
Webmaster, CST & Sacred Grove ...	Linda Kerr
CST Founder/Advisor ...	Linda Kerr

Circle of Life

🌿 Birthdays for October-November-December! Happy Birthday to the following CST members:

Chris Middleton (October 2)
David Michael (October 4)
Chris Iskiwitch (October 9)
Archer Farris (October 9)
John Cooper (October 11)
Cheryl Riley (October 24)
Richard Hartsock (October 27)
Lynn Bishop (October 29)
Vincent Andrews (November 4)
Malon McCaslin (November 6)
Kellen Lynch (November 8)
Linda Kerr (November 10)
Chris Smith (November 10)
Jason Braasch (November 16)
Don Mikovitz (November 17)
Christopher Drew (November 21)
Alice Lynch (November 22)
Randy Bailey (November 25)
Jceia Watson (November 30)
Mona Crawford (December 1)
Stephen Bradford (December 1)
Angela Farmer (December 11)
Phillip Bartley (December 12)
Marcus Rice (December 13)
Alexander Marcum (Dec 18)
Emily Farmer-Alroth (Dec 23)
Robert Norris (December 26)
Cathy Batchler (December 27)

Newsletter Deadlines

Our newsletter, "The Journey," is an important outreach tool to our members; as such, CST is committed to publishing this newsletter on a regular quarterly basis. Publication dates and deadlines are as follows:

March 21 (deadline: March 1)
June 21 deadline: June 1)
September 21 (deadline: Sep 1)
December 21 (deadline: Dec 1)

Please note that these deadlines are **firm!** Any submissions received after these dates will be published in the following newsletter.

Our Board of Directors meetings are held around the cross-quarter days (Imbolc, Beltane, Lammas, Samhain), to allow updates and news from these meetings to be published in the next newsletter.

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 is also pleased to offer a Pagan Prisoner Ministry, which provides outreach to incarcerated members (on hold temporarily until funding improves), and a Military Affairs Committee, which offers support to deployed Pagan military personnel.

If you have important news that you would like to share in Happenings or Circle of Life in the Yule edition of "The Journey," please email your info to Linda Kerr at info@spiraltree.org, or mail to CST, P.O. Box 8396, Columbus, GA, 31908, no later than December 1, 2011.

Info About Our Services:

Ministers: CST, being a church, may ordain any member age 18 and over as a minister. The fee for this is \$50.00, and you must be a current paid member and must have been a paid member for at least one year prior to applying for ordination. 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."



Church of the Spiral Tree Minutes of Annual Membership Meeting & Elections Results September 17, 2011

Earthdance Review

By Lady Charissa

The meeting was held at Earthdance, at the Lodge at Turtle Lake, Camilla, GA at 2:15 pm on September 17, 2011. Attending: Cathy Rankin, David Michael, Stephen Bradford, Linda Kerr, Cynthia Jurkovic, Faron Brewer, Edward Hutson, Mary Ann Muller, Lana Sizemore, Chris Iskiwitch, David Iskiwitch.

All officers listed on the ballot were voted in, by both mail-in and in-person votes. Cathy Rankin - president; Linda Kerr - vice-president; Stephen Bradford - secretary/treasurer; Cynthia Jurkovic - member-at-large (1); Chris Iskiwitch - member-at-large (2).

All proposed changes to the By-Laws were approved, by both mail-in and in-person votes. CST elections will now take place every other year, in the odd years, rather than annually. We will continue to have our annual membership meeting, however.

The new CST t-shirts are beautiful - the shirts are dark green, and the design is white and gold. Linda created the design. Currently we have regular t-shirts, but Linda will price tank tops and v-neck shirts. We will use the new design for the CST seal.

Cathy will try to get the CST Earthdance logo, that Siryn created, trademarked, along with the CST logo, that Siryn also created.

There was a discussion about the color for the Earthdance t-shirts next year, using the color logo that was used on the schedule booklets. Yellow/gold was pretty much decided upon; almost a gold beer color.

Everyone being very happy with the new site, Earthdance 2012 will be at the Lodge at Turtle Lake again next year, in September, the weekend after the North Georgia Solitaries event, which is September 13-16, 2012. Earthdance will be held September 21-23, 2012.

There was discussion about the timing of Earthdance: we could do it in March, but Linda & Stephen are busy a lot during that month. The discussion was tables, to be talked about at the next Board of Directors' meeting.

Our next BoD meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, December 11, in Columbus at the China First restaurant, time TBD. All CST members are invited to attend in a non-voting capacity. Input is always welcome.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm. 

Earthdance by the Church of the Spiral Tree was held at The Lodge at Turtle Lake in Camilla, GA. When you turn off the highway onto the winding dirt road you can feel the hustle and bustle of civilization being left behind. By the time you wind your way through the trees and get to the clearing where the lodge is you are in a different world surrounded by woods and nature. The lodge is situated in a large clearing and had tents scattered around it this weekend in a relaxed, casual manner. There is a small building next to the lodge that can be used for sleeping for those that don't want to set up tents. At the back of the property sits this cool bus that is set up to act as an odd cabin of sorts. A large carport is nicely sheltered and could be used for workshops, an eating area, a shaded gathering for relaxing, or anything you like. The Lodge itself has a fully equipped kitchen, a wonderful bathroom with a garden tub and a smaller room for additional sleeping. There is a large deck that goes around the building to provide a great place for relaxation or as it was used this weekend, for a stage.

The atmosphere was relaxed and felt more like joining a family get-together than entering a festival full of strangers - people greet you as if they've known you for years. On one side of the clearing, people were busily building a sweat lodge for later use. There was a concert provided by Lucidian, a wonderful duo singing everything from pagan classics, to some old favorites from the charts and movies, to originals from their own albums.

The schedule for the weekend had all kinds of fun things to do: a Walkabout & Craft class, workshop on Bach Flower Remedies, Drumming class, Joyful Noise Chant workshop, History of Purification Sweat Lodge Ceremony, Tarot workshop, and an Irish Dance demonstration.

The vendor, Bio-Buzz, had several tables fully loaded with all kinds of metaphysical goodies. Their store located in Albany (newest drop-off for Toys for Yule by the Pagan Assistance Fund) has a surprisingly wide range of stock displayed in a deceptively small building. From the outside, the building is brightly colored with hand-painted art on the front and the side. It doesn't appear to be a large store until you get inside. As you walk through the narrow rooms they seem to go on and on and every nook is filled with different things to look at. The scent of the incense from the back draws you through the store as you are constantly turning your head to try and see it all. If you are ever in Albany, you owe it to yourself to stop in at see the store for yourself: Bio-Buzz, 612 N. Slappey Blvd, Albany, GA; (229) 438-5878; www.bio-buzz.com. 

Church of the Spiral Tree News

Annual Elections

CST's Annual Membership Meeting was held on September 17, 2011, at Earthdance, at The Lodge at Turtle Lake in Camilla, GA. During the elections, all officers listed on the ballot were voted in: Cathy Rankin - president; Linda Kerr - vice-president; Stephen Bradford - secretary/treasurer; Cynthia Jurkovic - member-at-large (1); Chris Iskiwitch - member-at-large (2). All proposed changes to the By-Laws were also approved. CST elections will now take place every other year, in the odd years, rather than annually. We will continue to have our annual membership meeting, however.

Military Affairs Ministry

Please welcome Rev. Vincent Andrews as the new CST Military Affairs Chaplain. Vincent is currently serving as a specialist in the U.S. Army. He will be retiring soon due to a medical disability acquired while he was deployed in Iraq. Vincent, his wife Regena, and his daughter Cathy will continue to reside in Coumbus, GA after his retirement. He is currently working on developing a working relationship with the chaplains at Ft. Benning, GA.

Pagan Prisoner Ministry

The word is spreading about this ministry! Many of the inmates that have written said that they found CST through Covenant of the Goddess, Circle Sanctuary, or other Pagan organizations. Letters from inmates requesting pen pals are in the CST mailbox everyday. Several other pagan groups have been extremely helpful in recruiting pen pals which are desperately needed considering the volume of requests that are being received. The PPM was promoted at Atlanta Pagan Pride Day on October 1, 2011 in Decatur, GA. The great folks attending Atlanta PPD donated a total of \$27.75 in cash to help with postage for the PPM activities. Rev. Linda Kerr and Rev. Cathy Rankin will be sending Samhain cards to all the inmates on the pen pal list next weekend. Also, several people have joined as pen pals since stopping by the CST booth at Atlanta PPD. The grandparents of one of our inmate members visited the booth and expressed their appreciation for all the PPM is doing. They expressed concern for getting a facilitator into the institution where their grandson is incarcerated because the Pagans there have not been allowed to practice their religion since their last facilitator was lost. There are two ministers, one from CST and another from the Atlanta Pagan Roundtable, who will contact the chaplain at that facility and arrange for a visit. CST is currently working on a way to recruit and endorse facilitators for prisons throughout the country. This will take some time and is a much-needed endeavor. The PPM is a huge undertaking but when you read some of the letters that are sent by inmates, then it is apparent that it is worth the effort. Thanks to the networking and support of other Pagan organizations, as a community, we will accomplish our mission of touching the lives of these

inmates by bringing an opportunity to share spirituality and knowledge with them. There is more exciting news to come, so be sure to look for it in the winter newsletter.

Special thanks to author Melanie Marquis for her donation of two signed copies of her latest book, The Witch's Bag of Tricks, to the PPM to be sent to prison libraries.

CST Donates to Atlanta PPD

CST donated items to the auction at Atlanta Pagan Pride Day, held October 1, 2011: an ash wand made by Hans Brandt, and a pair of beautiful earrings made by Jennifer Gregory. Funds will go towards next year's Atlanta PPD. CST also donated a bag of canned goods to the Atlanta Food Bank. By the end of the day, along with our donation, there were about four huge barrels filled with food, collected from attendees of the Atlanta Pagan Pride Day.

CST Ministers

Please note that one of the requirements for becoming a CST minister is that you must be a member for a minimum of one year before applying. Also, please remember to sign onto the CST Minister's Yahoo group if you have not already, so you can keep up with the latest information for our ministers. This group is moderated and is for CST ordained ministers only. It is the best way to contact CST about any changes as far as name, address, email address, etc. Also, the files are open to the members to contribute rituals for handfastings, weddings, namings, funerals, etc., that a minister wishes to post to share with the other ministers. Please join the group and make sure your information is up to date.

There is a cost of \$15.00 for additional or replacement copies of your ordination certifications. There is a discount of \$5.00 if your membership is renewed at the same time. Seals will be mailed to all ministers whose address is current in the near future. The seals should be applied to the lower left corner of the ordination certificate across from the official's signature. Seals will be applied to new ordination certificates before they are mailed. The current price for CST ordination is \$50.00 after a minimum of one year as a CST member.

Toys for Yule

Donate toys for Pagan children for Yule! During these tough financial times it can be a challenge to try and provide a decent Yule for our children. The Pagan Assistance Fund is collecting Toys for Yule to distribute to our families in need. You can donate your toys at Bio-Buzz in Albany, DreamScapes in Auburn, Cosmic ConneXion in Kennesaw, Trilogy in Avondale Estates, and Dragon Hills Retreat in Bowdon. After Mabon, families can apply for toys at www.paganassistancefund.com. Toy requests will be filled on an as available basis.



GGG's New Moon Ritual & Fall Festival Camp Out

October 29, 2011, Salem, AL

Green Gate Grove is hosting this family-friendly event, with optional camping. The Fall Festival will begin at 4:00 pm (Eastern time), and will go till 6:00 pm or until we run out of candy. Potluck will be at 7:00 pm. If you plan to camp out, please show up a bit early to set up your camp. The ritual will begin around 8:00 pm, or a bit later if someone wants to volunteer to teach a class. Afterwards we will have a drum circle and music.

PLEASE bring a bag or two of candy for the kids! We will have some games for the kids to do also, including: Bobbing for apples, ring toss, fishing with a pole and clothespin, counting candy in jars, bean bag toss, bowling. Other activities will include a chilli cook off and a cake walk (please bring cupcakes along with a cake so the kids may join in also).

If you plan to attend, please bring your own soft drinks or whatever you'd like to drink (alcohol is allowed, as long as you don't drive afterwards, and don't go into ritual intoxicated), plus a side dish, snack, or dessert to be shared. Please try to make enough to feed at least 8 to 10 people. Also, please post (on the TreeTalk Yahooogroup) what you are bringing to ritual for the potluck so everyone has an idea of what being brought so we don't have too much of one thing.

Please dress warmly, and remember that CST's policies prohibit nudity and skyclad, to keep our gatherings family-friendly.

For more info, to RSVP, or for directions, please contact Vincent Andrews at (706) 489-6322, or email him at: MilitaryAffairs@spiraltree.org.



NGS's Samhain Celebration

October 29, 2011, Cartersville, GA

North Georgia Solitaries (NGS), a family-oriented church of solitary practitioners based out of the North Atlanta area, will have their Samhain celebration at the Pioneer Campground at Red Top Mountain State Park.

Festivities will begin at 3:00 pm (Eastern) and will include pumpkin carving, a trick-or-treat walk for the children with spooky candy dispensing stops along the way, and a ritual followed by a potluck dinner.

The ritual is open to all participants, including children and non-pagans, and one does not have to be a member of NGS to participate. NGS asks that all who intend to participate in ritual bring their chalice for our cakes and ale because NGS encourages individual spirituality and does not pass around one chalice for the group to share.

The evening's festivities will culminate with a drum circle around the fire which will be kicked off with a chanting workshop, so feel free to bring any drums, instruments or noise makers.

Since it is a primitive campsite, seating is limited so bring your camping or outdoor chairs as well as a jacket or cloak for when the sun goes down. Other things to bring include food for the potluck feast, your own drinks (or you can purchase water, soda or juice from the Pagan Assistance Fund) and a pumpkin for carving and decorating.

Please feel free to wear a costume and dress up your children. Also, remember to bring a candy collecting bucket or basket for your kids if they want to participate in the trick-or-treat walk.

The celebration will last all day and probably into the night, and NGS is asking \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens (13-17) and \$2 for children 12 and under. Register before October 20 on the NGS website (<http://ngsolitaries.com/>), and enter the coupon code "news" to receive 20% off an adult paid ticket.

Also, start planning for Yule and include the Pagan Pathways Yule Party on December 10 in your plans. NGS puts on the Pagan Pathways Festival as a fundraiser for the Pagan Assistance Fund and is throwing a Yule party this year. There will be a Holly King to tell stories and give gifts to the children and a gift exchange game for the adults. Check out the webpage (<http://www.ngsolitaries.com/yuleparty/>) for more details.



Pagan Family Reunion (PFR)

November 17-20, 2011, The Lodge at Turtle Lake, Camilla, GA

PFR is an intimate, family-friendly Pagan gathering, with classes, live music, a ritual, and a potluck dinner Saturday evening. Clothing optional. No dogs. Turtle Lake is private property, consisting of several mostly flat acres, a very large lawn, a small cabin (the Lodge), and a school bus. There is ample camping room and trees to hang hammocks from. There is room for a few campers and RVs. The site has an indoor bathroom and outdoor shower. Admission for adults ages 15 and over (under 15 are free) - \$40/person until November 1; \$50/person after November 1 and at the gate. Daytrip (Saturday only): \$25. Vending space: \$15. Basic electricity (for fans and lights only, bring your own power cords): \$10. Electricity for RVs and campers: \$25.

For more info or to register, visit our website, <<http://www.bio-buzz.com/pfr>>.



A Cymro-Norse Samhain Ritual

Taken from: <http://www.ecauldron.net/samhainnorse.php>

This ritual was written for the New Reformed Order of the Golden Dawn's 1987 Samhain. Note that this is a Wiccan ceremony with Norse elements. It is not an Asatru ceremony.

Suggested Tools (can also be done without tools):

Drinking Horn
Hammer (Mjollnir)
Sword
Pentacle/Stone
Bowl of Salt
Water
Censer & Incense

Celebrants:

White Priestess (speaks as Skadi)
Gold Priest (Freyr)
Red Priestess (Freyja)
Red Priest (Heimdallr)
Black Priestess (Vala)
Black Priest (Odin)

Procession, consisting of Soulers (any small number) and White Mare.

Souler's song:

"Welcome, Winter, waning season,
Now with night the New Year comes.
All who honor elder kinsfolk
Dance the dead to earthly drums.
Souls respected safeguard living;
House we'll hold and hallow hearth;
Blessings be on those who bide here,
blessings be on those who bide here,
And indeed on all the Earth!"

Skadi takes the sword around the circle with these words:

"Sharp bright steel the circle scribes;
Carving, cleaving world from world."

Freyja banishes the circle with the hammer and these words:

"Mankind's friend, by Mjollnir's might
Banish beings that bode us ill!"

She stands in the centre and to each quarter and above and below she makes the Hammer-Sign, saying,

"Holy hammer, hallow and hold us."

Vala seals the circle, carrying pentacle and bowl of salt, saying,

"Stout stone shield us, shut the circle."

Skadi asperses the circle (Vala follows with censer) with these words:

"Be all bless'd who bide herein,
By stone and sea, by storm and sun."

Now Heimdallr takes the sword and calls the quarters as follows:

"Wisdom's wain, East Wind i call thee!
Thoughts thy thanes that thrive in newness.
Breathe and bless, blow all clean;
Watch and ward, O wind of mind.

Summer's savour, South Wind come now!
Bright the blessings you bear with you.
Strong of spirit, sun-like fire;
Watch and ward, O wind of soul.
Wild and wet, West Wind i summon!
Sea-spray bearing, singing, shouting;
Beats the earth's blood in thy breast;
Watch and ward, O wind of heart.
White with winter, North Wind, waken!
Stone's strength bringing, snow-cloaked wind.
From the frost-realms, fresh and chill,
Watch and ward, O wind of form."

The Priestesses and Priests stand opposite each other, and each one of the pair invokes the other, as follows:

Skadi (to Freyr):

"Lord of life, hail Land-master!
God of grain that grows and dies
And rises reborn, full of richness;
Fallow fields shall yet be fertile --
Spring sap runs as stirs your phallus --
Bless barren earth, let it bear again!"

Freyr (to Skadi):

"Show-shoes striding, hail swift huntress!
Wild one, free and willful goddess,
Bow and blade you bear beside you,
Finding food to fend off hunger.
Winter will not leave us wanting;
Give good hunting, grant us skill!"

Freyja (to Heimdallr):

Standing steadfast, hail far-seer!
Watchful one, on rainbow waiting,
Horn at hand to rouse the heroes,
News you know from nine worlds over.
People's parent and our patron,
Open our eyes to altered sight.

Heimdallr (to Freyja):

"Vanir bride, hail vision-giver!
Capped in cat-fur, cloaked in feathers,
Drumming for the dance of dreams,
You haste to hunt out hidden things.
Scant now the screen that hinders sight;
Let us learn the lore of trance-work."

Vala (to Odin):

"One-eye, wanderer, god of wisdom,
Hunt-lord, hail, who leads the hosting!
Nine nights hanging, knowledge gaining,
Cloaked at crossroads, council hidden.
Now the night, your time is near us --
Right roads send us on, rune-winner."

Odin (to Vala):

"Every age your eye has witnessed,
Cauldron-keeper; hail, wise crone!
Rede in riddles is your ration --
Wyrd-weaving at the world-tree's root.

Eldest ancient, all-knowing one,
Speak secrets to us, send us kenning."

Odin reminds everyone what the festival is about, as follows:

Odin:

"So comes the souls'-day. summon for feasting
Ancestors, ancients, honoured and blessed;
Let in beloved ones, lend them your bodies --
Whom do you hallow? hail them by name!"

Allow a few minutes for everybody to name the ancestor they want to welcome. Then Vala gives this admonition:

Vala:

"As ancient elders you learn from and honour,
Let not the living ones moulder alone.
Near is their knowledge nearer than spirits',
Seen without ceremony, simply for asking."

Both:

"Grandmothers, grandfathers, great be their
blessings
Past ones and present we dance them all power!"

All the Celebrants but Heimdallr form a circle facing outward; Heimdallr goes to the West, and all say:

"Wide are the worldgates; now the wights
wander.
Welcome within are the dead who were ours;
Rest from riding here, revel and feast here;
Come in, old kinsfolk, keepers of wisdom!"

Heimdallr cuts the Soulers' Procession into the Circle on "Come in", and moves to stand with the other Celebrants while the Soulers dance slowly around singing:

"Welcome winter, waning season,
Now with night the new year comes;
All who honour elder kinsfolk
Dance the dead to earthly drums.
Souls respected safeguard living
House we'll hold, and hallow hearth;
Blessings be on those who bide here,
And indeed on all the Earth!"

The Celebrants begin also to circle, dancing in character, starting widdershins then spiralling in and out to end deasil, as in the meeting dance, while the Soulers encourage the outer circle to dance also. The intent should be for luck in the new year, and better connection with our Ancestors (as well as better treatment of our Elders!). "We are the Old People," and "Blood of the Ancients" are appropriate and may be sung in polyphony...

As the providers of food, Freyr and Skadi bring forward the feast. Some food should be laid out for the ancestors, and people should be encouraged to let the ancestors use their senses for a while to enjoy the food with them. The Soulers in particular should receive Soul Cakes. A strong magical gesture would be for people to bring forward canned and other non-perishable food (which can be later given to a food bank or similar organisation).

Freyr speaks as follows:

"Cakes to us carry, corn from the storehouse;
Wine defies winter, warm with caught ripeness;
Milk made to cheeses, meat dried and salted;
Last of the land's fruits ere the long sleep."

Skadi speaks as follows:

"Good nuts and game-food are hunters' guerdon;
Sleeping earth's secrets yield to the seeker
True buried treasure: onions, potatoes
Forest shall feed us while the fields rest."

Both say (if there is to be food donation):

"All who have aught to offer, now bring it;
Wights, bear ye witness work with the givers.
Feeding our fellows, let us be fed so,
Sops for the spirit or sup for the flesh."

[If there is to be scrying and divination, it should be done now in a quiet space marked off as separate from the feasting-place. Freyja and Heimdallr lead the scrying and Vala and Odin lead rune-work, with the following optional speeches:

Heimdallr:

"Let the lots tumble, loosing their learning;
Word-wood and wit-stones, won through ordeal.
Come up and cast them, while word is clearest
Augers may answer aught the year holds."

Freyja:

"Wide are the worldgates, windows are open;
Sights may be seen now, elsetimes but scarcely.
Crystal and cauldron capture the vision;
Mystery's meaning speaks to the mindful."]

Note: it is entirely appropriate for partying to go on inside the sacred circle (people can get up and move around), so that the Dead have the opportunity to enjoy their day before we bid them farewell; the circle should be cast large, with this in mind. The circle is opened as follows:

Heimdallr:

"To watching winds, we wish fair wandering;
Fan us sweet fragrance; Hail, Farewell!"

All Present:

"To sleepless souls, we wish sweet resting;
Friends will keep faith; Farewell now!
Gods and Goddesses, go with praises!
Finished our festival; Hail, Farewell!"

Celebrants ground with this formula:

Celebrants:

"As from the earth our energy comes,
Into the earth the excess flows;
Earth and all empowered alike
Be it so!"

Skadi:

"See: The circle is severed thus [she cuts],
Merry meet, merry part, merry meet again!"



Contacts:

You get a free contact listing with your membership. You may also submit your listing at any later time. As an additional service, you can send letters to CST, and we will forward them to your intended recipient.

P.S.: If you do not see your listing here, it is because we never heard back from you regarding whether you wanted your listing to remain or be removed (emails were sent to all with listings earlier this year). So just to be safe (rather than sorry), we have removed everyone's listing who did not respond. If you would like your contact listing to appear in the future, simply email us at <info@spiraltree.org>.

Andrew Polywacz #314644:

I'm Celtic Wiccan, seeking new friends on similar paths to help me learn more about the Craft. Fox Lake Corr. Inst., HU #6C, P.O. Box 200, Fox Lake, WI 53933.

Lady Charissa: As an ordained minister, I offer Handfastings, Handpartings, Wiccanings and Crossings. As a Reiki Master and healer I offer healing in many ways. I offer a variety of workshops for groups or at festivals and co-own Star's Bazaar, an online metaphysical store with my husband, David. You can find more about the workshops and services she offers at www.starsbazaar.weebly.com. My group, North Georgia Solitaries, offers Sabbat celebrations, workshops and socials that are open to anyone that wishes to attend. Information on NGS can be found at www.ngsolitaries.com.

Clifford Joseph Bowling #020405: Wanted: D/W/M eclectic Wiccan with interest in Thelema, Kabbalah, Greek/Roman/Sumerian/Babylonian/Egyptian paths, seeks similar female to share knowledge and thoughts. Zephyrhills Corr. Inst., D2116L, 2739 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills, FL 33541-9701.

Dana Ston:
DanaVictorSton@aol.com.

Dennis Joe Menn Jr. #1529921: TDCJ Robertson Unit, 12071 FM 3522, Abilene, TX 79601. Also myspace.com/DeathofDesota.

Lady Eibhlean and Lady Aracos Arendel: GryphonSong Clan, Atlanta, GA.
piperpettus@yahoo.com.

Jason Braasch #364347:

Looking for Pagan resources such as magazines, catalogs, music, correspondence courses. Also looking for legal help for group. Stanley Corr. Inst., 100 Corrections Dr., Stanley, WI 54768-6500.

Jayson Schertz #B50630: Pagan in prison. I am following a Druid/Wicca path. Can't get much to study/learn in here. Anyone willing to correspond with me or teach me, please do. Blessed be. Menard, P.O. Box 711, Menard, IL 62259.

Jeremy Moss #129379: 38 yr old Pisces, vegan Wiccan maile. Amateur portrait and astrology artist. Send clear photo and info for "stellar portraits." \$15 per reading. Write for more info. Visualize whirled peas! Buena Vista Corr. Fac., Box 2017, Buena Vista, CO 81211.

John Herman Cooper #191141: I am the teacher of the Pagan/Wiccan group at Staton C.F. I am interested in the growth of Paganism into a valid culture in its own right. F3-26B, P.O. Box 56, Elmore, AL, 36025.

Kevin Anderson: (334) 297-6243.

Malon Lynn McCaslin #671223: I can be contacted by writing me at my prison address: Estelle Unit, 264 FM 3478, Huntsville, TX 77320-3322.

Mary Ann Muller:
MarMulRN@aol.com.

Matt Farley #1446657: TDCJ is not geared towards rehabilitation anymore. To anyone who cares, please send information on correspondence courses to me at Smith Unit, 1313 CR 19, Lamesa, TX 79331. Blessed Be!

Michael Lee Harris #221321:

Wiccan pagan, My path is Celtic. Interest in reading Wiccan pagan books, Circle magazine, Pagans and the Law by Dana D Eilers. Fox Lake Corr. Inst., Box 200 HU One, Fox Lake, WI 53933-0200.

Phillip James Bartley #HJ6640: Eclectic Wicca, god & goddess studies, witchcraft, some Qabalah studies. S.C.I. Huntingdon, 1100 Pike Street, Huntingdon, PA 16654-1112.

Randy Floyd #124991: True seeker of the Old Paths within the Craft; will correspond with any true seekers. STSRFC, 1045 Horsehead Rd., Pikeville, TN 37362.

Randy Scott Bailey #48123: Arizona State Prison, Florence, Central Unit, P.O. Box 8200, Florence, AZ, 85132.

Richard Allen Hartsock #1202681: Ordained Wiccan High Priest for the Nocturnal Tradition specializing in eclectic witchcraft, spiritualism, divination, and shadow work. Keen Mountain Corr. Center, P.O. Box 860, Oakwood, VA 24631-0860.

Richard Mainprize #84C0434: Groveland Corr. Fac., P.O. Box 50, Sonyea, NY 14556-0050.

Richard Peebles #523160: I will correspond with Wiccan gay or straight males and females alike; I only ask to write and make friends. Wheeler Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 466, Unit 100-M, Alamo, GA 30411.

Ron Jay Wilcox #035258: Anyone wishing to connect with me, write me at Lake Butler Reception & Medical Center, II-4217COW, P.O. Box 628, Lake Butler, FL 32054.

Contacts (continued)

Russell Ray Jones #382494:

Solitary witch seeking information on Voodoo, amulets, talismans, charms, etc. STSRFC, Unit 6, 1045 Horsehead Rd., Pikeville, TN 37367.

Stephen Bradford, aka

Tyernan WaterOak: An intuitive medium and natural healer. Within my Eclectic Witch and Yoruba Path, I do Tarot readings, rootwork, chakra balancing, crystal healing, energy work, and Reiki. I own Bio-Buzz Botanica, a metaphysical supply and service oriented business in Albany, GA. As an ordained minister, I offer legal communions, handfastings, handpartings, Wiccanings, and requiems (passing on rites). At the store and across the US, I offer ongoing classes, workshops and various teachings. Bio-Buzz is also the home of Albany Pagans and the Magickal Mystery Tour, which is an ongoing discussion of anything metaphysical and spiritual related topics. I offer these services and classes with help from the community at my other store in Auburn, AL called DreamScapes, our second location of metaphysics and spiritual supplies galore. Look for me in the Panhandle of Florida and North Georgia quite often too! Stephen A. Bradford, 612 N. Slappee Blvd., Albany GA 31701, (229) 438-5878 or (229) 395-0963. Email: tyernan2003@yahoo.com.



Letters from Pagan Prisoner Members

Below are some of the letters we've received recently from our incarcerated CST members. Please consider becoming a pen-pal today! Note that some letters are edited for length and content.

Dearest Members of the CST:

I was so pleased to have received your newsletter. As of yet still no correspondences from anyone but I'm sure time will tell. I am writing to you to tell you for I am so pleased with myself for my completion of the initiation as first degree last month and I am in the clouds anyway. I wanted to share this with you. I am still into my studies everyday and have just completed a new book I received called The Complete Book of Magic and Witchcraft by Leonard Ashley and it is really informative for a newcomer trying to learn all they can. Well, that's enough rambling. Like I said, I just wanted to share. I am sending some stamps to help a little. I wish I could do more.

*Your brother in the craft,
Randy Floyd*

Blessed Be,

I've enjoyed the newsletters that I've received and appreciate what you do for those of us behind the wire. It is also a pleasure knowing everything has come this far. Many days have passed since I first met some of you on Beltane '94. These stamps aren't much but I hope they will be useful.

*Go with the Gods,
John "Stardust" Cooper*

Dear Cathy:

I just finished reading the Ostara 2011 issue of The Journey. I'm writing because there is much to comment on.

The President's Point led very nicely into the poignant and beautifully written croning ceremony you wrote for Elder Garnet Dragonfire. The Lord and the Lady know it literally moved me to tears. It's a pity I never knew, much less met her. Should I ever have the honor and privilege of officiating at a crone/wise man ceremony, it will be based on the one you wrote for Elder Garnet.

Please ask the Military Affairs chaplain if there is anything I can do to be of service to Wiccans/Pagans in the military, especially those stationed overseas. They deserve our active support even more than prisoners. That which lies within me to do to help them will I gladly do.

Regarding the Pagan Prisoner Ministry section of the newsletter, it mentioned that several prison chaplains have contacted CST on behalf of their Pagan prisoners. Please ask the PPM chaplain to contact me and let me know what each chaplain needs. Perhaps through the good offices of CST, I'll be able to help these chaplains who are willing to help Wiccan and Pagan prisoners.

Thanks for everything. I'm looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with CST.

Merry meet, merry party, and merry meet again.

*Blessed be,
Clifford Bowling*

CST Calendar:

CST and its affiliate Groves welcome church and community members, beginners, newcomers, solitaires, and anyone else interested in participating in rituals honoring the Sabbats and new & full moons. 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. We usually share a potluck dinner after each ritual, 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. Children of all ages are welcome. You do not have to be a member of CST to participate! Donations to the Church are entirely optional but appreciated.

Note: the schedule below is subject to change! Firmer times and locations of all rituals will be available closer to the date of the ritual. Please visit <<http://www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml>> for up-to-date information, directions, and links to RSVP for each ritual.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	SPONSOR	LOCATION (HOST)
Full Moon Ritual	October 12	7:00 pm EDT	DH	Dragon Hills, GA
New Moon Ritual & Fall Festival Campout	October 29	3:00 pm EDT	GGG	Lana & Lamar's, Salem, AL
Samhain Ritual	November 5	5:00 pm EDT	GGG	Lana & Lamar's, Salem, AL
Full Moon Ritual	November 10	7:00 pm EDT	DH	Dragon Hills, GA
After T-Day Dinner	November 26	all day	DH	Dragon Hills, GA
Yule Celebration	December 3	all day	DH	Dragon Hills, GA
Full Moon Ritual	December 10	7:00 pm EDT	DH	Dragon Hills, GA
Yule Ritual	December 17	TBA	GGG	TBA

DH = Dragon Hills Grove (Carrollton, GA); GGG = Green Gate Grove (Columbus, GA); STAR = Sacred Tribe of Ancient Roots (Cartersville, GA); TBA = to be announced

Board of Directors' Meetings: The next BoD meeting will be May 15, 2011, location TBD. BoD meetings are held four times a year; check website at <<http://www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml>> for date of next meeting.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

NGS's Samhain Celebration - October 29, Pioneer Campground, Red Top Mountain State Park, Cartersville, GA

PFR - November 17-20, The Lodge at Turtle Lake, Camilla, GA

Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 8396
Columbus, GA 31908

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED