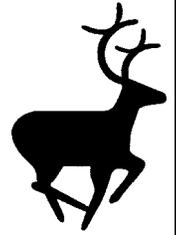




The Journey...



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

President's Point

Leadership is a balancing act. It takes practice to learn to lead without being overbearing and controlling but yet maintaining a firm but gentle hand in managing the organization or group for which the leader is responsible.

One of the most important aspects of leadership is the reason that the leader finds herself/himself in the leadership position. Many leaders are attracted by the concept of power over those whom they lead. If this is the sole goal of the leader, that leader is doomed to fail sooner or later. Exerting unnecessary power and force breeds rebellion.

Other leaders are hungry for adoration. They have a need to feel superior to those that they lead. This type of leader is also destined to fail. A person can only maintain an illusion of superiority for so long before at least some of the followers start to see the leader as a self absorbed, ego-centric person whose only purpose is self serving. The beginning of the end for this type of leader is when the first follower is lost. Both types of leaders see the people that form their organizations or groups only as followers, which is a huge mistake.

All groups are composed of individuals with different personalities and abilities. A true leader recognizes this and uses this knowledge for the good of the organization, not for self aggrandizement. The best leaders recognize leadership in others and help to cultivate it by delegating responsibilities to those most qualified to perform them. A good leader recognizes his/her own shortcomings and finds dependable, talented people to help fill those gaps.

Leadership is about service, not power or aggrandizement. Leadership is about helping everyone in the organization realize their potential, thus making the organization more stable and efficient. Good leaders do not feel the need to micro-manage because they have confidence in those that they work with to accomplish the tasks assigned to them. Good leadership is about making sure everyone in the group feels appreciated and acknowledged for their contributions. This builds cohesiveness in the organization and makes it much stronger and more effective in its mission.

If you find yourself in or even choose a leadership position, it is important to realize how and why you are in that position. It is also important to not let it "go to your head." Of course if you are head of an organization or group, you have to have some control, but control through cooperation with others in the group is much more successful in accomplishing positive goals than simply trying to exert your personal will and authority. Listening to other ideas, even if they are not workable, is a demonstration of respect. And, who knows, you may actually have an idea presented that works which you did not previously consider. There are many types of leaders, some effective but resented, some effective but respected. I truly believe from experience that the latter is a better leader who has more chance of succeeding in growing as an individual as he/she helps the organization

Continued on page 4

Litha 2012, #47

In This Issue:

President's Point	1
CST BoD & Staff Listing	1
Circle of Life	2
Who Are We?	2
Info About Our Services	2
Music & Sound in Energy Work	3
Poetry: Full Moon	3
Contacts	4
Poetry: Trees	5
CST Calendar	6

CST Directors:

President	Cathy Rankin
Vice President	Linda Kerr
Secretary/Treasurer	Stephen Bradford
Member-at-Large	Charissa 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	Charissa Iskiwitch
Military Affairs	Vincent Andrews
Ministerial Director	Cynthia Jurkovic
Newsletter Editor	Linda Kerr
Webmaster, CST & Sacred Grove	Linda Kerr
CST Founder/Advisor	Linda Kerr

Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 8396
Columbus, GA 31908
(706) 489-1017
cst@spiraltree.org
www.spiraltree.org

Circle of Life

🌿 Birthdays for July-August-September! Happy Birthday to the following CST members:

Jay L. (July 1)
Clifford B. (July 12)
Austin G. (July 15)
Richard P. (July 15)
Rob V.A. (July 16)
Joshua R. (July 18)
Malia F. (July 20)
Faron B. (July 23)
Kassi K. (July 23)
Alicia G. (July 25)
Patrick A. (July 27)
Dana Ston (July 29)
Michelle B. (August 2)
Rowan K. (August 2)
Kim R. (August 6)
Elizabeth R. (August 7)
Desi W. (August 19)
Richard M. (August 21)
Joy M. (August 22)
Jennifer G. (August 22)
Beth P. (August 26)
Cynthia J. (August 26)
Randy F. (August 31)
Aiden G. (September 7)
David H. (September 10)
Bryan P. (September 10)
Jan H. (September 12)
Raivyn I. (September 18)
Tyler R. (September 21)
Ethan F. (September 23)
Tony Curtis J. (September 29)

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.

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, 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 Mabon 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 September 1, 2012.

Info About Our Services:

Ministers: CST, being a church, may ordain any member age 18 and over as a minister. We are currently re-vamping our program to better serve our membership and community.

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."

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.

President's Point, cont. from page 1

grow. So, balancing authority with respect for others is a very important concept to take into consideration as a leader. Always, continue to reevaluate yourself and your reasons for being in a leadership role periodically to keep your self and your organization at its best. Many blessings to those of you who have taken on the mantle of leadership for the purpose of service to others. It is a difficult but very rewarding job. I can only say that my ability to do my job as president of CST is solidly based on the many talents of the CST board members and staff members. Thank you for all you do.

- Rev. Cathy Rankin, President, CST

Music and Sound in Energy Work

Compiled by Lady Eire

In classical science, energy is defined as the capacity to do work, to “make things happen.” Sound is categorized as “kinetic” or vibration oriented energy. It is only when the vibration rate or *frequency* rises above 20 Hertz that your ears perceive them as merging into one continuous sound.

Each object has its own natural frequency of vibration. Two objects vibrating at the same frequency level are said to be in “resonance” with each other. Naturally occurring musical sounds are special because they are not just a pure tone. They contain *harmonic frequencies* which are in tune with the fundamental note and so please our ears and minds.

The Universe exists in a state of duality—to and fro, expansion and contraction, up and down, energy and matter—are all manifestations of the duality of existence. This polarization is a primal state of existence that pervades the cosmos. Sound is no exception to the prime duality. It exists as a result of polarized vibrations of atoms, molecules, and larger objects. An element is partly defined by its vibrational rate. The human body is a manifestation of vibrational states—a ‘cohesion of matter, sound and light.’

We know that planetary life is a web of interaction, each part depending on the other. Music symbolizes and expresses the principal of mutual communication. Music gives us “shapes in sounds” and certain forms lend themselves well to certain types of workings:

1. *Phrase Construction: A two-fold symmetry which expresses complementary duality (question and answer forms)—i.e. a hymn or traditional folk song.*
2. *Ternary Structure: Two similar music patterns with a differing middle section—good for working with the concept of transformation without destruction.*
3. *Rondo Form: Verses linked by a recurring chorus. Relating the old with the new—i.e. a ballad or “story-song.”*
4. *Air and Variations: Self-expressive form. A central musical statement expressed differently each time. Difficult to use in group work; best for solitary workings. Reflects the multiple self—i.e. jazz.*

Our reality is a “vibratory reality.” When we think, our brains produce rhythmic electric currents. The very nucleus, protons and electrons of the atoms in our body are all associated with characteristic vibratory rates. As we enter meditative states, our bodies begin to vibrate coherently at seven cycles per second. This harmonic is the same as the Earth’s electrical field. As our planet is a conscious entity, it pleases her to no end to have us accompany her tune.

Throughout history, special sounds (“words of power”) have been viewed as sonic formulae. As witches, we know the power of words. We seek to conduct ourselves in the highest ethical manner possible, and with the complete assumption of responsibility for our actions and all potential repercussions.

In utilizing sound in energy work, we aim to create and transmit vibrational energies, which act in concert with other forms of the duality, to bring benefit and healing to the individual and collective consciousness. Sound energy is communication; and music, with its universal nature, is total communication. In the deepest mysteries of music are the inspirations and the healing which lead to oneness and unity.



Full Moon

Want to dance forever in your shimmering light,
A moment’s escape from the daily struggle and fight.
Candles flicker, incense burns,
The wind whispers secrets, yet my heart still yearns,
For something I don’t think I have ever had
Something not passed from my mom or dad
I don’t want to learn spells or histories,
Casting techniques, herbs or mysteries,
I want something deep, resounding and strong,
I want my heart to learn a new song.
I found what brings joy and a smile to my face,
But I still don’t feel like I have a place.
Everyday I pray,
Every chance I get, I say
Spirit of the earth and sky
Don’t let me stagnate, rot or lie
Turn me into something great
Remove my fears, doubt and hate
Put back the pieces that someone stole
I beg you Spirit...
Make me whole.

by Ashta (Michelle Bryant)



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.

A Brother to My Sister:

Serving the nemeton of Phoenix Grove in Oregon House, California.

abrothertomysister@gmail.com.

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.

Denzial Ray Tittle #66072-

179 A-3: Fifty-five year old bi, poly, incarcerated man would enjoy correspondence with good people about goddess worship and/or sacred sexuality (and life, liberty..). FCI, P.O. Box 7000, Texarkana, TX 75505.

Lady Eibhlean and Lady

Aracos Arendel: GryphonSong Clan, Atlanta, GA.

piperpettus@yahoo.com,
www.gryphonsongclan.com.

Rev. James Middleton or

Rev. Rita Middleton: You can contact us at Drdjmid@aol.com or 706-291-2385.

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.

Dr. Katharyn Privett-Duren:

dr_privett@yahoo.com.

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.

Patrick Henry Drews

#1203960, Neal Unit, 9055 Spur 591, Amarillo, TX 79107.

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.

Richard Mainprize

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

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.

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: "Skippy" Rob Von Allmen, 425 Webster Road #934, Auburn, AL 36832, <skippy_the_witch@yahoo.com>, 334-826-3953.

Rev. Rowen Greenwolf: I am a 2nd Degree self-initiated Celtic Witch. I also serve as Ritual Priest and Grove Steward for the Bluewater Pagan Grove in Port Huron, MI. I am an active member and ordained with CST. (810) 689-7074.

Sacred Earth (Maka Wakan):

email: wanblee2@netzero.net;
(706) 987-7179.

Siryndolphinsong-

Bradford: Siryn can be reached at Bio-Buzz in Albany, GA, where we have a vast array of metaphysical and root-working supplies. Also offering in-depth classes, workshops, and seminars, at some of which Siryn shares different topics on the many paths she has traveled, and the specific tools she utilizes today. She is available as a speaker at other venues on request. Siryn is a intuitive reader who offers Tarot, Aura, and Obi (shell) readings, and in-depth palmistry at the store, and has other readers available. She is a Usui Reiki Master/Teacher with Lightarian incorporating crystal healing, chakra cleansing, pendulum clearing/balancing, guided meditation, energy work, lfa based root work, and spiritual/healing advisement. Her work as a minister includes all

Continued on page 7

Contacts (continued)

rites, most rituals, and she is willing to travel. Siryn is founder of the CST grove S.T.A.R. (Sacred Tribe of Ancient Roots), and creator of the Pagan Family Reunion (PFR). Siryn can be reached at Bio-Buzz, 612 N. Slappee Blvd., Albany, GA, 31701; (229) 395-9718; la.siryn@yahoo.com.

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.

Taavi Kellett: Can be reached by cell phone at (334) 297-6243.

Earthdance

September 20-23, 2012, The Lodge at Turtle Lake, Camilla, GA
<http://www.spiraltree.org/Earthdance/earthdance.shtml>

Earthdance, held every year on the third weekend of September, is CST's official festival, and is where our annual membership meeting and bi-annual elections will be held.

Earthdance has a long history; it was first started by Shadowcat at FDR State Park in Pine Mountain, GA, and was then taken over by Stormy & Sandy. They ran it for a couple of years together, and then it became Stormy's responsibility. Under her guidance, Earthdance moved to Hard Labor Creek State Park east of Atlanta, GA, and then finally to Kolomoki Mounds State Park. After her passing in 2004, her daughter Carol Lynne took over. Earthdance was last held in 2005, and after this 6-year hiatus, Carol Lynne graciously gave CST permission to revive Earthdance and hold it in Stormy's honor.

About the site: Earthdance is held at The Lodge at Turtle Lake, which is private property consisting of several mostly-flat acres, a very large lawn, a small cabin (the Lodge), and a school bus. The site has flushing toilets and outdoor showers. There is ample camping room and trees to hang hammocks from, and plenty of parking. No dogs are allowed; other animals may be allowed (please ask first). No firearms or illegal substances are allowed, so please leave these at home.

Prices: If you pay by midnight on: June 1 - \$30; August 1 - \$40; thereafter - \$50. Children 11-17 - 1/2 price; children 10 and under, or 2nd or more child - free. CST members get \$5 off registration prices. Vending fees extra.

Trees

I seek shelter in your arms, as we stand amongst your kin.
To lay within your arms, is to be home.
Your strength brings comfort to my heart.
Your gentleness brings peace to my soul.
Your wisdom is beyond that of all others.
Yet you willingly share it with those who know how to listen.
Your children know your name, and it is they whom hear your voice calling out to them.

You wait patiently for us to awaken, so we can share in your splendor.
You love us even in our ignorance, as our kind destroys your kin.
You shed a tear for us, as you remember the bonds we used to share.
Your heart calls out to us, and it mourns for the loss of your children.

Your gentle spirit celebrates each time one of us finally comes home.
Your heart rejoices as your children slowly start to hear your voice once again.

It is through you that wisdom is found.
It is within your arms that peace and strength can be found.
Our ancestors called you kin, and danced amongst your kind.
Now once again your children are starting to awaken.
They are coming home to you great mother.

To dance amongst your kin.
To quietly listen to your wisdom, and to once again seek shelter in your arms.

by Lyna Howells



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	July 3	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Full Moon ritual	Aug 2	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Earthdance	Sep 20-23	all weekend	CST	Lodge at Turtle Lake
Full Moon ritual	Sept 30	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Full Moon ritual	Oct 29	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills
Full Moon ritual	Nov 28	7:00 EDT	DH	Dragon Hills

DH = Dragon Hills Grove (Carrollton, GA); TBA = to be announced

Board of Directors' Meetings: The next BoD meeting will be held Wednesday, June 27, and again in September 2012. BoD meetings are held four times a year; check website at <<http://www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml>> for date and location of the next meeting.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

FallFling - October 18-21, 2012, Cherokee Farms, LaFayette, GA

PFR - November 15-18, 2012, The Lodge at Turtle Lake, Camilla, GA

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED