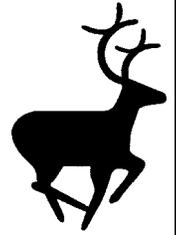




The Journey...



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

Changes at

Whee! When things change, they sure do so in a big way!

Cathy Rankin has resigned as president of CST, effective May 23, 2013. As vice-president, Linda Kerr has automatically become acting president.

On the same day, Lord Redhawk resigned as one of our members-at-large, leaving that position vacant.

Finally, Patricia Greer-Middleton has resigned as director of Sacred Grove Academy. And again, Linda Kerr has stepped into that post, as she was the original director, and is well-qualified to fill the role.

In other news, our groves all seem to be doing well, and a couple of new ones may be on the horizon.

The remaining Board of Directors will be getting together soon for our quarterly board meeting.



Membership Drive

Our annual membership drive will take place this year, during the month of August. Between August 1 and August 31, all one-year individual memberships will be just \$12.50 (instead of \$20), and all one-year family memberships will be \$20 (instead of \$35).



CST Litha 2013, #51

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CST Directors:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Linda Kerr |
| Vice President | Stephen Bradford |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Stephen Bradford |
| Member-at-Large | Charissa Iskiwitch |

CST Staff:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sacred Grove Academy Director | Linda Kerr |
| Pagan Prisoner Ministry | Charissa Iskiwitch |
| Newsletter Editor | Linda Kerr |
| Webmaster, CST & Sacred Grove | Linda Kerr |

Church of the Spiral Tree

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Auburn, AL 36831-3165

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cst@spiraltree.org

www.spiraltree.org

**Please note
our new
address!!
P.O. Box 3165
Auburn, AL
36831-3165**

Circle of Life

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

Clifford B. (July 12)
Richard P. (July 15)
Rob Von Allmen (July 16)
Jayson S. (July 16)
Susan B. (July 17)
Joshua R. (July 18)
Dana Ston (July 29)
Rowan K. (August 2)
Kim R. (August 6)
Elizabeth R. (August 7)
Tonia Indigo H. (August 14)
Desi W. (August 19)
David H. (September 10)
Tyler R. (September 21)
Raivyn I. (September 18)
Pearl H. (September 25)
Lyna H. (September 27)
Victor H. (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.

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 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 Lamma edition of "The Journey," please email your info to Linda Kerr at info@spiraltree.org, or mail to CST, P.O. Box 3165, Auburn, AL 36831-3165, no later than September 1, 2013.

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.

NEWS: The Board members of CST have passed a new policy, that any CST member who is made an ordained minister, must maintain their paid CST membership in order for their ordination status to remain valid. All ordinations will be good for a period of three years (we no longer ordain for life), during which the membership must be maintained. After this three-year period, you may apply to renew your ordination. There will be a small fee for renewal (still to be determined).

If the paid membership is not maintained during this three-year period or at any time thereafter, the ordination will lapse 30 days after the membership lapses.

This policy has been put in place to ensure that CST and our ordained ministers remain committed and connected to each other, and is effective for all ministers ordained in the year 2012 and on.

Subordinate Organizations: The main form of a local CST group is a Grove. We feel the church will have a better chance of successfully meeting members' needs if it is easily and locally accessible to them; therefore, we encourage CST members of legal age, **after having been paid members for at least one year**, to begin their own local chapter of CST. 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."

Grove News

Nine Worlds American Kindred is experiencing steady growth! We are an open kindred with a syncretic heathen theology and we invite you to join us on Facebook or at a gathering. Visit www.distrth.org for more information about our kindred and activities.

Nine Worlds American Kindred is having their first annual membership drive. We are offering 20% off membership between Litha (6/20) and Lammas (8/1). Benefits include admission to regular paid events, discounts on special events (like mead making lessons), and reduced tuition at Open Path Pagan Seminary. Contact ehsha2008@yahoo.com for an application.

Upcoming Nine Worlds events include:

Midsummer Celebration, Saturday, June 22, 2013; We will play games, feast, have a discussion circle, and hold ritual at nightfall.

Magical Name Workshop, Saturday, July 27, 2013; We will discuss the "how to," "why to," and "what to" of developing (or not developing) a magical name.

Hlaf-mas (Lammas) Celebration, Ingathering, and First Annual Membership Drive, Saturday, August 3, 2013; Lammas is a harvest celebration. We will commemorate our good luck with games, feasting, and an offertory rite. We will celebrate with a Symbel--complete with gylp, beot, and some sound scop-ing. Nine Worlds will also collect pet staples for the Lee County Humane Society, household items for Habitat for Humanity, and canned goods for the Lee County Food Bank.



Auburn Pagan Pride Day

Join us at the Auburn (Alabama) Pagan Pride Day (PPD), Saturday, September 28, 2013, 10am - 7:00 pm Central time, at the Davis Arboretum on the Auburn University campus. Hosted by Church of the Spiral Tree, PPD is an all-day event, open to everyone, children included, and is free to attend. Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the East Alabama Food Bank.

PPD is accepting vendor (including food vendors), and non-profit applications until September 17. [vendor.shtml](#).

If you'd like to teach a class (preferably on beginner or intro topics), please fill out the form here: [classes.shtml](#). The deadline is September 17.

For more info, to sign up as a vendor, or to teach a class, please visit: www.spiraltree.org/PPD/PPD.shtml.



Iris

by April Iris McLeod

My Grandmother passed over on April 22 at 2:30 am. She was 98 years old (this life). She was the matriarch of a large clan, and the strongest of us all. She was the first person to teach me about our heritage as witches and, although she was liked and disliked in our small hometown, those who disliked her at least had enough sense not to make her mad (wink). She was from the old school, where she just had to point a finger at someone and they would get "what they deserved," so to speak! She didn't worry too much about the rule of three because, in her mind, she was justified in everything she did.

My mother carried on my teachings until she died (at age 38) when I was 11, and then my grandmother and my aunt continued working with me from that point.

My grandmother was ill for several years before passing and lived with my aunt at the end. I had been seeing her regularly, until a disagreement about her treatment left me not wanting to enter that house. My aunt called me on the day before my grandmother died and told me they were having a vigil. I was not going to go, but she called to me. I went to the vigil (there were over 50 people there,) and I went and spoke to my grandmother. Though she was not visibly responsive, I knew she was listening.

I told her she had taken care of her large family long enough, that she had suffered enough, and that it was ok for her to go. She opened her eyes in complete recognition and visibly relaxed. She died an hour later.

This article is in honor of a great woman - Iris Louise Moore Trovaioli.



How To Honor Lugh of the Many Skills

A Lammas ritual, to offer thanks to Lugh for your skills and talents

By Patti Wigington, About.com Guide

From the website: "About.com Paganism/Wicca"

http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/lammas/ht/Lughnasadh_Rite.htm

Lugh was known to the Celts as a god of craftsmanship and skill—in fact, he was known as the Many-Skilled God, because he was good at so many different things. In one legend, Lugh arrives at Tara, and is denied entrance. He enumerates all the great things he can do, and each time the guard says, "Sorry, we've already got someone here who can do that." Finally Lugh asks, "Ah, but do you have anyone here who can do them ALL?"

Take the opportunity this day to celebrate your own skills and abilities, and make an offering to Lugh to honor him, the god of craftsmanship.

Difficulty: Average

Time Required: Varied

Here's How:

1. Before you begin, take a personal inventory. What are your strong points? Everyone has a talent -- some have many, some have one that they're really good at. Are you a poet or writer? Do you sing? How about needlecraft, woodworking, or beading? Can you tap dance? Do you cook? How about painting? Think about all the things you can do—and all of the things you'd like to learn to do, and the things you'd like to get better at. Once you sit down and think about it, you might be surprised to realize how accomplished you really are.

2. Decorate your altar with items related to your skill or talent. If your skill relates to something tangible, like sewing or jewelry-making, put some of your craft supplies on the altar. If it's an ability to DO, rather than MAKE, such as dancing or singing, put some symbol of your ability on your altar. Do you have a favorite outfit you wear when you dance? A particular song lyric that you know you're fabulous with? Add as many items as you like to your altar.

3. You'll need a candle to symbolize Lugh, the god. Any harvest color is good, because he came up with the idea of a grain festival to honor his foster mother, Tailtiu. Place the candle on your altar in the center. Feel free to add some stalks of grain if you like—you can combine this rite with one honoring the harvest, if you choose.

4. Light the candle, and take a moment to think about all the things you are good at. What are they? Are you proud of your accomplishments? Now's your chance to boast a little, and take some pride in what you've learned to do. Announce your own talents in the following incantation. Say:

*Mighty Lugh, the many-skilled god,
he who is a patron of the arts,
a master of trades, and a silver-tongued bard.
Today I honor you, for I am skilled as well.
I am deft with a needle,*

*strong of voice,
and paint beauty with my brush strokes.**

*Obviously, you would insert your pride in your own skills here

5. Now, consider what you wish to improve upon. Is your tennis-playing out of whack? Do you feel inadequate at bungee jumping, yodeling, or drawing? Now's the time to ask Lugh for his blessing. Say:

*Lugh, many-skilled one,
I ask you to shine upon me.
Share your gifts with me,
and make me strong in skill.*

6. At this time, you should make an offering of some sort. The ancients made offerings in exchange for the blessings of their gods—quite simply, petitioning a god was a reciprocal act, a system of exchange. Your offering can be a tangible one: grain, fruit, wine, or even a sample of your skillwork—imagine dedicating a song or painting to Lugh. It can also be an offering of time or loyalty. Whatever it is, it should come from the heart. Say:

*I thank you, mighty Lugh, for hearing my words tonight.
I thank you for blessing me with the skills I have.
I make this offering of bread and wine* to you as a small token of honor.*

*Or whatever else you may be offering.

8. Take a few more moments and reflect on your own abilities. Do you have faith in your skills, or do you deflect compliments from others? Are you insecure about your abilities, or do you feel a surge of pride when you sew/dance/sing/hula hoop? Meditate on your offering to Lugh for a few moments, and when you are ready, end the ritual.

Tips:

If you are performing this rite as part of a group, family or coven setting, go around in a circle and have each person take their turn to express their pride in their work, and to make their offerings to Lugh.

What You Need:

A candle to represent Lugh
Symbols of your skill or talent
An offering of some sort



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.

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 I offer 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.

Dana Ston:

DanaVictorSton@aol.com.

Lady Eibhlean and Lady

Aracos Arendel: GryphonSong Clan, Atlanta, GA.

piperpettus@yahoo.com,

www.gryphonsongclan.com.

Ehsha Apple: I am an ordained minister, specializing in non-traditional Handfastings (i.e. mixed tradition, family joining, poly, and LGBTIQ) and Body Easing (aka "Crossing"). As har-gydia of Nine Worlds American Kindred in Auburn, AL, I offer a variety of learning experiences including workshops, initiatory training, and formal pagan education through Open Path Pagan Seminary (OpenPathSeminary.org). I am owner of The Wyrd Sister (thewyrdsistershop.com), an online metaphysical specializing in handmade artisan goods geared toward a magical life, and regularly hand-craft talismans, traditional hoodoo oils, healing salves, and ointments with the Nine Worlds tribe and my apprentices. Nine Worlds American Kindred, a syncretic heathen kindred, offers regular celebrations, workshops and socials. Information about Nine Worlds can be found at

disrtroth.org and on Facebook.

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

Jayson Schertz #B50630: Pagan in prison. I am following a Druid/Celtic path. Can't get much to study/learn in here. Anyone willing to correspond with me or teach me, please do. Blessed be. Menard, M.C.C., P.O. Box 1000, Menard, IL 62259.

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.

Richard Peebles #523160: I will correspond with Wiccan gay or straight males and females alike; I only ask to write and make friends, and an opportunity to learn something new in Wicca.. Richard Edward Peebles #523160, Riverbend C.F., ED115, 198 Laying Farm Rd., Milledgeville, GA 31061.

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.

Siryndolphinson-Bradford: <la.siryndolphinson@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, hand-partings, 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 Dream-Scapes, 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. Slapppy 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.



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 <www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml> for up-to-date information, directions, and links to RSVP for each ritual.

| EVENT | DATE | LOCATION/HOST |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| Workshop: Magical Names and Aspiration Mottos | 7-27-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |
| Imbolc / Lughnasadh Celebration and Sumble | 7-27-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |
| Finding / Autumnal Equinox Celebration | 9-21-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |
| Auburn Pagan Pride Day | 9-28-13 | Auburn/CST |
| Workshop: Pathworking Explanation for non-initiates | 10-26-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |
| Winternights / Samhain Celebration | 10-26-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |
| Workshop: Yule Logs | 11-17-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |
| Full Moon Esbat | 11-17-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |
| Yule Celebration / Return of the Oak King Drama | 12-21-13 | Auburn/9 Worlds Kindred |

GROVES, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR SCHEDULE OF RITUALS!

Board of Directors' Meetings: The next BoD meeting will be held in June 2013. BoD meetings are held four times a year; check website at <www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml> for date and location of the next meeting.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

FallFling: October 10-13, 2013, Roxanna, Alabama

Church of the Spiral Tree
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Auburn, AL 36831-3165

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED