



The Journey



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

Church of the Spiral Tree Membership Meeting Minutes May 24, 2015

The meeting was held at Moondance, at Roxanna AL. Attending were Linda, Skippy, Siryn, Kat P., Trillium, Madeline, Joshua, Ricarda, James P., Sunshine, April, Nion, Hope Mc., and Julie S. The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

Linda, Skippy, and Kat P. have a proposal to restructure CST. Linda cannot continue to run the church almost completely by herself. While a couple of folks are helping, realistically, the majority of the work falls on Linda, and she is stretched too thin. She works seven days a week at her new store, has to take care of her farm and garden, and there is just no time left over. She is not willing to just turn CST over to someone else to run, because every time that's been tried in the past, it did not turn out well, and she had to take it back over again. The options are to either dismantle CST entirely as a membership organization, or restructure it and its programs so that there is not so much burden being placed on Linda.

The new structure will have a Board of Directors, which is primarily appointed, rather than elected. The positions and appointed people will be:

- **Founder:** Linda Kerr
- **Faerie Faith Tradition:** Skippy (Robert Von Allmen)
- **Gangani Tradition:** Kat Privett-Duren
- **Solitaries:** Madeline Smith

And a final member-at-large position will be elected by the membership, with the nominees drawn from the paid membership, as in the past. We will have one

member-at-large for each four BoD members.

Things that will remain the same: The newsletter will continue to be published as before, four times per year, and Jill has volunteered to step in as newsletter editor. CST will continue to ordain ministers. CST will continue to host rituals for the community, but each ritual will only take place if someone volunteers to write and run the ritual, and someone must organize the actual gathering, potluck, and clean-up. Linda will continue as director of Sacred Grove Academy, as that is a very successful program that is benefitting over 100 families state-wide. Linda, along with Sharon, will continue to organize the Auburn Pagan Pride Day on behalf of CST. Things that will change: CST will have only two administrative meetings per year, rather than four. We will no longer have Groves. Finally, we will discontinue the Pagan Prisoner Ministry, specifically the Pen-Pal program. There are over 250 inmates who want a pen-pal, and the reality is that we only have maybe five people writing to a very few inmates. Linda feels like it is holding out false hope to these inmates, and causing a lot of frustration, to continue to offer them a pen-pal, when one cannot realistically be found. We discontinued this program a few years back for the same reason, but then attempted to revive it. Linda feels like we've given it all we can, and it's time to put it to rest. CST will still offer reduced cost memberships to inmates, so that

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CST Directors:

President	Linda Kerr
Vice President	Siryn Dolphinsong
Secretary/Treasurer	Stephen Bradford
Member-at-Large	Sarah McClain
Member-at-Large	Saebriel Velvetfire

CST Staff:

Sacred Grove Academy Director	Linda Kerr
Newsletter Editor	Camenae deWelles
Webmaster	Linda Kerr

Church of the Spiral Tree

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Circle of Life

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

Richard P. (July 15)
Rob V. (July 16)
Joshua R. (July 18)
Holly Ann K. (July 29)
Rowan K. (August 2)
Robert K. (August 3)
Kim R. (August 6)
Annathesa (August 14)
Hugh A. (August 19)
Dakota Y. (September 4)
April G. (September 16)
Tyler R. (September 21)
Kimberly M. (September 25)



Ministers

CST, being a church, may ordain any member age 18 and over as a minister, as long as they have been a paid member for at least one year. We are currently re-vamping our program to better serve our membership and community.

The policies below have 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.

Eligibility Requirements

You must be a currently paid member of Church of the Spiral Tree, and not incarcerated.

You must have been a paid member of CST for at least one year previous to applying to become a minister.

You must be at least 21 years of age.

Your application must include a photocopy or scan (front and back) of official picture ID; e.g. driver's license, student ID, state ID, work ID, etc.

Your application must include your payment of \$50 for the ordination fee.

Important

Paid members of CST who are currently incarcerated are not eligible to apply for ordination through CST.

The President of CST reserves the right, as Head Chaplain for all ministerial functions, to deny and/or revoke any ordination as determined by vote of the Ministerial Committee and the Board of Directors that said minister has misrepresented him/herself or CST; or has behaved in a manner that is inconsistent with the policies or bylaws of CST or behaves verbally or physically in a manner that has a negative impact on the reputation or credibility of CST.

It is the responsibility of all ministers to be informed of and conduct ministerial work in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

Ordination is for a Three-Year Period

Your ordination will be good for a period of three years,

during which you must maintain your paid CST membership. After this three-year period, if you still meet the eligibility requirements and your membership has been maintained continuously, you may apply to renew your ordination (\$25 fee).

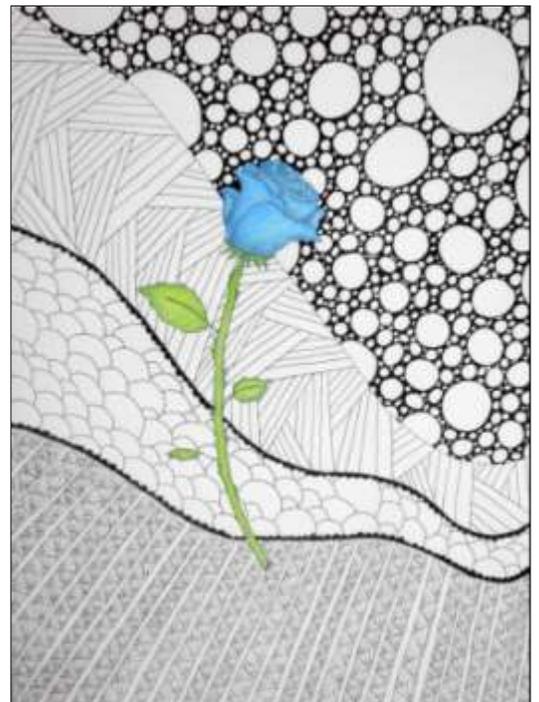
How to Become Ordained

The ordination process begins with your application (found on our website: www.spiraltree.org/ordain.shtml) along with the \$50 fee. Your application will be reviewed by the Board of Directors. If you are not approved, \$40 of your fee will be refunded.

If ordained, you will be entered into our database and will soon receive your certificate of ordination and a card to carry with you.

Maintaining Paid Membership

If the paid CST membership is not maintained during this three-year period or at any time thereafter, the ordination will lapse 30 days after the membership lapses. After renewing your membership, you may apply again to become ordained, for a \$50 fee. 🌹



Blue Rose, Kim M.

About CST

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 attend, to ordain ministers, and to extend our tax-exempt status to sub-groups of CST.

One of our ministries is Sacred Grove Academy, a Pagan church cover school program for homeschooling families in Alabama. 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.

Church of the Spiral Tree is classified as a 509(a)(1) & 170(b)(1)(A)(i) organization. We are tax-exempt under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

Myths and Mysteries of the Midsummer Solstice

<http://www.enchanted-hollow.com/litha-midsummer/>

Litha, or Midsummer, is a celebration that has been observed for centuries, in one form or another. It is no surprise, then, that there are plenty of myths and legends associated with this time of year!

In England, rural villagers built a big bonfire on Midsummer's Eve. This was called "setting the watch," and it was known that the fire would keep evil spirits out of the town. Some farmers would light a fire on their land, and people would wander about, holding torches and lanterns, from one bonfire to another. If you jumped over a bonfire -- presumably without lighting your pants on fire -- you were guaranteed to have good luck for the coming year.

After your Litha fire has burned out and the ashes gone cold, use them to make a protective amulet. You can do this by carrying them in a small pouch or kneading them into some soft clay and forming a talisman. In some traditions...it is believed that the Midsummer ashes will protect you from misfortune. You can also sow the ashes from your bonfire into your garden, and your crops will be bountiful for the rest of the summer growing season.

It is believed in parts of England that if you stay up all night on Midsummer's Eve, sitting in the middle of a stone circle, you will see the Fae. But be careful - carry a bit of rue in your pocket to keep them from harassing you, or turn your jacket inside out to confuse them. If you have to escape the Fae, follow a ley line, and it will lead you to safety.

Residents of some areas of Ireland say that if you have something you wish to happen, you "give it to the pebble." Carry a stone in your hand as you circle the Litha bonfire, and whisper your request to the stone -- "heal my mother" or "help me be more courageous", for example. After your third turn around the fire, toss the stone into the flames.

Astrologically, the sun is entering Cancer, which is a water sign. Midsummer is not only a time of fire magic, but of water as well. Now is a good time to work magic involving sacred streams and holy wells. If you visit one, be sure to go just before sunrise on Litha and approach the water from the east, with the rising sun. Circle the well or spring three times, walking deosil, and then make an offering of silver coins or pins.

Sunwheels were used to celebrate Midsummer in some early Pagan cultures. A wheel -- or sometimes a really big ball of straw -- was lit on fire and rolled down a hill into a river. The burned remnants were taken to the local temple and put on display. In Wales, it was believed that if the fire went out before the wheel hit the water, a good crop was guaranteed for the season.

In Egypt, the Midsummer season was associated with the flooding of the Nile River delta. In South America, paper boats are filled with flowers, then set on fire. They are then sailed down the river, carrying prayers to the Gods. In some traditions of modern Paganism, you can get rid of problems by writing them on a piece of paper and dropping them into a moving body of water on Litha.

William Shakespeare associated Midsummer with witchcraft in at least three of his plays. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, and *The Tempest* all contain references to magic on the night of the summer solstice. 🧙

Midsummer Ritual

http://www.ravenandcrone.com/catalog/a8/Litha,-Summer-Solstice-Rituals,-Activities-and-Lore/article_info.html

Tools

- Golden Yellow Altar Cloth
- Small Cloth Pouch of Summertime Herbs
- Cauldron
- 1c Fresh Spring Water
- Red Sun Candle
- Green Earth Candle
- Summer Blend Incense (Jasmine, Rose, Lotus, Wysteria, or combination)

Sweep area moving in deosil manner. Set up Quarter Candles and any accessories symbolizing the Elements of the Quarters. Decorate the altar with seasonal flowers, especially Sunflowers. Prepare your Pouch of Summertime Herbs, and as you make it, pour your troubles, pains, sorrows, illness, and regrets into it. Place the Cauldron in the center of your altar, the Red Sun candle to the right of it, the Green Candle to the left of it. Place the cup of Fresh Spring Water in front of the Green Candle. Take a shower or bath for purification. Sit quietly and meditate for a while, then ground and center. When ready, play some peaceful music for the ritual.

Cast the circle. Pick up your Wand, and with arms upraised, face South and say:

I celebrate the Mid-of-Summer, held in honor of the Blazing Sun. All of Nature vibrates with the fertility of the Divine. The Earth basks in the light and life of the Sun. The ever turning Wheel of the Year has made the light ever stronger And the light has kept growing longer, until today The middle of the time of light, Litha, MidSummer's Day, Summer Solstice. From here, the light begins to fade, again, until once more the Wheel turns to the time of darkness, Yule, Winter

Solstice. Yet, for today, the Sun is high, the light is bright, the Earth is warm. As the Sun blazes above, may the fires of my rite flame below.

Face the altar, put down your Wand, and light the Green Candle to the left of your Cauldron, saying:

Oh, Mother of Nature, She that brings the meadow to bloom, Green Forest Mother, from lakes and streams your children spring forth. Blessed of the stars and the Moon, Fruitful Womb of which I honor, and ask of Thee, Thy Blessings.

Light the Red Sun Candle to the right of your Cauldron, saying:

Oh, Divine of all things, that plants the seed and nurtures Life. of Fertility and Fruitfulness, from hill and forest your children emerge. Blessed of the blazing Sun, I honor, and of Thee, Thy Blessings.

Take the Herb Pouch and hold above your head, saying:

By thy power, oh sacred herbs, may the Divine of the Sun Burn away the hurtful, the troublesome, and the painful, Leaving me purified through warmth and Light.

Hold the pouch over your main Altar Candle to take flame. While it is burning, drop it in the Cauldron, saying:

Great Divine, from Thee all powers flow forth. The Two that are One, Great Spirit of All-That-Is, By Thy powers, and the powers of Air, Fire, Water, and Earth, By Thy powers, and the powers of the Sun, Moon, and Stars, I banish these negatives from my life.

Visualize the negatives burning away to nothingness. When all that is left is ashes, douse the ashes with the cup of

Fresh Spring Water, feel as if the water is being poured over you and your negatives washed away. Air-dry by dancing and running your hands up and down your arms, body, and legs. Don't forget your head, laying it back and shaking, running your fingers through your hair. When done, face the altar, wave your hand over the Cauldron and say:

As the Phoenix rises from the ashes, so let this water be pure and new. Bless this water so that it may bless and renew me. May your rays of the Midsummer Sun bless and nourish me. Two that are One, may your blessings sustain me as I journey, anew.

Pass your cupped hands over the Cauldron, pausing briefly each time to pour in wishes for health, prosperity, and good fortune to be part of your life. Dip the forefinger of your right hand into the cauldron water and trace a pentagram on your forehead, saying: *Let my mind be open to the truth.*

Anoint your lips, saying: *Let my lips always speak the truth.*

Anoint your heart area, saying: *Let my heart seek the ways of the Divine, now and always.*

Anoint the centers of your palms, saying: *Let my hands be gifted to work in magical ways.*

Anoint the soles of your feet, saying: *Let my feet ever walk upon the sacred paths!*

Now is the time for meditation and any spellworkings. [These] include: prosperity, fertility, and plentiful harvests. Finish by having the Cakes and Ale Ceremony and releasing the circle. Clean up.

You are done. 🍀

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.

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

Dr. Katharyn Privett-Duren (and family): Minister, Priestess of Gangani Tribe of Alabama.

Madeline W.S.:
makalinakittenmother@yahoo.com

Nion and LeePhether: We are vibrational alchemists who facilitate Reiki sessions/attunements based on Usui, Lightarian, and other non-traditional methods. Ordained as clergy (Nion CST, Lee CST & ULC), we offer handfastings/weddings, baptisms, requiems (passing-on rites), as well as spiritual guidance. We are on the council of The Sweet Potato Clan of The Free Cherokees and are pipe carriers. As certified Angel Therapy Practitioners (ACP) and certified Wholeness Blessing Facilitators we are excellent listeners. We reside in west Georgia and can work in the Southeast USA. Contact info: Nion011@aol.com, Leephether@gmail.com, or (404) 789-4178.

Ricarda Munch:
(256) 590-8502.

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.

Robert Kaczorowski:
Bobbykacz@silverhands.net.

Sarah McClain aka Super Puff Puff Girl: I do Tarot readings, numerology, crystal healing, and rootwork. I own Crossroads in Columbus, GA, a retail store that sells a variety of things including metaphysical supplies and services. If you have an interest in my services or supplies please give me a call or email me. 3502 Victory Drive, Columbus, Ga., 31903, (229) 669-5991; inicolebuzz@gmail.com.

Shuree Munden-Wagstaff:
shureezinleather@yahoo.com.

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 DreamScapes & Da' Gallery, metaphysical supply and service oriented businesses in Auburn, AL. As an ordained minister, I offer legal communions, handfastings, hand-partings, Wiccanings, and requiems (passing on rites). At the stores and across the US, I offer ongoing classes, workshops and various teachings. Look for me in the Panhandle of Florida quite often too! Stephen A. Bradford, 1635 S. College St., Auburn, AL 36830, (334) 887-0989 or (229) 395-0963. Email: tyernan2003@yahoo.com.



Goddess of the Rose, Kim M.

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. Rituals without at least five attending will be cancelled.

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION/HOST
Auburn Pagan Pride Day	9-19-15	Davis Arboretum, Auburn AL/CST
Samhain Ritual	11-7-15	Roxanna, Auburn AL/CST
Yule Ritual	12-20-15 (Sunday)	Roxanna, Auburn AL/CST

Board of Directors' Meetings: The next BoD meetings are held four times a year. The most recent meeting was held May 24, 2015. Please check the website at www.spiraltree.org/upcoming.shtml for the date and location of the next meeting.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

FallFling: October 15-18, 2015, Roxanna, Alabama

Minutes, continued from page 1

they can receive the newsletter four times per year. And perhaps we can think of another way to reach out to Pagan inmates.

There was a motion that those present accept this proposed re-structuring; the motion was seconded, and carried. The proposal will be on the ballot this September for the membership to vote on.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. 🐾

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

