

Part 11 of ARDA 2

SECTION FOUR



The DRUIDS EGG

Order of the Mithril Star

OMS is either an Offshoot of the RDNA or a Group in Near-Orbit.
Their Views are Their Own Affairs.

Volume One

2002 & 2003

Drynemetum Press



The Druid's Egg

Vol. 1, No. 1

Imbolc 2003

AKA, Mithril Star News & Views

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The "State of the Order":

Where We Are at Today

Greetings in the Mother:

Our latest "online" Druidcraft 101 class will be under way on February 2nd. Imbolc will also be the launch day for our new Druidcraft 202 class, based upon A Reformed Druid Anthology. The Mother Grove is also sponsoring a LIVE version of Druidcraft 101 beginning in March at Sybok and Ceridwen's cabin in the Cascade foothills. The Talent (OR) proto-grove will be doing the same thing down in their end of the Rogue Valley.

Ceridwen's Astropagan 201 (intermediate level) class is also well underway now, having begun on January 2. Her beginners' class, Astropagan 101 will be offered again beginning March 1, and it already has 67 pending students.

All classes are available over email via Yahoo Groups. See <http://www.mithrilstar.org/courses.htm> for further details.

The last quarter of 2002 saw a loss for us as far as Groves established under our wing are concerned. With the moving of Angie Druid Fulmer to Israel, we lost the fledgling Circle of the Beavers proto-grove in Corvallis, OR. Cylch Sequoia Sempervirons Grove (Hiouchi, CA) broke up due to internal strife. And two other proto-groves, one based in the Seattle area and the other in Tennessee left the OMS outright (although I understand they retain standing in the RDNA). On the other hand, the Mother Grove of OMS has gained one new member, and a new proto-grove is forming in Talent OR.

My father was a farmer, and like all farmers he experienced crop losses and failures from time to time. However, he was in tune with nature, and like any Druid, he realized that these things go in cycles, and the next crop he planted would be bigger and healthier than the one he lost.

Membership wise we are now at 91 (down from 173). Of those, 42 are active, 49 are inactive. 69 are 1st Order, 14 are 2nd, 5 are 3rd, 1 is a 5th and 2 are 7ths.

The Mother Grove will hold its monthly "Pagan Movie Night" (for members of Southern Oregon Pagan Network) on February 1st. This month we will be (appropriately enough) showing "Groundhog Day," with Bill Murray. In March, we plan to show "The Sorceress and the Friar" (the English version, not the French sub-titled one), which is about 12th Century France and a "Forest Witch" who gives the Friar a run for his money!

Plans for Imladris (see <http://www.mithrilstar.org/imladris>) are progressing, despite our having decided that the present location of the Mother Grove has too few acres to properly do what we want. A couple of realtors are already working to find a suitable space for us in the Rogue Valley. Waiting is.

Despite our losses in the last quarter of 2002, we are predicting a strong 2003. We believe we will double in size by this time next year, and hopefully spawn at least three new Groves. Imladris will be well on the way to becoming a reality. Like in the above farming analogy, we expect that weeds will be present in our fields, but weeding is always a part of good cultivation. Farther ahead, we are dedicated to seeing OMS-RDNA Groves at our future colonies on the Moon and Mars! We will be around, preserving the RDNA far into the future. After all, if a growing percentage of the Earth's population chooses to live their lives as Druids and Gods, we feel that it can only help to bring balance and a return to the reverence that Nature deserves!

And so must it be!



The Druid's Egg

Vol. 1 No. 2
Calan Mai Beltane 2003 / YR 41

Druidcraft 101

Order of the Mithril Star's next online Druidcraft 101 class begins June 21 and will last about 16 weeks. To enroll, send a blank email to druidcraft101@yahoo.com or enroll online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/druidcraft101> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d101.htm>

Druidcraft 202

The next Druidcraft 202 course (A Walk Through the ARDA) will begin June 21. This will be a revised class that will encompass the NEW improved ARDA and will take approximately 40 weeks! (Not for the feeble!). Once again, Norm Nelson and Michael Scharding will be joining us to share their unique perspectives. To enroll, send a blank email to druidcraft202@yahoo.com or enroll online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/druidcraft202> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d202.htm>

Rogue Valley (OR) Druid Summit Planned

OMS is organizing a "Rogue Valley Druid Summit" where the leaders of all the Druid groups represented in Southern Oregon can meet and share concerns, methodology and simply fellowship. RDNA, ADF, Henge of Keltria, Tuatha d'Brighid and Sisters of Avalon all have representation here.

Astrology Classes Continue

Sister Ceridwen is deeply involved in her beginning and intermediate Astrology classes. For info on upcoming classes (held online) go to <http://www.mithrilstar.org/huntersmoon>

EVERY PAGAN NEEDS

LEGAL PROTECTION;

<http://www.prepaidlegal.com/go/earseneau>

Best Wishes and Happy 41st to Our Comrades

OMS wishes to express our congratulations to the rest of RDNA on the celebration of 40 years of existence. Best wishes also to those making the pilgrimage to Carleton. May your journey be safe and may the Earth Mother grant you enlightenment and inspiration.

Financial Report For 2002

The Order collected a total of \$541.00 in the fiscal year of 2002 (Jan1 to Dec 31). All funds were deposited into the

Imladris fund for the purchase and building of our Druid Monastery.

Discussion has begun on ways to expedite the building of Imladris. Some of the proposals thus far are:

- Make dues mandatory for all degrees (currently they are mandatory for the Third degree up).
- Charge for classes.
- Charge an Initiation fee for each degree.
- Require that D101 students purchase "Stranger..." from us directly.
- Sell timeshares in Imladris.
- Reinstate the requirement that Groves pay a portion of dues to the Mother Grove. The suggestion was 33%.
- Set up an online "craft" store where members could sell their homemade items, splitting the profit with Imladris.

There are other possibilities as well. The Mother Grove is inviting all interested parties to submit ideas. We expect to institute some kind of program by Midsummer. Comments should be directed to pendderwydd@m...

Growth of the Order -- 1st Quarter 2003

Currently, there are 106 Druids on the rolls. 46 Druids are "active," which is to say, they are participating at some level in the Order. Of those:

- 30 Druids are of the First Degree.
- 8 Druids are of the Second Degree.
- 5 Druids are of the Third Degree.
- 2 of these are "conditional" (meaning they are owing dues for the current fiscal year).
- 1 Druid is of the Fifth Degree.
- 2 Druids are of the Seventh Degree.

13 new Druids have pledged since Imbolq.
--2 of those are now inactive.

There is currently 1 active Grove, with 4 members.
There are no active proto-Groves.

There are 3 "proposed" proto-Groves (no papers filed).

The current Druidcraft 101 class began with 98 students.
There are currently 29 students remaining (they have just received Lesson 10). 10 students have already Pledged.

IT'S OKAY FOR PAGANS TO MAKE MONEY!

<http://www.mithrilstar.org/ppl>

Imladris

The search for land for Imladris has shifted to Humboldt County in California. Humboldt is the 2nd county south of the Oregon border.

The largest city is Eureka, and its biggest attribute is Redwoods. The town we feel drawn to live closest to is Arcata, a liberal, college town (home to Humboldt State University), located approximately in the middle of the "Redwood Empire". Land there is relatively inexpensive (compared to the Rogue Valley in OR). This, and it's even milder weather patterns,

proximity to the redwoods and the ocean, and other factors, have caused the shift in emphasis.



The Druid's Egg

Vol. 1 No. 3
32 Foghamhar 41
Lughnasadh 2003

CONCLUSION

That's the news from the Mother Grove of the Order of the Mithril Star, RDNA. May you all have a blessed Beltane. We'll see you again at Lughnassadh.

Please support the Order:
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/donate.htm>

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Thou art God/dess: The Sun God Lugh has been sending one heat wave after another to us here in the Rogue Valley, and we are doing our best to stay cool! Gardening and magickal workings are only done in the early morning, dusk, or late into the evening during this season!

ROGUE VALLEY DRUID SUMMIT

The first Rogue Valley Druid leadership summit was held at Sybok and Ceridwen's cabin in the Cascade foothills in early July. They all agreed to disagree, and not let their differences become barriers to networking. In anticipation of their relocation to the "Redwood Empire", Sybok & Ceridwen handed over the controls to the So. Oregon Pagan Network website and discussion group to Aigeann, lead Druid of the Rogue River ProtoGrove (ADF). Future meetings were discussed.

FACT-FINDING IN ARCATA CA

Ceridwen and Sybok are planning a fact-finding mission to Arcata, CA later in August. They'll meet with members of the Sequoia Pagan Alliance (<http://www.sequoiapagans.org>) and with old friends from the original "Jefferson Index", as well as meet, greet, and hug our friends, the sequoia sempervirons.

DRUIDCRAFT 101

The Midsummer session of Druidcraft 101 is well under way. We started this time with a record breaking 120 total. With the Midterm just sent out, we are down to a more reasonable 49. So far no new members have joined. But, "waiting is." The next online Druidcraft 101 class begins November 2nd. To enroll, send a blank email to druidcraft101@yahoogroups.com or enroll online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/druidcraft101> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d101.htm>

DRUIDCRAFT 202

Druidcraft 202 (A Walk Through the ARDA) began June 22. This is a revised class encompassing the NEW improved ARDA. Once again, Norm and Michael are with us sharing their unique perspectives, and they seem to be having fun doing it, although the class as a whole seems rather unfocused, therefore, most druidic! The next session begins November 30th. To enroll, send a blank email to druidcraft202@yahoogroups.com or enroll online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/druidcraft202> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d202.htm>

NEWS OF THE GROVES

ProtoGroves are now forming in Talent OR, New York City, and Connecticut. The Mother Grove will relocate from Grants Pass OR to Arcata, CA in the Spring of 2004.

ASTROLOGY FOR PAGANS

Progress is being made in Ceridwen's Astrology for Pagans classes: on July 7, the Beginning class has graduated into the Intermediate sessions, and there will be an Advanced session soon for the other Intermediate class. A new Beginning class will start in November 1, 2003; to enroll, send a blank email to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/astropagan101/>

Several students have expressed an interest in becoming "Professional Astrologers" as well. Ceridwen has been putting together a Certification program towards this end, as well as working on a "Pagan Studies" program which will include other classes besides Astrology, such as Numerology, Tarot, Shamanic Pathworking, and many others.

If you are interested in a private consultation about your Astrological chart, please visit her home page at: <http://www.mithrilstar.org/huntersmoon/>

PRE-PAID LODGING AT IMLADRIS

We are now projecting that the guest facilities at Imladris will open in the Spring of 2005. Phase One will include 100 camping spaces, three guest cottages, an on site store, laundry facilities and hot tubs. Phase Two (to be completed by Summer, 2006) will include three more guest cottages and 25 RV spaces. Phase Three (Fall 2007) will include six guest cottages, a swimming pool, and a 2,800 square foot conference center and all purpose building. In between the phases, we'll be working on the central circle, labyrinth, meditation garden and fire ring.

We're now offering pre-paid lodging at Imladris, as a well to bring this all about. Lodging packets are available for a minimum donation of \$100. I'm including a chart with the details, but here is how it works:

If you donate \$200, that entitles you to a choice of 20 campsite nights, 16 RV nights, or 4 cottage nights. If we don't open by our stated deadlines, you double your nights for each year we are behind. Pre-paid nights will be available for use at conferences and conventions.

Lodging rates are based on current rates being charged by innkeepers in the Redwood Empire area. They could (and probably will) go up by our target date, so buying in early can save you a lot of money, and consider: you're already saving over 50% from the get go!

Check out the attached chart and let me know what you think -- or better -- purchase a lodging packet today!

Use the following "Pay Pal" link:

https://www.paypal.com/xclick/business=ceridwen%40mithrilstar.org&item_name=Prepaid+lodging&no_note=1&tax=0¤cy_code=USD

(Note: Remember that the requirement for Seventh degree is that you visit the Redwoods once every three years.)



CONCLUSION

The Mother Grove wishes all of you a most bountiful first harvest for Lughnasadh, and abundant blessings throughout the season!

May you never thirst,

Ellis "Sybok" Arseneau,
AD Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear,
Clerk Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng Y Bydoedd Grove, OMS-RDNA

The Druids Egg Send letters, submissions to mithrilstarnews-owner@yahoo.com There is no guarantee that your submission will be published. All submissions become the property of the OMS-RDNA. Published four times each year by The Mother Grove of The Order of the Mithril Star -- Reformed Druids of North America Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng y Bydoedd Grove "A non-prophet, ir-religious, dis-organization" No rites reversed -- Copyright (c) 2003

ACT NOW TO PURCHASE PRE-PAID LODGING AT IMLADRIS

Located in the pristine Redwoods of Northern California, Imladris will be the "Left Coast's" PREMIER Pagan and Naturist vacation venue, Pagan conference/ritual/retreat center, and the headquarters of the Order of the Mithril Star --Reformed Druids of North America.

We are now projecting that the guest facilities at Imladris will open in the Spring of 2005.

Phase One will include 100 camping spaces, three guest cottages, an on site store, laundry facilities and hot tubs.

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Use the following "Pay Pal" link: https://www.paypal.com/xclick/business=ceridwen%40mithrilstar.org&item_name=Prepaid+lodging&no_note=1&tax=0¤cy_code=USD

Note: Remember that the requirement for Seventh degree is that you visit the Redwoods once every three years.

PRE-PAID LODGING

Nights can be used in combinations and for however long it takes to use them up. Pre-paid nights are available for conventions and special events. Pre-paid nights are transferable (A one time \$30 charge is added if transferred to a non-OMS member. Also, please make sure whomever you transfer it to knows we are a clothing-optional recreational facility).

Donation	Campsite	RV	Cottage
Amount	Nights	Nights	nights
\$100.00	10	8	2
\$150.00	15	12	3
\$200.00	20	16	4
\$250.00	25	20	5
\$300.00	30	24	6
\$350.00	35	28	7
\$400.00	40	32	8
\$450.00	45	36	9
\$500.00	50	40	10
\$600.00	60	48	12
\$700.00	70	56	13
\$800.00	80	64	15
\$900.00	90	72	17
\$1,000.00	100	80	19

Nearby Attractions:

Numerous Redwood State and National Parks
 6 nude or clothing optional beaches
 The Pacific Ocean
 Whale watching tours (seasonal)
 Historical Eureka and Arcata
 And much, much more...

Top of Form

Make a Donation

Bottom of Form

NOTE: THIS OFFER WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE
 ONCE IMLADRIS OPENS FOR BUSINESS

If facilities do not open by Spring 2005 (Summer 2006 for RV spaces) then you DOUBLE your nights for each year past the deadline.

Normal rates (as of Summer 2003):

Campsite: \$20 / night

RV Space: \$25 / night

Cottage: \$104 / night

Facilities at Imladris:

100 Camping spaces (with picnic table, fire ring, garbage receptacle, "bear proof" food locker), rest rooms, showers, laundry facility, hot tub, campground store.

25 RV spaces (same as above, plus electric/water hookups and dump site (extra \$10 charge).

12 Cottages (furnished 16 ft geodesic domes)

Swimming pool

Hot tubs

Sauna

Reiki – Massage therapist

Weight room

Meditation – Yoga room

Labyrinth

Community fire ring and ritual circle

2'800 square foot multi purpose room (will include food service, barista) (60' geodesic dome)

Nature trails

Part 11 of ARDA 2

SECTION FOUR



The DRUIDS EGG

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Volume Two

2003 & 2004

Drynemetum Press



The Druid's Egg -

Vol.2 No. 1
1 Geimredh 42 –
Samhain/Calen Gaeaf 2003 –
www.mithrilstar.org
See the groovy html version at
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/newssamhain03.htm>



HAPPY NEW YEAR – Y.R. 42 BEGINS TODAY

A new year means new beginnings, and we've already made many changes in anticipation of the new year of the reform.

We've completely overhauled the website, adding new features such as a whole new section devoted to the Coastal Redwood, and a new calendar is under construction to help you keep track of those pesky Druish dates, such as today:

1 Geimredh YR 42, which is also, 1 M 7 na Samhna YR 42. It is also the Welsh day of the week, Dydd Sadwyrn, and to us in OMS; it is the day of Sequoia, our most sacred tree.

The new calendar should help you not only to learn this system of dating, but also keep track of it all.

NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS DURING Y.R. 42

We will begin sending out member's kits beginning in November. The kits will be sent out to all new paid members and will consist of:

--A membership card with expiration date (your dues "due" date). --A membership certificate suitable for framing --A VHS recording of the documentary "Tree Sit: The Art of resistance," which documents Earth Firsts! on-going campaign to save the Redwoods in Northern California.



NEW ARCH-DRUID AT THE MOTHER GROVE

Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear was ordained Arch-Druid of the Mother Grove on the Full Moon, 42 Foghamhar YR 41 (August 11, 2003). Ceridwen is the wife of the former Arch-Druid and OMS founder, Sybok Pendderwydd. She also teaches the online Astrology for Pagans class (see <http://www.mithrilstar.org/huntersmoon>) and makes her living as a professional astrologer.

NOVEMBER 8TH – HARMONIC CONCORDANCE

Thou Are God/dess!

The Mother Grove invites and encourages all of you to join us in a meditation/visualization ceremony that will take advantage of all the powerful energies that will be present on the Lunar Eclipse of Saturday, Nov. 8.

We will begin the ceremony at the peak time of the Eclipse, which will be at 5:15pm Pacific Standard Time, (so that would be 6:15pm Mountain Standard time, 7:15pm Central Standard Time, and 8:15pm Eastern Standard Time - and for those of you elsewhere on the planet, please figure out when it will be for where you are).

We plan to spend at least an hour formally - and possible most of the night personally - tuning in to the global community and celestial energies, as this will be so much more powerful than the typical Full Moon or Lunar Eclipse. You might want to refer back to the article that was recently posted in here about the astrological and astronomical phenomena happening at that time.

Things to visualize and project:

1. Initially, feel the connection with the "web of light" from other spiritual seekers, Druids, pagans, etc. as we pool our energies together to create a vast and powerfully vibrant energy grid for the good of the Earth Mother to use as she sees fit.

2. See our energies meeting and blending into a cool, healing green energy that will spread across the planet, cooling the global warming phenomena (especially the polar ice caps and glaciers of the world's mountains), healing and nurturing the endangered ecosystems, protecting and preserving the wild animals and the trees and forests of the planet (with special emphasis on the redwoods and other endangered rain forests and species of special trees in your area). Do this until this green energy covers and permeates the entire planet and all who live upon Her.

3. Next project the calmness and groundedness of the green energies to remind those in political power that we are a human family, and that they need to wake up, see the "larger picture" perspective and get back to the basics of mutual respect and unselfishness so that we as a species can become further evolved and enlightened - and that we need to live in the "eternal now" and take responsibility for our actions and thoughts.

(Yes, I know this sounds very "idealistic", but isn't magik about visualizing the "best possible outcome" in the midst of chaos and imbalance?)

4. Visualize Mithril Star groves popping up all over the planet, made up of Druids who have gained awareness, empowerment, and a desire to give of themselves to make a better world for all of us - choosing their own causes toward this end - on whatever level they feel their power is the strongest and most inspired.

5. For those who wish to remain solitary in their spiritual workings, you can still meditate and visualize and put energy toward aiding the Earth Mother and all Her creatures - She needs all of us now, offering to Her whatever energy we can give to Her. You can also share energy with other OMS Druids on a psychic level to further our common goals and workings.

6. And those in need of personal healing for themselves and/or loved ones can channel some of this energy for this as well - because the healthier and more balanced we are, the more we will have to give in the long run. A recharged "battery" will do more and last much longer than one that is drained and weak - so by all means, heal thyself! :)

7. And lastly, use this time as a turning point in your lives, planting the seeds for inner transformation that will be mirrored in outer transformation, for "As within, so without". And with the celestial phenomena, "As above, so below". The Earth Mother is going through Her own transformation as well, and as we live in Her aura, we need to be like conductors (like acupuncture needles or standing stones) to collect these energies and channel them into Her so that as She heals, so do we, and so that as we evolve and grow, so does She. This is a truly symbiotic relationship we have with Her, and we need to play our part in that process as unselfishly as She does...

So please, mark your calendars, clear your schedules for an hour, and join us - any time that night would be good, but close to the peak time would be ideal... :)

Blessings,

Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear /\ Arch Druid of the Mother Grove Order of the Mithril Star



NEW WATER SHARING GUIDELINES

ADOPTED BY MG OFFICIAL
STATEMENT OF THE AD Oct 10 2003

Thou Art God/dess,

As we have seen recently in this group, there are several differing viewpoints and issues regarding the sharing of water, as well as changes (and/or proposed changes) within the Order as a whole. I'd like to address and hopefully clarify these issues her.

Let me begin by saying that our "dis-Order" will always grow and evolve, even as each of its members grow and evolve.

We are not a stagnant entity, and very little about the Order is "carved in stone." There will always be room for growth and renewal and evolution.

That said, let's go over some points:

1. If you agree to the three tenets ("Nature is groovy", Nature is groovy", and "Thou Art God/dess"), take the pledge, and pay dues (former members have until next Midsummer to comply to the dues-paying), you are considered an OMS Druid. Period. No degrees • just an OMS Druid. THIS IS NOT LIKELY TO EVER CHANGE • in other words, this is the only aspect that is carved in stone.

2. Here is where we begin to touch on some changes, mostly involving water-sharing and ordinations. After reading all the posts concerning this, and discussions with the MG, we've come up with a list of all the different options/levels, which will be divided into two camps: "degree-oriented" and "non-degree-oriented":

a. Members-at-large: those OMS Druids who never share water, or who only share water with their own nest or significant other(s). IOW, the 3rd, or "Nest/Family" level. These members would have NO "official degree status" within the Order.

b. "Degreed" Members: Those OMS Druids who follow all the requirements (which have actually been in effect for the past TWO YEARS, btw) for the different degrees, quoted here: <http://www.mithrilstar.org/degrees.htm>

c. "Non-Degreed" Water-sharing Members: Those OMS Druids who share water on any of three different levels within the Order, which are as follows:

TRIBE Level: OMS Druids who would willingly share water with other members of the Order, either at a public gathering or an online ritual or gathering.

CLAN Level: OMS Druids who would also share water with members of a Grove of their making or choosing, as well as with the Tribe.

NEST/FAMILY Level: OMS Druids who would also share water with members of their own polyfidelitous "Nest", as well as with the Clan and Tribe.

(NOTE: Each of these three levels implies a progressively more intimate level of commitment)

These three levels will be added to Lesson 11 in future D101 classes to provide choices for those who are not ready to only operate from the 3rd, or "Nest" level, but who would like to take smaller steps toward intimacy and commitment to others.

Now, a note to those of you who are of the "Olde OMS school": The addition of the progressive levels of water-sharing does not in any way effect or "water down" the higher level of commitment you all go by.

As we are not all operating from the same spiritual levels, I feel that these choices will more effectively offer all of us a way to commit to this group and each other from whatever level we are most comfortable.

IOW, it will allow all of us to "walk our talk" and express our own divinity at whatever level we feel ready. It is a way of "honouring" where each of us is coming from, and not imposing unrealistic expectations where they are not appropriate or welcome.

Blessings and full chalices to you all,

Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear Arch Druid of the OMS Mother Grove

AD's ADDENDUM TO WATER SHARING STATEMENT

Regarding degrees and ordination:

Some of you have received "clergy ordination" from the Universal Life Church. This is yours, and not the same as the OMS degree system ordinations...

Although many of you have "technically" fulfilled the basic requirements for each of the first few degrees, these won't be fully complete until you have received and shared the consecrated waters from a 3rd degree Druid.

We are looking into making that as easy as possible. One idea is to open the Chat Room at various times (like Full Moons or around Holidays) and doing an online consecration of the waters and OMS ordinations at that time.

You would hold your chalice of water near your computer, and we would do an online blessing and consecration of your water...then you would share it at either the Tribe, Clan or Nest level with whomever you feel comfortable doing so - or you can just share with myself and/or Sybok, which would count as well. (This seemed easier than sending consecrated waters through the mail).

Once your waters are consecrated and shared, we would do the online ordinations for each of the levels of the participants. Then you would be considered fully ordained at that level in the Order.

That seems to be the quickest and easiest way to fulfill the water-sharing requirement for each of the degrees. However, we are open to hearing other ideas about ways to do this... :)

Blessings,
Ceridwen /\



OMS SCHISMS FROM RDNA – OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE AD

Sept. 4, 2003

TAG All, Well, it's official: as of tonight we are now a schism (or satellite) group of the Reform. This decision was not made lightly, but with much deliberation and divination and soul-searching by myself and the MG, taking all recent factors into account. What this means:

1. We have remodeled the OMS website to reflect our new direction - it actually resembles the pre-RDNA state, with a few exceptions, and some dressing up. We have taken nearly all mention of RDNA out, except for a couple places where it is appropriate. We will also be adding a "dedication" page that will list ALL of our sources of inspiration - hopefully in the next week or so. This is a work-in-progress, and by no means finished...Check it out at: <http://www.mithrilstar.org> (you might have to refresh your bookmark)

2. We are now an independent entity, yet still consider ourselves a part of the Reform and the American Druid Family -

it's like we moved out of the house, but we are still in the neighborhood...

3. We realized that any closer relationship (as we were originally planning) is now a fruitless endeavor, as there are irreconcilable differences between ourselves and the very outspoken schism of the "N"-RDNA...and we are not really sure exactly what the "silent majority" actually feels, so...

4. Although the group entity of OMS has done this, this does not mean that as individuals we can't still remain connected with the friends we have made in the RDNA. There are some really nice people in there that some of us would like to stay in touch with...

5. Those of you who choose to leave all this behind are free to leave the RDNAtalk group and those who wish to remain there may do so - that decision is up to you as individuals - there is no more group requirement of any kind for you to be involved therein.

6. As we have been told many times by the Reform, we are perfectly capable of standing on our own as an independent entity, and I think we will all come out of this stronger and more grounded than before.

7. Any questions or comments are certainly welcome... :)
Blessings,
Ceridwen /\

THE STATE OF THE ORDER NEW YEARS DAY Y.R. 42

As of today we have 123 members, of which, 55 are considered "active."

96 members are eligible for ordination into the First Degree.

2 members are ordained First Degree Druids.

18 members are eligible for ordination into the Second Degree

4 members are eligible for ordination into the Third Degree

0 members are eligible for ordination into the Fourth Degree

1 member is an ordained Fifth Degree Druid

0 members are eligible for ordination into the Sixth Degree

2 members are ordained Seventh Degree Druids

During YR 41:

345 students took the Druidcraft 101 class

15 graduated and became members

10 members resigned:

7 during the season of Geimredh

2 during the season of Samradh

1 during the season of Foghamhar

1 member passed to the Summerlands during the season of Geimredh

During YR 41, the Order experienced a net Membership gain of 4

Proto-groves are forming in Central New York state; Talent, Oregon; Salem, Oregon and Humboldt County, California



DRUIDCRAFT 101

The Samhain session of Druidcraft 101 is well under way, this time with 77 seekers (so far -- enrollment is open until Nov. 7th). Three new members have already joined the Order from this group, and we haven't even sent out the first lesson yet. Lady Heart is teaching this session.

This is the first of the "share ware" sessions of D101, where students are being asked to contribute \$100 to the Order if they feel they have benefited from the class.

The Midsummer session ended in October with 21 surviving. Of those, seven joined the Order and three are still thinking about it.

The next online Druidcraft 101 class begins March 21st, 2004. To enroll, send a blank email to druidcraft101@yahoogroups.com or enroll online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/druidcraft101> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d101.htm>

DRUIDCRAFT 202

Druidcraft 202 (A Walk Through the ARDA) has been discontinued due to gross lack of interest. You can still take the course as a self-study. The files necessary will be uploaded in a few weeks to the Mithril Star News files section.



ASTROLOGY FOR PAGANS

Ceridwen currently has two intermediate sessions going, and has just started a new beginning session on November 1st.

If you are interested, you have until the doors close on November 7th to enroll in the latest beginning session.

To enroll, send a blank email to: astropagan101-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or subscribe on the web at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/astropagan101>

If you are interested in a private consultation about your Astrological chart, please visit her home page at: <http://www.mithrilstar.org/huntersmoon>



CONCLUSION

The Mother Grove wishes all of you a most blessed New Year, and a very joyous Yule, and abundant blessings throughout the season!

May you never thirst,

Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, AD

Sybok Pendderwydd, Clerk

Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng Y Bydoedd Grove, OMS

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON IMBOLQ / OIMELC -- 2 Earrach yr 42

WANT TO JOIN THE ORDER?
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/join.htm>

WANT TO DONATE TO THE ORDER?
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/donate.htm>



The Druids Egg -- 1 Geimredh YR 42 -- Vol. 2 No. 1

Send letters, submissions to mithrilstarnews-owner@yahoogroups.com There is no guarantee that your submission will be published. All submissions become the property of OMS. Published four times each year by The Mother Grove of the Order of the Mithril Star Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng y Bydoedd Grove "An autonomous collective of Reformed Druidry." Copyright (c) 2003

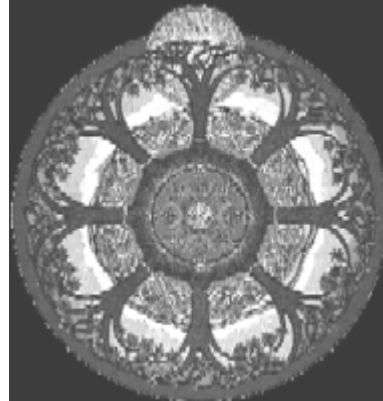


The Druid's Egg -

Vol.2 No. 2

1 Earrach 42 - Oimeic / Imbolc 2004 -
www.mithrilstar.org

See the groovy html version at
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/newsimbolc04.htm>



MOTHER GROVE MOVING

MARCH 1ST

The Mother Grove is relocating to Humboldt County, CA at the beginning of March. Ceridwen and Sybok are currently hunting for a new home in the "Redwood Empire," and would greatly appreciate good vibes and successful house-hunting magick. As soon as we know where we are landing, a new address will be published on the website.



START A PROTO-GROVE GET FREE DUES FOR LIFE!

Well, the life of your grove anyway. :)

The deal is simple -- If you start a grove between now and Midsummer, you are exempt from dues for that year, and for each subsequent year your grove is in operation.

As with any "deal," there are some strings attached:

-You must be a paid up member of the Order in good standing and ordained to at least the 1st Degree.

-In addition to yourself, you need two warm bodies.

-You must file the necessary forms to register a proto-grove with the Clerk of the MG.

-After a year and a day, you must be ordained to 3rd Degree, and your two members must be ordained to First and paying dues (which makes your proto-grove a Grove) and you must file a Grove constitution with the Clerk of the MG.

-So long as your grove continues to exist and is in good standing, YOUR dues are considered paid.

-Offer applies only to the original Arch-Druid of your Grove (that would be you). Proto-grove registrations must be filed with the Clerk no later than sundown of Midsummer's Day (51 Samradh YR 42).

Forms may be obtained by writing the Clerk of the Mother Grove.



Re: NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS DURING Y.R. 42

By now everyone who has ever paid dues to us (and is still an active member) should have received their member's kit.

We began sending out member's kits beginning in November. The kits consist of:

--A membership card with expiration date (your dues "due" date). --A membership certificate suitable for framing --A VHS recording of the documentary "Tree Sit: The Art of Resistance," which documents Earth Firsts! on-going campaign to save the Redwoods in Northern California.

We've temporarily run short of the videos, but will be making more copies as soon as we can. Until then, however, we have had to limit who receives them to those members who have joined or renewed their membership since November 1.

If we owe you a tape, you will get it before Midsummer. Waiting is!



AVALON RISEN -- A NEW ONLINE STORE RUN BY THE ORDER

We have just recently launched our new online store, featuring Order-related items, including "Mithril Star" pendants, ritual cloaks, and T-shirts. We've become wholesalers with AzureGreen, and can get anything in their catalog (www.azuregreen.com) for you at 20% off their regular retail prices.

Our online store will be at <http://www.mithrilstar.org/avalon> and will feature a shopping cart powered by Pay Pal, so you can do all your shopping easily and conveniently.

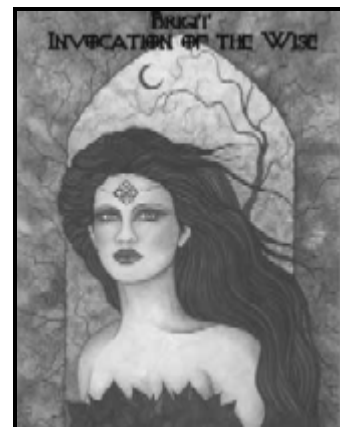
Please keep checking that page, as we will be adding new inventory to the store every week!

Also, if there are any items that you see on the AzureGreen website that you think we should carry in our store, please write us and we will consider it.

BRIGHID

It was said: "from Brigid's feast day onwards the day gets longer and the night shorter." Although this refers to the time of the winter Solstice, the felt truth was that the goddess brought back the growing light. On the eve of La Feill Bhrihde (St. Brigid's Day), the Old Woman of Winter, the Cailleach, journeys to the magical isle in whose woods lies the miraculous Well of Youth. At the first glimmer of dawn, she drinks the water that bubbles in a crevice of a rock, and is transformed into Bride, the fair maid whose white wand turns the bare earth green again.

<http://www.chalicecenter.com/imbolc.htm>



Brigit

Invocation of the Wise

In a glass
Of scryer's black
Visions of life
Bring full impact
Wells pour out
Your sacred flame
Prophetic words
In wisdom's name
The Womb impregnated
With poetic rhyme
Birthed to life
In seasons time
Summoned
In your healing light
Tbe with me on
This moonstruck night.

Ladygueneva.com
Invocation by Lady Gueneva

Bride put her finger in the river
On the Feast Day of Bride
And away went the hatching mother of the cold.
- Carmina Gadelica



DRUIDCRAFT 101

The Samhain session of Druidcraft 101 is has 5 more lessons to go. Out of 77 that began the class, 29 have survived, and 5 have joined the Order. Lady Heart is doing a wonderful job teaching the class.

This is the first of the "share ware" sessions of D101, where students are being asked to contribute \$100 to the Order if they feel they have benefited from the class.

The next online Druidcraft 101 class begins March 21st, 2004. To enroll, send a blank email to druidcraft101@yahoogroups.com or enroll online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/druidcraft101> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d101.htm>



1st ONLINE ORDINATIONS

A SUCCESS!

We held our first ever online ordinations in the mithrilstar chat room on the new moon of January 21st. This was a "three in one" ritual evening, with candidates for the First, Second and Third degrees participating.

Out of 44 Druids eligible for First Degree, 13 were ordained that evening. Out of 11 Druids eligible for Second Degree, 8 were ordained that evening. Out of 7 Druids eligible for Third Degree, 3 were ordained.

In the future, we will only be conducting ordination rites for one degree at a time, since this "mass" ordination seemed in retrospect to be rather factory-like.

The Arch-Druid is currently looking at dates for future ordinations. However, if you are in a hurry, you may make a private appointment with her for a phone or chat room ordination - or you can contact one of the three new Third Degree Druids, as they are empowered to perform the rites for First and Second degrees.

Write the clerk of the Mother Grove for a list of 3rd's.



ASTROLOGY FOR PAGANS

Ceridwen currently has two intermediate sessions going, and a beginning session, which started on November 1st.

The next beginners session is slated to start on Saturday, March 20, 2004 (New Moon after Spring Equinox).

To enroll, send a blank email to: astropagan101-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or subscribe on the web at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/astropagan101>

If you are interested in a private consultation about your Astrological chart, please visit her home page at:

<http://www.mithrilstar.org/huntersmoon>



ALMANAC

- Today is Imbolc / Oimeic, or February 2, 2004 CE.
- It is the 2nd day of the Season of Earrach, as well as the 2nd day of the Month of Mi na hOimeic.
- It is also Tuesday, in the common tongue, or Dydd Mwrth in Welsh. It is the Druidic day of the Holly tree.
- It is also Groundhog Day.
- FULL MOONS occur on 6 Earrach, 35 Earrach and 65 Earrach.
- NEW MOONS occur on 20 Earrach, 49 Earrach and 79 Earrach.
- The Sun enters Pisces on 19 Earrach.
- The anniversary of the passing of co-founder Adam Walks Between Worlds occurs on 20 Earrach.
- Mean Earraigh (March) begins on 30 Earrach (a Monday - Dydd Llun - Day of the Willow).
- Adam and Sybok first conceived of OMS on 45 Earrach YR 33.
-
- Oestar - Alban Eiler, Ostara, or the Spring Equinox occurs on 48 Earrach.



Cold unfolds
 To springs fresh breeze
 Oh lady of rebirth
 Your flowery scent does please
 In a time
 Of equal light
 I call to you
 By will and rite
 Changing seasons
 Beginnings do end
 Ye that which which dies
 Sees birth again
 Teach me growth
 The best in me
 The beauty of life
 So mote it be!

Invocation by Lady Gueneva ladygueneva.com

- The Sun enters Aries on 48 Earrach.
- Deareadh Earraigh (April) begins on 61 Earrach (a Thursday - Dydd Lau - Day of the Oak).
- A Solar Eclipse will occur on 79 Earrach.
- The Sun enters Taurus on 79 Earrach.



CONCLUSION

The Mother Grove wishes all of you a most blessed Imbolc, and abundant blessings throughout the season!

May you never thirst,
 Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, Arch Druid
 Sybok Pendderwydd, Clerk
 Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng Y Bydoedd Grove, OMS



NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON BELTANE / Calen Mai -- 1 Samradh YR 42

WANT TO JOIN THE ORDER?
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/join.htm>

WANT TO DONATE TO THE ORDER?
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/donate.htm>

The Druids Egg -- 1 Earrach YR 42 -- Vol. 2 No. 2

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The Druid's Egg

Vol.2 No. 3

1 Samradh 42 - Beltane / Calen Mai 2004

www.mithrilstar.org

See the groovy html version at

<http://www.mithrilstar.org/newsbeltane04.htm>



MOTHER GROVE HAS MOVED

(Update by Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, A-D)

We landed in King Salmon, CA (about a mile or so south of Eureka) on the evening of Feb. 28th in a little seaside cottage (about a block from the beach), in the middle of a peninsula. It was the first and only place we looked at the week before when we did a day trip down here, and we spent the afternoon schmoozing with the landlord, who then took us out to eat after we signed the application.

There is a canal just off our back yard (in fact, all the "alley ways" are actually canals)! Our small street dead ends into the road that goes around the peninsula, and after walking over two dunes, the beach is right there. It has rock jetties sticking out on each side, where people like to fish, and where an otter and assorted seals like to frequent. Sea gulls are always swooping around you...there is a marshy area where large numbers of snowy egrets, blue herons and ducks hang out, and the salt sea air is very invigorating. Sybok says it even has a "sweet" quality to it...a most magickal place!



The cottage itself is a small one-bedroom, and the landlord actually lives in an attached part of it that is cordoned off from the rest. There is a fenced-in back yard, and the canal is just down a small hill on the other side of the fence. It has many boats moored there, and is really cool-looking.

We are having to adjust to living among people again, after our near hermit-like existence in the mountains behind Grants Pass. But it is a pretty quiet street, and the neighbors we have met are really nice...



And the nearest REDWOODS are within 5 miles of us - we have already visited those gentle giants, and they felt very welcoming...in fact, we just recently visited the Redwood Park that is right in Eureka, and it has the most charming little zoo inside of it! What a cool place to take our friends (and

OMS members) when they visit...

Sybok found a job at Bayshore Mall, less then ten minutes from our new home. Now, the hunt for real estate begins. Stay tuned...



START A PROTO-GROVE GET FREE DUES FOR LIFE!

Well, the life of your grove anyway. :)

The deal is simple -- If you start a grove between now and Midsummer, you are exempt from dues for that year, and for each subsequent year your grove is in operation.

As with any "deal," there are some strings attached:

-You must be a paid up member of the Order in good standing and ordained to at least the 1st Degree.

-In addition to yourself, you need two warm bodies.

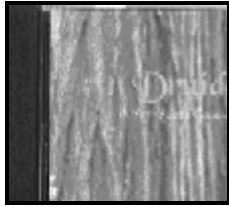
-You must file the necessary forms to register a proto-grove with the Clerk of the MG.

-After a year and a day, you must be ordained to 3rd Degree, and your two members must be ordained to First and paying dues (which makes your proto-grove a Grove) and you must file a Grove constitution with the Clerk of the MG.

-So long as your grove continues to exist and is in good standing, YOUR dues are considered paid.

-Offer applies only to the original Arch-Druid of your Grove (that would be you). Proto-grove registrations must be filed with the Clerk no later than sundown of Midsummer's Day (51 Samradh YR 42).

Forms may be obtained by writing the Clerk of the Mother Grove.



DRUIDCRAFT 101:

THE SELF-STUDY ON CD-ROM

We've completed compilation of the D101 CDROM, and have started to offer it at Avalon Risen, on the D101 homepage, and on eBay. We're charging the general public \$24 for the cd, but OMS members can pick it up for \$5 (and that's post paid). See <http://www.mithrilstar.org/memd101cd.htm> to order at the member's price.

Also, we are giving it away to new members who join without going through the online D101 class, that way they don't have to wait for a new session to begin; they can just jump right in to the self-study.



AVALON RISEN -- A NEW ONLINE STORE RUN BY THE ORDER

We have just recently launched our new online store, featuring Order-related items, including "Mithril Star" pendants, ritual cloaks, and T-shirts. We've become wholesalers with AzureGreen, and can get anything in their catalog (www.azuregreen.com) for you at 20% off their regular retail prices.

Our online store is at <http://www.mithrilstar.org/avalon> and will feature a shopping cart powered by Pay Pal, so you can do all your shopping easily and conveniently.

Please keep checking that page, as we will be adding new inventory to the store every week! We already many beautiful ritual items in there!

Also, if there are any items that you see on the AzureGreen website that you think we should carry in our store, please write us and we will consider it.



STATS

As of today we have 127 members, of which, 52 are considered "active."

26 members are eligible for ordination into the First Degree.

8 members are ordained First Degree Druids.

6 members are eligible for ordination into the Second Degree

4 members are ordained Second Degree Druids

1 member is eligible for ordination into the Third Degree

3 members are ordained Third Degree Druids

1 member is an ordained Fifth Degree Druid

2 members are ordained Seventh Degree Druids

So far During YR 42:

147 students took the Druidcraft 101 class

25 are still in class

4 graduated and became members

So Far During YR 42, the Order has experienced a net Membership gain of 4

Total Groves: 2

Total US Members: 94

Total Canadian Members: 8

Total International Members: 25

Total Countries represented: 9

Total US States represented: 32

Total Canadian Provinces represented: 6

Top 5 US States: OR=9, CA=9, WA=8, FL=7, NY=5

Total members in areas with Redwood Groves: 4



DRUIDCRAFT 101

The Oestre session of Druidcraft 101 is doing the midterm as we speak. Out of 70 that began the class, 24 have survived, and 2 have joined the Order. Max is doing a wonderful job teaching the class. Hunter is helping moderate and also doing an excellent job.

This is the second (and last) "share ware" session. We've come up with a sliding scale (see

<http://www.mithrilstar.org/suggested.htm>) for donating to the Order, and with future classes we're just going to make the donation a mandatory thing.

The next online Druidcraft 101 class begins August 18th, 2004. To enroll, send a blank email to druidcraft101@yahoogroups.com or enroll online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/druidcraft101> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d101.htm>



2nd ONLINE ORDINATIONS COMING UP SOON

Our next online ordinations will be held in the mithrilstar chat room sometime before Midsummer. We'll be doing them two weeks in a row, the first evening for First degree and the second for second.

There are currently 33 Druids eligible for the First Degree, 6 eligible for Second and 2 eligible for 3rd.

If you are in a hurry, and don't want to wait for the online date, you may make a private appointment with Ceridwen for a phone or chat room ordination - or you can contact one of the three new Third Degree Druids, as they are empowered to perform the rites for First and Second degrees.

Write the clerk of the Mother Grove for a list of 3rd's.



ASTROLOGY FOR PAGANS

Ceridwen currently has one intermediate and two advanced sessions going, as well as a beginning session that started on March 20, 2004.

To enroll, send a blank email to: astropagan101-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or subscribe on the web at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/astropagan101>

You will then be put on a pending list until she is ready to do another beginning cycle - at a time yet to be determined.

If you are interested in a private consultation about your Astrological chart, please visit her home page at: <http://www.mithrilstar.org/huntersmoon>



TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2003

Total Dues collected: \$767.81

Cafe Press sales: 0.00

Administrative expenses: \$335.58

Amount donated to Redwood campaigns: \$432.23

Balance as of 1/1/2004: \$ 0.00

May



Beltane

Bring me my drum and
bring me my cymbal
Bring forth the sistrum,
bring forth the timbal
Dance now for Hathor, celebrate beauty
dance in Her honor, sing for our lady.

Beltane Incense

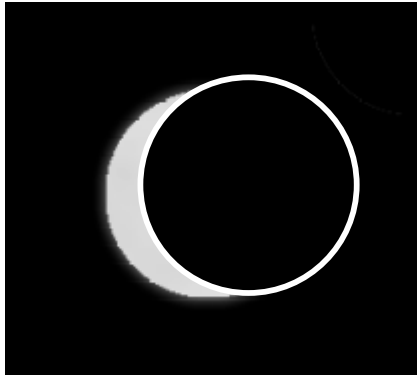
3 parts lilac flowers
2 parts frankincense
2 parts pathcouli
Lilac oil (optinal)
Grind together, mixing well.
Toss onto belfries on Beltane.

ALMANAC

- Today is Beltane / Calen Mai, or May 1, 2004 CE.
- It is the 1st day of the Season of Samradh, as well as the 1st day of the Month of Mi na Bealtaine.
- It is also Saturday, in the common tongue, or Dydd Sadwrn in Welsh. It is the Druidic day of the Sequoia (Coast Redwood) tree recognized ONLY by OMS Druids).
- FULL MOONS occur on 4 Samradh, 33 Samradh, 63 Samradh and 92 Samradh (A "Blue Moon").
- NEW MOONS occur on 18 Samradh, 48 Samradh and 78 Samradh.



- A Lunar Eclipse occurs on 4 Samradh.



- The birthday of our late co-founder Adam Walks Between Worlds occurs on 6 Samradh.
- The Sun enters Gemini on 20 Samradh.
- Mean Samhraidh (June) begins on 32 Samradh (a Tuesday - Dydd Mawrth - Day of the Holly).



- Midsummer - Alban Heruin, or the Summer Solstice occurs on 51 Samradh.
- The Sun enters Cancer on 51 Samradh.
- Dearead Samhraidh (July) begins on 62 Samradh (a Thursday - Dydd Lau -- Day of the Oak).
- On 66 Samradh 2001, OMS joined the RDNA.
- The Sun enters Leo on 83 Samradh.



CONCLUSION

The Mother Grove wishes all of you a most blessed Beltane, and abundant blessings throughout the season!

May you never thirst,

Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, Arch Druid

Sybok Pendderwydd, Clerk

Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng Y Bydoedd Grove, OMS

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON
LUGHNASADH /Lammas-1 Foghamhar YR 42

WANT TO JOIN THE ORDER?
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/join.htm>

WANT TO DONATE TO THE ORDER?
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The Druids Egg -- 1 Samradh YR 42 -- Vol. 2 No. 3

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The Druid's Egg

Vol.2 No. 4

1 Foghamhar 42 - Lughnasadh / Lammas 2004

Newsletter of the Order of the Mithril Star

www.mithrilstar.org

See the groovy HTML version at

<http://www.mithrilstar.org/newslammas04.htm>



HELP SAVE OUR SACRED REDWOOD - WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY

This is our first salvo in our campaign to protect the Coast Redwood. Here is the letter I have sent to my Senators and Congressperson:

"The Coast Redwood (*Sequoia Sempervirons*) is not only a California treasure but a national treasure as well. With less than 4% of them left, why aren't they at least on the threatened species list, if not on the endangered species list?

"How bad does it have to get before a species is considered "endangered"? I'm thinking here of the fact that less than 4% of Coast Redwoods are left, and how companies like Pacific Lumber are literally "clear-cutting like drunken sailors," thus reducing that 4% on a daily basis.

"What do we know of the effect on global climate change the destruction of the other 96% of this species has had?

"What do we know of the effect on global climate change the destruction of the remaining 4% of this species will have?

"I urge you to draft legislation that would ban the harvest of the Coast Redwood, and the sale and export of Redwood products (for least for 100 years). This will insure not only that the present old growth Redwoods will be protected, but that younger Redwoods will have the opportunity to become old growth. This is for our children, our grandchildren, and I believe the future of this planets climate.

"Thank you for listening."

You may use my letter, or write one of your own.

Naturally, you must use REAL names and addresses, but email is just fine for this purpose.

Please "b.c.c." me any email you send your representatives. Also, please send copies of any response you get to us as well.

Hard copies may be sent to: OMS; PO Box 8004; Eureka CA 95502-8004

I thank you, the Order thanks you, and our sacred Redwoods thank you.

May you never thirst.

Sybok Pendderwydd /\

Clerk, Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng y Bydoedd Grove:

Mother Grove of the Order of the Mithril Star

Eureka, CA USA -- mithrilstar.org

"An autonomous collective of Reformed Druidry."



DRUIDCRAFT 101:

THE SELF-STUDY ON CD-ROM V8.4

We've upgraded the D101 CDROM and included the new Lesson 4-A (Nature is). We've been selling it at Avalon Risen, on the D101 homepage, and on eBay. We're charging the general public \$19 for the CD, but OMS members can pick it up for \$5 (and that's post paid). See <http://www.mithrilstar.org/memd101cd.htm> to order at the member's price.

Also, we've been giving it away to new members who join without going through (or signing up for) the online D101 class -- that way they don't have to wait for a new session to begin -- they can just jump right in to the self study.



AVALON RISEN -- RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST PARTIALLY ONLINE

Last May we launched our online store, featuring Order-related items, including "Mithril Star" pendants, ritual cloaks, and T-shirts. We've become wholesalers with AzureGreen, and can get anything in their catalog (www.azuregreen.com) for you at 15% off their regular retail prices (but only if you use the AzureGreen link on the Avalon Risen webpage).

We've also started a new books section, featuring the "official" OMS Bibliography (a work in progress) using both AzureGreen and Amazon.Com as a resource.

Our online store is at <http://www.mithrilstar.org/avalon> and features a shopping cart powered by Pay Pal, so you can do all your shopping easily and conveniently.

Please keep checking that page, as we will be adding new inventory to the store every week! We already have many beautiful ritual items in there!

Also, if there are any items that you see on the AzureGreen website that you think we should carry in our store, please write us and we will consider it.



THE CASE FOR PAGAN PACIFISM

Editorial By Sybok Pendderwydd

Historically, Pagans have been warriors. Pagans have not been opposed to warfare in general, whether it was for the purpose of defending their territory against invaders, or for the less noble cause of cattle raiding, or the even less noble cause of being the invaders themselves. But for the most part, traditional warfare had little negative impact on the environment. Blood and human remains are biodegradable after all, and often times warfare was just a faster method of returning to the Earth from which we come. The only notable exceptions were the Roman practice of salting the fields of those they conquered, rendering them sterile for a hundred years or more; and of clear cutting the sacred Groves of the Druids.



Modern warfare is different. Modern warfare involves conflict not only between combatants but also between man and nature. Attacks on the environment have become more savage as

technology has developed. Environmental destruction has become an inevitable result of modern warfare and military tactics. The nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that have emerged during the late twentieth century present threats to life itself; but short of that apocalypse, modern weapons can cause or hasten a host of environmental disasters, such as deforestation and erosion, global warming, desertification, and long-term pollution of air and water.



Modern Pagans, or "Neo-Pagans" as we are sometimes called, are drawn to this spirituality by the recognition that the Earth itself is a living, breathing, entity. We Pagans are therefore the caretakers of the planet; Priests and Priestesses of the Earth Mother, Gaia. In most aspects of our lives, Her well-being is taken into consideration first and foremost. Additionally, we are charged with trying to reverse the damage that has already been done, and guarantee that future damage will not occur. This in essence makes all Pagans eco-warriors, fighting the good fight for the environment in the arena of politics on a local, national and global scale.



We must therefore, in the defense of the Earth Mother, renounce modern warfare, and militarism, altogether. Every weapon that is fired today pollutes the Earth, and the bigger and more impersonal the weapon, the more the negative impact on the environment. We must become pacifists, and like other religious pacifists, we must not allow ourselves to be drafted into military service. Although there are certainly opportunities in the military to effect the environment in positive ways, in the event of war, those opportunities become moot. Modern warriors directly pollute the environment. There is just no way

around this, or we find hypocrisy staring us accusingly in the face.

Note: Opinions expressed by the Clerk do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mother Grove.



LUGHNASADH SESSION OF DRUIDCRAFT 101 FEATURES NEW LESSON

We are now accepting enrollments for the next session of Druidcraft 101.

Use this link to enroll:
<http://mithrilstar.org/d101enroll.htm>

If you are a member of the Order, the money commitment does not apply to you.

The "doors" will open on Thursday, August 12th. The first lesson will be uploaded on Wednesday, August 18th. Last day to enroll is Tuesday, August 24th.

This session we are adding a new lesson: Lesson 4-A: "Nature is." This lesson will give an overview of our first two tenets and an introduction to the Gaian Hypothesis.



STATS

As of today we have 132 members, of which:
20 members are eligible for ordination into the First Degree. 10 members are ordained First Degree Druids.
2 members are eligible for ordination into the Second Degree
5 members are ordained Second Degree Druids
3 members are ordained Third Degree Druids
1 member is an ordained Fifth Degree Druid
2 members are ordained Seventh Degree Druids

So far During YR 42:
147 students took the Druidcraft 101 class
6 graduated and became members

So Far During YR 42, the Order has experienced a net Membership gain of 5

Total Groves: 2
Total US Members: 101
Total Canadian Members: 9
Total International Members: 21
Total Countries represented: 8
Total US States represented: 32
Total Canadian Provinces represented: 6
Top 5 US States: OR=11, CA=9, WA=9, FL=9, NY=7
Total members in areas with Redwood Groves: 4



4 NEW MEMBERS FROM OESTRE DRUIDCRAFT 101 SESSION

The Oestre session of Druidcraft 101 has just concluded. Out of 70 that began the class, 12 have survived, 4 have joined the Order, and 2 have indicated they will soon. Max and Hunter have done a wonderful job with this class.

This was the last "share ware" session. We've come up with a sliding scale (see <http://www.mithrilstar.org/suggested.htm>) for donating to the Order, and with the Lughnasadh session we've made the donation a mandatory thing.

The next online Druidcraft 101 class begins Wednesday, August 18th, 2004. To enroll, go to <http://mithrilstar.org/d101enroll.htm> For more details, visit <http://www.mithrilstar.org/d101.htm>



3rd ONLINE ORDINATIONS COMING UP BY SAMHAIN

Our next online ordinations will be held in the mithrilstar chat room sometime before Samhain.

There are (as of this writing) 20 Druids eligible for the First Degree, 2 eligible for Second and 1 eligible for 5th.

If you are in a hurry, or not able to make an online ordination, and don't want to wait for the online date, you may make a private appointment with Ceridwen or Sybok for a phone or chat room ordination - or you can contact one of the three new Third Degree Druids, as they are empowered to perform the rites for First and Second degrees.

Write the clerk of the Mother Grove for a list of 3rd's.



LUGHNASADH

This Holiday honours the Sun God, Lugh, who has many names and titles: Llew/Lugh/Lugus, Lugh of the Long Arm, Llew Llaw Gyffes, Warrior God of Justice, Travelers and Crafters. He is All Skilled, and is the Samildeach; the "Many-Gifted One". Sun Lord. Master of all the Arts. The Shining One. God of Light. Lord of All Four Corners.

The name Lugh means "light". He is the Child of the Sun. Lugh is also the God of grain harvests, of crafting, metallurgy, grains & breads, looms, and fire. Stories tell that He had taken on human form to worship among the Druids. Lugh is known as a defender of the people, especially those who may be threatened by the forces of Nature. Lugh's Spear is the flash of Light that pierces the Darkness. He is Energy. A Sun God and God of the Sky and of Lightning, as well as of Death and Rebirth. He is Mage, Alchemist and Sorcerer.

Lugh is seen as a God of Triplicity; as passionate Youth, wise King and Sage Elder. He embodies the Male dualities of Fire and Air. He is the Sacrificed God and is Protector and Defender.

Lugh teaches us not to fight battles out of anger, but to fight for causes that are just and right. He teaches us to honour our promises and our oaths.



Song of Lughnasadh

I am the sovereign splendor of creation
 I am the fountain and the courts of bliss
 I am the bright surrender of the willpower
 I am the watchful guardian and the kiss
 I am the many-coloured landscape
 I am the transmigration of the geese
 I am the burnished glory of the breastplate
 I am the harbour where all strivings cease.

~ Written by Caitlin Matthews



ASTROLOGY FOR PAGANS

Ceridwen currently has one Intermediate and three Advanced sessions in progress.

SOMETHING NEW! For those who don't want to wait for a new Beginning class session to start, or who wish to work at their own pace and schedule, Ceridwen is now offering **PRIVATE TUTORING** sessions! Because of the increased "personal attention" these entail, there will be a sliding scale fee required...

If you wish to take advantage of this new offer, or need more information about it, send an email to: ceridwen@s...
 Subject line: AstroPagan private tutoring

You will then be contacted immediately and a schedule will be set up that will conform to your own personal needs - **NO WAITING!** Each lesson will be offered whenever YOU are ready for it - and if you need to take time off at any point for personal business or holidays or whatever reason, your schedule will be adjusted accordingly!

Or...

To enroll for the next group class, send an email to: ceridwen@s... Subject line: AstroPagan group class

You will then be put on a pending list until she is ready to do another beginning cycle - at a time yet to be determined.

If you are interested in a private consultation about your Astrological chart, please visit her home page at:

<http://www.mithrilstar.org/huntersmoon>

Lammas

Balor, you are the arrow of time, speeding through space to bring all to conclusion. You are the blind eye of truth, freeing us from all deceit, all delusion.

Sun King Anointing Oil

10 drops frankincense oil

10 drops sandalwood oil

3 pinches saffron or safflower

Light-colored olive oil to fill jar completely

Mix well in an airtight two-ounce jar. Turn jar over once a day for at least ten days before using. Concentrating on the Sun, rub the oil on the person or token representing the sun.

- The Order of the Mithril Star formally schismed from the Reformed Druids of North America on 35 Foghamhar YR 41 (September 4 2003).
- Mabon, or the Autumnal Equinox occurs on 53 Foghamhar.
- The Sun enters Libra on 53 Foghamhar.
- Deireadh Foghmhair (October) begins on 62 Foghamhar (a Friday - Dydd Gwener -- Day of the Apple).
- The Sun enters Scorpio on 83 Foghamhar.
- The New Druid Year (YR 43) begins at Sundown, 92 Foghamhar (Samhain / Calan Gaeaf), A Sunday - Dydd Sul - Day of the Birch.

August



CONCLUSION

The Mother Grove wishes all of you a most blessed Lughnasadh, and abundant blessings throughout the season!

May you never thirst!

Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, Arch Druid

Sybok Pendderwydd, Clerk

Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng Y Bydoedd Grove, OMS

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SAMHAIN / Calan Gaeaf-1 Geimredh YR 43

WANT TO JOIN THE ORDER?
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/join.htm>

WANT TO DONATE TO THE ORDER?
<http://www.mithrilstar.org/donate.htm>

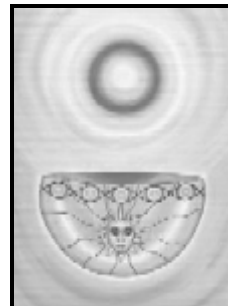


ALMANAC

- Today is Lughnasadh / Lammas, or August 1, 2004 CE.
- It is the 1st day of the Season of Foghamhar, as well as the 1st day of the Month of Mi na Lunasa.
- It is also Sunday, in the common tongue, or Dydd Sul in Welsh.
- It is the Druidic day of the Birch.
- FULL MOONS occur on 29 Foghamhar, 59 Foghamhar, and 88 Foghamhar.
- NEW MOONS occur on 15 Foghamhar, 45 Foghamhar and 74 Foghamhar.
- A Solar Eclipse occurs on 74 Foghamhar.
- A Lunar Eclipse occurs on 88 Foghamhar.
- The Sun enters Virgo on 22 Foghamhar.
- The birthday of our Arch-Druid, Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, occurs on 23 Foghamhar.
- Me Ʒ n F 環 hair (September) begins on 32 Foghamhar (a Wednesday - Dydd Mercher - Day of the Hazel).

The Druids Egg -- 1 Foghamhar YR 42 -- Vol. 2 No. 4

Send letters, submissions to mithrilstarnews-owner@yahoo.com There is no guarantee that your submission will be published. All submissions become the property of OMS. Published four times each year by The Mother Grove of the Order of the Mithril Star Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng y Bydoedd Grove "An autonomous collective of Reformed Druidry" Copyright (c) 2004



Part 11 of ARDA 2

SECTION FOUR



The DRUIDS EGG

Order of the Mithril Star

OMS is either an Offshoot of the RDNA or a Group in Near-Orbit.
Their Views are Their Own Affairs.

Volume Three

2004 & 2005

Drynemetum Press

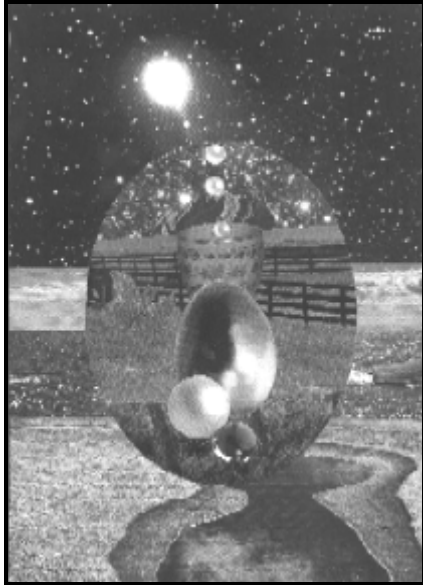


The Druid's Egg

Vol.3 No. 1

1 Geimredh 43 - Samhain / Calan Gaeaf 2004 -
www.mithrilstar.org

View the groovy html version at
<http://mithrilstar.org/newssamhain04.htm>



BLESSED SAMHAIN TO ALL

Samhain (Sa-un), (or SOW-en), known in Modern Irish as La Samhna (Laa Sa-u-Nu), in Welsh as Nos Galan Gaeaf (that is the night of the Winter Calends), in Manx as Laa Houney (Hollantide Day), Sauin or Souney; is, of course, the eve of "All Saint's Day", All Hallow's Evening or Halloween.



Among other things, it is the beginning of the Winter Half of the Year (the seasons of Geimredh & Earrach) and is known as "the Day Between Years." The day before Samhain is the last day of the old year and the day after Samhain is the first day of the new year (though for clarity's sake, most New Reformed Druids assign each Samhain to the year following it. Being a day "between years," it is considered a very magical night, when the dead walk among the living and the veils between past, present and future may be lifted in prophecy and divination. As the Celtic New Year, it is the time when the veil separating the worlds of men and of the Tuatha de Danaan is at its thinnest, allowing the spirits of the dead, the faery folk, devas, etc., to pass back and forth with little effort.



SAMHAIN AROUND THE WORLD

In Scotland, people would place stones or nuts in the ashes of the hearth before going to bed Samhain night. Anyone whose stone had been disturbed during the night was said to be destined to die during the coming year.



On Crete, each family prepares a pot of porridge (made by boiling wheatberries, pomegranate seed, raisins, currants and almonds) and then carries it from house to house throughout the village. At each home, a little of their porridge is taken out and added to the household's pot and a little of that household's porridge is added to theirs. By the end of the day, each family takes home a nearly identical mixture of the village's porridge to honour all the departed.

In Sicily, this day is called the Festival of the Dead and it is an important celebration, especially for the children, as their dead relatives return to leave them traditional candies and cakes as well as toys.

In Latin America, families celebrate the Day of the Dead by visiting cemeteries and cleaning the graves of their relatives. They also honor the memory of departed loved ones by leaving them flowers and by baking traditional cakes and pastries. In Finland, the celebrations we associate with Samhain actually occur around Easter.



GWYN AP NUDD

The white son of darkness, at Samhain in his antler head dress he leads the wild hunt out from Ynis Whittrin the Isle of Glass, better known as Glastonbury Tor. With his red, black and white hounds and his hooded riders Gwyn as Lord of war and death gathers the souls of the dead, leading them through the underworld to rest and rebirth. A powerful perhaps frightening image.

There are however many aspects to this complex deity. His role as Lord of death is a crucial part of the sacred cycle.

Gwyn has many other faces - he is a Lord of the forests, a being of great knowledge and wisdom - he has great concern over the fate of the earth.

Gwyn is the lover of Creudlad, and he is Lord of the Tylwyth Teg [Welsh Faeries]. He beckons you where the veil is thinnest to follow him into another place.



REFORMED DRUIDISM 101: THE SELF-STUDY ON CD-ROM V.9.0

We've been selling it at Avalon Risen, on the D101 homepage, and on eBay. We're charging the general public \$19

for the CD, but OMS members can pick it up for \$5 (and that's post paid). See <http://www.mithrilstar.org/memmd101cd.htm> to order at the member's price (of course, you must be a member to get it at that price).

Also, we've been giving it away to new members who join without going through (or signing up for) the online D101 class -- that way they don't have to wait for a new session to begin -- they can just jump right in to the self study.



AVALON RISEN

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST PARTIALLY ONLINE

Last May we launched our online store, featuring Order-related items, including "Mithril Star" pendants, ritual cloaks, and T-shirts. We've become wholesalers with AzureGreen, and can get anything in their catalog (www.azuregreen.com) for you at 15% off their regular retail prices (but only if you use the AzureGreen link on the Avalon Risen webpage).

The "official" OMS Bibliography continues to grow. If you haven't checked it out lately, please do. Sybok has put a lot of hours into this effort. The bibliography is now up 90% and functioning. Sybok is still working on the "miscellaneous" page, but should have that up within the week. Then he will be going back and adding in all the suggested works that have been coming in (thanks to those who have contributed). The bibliography is very much an ongoing work in progress, so be sure to check it from time to time for updates.

One of the things about it is that it functions as a "suggested reading list" but it also reveals something of the character of the Order, in much the same way that perusing a new friends book shelf will reveal something of their character.



About 99% of the books have links either to our own Avalon Rising sale site, or to Amazon.com, where you can purchase the item. The only ones that don't are those we couldn't find and are out of print. Check it out: <http://www.mithrilstar.org/avalon/bibleo.htm>

Do feel free to make suggestions. And if you have a review of any work therein, please submit it and we'll give you the credit. Also, you have to know we didn't -- we couldn't -- read every book in the list. If you believe or are aware of a book that shouldn't be on the list, for whatever reason, please let us know (and tell us why). Likewise, if we've left something out, or "misplaced" a book (maybe it's in the wrong category?).

Our online store is at <http://www.mithrilstar.org/avalon> and features a shopping cart powered by Pay Pal, so you can do all your shopping easily and conveniently.

Please keep checking that page, as we will be adding new inventory to the store every week! We already have many beautiful ritual items in there!

Also, if there are any items that you see on the AzureGreen website that you think we should carry in our store, please write us and we will consider it.



CAILLEACH - THE VEILED ONE

A Dedication to the Crone The Cailleach (KAL-y-ach) is the Ancient Earth herself. She is the lichen-covered rocks and the mountain peaks. She is the bare earth covered with snow and frost. She is the Deep Ancestress, veiled by the passage of time.

At Hallowmas, Brigid withdraws her green mantle from the Earth. With a last stunning flourish of colour, her power withdraws into the ground. The very soil now holds all of Life. Plants have deposited their seeds there, to wait for the return of the Light. Trees now only live in their roots, leaving their branches bare to the keen winds. Animals as small as insects and as large as bears go into the Earth to sleep the Winter away. The wet of the Winter rains helps last year's plants to transform into fertile soil for the next season of growth.

The Cailleach is the Goddess who oversees this transformation. She is the one who watches over the culling of old growth. She is the Death Goddess, who lets die what is no longer needed. But in the debris of the passing year, she also finds the gems, the seeds for the next season. She is the guardian of the seed, the keeper of the essential life force. She holds the very essence of power.



This is the hag of winter, often described as an ugly giantess leaping from mountaintop to mountaintop. The rocks she drops from her apron become hills. She has a blue-black face with only one eye in the centre of her forehead. Her teeth are red and her hair is matted brushwood covered with frost. She wears grey clothes and a great plaid is wrapped around her shoulders. When the Winter storms rage through the hills, people say the Cailleach is tramping her blankets. She washes her plaid in the eddies of the Corryreckin off the Scottish coast, and the next day the hills are white with snow.

It is clear that the Cailleach is one with the land, clothed in snow in winter, with brushwood growing on her body. Her one eye shows that she sees beyond dualities to the ultimate unity of all things on the Web of Life.



Her appearance alone makes her awesome to encounter. It is hard to relate to someone that ugly. Whenever people encounter her in meditation, they usually feel fear and awe, because she is clearly very powerful. She is the essential power of the Earth, and she has made it clear to me that she will continue to punish our disrespect for her with flood and other natural disaster. This is not a lady to be trifled with.

In Celtic myth and legend, the hag is often equated with the Sovereignty of the land. The spirit of the land traditionally held the sovereign power, and any king only held office by symbolic marriage to the spirit of the land. The story of Niall makes this very clear.

Women who identify with this Goddess find that she gives them Sovereignty in their lives - a special kind of power and confidence. The Cailleach, fierce though she may be, lives in all of us. She gives us the wisdom to let go of what is no longer needed, and keeps the seeds of what is yet to come. She stands at the cusp of Death and Life.

Of course, the Cailleach's best-known guise is that of the winter goddess, representing cold, darkness and death. In the winter months she rides through the air on the back of a wolf (the Gaelic word for January is Faoilleach, "wolf month"), bringing freezing cold, blizzards and ice. Highland tradition says that she has a magic wand which she uses to strike down the tiniest signs of spring growth - she acts as destroyer, bringing the frost that kills the first shoots of plants, the early lambs. Many sources say that her reign ends on April 25, now a Christian festival to celebrate the Annunciation, centuries ago - La na Caillich, Cailleach Day, the beginning of spring in Scotland. Others say she remains active until Beltane, and that the varying winter conditions in April represent her last fight against the arrival of spring.

Some stories tell of the Cailleach's son who represents spring and who, in order to defeat winter, has to free a young girl held prisoner by his mother. The Cailleach escapes his fatal blow by becoming part of the landscape, turning into a rock or boulder (there's a Cailleach Mountain in the Cuillins on the Isle of Skye, for example - one of her haunts).



The next aspect of the Cailleach is closely related to the above. She is also a weather goddess, a goddess of storms. The west coast of Scotland is her favourite haunt. In her guise as storm goddess she is usually known as Cailleach Bheur. Bheur means sharp and can apply to wind and weather as well as a person.

The one place that is mentioned most frequently in connection with Cailleach Bheur is the whirlpool of Corryvreckan, just north of Jura. It is one of the spots most feared by sailors as its power can change very suddenly. West coast lore has it that the whirlpool is Cailleach Bheur's washtub. In winter, she is said to wash her plaid, representing the whole of Scotland. When she has finished, the plaid is white and Scotland is covered in snow.

At other times of the year, sailors need to look and listen. Are there little wavelets on whirlpool, foam gushing? Cailleach Bheur is treading her laundry. Is there a noise like thunder? It's the Cailleach's sneeze! Both are sure signs that it would be very dangerous to go near the whirlpool. Further inland, the Cailleach can control tidal lochs, causing storms so violent that boats can't leave harbour. This could have had serious consequences in the days before roads and bridges were built.



But the Cailleach does not only act as destroyer. On the contrary: some attribute to her the creation of the whole of the Hebrides! There are lots of anecdotes about landscape creation, both deliberate and accidental. The Cailleach is said to walk about carrying stones in a basket or a creel occasionally dropping them, thus creating mountains and groups of islands such as the Garvellachs. A wonderful bawdy story features the

giant Cailleach wading through the sea, apron full of rocks, near the Ayrshire coast when a French sailor moves his boat underneath her. As the storyteller quaintly puts it, "he tickles her where you would expect a Frenchman to tickle a woman" - she shrieks and drops one of her rocks (the Frenchman has a lucky escape!), which we now know as Ailsa Craig. Loch Awe came into being when the Cailleach of Cruachan failed to cover the well on Ben Cruachan in time, and the water gushed out down into the valley, flooding villages and drowning people. She was devastated and she turned to stone, became the boulder that can still be seen on top of the mountain. You can visit Cruachan Power Station near Oban and enjoy a tour into the mountain - the story is part of it!



The Cailleach is very fond of animals, which leads on to the last aspect, that of the supernatural guardian. Many a Cailleach acts as a guardian of deer, looking after their welfare and making sure that there is a healthy population. The most famous of deer guardians is Cailleach Beinne Brice, the Cailleach of Beinn Bhreac (or Ben Breck) near Loch Treig in Lochaber. Local hunters were once familiar with her. Their relationship was one of mutual respect. The Cailleach was happy to speak to them, to tell them how the deer were doing, to tell them how many they could shoot and when. The hunters would always keep to her instructions, knowing that she had control over the balance between human and nature. People would notice if they did something wrong, such as the two young lads who went hunting on Stob Coire Claurigh in the Grampians. The Cailleach pointed them in the right direction to shoot a deer. The lads tied a rope around it and dragged the stag all the way home... or so they thought. When they arrived, only the rope was left. They told their father how they had found the stag, and their father asked, "Did you bless the meat?" When they denied it, their father explained: "Well, if you don't bless the meat, then it's the fairies who get their share!"



So, as you have seen, there is more to the Cailleach than her winter goddess aspect. You may have felt her presence on a cold January night - I have, and I'm sure she dropped those big snowflakes on my nose to nudge me into getting back to my research! - but don't just look for her there... find her in Scotland's mountains, by the lochs, in pastures and meadows, and in the forests... for she is in all of them, a mistress of the land.

OLDE WELSH PROSE

(Author Unknown)

He who knows the ways of beast and birds,
 Who can distinguish them by sound and cry,
 Who knows the bright quicksilver life in streams,
 The courses that the stars take in the sky,
 May never had laid hands on books, yet he,
 Is sharing wisdom with infinity...
 He who works with sensitive deft hands
 At any woodcraft, will absorb the rain,
 The sunlight and the starlight and the dew,
 That entered in the making of its grain;
 He should grow tall and straight and clean and good,
 Who daily breathes the essence of wood,
 He who finds companionship in rocks,
 And comfort in the touch of vine and leaf,
 Who climbs a hill for joy, and shouts a song,
 Who loves the feel of wind, will know no grief;
 No loneliness that ever grows too great;
 For he will never be quite desolate...
 He shares, who is companioned long with these,
 All ancient wisdom and philosophies.

MEET OUR NEW TREASURER

Owing to the problems of managing the Orders monetary assets from a long distance, our former Treasurer, Br. Phaedrus, stepped down from his role in late summer.

We were pleased to find a willing and very capable replacement in the form of a new member of the Mother Grove from Garberville, CA: Moonflower.



Moonflower, a CPA by profession, has enthusiastically taken over the office of Treasurer, and has actually thrown herself into the Order, advancing to the 3rd degree in almost as many months!



LUGHNASADH SESSION OF REFORMED DRUIDISM 101 CONTINUES

As an Order, we're adapting more and more of RDNAs traditions (with our own little tweaks of course) every year, and our online course is reflective of that. So in August, we changed the name of the course to Reformed Druidism 101, which is much more accurate. The current session has 14 survivors, and 4 have already joined the Order (2 were members going in). Sadly, a few who did not survive simply refused to pay their obligation. Honor can be so lacking in the Pagan community. The next session will begin in January. If you are a member of the Order and need to take it, use this link to enroll:

<http://mithrilstar.org/d101enroll.htm>

If you are a member of the Order, the money commitment does not apply to you.



THE STATE OF THE ORDER

NEW YEARS DAY Y.R. 43

As of today we have 138 members, of which:
 21 members are eligible for ordination into the First Degree.
 16 members are ordained First Degree Druids.
 3 members are eligible for ordination into the Second Degree
 4 members are ordained Second Degree Druids
 3 members are ordained Third Degree Druids
 1 member is eligible for ordination into the Fourth Degree
 1 member is an ordained Fifth Degree Druid
 2 members are ordained Seventh Degree Druids

During YR 42:

186 students started the Druidcraft 101 class
 15 finished and became members

During YR 42, the Order experienced a net Membership gain of 15

Total Groves: 2

Total US Members: 116

Total Canadian Members: 9

Total International Members: 22

Total Countries represented: 11

Total US States represented: 32

Total Canadian Provinces represented: 6

Top 5 US States: OR=12, CA=9, WA=10, FL=11, NY=7

Total members in areas with Redwood Groves: 4



4th ONLINE ORDINATIONS COMING UP AROUND YULE

Our next online ordinations will be held in the mithrilstar chat room sometime around Yule.

There are (as of this writing) 21 Druids eligible for the First Degree, 3 eligible for Second and 1 eligible for 4th.

If you are in a hurry, or not able to make an online ordination, and don't want to wait for the online date, you may make a private appointment with Ceridwen or Sybok for a phone or chat room ordination - or you can contact one of the three new Third Degree Druids, as they are empowered to perform the rites for First and Second degrees.

Write the clerk of the Mother Grove for a list of 3rd's.



ASTROLOGY FOR PAGANS

Ceridwen currently has four Advanced sessions and one Beginning session in progress. Because of this large amount of classes, she will be taking a "hiatus" from the group class format for quite some time (at least until all of her current students graduate)...

Ceridwen is, however still offering PRIVATE TUTORING sessions! Because of the increased "personal attention" these entail, there will be a sliding scale fee required...

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, or need more information about it, send an email to: ceridwen@hunters-moon.org Subject line: AstroPagan private tutoring

You will then be contacted immediately and a schedule will be set up that will conform to your own personal needs - NO WAITING! Each lesson will be offered whenever YOU are ready for it - and if you need to take time off at any point for personal business or holidays or whatever reason, your schedule will be adjusted accordingly!

Or...

If you are interested in a private consultation about your Astrological chart, please visit her home page at: <http://hunters-moon.org>

ALMANAC

- Today is Samhain / Calen Gaeaf, or November 1, 2004 CE.
- It is the 1st day of the 43rd Year of the Reform, the 1st day of the Season of Geimredh, and the 1st day of the Month of Mi na Samhna.
- It is also Monday, in the common tongue, or Dydd Llun in Welsh.
- It is the Druidic day of the Willow.
- FULL MOONS occur on 26 Geimredh, 56 Geimredh, and 86 Geimredh.
- NEW MOONS occur on 12 Geimredh, 41 Geimredh and 71 Geimredh.
- The birthday of our Co-Founder, Sybok Pendderwydd, occurs on 15 Geimredh.
- The Sun enters Sagittarius on 21 Geimredh.
- Mean Geimhridh (December) begins on 31 Geimredh (a Wednesday - Dydd Mercher - Day of the Hazel).
- Yule / Alban Arthuan, or the Winter Solstice occurs on 51 Geimredh.
- The Sun enters Capricorn on 51 Geimredh. Deireadh
- Geimhridh (January, the new common year 2005) begins on 62 Geimredh (a Saturday - Dydd Sadwrn -- Day of the Sequoia).
- The Sun enters Aquarius on 80 Geimred.

October



Samhain

Let me be a bloodhound in your pack, Lord Herene,
racing toward a horizon that recedes
with each swift step we take toward it.
Let me burn with your dark fire.
Let me serve you with my fearless deeds.

Wild Hunt Talisman

Cedar, Sandalwood, Wormwood, Myrrh
Place a pinch of each in a pouch to be worn or carried to attune
with the Wild Hunt.



Irish Galway Wassail

While wassailing is now usually associated with Yule, it originated around Samhain. It was usually done by a group of individuals who had imbibed too much Samhain ale. They would gather stones or weapons and cider and go out to find the largest apple tree around. There, they throw the stones (or fire their weapons) into the branches of the apple tree to frighten away evil faeries. They would then drink to the tree's health and sustenance. Today, "wassailing" means the drinking to the health of anyone with a spiced punch or cider.

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 6 baked apples, cut into small pieces
- 5 egg whites
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons allspice
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 8 whole cloves
- 1 quart ale
- 1 cup cooking sherry
- 1 cup Irish whiskey

Directions

1. Bring the water and cream to a slow boil and remove from heat.
2. Beat the egg whites well.
3. Thoroughly mix in all the remaining ingredients except the alcohol. Allow this mixture to cool slightly, enough so that the heat from it will not crack your punch bowl. If you have a non-glass container for your wassail, you can skip the cooling process.
4. Blend in the alcohol just before serving, and be sure to offer the traditional toast to the old apple tree.



Good Solstice

*May Yule and this turning of the
wheel bring you love, peace,
and good fortune in the coming year.
Let us welcome the returning sun
with hope and Joy.
May you never thirst!*





CONCLUSION

The Mother Grove wishes all of you a most blessed New Year, and abundant blessings throughout the season!

May you never thirst!
Ceridwen Seren-Ddaear, Arch Druid
Sybok Pendderwydd, Clerk
Cylch Cerddwyr Rhwng Y Bydoedd Grove, OMS

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