

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

An RDNA Publication

Leaf: Bur Oak – *Quercus macrocarpa*

May 1, 2021
1 Samradh, 59 Y.R.
Volume 1
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Beltane

Happy RDNA New Year – 59 Y.R.!



Photo: Druid's Circle after a controlled burn for prairie restoration, Carleton College Cowling Arboretum, Northfield, MN

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News of the Groves

News from Carleton Grove

[Editor's Note] I recently met with one of the Arch-Druids of Carleton Grove (there are two!) to donate a Third Order "Care Package" containing a liturgical red and white ribbon – the badge of office for a Third Order Druid in time for Beltane. Beltane is one of the times of the year that Thirds will swap out their white ribbon for the winter half of the year with their red ribbon for the summer half, marking the change of the seasons. Accompanying the ribbon in the care package was a Druid Sigil pendant, a special book, and an ordination certificate. It sounds like the pandemic has had a bit of an impact on group activities for sure. Another impact is that most of the regularly attending members of Carleton Grove happen to be seniors this year and will be graduating. (For those new to the RDNA, Carleton Grove is an official student organization right at the birthplace of the Reformed Druid movement: Carleton College.) This means the druids at Carleton might contract a bit next year. Oakdale Grove, the nearest active RDNA fellowship, is a mere hour away, and is committed to help when called upon.

In more upsetting news from Carleton Grove, the altar stone at the heart of the stone circle in the arboretum was vandalized. Someone sprayed a hypocycloid in hot pink paint onto the altar's surface. As far as I know it isn't a religious symbol. If anything it could be connected to mathematics or sacred geometry, but never mind that – who would do this? Maybe it's Saint Olaf students again, as a few years ago there was a painted stencil of the Saint Olaf lion holding an axe on one of the standing stones, and on the bench overlooking the Postage Stamp Prairie nearby.



News from Oakdale Grove

During the pandemic I've received messages from dozens of individuals interested in druidry and/or public events and rituals in Minnesota. I think I was contacted more times in the past year than I was in the two years prior combined. Last week it was announced that a majority of Minnesotans have at least received a partial vaccination against COVID-19. Furthermore, some restrictions have been lifted, including the guideline to wear a mask outdoors unless in crowded situations. So to celebrate the dawn of Year of the Reform 59, Oakdale Grove is holding a Beltane ritual (see events page) and inviting all the locals who expressed interest over the past year.

First Order Ordination season is open! Anyone interested in petitioning to enter the RDNA would merely have to bring their own chalice and its contents, and it will be a touch-free consecration. Personally I always thought it slightly unsanitary, dipping fingers into the whiskey to anoint seekers with it, but lately the classic Fisherism has simply made more sense anyway:

As a priest, I do not seek to consecrate the Water to any use with my words [editor: or fingers], but rather think of my words as a common means for others, who watch and listen, to consecrate the Water within themselves. —The Book of Faith, 1:10

In other news, the altar stone that we use in the circle of oaks in Oakdale Nature preserve has been removed from the woods. Initially we had no idea where it went. There's evidence that the preserve is working on prairie restoration, but they shouldn't have to move a literal ton of granite to do so. The boulder wasn't even touching the tree in the oak savanna, which is also a natural aspect of Minnesota prairies. I was worried that they also might try to remove the oak trees. Sure there are a few dead oaks in the savanna that can be pruned out, but most prairie restoration projects know not to cut down oaks. The boulder is pink granite dragged out of the area where Saint Cloud, Minnesota is today, and dropped by glaciers at some point thousands of years ago. It was part of the Penokean Orogeny that was a mountain range of granite, and then became an artifact of local geologic history as well.



Later on a subsequent visit to Oakdale Nature Preserve, we found the stone. I felt silly, there was actually a direct line of sight from it's original location to where it got moved, though from the oaks it did blend in with the dry grasses on the other side of the field. For whatever reason, the maintenance crew or park board decided they just needed to make an immense effort and move the stone 200 yards to a fitness station along the paved trail. Maybe they saw the mysterious Druid Sigil carved into the surface of the stone and thought it should be on display for people to contemplate. Maybe if I never carved the Sigil into it, the stone might have been left in situ.

But what's done is done. I don't have the log rollers to put the stone back in its post-glacial resting place. At the very least, the side with the carved Druid Sigil faces the climbing wall and the spring balance platform.



Perhaps the crew faced it that way on purpose. The carving is so faint though, maybe none of the crew even noticed it and it's all by chance.

I'm just elated that the stone is still in the nature preserve, and that I can walk up to it along a paved trail and trace the Druid Sigil with my fingers, contemplating the Earth-Mother and her Two Tenets.



Bardic Column

Beltane's Song

Oh blessed Beltane when the lord and lady meet
Oh blessed Beltane come feel the ground beneath your feet
Come raise a Beltane fire and feel the rhythm beat
Come raise a Beltane fire and feel it's warming heat
Come join in all our praises come join in our dance
Come watch the spiraling flames and let them entrance
We watch the sun fall and the sky with all its hues
We burn our Beltane fire and see what comes a new
As spring turns summer we feel the change tonight
Let's jump the Beltane fire and let our souls re-ignite.

—*MoonLitMoth*

[**Editor's Note:** See also Videos section to hear this chant sung!]

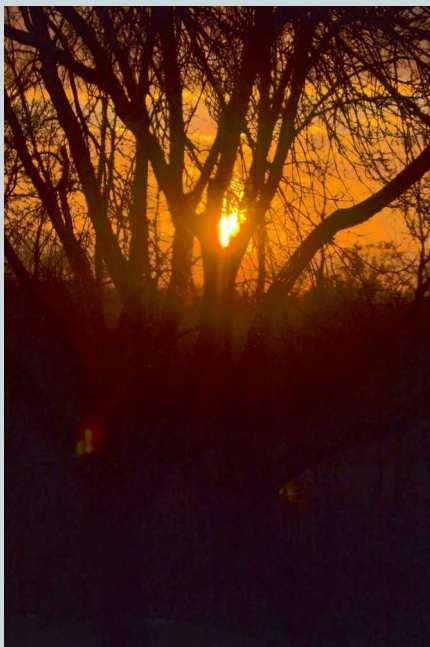
Untiled Haiku

Brilliant day-star,
ever illuminating,
the Earth is turning.

—*John the Verbose*



A Ceremonial Fire
by Johayan Sycamore Bear



Sunset through the Ash
by John the Verbose

May Fires

The song of the Aos Si echoed
In our ears and in our head
As it does every year, soothing our fears of the wild spirits.

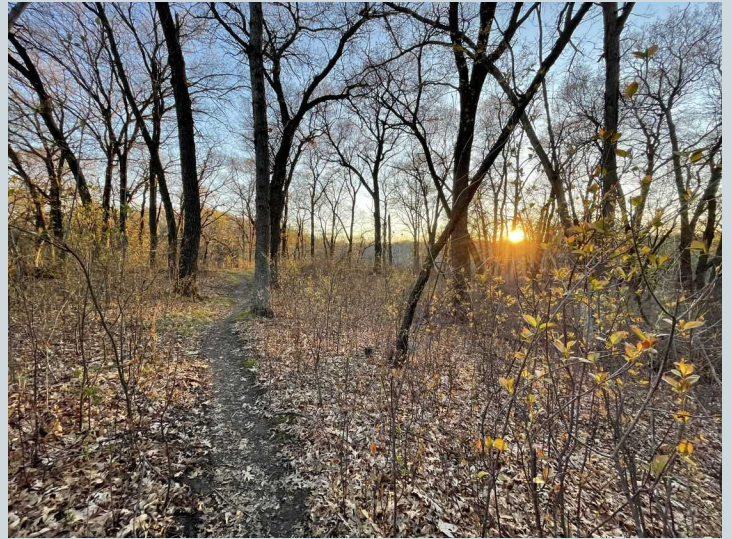
Would the spirits kill our livestock?
Could they destroy our crops?
Our families...Oh the safety of our families!

Our rowan crosses hung with care
The hawthorn and others in bloom,
The old and weak trees are harvested
The May Fires are lit with care and prayers

Driving our livestock between the fires
We dance between them, holding our young ones
The sacred fires offering their protection
Holding the spirits at bay, keeping them away away

Soon the festivities die away, the fires burn low
The animals sheltered and the children put to bed
The adults watching over the houses

A silence descends upon the village
Broken only by the sounds of the animals
The song of the Aos Si had silenced the spirits for another year
—*Johayan Sycamore Bear*



Sunset in Oakdale Nature Preserve
by John the Verbose

Overview

This section is an open forum for opinion pieces, letters to the editor, druidic gossip, philosophical exposition, news of solo druids, relevant product reviews, tutorials, and other discourse.

Contribution from SamTheOwl

Spring on Mother Earth:

Here in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, Spring is truly a magical time of transformation. Our winters usually consist of rain, cold, clouds, wildlife going into hibernation, flora dying (with the exception of the evergreens), the rivers swelling, occasionally we'll get a week or two of snow and ice near the end, and then... The Canadian geese come, followed by the emergence of more ducks, then squirrels, and the gradual increase in sunlight. Little green shoots begin to appear, trees begin to grow leaves again, the daytime temperatures get warmer with the nights staying relatively the same. The rivers begin to get smaller, there's still rain but there's a bit less of it (due to climate change, we're getting less and less rain each year though), the birds sing as you walk to work, people begin to go fishing again, walking more, hiking, and kids start their baseball practice. The local community garden starts to get cleaned up for a final harvest and to do more planting.

Spring here is a time of awakening, both in nature and in society. It is a time of laughter, hope, bright energy, greenery, sunshine, food, community, and transition. People who were walking around in a muck during the winter, now have a bit of pep in their step. New projects are taken on, houses are cleaned out, and so much more. It is truly a beautiful time of year.

What's In your Chalice?

Contribution from Jenny Hughart

What's in my chalice? Waters from Hawaii (where our founding AD currently lives), the Colorado River (from my trip to the Grand Canyon), the Yakima River (here in Washington State), Seattle (where we meet when there isn't a pandemic), and both the White Spring and the Chalice Well in Glastonbury, England. And of course, a healthy portion of *Tullamore Dew* during the light half of the year!

Contribution from Johayan Sycamore Bear

My chalice (one of them) from the Samhain 2019 ritual for ADF.

The drink of the occasion (and used to be for all occasions) was *Writer's Tears* whisky. (I'm a writer and so it's very fitting!) but now with life changes and health challenges, iced tea is the drink imbibed.



Contribution from John the Verbose

I've tried to keep things consistent since 2011 when I formed Oakdale Protogrove. I read in ARDA that some of the early RDNA Groves used *Black & White* scotch but I've never found that in my area. Actually I accidentally thought ARDA mentioned *Black Label* by *Johnny Walker*, which is a scotch plentifully stocked. I found that I liked it, not having tried it before. It had a bit of an apple-like

undertone which was interesting. My grovemate Ross occasionally brings *Bushmill's Black Bush* whiskey which has a great flavor.

One Irish whiskey I always look for is *The Knot*. It is 100 proof, whereas most other whiskeys are 80 proof. It's sweeter than most whiskeys, is really smooth despite its much higher alcohol content, and tastes a bit like

butterscotch. And it hardly burns the throat – you could drink it neat and without a chaser, but remember that's not why we use spirited beverages. One of the ancillary advantages to a 100 proof whiskey is that when we offer the remainder back to the Earth-Mother in libation, we cast it into the ritual fire which responds with a sudden upward burst of flames. Don't simply pour that chalice into the fire, cast it quickly! Those bottles also have a Celtic knot medallion glued into a recess of the bottle's shoulder. It's fun to pry them off and collect them when the bottle is emptied.



On occasion I like to go for a mead. It's rare to find, but I love anything by *Redstone Meadery*. Those stand out on the mead shelves because of their cobalt blue swing-top bottles. Plus, fill the goblet with mead and in ritual before the consecration I love to recite verses of the Morrigan's poem of victory after the second battle of Maigh Tuireadh: "A chalice brimming, mead in abundance!" Though if it's whiskey I only say the first phrase.

I used to have too many chalices. Twenty-nine at the height of my collection in a space that didn't display them well. I ended up giving away about 10 of them and inadvertently broke two others. These days I mostly stick to using my antique satin pewter chalice which is Duratale by Leonard. It feels like a pretty strong alloy. Wilton Armetale makes ones like this today out of aluminum alloy if you're in the market for a new one. The others I use are antique store or thrift store finds such as my green and yellow Mosser Georgian pattern glass tumblers. This style was preferred among the Reformed Druids back in the old days. They're not too hard to find in antique stores for about \$8. Other than that you can really only get new ones from the Vermont Country Store. The red goblet isn't Mosser, but is another fine specimen I donated for a druid starter kit raffle.



The Seeker's Corkboard

Overview

This is the place where you can state that you are seeking other druids to form a protogrove. Long has it been said, something to the tune of *in the proper way, at the proper time, at the proper place, may another druid cross your path*. Well, here is a little nudge to help this happen sooner! These bulletins will be cumulative on each issue of C.O.R.D. until you send a stop request. They will be arranged alphabetically by country, then by state/province/region, then by town name.

To submit a Seeker's Corkboard request, email the editor and **provide your preferred name, location, and an email address** that you check consistently at least once per month. Just remember that any contact information you submit to this section does become public. Your email address in the newsletter will be split apart and will use different characters (& and /) instead of @ and '.' to prevent or mitigate random harvester bots from scanning them for spam.

Example Bulletin

USA: **Kansas**: Hutchinson: Dorian seeking others for starting RDNA protogrove. Email dorian_the_druid (at) gmail (dot) com.

Standard Disclaimer

I advise Googling *safety tips for meeting people from the Internet* or something to that effect. Furthermore, this is not intended as a section for personals ads or soliciting hookups.

Bulletins

None submitted yet...

Vivid Visions Gallery

Overview

It's a druidic photo gallery. Enjoy!

Contributions from John the Verbose



The Path Less Taken, Carleton Arb



Prairie restoration after controlled burn in Arb



False rue-anemones, Carleton Arb



Spring Creek, Carleton Arb



Daffodils, Oakdale Nature Preserve



Rue-anemone, Oakdale Nature Preserve



Deer, Oakdale Nature Preserve



Deer, Oakdale Nature Preserve

Videos of Interest

Overview

This section is reserved for videos relevant to druidry. Enjoy!

Beltane's Song – by MoonLitMoth



Oak Tree – Nature's Greatest Survivor, part 1



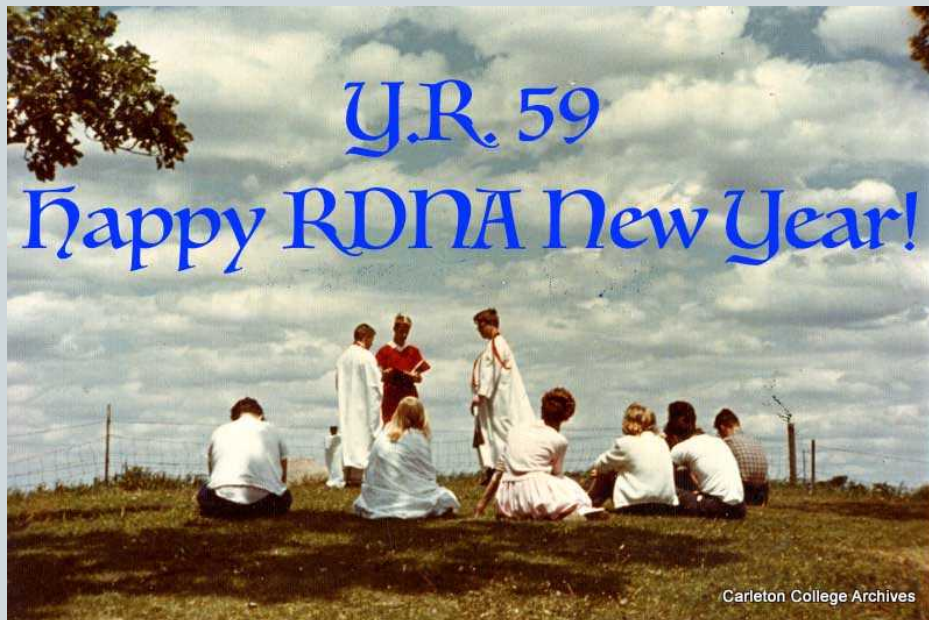
Oak Tree – Nature's Greatest Survivor, part 2



Memes of the Month

Overview

This section is reserved for memes or fun creations that were meant to be shared *ad nauseam*. These days it seems so many druid groups and social media just share memes 90% of the time, but I think that takes away from deeper conversations that end up buried. Here is a place designated to the celebration of all those catchy kitschy memes. However, I'm limiting those to two per article.



The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

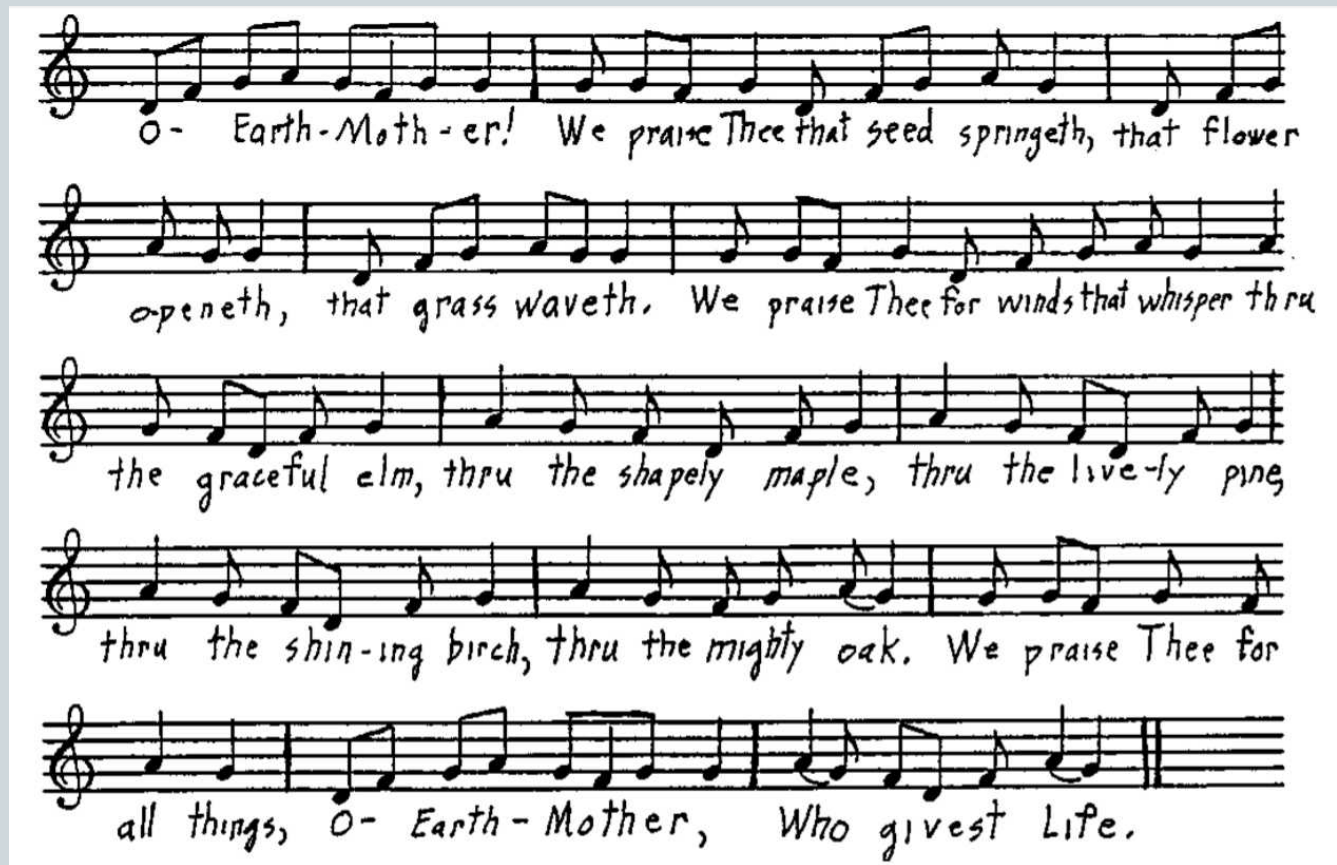
Overview

This section is for sharing rituals, devotionals, or other liturgical contributions.

Hymn to the Earth-Mother

Lyrics by Kathie Courtice

Music by Peter Basquin, 1 Y.R.



O- Earth-Moth-er! We praise Thee that seed springeth, that flower
openeth, that grass waveth. We praise Thee for winds that whisper thru
the graceful elm, thru the shapely maple, thru the live-ly pine
thru the shin-ing birch, thru the mighty oak. We praise Thee for
all things, O- Earth-Mother, Who givest Life.

Chant of Praise II

Beltane Chant: (Attributed to Robert Larson?)

The Earth-Mother wakes from her long sleep and smiles on us today!

She brings us life! She brings us light! She is awake!

The Earth-Mother wakes and seeks Be'al.

We light our fires to show the way.

To couch with the Earth-Mother and bring forth life.

Quickly Be'al returns!

O Be'al we welcome thee!

O Earth-Mother we welcome thee!

O Be'al, O Earth-Mother, parents of all that live,

we welcome ye back to our midst.
Give us of your life, O most high,
that we may share your joy.
Welcome are ye among us, O most high.
Smile on us who have kept your ways,
Through the time of sleep.

Chant of Praise IV

A response at Beltane

Latter Chronicles 10:6 – 10:22

6. O Earth-Mother, we praise thee.
7. In all that we do we praise thee:
In our getting up and in our lying down,
in our sleeping and in our waking; in our
eating and in our drinking: in our
working and in our times of leisure; for
we are alive only through thee, and in
our every act too we praise thee.
8. O Earth-Mother, we praise thee.
9. In all that we see do we praise
thee: in the sky and the sea, the hills and
the plains; in the clouds and the stars, the
moon and the sun, in the birds and the
flowers, the butterflies and the myriad colored
fishes.
10. We praise thee with our
admiration of the sunset and of the
mountains, of the trees and of the
streams. For thou hast made all things,
and for all we see do we praise thee.
11. O Earth-Mother, we praise thee.
12. In all that we hear and smell and
feel and taste do we praise thee: in the
song of birds and the roar of the sea; in
the perfumes of flowers and freshness of
a summer rain;
13. in the softness of a kitten and the
coolness of a lake; in the sweetness of

honey and the savor of fruits; for all that
we hear and smell and feel and taste is of
thee, and for all sensible do we praise
thee.

14. O Earth-Mother, we praise thee.
15. For all that we love do we praise
thee: for the love of our parents, and for
the love of others; for the act and
emotion of love is an act and emotion of
praise, and in loving do we praise thee.
16. O Earth-Mother, we praise thee.
17. In our meditations and services
do we praise and think upon thy works
and power.
18. O Earth-Mother, we praise thee.
19. In all the whole world do we
praise thee, from the east to the west do
we praise thee and from the nadir to the
zenith do we praise thee.
20. We praise thee in the day, and in
the night, in all seasons of the year, and
in the myriad of years.
21. We praise thee knowing and
unknowing, believing and of little faith,
for thou hast made all and art all, and we
can praise and admire nothing without
praising and admiring thee.
22. O Earth-Mother, we praise thee!

Augur's Intuition

Overview

This section is reserved for reader-submitted divinations, premonitions, soothsaying, prophecies, omens, maybe a Celtic horoscope for the range of a month.

Divination by John The Verbose

Methodology

Rock Art Runes (whole set cast repeatedly until only one stone faces up, repeated thrice)

Meanings

The Axe, Ouroboros, and Gift: The blade of the **Axe** should always be honed sharp and ready to cut. It points to whatever is on the chopping block. It is a versatile tool of destruction, but that also leads to creation. It is a survival tool and a weapon of war. Want to put up some standing stones? You gotta cut down a few trees to make log rollers. It is one of the symbols of change and transformation. The **Ouroboros** is the serpent devouring its own tail. It is an ancient symbol of unending cycles. The serpent has always been a symbol of life and rebirth. It can also represent ourselves and times when we focus on our aspects that don't really accomplish any real goals. We're just spinning the tires until we're able to shed that which no longer serves us, then we can grow and transcend. The last stone is the giving of a **Gift**, from one open hand to another. It can also represent an exchange, barter, sale, or even a surrender of something, depending on the context of the interpretation.



Interpretation

It's time for something that is holding us back to get the axe, so that we can move forward and receive the benefits of a much-welcome new beginning.

Helping Healing Hearth

Overview

This section is for prayer, healing energy, and meditation requests. Standard disclaimer: C.O.R.D. Biquarterly always advises seeking conventional medical or other applicable assistance prior to supplemental healing energy requests.

Requests

[Editor's Note: Not a request, but rather a "heartwarming" story contributed by anonymous. I hope the pun is okay.]

The pandemonium of the pandemic last year had induced a lot of cumulative stress on me. Sometimes I would notice it and other times things were like: nah I'm not stressed, but everything else is crazy. When in fact, I was spiraling toward a health crisis. By December I figured there actually was something wrong with me, and I scared the doctors who sent me to the nearest ER. I was diagnosed with Coronary Artery Disease and spent a week in an out-of-network hospital.

After I got out of the hospital, the cardiologists said I still needed a stent put in the coronary artery on my heart. I was on a slew of new medications that were actually helping immensely, but I was at-risk for a heart attack. Walking uphill made me feel weak and tight-chested, but I was supposed to get half an hour of exercise every day to aid the meds and get me healthier. With in-network hospitals being full of Covid patients I couldn't get an angioplasty scheduled until early April. I wanted to get it done. I was far less apprehensive of the procedure than I was of potential death beforehand.

I got my letter detailing the then-upcoming procedure. The doctor's name was Ganesh. I thought to myself, the elephant-headed Hindu god? What are his attributes? Ganesh is a god of new beginnings and removes blockages. That's exactly what I needed! I suddenly realized I was crying tears of hopeful comfort, and I was all the more looking forward to meeting.

The day of the procedure, I met about 8 people who were part of Ganesh's team in the operating room. They introduced themselves and told me what their role was and they were all highly specialized. Then the anesthesiologist gave me some cocktail that included fentanyl and things got a bit loopy, but I was awake for the entire procedure. Ganesh entered the OR, but he did not make any introduction, just was ready to work. I didn't have a line of sight to him so I raised my head off the pillow to see. There was a spiraling white light in the room and I didn't know what that was, but the anesthesiologist quickly told me "Put your head down!" as if I wasn't allowed to look upon a god or something.

The procedure went by in exactly the sensation of time they indicated it should take. I was carted off to a recovery room where I was monitored for a couple hours, and I was hoping to have a visit from Ganesh, but received only a representative of him. I was told I have a good heart and everything went well. It's an outpatient procedure, and I went home the same day. As I resumed activities and exercise, I truly felt like I have been given a new beginning. I didn't feel like crap anymore. I can hike up steep hills and bound up staircases and bike 9 miles on a spring afternoon and get back to improving my life again.

All because I was touched by the many skilled hands of a god that I could not see.
Thank you, Ganesh.

-Anonymous

Calendar of Events

Overview

This section is for contributors to add their events, gatherings, any applicable online meetings, etc that they wish to announce publicly. It will also have an almanac of full and new moon dates for the time between issues of this biquarterly publication, as well as the next Wheel of the Year high day. This section will also feature any applicable minor holidays according to the Schismatic Druids of North America (SDNA), one of the early direct offshoots tied to the RDNA.

High Days and Moon Phases

- 1 Samradh (May 1) Beltane
- 11 Samradh (May 11) New Moon
- 26 Samradh (May 26) Full Moon
- 41 Samradh (June 10) New Moon
- 51 Samradh (June 20) Midsummer Solstice

Shared Open to Public events

Oakdale Grove's Beltane: Saturday May 1, 1:00 PM

Location: Silver View Park, 2700 Co. Rd. I, Mounds View, Minnesota

Where There: Atop sledding hills, behind basketball court from parking lot.

Note: There will be no fire per park rules. Bring your own chalice / beverage to consecrate. Mask currently optional outdoors but WITH social distancing.



Upcoming minor holidays of the SDNA (non-canonical) calendar

- 18 Samradh (May 18) **Feast of Cernunnos** – Engage in the wild hunt. The rest of the SDNA description of this holiday is trash.
- 24 Samradh (May 24) **Feast of the Dark Goddess** – Celebrate Babh, the Morrigan, Macha, and other divine feminine foe-slayers, meditating upon their beauty.
- 25 Samradh (May 25) **Feast of the Two Ladies** – Celebrate the maiden and the mother, meditate on your feminine side and your concepts of womanhood.
- 44 Samradh (June 13) **Feast of Epona** – Go horseback riding and spend the day appreciating your equine friends. Give your kids ponies or horse books.
- 49 Samradh (June 18) **Festival of Bards** – Hold a big bardic revel with as much song and dance as possible.

Long-term notice for the 60th anniversary of the RDNA

6 Samradh, 61 Y.R. (Saturday, May 6, 2023) is the day of the 60th anniversary reunion of the foundation of the Reformed Druids of North America at Carleton College! More details to follow as the event approaches.

Blogs & Social Media Links

Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

- Courtney's blog [Corey Adventures](#)
- Ellen Evert Hopman's blog [A Druid's Blog](#)
- John the Verbose's [Tumblr](#)
- TheMageiboLine's [Tumblr](#)

Social Media

- C.O.R.D. Biweekly's [Facebook page](#)
- "Official" Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- *[Editor's note: if you request to join there are four vetting questions. Please answer all four; they're really easy.]*
- New Reformed Druids of North America (NRDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- Ron Stonemage's [Instagram](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Twitter](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Facebook page](#)
- Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program Development [Facebook page](#)
- Tribe of the Oak Celtic Reconstructionist (non-RDNA) Druid Grove [website](#)

Artisan Promo Page

Overview

Each article of C.O.R.D. will contain one page of featured artists, craftsmen, or small online storefronts that may be of interest to the druid community in some way. There is no cost involved; anyone can request that their content be promoted here on a first-come-first-served basis. If I get a ton of requests, in the future we may have to revisit that policy or add a second page.

Reannag Teine Pottery

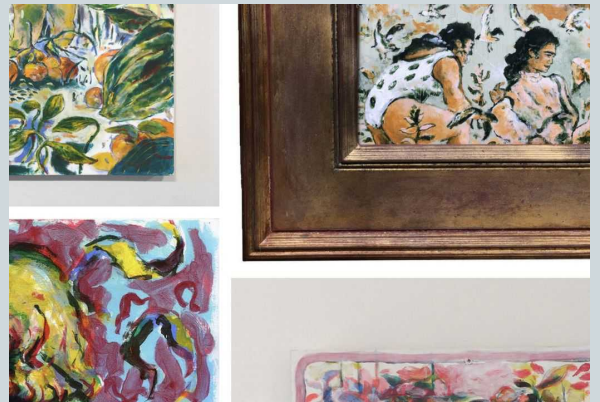
Historically Inspired Pottery: Islamic, Greek, or Italian Renaissance... skulls, squashed fairies, or Viking kitties, we are devoted to creating unique pieces of historically inspired ceramic art--a touch of the unique you can use all the time. Hand-thrown and hand-painted yet safe for food, dishwasher, microwave, and oven. Reannag Teine, Gaelic for "star fire," is a mother-daughter team with six degrees and a myriad of art awards between them... and a healthy amount of humor to bring it all together. Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Instagram—and of course at www.ReannagTeine.com!



(707) 407-8488 • Pottery@ReannagTeine.com

Jeremiah Soup's [art gallery](#)

All he wanted to do was subscribe to the newsletter but I was stunned by the art gallery when I clicked through the link in his email signature out of curiosity. I actually asked if I could share this here on his behalf, and I'm glad he agreed to it.



Ron Stonemage's [wire art and wrapped stones](#)

I think we originally discovered each other's Tumblr blogs about a year and a half ago. Not only is the wearable artwork intricate and beautiful, but Ron often has a lot of thought provoking questions about druidry that sometimes takes some time for me to piece together an answer.



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Ron Stonemage

Reformed Druid Resources

Overview

The Reformed Druids of North America is probably one of the few major druid orders that provides all resources for learning about our style of druidism at no cost. We might not have all the answers, and unfortunately we don't have a mentorship or official training program, however there is something major in the works on an unofficial capacity. For now, here is a list of resources we *do* have.

A Reformed Druid Anthology – ARDA (2nd edition)

[ARDA II](#) is an 848 page PDF of RDNA history, customs, meditations, debates, rituals, advice, and other information. If the massive PDF file is too big, it is also broken down into its individual sections which makes for easier scrolling [here](#). There you will also find part of an ARDA study course and other documents. The books in hardcover version are rare and out of print, but the PDFs are free.

Grove Finder

Everyone wants to know: is there an RDNA or NRDNA Grove in _____? Well, the most current source of truth is the [Grove Finder spreadsheet](#). It's been updated *en masse* the last two Januaries during the Grove censuses, and if there are any interim changes I usually get to them within two days. It tracks Reformed Druid, New Reformed Druid, and Reformed Druidic Wicca (MOCC) Groves & Protogroves.

RDNA Year Conversion Chart & Calendar

The RDNA Calendar was technically at year 0 during the pre-planning stages of the Reform, and year 1 began on Beltane (May 1) of 1963. It's unapologetically half a year off from the Celtic New Year. As of Beltane 2020, the 58th Year of the Reform (Y.R.) began. I often forget what Y.R. it is, so I refer to the [RDNA Year Conversion spreadsheet](#). There is also a [four-year RDNA calendar](#) to help you learn what day of the four seasons it is, because you'll see the RDNA calendar system is all over this publication.

Black Book of Liturgy

The original 1960s copies of Black Book of Liturgy (which were in three-ring binders) were only to be kept by ordained Third Order Druids, but mimeographed copies leaked out decades ago, and we think that's a good thing. Oakdale Grove has a new adaptation of [Black Book of Liturgy \(PDF\)](#) with a ton of rituals as well as minimum recommended readings from ARDA. Black Book of Liturgy is also available in [hardcover for \\$12.41](#) via Lulu print-on-demand, which is strictly *at cost* of having it printed and bound. Oakdale Grove uses these books in rituals.

Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program

This is a work in progress. So far the draft is 114 pages long, and I'm only half way into adding the *basic* content I want to put in it. I am not an educator, so I'm concerned about its flow and efficacy. If anyone wants to help develop it with me, I would greatly appreciate the assistance.

Newsletter Info

About C.O.R.D.

Connexus of Reformed Druids – C.O.R.D. Biquarterly is a free and publicly available newsletter for the Reformed Druids of North America as well as for anyone else who might be interested. It follows in the footsteps of prior publications such as *A Druid Missal-Any* and *Druid Inquirer*. *Connexus* is an homage to the late Emmon Bodfish, who petitioned the Council of Dalon Ap Landu to update RDNA liturgical nomenclature to make it less churchlike and more unique. *Connexus* is Latin for *connection* (not exactly druidic, but I'm not complaining). Emmon's petition never gained traction (plus the Council had lost it's ability to gain a voting quorum and it had no chairperson at the time) but it seemed fitting to adopt this word for a publication that connects druids around the world.

Past Articles

[Click here](#) to access all prior *C.O.R.D. Biquarterly* articles and the content contribution forms.

Meet the Editor

Greetings! I'm John "The Verbose." I've practiced generic forms of druidry since I spent a semester in Ireland in 2004. I began interacting with the RDNA in 2011, and in 2013 I was ordained as a priest of Dalon Ap Landu and formed Oakdale Grove in Minnesota with 5 other grovemates. In 2015 I had the rare opportunity to become a priest of Belenos and in 2017 the even rarer honor of becoming a priest of Sirona, as well as the new curator of her Order. In January 2020 I began work on developing an RDNA style druid training program, and as of now that is still a work in progress.



I am absolutely committed to my oath of Service and wish to help others explore Reformed Druidry by a diverse array of means. That includes assembling and issuing these newsletters. Anything in this publication that doesn't have an attribution and is written in the first person is pretty much me sharing my opinions and experiences. That's where your help with contributions is so helpful; we have a newsletter with crowd-sourced content to appeal to a broader druidic audience. I sincerely hope you find this periodical to be a worthwhile investment of your time. I always welcome constructive criticism and suggestions or other feedback

Peace, peace, peace! ☪

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Contribute Content to the Next Issue!

Submission Process

Issues will be released within a day or two of the RDNA Wheel of the Year high days. That's more or less the deadline if you wanted to submit any content for the forthcoming article. Anything received a bit late might end up on the draft of the next article thereafter. **Please ensure content is PG-13 or tamer.**

Gmail Users Can Use Our Full-Feature Google Form to Contribute!

Do you plan on contributing content from a Gmail account? We have a [convenient form](#) that allows you to enter text-based contribs as well as attach files or photos! A Google account is only required to send attachments through the form.

Non-Gmail Users Have Two Ways to Contribute

1. There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.
2. Or simply copy and fill the form below when emailing contributions to my Gmail: **MNdruids**

Hello,
I would like to share the following/attached content for the next C.O.R.D. article.
I hereby consent and attest that I (the sender) hold the rights or permission to share it.
[Exception for memes, public YouTube video links, certain other content types.]

- I wish to be credited under the name: ____
 - Subscribe me to the newsletter mailing list? ____
 - Other comments/suggestions if applicable: ____
 - [Input your content you wish to share below the line, and/or attach files]
-

What Content Does C.O.R.D. Look For?

- News of the RDNA & NRDNA Groves & Protogroves
- News of the Solo Druids
- Poetry
- Short Stories
- Tutorials
- Druidic projects, arts, crafts you are making
- Personal milestones, editorials, druidic book or product reviews, critiques
- Seeker Bulletins like "Solo druid looking for other druids in _____"
- Your own photography
- Links to videos of druidic interest
- Links to your druid blogs or social media

- Divinations and their summaries
- Events you're willing to announce publicly
- Maybe a druidry-related meme (article will limit two)
- Healing Thoughts Requests
- Do you have a druid-oriented Etsy shop or similar online store? One page of the newsletter will be reserved for artisan promo space
- Propose a topic; you can help make this newsletter be a success