

# a DRUID MISSAL-ANY



Volume 24, Issue 2, Vernal Equinox, 2008



Spring Equinox, the Sun crosses the Equator and shines down over the Northern tropics. It is dawn at the North Pole. This is one of the four Minor Celtic High Days. The grain of the last sheaf, made into the Corn-doll last autumn,\* has been taken down from its place of honor, torn apart and scattered over the field prior to plowing. This holiday is one of renewal: planting, cleaning, fasting and “taking the bathes,” visiting holy wells and springs. In Southern Britain, if I recall an oral tradition correctly, it was associated with Sulis, Goddess of hot springs and the Rites at Bath, and perhaps in Gaul with Sequanna, Goddess of the source of the River Seine. Here, in the valley of Dijon, numerous votive offerings to Her have been found, and traditions dramatically emphasizing Her powers to cure the sick were recorded by classic writers. (c.f. Barry Cunliffe, though he does not list his sources for this.) Twenty-two wooden plaques, carved in relief to represent internal organs, one, better preserved, showing anatomically accurate depiction of trachea and lungs, have been recovered.

“The Celtic religious sense was strongly marked by the principle of reciprocity. To save a life, another would be sacrificed. Similarly, Cunliffe states, “if sacred waters were used by someone wanting a cure, a gift in exchange was expected of the user.” Votive offerings found in this spring portray the hopes of the pilgrims who brought them, like the exquisite statue of the little blind girl from the shrine of Sequanna. Other carvings are of organs or limbs, perhaps to communicate with the Goddess or to focus the ritual’s participants’ attention on the afflicted part. Wooden votives were carved from the heartwood of the Oak, and may depict the entire figure of the donor, sometimes holding the offering he has brought; a lamb, a jewel, a bar of silver. Most have very individual faces, as contrasted with the smooth, archetypical faces of Celtic God statues.”

This is a time to get healthy; do a sauna or visit the Hot Springs, re-organize and get ready for Beltaine.

\*See Fall Equinox Missal-Any, ‘85.

By Emmon Bodfish, reprinted from A Druid Missal-Any, Spring Equinox 1986.

## NEWS OF THE GROVES



### Mango Mission: News from Southeast Asia

At this time of balance at the equinox, I am also exactly half way in my two-year post in LaOs. I have been informed that I will be transferred to DC again March 2009 next year for seven months of training as a Political Officer (currently Consular) and then posted at Montreal City in Quebec Canada from November 2009 to November 2011. Naturally, I will start up a little something there, and will welcome visits by North American Reformed Druids who are in Canada.

I have completed our RDNA member, Ellen Hopman’s, book, “Priestess of the Forest.” Despite some trepidations, I was quite pleased with the book and I’ll be writing up the Book Review in this issue.



## Carleton: News from Minnesota

Well, our nature walk around the arboretum was a lovely one, singing songs about signs of Spring and pointing them out as we went along, then going inside for organic goodies of and a sing-a-long. A bit later on, a civil war kinda broke out, with a small faction of the Druids claiming a desire for very non-druidic, exclusionary issues to be added to our platform. While most of the populace favored the status quo, one person left (of his/her own volition, as I was told not to excommunicate a fellow Druid and thus did not). This was a shame, as our numbers were few beforehand, but it was important to maintain solidarity in the issues that were at hand, and it was likely that said person considered Druidism a game, by what they were proposing.

As for the weather, it's certainly growing more Spring-y here at Carleton. The campus still has plenty of snow and ice on it, but definitely some patches of grass too, not to mention the occasional calling of birds, much longer days than beforehand, and altogether, happiness is in the air for many. I intend to schedule some leisurely walks in the arboretum in the final weeks of school.



## The Grove of the Local Woodland Druids: News from Canada

The Grove of the Local Woodland Druids (proto-grove) is very quiet in its activities; two of its members have moved away, but are still part of the group. Besides of a few changes, things are still in place. For myself I have been creating new druids contacts in Europe and with OBOD. I have also started writing. The proto-grove will be getting ready for Spring Equinox and for Beltane as well. Not sure what we will be doing of as yet, but it will surely be doing something simple as usual.

As for our Bridgit's day (Oimele) activity, well it ended up with my sauna going up in flames. Thanks goodness for the town fire department, they were quick to extinguish the fire. Cause my pottery shop could have gone up in smoke also with it. Just says, that I will remember this years Bridgit's feast. Hope that the other coming feasts do not end up like the last one! Hehehehehehe

Great spring to you all!

Sébastien Beaudoin



## Moose Breechcloth Proto-Grove: News from Minnesota

Seasonal Salutations Siblings!

I'm afraid I'm pretty short on stupid stories, ridiculous situations, and general "Julie-isms" for this installment.

Lou and I got walloped by the flu; it took us out of commission for a couple of weeks, and we're still horking on lung cookies. On the plus side, it's a hell of a diet plan. However, the cats have been giving us these "all-knowing" looks as if to say "yeah...hairballs...been there."

Lou has taken me to the ER before. And likewise, I've had to take him a couple of times as well. But never before have we been in a situation where we were both standing in the garage arguing back and forth "You drive." "No, you drive...I'm too sick." "Look at me, I can't even stand! You drive." "You don't have to stand to drive...oohh...was that my lung?" Before it got to the point of rock-paper-scissors, I took the bull by the horns, and the truck by the steering wheel. And in the end...he WAS in worse condition than I was. They put three and a half liters of fluids into him at the ER. Three and a half liters?!?! I didn't think it was possible to be that dehydrated. Granted, he's a brute...he's a big boy...but three and a half liters?!?!

We've also re-evaluated our need for a second bathroom after this bout with the flu. We had the bathroom in shifts. We'll have to put that one on the list of future home upgrades.

In good news, Pow Wow season is starting to ramp up here in Minnesota. While still restricted to indoor events at this point...again...Minnesota...March 3rd...end of story...it's been good to start getting out to more Pow Wows.

In other seasonal news, with the very early stages of spring just starting to peek, I've learned that I've acquired another skill, post-operative (you may remember I had surgery to fix a bad hoof last October)...that being weather forecasting. My ankle has developed an uncanny knack of sensing changes in atmospheric pressure. While the whole "ankle barometer" thing is annoying, I've also determined that it may come in handy while camping. I also have yet to determine if the "ankle barometer" will also double as an altimeter...all an altimeter is, is a fancy barometer. It warrants a test run.

Those in my close circle have become accustomed to me suddenly grabbing my ankle and interrupting violently in conversations with an "OOOWWWIE!...sorry...front coming in. You were saying?"

Funny this wasn't listed as a possible side effect in my surgery handbook.

I thought it was due to humidity changes. My physical therapist was the one who told me it was actually atmospheric pressure.

Other news...hmmm...our eldest cat has been diagnosed with cancer. I'm sure you'll hear plenty about that in newsletters to come. I painted the living room.

And last but not least...Girl Scout cookies just came in today...life is good. I'm wondering how many boxes I need to report to Lou on. I bought from three different Scouts, so I don't know how many boxes Lou knows about. Granted, for all I know, he may have done some covert cookies as well. So much for the weight loss during the flu.

Sorry I don't have much for you this installment. We really got cut off at the knees with this flu. Here we are, two weeks later, still dealing with residuals. It really cut into our activities, so I don't have a lot to report on.

Try, try again...

Gigawabamin nagutch,  
and yours in the Mother,

—Julie Ann and Lou—



## Clan of the Triple horses: News from Oregon

We had an AMAZING Lupercalia ritual on February 17 in the Applegate Valley of Southern Oregon. Thanks to Wolfsong!

Feel free to check out our Livejournal for details and pictures at <http://triplehorses.livejournal.com/>

Immediately after our ritual, we hosted a workshop on "Singdancing for the People." This focused on freeing vocal expression and accessing joy and the unconscious through nonverbal communication by friend of our Grove. For more information about her, her performances and her workshop, please see: <http://www.singdancing.com/>

We are planning on having our Spring Equinox celebration on Sunday, March 30th and (hopefully) have Stephen Abbott give one of his famous divination workshops via conference call.

For more information, please contact [triplehorses@gmail.com](mailto:triplehorses@gmail.com)

Additionally, see our website at <http://home.earthlink.net/~triplehorses/>



## Sunset Proto-Grove: News from California

This past month at Oimelc I enjoyed an evening at Poison Oak Grove, wheat weaving. Though it was rainy and cold outside, it was a very warm and cozy hobbit hole we passed the evening in, complete with good food and conversation.

Change is definitely in the air.

We are getting ready to spruce up the backyard this spring...and hopefully I can create a space for my protogrove services. It has been quite some time since I have had a physical space to use for this purpose alone.

I am still hoping for chickens...This coming weekend will be spent at a B&B in Half Moon Bay for our anniversary. There is a hay and feed store close by that has poultry and poultry supplies. I may actually come home with a couple chicks to build a home for.

The new spring lambs seem to grow daily grazing in the fields with the ewes.

The skies are offering glimpses of amazing blue skies, which lead to some amazing orange sunsets over the western hills. The black silhouettes of oaks stand along the hilltops like sentinels; ushering out the day...which thank goodness is starting to last just a bit longer each day.

The most startling feature is the mustard fields. They seem to shout the arrival of spring as if they had megaphones. An amazing show, as I drive through the Napa vineyards each day...there are even a few popping up in the corners of our yard. Anyone who visits the Napa valley at another time of year really misses out. Up and down the valley tourists stop on the side of the road just to take pictures.

I have included a wonderful example from the valley.

May you each be given a glorious spring!

Oriana



## Poison Oak Grove, News from California

It's bothered me for quite some time that I had to do some excavating on the side of the hill behind the house in order to make the new grove site. The drawback of living on the side of a hill is that there are no flat areas. Though the grove didn't have much in the way of choices for a new grove site and we would be using the space respectfully and in the service of the Earth Mother it still nagged at me. WWTCHD? What would the Celts have done? Surely with

archeological evidence of mounds, passage tombs ancient peoples must have done their own “turning of the earth.” Still...

A couple of years ago when I was first attending the shamanic practice circles when they were still at ITP I was having difficulty journeying. The other attendees seemed to be more experienced and I wasn't about to be the only one in the room who said “I don't get it. So I bided my time until “getting it” would sink in. As luck would have it a short class on introduction to journeying was being offered at Dolphin Dreams in Walnut Creek. I could get away with being a beginner and not be ashamed to ask the stupid questions! So we talked and journeyed and talked and journeyed. In one of those journeys I asked to be shown how to heal the Earth from the work we had done to create the grove site. I got the message to bury little pieces of obsidian in it. Why obsidian? I looked up the properties of this particular rock. Healing. Excellent for grounding and protection. Removes negative energies. That sounded perfect and apropos. (Funny how that works!) I just happened to have some obsidian from the flint knapping workshop I took at Point Reyes.

Time passes. Days turn into months, turn into a couple of years. The thought of placing the obsidian in the grove site was forgotten. But inspired by the Earth Medicine Training Morag and I have been taking since December where there is an emphasis on healing the Earth due to the damage we humans have done it Her, I am reminded of the message passed on in that journey. So as part of the last Full Moon service we decided to do it. We offered our prayers and thanks to the Earth Mother for allowing us to move Her surface so that in our small way we might honor Her. We dug a small hole in each of the eight directions between the eight sacred grove trees and placed a small piece of obsidian in it. It felt good to give back for all that we have received from using the new grove site.

At the Missal-Any we are having a dearth of submissions lately. Some of our regular contributors have gotten busy with jobs and otherwise “real” life (what is more real than spirituality, I ask you, dear readers?), and some have just flaked. Please consider this an official call for submissions. A typical article of the Missal-Any can be: Letters and questions from subscribers, contributions, including songs, poems (they have to be *excellent* poems—there is a large amount of bad poetry out there and I don't want to contribute to it), ceremonies, articles on philosophy, research, mythology, language, experiences, and opinion. Not every submission will be automatically published unless it is deemed suitable for A Druid Missal-Any. Please send your submissions to [poppinjay@earthlink.net](mailto:poppinjay@earthlink.net).



## Worst Inventions by a Bored Druid on a Friday Afternoon...

1. Acorn Cereal - with 20% more nuts! More than 100% of your Daily Recommended Allowance of tannic acid, and a good source of calcium with milk!
2. Jogging robes--stay in shape while staying in touch with Nature. One size hides all.
3. Sickle boomerangs - Package Warning Insert: Do not use to cut off out-of-reach mistletoe, unless you want a missile in your toe.
4. Limestone Hair Styling Mouse - Imagine, not a hair out of place even in the midst of battle, helmet optional.
5. Lego Megaliths - Actually, not a bad idea....

Your turn...

# The Litany of Danu

By David J. Drew

**Danu** is the Great Archetypal Mother-Goddess of the Gaelic peoples, in the fragmentary creation myths that have come down to us through ages past She is but a mysterious whisper, of immense stature but elusive in character. Danu is connected with the origins of the cosmos and credited with being the first matron of existence. In these modern times She is perceived as a vital life force, a universal energy much like the TAO which flows like a mighty river of passion through all. In the Vedic tradition her name means 'Waters from Heaven' although in the Gaelic perception and language she is all at once the 'Birther, sustainer, and giver.' Connected to Her name is the Irish term 'Dan' meaning destiny, and *Bradán* which is the name of the salmon. Danu is particularly associated with water, rain and rivers; the Danube is one example named after Her. I composed this litany in Her honor:

## Sireadh Thall...Sireadh Thall...Sireadh Thall...

*(Seek Beyond... Seek Beyond... Seek Beyond...)*

O Great Danu... *A Maithair De* (O Thou Mother-God, pronounced: *Ahw-Mawher Dee*)

O Danu of the Heights and Depths... *A Maithair De*  
O Ocean of Tides, Waters of Heaven... *A Maithair De*

O Mistress of Mists... *A Maithair De*

O Sovereign of Warriors... *A Maithair De*

O Goddess of Grace Overflowing... *A Maithair De*

O Swift Wind of Blessings... *A Maithair De*

O Fire of Eternal Glory... *A Maithair De*

O Cloud of Dreams... *A Maithair De*

O Mother of Harmony... *A Maithair De*

O Lady of Green Plains... *A Maithair De*

O Word of Honor... *A Maithair De*

O Sign of Tranquility... *A Maithair De*

O Gate of Heaven... *A Maithair De*

O Golden Vessel... *A Maithair De*

O Pillar of Destiny... *A Maithair De*

O Harbor of Truth... *A Maithair De*

O Spear of Victory... *A Maithair De*

O Shield of Tribes... *A Maithair De*

O Fountain of Hearts... *A Maithair De*

O Waters Purifying... *A Maithair De*

O Virgin Snow... *A Maithair De*

O Origin of the Gael... *A Maithair De*

O Passion of Love... *A Maithair De*

O Field of Songs... *A Maithair De*

O Star of the Sea... *A Maithair De*

O Maternal Blossom... *A Maithair De*

O Hand-Maid of the Dawn... *A Maithair De*

O Pinnacle of the Day... *A Maithair De*

O Grace of Dusk... *A Maithair De*

O Serene Cycles of the Moon... *A Maithair De*

O Resplendent Harvest... *A Maithair De*

O Fruit of Fertility... *A Maithair De*

O Seed of Life... *A Maithair De*

O Mead of Vision... *A Maithair De*

O Essence of Creation... *A Maithair De*

O Secret Garden... *A Maithair De*

O Glimmering Brook... *A Maithair De*



O Voice of Inspiration... *A Maithair De*  
 O Mountain of Shades... *A Maithair De*  
 O Cautious Thought... *A Maithair De*  
 O Subtle Action... *A Maithair De*  
 O Bountiful Reward... *A Maithair De*  
 O Temple of the Living Soul... *A Maithair De*  
 O Throne of the Eternal Youth... *A Maithair De*  
 O Grove of Sanctuary... *A Maithair De*  
 O Guardian of Genealogies... *A Maithair De*  
 O Nobility of the Oak... *A Maithair De*  
 O Return of the Yew... *A Maithair De*  
 O Birth of the Birch... *A Maithair De*  
 O Wisdom of the Hazel... *A Maithair De*  
 O Vitality of the Apple... *A Maithair De*  
 O Womb of the Salmon... *A Maithair De*  
 O Palm of Silver... *A Maithair De*  
 O Maze of Delight... *A Maithair De*  
 O Milk of the Sky... *A Maithair De*  
 O Whisper of Dance... *A Maithair De*  
 O Queen of the Hive... *A Maithair De*  
 O Tear of Mourning... *A Maithair De*  
 O Great Danu... *A Maithair De*

**Mar a bha...Mar a tha...Mar a bhitheas...Go Brath...**

*(As it was...As it is...As it shall be...Evermore...)*

**Ri Traghadh...Sri Lionadh...**

*(With the ebb...With the flow...)*



## Book Review

**Priestess of the Forest: A Druid Journey**  
**By Ellen Evert Hopman**

Reviewed by Michael Scharding

Although ancient Druids may have hesitated to put pen to paper, Ellen Hopman loves to write, and she is not constrained to a single genre. Like most of us dilettantes, she is a Druid of many talents. She began her writing career as an herbalist with the well-received *Tree Medicine* and *Druid's Herbal for the Sacred Earth* in the 1990s. She also has published an oral history project of various well-known Neo-pagans and modern Druids with the

collected interviews of *Being a Pagan*. Ellen also has taken time to put together an introductory video about Druidism, “Pagans: the Wheel of the Sacred Year,” and written for children the delightful *Walking the World in Wonder*. She has also been influential in the offshoots of the RDNA such as ADF, Henge of Keltria and Order of the White Oak. Some of her essays have also appeared as articles in *A Druid Missal-Any*. In all matters, she has excelled, so no doubt she felt hungry for new challenges.

Now in 2008, “Priestess of the Forest: A Druid Journey” is her first published novel or work of fiction, and she has not disappointed us, but how could she, with her high standards? The setting of the book is around the fourth century, during the period of conversion to various forms of Christianity. None of the characters in this story were taken from historical texts, it is an alternative presentation, if you will, of what it might have been like. However, all the characters spring forth alive in these pages, and one must hope that a sequel will be in the making. If not, I’m sure the characters will take on a life of their own in your thoughts afterwards.

To be sure, I had some hesitations when I first received a copy, courtesy of Llewellyn Press. Ellen has always had a bit of an edge with her strong positions in the political arena of international Druidism. I knew this book would be charged with some powerful discourses, and it truly was an emotional and spiritual roller coaster for me. Without giving away too much of the well-crafted storyline, this is a tale of a young priestess who is drawn away from her comfortable forest retreat, and dragged into the maelstrom of the court of Tara, seat of the high king of Ireland. A new king is besieged by the social and political havoc wrought by the intrusion of a non-inclusive form of Christianity from Rome. The Druids too are not without differences of opinion. It wouldn’t be Celtic without a bit of triangular love affairs, and Ellen has quite a few passionate scenes thrown in here, in addition to plumbing the thoughts and heart of Eithne, the priestess.

The balance of Nature, traditional medicine and gender equality are among the first regrettable casualties of the new order. Other more adaptive forms of Christianity, such as the lovable Father Per, possibly a Gnostic, are also featured, so do not worry, Ellen is not producing a polemic here. As with all movements, the leaders must make a choice to accommodate the other side, or to conquer and destroy. In that age, religion and politics were indistinguishable, and the inevitable destruction of spiritual ways followed the change of power. A strongly drummed theme is the importance of loyalty, both to oneself and the clan and the gods, but also to Truth and the land. I was struck by the thought that when people require material returns for spiritual loyalty, it becomes a bargaining market for religions to one-up with their short-term promises. One would think one should not change one’s world view over a bad harvest or a pocket full of silver, but practicality and survival must be considered. The haunting anguish that the reader is left with is, “Why must it be like this, why cannot they see the good in the old ways?” We know historically how Ireland turned out, but while events are presented with a bit of inevitability but also with some hope, both sides lose and win a few battles on the way, and the decisions by one faction of Druids at the end will surprise you.

There is much fodder here for the Reformed Druid or any pagan book club to happily munch upon. This is more than a fantasy novel, as the author admits in the introduction; it is also a form of instruction. The book is sprinkled with poems, chants, rites, herbal remedies, anecdotes, triads and little lessons given by various Druids to students, courtiers and kings. Naturally, all the seasons pop up and play their own role in the series of wars, disasters and festivals. The book is 350 pages long, broken into 45 short chapters, and is a comfortable read over a weekend or taken a little at a time over a month. Novices may no doubt demand a second reading to re-experience the underlying parade of seasonal events and arguments by the various contenders. You may find all the Irish terms a bit difficult to remember, and have to flip to the glossary in the front, presumably because of the difficulty of precise translation with an English term, not because she is trying to show off her vocabulary (no, really!).

It is an edu-tainment treasure that I recommend for any Druid library, cheaply won at only \$19. It is certainly more intellectually based than a previous Druid series that I read by Morgan Llewellyn (and without all those emotional hang-ups) who describes the fall of Gaul. Take the “Druid Journey” with Ellen, and send us some postcards when you get back.





## Announcements

### Isaac and Phaedra Bonewits opening Real Magic School Feb. 29th

Greetings,

Phaedra and I are very excited to announce the upcoming opening of Real Magic School at <http://www.realmagicschool.com> on February 29th. This will give us the opportunity to teach both beginning and experienced students of the occult arts, Wiccans, Druids, and other Neo-pagans.

Here's the official press release, which we encourage you to pass around (along with these comments):

---

---

Real Magic School to Open Leap Year Day, By the Most Unique Teacher in America

In a world of uncertainty, Real Magic School offers certain answers to a mysterious subject. Brought to you by the only person to ever earn an accredited degree in Magic, P.E. Isaac Bonewits, this online academy offers more than an ordinary education.

Rossville, IL (PRWEB) February 25, 2008—America and the Western world have always been fascinated by Magic, both in theory and the practice. Some people dream about the magic arts and other spend their lives studying the skills. Yet only one man has ever received a degree in Magic and Thaumaturgy from an accredited Western university and that individual is P.E. Isaac Bonewits, in 1970 from the esteemed University of California at Berkeley.

While very controversial when awarded, it foreshadowed a movement that has swept the nation and world. On February 29th, 2008, P.E. Isaac along with his wife Phaedra take another unique step and are opening a online academy called Real Magic School ([realmagicschool.com](http://realmagicschool.com)) with the purpose of teaching magic in its various forms and gaining accreditation for its future degrees.

While the Harry Potter Phenomenon swept the world and has offered a fictional view of a magical academy, Isaac is not Dumbledore and Real Magic School is not Hogwarts. Real Magic School is definitely real world and has a truly academic and educational philosophy unmatched in today's world. Isaac Bonewits is a serious teacher, along with Phaedra, with lifelong experience, and is one of the most respected voices in the Pagan world today calling for academic truth and excellence in the study of magic and thaumaturgy, history, and Paganism.

Real Magic School, named after Bonewits first ground-breaking book, begins with a purposeful program of study that offers a pathway to an Associates degree in Magic. Further, the school begins immediately the process to seek academic accreditation, a process that is both difficult and demanding but according to the school founders, worthwhile. P.E. Isaac Bonewits has chosen to take his degree, his lifetime of experience, and his driving energy to create an academy that is truly a benefit to its students and future alumni. This will be a life changing experience for everyone who gets involved.

If you want to learn more and study magic, check out Real Magic School at [RealMagicSchool.com](http://RealMagicSchool.com), or call 217-748-4078 for more information.

---

---

We're not really sure if I'm uniquer(!) than any other teacher, but I have been around the Neo-pagan and occult movements for a few decades, as has Phaedra, and have taught tens of thousands of readers and students.

We are grateful to the founders of Witch School, Ed Hubbard and Don Lewis, for coming to us and offering not just to handle all the technology and record keeping, but to provide a steady income as well. This means that we will be able to concentrate on providing good study materials and writing new books for the foreseeable future.

The website for Real Magic School isn't finished yet, but you can surf on over there and read the official Welcome letter, get an idea of what we'll be doing, and even sign up!

Bright blessings,

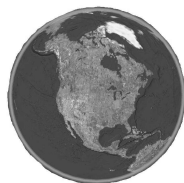
Isaac

## Past Horizons Internet Magazine Launched

A new form of magazine designed to cater for the heritage conservation and archaeological volunteer has been launched. Issue one of 'Past Horizons' ([www.pasthorizons.com/magazine](http://www.pasthorizons.com/magazine)) looks at conservation work that you can get involved in with Heritage Conservation Network. The main article looks at the work carried out at High Pasture Cave on the mysterious Iron Age site in Skye (Scotland). Other articles deal with recording and the potential use of ever present graffiti, bridging the gap between media and heritage experts, and a fascinating report from a student's perspective of a fieldwork project in northern Israel. There are features on current news, provocative viewpoints and suggestions for fieldwork projects around the world. There will be guides to getting involved, whether a student, interested amateur or professional who needs a break for a bit of blue skies archaeology. There are searching profile interviews with top archaeologists from all over the world, a crossword to download and tear your hair out over, and so much more. The first issue is available online, and will expand to meet your needs, your requests and your requirements for an enjoyable and worthwhile chance to participate in heritage projects around the globe. You can sign up to receive updates when each new issue is published, every two months.



## EVENTS



### People of the Earth in America: Preserving Our Cultures, Building Our Community

Sunday, April 20th, 10am - 4pm  
at the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, San Francisco, California

The American community of faiths now includes an increasing number of practitioners of indigenous, nature-based, Earth-centered, polytheistic, and Pagan traditions. It can sometimes be a struggle to maintain our cultures in a society dominated by faiths that are so different from ours. The Interfaith Center at the Presidio is beginning a massive renovation and redesign to make its physical space more inviting, inclusive, and accommodating to our practice, including the creation of extensive new outdoor ritual space. The Center invites us to come learn about each other and share our “best practices” for thriving as minority religions in a day-long conference including representatives from indigenous, Neopagan, and immigrant communities. The day will include lunch and a joint ceremony for blessing the plans for the redesigned Center. We will be asking a donation of \$10-20 to cover costs—any extra will go to the Interfaith Center.

## Celtic Mysticism, Moon Magic and the Arthurian Mysteries

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 1-5 pm, Circles of Wisdom, Andover, MA

Discover the realms of Celtic spirit as we encounter traditional mystics and seers, explore the world of Celtic moon lore and learn about the origins of Arthurian myth. The class will consist of discussion and experiential exercises, focusing on material from Sharynne’s book *Queen of the Night: Rediscovering the Celtic Moon Goddess* (which is highly recommended for use in this class). We will learn about druids and seers from the Celtic tradition, people who walk and work between the worlds, performing magic, divination and shapeshifting. We will also learn about the Celtic lunar calendar, visit *Caer Arianrhod* (the sacred dwelling of the moon goddess) and learn a Celtic moon prayer. In addition, we will begin to explore the true origins of the Arthurian legend, in the characters of Guinevere, Merlin, Mordred and Morgawse have a divine nature and Arthur himself is empowered by a powerful goddess figure. Through guided meditations and shamanic journeys we will encounter ancestral spirit guides, moon goddesses, Morgan le Fay, Merlin and the Lady of the Lake.

To register, contact Circles of Wisdom to register at (978) 474-8010, or through their website: [www.circlesofwisdom.com](http://www.circlesofwisdom.com)

For more information, contact: [earthpeople@ancientways.com](mailto:earthpeople@ancientways.com)

## 7th Annual Pagan Festival and Parade Berkeley, California

Dear Friends of the Pagan Alliance;

We are hosting the 7th Annual Pagan Festival and Parade in Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, in Berkeley on Saturday, May 10th, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. This multi-cultural event includes a parade, performances, green and non-profit information tables, a Green Pavilion, an Authors Circle, Story Telling Pavilion, Arts and Crafts Pavilion and vendors. Our event is free to all. It is our offering to the community.

Thank you for your past support of the Pagan Festival and other activities sponsored by The Pagan Alliance. We once again ask for your generous support of the Pagan Festival. This festival is a labor of love and also requires financial resources to put on every year. Please donate on-line at [www.thepaganalliance.org](http://www.thepaganalliance.org), or mail your check to:

The Pagan Alliance  
15 Japala Court  
Fremont, CA 94539

The mission of the Pagan Alliance is to educate our Communities and the general public, to promote acceptance of our faiths and traditions, to work for justice, to connect our communities, celebrate our spiritual diversity. We recognize the dire need to unite based on concern for the current ecological crisis that faces our Mother Earth.

The Pagan Alliance is a non-profit organization.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should have any questions regarding this funding request, please contact Arlynn J. Camire, Festival Co-Director at 510-872-1188, or e-mail her at arlynn@thepaganalliance.org.

Arlynn Camire  
Executive Director  
www.thepaganalliance.org

## Incantations from the Sacred Grove: A Weekend Intensive in Celtic Spirituality, Ogam, and the Divine and Ancient Wisdom of Nature

Saturday, May 17th, 12-6 pm and Sunday May 18th, 12-4 pm

(Event held at the Arlington Center, 369 Mass Ave., Arlington, Massachusetts; Registration information below)

In this weekend workshop we embark on an exploration of the ancient wisdom and language of the world of nature as it was understood and practiced by the ancient Celts. We will learn about deities and seasonal practices, the traditional use of ritual tools and sacred speech, and divinatory practices focusing on elements from the natural world.

We will also explore the mysteries of the Ogam alphabet, an early form of writing used in Ireland and parts of Britain. Ogam was sometimes associated with sacred trees, plants and other living creatures, as well as with the practices of the 'filid' who carried on the traditions of the druids until just a few centuries ago. We will journey into the heart of this encoded knowledge through vowel chanting, postures, divination, meditation and journeying.

We had a wonderful time last year at the Invocation of Stones workshop at the Arlington Center, and look forward to another magical and numinous weekend!

To register, please send me an e-mail at the above address (highlandpriestess @ hotmail.com). Registration fee is \$135, and a limited number of full or partial scholarships may be available to those with limited resources.

Many Blessings,

Sharynn NicMhacha

## Whiteoak (Ord na Darach Gile) Lughnasad Druid Conclave East August 15 -17, 2008

A primitive camping event (bring your solar shower, water, tent, potluck food, cooler, bug stuff, etc.)

In Western MA. There is a grill for cooking. NO DOGS ALLOWED.

Musical instruments, poetic offerings encouraged. There will be a poetry and a craft competition!

A gathering for members of all Druid Orders and their friends. Formerly known as the "Druid Summit," it is a place in the forest where Druids from all paths come together to share and discuss issues of common relevance.

This year we will feature a bardic competition and a craft competition as well as a ritual in the forest. It is a primitive camping event on the weekend of August 15 - 17, 2008 in the hills of Western Massachusetts.

The food and drink are potluck, bring your own solar shower (and extra wood and water), dried or fresh herbs and flowers (to offer to trees), silver coins (dimes and quarters) (to offer to water) and butter or oil (to offer to fire).

Plan to arrive Friday after 5 PM. Saturday we will do ceremony and Sunday morning we will have a blueberry pancake feast. We ask that you bring the bounty of the season to share with everyone (including pancake mix, blueberries, eggs, milk, bacon, etc. Please bring organic ingredients). Applicants will also be asked for a small donation to cover the rental of sanitary facilities. \*Please note\* this is not a “Pagan” gathering or a gathering for the general public. It is for Druids and close friends and family only.

To sign up please write to [membership@whiteoakdruids.org](mailto:membership@whiteoakdruids.org)



## CALENDAR

Spring Equinox occurs this year on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:49 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

A Druid Missal-Any is published eight times a year. Post mail subscriptions are \$9.00 and email subscriptions are free. Or write an article or send us a cartoon and receive a year's post mail subscription free. Write A Druid Missal-Any, P.O. Box 406, Canyon, CA 94516.

