

# THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



LITHA 2008

## What's Inside:

Spotlight  
Recipes & Helpful Hints  
Musings from the readers  
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Cool Stuff

## ~SPOTLIGHT

Lady Kerridwen  
(Shawn)

GNL - When did you "discover" Paganism and Wicca. Tell us a little bit



Shawn - *I discovered Wicca when I was living in Long Beach Ca. I walked into a little place called 'the eye of the cat'. I think I was 16 or so the first time i went there and I bought my first book.*

GNL - What tradition did you start in? if any? How long have you been interested in the craft?

Shawn - *I was a solitary for many years ... learning from books and what I could teach myself. When I lived in the San Berdoo mountains people in my neighborhood started coming to me for*

*'medicine'. My first student found me there as well. Then when I moved to Bakersfield someone had told me that there was a teaching coven here. I looked it up on the internet "witchvox" of course. And emailed Lord Shonsu... alas I must not have been ready because his email bounced back cause it was full. A couple of years later when I was attending school, I met someone who knew of this teaching coven and I was soon introduced to Rhianon Etain, Lord Shonsu and Du Dragcorum. I found my family that day and I have lived in their back pocket ever since. That was almost 4 years ago now.*

GNL - How long have you been a Georgian? Who damned you to this trad? <g>

Shawn - *See answer above <G>*

GNL -Children? (how many?), grandchildren?

Shawn - *I have 3 brats...2 boys and a girl...who have provided me with 2 wonderful grandchildren so far.*

GNL -Do any children of Georgians call you momma or grandma?

Shawn - *Yes, One of the students here has 2 children who know me as grandma.*

GNL - Describe your life a little these days, what great is going on?

Shawn - *Well, I have recently left a ltr, and am now camping out in Lord Shonsu and Lady Du Dragcorums garage. I am planning on returning to college in the fall semester for my BA in computer engineering. I have recently taught myself to sew and am making ren faire style clothing.*

GNL -Hobbies?

Shawn - *I am a heavy fighter in the SCA...though*



*that is more of an obsession than a hobby <G>. I paint, draw, sew, write stories and*

*poetry...some of which you have already put in the newsletter.*

GNL - Attended/Missed many Mt Meets?

Shawn -*I have attended 2 Mt Meets and missed one...I plan to attend this year as well. I had my initiation at my first Mt Meet in 2004.*



GNL - Any really good stories you fondly remember or shiver at the thought of these days you might wanna share with us?

Shawn - *Nope...<G>...none that I might wanna share*

ANNOUNCEMENTS !

~1<sup>st</sup> degree

Correction – In the Beltane issue I said that **Loki** and daughter Pandora (**Bonnie**) of the Shadowdragon coven received their 1<sup>st</sup> degree's. I WASN'T told that it was pushed back because of Lady Rhiannonetain was ill. Pandora is the daughter of Lady Rhiannonetain and as you might guess, Loki is Rhiannonetain's personal boy toy and serv..husband!

Yule Ball 2003 Pre-Sale tickets go on sale Midsummer to Samhain. Detailed information can be found at either the Yule Ball 2008 yahoo group or on WitchVox.

34<sup>rd</sup> annual Mountain Meet (1974 to now) - Aug 4<sup>nd</sup> -Aug 12<sup>th</sup> at the same place as last year, and the year before that and so on and so forth. The Methuselah Group Campsite in Mountain Home State Forest in California.

# A Birthday

On May 31<sup>st</sup> I was honored to attend in Bakersfield a very special birthday, Lady Du Dragcorum celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> year with all the local friends and family we could muster.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOBBIE!!!!!!**



## A Wedding

On May 17<sup>th</sup> I presided over the wedding of my oldest boy Vincent and his lovely bride Asialee.

Shown here are myself and Priestess Kathryn



Here are the happy couple as I introduce them as Mr. and Mrs. Pournier

## Julianna McGee

On April 30<sup>th</sup> of this year we were notified that a dear member of the Georgian and pagan community crossed over. Here is the email relaying that notice.

It is with both a joyful heart as well as a saddened soul that I tell one and all this news; Julianna McGee has gone to seek the Lady and Lord in All their Glory. For those of you who knew Julianna, it will come as no surprise that the "Mother-ship" came to take her back home, only that it took so long to do so. Knowing Julianna was both a blessing and a special curse to one and all who did so. For those who did not get the chance to meet her, she brought joy where ever she went. Sometimes it was with her arrival, and other times it was with her departure.

She is and will always be truly missed in our Circle.

BB

Shonsu

Wed Apr 30, 2008 4:46 pm

# Midsummer

(June 21 or June 22)

Page 168 in the Craft by Dorothy Morrison

**Related Deities:** Mother Earth, Father Sun, the Few and fairy folk

**Related Herbs:** Rue, rose, vervain, trefoil, St. John's Wort, chamomile, lavender, mugwort

**Related Stones:** Amethyst, malachite, gold topaz, opal, quartz crystal, azurite-malachite, lapis lazuli.

Also known as Summer Solstice, Litha, or St. John's Day, this festival is the celebration of the first day of summer, the longest day of the year. Since the sun reaches its peak strength on this day, the God takes his place as Father Sun. The Goddess, in turn becomes Mother Earth. And it's in these guises that both work long and hard to keep the Earth green, lush and bountiful.

For this reason Midsummer isn't just a solar festival – it's a celebration of service, of sharing, and of giving

our due to the planet. It's a celebration of doing our parts to prepare for the harvest season, and it's not just the agricultural harvest that concerns us at this time. We will be harvested, too, and we must be ready. This involves sharing with our community, giving back to those who have helped us, and performing random acts of kindness towards those less fortunate than we are.

Fortunately, we have help at Midsummer. With the Sun at His peak, so are the fairies and the fey. And we are the objects of their labor. Sometimes disguised as lighting bugs, they flit to and fro, greening our hearts and tending our spiritual gardens. They lighten our steps and fill us with the warmth of joy and laughter. With the fey working overtime to point us in the right direction, we see things in a different light. And suddenly it's not as difficult to do nice things for other people; in fact, it's downright easy.

However, everything has a price, and so does the help of the fey. Just as we honor the Lord and Lady on Midsummer Day, we must pay homage to the fairy folk on Midsummer Night. To do otherwise is just asking for trouble and undo chaos. Think I'm kidding? It's all chronicled in one of the most famous literary works of all times: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare.

### Midsummer Circle Notes

Use a green or white altar cloth, and burn blue and yellow candles. Decorate with fresh herbs, flowers, and seasonal greenery, and wear some in your hair. Burn Midsummer Incense (a mixture of chamomile, lavender, mugwort, and rose petals). Tie tiny bells to the wand with colored ribbons to appease the fey, and use it to cast circle.

### Midsummer Circle Ideas

Rise before dawn and welcome the Sun King at daybreak. As the sun appears on the horizon, toast Him with orange juice, saying something like:

Mighty Sun King, round and bright  
I welcome You, into my life  
I honor You upon this day  
As you warm us with golden ray

Decorate trees with solar symbols tied by yellow and blue ribbons. As you tie each symbol, say something like:

*Mother Earth and Father Sun  
We honor you for a job well done  
The Earth has greened and so have we  
You've brought back perfect harmony  
Mother Earth and Father Sun  
Pour out Your blessings one by one  
Upon the Earth and on us, too  
As we tie these ribbons of yellow and blue*

Kindle and outdoor bonfire of oak, fir, and St. John's wort, and jump over it to bring good health and good luck for the rest of the year. (Alternatively, kindle the fire in your cauldron.) And as you jump the fire say something like:

*Good health and fortune await me  
As I will, so mote it be*

Make beeswax herb candles in Circle. Just take a sheet of beeswax and sprinkle a teaspoon of herbs on top. Place a wick on the outer edge and roll up tightly, while chanting something like:

*Herbs and wax, now meld and mix  
Within you, magic I now fix*

Then off them for the work of the Lady and Lord, and fey by saying something like:

*These candles are my offering  
To ease the workload as You bring  
The season in to play each year  
I offer them in love and cheer*

Burn one candle with the change of each season.

Leave a plate of food outside for the fairies. Drizzle it with honey, and say something like:

*Fey and Fairy- folk alike,  
Leprechauns and Flitting Sprite  
I pay due homage now to Thee  
Upon You, may all blessings be*

## APFELPFANNKUCHEN

(German Apple Pancake)

2 large Apples, any cooking variety  
1/4 cup Butter  
1 cup Flour  
1 cup Milk  
1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract  
1/2 teaspoon Salt  
1/4 teaspoon Nutmeg,  
Confectioners sugar

Preheat oven to 475. Peel, core and very thinly slice the apples: you should have approximately 1-1/2 cups. Melt 3 Tablespoons of the butter over medium low heat in a small fry pan, and sauté the apples until they are just tender. Keep apples warm while preparing the batter. Place a 9 or 10 inch cast-iron skillet in the oven to heat for at least 5 minutes--the pan has to be very hot for this to work. When it is well heated, add the remaining 2 T sp. of butter to melt and put the skillet back in the oven; the butter should be very hot but not brown when you add the apples and the batter. Place the flour, milk, vanilla, salt and nutmeg in a blender and whirl until smooth. Remove the skillet from the oven, quickly arrange the warm apple slices over the melted butter, and pour the batter evenly over all. Bake for 15 min., reduce heat to 375 and bake 10 minutes longer. The pancake will puff and climb up the sides of the pan. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar, then cut in wedges and serve with maple syrup.



### 1st January 2008 - 31st December

#### *General*

2008 has the wow factor. Why? Jupiter in your opposite sign signals a year of abundance, and certainly opportunities to expand your world, and with Pluto also heading into Capricorn, transformation is going to be the buzz word for a decade to come. To begin with it will be the 21st - 23rd June birthdays who see one or more parts of their lives changed beyond recognition (and in a positive way) and generally speaking June Crabs are in a year of transition while July birthdays still have time to plant seeds of future change. You'll probably find the early part of the year is the most dynamic, the period with the greatest potential for advance and

change, although the year's end could also be spectacular. Travel is a major feature too, and for unexpected reasons. January is your best month, November needs work.

#### *Love*

Relationships are the big story during the coming twelve months. Marriage for some, engagement for others and for all happy developments in a partner's life add to the joys of your own. If you're in that 21st-23rd June group expect the earth to move, whether a long-standing relationship falls to pieces or someone enters your life and sweeps you off your feet. Cancer is not a sign that appreciates change but with Pluto affecting the relationship zone from now on, it's a case of grow or bust! Passion and turmoil will be present in equal quantities, so if you're ready to play Isolde to someone's Tristan, start studying your script! Late January to mid-February is very romantic while mid-summer helps you attract what and who you want towards you.

#### *Money and Work*

Sudden and unexpected events shape your financial course this year (watch March and August) so while you may be on the receiving end of a welcome bonus, you will have to be careful when it comes to making major purchases and investments - the world money-markets will become increasingly volatile so you need to keep your risk factor low. Don't be too proud to ask other people favours when it comes to promotion or getting the job you want - you have real support this year and can achieve

serious success. You're also at the beginning of a two-year period when you may want to go back to school or you will be developing your mathematical and accounting skills.

#### *Home and Lifestyle*

This is a very active year for you. You may be more sports-oriented and interested in physical activities or your life may be full of events that take you out of your usual routine and into new territory. September

and October put home and family in the spotlight, whether you're renovating and refurbishing or moving house, and a member of the brood could become engaged or marry this year. There's also something of a learning curve going on, in some cases quite literally since you will be attending educational institutions and taking steps to add to your bank of knowledge and skills. Early November is a particularly significant time for the ending of old patterns of life and the beginning of new.

## Pandora's Bazaar

The rants and raves of a Witch in the city.

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2008

### An Interview with Dorothy Morrison

Dubbed by Publishers Weekly as "a witch to watch," Dorothy Morrison is the award-winning author of numerous books on the Ancient Arts and their application to modern life. She's won several awards for her writing, and has become a favorite of readers and critics from all walks of life.

Some say it's because of the easily appreciated



conversational tone she applies to her work. Others say it's her down-to-earth and humorous approach to the subject matter. But regardless of the debate, all agree on one thing: Whether in her writing or her interaction with the public, it's Morrison's personal style that makes her memorable. And it's that same sort of charm and grace that has

some folks calling her "The Julia Sugarbaker of Paganism."

Morrison's latest effort is a work of fiction called *Lucinda's Web*. We sat down at our computers recently to talk about it.

*You are a Witch, writer, archer, handicrafter, animal rights activist. What attracts you to a life of creation?*

I think it's the magic of the creation process itself. I love taking something - even if it's something intangible like an idea - and giving it an entirely different shape, form, and direction. A shape, form, and direction that only I can give it, and makes it uniquely mine. But that's only the

beginning. The real magic is in the sharing of that creation, the joy it brings to others, and the impact - even if it's very small - that it has on their lives. And being able to give that part of myself to others is very satisfying to me.

*You are a prolific writer. Out of all your writing activities and creative ideas, how do you decide which ones to pursue or develop?*

I have a ten page rule. I write ten pages and read them. And if I'm not still so excited about the topic that I'd want to read more, I have to assume that my readers wouldn't either. So, I usually ditch the project and go on to something else. But the one thing I've learned over the years is never to throw anything away. There have been several occasions when something I thought unworthy of development made a great addition to a project I did pursue.

Case in point: A part of something I'd scrapped ten years prior became a good portion of the basis for *Dancing the Goddess Incarnate* - a book I co-wrote with Kristin Madden. And if I hadn't hung onto it, I'd have had to start all over from scratch. ;)

*You've written a number of magical and spiritual books. What prompted you to write fiction?*

I've always liked a good story and over the years, I've become a fairly decent story-teller. So, it just seemed natural to put one down on paper.

The foray into fiction, however, wasn't an easy decision to make. For one thing, I've seen other authors - best-selling, award-winning authors - fall flat on their faces and damned near ruin their careers when making the jump from non-fiction. It wasn't a mistake I wanted to make, and the very thought of it scared me to death. So, I flirted with the idea for years, occasionally looking at the two chapters I'd written so long ago, and putting them back in the file for safe-keeping.

Then one night - nearly ten years after I'd written those

chapters - I woke with a start and a fabulous beginning for a new chapter. I scribbled it down in the dark and went back to sleep. I figured that if I could read it the next day, it was a good idea. And if I couldn't, I'd just forget about it and go on with my other projects. Needless to say, my notes were legible, and I immediately set about work on the novel again.

Of course, I was still extremely worried about switching

genres - even temporarily - and the impact it might have on my career. So, I sent a few chapters to folks - among them, my dear friend and suspense novelist extraordinaire, M.R. Sellars - who I trusted to give me an honest opinion. And when they gave me a thumbs up, I knew it was time to make the jump.

*How was the process different? Did you face any new challenges writing fiction?*

The non-fiction books I wrote were all fairly instructional. And while I definitely concerned myself with the "rhythm" of the words in each sentence, facts and directions were the key ingredient. My only job was to put that information in easy-to-understand terms, and present it to my readers in an entertaining conversational tone.

Writing fiction, though, was an entirely different animal. Not only did I have to concern myself with pacing and timing and believable dialogue, I had to breathe life into the story's characters. And that's where things got tricky. Because the characters lived in my head, I'd decided who they were, how they went about their daily lives, the things that composed their individual moral codes, and which boundaries they would and would not cross. I knew what roles they'd play in the story, and how their strengths and weaknesses would bring about the ending I'd envisioned. What I didn't know, though, was that from the very second I'd birthed these characters, I'd given up complete control of the whole story. I had no idea that these characters - the very ones I'd created - would take on lives of their own and simply refuse to behave in the manner I'd intended.

Can you imagine, for example, my surprise when one of my really nice characters committed a murder? Or when a character to whom I'd never even given birth popped right up in the middle of the storyline and refused to go away?

It was a real eye-opener. And the challenge - at least, for me - was to give up the control I'm so used to having, realize that I was only the instrument by which the words hit the paper, and let the story tell itself, regardless of how it ended.

*Tell me about your new book, Lucinda's Web.*

It's based on two love tricks cast in the 1800's by the enslaved that follow a group of unsuspecting people into the present day, turn their lives upside down, and toss them into a hellish web of danger they never dreamed possible. The only way to get their lives back is to break the tricks. But before they can do that, they must locate

the trick parcels - trick parcels that are over a hundred years old.

Readers will find Lucinda's Web laced with mystery, intrigue and suspense, magic and reincarnation, Civil War history, and of course, a healthy dose of erotica. [Well...this novel is based on love tricks. And you can't have romance without sex, can you?! LOL!]

*Your protagonist, Tess, is a feisty, cigarette-smoking, coffee-loving Witch. How autobiographical is this novel?*

There really is a lot of me in Tess. I've always written about things I know, things that have happened to me, and things I've witnessed. So, it was only natural to draw upon all those things when developing her character.

But is this novel autobiographical? Yes and no. About sixty percent of what readers will find in Lucinda's Web really did happen just the way it's written, while the remainder is pure, unadulterated fiction. But which portion is which? If I told, I'd be giving away the story. So I'll just have to leave that up to the reader to decide. ;)

*In other interviews, you've mentioned Scott Cunningham as one of your favorite and most influential Pagan writers. Who are your favorite fiction authors?*

There are so many, I'll have to do this according to genres. For suspense thrillers, I read M.R. Sellars, James Patterson, Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, Linda Fairstein, and Tess Gerritsen. For historical fiction, it's Philippa Gregory and Barbara Hambly, and for fantasy, J.K. Rowling and Terry Goodkind. And when I'm look for something worthwhile in the paranormal realm, I read Maggie Shayne, Kelley Armstrong, Sherrilyn Kenyon, and Morven Westfield.

What I love most about the work of these authors is that most of them don't write "formula books," and those who do are so skilled at their craft the equation beneath the story is completely undetectable.

*We're seeing more and more Pagan fiction. What are your impressions? Are there any authors that stand out?*

Well, to be perfectly honest, I think some of it's really bad. Some of the story-lines are so far-fetched that no one - not even folks with only two brain cells to rub together - would ever believe them. The other problem I've found is with timing and pacing. When I find myself turning pages without reading them just to get to the point, it's a sure sign that a novel is not only poorly written, but that the editor didn't do the job intended. ;)

The one author that truly stands out for me in the realm of Pagan fiction is M.R. Sellars. I'm not just saying that because we're friends. I loved his work long before we ever formed a friendship! Not only is he an extremely talented writer, but everything he puts to paper is so believable that it tends to become a haunting reality in

the mind's eye. He also has a way of scaring the bejesus out of everyone who picks up his books. And when I pick up a suspense thriller, I want to be scared!

*What are your plans for the future? What are you currently working on?*

Right now, I'm actually tossing ideas around in my head for the next project. But I haven't decided yet whether it will be fiction or not. It seems that a lot of my readers would like to see sequels to Utterly Wicked and Magical Needlework, so both are possibilities - and I have started on the second book in the Lucinda's Web trilogy.

What the future holds is anybody's guess. It all depends upon what winds up tripping my Muse's trigger - and at this point, that could be anything! ;)

*Thank you, Dorothy.*

A practicing Witch since the early seventies, Morrison is an elder of the Georgian Tradition of Wicca, an initiate of the RavenMyst Circle Tradition, and a member of the Coven of the Raven in Flint, Michigan. She currently lives in Virginia with her husband, Mark, and their black lab, Sadie Mae. She handles a voracious tour schedule, and travels the country giving lectures and teaching classes related to the Craft, its aspects, and its practice. Be sure to visit her website for more information. You can read an excerpt from Lucinda's Web on the website. Lucinda's Web hits the shelves October 4 and you can pre-order a copy at the end of August directly from Willow Tree Press.

Posted by Cosette



“Fey” by Bel Taran

## MIDSUMMER

After the May time and after the June time  
Rare with blossoms and perfume sweet,  
Cometh the round world's royal noon time,  
The red midsummer of blazing heat,  
When the sun, like an eye that never closes,  
Bends on the earth its fervid gaze,  
And the winds are still, and the crimson roses  
Droop and wither and die in its rays.

Unto my heart has come this season,  
O, my lady, my worshiped one,  
When, over the stars of Pride and Reason,  
Sails Love's cloudless, noonday sun.  
Like a great red ball in my bosom burning  
With fires that nothing can quench or tame,  
It glows till my heart itself seems turning  
Into a liquid lake of flame.

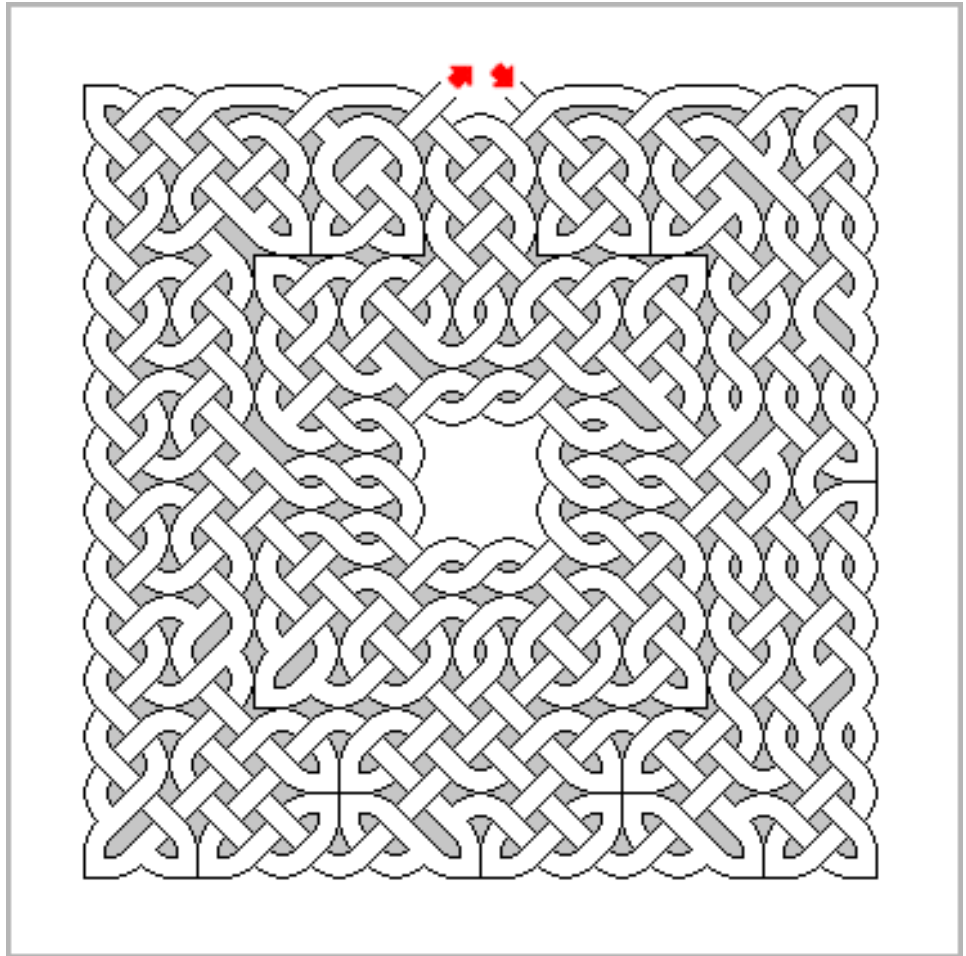
The hopes half shy and the sighs all tender,  
The dreams and fears of an earlier day,  
Under the noontide's royal splendor,  
Droop like roses, and wither away.  
From the hills of Doubt no winds are blowing,  
From the isles of Pain no breeze is sent, -  
Only the sun in a white heat glowing  
Over an ocean of great content.

Sink, O my soul, in this golden glory!  
Die, O my heart, in thy rapture-swoon!  
For the Autumn must come with its mournful story.  
And Love's midsummer will fade too soon.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox [1850-1919]



Here we have a couple of activities!  
A... maze....yourself!! and see if  
you can do it in one shot!



And break out the crayons and  
color our cute skyclad witch here!