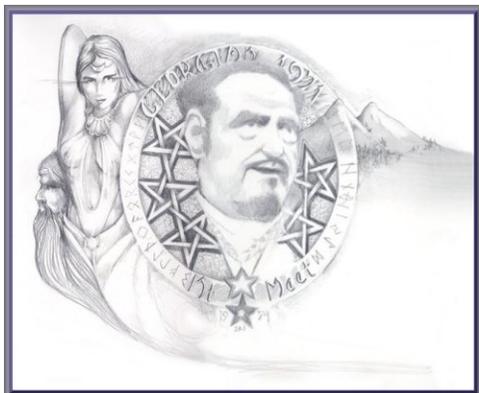


THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



Litha 2012

What's Inside:

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~ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Mountain Meet (1974 to now) – August 1st thru 8th 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. This year we cannot claim that it is free and always has been free ☺. The Forestry Department now charges \$50.00 a day for the site (\$350.00), regardless of how many people...20 person min by the rules. The site is already fully paid for in advance (as of Jan) to ensure the site is reserved. If you are attending, it is \$22.00 a head, children are free but fortunately are part of the head count ☺. For more information check out the web site provided and managed by our own RW! Or contact me via email (Beltane@prodigy.net) or phone (707-688-6638)
<http://www.angelfire.com/country/MountainMeet/mainpage.html>

Birthday's

On May 31st Lady Du Dragorum's celebrated her 74st Birthday!!...errr 11th Birthday I mean. 7+4=10, right Bobbie? ☺

Balder (Jeff) of coven Symbollic - may 5
Dorothy Morrison – May 6, 19fifty somthing
Lady Gaia Rose (Kate) of coven Symbollic - May 17th
Georgia – May 18
Cat - May 22
Treebeard (Robert) of Coven Symbollic - June 26

~3rd degree:

Star Borealis - Be it known that on 6/01/2012 in a Circle Cast by my hand that Lady Winne-Faradh was raised to the Ultimate and Sublime 3^o of the Georgian Tradition. I am very proud to welcome her into this next part of her journey. Star Borealis now has a wonderful HPS to work by my side.

May the Gods Preserve the Craft !

Turner Cain 3^o
HP Star Borealis Coven
Florida line

NEW BIRTHS!!!

Modesty - Well, I wanted to check in with everyone. I am having one baby girl. My first girl and I don't know what to do. My boys will be 14 and 17 when she is born. They say my due date is between July 13th and July 23rd, so it is getting near. And boy and I getting nervous. I am ready to have a baby but not ready for the long process of getting her out. Ok, I won't lie, I am terrified. <---capitalize that even. Lol I've decided to name her, EmberAnn Joanabelle Clifford. Joan is pronounced like Joan of Arc. She will have a tough name to spell but she will be smart. :O)

Crossings

This has truly been a hard year for many of us. If I did not mention someone, please forgive me. But, if you would like them remembered at Mountain Meet, please let us know and we will raise a cup for the ones passed

Lavena Wearin - At 12:20 pm, Texas time, Lavena Wearin passed from this world to the next. She has been and will be loved by many who knew her, and many more of us who are her family. As long as memory remains, no ONE truly dies. The only good things to come of this is that she is no longer in pain, and she is no longer alone; she's gone to be with Pappy.

A life-time of memories is all we are left with; good and bad. Momma we very rarely ever saw eye-to-eye, but I loved you always and I love you still. I will think about you every day from now till I die.

Allen (Shonsu)



Balder, son of Odin and Frigga, the god of Love and Light, is sacrificed at Midsummer by the dart of the mistletoe, and is reborn at Jul (Yule). His return will

not occur until after the onslaught of the Ragnarok, which could be interpreted as a cleansing and enlightenment more than wanton, purposeless destruction. Balder's blind brother Hodur was his slayer, whose hand was guided by the crafty Loki. He is married to the goddess of Joy, Nanna.

Having dreamed that Balder's life was threatened, Frigga extracted an oath from the forces and objects in nature, animate and inanimate, that they would not harm Balder, but she forgot the mistletoe. The gods, thinking Balder safe,

cast darts and stones at him. Loki, being who is twig of mistletoe in the hands of Balder's twin, the blind Hoder, god of darkness, and directed his aim against Balder, who fell pierced to the heart.

After the death of Balder, Odin sent another son, the messenger Hermod, to the underworld to plead for Balder's return. The god would be released only if everything in the world would weep for him. Everything wept except one old woman in a cave, and Balder could not return to life.

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]

Blessed Litha



Mystickal Realms Wishes all Members, Staff and Friends who celebrate the Sabbats A Blessed and Happy Litha!

History of Litha (MidSummer)

Also known as Summer Solstice, Litha, Alban Hefin, Sun Blessing, Gathering Day, Feill-Sheathain, Whit Sunday, Whitsuntide, Vestalia, Thing-tide, St. John's Day

In addition to the four great festivals of the Pagan Celtic year, there are four lesser holidays as well: the two solstices, and the two equinoxes. In folklore, these are referred to as the four 'quarter-days' of the year, and modern Witches call them the four 'Lesser Sabbats', or the four 'Low Holidays'. The Summer Solstice is one of them.

Litha is usually celebrated on June 21st, but varies somewhat from the 20th to the 23rd, dependant upon the Earth's rotation around the Sun. According to the old folklore calendar, Summer begins on Beltane (May 1st) and ends on Lughnasadh (August 1st), with the Summer Solstice midway between the two, marking MID-Summer. This makes more logical sense than suggesting that Summer begins on the day when the Sun's power begins to wane and the days grow shorter. The most common other names for this holiday are the Summer Solstice or Midsummer, and it celebrates the arrival of Summer, when the hours of daylight are longest. The Sun is now at the highest point before beginning its slide into darkness.

Humanity has been celebrating Litha and the triumph of light since ancient times. On the Wheel of the Year Litha lies directly across from Yule, the shortest day of the calendar year, that cold and dark winter turning when days begin to lengthen and humanity looks wistfully toward warmth, sunlight and growing things. Although Litha and Yule are low holidays or lesser sabbats in the ancient parlance, they are celebrated with more revel and merriment than any other day on the wheel except perhaps Samhain (my own favourite). The joyous rituals of Litha celebrate the verdant Earth in high summer, abundance, fertility, and all the riches of Nature in full bloom. This is a madcap time of strong magic and empowerment, traditionally the time for handfasting or weddings and for communication with the spirits of Nature. At Litha, the veils between the worlds are thin; the portals between "the fields we know" and the worlds beyond stand open. This is an excellent time for rites of divination.

Those who celebrated Litha did so wearing garlands or crowns of flowers, and of course, their millinery always included the yellow blossoms of St. John's Wort. The Litha rites of the ancients were boisterous communal festivities with morris dancing, singing, storytelling, pageantry and feasting taking place by the village bonfire and torch lit processions through the villages after dark. People believed that the Litha fires possessed great power, and that prosperity and protection for oneself and one's clan could be earned merely by jumping over the Litha bonfire. It was also common for courting couples joined hands and jump over the embers of the Litha fire three times to ensure a long and happy marriage, financial prosperity and many children. Even the charred embers from the Litha bonfire possessed protective powers - they were charms against injury and bad weather in harvest time, and embers were commonly placed around fields of grain and orchards to protect the crops and ensure an abundant reaping. Other Litha customs included carrying an ember of the Litha fire home and placing it on one's hearth and decking one's home with birch, fennel, St. John's Wort, orpin, and white lilies for blessing and protection.

The Litha Sabbat is a time to celebrate both work and leisure, it is a time for children and childlike play. It is a time to celebrate the ending of the waxing year and the beginning of the waning year, in preparation for the harvest to come. Midsummer is a time to absorb the Sun's warming rays and it is another fertility Sabbat, not only for humans, but also for crops and animals. Wiccans consider the Goddess to be heavy with pregnancy from the mating at Beltane - honor is given to Her. The Sun God is celebrated as the Sun is at its peak in the sky and we celebrate His approaching fatherhood - honor is also given to Him. The faeries abound at this time and it is customary to leave offerings - such as food or herbs - for them in the evening.

Although Litha may seem at first glance to be a masculine observance and one which focuses on Lugh, the day is also

dedicated to the Goddess, and Her flowers are the white blossoms of the elder.

Correspondences

Purpose

Rededication to the Lord and Lady, beginning of the harvest, honoring the Sun God, honoring the pregnant Goddess

Dynamics/Meaning

Crowning of the Sun God, death of the Oak King, assumption of the Holly King, end the ordeal of the Green Man

Tools, Symbols & Decorations

The sun, oak, birch & fir branches, sun flowers, lilies, red/maize/yellow or gold flower, love amulets, seashells, summer fruits & flowers, feather/flower door wreath, sun wheel, fire, circles of stone, sun dials and swords/blades, bird feathers, Witches' ladder.

Colors

Blue, green, gold, yellow and red.

Customs

Bonfires, processions, all night vigil, singing, feasting, celebrating with others, cutting divining rods, dowsing rods & wands, herb gathering, handfastings, weddings, Druidic gathering of mistletoe in oak groves, needfires, leaping between two fires, mistletoe (without berries, use as a protection amulet), women walking naked through gardens to ensure continued fertility, enjoying the seasonal fruits & vegetables, honor the Mother's fullness, richness and abundance, put garlands of St. John's Wort placed over doors/ windows & a sprig in the car for protection.

Goddesses

Mother Earth, Mother Nature, Venus, Aphrodite, Yemaya, Astarte, Freya, Hathor, Ishtar, all Goddesses of love, passion, beauty and the Sea, and Pregnant, lusty Goddesses, Green Forest Mother; Great One of the Stars, Goddess of the Wells

Gods

Father Sun/Sky, Oak King, Holly King, Balder, Arthur, Gods at peak power and strength.

Animals/Mythical Beings

Wren, robin, horses, cattle, satyrs, faeries, firebird, dragon, thunderbird

Gemstones

Lapis lazuli, diamond, tiger's eye, all green gemstones, especially emerald and jade

Herbs

Anise, mugwort, chamomile, rose, wild rose, oak blossoms, lily, cinquefoil, lavender, fennel, elder, mistletoe, hemp, thyme, larkspur, nettle, wisteria, vervain (verbena), St. John's wort, heartsease, rue, fern, wormwood, pine, heather, yarrow, oak & holly trees

Incense/Oil

Heliotrope, saffron, orange, frankincense & myrrh, wisteria, cinnamon, mint, rose, lemon, lavender, sandalwood, pine

Rituals/Magicks

Nature spirit/fey communion, planet healing, divination, love & protection magicks. The battle between Oak King, God of the waxing year & Holly King, God of the waning year (can be a ritual play), or act out scenes from the Bard's (an incarnation of Merlin) "A Midsummer Night's Dream", rededication of faith, rites of inspiration.

Foods

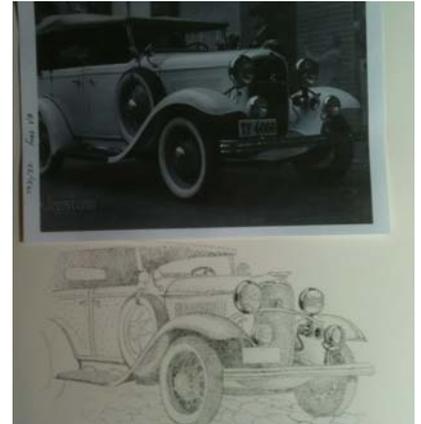
Honey, fresh vegetables, lemons, oranges, summer fruits, summer squash, pumpernickel bread, ale, carrot drinks, mead.

Recipe's!

Arts and Crafts

A little something for you car enthusiasts!

Here is a 1931 or 2 Ford V8. *I could never really hammer down the exact year, it is still in work.*



ZUCCHINI BREAD

- 3 eggs
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 medium, grated, unpeeled zucchini
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
 In mixing bowl, beat eggs till frothy. Beat in sugar, oil & vanilla until thick & lemon colored. Sift in flour, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, & salt. Fold in zucchini & walnuts. Pour mixture in 2 greased & floured loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.



1961 Carman Ghia

1936 Ford



Here we have a Native American Chief (already sold)

From Red Deer's & Elenya's

Recipes for the Eight Sabbats

http://www.unc.edu/~reddeer/recipe/rec_litha.html#zuchinnibread

And here we have an Egyptian woman



I hope all had a very blessed Litha, and hope you enjoyed this issue of the Newsletter.

Blessings and Light - Loye