

THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



Litha 2013

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SPOTLIGHT

Tessa (Persephone)



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

Tessa - I discovered Wicca when I was about 12. One of my friends at school proclaimed herself as a Wiccan. I studied anything I could get my hands on, which as a 12 year old living with a Catholic mother wasn't much until I was about 14 and began practicing as a solitary practitioner.

Once I was out of the house and married, I met my friend Nikki, who was the owner of a New Age bookstore. She ended up teaching me a lot more and I happily followed her as a coven of two until I moved away a few years ago.

GNL - What tradition did you start in? if any?

Tessa - I followed a vaguely Celtic path.

GNL - Tell us about your first memorable ritual experience
Tessa - I went to work for the store Nikki owned and we held a Samhain ritual with our families and some of our good friends. There was such a huge energy build up. It was amazing. The air felt like it was crackling with it.

GNL - How long have you been interested in the craft?

18 years.

GNL - How long have you been a Georgian? Who introduced you to this trad?

Tessa - Loye introduced me to the tradition, and I became a predeicant a few months ago.

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



Tessa and her hubby Logan at our Beltane Sabbat

Tessa - One extremely precocious daughter

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

Tessa - I just started a new job at UC Davis, and am studying with a coven that's active, and I love it!

GNL - Attended/Missed many Mt Meets? Other gatherings you attended?

Tessa - I can't wait to attend my first Mountain Meet!

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

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS !

Mountain Meet (1974 to now) – August 8st thru 15th 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. Again, 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 \$27.00 a head (for the whole week), children are free but fortunately are part of the head count ☺. This year will include rituals and the Georgian Olympics! I am in the process of making awards for the winners of the different events. The Olympics will take place on the 10th because we will have several people that have to leave the 11th because of work the following Monday ☺
contact me via email (Beltane@prodigy.net) or phone (707-688-6638)

Birthday's

On May 31st Lady Du Dragcorum's celebrated her Birthday!!... ☺

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

Dedications:

The afternoon of June 8th, two new dedicants began their studies for 1st degree. Reyjon Taran (Julie) and Persephone (Tessa)



Treebeard (Bob)
Persephone (Tessa)
Reyjon Taran (Julie)
Tatiana (Darlene)
Lord Bel Taran (Loye)

Both young ladies worked hard to get this far and now have to work harder! When does the hurting stop????

The Dedication ritual was performed by Lord Bel Taran and assisted with 2nd degree Tatiana, Treebeard was their sponsor ☺

~3rd degree:

~Correction from the Beltane Newsletter~
I just wanted to let you know that Lady Hazel and Lord Nwyvre (my Initiating Priestess and Priest) were the Priestess and Priest for Jaspers 3*. I did Serissa's 2nd which was correct.

I just want to give credit where credit is due...and they did a wonderful job

Thank you Brother,

Duane "Raven Spirit" Marshall

*No, thank you Lord Raven Spirit!!!
(go ahead, spew more coffee buddy <g>)*

Blessed 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!

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.

From Red Deer's & Elenya's

Recipes for the Eight Sabbats

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

DUTCH APPLE PIE



- 1 your favorite homemade pie crusts or 1 ready-made pie crust
- 5 1/2 cups peeled cored sliced cooking apples
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 3 table spoons flour
- 1/2 tea spoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tea spoon nutmeg

Topping

- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/3 cup butter or 1/3 cup margarine, room temperature

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Fit pie crust into pie plate.

In a large bowl, mix sliced apples, lemon juice, both sugars, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg.

Pile into crust.

Prepare topping:.

In a medium bowl, with a pastry blender or a fork, mix flour, both sugars, and butter until coarsely crumbled.

Sprinkle evenly over apples.

Bake at 375°F for 50 minutes.

Arts and Crafts

Circlets and arm bands, brass, copper and aluminum, hand crafted by Rainman...me!



Sisters, Julie and Jenice



16 gage steel Armor-pauldron's and greaves



elbow and knee cops (guards).



Georgians "clowning" around

Our own Raven Spirit in his alter ego Skidz, up to no good as usual!

For the love of the Gods. I try to be a good boy...and this happens! (Thomas the Tank Engine in Baldwin City Kansas (Shrine Event))



Skidz and Janet Farrar at HPF 2013

LITHA RITUAL

Travis Circle 2002

The wheel has turned...

**We celebrate the noon of Summer with this rite.
Held in honor of the Blazing God of the Sun...
All of nature vibrates with the fertile energies
of the Goddess and the God.**

**The Earth is bathed with the warmth,
and light and life of the Sun.**

**The Wheel of the Year turns again ... since Yule the light
has been growing ever stronger.**

**At Ostara the light finally became greater than the dark,
and the light has kept on growing until today,
the middle of the time of light, Litha, Midsummer.**

**From here, the light begins to fade again, until once more,
the Wheel will turn to darkness and Yule will return.**

**Today the Sun is high, the Light is bright, and the Earth is
warm.**

**As the Lord of the Sun blazes above,
the fires of our celebration shall flame below.**

Sacred Space:

HPS Great Mother, bless this creature of Water to your service.

May I always remember the cauldron waters of rebirth.

HP Great Father, bless this creature of Earth to your service.

May I always remember the blessed Earth; it's many forms and beings.

Someone: Mix water with salt /sprinkle circle

Someone: Follow with incense

HP & HPS Bless and charge Athame

Corners bless and charge, light main altar candle

Cast circle

HPS: This is a time that is not a time,
In a place that is not a place. On a day that is not a day.

We stand at the threshold between the worlds,

Before the veil of the Mysteries.

May the Ancient Ones help and protect

Us on our magickal journey.

Bell rings

This circle is bound with power all around
Between the worlds we stand with protection at hand.
By the powers of 3 by 3 so I will it, So mote it be.
As above so below. The circle is now cast.

EAST

Now is the time of summer, when the heat and humidity
make us flee indoors in search of cooler, drier air and the
earth is parched. I invite you to our circle spirit of the East.
HAIL AND WELCOME!

SOUTH

Now is the time of summer, when the heat streams from the
earth, the lake grow warm, and the breezes bring heat with
them, as well as rain. I invite you to our circle spirit of the
South. HAIL AND WELCOME!

WEST

Now is the time of summer, when the rains fall hot and bring
with them heat and making the air wet, soaking the earth. I
invite you to our circle spirit of the West. HAIL AND
WELCOME!

NORTH

Now is the time of summer, when the heat makes the earth
shimmer under our feet, and the rain steams from the ground
even as it hits. I invite you to our circle spirit of the North.
HAIL AND WELCOME!

HPS Light Goddess candle

"O Great Forest Mother, Meadow Mother, Great lady of
The Stars and the Moon, Spinner of fates, We give Honor to
you

And ask your presence here"

HP Light God candle

"O Great Red Sun God, Forest Father, Lord of Fertility and
plenty,

We give Honor to you and ask your presence here"

Reader

Fireflies and Summer Sun,

In circles round we become as one.

Singing songs at magic's hour

We bring the winds and timeless power.

Turning inward, hand to hand

We dance the hearth to heal our land.

Standing sacred beneath the Sky

We catch the fire from out it's eye
Swaying breathless beside the sea
We welcome Summer, so Mote it be!

Cakes and Ale

HP Here is a gift of the Mother, made of grain and herbs, which She has provided. Accept this as a symbol of our devotion and love for you. Pass cakes with blessings and a kiss.

HPS Here is a gift of the Father, made of the fruit that He has provided. Accept this as a symbol of our honor and respect for you.

As the athame is to the God, so is the chalice to the Goddess, and conjoined, they are one in blessedness. Pass ale with a blessing and a kiss.

Release the Quarters

Spirits of the North, where the sun shines the least and the days are shortest. We bid you farewell. Go if you must stay if you will. So Mote it be.

Spirits of the West, where the sun sets sooner and the days get shorter. We bid you farewell. Go if you must stay if you will. So Mote it be.

Spirits of the South, where the sun rises to it's peak, the days grow longer and the summer rules. We bid you farewell. Go if you must stay if you will. So Mote it be.

Spirits of the East, where the sun rises and burns away the mist. We bid you farewell. Go if you must stay if you will. So Mote it be.

Open circle

"To all beings of the visible and the invisible, depart in peace. May there always be harmony between us. We offer our thanks and blessings.
May the circle be open but never broken. Merry Meet Merry Part and Merry Meet Again...and may the gods preserve the craft!

Recipe's!

Litha Incense – 2 parts Sandalwood, 1 part Mugwort, 1 part Chamomile, 1 part Gardenia petals, several drops of Rose oil, several drops of Lavender oil, several drops of Yarrow oil

Orange Honey Butter – 2 Tablespoons grated orange zest, 3 Tablespoons confectioner's sugar, ½ cup unsalted butter, softened, 1 – 2 Tablespoons honey, Combine ingredients and chill until ready to eat. Yum!

Easy Honey Mead – This recipe can be considered cheating but if you've ever tried to make honey mead at home, you'll appreciate this recipe's simplicity. First heat 1 part water with 1 part wildflower honey until the mixture is smooth and the honey's completely incorporated. Sprinkle some rose petals into the mixture and let it cool. Strain the mixture (optional). Mix 2 parts honey water with 1 part grain alcohol and serve chilled over ice. (Alternatively, mix 1 part honey water with 1 part vodka).

Jennifer Bones is a long time practitioner of the Nature / Pagan religion. Her writings span from spiritual fiction to historic studies of women's issues. She is owner and manager of her current website, <http://goddessgiftshop.com>

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

Blessings and Light - Loye