

# THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



MABON 2007

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## SPOTLIGHT

*Remember how last issue I said "I've found that some people like to talk about themselves and others don't"? Well, Allen will talk about himself but tends to exaggerate just a tad, so I had to apply threats and such (like that actually had anything to do with him giving up the information I requested ☺)*

### Shonsu /Punslinger



**GNL** Tell me a little bout yourself.

**Allen** - I was born a poor, Black child. In a modest, 16 room log cabin with a chicken in every cauldron

and 2 brooms in every garage. BUT, you want the boring stuff.

I was actually born into a family that never took religion of any sort too "religiously". If one wanted to attend church for whatever reason it was OK, but wasn't stressed. I found something in church that I had only found before in the woods alone. I attended whatever church was nearby for several years of moving around, so I had a basis in the Methodists, Baptists, Pentecosts, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, as well as Catholic services. I found the Baptist/Pentecosts physically as well as psychically moving, when the "Spirit wuz among 'Em." I also was in awe of the Catholic ritual, especially when done in Latin, which even then was not often enough. I was on my way to being a Baptist Deacon when I kept running into the brick wall of not enough answers to too many questions. FAITH can be the answer for many questions, but not ALL. And I had a hard time with the concept of something being a parable one day and gospel the next; or a parable when I

think it's gospel, and gospel when I think it's a parable.

**GNL** When did you "discover" Paganism and Wicca.

**Allen** - It seems that I had always had pre-cognitive dreams and never understood them. After many years of being told that I could not be doing this, I stopped. But I remembered doing so. I was also able to astral travel for many years and KNEW that IF I told anyone I would be "in trouble". At 16 I was introduced to people who not only did not think I was crazy, but thought I was special for being able to do these things. They were members of Pats Coven: Randy, Herb, and Margo. I began studying almost immediately, as it was my mother who introduced me to the Georgians. Unfortunately, after a very short time my HPS left for Texas and I was without any Craft contacts. I spent 10 years "wandering in the wilderness" without any formal training, without any way of finding the few Crafters I knew, but reading anything that came into my hands; books, magazine articles, encyclopedias, whatever I could find. After 10 long years I found the Georgians again, this time with Bobbie and Randy as HP and HPS.

**GNL** How long you and Bobbie been together?

(if it's not to personal)

**Allen** -I met Bobbie at my first Mountain Meet, in June of 1977. She was conducting the Solstice Ritual and I was sitting atop a boulder just outside of the Circle, being to antsy to actually join the Circle. She struck me then as being the epitome of "High Priestess-hood". 10 years later we met again, but by this time I am, unhappily, married. After my divorce, Skip and I got together as Bobbie was still married to Ken at this time. They split up and the three of us

formed a Triad, which has morphed into Bobbie and I, now.

**GNL** Children? (how many?), grandchildren, great grandchildren?

**Allen** - I went from being single to being Grandpa. Skipped right over that Dad stuff. Skip has three girls, and between them they have 9 children. Bobbie has 2 boys and a girl. Between them they have 7 children, and THEY have 6 children. That makes me Papa to 6, Grandpa to 12, and great grandpa to 6.

**GNL** Do any children of Georgians call you grandpa?

**Allen** - Not really. Mostly Uncle.

**GNL** Describe your life a little these days, lets not forget Bobbie :-)

**Allen** - Our lives are busy. Between the Craft and our involvement in The Society for Creative Anachronism and friends we usually have NO weekends free. When we do we call it a vacation. I am attempting to teach myself armoring and have turned out a few pieces that I am proud of as well as a few that get thrown into the loaner pile without a word of where it came. When I can get my disability insurance started I plan to take a class in welding. And build myself a forge to use for turning out Craft blades as well as other things.

**GNL** Missed many Mt Meets?

**Allen** - I have answered this question in great detail before. Suffice to say only one in 16 years.

**GNL** Any good tales you care to share about our tradition?

**Allen** - All the tales have been told. It's the truths that make us wonder. The times we've healed cancers, heart disease, tumors, etc. If doctors studied "anecdotal" evidence we'd be famous.

BB

Shonsu

(the picture featured at the beginning of the interview here was done by myself from photos taken at Mt Meet 2007)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Dedication:

~1<sup>st</sup> degree – Jeff Ray of the Coven of Children Between the Worlds in Pville on 15 Sept after dark.

### Puck turned 50!!!!

### Gatherings

3<sup>rd</sup> annual Prairie Meet - October 5, 6, & 7, at Boiling Springs State park

POC - Anise AKA Sean - [seanwwright@aol.com](mailto:seanwwright@aol.com).



Mabon

**Mabon** is the name used by some Wiccans and other Neopagans for one of the eight solar holidays or sabbats. It is celebrated on the Autumnal Equinox, which in the northern hemisphere occurs on September 23rd (occasionally the 22nd, although many celebrate on the 21st) and in the southern hemisphere is circa March 21.

Also called Harvest Home, the Feast of the Ingathering, or simply Autumn Equinox, this holiday is a ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth and a recognition of

the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and God during the winter months. The name may derive from Mabon ap Modron, although the connection is unclear.

Among the sabbats, it is the second of the three harvest festivals, preceded by Lammas and followed by Samhain.

### Antiquity of Mabon

Mabon was not an authentic ancient festival either in name or date. There is little evidence that the autumnal equinox was celebrated in Celtic countries, while all that is known about Anglo-Saxon customs of that time was that September was known as haleg-monath or 'holy month'.

The name Mabon has only been applied to the Neopagan festival of the autumn equinox very recently; the term was invented by Aidan Kelly in the 1970s as part of a religious studies project (the use of Litha for the Summer Solstice is also attributed to Kelly). Previously, in Gardnerian Wicca the festival was simply known as the 'Autumnal Equinox', and many Neopagans still refer to it as such, or use alternative titles such as the neo-Druidical Aban Efed, a term invented by Iolo Morgannwg.

The name Mabon was chosen to impart a more authentic-sounding "Celtic" feel to the event, since all the other festivals either had names deriving from genuine tradition, or had had names grafted on to them. The Spring Equinox had already been

termed 'Ostara', and so only the Autumnal Equinox was left with a technical rather than an evocative title. Accordingly, the name Mabon was given to it, having been drawn from Welsh mythology.

The use of the name Mabon is much more prevalent in America than Britain, where many Neopagans are dismissive of it as an unauthentic name. The increasing number of American Pagan publications sold in Britain by such publishers as Llewellyn has however resulted in some British Pagans adopting the term.

## Popular culture

- Mabon is a contemporary Celtic music band, from Bridgend, Wales
- Mabon is an alias of the popular Welsh-language MC, Gruff Meredith, who composes under the name of MC Mabon.
- In many of Charles de Lint's Newford books, the character Sophie Etoile visits a city in her dreams called Mabon.

1 garlic clove, chopped  
 ¼ tsp. dried thyme  
 ¼ tsp. dried parsley  
 1 bay leaf  
 1/8 tsp. black pepper  
 ¼ tsp. salt  
 2-10oz cans French onion soup  
 1-8oz package raw baby carrots  
 1-16oz pkg. frozen broccoli/cauliflower mix

In dutch oven or oven safe pot w/lid brown both side of the roast, using half the butter.

# Recipes!!

## Mabon Caramel Apples

1 package Kraft\* Caramels  
 6 red or green apples, destemmed  
 6 popsicle sticks

Melt caramels slowly in a double boiler. When runny in consistency, stick popsicle sticks into top center of apple, and dip apple into caramel sauce, making sure to cover entire apple with a coating of caramel. Place dipped apples, stick up on wax paper covered cookie sheet an refrigerate till caramel hardens.

Makes 6 servings.

Remember, an apple a day keeps the dentist, doctor, and dermatologist away!!!! (this does NOT include the caramel!)

By Akasha

<http://www.wicca.com/celtic/akasha/mabontnrecip.htm>

## All Things Harvested Pot Roast

4-5lb pot roast  
 1 stick butter  
 1 large onion sliced  
 3 celery stalks, chopped

4 large potatoes, quartered

Set the roast aside. With remaining butter, sauté the onion, garlic, and celery until onions are tender and beginning to brown. Add the thyme, parsley, bay leaf, and pepper. Mix well and then return the pot roast to the pan. Sprinkle salt over the roast and add the french onion soup. Cook at 325 degrees for 4 hours. Baste meat as needed. Add potatoes and carrots and salt to taste. Cook for another 45 minutes. Add broccoli/cauliflower mix and cook for 20 more minutes. Serve with hot bread.

Makes 8 servings

By Akasha

<http://www.wicca.com/celtic/akasha/mabontnrecip.htm>

## A Little Art

This first piece is called “**What Bone**”, though the little dragons name is Isgett. I did him years ago while watching the “How the Grinch stole Christmas” ...he was created with the dog (his name is Max btw) as my inspirations. For Christmas I made over \$500 extra dollars on posters...a little extra present money ☺



This next is called “**Dragon Fire**”, I entered it in a contest in Texass and with it and another, I took first and second in my category (Dragon Fire took 1<sup>st</sup>). It’s 18X20 pencil and was promptly claimed by wife so I wouldn’t give it away.



This last one is acrylic and a little “suggestive”, so don’t look to closely at the fey flittering about. Didn’t really give it a name but if you look closely you can figure it out ☺



## Mabon Ritual

Here it is!

PLEASE NOTE: I think it is important to mention that when I wrote this, I was a "young" priestess, and Dorothy Morrison's book, The Craft, was extremely helpful in putting into words what I could not. I made sure to credit her at the end, and also made sure all my students knew who wrote what, and her words really made this ritual a beautiful thing. I am forever grateful! This ritual - with few variations - has become a tradition for Silver Oak that we do each year, and the incense that is made forms the base for our ritual incense for the coming year. THANK YOU, TEX!

Pleiades

### GEORGIAN TRADITION

#### Pagan circles

Silver Oak Coven

**Setting up:** Altar cloth should be burgundy or deep orange. God and Goddess candles are purple or brown, and power candle burgundy, purple or brown. Altar is set with bunches of dried herbs, Indian corn, autumn leaves, potatoes, acorns, or sunflowers. Mabon incense: mixture of hibiscus, myrrh, rose petals and sage.

Participants have been told to come prepared to talk briefly about ancestors who have passed on a trait or characteristic to them, and to bring an herb, oil or incense to represent each trait.

#### Anoint First.

#### Preparation of Salt and Water

#### Cast the Circle

#### Cleanse the Circle with Elements

#### Call the Watchtowers

**Call the God and Goddess:**

Light the God candle and say:

**“Horned One, God of the Wilds,  
We invite you to our circle!  
Let your energy, your joy, your passion  
Be with us this Mabon!  
Show us your paths through the wilderness  
And guide us on our journey.  
Grant that we may celebrate in your fields  
and forests,  
Protect your creatures, and feel your presence  
As the Old Ways live again within our circle!”**

Light the Goddess candle and say:

**“Crone Goddess, Mistress of Magick and  
Rebirth,  
We invite you to our circle!  
Let your wisdom, your love and your power  
Be with us this Mabon!  
Teach us the arts of magick, healing and  
transformation.  
Grant us your wisdom so that we may  
celebrate and feast,  
Without expending the fruits of our harvest!  
Let the Old Ways live again within our  
circle!”**

**MABON MAGICK**

Priest:

**“Mabon is named for the Welsh God, Mabon, whose name means “Great Sun.” The story goes that He was kidnapped from the Great Mother (Modron) when he was only three days old and taken to the Underworld to prevent his light from shining on the land. He was much smarter than the Lord of the Underworld thought, though. During his stay within the Earth, he not only gathered his wits, but the personal strength and momentum necessary to become new seed. He knew his rescue was at hand, and when the time came, he’d need all the power he could muster to fertilize the barren Earth and make it green once more.**

**“Celebrated at Fall Equinox, Mabon marks the first day of autumn and the second**

**harvest periods, both agricultural and personal. It is a time to celebrate the Earth’s bounty and thank her for the blessings she brings us. It is often called the ‘Witches’ Thanksgiving.”**

Priestess:

**“But there’s more to it than that. Because of Mabon’s association with the Underworld, it is also a great time to remember our ancestors and those who have gone before us. We thank them for the blood that courses through our veins, for the traits that we share from their personal gene pools, and for the gifts they**

**have given us that make us the amazing specimens of individuality that we are.**

**“So Mabon is a time of total thanksgiving – a time when we give thanks for all that we have, for all that we are, and for all that the future holds, not only for us personally, but for those yet unborn. It is a time to reflect on the joys of community, personal freedom and the wonders of the human species as a whole. It is a time to count our many blessings and give thanks to everyone who has helped them come to pass.”**

*Honoring the Past Within Us*

Priest: **“Who, in your lives, has gone to the Summerlands, but lives still within you? Whose laughter still makes you smile?”**

Priestess: **“Who has blessed you with a gift? Passed on a journey or task left unfinished?”**

Priest: **“Who added to the sum of all your parts, and helped make you the one we love today?”**

Priestess: **“Share with us the story of who you are, and add to our essence incense something to represent the gift passed on to you, for its very presence in you adds to our community, much as one herb adds to our common incense.”**

Each participant talks about a few (their choice) of their ancestors or close friends who have changed their lives in some way, and offers a handful of herbs or incense (or a sprinkling of oil essence) to a large bowl in the center of the circle. When everyone is done, the herb/incense mix is stirred together and placed on the altar Pentacle to be charged by the Priestess.

Priestess:

**“For your lives, I give you thanks  
You, who live now in the ranks  
Of memories of times now past**

**Whose blood still flows within us fast,  
Whose personalities we share,  
Whose mannerisms here and there  
Come out in us from time to time  
Bringing reason to our rhyme.  
I thank you for the parts of me  
You’ve put in place that I might be.  
We promise now that you shall thrive  
With loving thoughts throughout our lives,  
For all we are and all we’ll be  
Is because you live in all, in me.”**

Priestess:

**“I would like each of you to come and fill the bags you emptied from this essence incense, a combination of the energies that have merged within us individually and as a group, to make us a richer community.”**

### **Honoring the Present**

Priest: **“Mabon is also a time for giving thanks for the many blessings we have set before us now . . . in this time . . . in this moment. I have here in my hands wheat from the blessed second harvest.”**

*(Priest passes out wheat to each participant.)*

Priestess: **“As you hold your what, visualize all in your life that you are thankful for at this spoke in the wheel of the year. When you are done, bring them to the altar and tie yours to any other stalk that was laid before.”**

*(after last piece is tied on)*

Priest: **“All that turns the sun toward our smiles,  
All that lays cool, soothing moonlight like liquid joy on our tired skin,  
All that fills our hearts with laughter is revealed in these stalks.”**

Priestess: **“May the knots ever bind happiness to the lives of those who have allowed them to be tied, and may this wheat stand as a reminder of joy in our times. SO BE IT DONE!”**

### **Cakes and Wine**

Priestess blesses the wine; and

Priest blesses the cakes.

### **Symbolic Great Rite:**

#### **Toast to the Future:**

Summoner: **“May we please have a moment of silence as attention is called to the very wine in our cups and the seeds it will feed as we send the last of it into the soil.”**

Priest: **“Tonight we have looked at the gifts of our ancestors and the fruits of our lives at present. Now is the time to turn our hopes and thoughts to the future, what joy we will bring and gifts we will bestow on those who will follow us.”**

Priestess: **“Please, each in turn, raise a toast and state the things that you would like to pass on. Charge the wine remaining in your goblet with these gifts, and empty it into the mouth of the libation bowl, for tonight the seeds of the future will drink to our toast instead of our own lips. SO BE IT DONE!”**

**Release the God and Goddess**

Extinguish the God candle after saying:

**“Thank you for making merry with us  
So our hearts may stay light  
As these heavy times creep upon us.”**

Extinguish the Goddess candle after saying:

**“Thank you for watching over our feast  
So that we still have ample food  
To last us through the winter.”**

**Release the Watchtowers**

**Closing:**

(We generally use Witches and Pagans all . . .)

Priestess: **“So be it,  
The Circle is broken.”**

(or, if someone wishes to use the Circle afterward, for personal blessings or such, end with:

**“The Circle is open,  
But unbroken**

**credits:**

- ◆ Passages calling the God and Goddess, and later releasing them, written by Geb, of Silver Oak.
- ◆ Passages on background of Mabon, and charging of the incense bowl, adapted from Dorothy Morrison’s The Craft: A Witches’ Book of Shadows, 2001, Llewellyn Publications.
- ◆ Portion on Honoring the Past Within Us, written by Pleiades, of Silver Oak.
- ◆ Portions Honoring the Present and Toasting the Future, written by Tlalock, of Silver Oak.

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As is my habit, I try to get others to submit some of their art or poetry...not always an easy task as you may well imagine. But I did manage it this time!

Here is a picture done by Shawn of Temple Nathrock. It was done via her imagination and computer graphics. She says she isn’t that good but I tend to disagree! I



love the way the colors transition and flow, that along with the dolphins and female figure how can you NOT love it?

This next one is watercolor and though I didn’t ask her what it was I like it also... but



then I love a good thunderstorm and rain beating on the roof.

Both pics by Lady Kerridwin



There were three men, came out of the west,  
Their fortunes for to try  
And these three men made a solemn vow:  
John barleycorn must die!  
Well, they've ploughed, they've sown, the've  
harrowed him in.  
Threw clouds upon his head.  
Till these three men were satisfied.  
John barleycorn was dead.  
They've let him lie for a long long time,  
Till the rains from heaven did fall.

And little sir john sprang up his head  
And so amazed them all.  
They let him fly till the midsummer's day,  
Till he looked both pale and wan, oh,  
Then little sir john has grown a long long beard  
And so became a man.

They have hired men with the scythes so sharp.  
To cut him off at the knee,  
They rolled and they tied him around the waist,  
Serving him most him barbarously.  
They hired men with the sharp pitchforks  
To prick him to the heart.  
And the loader he has served him worse than  
that,  
For he's bound him to the cart.

Well, they've wheeled him 'round and 'round  
the field,  
Till they came onto a barn.  
And there they made their solemn oath,  
Concerning a barleycorn.  
They hired men with the crab tree sticks  
To split him skin from bone, yeah,  
But the miller he has served him worst and bad  
For he ground him between two stones

Well there's beer all in the barrel  
And brandy in the glass,  
But little old sir john with his nut-brown bowl  
Proved the strongest man at last.  
John barleycorn, throw him up, throw him up!  
Now the huntsman, he can't hunt the fox,.

Nor loudly blow his horn  
And the tinker he can't mend his pots  
Without john barleycorn,  
John barleycorn, john barleycorn,  
Barleycorn, barleycorn  
John barleycorn, john barleycorn

"There were three men came out of the  
West,  
Their fortunes for to try,  
And these three men made a solemn vow,  
John Barleycorn must die..."

"They let him stand till midsummer's day,  
Till he looked both pale and wan,  
And little Sir John's grown a long, long  
beard  
And so become a man..."

"They've hired men with scythes so sharp,  
To cut him off at the knee,  
They've rolled him and tied him by the waist  
Serving him most barbarously..."

"And little Sir John in the nut-brown bowl--  
And he's brandy in the glass,  
And little Sir John in the nut-brown bowl  
Proved the strongest man at last."