

# THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



## IMBOLC 2008

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## SPOTLIGHT

### MARLA ROBERSON

*~Unknown to Marla, we managed to get this candid shot of her doing a ritual when she thought she was all alone~  
Is she hot er what? grrrr*



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

**Marla** - A friend, who is now also Georgian, and I were talking in late 1990. We were discussing other religions (I was raised Southern Baptist). I was very dissatisfied with that upbringing and had been ignoring

my spirituality most of my 20's. I had also been taking some feminist classes at the Univ of Oklahoma and reading about the Goddess and how she was worshiped through various cultures. He kind of whispered, "Guess what, I found an actual witch in Norman". A few weeks later I wandered into Georgia's shop, The Four Winds. The rest is my history of spiritual growth.

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



**Marla** - Georgian. Interested since those early days of 1990. Have a bit of Native American in my background so I can remember as a child a bit of that in what happened in my life.

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

**Marla** - Nope.

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

**Marla** - Nope.

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



**Marla** -My spouse Gypsy and I moved to South Carolina about 2 years ago. Hated leaving my Georgian family in Oklahoma but the wheel turns and we must all listen to our inner selves and go where the Goddess leads us. Have not started a coven over here yet but have met lots of pagan/Witch friendly folks at the local UU where I lead open Sabbats. Gypsy has also studied and finally been initiated. Still mainting the Georgian web page and, along with Cindy, moderating the Chat, Initiate, and Elder lists. Would like to start teaching again probably next year. I am very proud of the students that I have had previously. Three are now Elders and three that originally started with me are probably starting their Third with a new teacher in the next few months. One is working on her second with a new teacher. A few of them received other degrees and are satisfied with that level. Hate not being able to be there as these students continue their studies but, as I said earlier, you go



where the Goddess leads you. As I left Oklahoma, the Goddess created ways for these students to gain more and varied experiences with others. I cannot

hope for anything better than that they will continue to grow with these different approaches to teaching.

**GNL** -Attended/Missed many Mt Meets?

**Marla** -No. However did organize the first two Prairie Meets that we held in Oklahoma for the local Georgians.

**Marla** -Thanks for starting the newsletter again,

*Your welcome Marla ☺*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

*It is always of the greatest pleasure that I get to put so many announcements into the newsletter! It has been a busy time since our last Sabbat and newsletter!! Congrats to all, Students, Teachers, Guides and Covens*

### Dedication:

~1<sup>st</sup> degree: Chloe on December 22, 2007 of Beachfyre Coven

~2<sup>nd</sup> degree:

~3<sup>rd</sup> degree:

**Birthdays!!** Skip in BF – January 16

Cindy – January 16

Kane – Feb 1

Dylan, will be 8 on Feb 24 (son of DemeterRayne and Kane)

Star Shadowdrake – Feb 3

Fafner – Feb 2

## CANDLEMASS

On February 2nd, Christians Celebrate God's Glory



Of the various Christian holy days that take place throughout the year, Candlemass (or *Candelaria*), on February 2nd, may be one of the least well-known ceremonies in the Christian world. Evangelical Protestants do not count it as a major observance, while Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Greek Orthodox churches hold it in high esteem. ..oops, my bad, what I meant to say was this.

## IMBOLC

The Festival of Bridget is the celebration of the return of the Maiden of Spring. Now the Crone undergoes her wonderful transformation into the beautiful Maiden of Flowers, Mistress of the Hunt. Imbolc is the festival of light in the darkness, the celebration of rekindled fire. Most witches light as many candles in their house or witch's



room to bring on light and warmth and say goodbye to the dark. This is the time of individuation: within the measures of the spiral, we each light our own light, and become uniquely ourselves. It is the time of initiation, of beginning when seeds that will later sprout and grow begin to stir from their dark sleep.

This Sabbat also honors the moon as source of fertility for the months to come. The winter still cold reawakens and first feels the quickening of life. It is a time for changes below the surface of things, when solstice birth first begins to manifest. It is the time of year to make a commitment or recommitment to your spiritual growth. It is a time to look ahead in hope and joy for what is to come. It is a time of divination, looking into the coming year. It is a time for cleaning and purification. Self dedication. It is a time for looking for early spring.

Crossroads figure prominently in this Sabbat. This is a night that spirits of the dead are said to walk among the living. The Crossroads also represent an equal-armed cross which is seen as a symbol of balance and protection. On the eve before this Sabbat, go to a crossroad and bury negativity so it cannot escape. Incense: Frankincense, myrrh, jasmine, camphor, cinnamon and lotus, basil, wisteria.

Candles: Red and white.

Gemstones: Amethyst, garnet, onyx, turquoise

Ritual Herbs: Angelica, basil, bay, benzoin, celandine, heather, myrrh, frankincense.

### Imbolc Lore

(February 2nd)

Imbolc, (pronounced "IM-bulk" or "EM-bowlk"), also called Oimealg, ("IM-mol'g), by the Druids, is the festival of the lactating sheep. It is derived from the Gaelic word "oimealc" which means "ewes milk". Herd animals have either given birth to the first offspring of the year or their wombs are swollen and the milk of life is flowing into their teats and udders. It is the time of Blessing of the seeds and consecration of agricultural tools. It marks the center point of the dark half of the year. It is the festival of the Maiden, for from this day to March 21st, it is her season to prepare for growth and renewal. Brigid's snake emerges from the womb of the Earth Mother to test the weather, (the origin of Ground Hog Day), and in many places the first Crocus flowers began to spring forth from the frozen earth.

The Maiden is honored, as the Bride, on this Sabbat.



Straw Brideo'gas (corn dollies) are created from oat or wheat straw and placed in baskets with white flower bedding. Young girls then carry the Brideo'gas door to door, and gifts are bestowed upon the image from each household. Afterwards at the traditional feast, the older women make special acorn wands for the dollies to hold, and in the morning the ashes in the hearth are examined to see if the magic wands left marks as a good omen. Brigid's Crosses are fashioned from wheat stalks and exchanged as symbols of protection and prosperity in the coming year. Home hearth fires are put out and re-lit, and a besom is placed by the front door to symbolize sweeping out the old and welcoming the new. Candles are lit and placed in each room of the house to honor the re-birth of the Sun.

Another traditional symbol of Imbolc is the plough. In some areas, this is the first day of ploughing in preparation of the first planting of crops. A decorated plough is dragged from door to door, with costumed children following asking for food, drinks, or money. Should they be refused, the household is paid back by having its front garden ploughed up. In other areas, the plough is decorated and then Whiskey, the "water of life" is poured over it. Pieces of cheese and bread are left by the plough and in the newly turned furrows as offerings to the nature spirits. It is considered taboo to cut or pick plants during this time.

Various other names for this Greater Sabbat are Imbolgc Brigantia (Caledonni), Imbolc (Celtic), Disting (Teutonic, Feb 14th), Lupercus (Strega), St. Bridget's Day (Christian), Candlemas, Candlelaria (Mexican), the Snowdrop Festival. The Festival of Lights, or the Feast of the Virgin. All Virgin and Maiden Goddesses are honored at this time.

### Deities of Imbolc:

All Virgin/Maiden Goddesses, Brigid, Aradia, Athena, Inanna, Gaia, and Februa, and Gods of Love and Fertility, Aengus Og, Eros, and Februus.

### Symbolism of Imbolc:

Purity, Growth and Re-Newal, The Re-Union of the Goddess and the God, Fertility, and dispensing of the old and making way for the new.

### Symbols of Imbolc:

Brideo'gas, Besoms, White Flowers, Candle Wheels, Brigid's Crosses, Priapic Wands (acorn-tipped), and Ploughs.

**Herbs of Imbolc:**

Angelica, Basil, Bay Laurel, Blackberry, Celandine, Coltsfoot, Heather, Iris, Myrrh, Tansy, Violets, and all white or yellow flowers.

**Foods of Imbolc:**

Pumpkin seeds, Sunflower seeds, Poppy seed Cakes, muffins, scones, and breads, all dairy products, Peppers, Onions, Garlic, Raisins, Spiced Wines and Herbal Teas.

**Incense of Imbolc:**

Basil, Bay, Wisteria, Cinnamon, Violet, Vanilla, Myrrh.

**Colors of Imbolc:**

White, Pink, Red, Yellow, lt. Green, Brown.

**Stones of Imbolc:**

Amethyst, Bloodstone, Garnet, Ruby, Onyx, Turquoise.

**Activities of Imbolc:**

Candle Lighting, Stone Gatherings, Snow Hiking and Searching for Signs of Spring, Making of Brideo'gas and Bride's Beds, Making Priapic Wands, Decorating Ploughs, Feasting, and Bon Fires maybe lit.

# Recipe

## POPPY SEED CAKE

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1/4 cup poppy seeds
- 1 cup milk
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 1/4 cups cake flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 4 egg whites, beaten stiff
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- .
- Topping:
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 4 egg yolks, beaten
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

**PREPARATION:**

Soak poppy seeds in milk for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Sift flour and baking powder together. In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar; add poppy seeds and milk alternately with flour and baking powder. Fold in egg whites and add vanilla.

Bake in a lightly greased 9 x 13 x 2-inch pan at 325° for 1 hour. Spread with topping.

Topping: Mix together sugar and cornstarch. Add milk and egg yolks and cook in double boiler until thick, stirring constantly. Spread on cooled cake. Sprinkle with nuts.

OR! - From Better Homes and Gardens

# Orange-Poppy Seed Cake !



**18 servings**

**Prep: 25 minutes**

**Bake: 50 minutes**

**Ingredients**

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/4 cup poppy seed
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup cooking oil
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons finely shredded orange peel
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 cup sifted powdered sugar, optional
- 3 to 4 teaspoons orange juice, optional

## Directions

1. Grease and lightly flour a 10-inch fluted tube pan; set pan aside. In a large bowl stir together flour, sugar, poppy seed, baking powder, and salt. Add oil, eggs, milk, orange peel, and the 1/2 cup orange juice. Beat with an electric mixer on low to medium speed about 60 seconds or until well combined. Pour batter into prepared pan.

2. Bake in a 350 degree F oven for 50 to 55 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted near center of cake comes out clean. Cool cake in pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan. If desired, in a small bowl combine powdered sugar and the 3 to 4 teaspoons orange juice. Whisk until smooth; drizzle over warm cake or pass with cake. Cover; store at room temperature for up to 3 days. Makes 18 servings.

**Make-Ahead Tip:** Prepare, bake, and glaze cake; cool completely. Place the cake on a baking sheet and freeze until firm. Once firm, place cake in a 2-gallon freezer bag and freeze for up to 1 month. Before serving, thaw at room temperature for several hours.

## TAROT

The Empress



### III. The Empress (KLN: 3)

The pregnancy card or you can be "pregnant" with ideas. It is a card filled with motherly attributes. You take care of your children, your family and friends and try to protect all from the harsh realities of life. You are trying desperately to balance your "sucker" side and assertive side, but always seem to be there to lend a helping hand whenever it is needed, even if it is not convenient for you. Creativity and inner wisdom will guide you to make good choices if you balance your excessive behavior to give of yourself. The black trees indicate that the negativity is behind you and the scepter and stars on your crown are bringing spirituality and enlightenment from above through you to share with those you interact with.

#### *Another perspective*

The Empress represents a departure from the dualistic philosophy of the first three Major Arcana, as well as from the strongly spiritual teachings of those three cards. Rather than simple dichotomies of positive and negative, the Tarot now starts dealing with the unification of spirit, mind and body. The Empress is the latter leg of this triad, representing the physical body and the material world. From her comes all the pleasure of the senses and the abundance of life in all its forms. She is also the mother archetype, and through her we get a first glimpse of the power of love in the Tarot.

The world of the Empress is an ideal and perfectly beautiful place, totally natural, untouched by artificial

## EXCERPTS FROM THE OLD NEWSLETTER

~THE DATE WAS~

**January 1977**

Congratulations to Jay and Georgia.  
Both received their 2nd degree Dec. 11.

colors, lights or sounds. This is a place of bounty and fertility, a living representation of the process of creation and birth that the Empress herself symbolizes. She doesn't just live in this place, she is this place, just as much as the Priestess is the balance that keeps apart positive and negative. The Empress is no less beautiful than the flowers that throw their scent across her fields, no less fertile than the soil that lies underneath her throne. If anything represents the idea of Mother Earth in the Tarot, then it is the Empress.

Her primary power, like the two Arcana before her, is the power of creation. But her creation is not based on creating the world she wishes to live in, or the person she wants to be, because she has that world and is that person. She creates life in all its myriad forms. The Empress is the archetype of the mother, the ultimate creator and giver of life; thus her associations can be extended beyond creativity into fertility, pregnancy and the daunting task of motherhood, which she always faces with a smile and a happy heart. She takes pleasure in all things, particularly her own creations - and everything in nature is her own creation.

Tying into the theme of motherhood is the notion of unconditional love, which the Empress also represents. She makes no demands, sets no conditions, just loves everything equally and with all the power she can. From this, it can be said, derives her only real weakness, and it is something that all mothers deal with at some point. She is often over-protective of her creations, and wishes no harm to come to them at all. That would disrupt the eternal bliss and happiness of her realm. But as it is, the realm of the Empress is both the picture of beauty and of stagnation. So while the Empress' love can make you feel as secure as if we are in your mother's arms, it can also turn into a prison if experienced for too long.

When the Empress appears in your life, you should make special effort to open up to her perfect and unconditional love. In that way you can become more like her: gentle and affectionate, gracious and elegant. Such qualities are often neglected, but they are also useful in a world of harshness and apathy. So instead of plodding through life, take some time to celebrate it! The Empress can often herald the conception or the birth of a child, and in that circumstance there is even greater reason to celebrate. Inspire others to do the same; the Empress is a leader, and the power she holds

over other people is firm, but loving. Know this and lead as she would.

Know also that the perfectly abundant world of the Empress is always free for you to enjoy. Even if you know that you have to go back to the "real world" eventually, a vacation from the hectic and artificial life that most people live these days will certainly be welcome. Spend some time outdoors, in the fresh air, enjoying every aspect of creation. And then, when you go back to where you were, the Empress' creative power and beauty will remain to inspire you and give you power. Strengthen your innate connection with the Earth's creativity and you will, by association, strengthen your own creative power. Cultivate your creativity and plants the seeds of a bountiful harvest.



## Broom Pentagram Wall Hanging

by Shanleora copyright 2003

### Materials:

Metal craft ring in desired size  
Raffia

5 sticks smaller than

circumference of pencil but long enough to go across diameter of ring (size needs to be in proportion to size of ring)

Thrushes/twigs to make bottom of broom

Floral wire

Feathers/shells/rocks whatever you want to adorn it  
glue

scissor

pliers

~~~~~  
Begin by dabbing glue to ring and end of raffia. Wrap entire ring with raffia. Wind it tightly so none of the metal shows through. When coming to end, dab glue to connect last end of raffia to beginning piece.

Next make miniature brooms. Take twig thrushes and place around stick end. Make sure there is enough to cover stick end and look like a broom.

Cut twig thrushes to desired size (what looks appropriate for broom). Then take floral wire and secure top end of thrushes to stick by wrapping around the top end of thrushes 1/2 in. down. Wrap raffia around to cover the wire and secure with dab of glue.

Make 4 of these. The 5<sup>th</sup> stick is the top cross of the star but is not actually a broom.

Next place brooms in position, two brooms should be thrush side down for bottom points of star with their broom handles coming together to make top point of star and two brooms should be pointing diagonally with thrush side up to make other side points of star. These broom handles would go down to meet bottom thrushes making the other two points of star.

Secure each broom and handle to ring by using floral wire, wrapping around across in an X-knot. Twist wire behind brooms. When finished securing, tie a raffia strip on and wrap to hide wire. The last point at top will need to be



secured with wire and then wrapped with raffia. Next make a braid of raffia to tie to top of ring to use as a hanger. At this point, you can adorn the front side of tie with a raffia ribbon bow, feathers, shells, rocks, etc. At the bottom of the ring between bottom points of star, a dangling leather cord can be tied with further feathers or adornments or another raffia string.

Hopefully your neighborhood is plentiful with bushes and twigs. My original wall hanging was made from a purchased twig broom that I discombobulated. The second one I made was much smaller using a 2" craft ring. When finished was sprinkled with cinnamon oil to use as a car freshener.

This can also be made using ribbon to wrap the ring and adorn. Another variation is to use a white ribbon to cover ring and tie a yellow, blue, green and red ribbon in appropriate positions to make star instead of brooms. End with a ribbon bow made of all four colors.

Thank you ShanLeora ☺

I was given this poem a couple of years ago and i thought you might could use it in the newsletter this time.

## Butt Prints in the Sand

One night i had a wondrous dream,  
One set of footprints there was seen,  
The footprints of the Goddess they  
were,  
But mine were not along the shore.

But then some stranger prints  
appeared,  
and I asked Her, "What have we here?  
These prints are large and round and  
neat,  
But much too big to be from feet."

"My child," She said in somber tones,  
"For miles I carried you alone.  
I challenged you to walk in faith,  
But you refused and made me wait."

"You would not learn, you would not  
grow,  
The walk of faith, you would not know,  
So I got tired, I got fed up,  
And then I dropped you on your butt."

"Because in life, there comes a time  
When one must fight and one must  
climb,  
When one must rise and take a stand,  
Or leave their butt prints in the sand.

-Author Unknown-  
Submitted by Lady Kerridwyn

## THE WICCAN REDE

The *Wiccan Rede* is the rule governing Wiccan behavior.

Bide within the Law you must, in perfect Love and perfect Trust.

Live you must and let to live, fairly take and fairly give.

For tread the Circle thrice about to keep unwelcome spirits out.

To bind the spell well every time, let the spell be said in rhyme.

Light of eye and soft of touch, speak you little, listen much.  
Honor the Old Ones in deed and name,  
let love and light be our guides again.

Deosil go by the waxing moon, chanting out the joyful tune.  
Widdershins go when the moon doth wane,  
and the werewolf howls by the dread wolfsbane.

When the Lady's moon is new, kiss the hand to Her times two.

When the moon rides at Her peak then your heart's desire seek.

Heed the North winds mighty gale, lock the door and trim the sail.

When the Wind blows from the East, expect the new and set the feast.

When the wind comes from the South, love will kiss you on the mouth.

When the wind whispers from the West, all hearts will find peace and rest.

Nine woods in the Cauldron go, burn them fast and burn them slow.

Birch in the fire goes to represent what the Lady knows.

Oak in the forest towers with might, in the fire it brings the God's

insight. Rowan is a tree of power causing life and magick to flower.

Willows at the waterside stand ready to help us to the Summerland.

Hawthorn is burned to purify and to draw faerie to your eye.

Hazel-the tree of wisdom and learning adds its strength to the bright fire burning.

White are the flowers of Apple tree that brings us fruits of fertility.

Grapes grow upon the vine giving us both joy and wine.  
Fir does mark the evergreen to represent immortality seen.

Elder is the Lady's tree burn it not or cursed you'll be.  
Four times the Major Sabbats mark in the light and in the dark.

As the old year starts to wane the new begins, it's now Samhain.  
When the time for Imbolc shows watch for flowers through the snows.

When the wheel begins to turn soon the Beltane fires will burn.

As the wheel turns to Lamas night power is brought to magick rite.

Four times the Minor Sabbats fall use the Sun to mark them all.

When the wheel has turned to Yule light the log the Horned One rules.

In the spring, when night equals day time for Ostara to come our way.

When the Sun has reached it's height time for Oak and Holly to fight.

Harvesting comes to one and all when the Autumn Equinox does fall.

Heed the flower, bush, and tree by the Lady blessed you'll be.

Where the rippling waters go cast a stone, the truth you'll know.

When you have and hold a need, harken not to others greed.

With a fool no season spend or be counted as his friend.  
Merry Meet and Merry Part bright the cheeks and warm the heart.

Mind the Three-fold Laws you should three times bad and three times good.

When misfortune is enow wear the star upon your brow.

Be true in love this you must do unless your love is false to you.

These Eight words the Rede fulfill:

"An Ye Harm None, Do What Ye Will"

# Recipe

## Branwen's Imbolc Corn Casserole

Preheat oven to 350 F.

### Ingredients:

4 cans shoepeg corn drained (has to be shoepeg)  
2 Pkgs of cream cheese softened to room temp. (can use the lower fat version)  
2 cans chopped green chiles drained  
1/2 stick butter melted  
1 teas. Salt  
1 teas. Coarse black pepper  
Dash of Tabasco  
Approx. 3/4 cup of milk  
1 package of pre shredded cheddar cheese (16oz.)

Combine cream cheese, butter and milk, you will need a hand mixer for this, blend until everything is well incorporated- it should be smooth but still thick, not runny. Add corn, chiles, salt, pepper, Tabasco and half of the bag of cheese to the cream cheese base. Stir until well blended. Pour into a casserole pan that has been sprayed with non-stick cooking spray, sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Bake until bubbly on the sides and everything is melted in the middle, do not over brown.

## Kerridwyn's Imbolc Ritual

Performed as my first open ritual on 2/4/06

Lady Kerridwyn

\*Altar can be decorated with berries, mountain ash, red fruit, shallow dishes of water to reflect candle light (representing the Goddess Brigid), arrows, circle of white candles and/or white flowers.

\*Theme of ritual is: return of life, spring cleaning, cleansing and purification, new growth, end of winter, offerings to Deity, candle rituals, creativity and getting rid of the old to make way for the new.

\*Food and drink: Blackberry wine, milk, red fruits, dairy foods & spicy foods are all appropriate for this ritual.

\*Incense: vanilla...(of course you can use whichever feels right for you)

\*pass out blank paper/cards, pencils, white candles (everybody should have one), and cards with chant written on it.

- 1) Set up altar
- 2) cast circle
- 3) cut gate/doorway
- 4) bless everyone as they enter through the gate. HP-anoints females HPS- anoints males

Here is what i used, You may have another that you prefer to use.

"In the name of the Lord" (anoint right wrist with your preferred oil (I used peace oil) in the form of a pentacle or even armed cross)

"In the name of the Lady" (anoint left wrist as above)

"In the names of the old ones" (anoint brow as above)

Kiss and say "blessed be, enter in peace".

- 5) close the gate/doorway & seal circle
- 6) call quarters
- 7) Invoke God and Goddess...(again i used this but you may have another you prefer to use)

\*HPS faces altar and says: "We invite you Goddess and Young God to witness this rite held in this sacred place to honor you."

- 8) HPS faces circle, welcome and thank everyone for joining this celebration

9) HPS- "Now does Grandmother Crone place the infant God of Light in the arms of The Mother, relinquishing Her hold on the child of the new year, that the seasons begin to turn once more. Her time of midwifery is past, and the Crone departs to reunite with the Holly King in the Land of snow and ice.

This is also the time when the mother Earth begins to awaken from her long slumber. When the wheel turns toward the warmer days of spring. When she recycles the dead and useless things that have already served their purpose and uses them to nourish the new growth for the coming season. So too must we get rid of those things that no longer serve their purpose. Be it the old and useless trappings of our mundane lives or the negative influences that hold us back from our spiritual growth and magikal goals. I would like us to meditate for a few moments. I would like each of us to seek any negative feelings that you feel you are ready to release. Feelings of grief, anger, pain and the like that have served their purpose and are now just taking up space in our psyches. Then write these feelings on the blank paper you were provided with and cast them into the cauldron of transformation and rebirth so that they may be changed into a positive influence, let them be nourishment for new relationships and encourage spiritual growth."

\*Allow enough time for meditation and the casting of the slips of paper into the fire.

When everyone has done this, HPS says: "I found this chant that seemed to fit well with this rite. It encourages good things for the coming year. I would like everyone to recite it with me now;

Spirit of the Great White Light,  
burn away my psychic night.  
Let me feel your loving care,  
give me joy and love to share.  
Make of me your willing tool,  
let fulfillment be the rule.  
That my growth may be a light,  
saving others from the night.

Now I would like you to pick up the candle that I provided for you. This candle is to represent a goal that you wish to achieve in the coming year. Write that goal on the candle then empower it. Imagine how you will feel when the goal has been accomplished. Now put yourself in that place and time. Visualize that goal already accomplished.

I want you to take these candles home and burn them at a time when you can fully concentrate upon your goal then let them burn out. This is my gift to you. My way of wishing you good things in the coming year.

Over the next week I would like to encourage everyone to take a mental inventory of the useless baggage that we all carry around with us. At this time of year we need to reaffirm those things that encourage us to grow and bring new things into our lives and discard or transform those things that hold us back, making room in our hearts and our lives for the new blessings and challenges that the Goddess wishes to bestow on us. You may need to give up cherished ideas of yourself or others, possessions which you may have been clinging to, worn out friendships or loves. But letting go will free up your emotional and psychic space for new ideas and new relationships."

- 10) Sacred Bullshit
- 11) cakes and wine
- 12) open circle in your usual manner
- 13) libation

I hope you enjoy both of my submissions even though i am not the author of the first one and the other is only partially mine...The ritual includes some excerpts from a book called 'Helping yourself with white witchcraft' including the chant.

Shawn

*Silly lady! Of course we enjoyed it and thank you for sharing both this ritual AND Butt Prints in the Sand.*

## ARTIST'S PRAYER

Here's an Artist's Prayer I wrote to Brigit. I thought you might use it in the Imbolc newsletter.

*Rowan Moonstone*

Bright Lady, Bridgit

Keeper of Holy Well and Sacred Flame

I stand before you

With open hands and open heart

Lady of the fires of inspiration

Inspire my heart and guide my hands

That my words may become storeies

And my stories become songs

And my songs become dances

And my dances become prayers.

Prayers for healing

Prayers for inspiring

Prayers for shaping

Beauty and peace and creativity

In the hearts and souls

Of all your children.

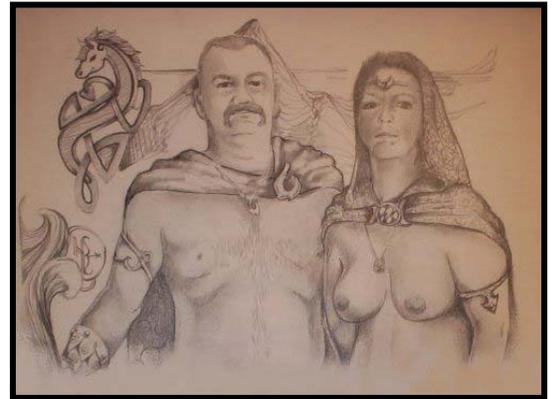
Lady of the fires, warm me

Lady of the wells, quench my thirst

Lady of the healing mantle, heal my soul

This day, this night and forever

Here is Balder and Epona from the Coven of the Children Between the Worlds in Porterville. This whole picture is a work in progress...when I'm happy with it I'll give it to them ☺



Joes Pentacle with Wyverns. Joe is a budding artist and son of Lady Kerridwyn. I think it's OUTSTANDING! Great job Joe and don't stop drawing man.



This one I did many years ago for my local group (no longer active) the Mystic Circle Of Arcadia ☺

Soft pastels

# GEORGIANS IN IRAQ!

## *"Distinguished Faith Group"*

LCDR Tabitha Pierzchala, aka Lady Tabitha, has the final approval from the United States Army to be a Distinguished Faith Group Leader (DFGL) for the Camp Cooke Open Circle located at Taji Forward Operating Base in Iraq. As the DFGL, I am authorized to lead my Distinguished Faith Group in Sabbat Rituals and Esbats, as well as providing counseling as Clergy to members of my Faith Group. I think it is really neat that Wicca is referred to as a "Distinguished Faith Group." How often does anyone refer to Wiccans in general or Georgians in particular as "Distinguished." The Open Circle is, of course, open to anyone interested in an Pagan Path. I have interested seekers, Pagans, Heathens, and even a Ceremonial Magician in the Circle. We meet every Friday night in an Open Circle format to study various topics relating to the craft. In addition to that, I am leading a teaching coven. I have 4 candidates working toward 1st degree initiation in the Georgian Tradition. Which brings me to my next topic....

Grasshopper, an Army Sergeant stationed in Taji, Iraq, has completed all requirements for initiation to 1st degree. His initiation is currently scheduled for February 2nd, following the Imbolc ritual. He has been a pleasure to work with - flying through meditations and study material at a phenomenal rate.

Most of my work as his Priestess has been ensuring that his previous studies included everything that is required for initiation, and there were no significant gaps in his knowledge base. Not to say this hasn't been challenging - I have to stay ahead of him while reviewing the material! Therefore, I declare his year and a day to be a very magickal length of time because it only took two and a half months of mundane time.

My greatest concern with initiating people in Iraq is that I do not have a full wheel of the year to work through the Sabbats in a ritual setting. I decided to do half of the Sabbats out of time - i.e. The Ostara and Mabon rituals will be done on the same weekend so that the dedicants have the experience of both rituals. Beltane and Litha will be done back to back as

well. Lammas will be done sometime in between Imbolc and Ostara, but the date has not been set yet. We held our Samhain ritual on New Years Eve - an obvious time for closing out old experiences and moving into the New Year. They did not get the full impact of the gates between worlds being open, but those who are sensitive to that energy have already dealt with it more than once.

Separate thread...

The Camp Cooke Open Circle is holding our Sabbat Ritual for Imbolc in the Argonne Chapel on the Second of February. We have a very strong and positive working relationship with the Chaplains and have been holding our Open Circles in the Chapel for several weeks.

The ritual will be lead by Lady Tabitha and Grasshopper. It will be a fairly standard blessing of candles to be used for magick in the coming year. The ritual was written by Grasshopper with some kibbitzing by his Priestess. It will be his first experience as Priest in ritual.

