The Georgian Newsletter

Ostara 2008

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Resurrection III

Greetings all!! It has been a year! 8 Sabbats, 13 Esbats, Mt Meet and Lupercalia (though no Luper newsletter) a butt load of initiations, dedications and birthdays.

Spotlight

Lady Kundalini, High Priestess of the Coven of the Children Between the worlds

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

Karen - When I first was introduced to "Wicca" I knew absolutely nothing about it other than there were people I was beginning to fall in love with who were what they called "wiccan's". My Husband David went to the mountains to the event known as "Mountain Meet" hosted by Bobbie and Allen, aka the Lady DuDragcorum and Lord Shonsu Chioxin. I first met Allen when he was 17 (almost 18) and I was managing a Taco Bell Restaurant in P'ville. I hired him to be my "cook" and "slave", actually he could do most anything I wanted to have him do. He was not Wiccan at that time either but he was searching. Allan became a dear friend very quickly. I met my "now" Husband David at about that same time. Actually about three weeks before I met Allen. David did not live in P'ville at the time; he lived in San Luis Obispo, where he was born. This story maybe seems inappropriate to the subject, but I have to tell it because it brought us all to Wicca, one way or another!! Well David and Allen became "friends" without even meeting each other. Allen knew he was more to me than an employee, he was my friend and I loved him as a friend. I was 32 and he was 18 but he was always such a big fellow that he had been forced to grow up "emotionally" way before his time. But he was really just a big kid. And the Kid came out in him a lot. He and David were sparring over "the wall" well it was first "being off the wall" and Allen parried, "tell him I built the wall" and David parried "tell him I Designed the wall" and Allen finally said, I have to meet this guy!! One day a month or two later Allen calls to me in the front of the Restaurant, Hey Karen, David's here!! He had never seen him, a picture of him or talked to him on the phone but when he saw him walking up to the back

door of the restaurant from the parking lot he KNEW it was David and indeed it was. I was not even expecting him. He had decided to move over to P'ville. Well THAT was the first link. Allen was then the seeker. We were separated from Allen for a while and when he contacted us again I was never so happy to see someone. It was like homecoming for me. His Mother was with him that day and I will never forget how I felt. But that is another story entirely … Some time later, I don't remember how long David and I decided to get married. We had been together for 12 years (since 1978) and decided it was time to make it so…it was all done in one day. We went to the county and took care of the paperwork there and then we just needed someone to marry us so we called Allen. He had once mentioned if we ever wanted to get married that his "pastor" would marry us. So we drove down to Bobbie's house and met Bobbie and Bobbie married David and me. That was Oct 24th 1990, 12 years to the day from the time David and I first met and the story I just recounted happened. Other time lines will have to be given to you by them but I think that was the first year that David went to Mountain Meet. He knew that it was what he wanted. Oh not the camping but rather the energy that he could feel and hear. He knew that this was the true voice for him. I don't remember exactly how it came to be but he received his dedication into what was then 'Shadow Dragon Coven' in the mountains either that year of the following year. With his interest I began to look into Wicca, to discover what these people that I was falling in love with saw. I began to see a very special difference and connection to life in a way that I had felt but not ever understood before. I think for a while that David thought I was just following to keep an eye on him, but I truly was not! I would never change something so important to me for that kind of reason. I had been raised as a Christian Scientist and the one thing that I had always felt they did nearly "right" was it showed me that Power (God) heals. Weather you call it God, Goddess, Allah, Yahweh, it doesn't matter a whit! I always thought they made it way too hard also. You know "Much Ado about Nothing" sort of thing. It had to be sooooo much easier than that. Well it is. And Wicca showed me exactly how easy. The Magick is all around us. Once I accepted the concept that it was NOT a God that created the earth, then man, then me, then the beasts of the field, then the plants, etc. etc. etc. But rather a God/dess that IS all these things. That we are all connected and that everything that is, is of the Goddess therefore everything that is has life and value; even the rocks, the mountains, and all the critters that we can't see. So from this story you can see that We started in the Georgian Tradition and our teachers were Bobbie and Allen, primarily Allen.

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

Karen - I suppose you could say that my interest in the craft came around 1990 when we started going to Bobbie's all the time (quite a little jaunt for us, about 110 miles round trip) and interacting with her and her friends (students) there.

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

Karen - Quite a question this one. I feel I have been Wiccan all my life. I just needed to be smacked up-side the head to understand that I was, and find a path where I could learn what I already knew, about the Magick that we have inside us and outside us every single day in every single thing we handle or do. Next time I will write my life script I will do it so that I learn what I am earlier in my existence. I learned about it way later in this lifetime than I would have chosen. But then since I plan to live till I am 125, there is still lots of time to get it right. As for being damned to the Georgian trad…such damnation should be the worst of all lives to my way of thinking…I suppose I have to blame that one on Allen because he was the seeker that Mother brought to us to help show us the way to Wicca.

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

Karen - No children anymore. As for grandchildren…they are all grand nieces and nephews but I have lots of those and great grandnieces and nephews too

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

Karen - Yes, my "students", some of them call me Mom. One of them calls David PapaBear and she calls me MamaBear. I really like that too. I have never told her how much I like that so this is my chance.

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

Karen - Well life is slower these days yet it seems full for what I can manage. I am retired and disabled and some days are really good, pain wise, and others are not. I find that if I sleep well I feel better than when I don't sleep well. I guess it is the time my body is repairing itself so I need to remember to let it. We and by WE I mean David and Two of our Students and me (very little) have been working on our circle out front. We got what I call Column Stands for the quarters except the altar quarter, and large glass jars (actually they are supposed to be ice buckets) are at each of the 4 quarters (including the altar) filled with the appropriate colored Rock A great deal of work has been done here on the premises by our two students Gene and Maureen. Their energy and desire to work out of doors is phenomenal. David has been involved in what they are doing from the beginning. He knows what he wants done and what he doesn't want done so he spends his time outside with them when they are here being the armchair director much of the time and helping where he is able from time to time. Gene was able to cut up the felled tree so now we have a huge amount of wood to burn in the cauldron for circle and for other gatherings. We hope more of our Bakersfield friends will be able to make it this way from time to time. We know it is a far piece and with gas prices what they are, it makes it very hard. We are proud of the space we have made though and would like to be able to share it more. Recently Gene received his 1st Degree in the Georgian Tradition. They come from training in Strega so they are not without skills, however since Strega does not even consider itself wiccan, we started them over explaining that we don't want to leave any spaces in their training by assuming that they know something that they don't know. The truth be known in some areas they are more "knowledgeable" than maybe our tradition expects us to be but they agreed to our proposal to have them start anew and so far they have found that we look at things somewhat differently so it has been a good experience. It is always a challenge taking someone that has a "background" in Wicca and teaching them. There are always areas that can be somewhat questionable as to form and content. We

each learn from these differences. This is how the tradition grows and shapes itself, within the original parameters of the GBOS!!

GNL - Attended/Missed many Mt Meets?

Karen - I have been to a few Mountain Meets. I wish I could go to them all, but I just cannot deal with the cold and the walking all over. It is just not my shtick. I am not a camper at all, and while I love seeing everyone I am not happy being away from home and hearth. So every year, David goes, he takes what they tell him to bring and his camping gear and he loves every minute of it! I stay home and take care of the animals and while I genuinely miss him, I know that he is safe among the people we love who would never let anything happen to him that they could prevent.

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

Karen - Yeah ok, I guess you dragged this one out of my memory!! I had just received my first degree and I was attending my first Lupercalia. Oh I knew what Lupercalia was and I had an appropriate outfit that everyone was just a little shocked over because they didn't think I would do it. I dressed myself up in a black lace camisole top with a sort of built in bra and little black panties that had lace and garters that hung down from underneath and I wore black lace stockings but I did wear a silky sort of bed jacket thing over it all that covered up a good deal of what sort of didn't show any way! It was a great teaser of an outfit and I felt sexy for the first time in my life wearing it. There were much worse and much tamer outfits among the more than 20 in the crowd at the gathering so I had nothing to be embarrassed about…until…it was time to play one of the many games! I have forgotten how it all came about but we had each written our name on a piece of paper which was then folded and put into a hat. Suddenly Diane (Del's wife) was holding up this hat and David (My Husband) was drawing a name out of the hat. The

first name was Del. He had won a prize but no one would tell him what prize it was until after the second name had been drawn.

David dipped his hand in for another name, and came out with mine, Kundalini. I knew this crowd and while I did not know what was coming I knew Gail was the games mistress and it would be nothing "tame" from my point of view. First I learned I won an Edible Bra! Oh my goodness!! "You will be Del's Prize. You put on your Edible bra and he gets to eat it off of you in front of all of us!" I said uh, I don't think so, no. Then came all the prompter's. Aw come on, be a sport, etc. I listened to each one of them Including my own husband and Del's own wife encouraging me to do it! I said to myself they are only breasts and my own husband is telling me to do it, and Del is such a sweetie and his own wife is encouraging me to do it, hell I had worn the outfit and shocked everyone who really knew me with that move and here my own husband wants me to go for it, so in the spirit of the party, I finally said "ok, I'll do it." The next thing out of someone's mouth was ok everyone get your cameras ready!! I said oh no. No pictures, or the deal is off!!! So thanks to that maneuver there are no pictures of this event, I did indeed go through with it and so did Del! He was so sweet about the whole thing. If it had been any one else there I would never have consented to it. All in all it is a positive memory. In a way it makes me feel a little humbled because today, I would not care at all. It just would not bother me. Not that I am "up for it any time soon" to anyone who thinks they could set it up. Just thought I would be clear on that point. I remember I am talking to a bunch of pagans!

We wound up last night's coven meeting by singing songs from the new song book. We especially enjoyed "Old Time Religion" with 22 verses.

Dorothy Morrison

Ostara

(March 20 or 21)

Dorothy Morrison

Related Deities: Eostre, The adolescent Spring Maiden, the adolescent Spring Lord
Related Herbs: Jasmine, rose, violet
Related Stones: Moss agate, green moonstone, orange calcite, rose quartz

Also known as Vernal Equinox or Spring Equinox, Ostara (o-star-a) marks the rekindling of the life within the Earth and the renewal of fertility to our spiritual lives. This fertility festival and the Christian Easter celebration both get their names from the free spirited goddess, Eostre. Legend has it that while entertaining a group of children, she once turned a bird into a rabbit. To the amusement of the children, the bewitched animal laid colored eggs. Her story is the basis for the Easter Bunny, spring egg hunts, and most other traditions associated with this holiday. [2]

2. Since Ostara is the celebration of the Spring Equinox – the first day of spring – festival dates vary year to year.

Eostre's story aside, the egg is an excellent symbol for the spring celebration. The eggs white represents the all encompassing nature of the Goddess while the golden yolk represents the virile qualities of the Sun God. The symmetrical outer shell binds the two together, sealing Their fertility and Their perfect love for one another.

From a more mundane angle, all animal life comes from eggs. Fish, fowl, amphibians, and insects lay them. Mammals conceive when sperm cells penetrate them. If you wanted to stretch the imagination somewhat, you could say that vegetations sprouts from eggs, too. Being embryonic and shell-covered, sees are egg like in nature. For these reasons eggs provide a prime fertility symbol for the Ostara ritual. For use ideas, try some of the tips in the Ostara Celebration Ideas.

Ostara Circle Notes

Use a green altar cloth, pastel colored candles, and decorate with wild flowers or flowers of the season. Burn Ostara incense (a mixture of orris root, jasmine, rose and violet petals). Use small baskets of appropriate colored eggs to mark the Quarters.

Cast the Circle with the wand, alternately use a flowering branch of some sort. Dogwood, cherry, and pussy willow branches all work well.

Ostara Celebration Ideas

Serve deviled eggs and milk for libation instead of cakes and wine

Using a white crayon, label eggs with qualities you'd like to add to your personal life. For example, you might label one for prosperity, another with kindness, and so on. Dye each egg an appropriate color, bless it during the ritual, and eat it. Know that the quality's spiritual seeds have been planted within you and will flourish throughout the year.

Plant an uncooked egg at each corner of your property to ensure a fruitful home life. As you put each egg in place, say something like this:

Fertile eggs of ancient life
Bring joy and laughter – ease all strife –
And with your great fertility
Grand perfect love and harmony
To all who live within these bounds
Be they person, thing, wildlife or hound

Thoroughly beat three eggs and blend them into a quart of milk, bless the mixture by saying something like:

Fertile measures of the Earth
Meld and mix with joy and mirth
Bring all you touch fertility
As I will, so mote it be

The use it to asperge and bless any yet unplanted garden areas. (If you don't have an outdoor space but intend to grow seeds indoors, put the mixture in a spray bottle and thoroughly mist the inside areas of the pots.) As you sprinkle the area, say something like:

Milk and eggs, now fertilize
This plot of Earth beneath the skies
I bless this place by Lord and Maid
Soil grow rich, in sun and shade

Weather permitting, hold the rite outdoors in the garden space. After the ritual, mark out the planting area and till it thoroughly, working the soil until it's smooth and supple. Then spread out a blanket and have a picnic on the spot. Make plans for planting the garden.

This is taken from Dorothy Morrison's book "The Craft, A Witches Book Of Shadows" and you can find this on Page 163

Recipe

Ostara Stuffed Eggs

Here is an easy way to add some eggs to your Ostara feast!

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 hard boiled eggs
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1/8 cup sugar
- fresh thyme or basil

PREPARATION:

Remove the shells from the eggs and slice them lengthwise. Scoop out the yolks and save them in a bowl. Add the mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar. Whip together until nice and smooth. Use a pastry bag or a small spoon to add a big dollop of yolk mixture back onto the egg whites. Sprinkle with herbs and serve.

Ostara Egg Information

Natural Dyes for Ostara Eggs

Yellow - Carrots, Fenugreek, Turmeric, White grape juice
Yellow Orange - Vanilla extract
Orange - Dandelions, Yellow onion skins, Paprika, Orris root
Pink - Heather, Iris blossoms
Red - Cayenne, Madder root, Red onion skins
Reddish Purple - Purple grape juice, Red raspberries
Blueish Purple - Beet juice, Blackberries, Mulberries
Blue - Black raspberries, Blueberries, Red cabbage
Green - Bracken, Carrot tops
Yellow Green - Daffodils

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Students and teachers, witches and witchlings, hard at it boiling cauldrons and rounding up newts for spells and potions. The following witches have been elevated in degree, we are all proud of them and the degree's are well deserved!!

~1st degree –
-Sarenth, of Samhain Moon on Imbolc
-Zattera of Coven of the Children Between the Worlds on March 1st

Ye Gods!
How time flies when you are busy. I completely forgot to email you all and brag about initiating

Grasshopper at Imbolc. I invited a Priest to come over from the Victory Base Open Circle for the Ritual. He is not Georgian, but you work with what the Gods provide - especially in Iraq. LOL! So far, there have been no ill effects from being initiated in a war zone. Initiation performed by Lady Tabitha

Birthdays!!!
Rowan Moonstone – March 9

Monthly Forecast for March, 2008

--Provided by Astrology.com
Sometimes when it seems like somebody is helping you, it's really you helping them by letting them help you. On the 1st and 2nd, you may see this happening -- so go ahead and ask for help whenever you need it. On the 6th and 7th, you could have a startling revelation: Are you living your dreams? Chances are, you are. Pat yourself on the back for making this choice. Most people never try to live their dreams, because that way the dreams remain completely intact. But you're braver than that, and every day you test the life (both the good and bad parts) you've dreamed of, letting it be a complex, concrete reality, not just some idealized concept. On the 13th, don't let somebody who's jealous of your grit give you a hard time. It's their choice not to give living their dreams a shot, so don't you go shouldering the blame for their weakness. You need your strength for your own projects! On the 17th, really focus on your health. (You need your strength for that, too.) By the 21st and 22nd, a problem comes up in a partnership. Make sure you stand your ground. You have every right to have your feelings. On the 27th, be righteous. By the 31st, wrap up the month with a few daydreams. Then go out and live them!

The constellation of Pisces appears as a fish swimming in the waters that pour from Aquarius. In Babylonian times, this star formation was associated with the gods *Oannes* and *Dagon.* These were water deities in the form of fish. Also in this constellation is the Leash– upon which were tied the two fish goddesses, Anunitum and Simmah. In Islamic astronomy, this area of the sky was known as *The Large Fish.*

The next newsletter will have good ole Taurus! So if you're a sign of the Bull

Over the past year we have had quite a number of initiation and dedication, lets look back and remember them and their achievements

~Dedications~
Zattera and Spirtit Mother
Robert and Darlene of the Travis Earth Circle
Tina of Coven Modron

~1st degree –
Epona of Coven of the Children Between the Worlds
Jeff Ray of the Coven of Children Between the Worlds
Gypsey, spouse of Marla Roberson
Mirage of Silver Oak Coven (June 10)
Ravyn Shadowdrake of Coven Samhain Moon
Iron Dragon Circle of the Samhain Moon
Chloe on December 22, 2007 of Beachfyre Coven
Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs is proud to
Orchid of Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs
Owlsong of Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs
Finnoula of Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs.
Sitara of Beachfyre Coven

~2nd degree
Kerridwen of ShadowDragon Coven
Gwynafar of Travis Earth Circle
Moose
Azure
Anise
Rain of Samhain Moon
Morgan of Samhain Moon
Lavender, of Silver Oak Coven

~3rd degree
Lady Gaia Rose of Children Between the Worlds
Lady Kerridwen (Shawn) of Temple Nathrock
Lady Selene of Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs.
Moose-George of Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs.
Azure-Beth of Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs.
Anise-Sean of Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs.
Mary of ElvenHeart

Over the course of the year we have spotlighted 8, 3rd degree Elders. Starting with good ole Pat himself at Ostara, then Bobbie at Beltane, Loye at Litha, Georgia at Lughnasadh, Allen at Mabon, Cindy at Samhain, Puck at Yule and Marla at Imbolc

Georgia says this is her in 1978 along with Pat.

Pat was in our Ostara 2007

Georgia was Lughnasadh 2007

Bobbie was Beltane 2007

Shonsu was Mabon 2007

Puck was Yule 2007

Loye for Litha 2007

Cindy was Samhain 2007

centerfold for 2K8

And Marla was our Imbolc

(featured here with Georgia or Lughnasadh playmate)

Being a Witch

Dorothy Morrison

Walking the Path

By Dorothy Morrison
From her book "The Craft"

The Craft is accepting, generous, and loving. It's gentle, unobtrusive, and supportive. It's an ethical way of life that, once embraced brings immeasurable joy and wonder to every day living.

There are many things involved in walking the path of Wicca effectively. First and foremost, we must remember the things that our parents tied to instill within us. Things like playing nice, using good judgment, and know when to listen rather than speak. But the most important thing is what your parents constantly impressed upon you day in and day out. It, of course, is good manners.

Weather dealing with the deities, members of your Craft family, or just people on the street, these things are important. Sadly enough, though, they seem to be lacking in many of those who live in our world today. For that reason, we live by the tenets listed below. Study them, and learn them well. And, if a situation arises that isn't covered, just go back to the basics your parents tried to teach you. If it's not polite, don't do it!

The Wiccan Rede has been around for a long time. It not only outlines our rules but gives a brief summery of how we live the magical life. This is important stuff; so important, in fact, I've always had my students commit it to memory. Memorizing this will serve *you* well too.

The Wiccan Rede

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

Live and let live; fairly take and fairly give.

Cast the Circle thrice about; to keep all evil spirits out.
To bind the spell every time, let the spell be spake in rhyme.

Soft of eye and light of touch, speak little and listen much.

Deosil go by the waxing Moon, sing and dance the Witches' Rune.
Widdershins go when the moon doth wane,
and werewolf howls by the dread wolfsbane.

When the Lady's Moon is new, kiss thy hand to Her times two.
When the Moon rides at Her peak, then your heart's desire speak.

Heed the Northwind's mighty gale, lock the door and drop 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 thee on the mouth.

When the Westwind blows o'er thee, departed spirits restless be.

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

Elder is the Lady's tree---burn it not or cursed be.

When the Wheel begins to turn, let the Beltane fires burn.

When the wheel hath turned to Yule, light the log and let Pan rule.

Heed ye flower, bush, and tree, and by the Lady, blessed be!

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

Whenever you have need, harken not to others greed.

With a fool, no season spend, nor be counted as his friend.

Merry Meet and Merry Part, bright the cheeks and warm the heart.

Mind the Threefold Law you should, three times bad an' three times good.

When misfortune is enow, wear the star upon your brow.

True in love ever be, unless thy love is false to thee.

These Eight words the Rede fulfill:

"An Ye Harm None, Do What Ye Will"

From The Craft

by Dorothy Morrison (Tex)

Recipe

Country-Witch Eggnog

Recipe by Gerina Dunwich

1 cup apple cider
3 cups milk
2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup whipping cream
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 tablespoons brandy

Combine all of the ingredients in a large cauldron or pot and cook over medium heat for 13 minutes. Pour the hot eggnog into mugs and top each serving with fresh whipped cream (if desired).

Country-Witch Eggnog is the perfect drink to serve your Wiccan friends and family members at Yuletide (Winter Solstice) and Ostara (Spring Equinox) sabbats. (This recipe yield two quarts.)

Art Work

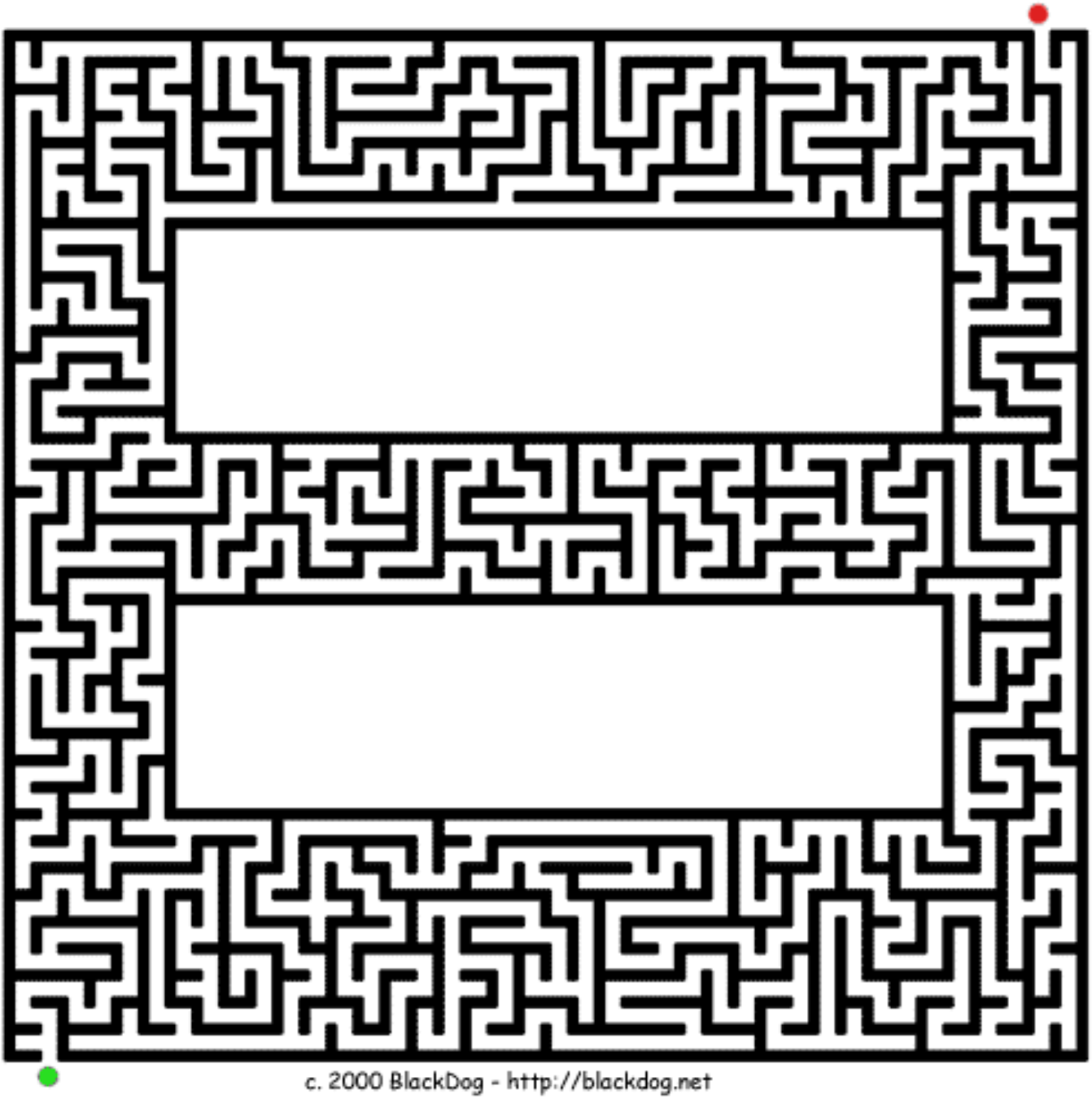
For Lupercalia I made these candle holders and incense burners

Here are the Goddess & God

And here is Pan

This is the lid to my chest, yes I do a little wood carving too.

Here's a picture I recently did. It's a second attempt so who knows. We all know her as Marla! Miss Imbolc 2008



c. 2000 BlackDog - http://blackdog.net

Blodeuwedd

Blodeuwedd is the Welsh goddess of Spring. She was made totally out of flowers. It is said that her form was to cover up for his cold heart that longed for the blood of the King, her husband Llew, to fall upon the soil. The Encyclopedia of Mystica tells the story of how she tricked the King into revealing the secret way in which he could be killed. After he told her the possible way to end his life she tricked him into setting himself up in that position. With one foot in a cauldron and one foot on a coat while wrapped in fishing net Blodeuwedd's lover, Goronwy, stabbed the King with a weapon formed during sacred hours. Instead of dying the Llew was turned into an eagle and later returned to human form. Legend has it that Blodeuwedd was turned into an owl, a bird that must haunt the night and be shunned by all other birds. Llew eventually killed Goronwy.

Blodeuwedd is also said to be the Ninefold Goddess of the Western Aisles of Paradise. She was considered one of the virgin goddesses.

http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/goddess_weekly/60734

EOSTRE

(Pan-Celtic) [ESS-trah or Y'OSE-tree] Eostre is an Anglo-Saxon Goddess, the one for whom the Ostara Sabbat is named. When the Saxons invaded Britain, they brought this vigorous Goddess with them and she was eventually adopted into the Celtic pantheon.

She is seen as spring personified, a Goddess of rebirth, new beginnings, and fertility. The name for animal menstruation, "estrus", meaning fertile period, is derived from her name, and as such, she is also a Goddess of animal reproduction. The Christian holiday of Easter is also her namesake, and the concept of the Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs come from her legends.
See also Ostara.

***Star's Note: Also from where we get "estrogen".

http://www.joellessacredgrove.com/Celtic/deitiesd-e-f.html

Ostara was the Germanic goddess of the sun and fertility. Ostara was also associated with the coming of spring, and her festival was held on the spring equinox, which is March 21. For the Germanic people, spring was the time of fertility and rebirth. She was equated with the goddess Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess. Eostre was most likely just another name for Ostara. Eostre was the goddess of spring.

St Bede the Venerable wrote that the Christian Easter derived its name from Eostre, which was held on the same day of the festival of the German Ostara, but the date was later changed. Easter Sunday, the day of Christ's resurrection, varied between March 22 and April 25, depending on when the first Sunday of the full moon (the paschal moon), after the spring equinox. See also Norse Festivals.

The usual tradition of modern Easter, such as the Easter eggs and Easter bunny, also come from pagan custom. The rabbit was the sacred animal to Eostre, the symbol of fertility. The egg also symbolised fertility and rebirth of spring. The whiteness of the egg and the rabbit also indicated purity.

http://www.timelessmyths.com/norse/teutonic.html#Ostara

submitted by Star Shadowdrake

ACCEPTANCE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SELF

This is the body where my soul and spirit reside in this lifetime.

This can be a thorny subject. There are the separate definitions of soul and of spirit, and the separate belief in reincarnation, as implied by the phrase " . . . in this lifetime." Some will contest even the existence of any of these terms. What are they? We can start with definitions:

From The American Heritage r Dictionary

soul (n.) The animating and vital principle in humans, credited with the faculties of thought, action, and emotion and often conceived as an immaterial entity.

soul (n.) The spiritual nature of humans, regarded as immortal, separable from the

body at death, and susceptible to happiness or misery in a future state.

soul (n.) The disembodied spirit of a dead human.

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spirit *(n.)* The vital principle or animating force within living beings.

spirit *(n.)* The soul, considered as departing from the body of a person at death.

spirit *(v.)* To carry off mysteriously or secretly: *The documents had been spirited away.*

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reincarnation *(n.)* Rebirth of the soul in another body.

reincarnation *(n.)* A reappearance or revitalization in another form; a new embodiment:*"The brownstone had already endured one reincarnation: In the 1940's, it was converted into eight studio apartments"* (Ben Lloyd)

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SOUL: the immortal element in human beings sometimes regarded as our true SELF. The EXISTENCE of the soul is denied in BUDDHISM and certain FORMS of HINDUISM. Other HINDU philosophies teach the existence of the soul which is integral to the notion of TRANSMIGRATION. In early CHRISTIANITY, as seen in the three ECUMENICAL CREEDS, the central CONCEPT was the RESURRECTION of the body rather than the IMMORTALITY of the soul which gradually replaced the earlier emphasis.

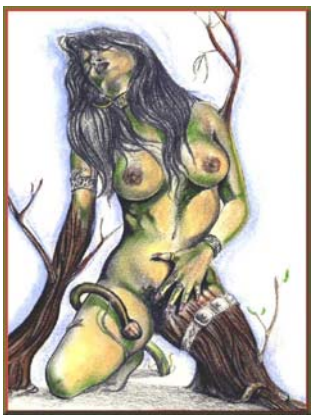
http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~nurelweb/books/concise/WORDS-S.html

Interestingly, it is the verb form of soul which is intriguing. The word "secretly" jumps out because a soul is secret. It is not something which we can touch, taste, see, feel or smell. It is vital to our life-force, but not something which is of the physical or material world.

Soul and spirit have almost the same definitions. Some religions believe in body and soul, and some believe in body, soul and spirit. Both soul and spirit leave the body at the time of death. Do they continue afterwards? That is also a highly debatable issue.

When I was 21 years old, my father suddenly and unexpectly died. With my baby boy, I was flown to Texas to attend the funeral. When it came time for the viewing of the body at the funeral home, I told my stepmother I didn't want to go. She insisted, and pressured me until I agreed to go. I went, and refused to enter the funeral home. Nothing she did could induce me to enter. What resided in the casket was the empty shell of my father. I didn't need to enter to see his shell. He wasn't there. My uncle, who was my father's youngest brother and a smaller twin of my father, came out, and looked white as a sheet. It had been like looking at himself. We talked, outside, in the October air, with Orion's Belt looking down on us. When the fall arrives, I look for my old companion. Do I have any empirical evidence that my father's soul and spirit have survived? No. Do I believe they have? Absolutely.

Examples of definitions, inclusions and exclusions by different religions.



"Transformis"

Done in soft pastels by yours truly
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Symbolism of Color

White: Purity, birth, virginity, and innocence.

Yellow: Youth, light, purity, happiness an wisdom

Red: passion, love, enthusiasm

Orange: Endurance, strength, power

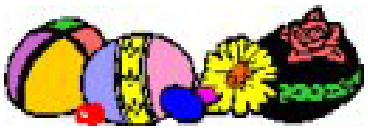
Green: Renewal, freshness, hope, victory of life over death

Brown: earth

Blue: Sky, good health derived from air

Purple: patience, trust and power

Black: remembrance, eternity, constancy, death



Some Symbols to try

Nets and baskets: Containing knowledge, motherhood, giving life and gifts

Ladders: Searching, rising above the petty, ascending

Combs: Putting things in order

Rakes: Successful harvest

Trees: Strength, renewal, creation, organic unity, growth and eternal life

Leaves: Immortality., eternal or pure love, strength, persistence

Flowers: Beauty, children, fennel principles of wisdom and elegance

Fruit: continuity, good fellowship, strong and loyal love, love of the divine

Sunflowers: Motherhood, life, love the Divine

Wheat: Bountiful Harvest

Stags: Leadership, victory, joy, masculinity

Horses: Wealth, prosperity, endurance, speed and the motion of the Sun

Rams: Leadership, strength, dignity, perseverance.

Birds: All kinds, are messengers of the Sun and the heavens, pushing away evil. Fertility, fulfillment of wishes

Roosters: Good Fortune, masculinity, coming of the dawn

Butterflies: Ascent of the Soul, pleasure and frivolity of childhood

Spiders: Patience, artistry, industry, healing and good fortune

Fish: Abundance, sacrifice regenerations

Circles: Protection, everlasting life, continuity, completeness

Triangles: The elements of air, fire and water and earth

suns: The life-giving all embracing nature of the God

Tripods: Man, woman, and child. Birth, Life and Death

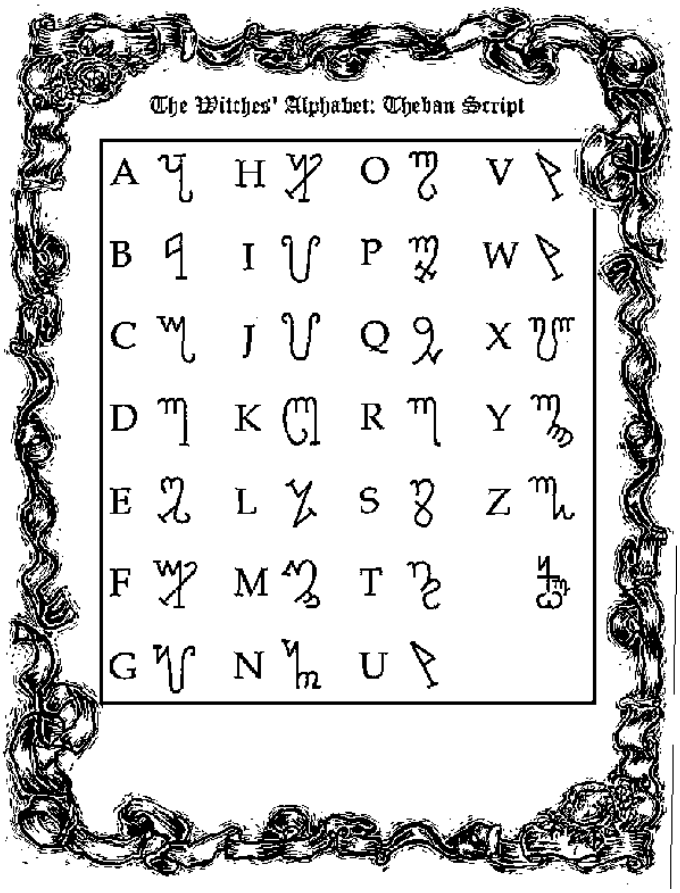
Stars and Roses: Purity, life, giver of light, the eye of God

Curls: protection

Spirals: Mystery of life and death, divinity and immortality

The Witches Alphabet

(Theban Script)



Links

http://www.georgianwicca.com

http://www.angelfire.com/country/MountainMeet/

www.ravenfeathers1.com

Ostara
(Spring Equinox)

The whispering of the wind---permeates the long night,
Darkness our cool cover---as we await the Lady's light.

All time is suspended---as closer and closer She nears,
Coming once more, as before---to thus assuage all fears.

Awesome Ostara arrives! Great Goddess of Rebirth,
Regal and radiant She dawns---gazing o'er the Earth.

A torch to the beacon bonfire---as a symbol of our love,
Loud is the laughter---resounding to heaven above.

Joyfully we jump---tossing Ostara's eggs on high,
Dancing with awed delight---beneath Her beautiful sky.

Earth offers to Ostara---grasses, grains, and flowers,
Gifts of harmony and health---herbs of healing powers.

Our own offerings---are ay of love and loyalty,
To the Star-crowned Queen---dressed in Dawn's robe of royalty.

Hail to our Lovely Lady---She Who Ever Shall Be!
Within our Ur-Self's center---within the Well and Tree!

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