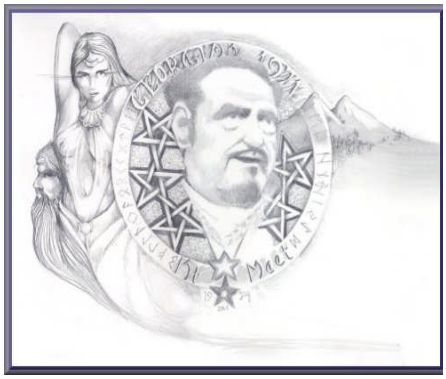
THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



IMBOLC 2009

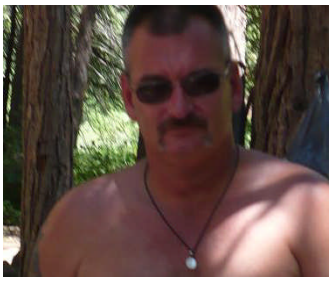
What's Inside:

- Spotlight
- Recipes
- Announcements
- Art and Poems
- Imbolc
- Candlemas

SPOTLIGHT

JEFF RAY

~Coven Symbollic~



GNL - Where are you from originally? Where do you call home now?

Jeff - Born in Sacramento Raised in Fremont Calif (the bay area) then spent a few years in the Marine Corps and the North Carolina and Tennessee area

GNL -When did you "discover" Wicca.
Jeff - When I noticed a change in my better half I started reading some of the stuff she left out

GNL -What tradition did you start in? if any? How long have you been interested in the craft?
Jeff - I started in the Georgian triad and have been involved in the craft for bout four years know
Are you a Georgian?

GNL -Who introduced you to the Georgians? Are you an initiated Georgian?
Jeff -The wife and I where both brought into the Georgian Tradition by Kate

GNL -Children? (how many?), grandchildren?
Jeff -Three daughters and one grandchild with another grandbaby due the first of March

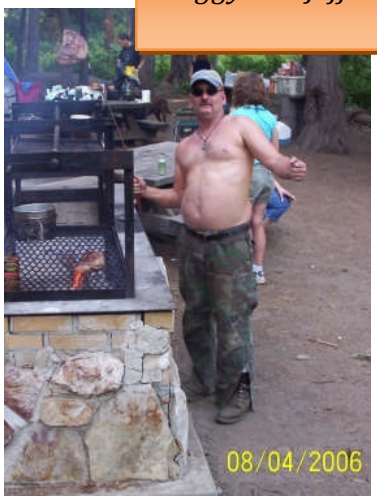
GNL -Describe your life a little these days, what great is going on?
Jeff - Sit down buckle up and hold on. With kids and grandkids always something happening then work, work, work. Then hopefully try to find the time to do some travelling with the better half. My life is constant motion.

GNL -Got any hobby's or special skills, maybe super powers or something?....you know, get bit by a radioactive wombat or something?
Jeff -I have very good instincts and think on my feet very quickly which come in handy when trying to get out of the jam I normally get myself into

GNL -Attended/Missed many Mt Meets? Or other gatherings you would strongly suggest others attending?

Jeff -Attended my first Mt Meet bout three years ago then missed the next one and only got to go for the day last year. Going to be there this year for the whole deal. The wife and I made it to Pantheocon couple years ago. What a trip strongly recommend this to anybody. We have also made it to a number of pagan pride events from Fresno to LA

Mt Meet 2008
The Day Trip!
Peggy and Jeff



Jeff's first Mt Meet in 2006. If you ask Jeff what is the best way to start a fire? Combustible liquids are always his first choice!

New baby!!!

Wyatt Cole Brinegar was born Dec 29, 2008 at 4:34 pm. He weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and 20 inches long. Little Wyatt with proud Mommy (Linda) and Daddy (Kenny). Mommy and Daddy are member of the Coven of Children Between the Worlds located in Porterville. Me and Kenny brought him home on Dec 31, 2008. I could not be any happier then I am right now.

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:
~1st degree: Robert and Darlene of Coven Symbollic on December 21, 2008
~2nd degree: Amber Willendorf of Coven Star Borealis took her 2* on Nov 14
~3rd degree: Dallion Firewolf of Coven Star Borealis took his on Nov 14th 2008

New Coven: Star Borealis Nov 14th of 2008
North Florida

Coming of age…

Coming of age, we all went through our little trials as we grew up. That first bike, sweet 16, turning 18 (I think Alice Coopers song sums this right of passage up nicely) , turning 21….you know, when you were now legally allowed to go to a bar and make a fool of yourself for the joy of others, so on and so forth. Different faiths also have their coming of age rituals and we are no different. We celebrate these events in different ways and celebrate that changing season of life as we move through them.

Coming of Age!!

Beachfyre Coven, Lady Rayna, and Lord Canu are proud to announce a coming of age ceremony was held on Friday December 5, 2008 for their oldest son Morgan Storm Owens, who turned 13 this past July. In a circle of close friends and magickal family, Morgan was welcomed into the adult community and given many blessings. This event was part of the Turning the Tide festival, hosted by Everglades Moon Local Council of the Covenant of the Goddess (Rayna is one of the organizers) in Miami, Florida.

The gods were watching Morgan that weekend, because he was given the opportunity to fill in as the young Oak King when a sick member of Witch and Famous Coven could not attend the main ritual of the festival on Saturday night. We are very blessed to have Morgan as part of our family and our community and thank everyone who was in attendance at the coming of age ritual for their love and support.

Congrats to the young man and his family and loved ones!!!

Imbolc

(February 2)
Page 161 of the Craft, a Witches Book of Shadows
By Dorothy Morrison

Related Deities: Brigid, Brid, the Maiden, the Spring Goddess, the young Lord
Related Herbs: Angelica, basil, bay leaves, myrrh
Related Stones: Quartz crystal, opal, moonstone, aventurine, sunstone

Although we call this celebration Imbolc [im'-bolk] or Candlemas, you probably know it as Groundhog Day. The word *Imbolc* literally means "in the belly." No other name could be more appropriate, for this celebration is the first fetal stirrings of the Earth as She responds to the wake-up call of Spring. And, although this is definitely a fire festival, the emphasis is not so much on warmth as it is light. Why? Because the light is necessary to guide spring's path so it doesn't get lost, or even worse, forget to renew the Earth with its greening. This is also the reason all candles to be used in magical efforts for the next twelve months are blessed at this time.

One theme for this celebration surrounds the preparation of Brid's or Brgid's [Breeds] Bed. This is usually a basket filled with raffia or Easter grass that's decorated with ivy and white satin ribbons. Then a corn dolly dressed as a bride is placed along with a symbol of masculinity. This represents the first intimate encounter between the Maiden Goddess and the Young Lord, and ensures fertility for the months ahead.

The most common theme, however, is that of purification. It's symbolized by the sweeping of the Circle, and is a little like Spring-cleaning for the body, mind, and spirit. We get rid of what's no longer of use to us-bad habits, old ideas, pre-conceived notions, unsavory character traits, and so forth-to make room for the new and exciting things to come. We open our minds and our spirits to change and all it entails. And in doing so, we embrace new life-a fertile, wonderful life where doors open and things fall in place, a life that greens our hearts as well as our spirits, the life that we truly want to live.

Imbolc Circle Notes

Use a brown altar cloth to symbolize the Earth, and decorate with narcissus, daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths, or other seasonal flowering bulbs. Anoint white candles with musk oil and place them in ivy-covered candle rings. Burn Imbolc Incense (a mixture os angelica, basil, bay leaves and myrrh).

After casting the Circle with the wand, use the besom to sweep the parameter. As you sweep, say something like:

With this besom filled with power
Sweep away the old and sour
Sweep away the chill of death
As winter draws it's last cold breath
Round, round, round about
Sweep the old and useless out!

After libation, bless the candles for the coming months by saying something like:

I bless thee creatures of waxing light
And cast out negativity
Serve your purpose, flaming bright
Infused with magic, you shall be
Instrument of light and strength
Wick and wax though you may be
I give you life of needed length
To aid in creativity!

Continue Circle in normal manner.

Imbolc Celebration Ideas

- Turn on all the lights in the house to guide the path of Spring. If you like, burn a votive candle in each room instead.
- Tie three small ears of corn together with a white satin ribbon, then wrap the bundle in a doily to represent Brid. Use a clear quartz crystal point to represent the Young Lord. As you place them in the basket, say something like:

The Maiden and Lord now bring us light
The winter dies, and all is bright
And as they lie, in bed so near
The frozen ground does disappear—
For their love brings fertility
To the Earth again; so mote it be

- Burn all evergreen decorations from the Yule ritual. This ensures good luck in the coming year.
- Tie small bundles of straw together with pieces of black ribbon. Name each bundle for something for something you want removed from your life, then burn it in the cauldron.
- After libation, walk outdoors for a few moments. Remember the warmth of the Spring. Then trace the male and female symbols (the symbols for Mars and Venus) on the ground and enclose them in a circle. Say something like:

Encased in Sun, Your light shall shine
And guide the Spring towards greening time
And as your hearts both melt in love
The light grows stronger from above

This is taken from Dorothy Morrison's book "The Craft, A Witches Book Of Shadows" and you can find this on Page 161

So, we come a full circle in Sabbats (Ostara thru Imbolc) with Dorothy Morrison's book, I hope we all enjoyed Lady Morrison's contribution to the newsletter. I would like to thank her for allowing me to spotlight her book for our enjoyment and education!

BB
Loye

Recipe

Honey-Apple Chicken
Or
Game Hen or Rabbit

Until the twelfth century, the Gauls, and probably the Britons, roasted their meat on a spit rather than baking or broiling it in an oven. This recipe would have been

used for spit-roasting, with a pot of lard next to the spit for basting.

Peel, core and dice	1 apple (dried for authenticity)
Chop coarsely	1 onion
Toss apple and onion with	1 tsp of salt 1 tsp of pepper
Stuff into	1 chicken, 4 to 6 game hens, or place in roasting pan around pheasant, rabbit, beef, etc.
Melt together	4 tablespoons butter 4 tablespoons honey
Baste meat with	Honey-butter (about 2 tablespoons each)

Roast (depending on quantity and kind of meat) about 1 ½ hours at 325 degrees, basting halfway through. Cover for moist meat, uncovering for last 15 minutes to brown.

~CANDLEMAS~

Your know, I get asked why I don't call Imbolc Candlemas, this is the reason I choose not to. This is not to say others can't call it that, but I prefer not to be mixed up with another faith. And I insist that my students research EVERYTHING we do, then make an educated decision on what you will do.

BB Loye

All About Candlemas (Presentation of the Lord)
Candlemas History, Information, Prayers, Resources, Traditions, & More
Candlemas (Presentation Feast) Definition and Summary
The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, commonly called Candlemas, commemorates the presentation of Christ in the temple and the ritual purification of the Virgin Mary. The feast falls on February 2nd. Prayers: Candlemas Prayers

Basic Facts About Candlemas
Liturgical Color(s): White
Type of holiday; Feast
Time of Year: February 2
Duration: One Day
Celebrates / Symbolizes: The presentation of Jesus in the temple and the ritual purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Alternate Names: Candlemas, Feast of the presentation of Christ in the Temple, Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, *Hypapante tou kyriou* ("meeting of the Lord").
Scriptural References: leviticus 12:1-4; Luke 2:22-39
Introduction
The Feast of the Presentation, often called Candlemas, commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the temple, which took place 40 days after his birth as Jewish law required.

According to Mosaic law, a mother who had given birth to a boy was considered unclean for seven days. Also, she was to remain 33 days "in the blood of her purification." Luke tells us, quoting Exodus 13:2,12, that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem because every firstborn child was to be dedicated to the Lord. They also went to sacrifice a pair of doves or two young pigeons, showing that Mary and Joseph were poor. Once in the temple, Jesus was purified by the prayer of Simeon, in the presence of Anna the prophetess. Simeon, upon seeing the Messiah, gave thanks to the Lord, singing a hymn now called the *Nunc Dimittis*:

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,
your word has been fulfilled:
My own eyes have seen the salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Simeon told Mary, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." Simeon thus foreshadowed the crucifixion and the sorrows of Mary at seeing the death of her Son.
The name Candlemas comes from the activities associated with the feast. It came to be known as the *Candle Mass*. In the Western Church, a procession with lighted candles is the distinctive rite. According to post Vatican-II discipline, (if possible) the beeswax candles are to be blessed somewhere other than
where the Mass is held. Often your local parish will hand out candles, or you may bring your own, to be
blessed before the procession. These may be saved for later use in your home. After an antiphon, during which the candles held by the people are lighted, there is a procession into the church. During the procession to the church, the *Nunc Dimittis* is sung, with the antiphon "Lumen ad revelationem" (Luke 2:32). This
procession into the church for Mass commemorates Christ's entrance into the temple. Since Vatican II, the feast is reckoned a feast of the Lord (as opposed to a feast of Mary), and officially designated "The presentation of the Lord."
History
Egeria, writing around AD 380, attests to a feast of the Presentation in the Jerusalem Church. It was kept on February 14th. The day was kept by a procession to the Constantinian basilica of the Resurrection, with a homily on Luke 2:22-39. However, the feast had no proper name at this point; it was simply called the 40th day after Epiphany. This shows that the Jerusalem church celebrated Jesus' birth on the Epiphany Feast (as is common in some Eastern Churches today).
In regions where Christ's birth was celebrated on December 25th, the feast began to be celebrated on February 2nd, where it is kept in the West today. In 542, the Emperor

Justinian introduced the feast to the entire Eastern Roman empire in thanksgiving for the end to a great pestilence afflicting the city of Constantinople. Perhaps this is when Pope Gregory I brought the feast to Rome. Either way, by the 7th century, it is contained in the Gelasianum Sacramentary. Pope Sergius (687-701) introduced the procession to the Candlemas service. The blessing of candles did not come into common use until the 11th century.
While some scholars have asserted that the Candlemas feast was developed in the Middle Ages to counteract the pagan feasts of Imbolc and Lupercalia, many scholars reject this, based on Medieval documents. While the feast does coincide with these two pagan holidays, the origins of the feast are based in Scriptural chronology. Some superstitions developed about Candlemas, including the belief that if one does not take down Christmas decorations by Candlemas, traces of the holly and berries will bring about the death of the person involved. In past times, Candlemas was seen as the end of the Christmas season.
Candlemas Day was also the day when some cultures predicted weather patterns. Farmers believed that the remainder of winter would be the opposite of whatever the weather was like on Candlemas Day. An old English song goes:
If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,
Go winter, and come not again.
Thus if the sun cast a shadow on Candlemas day, more winter was on the way; if there was no shadow, winter was thought to be ending soon. This practice led to the folklore behind "Groundhog's Day," which falls on Candlemas Day.
Today, the feast is still celebrated on February 14th in some Eastern Churches, including the Armenian Church, where the feast is called, "The Coming of the Son of God into the Temple." Most churches celebrate it on February 2nd.
Traditions
Blessing of Beeswax Candles
Saving Blessed Candles for other Catholic uses
Burning Candles in Windows & Everywhere in the home
Easting Tamales and Hot Chocolates (Mexico) or Crepes (Europe)
Symbols
Blooming of Snowdrops (Galanthus Nivalis)
Candles
Old Testament Typology Foreshadowing the Annunciation
Presentation of Samuel in the Temple
Jacob's joy in seeing his son Joseph again

Recipe

Imbolc Beef Stew Recipe

Makes 8 servings
beef, carrots, turnip, onion, parsnip, potato

Ingredients

- **2** carrots
- **1** turnip
- **1** onion
- **1** parsnip
- **1** potato

1-1/2 lb. top round

Directions

1. Put ingredients in crockpot and cook.
2. Season to taste

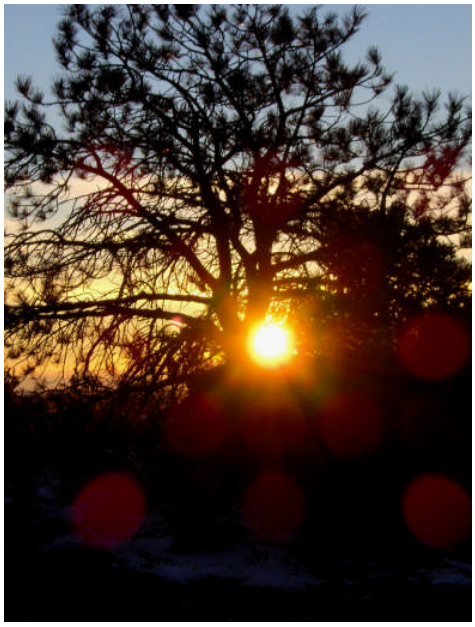
SOME COOL PICTURES

The snow Goddess is in our front yard.

These other two are solstice sunrise from Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs.

Vicki

I don't know bout everyone else, but I think these scenes are breathtaking!! I spent several years in Alaska and I dare say these rival what I saw there. Thank you Vicki for sharing these with us!

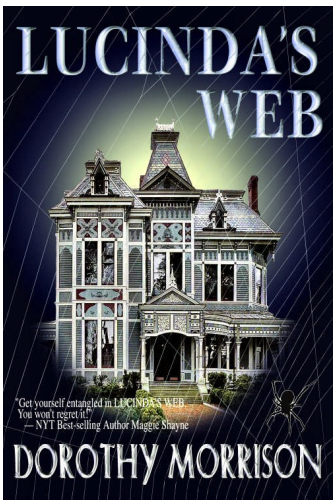


Coven Symbollic

Since we're doing some pictures, I thought I would toss in this picture of the members of Coven Symbollic. I took this picture at Yule during the 1st Degree Initiations of Darlene and Robert. This is the first picture of the coven after being formed. Yule 2008.

Back Row - We have Loye and Katie (High Priest and Priestess), Darlene and Peggy.
Front Row Kneeling – Robert and Jeff

LUCINDA'S WEB



For those of you that have not yet got yer hands on a copy of this book, I suggest you do so! Although I have not yet read it, my wife has and she LOVED it! As soon as I finish the "Wicked" series I intend on settling in to read it. I purchased the book for myself but I read about a hundred words a week so the wife had plenty of time to read it and tell me that Dorothy did a wonderful job and looks forward to seeing more of her masterpieces.

BB Loye

~Some reviews from other authors~

"Mysteries and imaginations run wild throughout Dorothy Morrison's *LUCINDA'S WEB*, a riveting glimpse of life eternal with a twist of the unexpected. I loved it!"

- Madelyn Alt -
Nationally Bestselling Author of HEX MARKS THE SPOT

"Dorothy Morrison redefines the sexy witch - move over Halliwell sisters, Tess Logan is in town! *LUCINDA'S WEB* is a definite must read!"

- M. R. Sellars -
Nationally Bestselling Author of THE ROWAN GANT INVESTIGATIONS

"Dorothy Morrison's debut novel is a mystical adventure not to be missed. Get yourself entangled in *LUCINDA'S WEB*. You won't regret it!"

- Maggie Shayne -
New York Times Bestselling Author of LOVER'S BITE

"Morrison spins an intriguing tale that will have you ensnared from the very first page. Get caught up in *LUCINDA'S WEB*!"

- Kim Strickland -
Nationally Bestselling Author of THE WISH CLUB

"Romance, danger, and hoodoo. What more could you ask for? The final chapters will have you reading through the night. Morrison's fans will be thrilled with smart, sassy, and sexy Tess Logan."

- Morven Westfield -
Bestselling Author of DARKSOME THIRST and THE OLD POWER RETURNS