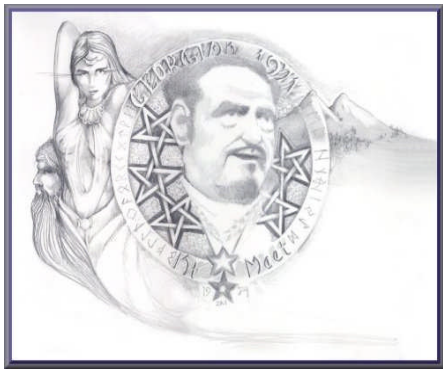
THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



LUGHNASADH 2009

What's Inside:

- Spotlight
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- *Lucinda's Web*
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SPOTLIGHT

Skip

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

Skip -Originally, Milwaukee Wisconsin. Have not been back in decades. Home now is Pittsburg, CA

GNL -When did you "discover" Wicca.

Skip -As a pre teen...about 1954. Could not DO much about it until the 1980's.

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

Skip -Solitare. Then found COTSS (Church of the Sacred Spiral) & ATC in state of WA. 3rd in COTSS.

GNL -Are you a Georgian?

Skip -Yup!

GNL -Who introduced you to the Georgians?

Skip -Zanoni Silverknife. Met at CoG in Seattle.

GNL -Are you an initiated Georgian?

Skip -Yup! Very Happy about that. Need to finish the job.

GNL -What's your favorite Sabbat?

Skip -Spring Equinox

GNL -Why is that?

Skip -Time for "our" special ritual of fey.

GNL -Children? (how many?), 1
grandchildren? 2

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

Skip -Bike trails! Wonderful gym. Neat Friends. Getting to know CA.

GNL -Got any hobby's or special skills, maybe super powers or something?....you know, get bit by a radioactive wombat or something?

Skip -The radioactive wombat died of lead poison. Or maybe it died trying to argue with the DI I had in Boot Camp???

Skip -Hobbies are math, statistics, exploring mountains, trying to lift SERIOUS weights. SciFi / fantasy reading. Probably some more but girls are distracting me at the moment.

GNL -Attended/Missed many Mt Meets?

Skip -ARG! Only made ONE Mtn. Meet. It was wonderful!!!

GNL -Or other gatherings you would strongly suggest others attending?

Skip -SMF --- put on by ATC (North WA Ft. Flagler) : 10 years of it, and it still leaves me astounded each time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Initiations!

1st Degree

Coven Symbollic's Saraswati earned her 1st Degree on August 4th

2nd Degree

Coven Symbollic's Epona, Balder, Treebeard and Tatiana Lady Gaia Rose and Lord Bel Taran was busy on August 3rd

Dedications:

It is with great pleasure that the Circle of the Samhain Moon announces another Dedicant to the Georgian Tradition! Last night, under a beautiful Full Moon, Satira dedicated herself to the Georgian Tradition and the Circle of the Samhain Moon. Lady AutumnStar Shadowdrake and I did the honors, and then let Satira and Sarenth perform the Full Moon ritual. An emotional but good time was had by all!
May the Gods Preserve the Craft!
Puck Shadowdrake, HP, Circle of the Samhain Moon, Georgian Tradition

It is with great pleasure that Coven Symbollic, On the evening of August 9th in the amphitheater at Mt Meet under the approaching Fullness of our lady, Jamie (I like to think of her as our own little Tinker Bell) dedicated and Miranda (Saraswati) re-dedicated to the Craft and the Georgian Trad. Both young ladies also dedicated into Coven Symbollic during Mt Meet.

Coven naming ritual on Sunday July 12th (next Sunday) at 6pm at the Ramada Limited at 74th and South May in Oklahoma City. What is soon to be the Family of the Aquarian Moon Coven would like to invite everyone to witness the ritual and share in a great Italian Dinner afterwards. Hope to see everyone there.
Margie

Birthdays!!!!

Darlene; Aug 7
Peggy August 9th
Shawn – August 14
Allen - Sept 15
John (Tali) - September 20

Gatherings

35rd annual Mountain Meet (1974 to now) – July 31 - Aug 5th at the same place as last year, and the year before that and so on and so forth. The Methuselah Group Campsite in Mountain Home State Forest in California. **I will see you there!!!! And if your reading this on Lughnasadh, I will miss seeing you!**

Below you can see how active we Georgians tend to be in our PPD and SCA events, as if we don't have enough on our plates we just smother it in gravy!

Prairie Meet 5

When: October 9, 10 & 11, 2009
Where: Woodward Oklahoma park, boiling springs state park.
I would like to let everyone know that I have uploaded the registration sheet to the files area on the list. If you plan on attending this year, please fill it out and send it on my way. If not, we will miss you and hope to see you at another gathering.

As usual, this is a Georgian event and friends of Georgians are welcome so long as they have a Georgian to sponsor them. There is a spot on the registration form for this. If there are any questions, shoot them to the list, Emilie, or myself.

Thanks,
--Tony and Emilie

Marla is helping with the planning of the South Carolina (Upstate) PPD which is Oct 17. Website is http://theupstateofsouthcarolinapaganprideday.community.officelive.com/default.aspx

Lord Andrew Faunce of Sharsted, Barony of CynnabarMidrealm (Puck). involved with the Barony of Cynnabar, in the Middle Kingdom, SCA! I used to be the Baronial Herald, but stepped down to be able to take care of my mom. I'll be heading to the Great Pennsic War soon, from July 24th to August 9th.

Duane "Raven" Marshall

Was on the Board of PPD and headed up my local chapter. The KC Witches meet up group does it now....but I am still on the rolls...kinda

Florida Pagan Gathering

Florida Pagan Gathering - while NOT a Georgian event, there will be the usual contingency from Florida, SC, and GA there. We are in cabin 1. Contact Marla or Rayna.

Pagan Pride Day – Marla is helping out with the SC one - Oct 17.

Merry Meet 2009 will be held in Palmdale, California, August 21-23, 2009
http://cog-merrymeet.com/Home_Page.html

Elders Gathering –

Date - Saturday, October 24, 2009

Place - Bakersfield, CA

Open Samhain Ritual the evening of the 23rd to all Georgians

Anniversay

SpiritMother and Draco of the coven of Children Between the Worlds…30th year of marriage on the 18 of Aug

Birth Days

Duncan (SpiritMother and Draco son) was 15 this July 21

Births

Kolton, Georgia's new Great-grandson!
8 lbs 5oz and 20 inches long.... And he was born at 10:17 pm on July 5 2009

Colors: Gray, green, gold, yellow
Symbols: All grains, breads, threshing tools, athame
Date: Occurs 1/4 of a year after Beltaine. True astrological point is 15 degrees Leo, but tradition has set August 1st as the day it is typically celebrated. Since the Ancients Celts passed their days from sundown to sundown, the celebration would usually begin the night before on July 31st.

The turning of the wheel now brings us to **Lughnasadh** (LOO-nus-uh), also known by its medieval Christian name of **Lammas**, named in honor of the Celtic god Lugh, a name which means "light" or "shining." Although somewhat confusing, we are not celebrating the death of Lugh (the God of light does not mythically die until the autumn equinox), but rather the funeral games that Lugh hosted to commemorate the death of his foster mother, Taillte. In Ireland, Lugnasadh is often called the "Tailltean Games". A common feature of the games were the "Tailltean marriages", rather informal and lasting only a year and a day or until next Lammas, at which time the couple would decide to continue the arrangement or stand back to back and walk away, thereby dissolving the marriage. The parish priest was not bothered to perform these trial marriages, they were usually performed by a poet, bard, priest or priestess of the Old Religion, or shanachie, and were very common into the 1500's. It is from this custom that our present-day Handfastings must come.

According to one of his many legends, Lugh was the last great leader of the Tuatha de Dannan. In one of the Tuatha's victories, Lugh spared the life of Bres, a defeated enemy captain, in exchange for advice on ploughing, sowing, and reaping. He was seen as a multi-talented deity, being capable and quite good at all he undertook. The myths of Lugh include the prevalence of his many skills and the wedding of these skills to the potential or unrealized abundance of the land. According to the writing of Caesar, he was also regarded as the patron of all the arts, traveling, and influence in money and commerce. To the Romans, Lugh was seen as a counterpart to Mercury. Lugh is the son of Arianrhod, who is associated with sacred kingship and Three-fold Death. His wife's name is Blodeuwedd, also known as the Flower Maiden.

Lughnasadh is the first of the three harvest Sabbats, Mabon and Samhain being the other two, which celebrates the ripening grains and corn. With the harvest so prevalent, Pagans see the theme of the sacrificed god motif emerge. His death is necessary for rebirth of the land to take place. Called by many names, "Green Man," "Wicker Man," "Corn Man" or just the "Spirit of Vegetation," his essence begins to merge with the harvested crops, a sacrifice that will be realized with the new growth in the spring.

In old times, it was the duty of the King to sacrifice himself for the land, an idea that has been seen in the many legends of cultures both new and old, throughout recorded history. The gathering of the first crops of the year is also used to symbolize the success and extent of the power raised from the Beltane rites when the Sacred Marriage of the Lord and Lady took place. The theme of sexuality and reproduction is carried over into Lughnasadh as well to ensure the remainder of a good harvest.

This Sabbat is also known as the celebration of bread. As bread was one of the main staples of our ancestors, the ripening of the grain was the cause for great celebration.

The reaping, threshing and preparation of these breads spawned great ritual and ceremony to ensure bounty for the following year.

This time of the year finds us with fields to harvest, the first of a bountiful crop that will hold us through the winter months. Even though the hottest days of summer are upon us, we have but to observe to see that fall is just around the corner. Shadows are growing longer as the days slowly become shorter. Squirrels are busily gathering food for the coming winter. It is a time to begin canning produce from the garden, a time to save and preserve.

Some ideas for celebration include:

- Sacrifice bad habits and unwanted things from your life by throwing symbols of them into the sabbat fire.
- Bake a loaf of bread in the shape of a man and sacrifice him in your ritual. Make him a part of your feast but save a piece to offer the gods.
- Take time to actually harvest fruits from your garden with your family. If you don't have a garden, visit one of the pick-your-own farms in your area.
- Include bilberries or blueberries in your feast; these were a traditional fruit, whose abundance was seen as an indicator of the harvest to come.
- Gather the tools of your trade and bless them in order to bring a richer harvest next year.
- Share your harvest with others who are less fortunate.
- Decorate with sickles, scythes, fresh vegetables & fruits, grains, berries, corn dollies, bread. Colors are orange, gold, yellow, red and bronze.

And so the wheel turns.....

Borrowed from:
http://thunder.prohosting.com/~cbarstow/wheel.html

Recipe

Bel's Mt Meet Breakfast Burrito's

Breakfast Burritos

I started making these at Mt Meet many years ago, and a certain saber tooth mountain poodle will give her approval!

1 dozen eggs
1 lbs ground Jimmy Dean sausage
1 package O'Brien potatoes
1 lbs sharp cheddar cheese grated
16 oz Pace medium picante sauce
12 – 18 taco size flour tortillas

Scramble eggs, set aside. Crumble and brown sausage, set aside. Fry o'brien potatoes until light brown. Warm flour tortillas, I dry fry them on cast iron. Now assemble burritos layer eggs, sausage, potatoes, cheese and salsa. Roll tightly and set aside. Repeat until all filling is used. They can be individually wrapped in foil and frozen. They can be reheated in microwave. They are best prepared fresh and eaten same day.

Sometimes Lammas or Lughnasadh brings out animal in us. Last year we had Lisa Morgenstern summoning very naughty images in the minds of perverts everywhere!

Peoms from Puck!

I did something that could actually get me some recognition as a writer - I submitted 2 poems of mine to a local literary magazine, the Cellar Roots, which is out of EMU. I was SO geeked that I'd actually done it - I'd wanted to do it for some time, and was so glad the semester was over that I just got carried away, and before I knew it, they were submitted!

WORK IN PROGRESS

I
I am a work in progress:
Repeating this, I can and will progress, and ride the storms of anger and distress.
I strive and cry; I work and sigh; I sometimes even wonder...WHY?
I thank the Muses who make me bare my soul until; at last, my shattered life is whole.
I best myself; I test myself; I often make a jest myself!
And yet— I am just myself.
I am a work in progress.

II
You are a work in progress— a work that breathes and hopes and screams and laughs and cries and dreams
And hopes for better things – the dangling carrot on a stick, just out of reach and hanging.
You're here to learn, to grow, to turn your seeds of intellect into blooming lives of self-respect;
To cast off lies and learn the Truth of what it takes to grow from youth to true adults who grow and so…
You are a work in progress!

III
We are a flawed work in progress, who shout and yell in times of great duress -
Striving, surviving, reviving, and thriving— Full of hope and the grandest dreams
that flow from us in rushing streams of words and thoughts and acts and deeds;
Yet blame our parents and their needs for hatred and bigotry or racial inequality
that choke us like a poisoned vine and cause our Light to dim not shine!
We must ascend! We must transcend the evils that would cause an end
to love and life— To hell with strife!
WE are works in progress!!!

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Recipe

Brigid's Blackberry Pie

4 cups of fresh blackberries (thawed frozen berries are ok)
11/2 cups sugar
1/3 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon of salt
1 unbaked pie crust

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Line a deep pie dish with the pie crust or purchase a commercially-made one. Set aside. Mix all other ingredients together in a large mixing bowl. If it appears too "wet," mix in a little more flour (about 2 tablespoons). Turn the fruit into the pie shell and dot with butter or margarine. You can bake the pie as is, or cover it with another pie crust. Then score the top several times with a sharp knife. Bake for 1 hour, or until the top crust is a golden brown. Taken from Edain McCoy's book "The Sabbats- A New Approach to Living the Old Ways"

I don't know bout you guys, but my mouth waters just thinking bout a good blackberry pie! And with any luck, the hills at Mt Meet will be heavy with em so I can gather a bunch up!!

How to make a Corn Dolly

The best part of the stem is the top length from the ear (the seed head) down to where the last leaf leaves the stem. Leaving the ear intact, strip off the dead leaves and sort the stems according to size: thick, medium, and fine.

Dry straw must be soaked flat in cold water for about 15 minutes and then stood upright to drain before plaiting.

The Five-Straw Plait is the easiest to work with for a beginner:

1. Tie 5 straws together close to the ears.

2-5. Each time the straw being folded passes over two corners, it is then left and the one at the last corner is picked up and used in its place until the round is completed.

The attractive spiral pattern grows as round succeeds round.

6. When completed, the ends are tied to the starting point below the ears, making a decorative circle.

To feed in new straws, cut the old straw off after it has passed the second straw. The thin end of the new straw is inserted in the hole, making sure of a firm fit which is hidden under the fold of the straw of the next round.

Simple corn dollies can also be made with the standard three-straw plait.

More complex corn dollies involve multiple straws, intricate braids, and sometimes the creation of a straw core shape around which the outer straw is plaited.

John Barleycorn

There were three kings into the east,
Three kings both great and high,
An' they hae sworn solemn oath
John Barleycorn should die.

They took a plough and plough'd him down,
Put clods upon his head,
And they hae sworn a solemn oath
John Barleycorn was dead.

But the cheerfu' spring came kindly on,
And show'rs began to fall;
John Barleycorn got up again,
And sore surprised them all.

The sultry suns of summer came,
And he grew thick and strong,
His head weel arm'd wi' pointed spears,
That no-one should him wrong.

The sober autumn enter'd mild,
When he grew wan and pale;
His bending joints and drooping head
Show'd he began to fail.

His colour sicken'd more and more,
He faded into age;
And then his enemies began
To show their deadly rage.

They've ta'en a weapon long and sharp,
And cut him by the knee;
Then tied him fast upon a cart,
Like a rogue for forgerie.

They laid him down upon his back,
And cudgel'd him full sore;
They hung him up before the storm,
And turn'd him oe'r and o'er.

They filled up a darksome pit
With water to the brim;
They heaved in John Barleycorn,
There let him sink or swim.

They laid him out upon the floor,
To work him farther woe,
And still as signs of life appear'd
they tossed him to and fro.

They wasted, o'er a scorching flame,
The marrow of his bones;
But a miller us'd him worst of all,
For he crushed him between two stones.

And they had tae'n his very heart's blood,
And drunk it round and round;
And still the more and more they drank,
Their joy did more abound.

John Barleycorn was a hero bold,
Of noble enterprise
, For if you do but taste his blood,
'Twill make your courage rise.

'Twill make a man forget his woe;
'Twill heighten all his joy;
'Twill make a widow's heart to sing,
Tho the tear were in her eye

Then let us toast John Barleycorn,
Each man a glass in hand;
And may his great posterity
Ne'er fail in old Scotland!

Not exactly like the group Traffic's version, but fitting none the less.

REUNION:

They start filtering in:
The rich ones, with their plastic smiles and perfect teeth;
Bragging and boasting about Country Clubs that I'll never be invited to,
Or parties hosted by people I'll never know... (except maybe in the tabloids!)

The struggling ones, with their third wives in tow,
Who nervously laugh about stories of exes who they never want to cross paths with?
Lest their new-found meal-tickets wise up and turn them into exes, too,
(And provide fodder for those same tabloids, like the rich ones!)

The Happy Ones – people whose lives are unique;
People who have safaris in Indonesia and Africa on a Monday, dinner with the Dalai Lama, and then soar on planes to places near and far.
Who'd know that all these boasts were only dreams on paper?
Who'd know that these ARE the writers of those same tabloids?

The conversations start:
"How long has it been?" (As though they've kept track!)
"How's your family?" (As though they really know them!)
"Did you hear about…" (Oh, here it comes – tomorrow's headlines!)
As though these real-life soap-operas could compete with what's REALLY going on!

They dance. (Gee, will the Hustle ever go out of style?)
They drink. (Way too much, and way too often!)
They eat. (Someone has to eat those poor rubber chickens!)

Then, the time comes to say their equally plastic farewells:
"We must get together!" (A lie.)
"Call me – we'll do lunch!" (A bigger lie!)
"Let's go golfing sometime soon!" (Lie, lie, lie!!!

Rugs all over the place!)
As if these tentative appointments will actually come true.

I love reunions.
Everyone is so real with each other –
Even when they're not!

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~Lucinda's Web~

Hi, Darlin'! :)

Just a quick note to let you know that my debut novel, *Lucinda's Web*, won an award last weekend at the International New Age Trade Show in Denver, CO. Not just any award, mind you. But the very prestigious - at least in all circles metaphysical, occult, new age, pagan, etc. - 2009 Coalition of Visionary Resources Award for Best Fiction Book! [Unfortunately, I wasn't there to accept the award - I was at an appearance gig in Ohio - so some friends of mine did the honors for me. I also have photos if you'd like for me to send them.]

And for those folks interested in the book, they can find out more about it at www.lucindasweb.com.

Okay...I'm sooo far behind over here that I may never catch up. But still...I probably oughta try! Chuckle!

Hope all's well with you and yours!

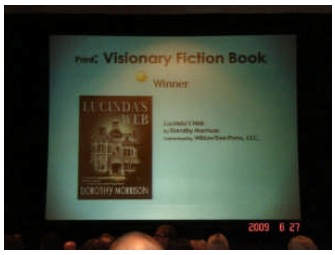
Much love and many hugs!

Dorothy...

Well, I read it and thought it was wonderful! Not exactly my cup of tea but it was a good read none the less! The award is well deserved my dear! Congrats to our own "Tess"

Loye

Here are the pictures from the Coalition of Visionary Resources Awards at INATS in Denver. One is my trophy for Lucinda's Web and one is a "winner's card" with the bookcover on it. The other one is of Joyce Burns - co-owner of Sisters of the Earth and Sea in Harker Heights, TX - with my trophy and certificate. [Since I was at a gig in Ohio and wasn't able to be at the awards banquet, she was my desiganted representative.]



Okay, Darlin'...use what you want or nothing at all.

And...give everybody hugs for me at Mountain Meet. ;)

Hugs!

Dorothy...
I decided on EVERYTHING Dorothy!

Artwork

Many years ago, in 1987,when my oldest was a baby, his favorite TV. show was beauty and the beast with Ron Perlman and Linda Hamilton. As it happens my sons name is Vincent, as is the lead male in this show. My own son, like the Vincent in the show is kind, loving and caring, but when provoked my little 5 foot 4 Marine has a temp best avoided. I did this pen and ink in a stipple style consisting of BILLIONS of little dots.

Here is a portrait of my two boys. Vincent is the Marine and William the Airman. This was a Mothers Day gift for my wife this year. It's done in pencil and is 18x22

Photos

AWESOME SUNSET

Sunset at the North Pole, a totally awesome aspect of the Mother and the Sun King.

Submitted by RoseWynd

A picture my son William sent me, he said it was cool ☺

Submitted by Loye

Lammas with Rowan Moonstone

They are of our Grain King and Harvest Maiden. The Grain King is a whole wheat herb bread which we tore apart and ate and the Harvest Maiden is made up of flowers and herbs from the covenstead and the gardens of the coveners.

Blessings and light to all on this Lughnasadh / Lammas!!

BB Loye