

THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



LITHA 2010

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SPOTLIGHT

~Sybil Shadowdrake~
Karen St John
of the Coven of Samhainmoon



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

Sybil - As a child, I bought a used book called "Classical Myths that Live Today", published in 1927. I found the stories of humankind, the gods, and nature all being wrapped in together to be very compelling!

I also found myself drawn to spellwork, especially weather magic. After that, I think Paganism, and Wicca found me. I kept running across mention of them in the 80's and 90's , and at some point, I started paying attention!

GNL - What tradition did you start in? if any?

Sybil - Originally....the Karenian tradition (I was a solo practitioner) Next I was in an Odyssean coven, then Karenian again, then the Georgians!

GNL - Are you a Georgian? If so, who brought you in from behind?

Sybil - Yes, I am a Georgian initiate. Puck initiated me.

GNL - How long have you been interested in the craft?

Sybil -As long as I can remember, really.

GNL – Who is your inspiration?

Sybil - At least in some small way, everyone I meet.

GNL –In the closet or out?

Sybil - I'm out of so many closets, I've lost count.

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

Sybil- None so far. Being transsexual, I will have to buy them off the rack.

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

Sybil - Well, the big thing in my life is adjusting to having transitioned genders. I feel like a real human being, now, not a facade.

With the restart in my life that has brought on, I've decided to go back to school and study (don't laugh!) meteorology of all things. (Remember that weather magic I mentioned?) I have money I inherited from my mother, and I know she would appreciate me using it for education. Although...I think she is probably having a conniption fit about the tornado chasing part. Oh, did I mention I love storms and want to chase them?

GNL - Attended/Missed many Mt Meets, Prairie Meets or any other gatherings you might wanna go on about?

Sybil - So far, I have not made any of the gatherings of our trad; I am looking forward to both the Mountain and Prairie Meets. I may in fact be moving to Oklahoma for school, someday, to study meteorology. I'll have no excuse, then, for missing Prairie Meet. If there is a storm to chase, though, there could be a real dilemma!

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

Sybil - I really don't have any yet, but I figure there is plenty of time!

GNL - How do you feel about being stripped skyclad, painted blue and chased through the woods?...warm weather of course!

Sybil - Not a problem for me! Except I would feel guilty for all the horrified wildlife!

GNL -Can you paint with all the colors of the wind?

Sybil -Yes, I can, although my paintings have sort of a Jackson Pollack and Salvador Dali mix going.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

~2nd degree's

I am happy to announce that today at noon, Anam Taith coven elevated Owlsong to the 2nd degree in the Georgian Tradition. Lord Wotan officiated, assisted by myself and Bard Devin. Lady Margaret from the Denver Community attended and bore witness to the elevation. This young woman has worked damned hard for 2 ½ years since receiving her first and I am so proud of her! The hand of the Lady is on her and she is a gifted and talented Priestess in her own right. She has been an absolute joy to guide on the path. After the ritual, we all moved on to Everest Nepal where we feasted on amazing amounts of delightful Indian food. A grand time was had by all.

BB
Rowan

I am very happy to announce that, as part of a wonderful Beltaine celebration, Lugh, of Silver Oak, was elevated to 2nd degree after much work and study. I officiated as his High Priestess, assisted by Mirage of Silver Dragon Circle, and Goddess! did we party after!

Hugs and blessings to all,
Pleiades

I don't know bout you guys, but I'm JAZZED bout Mt Meet....July 28th or 29th I am sooooo gonna be in them mountains!

36th annual Mountain Meet (1974 to now) - July 28th -Aug 4th 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.. For more information check out the web site provided and managed by our own RW!
<http://www.angelfire.com/country/MountainMeet/mainpage.html>

Prairie Meet 6

A Georgian Family and Friends Retreat

Date: September 10, 11, and 12, 2010

Location: Osage Hills State Park Group Camp

1. Group camp, all meals
 (Adult) (Kids 12+) (Ages 7-11) (Ages 3-6) (3-0)
 \$55 \$30 \$25 \$20 \$0
2. Day pass, 2 meals
 (Adult) (Kids 12+) (Ages 7-11) (Ages 3-6) (3-0)
 \$25 \$10 \$6 \$4 \$0

After the 31th of August 2010, add \$10.00 to each of the above prices. If you want a day pass, please, purchase it in advance. If we don't know and have not received your money we can NOT guarantee you food. If there are special circumstances,

Please contact Tony or Emilie a minimum of 48 hours before the event starts.

The registration form for Prairie Meet 2010 is posted in the lists' file sections

This year, we'll be at the group camp at the beautiful Osage Hills State Park (<http://www.travelok.com/listings/view.profile/id.5595>), September 10-12. Debra Burris will be leading opening ritual. The Family of the Aquarian Moon will be leading the main ritual and acting as our kitchen witches (we love you guys!). I will be leading a tarot workshop. Witch stadium will be set up for yet another epic Iron Witch battle. There is room for two more workshops, so let me know if you have one you'd like to share.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. It's going to be great seeing everyone!

Emilie Giustozzi
egiustozzi@gmail.com

Birthday

On May 31st Lady Du Dragcorum's celebrated her 72st Birthday!!...errr 9th Birthday I mean. 7+2=9, right Bobbie? ☺

- Balder (jeff) of coven Symbollic - may 5
- Dorothy Morrison – May 6, 1955
- Lady Gaia Rose (Kate) of coven Symbollic - may 17th Georgia – May 18
- Cat - May 22
- Treebeard (Robert) of Coven Symbollic - June 26

HIGH SCHOOL GRAD

One of our own graduated from High School on June 2, 2010. 1st degree and member of Coven Symbollic, Miranda Pournier is officially graduated, it was a proud day for all! I thought this day would NEVER arrive!



Midsummer

After the May time and after the June time
Rare with blossoms and perfume sweet,
Cometh the round world's royal noon time,
The red midsummer of blazing heat,
When the sun, like an eye that never closes,
Bends on the earth its fervid gaze,
And the winds are still, and the crimson roses
Droop and wither and die in its rays.

Unto my heart has come this season,
O, my lady, my worshiped one,
When, over the stars of Pride and Reason,
Sails Love's cloudless, noonday sun.
Like a great red ball in my bosom burning
With fires that nothing can quench or tame,
It glows till my heart itself seems turning
Into a liquid lake of flame.

The hopes half shy and the sighs all tender,
The dreams and fears of an earlier day,
Under the noontide's royal splendor,
Droop like roses, and wither away.
From the hills of Doubt no winds are blowing,
From the isles of Pain no breeze is sent, -
Only the sun in a white heat glowing
Over an ocean of great content.

Sink, O my soul, in this golden glory!
Die, O my heart, in thy rapture-swoon!
For the Autumn must come with its mournful
story.
And Love's midsummer will fade too soon.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox [1850-1919]



Blessed Litha



MYSTICAL REALMS WISHES ALL MEMBERS, STAFF AND FRIENDS
WHO CELEBRATE THE SABBATS A BLESSED AND HAPPY LITHA!

History of Litha (MidSummer)

Also known as Summer Solstice, Litha, Alban Hefin, Sun Blessing, Gathering Day, Feill-Sheathain, Whit Sunday, Whitsuntide, Vestalia, Thing-tide, St. John's Day

In addition to the four great festivals of the Pagan Celtic year, there are four lesser holidays as well: the two solstices, and the two equinoxes. In folklore, these are referred to as the four 'quarter-days' of the year, and modern Witches call them the four 'Lesser Sabbats', or the four 'Low Holidays'. The Summer Solstice is one of them.

Litha is usually celebrated on June 21st, but varies somewhat from the 20th to the 23rd, dependant upon the Earth's rotation around the Sun. According to the old folklore calendar, Summer begins on Beltane (May 1st) and ends on Lughnassadh (August 1st), with the Summer Solstice midway between the two, marking MID-Summer. This makes more logical sense than suggesting that Summer begins on the day when the Sun's power begins to wane and the days grow shorter. The most common other names for this holiday are the Summer Solstice or Midsummer, and it celebrates the arrival of Summer, when the hours of daylight are

longest. The Sun is now at the highest point before beginning its slide into darkness.

Humanity has been celebrating Litha and the triumph of light since ancient times. On the Wheel of the Year Litha lies directly across from Yule, the shortest day of the calendar year, that cold and dark winter turning when days begin to lengthen and humanity looks wistfully toward warmth, sunlight and growing things. Although Litha and Yule are low holidays or lesser sabbats in the ancient parlance, they are celebrated with more revel and merriment than any other day on the wheel except perhaps Samhain (my own favourite). The joyous rituals of Litha celebrate the verdant Earth in high summer, abundance, fertility, and all the riches of Nature in full bloom. This is a madcap time of strong magic and empowerment, traditionally the time for handfasting or weddings and for communication with the spirits of Nature. At Litha, the veils between the worlds are thin; the portals between "the fields we know" and the worlds beyond stand open. This is an excellent time for rites of divination.

Those who celebrated Litha did so wearing garlands or crowns of flowers, and of course, their millinery always included the yellow blossoms of St. John's Wort. The Litha rites of the ancients were boisterous communal festivities with morris dancing, singing, storytelling, pageantry and feasting taking place by the village bonfire and torch lit processions through the villages after dark. People believed that the Litha fires possessed great power, and that prosperity and protection for oneself and one's clan could be earned merely by jumping over the Litha bonfire. It was also common for courting couples joined hands and jump over the embers of the Litha fire three times to ensure a long and happy marriage, financial prosperity and many children. Even the charred embers from the Litha bonfire possessed protective powers - they were charms against injury and bad weather in harvest time, and embers were commonly placed around fields of grain and orchards to protect the crops and ensure an abundant reaping. Other Litha customs included carrying an ember of the Litha fire home and placing it on one's hearth and decking one's home with birch, fennel, St. John's Wort, orpin, and white lilies for blessing and protection.

The Litha Sabbat is a time to celebrate both work and leisure, it is a time for children and childlike play. It is a time to celebrate the ending of the waxing year and the beginning of the waning year, in preparation for the harvest to come. Midsummer is a time to absorb the Sun's warming rays and it is another fertility Sabbat, not only for humans, but also for crops and animals. Wiccans consider the Goddess to be heavy with pregnancy from the mating at Beltane - honor is given to

Her. The Sun God is celebrated as the Sun is at its peak in the sky and we celebrate His approaching fatherhood - honor is also given to Him. The faeries abound at this time and it is customary to leave offerings - such as food or herbs - for them in the evening.

Although Litha may seem at first glance to be a masculine observance and one which focuses on Lugh, the day is also dedicated to the Goddess, and Her flowers are the white blossoms of the elder.

Correspondences

Purpose

Rededication to the Lord and Lady, beginning of the harvest, honoring the Sun God, honoring the pregnant Goddess

Dynamics/Meaning

Crowning of the Sun God, death of the Oak King, assumption of the Holly King, end the ordeal of the Green Man

Tools, Symbols & Decorations

The sun, oak, birch & fir branches, sun flowers, lilies, red/maize/yellow or gold flower, love amulets, seashells, summer fruits & flowers, feather/flower door wreath, sun wheel, fire, circles of stone, sun dials and swords/blades, bird feathers, Witches' ladder.

Colors

Blue, green, gold, yellow and red.

Customs

Bonfires, processions, all night vigil, singing, feasting, celebrating with others, cutting divining rods, dowsing rods & wands, herb gathering, handfastings, weddings, Druidic gathering of mistletoe in oak groves, needfires, leaping between two fires, mistletoe (without berries, use as a protection amulet), women walking naked through gardens to ensure continued fertility, enjoying the seasonal fruits & vegetables, honor the Mother's fullness, richness and abundance, put garlands of St. John's Wort placed over doors/ windows & a sprig in the car for protection.

Goddesses

Mother Earth, Mother Nature, Venus, Aphrodite, Yemaya, Astarte, Freya, Hathor, Ishtar, all Goddesses of love, passion, beauty and the Sea, and Pregnant, lusty Goddesses, Green Forest Mother; Great One of the Stars, Goddess of the Wells

Gods

Father Sun/Sky, Oak King, Holly King, Arthur, Gods at peak power and strength.

Animals/Mythical Beings

Wren, robin, horses, cattle, satyrs, faeries, firebird, dragon, thunderbird

Gemstones

Lapis lazuli, diamond, tiger's eye, all green gemstones, especially emerald and jade

Herbs

Anise, mugwort, chamomile, rose, wild rose, oak blossoms, lily, cinquefoil, lavender, fennel, elder, mistletoe, hemp, thyme, larkspur, nettle, wisteria, vervain (verbena), St. John's wort, heartsease, rue, fern, wormwood, pine, heather, yarrow, oak & holly trees

Incense/Oil

Heliotrope, saffron, orange, frankincense & myrrh, wisteria, cinnamon, mint, rose, lemon, lavender, sandalwood, pine

Rituals/Magicks

Nature spirit/fey communion, planet healing, divination, love & protection magicks.
The battle between Oak King, God of the waxing year & Holly King, God of the waning year (can be a ritual play), or act out scenes from the Bard's (an incarnation of Merlin)
"A Midsummer Night's Dream", rededication of faith, rites of inspiration.

Foods

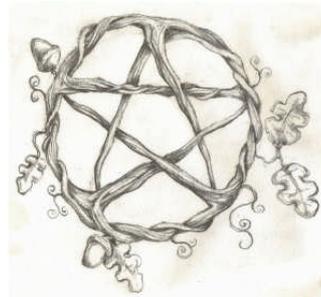
Honey, fresh vegetables, lemons, oranges, summer fruits, summer squash, pumpernickel bread, ale, carrot drinks, mead.

A Little Art

So, here we have a work in progress. You may or may not recognize her ☺



Here we have a Tat that Shawn designed and had installed!



Shawns Tat

I started this Faerie about 2 years ago and finally got around to finishing her up.





The Helm is the product of absolutely no idea or direction BUT, came into being while I was watching LEGION....I know, I know, what the hell does THAT movie have to do with a helm or even armor for that matter? Who cares, I was in the moment lol.

~Both are acrylics~

Edge of Darkness

I was screwin off at work at lunch time and did a search on my name, I was mildly surprised to find that in the book Edge of Darkness by Tim LaHaye on page 160, I am used as an example of someone being influenced by ...wait for it, Demons...thats right, Demons. Is that even legal?...asshole yes, but demons? and shouldn't I get a cut of the profits since I am in that book? lol

Here is the quote from the book~~

"You might recall Sergeant Loye Pournier. He was the office at Travis Air Force Base in California who fought for his faith".

That is pretty much me, with no chance of confusion or mistaken identity. I don't see it....what do you guys think? ☺

(By the way, the creepy guy to the right...that IS me, I had kids giving ME candy if I promised not to eat them lol)



Recipe's!

ZUCCHINI BREAD

3 eggs
1 Tablespoon vanilla
2 cups sugar
1 cup oil
2 cups flour
2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 Tablespoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
2 medium, grated, unpeeled zucchini
1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
In mixing bowl, beat eggs till frothy. Beat in sugar, oil & vanilla until thick & lemon colored. Sift in flour, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, & salt. Fold in zucchini & walnuts. Pour mixture in 2 greased & floured loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

From Red Deer's & Elenya's

Recipes for the Eight Sabbats

http://www.unc.edu/~reddeer/recipe/rec_litha.html#zuchinnibread