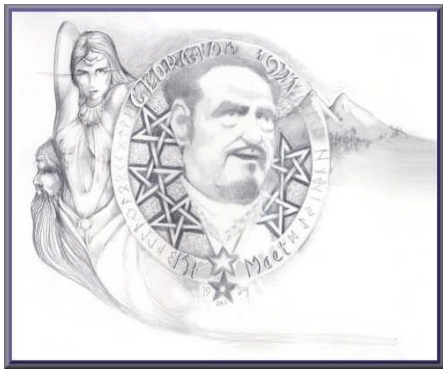
THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



LUGHNASADH 2010

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- Spotlight
- Announcements
- Poems
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- PROP 8
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SPOTLIGHT

Sorry, no spotlight this time around. I made the requests but got no replies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Initiations!

1st Degree

I am proud to announce the initiation of Symbre to the 1st degree. She was initiated last night (6-21-2010) with Tony serving as High Priest and I served as High Priestess. Emilie assisted. We were also honored to be joined by Marla and Gypsey.

Erin

2nd Degree

It gives me great pleasure and honor to announce that Sibyl Shadowdrake, of the Circle of the Samhain Moon, was elevated to her Second Degree tonight! HP Puck Shadowdrake and HPS Star Shadowdrake did the honors, and we had a great time doing it!!!

May the Gods and Goddesses guide her on her Path!

Lord Puck Shadowdrake

Birthdays!!!!

Jamie: July 16
Darlene; Aug 7
Peggy August 9th
Shawn – August 14
Allen - Sept 15
John (Tali) - September 20

Gatherings

36rd annual Mountain Meet (1974 to now) – The Methuselah Group Campsite in Mountain Home State Forest in California was the hosting location again, and a very pleasant time was had by all that gathered

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

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.

Poems 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.

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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Artwork

Here we have a mural I painted on the side of my Mt Meet trailer, there is a similar one located on the other side but more of a broad day light scene.

As last year, I did a couple paintings for gifts, thought their not "original" in the strictest sense because the inspiration came from another artist, I was hopeful that Peggy and Jamie would like them anyway ☺

Here is the one I did for Peggy, the Goddess Epona. Epona is also Peggy's craft name. Though I prefer to work in oils, this one is acrylic

This one is of a "Fire Fey", Jamie has a thing about the Fey. Though she seems quiet and all, beneath at quiet exterior is a pot of hot coals fit to be tossed on the top of a dutch oven to bake a blackberry cobbler!

PROP 8

KALW NEWS

KALW's Rina Palta was at the San Francisco federal district courthouse when cheers broke out amongst the crowd surrounding the building. Just minutes earlier, U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker released his decision overturning California's Proposition 8, the ban on same-sex marriage.

Here's the conclusion from the decision:

CONCLUSION

Proposition 8 fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license. Indeed, the evidence shows Proposition 8 does nothing more than enshrine in the California Constitution the notion that opposite-sex couples are superior to same-sex couples. Because

California has no interest in discriminating against gay men and lesbians, and because Proposition 8 prevents California from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis, the court concludes that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional.

REMEDIES

Plaintiffs have demonstrated by overwhelming evidence that Proposition 8 violates their due process and equal protection rights and that they will continue to suffer these constitutional violations until state officials cease enforcement of Proposition 8. California is able to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, as it has already issued 18,000 marriage licenses to same-sex couples and has not suffered any demonstrated harm as a result, see FF 64-66; moreover, California officials have chosen not to defend Proposition 8 in these proceedings.

Because Proposition 8 is unconstitutional under both the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses, the court orders entry of judgment permanently enjoining its enforcement; prohibiting the official defendants from applying or enforcing Proposition 8 and directing the official defendants that all persons under their control or supervision shall not apply or enforce Proposition 8. The clerk is DIRECTED to enter judgment without bond in favor of plaintiffs and plaintiff-intervenors and against defendants anddefendant-intervenors pursuant to FRCP 58.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

By Erica Mu

So, we are now in the waiting game again to see exactly what happens a little further down the road! Myself, I can't see an issue with the whole gay's getting married…hell, they should have as much right to be miserable as everyone else!

Loye

Movie Review

So, I decided to toss something in that's a little different here. Just before I went off to Mt Meet, I was laying on my couch napping. As is my habit, I turn on the tv for the white noise because of my tinnitus (ringing in the ears). I wake up to a bizarre movie where NO ONE LIES! I watched it in complete disbelief and actually found myself laughing at what was going on.

The name of the movie is "The Invention of Lying". This guy named Mark Bellison gets fired from his job, his landlord is evicting him and he needs $800 to NOT be evicted. He goes to the bank and the computers are down but the lady at the bank asks who much he wants from his account. Knowing the computers are down and knowing he only has $300 in the bank, he thinks for a minute and tells her he wants all $800 that's in his account. As fate would have it, the computers come up at that moment, and he just knows he is caught. The teller says the computer must be wrong and asks him if he wants all $800 in large or small bills. Later he invents heaven, hell and God. This is a very funny movie and stars Ricky Gervais as Mark, Jennifer Garner as Anna McDoogles and Rob Lowe as Brad Kessler (the movie asshole) and Tina Fey as Shelly (the female movie asshole). If you have a weird sense of humor and love to laugh and off the wall stuff, this is a MUST see. I had heard it advertised but would not have gone out of my way to watch it…thank goodness for naps! Otherwise I would have missed out on a very funny and in a weird sorta way, a heartwarming storyline.

Blessings and Light till next Sabbat

Loye