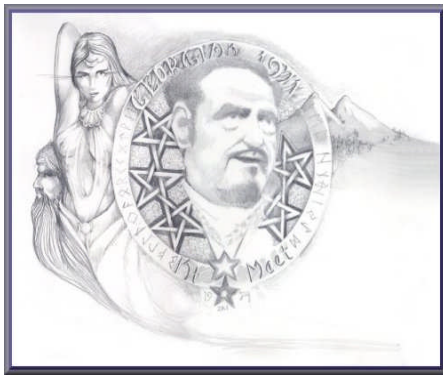
THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



IMBOLC 2011

What's Inside:

- Spotlight
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SPOTLIGHT

~Tegwedd ShadowDancer~

Unfortunately we have no picture on file of dear Tegwedd ShadowDancer

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

Tegwedd ShadowDance - I discovered Paganism in '74 when I was 27. Christianity just wasn't doing it anymore, and I dreaded the only alternative I knew of to Christianity. We have got to get together with other Pagans,
and get the word out there that Paganism is a viable alternative to Christianity and the other
"cookie cutter" religions. By "cookie cutter" I mean faiths that insist upon orthodoxy. That you have to agree with everyone else But in Paganism we can agree to disagree. I was taking a class on the Occult, a field that had long fascinated me. Our instructor told us about a meeting being held that evening at which we could meet some Pagans. A group of Christians had unfortunately heard about it, and attended, demanding equal time. Now, as you know, when Christians demanded "equal time" they mean to take over. When, in the past 1800 years have they given us Pagans equal time? Never, that's when. So when their leader took over, the Pagans went over to the side, where the door was.
I got up and joined them. They greeted me with open arms. I've been a Pagan ever since. I found Wicca soon after that..
What tradition did you start in? if any?
From the beginning I've been divided between Druidry (NRDNA) and Wicca. In 1976, I was initiated into NROOGD (New Reformed Orthodox Order of the Golden Dawn), which really doesn't have that much to do with the Golden Dawn.

GNL -How long have you been interested in the craft?
Tegwedd ShadowDance -Since 1971 or earlier, maybe.

GNL -Are you a Georgian or Georgian kin?

Tegwedd ShadowDance -I'm 3rd degree Georgian, having been initiated by Roger Bell and Lady Dione in 1992.

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

Tegwedd ShadowDance -One daughter, by the time this comes out she'll
be 29. No grandchildren.

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

Tegwedd ShadowDance -No.

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

Tegwedd ShadowDance -We're writing a book about the Tarot. The sum total of over 90 years of study and work with it.

GNL -Attended/Missed many Mt Meets?
Tegwedd ShadowDance -Never had the moolah to go to a Mountain Meet.

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

Tegwedd ShadowDance -Well, when I was safely ensconced in the 3rd degree,
Dione decreed that I shall lead the Full Moon ritual. I did, since I had done so many times before. And it went well. But It could have flopped. I knew only three people at the ritual; Dione, Roger, and my late Significant Other, Doc. But that doesn't intimidate me. I simply regard it as an opportunity to meet new friends.

Spot Light Kin Folk over the last few years.

Greetings All! Over the course of the last three years we have featured many Georgians and Georgian kin. Next Sabbat is the anniversary of the resurrection of the Georgian Newsletter, so I thought I would list those individuals that we got to know a little better. I have been fortunate enough to meet many of these people and can say for sure that I am better for it. So, instead of a single person, lets salute those already spotlighted!

2007
Ostara - Patterson
Beltane – Lady Du Dragcorum (Bobbie)
Litha – Lord Bel Taran (Loye)
Lughnasadh – Georgia
Mabon – Lord Shonsu Chiox (Allen)
Samhain – Cindy (Mab)
Yule – Lord Puck Shadowdrake

2008
Imbolc - Marla
Ostara – Lady Kundalini (Karen)
Beltane – Lady Rhiannon Etain (Sherri)
Litha – Lady Kerredwyn Springsong (Shawn)
Lughnasadh – Miranda Pourner
Mabon - Branwen
Samhain - Cosette
Yule - Fresno Jeff

2009
Imbolc - Balder (Jeff Ray)
Ostara – Lady Star Shadowdrake
Beltane – Treebreard (Robert)
Litha – Spiritmother
Lughnasadh –Skip Wa
Mabon - Fairweather
Samhain - Moondancer (Herb)
Yule - Lady Rowan Moonstone

2010
Imbolc - none
Ostara – Prince William the Stoopid
Beltane – Lav
Litha –Karen St John
Lughnasadh – none
Mabon - none
Samhain - none
Yule - none

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

It is always of the greatest pleasure when I get to put announcements into the newsletter! Congrats to all!

Birthdays;
Cindy – January 16
Miranda Pourner – January 16
Lady Autumn Star – Feb 3
Fresno Jeff's - February 21

Imbolc

Setup (the multitasking version):

Chant: We approach the sacred grove/With hearts & minds & flesh & bone/Join us now in ways of old/We have come home
James drums, Jennifer & Jeff admit participants to circle while HP/S consecrate salt/water, purify altar, and purify each other.

When all participants are admitted, Jennifer sweeps circle (once deosil) while HP/S walk circle with saltwater and incense (once deosil). Jennifer sings while sweeping:
With this besom filled with power/Sweep away the old and sour
Sweep away the chill of death/Winter draws its last cold breath

Brigid comes to bring us light!/Winter dies, and all is bright!
Round and round and round about/Sweep the old and useless out!
[The tune is the same as "Our Lady White," which I'll send the mp3 of under separate cover].

Casting the Circle:

HP cuts circle with sword. HPS follows & strengthens circle.

HP/S charge quarters and center of circle. Group joins in recitation of "As above, so below; as without, so within; as the universe, so the soul."

Quarters evoke the directions, theming (say whatever you want as long as you include this line at the beginning):
Air: Spirits of poetry, knowledge and beauty
Fire: Sacred flame and forge of the goddess
Water: Sacred well, spirits of love and birth
Earth: Source and protector of the sacred well

HP/S call Cernunnos and Brigid:
HP & men chant: Horned One, Lover, Son/Brave the winter storm/Deep in the mother/Die and be reborn
HPS & women chant: Goddess three, come to me/Bring your fire bright/Guide us through the darkness/Hold us in the night
HPS closes circle.

Ritual workings:

(1) Divination – Since we don't have a groundhog, and it would be just too mean to bring one of Starr's hamsters out in the cold, each celebrant will instead pull a tarot card or rune from the deck or runes they brought along, seeking guidance as to the next six weeks (which, coincidentally [?] is the length of time until Ostara).

(2) Needfire – Following a description of the tradition of the needfire, HP/S snuff all candles on altar, describing how during the darkness of winter the God/dess may seem to be absent. Quarters snuff their candles as HPS describes how the air hangs still and cold, the earth lies frozen and unyielding, the ponds and streams are covered in ice and snow, and the memory of the summer sun's fire fades and dies. When all lights are out, HPS describes how in this time of darkness the people come together to create new light and hope for all to share. HPS lights a new three-wick candle (representing a small, safe version of the needfire). From this candle, HP/S re-light the god and goddess candles, representing their return. The quarters step up and relight their candles from the needfire as the HPS describes the ice breaking and snow melting, swelling the rivers; the earth thawing and bringing forth new life; the breeze carrying the promise of spring's return; and the rebirth of the sacred flame, the heart of the people.

Celebrants begin to chant, rattle/drum and move around the circle, focusing their energy on charging the needfire:
(1) Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate, Demeter, Kali, Inanna
(2) Pan, Woden, Baphomet, Cernunnos, Osiris
(3) We are the flow, we are the ebb, we are the weavers, weaving the web
(4) Spirit above me, spirit below me, spirit before me, spirit behind, spirit all around me, spirit am I

While chanting, celebrants can light their own candles and place them on the altar of their choice. When all candles have been lit from the needfire, celebrants can pull a match from under the three-wick to take home as a symbol of sharing the needfire.

(3) Wiccaning/Parenting rituals (as set forth elsewhere).

Symbolic Great Rite:

Other Agenda Items:

Releasing Circle:

HP/S thank and release the God/dess.
Quarters thanked and released.
The earth, the air, the fire, the water
Return, return, return, return…

HP/S admonish all beings attracted to the rite to run along and harm none.
Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again.

In 2004 the Travis Air Force Base Earth Circle (or Travis Circle) performed this ritual, lead by two members that practiced West Coast Eclectic Wicca. The objective of the Travis Circle was to be a learning

circle. As the Travis AFB Wiccan Lay Leader for more than 10 years I was blessed to have experienced many flavors of wicca and paganism practices and rituals. Those who lead the rituals, were required to cobble together a ritual that would draw as many participants into it as possible. I firmly believe that our rituals are a group celebration, and everyone should have the chance to participate.

Lord Bel Taran / Loye

Some Crafts

An Ovencraft Goddess candle holder/censer

An Osiris Ovencraft censer

Here is an Ostara / Easter cake I made some years ago. I dies coconut green for the grass, m&m's on the roof of the gingerbread house, put a pair of bunnies playing and for the corners I added plastic eggs. I don't have to tell you, that it was a BIG hit with the kids AND adults!

It may look hard, but it really was easy. All I used for yellow and white icing was a wilton decorating bag, and a star tip. I used a writing tip for the lines on the side walk and "gluing" the gingerbread house together. I also used icing to glue the m&m's on the roof. The bunnies and tree on the cake were just ordinary decorations you can get around Easter time.

Hand in hand, with fairy grace,
Will we sing, and bless this place.

~William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Imbolc has passed, the wheel has turned! We eagerly await the arrival of the next Sabbat. For those of you celebrating Lupercalia, eat, drink and be merry! Break out the fur loin cloths, order up some pizza from some local establishment and enjoy life as the poor delivery person tries to be professional! May the house be filled with nothing but "High" Priestesses and laughter!

Blessings and Light
The Georgian Newsletter Staff.