GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER The Georgian Church June 1988
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Ad rates are $36 for a full page, $20 for 1/2 page, $14 for anything less than 1/2 page. Ads must be camera ready.

WE ALWAYS WELCOME SUBMISSIONS--typed double-spaced if possible, but we're not real picky. SUBMISSIONS CANNOT BE RETURNED, but will be acknowledged if you send an SASE. PLEASE! If you wish a personal reply to your letter, enclose an SASE with your request, be specific, and please be patient. Letters usually get answered faster than phone calls unless your phone message is simple and very specific. Those letters which cannot be answered in the newsletter get

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Patness

September 1976--The mountain meeting went well even though we didn't have as big a turnout as we had hoped for. Unfortunately, Sunday morning was cold and raining, and people were afraid of getting stuck in the campground.... The local newspaper did a full-page article with photos (printed in such a way as to make individuals not recognizable) which gave an honest presentation of Paganism.

December 1976--We needed a large statue for our outdoor Circle of the God. However, as you know, you can't find them at the corner store... or anywhere else. So, the only solution was to make our own. The basic idea came from Sefa. The God statue is a four-foot statue of David. Holes are drilled in the head, the antlers trimmed to size, then a nail put halfway into the antler, and the other half into the small hole in the head. After inserting this into the head, the large hole around the antler base is filled with glue, putty, etc. The hooves are real cattle hooves which may be purchased from a meat processing company. These may be soaked in ammonia for several days, or treated in some other manner for curing. After they are dried, they may be cut with a hacksaw to the proper size. Plaster or other material may be used to secure them to the statue after the front part of the statue feet are sawed off. To make a horned helmet, we used a worker's hardhat, drilled holes in the sides, and holes in the antlers. These were attached with molly bolts and washers on both inside and outside of the hat. Remainder of the helmet is covered with pieces of rabbit fur which have been cut and attached with glue.

June 1977--The May (1977) issue of National Geographic offered rolled paper maps of the Celtic World at $2. Plastic are $3. (For current prices, write POB 2895, Washington, DC 20013).

July 1977--As you know, we have a number of outdoor statues here. Stone is too expensive and hard to find. Plaster does not hold up too well in the weather even though painted with enamel. We have found the solution is polyurethane enamel. First coat thinned and second coat just as it comes from the can. It gives a hard, glass-like finish.

August 1977--Answer to a question: Why the "Of Bakersfield" in our name when we have members all over the country? Because when we started with our first charter we had not heard of any other "Church Of Wicca". But then they started

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Patness (cont.)

popping up all over the place. So we added the "Of Bakersfield" to make it clear that we are not and never have been associated with any other "Church Of Wicca".... This is your newsletter. It operates on donations, and on your keeping us informed of what's happening. If you don't tell us, we can't tell others. If we don't hear from you, we can only assume you are not interested.

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July 1988 Star Gazer

Earthquakes likely on the 1st, 5th, 24th, and 30th. Possible on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 10th, 14th, 16th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 26th, 28th, and 31st.

The 1st of July brings a clearing of previous blockages and is an excellent evening for dinner with your current love. This romance bubbles over to the 2nd when learning and hard work provide material success and some room to indulge in some extravagances.

The 3rd will be an excellent sailing day. Play your hunches and keep an eye on your wallet.

Love lives show some strange aspects on the 4th but materially it is a great day for forging ahead.

Ambitions are favorably aspected on the 5th and you will have lots of energy to pursue them. Self-knowledge and self-discipline will be helpful in this respect as some confusion will be present.

Use charm on the 7th and 8th.

The 9th brings financial well-being but watch that temper!

If you are planning on relocating, the 10th has good auspices for profit from such a change. Such changes in residence may bring fear, worry, and loneliness but this will soon pass.

A position of authority opens up on the 11th which will require intellect and logic. There is a danger couched in this position in that it could be easily lost through a slip of the tongue--either too caustic a remark or too tall a tale.

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July 1988 Star Gazer (cont.)

New phases on the 12th require adjustments in the way you perceive yourself, your relationships, and your finances.

The New Moon on the 13th starts a period marked by an increase in accidents, primarily cuts and burns. Do be careful in fire hazard areas during this period! The danger increases between late August and late October.

Ideas which have been on the back burner enjoy further development and cooperation from others on the 14th.

Activities involving behavior modification (diets, stop smoking, etc.) are favored on the 16th.

If you intuitively feel like a scheme or deception is afoot on the 17th, you may be correct. This may surface on the 18th as unsociable behavior, or a sudden change of opinion.

New beginnings on the 19th lead to financial security. Use self-knowledge and self-discipline and have a good time.

Folks will be talkative on the 20th but it's mostly social chatter, impractical ideas, and fun.

Teachers and teaching are favored from the 21st through December. If you want a career as a teacher in drama, arts, or the medical field, the 21st is a good day to launch it.

Temper and passion make interesting bedfellows on the 22nd. And it's back to work on the 23rd with excellent results and much good fortune on the 24th. This fortune, however, is easily lost to poor financial judgement on both the 24th and 25th.

Crazy psychic conditions on the 26th bring nervous tension which could be hazardous to your health. Someone may attempt domination by authority for authority's sake. Intelligence and an analytic approach will help; on the 27th, insight into creative solutions will surface but may not be perfectly clear.

The Full Moon on the 28th is good for working on success in creative enterprises. Interesting gossip.

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July 1988 Star Gazer (cont.)

New phases start on the 29th on the business front. This may result in discussion of your philosophies on the 30th and some philanthropic intervention to your delight. Spring for lunch and enjoy. This may mean some adjustments at home on the 31st but the business gains will present tactful solutions to help ease the transition.

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Learning Tarot by jeannie

Most instructional material for learning Tarot, or other methods of divination using cards or such as a medium, rely on the student to absorb the individual meanings of the symbols and of the cards prior to ever "throwing" (dealing the cards in a specific pattern). I would like to propose an alternative method, probably not a new one for there really isn't much new under the sun.

In the beginning, it is important to remember that you will only be reading for yourself. When you have more confidence in working with the cards and their meanings, you will be ready to read for others. If you have difficulty reading for yourself, try to read for someone who is experienced with Tarot or who thoroughly understands that you are undergoing a learning process as the primary purpose of the reading. After all, you wouldn't want surgeons to make their first pass with a scalpel over your skin, would you?

Before You Begin: Read the directions. This may sound dumb, but I've seen folks read Cartouche in a Celtic spread just starting out. While this is fine and dandy, and we'll talk about variations later on, in the beginning, stick with the primary layout recommended in the guidebook for that particular deck. Read all of the directions before you even think about throwing the cards.

The tools you will need are simple. You will need a deck of cards, any deck will do, preferably a deck you like and one for which an interpretive guide and directions for throwing are readily available. You will also need a notebook and the guidebook mentioned above. The only other needs are space and time: space to throw the cards; time to work with them. For the initial exercise, you'll need about two to three hours.

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Learning Tarot (cont.) by jeannie

Begin by studying the diagram for the spread given by the guidebook carefully, even before you remove the cards from their container. You may want to copy the diagram inside the cover of your notebook or use liquid (or needle for the ambitious) embroidery to copy the diagram to scale on a piece of cloth on which you will later throw the cards.

Some guidebooks will give you specific directions for handling the cards as part of the initial instructions. Obviously, they should be handled with care. You may find a simple purification rite to perform prior to reading the cards. This, too, you may want to record inside the cover of your notebook above the diagram. In the beginning, no one should handle the cards but you. Later, when you read for tohers, the querent should handle the cards only to shuffle them. In general, treat the cards with the same respect as any other divination object.

Take a minute or two to look at each of the cards. If there are particular cards which appeal to you, make note of this in your notebook. Then, hold the cards face down in your hands and concentrate on one question you would like to ask. If you do not have a specific question, blank your mind or ask that you be told what you need to know. (The first time I threw the Witches' Tarot, I was told I needed to study it more!) Then, if the directions for throwing the cards indicate the selection of a Significator, remove this card from the deck and place it in front of you according to the diagram. Shuffle the cards in accordance with the directions in the guidebook. Then throw the cards.

Once the cards are thrown, you will be working from the cards thrown, the guidebook, and your notebook. In your notebook, write the day, the name of the deck, the time of day, and the question asked. Then, for each card in the throw, in the order thrown, record the following information in your notebook:

1. The position of the card in the throw and the significance of the position of the card in the throw as given by the guidebook.
2. The card that appears in that position and whether the card is upright or reversed.
3. The meanings of the card as given by the guidebook.

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Learning Tarot (cont.) by jeannie

At this point, you have a complete record of the possible interpretations of the reading and, if you don't already have an advanced case of writer's cramp, you may want to comment on what in the reading applies to your current situation and what doesn't. If absolutely nothing makes sense or fits together, it is most likely because you were not concentrating on your question completely. If this is the case, start over. If it happens more than twice, try again at another time.

Next, stack the cards in the reading face up with the outcome card on the bottom of the stack. The order of the rest of the cards does not matter. Keep these cards separate from the rest of the deck and put the unused portion of the deck away. Do not retain cards with negative connotations. Either invert the card to a more favorable position or return the card to the unused portion of the deck. This completes the first session with the cards.

On a daily basis, go back to your notebook and, selecting the card on top of the pile retained from the reading, record the following information:

1. The date.
2. The card selected from the top of the pile.
3. The position of the card in the original throw and the significance of the position of the card.
4. The interpretations of the card from the guidebook.
5. The interpretations of the card as they applied to you when you did the reading.
6. The interpretations of the card as they apply to your present situation.

You will find that the interpretations as applied to your situation may change from the reading to the daily meditation, but usually the two meanings will be closely related. Do this for each card, but only for one card per day. The last daily meditation will be on the outcome card. At this point, you may want to make some notes on each card in the reading, what it meant to you when you first threw the cards and what it means to you now.

After you have completed the daily meditation on the outcome card, you are ready to throw the cards again. Proceed in the same manner and record the same information on the second throw. Again, retain the cards from the throw as you did in

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Learning Tarot (cont.) by jeannie

the first reading. During your daily meditations, however, check back to see whether the card appeared in the first reading. If so, make note also of the position and meanings of the card in the first reading as well as the daily notes on the card from the second reading. You will find that, when cards reappear in a second reading, some meaning and relation carries over from the first reading.

This recording system can be used for readings for others with a few modifications:

1. When you read for others, explain briefly the recording techniques and ask if you may do this.
2. Keep these records separate from your personal records, preferably in a loose leaf notebook. If the querent so desires, you may give the record to them to keep for reference.
3. Always maintain the confidentiality of the querent. The loose leaf notebook allows you to add pages and remove them, helping you maintain confidentiality and availability of records for both you and the querent. This ntoebook should be maintained so that no one has access to the complete notebook except you.

As far as the reading itself, there are a few minor modifications. If a Significator is selected prior to the throw, select the Significator before the cards are surrendered to the querent. Instruct the querent to hold the cards face down and meditate on a specific question. Before surrendering the cards, instruct the querent in how to shuffle the cards. Once the querent has shuffled the cards and returned them to you, throw the cards, facing you. As you are making your notes, explain to the querent each of the items you are recording: the position of the card, the significance of the position, the card appearing in the position, the possible interpretations of the card, if the card appeared in a previous reading for this querent. When you have done this for each card, you may want to offer some overall interpretations for the reading. It is not important that you know the question the querent asked as long as the querent received valuable information from the reading. You don't always get what you want, but you always get what you need.

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Learning Tarot (cont.) by jeannie

Obviously, you do not give cards from the reading to the querent to take home. However, on their copy of the record, you may want to circle selected cards and suggest the same daily meditation techniques. The cards themselves should be returned to the unused portion of the deck and the deck shuffled before returning the cards to storage.

Experimentation with variations in layout and technique are carried out with similar recording efforts. Always start by experimenting with readings for yourself first and flag your notes (with an asterisk, *, perhaps) where variations take place. Include in your daily meditations whether the variation was beneficial. If so, it may be a technique you can use for querents; however, it should be noted that variations that work for you may not work for querents. This, too, should be noted.

The benefits of this method of learning tarot are manifold. First, it allows the student to proceed directly to throwing the cards without the necessity of knowing anything about the individual cards. Second, it provides a reference point (the notebook) from which the student may readily monitor both knowledge of the cards and personal spiritual progress. Third, it provides a self-paced program for learning tarot with virtually no need of instructor supervision or intervention and a self-perpetuating mechanism for feedback. It also provides a recording mechanism which can be used for querents so that they leave the reading with "hardcopy" for future reference.

For those of you with computers and data base capability, some of the writer's cramp can be mitigated with a couple of heavy duty sessions at the keyboard. To set up the data base, the key field will be a uinque identifier for each upright and reversed meaning of each of the cards. KC, for example, might be the key field for King of Cups while KCR might be the key field for the same card reversed. Subsequent fields contain the meaning of the card as given by the guidebook. If you have character limitations on record size, you can abbreviate to key words or, if you have multiple base capacity, reference to another data base. Be sure to leave ample room for additional interpretations from other guidebooks or your own notes. Your report format is provided from the card layout with the data base of interpretations acting as the variables for the report. You may even want to experiment with a program to throw the cards

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Learning Tarot (cont.) by jeannie

using random number generating techniques. This, however, should be done only once you feel very comfortable with the standard methods of the deck you are using and, of course, are intimate with your software. Once the data base is entered, variations can be programmed, incorporated into the report, or added to the data base.

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Que Sera by Stan

There were no distinguishing characteristics about the rapidly approaching middle age spinster who sat before the reader. Her clothes were inexpensive but well chosen.

The reader laid down the first card. "This covers you," she explained.

"Ah! Yes, you lucky person you, my, how nice. The cards tell me you are coming into a large sum of money and you are taking a trip."

The client smiled a hopeful smile. "I have some mining property. Do you see gold on it?"

"That could very well be. It's a fair amount of money... three days... three months... three years.

"My psychic sense shows me you will be on a 747 bound for Europe. Sitting next to you is a handsome executive type with a portable computer on his lap. Everything about him spells money. Even his after shave lotion has an expensive smell to it.

"Soon you and he are talking. He seems quite taken with you. 'I am so tired of these sophisticated chlorine type girls,' he tells you. 'Give me a girl, simple, honest and true.' That's a good description of you, the honest and true part, don't you agree?

"You have landed in Monaco and soon you are in the casino at Monte Carlo. You are fascinated by the roulette wheel. It's the first one you have ever seen. Perhaps you have drunk too much of that giggle juice, called champagne, because when he suggests he put five hundred francs on your age, you call out twenty-nine. The croupier spins the wheel one way, throws

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Que Sera (cont.) by Stan

the ball the other. It hops, skips, and jumps, slowing and finally settling on the black number twenty-nine. Seventeen thousand five hundred francs.

"You know you shouldn't have accepted the invitation for a nightcap in his hotel room that night but, well you did, what a night. You will never forget it.

"The next day you exchange addresses. He promises to come see you the next time he is in the States. It's on to Paris. What a thrill, the vacation time runs out all too quickly and you must return back home. Tired but happy and even richer than when you left. Oui, Ia, Ia, what a future."

After the curtain closed on the patron, the shop owner remarked, "I saw the spread. I saw no gold on her land, no money, no trip, no romance. Just one uneventful dreary year following another with ever increasing frequency. She will visit only her few friends who will gradually die, until she too will join them."

"I know, I know, but who wants a future like that?"

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Earth is the Holy Land by Winged Disk

Many pagans live in cities, or areas that have been dominated by governmental/corporate energy. Some of us live near nuclear power plants, nuclear weapons manufacturers, or toxic waste sites. We feel a need to always "go out to a wilderness area" to work our magick because where we live has been tainted. This belief that our magick is somehow less effective due to location can diminish our effectiveness.

We need to evolve our belief systems. Earth is a divine being. We are Her children. Everything, all life on Earth, is sacred. By consecrating any part of Earth as a sacred site, we can help ourselves know our divine essence functions effectively anywhere. We heal ourselves, we heal the land when we reclaim/give areas "back" to the Earth. For example, a toxic waste dump appears to be dead, powerless, or corrupted. By dedicating that land to the Earth and consecrating that land as divine we help Earth and all our relations heal that land. A city can seem to be distorted,

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Earth (cont.) by Winged Disk

disturbed energy. An individual or group can transform an entire city into a Magickal land. Again. In all nows.

On August 17, 1987, MER laid a medicine wheel made of medicine wheels around Birmingham measuring 8,000 feet across. We made Birmingham "a place of compacting power" for healing the Earth and Her Peoples. We know we now live in a truly sacred Magickal land. Though it is early to see results, we have noticed more grass roots political, social, and environmental activism happening in Birmingham and Alabama.

We encourage any person or group to bless the Earth. Here is the ritual we used:

Obtain a map of the area and a highlighter pen.

Draw your symbol on the map. We used our home as the center. Use any symbol which means healing to you. A pentacle, an ankh, the Earth symbol, a medicine wheel, a Celtic stone circle, or whatever feels right.

Decide where the "beginning" of the symbol is. For example, since our home was the center of the medicine wheel, we created our home as a "mother stone" of the medicine wheel.

List the street locations of where the symbol falls on the map. Or list where the four quarters and center of your symbol are.

Choose a time to consecrate the area. You may wish to visit the site prior to the actual time of the ceremony. By previously checking each site we were able to find safe, legal, public land.

On the day/time you have selected, each person and the group dedicates themselves to healing the Earth and Her Peoples. Meditate, pray, call quarters, invoke diety(ies) or whatever is your way.

Then consecrate the area by magickally "drawing" your symbol on the area. As you go to each site, maintain an awareness that you are blessing the entire area. Bless, dedicate, protect, sanctify each site you have selected. Reclaim the land for Earth and Her Peoples.

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Earth (cont.) by Winged Disk

When you have completed the symbol, return to the center and visualize the symbol over the area healing Earth. Raise a cone of power to energize your creation and manifest wholeness.

You may be amazed by the sites you find. We had country clubs, businesses, and schools among our "stones". If more than one group makes their symbol in an area So Mote It Be! Earth will arrange the energy as She needs. We chose the medicine wheel because it is sacred healing wholing Magick of Turtle Island. We are all Earth. Each of our images have healing power. It is the power of All That Is, Earth, and the People which make the symbol holy.

Any date, any time is a good time to do this. If you would like to join us on August 27, 1988, we will be celebrating, honoring, and remembering our sacred site. Heal Mother Earth by blessing the home/land where you live.

If you would like a more detailed description of how we laid a medicine wheel in Birmingham, send a SASE to Winged Disk % Gaiagape, POB 55971, Birmingham, AL 35205.

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If Society's Standards are Low, Can the Craft be Otherwise?
by Tarostar

Maybe it is just me, but am I the only one who can write a decent formal business letter these days? I send a letter to a metaphysical publisher offering a manuscript on Tarot but also listing my other works showing the publishers so they would know that they would be getting a known, published author.

I get back an unsigned note requesting manuscripts of my works that have already been sold to different publishers and asking me to identify my gender and submit my astrological particulars! One would expect an outfit which publishes books available in metaphysical bookstores to be professional, no? Silly me!

One types a proper letter with the correct formalities and one gets a hand-scribbled note, minus a signature, mind you,

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Society's Standards (cont.) by Tarostar

asking for one's gender and zodiac information. Lots of luck, kiddo!

Why this aversion to display a proper attitude in business formalities? Why this ultra casual approach to serious business decisions? Why this totally unprofessional and unschooled method?

I am a Star Gazer, not an astrologer. But I am enough of an astrologer to know one does not hand out zodiacial particulars to persons one does not know, especially persons who cannot even sign their names to a letter. And he/she wants my gender? My identity? It only shows me the so-called publisher did not even thoroughly read the letter in the first place. Or, his/her attitude is so schlockey and shoddy as to not pay attention to business.

Could one trust that publisher to actually read the manuscripts he/she puts up for publication? Is it more important to know one's sign than to make money by selling his/her published works? It would seem to me a person with his/her head in the clouds and the zodiacial ecliptic could not be trusted to handle my publishing matters in a practical down-to-earth manner, no?

Craft is a metaphysical reigion of learning. One learns in life to make each incarnation better, ultimately evolving to pure spiritual states of existence. However, with such displays of a low and uneducated level of expression, one wonders where we are headed.

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WARNING! The Sturgeon General has determined that life is inherently dangerous and you probably won't get out of it alive.

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"Chance favors the prepared mind." --Louis Pasteur

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There's more spiritual enlightenment in a single hive of bees than in any congregation of people in suits. --Anon

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From Lady Ivy

"Every year," said Grandfather. "They run amuck; I let them. Pride of lions in the yard. Stare, and they burn a hole in your retina. A common flower, a weed that no one sees, yes. But for Us a Noble thing, the dandelion." --Ray Bradbury from Dandelion Wine

At this time of year some of us have beautiful green lawns, some of us don't. Some of us have beautiful green lawns dotted with little bright yellow flowers. This can add to or detract from the beauty of your acreage according to your point of view.

Someone once told me that if I wanted to get rid of something, to let it know that I was going to eat it. So, if you would like a dandelion-free yard, the following recipes may be posted hither and yon around the offenders so they get the idea. It may work.

On the other hand, putting to good use what The Mother offers is one of the sincerest forms of appreciation. With that, I offer a slightly closer look at a plant we generally overlook.

There are several species of dandelion native to the United States, all having similar qualities. For our purposes, we are spotlighting Taraxacum officinale, originally native to the Old World, now flourishing all over the New one wherever there is enough moisture. Dandelion is the English corruption of the French dent de lion or lion's tooth. Other common or folk names are Blowball, Cankerwort, Piss-a-bed, Priest's Crown, Puffball, Swine Snout, White Endive, and Wild Endive.

The dandelion is one of the most versatile and useful plants known. The leaves may be eaten raw or cooked. If they are a little bitter, they may be boiled more than once, changing the water in between. However, the greens contain large quantities of vitamins A and C and are rich in B vitamins and you may be pouring out some of those nutrients with the water.

Picked young, the leaves can be eaten in salads or on sandwiches. If you just happen to have your very own silkworm helping you make your very own silk things, it can eat dandelion leaves when you run out of mulberry leaves. Won't that save you a trip to the store.

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From Lady Ivy (cont.)

The roots may be used in making tea or dried, ground, and used to make a sort of coffee substitute.

Surprise your dinner guests with dandelion flowers dipped in batter and fried in butter. The perfect vegetable accompaniment to that perfect main dish. Flowers can also be sauteed, candied, made into jelly, and wine.

The roots and leaves of the plant are diuretic, aperient, hepatic, and are used for cleansing the urinary tract, the liver, gall bladder, kidney and stomach. The tea is a good all-around tonic and is said to be good for hypochondria, fevers, and rheumatism. The distilled waters of the dandelion are also good for washing the sores of the skin.

To get rid of warts, apply the juice of the stem for at least three consecutive days. Allow the juice to dry after each application.

Dandelion is a masculine plant. Its planet is Jupiter. Its deity is Hecate and its element is Air.

It is used in calling spirits, divination, and, as every child knows, to make wishes.

To call spirits, make dandelion tea, call spirits as usual and watch for them to materialize in the steam of the tea.

Divination is done in the same manner as wishmaking. By blowing on the seed head one may divine the answer to one's question. Number questions seem to be best here.

Drinking the dandelion coffee substitute mentioned earlier is said to enhance psychic powers. Might as well check and see.

We are given so much in our lives. With every mouthful and every sip I am reminded of the Goddess and just how much I have. Enjoy.

Dandelion Jelly: this jelly looks and tastes like honey. Gather one quart of blossoms early in the morning. The honey content is higher at that time. Wash them well and add one quart of water to the blossoms. Boil hard for five minutes; then drain through cloth so the liquid is clear. Measure three cups of liquid, combine with one teaspoon lemon juice,

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From Lady Ivy (cont.)

one package of Sure Jell and four and one-half cups of sugar. Boil until it reaches the gel point. Pour into jars and seal.

Dandelion Wine: I think there are as many recipes for dandelion wine as there are people who make it. This recipe is from Bruce Palmer's Wine-making at Home and I chose it primarily for its simplicity. If you are interested in learning more, there is another easy, step-by-step recipe in Super-Easy Step-By-Step Winemaking by Yvonne Young Tarr. Both books are fun to read, easy to follow, and seem to be written for those of us of beginner status.

Pick five gallons of dandelion blossoms. Remove all of the stems. Put them into a ten-gallon crock, pressing them down firmly. Add five gallons of boiling water. Let the blossoms steep for about fifteen minutes. Bail the flowers into a clean, strong, unstarched cloth bag and press well in two batches to get all the juice and color. Pour the juice back into the crock. Add half a cake of pressed yeast or half an envelope of dry yeast, stirring well. Stir in twenty pounds of sugar and one quart of inexpensive brandy. Allow to ferment for seven days. Skim the surface and strain through cheescloth into a five-gallon distilled water bottle. Let stand overnight, then water seal. A water seal is available through merchants catering to the winemaking trade. This wine should not require racking. As soon as it is clear, wait another week, just to be sure, then bottle and cork it. This is a wine to drink young since it is not likely to improve much with age. The brandy ensures its durability and fortifies its strength.

Pour the finished product into a clear glass and hold it to the light. Peer through the pale gold liquid and remember pretty yellow flowers and a bright summer day.

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This date in ourstory: 2156 years ago in the year -168 the battle of Pydna has just ended and there is an abundance of Macedonians for sale in Rome at bargain prices. Males, fit and healthy, $75. Selected models as low as $50. Prime females $1,000.00 o.b.o.

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Editor's Consort's Editorial Comment

Your April newsletter was about six days late. Last month's edition was two weeks or more late. I need not consult my crystal ball to see that you will be reading this later than we would like. For those of you to whom that is no revelation, we are still aiming for a monthly publication date of the fifteenth of the month; but I make no promises in that respect. What I can promise you is twelve issues per subscription renewal, mailed at approximately even intervals. I will also promise to refund the unused portion of your subscription if we ever frustrate you intolerably without causing you to think some worthwhile thoughts.

The End

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I love the Ocean.
It is so independent of us.
So independent of the things we think are important.

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Things That Go Bump In The Closet by dean

"Way up the road from Hattie's shack
lies a sleepy, little Okeechobee town.
Talk of Swamp Witch Hattie would
lock you in when the sun goes down.

"Rumors of what she'd done.
Rumors of what she'd do.
Kept folks off the track to Hattie's shack
in the back of the Black Bayou."

from "Swamp Witch" recorded by Jim Stafford for MGM.

... When I say Xtian, though, I don't mean Christian. The Jewish mystic's followers only make up a small fraction of the number of Xtians in the world. By Xtian I mean monotheist, one who believes in only one God/dess. They all have several similar qualities and difficulties. Witches just think they have a problem now with the Christians. Just wait until they have to contend with the children of Allah. The Muslims are the largest monotheistic sect currently and they have the greatest rate of numerical growth. The Central

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Things (cont.) by dean

Intelligence Agency tracks their population patterns. If it bothers you that some bubblegum-minded Christian fundamentalists are not willing to "... suffer a Witch to live..." hold on until you find out what those saber-rattling -religion-and-government-all-rolled-into-One, Allah Xtians have in store for anyone who sees differently from them. They call them Infidels and they don't like them - A LOT! But then, I've encountered some people who claim to be Witches and are monotheists. It's all the same though, monotheism does not work. It is inherently flawed as a belief system. It is a fairly new idea as far as religious ideas go, but its faults are more than can be accounted for by undeveloped youth.

The Middle East is a prime case in point. Joseph Campbell, author of The Hero With A Thousand Faces, points to the region as an example of the failure of modern myth. Here we have three monotheist cults ready to push each other into the sea because they all believe there can only be one God and He can only have one name.

Then there is the real thorn; Evil. If there is only one diety and that diety is all that is good and right and proper. And if that diety made everything and is stronger than anything, then how can things fail to be always good and right and proper. Why is there evil, suffering, chaos? Well, you see, here the monotheist has to tap dance a little; then he comes up with: drum roll, shudder: the Devil. This guy accounts for everything that goes wrong. Diety can not banish him, or at least has not been able to so far. Indeed, to hear the fundies of any Xtian persuasion tell it, the Devil and his infidel cohorts are always about to take over if there is any less sword rattling from the ranks of the faithful. At the same time this everlasting, undefeatable adversary is not a God. The logical problems should be almost self-evident. The philisophical issues are a little more subtle. They account for a lot of the confusion and frustration many an Xtian lives with, though they themselves seldom realize it. How would you feel if your God had been fighting all Its life, showed no sign of imminent victory, and it was not even a god that was giving God such a good fight?

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Things (cont.) by dean

But no Witch should ever have to carry such psychomythical garbage about with them. That should seem to go without saying. I would like to think most 'Craft traditions harken from a perspective which sees beyond the petty rising and falling of empires. I believe that is true as long as they are Pagan, and that is part of the definition of a Witch as far as I am concerned, and if Pagan includes in its meaning, polytheistic, then there is a entire class of worries which cease to exist. It's better than a magic wand.

Pardon, me, the door

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Ambition by Nick the Greek

I was born with a caul,
And they told me; "You
Will have second sight!"
But that wasn't true.

I can never guess
What tomorrow brings.
I don't hear the song
That the mermaid sings-

I don't care. For I find
It's enough for me
Just once in a while
To believe I see
Past the dealer's guard...
That
Next
Card.

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Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash.... The most vital quality a soldier can possess is self-confidence, utter, complete, and bumptious.

--George Patton

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I am brother to dragons and a companion to owls. --Job

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Reply to Neophyte Ethics by Luinrandir Hernsen

While I will not judge or debate the events in the letter by Marguerite, I do wish to relay my thoughts on two of the three concepts:

Do as you will, and harm none. This statement is perhaps one of the most terrible of them all. For the untrained (or not practiced enough), this statement is one habit that will change as training progresses. For myself, it is a Zen concept. If you intend no ill and knowingly put events in a proper order, then this statement has been carried out. It would seem that the order of "A's" events shows that he did as he thought best, although things didn't turn out as he planned. He may have even had an accident if he had left on time. (But we all know that second guessing the fates is pointless). So to this I suggest that A should meditate upon this event so (s)he will be better attuned to these situations in the future. And for the teachers of groups I suggest a sign on the door saying, "This Door Sealed" meaning simply "Do Not Disturb".

I remember one time that I was late for a sabbat. Looking back on it now, I could have done things differently and been there on time. However, I was late and by looking through a crack in the curtain and by the music in the background, I knew that my friends had just started the ritual. So I sat outside and waited for the lights to come on, meditating on the ritual and being there in "spirit" anyway.

Perfect Love, Perfect Trust: They DO exist. And they exist within the self. For me, Love is an understanding and respect of the forces that cause things to be the way they are. And the trust is the calm knowing that all is as it should be. And if that means something goes wrong, then it is karma. We should not get upset, but we can take steps to correct and prevent its repeat.

Our actions may not appear to be perfect but we must have a sense of Love and Trust within ourselves. Otherwise we may never be allowed to do anything.

Note to LH: No. Check OK for mail arrangements. If none, send SASE. None in envelope as stated.

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The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness. --John Muir

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From Georgia

Sure hope everyone is doing okay. We are all fine here. The shop is getting bigger and better every month and I meet so many Craft people here. Had a spring ritual out at the house. 27 people in the circle. It was so great. Vicky and Joe did the ritual. The biggest outdoor ritual in this area ever. Usually all rituals are done indoors but Rick and I moved 25 miles out from town and we are on twenty acres with no close neighbors.

Please don't stop the newsletters. I love them so much. I still have them all, even the first one-page one put out. I miss Pat so much sometimes and his dry sense of humor.

Well, I want to get this in the mail today and besides I dont' like to write much. Take care, think positive and may the Lady grace you all with love and light.

Ed: But we enjoy hearing from you so much! Thanks for your letters and phone calls. Glad you are enjoying "Patness".

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From Catherine and Kent (finally)

28 March 88

I write today with mixed feelings but I think I must write a Requiem for my dearest friend, who is now with the Goddess. Would you please put the following to print as soon as possible? It will be much appreciated and I hope will bring a measure of comfort to many Crafters who knew this wonderful lady.

Vale Lady Bethea,

On the day of the Vernal Equinox, 22 March, 1988, a courageous, Traditional/Hereditary High Priestess left us for a new life. Lady Bethea was an English war bride who made her home in America and came to love it as you all do. We are sad at her passing and we ask, why? Why did this lady have to endure pain, why did she have to leave us? So many why's and yet so many answers unseen and not understood. As a young priestess I was taught by those whose wisdom was far greater than mine may ever be that before we enter a new incarnation, those who are highly evolved spirits are given

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From Catherine and Kent (cont.)

choices in the new life to be. They may accept a new life with mental or physical limitations, with pain or suffering, mixed with the good, and these unselfish people accept such lives to teach lesser mortals lessons in courage, compassion and love.

Lady Bethea taught all this and more, she trained her Priests and Priestesses with a loving and gentle hand, her ways and acts surely must have delighted the Goddess. She truly taught "Perfect Love and Perfect Trust".

The last words she was able to write me, at a time she was enduring great suffering, were, "Keep smiling for me," and so, as I lit the candles to perform her Requiem, I did, through my tears.

An old and mutual friend of ours who passed to the summerland eight years ago in England wrote the following verses and at his service they were spoken by Doreen Valiente. I feel sure he would not have minded my usage of them here, to comfort those who are still sad and who will miss Bethea so very much.

I'm free from earth's dark coiling mess, and foes that did not understand,
I've broken free, O joy! I bless the day that freed me from their hand.
I'm light as air, I move quite free, No longer cased in leaden shell,
I've friends to meet and things to see, now in a fairer land I dwell,
The There or here are much the same, (except it's better to be there),
As taught by Priest of Lord and Dame, So dance and sing without a care!
For here am I in all parts whole, My body matched, as all before,
But healthy; temple of my soul, As long foresaid in ancient lore.

To all who knew and loved The Lady Bethea, fear not to speak her name, or in muted tones, but let her memory be in your daily life, talk of her loves and joys, the way she walked and the way she laughed, her love and understanding. Let the silver cord be loosed, the golden bowl of this incarnation is

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From Catherine and Kent (cont.)

ended. The wheel has turned full circle, her spirit is with The Ancient Ones who gave her birth, and who, in their time, will do so again. May the Goddess in her wisdom let us meet again, know each other again, and love again, and until that time, let us say, Merry Part Lady Bethea, Blessed Be.

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From Merlin the Enchanter

While I am glad that Pap found my comments "delightful", it would seem that the entire content of the article/letter sailed right over his/her head!

First, as to "the only defense a Witch should require is the example of the life led by the individual Witch"... how naive can one person be!

I get so bored with people saying, "We set the example by the life we led", when no one knows what you bloody are, nitwit! The twits that go around with this pabulum on their lips are the same bloody fools who hide their Craft away, putting on the pretend xian act and playing it to the hilt, and would not wear a pentagram in public if their lives depended on it (and someday it may!).

Moonstone and I had a dear Witch friend who lived a few miles from our Covenstead and felt this way... she was always telling us how she set an example for all to see by the life she led. She belonged to the PTA and did the bake sale bit and the whole nine yards. Then one day she moved and at the moving sale, while we were talking to her, not one, but three of her neighbors came up to her and said how sorry they were to be losing such a "good christian lady" in the community!

The moral is, if you use your life to set the example, make sure folks know what the hell you are setting an example for! Most folks look at someone who is all sweetness and light and say, "My, what a good christian soul."

I have no doubt that Pap is setting a fine and wholesome example by his/her life, but for which bloody side?

If you wish to use your life as an example, then do so by allowing everyone to know exactly what you are.

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From Merlin the Enchanter (cont.)

Oh, if you are wondering about me, yes, I let my life speak for me as well, and am very active in raising money for many local causes, and also make regular visits to the children's wards of the hospitals in the area to cheer up the kids with a few magic tricks and origami, and it is well known that I never turn down a request from a worthwhile cause... when the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in nearby Kokomo needed money for a day care center, I was asked to do a magic show as a fundraiser for them. I did, and my "stage" turned out to be the large altar area. Pentagrams and all, I was made welcome and even put the pastor on the floor laughing when midway through the show I wheeled out a giant guillotine and announced that Pastor Muhl had asked me to say a few words about the woes of not attending church regularly. (In case you wonder, yes, I later chopped off my wife's head with the thing... but fear not, I put it back... eventually!).

And yes, I always wear my pentagrams (a silver eye one, the Merlin Pentagram I designed, now marketed by Magi Craftsmen back East--two silver pentagram rings), an antique Celtic Priestess' ring which happens to fit, and of course my two bone and coyote teeth necklaces that were given to me when I was made Shaman of the local Native American tribes... and my leather spell pouch and an Athame are always on my belt, who's buckle is in an antique image of the great God Woton... so I would hazard that most folks have at least a general idea what religion I belong to.

Now, as to speaking out for my religion. Well, dear old Pap may feel like standing around shuffling feet when the fundies get on the news telling how we (Witches in general) practice devil worship, ritual child abuse, sacrifices of animals and even humans, and all the other bs... but I sure as hell won't... I speak out myself. After all, when you talk about Witchcraft in this area, like it or not, most non-Witches think of us... and so does the media, so when a fundie gets on his high horse, more than likely the media will come to me to see if I'll knock him off it.

Now, it may offend Pap's senses, but when a reporter asks, "Do Witches practice weird sex rites and devil worship?", I feel like saying no for all of us. And, what impression would it leave if to that question I said that no, our Coven did not but I can't speak for others? You can bet the farm that the next day the headlines would read, "Merlin says Some Witches are Devil Worshippers".

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From Merlin the Enchanter (cont.)

But, I have to be fair, so the very next time a reporter asks me if we practice ritual child abuse, I'll say, "No, we do not, and neither do most Witches we know... but there is one named Pap who I really can't say does not practice ritual child abuse"... How about that Pap, okay with you? I sure don't want to step on your toes and will say exactly the above unless you give me permission to include you with all the rest of us who do not practice ritual child abuse. (And if you think I'm kidding, you sure don't know old Merlin The Enchanter very well.)

Now, while no one can ever speak for the Craft as a whole, some folks have to speak up for our views, and even if Pap is too ignorant to realize it, we do have a lot that is general among us... and it has always been that way, one person's Craft is at its heart not that different from another's.

And, while a study of generalities is not worthwhile, some of us have studied many systems in depth and know and can work many systems... Ray Buckland comes right to mind in this light.

As for my own background, my main focus is the Gardner teaching and I am a third degree Gardnerian. I am also Shaman of the local tribes and am recognized as a Shaman by the Southeastern Cherokee Confederacy of the Cherokee Nations. (Being one half Native American, I see no drawback to honoring both sides of my Spiritual self as long as the Ways are not blended into some silly Wiccan-Shamanism that honors neither).

Aside from that, I have personally traveled to some 138 different foreign countries (so far), lectured at 80 major universities around the world, and spent most of the first half of my life living all over the world with native tribes and Magickal people. In Europe, I visited and stayed with every local Witch, Wizard, psychic, healer, reader and the like I heard of and could track down, from staying with old Gerald Gardner at his cottage on the Isle of Man, to spending several days at the home of an old Crone in Italy who taught me so many spells and workings of her Craft that it filled 56 cassette tapes! (My written and recorded interviews with all these people fill some 15,000 pages and some 943 cassette and reel-to-reel tapes). I have lived for weeks on the plains of South Africa with the Bushman Medicine Men swapping my

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From Merlin the Enchanter (cont.)

magickal knowledge for theirs... and did the same with native tribes in our own country, Australia, the South Seas, and the Amazon Delta. I lived for eighteen months with a young Voodoo Priestess, sharing her room and her knowledge to the extent that her followers began calling me "The White Witchdoctor".

My museum library contains the largest collection of handwritten Book Of Shadows (all original, not copies, and most 100 to 200 years old) in the world... and yes, I have read every one of the over 1,000 books in my Craft library (which is why I am usually seen lugging a book with me whenever I travel).

My dear old dad raised me with one saying always in mind, "Money talks, bullshit walks." So when two years ago the Grand Magister of the second oldest Satanic Order in North America offered to sell me all their Ritual Chamber effects, Altar Tools, Library, private records, Robes, Capes, and the whole ball of wax, I shelled out for it for my museum... Seth even made a special presentation to me of a certificate making me the new fifth degree (highest) Grand Magister of the Order, just in case I wanted to start it up again (actually I did, as a purely Ceremonial Magick/non-Satanic Order).

Now, before you run off into hysterics, Gerald Gardner had a large display of Satanic/Black Magick items in his museum on the Isle of Man (and in my collection is a copy of his guidebook to prove that)... Raymond Buckland had a display of the same in his museum on Long Island (and I have his guidebook he gave me to prove that too)... and my reason for wanting it was the same as theirs, to be able to study the beliefs of the system and to display their items so that folks at the museum can compare them and see how we differ. I am interested in truth, not in silly fears and mindless dogma that says one person cannot study the ways of another.

Besides, having the Satanic collection gives great weight to my statement that they differ greatly from Witches... folks can see that I know what I am talking about, and if you question me, I can talk in great and precise detail of the Satanic collection I own (including their handwritten Book Of Shadows), the only copies that exist and many even came with

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From Merlin the Enchanter (cont.)

death curses attached for any who reveal them (golly gee Batman).

The point is, I am not some twit fresh out of the cabbage patch and when I speak of the generalities of the Craft, I speak of those practices we all share (except for Pap, who may or may not practice ritual child abuse)... one may now hope that certain folks will understand what one means by "the Craft in general".

And, speaking of what we all share, it has never failed to amaze me at how the ancient people all over the world shared the same Magickal beliefs, even down to some of the very same symbols and tools.

For example, let's take the Hag or Holed (Holly) Stone around my neck I always wear (it has never been taken off once in the past many years)... a very beautiful Holed Stone that was unearthed during an archeological dig at Stonehenge in England. It was found with several other items under and near the Altar Stone during a Victorian dig there. In a display case just across the room from where I sit typing this are two more Holed Stones, one for the burial mound of a Holly Man of the people known as Mound Builders and the other from a grave of the prehistoric race known as the "Red Paint People". Next to that showcase is another, and in it is a Holed Stone that Raymond Buckland found many yars ago on the beaches of the Isle of Man while he was visiting old GBG, and which Ray wore for many eyars around his neck, and later gave to me along with his very first Tarot deck and some other goodies.

The stone from Stonehenge that I wear and the two from the ancient North American peoples (the Red Paint stone, which, by the way, has a fossil in it as well and so was a great treasure to its owner. It was found on the Northeastern shores of Canada and the mound builder stone came from a dig in Ohio) all showed signs of having been hung on cords, just as Ray and I wear (in Ray's case, wore) ours. Druid, Shaman and Medicine Man all used them for the same things (powerful protection and healing). I have also seen tribal Medicine Men in Africa and Australia wearing them and using them for the same things.

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From Merlin the Enchanter (cont.)

So, don't tell me we are all so very different. Small minds look for the differences and great ones look for the truth, a great man once said (actually, I think it was me). In any event, all the above is no brag, just fact, and so perhaps Pap will feel better, or perhaps not, about my speaking out on behalf of the Craft in general, now that he/she knows something of my own background... and if any of the things I have said are doubted, you are welcome to visit the museum where on display to the public at large are the proofs of everything I say, and if you doubt it and don't have the guts to visit the museum, well that would be your problem and not mine.

Ed: haven't been out to the print shop to check back issues yet. Will comply with your request B4 pub. J.

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From Chrystalynne

Congratulations are due to Dean and Jeannie on the arrival of their new baby girl, Austin "Jean" Khoury.

Before eyebrows are raised, please let me explain. My husband and I have named Dean and Jeannie as our second daughter's second set of parents. They aided in her birth on May 25th and May 26th and you would think that they were having their own! Dean, bless his heart, kept my husband busy with a friendly game of poker (in which, by the way, my husband lost our childrens' college fund). Jeannie took charge as watchdog, labor coach, and midwife to me. She claims to have never had the training or experience in this field but she brought me through it all like a pro. She aided in my daughter's first bath and feeding and tried to ease my mother's tension when the decision was made to take the baby Caesarean. We really couldn't have asked for two more perfect people for the job!

It's amazing that, even though they run GNL, the church, hold jobs, and deal with daily chores, they both found the time and gave their love and support to this long-awaited project. They both deserve Big Brownie Buttons and Medals of Courage.

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More letters next month!

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Bulletin Board

REMINDER: We try to mail the GNL around the 15th of each month. Deadline for time-dated items (such as event announcements) is the last day of the month before the month before the month the event is to take place. For example, if your gathering is June 1st, we need the announcement by April 30th (or earlier) so it will appear in the May issue.

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IMPORTANT NOTE TO FOREIGN SUBSCRIBERS: Due to the increase in postal service rates, we regret that we will no longer be able to exchange publications overseas by air mail. This will be effective with the next issue. Also, effective immediately, subscription rates for foreign mail will be $20 foreign surface/Canada, $45 foreign air mail, for 12 issues. Fortunately, our domestic mail rates did not go up and, as supply costs are staying fairly stable, we will maintain the $8/year sub rate for domestic mail as long as possible.

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Tarostar: Back issues mailed third class. Please write again if you are not current with this issue.

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Events

The Church of Avallon of the Elfen Tradition will be celebrating our holiday of The Sacred Wine Feast, at Lake Ming overnight campground on July 29, 30, and 31. If anyone would like to make inquiries please contact Lady Morganna or Aaron, POB 5263, Bakersfield, CA 93388 or call (805) 325-5144.

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Institute for Stellar Influence Studies, 1564-A Fitzgerald DR Suite 143, Pinole, CA 94564. Continuing classes, March through October. Send SASE for schedule.

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Events (cont.)

Pan Pagan Festival, Circle Pines Campground in Michigan, Labor Day weekend, 1988. For more info, send a SASE to Midwest Pagan Council, POB 313, Matteson, IL 60443.

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The 1988 Wiccan Festival in Canberra, 23-25 September 1988. Contact: Alan Moyse, GPO Box 1030, Canberra, ACT 2601.

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Covenant of the Goddess presents Merrymeet '88, festival/ gathering in the Catskills of New York, Labor Day weekend. Write: Merrymeet '88, POB 777 Ft. George Station, NY, NY 10040.

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The Northwest Fall Equinox Festival, September 23-25 1988, near Portland, OR. For more info, send SASE to Northwest Fall Equinox Committee, POB 13072, Portland, OR 97213.

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Publications

Mythos: A Journal of Mythic Experience, POB 21768, Seattle, WA 98111-3768. $12/year/6 issues.

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Books

The following five are available from Llewellyn.

A Kabbalah For the Modern World, Migene Gonzalez-Wippler. 227pp, paperback, bibliography, illustrations, tables. "... the first book which presents the Kabbalah from a scientific orientation and shows how it clearly relates to such modern scientific modesl as Quantum Theory, Relativity and the Big Bang." $7.95.

Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Crystal, Gem and Metal Magic, Scott Cunningham, 209pp, paperback, tables, Appendix, Glossary, Annotated bibliography, index, illustrations (color

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Books (cont.)

plates). A must for anyone who's ever seen a rock and a piece of metal. A handy reference book for the magical rockhound, perfect for the backpack. $12.95

The New Magus: Ritual Magic as a Personal Process. Donald Tyson. 344 pp, paperback, "Notes". I wish the author had taken a little more time with the subject matter. Or retitled the book by substituting 'my' for 'a'. $12.95

Archetypes of the Zodiac, Kathleen Burt, 544 pp, beautifully illustrated by Martin Cannon (are there posters available?) although I wish more than the cover had been in color), references, glossary. If you have any interest in mythology, astrology, Jungian theory, or the history of ideas, you will be sure to want to add this collection of essays to your library. Highly recommended. Destined to become a classic. $12.95

Spiritual, Metaphysical and New Trends in Modern Astrology, Joan McEvers, ed., 250 pp, paperback. A variety of essays which will appeal to the seasoned astrologer and neophyte alike. $9.95.

Other books:

Rhythmetiques: How to Become All You Were Meant to Be, M. Carmen Gallo. The author says, "I have written Rhythmetiques. . . because I have discovered that people wish to understand themselves and their unique purpose in life. Rhythmetiques applied teaches you how to live in correct universal alignment, by explaining the relationship which must exist between your inner self and your personality's expression. The book is based on the principle of achieving universal alignment by synchronizing with your inner rhythms and cycles. This leads to success in life, because your actions are right and timely and you are living harmoniously with life." 119pp, paperback, $9.95. Write: The Broadway Book Company, POB 445, Rutherford, NJ 07070.

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Fuck, Yes! A Guide to the Happy Acceptance of Everything. Wing Fu Fing. Write Shepherd Books, Box 2290, Redmond, WA 98073. $17.00 hardcover; $8.50 quality paperback. 384pp, illustrated. Wing Fu Fing is a winner of the prestigious Eisner Prize for literature from the University of

(cont. next page)

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Books (cont.)

California. He resides with his family and pets in the Pacific Northwest near Seattle.

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Contests

The Georgian Church is pleased to announce its fourth annual Pagan Studies Contest. The purpose of the contest is to stimulate interest and research in the area of the study of pagan peoples, their practices and belief systems. This year, the prize has been increased to $200 and will go to the author of the best research article, term paper, or essay submitted. Entries must be footnoted or endnoted and contain a bibliography. Formats can be located in the MLA Stylebook. All entries must be submitted with written permission of the author for one-time publication rights in the GNL. Entries will not be returned. Entries will be judged by the board of directors of the Georgian Church, with the winning entry published in the January 1989 newsletter. One free copy of the newsletter in which the article appears will be sent to each published author. The deadline for submission is December 21, 1988. The cash award is made possible by donations to the scholarship fund.

RING OF TRUTH

This year, in addition to the Pagan Interest Studies Scholarship/stipend contest we will sponsor a Ring of Truth award. The rules for the Ring of Truth award are as follows: At the end of the year, or any time before that, you send in your vote for the article of any classification which left you saying, yeah or maybe even feeling misty-eyed. To cast your ballot, send your check or money order for $1.00 to the GNL along with your nomination for the Ring of Truth award winner. If you like, you may designate $1.00 of your annual subscription fee towards the contest prize. That way, all paid subscribers get to vote for no extra donation; they only need expend the energy to vote and let us know to place the first dollar of their subscription renewal in the Ring of Truth award fund. Anyone who reads our pages can vote. You may vote as often as you wish; however, only your first vote will be applicable to your annual subscription. The winner will be the author of the piece with the greatest number of votes, and in some sense, all of us. The winner will be

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Contests (cont.)

announced at the same time as the Pagan Studies contest award, so votes will have to be cast by December 21, 1988. Pick your nominees from any (or all) issues from December 1987 to November 1988.

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It is easy to go down into Hell;
night and day, the gates of dark Death stand wide;
but to climb back up again, to retrace one's steps
to the upper air--there's the rub, the task. --Virgil

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The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those it cannot break it kills. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially. If you are none of these you can be sure that it will kill you, but there will be no special hurry.
--Ernest Hemingway

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He felt the bubble lift him, felt it break and the dust whirlpool engulf him, dragging him down into cool darkness. For a moment, the sensation of coolness and the moisture were blessed relief. Then, as his planet killed him, it occurred to Kynes that his father and all the other scientists were wrong, that the most presistent principles of the universe were accident and error.

Even the hawks could appreciate these facts. --Dune

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One final paragraph of advice: do not burn yourselves out, be as I am--a reluctant enthusiast... a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the West; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still here. So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and

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(cont. from 34)

contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those deskbound men with their hearts in a safety deposit box and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards. --Edward Abbey

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(from page 1)

round-filed if there is no SASE enclosed. This includes those letters you want us to forward and send no postage for. For those of you who are new to our mailing list, the opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Georgian Church. So there.

If you see something you like, let us know. It's the only "payment" our writers get!

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS MONTH...

BLESSED BE,

dean, jeannie, and the Georgians

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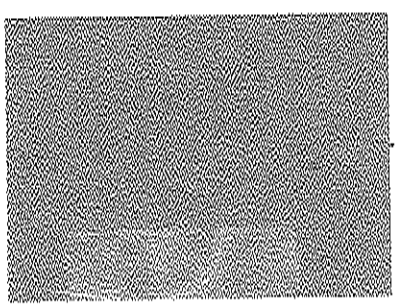

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