THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER

SAMHAIN 2007

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SPOTLIGHT

Cindy (Mab)

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

Cindy - Growing up, the only thing I learned about witches was from TV, movies, Halloween, and historical texts like the Malleus Malificarum. In high school I met a young man, Mike Terrazas, a member of Pat's first coven, who didn't really set me straight (we were teenagers), and a girl, Carole Cogdil who tried to get me to come talk to Pat, but I flat refused. (Irony.)

Then, in the early '80s, while setting up an SCA group here, I met Moondancer and Raven. They became my partner's and my best friends. We learned about Wicca, but I still was okay with the Episcopal Church. I was not an avid Christian, but my partner was a faithful Catholic, and it was a pleasant compromise.

When my partner passed away they came to me and told me that she had asked them to take me and teach me to be a Wiccan because she felt that it was where I truly belonged.

GNL - Where did you grow up and where is home now? (yes, I know where you live but humor me!)

Cindy - I grew up, right here, in Bakersfield, California; just a few blocks from Pat's house. My father had been a State Forester, so I was raised with a love of the land all through the state, but mostly around Sequoia. In fact, our favorite campsite was Methuselah camp, which was the main camp in Balch Park back then.

I lived in San Francisco, for a while, but moved back to Bakersfield. I love the golden hills, and the beautiful forests all around us. We're right in the middle of all of my favorite places to visit, between San Diego and San Francisco.

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

Cindy - I was first trained by Moondancer as Starborn tradition, to the First Degree. Then as an Alexandrian by the local priestess, to the Second Degree. I achieved my Third Degree as a Georgian from Bobby and Puck.

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

Cindy - For whatever reason, the Goddess decided

that I would be unable to have my own children. Too bad, I was planning on six. But I now have seventeen Goddess children, including Rhiannonetain's son, and seven Goddess-grandchildren.

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

Cindy - Rhiannonetain's son calls me Mom, and I'm auntie to Moondancer and Raven's beautiful daughters. I really do miss not being a Mom, but aunties get to spoil the heck out of my youngins', and escape the consequences!

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

Cindy - I'm pretty happy right now. I'm back in school, learning to be a computer tech, and I have a small business, which offers me a chance to head off to all the renfairs and pagan events I want to be at.

GNL - Attended/Missed many Mt Meets?

Cindy - Between finances and health, I have missed several Mt Meets in the last few years. But I used to attend every year since it moved to Methuselah Camp. I have blackmail stories about everybody!

GNL - Any stories that might make someone go….ohhhh shit, that you might like to share with the community?

Cindy - When I first started Shadowdragon Coven, Puck was my High Priest. He was fun, patient with my antics, and soooo trusting. I'm a good person, most of the time, but I can be a Fox Spirit now and then. He got even with me during a ritual where the wine was blackberry brandy. Every time I put down the chalice, he refilled it and handed it back to me, and I took a big gulp. By the end of the ritual I lost track of what I was doing and had to tell him to finish closing the Circle. Big stinker! Star better watch herself!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

It is always of the greatest pleasure that I get to put so many announcements into the newsletter! It has been a busy time since our last Sabbat and newsletter!! Congrats to all, Students, Teachers, Guides and Covens

Dedication:

~On Saturday, Sept. 22, Redwolf dedicated himself to the study of the Georgian Trad in Anam Taith coven. He is Orchid's hubby and has decided to explore the Wiccan path even though he is already an initiate in a different path.

~1st degree

Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs is proud to announce that the following received their 1st degrees.

--**Orchid** on Friday, September 21 at sundown

--**Owlsong** on Friday, September 21 at sundown

--**Finnoula** on Saturday, September 22 in the morning. Myself (Rowan) and Lord Wotan with Bard Devin in attendance.

--**Raven Blackrose** **and** **Sibyl** of the Samhain Moon Coven received their 1st Degrees on the 27th.

~3rd degree

--**Lady Selene**`!!! on Saturday Sept 22`
this weekend at Prairie Meet. Thank you Georgia and Susan for your guidance and help!!

--**Moose-George**

--**Azure-Beth**

--**Anise-Sean (my hubby)**

`Anam Taith coven in Colorado Springs.`

Gene, and Maureen. First child from shaun an his wife. This makes them grandparents for the

Rights of Passage

Gatherings

3rd annual Prairie Meet - October 5, 6, & 7, at Boiling Springs State park

POC - Anise AKA Sean - seanwwright@aol.com.

Samhain

Samhain Lore (October 31st)

Samhain, (pronounced SOW-in, SAH-vin, or SAM-hayne) means "End of Summer", and is the third and final Harvest. The dark winter half of the year commences on this Sabbat.

It is generally celebrated on October 31st, but some traditions prefer November 1st. It is one of the two "spirit-nights" each year, the other being Beltane. It is a magical interval when the mundane laws of time and space are temporarily suspended, and the Thin Veil between the worlds is lifted. Communicating with ancestors and departed loved ones is easy at this time, for they journey through this world on their way to the Summerlands. It is a time to study the Dark Mysteries and honor the Dark Mother and the Dark Father, symbolized by the Crone and her aged Consort.

Originally the "Feast of the Dead" was celebrated in Celtic countries by leaving food offerings on altars and doorsteps for the "wandering dead". Today a lot of practitioners still carry out that tradition. Single candles were lit and left in a window to help guide the spirits of ancestors and loved ones home. Extra chairs were set to the table and around the hearth for the unseen guest. Apples were buried along roadsides and paths for spirits who were lost or had no descendants to provide for them. Turnips were hollowed out and carved to look like protective spirits, for this was a night of magic and chaos. The Wee Folke became very active, pulling pranks on unsuspecting humans. Traveling after dark was was not advised. People dressed in white (like ghosts), wore disguises made of straw, or dressed as the opposite gender in order to fool the Nature spirits.

This was the time that the cattle and other livestock were slaughtered for eating in the ensuing winter months. Any crops still in the field on Samhain were considered

taboo, and left as offerings to the Nature spirits. Bonfires were built, (originally called bone-fires, for after feasting, the bones were thrown in the fire as offerings for healthy and plentiful livestock in the New Year) and stones were marked with peoples names. Then they were thrown into the fire, to be retrieved in the morning. The condition of the retrieved stone foretold of that person's fortune in the coming year. Hearth fires were also lit from the village bonfire to ensure unity, and the ashes were spread over the harvested fields to protect and bless the land.

Various other names for this Greater Sabbat are Third Harvest, Samana, Day of the Dead, Old Hallowmas (Scottish/Celtic), Vigil of Saman, Shadowfest (Strega), and Samhuinn. Also known as All Hallow's Eve, (that day actually falls on November 7th), and Martinmas (that is celebrated November 11th), Samhain is now generally considered the Witch's New Year.

Symbolism of Samhain:
Third Harvest, the Dark Mysteries, Rebirth through Death.

Symbols of Samhain:
Gourds, Apples, Black Cats, Jack-O-Lanterns, Besoms.

Herbs of Samhain:
Mugwort, Allspice, Broom, Catnip, Deadly Nightshade, Mandrake, Oak leaves, Sage and Straw.

Foods of Samhain:
Turnips, Apples, Gourds, Nuts, Mulled Wines, Beef, Pork, Poultry.

Incense of Samhain:
Heliotrope, Mint, Nutmeg.

Colors of Samhain:
Black, Orange, White, Silver, Gold.

Stones of Samhain:
All Black Stones, preferably jet or obsidian.

Submitted by Cindy and her spiderpigs

Recipe

Samhain Pork Roast

1 pork loin
mushrooms
onions
garlic
bread crumbs
sage
parsley
rosemary
salt
pepper
1 egg

Take a very sharp knife and begin cutting the roast, a slice about one inch think, but don't cut through. Keep cutting and unrolling the roast until you have one, continuous slice. Spread a thick layer of the stuffing on the slice and, carefully, roll it back up. Tie it shut with butcher's twine and lay in a roasting pan and cover with foil. Roast on 350 degrees for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

For the stuffing, figure the amounts according to the size of the roast. You want enough to be able to spread over the entire unrolled loin. Dried herbs are okay, but fresh offers a much fuller flavor. I use whatever mushrooms I can get, usually white mushrooms, tree ears, shitake, but porcini are okay if you want to go to the trouble of peeling the tough skin off the tops. With the onions, try to use yellow mushrooms, they are at their fullest flavor right now. Use the entire garlic, if you want, it won't hurt and it's good for you.

Chop everything very finely and mix together in a bowl with a tiny bit of water if you need a little more moisture to make a paste-like spread, but not much, you don't want it to quirt out of the roast.

The Morrigan

With a raven perched on her shoulder, the Morrigan wields her powerful sword which features the symbol of the waning moon. In ancient Celtic myth, the Morrigan was a triple goddess of war and death who, during battle, would shape-shift into a raven and fly shrieking her war cry above the fighting soldiers.

The above image and description of The Morrigan was borrowed from the following page - http://www.boudicca.de/jess/jess-gallery4.htm

The Charge of the Morrigan

by Rowan Moonstone

Here's a piece she wrote a couple of years ago.

When your enemies surround you

And the foe stands at your gate

Then shall the warriors assemble

and call upon my name.

I am the Morrigan

The Phantom Queen

The Great Queen

And of old was also called by many other names

Nemain, Fea, Macha and Badh

Spell and blade are mine

For I am Mistress of Magics and Battle Raven

Call upon me when the chariots of the enemy circle your village

And I will hear

Seek me with daring and courage,

For my path is not for the faint of heart

Hear my ravens' harsh cry

Across the din of the battlefield

And know that I am with you

My wings are dark and swift

And they bring victory and death

For behold, all acts of honor and courage are my rituals.

And you who seek for me know this

I stand astride the river that flows between life and death

And the waters of this river flow from my body

Come to the river and know the mystery

That death feeds on life

And life feeds on death

And both together

Form the Circle.

Recipe

Samhain Casserole

(recipe for one 9x9 baking pan or casserole-expand as needed-I usually end up needing enough for a small army)
1 cup breadcrumbs
1 broth (any kind you like)
1 cup chopped mushrooms
1 cup chopped onions (I like to use red, for the color)
1 cup yellow, crookneck squash, chopped
1 cup zucchini, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
one egg
1 cup yellow cheddar cheese
salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup, mixed, dried or powdered sage, parsley, rosemary, thyme, mugwort

Simple to cook. Put mix everything together, put into baking pan and bake on 400 until the squash if cooked through.

To cut down on baking time, you can simmer the onion and squash in some butter or oil before adding to the rest of the ingredients.

Submitted by Cindy

Ancestral Quarters And Dismissals for Samhain

I thought you might be able to use these for the Samhain newsletter:
Submitted by Rowan Moonstone

~Ancestral Quarters~

EAST:
Spirits of the East!
Air, Breath of our ancestors
Be with us in this Circle
That we may KNOW we are the children of the Gods.

SOUTH:
Spirits of the South!
Fire, Will of our ancestors,
Be with us in this Circle
That we may have the WILL to claim our heritage.

WEST:
Spirits of the West!
Water, Blood of our ancestors,
Be with us in this Circle
That we may DARE to do the work of the Gods.

NORTH:
Spirits of the North!
Earth, Bones of our ancestors,
Be with us in this Circle
That we may NO LONGER BE SILENT, but may meet as one in love to do the work of the Old Ones.

~Dismissals~

NORTH:
Spirits of the North!
Earth, Body of our ancestors.
Your strength is within us
United as heirs of our ancestors.
We give you our thanks and bid you
Hail and Farewell.

WEST
Spirits of the West!
Water, Blood of our ancestors.
We have the courage to dare to do the work.
Your love is with in us
United as heirs of our ancestors.
We give you our thanks and bid you
Hail and Farewell.

SOUTH
Spirits of the South,
Fire, will of our ancestors.
We have the will to do that which we promised
Your passion is within us
United as heirs of our ancestors.
We give you our thanks and bid you
Hail and Farewell.

EAST;
Spirits of the East
Air, breath of our ancestors.
We KNOW that we are the children of the Gods and all one family.
Your knowledge is within us
United as heirs of our ancestors.
We give you our thanks and bid you
Hail and Farewell.

Arts & Crafts

Crafts for sale
by
Georgian artisans

~Fantasy Fashions ~ by Ylva~

We have seen her artwork in previous newsletters, we have seen her clay work, we have seen her boobs…well, not everyone but those of us that are closest to her have! Those that know her have learned to NOT underestimate this young lady. She has no idea what the words "quit and can't" mean. Yes, we have tried to explain them to her but she doesn't listen either so I fear she will be slow her whole life ☺ She is a Warrior, Maiden, Mother and Lady

This second picture shows a cool peasant style shirt modeled by Thor

Here we have her in a stylish gowns she made, I gotta tell you, for a woman that has NEVER sewn before…she does a fantastic job!

Course, what sorta newsletter would it be if I didn't toss at least one of my own creations in it.

Here we have yours truly, a self portrait I did after returning from Mt Meet, complete with my totem animal.

Then we have a dear friend that has become very special to me. Skip

This one is kinda obvious. It is pastels and charcoal. I was contracted by 6 Flags Marine World and put on the back of T-shirts for Fright Fest by employees. The white was glow in the dark…very cool I thought.

This went in place of the pocket on the font of the shirt, again the white was glow in the dark

And, let us not forget those that went before us. On this sacred night of Samhain, a time when we remember our passed Loved ones, Ancestors and not to be forgotten, our family members that often was there when no others were, who accepted us for who we are regardless of who we are, our family and friends of the animal kingdom.

Suggested by Jeff from the Elders list

Elizabeth Suzanne Zavis (Beth),Loving mate of Raina and initiated Georgian
(March 20, 1959 - July 29, 2007)

Leah Taylor 3rd Degree Georgian via Jeff
(she passed Nov, 2007)

June Taylor, RoseWynds sister-in-law's sister, who crossed over September of 2007

Ginger, daughter of Gwen

Jeffrey Louis Bayne, My older brother.
He is missed by friends and family alike. It is just too bad that we only got along for 2 hours at a time. Sometimes I didn't like him, but I will always love him. May he find solace with his God.

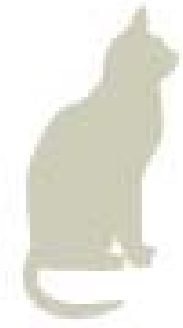
BB Shonsu

Fizzgig,.Male Kitty
(He passed just before Yule last year of heart failure.) --Rowan

Spot Rocko and **Bebo**
Loving animal companions of Sherri and her clan

Spike (friend to Loye for nearly 10 years, Spike was a 5 foot green iguana)

Herman, a baby pigeon



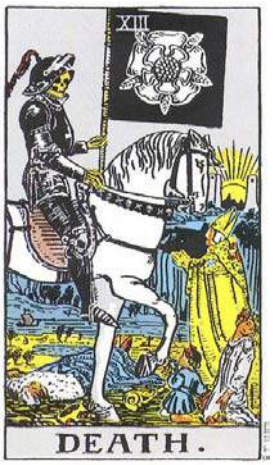
TAROT

Card #13

***The misunderstood* Death**

ACTIONS

ending
- closing one door to open another
- bringing something to a close
- completing a chapter
- concluding unfinished business
- putting the past behind you
- having a parting of the ways



going through **transition**
- changing status
- moving from the known to the unknown
- being cast adrift
- waiting in an in-between state
- being in the middle

eliminating excess
- cutting out what isn't necessary
- shedding old attitudes
- getting down to bare bones
- concentrating on essentials
- getting back to basics

experiencing **inexorable forces**
- being in the path of sweeping change
- being caught in the inescapable
- going through what cannot be avoided
- being part of a powerful movement
- riding your fate
- accepting the inevitable

OPPOSING CARDS: Some Possibilities

- Fool - beginning
- Empress - birth
- Judgment - rebirth, fresh start

REINFORCING CARDS: Some Possibilities

- Tower - sweeping impact, powerful forces
- Eight of Wands - conclusion, ending
- Five of Cups - loss, good-byes
- Eight of Cups - moving on, finishing up

DESCRIPTION

Death! A powerful energy indeed. Who can look at the dark, skeletal figure on Card 13 and not feel uneasy? Here we see the face of our deepest fear - our greatest unknown. We recoil from Death because we think of it as annihilation. In the tarot (and in life I would suggest) Death is not a permanent end, but a transition into a new state. Life is eternal in its essence, if not in its form. To grow, to move, to live - we must "die" to the old to give birth to the new.

It is a truism in tarot work that Card 13 **rarely** has anything to do with physical death. A responsible card reader never interprets Card 13 in this way because this view is too limiting. Death is not something that happens once to our bodies. It happens continually, at many levels and not just in the physical. Each moment we die to the present so the future can unfold.

Whimsical Tarot by Dorothy Morrison
Art by Mary Hanson-Roberts

represents an important ending that will initiate great change. It signals the end of an era; a moment when a door is closing. At such times, there may be sadness and reluctance, but also relief and a sense of completion. Death also suggests getting down to basics. Dying has a way of making you concentrate on what's important. This card reminds you to cut out the unnecessary. Death can also mean you will experience an inexorable force. Death is inevitable, and sometimes there are events that are inescapable as well. When these moments occur, the best approach is to ride your fate and see where it takes you.

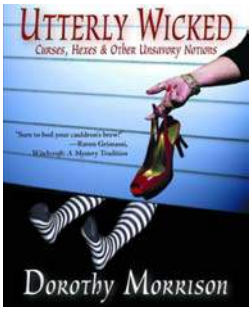
All information found here was borrowed from the following sites.

http://www.learntarot.com/cards.htm
http://www.learntarot.com/maj13.htm

Utterly Wicked

That's right kids, it's our very own Dorothy Morrison aka Tex. A Georgian and a High Priestess, both in the Georgian tradition and in her own right. Look for her newest book "Utterly Wicked" in stores on our favorite time of the year, October 31st! yup, Halloween, All Hallows, Samhain!

She's been a bit busy as you might guess with the book release and all, and she is off to New Orleans for the release party as I put this newsletter together and type this out. For your reading pleasure here is a book review recently out about her latest brainchild.



--Mike Gleason's book review

What a delightfully honest approach Ms. Morrison takes in this book. "This is not a book" as she clearly states in the introduction, "for those who believe that life can be lived without ever harming anyone. This is not a book for those who are overly concerned with Karma, the Threefold Law, and the Golden Rule. Nor is it a book for the squeamish, the straight-laced, or the easily offended." I think that pretty much sets the tone of the book.

This book is guaranteed to offend a large segment of the Pagan population, and that is before they even open the cover. It will be attractive to a smaller number solely based on the title. It really isn't aimed at either of those two segments. It is aimed at those Pagans who are willing to accept responsibility for their actions; those who are willing to realize that sometimes others cause their problems, but sometimes they are the cause themselves; and those who are willing to acknowledge the difference.

While I, personally, am not really fond of dealing with entities and divinities with which you are not fully familiar, I recognize that I am in a minority in this position. This I, personally, would not recommend making invocations and offerings to the Orisha Oya, as Ms. Morrison recommends, until you have a deep understanding of her, I recognize that as a personal bias. So long as you deal with her respectfully, as the author stress, you SHOULD be all right. Just be aware that Oya's energy tends to be more primal than many people are used to.

As I, personally, subscribe to the idea that cursing and curing are opposite sides of the same coin, I have no problems with this particular book. And since I fully endorse taking charge of one's life and owning one's actions, I truly believe that sometimes one must stand up for one's self and decide that enough is enough.

Her hexes and curses are easily do-able. She doesn't include any obscure, hard-to-find ingredients. Plus I like the fact that she includes instructions for breaking and undoing your hex if (hard as it may be to believe) you discover that you made a mistake in identifying your target.

Her take on sending negative energy back to its source is one of the most common sense approaches I have ever seen, and gave me one of those "d'oh" moments.

This is an "Advanced Reader Copy", so the pagination and price have not been established. It is due for publication in October of this year.
Regardless
of the cost, this book belongs in your library. No, I take that back. It belongs on your end table, bedside table, or wherever you are likely to see it often. You don't want to have to hunt for this book when you need it.

-Mike Gleason-

Interview with Author Dorothy Morrison

From Patti Wigington,
Your Guide to Pagan / Wiccan Religion.
FREE Newsletter. Sign Up Now!
Something Utterly Wicked This Way Comes

Dorothy Morrison is the author of a number of books on Wicca and Paganism, including the brand new *Utterly Wicked*. Dorothy was able to take some time out from her busy tour schedules to answer a few questions for About.com.

Pagan/Wiccan Guide Patti Wigington: Dorothy, I'd like to take a minute to thank you for answering questions for our readers at About.com. I was reading your bio and saw that like many Pagans, you were actually raised Catholic. Can you tell us about the journey that eventually led you to Paganism, and a little about the path you're currently on? What is it in particular that drew you to your present spirituality?

Author Dorothy Morrison is the author of a number of books on Wicca and Paganism, including the new "Utterly Wicked". Image © Dorothy Morrison 2007

Dorothy Morrison: Even though I was raised as a Catholic, I think I was always a Pagan. For one thing, I simply refused to pray to Jesus.

It wasn't that I thought he was unimportant in the scheme of things – it was just that I saw it as a waste of time. I simply couldn't understand why anyone would spend an exorbitant amount of time asking him for something when it was just as easy to go to the supreme source; that, of course, being his mother. Looking at it from the view of a six-year-old – which I was, at the time - I reasoned that even Jesus wouldn't disobey his mother. That being the case, the Goddess and I developed a firm relationship early on.

I also came into this world with the ability to see auras. Of course, I had no way of knowing that everybody didn't see them. I just thought that everyone knew that people were colored on the outside. Of course, I found out differently in first grade when my teachers insisted that I not color outside the lines. There was such a ruckus over it that my folks finally made an appointment with a specialist to have my vision and motor skills tested!

It wasn't until twelve years later, though, that a tarot reader introduced me to paganism. She happened to be a member of the Georgian Tradition - a very eclectic form of Wicca - and so I studied that trad, moved through the initiation processes, and became one of its elders. The eternal student, though, I'm now ensconced in the studies of RavenMyst Circle and hold second degree status in a coven based in Michigan.

Guide Patti: You've got a new book coming out, called *Utterly Wicked*, which is about what to do when you've run out of nice options. I love this whole concept, because it encourages practitioners to be pro-active, rather than reactive. What inspired *Utterly Wicked*, and do you think modern Pagans are ready to embrace the not-so-fluffy side of Witchcraft?

Dorothy Morrison: While all Pagan paths aren't governed by some version of the three-fold or harm-none laws, many are. And for years, I've watched folks strive to live by these laws. There's nothing wrong with that, and I certainly applaud their efforts. Like anything else, though, it's often taken to the extreme and gets out of hand - and when I realized most folks were following these laws to their own detriment, that really bothered me.

For one thing, no one can truly live by the "harm none" portion of the Wiccan Rede. Why? Because every time we take a breath, we literally destroy thousands of bacteria, making it virtually impossible to live on this planet without harming something. But even if that weren't the case, we, as individuals, are included in that "harm none"

clause - and when we allow ourselves to be harmed and don't do anything about it, we are not

only in direct violation of the Rede, but everything for which it stands.

The three-fold law can be just a problematical. While I seriously doubt that whomever came up with that system ever intended for us to heed it to our own detriment, let's assume for a moment that they did. If we consistently let people walk all over us, then according to the system, here's what we'll get back: three additional heaping helpings of the same. I certainly don't want to invite that into my life, and I doubt that anyone else does either.

So, it was from those thoughts - and the reality check that ensued - that *Utterly Wicked* was born. It is not a book that advocates tossing out the hex or curse just because one can; rather it's a down-to-earth, common-sense approach to protecting oneself, standing tall in the face of adversity, and confronting one's problems responsibly as they arise.

But are modern Pagans ready to embrace these concepts? I think a good many are. And those who aren't will eventually follow suit. The fact of the matter is that I've seen the community at large grow up a lot over the last thirty years. Most have finally come to realize that you can't have the light without the dark - that one depends upon the other for its existence - and that in order to walk in balance between the worlds, it's imperative to acknowledge, understand, and embrace one's personal shadows. That to do otherwise is not only a slap in the face of the Gods, but serves to make us ill-suited to any spiritual path that involves magical practice…

You want to read the rest of this interview? Hmmmmmmm? Well, go to this link and enjoy! We're talking about a 4 page interview! I enjoyed the dog gone "heck" outa it and am sure you will too ☺

http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/recommendedreading/a/Morrison_Interv.htm

Myriane

As a child you wandered the sylvan forest, you loved the waterfalls and faery folk that dwelled within it's canopied domain. The water was always sparkling clear and satisfying when parched, cool to the flesh and vitalizing. I watched you grow to womanhood from my secret hiding places and would often follow you to the edge of the forest as you went home after a long day of play. You never knew I was there…or at least never revealed that you knew I was watching. You would bathe in the cool clear stream and I would watch, at first it was curiosity that compelled me to spy, but as you developed into a woman it was something much deeper, a hunger deep within my soul. I longed to touch your full rich breasts and thick main of hair, the curve of your back to your rear, down your legs. I wanted to taste your body…but fear of your rejection and of your fear of me kept me in hiding. If…I was like you in form perhaps we could…but no, I was not and humans often feared that which they knew not of. Then you stopped coming, I waited and looked but you never came again. There was war outside the forest, and eventually even the forest was violated by it. One day while stalking a nymph I heard the scream of a female and the sound of death. The birds quit singing and the forest because silent. I followed the sounds of the woman's scream, and finally found it…she knelt in the blood stained grass cradling a child, killed violently. She stood slowly after a while and carried the little one to an ancient oak, with her hands she dug a hole beneath the tree and laid the little one to rest, she placed an item on the grave and turned slowly, as if under a great burden and took a few steps…then as if the air about her changed she seemed different, colder, darker and full of anger, no longer the frail mother. I watched, grief filled my soul, I wanted to go to her and take her pain…but there was always that fear I harbored. I watched from the hill as you walked from the forest where I watched you grow to womanhood, would you ever return?....perhaps one day, and perhaps I would know the strength to show myself…and my heart.

Loye Pourner

Reiki Level I Attunement

by Lisa

"Ariadne" Morgenstern

at Midsummer Fairies & The Soul Garden Learning Annex

4306 West Ave. L Quartz Hill, CA

(661) 718-1500

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007

11:30am-6:00pm

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007

12:00-5pm

$150 for two-day workshop

Space limited; call Midsummer Fairies to register with a $75 deposit

Students taking Reiki Level I training will learn:

- The history and myths of Reiki and where Reiki is today
- You'll learn about energy work and the theory of how it works
- How to do a Reiki self-treatment
- To do a Reiki treatment on others and hands-on experience (byosen)
- To experience a guided meditation and be attuned to Reiki I
- You'll be guided on how to apply Reiki in your everyday life
- Information about the chakras and grounding
- A 21 day chakra cleanse will be activated
- Plus you'll receive my Reiki I manual to take home with you.

Ariadne is a Reiki III Master/Teacher and has been attuned since 2000. She teaches a combination of traditional Reiki and eclectic Reiki that she calls "Ryuu" or "Dragon" Reiki. Email lisa@fpcav.org for more information

Prairie Meet 2007

Our Georgia, kicking back and relaxing at Prairie Meet

The Annual Custom-The Georgian Salute!!!

Our third Prairie Meet was at a glorious new site, Boiling Springs State Park. The site was heavily wooded, had a fabulous fire pit and amphitheater for ritual and a main lodge with a kitchen that made Moose, our kitchen witch for the weekend openly weep for joy.

We saw deer roam near the main lodge and wild turkey. An owl made a rather dramatic appearance at main ritual. The site definitely claimed us, the energy was awesome.

Azure (Southernwood Coven, Tyler Texas) taught a beading workshop, everyone was supplied with all of the trimmings to make their own Witches Ladders as was described by Pat in our lessons. Moose Southernwood Coven) took a break from the kitchen and taught a Magickal Quill Making class.

A few of the adventuresome took a tour to the nearby Alabaster Caverns. We all basked in the glow and love felt by "just being" with family again.

Three of my students, Anise, Moose and Azure received their 3rd degree initiations and thanks to Georgia and Susan, I did not need to be scrapped off the ritual cabin floor after it was all done!!!

The group as a whole agreed we will be back next year, we have already reserved the campsite again.....We hope for many more of our Family to join us next year.

Love to all,

Branwen

Samhain Night

Listen close and you can hear
The seasons move gear by gear
Perfect movement ever round
Here the mysteries can be found

Full of fright
Yet full of light
Holy to those with inner sight

In a circle we shall stand
And honor those who held our hand
Mothers, fathers and teachers too
This is the night we honor you

The God is Lord in the Underworld
Ready to teach us what we have not understood
The Goddess too goes to join her Lord
Till she is rejoins him on Earth at Imbolg

We get caught up in what we are doing
That we can forget this Holidays holy meaning
To give Thanks for the harvest (This is the Last)
And honor the people who walked in our past

To lay to rest the things we don't need
And prepare to plants seeds by the light of the Yule King

This night is not scary for those that do know
But the last Hurrah for soon it will snow
To celebrate the seasonal stages
That brings about life's inner changes

Duane "Raven Spirit" Marshall

Things in Ritual Circles

The table below contains words that have been chopped in half. Find the pieces that fit together and write them in the answer area below.

ters	quar	kerr	gan
sky	cir	pe	ath
bol	bes	idwen	ro
ro	ame	pent	pa
clad	cle	ine	agram

The Halloween Witch

Each year they parade her about ... the traditional Halloween witch.
Misshapen green face, stringy scraps of hair, and a toothless mouth beneath her disfigured nose. Gnarled, knobby fingers twisted into a claw, protracting from a bent and twisted torso that lurches about on wobbly legs.

Most think this abject image to be the creation of a prejudiced mind, or merely a Halloween caricature.

I disagree. I believe this to be how witches were really seen.

Consider that most witches: were women, were abducted in the night, and smuggled into dungeons or prisons under the secrecy of darkness, to be presented by the light of day as a confessed witch.

Few, if any, saw a frightened, normal looking woman being dragged into a secret room filled with instruments of torture. To be questioned until she confessed to anything that was suggested to her, and to give names or whatever would stop the questions. Crowds saw the aberration denounced to the world as a self-proclaimed witch.

As the witch was paraded through the town, en route to be burned, hanged, drowned, stoned, or disposed of in various other forms of Christian love ... all created to free and save her soul from her depraved body. The jeering crowds viewed the results of hours of torture. The face, bruised and broken by countless blows, bore a hue of sickly green. The once warm and loving smile gone. Replaced by a grimace of broken teeth and torn gums that leers beneath a battered, disfigured nose. The disheveled hair conceals bleeding gaps of torn scalp from whence cruel hands had torn away the lovely tresses. Broken, twisted hands clutched the wagon for support. Fractured fingers locked like groping claws to steady her broken body. All semblance of humanity gone. This was truly a demon, a bride of Satan, a witch.

I revere this Halloween crone and hold her sacred above all. I honor her courage and listen to her warnings of the dark side of humanity.

Each year I shed tears of respect.

Written by Angel, 6/99

Each year I weave this tale myself with both my coven in Porterville (Children Between the Worlds) and my local group (The Travis Earth Circle). If I do nothing else in the Samhain ritual it is expected that I'll don my black robes and as I walk deosil slowly around the circle , staff in hand tell the tale, always changing it up a little year to year but always at leas one individual will be seen wiping their eyes at the end or during it.

So, reclaim the old green hag my brothers and sisters. BB and Blessed Samhain!

Bel Taran

Recipe

Butternut Squash and Apple Casserole

From Diana Rattray and submitted by RoseWynd

This butternut squash casserole includes apples and is topped with a
buttery spiced crumb topping with brown sugar.

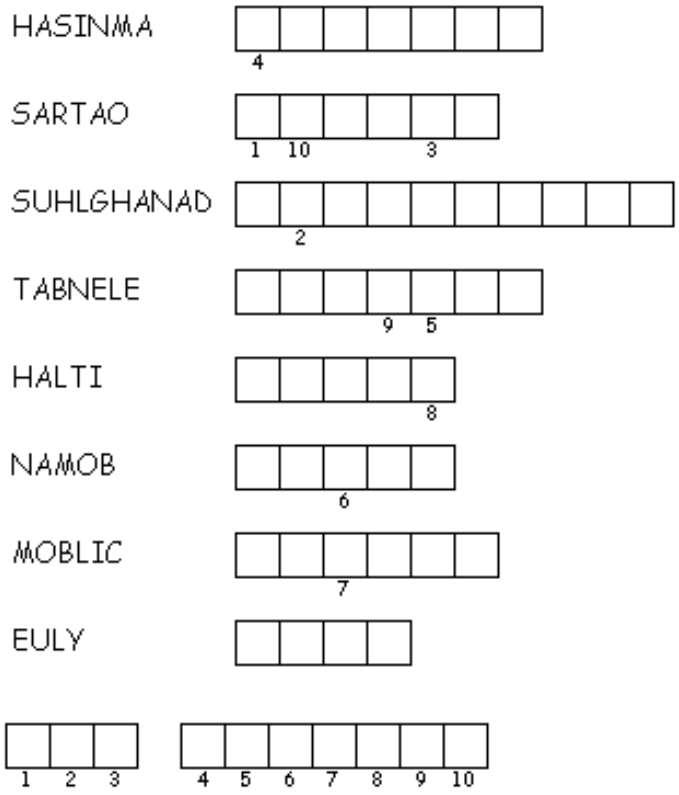
INGREDIENTS:
1 small butternut squash (about 2 lbs)
2 apples, cored, peeled, sliced
1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
4 tablespoons butter, cold
1 tablespoon flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

PREPARATION:
Peel, seed, and cut squash into small slices. Place squash and apple slices in a baking dish, about 11- x 7-inches Combine brown sugar, flour, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg; cut in butter with fork or pastry cutter until crumbly. Sprinkle crumbs evenly over sliced squash and apples.

Cover and bake at 350° for 45 to 55 minutes.

Pagan Days of Power

Can you unscramble the words to figure out the secret code?



Unscramble each of the clue words.
Copy the letters in the numbered cells with the same number.