

# THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



**Imbolc 2013**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS !

**Birthdays;**

- Cindy – January 16
- Miranda Pournier – January 16
- Lady Autumn Star – Feb 3
- Fresno Jeff's - February 21 (RIP)

## Imbolc

The Festival of Bridget is the celebration of the return of the Maiden of Spring. Now the Crone undergoes her wonderful transformation into the beautiful Maiden of Flowers, Mistress of the Hunt. Imbolc is the festival of light in the darkness, the celebration of rekindled fire. Most witches light as many candles in their house or witch's room to bring on light and warmth and say goodbye to the dark. This is the time of individuation: within the measures of the spiral, we



each light our own light, and become uniquely ourselves. It is the time of initiation, of beginning when seeds that will later sprout and grow begin to stir from their dark sleep.

This Sabbat also honors the moon as source of fertility for the months to come. The winter still cold reawakens and first feels the quickening of life. It is a time for changes below the surface of things, when solstice birth first begins to manifest. It is the time of year to make a commitment or recommitment to your spiritual growth. It is a time to look ahead in hope and joy for what is to come. It is a time of divination, looking into the coming year. It is a time for cleaning and purification. Self-dedication. It is a time for looking for early spring.

Crossroads figure prominently in this Sabbat. This is a night that spirits of the dead are said to walk among the living. The Crossroads also represent an equal-armed cross which is seen as a symbol of balance and protection. On the eve before this Sabbat, go to a crossroad and bury negativity so it cannot escape.

Incense: Frankincense, myrrh, jasmine, camphor, cinnamon and lotus, basil, wisteria.

Candles: Red and white.

Gemstones: Amethyst, garnet, onyx, turquoise

Ritual Herbs: Angelica, basil, bay, benzoin, celandine, heather, myrrh, frankincense.

## Imbolc Lore

(February 2nd)

Imbolc, (pronounced "IM-bulk" or "EM-bowlk"), also called Oimealg, ("IM-mol'g), by the Druids, is the festival of the lactating sheep. It is derived from the Gaelic word "oimelc" which means "ewes milk". Herd animals have either given birth to the first offspring of the year or their wombs are swollen and the milk of life is flowing into their teats and udders. It is the time of Blessing of the seeds and consecration of agricultural tools. It marks the center point of the dark half of the year. It is the festival of the Maiden, for from this day to March 21st, it is her season to prepare for growth and renewal. Brighid's snake emerges from the womb of the Earth Mother to test the weather, (the origin of Ground Hog Day), and in many places the first Crocus flowers began to spring forth from the frozen earth.



The Maiden is honored, as the Bride, on this Sabbat. Straw Brideo'gas (corn dollies) are created from oat or wheat straw and placed in baskets with white flower bedding. Young girls then carry the Brideo'gas door to door, and gifts are bestowed upon the image from each household. Afterwards at the traditional feast, the older women make special acorn wands for the dollies to hold, and in the morning the ashes in the hearth are examined to see if the magic wands left marks as a good omen. Brighid's Crosses are fashioned from wheat stalks and exchanged as symbols of protection and prosperity in the coming year. Home hearth fires are put out and re-lit, and a besom is placed by the front door to symbolize sweeping out the old and welcoming the new. Candles are lit and placed in each room of the house to honor the re-birth of the Sun.

Another traditional symbol of Imbolc is the plough. In some areas, this is the first day of ploughing in preparation of the first planting of crops. A decorated plough is dragged from door to door, with costumed children following asking for food, drinks, or money. Should they be refused, the household is paid back by having its front garden ploughed up. In other areas, the plough is decorated and then Whiskey, the "water of life" is poured over it. Pieces of cheese and bread are left by the plough and in the newly turned furrows as offerings to the nature spirits. It is considered taboo to cut or pick plants during this time.

Various other names for this Greater Sabbat are Imbolgc Brigantia (Caledonni), Imbolic (Celtic), Disting (Teutonic, Feb 14th), Lupercus (Strega), St. Bridget's Day (Christian), Candlemas, Candelaria (Mexican), the Snowdrop Festival. The Festival of Lights, or the Feast of the Virgin. All Virgin and Maiden Goddesses are honored at this time.

### Deities of Imbolc:

All Virgin/Maiden Goddesses, Brighid, Aradia, Athena, Inanna, Gaia, and Februa, and Gods of Love and Fertility, Aengus Og, Eros, and Februus.

### Symbolism of Imbolc:

Purity, Growth and Re-Newal, The Re-Union of the Goddess and the God, Fertility, and dispensing of the old and making way for the new.

### Symbols of Imbolc:

Brideo'gas, Besoms, White Flowers, Candle Wheels, Brighid's Crosses, Priapic Wands (acorn-tipped), and Ploughs.

### Herbs of Imbolc:

Angelica, Basil, Bay Laurel, Blackberry, Celandine, Coltsfoot, Heather, Iris, Myrrh, Tansy, Violets, and all white or yellow flowers.

### Foods of Imbolc:

Pumpkin seeds, Sunflower seeds, Poppy seed Cakes, muffins, scones, and breads, all dairy products, Peppers, Onions, Garlic, Raisins, Spiced Wines and Herbal Teas.

### Incense of Imbolc:

Basil, Bay, Wisteria, Cinnamon, Violet, Vanilla, Myrrh.

### Colors of Imbolc:

White, Pink, Red, Yellow, lt. Green, Brown.

### Stones of Imbolc:

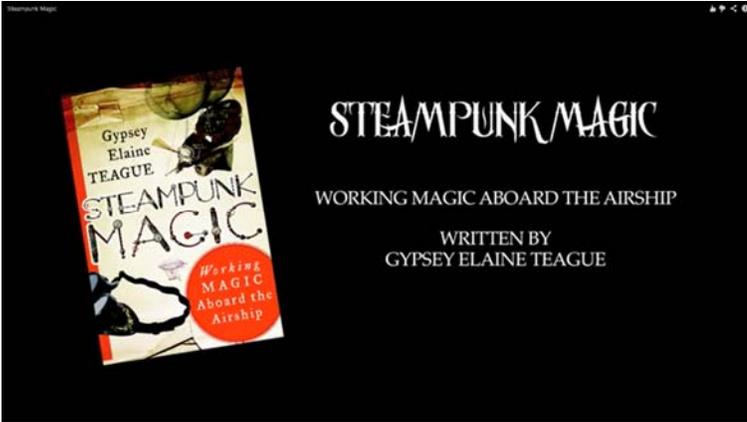
Amethyst, Bloodstone, Garnet, Ruby, Onyx, Turquoise.

### Activities of Imbolc:

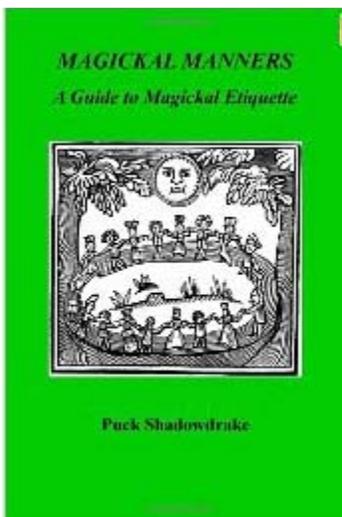
Candle Lighting, Stone Gatherings, Snow Hiking and Searching for Signs of Spring, Making of Brideo'gas and Bride's Beds, Making Priapic Wands, Decorating Ploughs, Feasting, and Bon Fires maybe lit.

## Books by our own

Don't forget!! Get your copy ASAP ☺



MAGICKAL MANNERS: A Guide To Magickal Etiiquette by Puck Shadowdrake



## Tarot

The Empress



### III. The Empress (KLN: 3)

The pregnancy card or you can be "pregnant" with ideas. It is a card filled with motherly attributes. You take care of your children, your family and friends and try to protect all from the harsh realities of life. You are trying desperately to balance your "sucker" side and assertive side, but always seem to be there to lend a helping hand whenever it is needed, even if it is not convenient for you. Creativity and inner wisdom will guide you to make good choices if you balance your excessive behavior to give of yourself. The black trees indicate that the negativity is behind you and the scepter and stars on your crown are bringing spirituality and enlightenment from above through you to share with those you interact with.

# Recipe

## Branwen's Imbolc Corn Casserole

Preheat oven to 350 F.

### Ingredients:

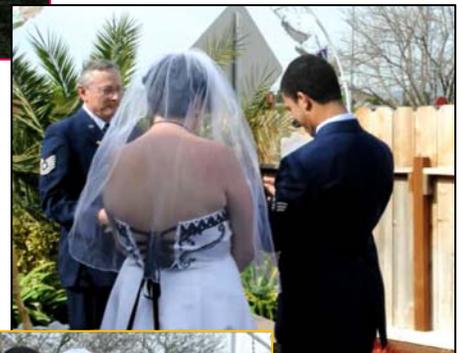
- 4 cans shoepeg corn drained (has to be shoepeg)
- 2 Pkgs of cream cheese softened to room temp. (can use the lower fat version)
- 2 cans chopped green chiles drained
- 1/2 stick butter melted
- 1 teas. Salt
- 1 teas. Coarse black pepper
- Dash of Tabasco
- Approx. 3/4 cup of milk
- 1 package of pre shredded cheddar cheese (16oz.)

Combine cream cheese, butter and milk, you will need a hand mixer for this, blend until everything is well incorporated- it should be smooth but still thick, not runny. Add corn, chiles, salt, pepper, Tabasco and half of the bag of cheese to the cream cheese base. Stir until well blended. Pour into a casserole pan that has been sprayed with non-stick cooking spray, sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Bake until bubbly on the sides and everything is melted in the middle, do not over brown.

## WEDDING OF MIRANDA POURNER TO MICHAEL HENDRIX



Feb 16, 2013 I gave my daughter away in marriage. I was blessed to also be able to make her wedding cake, use my own back yard AND perform the ceremony





before I would let them get away, they of course had to “jump” the broom. Miranda didn’t wanna be a poor housewife, so attempted to pick up the broom in mid jump. She nearly fell on her butt in the process 😊

then came the dance with new hubby, followed the Father & Daughter dance.



first by



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

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



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

*Blessings and Light  
The Georgian Newsletter Staff.  
Lord Bel Taran*

It should be noted, that any extended pauses or apparent misty eyed look I may have had, was entirely the results of hay fever, I was stoic and solid as a rock through the whole event 😊