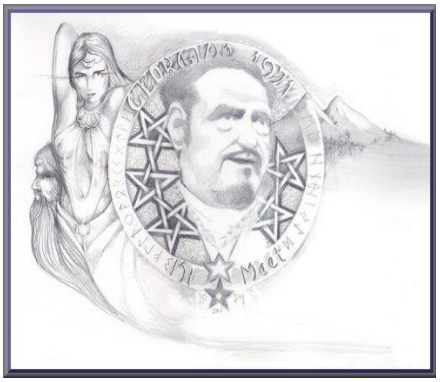
The Georgian Newsletter



Lughnasadh 2013

What's Inside:

- Spotlight
- Announcements
- Recipes
- New Moon Ritual
- Arts & Crafts

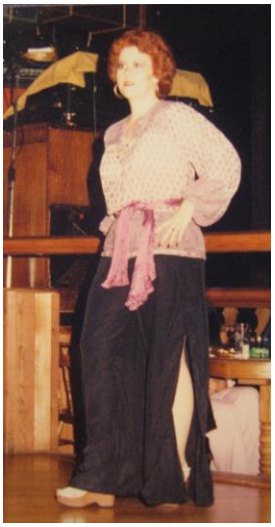
SPOTLIGHT

~Denise Bledsoe~

LADY ARIEL (PINKY)

Dear Loye - I would like to say a few words about Denise Bledsoe for the newsletter. I'll send some photos of her when she was younger. She had told me that it is the way she wants to be remembered…

Lady Ariel, affectionately known by most of us as Pinky, died at approximately 11 a.m. on July 9, 2013. She had been a student of mine since the first day I met her. She was also my very first student. In true Gardnerian style she rose up through the levels of study and degrees of Initiation, through her 3rd, after which she took up the studies of the High Priestess(hood), and then she studied how to teach our tradition to others, because the Craft must ever Survive! To her was passed the Torch of Fire, in due succession, from my days of being Torch Bearer. She could hardly wait to make a coven of her own. She was so totally filled with the energy of our Irish Ancestors, The God and Goddess, and the Spiral of Life, that I had no doubt she would be a credit to the Craft as well as our Tradition.*



She took with her one of my 2nd degree students, Tashalique (Carisse Groza), to be her Maiden and assistant. It wasn't long before she had students. I know that she was High Priestess to Yagzili, and I think also to his wife Helene.*

She had performed the sacred ritual of Handfasting for them, for which the couple BEAMED for ages! She had also done the Wiccaning of her two children, Siobhan and Jerred, when they were only months old. I was so happy that the line would be carried on! I know she was proud of her accomplishments, though she never spoke of it. We had become HONORARY Georgians after a few years of attending the annual Mountain Meets. Our worthiness and sincerity showed at every Circle we performed and attended. Most of our Rituals she acted as Maiden, and there could never be a better one!

She was well known for her flaming red hair, her sometimes painful honesty, and the thoroughness of anything she did. She was my best friend (in the whole wide world) as well as very good friends to many more. Being called 'RED' was almost a 'killing offense' to her. But when she got the nickname 'Pinky' it just seemed to fit. She had confided in me how she came by that name, but it wasn't because "she was pink from head to toe", as the official explanation goes. One very sweet biker boyfriend dubbed her 'PINKY' because she had the pinkest xxxx he had ever seen. Every time someone would say her name, she'd get a smile on her face and a glint in her eye! Cooking and dancing were her most favorite things. She loved cooking extravagant meals, and no one ever refused that pleasure. During the 70's, we frequented many dance night clubs. There was a few times that everybody got off the floor, leaving us plenty of room to really GET DOWN. So much fun, sigh...

Many an adventure we had. The wonderful stories I could tell. I've hinted at a few on Facebook. The responses were phenomenal. Over 60 people shared their memories about her as well. I had printed out a few of the better ones to take with me when I visited her in the hospital a few days before she died. She cried to know that so many people loved and missed her. I do too.

Blessed Be.....Lady Allusha

I would like to thank Lady Allusha for submitting this telling of Lady Ariel, or Pinky as she was fondly known as. Though I never met her, of knew her, I have heard many stories and know she was loved by many, and missed by all! If there is indeed a Summerland, that, is where she is, smiling down at us and inspiring us to be the very best we can be.

Lord Bel Taran

ANNOUNCEMENTS !

Birthdays!!!!
Jamie-July 16th
Puck _ July 29th
Darlene-August 7th
Peggy-August 9th
Shawn -August 14th
Tessa – Sept 4th
Allen-September 15th
John (Tali)-September 20th

Dedication / Initiation:

~2nd degree:
Ruth Horton was elevated to 2nd on June 23, 2013.
HP: Robert Reeder, HPS: Dana Doerksen

Gatherings & Rituals

39th annual Mountain Meet (1974 to now) – The Methuselah Group Campsite in Mountain Home State Forest in California was the hosting location again, and a very pleasant time was had by all that gathered, some stayed the whole time, others had to return to the land of the mundane earlier than desired.

Pagan Learning Weekend-August 23rd-25th at the Blue Mountain Event Center at 7250 Mitchell Mill Rd in Wilseyville, CA 95257 There will be vendors, workshops, a bonfire, rituals, music, fire dancers and more. Camping and workshops for the whole weekend are included for only $20/person.

Please contact **Kristina Julie McGee** on Facebook for more information if you would like to participate or vend and or email kidscorner95252@hotmail.com

Sacramento Pagan Pride
Date: September 21st and 22nd, 2013 Location: Fair Oaks VFW Hall 8990 Kruithof Way Fair Oaks, CA 95628

They are looking for Vendors, Security volunteers, Hospitality volunteers, people looking to do grunt work, etc.
For the Unparalleled Event of the Season!!!
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Pagan-Pride/113434352097599

Wiccanings:

Births:

Crossings:

Elder's Gathering Re-Cap

So, the Elder Gathering went well! Marla did a fantastic job organizing it and getting the Elders all together….no small feat in itself, sorta like herding cats! When I have a little more information, I shall post news AND pictures for all to see!!! The next tentative one is scheduled for 2015 in Bakersfield, so save your pennies kids….I for one, will be there!

Colors: Gray, green, gold, yellow
Symbols: All grains, breads, threshing tools, athame
Date: Occurs 1/4 of a year after Beltaine. True astrological point is 15 degrees Leo, but tradition has set August 1st as the day it is typically celebrated. Since the Ancients Celts passed their days from sundown to sundown, the celebration would usually begin the night before on July 31st.

The turning of the wheel now brings us to **Lughnasadh** (LOO-nus-uh), also known by its medieval Christian name of **Lammas**, named in honor of the Celtic god Lugh, a name which means "light" or "shining." Although somewhat confusing, we are not celebrating the death of

Lugh (the God of light does not mythically die until the autumn equinox), but rather the funeral games that Lugh hosted to commemorate the death of his foster mother, Taillte. In Ireland, Lugnasadh is often called the "Tailltean

Games". A common feature of the games were the "Tailltean marriages", rather informal and lasting only a year and a day or until next Lammas, at which time the couple would decide to continue the arrangement or stand back to back and walk away, thereby dissolving the marriage. The parish priest was not bothered to perform these trial marriages, they were usually performed by a poet, bard, priest or priestess of the Old Religion, or shanachie, and were very common into the 1500's. It is from this custom that our present-day Handfastings must come.

According to one of his many legends, Lugh was the last great leader of the Tuatha de Dannan. In one of the Tuatha's victories, Lugh spared the life of Bres, a defeated enemy captain, in exchange for advice on ploughing, sowing, and reaping. He was seen as a multi-talented deity, being capable and quite good at all he undertook. The myths of Lugh include the prevalence of his many skills and the wedding of these skills to the potential or unrealized abundance of the land. According to the writing of Caesar, he was also regarded as the patron of all the arts, traveling, and influence in money and commerce. To the Romans, Lugh was seen as a counterpart to Mercury. Lugh is the son of Arianrhod, who is associated with sacred kingship and Three-fold Death. His wife's name is Blodeuwedd, also known as the Flower Maiden.

Lughnasadh is the first of the three harvest Sabbats, Mabon and Samhain being the other two, which celebrates the ripening grains and corn. With the harvest so prevalent, Pagans see the theme of the sacrificed god motif emerge. His death is necessary

for rebirth of the land to take place. Called by many names, "Green Man," "Wicker Man," "Corn Man" or just the "Spirit of Vegetation," his essence begins to merge with the harvested crops, a sacrifice that will be realized with the new growth in the spring.

In old times, it was the duty of the King to sacrifice himself for the land, an idea that has been seen in the many legends of cultures both new and old, throughout recorded history. The gathering of the first crops of the year is also used to symbolize the success and extent of the power raised from the Beltane rites when the Sacred Marriage of the Lord and Lady took place. The theme of sexuality and reproduction is carried over into Lughnasadh as well to ensure the remainder of a good harvest.

This Sabbat is also known as the celebration of bread. As bread was one of the main staples of our ancestors, the ripening of the grain was the cause for great celebration. The reaping, threshing and preparation of these breads spawned great ritual and ceremony to ensure bounty for the following year.

This time of the year finds us with fields to harvest, the first of a bountiful crop that will hold us through the winter months. Even though the hottest days of summer are upon us, we have but to observe to see that fall is just around the corner. Shadows are growing longer as the days slowly become shorter. Squirrels are busily gathering food for the coming winter. It is a time to begin canning produce from the garden, a time to save and preserve.

Some ideas for celebration include:

- Sacrifice bad habits and unwanted things from your life by throwing symbols of them into the sabbat fire.
- Bake a loaf of bread in the shape of a man and sacrifice him in your ritual. Make him a part of your feast but save a piece to offer the gods.
- Take time to actually harvest fruits from your garden with your family. If you don't have a garden, visit one of the pick-your-own farms in your area.
- Include bilberries or blueberries in your feast; these were a traditional fruit, whose abundance was seen as an indicator of the harvest to come.
- Gather the tools of your trade and bless them in order to bring a richer harvest next year.
- Share your harvest with others who are less fortunate.
- Decorate with sickles, scythes, fresh vegetables & fruits, grains, berries, corn dollies, bread. Colors are orange, gold, yellow, red and bronze.

Borrowed from:
http://thunder.prohosting.com/~cbarstow/wheel.html

The following article "A New Moon Ritual" was written by a dedicant to Silver Dragon Moon for the new moon in August, which was one leading up to a "blue" moon. But it can be used, I think, for any new moon since it particularly deals with new beginnings. I like it and it was fun to do. The toy I chose? A little kaleidoscope. (Very magickal!) All the little toys were purchased at a dollar store, so the cost was truly minimal. The ritual can be performed by either a priest or priestess (or both), hence the notations.

NEW MOON RITUAL 2012

By Mercury of Silver Dragon Moon Coven

Cast Circle as usual..

Statement of Purpose:

Priest/Priestess : *The new moon...what is it? It's a time for a new beginning, to start over, and take a first step towards some kind of change. Why the new moon? Well think about it, the last full moon has been gone for two weeks. The darkest nights have just passed and a small sliver of light appears letting us know the full moon is on its way again. So as the sliver of light appears in the sky, hope and anticipation are again in the air! This is no normal everyday new moon; it's a "blue" new moon, leading up to the second full moon in one month's time. They don't come very often, so I say we try and make it special…let's have a dream.*

(Light the Power Candle)

Relax, and think of something in the back of your mind that you think can't happen. An idea that has been in there, or something you used to do and don't think you still can. It can be large or small – doesn't matter. It's your dream. Take yourself back to a child-like state, when anything was possible, because we just didn't know better. A box was a spaceship, a towel over your back was a cape. You remember (you know you do), even if you won't admit it to anybody.

I'll take you now to an episode of The Twilight Zone, Kick the Can. *If you've ever seen it you're probably smiling. In this episode the characters live at a retirement home and a few kids can be seen playing a game like hide and seek, but with a can. When you're tagged "it" you have to kick the can and then go find somebody else, etc. The point isn't the game; it's the attitude. The kids are all called in to the retirement home and you realize that they are the retirees who live in the home. They are scolded much like children with all the reasons why they shouldn't be playing and enjoying themselves. You'll get hurt, catch cold, etc. On the side is one guy who didn't play. He is saying, I told you so; you should do what you're told. Sound familiar? The group tries to convince him to come out later that night and play with them. But he won't go. The group sneaks out to play while he watches from the porch. But to his amazement, he realizes that they are transformed into their childhood selves once again. He tries to join, them but it is too late. He is left behind. Because he would not dream or imagine what seemed impossible, nothing changed. He was so stuck in his ways, he worried about comfort over change...and magic* ***is*** *change. Now, making a change can be uncomfortable. It's like standing in a line of people facing the same direction and you're the only one to step the other way. But, now is the time to take that step. This phase of the moon is reaching out a helping hand. So reach out and take it. Come along with me and the Goddess. Come outside and kick the can. Come on and kick the can...*

Magical working

(Priest/Priestess has a box of assorted *simple* toys like pinwheels, bottles of bubbles, toy cars, etc.)

Priest/Priestess: *Everyone takes an object from the box. It should be one that reminds you of a good part of your childhood. After you make your choice, step forward and cleanse the item in each element on the altar-water, incense, candle-flame. Now, return to your place and think of your childhood self and put that energy into the object. Let those good memories always be in this magickal tool. Let it be a reminder of a kinder time of your life when you could play and dream without worry or fear. Now play and have fun!*

(Allow time for everyone to have time to reminisce, play with their toy and charge it with their personal energy,)

Priest/Priestess: *Now, take your magickal toy home with you. When you've had a bad day or you feel like lashing out, or that nobody cares about you, remember this moon and taking her hand. And let her magick always be with you. And that you should always PLAY "kick the can"...*

Cakes and Wine:

(Bless the Cakes and Wine as usual but use KOOLAID AND ANIMAL CRACKERS in place of the traditional fare.)

Dissolve circle and end ritual as usual:

Blessed Be!!

Contributed by Lady Willa/Pleiades

Recipe

Brigid's Blackberry Pie

4 cups of fresh blackberries (thawed frozen berries are ok)
11/2 cups sugar
1/3 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon of salt
1 unbaked pie crust

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Line a deep pie dish with the pie crust or purchase a commercially-made one. Set aside. Mix all other ingredients together in a large mixing bowl. If it appears too "wet," mix in a little more flour (about 2 tablespoons). Turn the fruit into the pie shell and dot with butter or margarine. You can bake the pie as is, or cover it with another pie crust. Then score the top several times with a sharp knife. Bake for 1 hour, or until the top crust is a golden brown. Taken from Edain McCoy's book "The Sabbats- A New Approach to Living the Old Ways"

I don't know bout you guys, but my mouth waters just thinking bout a good blackberry pie! Unfortunately, the hills at Mt Meet were not as abundant as I would have liked….so came home empty handed ☹

Lughnasadh Oil Blend

2 drops Peppermint

3 drops Pine

1 drop Fir

1 drop Hazelnut

Use 1/8 cup Corn Oil for Base

Art and Crafts

How to make a Corn Dolly

The best part of the stem is the top length from the ear (the seed head) down to where the last leaf leaves the stem. Leaving the ear intact, strip off the dead leaves and sort the stems according to size: thick, medium, and fine.

Dry straw must be soaked flat in cold water for about 15 minutes and then stood upright to drain before plaiting.

The Five-Straw Plait is the easiest to work with for a beginner:

1. Tie 5 straws together close to the ears.

2-5. Each time the straw being folded passes over two corners, it is then left and the one at the last corner is picked up and used in its place until the round is completed.

The attractive spiral pattern grows as round succeeds round.

6. When completed, the ends are tied to the starting point below the ears, making a decorative circle.

To feed in new straws, cut the old straw off after it has passed the second straw. The thin end of the new straw is inserted in the hole, making sure of a firm fit which is hidden under the fold of the straw of the next round.

Simple corn dollies can also be made with the standard three-straw plait. More complex corn dollies involve multiple straws, intricate braids, and sometimes the creation of a straw core shape around which the outer straw is plaited.

This is a birthday gift for Treebeard, our coven symbol for coven Symbollic. Made of recycled plywood with a brass tag.

Here we have an Osiris incense burner made from laguna oven craft clay.

And here is a piece of erotic art of a tattooed woman

Well, that's it for this issue of the newsletter, hope you enjoy, and hope to see you at Mt Meet 2013!!

Loye