

THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



Litha 2014

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~SPOTLIGHT



Jenice Wright-Armenta

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

Jenice – I first discovered Wicca through my Uncle Ray. He kept telling me that I was chosen to learn Paganism and Tarot. After he passed away in 2011 I began to read up on Wicca and learn its ways.

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

Jenice-I started as an eclectic solitary. Growing up, we always learned about nature and animals but it was more Native America and I didn't realize until I was older that there were similarities with the Wiccan beliefs.

GNL - How long have you been a Georgian? Who damned you to this tradition?

Jenice – I am not a Georgian, but I am a student of Loye's and attend classes when I can. My sister is a Georgian first degree and she introduced me to Loye and the Georgians in his group.

GNL -Children? (How many?)
Grandchildren?

Jenice – I have one daughter that will be six in August.

GNL - Describe your life a little these days.
What great is going on?

Jenice-My life is very busy with my daughter, husband and work. I was recently promoted at work to a assistant management position.

GNL -Hobbies?

Jenice-I like to read, experiment in the kitchen and crochet.

GNL - Attended/Missed any Mt Meets?

Jenice-I haven't been to MM yet, but would love to attend...maybe next year. I love hearing the stories and my favorite is the one about Boo and the Bears, as told by Loye about my sister, Julie.

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

Jenice – Last Beltane, I attended my first Pagan event at the Blue Mountain Event Center and attended my very first public ritual. My first Georgian ritual was at Loye's house for Yule in 2013. For Beltane this year at the Blue Mountain Event Center I attended my favorite ritual....the energy we built was amazing and memorable.

**announcements and
upcoming events!**

40th annual Mountain Meet (1974 to now) – July 30th - Aug 6th at the same place as last year, and the year before that and so on and so forth. The Methuselah Group Campsite in Mountain Home State Forest in California.

A Birthday

On May 31st Lady Du Dragcorum celebrated her umteenth birthday!! The Matriarch of the California and more specifically, Bakersfield Georgians!! This picture is from 2008 when she turned 70 years old ☺



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOBBIE!!!!!!!

May

- Balder (Jeff) - May 5
- Dorothy Morrison – May 6, 1955
- Lady Gaia Rose (Kate) May 17th
- Georgia – May 18
- Cat - May 22

June

- Donna – June 22
- Treebeard (Robert) - June 26

July

- Aothena (Jamie) – July 16, 1987

The Wheel of the Year

By Lady Allusha, aka Rose English



Litha-June 21st

As the Sun Lord reaches maturity, his destiny bids him leave the home of his flesh. From the Lands of the Fae, he is Lord of Light and Giver of the children of life. He ensures the fullness and ripening of the fruits of the Earth Mother, the children of his love with the Nature Goddess, which were seen all across the lands. He is the Father at the peak of his strength and wisdom.

In her love for him, the Nature Goddess, also reaching maturity, reflects the brightness and warmth the Sun God sends. She swells with the realization of life, maturity, and consummation. She dances the magnificent "Dance of Life" and appears (to those with special sight) as a flame dancing across the lands. Thus she is given the name Litha, Goddess of love, light and flame.

But from the realms of darkness is issued the challenge of battle, the Lord of Darkness against the Lord of Light. Lugh

must once again champion his people on the High Mountains of Destiny. The battle rages and Darkness strikes a heavy blow, dislodging Lugh's symbol of the Fire wheel from his shield. This Fire wheel, burning brightly, rolls down the mountainside.

The people, seeing this omen, realize their Lord needs their help. They kindle great bonfires to strengthen him. They sing and dance to show him the way to put to flight the Powers of Darkness. They make garlands of mugwort, vervain, and larkspur through which all can have the Special Sight. By gazing through these garlands and into the fires, the Celts could see how the battle was going. The Sun God was injured, but victorious. He was weakened and the people feared that he would not be able to fight off the evil creatures which now approached him. So they built the bonfires even higher to frighten the evil away.

Litha, seeing her King hurt, rushed to her side. Using the healing properties of water and herbs from her gardens, she heals his wound, but the damage to his strength is not mendable, and is never to be regained.

Lugh feels his strength begin to wane, and yearns to know his future. He begs the Goddess to put on the garland of vision and gaze deep within the magickal waters of the Cauldron of Ceridwen, the Teller of Truths.

She sees the Sun Lord growing older and weaker with time. His strength and vitality last throughout the harvest season, seeing the fulfillment of that part of his destiny. Soon he will return to a fleshen Earth body that he can bury his foster-mother Tailtiu, who has died of age. But she

sees that he will not have the strength to ever return to the Land of the Gods. The Celts will proclaim him High King, God of Men, Llew Llaw Gyffes. He will be obliged to find himself a wife, for it is ill-fated for a mortal king to rule without a wife. And if he should die, as all mortals must, before he has fathered a child, the world would be covered in darkness and Cernunnos, the Dread Lord, would rule on the Throne of Power.

The Sun God remembers the curse: "Never would Lugh marry of flesh and blood!" Fearful that his people might be destined to spend eternity in darkness, Lugh once again begs a boon of the Nature Goddess. If she would use her magick and sorcery to ensure that his Essence of Life would be passed on, he could die in peace, knowing that his people would continue to have light.

And so it was that together they worked the Magick of the Seed. The apple, her favorite fruit, was filled with seeds and each seed filled with the Seed of Life. And so it would be, that which is of Nature and filled with the seed of new life, shall beget the likeness of that which gave the seed. Thus did Litha give her word to ensure that planting of Lugh's seed.

Knowing the fate that awaits the completion of her geis, the Goddess gathers together the Wise Ones from among the Celts, those with the Special Sight (the Witches) and teaches to them the secrets of her Mysteries.

The people, learning of the Magick of the Seed, give thanks to the Gods for the riches of Nature. They rejoice, and the

Druids tell the tale of the Oak King and the Holly King.

Midsummer

(June 21 or June 22)

Page 168 in the Craft by Dorothy Morrison

Related Deities: Mother Earth, Father Sun, the Few and fairy folk

Related Herbs: Rue, rose, vervain, trefoil, St. John's Wort, chamomile, lavender, mugwort

Related Stones: Amethyst, malachite, gold topaz, opal, quartz crystal, azurite-malachite, lapis lazuli.

Also known as Summer Solstice, Litha, or St. John's Day, this festival is the celebration of the first day of summer, the longest day of the year. Since the sun reaches its peak strength on this day, the God takes his place as Father Sun. The Goddess, in turn becomes Mother Earth. And it's in these guises that both work long and hard to keep the Earth green, lush and bountiful.

For this reason Midsummer isn't just a solar festival – it's a celebration of service, of sharing, and of giving our due to the planet. It's a celebration of doing our parts to prepare for the harvest season, and it's not just the agricultural harvest that concerns us at this time. We will be harvested, too, and we must be ready. This involves sharing with our community, giving back to those who have helped us, and performing random acts of kindness towards those less fortunate than we are.

Fortunately, we have help at Midsummer. With the Sun at His peak, so are the fairies and

the fey. And we are the objects of their labor. Sometimes disguised as lighting bugs, they flit to and fro, greening our hearts and tending our spiritual gardens. They lighten our steps and fill us with the warmth of joy and laughter. With the fey working overtime to point us in the right direction, we see things in a different light. And suddenly it's not as difficult to do nice things for other people; in fact, it's downright easy.

However, everything has a price, and so does the help of the fey. Just as we honor the Lord and Lady on Midsummer Day, we must pay homage to the fairy folk on Midsummer Night. To do otherwise is just asking for trouble and undo chaos. Think I'm kidding? It's all chronicled in one of the most famous literary works of all times: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare.

Midsummer Circle Notes

Use a green or white altar cloth, and burn blue and yellow candles. Decorate with fresh herbs, flowers, and seasonal greenery, and wear some in your hair. Burn Midsummer Incense (a mixture of chamomile, lavender, mugwort, and rose petals). Tie tiny bells to the wand with colored ribbons to appease the fey, and use it to cast circle.

Midsummer Circle Ideas

Rise before dawn and welcome the Sun King at daybreak. As the sun appears on the horizon, toast Him with orange juice, saying something like:

Mighty Sun King, round and bright
I welcome You, into my life
I honor You upon this day
As you warm us with golden ray

Decorate trees with solar symbols tied by yellow and blue ribbons. As you tie each symbol, say something like:

*Mother Earth and Father Sun
We honor you for a job well done
The Earth has greened and so have we
You've brought back perfect harmony
Mother Earth and Father Sun
Pour out Your blessings one by one
Upon the Earth and on us, too
As we tie these ribbons of yellow and blue*

Kindle an outdoor bonfire of oak, fir, and St. John's wort, and jump over it to bring good health and good luck for the rest of the year. (Alternatively, kindle the fire in your cauldron.) And as you jump the fire say something like:

*Good health and fortune await me
As I will, so mote it be*

Make beeswax herb candles in Circle. Just take a sheet of beeswax and sprinkle a teaspoon of herbs on top. Place a wick on the outer edge and roll up tightly, while chanting something like:

*Herbs and wax, now meld and mix
Within you, magic I now fix*

Then off them for the work of the Lady and Lord, and fey by saying something like:

*These candles are my offering
To ease the workload as You bring
The season in to play each year
I offer them in love and cheer*

Burn one candle with the change of each season.

Leave a plate of food outside for the fairies.
Drizzle it with honey, and say something like:

*Fey and Fairy- folk alike,
Leprechauns and Flitting Sprite
I pay due homage now to Thee
Upon You, may all blessings be*

longer. The pancake will puff and climb up the sides of the pan. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar, then cut in wedges and serve with maple syrup.

What was your horoscope in 2008 if you was a Cancer?



1st January 2008 - 31st December

General

APFELPFANNKUCHEN

(German Apple Pancake)

- 2 large Apples, any cooking variety
- 1/4 cup Butter
- 1 cup Flour
- 1 cup Milk
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- 1/2 teaspoon Salt
- 1/4 teaspoon Nutmeg,
- Confectioners sugar

Preheat oven to 475. Peel, core and very thinly slice the apples: you should have approximately 1-1/2 cups.

Melt 3 Tablespoons of the butter over medium low heat in a small fry pan, and sauté the apples until they are just tender. Keep apples warm while preparing the batter.

Place a 9 or 10 inch cast-iron skillet in the oven to heat for at least 5 minutes--the pan has to be very hot for this to work. When it is well heated, add the remaining 2 T sp. of butter to melt and put the skillet back in the oven; the butter should be very hot buy not brown when you add the apples and the batter.

Place the flour, milk, vanilla, salt and nutmeg in a blender and whirl until smooth. Remove the skillet from the oven, quickly arrange the warm apple slices over the melted butter, and pour the batter evenly over all. Bake for 15 min., reduce heat to 375 and bake 10 minutes

2008 has the wow factor. Why? Jupiter in your opposite sign signals a year of abundance, and certainly opportunities to expand your world, and with Pluto also heading into Capricorn, transformation is going to be the buzz word for a decade to come. To begin with it will be the 21st - 23rd June birthdays who see one or more parts of their lives changed beyond recognition (and in a positive way) and generally speaking June Crabs are in a year of transition while July birthdays still have time to plant seeds of future change. You'll probably find the early part of the year is the most dynamic, the period with the greatest potential for advance and change, although the year's end could also be spectacular. Travel is a major feature too, and for unexpected reasons. January is your best month, November needs work.

Love

Relationships are the big story during the coming twelve months. Marriage for some, engagement for others and for all happy developments in a partner's life add to the joys of your own. If you're in that 21st-23rd June group expect the earth to move, whether a

long-standing relationship falls to pieces or someone enters your life and sweeps you off your feet. Cancer is not a sign that appreciates change but with Pluto affecting the relationship zone from now on, it's a case of grow or bust! Passion and turmoil will be present in equal quantities, so if you're ready to play Isolde to someone's Tristan, start studying your script! Late January to mid-February is very romantic while mid-summer helps you attract what and who you want towards you.

Money and Work

Sudden and unexpected events shape your financial course this year (watch March and August) so while you may be on the receiving end of a welcome bonus, you will have to be careful when it comes to making major purchases and investments - the world money-markets will become increasingly volatile so you need to keep your risk factor low. Don't be too proud to ask other people favours when it comes to promotion or getting the job you want - you have real support this year and can achieve

serious success. You're also at the beginning of a two-year period when you may want to go back to school or you will be developing your mathematical and accounting skills.

Home and Lifestyle

This is a very active year for you. You may be more sports-oriented and interested in physical activities or your life may be full of events that take you out of your usual routine and into new territory. September and October put home and family in the spotlight, whether you're renovating and refurbishing or moving

house, and a member of the brood could become engaged or marry this year. There's also something of a learning curve going on, in some cases quite literally since you will be attending educational institutions and taking steps to add to your bank of knowledge and skills. Early November is a particularly significant time for the ending of old patterns of life and the beginning of new.

Fruited Iced Tea

Ingredients:

- 4 tea bags
- 4 cups boiling water
- 1 scant cup sugar
- 4 cups cold water
- 1 cup fresh-squeezed orange juice
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

Instructions:

Make tea with tea bags steeped in boiling water. Transfer tea to large punch bowl or pitcher. Add sugar and remaining liquids.

Yield: 10 servings

Source: Wood & Seefeldt, *The Wicca Cookbook*

Use for: Litha

Georgian Rituals

- 1 6oz package corn chips
- 1 large tomato, halved and sliced
- 1 small onion, sliced and rings separated

In skillet, brown the ground beef. Sprinkle in the package of taco mix and stir in the water. Simmer uncovered for approximately 10 minutes. In a salad bowl, combine all the rest of the ingredients except the chips. Divide salad onto 4-6 plates, spoon meat mixture on top, and garnish with chips.



Standing: Bob, Dylan, Julie, Kendra, Loye, Tracy and Arthur. Sitting: Darlene.

Coven/Circle Symbollic wishes EVERYONE a wonderful and blessed Litha / Midsummer / Summer Solstice and year in general. May the Lady and Lord bless you in all aspects of your lives and smile upon your future endeavors!

Setting Sun Taco Salad

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/4 cup green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 package dry taco mix
- 1/2 cup sliced ripe olives
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 med head lettuce, shredded

MIDSUMMER

After the May time and after the
June time
Rare with blossoms and perfume
sweet,
Cometh the round world's royal noon
time,
The red midsummer of blazing heat,
When the sun, like an eye that never
closes,
Bends on the earth its fervid gaze,
And the winds are still, and the
crimson roses
Droop and wither and die in its rays.

Unto my heart has come this
season,
O, my lady, my worshiped one,
When, over the stars of Pride and
Reason,
Sails Love's cloudless, noonday sun.
Like a great red ball in my bosom
burning
With fires that nothing can quench
or tame,

It glows till my heart itself seems
turning
Into a liquid lake of flame.

The hopes half shy and the sighs all
tender,
The dreams and fears of an earlier
day,
Under the noontide's royal splendor,
Droop like roses, and wither away.
From the hills of Doubt no winds are
blowing,
From the isles of Pain no breeze is
sent, -
Only the sun in a white heat glowing
Over an ocean of great content.

Sink, O my soul, in this golden glory!
Die, O my heart, in thy rapture-
swoon!
For the Autumn must come with its
mournful story.
And Love's midsummer will fade too
soon.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox [1850-1919]



“A Bowhunter’s Prayer To Diana”

by Dorothy Morrison

*Oh Silvery Huntress of the Night!
Diana of the pale moonlight!
Oh Goddess of the Silver Bow
Smile on your humble child, below*

*Come now to me and be my guest,
And aid me in this hunt...my quest!
In this endeavor, grant success.
Grant me patience - grant kindness*

*Watch over me and guide my steps
As I walk into the forest’s depths.
Protect me from all injury
And close beside me, always be.*

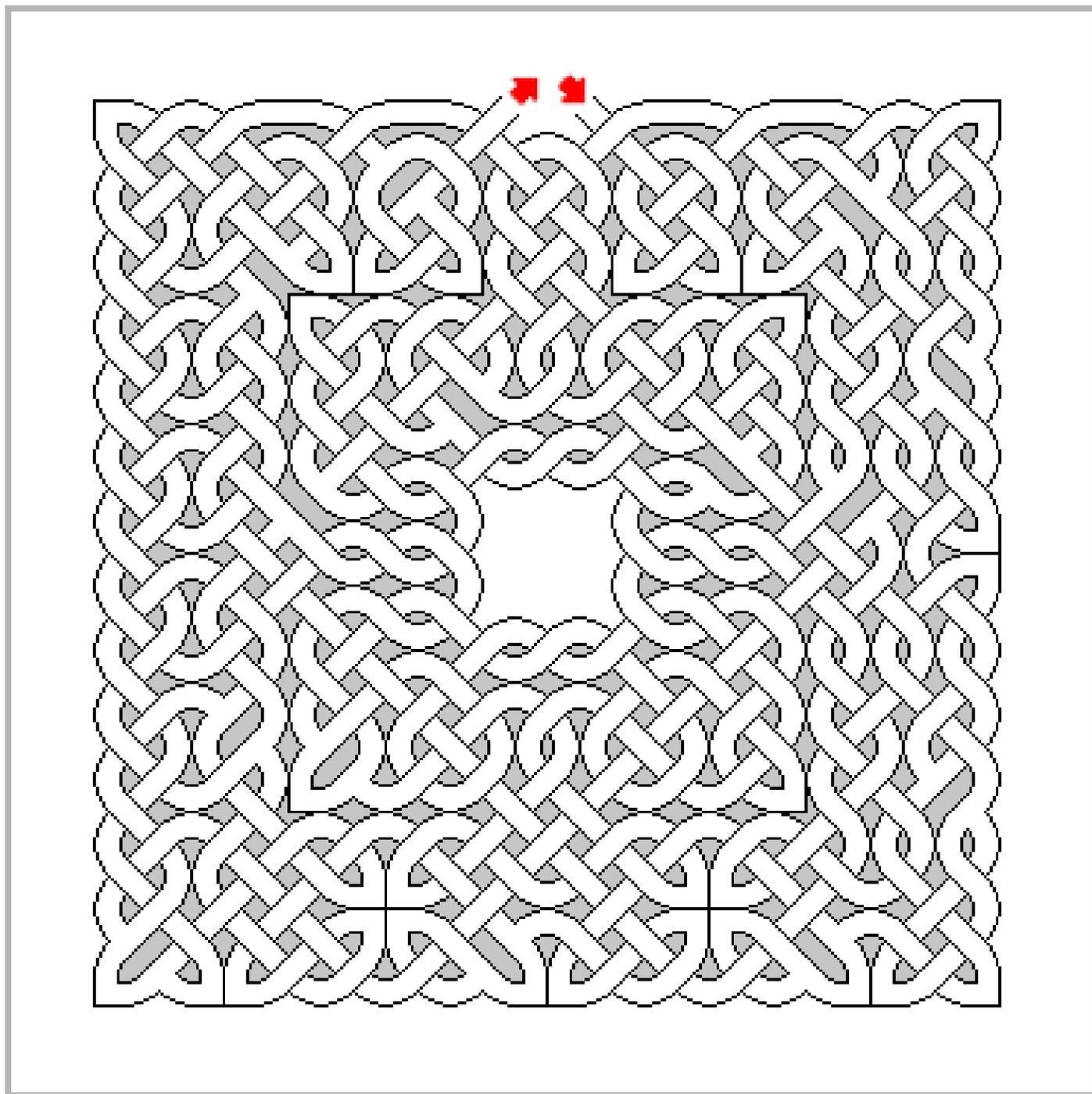
*Aid me as I track the deer.
Through brush and thickets, far and near.
When it comes time to draw my bow
Grant me accuracy, here below*

*Guide my arrows with speed and skill
Grant painless death and swiftest kill.
Silvery Huntress, I am your child...
I hunt your forests, free and wild.*

*Bless this hunt, I ask of thee
Oh Great Diana, hear my plea
Goddess of Wild Ones and the Night!
Bless my table with food tonight!*

Well, that’s it for this newsletter! I hope you enjoyed it,
and remember to send stuff in if you want it in the
newsletter! Blessings and Light from the GNL Staff, Julie
and Loye!

Here we have a couple of activities! A... maze....yourself!! and see if you can do it in one shot!





And break out the crayons and color our cute skyclad witch here!