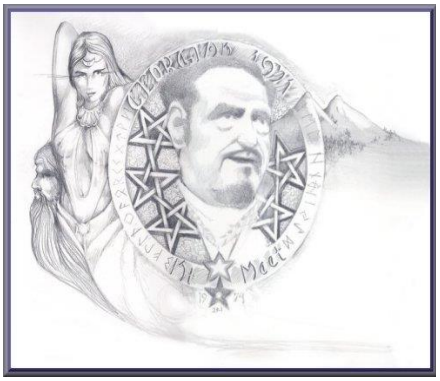
THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



Lughnasadh 2014

What's Inside:

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

SPOTLIGHT

TABITHA PIERZCHALA

My celebration of Lammas this year was a Navy retirement ceremony. It was a lovely ceremony, held outside on the bank of the Anacostia River at the Washington Navy Yard. I was active duty for 21 years, and retired as a Commander from the Navy. Whooot!

I realize this isn't much of a spotlight, but I think that this spot suits her just fine! She is not only a sister to me in the craft, but also a sister in service. That I know of we are the only two Georgians to retire from the service while being Georgians! I just wanna say, OUTSTANDING Commander! And thank you for your service to this great nation!

Blessings and Light
Retired TSgt USAF, Loye Pourner

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:

~3rd degree: It is with great pleasure, that I announce the elevation of Robert and Darlene Gildert to the esteemed 3rd degree! August 3rd at approx. 10pm California time at Mountain Meet 2014 Dar and Bob received their 3rd Degree's , Lady Du Dracorum and Lord Bel Taran presided of the ritual. Lord Treebeard (Bob) and Lady Tatiana (Dar) are members of Coven Symbollic of Northern California.

Gatherings & Rituals

40th 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.

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

149th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games

August 30-31, 2014

The 149th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games featuring the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band and the 1st Battalion Scots Guards takes place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on Labor Day weekend

	gate	*online*
Two-Day Adult	$28.00	$23.00
One-Day Adult	$21.00	$16.00
Senior (65 and up)	$13.00	$11.00
Handicap	$13.00	$11.00
Student (12-17)	$13.00	$11.00
Children 11 and Under	Free	Free
Military With Valid ID	Free	Free

Sacramento Pagan Pride
Date: September 13th and 14th , 2014 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

Crossings: Author – Margot Adler

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

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.

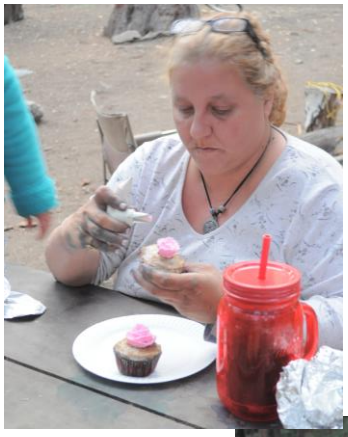
2-5. Each time the straw being folded passes over two corners, it is then left and the one at the last corner is picked up and used in its place until the round is completed.

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.

A leather pouch made for me by Shawn Showens at Mountain Meet ☺



Shawn showing off her mad rose making skills at Mt Meet

Art and Crafts

During my cake decorating workshop

The Goddess, made from Laguna ovencraft clay for Kristina Julie Reyjon Wright.'s altar.

The God, made from Laguna ovencraft clay for Kristina Julie Reyjon Wright.'s altar.

So, this completes this edition of the Georgian Newsletter! Blessings and light everyone! Till nest time, this is Loye and Julie wishing everyone a wonderful rest of the wheel! BB!!