

The Journey...



Official Newsletter of Church of the Spiral Tree
an Ecumenical Pagan church

Issue 27
Summer Solstice, 2004

NEWS

Rituals: CST hosts rituals for almost every sabbat. Usually these take place at Linda & Craig's land in Waverly, Alabama, near Auburn. Sometimes they take place in Troy, AL, in Columbus, GA, or in Carrollton, GA, or in other locations. These rituals are open to everyone, including beginners, solitaires, and children. Dress is casual; we do not work skyclad, to keep it family-friendly. After each ritual we always have a pot-luck dinner. Afterwards, depending on the weather and location, sit around, socialize, play drums, and roast marshmallows over the fire. At Waverly there is plenty of room to set up a tent and camp out; we do ask that people show up early (about 4:30) to help mow out a camping spot.

For these rituals to be a success, we ask that someone volunteer to write and run each ritual. There are a few reasons for this: 1) This is a chance for people to experience rituals of another tradition; 2) It promotes understanding within the Pagan community; 3) If you are a beginner, this is a great chance to try your hand and rituals with a *small* crowd; and 4) If no one else volunteers, then I must do the ritual, and I really don't want to do EVERY ritual (plus, I really don't have the time or energy). So we are pleading with people: if you like our rituals enough to show up for them, then please consider helping out by doing a ritual! These rituals are sponsored by CST for the enjoyment and betterment of the Pagan community, and the land is provided by Linda & Craig, and an exchange of energy is always a good thing.

To make sure that adequate numbers of people will be present at the sabbat ritual to make it fun for everyone, our new policy is that we must have 5 RSVPs by the Wednesday night before the ritual (72 hours before), AND someone must volunteer to write and run the ritual, or the ritual will be cancelled. To make it easy for you to RSVP and to see if the ritual will take place or not, we have an RSVP page (a glorified Guestbook) for you to leave your RSVP and check to see who else is going.

Membership Drive: Once again, CST is having a membership drive! This yearly drive takes place each year from Lammas (August 1) till Samhain (November 1). If you join or renew during this time, Individual memberships are just \$12.50 (normally \$20), and Family memberships are \$20 (normally \$35). All memberships are good for one year. Tell your friends!

Publishing the Newsletter: I'm thinking of cutting down the number of newsletters published each year to two, instead of four, to be put out on the Solstices (Winter and Summer). The reason for this is just that I simply don't have enough time to do all this (you may have noticed the newsletter being rather late these last couple of times!). If you have any strong feelings about this, one way or the other, please email or write before September, when the next newsletter will be due. Thanks!

Fundraising: We had a great fundraiser Moondance this year! The Silent Auction went well, in spite of moving to the Kitchen at the last minute due to rain, and the Slave Auction was fun. We'll do something similar at FallFling, so please consider participating, helping out, and/or donating items to be auctioned! You may contact Cathy at <cathycst@yahoo.com> about the fundraising efforts at the festivals.

Want to Review Books? CST receives new books from various publishers quite often. The publishers are hoping we'll read these books, and publish a review in our newsletter. *I* don't have time to read all these, but if someone else would, that'd be great! Just let me know, and I'll mail you the book. By the way—you get to keep it if you review it! A list of books for review is inside this issue on page 6.

- Linda

Who Are We?

Church of the Spiral Tree (CST) is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed, ecumenical pagan/wiccan church, designed to foster and celebrate a sense of community and family among pagans, both locally and in other regions of the country/world. CST celebrates the unique pagan family: parents, children, elders, and extended family. It is an ecumenical church in that it encompasses all traditions, and is non-exclusive. It welcomes all who revere the Earth Mother and adhere to the tenets of the Wiccan Rede ("An it harm none, do as you will"), regardless of which tradition one is affiliated with.

CST was incorporated in August 1997 to provide a legal, tax-exempt status to the Pagan community. This status enables us to offer to the community a variety of open rituals that anyone may attend, to ordain ministers, and to extend our tax-exempt status to sub-groups of CST. One of our projects has been the forming of a Pagan cover school program for homeschooling families in Alabama (Sacred Grove Academy). CST also has a Disaster Relief Fund, so we can collectively donate money in the name of an established Pagan church to disaster relief efforts, including the American Red Cross.

If you would like to help with any of our projects, have any further ideas for the church, or have any resources which would be of benefit, please contact us. CST is also seeking volunteers to help with various parts of the church. Call us with ideas!

CST Board of Directors:

President Cathy Rankin
706-596-0052; <cathycst@yahoo.com>
Vice President Don Mikovitz
770-830-8681; <nion011@aol.com>
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Kerr
334-332-3065; <cst@spiraltree.org>
Member-at-Large LeePhether
770-830-8681; <LeePhether@aol.com>

Newsletter Staff:

Editor/Publisher Linda Kerr
Reporter Cori Tindragon

Church of the Spiral Tree
PO Box 186
Auburn, AL 36831-0186
334-332-3065 (Linda Kerr)
cst@spiraltree.org
http://www.spiraltree.org

Info About Our Services:

Ministers: CST, being a church, may ordain any member over the age of 18 a minister. The fee for this is \$35.00, and you must also be a paid member. This ordination is for life; you do not have to maintain your membership to continue to be a CST minister, but we would really appreciate it. Each year we have to renew our "Registered" status in various states in order for our ministers to be legal, and your continued membership fees help pay for this. Ministers are entitled to perform legal weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Ordination as a minister does not automatically confer "Elder" or "High Priest/ess" status upon anyone.

Subordinate Organizations: The main form of a local CST group is a Grove. This can be formed by

at least three paid church members, who apply to CST for a charter. If you are interested in forming a Grove, simply find two other like-minded friends, and encourage them to send in their membership to CST, then apply to us for a Grove charter. The application and first year's fee is \$35.00. Note that whomever forms a Grove and runs it, including writing and performing rituals and teaching mysteries, does not automatically become a "High Priest/ess."

Natural Family Planning: Cathy, a health services professional, is offering counseling on natural methods of family planning, both fertility and contraception. For more info, email her at cathycst@yahoo.com.

“Thank You”s, & CST’s Recent Fundraising

by Linda Kerr

We would like to publicly thank the following businesses and individuals who donated their time and merchandise for the Slave Auction and the Silent Auction held at Moondance, May 2004, at Dragon Hills. We greatly appreciate your donations, and we look forward to another great fundraiser at FallFling 2004!

Silent Auction:

Nicole Nichols
Suzy Dixon, Pendelton, SC
Kathryn Lane, Auburn, AL
Moon Walker
Sid Etheridge, Warner Robbins, GA
Robin Everitt, Woodstock, GA
Mystical Treasures, Iva, SC
Clan of the Stone People, Dahlonega, GA
Books of Light, Newnan, GA
Dragon Lady’s Lair, Eatonton, GA
Gaia’s Eyes
Too Wyrdd Sisters, Adger, AL
Raven’s Moon Design
Pagan Yaga, Decatur, AL
Christy & Jeremy Stephenson, Acworth, GA
LeFay Healing Oasis, Grand Rapids, MI
Hallowed Oaks Grove, Madison, AL
The Silver Cauldron, Fletcher, NC
Bio-Buzz, Albany, GA
Jan Humphreys, Hixson, TN
Living Essence Naturals, Auburn, AL
Cathy Rankin, Columbus, GA
Aroma Harbor, Franklin, GA

Slave Auction:

Danielle Robert
Ami Hans
Kristi Marcia
Jeremy

And “Thank You” To:

Hosh for doing the CST Spring Equinox 2004 ritual
Pantheon for doing the CST/Pantheon May Day celebration
Craig for doing the CST Summer Solstice ritual



HECATE'S SONG

SAIL AWAY THROUGH THE DEEP DARK NIGHT
HECATE—MOON GODDESS
RAVEN TAKES FLIGHT
BLACK DOGS HOWL AT THE FULL MOON RISING.
HECATE'S COMING - WE AWAIT HER ARRIVAL
LIGHT THE FIRE
YULE LOGS ARE BLAZING
DRUM BEATS ON
DANCERS SWAYING
HECATE ARRIVES
THE GODDESS THREE—MOTHER, MAIDEN, CRONE—TRIPLE DEITY
ABUNDANCE SHE BRINGS
LISTEN FOR HER VOICE
HECATE—MOON GODDESS
QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
GRASP HER HAND
YOUR SOUL TAKES FLIGHT
GUARDIAN AND GUIDE
THE OTHER WORLD AWAITS
SPINNING, WEAVING, FLYING FREE
LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES
AT LAST WE RETURN FROM OUR ETHEREAL FLIGHT
HECATE—MOON GODDESS
QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
FIRE IS BLAZING
DRUM BEATS ON
DANCERS SWAYING TO HECATE'S SONG

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Come join us in Salem, Alabama for a Halloween Extravaganza

October 29, 30, and 31, 2004

This year the theme is Medieval Festivities!

This was a time when knights were brave, ladies fair, jesters funny, and a wench was a wench! Come help us unravel the knots of Celtic myth.

May your arrow fly straight during the archery competition and your stone land true in the stone toss. Bring the children for trick or treating tent to tent, face painting, and lots of fun and games.

Before the revelries climax, enjoy a feast fit for a king, including entertainment and music. Then end the evening with CST's Samhain ritual followed by dancing and drumming around the bonfire!

Activities include Costume Contest, Pumpkin Carving and Much More!

Fees (THERE IS NO CHARGE IF YOU JUST SHOW UP AT 6:00 PM FOR THE RITUAL!):

Register now: \$25.00/person

After July 31: \$30.00/person

After August 30: \$35.00/person

After September 15 and at the gate: \$40.00/person

Children 6 and under free!

CST and Cedar Grove Members get \$5 discounts!

Vendors Welcome! Vendors must register before August 30.

Primitive camping available or self-contained RVs welcome

This event is sponsored by Cedar Grove, Lamb Road, Salem, Alabama 36874.

For more information or to register email: cedargrovecst@yahoo.com

All attending must pre-register!

MINUTES

Church of the Spiral Tree, Annual Membership Meeting May 30, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Rankin at 12:20 pm, at Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA, with the following Directors and members present:

Cathy Rankin, President; Don Mikovitz, Vice-President; Linda Kerr, Secretary/Treasurer; Lee Mikovitz; Rob von Allmen, Jeremy & Christy Stephenson, Kristi & Wade Weldon, Danielle Carroll, Audrey Roberson, Helen Gilstrap, Chris Mikovitz, and Noelle.

New Business

Nominations for election of officers and directors of the church: President: Cathy Rankin; Vice-President: Don Mikovitz (Nion); Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Kerr; Member-at-Large: Lee Mikovitz. There were 3 absentee ballots sent in.

Results of election: Votes received are unanimous for President: Cathy Rankin; Vice-President: Don Mikovitz (Nion); Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Kerr; and nearly unanimous for Member-at-Large: Lee Mikovitz (there was one write-in vote for Deanna Freeman).

Current Business

Linda noted that Densho is now our librarian, and he has all the books at his house in Prattville, AL. He will keep them there, and just deliver or mail books to people who request them.

There was discussion about setting up the small storage shed at Waverly. Jeremy and Nion are in charge of this project.

The silent auction and slave auction, set to be held at Moondance after the Membership Meeting, was planned.

Cedar Grove, the CST Grove in Salem, AL, will host the CST Samhain ritual in Columbus on October 30. This will take the place of the November 6 ritual at Waverly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

CST Calendar:

Church of the Spiral Tree welcomes church members, beginners, newcomers, solitaries, and anyone else interested in participating in rituals honoring the Sabbats. You need no experience or knowledge to participate, but we do request you come with an open mind and heart, and show respect for your fellow participants. Email us for directions. We share a potluck dinner after each Sabbat, so those who come are asked to bring some type of food to share.

Please wear something comfortable and appropriate for outdoors. Ritual robes are welcome but not necessary. No skyclad, please! Children of all ages are welcome. Donations to the Church are entirely optional but appreciated.

Note: For all upcoming sabbats, we need someone to volunteer to write and run the ritual, and in some cases, we may need someone to volunteer to host the ritual at Waverly in Linda's stead, or to host the ritual at a different location.

2004:

CST Board of Directors' meeting: August 1, noon, Linda's house, Auburn, AL (will meet there and then travel to a local restaurant).

Lammas: August 7, Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Pagan Pride Day/Fall Equinox: October 3 (Sunday), Pagan Pride Day, including the Fall Equinox ritual, Auburn University Arboretum, Auburn, AL. CST is co-coordinating with Pantheon.

Samhain: October 30, Salem, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Ritual is being held in conjunction with Cedar Grove's Halloween Extravaganza, a weekend of camping and festivities (Oct 29-31). There is no charge if you just show up at 6 pm for the ritual, but there is a fee for the festivities earlier in the day (plus camping). Please see the flyer for more details.

Weekend of Board of Director's meeting.

Yule: December 18, at Waverly, AL. We will meet at 6:00 pm, with a pot-luck and party afterwards. Also CST's bi-annual General Membership (non-voting) meeting.

Stone People Lodges (Salem, AL) - Part of Cedar Grove:

August 14 - Sweatlodge
September 25 - Sweatlodge
October 9 - Sweatlodge
November 20 - Sweatlodge
December 4 - Sweatlodge

Those wishing to attend please contact us for more info and to RSVP: <lightfoot1953@cs.com>; <ajagr1972@yahoo.com> ; 334-448-7296.

Upcoming Festivals (Not CST events):

Earthdance	Sep. 17-19, 2004	Kolomoki Mounds St. Pk., Blakely, GA
FallFling	October 7-10, 2004	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA
Moondance	May 26-31, 2005	Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

CST receives new books from various publishers quite often. The publishers are hoping we'll read these books, and publish a review in our newsletter. If you would like to read one of these and write a review on it for The Journey, we'll mail you the book (you get to keep it if you review it!).

Wicca for Couples - by A.J. Drew

Asteroid Goddesses - by Demetra George & Douglas Bloch

Star Signs at Work (Using Astrology for Success & Harmony in the Workplace) - by Debbie Burns

Grimoire for an Apprentice Wizard - by Oberon Zell

Pocket Spell Creator - by Kerri Conner

Spells for the Solitary Witch - by Eileen Holland

On the Back Porch With Nion

Reflections on a Life's Journey

Reach Out and Touch Someone

(Editor's Note: This is an old article by Nion, one of our Board of Directors members, which was originally published in The Hazel Nut, Issue 16, August/September 1995.)

Howdy ya'll, Nion here (once more). The other day I was sitting on my front porch in a lawn chair (cause I don't have a rocking chair yet, or a back porch, for that matter), and the thought struck me (ouch!) that talk of a pagan unity and pagan activists who want to have everyone in the pagan community jump into the mainstream of society, needed a bit more reflecting upon, so here's what I think.

Here in my local area, there have been several attempts by various groups or individuals to establish alliances within the local pagan groups to establish better public relations with the mundane world, to help with community service projects such as Adopt-a-Road, or clean-up projects, etc., or to be a focal point for questions concerning paganism/Wicca by the various news media. In itself, it's not a bad idea; however, there seems to be a reluctance by most well-established groups to become identified to the public in general, as a low profile keeps you out of the spotlight that most groups prefer NOT to be in. For those groups or individuals that want the public recognition and to be in the forefront of public awareness, that's great; just keep in mind that your actions and statements DO reflect on the rest of us.

There also seems to be a reluctance from most well-established groups to enter into alliances that promote unity, representation to outsiders, and declarations of common beliefs. This is usually because alliances tend to become ego or power trips for the organizers, and being the Head Lord Mucky-Muck of something sounds kinda great to some people, and some people like to argue over whose tradition is more correct or right (kinda sounds like some Christian fundamentalists, huh?). But a lot of folks already established just don't need or want to be involved in that sort of ka-ka. Don't get me wrong, I DO think the principles that the public-minded folks want to represent are great, and it CAN be workable with strong safeguards such as a democratically elected or a rotating chair and a genuine spirit of togetherness. I'm just not sure that anyone around this neck of the woods is really ready for it. If anyone does belong to a working

alliance with the aforementioned problems, or that actually fulfills their initial guiding principles or charter, please share it with the rest of us so we can all learn from one another and ever grow.

Speaking of pagan unity in our own local area, my own perception is that there is in fact quite a few informal ties and much cross-talk amongst the established groups. Most of the local groups here get along with each other quite well, and stay in contact with each other pretty regularly. There isn't any established framework in the sense of a formal network, but at this particular time, there doesn't really seem to be a need for one. I would suppose if any burning issues occurred, and ad hoc gathering could take place to sort out any problems, but so far that hasn't been necessary.

As most of our local groups are indeed getting along rather nicely with little or no conflict, it seems to me that most of the folks (at least around here) who are actively calling for pagan alliances and pagan togetherness are the ones on the fringes of the "mainstream" pagan community or unable to stay within the already established organized groups for one reason or another, usually because of predominately personal or ideological differences.

Speaking of pagan groups, I do have one strong personal gripe. I know that I'm just a beginner in, this pagan thing, and certainly don't claim any vast knowledge, and I DO honor and respect anyone who is a high priest or priestess in my coven or group, BUT I do take exception at calling anyone Lord or Lady within a coven or church context, EXCUSE ME, but the only Lord and Lady that I honor with that title are the ones that I have dedicated myself spiritually to. To me, it is somewhat presumptuous and vain of anyone else, especially mere mortals, claiming those title(s); the only exception that I see would be within a circle after the Goddess or God has been drawn down upon the HPS or HP. To me, the titles of High Priestess or High Priest speak for themselves and are quite a statement of honor and respect in themselves. Sorry about that, just got carried away on a pet peeve (sure hope it don't bit much). Anyway, anyone got any opinions on the subject?

Continued on page 11

Contacts:

Remember, you get a free listing with your paid membership. You may also submit your listing at any later time. NEW SERVICE: You can send letters to CST, and we will forward them to your intended recipient.

* = listed on CST's Pagan Prisoner Committee web page:
<http://www.spiraltree.org/prisonerlist.html>

Carla Ann Nelson: P.O. Box 155, Cottonton, AL 36851, email: <herblore@bellsouth.net>.

Firedancer: I am a Cherokee religious practitioner, writing a book called "The Vision Quest Phenomenon." Seeking Mother Earth practitioners who understand the inner origin from the enchanted looms of our mind. Well-educated from old Cherokee holy-man, and litigating pagan rights against Texas prison system. Write Ronald F. White (Firedancer) #368431, Estelle Unit, 246 FM 3478, Huntsville, TX 77340.

***Frank Palmer:** (a.k.a. Bridget), Druid (always in training!), seeking friends to correspond. I enjoy role playing games, primitive living, and am looking for pen pals of all interests and faiths. I am incarcerated; please don't let that deter you. Can receive any mail less than 1/4" thick. Frank Palmer, a.k.a. Bridget #546776, Box 9200, New Boston, TX 75570-9200.

***James A. Roesch:** Advanced adept in multiple disciplines and orders. Hermeticist/Qabalist, A.A.S.R. 320, Rosicrucian. Will advise, guide, or discuss the Craft as any may desire. Write to: James A. Roesch #049547, E1-122-U, Jefferson Correctional Institution, 1050 Big Joe Rd., Monticello, FL 32344.

Jimmy Pesci: Encouraging all members to contact me for intellectual and spiritual rewards. Jimmy Pesci, Box 495, F.C.C.C., 13613 S.E. Highway 70, Arcadia, FL 34266.

***Rev. John Jacob Samulski, Jr.:** I am an extremely open minded person; an outdoorsman; have many interests in most religions. I am a strong believer in "national socialism" and a believer in separatism. I would love to hear from anyone on interests or without interests. John Samulski, #22408, P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT 84020.

Rob Von Allmen: Tired? Bored? Wanting to find true love and happiness? Well, what are you doing talking to me?! I don't have all the questions, much less the answers. But I do have a clue (I found it in a cereal box) and am licensed to share the wisdom of the ages (answered an ad in Rolling Stone). If you also ponder such mysteries as "Is there life after death?," "Was he a man dreaming he was a butterfly...?," and "Where am I parked?," then please drop me a line at: Swann's Tr. Pk. #1, Lot 130, Auburn, AL 36863, <skippy_the_witch@yahoo.com>, 334-826-3953.

Shane Smith: Looking for like-minded people to correspond with. Shane Smith #31594, OQ 1-105-B, U.S.P., P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT, 84020-0250.

***Timothy Hornsby:** Seeking pen-pals who are Wiccan/Pagan. Interested in all subjects: divination, Pagan philosophy, ecology, self-improvement, Irish and Welsh traditions. Can receive up to 20 pages in one letter. Timothy Hornsby #166781, C-3, 565 Bibb Lane, Brent, AL, 35034.

***Timothy O'Brien:** Sincere, mature, responsible Irish pagan seeking correspondence - prisoners welcome. Interests: all Wiccan-Druidic-pagan related topics/studies, self-transformation, music, fantasy art, environmental issues. Working to become spiritual counselor and pagan clergy of depth and character. Mentors needed. Timothy O'Brien, #69221, P.O. Box 1010, Canon City, CO, 81215-1010.

Violet Jade: Interests are gardening, herbology, stones, reading, spirituality, tarot, drumming, wicca, and currently studying Faerie Faith. (205) 981-9890, P.O. Box 55 Alton, AL 35015-0055, <violetjade11@yahoo.com>.

Book Review:

The Wiccan Wellness Book, by Laura Perry. New Page Books.

Wow! What a wonderful book. Laura Perry does a great job in presenting the concept of wellness from a spiritual perspective. In this book, she discusses the powerful connections between the various aspects of our selves, as well as everything that enters our lives, as significant influences on our health & capable of being medicine. And, that it is up to us to see that it is all good medicine: "Getting healthy is something you have to do for yourself." She goes on to show just how integral spirituality is to our wellness by pointing out how our lives are spiritual practices because we are spiritual beings, &, that spirituality must be an intricate part of our daily lives if we are to achieve & maintain wellness.

As spirituality & wellness do require that effort be put forth, The Wiccan Wellness Book shows us where we stand & where to go from there. This book, along with its general & down-to-earth descriptions & discussions of natural healthcare methods, introduces numerous techniques & exercises aimed at wellness from a Wiccan perspective. Along with a wonderful array of rituals, the author demonstrates the Wiccan Rede itself as the significantly practical tool for wellness that it is.

The Wiccan Wellness Book contains much depth & definitely lives up to its purpose of showing us how to achieve wellness in a sacred manner that is mindful of Mother Earth & all her creatures. It is a fine example of Wiccan spiritual philosophy, &, of the concept of wellness as a whole. I highly (and I mean highly) recommend it for everyone; not just for Wiccans.

- Reviewed by Timothy O'Brien (Tarlack Tyr)

Faery Magick, by Sirona Knight. New Page Books.

As my own spiritual pathworking includes Faery workings, I was eagerly looking forward to reading Faery Magick. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a very disappointing read for me. I found it to be too basic & simplistic; seriously lacking in depth & the foundation necessary for working with the Faery. In my experience, the "Hands on" approach (as described on the back cover) to working with the Faery is frivolous & irresponsible. I would not encourage readers to begin working with the Faery based solely on this book. NO WAY.

However, this book is not without some positive value. Each chapter either begins with a journey written from the "I" perspective, or with a related "Fairytale." I found these, along with some of the spells & rituals, to be of benefit to me, but, only because of my prior experience & foundation in working with the Faery.

It seems to me that there are more & more magickal books being written just to sell books, &, that Faery Magick is little more than such a book.

- Reviewed by Timothy O'Brien (Tarlack Tyr)

The Miracle Tree: Demystifying the Qabalah, by R.J. Stewart. New Page Books.

The Miracle Tree is one of those books one really needs to make up one's own mind about. I read it twice & I'm still trying to decide just what I make of it. Much of this book is made up of the author's own theories; theories that lack explanation & may be considered very controversial Qabalistically. Instead of "Demystifying the Qabalah," which this book does not do, The Miracle Tree presents a created tradition that borrows some from the Qabalah.

I feel very uncomfortable in considering The Miracle Tree a book on Qabalah, finding only two chapters (2: Emanations, and 6: Forms for Working with the Tree of Life) in the book to be of any value in the study of Qabalah. So I surely would not recommend this book as one's first book on Qabalah, if I was to even recommend it as a book on Qabalah at all.

However, as a book presenting a unique spiritual philosophy & path, The Miracle Tree does have some value. And for that reason only could I recommend it.

- Reviewed by Timothy O'Brien (Tarlack Tyr)

Positive Magic, by Marion Weinstein, New Page Books \$14.99, ISBN 1-56414-637-5.

I am one of the lucky ones to have been able to review one of the most helpful books to help me understand what all this talk about "magic" is all about. The book I am talking about is Positive Magic. It is my recommendation that all or anyone that does not know about the unseen realms, coexisting space, spirit entities, and the oracles, should read this book, and if you are already a believer in the spirit world, it is also my recommendation that you

refresh your knowledge by reading this book. Before I started to read this book, I asked Linda Kerr to send me a book I could learn from and I don't think she could have done any better by her pick of choices.

Positive Magic covers all areas from A through Working Magic. Now don't get me wrong, but the whole book was excellent, and the part that really interested me were the sections on I Ching and Tarot cards, and on Astrology. I found these to be exciting and they opened a door to a new world that I did not know a lot about. This book is a must!

Positive Magic is a well-written and fascinating book you must read and keep by your side. Marion Weinstein explains what you need to know and does it in a way that keeps you interested all the way through. This book is amazingly practical, helpful, knowledgeable, sensible, and easy to understand. Reading it makes you aware of powers you probably never thought you had, and what's more, it tells you how to use them. This book can enrich the spiritual practice of long-time practitioners as well as those beginning their explorations of magical realms. This could be one of the only magical self-help books that is attractive, moral, and sagacious. This book greatly influenced my life, and opened a new door for me, for a more practical faith.

I would like to thank CST for giving me the opportunity to have read this book and to submit my personal review of Positive Magic.

- Reviewed by Rev. John Jacob Samulski Jr.

New Age Encyclopedia, by Belinda Whitworth, New Page Books, \$14.99, ISBN 1-56414-640-5.

As most people know, an encyclopedia is not a book to read from cover to cover, and unfortunately, I did. And not to say I regret it, because as someone being new to this mind, body and spirit thing, it opened my eyes to the issues and subjects I did not have much knowledge about. This book is one I would recommend to any newcomer to help answer any questions one might have. I would say it is a book for anyone; even someone with a wide range of knowledge could pick it up as an excellent quick reference guide.

It covers a great area, from "Abduction by Aliens" to "Zero Balancing," but what I found most interesting was it also has a resource list in the back, that has addresses and phone numbers, that cover the following issues: Magazines, altered states of consciousness, animal welfare, birth and death, communities and complementary currencies, complementary health, divination and channeling (earth mysteries, paranormal), Eastern spirituality, environment, ethical consumerism and investment (Paganism, Shamanism, and Native spirituality), psychotherapy, Western spirituality, and supplies. These are all the names of the headings of the recourse list.

If anyone would like to know any of the addresses or info this book offers, please feel free to write me and I will write you with whatever info you would like out of any category. My address is as follows: John Jacob Samulski, P.O. Box 250, Draper, UT, 84020. Please no prisoners; if a prisoner has a request for any of the info, please write the Pagan Prisoners Committee c/o CST, and ask them to write and request the info, and have it printed in the next issue of "The Journey."

But on a scale of 1-10, one being the worst and ten the best, I rate the New Age Encyclopedia an eight. It is available from www.newpagebooks.com for \$14.99. And my thanks again to Linda Kerr for sending me another great book.

- Reviewed by Rev. John Jacob Samulski Jr.

On The Back Porch - Continued from pg. 8

Back to the subject of pagan involvement within the community. If the need strikes you, get involved in whatever social, environmental, historic, or cultural projects on a personal level that floats yer boat. By you showing a caring, positive, and straight-forward demeanor, the "others" can hopefully change their attitudes positively toward you personally, toward you as a pagan, and maybe toward the pagan community as a whole. Personal visibility, acceptance, and goodwill can carry over into acceptance concerning your right to your own beliefs, or hopefully, at least, the notion that we ain't such a bad lot after all.

Well, guess I'll sign off for now, as I ran out of steam, and need to recharge the ole gray matter between my ears (it kinda feels a quart low right about now), so until next time, may THE Lord and Lady of us all smile upon you and make your day. Blessed Be.



Letters:

Osi Yo Nion,

I am known as "Firedancer" and wish to respond to your article in the last issue of "The Journey." After all Don, you did open the door by requesting any "feedback" both pro or con. Mostly! I wish to commend you on your unique "down-home-ways" of expressing your ideas and observations. I too am a victim of the Vietnam conflict where we both were required to become "predators" just to survive. Being reared in the Cherokee spiritual ways, we too have a life's guide-line much like the "Wiccan Rede." Yet, not all Cherokee really followed this way of life or were taught the discipline of "An ye harm none, do as ye will" conception.

You made an interesting point of establishing the "gray area" in which we must turn the other cheek when responding to open aggression. In today's world we are seeing the war that had its beginning from the first days of the knights of the round table using their religious beliefs to attempt to re-take the "holy lands." Mainly, the holy lands were not taken by any form of force, but were just people of a different belief had made their home land. So! Is "Bin Laden" creating the "Al Qaeda" who, based on U.S. propaganda, openly attack the U.S.A. without probable cause, due to "not turning the other cheek"? The "Al Qaeda" is only now responding to U.S. government's aggressive attack of the age old form of "Christian inquisition" that with the "Nazis" murdered well over ten million people.. this was only a form of religious "genocide" which is being attempted in today's war. Once, there was an old saying, "Only good Indian is a dead Indian". After the mass brutality of taking the natives of this land there came an amendment to the saying, "The only good Indian is a Christian Indian."

You see, I am a form of historian of the concepts of why people will not evolve into saving "Mother Earth." This reason has been found and it is all over the attitudes of people who have the belief they are not of this planet, are just waiting to go to heaven to praise, for an eternity bowing before a known "Jewish god" in a state of bondage. So, greed is their path way to heaven by destroying, for god, as many non-Christian believers as they see fit!!!

Don, I live in a world where the Christian-controlled government is using this prison as their way to convert or murder people who will not follow their ways of controls. Even the federal courts are contaminated by the religious form of control. Nonetheless, I keep litigating to step by step very slowly obtaining their words that weave a very tangled "web" as they continue to deceive.

If you're interested, I am deep in their dungeon, isolated!, But now very slowing am using their "web" to obtain a federal ruling. This ruling will spawn not only changes, but will have the evidence to obtain many indictments. Now, the panic has begun as the TDCJ officials know it is coming like a tidal-wave... entitled "White vs. Johnson, H-03-5157."

In "The Journey," there is a man by the name of Frank Palmer (aka Bridget) who was given a TDCJ case for making a set of "tarot cards." As I recall, he was told to become a Christian and stop his evil ways if he wants to ever be released so, you see, I am like the story of "David having only a small sling-shot to bring the Philistine giant called Goliath down." It truly takes training and discipline to use the impossible to overcome the known aggressor in this so called "free country."

Nion, you and your group have a wonderful society of Wiccans or Earth based beliefs. Yet, I find, like many other groups, there is a state of confusion, but it is people like you and the other officers who have the inner balance to keep the group growing with stability. Yes, I am a voting member, but am a high plains drifter and will have this letter forwarded on to you when I cast my vote. I also, am the founder of a Kansas spiritual corporation known as the "Life Church, Inc." My wonder wife, whom I have married while incarcerated, is the leader and chief of the church. We are a 501(c)3, I.R.S. tax status non-profit group of Native Americans, and are about to have a web-site on the internet. As you may know, I am very well educated, lots of experience and with my many years I have obtained wisdom. I also, have some very special ideas to generate "money" using the church corporation and laws to create a form of radio network on the internet. You see, I will give and then receive payment for my gifts.

I shall close, and leave you with my best wishes. Also, in the event you may wish to ask any questions on spiritual ways or the legal aspect of the church corporations guide-lines under the law, please feel free to drop me a "kite" and I will respond happily!!! Thank you for you time!!

In the spirit of the ghost dancers,

Ron Firedancer White, 368321
264 FM 3478, Estelle Unit
Huntsville, TX 77340

P.S. I was a "M.A.C.-S.O.G. in Nam"! Due to my Cherokee ways.



Notices:

Prison Writing Program

A program for people in prison who like to write; be it fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, memoirs, jokes, etc. They also have a listing for Pen Pals, books for writers, a directory of small magazines that *pay* for inmate writings, a list of book programs for prisoners that give free books to all that are in a cage, info on opportunities for education, and a punctuation guide. This is all FREE to inmates. Write them and ask for "Handbook for Writers in Prison."

Prison Writing Program
PEN American Center
568 Broadway, Suite 401
New York, NY 10012-3225

Wiccan/Pagan Fellowship Club

The Circle of the Goddess sponsors an international pen friend club for shut-ins. What we do is match up people with similar interests from the "free world," with those who find themselves shut-in.

The program has been in operation for over ten years now is ever growing. Many great friendships have developed over the eight years we have been going at this little labor of love.

We are looking for outside people to get involved via the inky trail.

If you are interested please contact the address below and information will be sent to you. Any requests for information will be just that, information only. You will be sent membership forms and full details, and then if you are still interested you can return the forms.

Douglas H. Lagossy (Aspen)
P.O. Box 760
Campbellford, Ontario
Canada K0L-1L0

The following organization puts out a newsletter for prisoners:

The Millennial Kingdom
681 North Second St.
Pottsville, PA 17901
Rev. Paul Salem or Louise Salem
Newsletter: Rays of Light Newsletter
Cost: 6 postage stamps per issue (quarterly) for prisoners

A prisoner may send 6 stamps initially, requesting the most recent issue of the newsletter, and then go from there.
(From: Timothy O'Brien)

Lock of Love web site: <<http://www.locksoflove.org/>>

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children across the U.S. under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

We meet a unique need for children throughout the United States by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses we provide help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers. You can help by donating your hair after a hair cut!

The Breast Cancer web site: <<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/>>

You can click a button on this site to help fund mammograms for women in need.

Notices (continued):

Greenpeace: <<http://www.greenpeaceusa.org>>

Greenpeace began in 1971 and for 30 years, Greenpeace has tackled environmental issues. Today their work focuses on six major efforts: Saving ancient forests, stopping global warming, eliminating persistent organic pollutants (POPs), protecting the oceans, eliminating the threat of genetic engineering, and ending the nuclear age.

Contact information:

<http://www.greenpeaceusa.org>

Phone: 1-800-326-0959

9:30 am - 5:00 pm Eastern, Monday-Friday

You can join Greenpeace for as little as a \$5.00 donation.

Writer Seeking Memories

Dear American Pagan Community:

I am an American Indian researching history topics; I plan on developing into articles and books. I hope to make contact with Pagan persons (including Elders) who have memories to share. Two topics are on WWII history and the respondee need not have been "out" about his or her beliefs during the war years. I will use a pseudonym if someone wants one. Any anecdote or story, no matter how brief is sought.

Seeking anyone who experienced unusual phenomena or strange happenings during the war. Includes: hauntings, ghost tanks or ships, premonitions, good luck charms, psychic bonds between relatives or buddies, visits to fortune tellers, seances, out of body (near death) experiences, foo fighter sightings, strange animals or sea creatures, vampirism, lycanthropy, Halloween or other Pagan holiday observances, telekinesis, encountering magical beings/creatures, extraordinary coincidences, or any event a person deems to be supernatural or paranormal during the war. Especially, interested in any person (solo) or covens who did spells of protection around individuals, cities or nations.

Seeking any patriotic Pagan who served in the military, Civil Air Patrol, Red Cross, USO, merchant marine, civil defense or held a war industry job during WWII.

For a more contemporary topic, I am researching gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and 2-spirited people's experience with the supernatural and paranormal. If any GLBT2S person can relate experiences like those mentioned in the previous topic, contact me. I am also, interested in any information on this topic as it relates to persons of the past. Sometimes persons are aware of an ancestor's sexuality. Any lesbian distant cousin who had premonitions in the 1800s? What of a bisexual grand uncle who believed he saw a ghost in the 1920s? Contemporary or historic information is sought.

I am researching women's contribution to medicine, natural history, conservation and related fields. As many Pagans have matriarchal influences, I want to know of women who had knowledge of botany, herbalism, midwifery, etc. Does anyone know of women involved in nature preservation, bird watching, scientific illustration, hawking, etc? Women could have been from any century and even brief references are sought. Especially, wanting to hear from Pagans who have pursued natural history or science careers, because a female ancestor or mentor was interested in such fields.

I also, seek any freely donated materials (books, articles, photographs) on paranormal topics for a developing archive. Any freely given responses or donations are appreciated.

Robert J. Clark

PO Box 685

Collinsville, Illinois 6223

Important Dates

Board of Directors' Meetings:

August 1, 2004, Auburn, AL; October 31, 2004, Auburn, AL

Annual Meetings of the General Membership:

May 30, 2004, Moondance, Dragon Hills, Carrollton, GA (includes election of officers)

Dates of Sabbats for 2004 (not ritual dates):

Imbolc	February 1
Ostara	March 20
May Day	May 1
Summer Solstice	June 21
Lammas	August 1
Mabon	September 22
Samhain	November 1
Yule	December 19

Church of the Spiral Tree
P.O. Box 186
Auburn, AL 36830

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED