

A special feature from the archives of ReclaimingQuarterly.org

from RQ #102

Reclaiming News

Welcome to Reclaiming Quarterly #102. This is the Reclaiming News section. You can download other sections or the full issue at our website.

We hope you'll download the entire issue and keep a copy on your digital bookshelf. You can download other issues at our site too.

Our online issues are set up for easy printing at your local anarchist cooperative copy shop (or Kinkos, whichever is closer). Many shops will download the file as well — just take this sheet and show them the website info. Be sure to tell them “black and white printing” to keep the cost down.

LOTS MORE ON OUR WEBSITE!

Other RQ.org features includes videos to Reclaiming chants and songs, dozens of magical and activist resources and photo features, back issues, music samples and CD ordering, and more.

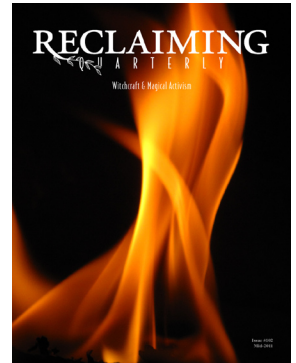
Visit www.ReclaimingQuarterly.org

Latest Issue Online!

The latest issue of Reclaiming Quarterly — 60+ pages of Witchcraft and Magical Activism — is now available as a free downloadable PDF file at RQ.org

Each issue of RQ brings you the latest in activism, spiritual practices, Reclaiming news, interfaith pagan humor, and much more!

Visit www.ReclaimingQuarterly.org



Reclaiming Music CDs

Chants & Music available online



Reclaiming has released four CDs of Earth-based chants and music. All four are available on our website.

Many Reclaiming musicians and teachers have also released CDs. *Witches Brew* is a good introduction to Reclaiming's musicians.

Visit www.reclaimingquarterly.org/music, or contact quarterly@reclaiming.org



Athena

Reclaiming News

Teen Earth Magic

Teen Earth Magic, held each June near Nevada City in Northern California, brings together over two dozen teens and young adults for five days of magic and activism.

Our 2009 camp followed the Journey of the Salmon. The 2010 teen retreat worked with the Pentacle of the Great Turning: Desire, Surrender, Transformation, Solidarity, and Manifestation (*see RQ#100 for an article*).

Photos are posted at RQ.org

The fourth Teen Earth Magic retreat is in June 2011. We welcome youth and young adults ages 13-25 (ages 19-25 can apply to be part of a mentoring path).

For more information, contact RQ — quarterly@reclaiming.org



Photo by Will/RQ



Suzanne Sterling
Yoga, Music and Ritual Arts

Nationwide Yoga and Activism Intensives
<http://www.offthematintotheworld.org>

Year long Priestess Trainings
Bay Area training begins March 2010

New album "Blue Fire Soul"
releasing on White Swan Records December 2009

<http://www.suzannesterling.com>

FIFTH BIENNIAL ALL-RECLAIMING

DANDELION GATHERING

PACIFIC NORTHWEST • 2012

In 2012, dozens of Reclaiming folks will gather together at the fifth biennial Dandelion Gathering. This time Dandelion is in the Pacific Northwest.

Dandelion 5 is coming to the beautiful Pacific Northwest!

Planning is happening now for holding D5 in the Portland, Oregon area in 2012. (Firmer dates and more details to be posted soon. The most likely timing is early to mid May or early Fall, in mid-September or early October).

Join us for:

- beautiful country
- good company
- great food
- important exchange of ideas
- market, music, and magic to be made!



Photographs from Dandelion Gathering 2006 in Massachusetts by RQ.



HELP ORGANIZE DANDELION 2012

We invite you to be part of the action as Reclaiming comes together again! Visit the Dandelion Gathering website, www.dandeliongathering.org, for further updates in the near future.

If you want to get involved in organizing Dandelion 5, contact Satya Peterson, satya.peterson@gmail.com, (971) 219-0012.

We are excited to have people engaged from our myriad Reclaiming communities and look forward to seeing you in the Pacific Northwest next year.

THE SPIRAL DANCE: THE BEGINNING

by *Gede Parma*

And so we enter the holy space...that place trembling with the anticipation of Other...that place we of the Wise know so well. Descending by aid of Graces, we are made blessed again – renewed – with each droplet of water infused into our breathing skin. I bow to the sovereignty of that touch, of that embrace by invisible hands that take on silver hues as I walk deeper into that place between.

I bow to each Altar...I bow to the youth, who in their hour of need fell, but will be reborn to Love...I bow to the wounded Yemaya, the Great Black Mother whose blackening by oil has desecrated the light that shines forth from her brilliant sheen evoked forth by the kiss of the Lady Moon...I bow to the other nations – to those of the fur, the feather, the scale and the fin – I

pray for their salvation...And I bow to the Directions – the South and the Fire and the Phoenix ushering forth impassioned pleas for *life*, the West and the Water and the

healing rivers that run deep, the North and Earth and the harvest we all gather in. I come last to East and Air, where the Eagle crests the dawning sun.



I sit, not to wait, but to breathe and live in the space; to become acquainted with the holy ground that we shall chant, sing, love, and dance upon. I watch as a sacred circle is traced by the death-walkers as they read the names of our Beloved Dead, those that have passed over the Sunless Sea and alighted upon the Holy Isle of Apples...I hear their sacred litany and can only chant back – What is remembered lives.

Music...a symphony is struck... suddenly a cacophany of child-like shrieks...I listen and I heed the intent. We banish. Widdershins they streak in chaos and the besom becomes the focus for a communal spell of “be gone all that is profane.” Lest we paint the dangerous

Top: Kesar Pavilion in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury neighborhood — sacred temple for sports, concerts, and spiral dances. Lower: Volunteers circle before the ritual begins. All photos © 2010 Michael Rauner — www.michaelrauner.com

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SPIRAL DANCE

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dichotomy, it must be remembered that what is profane is the thought that profanity is possible. We let go of this human folly and we surrender to the Abyss...which is filled with the Circle!

By the Earth that is Her Body and the Grove that is His Home,

By the Air that is Her Breath and the Wind that is His Song,

By the Fire of Her Bright Spirit and the Heat that is His Passion,

By the Waters of Her Living Womb and the Dew of His Tears,

The Circle is cast.

I relax, and then the chorus begins... heavenly, and yet filled with an intensity unmatched by the calamities of mortality. I yearn to join them – the dancers, as they weave tales of the essences of Life, of the Elements coming together to make the Hidden Quality we long for, yet know intimately is ours.



I watch as yellow becomes red becomes blue becomes a forest of nymphs...I rejoice as the Feathered Twins make love held by our silent reverence, as the Goddess is honoured in Her faces as Transgendered, Maiden, Mother, Crone and Activist! I weep as I watch children of manifold families and clans hold heralds of justice, sovereignty, empowerment, and equality. My face becomes streaked in the



signs that I am home. I am Reclaiming...

And oh, the Lust in the Air as we breathe in the dark of the moist Earth and the Light of Heaven's splendour...more tears roll down my coffee-coloured skin – I think of my colouring in that moment, something I take for granted. I cherish the ancestors who gave me this beauty, this skin to keep safe the spirit within. I look around and see *shining* everywhere. The beauty that surrounds me. I re-member...I am *here*...I am *now*.

We whisper and weave stories of our Dead... the Mighty...the Beloved...the Ancestors...and those who have come and will come new-born from the Cauldron of Immortality. The babes are blessed in the name of renewal – for in death there is life.

I stand now. I stand proud and tall, and the rhythms of magick move my pulsating flesh, as I follow a humble voice of priestess, of shifter, of

Spiral Dance 2010 — invocations to the West and North, food blessing
All photos ©2010 by Michael Rauner, www.michaelrauner.com

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SPIRAL DANCE

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changer, of poet, of Witch, and I am brought from the shores of this world to the Other. I come to the Land of Youth that I know so well, and I smell the red flesh of apples and taste their sweetness on the breeze. I come to the Well and I perceive Blue Flame, only to kneel before the Mother of the World, of Mercy, Healing and Compassion to have her say, Be Free – You are Alive, You are ever your own forgiveness. It rains, the heavens heave and tremble as the cascades of pure water saturate my being...I drink in the depths upturned and I too am shining. The voice leads me back to the Circle of Life...and the Dance that we call Spiral begins.

*Let it begin with each step we take,
Let it begin with each change we make,
Let it begin with each chain we break,
And let it begin every time we awake!*

Our song of power ebbs and flows as our serpent enlivens itself and uncoils. I pound the Earth with my feet saying “Mother, can you hear me, I am free, and I unshackle you!” I look deeply into



the shining pools of soul that dance past me and I swim in succour I have barely tasted until now. I *am* free and this sacred truth is tearing my skin away in strips. I am blood, bone, muscle, and marrow and I am spirit, soul, mind, and heart...And I am ever a part of the Goddess, the Living Mystery. I love everything and everyone. I am reconciled beyond the need for reconciliation. I am *awake*! I no longer value perception...I am in my Deep Core.

I have found the Grace, and the dance my feet take me on is a dance that can only be woven by the thousandfold feet of the Many who are One.

Release! Breathe in and hum to the Earth – for this year we renew Her. Oh, to be her son, oh to be her lover and her guardian. These relationships are precious beyond understanding. I am relinquished of the sorrow of ignorance, I am simply given into the keeping of the Secret

That Bears No Name and is Ever-Revealed. I am looking now, I am listening and as I journey back upon the moon-boat, across the sunless sea, to the shores of this time and place, I can only breathe in Magick.

We unravel and embrace. The drum never stops its pounding, and the blood can only call back in hysteria!

I pause and look inward. I see the mirror and the Goddess has no words, only that look that seems to mean the three words with any semblance of meaning, of truth:

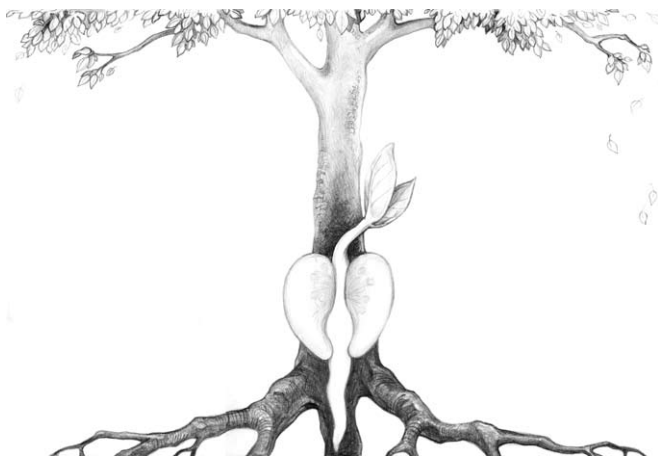
I love you.

Gede Parma is a Witch, initiated priest and teacher of the WildWood Tradition. He weaves threads of Feri, Reclaiming, Stregheria, WildWood, Greek Paganism, British Traditional Witchcraft and ancestral traditions into his personal syncretic and shamanic path.



Spiral Dance 2010 — hundreds of participants dance the spiral of rebirth

All photos ©2010 by Michael Rauner, www.michaelrauner.com



Reclaiming Pages

Information and Events in the Reclaiming Tradition

Reclaiming is a community of people working to unify spirit and political action.

Our vision is rooted in the religion and magic of the Goddess — the Immanent Life Force.

We see our work as teaching and making magic — the art of empowering ourselves and each other. In our classes, workshops, and public rituals, we train our voices, bodies, energy, intuition, and minds.

We use the skills we learn to deepen our strength, both as individuals and as community, to voice our concerns about the world in which we live, and to bring to birth a vision of a new culture.

The following pages highlight events sponsored by regional Reclaiming-tradition groups. Many of these groups are anchored by Reclaiming Witchcamp teachers and organizers.

While Reclaiming communities vary widely in their focus, style, and ways of organizing, all Reclaiming groups agree on the Principles of Unity (below).

Reclaiming's Principles of Unity

“My law is love unto all beings...” — The Charge of the Goddess

The values of the Reclaiming tradition stem from our understanding that the Earth is alive and all of life is sacred and interconnected. We see the Goddess as immanent in the Earth's cycles of birth, growth, death, decay, and regeneration. Our practice arises from a deep, spiritual commitment to the Earth, to healing, and to the linking of magic with political action.

Each of us embodies the divine. Our ultimate spiritual authority is within, and we need no other person to interpret the sacred to us. We foster the questioning attitude, and honor intellectual, spiritual, and creative freedom.

We are an evolving, dynamic tradition and proudly call ourselves Witches. Honoring both Goddess and God, we work with female and male images of divinity, always remembering that their essence is a mystery which goes beyond form. Our community rituals are participatory and ecstatic, celebrating the cycles of the seasons and our lives, and raising energy for personal, collective, and Earth healing.

We know that everyone can do the life-changing, world-renewing work of magic, the art of changing consciousness at will. We strive to teach and practice in ways that foster personal and collective empowerment, to model shared power, and to open leadership roles to all. We make decisions by consensus, and balance individual autonomy with social responsibility.

Our tradition honors the wild, and calls for service to the Earth and the community. We value peace and practice non-violence, in keeping with the Rede, “Harm none, and do what you will.” We work for all forms of justice: environmental, social, political, racial, gender, and economic. Our feminism includes a radical analysis of power, seeing all systems of oppression as interrelated, rooted in structures of domination and control.

We welcome all genders, all races, all ages and sexual orientations, and all those differences of life situation, background, and ability that increase our diversity. We strive to make our public rituals and events accessible and safe. We try to balance the need to be justly compensated for our labor with our commitment to make our work available to people of all economic levels.

All living beings are worthy of respect. All are supported by the sacred elements of Air, Fire, Water, and Earth. We work to create and sustain communities and cultures that embody our values, that can help to heal the wounds of the Earth and Her peoples, and that can sustain us and nurture future generations.

This statement of core values was developed at the Reclaiming Collective Retreat held the weekend of November 8, 1997.

About Reclaiming



Reclaiming Core Classes

These classes have evolved as the “core curricula” of many, but not all, Reclaiming communities.

Elements of Magic is the basic Reclaiming class, and is taught at most Witchcamps as well as in local communities. The other three core classes, as well as many other workshops and classes, have Elements as a prerequisite.

Elements of Magic

Deepen your vision and focus your will, empowering yourself to act in the world. Practice magic by working with the Elements: Earth, Air, Water, Fire, and

Spirit. Techniques include

drumming, singing, sacred dance, breath work, visualization, sensing, projecting and raising energy, chanting, trance work, creating magical space, spell crafting,

and structuring meaningful ritual. We hope to provide a nurturing environment for all participants. Prerequisite: Read the first six chapters of *The Spiral Dance* by Starhawk.



Iron Pentacle

The points of the Iron Pentacle name our birthrights as free beings: Sex, Pride, Self, Power, and Passion. In this class, we will explore these aspects of our own authentic energy. Six weeks. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic or equivalent.

Pentacle of Pearl

We will work with the deep, healing energies of the Pentacle of Pearl, moving through the five points: Love, Law, Wisdom, Liberty, and Knowledge. Six weeks. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic or equivalent.



Rites of Passage

Journeying into the realm of our own dreams and imaginings, we will each become the main character in our own myth. Through storytelling, trance, and dream work, we will draw forth and weave a rich tapestry of images and symbols between the worlds, to empower us in all the worlds. Six weeks. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic or equivalent.

Reclaiming Classes ~ General Information

Classes are offered in many regions (see following pages for local groups). To arrange classes in other areas, contact RQ — quarterly@reclaiming.org

Classes are announced throughout the year. Visit Reclaiming's website, www.reclaiming.org, or see contact info for various regions in the following pages.

Although studying and practicing the Reclaiming tradition can be profoundly healing, Reclaiming classes are not a substitute for medical or psychiatric care. Teachers are not responsible for diagnosing illnesses nor for recommending treatments. Students are responsible for seeking professional help if they need it.

Resources

How does today's Witch-on-the-go find out more about Reclaiming?

The easiest way is to take a class, attend a ritual, or sign up for a retreat or Witchcamp.

Contacts for local communities and Witchcamps can be found on the next two pages. New groups and updated contact information can be found on the Reclaiming website, or in future issues of RQ.

RECLAIMING.ORG

Reclaiming's website (as well as the sibling site ReclaimingQuarterly.org) is a great source of information — everything from history and background to photo-features of our latest organizing, from classes and rituals to samples from our music CDs.

Books

Here are some books by Reclaiming teachers that you can find in bookstores and online.

Starhawk, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, *The Spiral Dance*, *The Earth Path*, and more

T. Thorn Coyle, *Evolutionary Witchcraft*, *Kissing the Limitless*

Starhawk, Anne Hill, & Diane Baker, *Circle Round: Raising Children in Goddess Traditions*

Starhawk & M. Macha NightMare, *The Pagan Book of Living & Dying*

Luke Hauser, *Direct Action: An Historical Novel*

David Miller, *I Didn't Know God Made Honky-Tonk Communists*

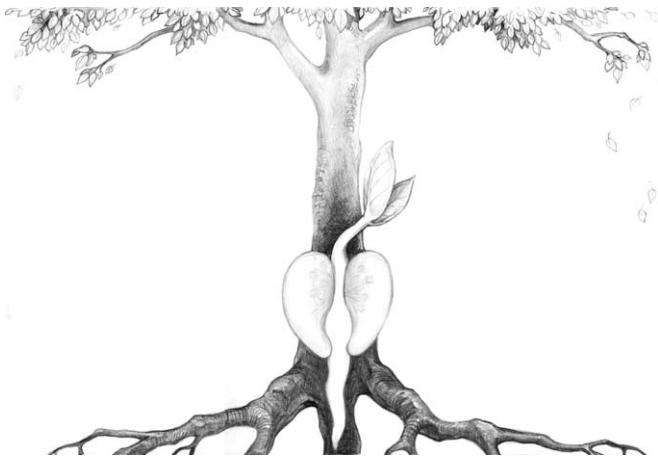
RECORDED MUSIC

Reclaiming offers four CDs of Earth-centered chants and songs — see the back cover of this issue for more information, or visit our website.

Numerous Reclaiming teachers have also recorded CDs — Reclaiming's CD *Witches' Brew* is a sampler of recent Reclaiming-inspired releases.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS — CONTACT RQ

If you can't find what you're looking for — contact RQ! Our experts are standing by to answer your queries, or figure out who can.



Reclaiming Regional Groups & Contacts

Local groups are anchored by Reclaiming teachers. RQ offers this list of kindred communities as a public service, but is not responsible for these groups. If contact info is outdated or you want us to add a group, or if you have other questions, please contact quarterly@reclaiming.org

Australia

Australian Reclaiming Community
www.australiareclaiming.org.au
ecell@australiareclaiming.org.au

Continental Europe

Reclaiming Réseau Francophone (France)
reclaiming.online.fr

Reclaiming Deutschland (Germany)
www.reclaiming.de

Sternschnuppe
www.sternschnuppe-oldenbuettel.info/
 0049-4872-967784

Reclaiming Netherlands
www.yoeke.com/spiritueel/reclaiming.php

Heart of the Witch
www.heartofthewitch.eu

Phoenix Witchcamp (Germany)
 Deutsch: www.phoenixcamp.eu
 English: phoenixcamp.eu/englishhome.html

European Wintercamp (Spain)
www.reclaimingspain.org
m.morgaine@sie.es, (0034) 920 37 25 73
 English: www.reclaimingspain.org/CampTextEnglish2009.htm

Britain

British Reclaiming
www.britishreclaiming.org.uk

West Wales
moonroot@uko2.co.uk, (+44) 01267 281414

Cambridge
cradle@globalnet.co.uk

Devon
flamingirondragon@gmail.com

Hertfordshire
suparnovajuce@gmail.com

Nottingham
jeanniejonathan@aol.com

Derby
mazmc@macunlimited.net

West Sussex
georgia.conway@btopenworld.com

Scotland
reclaimingscotia.wordpress.com
reclaimingscotia@yahoo.co.uk

Buckinghamshire
amhranai.annemarie@gmail.com

Avalon Spring Witchcamp
www.avaloncamp.org.uk
avaloncamp@gmail.com

DragonRise Camp
www.dragonrise.org
sunrisecamp@yahoo.com

Canada

British Columbia Witchcamp Community
www.bewitchcamp.ca
witchcampbcinfo@gmail.com
 (250) 598-9229

Vancouver Reclaiming Community
www.vancouverreclaiming.org

Alberta Reclaiming Community
ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/albertareclaiming/

Wild Ginger Witchcamp (Ontario)
www.wildgingerwitches.org
wychwood@rogers.com
 (519) 439-6252

Fredericton (New Brunswick)
groups.yahoo.com/group/paganrituals/

Montreal Reclaiming
www.cosmic-muse.com/reclaiming

United States

California

San Francisco Bay Area and North Bay
www.reclaiming.org/rituals
www.reclaiming.org/classevents
groups.yahoo.com/group/BAREclaiming
 PO Box 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114

North Bay Reclaiming
www.northbayreclaiming.org
northbayreclaiming@yahoo.com

California Witchcamp
www.californiawitchcamp.org
info@californiawitchcamp.org
 (510) 534-9600

Witchlets in the Woods Family Camp
www.witchletsinthewoods.org
info@witchletsinthewoods.org

Indigo Artichoke Heart (Southern California: Valley/West Los Angeles/Laguna Nigel)
groups.yahoo.com/group/IAH-Discussion

Mountain Circle (Truckee/Incline/Reno)
sismhall1@aol.com, (530) 546-4226

Oregon

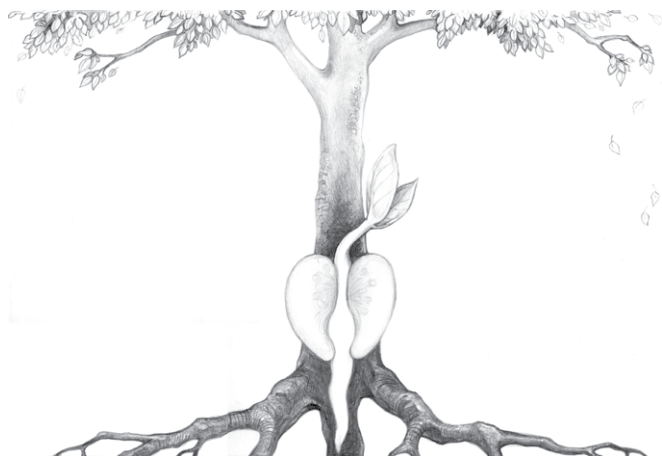
Portland Reclaiming
www.portlandreclaiming.org
webgeek@portlandreclaiming.org

Free Activist Camp (Oregon/Washington)
www.freewitchcamp.org
freeactivistwitchcamp@gmail.com

Washington

Turning Tide (Seattle)
www.seattlereclaiming.spiderweb.net
groups.yahoo.com/group/SeattleReclaiming/

Cascadia Village Camp
home.comcast.net/~cascadiavillagecamp
cascadiavillagecamp@comcast.net
 (206) 517-7876



Reclaiming Regional Groups & Contacts

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Texas

Tejas Web (Austin)
www.tejasweb.org
groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/tejas_web/

Tejas Web Witchcamp
witchcamp.tejasweb.org
witchcamp@tejasweb.org
 (512) 282-5541

Colorado

Colorado Springs
www.reclaimingcoloradosprings.org

Reclaiming Spirit (Denver)
www.reclaimingspirit.org
groups.yahoo.com/group/reclaimingspirit/

Midwest

Midwest Witchcamp
sayre@sevensapphires.net, (773) 458-0170
feriflame@yahoo.com, (317) 694-8562
odyssa@gmail.com, (608) 217-9175

Minnesota

Twin Cities Reclaiming
TwinCitiesReclaiming@yahoogroups.com
 Winter Witchcamp
www.winterwitchcamp.org
winterwitchcamp13@yahoo.com

Michigan

Trillium Reclaiming (Southeast Michigan)
groups.yahoo.com/group/trilliumreclaiming

Illinois

Chicago Reclaiming
www.chicagoreclaiming.net
groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/chireclaim/
 Weaving Women (Champaign-Urbana)
slvr_moon@ifairtrade.net

Tri-State

Tri-State Reclaiming (OH, KY, WV)
groups.yahoo.com/group/TriStateReclaiming/

Vermont

Vermont Witchcamp
www.vermontwitchcamp.net
information@vermontwitchcamp.net
 (603) 894-5871 or (802) 425-2984

Massachusetts

Boston Area
qb.skraus4828@real-cheap-email.com
 (781) 658-2687

Viriditas
community.livejournal.com/viriditasboston/
groups.yahoo.com/group/viriditas/

New York

Ithaca Reclaiming
www.ithacareclaiming.org [soulspirals@](mailto:soulspirals@soulspirals.net)
soulspirals.net, (607) 227-5852
groups.yahoo.com/group/IthacaReclaimingCollective/

Long Island Reclaiming (Suffolk County)
www.lireclaiming.org
asherahscauldson@msn.com
 (631) 751-3477

New York / New Jersey / Pennsylvania

New York / New Jersey / Pennsylvania
NyNjPa-Reclaiming@yahoogroups.com

Delaware Valley

Delaware Valley Reclaiming
 (PA, NJ, DE, NY - Greater Philadelphia)
DelValReclaiming@yahoogroups.com

Pennsylvania

Reclaiming3Rivers (Pittsburgh)
reclaiming3rivers@yahoo.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/Reclaiming3River/
 (412) 722-9117

Maryland

Baltimore Reclaiming
groups.yahoo.com/group/bmorereclaiming/
 facebook: Baltimore Reclaiming

Mid-Atlantic

SpiralHeart Witchcamp Community
www.spiralheart.org
info@spiralheart.org, (202) 728-7510
groups.yahoo.com/group/spiralheart/

Otters of the Fae (Central Virginia)
ReclaimingCVA@yahoogroups.com

Dragon's Cauldron (Raleigh/Durham)
www.dragonscauldron.org
groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/RTPReclaiming

Wild Child Camp (Richmond, Virginia)
www.spiralheart.org/events/wildchild/

Florida

Earthwater Glade
www.myspace.com/earthwaterglade
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/earthwaterglade

Magnolia Circle (Tallahassee)
www.magnoliacircle.org
DragonWing56@aol.com, (850) 320-0823

Updated regional listings can be found at
www.reclaiming.org/worldwide/

Please email updates and corrections to:
quarterly@reclaiming.org



Reclaiming Witchcamps

A week of Earth-based spirituality and magic

What Is Witchcamp?

Study magic and ritual in a week-long intensive that includes trancework, healing, drumming, dancing, chanting, storytelling, guided visualization, and energy work.

Witchcamp is offered to people at all levels of experience. Newcomers can learn the basic skills of magic and ritual, working with the elements, movement, sound, and the mythological and historical framework of the Goddess tradition. Advanced paths offer the chance to apply the tools of ritual to personal healing and empowerment, or to focus on taking the Craft out into the world, creating public ritual, and healing issues surrounding leadership and power.

Witchcamp is an intensive — seven days of ritual and magic designed for people who are dedicated to powerful spiritual learning experiences and personal growth. This intensive is not a festival. It will expand your unconscious awareness, push your edges, and likely change your life. The intensive is sequestered for the entire seven days. Please plan to attend the entire week.

Witchcamps were first organized for adults. Some camps welcome all ages or adults-plus-teens, and several youth-oriented camps have also emerged. Contact the specific camps for more information (*see next page*).



Witchlets in the Woods offers magic for kids, teens, and adults. Photo: Loki Rainman

What Happens at Witchcamp?

As you might expect, a lot of magic takes place at Witchcamp. But what exactly does it look like?

The heart of Witchcamp is a series of evening rituals, often based around a myth or magical story. These rituals carry participants into the magical, emotional, and social layers of the story, and invite deep personal work.

Morning path offers a choice of weeklong intensive workshops. Paths are a chance for more intimate magical experience, a place to ask questions and learn new skills.

For folks who are new to the Reclaiming tradition, Elements of Magic is a good introduction. For those who have already taken Elements, advanced paths focus on everything from labyrinths to the Iron Pentacle to priestessing skills to Earth activism.

Workshops, talent shows, and even the occasional free moment fill out an amazing magical week between the worlds: Reclaiming Witchcamp.

Reclaiming Camps for Youth, Kids, & Families

Reclaiming Camps are autonomously organized, and each camp decides its own focus and policies. Some camps are adult-only, some for all ages, and some are family- or youth-oriented.

Some of the Witchcamps listed on the next page include teens and/or young folks. These camps offer special youth paths where young campers can learn magical, ecological, and group-process skills. Contact the camp for specifics.

Several Reclaiming camps are specially oriented toward families or youth. Family Camps are all-ages retreats with a special focus on young campers. Teen Earth Magic welcomes young people age 13-25.

See next page for camps welcoming young people.

Contact specific camps to find out their focus, age range, and other details. For info on organizing a camp in your area, contact RQ.

Witchcamps

in the Reclaiming Tradition

Most camps are annual — some are biennial. Dates are approximate, and may change. For current dates, contact the camp or www.Witchcamp.org

Some camps include teens and/or children. They are marked with an asterisk* below.

Many of these camps are camper-organized. If you want to see a Witchcamp happen in your area, one way is to attend an established camp and talk with teachers and organizers.



Winter Witchcamp (Minnesota) • February
www.winterwitchcamp.org, winterwitchcamp13@yahoo.com

European Winter Witchcamp (Spain) • February-March
www.reclaimingspain.org, m.morgaine@sie.es, (0034) 920 37 25 73

Australian Community Witchcamp • Spring
witchcamp.australiareclaiming.org.au, ecell@australiareclaiming.org.au

Avalon Spring (England) • April
www.avaloncamp.org.uk, avaloncamp@gmail.com

Wild Child (SpiralHeart-Virginia)* • May
spiralheart.org/events/wildchild/, wildchild@spiralheart.org

MidWest • TBA
sayre@sevensapphires.net, (773) 458-0170 or feriflame@yahoo.com, (317) 694-8562

Teen Earth Magic (Northern California)* • June
www.reclaimingquarterly.org/web/tem/, quarterly@reclaiming.org

Wild Ginger Witchcamp (Ontario)* • June
www.wildgingerwitches.org, wychwood@rogers.com, (519) 439-6252

California (Mendocino Woodlands) • June-July
www.californiawitchcamp.org, info@californiawitchcamp.org, (510) 534-9600

Cascadia Village Camp (Washington)* • July
home.comcast.net/~cascadiavillagecamp, cascadiavillagecamp@comcast.net, (206) 517-7876

Free Cascadia WitchCamp (Oregon/Washington)* • July
www.freewitchcamp.org, freecascadiawitchcamp@gmail.com

SpiralHeart (MidAtlantic) • August
www.spiralheart.org, info@spiralheart.org, (202) 728-7510

Witchlets in the Woods (California)* • August
www.witchletsinthewoods.org, info@witchletsinthewoods.org, (415) 946-7798

DragonRise (Wales)* • August
www.dragonrise.org, sunrisecamp@yahoo.com

British Columbia • August
bewitchcamp.ca, witchcampbcinfo@gmail.com, (250) 598-9229

Vermont* • Late August
www.vermontwitchcamp.net, information@vermontwitchcamp.net, (802) 436-3451, (603) 894-5871 or (413) 369-4049

Phoenix (Germany) • September
 Deutsch: www.phoenixcamp.eu
 English: www.phoenixcamp.eu/englishhome.html

* means camp has included children and/or teens some years. Contact camps for more info.



Photos from top: Robin Parrott;
 Randy Ralston; Otter



The Wheel of the Year

Reclaiming groups celebrate rituals in many locales across North America, Europe, and Australia. Some groups observe the entire Neo-Pagan Wheel of the Year, while others meet less frequently. To find out what's happening in your region (or halfway around the world), visit www.Reclaiming.org

All Reclaiming events are clean and sober. No alcohol or drugs, please.

Samhain/Halloween

The holiday popularly known as Halloween is the time of year known to Witches as Samhain, when the veil is thin between the worlds of the living and the dead. We gather to remember and honor our ancestors, our Beloved Dead, and all those who have crossed over. As we mourn for those we love who have died this year, we also mourn the losses and pain suffered by the Earth, our Mother. Yet even as we grieve we also remember and honor the sacred cycle of life, death, rebirth and regeneration, celebrating the births of our children born this year, and our own vital connections to the Earth and each other, in which we ground our hope.

Winter Solstice

This is the night of Solstice, the longest night of the year. We watch for the coming of dawn, when the Great Mother again gives birth to the Sun, who is bringer of hope and the promise of summer. This is the stillness behind motion, when time itself stops; the center which is also the circumference of all. We are awake in the night. We turn the Wheel to bring the light. We call the sun from the womb of night.

Brigid/Candlemas/Imbolc

This is the feast of the waxing light. What was born at the Solstice begins to manifest, and we who were midwives to the infant year now see the days grow visibly longer. This is the time of individuation: within the measures of the spiral, we each bring our own light, and become uniquely ourselves. It is the time of initiation, of beginning, when seeds that will later sprout and grow begin to stir from their deep sleep. We meet to share the light of inspiration, which will grow with the growing year.

Spring Equinox

This is the time of Spring's return; the joyful time, the seed time, when life bursts forth from the earth and the chains of Winter are broken. Light and dark are equal: it is a time of balance, when all the elements within us must be brought into a new harmony. Kore, the Dark Maiden, returns from the Land of the Dead, cloaked in the fresh rain, with the sweet scent of desire on her breath. As She dances, despair turns to hope, want to abundance, and we sing:

She changes everything She touches,
And everything She touches, changes

In many locales, children are a special part of this ritual, and a hunt for colored eggs follows.

Beltane/May Day/Int'l Workers' Day

This is the time when sweet desire weds wild delight. The green of the Earth meets the red and black of workers' rights in the greening fields, and we rejoice together under the warm sun. The maypole, the shaft of life, is twined in a spiral web, and all of nature is renewed. We meet in the time of flowering, to dance the dance of life.

Summer Solstice

This is the time of the rose: blossom and thorn, fragrance and blood. Now on the longest day of the year, light triumphs, and yet begins to decline into dark. We set sail across the dark seas of time, searching for the isle of light that is rebirth. We turn the Wheel and share the Sun's fate, for we have planted the seeds of our own changes, and to grow we must accept even the passing of the sun.

Lammas

We stand now between hope and fear, in the time of waiting. In the fields, the grain is ripe but not yet harvested. We have worked hard to bring many things to fruition, but the rewards are not yet certain. Now the Mother becomes the Reaper, the Implacable One who feeds on life that new life may grow. Light diminishes, the days shorten, summer passes. We gather to turn the Wheel, knowing that to harvest we must sacrifice, and warmth and light must pass into Winter.

Fall Equinox

This is the time of harvest, of thanksgiving and joy, of leave-taking and sorrow. Now day and night are equal, in perfect balance, and we give thought to balance and flow within our own lives. The Sun sails West, and we into the dark. Life declines; the season of barrenness is on us, yet we give thanks for that which we have reaped and gathered. We meet to turn the Wheel and weave the cord of life that will sustain us through the dark.

A Note on Terminology

Local communities use different names for some of the sabbats. RQ uses the neutral terms "Equinox" and "Solstice" to honor the fact that these are holidays of the Earth Herself, not of any one culture. We often call the cross-quarters by Celtic names.

Descriptions are adapted from "The Spiral Dance," by Starhawk, ©1989, Harper San Francisco.

Reclaiming Regional News

RQ Archives Project

- old RQs on the way

Reclaiming Quarterly celebrated our 100th edition by beginning to re-issue our complete archives, going back to the first Reclaiming Newsletter in Winter 1980-81.

The archives are being re-issued as high-resolution PDF files. You'll be able to see and read every page of the original issues exactly as they appeared — stories, pictures, class and event listings, ads, ink-smudges...

You'll also be able to print entire issues or any pages you want for off-screen reading.

In addition, every ten-issue volume will contain bonus features such as photographs, flyers, introductory and reflective essays, audio recordings, humor and satire, and more.

RQ will place selected highlights on our website. But the sheer quantity of material means most of the archives will be available only on disks.

The entire 100-issue archives, along with many special features, are available by subscription — with a discount for current RQ subscribers. Visit our website for details.

To see highlights and advance features, visit our website — www.reclaimingquarterly.org/archives/



Australian Witchcamp ~ Bloody Be!

The first Australian Reclaiming Witchcamp took place over Easter in Healesville, Victoria: a countryside of looming forested hills, heavy mists, and autumnal damp. White cockatoos screeched overhead, and on the final day an eagle circled high above the camp...

Our story and theme were: Australian Reclaiming envisions our first Witchcamp as celebrating this ancient land, our energetic threads of connection and our interaction with nature. We see a story arising from our birth out of the ocean and the Earth, the web of life, and our grounded rapture and innate wisdom.

We invoked the Star Goddess, spirits of the land, and the ancestors of blood, spirit, and craft.

There were three Paths: Elements Path, taught by John Brazaitis and Rhonda King; Earth Song: Listening to the Voice of Nature, taught by Ravyn Stanfield and Fiona Mariposa; and Inner Path of Power, taught by myself and Gede Parma.

Fifty people took part. One of the strongest aspects of camp was how willing, enthusiastic, open, and friendly everyone was. Only a few had ever been to a Witchcamp before. But many people took roles in the evening rituals, and there was a great variety of optional offerings led by campers — from a drumming circle to a discussion on polyamory. We had a Bardic night with beautiful singing, stories, dancing, and an hilarious skit by the Organisers which replaced the tired and timid "Blessed Be" with "Bloody Be, when you're Down Under."

The weather was damp and the ground never really dried out, and with sunset at 5:30pm, we did all our evening rituals in the lovingly decorated hall with its beautiful altars and warm fire!

Our magical intent was to sow the seeds of Reclaiming across Australia — and it is done.

Looking forward to the next one!

by Jane Meredith

Seedlings Welcome You!

Greetings from the Seedlings!

We are a newly formed group dedicated to welcoming folks into the Bay Area Reclaiming community.

We welcome any questions, concerns, or ideas from folks around the issues of inclusion and transparency. Contact Tara Bridhe at welcometoreclaiming@gmail.com with your feedback or to find out how to get involved. Welcome!

San Francisco ritual dates are posted at www.reclaiming.org/rituals. For email reminders, contact quarterly@reclaiming.org

Bay Area Class Listings Now Online

Visit www.reclaiming.org ~ RQ welcomes feedback on new listings

Reclaiming Bay Area teachers offer core classes plus courses in spellwork, music and drumming, meditation, permaculture, tarot, astrology, dreamwork, and many other topics and skills.

Classes are offered in San Francisco, East Bay, North Bay, and occasionally the South Bay and Central Valley. Some are held on weeknights, and others as weekend intensives.

Reclaiming teachers often team up with other teachers to bring a variety of approaches to their classes.

For an up-to-date listing of Bay Area classes, rituals, retreats, workshops, and other events, visit www.reclaiming.org/classevents/

You may also want to join the Bay Area Reclaiming discussion elist (BARD). Send an email to sfrpc@yahoo.com to join.

Contacts for other regions can be found at www.reclaiming.org/worldwide

If you don't have internet access, and using cafés or libraries is not an option, contact RQ and we'll try to help.



Portland Reclaiming is excited to welcome the larger Reclaiming Community to the Pacific Northwest for Dandelion 5.

What is Dandelion?

Like the seeds of the healing Dandelion plant, the Reclaiming tradition has spread all over the world. The Dandelion Gathering is a gathering of the international tribes within the Reclaiming tradition occurring every two to three years. Dandelion has been hosted all over the US: in the Southwest, the Northeast, the Bay Area, the Midwest. We are so excited to announce that for the 5th biannual gathering in 2012, Dandelion will be held in the Northwest US just outside of Portland, Oregon.

Dandelion is an open format event which means that the programming of Dandelion comes together from you, the community of participants. Past gatherings have seen ecstatic, healing, and political rituals, skill-building workshops, hilarious entertainment, networking between groups all over the world, children's programming, social gatherings for teachers and community leaders, and lots of time to meet new folks and connect together as an international community. Dandelion also hosts the BIRCH meeting, the Broader Intra Reclaiming Council Hub, a council who represents many different parts of Reclaiming including witchcamps, guilds, cells, event and action organizers and Reclaiming communities from all over the world. At the meeting this year, we will make some edits to our Principles of Unity to include our multiplicity of gender and reflect our changing culture.

When and Where is Dandelion?

Dandelion 5 will be held August 1 – 5, 2012, in Molalla, Oregon. We will be at the beautiful Camp Adams, Milk Creek Site, located about 45 minutes from the Portland, Oregon, International Airport. For more information on Camp Adams visit <http://campadams.org/>

Registration is now open. Early bird pricing is available through February 15th, 2012 so if you know you are coming, please take advantage of the discount! For full information on rates and contact for volunteer roles, scholarship and accommodations information please see the website. There are many opportunities for being a part of Dandelion and we need YOUR help! We are seeking folks to volunteer with one of the organization cells, offer a workshop at the event, and fundraise in their communities to help send more witches to the gathering. Are you ready to get involved? More information is available on the website. Visit <http://dandeliongathering.org/index.html>

For questions contact: dandelion5.magic@gmail.com

We look forward to working with you and seeing you at Dandelion!

- The Dandelion 5 organizing cell