



RECLAIMING

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 7 • AUTUMN 1982

Reclaiming is a collective of San Francisco Bay Area women and men working to unify spirit and politics. 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, public rituals, and individual counseling, 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.



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Reclaiming Gossip

Greetings! Fauna, Lady of the Beasts, dances the harvest dance. Jack-in-the-Green has turned golden in the fields.



Many of us have returned from Summer travels of all kinds - vacations, workshops, rites of passage. Starhawk was home in August to celebrate the publication of her second book, and now travels in Ireland with Aradia, Feather Singing, Deadly Nightshade and friends, connecting with the magic of ancient sacred ground.

We welcome Diane, a co-founder of Reclaiming, who returns from the Southland with her bright spirits.

Our young ones and we older ones await the blessing of Pele and the Lord of the Sea in the form of the new life that Cerridwen carries in her big, beautiful sow belly.

Our networking extends to Madison, Wisconsin, as well as to York, England and New Mexico, where sisters who did intensive magical training with us this Summer return to their communities.

And our own dear Aradia, here-from-the-beginning Lauren, takes us in her heart to Ireland. After the tour that she and Starhawk are priestessing, Aradia continues to the continent, where new and old friends and challenges will greet her and change her and nourish her. She lets go to follow her path, but the filaments that bind her to us remain elastic so that she can find her way back when she is ready. We bid her merry part and merry meet again!

Fall classes begin soon. The year approaches its close with The Spiral Dance.

May we share the blessings of Mabon!

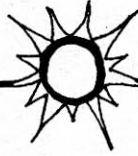
Mighty Macha the NightMare

Cover by Eleanor Myers and Norma Novy. Newsletter prepared by Macha, Peggy, Raven, Sophia, changing woman and Rose.

We encourage your feedback, donations, blessings and other correspondence. Send to RECLAIMING, P.O. Box 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114

THANKS:

Our blood account at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank is growing, for which we thank you, but it is still meager. For information or appointment to donate, call Irwin at 567-6400. For transfer of credit for yourself or a loved one, call Macha at 433-1499. If The Lady blesses you with good health, please share and give the gift of life.



Summer Solstice

I, as a member of Matrix Affinity Group, W.E.B. cluster, would like to thank the community of Witches, Pagans and fellow travelers for the marvelous support we received at the June 21 Action at Livermore Labs. We could truly feel the energy that people were raising for the action and for us, and deeply appreciated the many people present for our rituals and as support at the action. With the help of the Spider Goddess we were able to weave the web of life at the gates of Livermore, with many people bringing ribbons and herbs and flowers from their lives to weave into that web. I felt, when waltzing up and down the road with my many sisters and brothers, holding that marvelous web and singing "We are the flow, we are the ebb, we are the weavers, we are the web," that an incredible marriage of politics and magic was being consummated. The web was not only the web of life, but represented the cracking in the fabric of the old order, and we let the lovely policemen participate in our magic. We knew that they would try to break the web, and we set it up magically so that when they did so the power of the new would pour in. The policemen were so puzzled by the cheering that arose when they finally cut the web with their little pocket knives. Magic is Alive, the Goddess is Afoot! Ha! Many thanks to one and all. xxxxx Rose May Dance



Drink ?

DRINK TO ME ONLY WITH THINE EYES:

Because many people, including witches and pagans, are alcoholics or have problems with alcohol, Reclaiming would like to support people who are trying to be sober. Reclaiming would like to recommend that the cup which is offered to the Goddess and then passed around the circle contain juice, water, chocolate milk or some other non-alcoholic liquid pleasing to the Goddess. This is a policy which the Reclaiming spokescouncil is recommending for our classes, covens, public rituals and meetings.

We need to be conscious of the efforts of our friends, and need to help them by not passing alcohol to them, not making it a central item on the feast table.

Pagans are sometimes known as convivial drinkers, but let us not make the pagan community off-limits to those seeking sobriety. We can fill each other with warmth and love and wildness, through our own power, smiles and tickles. Blessed be the apple juice of life!

---Wind Hags

(See ANNOUNCEMENTS)



SPIRAL DANCE update:

Plans for The Spiral Dance are well underway. This year it will take place at The Women's Building, 3543 - 18th St., SF, on Sat., 30 October at 8 p.m.

While the basic ritual remains the same, several changes from previous Samhain rituals will be evident.

One is size. The Women's Building can accommodate a limited number of people, so we will be selling only 250 tickets, by mail ahead of time.

Previous Spiral Dance rituals have been benefits for Reclaiming; the money raised has been used to subsidize public rituals and the newsletter and to help us provide scholarships for classes. This year, because of its limited size and because of the economic reality of inflation, it will barely pay for itself. We are asking people to pay \$7.50 to \$15.00 sliding scale for tickets. We are concerned about the ticket price, but see no other way to cover the costs, so we urge you to remember that this is a benefit and to pay the maximum you can afford for a remarkable evening in company with other spirits.

We also are working on fair barter for a limited number of tickets; if you need to discuss bartering for a ticket, call Raven at 337-MOON. To buy tickets, send your name, address and money to Reclaiming, P. O. Box 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please mark your envelope "Tickets" and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Colors for The Spiral Dance are red, white and black. Bones will be in evidence. If you can bring horns, skulls or other bones, we invite you to share them in the sacred circle.

If you have access to corn stalks, pumpkins or other seasonal vegetation to grace the ritual space, please call Pandora at 626-9238.

We also will have a communal altar, so bring magical treasures to enhance it and to be charged by the workings of the night.

Wear your finery to meet the ancestors; we meet at the Gates of Now and Then!

Blessed Be, Macha



CLASSES &

THE RESOURCE POOL: Reclaiming teachers are available to teach or to advise ongoing or newly forming groups. Your group can make a contract with one or several of our teachers for a class series or for specific sessions that meet your particular needs. Contact Rose at 626-9238. We will travel.

APPRENTICESHIPS: If you live far away and can spend a block of time in the SF Bay Area, Reclaiming can arrange a period of intensive magical study and practice, tailored to your experience and goals. The program might involve classes, workshops, individual sessions, readings and/or student teaching. We are especially interested in training people who will return to their home communities to share their skills. Contact Judy Foster, 2925 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705, 415/843-9722 or 849-0994.

CLASS COSTS: We ask anyone who takes Reclaiming classes to put some energy into our collective (i.e., helping cleanup at lectures, helping to do bulk mailing, gardening, blood bank donations, etc.). We have revised our sliding scale; the 6-week series classes, unless otherwise noted, will be from \$35 - \$90.

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC, FOR WOMEN

Sophia Moondragon and Macha NightMare

History, philosophy and theology of Goddess spirituality. The principles of magic as the language of the intuitive. Work in the basic techniques of changing consciousness: relaxation, visualization, concentration, sensing and projecting energy, chanting, trance and the structure, creation and performance of ritual. Beginning 6-week course, starting Mon., 20 Sept., 7:30 p.m., alternating SF and East Bay. Call Sophia (824-0274) or Macha (433-1499) for registration and location. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

SPELLCASTING WORKSHOP

Sophia Moondragon and Raven Moonshadow

We will study how herbs, stones, scents and natural objects correspond to the powers of the four Elements, and apply this knowledge to make charms, amulets, mojos and talismans. Learn how to use natural law, for personal empowerment. Prerequisites: Elements of Magic or instructor's approval. One series offered twice. First series of 3 classes begins Thurs., 29 Sept. First series repeated beginning Mon., 8 Nov. (Call if you can offer space in Marin.) Call Sophia (824-0274) or Raven (337-MOON) for registration and location. \$20 - \$40 sliding scale.

WORKSHOPS



ELEMENTS OF MAGIC, FOR TEENAGERS

Rose May Dance and Raven Moonshadow

The principles of magic - work in the basic techniques of making magic and ritual: chanting, trance, sensing and projecting energy, relaxation, visualization and concentration. The story of the Goddess and the God. Exploring the powers of Earth, Air, Fire and Water, and balancing them within. Beginning course, taught on six Thursdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, Nov. 4, 11, 18. Call Rose (626-9238) or Raven (337-MOON) for registration and location. \$25 - \$50 sliding scale.

RECLAIMING THE LANGUAGE OF FAIRY TALES

Feather Singing

Myth and fairy tale are the psychology of the ancient (non-patriarchal) world. Each myth gives guidance for our passage through one or more of the stages or crises of life. We will reinterpret the symbols, giving them new meaning and relevance, with a particular focus on creating new role models for men, and getting guidance for our passage from unbecoming to gentle maleness. All characters in fairy tales are within each of us. Open to women and men. Each session will focus on a different aspect of the human psyche, with storytelling, guided fantasy, discussion and possibly ritual drama. (An excellent preparation for men's mystery weekend.)

Nov. 3 - The Shadow and the Empowerment of the Wizard

Nov. 17 - Initiation, Going between the Worlds

Dec. 1 - The Gentle and Intuitive Self, New Ways of Meeting Challenges

Dec. 8 - The Hero and his Male Lovers

Dec. 15 - A Faerie Year Cycle Myth, the Transformations of the God/Hero. Wednesday evenings, drop-in, 7:45 - 11 p.m., \$4 - \$7, call Raven (337-MOON) for location.

THE SPIRALLING VORTEX: MAGIC ENERGY, FOR WOMEN AND MEN

Feather Singing and Rose May Dance

A course of hands-on magic to go deeper and farther into energy work than in our other classes. To gain a working knowledge of the relationship of energy and breath, sound, communication, visualization, psychic sight, altered states and group bonding. The power of connecting through energy channeling: Tantra. Making your cone of power more concentrated. Building forms out of energy; astral temples. Sensing energy fields, ley lines and power spots. Developing skills with healing, communicating with tree spirits, plants and animals, use of quartz crystals, dowsing rods and pendulums. Intermediate to advanced, for those who have taken at least an Elements class. Six Mondays, beginning 8 Nov. Call Rose (626-9238) for registration and location. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

More....

Men's Weekends

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC WEEKEND, FOR MEN

Feather Singing and friend

Transformative power of ritual magic to re-create ourselves and our culture, to help us to shed male conditioning and to learn to trust, to cooperate, to nurture and to heal. Techniques of relaxation, grounding, visualization, sensing and channeling energy, releasing blocked feelings. Trance journeys of self-discovery. Cycles and aspects of male psyche. Planning and creating rituals collectively. Fri. evening to Sun. afternoon, 12 - 14 Nov. Reservation requested by 3 Nov. Call Raven (337-MOON) for location, possible meal planning and carpooling. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

MEN'S MYSTERIES WEEKEND

Feather Singing and friends

A ritual cycle of trance-forming ourselves through the various aspects of the god (and male psyche) within us. Reclaiming personal myths and encounters with the god, regaining the intuitive, finding our animal totem/ally. Ritual encounter with the shadow, winning clear to deeper, wilder, unfettered parts of ourselves. Using dream wheels, personal wanderings, body paint, mask and costume. Trance-dance invoking and identifying with the gods. Culminating ritual to integrate it all and to prepare to face the world as wise warriors. A goal of the weekend is to weave new myths, names, songs, invocations for a transformed post-patriarchal god energy. For men with a deepening commitment to feminist magic, who have assimilated the material from the Elements and Pentacle or Rites classes. The fairy tale series is also offered as preparation. Fri. evening to Sun. afternoon, 3 - 5 Dec. Reservation requested by 24 Nov. Call Raven (337-MOON) for carpooling and meal planning. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.



EVENTS

The Annual Fall Sale of MASKS AND RITUAL OBJECTS in porcelain and stoneware clay, created by artist Eleanor Myers (Spiral Dance masks, newsletter covers, Tunnel Hum II masks and totems), will take place on Sun., 10 Oct. from 1 to 5 p.m. and on Mon., 11 Oct. from 6 to 9 p.m. at 237 Chattanooga St., SF (between Church and Dolores, just off 24th St.). For information call 282-8864.

more events



THE WORLD OF THE CELTS: BELIEF, RITUAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE. With teacher Jim Duran, we will examine the world of the Celts as it existed in continental Europe and the British Isles before the time of Christ. We'll focus on ancient and medieval Ireland, an area which especially preserved its cultural integrity and is in many ways a key to the older Celtic world; we'll also listen to living traditional music from the Gaelic areas. Sat., 11 Sept., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Berkeley, \$20. Bring potluck to share and towel for hot tub'afterwards. JIM DURAN has a Ph.D. in linguistics and is a Gaelic singer and teacher. Call him at 535-1086 to register.

RITUAL AND MAGICAL SONGS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRADITION. A four-week course led by Holly Tannen, assisted by Anna Korn. We'll listen to field recordings, discuss and sing the traditional songs of harvest, all-hallow's, midwinter, maying and midsummer. We'll also devote one session to the ballads of England and Scotland and the archaic, pre-Christian world-view that they present. To what extent can we recreate ancient belief systems from surviving folklore? Lots of singing; xeroxed words provided; tape recorders welcome. Thursdays, beginning 9 Sept. Call Holly at 525-4091 for information, location and registration. \$40.

The opening reading of the second season of NOE VALLEY POETRY is Sunday evening, 19 Sept. at 7:30 p.m., at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., SF. Readings, including prose, will be from the anthology WOMANBLOOD: PORTRAITS OF WOMEN IN POETRY AND PROSE, by Aline O'Brien (Macha), Chrys Rasmussen and Catherine Costello. Featured readers are Donna M. Lane, Alice Wirth Gray, Kitty Costello, Leonard Irving and Mary TallMountain. \$2 admission. Bring a friend!

AUTUMN MOON RITUALS FOR WORKING CLASS WOMEN. Call Peggy at 848-8652.

AUTUMN MOON RITUALS FOR LESBIANS. Call Peggy at 848-8652.



Announcements



WITCHES' SUBSTANCE ABUSE GROUP: Are you, like us, strung out on cigarettes, caffeine, sugar, pot or alcohol? We are a group of witches who intend to transform our addictions into power. For now, we are planning on meeting monthly during waning Moons. Our first meeting will be soon after Samhain, the New Year, as we prepare to enter the darkest part of the year. We plan to focus on transformation, not deprivation, using magic, trance work, and the cycle of the year. For information call Peggy at 848-8652.

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more announcements

WITCHES' COMMUNITY GARDENS are being created in the Haight-Ashbury, Bernal Heights and Castro districts. Call Gabby at 821-2344 or changing woman at 552-7641

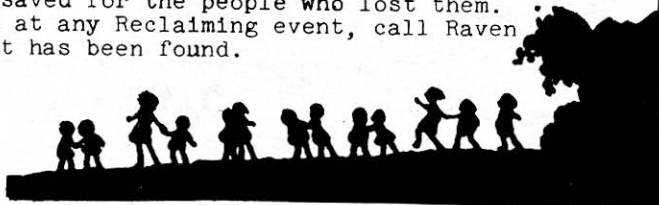
FAERIE MEN'S NETWORK: We are in the middle of forming covens and reforming our own energies for open circles, classes, study groups. We are initiating a mailing of announcements and whatever at Cross Quarter Nights. All of those wonderful men who have contacted us previously will be receiving a mailing soon; if you don't, let us know. To get on mailing list or for additional information, call Raven at 337-MOON.

Feather Singing needs a TEMPORARY PLACE TO LIVE in S.F. from 20 Oct. to 23 Dec. Anyone who can offer me a place to land for a week or more at less than \$40/week, please write me c/o Carol Rothenberg, P.O. Box 286, Altamont, N.Y. 12009. And I also need a small spot to set up my drawing board for two months to draw some more seasonal cards.

THE LIFEYARD celebrates life in all its forms, seeks to remind people of what they stand to lose through a nuclear holocaust. Successful LifeYards are already established in New York and in Santa Cruz. San Francisco LifeYard, consisting of 50 banners, will be dedicated on Sun., 10 Oct. at Gallery Sanchez and will run through 4 Nov. We need banner-makers, musicians, poets, phone-callers, money-raisers, any who believes that life is worth affirming. Contact Kit Cameron at Gallery Sanchez, Noe Valley Ministry, 821-4117.

DAUGHTERS AND SONS COMING OF AGE: 11 - 13-year-olds interested in studying magic, getting to know the Goddess and making rituals, please contact Rose, 626-9238. Let's get a class together.

LOST AND FOUND: Occasionally people leave things at public ritual sites. These are saved for the people who lost them. If you have lost anything at any Reclaiming event, call Raven at 337-MOON and perhaps it has been found.



WAXING MOON BATIK DESIGN offers custom batik altar cloths, sacred mandalas, magical pouches and ritual robes by Kimberly Breese. Have your own totems and power symbols on silk, cotton or linen. T-shirts, too! Call 824-0274.

TOOLS OF MAGIC: Uma's Occult Shop will be open any day now at 1915 Page St., SF, in the Haight, phone 668-8132.

and more...

Create an evening of theatre in your own home by inviting BATYA PODOS' TRAVELING GODDESS CIRCUS to perform stories and songs for you and your friends. Call 415/864-5821 during business hours.

INCENSE: Blessing a new home? Scrying? Working with Saturn? Incense made for specific ritual needs. By using magical correspondences and personal preference. Call Raven at 337-MOON.

PERFECT CIRCLES: Personal horoscope necklaces duplicate your chart exactly (including house cusps) in beautiful glass beads. Chart, necklace and consultation \$60. Variations possible, open to barter. Call Judy Foster at 849-0994 or 843-0722.

TAROT: Readings for Empowerment and Healing. I can help you with choices, with seeing patterns in your life, with hints and tricks on how to harness the forces moving through you and around you. Experienced reader, Rose, 626-9238. Sliding scale \$15 - \$30.

RITUAL MAGIC MASSAGE: Ariadne (Phyllis Wilson) happily announces the opening of her neo-pagan bodywork practice in Oakland. Together we create a ceremony of growth and empowerment - to celebrate and to nourish the Goddess within. Sliding fee scale. Call for special introductory rates. 444-8998. Also ask about massage by four hands.



NOTES ON TEACHERS/FACILITATORS:

- .SOPHIA MOONDRAGON is a batik artist, teacher and mother.
- .MIGHTY MACHA THE NIGHTMARE is a writer, editor, publisher and priestess, also known as ALINE O'BRIEN.
- .RAVEN MOONSHADOW is a gentle faerie, scentmaker and active participant in reclaiming the mysteries.
- .ROSE MAY DANCE is a teacher, healer and witch who reads tarot and is committed to doing political magic for the earth, her mother; she also writes and has a dog.
- .FEATHER SINGING is a teacher, traveling community worker and reclamer of men's myths and mysteries, Celtic seasonal customs and rituals, and geomancy.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE AND BLESSINGS OF THE LADY upon all of you in the Reclaiming community who have supported, tolerated, rocked and held hands with me and my daughter during our recent and continuing crisis of transformation. Macha and Deirdre (Lilac)

CALENDAR

September:

- 20 Elements of Magic for Women
- 29 Spellcasting Workshop
- 30 Elements of Magic for Teenagers

October:

- 30 The Spiral Dance
- 31 Samhain

November:

- 3 Reclaiming the Magic of Fairy Tales
- 8 The Spiraling Vortex: Magic Energy
- 8 Spellcasting Workshop
- 12 Elements of Magic, Weekend, for Men

December:

- 3 Men's Mysteries Weekend



COVENANT OF THE GODDESS
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