



# RECLAIMING

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 8 • WINTER 1982

**R**eclaiming 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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## THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is hopefully a voice for expression of Reclaiming feelings, opinions, facts, controversy, not just a writing pad for a few vocal folks. I'd like to see the gossip column come from all of us; some of the controversy that is not discussed or cleared up in meetings chewed over on our pages; some of our difficulties exchanged to help the learning that we're going through. To do this we need to take the newsletter more seriously with contributions of ideas, work and subscriptions. We don't have to hide our doubts, fears, angers, from each other any more than we need to hide our love. Ex-changing them may change them out.

## RECLAIMING MEETINGS

Reclaiming Collective spokesmeetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. This is where spokespeople from smaller working groups come together to meet at the Reclaiming Collective. People who are interested in what we do, how we go about it and whether they might have energy to share with us are also welcome. If you are one of those people, call Events Line 547-4830 for time and location.

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### ALERT!

The newsletter working cell announces the following decision about material (articles, classes, announcements, bios, etc.): anyone who wants something printed is responsible for getting it to the work group in time for layout. The closer to layout you come, the more camera ready the work must be (typed with a carbon ribbon, reduced 25% from a 6½" column). We will no longer take responsibility for chasing down late material.

The Spring deadline is Friday, February 4, 1983. *Call Gaby 821-2344.*

To receive four quarterly issues of the Newsletter at home, send your \$\$ subscription to Reclaiming, PO Box 14404, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. If you have been on our mailing list in the past, remember to renew your subscription to keep your name active. #3- #10.

*This issue was prepared by Feather, Gaby, Sophia, Sean, Rose Starkawik, Macha, Raven, Changing Woman & Roddy. Cover art by Eleanor Myers.*



## GOSSIP



We began the Dark Season with the Spiral Dance ritual at Samhain. Apart from the post-mortems, we have dollar figures: with tickets selling for \$5 to \$15, we took in \$2208 and spent \$1340, netting \$868. About 85 to 90 people put their energy into making the Dance happen. We thank them and ourselves and we welcome feedback from anyone who was there.

Some members of Reclaiming helped organize a Halloween Women's Ritual Action at Livermore and a men and women's support ritual the same night at Land's End. The all-night ritual at Livermore culminated in a silent vigil at the lab at dawn.

Starhawk's second book, Dreaming the Dark, first published at Lughnasad, in August, is now in its second printing!

At Samhain there was a Wiccan service - a recognition of the Craft - at the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco.

Two women were initiated into the Craft at this season: Iris Mae and Jezebel Deadly Nightshade. We welcome and honor them.

More covens, conceived in Reclaiming classes, have spiralled into being with the coming of the dark time of the year.

We join you in spirit, if not always in body, at your hearths these long, cold nights. We wish you the brightest blessings of Midwinter.

Macha, Sophia & Gaby

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## CHAIN NEWSLETTER IDEA

Some newsletter worries: money, vivacious input and lively exchanges from lots of people, expanding reader and writership, feedback, money...

We could cut through these worries in an interesting way. A person who has something pressing to say writes her/his piece, makes several legible copies of it, we distribute it to our circles, classes and covens. We all read the article, write any feedback on it and make more copies (maybe 3 each - 2 for other people and 1 back to the author with comments) to send on to yet more people - and so on.

The person who wrote the piece will get feedback from all these people and maybe someone else will be moved to write another piece in reply. Goddess knows, we have enough to write about.

And the results could go into the archives. What do you think?



## GWYDION

Reclaiming mourns the death of Gwydion Pendderwen, our friend and brother in the Craft, who was killed in a car crash on November 8. Gwydion was a central figure in the renewal of the Craft on the West Coast. His music and albums have inspired the pagan community for many years, and his group Forever Forests has reclaimed land and planted hundreds of trees. Gwydion worked together with members of Reclaiming on many projects - among them the second Spiral Dance and the June 21 blockade at the Lawrence Livermore Labs. He leaves behind him many songs, many trees, many friends, and much love, and we will deeply miss him.



## SPIRAL DANCE by Rose

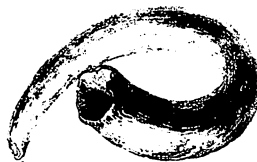
Now that the Spiral Dance has been danced, I feel differently about the issues we struggled with in the six weeks before the event. The night after Spiral Dance, I was a priestess for a "spontaneous" Halloween ritual involving 200 people, and it was hard work to make sure that the energy moved in the intended direction and reached the proper conclusion while still meeting the participants' needs. I came away appreciating the use of familiar forms, of traditions as a tool for moving energy and for assuring the results one wants of a ritual.

The Spiral Dance is a beautiful ritual which we have done a number of times. It is becoming a tradition and magically carries all the weight, all the power available from rituals which are repeated. I still wish the Spiral Dance had more to do with the darker Samhain energies, but I appreciate the grace and power of the ritual.

I also believe we in Reclaiming have a great deal of work to do on process, especially in doing something all together without following the model of the person who gives orders to the people who take orders. But I believe a ton of credit is due to all who worked on the Dance and all who participated. I'm confident our learning will move forward without sacrifice of that which is precious.



## SPIRAL DANCE by Gabrielle



The huge amount of work that went into producing the Spiral Dance also helped to push us up against some difficult and fruitful problems. Fruitful especially because the people involved have been so courageous in commitment to work through their differences.

One of the problems was and is how to work collectively and yet with leaders. We work against hierarchy but there is always someone who truly knows a thing better than anyone else and could be a leader. At first, we had fierce arguments about professionalism and rituals that are performed rather than shared. Some of us burst out against this separation of actors and audience, of the lack of empowerment in it, of the inclusion of any kind of "managers." Others defended the role of those who have studied their art and can teach others, the beauty of the performance and its power as art.

Spiral Dance went on even though there had been doubts about almost everything in it. We seem to have struggled to a point where we can recognize that working collectively does not mean that those who have special knowledge must keep their heads covered. Nor does it mean we give them total and unanswerable power to direct.

Since we are going to need delegates, advisers, coordinators and what-have-you, we who empower them must give them our trust and they, in turn, must recognize their responsibility to report back and receive feedback, that they are answerable to their co-workers.

Another problem connected with this was that we waited too long before we objected. Our hurt and anger were increased because of the delay. We determined then that empowerment and the responsibility that goes with it are the issues of the day. This applies to our all taking responsibility to speak up at the time we feel an objection, to facilitate at meetings, to take the newsletter as our own and use it as our voice, and to us all as budding, blooming experts in everything.

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## RECLAIMING EVENTS LINE 547-4830

Starting in December, we'll have a recording with announcements that were too late to make it in the newsletter: classes, public rituals, meetings, and so forth. So check it occasionally to see what's happening!

## STORIES FROM FEATHER'S TRAVELS



Many of you have asked to hear stories from my magic workshops in Seattle, L.A., Ithaca, N.Y. and London, as well as my trip to Ireland, Findhorn and with Lauren in England. I'll sing the story in snatches of images:

The workshops - my desire was to spread magical ways of connecting and forming community. Evenings for women and men "Reclaiming the goddess, the rituals and magic of feminist spirituality." Weekends for men "Connecting with our selves, each other, and mother earth."

Seattle - warm June night 24 women and men ready for new insight and ways of coming together shared our songs and how we use them to focus group energy and to become more sensitive to each other. Harmonizing - the goddess and god, bipolar, gynandrous, immanent divinity within - faerie creation myth - what it means to be a witch today - power within, power shared - ritual by consensus - direct collective action as a vision quest. New ideas for them. Excited response. Just waiting for someone to come along, lead and focus. "This feels so good, I want it to continue." "I'm in a lesbian separatist circle and I hope my sisters don't jump on me, because I really like the men here and want to keep doing ritual with you. Where have you been?"

I trained half a dozen facilitators when I left Seattle and L.A. Two Seattle women's circles cosponsored summer solstice celebration sending energy to Livermore blockaders. The women and men got together for autumn equinox.

Men's workshops - deeper bonding and trusting than in 6-week classes because we don't have to shut down each week and open up again next week. Seattle - lots of blue god energy, faerie light shine - walking in woods arm in arm - hetero men releasing homophobia - long embraces, kisses, rubbing groins together - naturally, without inhibition. Face painting, invoking our animal totems into us, trance dancing into one of the most sustained powerful cones of power I've experienced with men. Turning rage (from our conditioning, violence, rape) into power, asking for America to wake up (on eve of U.N. disarmament conference).

Gay men's weekend, L.A. A clan of lizards - created ritual healing - ways we've been hurt as gay men. Learning how to become earth healers. How to deal with conflicts, compassionately in ritual ways. Helped men of Stonewater Circle prepare for radical faerie gathering in San Diego.

Everywhere I worked with men I find they can learn to cooperate, be nurturing and sensitive when they see immediate beneficial results. Men change and share when they see how energy in ritual dissipates from grabbing attention to asking and receiving. Choral singing gives instant feedback on how to listen, be sensitive. Cuddling becomes contagious. They want it so bad, they let go of homophobia. Planning ritual by consensus is consistently most challenging, difficult and rewarding experience of weekend. Discover a way to share power and meet everyone's needs.

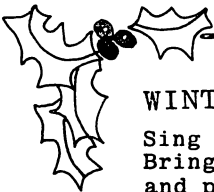
## Feather's travels (cont.)

Findhorn - impressed with decision process, relying on inner messages from high self - warmth, love, great food, extent of community and stability. A center of light, personal transformation. Shit bubbles up to the surface because it's such a power spot (like S.F.). Contradiction between putting out positive thoughts all the time and dealing with shadow - trouble facing the dark. Contradiction between Christ, esoteric spiritual hierarchy and mother earth circle of life imagery. They don't seem to see a contradiction there.

Ireland - an intense adventure - like a 24-hour a day encounter group. Doing 1 to 2 rituals a day at sites more charged than anywhere else I've been. No getting away from personal garbage bubbling up all the time - deal with it or get physically ill, which we all did at one time or another. Learned more about consensus process, trance, met my goals of meeting ancestors, taking responsibility for driving vans, dealing with confrontations. I got what I wanted.

Scotland and England - got lots of practice dowsing stone circles and projecting into stones. Most amazing experiences were in the Orkney Islands, Castlerigg circle in Cumbria, Arbor Low - a giant spoke or hub of energy in the center of England. Silbury Hill and Avebury Circle area, where I got most complete picture of the energy patterns (by dowsing and trance) and a possible ritual usage. Silbury Hill gave me another initiation - more energy than I've ever received, required a quantum leap in my ability to open my body-channel to ground the energy coursing up through me.

Outside of the Bay Area, I found that people have had less individual and particularly group experience with magic and ritual, that they are starving for it and that I had to change my language and approach to adapt to their needs. At the beginning of every workshop everywhere I found I had to unravel misconceptions of magic.



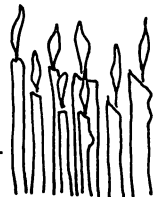
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### WINTER SOLSTICE RITUAL, December 19

Sing and dance and greet the Winterborn Child with us this Yule. Bring food and a \$2 donation. Call Events Line 547-4830 for time and place.

### BRIGID RITUAL, January 30, 1983

Plans for this event are still being made as we go to print. Call Events Line 547-4830 to find out where and when we will gather to celebrate the return of the light.





# CLASSES

Reclaiming has created a series of three basic classes: the "Elements of Magic," the "Pentacle" and the "Rites of Passage." In the past year, we have followed our passions and your requests in developing a variety of other courses. Somehow (magically) we have managed to create another series without consciously realizing it. With a raven's eye view, we now see the pattern: a cycle of in-depth, applied magic classes for each of the four elements. We have "Spellcasting," "Incensemaking," and "Herb Magic" for earth, "Voice, vision and Movement" and "Fairytale" for air, "The Spiraling Vortex" energy-fire, and we plan to create a trance or dreamwork class for the water element (maybe by this spring). So we've dreamed up another medicine wheel.

Each season we will offer an "Elements" and one or more of these other classes, depending on your interest and requests. Watch for them as they come round.

## ELEMENTS OF MAGIC, FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Sophia Moondragon

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 Monday, January 10, 1983, 7:30 p.m. Call Sophia 824-0274 for registration and location. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

## THE PENTACLE, FOR WOMEN

Rose May Dance

An exploration of the five points of our inner pentacle: Sex (primal energy), Self, Passion, Pride and Power (effectiveness in the world). We deepen our skills of channeling and shaping energy, transforming ourselves in trance, storytelling, sound making, and hands-on magic. Also work on group dynamics and group bonding. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic (there is an Elements class starting January 10). A 6-week course beginning Thursday, February 17, 7:30pm in San Francisco. Call Rose 626-9238. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

# WORKSHOPS

**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.

**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 849-0094.

**THE RESOURCE POOL:** Reclaiming teachers are available to teach or to advise ongoing or newly formed 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.

## MUNDANE MAGIC

Raven Moonshadow

The art of wonder-working. In this hands-on class, we will discover how herbs, stones, sounds, scents, natural and man-made objects correspond to ourselves and the world around us. Learn how to use natural laws for personal empowerment and apply this knowledge to bend, shape, weave and change reality. Prerequisites: Elements of Magic or instructor's approval. 6 Mondays beginning January 10, 1983. Call Raven 337-MOON. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

## IT MAKES CENSE

Raven Moonshadow

A practical hands-on workshop in the making of incense. We will explore the historical, imaginative, magical and personal correspondence aromas, culminating in the creation of our own incense within sacred space. Two sessions, offered twice. 1st session - Thursday, January 6 and Thursday, January 13. 2nd session - Monday February 21 and Monday, February 28. Call Raven 337-MOON.

#### GEOMANCY: Working with Earth Energy

A slide-illustrated talk by Feather Singing

Geomancy is the ancient art/science once used to maintain the vitality of the earth's spirit and to keep human activity in harmony with natural patterns. We will look at geomantic history with slides of megaliths and cathedrals in Europe, exploring monuments and ley lines and their uses in communication, ritual and magic. Includes a dowsing demonstration and discussion of ley lines in the Bay Area. Friday, February 11, 7:30 p.m. \$4 - \$7. For information, call the Events Line 547-4830.

#### THE WORLD OF THE CELTS: BELIEF, RITUAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Jim Duran

Looking at the pre-Christian Celtic world and listening to some of the traditional music from Gaelic areas which expresses archaic patterns of belief and feeling. Sunday, January 9, 10a.m.-5p.m. In San Francisco. \$20. Call 535-1086.

#### THE OTHERWORLD AND THE WORLD OF THE DEAD IN NORTHERN EUROPE

Jim Duran

An exploration of the Otherworld as represented by the shamanic tradition of Northern Europe and Northern Asia, and in the tradition of neighboring societies. Sunday, February 13, noon to 4 p.m. 1822 13th Avenue, Oakland. Call Jim 535-1086. \$10

#### GAELIC SINGING for POWER & SOLIDARITY

Jim Duran

A two-part introduction to the rich and vigorous women's communal song tradition in the islands off Scotland. An archaic tradition which may well be rooted in the ancient matrilineal society of the Picts. No previous knowledge of Gaelic necessary. Call 535-1086. Part I Sunday, February 27, noon to 4 p.m. San Francisco. \$10. Part II Sunday, March 6 noon to 4 p.m. San Francisco. \$10.

#### RITUAL AND MAGIC SONGS

Holly Tannen

Listen to field recordings, discuss and sing the traditional songs of harvest, Samhain, Midwinter wassailing and hunting of the wren, Maying and Midsummer. Including one session by Jim Duran on the Brigid material in Irish. Six Thursdays beginning January 20. Call Holly Tannen 525-4091. \$48.

#### PAGAN IMAGERY IN ENGLISH FOLKSONG

Bob Stewart

Brought to us by Holly Tannen, Englishman Bob Stewart is the author of the book Where is St. George? Pagan Imagery in English Folksong. Workshop Saturday, January 29 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. 840 Contra Costa Avenue, Berkeley. Call 525-4091. \$10

#### TRADITIONAL MUSIC AS A HEALING ART

Holly Tannen and Pete Cooper

Playing music for old people and the emotionally disturbed, and working with the emotions it brings up. Effects of modes, keys and tone colors. Choosing material for consciousness-raising. Monday, January 31, 8-10 p.m. 840 Contra Costa Avenue, Berkeley. Call Holly 525-4091. \$10.



**THE PRAISESINGER, SERIES I**

Luisah Teish

An examination of the folktales and divinatory poetry of pre-colonial West Africa. Tales will be interpreted and developed into scripts for dramatic readings and ritual use. No prior writing/acting experience required. Six Wednesdays beginning January 5, 8-9:30 p.m. At Teish's house in Richmond. Carpools can be arranged. Call Luisa Teish 236-7921. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

**SPINNING THE MOON**

Luisah Teish and Moonstar

An evening of African and Native American storytelling. Saturday January 15, 7:30 p.m. At Teish's in Richmond. \$1.50 admission. Call 236-7921 for directions and ride-sharing.

**TAROT WORKSHOPS** for those with some working knowledge of Tarot:

The Use of Crystals with Tarot. Bring your quartz crystals, pendulums, and tarot deck to use in readings, meditation, healing and ritual. Saturday, January 8, 10am-4pm. Call Mary Greer, 824-8938. \$20.

History and symbolism of the Celtic Cross spread along with permutations for reading it in depth, and exploring past life influences, habitual patterns, blocks and limitations. Personal keys to breaking through these. Saturday, February 5, 10am-4pm. Call Mary Greer, 824-8938. \$20.

**NOTES ON TEACHERS/FACILITATORS:**

**LUISAH TEISH, IYAGUO-OMO-OSHUN**, priestess of the Yoruba Goddess of love, art and sensuality; writer, lecturer and performer with experience in African dance, acting and storytelling.

**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.

**FEATHER SINGING** is a teacher, travelling community worker and reclaimer of men's myths and mysteries, Celtic seasonal customs and rituals, and geomancy.

**JIM DURAN** is a Gaelic singer and teacher who has taught workshops in pre-Christian Gaelic traditions and European prehistory.

**HOLLY TANNEN** is a traditional folksinger and dulcimer player who spent five years in England performing and studying pre-Christian survivals in English folk music. Her albums include "The Dulcimer Players" and "Frosty Morning."

## EVENTS

**HOLLY TANNEN CONCERT/BENEFIT FOR RECLAIMING!** Holly will play her dulcimer and sing traditional pagan seasonal songs of old England. Saturday, February 19, at 7:30, Unitarian Center at Franklin/Geary, San Francisco. \$4 - \$7 sliding scale.

**RITUAL AND MAGICAL SONGS:** A concert with Holly Tannen. Thursday January 13 at Freight and Salvage, 1827 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 8:30 p.m. \$4 admission.

My studio will be open and the tea kept hot for your visiting, viewing, and holiday gift selection, from 1pm to 4pm Sundays, December 5, 12, and 19, or by appointment. **ELEANOR MYERS MASKS and MAGICAL OBJECTS** in CLAY. 237 Chattanooga, San Francisco. 282-8864.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Copies of the Reclaiming Newsletter will be available free in the following shops:

Bibliomancy, 518 Haight Street  
Bones of our Ancestors, 622 Schraeder  
Bound Together Books, 1901 Hayes  
Curios and Candles - 289 Divisadero  
Tools of Magick - 1915 Page.

**SIGN LANGUAGE:** Reclaiming would like to learn chants in sign language with the hope of learning more signing later so that we can communicate more easily with the hearing-impaired. If anyone who reads this can help us, please contact us at our PO box.

**MUSIC OF THE CRAFT:** A Reclaiming music cell is being formed to preserve and revive chants and songs, ancient and new. For information call 346-5257.

**WILDMEN/WILDWOMEN:** A group is now forming of people interested in exploring the wildman/wildwoman aspect of ourselves. Some of us are soft inside, yet many others of us are very wild. Our society represses and fears this wildness, so only its negative side is known. We intend to work in an ongoing group using movement and shamanistic ritual, including full moon events. Time and place to be arranged. Call Notty Bumbo, evenings, 386-7424.



INCENSE: Empowerment? Trancing? Something to make magic in?  
Incense made for specific magical needs. Create an atmosphere with scent to hold or call a memory, or please a deity. By using magical correspondences and personal preference. You have a spell, I'll make the smell. Call Raven at 337-6666.

RITUAL MAGIC MESSAGE: Spiritual bodywork for spiritual relaxation and transformation. Together we create a ceremony of growth and empowerment - to celebrate and nourish the goddess within. Sliding fee scale. Call for special introductory rates. Ariadne 444-8998. Also ask about massage by four hands.

TOOLS OF MAGICK: Uma's occult shop is now open at 1915 Page St., San Francisco. Candles, oils, powders, books, herbs, tarot cards, amulets, incense, magickal supplies. Open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to six.

COMMUNITY FORMING: In the hills of Mendocino County along Eldritch Creek, there are no paved roads, PG&E stays away, no phones ring. In the morning you are awakened with birdsong, in the evening the crickets and owls sing your lullaby. But there is a price. You must be prepared to push your body's abilities if it is a guardian of the forest you wish to be. For it is you who must cut your own firewood and carry it home on the deer paths, who must build your own shelter, who must learn to do for yourself all the many acts of survival which are unknown in the city of buttons and switches. But small price for those who would live in the tree-feathered womb of the mother. Come join me in this life as we form a family/community to live and work our magic together in the honor of the goddess. Write Sequoia, Box 162, Redwood Valley, CA 95470.

#### PENINSULA CIRCLES?

Palo Alto area women interested in the Craft and wanting to find each other call Darylan 365-5440. Reclaiming will respond by working with a new group or forming a class.





## POMEGRANATE: A Counseling and Body Work Service

Pomegranate offers counseling and psychotherapy which combines psychotherapeutic approaches with traditional techniques of the Craft: guided visualization, trance, ritual, energy and body work, and art. Our membership includes, with equal status, people with both professional and folk credentials. We are trying to bridge the gap between established psychotherapeutic help and the counseling that women and witches have always done. Our goal is personal and community empowerment. We see our individual struggles and personal and spiritual growth as part of a broader political context. Sliding scale. For information call Pomegranate 431-4492.

Pomegranate people currently accepting clients:

Glenn Turner, friend, NROOGD priestess, COG officer.

Ariadne, PhD, is a teacher/priestess of the Craft and a state certified bodyworker who uses ritual magic massage to both relax and empower women.

Leigh St. James is a body energy specialist who works with massage to balance energy; teaches couples/partners/family massage.

Starhawk, MA, is a cofounder of Reclaiming, a feminist therapist and teacher of the Craft. She is author of The Spiral Dance and Dreaming the Dark, Magic, Sex and Politics. She works with individuals and groups.

Cathy Wickham, MFCC, and Witch, has been a feminist therapist for eight years. She is bilingual in Spanish and works in either language with individuals, couples, groups and families.

Cecily Hooper, certified massage therapist. She combines basic Swedish massage techniques with Jin Shin acupressure and other forms of energy work to provide an individualized self-healing experience. Visualization, breathing and nutritional counseling.

Also associated with Pomegranate:

Macha/Aline O'Brien, priestess and organizer.

Rose M. Dance, healer and priestess of the Craft.

Sophia Moondragon, priestess and teacher of the Craft, mother, and creator of sacred art.

### POMEGRANATE by Gabrielle

I feel a stirring of worry about Pomegranate that could probably be satisfied by an open discussion. There is no mention in its introduction of a vision of counseling as something we share. There has been too much special knowledge, too much therapist/client energy and too little development of all of our potentials to counsel each other. I envision a world where we are our pas-

sionate selves. To get there we need to be able to help each other. We all can. I want to see something like co-counseling in Pomegranate to make it clear that we are fighting the expert model and how hard that fight is.

## POMEGRANATE by Sophia

When events in our lives bring us to feel powerless, ineffectual even to help ourselves, it is important to be able to turn for help to someone skilled in walking the maze of emotional complexity. The people in Pomegranate are committed to empowerment from within. "Expert" knowledge and experience are used as tools for helping, not as status marks to separate and disempower others. To help each other, as with co-counseling, we sometimes need first to help ourselves. The special skills of Pomegranate workers can lead to finding the keys to wellbeing for someone who may not feel able or ready to share in a co-counseling relationship. Working with a counsellor or body worker, with a shared goal of personal empowerment, we are not confined to limited roles. We break through powerlessness and free ourselves to give as well as receive help. Co-counseling then becomes possible as a way to maintain balance in this uneasy world. I support Pomegranate and welcome its vision of healing from within.

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## TWO THINGS WE CAN AVOID: Death and Taxes

Many of us who are working to unify spirit and politics find we are still giving power to the forces we want to change. More than half of any money we give to the government in the form of taxes contributes to war.

Now most people would not contribute money to a person soliciting to buy guns to kill their neighbors. How is it that we pay our taxes so dutifully? It's a decision we make every day. In the U.S. we not only are preparing for war, we export weapons that enable other nations to kill each other more effectively.

Some of us feel we can no longer, with good conscience, continue to pay for any person to be killed. Some of us feel we need to withdraw our consent from the war preparations that are currently being made, that it's not enough for us to protest or even get arrested if we continue to materially support what we are against.

There are many ways to protest or refuse tax payment. Some carry little risk and others more. You can call George at (415) 849-2360 in the Bay Area or Susan at (707) 462-6390 in Ukiah if you are interested in more information.

# CALENDAR

## December

19 Winter Solstice Ritual

## January

- 5 The Praisesinger Series I begins
- 6 It Makes Cense begins
- 8 Tarot Workshop
- 9 World of the Celts
- 10 Mundane Magic begins
- 10 Elements of Magic begins
- 13 Holly Tannen Concert
- 15 Spinning the Moon
- 20 Ritual and Magic Songs
- 29 Pagan Imagery in English Folksong
- 30 Brigid Ritual
- 31 Traditional Music as a Healing Art

## February

- 4 Reclaiming Newsletter deadline
- 5 Tarot Workshop
- 11 Geomancy
- 13 The Otherworld
- 17 Pentacle begins
- 19 Holly Tannen Benefit Concert
- 21 It Makes Cense
- 27 Gaelic Singing

## March

6 Gaelic Singing



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