



# RECLAIMING

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 9 • SPRING 1983

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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## 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. We'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.

Please send us your feedback in letters, notes, whatever.

### Alert! Alert! 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 in a 6½" column). We will no longer take responsibility for chasing down late material.

The Summer deadline is Wednesday, May 4. Call Events Line for editorial meetings and layout. Send material to the Reclaiming P.O. box marked "Newsletter."

To receive four quarterly issues of the Newsletter at home, send your subscription to Reclaiming, P.O. 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.

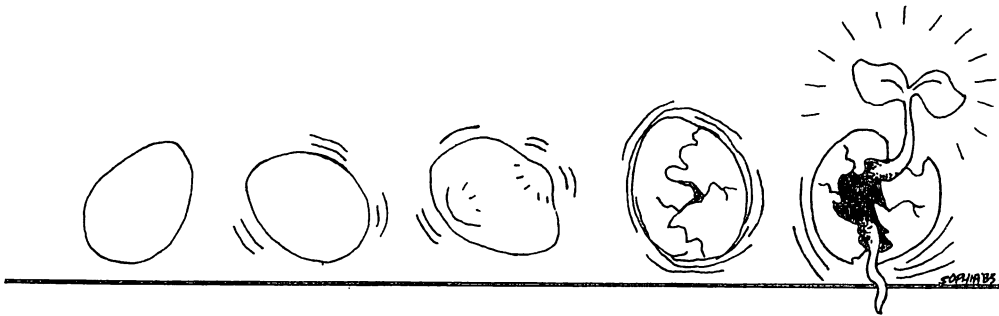
This issue was prepared by Feather, Gaby, Sophia, Iris May, Roy, Starhawk, Cerridwen, Roddy, Sean McShea and Bone Blossom. Cover art by Sophia.

## Reclaiming Meetings

Reclaiming Collective spokemeetings are held on the third Thursday of each 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 welcome. If you are one of those people, call Events Line 547-4830 for time and location.

# Reclaiming Gossip

On December 5, 1992, at 6:56 p.m., Zachary Moonstone Demers was born to Cerridwen Fallingstar and Elie Demers. He weighed 9lbs 2oz, and while it seems fitting that the Great Sow should spawn such a hearty piglet, it was a long hard labor. The Witch Network came through however; Zachary was born at home with two magical midwives, Holy Terror and Coven of Binding Lust in attendance, with Witches from all over the country sending their energy to aid the birth. Cerridwen, Elie and Zachary give their deepest thanks to all those who again proved that magic really works! Zachary is healthy and beautiful and very happy to have the world's largest collection of eccentric aunts and uncles.



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## EVENTS LINE 547-4830

We have a phone recording to announce events which happen too late to be included in this newsletter (such as changes in classes, locations of public rituals, and community events of interest). Some are sponsored by Reclaiming, while others come via the grapevine.

If you have any comments, or an idea on how the line can be made more useful, please pass them on! What would you like to hear on the tape? How often do you call? Is it worthwhile? We still haven't found an easy way to remember the phone number.

If you're giving a class, you might call me with a quick title to use on the tape.

To put something on the events line, leave a message on our machine. (Be sure to include your number!) Or call me at 547-4832. But I usually have no more information than is on the tape, so please don't call me at home asking for details.

I'll be out of town for several weeks at the beginning of April, so we need to find someone to fill in. This would involve stopping by maybe twice a week to check the tape. My place is in Oakland near the F bus.

-Roddy

# Vandenberg

January 22 - 25, 1983

Rain. Mud. Five hundred people camping out in the storms of winter, huddling on straw under a blue and white circus tent to meet, train, plan for the action. Four of us from Matrix, the affinity group close to Reclaiming, are down there. Cindy and David are organizing the medical team, dispensing herb tea, cayenne capsules, and acupuncture. Roy and I (Starhawk) are making ourselves generally useful. The action - originally called to interfere with the proposed testing of the MX missile, has been on again/off again/on again as Congress interfered with the MX test. But first-strike weapons are tested at Vandenberg each week - and the missiles tested at the base just south of San Luis Obispo are fired to Kwajalein Atoll in Micronesia. The islanders have been forced off their own land into overcrowded concrete barracks on another island. In June, they attempted a return - an occupation of Kwajalein that lasted until October. So we are here, also, in solidarity with them.

Monday morning. 4 a.m. The wind is fierce - tents blowing over. Thunder, lightning, pelting rain. "Roy," I yell to the next tent, "This is crazy!" We haul ourselves out of our warm sleeping bags, slog through the mud, and drive out to the base.

The rain slacks as we park near the front gate of the air base. Earlier, we had agreed not to work the weather for this action. The elements, we felt, wanted to be present in their own way, unhampered. I had mentioned our decision to a member of another affinity group and the rumor flashes through the camp "The Witches decided not to work the weather for this action." Paradoxically, our reputation for weather-working soars. And the rain, uncomfortable as it is, provides cover for those who secretly hike into the base overland to do a ritual and weave a web that shuts the gates to the Minuteman silos.

At the front gate, the blockade begins. Five women, one of whom has just celebrated her 79th birthday, and a man, step into the road and block the traffic. A horde of military police bear down on them and take them away. Another wave of blockaders takes their place.

The day wears on. Occupiers go over the fence, form circles, MP's march in straight line formations and take them away. I am arrested with More and Mary Frances of the Zero for Conduct affinity group. The feared MP's turn out to be 18-year-old kids who look shy and a little scared and are happy to chat about how hard it is to get a job these days and how they really don't like the military.

A long day - on buses, locked in handball courts, trying to work out our solidarity, getting tired, confused, bored, singing, waiting. Watching people being dragged bodily out of the booking area and thrown onto buses. Expecting ourselves to be dragged off the bus momentarily, when we conclude we can no longer in conscience, cooperate.

And magic.

We are held in a racquette-ball court, a windowless box. We are meeting. The Federal Marshalls come in, grab a woman for booking. She goes limp. They have her arms twisted behind her back in hammerlocks. In one movement, the rest of us go to her. They drop her by the door. She stays still, kneeling. We put our hands on her, and begin to chant.

You can't stop the spirit  
She's like a mountain  
Old and strong  
She goes on and on and on and on...

They haul the woman away. A line of Marshalls marches in, faces us. Another line moves behind us. We rise, face them standing, still chanting.

"Get to the back of the room!" we are ordered.

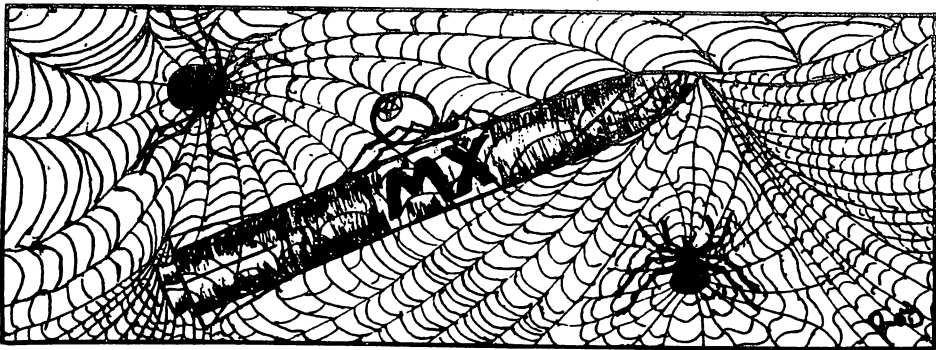
We stand and chant. The Marshalls pull out their batons, press them against our chests. We stand our ground. In the chant, I hear power moving. We are spirit. We are mountain. We cannot be stopped.

The chant becomes softer. We sit down, and come to silence. The Federal Marshalls look confused, like they can't understand what they are supposed to be doing. They file out somewhat sheepishly, as we shrug and return to our meeting. We go on.

The actions go on. Port Chicago, protesting the militarization of El Salvador on January 29. Nine of our friends are arrested for chaining themselves to the Federal Building.

Another Vandenberg action, including a Spring Equinox Ritual, is planned for March 18-25. Supporters are needed, and much organizational work is needed here in the city as well as during the action. To volunteer or find out about non-violence training, call Urban Stonehenge 641-4095.

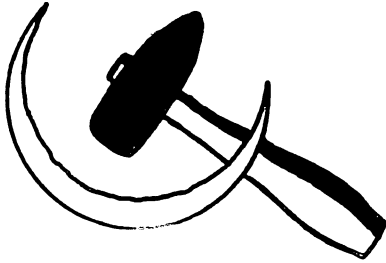
- starhawk



# Revolution

Within

Reclaiming?



On February 6, fifteen Reclaiming people attended a workshop on classism, facilitated by Donna (working class) and Penn (middle class). Rather lengthy orientation statements were presented by each facilitator, during which Reclaiming folk became somewhat restless. Then the discussion turned to the complexity and near impossibility of defining class boundaries in America, followed by another lecture from Penn directed at the more middle-class-minded among us, to which a working class person objected as being itself oppressive. We asked the facilitators for their intended agenda, which we re-arranged, omitting the fish-bowl session - the working/lower class people in the middle bitching and bemoaning their fate with the middle classers observing passively from the sidelines. Instead we divided directly into two separate groups (6 working class, 11 middle class) and spent an hour in separate rooms.

I met with the working class group, who after a reluctant start, expressed frustration about bringing up class-sensitive issues within the general Reclaiming population. Our group definitely felt differently than Reclaiming as a whole. Reclaiming was critiqued on such issues as naivete regarding present and future social conditions and anticipated lifestyles, lack of spontaneity, music and dancing in public rituals, lack of content in classes, and money. We agreed that no one feels directly oppressed in Reclaiming, yet the more we talked the freer we felt to speak our minds and the less inhibited we became about expressing "negative", lower class perspectives. People who at first regretted coming were now becoming excited. Something was happening. We were feeling a new possibility of taking our power. "Pagan" after all means "peasant." We considered forming a circle (none of us, we realized, are presently in a circle). We decided to form a working class cell and we set a time for our first meeting. We discussed taking over the newsletter. We laughed a lot and felt a high level of comradery.

We returned to the larger group for a short (too short) time and shared our experiences. Some members of the middle class group felt threatened and excluded by the creation of a working class cell and apprehensive that division was forming in our community.



We explained that the working class cell meetings will be open for anyone wishing to explore their own working class roots, and that increased communication within Reclaiming is our goal. Also that there are very real, tough, sensitive issues and that growth is painful as well as joyous.

Our general evaluation was that we had all learned something, and that we've made a start toward developing constructive tools for confronting more directly our problems arising from class differences. The challenge to raise our consciousness of class issues has surfaced for all who wish to take it up.

*Log of the Working Class Circle*

## Feather's Travels

My recent visit in N.Y. was wonderful! I returned to the folks in Ithaca, a small core of women and men meeting regularly, and hosting larger rituals. I led an evening of "Reclaiming the language of fairy tales," and a day of trancework, ritual and singing. They were very focused, dedicated, serious and playful. We got all the way to trance-release work, got snowed in, and had a slumber party.

In the Albany area, I met two covens who have both been involved in outreach/education recently. They were featured in 2 excellent newspaper articles and made a presentation to 150 women at a community college. One of the gay men convened a northeast C.O.G. council while I was there so I got to meet like-minded folks from N.Y.C. and Boston (Athnor Fellowship). We raised a lot of energy with singing and drumming on half a dozen bodrhans. It was interesting to hear Spiral Dance and other Reclaiming songs with different tunes acquired in transmission. I also learned a few new ones.

My last stop was way out on Long Island, at the invitation of one of the women from the Ireland trip. I met with a circle of women she has pulled together and helped them increase their facility with creating ritual together. We combined our voices with great harmony. And while I was there, I made a geomantic survey of Deborah's farm, suggesting how to site her new octagonal house in keeping with the energy of the land. I was pleasantly surprised to discover a leap in my body's sensitivity. I picked up the energy flows and power spots without the aid of my dowsing rods.

If you have friends hungry for magic, ritual or herstory, please pass their names on to me c/o the Reclaiming P.O. box.

The wheel of this year carries me to southern California in April, the Pacific northwest in May, midwest and the Pagan Spirit Gathering in June, West Virginia and mid-Atlantic states in July and back to California from Lammas to Yule.

*- FeatherSinging*



# Bone Blossom Writes

Bone Blossom's Blessings from the East.

Beloved Reclaimers All!

Since relocating here in Connecticut, as of July '82, I have found some wonderful connections and magical possibilities in this neck of the woods. I thought it time to let all of you know what's going on on the Eastern edge.

I was fortunate to start off my Fall series of classes with a Fall Equinox ritual attended by 40 or so pagans, including our sister Starhawk. We had a gathering a birch grove where we wove a web of string and twigs, from which we all took a piece home. We also empowered a web woven on a hoop to be taken back to the WEB Pagan Affinity Cluster in California, thus making another tangible connection in the pagan network.

Earlier, representatives from a group called Pagans for Peace hashed over ideas with Star and Bone, for coordinating certain efforts on the east and west coasts.

I was able to gather folks for a couple of Elements of Magic classes and an Herb Magic and Medicine class, and the ball keeps rolling... Next week I begin an advanced class for 9 weeks, combining the Pentacle and Rites of Passage material (with a break of one week in the middle). I'm beginning Elements again - in Middletown, New Haven and Westport areas. For starting times for these and future herb classes I can be contacted at 7 Longworth Avenue, Middletown CT 06457, 203/346-7917. Visitors from the west coast are always welcome!

In conclusion I'd like to share a description of our Winter Solstice, attended by about 20 folks. We gathered late afternoon on the 19th. After teaching songs and chanting names, we cast a circle and invoked the Dark Mother. Then we were led in trance to the time of December, to the heart of the Mother Earth, where her blood flows in seams of shining coal, where her warm brown flesh encloses us, and her rocky bones trap us. We were led to the time and place of long shadows, where Death roams. Death then entered the circle in his incarnation as Brimstone. He circled in Silence, lighting a black candle in each direction. He went to each in the circle and asked them to share with him a piece of pomegranate - the blood seed of Life - and salt - the crystal of Death. Then we passed around a basket of bones and each took one, to meditate on the crystalline heart of Life, contained in the desert of the bone; to begin to visualize what we might bring to birth with the return of the Sun; what splitting seed we each contain. Then we each buried our bone in a basket of earth, with what we needed to lose to the night, before we could be ready to pass through the birth canal. Finally we lined up to form the canal with our legs, and each in turn made the perilous passage through to rebirth as we chanted "We are an old people, we are a new people, we are the same people,

deeper than before." Each was given to taste the sweetness of life, with mint honey offered by Pan in his aspect as Silas Fire Dragon. Then we sang "We who have died are alive again today, for this is the Sun's birthday; this is the birthday of life and love and wings, and the gay, great happening, illimitably Earth." And feasted.

Coven Ourobouros is now alive and growing with 6 regular members, one a woman writing her master's thesis on Haitian ritual dance. I have learned songs and dances and attended several Voudoun ceremonies.

We continue to discover more interesting methods for scattering ecstasy and magical dust!

Love to all the Witches of the West.

Bone Blossom.

## *Squat Against Homelessness*

On February 6, approximately 30 people were evicted from the abandoned gymnasium at Polytechnic High in the Haight. Luckily, there were no arrests or altercations. However, there was a rapidly arising, yet slowly answered question. Where are 30 people going to find a new home on such short notice?

I'm a member of Reclaiming Collective. I was a squatter in London for several years in the 70's and would love to see us put some of our energy into the movement here. I am married to a man with two children who may lose his home at any moment and who does not have the resources to rent a regular apartment. Homelessness and squatting are not issues that are far from our more fortunate doors. Thousands of people are on the street in San Francisco. Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen on 23rd Street feeds 700 people a day and many of them are families in shock.

The Polytechnic squatters said "Our goal at Polytechnic was to give ourselves a place where we could ... create an atmosphere of home for those who are without such. We also wanted to offer an alternative to waiting in line 6 hours to get the mayor's pity for one night. In other words, it was more than a crash pad."

Many private and public buildings left empty but guarded. Many homeless people on the street. Let's take our power into our own hands in this way too. The earth is our home, not someone's property.

*-Gaby*

## CLASSES &



### 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 - Mondays, March 21 and 28. 2nd session - Thursdays, May 19 and 26. Call Raven at 337-MOON.

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### ELEMENTS OF MAGIC FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Starhawk and Roy

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 structure, creation and performance of ritual. Beginning 6-week course, starting Monday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. Call Roy at 566-1680 or Star at 431-4492 for registration and location. \$35-\$90 sliding scale.

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### 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 Wednesdays beginning March 23. Call Raven 337-MOON. \$35-\$90 sliding scale.

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### RECLAIMING THE LANGUAGE OF FAIRYTALES

Feather Singing

Myth and fairy tale are the psychology of the ancient (non-patriarchal) world. We will reinterpret the symbols, giving them new meaning and relevance. All characters in fairy tales are within each of us. Each session will focus on a different aspect of the human psyche, with storytelling, guided fantasy, dream sharing and discussion. Thursdays, March 10: Structure of fairy tales and a year cycle myth; March 17: Meeting the Shadow; empowerment; March 24: Initiation; March 31: The Sacred Marriage; self-integration. \$25-\$60 (sliding scale). Call Roy, 566-1680, or Feather, 547-4830, for time and location in San Francisco.

## WORKSHOPS



### THE PENTACLE, FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Sophia Moondragon and Cerridwen Fallingstar

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. A six-week course beginning Monday, March 14, 7:30pm in San Francisco. Call Sophia 824-0274. \$35 - \$90 sliding scale.

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### EVOKING THE GOD FOR WOMEN

Cerridwen Fallingstar and Feather Singing

We will share personal experiences, dreams and images of the god, use Faery myths and cycles, and work to transform images from patriarchal classical mythology. We will encounter and embody other aspects of the god through trance journeys, trance-dance, mask and ritual. Weekend retreat, Friday - Sunday, March 25 - 27. Call Dianna (282-2978) or Cerridwen (383-6687) for complete information. This class may be for women only or mixed women & men, according to preference of those interested.

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**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.

**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 Sophia, 803 Castro Street, San Francisco, 94114. Phone (415) 824-0274.

**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.

## The Horn of Plenty

There are three special purposes to the ritual feast known as 'cakes and wine' which ends each magical working: replenishing the energy we expend, grounding us, and re-enforcing our sense of community. The energy raised during magic is real. Whether you call it a cone of power, kundalini rising or just plain 'sending energy', it takes energy to make energy. Power does not just manifest whiz! bang! zap! out of the ether. We make it. And like a mother making milk for her child, we need to take in as much as we put out, or we end up sick, exhausted, unable to produce any more. Eating after a ritual also grounds us, brings us back to material reality, helps us travel back from the space between the worlds to our physical bodies and the world we live in.

Breaking bread together is one of the most primal forms of bonding. If we have plenty on our communal table, it gives us all a sense that Reclaiming is a community which can truly provide for its own. We become increasingly willing to make a greater commitment to a community that works. When people leave a ritual hungry - physically or spiritually - then we lose confidence in our ability to do real work in the real world. How can we hope to stop nuclear power if we cannot take the simple power to feed each other? How can we care for the earth and not for our miracle bodies? It is not necessary to spend lots of money to eat well and make a gift to your community. A pot of cabbage soup or beans, a zucchini casserole or a couple dozen oatmeal cookies all can be made for less than \$1.50 in less than an hour. Snack food is costly, a lot of money for very little nutrition. If everyone brings food with the idea that at the conclusion of the ritual we have a meal, a wonderful meal we shall have.

Next public ritual, let's try for a feast. Think special, think creative, think of bringing a tangible, edible gift for yourself and the people you love.

Cerridwen Fallingstar

### BEYOND THE PRETTY...

A series of women's art shows in celebration of women who have found expression in the arts. We are inviting women artists to submit works which present images of women and their lives that go beyond the traditional and decorative motifs expected. We encourage both professional and non-professional artists to apply. Deadline is April 1. For more details write to The National Festival of Women's Theater, P.O. Box 1222, Santa Cruz CA 95061 or call 408-458-3195.



# Reclaiming The MATERIAL

As I have become increasingly involved in the Reclaiming collective over the past year or so, I've experienced a joy in community such as I had never known before. I believe this comes from our doing magic together, which runs deep beneath the surface of belief structures or political ideology which often must serve to bond people together in groups. I think it also comes from the communal support and strengthening of our evolving pagan values and planet consciousness. This is the wonderful aspect of the Reclaiming community, which we all love and hope to maintain and develop.

I have also witnessed the strife and conflict we've come up against, and have seen much of it more or less resolved. But there is one knot that seems so snarled and problematic as to seriously threaten our ability to continue to function together as a collective. That is our failure to develop a consistent and rational money policy. The small core group who does almost all our work, largely without pay, is nearing burnout, and I don't see others rising to aid or replace those overworked few. I, for one, hesitate to throw myself headlong into Reclaiming work while watching others becoming too wasted, discouraged or embittered to continue. At the same time, there seems to be an expansion of the numbers we are attempting to serve with classes and rituals. And it does seem clear that the main cause of burnout is extended service without adequate material compensation.

We appear to have so many conflicting sets of values about money as to constitute a unique pagan form of money-phobia. I want to try to analyze some of the possible causes of this hornets' nest of feeling about funds.

First is the traditional taboo against charging money for "practising the craft." Although I'm unaware of the exact origin and nature of this taboo, I suspect it comes from the time of persecutuion when secrecy was a life and death necessity and craft "secrets" were in demand at high prices. Also in those times, capitalism was first rearing its ugly head and any dealing with currency was suspect by honest people as usury. However, I cannot believe that the village healers, shamans and witches of old were not compensated for their energy and art

when in need of basic material necessities. Would tribal people have let one of their most valuable and respected community members freeze or go hungry in accordance with a taboo against paying for their services? Today, money is equivalent to food, clothing and shelter. Most of us, having no fields or herds, cannot barter food or wool, and having no land, cannot barter materials for shelter nor space to build it on. We can barter art, massage, work and skills, which are all valuable, but don't pay the rent.

People who are spending large portions of their time working to keep Reclaiming functioning are having difficulty providing for their basic needs. If a way is not found to compensate them in proportion to their time, their efforts will of necessity cease and Reclaiming will be severely crippled. We must try to act in the spirit, not the letter, of a law coming to us across centuries from a culture we may well wish to reclaim, but which we can hardly do by ignoring the present necessities required to keep our collective running. I don't think the taboo applies today except to cases of cheating people - selling fake power words or objects for big bucks, etc. - which isn't a present or potential problem in Reclaiming.

It seems strange that our collective should so stubbornly refuse to allow itself to support itself. All other collectives I've encountered make bread, sell food, produce entertainment and theater, sell books, run cafes, do construction work, etc. Yet we function largely like some sort of aristocratic pagan philanthropist charity organization, with one hitch - we ain't rich.

Let's look for a moment at our pet double-standard. Most Pomogranate members earn money from their healing, which often involves craft techniques. Royalties are collected for craft writings. Individuals earn large portions of their income from work in the craft, yet others feel inhibited from utilizing the collective to produce and make available goods and services (presently in demand by Reclaiming greater community) which would provide income for themselves and for Reclaiming. It seems that we should welcome such enterprises, because they would serve in the revival of the craft, provide income for Reclaiming, and provide income for our friends who wish to carry out the work. I wonder sometimes if on an unconscious level we doubt the value of what we're doing. We seem to be strangling ourselves, which brings me to consider a second possible cause of our problem.

We are pagans and descendants of pagan ancestors, but we are children and grand children and great grandchildren of protestant, catholic and jewish peoples who share in varying degrees, an abhorrence at tainting the spiritual with gross matter. One of the most radical elements of our work is reclaiming the spirituality of our earth, our bodies, our sexuality, our food, our fellow creatures, etc., all of which were robbed of spirit and life by the traditions we grew up under. We were also taught



the spiritual value of suffering, self-denial and giving without receiving in return. Could we be suffering from buried but un-dead puritanical values in our refusal to seek material compensation for our work?

And there's a third sacred cow I want to kick - the sacredness of the "collective" as opposed to the people who make it up, and the people it serves. I don't want to undermine our potential for growth in our ability and willingness to work collectively as a crucial factor in balancing our work load. But I do think there is some sort of muddled distortion of "collective" values operating here which insists that the collective exists in a state of sub-non-profit-making-poverty. The collective must be the lowest common economic demoninator of all its members and all those it serves or potentially serves. This rings of an upper and middleclass guilt-martyr syndrome. We often cast personal spells to "attract" money to us - why can't we cast an abundance spell for Reclaiming? Is it because our collective will is muddled?

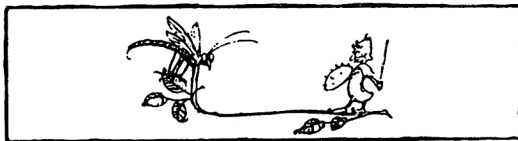
I'm not proposing that we raise the lower end of our scale and shut out those who have little money, or that we shouldn't allow in someone who has no money, but I think we should feel fine about collecting more from those who can pay. In fact, I feel we should make damn sure we do. For example, we might have a \$2 - \$10 donation for rituals and make sure everyone's aware of it (which didn't happen at Brigid, where we collected about \$88 from 150 people and barely broke even).

What I'm actually proposing is that we change our collective attitude towards income and survival; that we encourage formation of a fund-raising cell, or encourage individuals, to create ways to bring money in while serving the larger pagan community.

When we invoke the North, we call in the physical - hard reality. When are we going to start taking ourselves seriously?

Responses welcome.

*Loy*



# Events

## NATIONAL PAGAN SPIRIT GATHERING

The 1983 National Pagan Spirit Gathering will be held June 18-26 in Wisconsin. Pagan Music and Culture are the focus of this year's gathering. A brochure will be sent to pagans who request one. Pagan musicians, storytellers, dancers and other performing artists interested in being part of the program contact Circle by April 20. Write Circle, Box 9013, Madison, WI 53715 or phone 608-437-8964 weekdays 10a.m.-5p.m. or 608-767-2345 with a message.

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## GARDEN PARTY - to plant new covens and the Reclaiming Community Garden.

A day for all loose Witches, would-be Witches and friends of Reclaiming to gather and get acquainted while working together to magically transform a barren back yard in the Mission into a flourishing community herb garden. Come early to dig and earth-sculpt. In the afternoon, those interested in forming/joining new covens will meet. Bring compost, garden tools, seedlings, etc., and food to share.

Location: 2752 Harrison Street, San Francisco

Date: *March 27, 10am - 5pm.*

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## THE UPRISING AT FUENTE OVEJUNA

In the 1470's, the peasant villagers of Fuente Ovejuna, led by the women, rebelled and killed their feudal lord, who regarded not only the village crops, but village women, as his property. When a judge, set by Ferdinand and Isabella, tortured men, women and children of the village to learn the identity of the assassin, all made the same reply: "Fuente Ovejuna did it!" Rather than execute the entire village, the Catholic Monarchs granted pardon. The San Francisco Mime Troupe perform Lope de Vega's play through Sunday, March 13 at the Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St, S.F. Call 285-1717 for information. Director Daniel Chumley says of the play "These people hate the feudal lord, but they don't question his right to rule them. He pushes them too far and they rebel - it's like Miami. But then they bow to new rulers: they never envision ruling themselves. Is that so different from people in the U.S. today?"

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Starhawk is giving a series of talks at the San Francisco Unitarian Church, Franklin and Geary. All are Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9p.m.: Wednesday, March 9: Reclaiming our Power: Magic and Politics.

Wednesday, March 16: Elements of Ritual.

Wednesday, March 30: Spring Celebration: Full Moon Ritual.

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Diane Frank will be reading in the Noe Valley Poetry Series on Sunday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at 1021 Sanchez Street (at 23rd St.) San Francisco. \$2 donation.

## Starhawk's Travels

Starhawk will be in the L.A. area April 7-10, with the following schedule (check for final times and cost before each event).

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.

Talk/Workshop: Reclaiming our Power: Magic, Sex & Politics.  
Gay & Lesbian Center, 1213 N. Highland, Hollywood CA (213-464-7400)

Friday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Talk: Women, Religion and the Goddess  
Women's Group, Unitarian Universalist Church, 5450 Atherton St.  
Long Beach CA (213-597-8445)

Sunday, April 10, 10 a.m.

The Rebirth of the Goddess: Starhawk will conduct morning service, Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA (213-378-9449)

Sunday, April 10, 3-5 p.m.

Reading and Booksigning  
Sisterhood Bookstore, 1351 Westwood Boulevard, Westwood CA (213-477-7300)

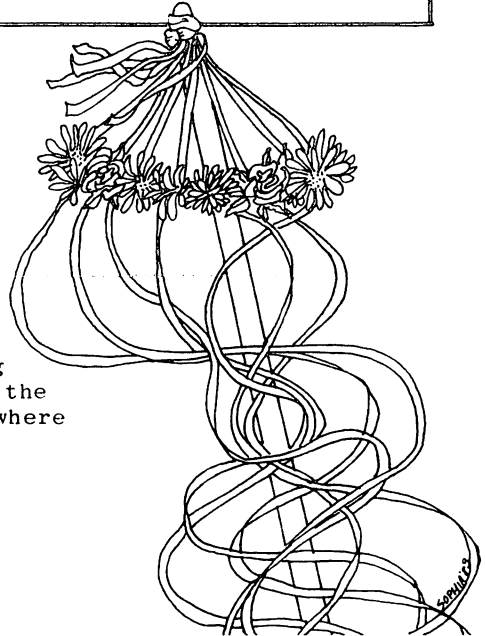
There will be a panel on Dreaming the Dark at the Regional Conference of the American Academy of Religions in Fullerton, April 7-9.

Anyone with open covers or study groups in the L.A. area that you would like me to announce at talks, please contact me at 415-431-4492 or c/o Reclaiming P.O. Box 14404 S.F. CA 94114.

## Beltane

MAY DAY RITUAL, Sunday, May 1

Come and celebrate with us. Bring food for a nourishing meal. Call the Events Line 547-4830 to find out where and when we will gather.



# Announcements

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 correspondence and personal preference. You have a spell, I'll make the smell. Call Raven at 337-6666.

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DAVIS CIRCLE? Anyone interested in forming a circle in the Davis area phone Jody at (916) 753-6656.

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CURIOS AND CANDLES, 289 Divisadero Street, San Francisco. Hours: 12-6 Monday through Thursday; 12-7 Friday; 12-5 Saturday. Classes in candle magic; Tarot readings; Hand-made incenses and oils. Phone 863-5669.

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SUMMER APPRENTICESHIP INTENSIVE: For those of you who live far away - come spend a week in San Francisco studying magic, ritual, and Goddess religion. We can provide training at both beginning and advanced levels and can help arrange places to stay for a limited number of students.

Our purpose in offering the apprenticeship program is to give students tools they can take back to their own communities. We expect students to contribute according to their means - we do not set a specific price on any apprenticeship but will negotiate with a fair exchange of money/time/energy.

The specific program will be determined in part by the needs and skills of those who come.

Dates: August 8 - August 14.

Location: *To be announced.*

For more information: Write Sophia, c/o Reclaiming P.O. Box.

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POMEGRANATE: A Counselling and Bodywork Service  
Pomegranate serves as a referral network for people who are looking for counseling, bodywork and/or intensive individual magical training, and a support group for therapists, bodyworkers and peer counsellors who are also Witches.

During our first season together, we have been getting to know each other, telling our personal stories and becoming friends. In the future, we hope to offer programs to the Reclaiming community.

Currently, many of us have openings for clients. For information call 431-4492. (Sliding scale)

Associated with Pomegranate are: Ariadne, Cathy Wickham, Cecily Hooper, Glenn Turner, Leigh Saint James, Macha/Aline O'Brien, Rose May Dance, Sophia Moondragon and Starhawk.

## more announcements

ARCHIVES: Pandora has acquired a filing cabinet for Reclaiming's archives. It sits ready to receive all kinds of invaluable documents. Call Pandora at 626-9238.

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CIRCLE GUIDE TO WICCA & PAGAN RESOURCES: The 1983-84 Guide will be published in late Spring. Pagan groups, periodicals, artists, suppliers, recordings, networks, services, magickal places, books, and other resources will be listed. Even if you have been listed in previous years, it is necessary to submit a new listing for this completely revised and updated version. If you haven't received or completed a listing form for this new edition, there may still be time to get your listing(s) in - call Circle, 608-437-8964 weekdays, 1-4p.m., central time.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE CRAFT: Macha and Anna are working to prepare an extensive bibliography of the Craft and subjects of related interest. These presently include but are not limited to such topics as Craft History; Sociology of NeoPaganism; Magical Theory; Poems; Reincarnation; Fiction; Divination; Shamanism; Spells; Enchantments and Charms; Ritual and Ceremony; Songs, Chants, Invocations, Evocations; Feminism and Politics; Ecology and Conservation; The Other World/Fairies; Alphabets, Runes and Symbols; The Burning Times; Totems; Familiars; Books of Shadows; Sacred Sites; Gems, Stones and Metals; Trees; Healing; Ritual Uses of Drugs; Sabbats; Sex; Herbology; Goddesses, Deities, and Mythologies; Anthropology; Psychology; Cultural Pantheons (Celtic, Hebrew, Native American, Greco-Roman, Egyptian, Nordic, African, Asian, etc.) By its very nature, such a bibliography cannot ever be complete. But we would like to be as thorough as possible. And we would like to include brief annotations. If you know of any book that you feel is important to be included on this list either because you loved it or because you hated it, please let us know. Include a brief annotation if you like. Send information to M. Macha Nightmare, 1822 Mason Street, San Francisco CA 94133. Blessed Be!

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FLUTEDANCING: Gay Men and the Realm of the Sacred. This is our last call for articles, poems, fiction, manifestos and rituals for our anthology. Essays, etc., should focus on the interrelationship between gay men (faeries) and spirituality, however, the concept of the book is NOT separatist, and (1) the essay, etc., may speak to all people and (2) the essay, etc., need not be written by a gay male, as long as this subject is addressed. (We are, for example, including interviews of faeries by Gloria Auzaldua, editor of This Bridge Called My Back.) We are especially looking for essays concerning "Why I am a Gay Witch" and "Why Gay (Men) Pagans Must Oppose Nuclear War." Write to Randy O'Connor and David Sparks at 3107 Speedway #203, Austin, TX 78705.

# CALENDAR

March:

- 9 Starhawk: Magic and Politics
- 10 Reclaiming the language of fairytales
- 14 Pentacle for women and men
- 16 Starhawk: Elements of Ritual
- 18 Wartenberg Action begins
- 21 It makes sense
- 23 Mundane Magic
- 25 Evoking the god for women (and men?)
- 27 Garden Party for planting new covens
- 30 Starhawk: Spring/Fall Moon Ritual

April:

- 4 Elements for Men and Women

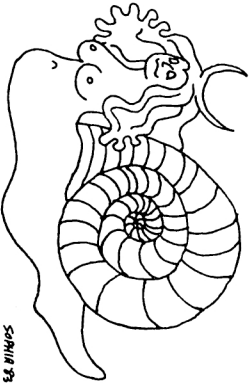
May:

- 1 Bethune Ritual
- 4 Newsletter deadline - Summer '83 issue
- 19 It makes sense

August:

- 8 Summer apprenticeship intensive

**EVENTS LINE 547-4830**



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San Francisco, California 94114**

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