



RECLAIMING

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 15

SUMMER

1984



FINANCIAL REPORT - SPRING QUARTER

Work Cell	\$ In	\$ Out (Expenses)	Salaries	Hours Worked
Teachers'	\$1070.00	-----	\$ 848.12	270
Newsletter	426.98 *	434.19	229.94	73
Administrative	-----	4.00	42.52	13.5
Misc. & Public Ritual	93.60	29.19	-----	-----
TOTALS	\$1590.58	467.38	1120.58	356.5

*approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of this came in the previous quarter

Reclaiming workers earned \$3.15/hour

THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is a forum for Reclaiming feelings, opinions, facts and controversy. The publication reflects the spirit of the people involved in it and the content of the submissions. If you want it to meet your needs - PARTICIPATE! There is no official membership - the magazine is open to anyone who identifies (or disagrees) with the struggle to unify spirit and politics.

Our production group is currently coordinated by an open group that rotates responsibility. Decisions are made by the entire work group. We always need more members to report, do graphics, typing, layout, bulk mailing, etc. Feel free to come and join us or send in your contribution.

The Fall Newsletter deadline is August 15. Call EVENTS LINE 547-4830 for editorial meeting and layout dates. Send material to RECLAIMING, P.O. Box 14404, SF., CA, 94114, marked "Newsletter".

This Issue was put together by Rose May Dance, Dragonstongue, Roy, Mark.

Cover Photo and Art by Roy King from Sculpture by Eleanor Myers

SUBMISSIONS

Anyone who submits work 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 an 8" column). We will not take responsibility for chasing down late material.

LETTERS AND GRAPHICS

We really appreciate your responses. Don't be discouraged if we don't have room to print what you write straight away or if we have to edit to make space. If you feel we have misrepresented you, please say so.

We are short on interesting graphics. If you draw or have photographs or illustrations you'd like to see included, send them to us. WE NEED ART!!!!!!

EVENTS LINE

The Events Line is a phone recording to announce events which happen too late to be included in the newsletter. Some are sponsored by Reclaiming, while others come via the grapevine. The number is 547-4830. To put something on the Events Line, leave a message on our machine. Be sure to include your number.

One realization that has come out of Reclaiming's inhale period is that our collective needs work on organization, and on the sharing of power. I felt that for much of the collective's life, I had been exercising subtle and not-so-subtle leadership--partly out of habit, partly because I was one of the founders and the longest continuing member, and partly because I'm the one who (so far) has the published books and the public name. Up until the Fall retreat, I had never wanted to admit that this dynamic was going on--but at the retreat we talked openly about power, and the difficulty of shifting it once it gets established. I felt that our decision to "inhale"--to stop, over the winter, from doing many of the things we had been doing--was a true shift in power, and a much wiser decision than I would have made personally.

The winter gave me the time to do some thinking about leadership. We have an ideology of leaderlessness--yet there are ways of looking at things and taking care of things that need to be done for any group to survive. I began thinking about how I think when I am exercising leadership--and about things I had seen others do in groups that were empowering and effective. It occurred to me that it might be possible to train people to be leaders--that indeed, it might be necessary if we were going to create a collective that is "leaderful"--where power is shared, rather than drifting rudderless up shit creek.

So, I decided to put together an experimental series of leadership workshops for the collective--with the idea that out of them I might also develop a workshop that could be useful to other groups. So far, we have had two of the series that will continue for at least two more evenings, and possibly longer. The meetings have been exciting, for me and (so I hear), for others--giving us a chance to do some deep thinking together about Reclaiming and its direction.

In the first evening, I outlined four aspects of leadership--not so much roles, as points of view that can be taken either by one individual at different times, or by different people in the group. A healthy group needs all four ways of perceiving. Individuals may naturally gravitate towards one or two--but can develop skills in the others. They also correspond nicely with the four directions, as follows:

LEADERSHIP FUNCTIONS:

EAST-AIR--Crows: keeping an overview, goals, planning, anticipating problems and contingencies, identifying and anticipating needs, strategy and strategic thinking.
SOUTH-FIRE--Graces: welcome newcomers, include people, peacemaking, enthusiasm--inspiration, liaison with potential friends/allies.
WEST-WATER--Snakes: keeping an underview, morale, interpersonal relations (gossip), conflicts (bring them up so they can be dealt with), vibeswatching.
NORTH-EARTH--Dragons: (I got this concept from the Cauliflower collective) guarding the boundaries, protect the group from intrusions/interruptions, liaisons with potential opponents, limits--recognizing, articulating, and setting them.

In the first session, we worked on crow skills, dividing into small groups to think about the following questions:

Some Questions For Crows: 1) What are our goals? How do we get there? --steps, priorities, timeline. 2) What is our constituency? Who are we reaching? Who do we want to reach? Not want to Reach? Who are our allies? Who is our opposition? 3) What are our strengths? Resources? What are our weaknesses? What are the forces for our work? What are the blocks/forces against us? What can we learn from past mistakes? Successes?

We began with a brainstorm on our goals. Some of them were: SURVIVAL, JOY, PURITY, LINKING SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL WORK, EXPERIMENTAL MAGIC IN THE SERVICE OF LIFE, COUNTRY RETREAT, CITY CENTER, DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE AND POWERFUL SEASONAL RITUALS, FIND THE GODDESS EVERYWHERE AND POINT HER OUT, TEACHING CHILDREN MAGIC, SUMMER CAMP, BUILDING A GODDESS AWARE CULTURE (much discussion on this one), TEACHING THE CRAFT AND EMPOWERING OTHERS TO TEACH, BECOMING A PART OF THE BROADER PAGAN COMMUNITY, RIGHT LIVLIHOOD--MONEY--FOR RECLAIMING MEMBERS, NURSING HOME, MORTUARY, CEMETERY.

A lot came out of the discussion of the questions. One insight is that our allies and our opposition are often the same groups--for example, other pagans. Another realization is that Reclaiming has historically been weak on dragons--on limit setters--leading to our near burnout last year.

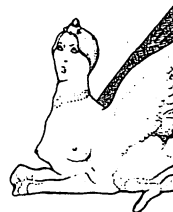
In the second session, we worked on snake skills, looking at the following questions:

Some Questions For Snakes: 1) What are the power relationships in the group? 2) What are the unspoken assumptions in the group? 3) Favorite Manipulations? 4) What do people fear? 5) Sexual Liaisons? Frustrations? 6) Alliances and Coalitions (within group). Enemies? People who don't get along? 7) What roles do people play? (We brainstormed many--rescuer, poltergeist, wheelgreaser, group critic/faultfinder, busybody, victim, scapegoat, realist-limiter, beast of burden, flake, continuity person--we did not identify any with specific individuals.) 8) What sorts of relationships might people have in the group? (Again, we brainstormed--power, sex, working relationships, skills/expertise, authority, mentor). 9) What factions and subgroups are there and what do they form around?

The discussion focused on two questions: What do we fear? and What are our unspoken assumptions? Among a whole list of fears, many dealt with our fears around magic--that it's bullshit, that it doesn't work, that it DOES work, that it can't be linked with politics, that it's dangerous to link it with politics. It also seemed that the openness and lack of centralized authority in the collective led to fear--fear of being outside the group and fear of being too much inside, fear that there is no real center to be a part of, no centralized structure. It seemed that our fears could also be sources of strength--telling us what to look at more closely, revealing some of the unseen difficulties in what we're doing.

The question about assumptions also produced a whole list. Again, many were paradoxical--that magic is immensely powerful and effective, that magic is easy and anyone can learn to do it quickly, that to have a political as well as a spiritual focus means valuing outwardly directed work over inner work, and a whole lot of others. One important area we encountered were our assumptions about sexuality, sex roles, feminism, and the value of separate women's and men's spaces. Those questions seemed to call for much longer discussion in the whole collective--and the larger community.

I will report in the newsletter on subsequent workshops, and I invite feedback from readers. If people would be interested in at some point having an ongoing class on this work, let us know, please.





INHALE, EXHALE (Whew!)

I spent the winter wondering whether Reclaiming would survive the inhale. We had agreed that we would spend the winter nurturing and teaching each other, doing long-range planning, and settling some issues, especially the money issue, instead of teaching classes, doing public ritual, or integrating new people into the collective. At our Spring Equinox retreat we took assessment of the winter and looked to the future. I approached the retreat with dread, wondering if it would be our last meeting. The winter had not gone as planned. We had used most of our energy dealing with the money policy for Reclaiming, and although some of the Reclaiming teachers taught classes to collective members, classes that were very exciting and beneficial, we had not gotten together very much, and things felt a little ragged.

However, spring brought hope. We did a marvelous ritual together, even if I do say so myself--I was part of the planning group--, and sat down to some great rounds of talk. We really had learned a good deal hammering out the money policy, going through lots of pain and difficulty in large meetings together, and we had come up with a system that felt better to us. We now report the hours we have worked, if we want to be paid for them, and we divide a portion of the Reclaiming earnings equally according to our hours, each quarter. There are minimum and maximum rates per hour, according to the collective's income. If we cannot make the minimum, we have agreed to make efforts to try to make it up the next quarter.

During our spring retreat it seemed to me that we came together softening the differences that we had felt among us. We felt like family and we felt more tolerant of each other and more realistic about what we could and could not do. We did a great round on "pride"--listing the collective's virtues and accomplishments. This was empowering and gave us the courage to plan for the future. We planned to continue classes, celebrate some open rituals, some private, slowly integrate new energy into the collective. We formed a group to begin a Reclaiming Workbook project for publication, we decided to try for another apprenticeship program in the summer of '85, and we talked about where we wanted to be, as a collective in 10 years. It became apparent during this retreat that we did indeed love each other much, and that we were glad we had taken a rest and were glad also to get down to work. -rmd

"When I need a friend I just give a wrinkle
Split right down the middle.
And when I look there's two of me
Both as handsome as can be...

...There's absolutely no strife
Living the timeless life."

--A Very Cellular Song, Incredible String Band

I had gotten so involved with writing about death I almost forgot about the slings and fortunes of outrageous Eros! Sex and death came into the world at the same time. Twins. Dark doubles. As long as amoebas were happily splitting apart, death did not exist. But the first time two beings came together and each gave a bit of themselves to create a third--the shock waves were felt in the farthest ovals and niches of the primordial ooze. Amoebas still exist, floating and squelching and dividing in immortal bliss, untroubled by differences (which do not exist) or divisions (which do not matter). But for the rest of us...

At one time, a favorite epithet newly feminist women hurled at men was "mutants". Biologically, the charge is accurate. Primary, original form is female. The Amazonian cockroach scorns bi-gender division, and thrives. Certain species of lizards are parthenogenic, to the distress of scientists who observed that the "love-making" of lesbian lizards seemed to stimulate their reproduction. The weirdness is how "mutant" ever got to be an insult, since mutation is Nature's way of experimenting, playing with new ideas, creating. Diversity improves a species chances of survival. It also makes life more interesting.

So. The bi-gender model is a choice, a choice we chose a long long time ago. From that difference, the difference of male and female, stem all our concepts of duality.

Dark and light is our favorite oppositional pair, after male and female. So it is no wonder we spend so much of our relationships trying to establish who is dark and who is light. Our main trick for this is projecting our shadow energy onto the other. ("X is afraid of intimacy, X doesn't know how to get close, X makes me so angry...")

When we begin a relationship, our state of limerence is like a glass that eliminates shadows. Our lover (or wish-was lover) glows, sparkles, exudes pure light. Never have we met anyone so radiant. ("Oh, s/he doth teach the torches to burn bright...") This noon of love is too dazzling to be truly clear. Soon the shadows creep in. We move our blankets away from cliffs, trees, perhaps even to higher ground. We admire the sunset, still thinking that we shall succeed at sailing into it. Then night falls.

If we are lucky, we have a long twilight, time for our eyes to adjust, time to learn appreciation for the strange and different beauty of the dark. But all too often the blackness drops like a stage curtain. We can't see. We stumble and fall. We run into each other; the hurting and the blame begin.

After several disappointments, we begin to categorize, to denounce the other, the "opposite" sex. "Men just can't nurture." "Women just like to tease." etc. etc. This is one of the beauties of same sex relationships; suddenly the other is not quite so otherly. Start generalizing about your own sex, and the mirror in front of your face becomes hard to ignore.

It is useful, when in the throes of intimate dishevelment, to be aware of two games intimates (and not so intimates) play with each other. One is called "Mirror, Mirror", one is called "Matching Energy", and they are related. Whenever there is misunderstanding between two people, one of these games is in progress. "Mirror Mirror" is when two people are mirroring each other perfectly, sharing the same dissatisfactions and disappointments (and illusions).

- A). "We don't have enough sex. You just don't seem turned on to me. I guess I'm just not good-looking enough or..."
- B). "What are you talking about! You're not turned on to me, that's why we don't have more sex---"

Recognizing that you both feel the same way is the beginning of having power with this game.

Matching energy is a little different; a match is a set of complementary dramas, or energies, rather than a twinning. Energy "matches" occur when each person unconsciously agrees to handle half of a duality. They include Anger/Fear, Attraction/Repulsion, Certainty/Confusion, Sexual Freedom/Jealousy, Anger/Guilt. Often we adopt roles to deepen and define the energy match; Mama (or Daddy)/Baby, Sadist/Masochist, Lover/Beloved, Teacher/Student, Lawgiver/Lawbreaker, Responsible One/Free Spirit, and, of course, Man/Woman which can also be played out as Butch/Femme. All of these matches are ways of playing with duality (you wear the black hat, I'll wear the white hat, you be the cowboy, I'll be the Indian.)

There's nothing wrong with playing with duality, that's a big part of what we're here for. The key is to be aware that we're playing with it, to play with it consciously, to feel it as a malleable clay rather than tablets of stone. As Oscar Wilde observed, people who play with fire never even get singed, it's the people who don't know how to play with it who get burned up. The inner balance of the Balinese trance dancer who walks the bed of coals unscathed does not come easily. We fall, take time out to nurse our wounds, return to try again. Retaining caution and releasing fear, respectful of the flame, and drawn to it, we learn to play in this most dangerous of elements. The object of the game is learning to expand joy and contain paradox. To hold two ideas, two energies, two opposites at once, to say, "this is true, completely true, and so is this; and how beautiful." Sex is the wonderful carrot, the peach, the lump of sweetness that induces us to play. To risk knowing ourselves and each other. To be fully awake and alive and in the moment--

How lucky we are to have chosen complexity.
How wonderful that we are all so different.



Gossip item

It was a great honour and a great pleasure to welcome Bethany - Unicorn into the community of women. Since she is Coven Wind Hags' very favorite daughter, they threw a ritual for her that was beautiful and poignant. Sitting in a garden in Persephone's season, a group of women celebrated women's mysteries with her and gifted her, and then joined the men who had made a great feast of red and white foods. May the Goddess stay with you Bethany Unicorn.

LUCIFER

I am the lord of light
I am fire fallen from heaven
My strength is of the sun
I am the end of death

I am your servant god
I warm your ice cave
when the winter sun is weak
banishing shadows
scorching your meat

I am the flaming courage
of fermented fruit and grain
burning dreams of conquest
in your guts and brain

I am your war torch
consuming timbers of enemy towns
I forge your bright spear of victory
I have served you long and well

I am the blast of black powder
slaying armies, breaking mountains
My strength is of a hundred suns
I serve you as you will

I devour the darkness
with incandescence, neon, fluorescence
I burn the night
Yes, I enslave rivers
What of it!
I am the Lord of Light

I am your highway to tomorrow
See only forward!
Be not haunted by extinct spirits,
fossils buried in my asphalt wake

I am your easy household god
You love me well
Touch a switch and you invoke me
Lord of marvels

I am narcotic electronic comfort
I blind your mind in living color
You sleep within my motors' hum
You dream within my circuits' throb

I am artificial extended life
I am a laser scalpel
painlessly extracting your instincts,
I detect no trace of chemical waste
in the tissue of your children's death

I am the right by which you rule,
the splendid, gleaming eye of wealth
leering in your hollow heart,
come wallow in my luxury!
Our bargain is well known,
you are all my whores

I gouge the earth to feed my fire
I have killed a million life forms
I am the spear that wounds forever
the radiant power of a million suns!
I am not of the dark ocean,
if she boils, what of it!

I am supernatural plutonium fire
screaming in your hardened core,
locked so well in your cancerous cell
how could I flow into your rivers' blood

I am the source of your shadow
etched forever on concrete
I am your mass x 186,000 miles/second squared
I am brilliance exceeding all balance
I am the blinding power of a billion suns

I fall from heaven
I fuse the essence of matter
I am the elemental fire
I will destroy all darkness
I am the spear that wounds forever
I am the end of death

I am Lucifer
Resplendent Lord of Light
God of the sun worshippers

You have called me
I am here

© Roy King



HOW TO GO INSIDE:

1. Stand in the pathway between the washer and dryer.
2. Pace in circles.
3. Give up looking for what you're looking for in the laundry room.
4. Walk in circles, faster.
 - a. faster
 - b. faster & faster
 - c. run
 - i. up on yer toes
 - ii. faster.
5. **STOP!**
 - a. one hand on washer, one on dryer
6. HOLD ON.
7. **DOWN** ↓
 - a. sit down
 - b. close yer eyes
close yer eyes and sit down.
 - c. deep deep
8. OUT.



--RMD Book of Shadows

DIABLU

I cut my little witchy teeth on Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power plant, and have enjoyed putting a lot of magical energy into the project of stopping the plant. I was of course disappointed that, after many good cliff-hangs, they started testing at 5% power in one of the units several weeks ago. However I do not feel defeated. That plant has a lot of magical energy bound around it, and it is a very hard job to defeat PG&E and the nuclear power industry and all the power behind it. Obviously it's going to take time, but I have faith in the elemental helpers that have been invoked, the coyotes yipping in the hills, the abalones clinging to life in the sea, and the great earth goddess who takes her own time. I feel sure that the lovely coast and hills near the plant are well protected, and that any stopping of the power plant's opening will follow the path of no harm. I see the tes'ing of the plant as just another step on Diablo's road to nowhere, to not opening. Diablo Canyon will never open. So mote it be. ---RMD

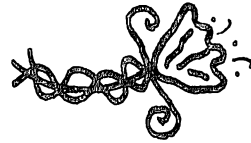
at twilight
the forest changes
hardwoods sway and creak
the earth quivers
something moves inside the air

the stones' silence encircles my senses
dissolving human certainties
in widening ripples of spirit

through the hollow night
the dark owl drops
her life in death wing beat stops
my serpent breath
i quake, a leaf in her white shadow
dancing under the graveyard of stars

caught thus
by the moon's sickle hook
laughing the laughter of the fox
the forest is rich beyond desire

RECLAIMING



EVENTS LINE 547-4830

RECLAIMING: A Center for
Feminist Spirituality and Counseling
P.O. Box 14404
San Francisco CA 94114



* CLASSES *



ELEMENTS OF MAGIC FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Dragonstongue and Andraste

With the art of magic, we deepen our vision and focus our will, empowering ourselves to act in the world. In this class we begin the practice of magic and goddess spirituality by working with the elements of magic: earth, air, fire, water, and spirit. Techniques will include visualization, sensing and projecting energy, chanting, trance, creating magical space, and structuring rituals. Beginning 6-week course, starting Monday, July 9, 7:30 p.m. Call Dragonstongue or Andraste at 731-2159 for registration and location. \$45-100 sliding scale.

UNSTUCK IN TIME Cerridwen Fallingstar

Learn to shed like a snake--and rise like a phoenix. Become unstuck in time through reincarnational experience. Experiencing other life spaces can reawaken old skills; explain and heal blocks in your creative abilities; give insight into relationships. Together we shall create a safe space to explore the "past" and create the "future." Six classes offered
Call Cerridwen at 461-9220 for information on time, place and suggested reading. This is an advanced class--previous experience with Reclaiming classes and trance required.

TRANCE FOR EMPOWERMENT

A one-day workshop in which we talk about trance techniques, design trance, and experience trance for individual empowerment. I hope to have both beginning and experienced students in this class. Saturday, September 15, morning and afternoon with lunch break. Sliding scale \$10-30. Call Rose May Dance 641-5836.

GODDESS IN THE WILD: a one-day adventure with the purpose of visiting the Goddess in her wild state, to make ritual in local sacred sites, for healing, empowerment, and joy. With Sophia and Rose. FOR WOMEN ONLY -- Saturday, September 4. FOR WOMEN AND MEN -- Saturday, September 18. Sliding scale \$7-20. Call Sophia 461-9220.

LUGHNASAD ritual Saturday, July 28, at Rodeo Beach, gather at 1:00. Bring food for two meals, firewood, warm and cool clothes. If you like, bring bread shaped like the god Lugh, dough people made with cookie cutters to toss in the fire, and cookies shaped like stars, to eat. Call Rose to help plan ritual, 641-5836, and call Events Line for further update and confirmation on this date and time. Celebrate the winnowing, the first fruits, and help to turn the wheel.

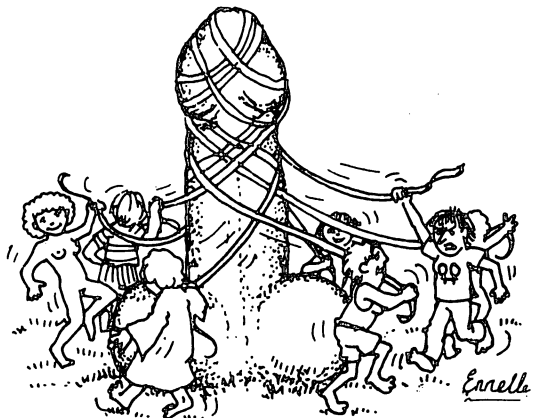


GARDEN PARTY"

June 30, Saturday, 10:00 AM til 4:30. Come work in the Reclaiming magic garden. There will be weeds to pull, mulch to lay, and new plants to place in the earth. We especially need (and have room for) the following magical/healing herbs: hyssop, mullein, vervain, patchouli, mugwort, violets, marjoram, orris root, French lavender, coltsfoot, horehound, pennyroyal, borage, foxglove, betony, angelica, burdock, celandine (swallowwort), eyebright, scullcap, valerian, black cohosh, blue cohosh, motherwort, yarrow, heliotrope, and wormwood.

2752 Harrison Street, San Francisco, near intersection with 24th St. 824-8566. Bring refreshments, if you like.

SUMMER SOLSTICE RITUAL Thursday, June 21, gather at 7:00 pm. Call EVENTS LINE for location. Bring flowers and food. Planned by Creating Public Ritual Class.



ONCE WE'VE GOT THIS BIT WELL AND TRULY
TIED DOWN ---- MAYBE IT'LL BE SAFE
TO DIG UP THE REST OF HIM!

RECLAIMING'S SLIDING SCALE FOR 6-WEEK CLASSES

In order for Reclaiming to offer affordable classes to people on all income levels, it is important that students pay a fair share of costs. In placing yourself on the following simple sliding scale, please take into account factors not included such as children and other dependents supported by your income.

Income	Fee for 6 sessions
0-\$8,000	\$45
\$8-12,000	\$55
\$12-15,000	\$65
\$15-18,000	\$80
\$18,000 up	\$100

RECLAIMING BARTER POLICY--Trusting the Law of Return.

The reclaiming teachers cell, after much difficulty, has decided to stop keeping barter records. We still ask that anyone who takes a reclaiming class put some time or energy into the collective efforts (bulk mailing, helping with public ritual, typing, childcare, publicity), but we ask that students decide themselves how much energy they will put in, and take responsibility for asking reclaiming members what needs to be done, or--even better--noticing something that needs attention and pitching in.

The reason we are taking a less organized approach to barter is simply that we cannot keep up with the record keeping and the calling and coordinating that our former system needed. In Reclaiming we are trying to be realistic about what works, what doesn't, what we can do and what we cannot. We still need people to volunteer to help us, in many ways, but we would rather have this help on a friendship basis, rather than keeping track of who "owes" us a favor. Perhaps we can keep a listing in the newsletter or on the hotline of the needs of the collective. ---RMD

Dear (Inhaling) Reclaiming,

This is a (belated) response to your request for feedback on Reclaiming.

I have been involved with Reclaiming on an occasional basis - taken one class, gone to some rituals. First of all let me say, in case you are not aware of it yourselves, that Reclaiming is very hard to find out about. I notice you don't distribute flyers, advertise in such New Age publications as Common Ground, etc. I guess you work most thru networking, word-of-mouth, etc. Maybe this is for the best, because you avoid commercialism and having to "sell yourself" to the world at large, and because it means the people find you who really want to find you. Still, I'm sure there are plenty of isolated people who would like to find a resource such as you, and aren't able to. So this aspect of how visible you want to be, especially if you are concerned now with getting "new blood" into the system, is something you may want to think about.

Before I go any further, let me first throw out some good feedback, since that is usually ignored in situations such as this. I don't think I've ever dealt with an organization/entity/group of any sort that defined itself as such and yet succeeded in being as open, as nonauthoritarian, as nondogmatic as you are. You bring people together to do magic that works; you teach, lead; and yet you don't indoctrinate. You don't ask us to reverse or even believe you or "buy more" from you; you encourage us to take and use our own power. This is no small accomplishment in today's day and age of authoritarian cults and governments. Oh yes, and the blending of spirit and politics - how long I have been waiting for a community that would see that they are intrinsically wedded, not opposed - that would insist on the primacy in our lives of both, not one or the other!

You talk about having to draw off boundaries now, and how uncomfortable you feel about that. But the truth is that any group or community, any self-defined entity, defines itself as such in part by drawing off boundaries. Is not the casting of a ritual circle a process of drawing boundaries? Without some kind of created edges, we'd all be protoplasm. More important, I think, is to see clearly what these boundaries are and to stretch or challenge them continually.

On my own part I sense a certain cultural nervousness in Reclaiming which, being unavoidably middle-class myself, I probably partake of - but I see it anyway. You speak of the problems of working with a basically "agrarian tradition" in today's high-tech world -

but do you not partake of and gain from this world? Aren't the newsletters sent out with computer-generated labels? Not that our present lifestyle is not seriously "out of balance" and in need of radical change, but I think any true movement can only come from working through and with the world we have and what it has made; not from regressing into some artificial tofu utopia that maybe never existed to start with. We are experiencing - and helping to bring about - a return to a very ancient, hidden tradition; but I believe that those energies we uncover must be filtered through the forms we exist in now, in order for it to have any real relevancy. We are completing a circle by turning back to the Old Ways, but the circle is also a spiral carrying us further forward in the very act of returning. Remember that agriculture itself was a radical technical innovation which brought about far-reaching changes in the human race itself and which was bound up from the first with the Goddess.

Another area in which I think Reclaiming could be stronger is the scholarly/intellectual component. I think most "New Age"/human potential/whatever people tend to react so strongly away from the "head" bias we have in our culture that they throw out a very valuable part of ourselves as well. I agree that "thinking too much" and over-analysis does get in the way of effective ritual and magic work, that it involves a surrender of this faculty; but there is a time to give this up and a time to reclaim it. Stepping away from something and being able to examine it critically and analytically can be an essential - as well as exhilarating - part of any process, and it also enables us to make connections we might not otherwise - and connecting is the first principle of any magical work. The intellect is the element of air, its tool the sword - and it needs to be recognized as such and integrated with the other elements, not shunned as undesirable. To me it is most powerful when fully integrated with the other elements, so that our thoughts and our feelings and our bodies can freely flow together, exist with and not in spite of each other.

What could this mean practically? That I see the Goddess tradition as part of a rich, complex, and fascinating - if often ignored - system of thought and discourse. That groups and classes could spend more time before or after rituals discussing pagan history and thought; they could read and discuss a book together, or bring in relevant poetry (and all poetry is said to belong to the Goddess) to share. A group of people could form a circle specifically to read and discuss magic-related literature, both ancient and modern; personally I would be interested in such a group.

Enough for you? I have one other thing, related to what I just said. I would like to know about Reclaiming's own history, too, both as an organization and what the individuals involved in it have gone through. You write now of going through a period of "burnout," but for those of us, like me, who have only been involved in Reclaiming for a short time, we don't know exactly what you've been through that "burned you out." If you want "new blood" in Reclaiming now to carry on, I think it would be most helpful for them to know more of what you have been through - what worked and what didn't. If we truly want to move forward now, we need a clearer idea of where we have been. This history could be published in the newsletter, or elsewhere where it could be made available to those interested.

I hope this has been helpful (if not exhausting). As I've said, what you do is basically, still, life-giving, magical (naturally), and - most importantly - fun - and I hope you keep doing it, in one form or another, however changed. And I do hope you do change - as everything living must; and I thank the Goddess for giving you the courage and willingness to change.

Love,

Roberta Werdinger

P.S.: Replies/feedback are welcome. Send to Reclaiming; we'll print and/or forward them.

present imperfect
the coin has two sides

by andruid

i take the contradictions of society into me
i need to work out
fight the battle in the culture -- transform our beliefs
the sense of profits is burning our planet out
-- "incoherence"

I drank inspiration from Cerridwen Fallingstar's "Future Perfect". The concept of "vision-time" -- our power to project, with will, into the future what bubbles into our imaginations from the past in the present -- resonates deep within me; the energy spirals out. I especially like the reassuring vision of future me looking back with love at me now encouraging me to envision whole futures.

Yet, to transform civilization it is not enough to live in hope and love. Diablo Canyon Nuke is running. People are destitute in West Oakland and the Fillmore and elsewhere. The re-election of Ronald Reagan, a war in Central America -- no, not inevitable, I guess. More immediate than a potential end of the world. I must despair some, sometimes. The rising head of corporate fascism confronts us. I need to acknowledge the fear and pain, to live now; to feel the fear and pain that prevail now, in order to do the work of transformation.

I observe a tendency in myself and my friends to find community with others of like background: white, middle class, relatively educated. I find wonderful community. In these times it is not enough.

In this age of interdependence, as global limits are being reached here on Gaea, we can only heal ourselves, we can only heal the Mother if we work as well to help heal her other children -- children remote from us, Third World people, Amazon jungles, ... If we and others fail to take responsibility for the whole, all will starve or burn or be enslaved together. If we take the pain and despair of society into ourselves and work through them, concurrently holding on to the mane of hope, riding the hope and the love of the vision-time, we have a chance to pass through.

Taking steps to cross social boundaries is difficult. I don't know a lot about how to do it. No one tells me how, and it is hard to find encouraging social reinforcement.

Taking steps to cross social boundaries is necessary. The establishment uses the mass-media to permeate the populus with its culture, politics, economics. We need to be able to communicate with other oppressed people from whom we are estranged on the level of younger self, playfully making connections with symbols, with emotions, with art, with magic. Locally grown media may help us plant the ritual energy of locally grown culture out in the soil of surrounding environs.

We must wrestle with the curse of financial incentives, as did Shawn in "A small meeting with myself". We need to survive economically; we need to make sure money is not the *raison d'etre* of our work/play. I personally bring technology to collective scenarios not only because I enjoy playing with the magic powers of circuitry and software but also to transform practices and meanings. A digital delay is a machine that echos its audio input, suggesting rhythms, building up layers of sound, allowing one to sing duets, trios, ... with oneself and others simultaneously. Entrancing toys. The same signal processing technology is used in radar systems. There are contradictions in raising capital to buy such machines, as there are contradictions in enjoying any economic privileges.

If we don't address the contradictions we may wake up one day with the thought police on our doorsteps, or exploding cruise missiles. If we do not address the contradictions, if we raise a truly alternative, revolutionary society (at first) alongside of the status quo, our children's children may live in a network of collective communities, in balance with Mother Earth. Only when we experience both sides of the coin may we move with its flips. Struggle/Enjoy. Despair/Hope. Pain/Joy. Fear/Love. Present Imperfect/Future Perfect.

STARHAWK'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

July 7-14 Holy Names College, Oakland

July 28-August 4 Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA

Two week-long institutes in Creation Centered Spirituality. I'll be teaching Creating Ritual and Feminist Theology--the context is Christian and somewhat academic but very open and exciting--for more info., contact: I.C.C.S. Summer Program, Holy Names College, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94619, 415-436-0111.

July 19 Boston--Evening talk and ritual: Reclaiming our Power: Magic, Sex and Politics. Contact: Andras Corban, 617-395-1023.

July 20-22 Weekend workshop with Beth Bone Blossom on Dreams, Trance and Group Trance at Another Place, New Hampshire. Contact: Bone Blossom 203-346-7917.

July 23-26 4-Day workshop on Ritual and Personal Power--for women only. Hardscrabble Hill, Maine. Contact: Hardscrabble Hill, Box 130, Castine Road, Orland, Maine 04472, 207-469-7112.

August 21 or 22-25 or 26 Five day workshop on Ritual and Personal Power, Freiberg, Germany. Contact: Verlag Hermann Bauer, Postfach 167, 7800 Freiberg I Br., West Germany.

I may also be scheduling workshops in Cornwall and/or Amsterdam. For information, write Starhawk--SUMMER, 315 Precita, San Francisco, CA 94110.

September 7-9 Weekend workshop on Ritual and Personal Power, Esalen, Big Sur. Contact: Esalen Institute, 408-667-2335.

Everything is open to men, except the Hardscrabble Hill workshop.

NINTH ANNUAL PAGAN SAMHAIN FESTIVAL -- Sunday, November 4th, 1984-Noon to 6PM

The largest Pagan gathering in the history of the United States is already being planned by Herman Slater of the Earth Star Temple in association with the Magical Childe Inc..

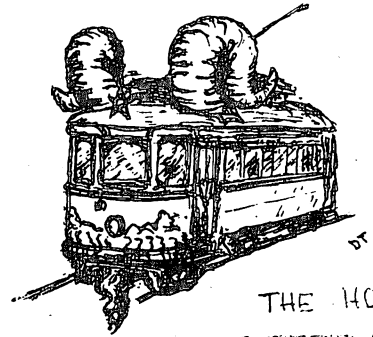
Two years ago, over 700 people attended the festival held at the Magical Childe and because of the crowded conditions, Earth Star and M.C. have arranged with the City of New York for a street permit to hold the event on the entire block located in front of 35 West 19th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues), for the second year!

The event is for Pagans, Heathens, Witches, Magickians, and followers of Earth religions only.

Meditation on the Pride point

I'm proud
that
I'm so loud.
I'm awfully pleased that
I have guts
And that some people
think I'm nuts.
I'm so proud that
I'm so bright.
I'm proud that I'm
so often right.

Rosie



THE HORNED
STREETCAR

Reviews of other Pagan Journals. -- Shawn Usha

This review will cover journals from other Pagan communities on the West Coast. We receive quite a few journals, some from foreign countries, and wanted Newsletter readers to be aware of the incredible diversity and energy in the larger community.

Pagana published in San Jose by Valerie Voight and Zephyr Starwater. Many articles of interest to all pagans--a Forum section dealing mostly with Craft ethics, book reviews, classifieds, craft techniques, gatherings and news. Includes also local news and gossip. PO Box 9494, San Jose, CA 95157.

Wiggansnatch published in Seattle by Laughing Otter and contributors. An angry and political paper with a good sense of humor and self satire. Besides traditional pagan info like dreams and rituals, the magazine veers off into technology, Space Migration and good fast food. 701 31st Ave S., Seattle, WA 98144.

Heretic's Journal a self published journal also out of the Seattle area. Anarchist and pagan. Articles on Feminism, a regular series "Big Brother is Watching" covering stuff like Disinformation in the media, the KAL 007 flight; also more regular spiritual material. Original and thought provoking. Robert Ashworth, PO Box 2161, Bellingham, WA 98277.

Panergyria a one page newsletter from a pagan community in Washington. They have purchased land with a retreat house. They are in the process of developing a Wiccan tradition based on service to the land and the larger Pagan Community. They plan to sponsor workshops, rituals, seasonal celebrations and training sessions. They would like to hear from you. Pete Davis, The Aquarian Tabernacle Church, Inc. PO Box 73, Index, WA 98256.

Silver Elves a newsletter for the Elven community and those who feel themselves developing Elven nature. The elves are currently on wing to various gatherings but can be contacted at 409 Washington St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

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ALL IN PERSON WORKSHOPS & WEEKENDS

- June 15, 16 & 17 - Dr. Al P. Manning: *ESP Lab Weekend Workshop* - \$150
- June 22, 23 & 24 - Simon: *Necronomicon Weekend Workshop* - \$150
- June 29, 30 & 31 - Migene Gonzalez Wippler: *Santeria Workshop Weekend* - \$150
- July 7, 8 & 9 - Grady McMurtry (Caliph, OTO) *Aleister Crowley Weekend Workshop* - \$150
- July 13, 14 & 15 - Brad Steiger: *Spiritual Alchemy Weekend Workshop* - \$150
- July 20, 21 & 22 - Kenneth Anger: *Magick Lantern Cycle Lucifer Rising Weekend Workshop* - \$150 (Films & Presentation)

- Sat. July 28 - Kate Ferraday/Moser: *Advanced Tarot* (6 hours) - \$35
- August 3, 4 & 5 - Gavin and Yvonne Frost: *School of Wicca Weekend Workshop* - \$150
- August 10, 11 & 12 - Janet and Stewart Farrar: *What Witches Do Weekend Workshop* - \$150
- August 17, 18 & 19 - Sherel Ito & Lavinia Williams: *Divine Horseman Film, Haitian Dance Demonstration & Weekend Workshop* - \$150

- Sat. August 25 - Lady Heather: *Magickal Mishaps or How to Fry Yourself* (6 hour workshop) - \$35
- Sat. Sept. 1 - Simon: *Enochian Magick Workshop* (6 hours) - \$35
- Sept. 7, 8 & 9 - Melita Dennings & Osborne Phillips: *3 Day Magical Retreat Workshop Weekend* - \$150

Sept. 14, 15 & 16 - Michael Bortaux: *Monastery of 7 Rays; Voodoo & Gnostic Teachings on Time & Space Weekend Workshop* - \$150

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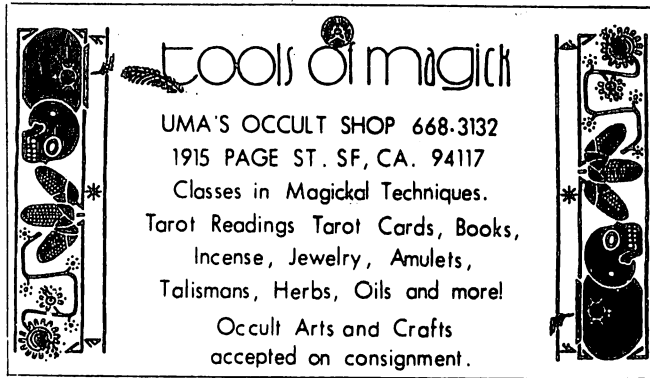
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ABOUT NOTICES: Notices are for any announcements of concern to the community. For services or classes that charge money, please include \$5.00 for 1-5 lines, and \$10.00 for 6-10 lines. Other announcements are free. Thank you.



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Woman artist, pianist seeking household with people studying and expressing Goddess culture. Call Robin, 387-7365.

ASTROLOGY AND PALMISTRY WORKSHOPS, taught by Kooch

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

To receive issues of the Newsletter at home, send your \$\$ subscriptions to Reclaiming, P.O. Box 14404, San Francisco CA 94114. \$3-\$10 one year; \$6-\$20 for two years; minimal income, cannot donate.

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We want to hear from you!

I am renewing because:

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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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