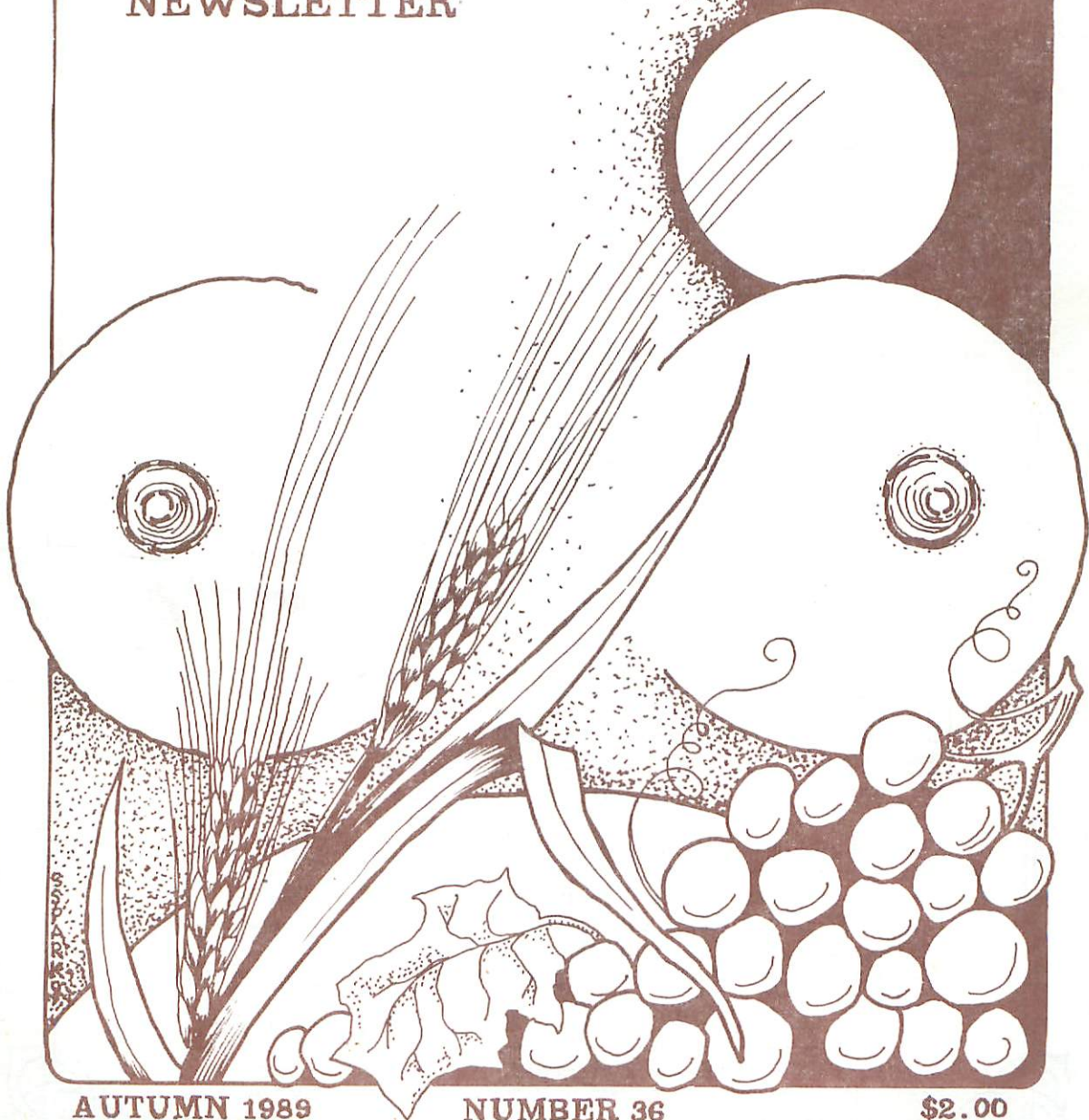


Reclaiming

NEWSLETTER



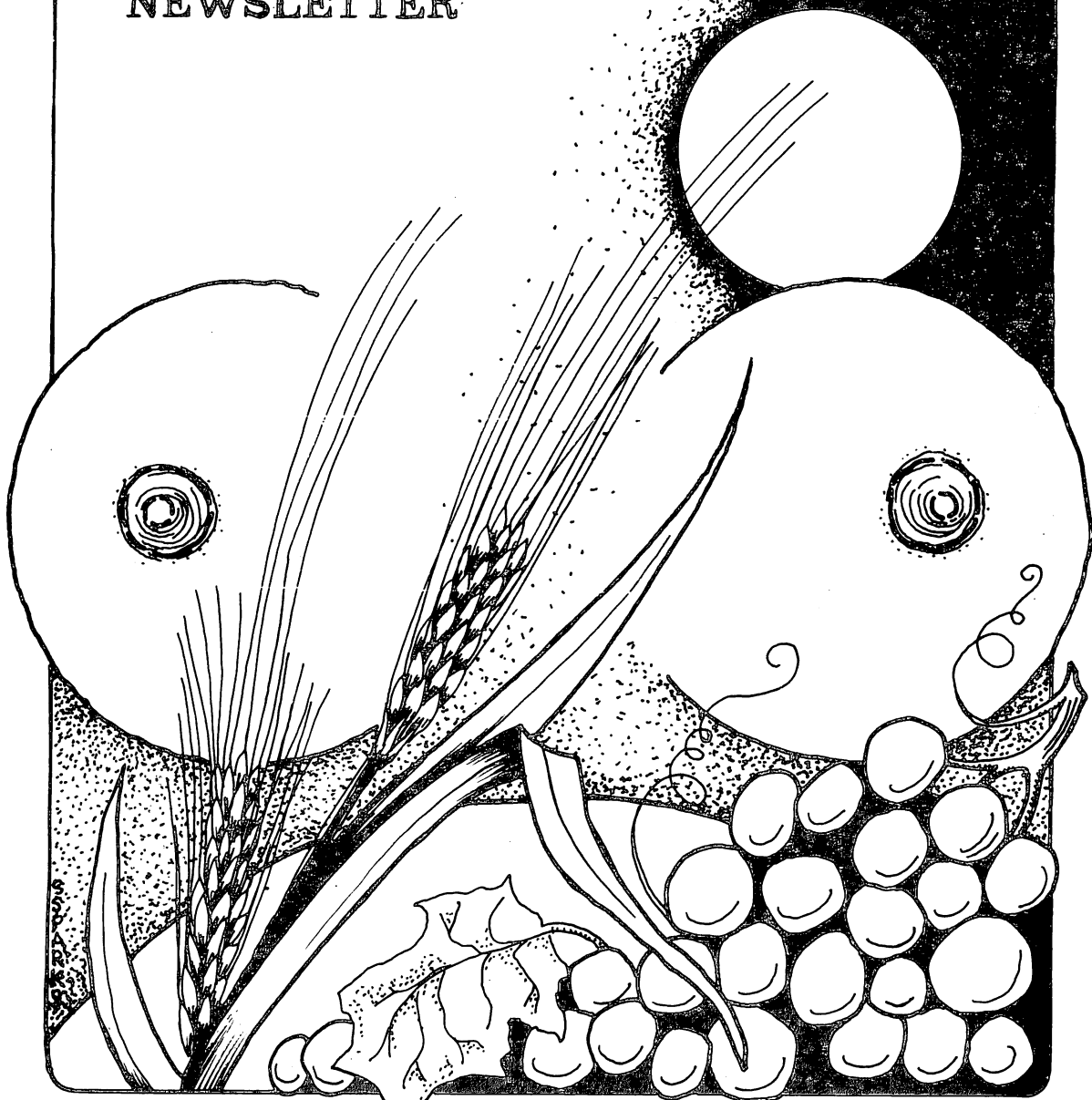
AUTUMN 1989

NUMBER 36

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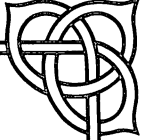

NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 1989

NUMBER 36

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Reclaiming
A Center for Feminist Spirituality
P.O. Box 14404
San Francisco, CA 94114

Newsletter Submissions:

The Newsletter encourages people to submit articles, letters, or graphics related to political, pagan or spiritual issues and happenings. **GRAPHICS ALWAYS WELCOME!**

We may edit for length, spelling, punctuation and grammar; we do not alter poetry.

While we are pleased to print letters or articles on ethics, we will not print personal charges or countercharges.

All submissions, whether we print them or not, eventually find their way into our cauldron, so keep copies for yourself. Please do not ask us to return your work.

Submissions are due on or before the deadline, camera-ready if possible (4" columns, justified, 5-space paragraph indentation). The Newsletter staff has sworn off its lamentable co-behavior and will not chase down late submissions. We really mean it this time.

The views expressed in articles and advertisements in this Newsletter belong to the authors and advertisers...not to the Reclaiming Community or the Newsletter Staff. Some of us don't like some of the stuff we print.

Winter deadline is November 4.

HELP! WE NEED YOUR BLOOD! If you can donate blood into Reclaiming's account [#1913] at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (567-6400 for information/appointment), please do so. If you or a loved one need blood for surgery, etc., contact Rose at 821-3336 for transfer. If the Goddess blesses you with good health, please share and give the gift of life. **And many thanks to our donors.**

☞ RECLAIMING EVENTS LINE ☞
(415) 849-0877

This phone recording, listed under Reclaiming in Berkeley, carries announcements which come up too late to be put in the newsletter; it's also a phone number to contact us (but be aware that we can't always reply quickly). Call us with events and announcements to add to the message. Messages can also be sent to the P.O. box. Please remember to say where we can reach you with questions, and allow plenty of time.

- The Recording Faerie

Anne, Cherie, Jody, Karen, Macha, Megan, Randy, Rose & Roy
all did this together just for you. Thank we very much!!!!

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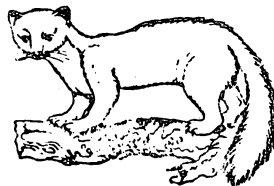
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COVER DESIGN by Sophia Sparks



"Anarchism, the belief and practice that people are capable of directing and living their lives without the imposition of external authority, is one of the greatest visions of humanity. With its emphasis on people acting responsibly; practicing individual and collective direct action; fighting injustice; and creating a freer society, it shines the brightest light in the tunnel of contemporary daily life, which constantly threatens to entomb the world."

-- WITHOUT BORDERS Anarchist Conference and Festival Guide Book

The Anarchist Conference-Festival (Con-Fest), held in San Francisco July 20-25, was a stimulating and loving experience. Unfortunately it was followed by a "Day of Action" which was planned, according to the guide book, by a "group separate from the Without Borders planning group", held in the East Bay and carried out by some Con-Fest attendees. This action was a mindless free-for-all supposedly benefitting the homeless, and included a brave attack on a Coca-Cola truck, much smashing of coke bottles, and a trashing of a site which had already been designated to be turned over to homeless. This action gave the Con-Fest very bad press -- surprise, surprise, and made me fold up my souvenir T-shirt and badge and put them in the bottom drawer. I'm still getting phone calls from allies on the left who knew I was involved in the Anarchist Con-Fest, asking me what the hell was going on. There is a meeting scheduled among anarchists in the area, including folks from the cluster I work with, Circle A, and people involved in the Berkeley riot, to talk about feelings arising from the Berkeley Day of Action. I hope some good healing and resolution comes out of the meeting, and that the joy, excitement, and nourishment attendees experienced at the Con-Fest can outshine the troubled end to the week.

The Con-Fest was held at a Middle School in the San Francisco Mission District and was attended by over two thousand people, many wearing the same hairdo and uniform. A therapist friend of an anarchist therapist friend wandered into the school that week,

inadvertently, and saw the anarchists lounging, eating, jamming, arguing, emoting, feeding each other, -- in general creating a thriving youth-culture village. Gazing at the predominantly punked-out attire and general aura of alienation, she said to herself, my God, what are they doing to the school children in this city. On closer inspection she realized that these people were too old to be in Middle School, so she asked a few questions. Later she related her tale to our mutual friend and asked, are these the people you've been going to Anarchist Coffee House with? She was duly impressed.

I am being too flip. But it was shock to feel so old and settled among this large crowd of mostly youthful anarchists. And yet it felt great, I was right at home, and I feel hope for the future. The workshops were inspiring. It was often hard to tell who was facilitating or teaching a workshop if you walked in late, because the energy passed around so smoothly and because each person seemed so bright and articulate.

There were too many good workshops offered, often two or three great-sounding classes in time conflict with each other. Moher and I noted with distress that we would have to choose between "Wild Sensuality" (commonly referred to as "the orgy") and "Growing Older as an Anarchist." We did go to the latter, which was good, but at the break I snuck down the hall to look in the door at the other workshop. Yup, they were doing it. Oh well.

The Reclaiming Community presented a workshop at the Con-Fest on Witchcraft and Direct Action, followed by a ritual called Re-membering the Goddess. We did not know what to expect, or quite how to plan. We knew we would be dealing with an empowered audience, anti-authoritarian and "live". We also were quite aware that there are anarchists who feel that any kind of spirituality is a hidden form of hierarchy, and we expected to be challenged by this school of thought. I was more nervous than I have ever been before a class or workshop, because I felt I would be facing my peers -- people as feisty and rebellious (if not more) as I am.

The classroom quickly filled and began to overflow, and we had to move to the gymnasium. More than 200 people filed into the room. We decided not to present speeches about Witchcraft and Direct Action, but after a brief introduction to open the floor to discussion on the subject. What followed seemed like a tent-meeting revival. Anarchist after anarchist stood and shouted out (the gym was cavernous) their feelings about and experiences of the Goddess and the Craft within their political work. They testified. It was marvelous. We heard some good stories -- one woman told of the spell her coven did which they feel brought on the disclosures of Watergate and fall of Nixon.

After 90 minutes of this love-fest, we paused, then reconvened for ritual. Because of the size of the group, we simplified our plans. We gave clear guidelines for the ritual, asking that everyone be responsible for the energy, that no one take up more than his/her share of space or rip off the energy, but be aware of the needs of the group. We summarized the ritual plan and intention. What followed was one of the most focussed rituals for 200+ people I could ever imagine. We had expected that a bunch of anarchists might spontaneously change the ritual and take it off in their own direction, and we had no objection to that happening, as long as everyone was happy. But mutual respect, responsibility, and joy about being with so many like-minded individuals seemed to unite the group's intention, and they accepted our ritual plan (which after all, was a pretty good plan). There was creativity and spontaneity in the responses, dancing and trancing, and after the ritual people continued drumming and dancing. Because of this, we did not have an opportunity to ask for feedback, and we left, somewhat mystified.

However, the ritual Reclaiming was scheduled to facilitate several days later, at the closing of the conference, was a different story. We had been asked by an organizer if we would help with the closing, but when the time came, it looked impossible and inappropriate. People had massed in the courtyard for dinner, there was an open mike and folks had been speaking for over an hour, a rock band was jamming in one corner.

I knew, at 7:30, that it was the announced time of the ritual, so I approached the open mike. An organizer

said, are you going to do a closing? Can you get everybody out of here in 15 minutes? The contract with the school required everyone to leave the grounds within the next half hour. I thought that if we could get everyone into a circle and quickly raise some energy, we could indeed organize folks into leaving on time. We were weary, and were daunted by the challenge of making ritual with this diverse, relaxed crowd, who were perfectly happy not making ritual. Our reluctant plan was to make a circle and dance a spiral. I spoke into the mike and asked people to make a circle, then stepped away from the mike. The courtyard was vast, the circle so big, we realized we could never get a song started. We simply began to spiral in. We spiralled less than one quarter around the circle, and then anarchy broke out. Yay! One part of the circle broke away and began to play crack the whip. Another line of people snaked into the center and out again. Bicyclists and unicyclists darted in and out of the center. People set off fireworks. Tumblers performed. A group-grope began. There were amoebas made out of lots of wiggling humans. Other small clusters grouped together with raised hands, chanting. As soon as the energy of any particular sub-group died, another sub-group would raise up. It was chaos, and it was wonderful. I felt energized and happy and chipper. We didn't ground the power, because it didn't want to be grounded, and besides we were definitely no longer in charge, to our relief. When we got tired, we simply left, following the organizers who were carrying equipment out to waiting trucks. I imagine that people left the festival site shortly afterwards. We went home for tea and chocolate, to celebrate anarchy.

. . .
Next rant is about the Spiral Dance. I'll never forget the day of the first Spiral Dance Ritual I attended, in 1981. I walked into the Hall of Flowers, where priestesses were running around madly making last-minute preparations. Mighty Macha the Nightmare saw me standing by the door, and drew me in to show me the incredibly beautiful altars she was helping to build. "Isn't it wonderful?" she said. "A first class show, and all of it is our gift to the Goddess!"

The Spiral Dance is a labor of love, and is indeed our offering to Her

and to the community. For those of us involved in the planning and the performance, let us not forget our intention, nor get lost in bickering, controlling, grandstanding, flipping out, burning out, and being prima donnas. It is hard to work together, and it is a gift of love and service, and it can be a lot of fun. "Let it begin with each step we take, and let it begin with each change we make."

That last quote is from a beautiful new litany written by the good Starhawk for the 1989 Spiral Dance. Unfortunately, her evil twin, the bad Starhawk, with the help of several bad coveners, has already written a parody, not entirely irreverent, concerning the miracles of a famous avatar. We attribute this to Star's having just experienced two weeks with the Catholics, and we wonder if they have a ritual to recommend which might fix Starhawk. Baptism? Exorcism? Now I'm really in trouble.

We say a fond farewell to Jone, who has spent half a year studying us. She has gone back to Oslo, with her friend Connie, and of course with her daughter, Andrea. We will miss them all. Andrea learned to talk here in California, and speaks only Norwegian, although she understands English. But she knows most of the songs on the Reclaiming Tape -- her favorite, so she can sing in English. The last day I saw her she was prattling away with that old favorite, "We all come from the Gobbess." Hope to see Jone back for the Spiral Dance, or soon. A number of years ago we made up a verse of "Give Me That Old Time Religion" which seems appropriate here:

Well we all remember Jone
We can call her on the phone-a
And it costs a lot of krone
But it's good enough for me!



NEO-PAGANS FOR CHOICE by Myth Woodling

In Washington D.C. on April 9, an estimated three hundred thousand people marched in a rally sponsored by the National Organization for Women to preserve the legal right to have an abortion in this country. Many different religious contingencies were represented in the Pro-Choice march, including Neo-Pagans and Wiccans, who carried a Goddess image, plus a banner that read, "Neo-Pagans for Choice".

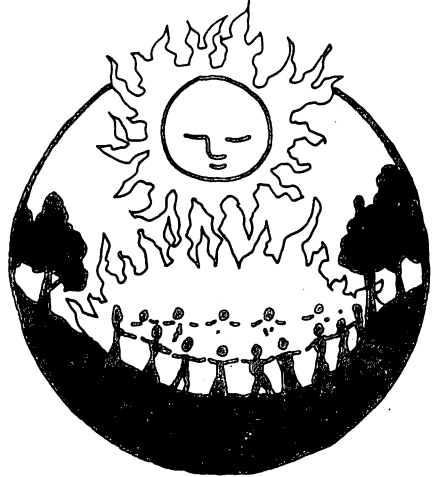
Miriam of Free Spirit Alliance compiled and distributed a booklet called THE LAST CHOICE. It contained poetry, meditations, and appropriate simple rituals that acknowledge both necessity and grief of having to choose an abortion. Abortion, even when legal, should be the last choice of a woman. However sometimes it is the best option open to her. I urge all Neo-Pagans and Wiccans to support legal right for abortion in her/his own state.

[If you wish to contact Miriam, write c/o Sirius Endeavors, PO Box 11246, Wilmington, DE 19850.



PREVENTION POINT NEEDLE EXCHANGE NEEDS
YOUR SUPPORT

Well, here we are, 10 months later, OVER 15,000 "points of light" received and exchanged, and Prevention Point is still going strong. Every Wednesday night, volunteers work in three different parts of San Francisco for two hours, exchanging old syringes for new ones. The volume of exchanges increases steadily each week, and it has become financially difficult for us to keep up with the demand. The bureaucratic, political, and legalistic machinery that will make all of this legal someday (soon?), grinds slowly along. Now, we need you to exchange your support for money. Unfortunately, we do not have the kind of the status that makes your contributions tax deductible, but you can sleep better knowing you have contributed directly to stopping the spread of AIDS via needle-sharing. Checks can be made out to George Clark/Prevention Point, and mailed to 1090 Eddy Street, #604, San Francisco, CA. 94109-7628. Blessed Be Prevention Point Supporters.



MEADOWS

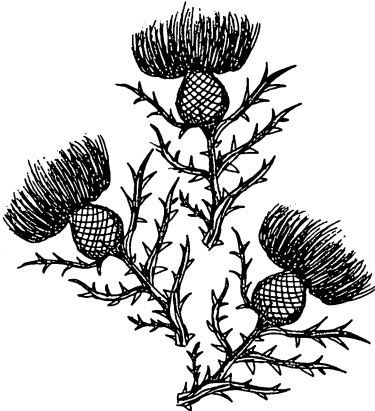
Surely this becoming never ceases,
only we meet with hands to guide us.

The roadside meadows beauty beckons
with soft shimmer and sigh -- To grant us witness!!

Now a twinkle,
now a howl,
in the distance vision new.

We travel the hills with gratitude,
touched by the sunlit meadow --
and strengthened by the journey.

In the distance cries the stars --
for surely have we just begun.



Thomas A Fuller



I would like to tell all of you who have been writing me after my last columns that you can stop now. Because when somebody writes a letter that says who do you think you are Hannah, then that is not a True Question at all but only a Hidden Opinion. And I went and got some advice from a Very Good Source, and she says that the best policy is to not answer those letters, so I'm not.

I would like to point out that I did not get nearly so many opinions in the mail when I lay on my death bed after the terrible glitter bomb planted by the pacifist terrorists. Did I get bunches of letters saying, Oh Hannah I am so sorry you got bombed, here is some money? No I did not. But just one little column where I barely mention that thing about reality and there is my mailbox, all stuffed up with Opinions.

Also it is not true, what one of you wrote, that this is not really a household hints column, because I always put at Least one in, and Sometimes More. Well I have a lawyer, as you know, so do not think you can get me fired like you said, because even in a place like Reclaiming they can recognize Quality when they see it, especially when they get it at what I would like to point out is a Pretty Cheap Price.

Anyway, for those of you who are behaving yourselves, I apologize for having had to take up so much of my valuable column space in Explaining Reality.

I am very excited about my household hint this time, which is about the telephone. Some of you have been having a little trouble with the line getting clogged up, so every time you try to make a phone call to your Uncle Josh in Peoria it sounds like another conversation is happening about halfway down the line, in Reno.

I tried trowing salt in the phone, but that didn't work too well, even if that repairman was such a nice boy. But I did find out that the trouble isn't in the phone lines at all. What happens is that due to the magical laws of attraction, a disembodied conversation has gotten attracted to the three-dimensional conversation that you pay good money for every month, and is disturbing your line. One of your neighbors is channeling one of those busy-body angels that can't mind its own business, probably expecting that the angel is going to help with simple life problems such as you yourself solve daily, so you could throw salt on the phone till hell freezes over and you're never going to get the voices off the line on account of it is Your Neighbor's Fault.

You might think that the quickest way to fix this would be to sneak around till you find out what neighbors are causing all this difficulty, and then put white cloths on their heads, but the problem is that they might recognize you, or the angel might tell them who it is before the connection gets cut off, and then you would have to be having more conversations with your lawyer.

No, the best thing to do is to write letters. Because the root of this whole problem is the terrible increase of angel unemployment, as there are so few of them needed to run the concession stands and usher people in and out of Purgatory that there have been more and more of them trying to snudge in on Earth Reality, and they sometimes give fairly good advice, though never as good as mine, but mostly they are sort of like dead people, and as you know, dead people are extremely difficult to get rid of, as all the usual hints like, guess I'll go to bed now, or, well, have to get up pretty early tomorrow, don't work with them, as after they get rid of their bodies they feel so free they



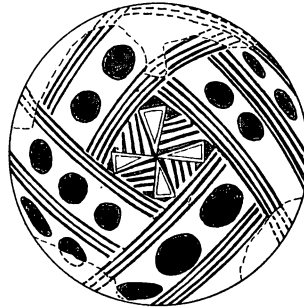
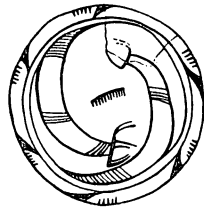
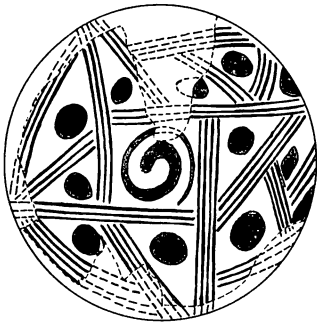
forget what it's like, and besides more and more of them think that you created your own reality so you should just get over it.

So writing letters is what you have to do, which will not fix things quickly, but will be pretty effective in the long run. I called the post office, and they said they wouldn't deliver letters directly to The Heavenly Gate, which you know is the branch outlet that runs Purgatory, as it is too far away, but if you send letters to me, in care of Reclaiming as usual, I will send them on to the Vatican, as I have got an In there, and it is the Next Best Thing.

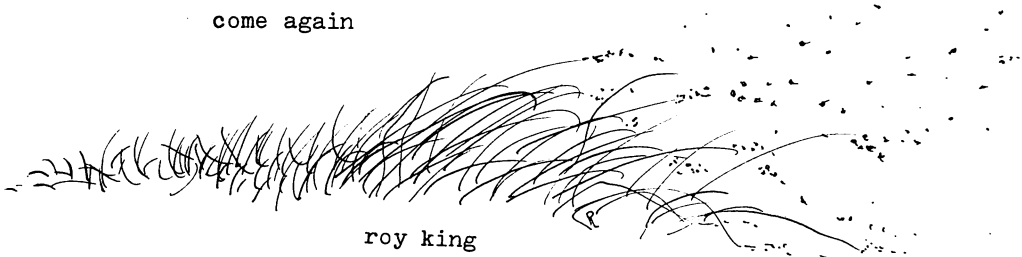
After a while, what we will do is have a blockade, so any of you who are interested in forming affinity groups for an action which ought to be More Interesting Than Most should start working on this now, as we will have to have special non-violence trainings, as angels are much bigger than police, at least some of the time.

Ever since I stopped drinking coffee I have felt sort of fiesty, so I am Very Glad to have discovered a household problem that requires Direct Action.

Love, Hannah



grasses blowing in the wind
turning brown
falling down
goodbye
come again



roy king

Broken World

The world invades and he must hide
must die again
become some other
eluding the well of shame

Eyes seek and she must fly within
must lie again
cry no, to them all
forever, no

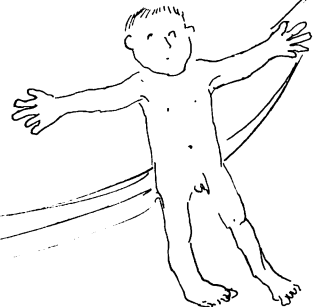
In the home of murdered souls
the child is encased in pain
Her tears turn
like winter rain
to ice
and then to stone

In the darkness within the darkness
Time seeps slowly into time
Memory sounds as wind in a foreign tomb
Echos shake the silence from within
Cracks appear

Scars tear
Black blood oozes from the walls
The frozen screams find breath
The waters flow
The mountain moves
A stone heart breaks
open like a flower
As sunlight strikes a hidden vein of gold

And who comes forth, unshielded, in this naked light
broken, and yet whole
Who dares bring wholeness into this broken world

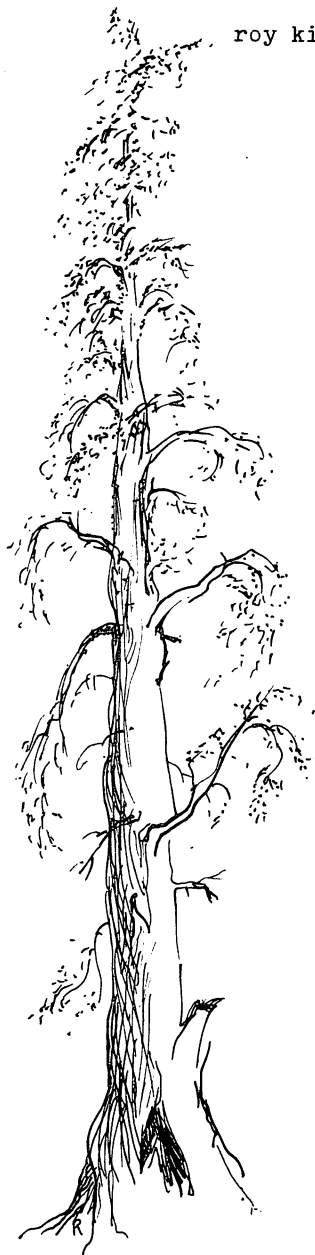
Roy King



pine standing
so long
so old, so tall
so strong
standing



roy king



falling-leaf moon

the autumn ends the opening of light,
the night now holds the winter's sleeping side--
this journey out from day and into night
is a power and a fear--i sometimes hide
from her source of all tomorrows, her receiving,
her believing in the things i cannot see,
her welcome song, her language for the living--
unconditional her love for mortal me,
for who i am, from dominating sources--
a sad heritage does course within the frame
of the structure resonating warlike voices--
breathing in me she says, now, begin again,
deny the charge of yesterday,
reclaim the mother goddess way.

hibernation

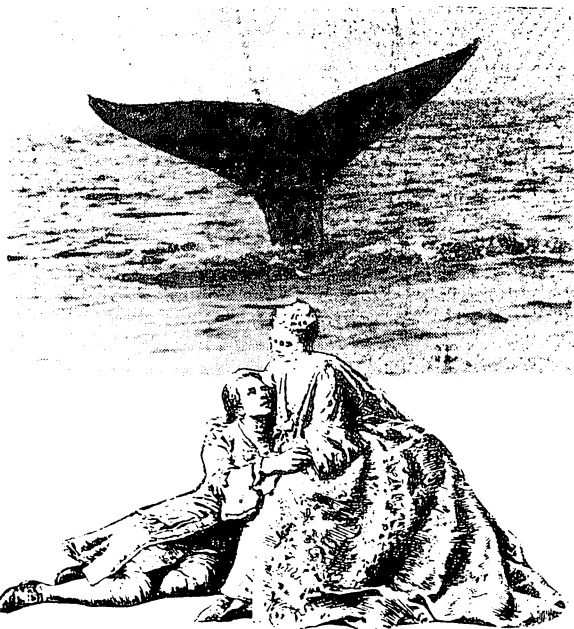
for riva



william warrior

at night
i would curl
into a
ball &
burrow
in your neck
myself
a nest
to make
amongst the
roots of
hair
& flesh
arranging leaf
& thicket just
so & there i
would while
away
the many nights

warm in
the knowledge
of your
breath
beneath
the
earth's beat
holding me
sated
as i
descend into the cold lean
winter of my
fears

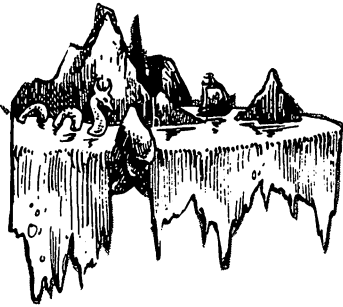


... david kubrin

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MAGICAL ETHICS OR MAGIC USERS WITH ETHICS? PART II by Rita Rippetoe



In part I of this article I discussed the forms of magic which Judy Harrow labeled *baneful* (i.e. causing harm) and *manipulative* (helping others without their consent). The third form of problematical magical practice Judy labels *coercive* - making another person give us something we want. Judy gives five reasons she feels coercive magic is not advisable, which I will summarize as follows.

- 1) It is harmful to other people to have their will forced.
- 2) The reputation of using magic to control others causes the public to fear and hate Witches and therefore harms the Craft.
- 3) Third parties who have a claim to the object of our desire may be hurt if deprived of it.
- 4) Imperfect knowledge of the situation may cause us to ask for and obtain a less than optimal result.
- 5) Manipulating others causes alienation from the community.

Since I feel that the first reason Judy gives is the most complex I would like to address it last and will therefore examine the five reasons in reverse order.

Reason 5), manipulating others cause alienation from the community, is probably true. I suspect that the people most likely to make a habit of magical coercion - the ones who seek "power through witchcraft" - are already alienated. The lonely misfit who for some reason is never part of the social scene is likely to fantasize about love spells or otherwise bewitching lifes troubles away. Unfortunately the socially inept may not be part of our community to a sufficient extent for our warnings to help them. When our talk of ethics makes it clear that our Craft will not further their goals these frustrated seekers will probably turn to magical systems with fewer scruples.

How a teacher can deal with this type student could be the subject of another article. The goal of a Craft teacher should be to help students build their strengths and learn to work magic from a base of self confidence rather than personal weakness. Warnings about the alienating effect of some kinds of magic use is certainly appropriate in this

context. Note however that such warnings are practical rather than ethical in nature. To say for instance, "if you use love spells to obtain partners you will never feel really loved for yourself" is a pragmatic statement. What if the student replies, "I don't care bout love, I just want to get laid"?

Reason 4) is that imperfect knowledge of the situation may cause us to ask for and obtain a less than optimal result. This seems to me to be a clear denial of our personal power as Witches. Our knowledge of a situation can never be complete, should we therefore never act? Of course we must think before we act - whether the action contemplated is mundane or magical.. If earthquake faults are your concern check the geological survey before renting. Get to know a person well before entering an intense relationship.. Have a mechanic check out the used car bargain. Use your brains. If you want to know whether the Gods have other plans for you consult them. Divination is the traditional way to check with the Gods before working magic. Caution - doing a divination and then ignoring the results is worse than useless - it will undercut future attempts at divination. If you've made up your mind to a course of action take responsibility, do it and don't complain about the results. But to put everything in the Lady's lap is not the path of the Witch. We do not pray as the Christians do "thy will be done", for our deities are not all powerful rulers in control of every detail our lives. They are seen as powerful, wise beings who can help and advise us when we contact them through ritual. But, from deities as from humans, the best help is that which leaves the recipient wiser and stronger for the next problem, not a "let me do that" help that leaves us childishly dependent and unsure of our own judgement.

Reason 3) warns against the possibility of hurting third parties who have a claim to the object of our desire. Judy considers the cute guy's fiance and the other job applicant as having equal claims. In my opinion they do not. If a scarce resource such as a job opening, an apartment for rent or a person seeking a mate, becomes available no one has a vested right in the selection except the person making the offer. Within the framework of society's rules the employer, landlord or spouse seeker have a right to

choose between applicants who meet their criteria. An applicant who fails may be disappointed but that does not mean that the successful applicant has violated their rights. However once an agreement has been reached, someone has been promised the job or apartment or marriage, it would be wrong for a third party to try to muscle in whether by bribery, threats, seduction or magic.

Reason 4), that the reputation of doing magic causes people to hate and fear Witches; is another pragmatic argument. It is true that charges of evil magic were used by the invading Christians to turn people against surviving Pagans. But I don't agree with Judy in calling it an "old, dirty lie." Magic is one way for an oppressed group to fight back. If our magic using ancestors were called evil for their magic on behalf of the oppressed people it was by the same logic that permits oppressive states to call every anti-government warrior a terrorist. The oppressors will hate and fear any methods used by the oppressed, whether it be booby traps and ambushes of a guerilla fighter or the spells, potions and poisons of a magical opposition. In a world where the concepts of justice were firmly established the need for coercive magic to alter the behavior of persons in power would be very rare. Unfortunately we do not live in such a world. There are good tactical reasons not to openly advocate magical influences on enemies of our freedoms. This is not the same as a blanket ethic against such actions. I do not doubt that there are magical groups working for abortion rights as the case before the Supreme Court threatens to overthrow *Roe vs Wade*. If you believe that abortion is a woman's right then attempts to curtail that right are as much aggression as attempts to imprison a woman wrongfully would be. Coercive magic may be a valid form of defense for women in this case. Of course, the anti-abortion groups are equally sure that they are right in defending the lives of fetuses, and their prayers can be seen as coercive magic also. One can almost pity the Supreme Court Justices. (note. I am not assuming that all Witches are pro-choice and that all abortion foes are Christian.) I use the abortion issues as an example because it is current and arouses strong feelings on both sides. My point is that magic may be a legitimate tool in the defense of important rights. Th ethical questions regarding its use are more complex than the tactical question of whether to be known to use magic will harm the cause.

On the other hand a "poor me, I'm oppressed" attitude is neither a healthy mental state nor a good foundation for magical practice. Any magical work should be based on a clear understanding of one's situation and the factors affecting it. Justifying one's failures as a result of unfair treatment and using magic to coerce others into overlooking ones' real deficiencies of ability or character will only block the growth of the individual. Group discussion of planned workings should detect specious reasoning and

self serving rationales and a teacher should guide her students into mature uses of magic .

Reason 1) states that it is wrong to use coercive magic because forcing the will ow another is harm and coercive magic consists in forcing the will. If this is true then coercive magic is baneful and falls under the same rules which apply to the use of baneful magic.

But what happens when a person uses magic to influence another's decision.? Is it like leaning on a door, pushing while the real will of the victim pushes back, until the door finally slams open or shut? Or is it like sneaking into an office and adding a factor to a list of pros and cons on a decision making worksheet? Is it like subliminal advertising or hypnosis - slipping a suggestion past the concious mind and directly into the subconscious so that the recipient acts without knowing why? Or does magic direct the attention, making my resume stand out in an indefinable way that keeps it from being immediately eliminated from consideration, or making that cute guy at the party give me a second look instead of passing to the the tall blond on my left? Is it like computer hacking - accessing and changing files or programs on someone else's system without their knowledge? Is it like being a puppet master, pulling strings to direct an inert subject?

We don't know how the brain works in making a decision. We don't know how magic works. So we don't know how magic works to affect decision making. I have proposed several models which may suggest ways of looking at the action of magic on the will. Perhaps coercive magic can take any of these forms depending on the design of the spell and the power of the magic user. If this is the case one could argue the rightness or wrongness of different method.

But why, one may ask, should anybody want to defend as unsavory a concept as coercion, magical or otherwise? This question reveals what I suspect was the origin of my discontent with Judy's categories. "Coercive magic" is a loaded term. The judgement of wrong doing is inherent in the label itself. Would Judy's rules seem so reasonable if she had referred to "persuasive magic" or "attention focussing magic" or some other neutral term? No one wants to be coerced but a reasonable person will often be persuaded or will be willing to have aspects of a situation called to their attention. By our use of terms such as "make someone give us", or "force another's will" or "coercive magic" are we encouraging ourselves to see differences among people in confrontational terms? Would a use of other terminology, other models for conceptualizing magic, help us to seek cooperative solutions to situations in which our desires seem to be at variance with those of others? And if this is a possibility is it not desirable that we should discuss the subject more thoroughly before reflexively handing down rules based on a "you vs. me" view of human relations.? Lets think about it.





Tea Garden

Silences skitter like waterbugs
across a reflecting pool,
wavering glimpses into the deep,
but then perception glistens,
leaving the guests of the garden
laughing at my apparitions.

Richard Hawk
1945-1987

Inner City

Though I walk among brothers,
the addicts and the queens,
I become a tourist in another time
when I pass the cathedral where my grandfather
played a pipe organ years ago,
a memory that looms
among triple-X sex and hamburger stands
like a monument in the smog.



Richard Hawk
1945-1987

Near Dawn

Dawn mists lie on ridges
like slumbering ghosts,
earthbound and still trembling
before love's luminous moon.
Of what lusts left undone
and sorrows must they dream
before they vanish in the Sun?

Richard Hawk
1945-1987



These songs go with MEETING THE QUEER GOD from last issue.
We evidently screwed it up somehow. So, here it is (again?).



PUR-PLE HANDS OF HEAL-ING, FAG-GOT GOD, FAE-RIE GOD,
MY LOVE, COME TO ME, COME TO ME.



PUR-PLE GOD, QUEER GOD, GREEN GOD, FAE-RIE GOD,
GOL-DEN GOD, FAG-GOT GOD, COME BE WITH US.



10th Anniversary SPIRAL DANCE

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the original Spiral Dance Ritual, and, not coincidentally, the tenth anniversary of the publication of Starhawk's book, The Spiral Dance. To celebrate, plans are underway for a Spiral Dance this year on October 28. Because this year we want to accommodate everyone who wants to come, we are negotiating to rent Pier 2 at Fort Mason, a space large enough for a ritual for a thousand people.

This is a big step for our collective, and we are, frankly, nervous. Space rental, and Fort Mason's requirements for security, parking attendants, etc. will run \$3000 to \$4000 for the night. The sound system, lights, costumes, childcare, rehearsal spaces, etc. are also costly. If we can sell 1000 tickets at an average of \$10 each, we should be able to cover our expenses and have some left over. We would like to raise some money to help subsidize classes and the newsletter. But can we get 1000 people? We think so, but that's not the same as knowing it.

At the same time, we're very excited at the opportunity to expand the scale of this ritual. Putting it on becomes a real community affair, and is a great way for new people to get involved. Would you like to sing in the chorus, help build altars, help the ritual flow smoothly, or watch the door? At Pier 2, there's enough room so that we can offer many sorts of work exchanges.

This is a participatory ritual as well as a dance/drama/choral piece. Come in costume--colors for the night are red, black and white. Wear a mask (but please, no wide headdresses that will block people's views). Send us names of people you know and care about who have died since last Samhain, so we can read their names aloud, and names of children who have been born since the last Spiral Dance, so we can sing their names to welcome them into life, and into our community. (Be sure the names are legible, and be clear about which list is which.) A series of workshops will be held in late September, through October to prepare for the ritual emotionally and spiritually, learn songs, chants and dances, and (at some) make masks. Come if you can--you'll get more out of the ritual. See the centerfold of this newsletter for workshop dates and descriptions.

How can you help?

Call the Events Line 849-0877 and find out more information about what's needed. As soon as coordinators have materialized, the Events Line will carry their phone numbers. Write Reclaiming, P.O. Box, 14404, and tell us your name and phone number to volunteer.

Buy your ticket early: Ticket prices will be on a sliding scale of \$10-\$25. If you can pay toward the high end of the scale, you are donating to the collective. And if you buy your tickets now, you will be assured of your space in the ritual, and help provide the cash we need to pay out before the date arrives. Send check or money order with SASE to our box number, mark your letter TICKETS.

Please include Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope

Be an angel (or is there some more appropriate term for Witches to use?): Would you like to make a substantial donation? Subsidize a costume, a platform for the dancers, part of the sound system, endow a chair (Fort Mason charges 75 cents each for them).

Donate materials: We need lots of cloth, a parachute, a cargo net, a ship's rope, maskmaking materials, ribbons, and a lot of other odd things.

Donate special skills: Are you a sound technician? A lighting expert? A carpenter? A dancer, juggler, mask-maker, or someone who walks on stilts? Let us know.

With the support of our community, we hope to make this ritual a gift to the wider community, a celebration of the last decade and a visionary beginning to the 90's.

New Edition of The Spiral Dance

A 10th Anniversary edition of Starhawk's book, The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess will be published by Harper and Row and launched at the Spiral Dance ritual. It includes her updated commentary on the original text. A small, leather-bound signed edition will also be published as well as the new paperback.

RECLAIMING CLASSES

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

taught by Raven Moonshadow and Rosemary Thistlethorn.

How many of you out there have a wonderful set of tools and just don't know what to do with them? In this new class we will work with the traditional tools of the five elements (Air-Athame, Fire-Wand, Water-Cup, Earth-Pentacle, Center-Cauldron) plus two other tools of the Witch's armory, the Besom (broom) and Staff. In each class we will discuss the construction or procurement of the tools, how to bless them, their history and properties, and exercises to open up the world of each element through its key (the tool). Prerequisite: Elements of Magic, equivalent experience/study or instructor's approval. You must have tools of the four elements -- Air, Fire, Water and Earth. 6 Tuesdays, beginning November 7, San Francisco. Call Raven 334-MOON for registration and location. \$60-\$120 sliding scale.

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC FOR MEN AND WOMEN

taught by Raven Moonshadow and Deadly Nightshade.

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, Witchcraft, and Goddess spirituality by working with the Elements of Magic: Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Spirit. Techniques include: visualization, sensing and projecting energy, chanting, trance, creating magical space, spellcraft, and structuring rituals. Beginning 6-week course, 6 Mondays, starting November 13, San Francisco. Call Raven 334-MOON for registration and location. \$60-\$120 sliding scale.

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC FOR WOMEN by Cybele and Vibra

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, Witchcraft, and Goddess spirituality by working with the Elements of Magic: Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Spirit. Techniques include: visualization, sensing and projecting energy, chanting, trance, creating magical space, spellcraft, and structuring rituals. Beginning 6-week course, 6 Wednesday evenings starting Oct. 11, 1989. Call Vibra 221-7142 for registration and location. \$60-\$120 sliding scale.

BREATH AND BODY CLASS FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF INCEST & ABUSE by Cybele

This class focuses on your relationship with your body, working with the issues survivors share: shame, self-disgust, fear, lack of boundaries or shutting down and checking out of the body. We will work in sacred space to reclaim our ground, our voices and our boundaries. We will begin to integrate bodily life as a place of pleasure & power. We will learn and use grounding practices, movement work, body maps and breathwork. This class strives to connect physical states, emotions, and habits of attention to facilitate healing within ritual space. Class is open to any woman survivor interested in using ritual and having a spiritual focus in her recovery/healing process. Ongoing support (therapy, bodywork and/or 12-step program) is strongly suggested during this class. Eight Tuesday evenings starting Nov. 7. \$80-\$160 sliding scale. Call Cybele 648-3908 for information and registration.





SPIRAL DANCE

Proceeds from the preparatory workshops for the Spiral Dance benefit pre-production costs for the Spiral Dance Ritual. These workshops are appropriate for any participant -- beginning, intermediary, or advanced -- who wants to move into Samhain in a sacred way. Thanks to the teachers for volunteering their time.



ALTARS FOR THE DEAD: preparatory workshop for the Spiral Dance ritual

taught by Raven Moonshadow

Who are the dead? Who are the ancestors? How do we know them? How do we feed and give reverence to them? How are we counselled by the dead and how do the dead live in us? In this workshop we will address these questions and learn how to build an altar for the dead to reside in. We will learn songs/chants for the Spiral Dance Ritual. **Saturday, October 21, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., San Francisco.** To register call 334-MOON. \$10-15 sliding scale.

SUMMONING THE ANCESTORS: a Water Celebration -- preparatory ritual/workshop for the Spiral Dance ritual

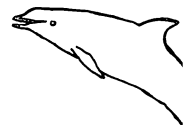
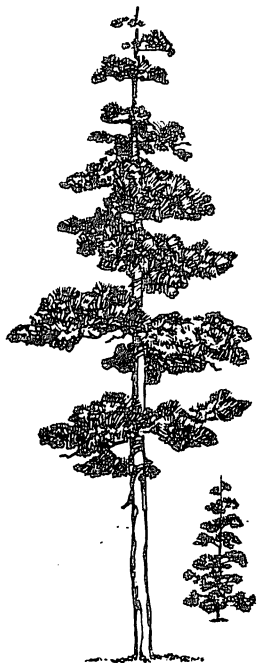
taught by Frejya Anderson and M. Macha NightMare

We will cross the waters to Tir na nOg, Land of the Ever-Living. We will learn songs and chants to open our hearts and beckon those who have gone before us. These songs and chants will be part of the Spiral Dance ritual. Frejya Anderson is a Priestess of Isis, member of Coven Stone Dancers, teacher and ritualist; M. Macha NightMare, P&W, has often worked with Reclaiming since its inception, has an abiding interest in all things Celtic and her Matron is Kali. **Saturday, September 23, (Autumn Equinox), 8:00 p.m., Prometheus Center, Palo Alto.** To register, call 323-4494. Sliding scale \$10-15, to benefit pre-production of the Spiral Dance and the Water Celebration.

SAMHAIN: THE GATEWAY -- A TRANCE JOURNEY. Preparatory workshop for The Spiral Dance Ritual

taught by Rose May Dance

Samhain is an opportunity for personal change and magical deepening. During this workshop we will sink into trance, approaching the high holiday and the ancestors, making our personal preparations to enter the New Year. We will learn songs for the Spiral Dance Ritual, and perform other preparation for that event, in order to make excellent magic as we spiral at Samhain. **Sunday, October 1, 1 - 4:30 pm, San Francisco.** For info or registration call Rose 821-3336.



WORKSHOPS



SUMMONING THE ANCESTORS: preparatory ritual/workshop for the Spiral Dance ritual

taught by M. Macha NightMare and Anie

We will cross the waters to Tir na nOg, Land of the Ever-Living. We will learn songs and chants to open our hearts and beckon those who have gone before us. These songs and chants will be part of the Spiral Dance ritual. M. Macha NightMare, P&W, is a reborn member of Reclaiming, and a seeker of Tantric ecstasy and a devotee of Kali; Anie is a Wiccan priestess, writer of sacred songs, singer, and member of Gaia's Voice, a Bay Area Pagan Chorus. **Saturday, October 7, 7:30 p.m., San Rafael.** To register, call 492-0511. Sliding scale \$10-15.

SPELLCRAFTING FOR SAMHAIN: preparatory workshop for the Spiral Dance ritual

taught by Raven Moonshadow

Spellcraft working during the waxing toward the harvest moon of the year. Three kinds of magical workings: first, acknowledging that we have harvested, second, releasing the patterns of the old year, and third, finding the thread that will sustain us through the dark (shades of Ariadne). We will learn songs/chants for the Spiral Dance Ritual. **Thursday, October 12, 7:30 p.m., San Francisco.** To register call 334-MOON. \$10-15 sliding scale.

MASKS FOR SAMHAIN -- Preparatory workshop for The Spiral Dance Ritual

taught by Eleanor Myers and Judy Foster

Creating sacred space in which to work, and meditating on the season, we will speak to each other about the turning year, of ancient images and symbols, as well as of our own lives. We will learn chants and songs, some familiar, some new, for the Spiral Dance. Drawing on the richness of our collective imagination we will build fanciful masks and headpieces for Samhain, sculpting with paper, scraps, found and natural objects, etc. Eleanor Myers is an artist, the creator of strange and wonderful ritual masks and objects; Judy Foster has been using her various gifts and talents to make ritual and ritual space for a long time. Both have been part of the Spiral Dance since 1979 and have been dedicated to the Craft for many years. Both like to play. **Sunday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Berkeley,** For more info call Judy 843-0722. \$10-15 sliding scale.





CHANTS

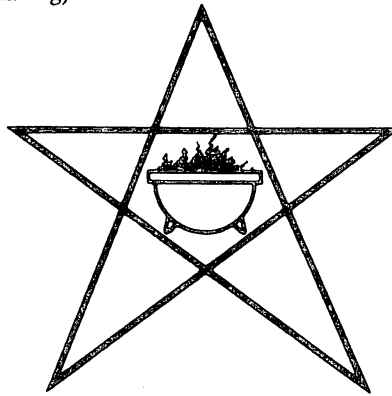
Ritual Music

a cassette tape from the Reclaiming community

A 40-minute tape of chants and songs from various sources, which are frequently used in Reclaiming rituals. The tape is intended as a teaching tool, and a worksheet is included. We hope that you will sing these chants and songs, use them in ritual, and teach them to others. Proceeds from the sale of this tape help to support the work of the Reclaiming Collective.

TO ORDER: Send check or money order in U.S. currency to RECLAIMING TAPE, P.O. Box 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Price: \$10.00 each, including postage (add \$3.00 each for overseas mailing)



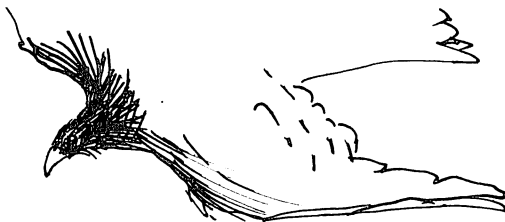
Side 1

The Beginning of the Earth
Touching Her Deep
Air I Am
Rise with the Fire
Snake Woman
Isis Astarte
We are an Old People
I Am a Strong Woman
We Are the Flow (orig. melody)
Silver Shining Wheel
Where There's Fear There Is
Power
Hecate Ceredwen

Side 2

Return to the Mother
Born of Water
Air Moves Us
Water and Stone
We All Come from the Goddess/
Hoof and Horn
Kore Chant
We Are the Flow (folk melody)
Sun King
We Are Alive





TRYING TO DANCE

Hovering high
the holy hawk,
its flame-edged feathers
burn in the sun.

Casts down a grim eye
upon a circle of stones
where certain men
remain eternally alone.

Bound by restraints
watching other men prance
padlocked in their bones
unable to dance.

Yet wild men dance
as did our ancestors
attempting to lose
their stone age blinkers.

Huddled in their cursings
frightened in their bones
so we too ring ourselves
around stones.

In thumbprint whorls of suffering
we appeal to the wind
the sun
the teeming rain.

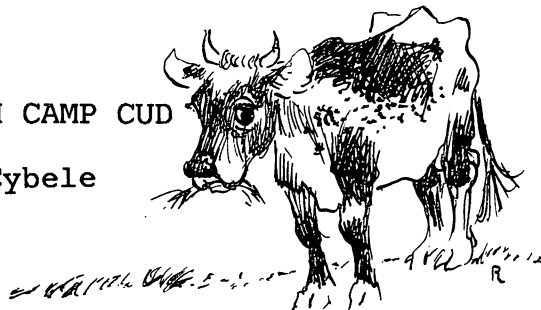
Pray for solace
relinquish reason
we try to dance now
as they tried to dance then.

Len Irving



WHAT MISS COW SAYS
OR
CHEWING MY WITCH CAMP CUD

by Cybele



The talent show on the second to last evening of Vancouver Witch Camp was a welcome change from drum trance. Among the groups and entities represented on stage were the Trekkies, the Queen, the Lesbians and the Reclaiming Teachers. Whatever spun into the vortex of the talent show was changed -- in fact, performers and audience alike were transformed enough to create the rituals and let go -- ACTUALLY ALLOWING WITCH CAMP TO END over the next two days, and to end in a coherent fashion. No mean feat!

One of the performers we meet at the talent show is Miss Cow. (Actually, the talent show is where I met Miss Cow; but since you are reading this my "I" becomes a "we". Furthermore, I am taking poetic license and yanking this into the present tense so you can experience some of the experience of Witch Camp.) Miss Cow, who is a spirit guide, uses the hand, arm and voice of the illustrious Sparky T. Rabbit to share her maxims with us. She appears to be a cow puppet. That a mere puppet can be so instrumental in channelling such wisdom stretches even my stretch-marked imagination. However, this sort of performance is the realm of Younger Self, where much is taken on faith. Miss Cow's lovely Young Assistant, Bert, holds up large hand-lettered cue cards for the audience as follows:

- o I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
- o PLEASE EXPLAIN.
- o WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
- o WHAT IS THIS FOR?
- o WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
- o WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
- o SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

Bonus Maxims

- o PLEASE STOP.
- o PLEASE CONTINUE.

These are Miss Cow's Maxims for Clearer Communication. I can only say I wish we had all had access to these maxims earlier in the week.

In her wisdom, Miss Cow begins in the Holy Sacred State of Confusion: I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'm sure you don't understand why we Reclaiming teachers continue to do Witch Camps since we come home in such a fried and ratty condition. And why is our return rate 50%? That's right, half our blessed students return to do it again! Is it simply to spend another week on Loon Lake with 90 some-odd (yep) Witches doing magic day in and day out? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Let's see... There is the momentum factor, the history factor, (which encompasses both nostalgia and revenge) and the repetition compulsion factor. The momentum factor seems to fling people along, but it actually has a developmental aspect. For example, this past camp the third-year returnees were a feisty crew, itching to take the drums and run with them, dragging the cone of power this way and that. Truly, a substantial number of said third year returnees are Witches well-grown into their power. They are ready to take on facilitating rituals and teaching magic their own selves. This was evidenced by their rowdiness, their complaining and their challenging of the teachers' (albeit motley) authority.

The history factor is all that was contained in the previous two summer's Witch Camps. All the events that led up to this mass psychic puberty. However, this factor exists for me only as tales and rumors, as I wasn't teaching at those camps. However, these Witches did go through two previous week-long magical intensives together -- learning

I can't really speak to the repetition compulsion factor other than to note the possibility of its presence. Doesn't it have to do with something being unfinished? Well, we certainly aren't done yet.

Moving right along in explaining, as a student in either the beginning Elements track or the intermediate Wheel of the Year track, the sequence would go like this: Get up. (Already?) Walk over to the dining hall. Eat a yummy breakfast with everyone else. Sleepy or caffeinated campers clank their spoons against their mugs with astounding frequency to make an announcement. You listen (or not). Then you are off to magic class with two or three of the Reclaiming teachers present: Raven, Pandora, Carol, Starhawk and myself -- plus the wonderful student teacher from Vancouver, Sharon Jackson. Do class. Learn things. Have lunch. Same mess hall, usually soup for lunch, more announcements. Then go meet with your Affinity Group. Here you get to be with a small group -- with whom you share something in common -- and check in. Plus you get to try to figure out how to process everything the impact of sudden community brings up, and everything doing tons of magic brings up. Whew. (In the teachers' affinity group, we seemed to do a lot of class planning once we checked in.) Here we are at two p.m. -- time for a nap? Some campers did nap in the afternoon, or be in the great outdoors, and go play. The scheduled activities ran the gamut between Networking and Spellcrafting, Men's Time Alone Together and Women's Time Alone Together. Tuesday afternoon we had a processing session/community meeting. Friday afternoon students planned the final ritual. Every day in the last hour before dinner there was a generic 12-step meeting for those who wished to/needed to attend. Then dinner: eat more food, do a fashion scan, converse and hear/make a bunch of announcements. Evening activity -- entire camp assembles(!) participating in a cycle of rituals that began the first night with each of us re-membering skills that they practiced and taught during the years between camps. The effect of the history factor this past camp was rather like a houseful of teenagers -- brilliant, irreverent, lovely and reactive. There was also a paradoxical pressure to have things Be Like They Were Last Time(s) and to Meet Needs That Haven't Been Met Yet. Yes.

our personal piece of the dismembered Goddess in a drum trance. We worked with this piece throughout the week.

In the following nights we moved through the elemental challenges To Know, To Will, To Dare and To Keep Silent. These were paired respectively with The Visionary, The Warrior, The Healer and The Teacher. The remaining evenings were spent at the talent show, which you've heard about, and at the final ritual. By the time the evening's activity is over, you either crawl up to your rustic cabin and zonk out or you are so jacked up you hang out till all hours with the mob around the firepit. Or whatever.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I mean it was intense -- the setting was gorgeous, the pace was relentless, the expectations high and diverse, and the student body was bristling with talent and character. For a week much of everyone's time was spent moving through check-in, circle casting, invocation, trance work, drumming, dancing, chanting, singing, doing energy work, moving between the words, raising and shaping cones of power, letting them go and then grounding, grounding grounding! Of course we also did an equal amount of devoking deities, thanking and releasing elements and opening-of-circles. Then we could stagger off to our meals or our bunks -- or the next ritual!

WHAT IS THIS FOR? Is this intensity for intensity's sake? Perhaps. This camp began so that Witches in the Vancouver area could experience some of the political, feminist magic Reclaiming does, looking to get the equivalent of a six-week Elements or Pentacle class (and some) condensed into a week-long intensive. Witch Camp has come to function as a teacher-training course, a Wiccan networking and cross-pollination party, and a widely-based Community Building Event. Looking forward with Miss Cow's next query: WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN? It seems Vancouver Witch Camp of 1990 will happen. However the maturing of the returning campers is challenging Reclaiming to re-examine what we are doing, how we are doing it and why we are doing it. Even the why evolves.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT? It's about letting go and moving forward. It is getting to be time for the Reclaiming teachers to begin pulling out and letting others step forward to run Witch

Camp/do the next thing. How it looks now is that more students will do student teaching and then graduate into teachers. Reclaiming teachers will drop out as the teaching slots fill over the next 3-5 years. We hope to develop a sane and integrated process by which to gradually turn over Witch Camp to the next generation of Vancouver/Portland/Seattle Reclaiming-Tradition trained magic teachers. BLESSED BE!

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF. Okay -- I had an overwhelming, inspiring and exhausting time teaching at camp. Since we teachers developed two new tracks before/during camp, the creative exchange was exhilarating. I loved getting to spend a whole week with other Reclaiming teachers -- and Sharon Jackson -- even though we worked our

tails off. We laughed a lot, too. And I met and connected with a lot of variously incredible Witchy folk. Donning the rose-colored glasses of hindsight, I'd gladly do it again -- given about a year (and two stomachs) to digest it all.

We've reached the bonus maxims: PLEASE STOP -- I am about to -- PLEASE CONTINUE. I do hope Witch Camps continue in Vancouver and elsewhere; and that I get to be part of the Holy Sacred Process of it all. I got through this entire article without talking about The Crisis and Process Meeting -- how lucky and unlike my usual Drama Queen Self. If you are considering a trip to Witch Camp next summer, I hope this article gives you the courage to do it. But don't say I didn't warn you.



MISS COW'S MAXIMS
FOR CLEARER COMMUNICATION

(Repeat as often as necessary)

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
PLEASE EXPLAIN.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT IS THIS FOR?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
DO I WANT TO BE HERE?
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.



Plus Miss Cow's Bonus Maxims:

PLEASE STOP.
and the ever popular

PLEASE CONTINUE.

Midwest Men's Festival Dishrag

Ode to the Aphrodite of Oceans

let me be a widow
reflecting the dark mute waters
black on black
ageless and alone.

let me step from the mussel shell
unstained as a baby
unviolated, unblemished

and unafraid,
a hint of pearl
on my toes, maiden still, mother always.
and climbing from the foam
i would stand on the borderline

where sublime clarity
and the darkness of death
gaze for an instant
in one another's eyes,
giving birth to the world,
spinning in new webs of light.



and the secret of the paradox
is in this: the dark terror
and the blind opening
are one:
a revelation still hidden,
like a bud.

for my spider's belly
contains universes of babies
complete in myself
in the abyss of the nucleus.

Madonna Compton



Atom-child, 1945

As I swam, shrimp-form, pup-form, monkey-form
up the mysterious ocean of life,
Los Alamos was humming its weird human tune: Creation/Destruction.
My war-god father was testing his power.
My brothers-in-form were dancing cheek to cheek with the goddess of death.
As my womb pleasure reached its limit of pain,
The first baby A-bomb burst into life in the desert,
exceeding the limit of death.

As I floated up the infinite belly of night, toward the gate of dawn,
My brother-in-birth struck the light of day anew, beyond day, beyond light.
As I squealed my protest to the fluorescent birth chamber,
Blinded and burned Japanese lay swollen in the hell of Hiroshima's ruins.
As I sucked the first bittersweet milk of human nurturing,
The bomb bay reopened over Nagasaki and my second atomic twin burst
in his demonic parody of birth.

As I squirmed in the August heat, tangled ever tighter in the iron grid
of human depravity and pain,
Vaporized souls circled the blast site, their shadows etched on concrete,
forever lost to Shinto heaven.

As mommy and daddy blasted my frail love with the accrued force
of all the wars of men,
Survey teams assessed their success in Japan,
the violent rip in the fragile womb of human time,
never to be resealed.



Roy King



STARHAWK'S FALL-WINTER SCHEDULE

September 15-17: The Applewood Center for Spiritual Studies. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Mixed evening talk, Women only weekend workshop. For information call (416) 537-1777.

October 5: Iowa State University. Ames, Iowa. "Women Breaking New Ground" 15th annual Women's Week. Contact Pat Miller (515)294-9935.

October 6-9: Rowe Conference Center. Rowe, Massachusetts. Long weekend workshop for women - Women's Rites of Passage. With ROSE MAY DANCE. Contact Douglas Wilson (413)339-4216.

October 28 Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, California SPIRAL DANCE RITUAL, with the RECLAIMING Community. Their annual Samhain (Halloween) celebration. See Announcement in this Newsletter.

November 13: Loyola University of New Orleans. New Orleans, Louisiana. Evening lecture. Contact Barbara Yule (504)865-2160.

December 1-3: Maui, Hawaii. Women's workshops and ritual. Contact Kenyavani Gilman (808)879-9932.

February: East Coast workshops. Location TBA.

March 19-24: Kalani Honua Retreat Center, Hilo, Hawaii. "DANCING WITH PELE" with LUISAH TEISH, weeklong retreat for women. For information: Send SASE to Harmony Network 15501 Monte Rosa Ave., Guerneville, CA 95446.

For more information about Starhawk's schedule, contact Harmony Network, (707)869-0989, 15501 Monte Rosa Ave., Guerneville, CA 95446.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SLANDER ALERT! HELP!

Our sisters and brothers at the Aquarian Tabernacle Church, a Seattle-based Craft group and long-time member of CoG, need our help. The Mormon-owned Seattle CBS affiliate, KIRO-TV, recently broadcast a series about satanism in which they showed footage of ATC's rural sanctuary while alleging ritual slayings (in the same series treating the recent tragic events at Matamoros, Mexico!). ATC, being very public like Reclaiming, has suffered unfair repercussions. Their protests to the station have met with indifference, so while ATC continues to seek dialogue with and retraction from KIRO, they are suing the station. Their attorney is working on a contingency basis, but they need front money for filing fees, depositions, etc. We can help by sending money to ATC and by writing the following entities demanding an investigation of the station: CBS, 524 W 57th St., NYC 10019; FCC, 1919 M St. NW, WA, DC 20554; your Senator, Hart Bldg., WA, DC 20510; your Congressperson, Longworth HOB, WA, DC 20515. For more information, write Pete Pathfinder, The Aquarian Tabernacle Church, P.O. Box 85507, Seattle, WA 98145, 206 793-1945. This incident threatens all Pagans.

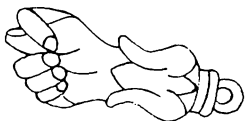
Vancouver Witch Camp 1989

Attention: Wheel of the Year Students!

What do you think going through the Wheel of the Year in one week did to you? To us as a group? To Loon Lake? To the Astral Plane? This is a matter of great personal interest to Cybele -- please send your replies to her c/o S.I. Rochat, 117 Banks St., S.F., CA 94110 USA. (She may do something formal with them or she may simply enjoy them.)

PUT YOUR LOVE FOR MOTHER EARTH INTO ACTION!

The Habitat Restoration Team is a serious, regular corps of volunteers working to promote native diversity of species in our local wildlands, by removing invasive exotic plants, planting natives, and healing erosion damage. Meeting every Sunday at 9:30 am, this team works on a "drop-in" basis. Call the Habitat Hotline 556-4353 for each week's activity and meeting place, and to get on the mailing list. Whether you come just once or always, your work will make a difference, you'll meet good folks, and get a day in the Elements you'll long remember with satisfaction. Talk to Sophia for more information: 647-0430.

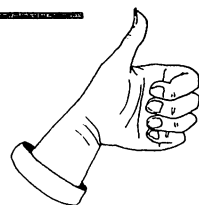


What is your path of destiny on the Tree of Life? For full description, personal correspondences, meditation key, and exercises, send \$5 plus two stamps and birth date to: A.C.T. 11 Snow Court, Orinda, CA, 94563. For additional Gematria name analysis, add \$2.50.

CAFE ANGELS, WHERE ARE YOU?

A small group of pagan anarchists is trying to start a collectively owned and run, community oriented cafe with performance space in the Mission or Castro. We need money! and tips on spaces. We will be happy to discuss our plans and prospects with people who might be interested in making interest-free short-term loans. Contact: **The Cauldron Cafe** (tentative name), 273 Frederick St., San Francisco 94117; (415) 681-0983 (Lisa or Kate)

"13th Heaven" the first-ever goddess cable tv show starring Zsuzsanna Budapest is playing all over the Bay Area. This entertaining and educational show on the Goddess hosts different guest artists and ritualists every month. Call 444-7724 for station listings and times.

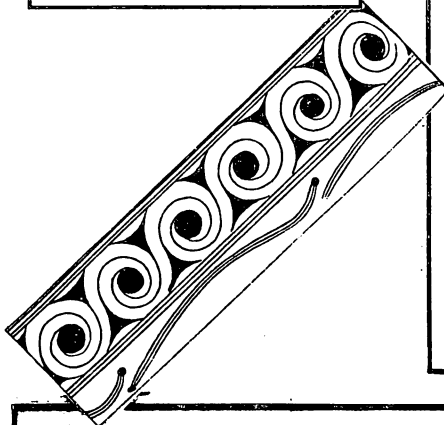


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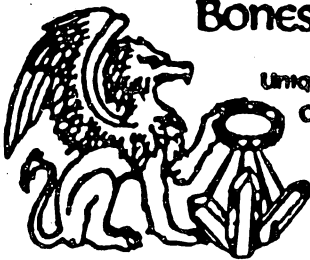


Sponsored by: The Women's Spirituality Forum
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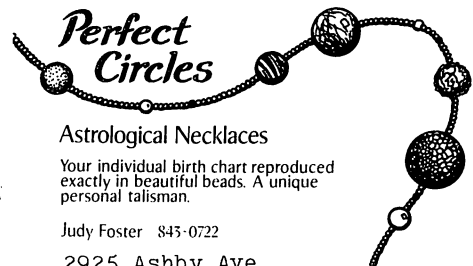
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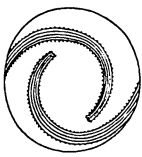
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If you are seeking a visit in the country, we'd like you to know about Annwfn, a Pagan sanctuary in Mendocino county. It is a beautiful place to camp out with your coven and get back to the land. All we ask of campers is \$5 per night (\$6 if you use cooking facilities) and an hours' work around the place for each day you are there. (This is usually pleasant tasks like gathering kindling, and weeding or watering the garden.)

One of the Church of All Worlds priests, Orion, has volunteered to host a Sabbat ritual an Annwfn on the following dates: Beltane (May 5-7), Litha (June 16-18), Lughnasad (August 4-6), Mabon (September 22-24), Samhain (November 3-5), and Yule (December 21).

Contact Orion to make sure things are happening according to plan. His number is (707) 485-8277. If you wish to visit at other times, contact Ayisha at (707) 462-5031.

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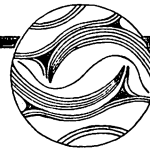
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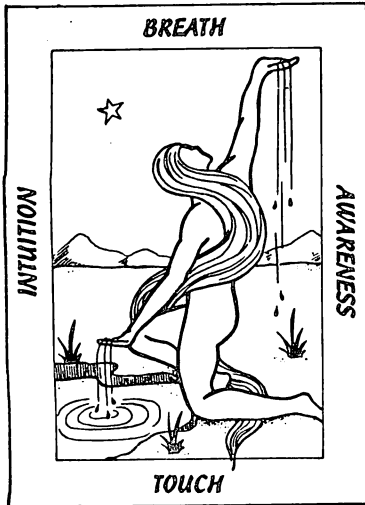
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Pagan Rights
Earth Defense
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Indigenous Peoples rights
Etc., Etc. Etc.

Thomas Morton Alliance
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Join Us - Earth Religion,
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Note: Faerie Fire is a member group of the TMA and its newsletter is a biannual supplement to the Merrymount Messenger.

By principal the M.M.M. is a free publication but Donations are Very appreciated. Send them as U.S. stamps, Int'l Reply Coupons, U.S., Canadian or English Currency; or checks and/or M.O.'s made out the CASH!

P.I.R. NEWSLETTER is a new publication for Pagans in twelve-step recovery programs. Contact:

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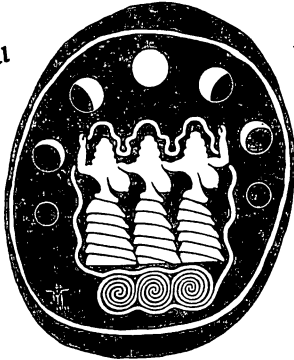
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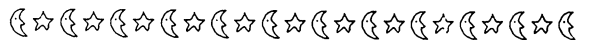
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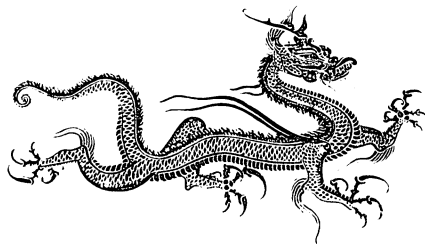
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Thank you again
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Reclaiming is a collective of San Francisco Bay Area women and men working to unify spirit and politics. Our vision is rooted in the religion and magic of the Goddess--the Immanent Life Force. We see our work as teaching and making magic--the art of empowering ourselves and each other. In our classes, workshops, and public rituals, we train our voices, bodies, energy, intuition, and minds. We use the skills we learn to deepen our strength, both as individuals and as community, to voice our concerns about the world in which we live, and to bring to birth a vision of a new culture.

The RECLAIMING Newsletter now costs \$2.00 if you get it at a store or an event. The Newsletter runs at a deficit, and we're trying to cover a higher percentage of our expenses. Additional contributions are welcome.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$6-\$25 sliding scale for 1 year; \$12-\$50 for 2 yrs.; \$2 for sample copy by mail. For foreign mailing, please add \$4 per yr. to cover costs. Free 1 yr. subscriptions available for people who cannot afford to pay.

Sliding scale for subscriptions and events: We use a sliding scale to keep costs low for people with minimal income. We hope people with larger incomes will place themselves higher on the scale to help us in this. Please place yourself where you feel comfortable on the scale, or maybe a little higher.

Canadian subscribers: we would appreciate payments in U.S. funds, as it is difficult and costly for us to cash your personal checks or use your personal cash.

Be sure to tell us **HOW MANY YEARS** the money you send is supposed to cover (sliding scales for one year and two years overlap). If you don't say, we will assume any amount up to \$15.00 is for **one** year.

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present

The **10TH**
Anniversary of

THE SPIRAL DANCE



Join in a ritual of remembrance and renewal
for the healing of the Earth. Journey to the
Shining Isle where birth and death meet.

October 28th, 1989 at 7:30pm

Pier 2, Fort Mason Center
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Tickets: Sliding Scale \$12 - \$17

Mail order from:
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Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope

Celebrating the publication of the revised 10th anniversary edition of *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess* by Starhawk. Published by Harper and Row, San Francisco.

Wheelchair accessible. Signed for the hearing impaired. TTY only call #221-7142
Childcare available by pre-arrangement. Call Julia at 648-6089
This is a Drug and Alcohol Free Event.

For information call the Events Line at 849-0877

A benefit for Reclaiming

The Reclaiming Collective with Starhawk
present the Tenth Anniversary of

The Spiral Dance

7:30 pm October 28, 1989
Pier 2, Fort Mason Center
San Francisco

Tickets \$12-17 sliding scale from Reclaiming
POB 14404, SFCA 94114
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\$20 at the door—but please buy early to assure your place

The Spiral Dance is both a dance/drama/choral piece and a participatory ritual, a collective magical working to celebrate our sense of community and strengthen our commitment to heal the earth. On this night we remember our Beloved Dead, mourn the deaths that have happened this year, sail to the Isle of the Dead where all possibilities are generated, create a vision of the healing of the earth, and dance the spiral, the ancient dance of rebirth and regeneration, to raise the power we need to make that vision real.

We invite your participation in any or all of the following ways:

- Send us pictures or slides of your Beloved Dead to be projected. (Please, copies only; Xeroxes are okay. Don't fold them. We cannot return photos. Pictures must reach us by September 30. Or come to San Francisco State in early October with your photos to have them copied on the spot. The Events Line will announce the date as soon as it is set. Call 849-0877. TTY number: 221-7142.)
- Send us the names (legible!) of people you know and care about who have died this year, so they can be read aloud, and the names of children who have been born since the last Spiral Dance, so we can sing their names to welcome them into life.
- **WORK EXCHANGES:** We need many volunteers to make this happen. Work exchanges are available. To volunteer for general help, contact Pandora at 641-5836.
- A series of workshops will be held in September and October to prepare for the ritual emotionally and spiritually, and learn songs, chants and dances to be used in the Spiral Dance ritual:
 - September 23, Palo Alto— **Summoning the Ancestors: A Water Celebration;** M. Macha Nightmare and Freyja Anderson 323-4494
 - October 1, San Francisco— **Samhain: The Gateway—A Trance Journey;** Rose May Dance 821-3336
 - October 7, North Bay— **Summoning the Ancestors;** M. Macha Nightmare and Anie 454-4411
 - October 12, San Francisco— **Altars for the Dead: A Preparation for the Spiral Dance;** Raven Moonshadow 334-6666
 - October 15, East Bay— **Mask Making;** Judy Foster and Eleanor Myers 843-0722
 - October 21, San Francisco— **Spellcrafting: A Journey Toward the Spiral Dance;** Raven Moonshadow 334-6666

All workshops sliding scale \$10-15. All proceeds benefit the Reclaiming Collective.

- OR—do none of the above, just come and enjoy!
- This event is wheelchair-accessible and signed for the hearing-impaired. Childcare provided by prearrangement—call Julia at 648-6089.
- This ritual also marks the tenth anniversary of the publication of Starhawk's book, *The Spiral Dance*, and celebrates the publication of the new, expanded edition, updated with commentary on the text. Copies will be for sale at the event. A signed, leather-bound limited edition will also be available. Proceeds will benefit the Reclaiming Collective.

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