# RECLAIMING NEWSLETTER



#53 WINTER 1993 \$2





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

When requesting information from Reclaiming, please include a selfaddressed, stamped envelope.



Newsletter Submissions: The Newsletter encourages people to submit articles, letters, or graphics related to political, pagan or spiritual issues and happenings. Submissions on 3-1/2" diskettes, created in Wordperfect or Microsoft Word, make the job of the Newsletter staff much easier. Please always include a hard copy of your submission, just in case something funny happens during layout. Graphics are 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 them.

Submissions are due on or before the deadline. The Newsletter staff has sworn off its lamentable co-behavior and will not chase down late submissions. We really mean it this time.

### SPRING NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS Tuesday, February 1, 1994

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 even like some of the stuff we print.





**Reclaiming Events Line – (510) 236-4645** 



This recording (listed under "Reclaiming" in Berkeley) carries announcements and updates of events organized by Reclaiming and others. Often, these come up too late to be put in the Newsletter. Call us with events and announcements to add to the message. They can also be mailed to the Events Line at the P.O. box, but this is slower. Please allow plenty of time, and remember to say where we can reach you with questions. -The Recording Faerie

Information for Deaf/Hearing Imparied ONLY (510) 237-6207 (V/TDD)

Reclaiming is a member of the Wiccan/Pagan Press Alliance.



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### Cover design by Donald L. Engstrom

This Newsletter was put together by Rebecca, Patti, Robin, Julie, Jody, and Karen, mostly at the last minute, so if you see typos, be kind. Thank you.

### A SOLSTICE FABLE







It's snowing like mad. The snowflakes are the size of dinner plates and make an audible "plop" when they hit the ground. The snow

builds up on the sidewalks at a rate of several inches a minute; a poodle and two small children in snowsuits have already been buried. Rescue teams wearily start digging: third buried poodle this morning. The children are singing while waiting their turn for rescue. Such is winter in New Denver.

The days have gotten short. It is barely light when I leave my miniature cabin and walk across the Carpenter Creek bridge. It is full dark when I leave the office and walk home, stumbling down the shortcut along the creek. The longest night of the year is just ahead.

Winter Solstice, the longest night, when the Earth hesitates in its path around the sun, uncertain. Will the night ever end? Will we see the sun again? So cold around our little fires. What if this is the final night, the one that never ends?

The children, tired of waiting for the rescuers to finish digging out the poodle, have tunneled, still singing, through the deep snow covering 6th Avenue. Resourceful children—it comes from having old hippies for parents. The old hippies themselves are on snowshoes, trying to get to the Apple Tree for coffee; when they pass over the tunneling children they sing along a few bars, unconcerned, and hurry on in hopes of a chocolate brownie.

In the old days we had the entirely reasonable fear that the days would continue to shorten and the nights grow longer until we all froze in the dark. Modern science assures us that this cannot happen. The solstice, says the Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, is "either of two points on the ecliptic where the sun's apparent position on the celestial sphere reaches the greatest angular distance above or below the celestial equator." And so it is. It is also the magickal time when the Sun is reborn and the Earth moves toward Spring, the dark is driven back, and life triumphs over death. We used to celebrate the solstice with ritual and greenery to ensure the return of the light. Some people still do, not trusting modern science, which is often wrong. And the light does keep coming back, proving the worth of their efforts. You don't understand that quote from the Encyclopedia either, do you? No. Best keep up the rituals, all you pagans; why risk it?

The rescuers have finally freed the poodle and turn to rescue the children, who have of course left the scene. The rescuers, led by the poodle, track the children through their tunnels, earnestly. The children no longer want to be rescued. They dig false side tunnels with dead ends and loops to throw off pursuit. The rescuers are baffled and fall behind.

Gravity, science insists. Magick, the pagans reply. The sun drags the earth around in a loop, say the men in their white lab coats; it really is not a matter of choice. Oh no, say the women and men

in their bright-colored robes, the Earth and the Sun listen to our songs and if we are pleasing, the daylight returns. Poppycock, says cold-minded science. The pagans don't mind; they have sung the rituals since before science was invented and they know what works. And besides, it's fun.

The children have reached Kildare Street and are heading toward the lake. The poodle, who is not a good tracker



anyway, has taken a short cut and is curled up by the stove at the Apple Tree, where the old hippies feed her bits of brownie. With-

out the poodle's help, the rescuers have fallen even farther behind, but they will not give up. Brave rescuers. The children carve naughty words into the snow walls of the tunnel to shock the rescuers and slow them down more. It works.

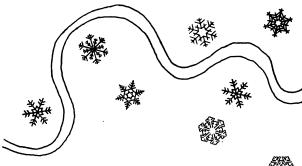
In the modern world we celebrate the

time of the solstice by giving things we can't afford to people who don't need them, a corruption of a gifting two thousand years old. Christmas occurs near the solstice not by chance but by the church's design: to replace the pagan celebration with something more acceptable, something less wild. And science completed the taming of the solstice by explaining it with formulae and physics. Bah, says science, humbug. Poppycock and superstition. And do the men in white coats watch the pagans in bright robes with envy and secret longing? Yes.

The children have reached the Apple Tree by routes more circuitous and deep than their hippie parents, who greet them fondly, unsurprised. The children get hot chocolate and muffins, and in the spirit of the season send the poodle back to lead the rescuers out of the tunnel, to warmth and cheer and chocolate brownies.

[Thank you, Vickie, for submitting this. Happy Solstice to all! -Eds.]





### PASSAGES

### "Hogmanay!"

by Robin Weaver



Take a moment now, wherever you are, curled on the couch or camped in the cafe, hot drink to hand against the Winter's gloaming, to spare a thought for the substance of the seasons passed and the flavor of those on the way.



It's a dreamy kind of thing, remembering back to those golden, sunny days when knowing friends nudged one another to look and see Rose and Bill leading each other down the garden path. Specifically, it was the Shakespeare Garden, and it was filled with friends and family, and they were adorned with flowers. Their path was adorned with rose petals by Emily, Elizabeth and Shannon. Rose was adorned by Patti in bridal splendor. Bill had on a really nice morning coat, despite his friends' best attempts to dress him.

With their friends gathered round, something began to cook. The covens handled the ritual, consecrated the space, called the elements, set the stage; Starhawk guided the crowd through the script; yet there was something indescribably extra. People who'd never seen a circle cast before were starting to buzz.

Was it the perfumed air? The heat? That familiar glow began to, ah, grow, and though the bridal pair had begged their friends to be discrete, it was they who made the move to grab that funky beat with lusty vows. Undeterred by Arachne's pointed reminder of just how deep this commitment is, they tied the knot and jumped the broom.

The feeling stayed, through the stately spiral dance and deep into the Black Cat night where D.J. Kelly provided the music magic and Julie Rabbit provided that wonderful cake. Unexpected lust showed up, well, more than once.

In short, the perfect send-off for Bill and Rose's Irish honeymoon.

A smaller event, but none the less dear: Charles, Laura, Flo and friends gathered for a naming ritual for Ami. At least one of the over-scheduled (grin) straggled in later during the week to add a blessing bead towards the circle of her happy and fortunate life.

Now Lammas was strangely broken into two rituals. It seems several of us (blush) still have the same difficulty with following directions that we had in grammar school.



After waiting patiently for an hour in two camps, a mile apart, we proceeded to celebrate the first fruits of harvest, and to acknowledge the sacrifices our hopes entail. Cookies were heartily enjoyed.

Must of the Autumn was spent preparing for Winter, or at least for its opening, with the Samhain Cycle. Three nights of "completely and utterly fantastic" ritual filled the Hall of Flowers. Well, former Hall of Flowers. It seems that since we packed the place in '81, bureaucratic wisdom has renamed the place the San Francisco County Fair Building.

Friday evening held a women's event focused on honoring the Crone. Carol and Patti co-coordinated. The covens who built the altars should know that our reviewer was most impressed.

Saturday continued the tradition of multicultural rituals. An intimate afternoon was followed by a large and enthusiastic evening crowd. The sacred space was guarded by a steaming labyrinth. Guarded? The Sierra Clubbers who wandered into it from their nearby costume party certainly seemed confused.

On Sunday, while the youngsters were off on their traditional candy harvest, we oldsters filled the house, gathering to remember the dead and ask their aid for the coming year. Brigid led a chorus of old hands and quick studies in a very tight performance. The dancers brought Goddess and God energies into powerful visual balance. Kim organized the instrumentalists, Theresa and Jody guided us across the Sunless Sea to visit that far country of sadness and hope. And Starhawk saved the day from the only real glitch when, despite Rehearsals and Careful Instructions, some folks didn't get to dance the Spiral. Her solution? Let's do it again! Most Excellent. Sartorial awards from our fashion squad include one to Macha for "Best Skulls" and one to Beverly and Doug for "Matching Red Dress and Cummerbund." Special mention also goes to Julie for "Best Embroidery" and to Rebecca for "The Most Fetching Display of Dead Flowers."

The support effort was really incredible. Thanks to Rebecca, Jody and Julie for coordinating Sunday's activities; to Vibra and the Graces; to David and the Dragons; to the altar builders; and to everyone who contributed to the clean-up. And special thanks to those whose efforts supported the entire weekend: for the sound and lighting to Kim and Brian and especially to Rex who spent Saturday night on the site to make the tech happen; to Karl, for feeding us; and to Patti, who certainly deserves incredible karma for doing the paper work and keeping this whole boat afloat.

What would the season be without the Dia de los Muertos march through the Mission District? This year's candlelight procession was dedicated to the memory of the late Caesar Chavez. Our gang, with children and doumbecs, joined a crew of costumed sambistas to add our might/mite to the holy madness of the night. We made our way through the chaotic birth canal of Balmy Alley to the ritual in Garfield Park, where Starhawk joined in the priestessing. Foundations are being laid here for solid cross-cultural bridges.

On another somber note: we mourn the passing of Exene, Theresa's feline companion of nine years, who died peacefully in her sleep. She is survived by her mistress and by her beloved Auntie. She will be sorely missed.



Earth sleeps and renews Herself. Her face grows young again. The fullness of Autumn and Winter's clear wisdom prepares for the bright hopes of Springtime. Already the hills are glowing with the green dream of life. When we gather at Imbolc for Brigid's feast, we'll match Nature's promise with promises of our own, sharing with one another our commitment to the future, the true New Year's gift. Blessed be.



### THE BLOCKADE AT CLAYOQUOT

Dear Friends.

Clayoquot Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, is one of the largest remaining stands of temperate rain forests on earth, a sacred place of ancient trees, salmon streams, and steep mountains. This area is a global biological treasure that should be preserved for all people.

Earlier this year, the government of British Columbia gave Macmillan Bloedel license to clear-cut most of Clayoquot Sound—a decision which will prove devastating to the environment and which negates Native land claims which are still being fought in the courts.

Over the summer, more than seven hundred people have been arrested in an ongoing, nonviolent blockade at Clayoquot, among them myself, my husband David Miller, and three of my stepdaughters, Juanita, Amy and Julie.

The Canadian government is attempting to destroy opposition to the logging by handing out stiff sentences. Blockaders are now facing sixty days in jail and \$3,000 fines for our action to prevent the crime of ecocide.

Please help. Write or fax Premier Mike Harcourt and express your opposition to the logging of Clayoquot.

The Honorable Premier Mike Harcourt
Office of the Premier
Legislature Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X5

Phone: (604) 387-1715 or 1-800-663-7867

Fax: (604) 387-0087

International opposition is effective. AT&T, Pacific Bell and the San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner buy newsprint from Clayoquot. You can write letters of protest, cancel subscriptions, and send copies of them to Premier Harcourt.

Thanks for your support. Our trial is not until May 27, 1994, and we have every hope that the situation will change by then. Remember, the most important issue is to stop the clearcut!

Blessed be,

Starhawk

# THE TWELVE STEPS OF VERA AND NERO (An Inquiry into Pendulum Whiplash)

To think it all started with a fever

NERO LOVES VERA (VERA WANTS A DIVORCE): Step V

Hot flashes in retrograde Daguerreotypes of Mary Shelley bound Rip Van Wrinkle ignores this effective clause St. Cecil B. De Mille gestures great new motivations And grants more grants "The ripple effect is a waste of good compost, The fortune teller in your bowels knows best!" Out of the mouth of fools and fanatics Stirs an edge of truth In the cauldron of spicy cuisine and active ulcers Swamp soup steams in the kitchen of progress Fossils under every foundation Cemented shells make deals with the underground And the will of Nero influences Vera to the barber Sacred bloodletting for a profane plot "Know thyself ..." "Fuck thyself!" motions Vera out of the chair The barber a retired navy man misinterprets her meaning Allied with Nero so he is aligned Shunning the chiropractor as a chiromantic quack The next quake will disable his spine So the wheel turns So with arthritis Until the wheel turns again Vera buys a book on physics With the word "Meta" before it And is fired by her familiar peculiar institution So her heritage confronts his story And ignites the flames of fear Motionless for a moment The curve moves And Caesar plays fiddle like a drink in hell

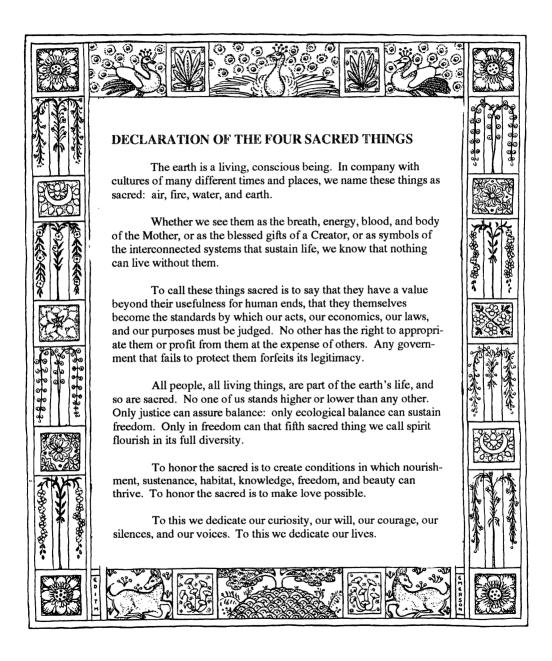
### SEPARATED BUT AT A DISTANCE: Step VI

Fire and water Steam bath in the therapist's room Of y and x algebra Father defines a pattern Mother is a different matter The last temptation of chaos draws a blueprint mandala And slurs with Set infection intention Sunspot madness Mark of the divine Froth and foam ET bandits man their chariots of abuse In the reptile memory Of atavist tribe consciousness Dragonlore Of Earth bound Gaia Of polar queen bees in making and unmaking Isis of heaven Through Osirus of earth Star In the mystery of the spiral staircase Dancer and dance Dance and dancer Of photons in heat And wavelengths on the make Perspective in retrospect, circumspect, reflect Man is the Goddess Woman is the God In a magnet's eye Baphomet yawns, smiles and smirks Like a quirky quark For the twelve steps of ritual Is too politically correct Even for an ex-templar But not so odd For the daughter of Nero So the pendulum swings

- D.R.R. Orton



### From The Fifth Sacred Thing:



### THE FIFTH SACRED THING

by Tamara Thompson

The Fifth Sacred Thing, by Starhawk Bantam Books: \$21.95; 486 pages.

Occasionally a novel appears that is both a clear articulation of personal vision and a well-crafted work of fiction. Such is the accomplishment of *The Fifth Sacred Thing* by Starhawk. Always the teacher, Starhawk uses rich characters and a compelling narrative to show how our future depends on the rules we live by and the choices we make.

Starhawk's previous books, The Spiral Dance, Dreaming the Dark, and Truth or Dare, are well known works on pagan ritual, collective organization and political action. With The Fifth Sacred Thing, her first work of fiction, she has more latitude and context to accommodate her lessons and reach a wider audience. Herein, she provides the reader with solid spiritual and ideological tools and some practical guidelines for their use.

The Fifth Sacred Thing presents a frighteningly real picture of 21st century California that is an extrapolation of current trends and decisions. This is not a utopian novel. We see water wielded as a political weapon and the division of southern and northern California both geographically and ideologically. Toxic conditions are extreme, and the government oppresses under the auspices of protection, equity, and purity.

The book starts with a "Declaration of the Four Sacred Things," claiming earth, air, fire, and water as forces which must be protected to benefit all humankind. These things cannot be owned or controlled, and nothing can live without them. Without them, the fifth sacred thing, human spirit, cannot survive. This is the code, along with the tenets of nonviolence and naturopathic healing, honored by those in the North.

The controlling politicos, the "Stewards" and "Millennialists" of the South, have a declaration, too: "The Four Purities", governing moral, family, racial and spiritual conduct. Only whites have rights. Divorce, homosexuality and nonstate prescribed religion are illegal. Engineered diseases and their antidotes (for a price) flourish. Only the rich have water, and stealing it is punishable by death.

A third group, the resistance in the hills, opposes the Stewards violently. Those in the North and in the hills are ostensibly on the same side, and they come to work together. But moral conflicts arise for Northerners concerning the ethics of supporting the violence, directly or not. Characters each struggle with the issue differently and employ diverse approaches with equally varied outcomes. The North's non-violence stance is tested on both a personal and group level when the Stewards invade the North and commandeer the freerunning water for the state. Starhawk offers no definitive answer, but leaves the nebulous issue of how best to handle

conflict for her readers to sort out personally.

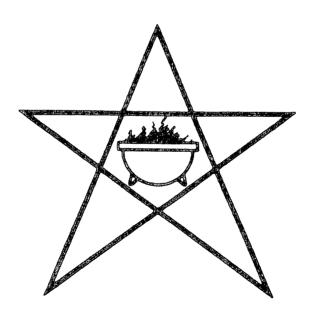
"All war is first waged in the imagination, first conducted to limit our dreams and visions," says Maya, an elder of the Northern community. Through the character's experience, Starhawk shows that dreams and visions are no less real than waking reality; just different. Both are just as efficacious, insightful and useful, especially in times of trial.

The story is rich in culture, with characters embodying practices and ideas from Pagan, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Eastern traditions, often within the mind of one individual. Starhawk im-

plies that different cultures, traditions and religions should be tapped for their various positive contributions to understanding the human condition, with the resulting eclectic world view providing the paradigm shift mandatory for human survival.

The Fifth Sacred Thing is important reading. Its ideas on sustainability, diversity of culture, political organization, moral and spiritual ethics, human nature and conflict will leave the reader with a personal challenge make the future better, and may provide some guidance on how to go about it, both individually and collectively.

[Plus, it's scary, funny, and the lovemaking scenes are great, too. -Eds.]

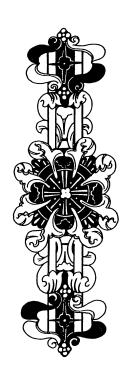


### INITIATION: THREE HEART POEMS

Tap my breastbone,
It will crack.
An eggshell spilling yolk
Across your fingertips.
I will be hollow then.
Empty and clean.
Fill me with fresh air.

This is my year of nines.
Sixes and threes.
Cut the threads,
Stagger forward.
I am yours now.
Interior spaces,
Dark and light.
I'm being pulled to sea.
Lady, gentle with my heart.

Time teaches my heart sadness,
Like old Breton chanteys.
Tug of ocean loneliness.
Spots of rainbow,
Water and light.
The heart sinks, then soars.
Heavy with wind,
Easy with rain.



-Theresa L. Dutton

### STATE OF THE EARTH LITANY

# Human Impacts on the Earth from The Spiral Dance Ritual, 1993

### By David Spinner

We acknowledge the condition of our home, the Earth, which has no voice to speak except through us. We speak of the scars and gouges inflicted on by our way of life. We are the instruments of life and what is remembered lives in us; what we remember heals and changes.

We summon the spirits of the Earth to heal:

The mountains eviscerated for gems and ores,

The enslavement of caverns to house radiation wastes;

The land filled and choked by the residue of blind consumer appetite;

American valleys and canyons drowned by dams, and farmland drowned by floods;

Pelicans, cormorants, gulls, and gannets, otters, sea lions, whales and seals, crabs, starfish, prawns,

And plankton living under the shore rocks all suffocating under oil spilled;

The prairie grasses razed by cattle;

The Asian deserts stripped of firewood;

The dehydrated lands in Africa and Asia turned to deserts;

The water tables drained in the Middle East that kill the land with salt.

Now, we feel the chatter of our teeth and remember the vibration of our throats when we speak or moan.

And with this solid skin and bone, we will heal the Earth.

We summon the Spirits of the Water to heal:

The rivers choked by 36,000 large scale dam projects and clogged by billions of acres of displaced topsoil;

The seas starved of oxygen by plankton blooms and where radioactive wastes have been discarded;

The coral reefs smothering under landslides and silt;

The water tables, lakes and rivers poisoned by pesticides, PCBs and dioxin that slowly kill the communities drinking from them;

The deep oceans used as city dumps;

The microscopic algae that die in lakes and ponds from the fall of acid rain;

The lives of dolphins trapped and drowned in gill nets;

The dying humpback whales and Hawaiian monk seals;

The droughts that plague Africa and California;

The desert life whose water has been diverted for city use;

The diversion of rivers that have <u>killed</u> the Aral Sea and are parching Mono Lake; And the tainted blood that carries all disease.

Now, we feel the water on our tongues and the water in our eyes.

We lick our lips and we remember the water.

With that water, we will heal the Earth.

We summon the Spirits of the Fire to heal:

The plague of nuclear energy for power and for weapons;

The Persian Gulf from the effects of burning oil wells;

The countries of Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina from the destruction of war;

The human appetite for fossil fuel;

The cold bodies of the homeless;

The burnt skin, blisters, and cancers caused by increased ultraviolet sunlight through the ozone hole;

The heat of global warming;

The burning rain forests of Amazonia and the South Pacific;

The tropical forests and the immense variety of life they shelter.

Now, we feel the fire in our stomachs, and the heat and the light from the sun that makes our eyes squint. We remember that fire and with it we heal the Earth.

We summon the spirits of the Air to heal:

The atmospheric skin bristling with particulate smoke and carbon dioxide from smokestacks and automobiles.

The other greenhouse gases warming the world;

The air of the menace of chemical weapons.

The growing stratospheric ozone hole that shields us from the sun.

The air and lungs the residents of Richmond, California who suffered from inhaling sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide

Now, feel your breath go in and out and listen to the breath of the person next to you. With the air that makes each breath, heal the earth.

We remember that the power of the elements through us will combine to heal the Earth.

We remember because:

What is remembered lives to change.

# PAGANS AT THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

by Sarah Stockwell

The halls of the Palmer Hotel were a swirl of color. Saffron robed Buddhist monks mingled with dark suited Protestant clergy; Native Americans in ceremonial dress stood alongside turbaned Catholic cardinal Sikhs. complimented a Pagan on his choice of color in robes, and laughed—they both wore the same shade of crimson. As the opening procession of The Parliament of the World's Religions unfurled in Chicago this past August, representatives of dozens of spiritual traditions came together for the first time in a century-Witches and Pagans among them.

"One hundred years ago, the people of the world came together in Chicago," said the publicity for this historic event. "There's no better time than now for this to happen again." Building on a century of interfaith dialogue, a primary focus of the 1993 Parliament was the current environmental crisis. The keynote address spelled out clearly the destruction that humans have wrought upon the planet, and this theme was echoed throughout the week. What better time for Earth-centered spiritual paths to enter the conversation?

And enter the conversation they did. Three national Pagan organizations served among the 125 co-sponsors of the Parliament. The EarthSpirit Community, the Covenant of the Goddess and Circle Sanctuary worked together

to create a strong and visible Pagan presence. During the ten day event, Pagans and Witches gave almost two dozen speeches, workshops, concerts and rituals, including a beautiful full moon circle among the trees in Grant Park, sponsored by COG and attended by some 300 participants and members of the press.

MotherTongue, the ritual performance group of the EarthSpirit Community performed a concert, led singing and drumming at the full moon ritual and participated in the Festival of Sacred Performing Arts as well as backing up singer Kenny Loggins in a musical prelude to the Dalai Lama's closing address before a vast crowd.

Paganism as a viable form of spirituality in this time of environmental and cultural crisis was the theme of two major presentations, one given by Andras Corban Arthen, EarthSpirit Community Director, and the other by Phyllis Curott, COG National First Officer. Both presentations were well attended, enthusiastically received, and were recorded by the Parliament for its archives and public distribution.

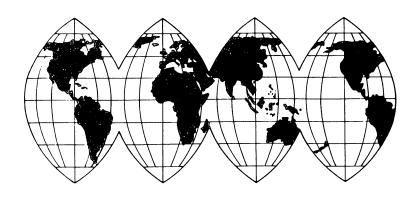
Other Pagan presentations included workshops on religion and censorship offered by Rowan Fairgrove and Joseph McMahon, the Shamanic Roots of Witchcraft, by Andras Corban Arthen, the Spirituality of Menopause, by Diana Paxson, Pagans in Interfaith Dialogue,

by Don Frew and two panel discussions titled "What is Wicca?" in which many of the varied traditions present were represented. These, along with other workshops and performances, presented a well-rounded view of Paganism and Witchcraft.

Paganism was also well represented in a number of interfaith forums. Deirdre Pulgram Arthen of the EarthSpirit Community led a morning interfaith meditation/ritual with chanting and dancing. Selena Fox of Circle Sanctuary moderated a dialogue between Buddhists and Christians, adding her earth-centered perspective as a common ground for both traditions to meet upon.

The ripples of understanding about Paganism and Witchcraft set in motion at the Parliament are incalculable. The impact of the Pagan presence was perhaps best summarized by a documentary film producer's comment about the media's reaction to the event: Parliament clearly was a coming-out party for Pagans and Witches into the community of the world's religions." Every Presbyterian, Jew, or Catholic who tells his/her congregation about the Parliament can open new doorways of understanding in the world. It is in everyone's interest to help keep these doorways open.

For a copy of "Global Ethic," and other information from the Parliament including EarthSpirit's "Introduction to Paganism and Witchcraft," send \$3 to The EarthSpirit Community, PO Box 365, Medford, MA 02155.





# Reclaiming Classes



# **ELEMENTS OF MAGIC FOR WOMEN AND MEN in Marin County** by Beverly and Doug

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. Group experience follows feminist consensus process. We hope to provide a fair and nurturing environment for all participants. Beginning six-week course. Prerequisite: Reading of the first six chapters of *The Spiral Dance* by Starhawk. We ask that applicants be committed to attending all six classes, which will be held Sunday afternoons beginning January 23 in Marin County. Call Beverly at (415) 927-2044 for information, registration, and location. \$60-\$120 sliding scale.

# RITES OF PASSAGE FOR WOMEN AND MEN by Jody and Hilary

The Rites of Passage focuses on dreams, myths and language, using traditional and non-traditional tales and techniques to create a personal rite of passage. Through storytelling, trance, release work and dreams we receive our challenge(s), meet our helpers, work through our blocks and emerge renewed, reborn. This class culminates with a ritual created by the students. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic class. Six week class begins Tuesday, March 1. \$60-\$120 sliding scale. Call Jody at (415) 665-1522 for location and registration.

### MAGICAL BODY FOR WOMEN AND MEN by Margaret and Beverly

In this class, we will focus and charge the magical tools we use the most—our bodies! We will begin by using various techniques for deepening awareness to locate the flowing and blocked areas of our energy bodies. From there we will create ritual to enliven and express our energy and will; empowering each other to trance using our bodies and their shadows—to chant, rant, howl, growl, drum, tone, cry, hiss, laugh and whatever else is necessary to break through to our unique, fully embodied power as

# & Events









Witches! Six Thursday evenings beginning January 20 in San Francisco. Call Beverly at (415) 927-2044 or Margaret at (415) 885-0775 for information, registration, and location. \$60-\$120 sliding scale.

# **HOLY GROUND-A Day of Magic for Women Survivors of Incest and Child-hood Sexual Abuse, taught by Cybele and Hilary**

Gather with other survivors to create a safe space of your own to trance to. Let your Younger Self come out and be heard and understood. Reclaim your own story. We will work with myth and storytelling to find and awaken lost or sleeping parts of ourselves. We will use our hands, voices, bodies, will and imagination. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic or equivalent. Registration limited to nine women. Saturday, February 26 10:00-5:00. \$40-\$80 sliding scale. Call Suzette Rochat (a.k.a. Cybele) at (415) 541-5650 or (707) 525-4992 or Hilary at (415) 821-7656.

# WINTER WEEKEND INTENSIVE at Salamander Camp with Jody, Margaret, Theresa and Julie

Combined with aspecting, anchoring, mask-making and trance, we will be using myth for inner work. **February 18-21.** \$100-\$200 sliding scale. For information and registration, call **Jody at (415) 665-1522.** 

# RECLAIMING RECOMMENDS: BREATH AND BODY CLASS FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF INCEST AND ABUSE



This class focuses on bodily experience, facilitating contact with Younger Self, on giving the body voice and expression. Learn to work with your body in your healing process. We'll do grounding processes, boundary work, movement, writing, and body maps. We will create sacred, safe space together in which to breathe, share and feel. Instructor is a survivor and a certified Lomi bodyworker. Ten week class begins Tuesday, January 11 in San Francisco. Sliding scale. Intake interview required. Call Suzette Rochat (a.k.a. Cybele) at (415) 541-5650 or (707) 525-4992.

WITCH CAMP INFORMATION FOR 1994 ON PAGE 20.

### PLETHORA OF WITCH CAMPS PLANNED FOR 94

When Reclaiming began offering week-long summer intensives eight or nine years ago, we thought of them as a chance for people who did not live in reach of our sixweek classes to get a concentrated dose of magical training. Now, after teaching for seven years in Vancouver and six in Michigan, we have discovered that the week-long intensive structure of our "Witch Camps" is often where we do some of the most powerful magic in our lives, where we stretch and refine our teaching techniques, where we explore themes in a depth that we cannot reach in evening classes where we must contend with freeways, workdays, and all the demands of our ordinary lives. Camp creates a community of its own, which strengthens and supports broader Pagan communities in their areas.

Starhawk plans to be at all five camps. As always, they will be taught collectively, but we have not yet determined the roster of teachers for each one. Fees vary according to the price we have to pay for facilities, etc. but usually there is a sliding scale and some work scholarships available.

The camp experience has proved inspiring, so much so that this year eager organizers have sprung up like Bermuda grass around the country. As we go to press, it's possible we may be doing as many as five camps in 1994! So, get our your calendars and plan your vacation days soon—remember, Vancouver and Midwest camps tend to fill up fast!

### March 18-24—San Marcos, Texas

Contact: Sylvia Adame 8702 Appaloosa Run Austin, TX 78737 (512) 288-6615.

June 26-July 3—Sonoma County, California

Contact: Jodi Sager

PO Box 2550

Guerneville, CA 95446

(707) 869-0989, fax (707) 869-3855

This camp will begin on the evening of the 26th so participants can attend the Gay Freedom Parade in San Francisco is they wish—camp is about an hour away from the city.

### July 23-30—Vancouver, B.C.

Contact: Pat Hogan PO Box 21510

Vancouver, B.C. V5L 2W5 Canada

(604) 253-7189

### August (exact date TBA)—Washington DC (tentative)

Contact: Heather Sutherland 6208 Walhonding Road Bethesda, MD 20816 (301) 229-8816

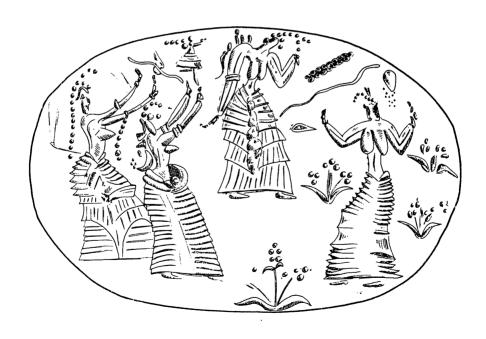
### September 3-10—Midwest Camp at a new site

Contact: Patti Mussen

1101 S. 2nd St.

Springfield, IL 62704

(217) 744-2914 or (217) 744-8865.



### STARHAWK'S 1994 SCHEDULE

February 3, 1994: New York, New York

Talk on "Reclaiming the Sacred"

Contact: The Learning Annex (212) 570-6500

February 6-12: Retreat in the Virgin Islands

Contact: Omega Institute (914) 266-4301

February 23, 7:30 pm: Berkeley, California Talk on Envisioning An EcoFeminist Future First Congregational Church of Berkeley

2345 Channing at Dana Contact: (510) 465-5800



February 25 & 26: Fresno, California

Friday evening talk and booksigning, Saturday workshop Contact: Valley Women's Books and Gifts (209) 233-3600

Evening presentations with the Learning Annex

March 4: San Francisco, California (415) 788-5500

March 11: Los Angeles, California March 12: San Diego, California

Contact: Harmony Network

September 16-30: Goddess Sites and Ritual in Greece

A maximum of forty women will visit some of the ancient sites where Goddesses were worshipped, including Delphi, the excavations at Akrotiri, and the temples on Delos. Workshops will be held at a retreat center. We will swim in the azure blue sea and bask in the warmth of late summer when many tourists have gone home. The option to continue travel after the tour is possible. Contact Harmony Network for itinerary.

For information on 1994 Witch camps, see page 20.

To confirm dates, or for more information, contact:

Harmony Network

PO Box 2550, Guerneville, CA 95446

(707) 869-0989

### PASSAGE

A lowly fungus turns the key to cells enfolded into dream Releasing within vision a most peculiar elvish entourage Who sculpt unearthly chambers from the plastic matter of my mind

This mammal-reptile-insect body sings infinities of self Vegetable senses swell with jeweled, translucent fruit Crystal structure intones mineral song throughout my ringing soul

In the miracle of communion with this ambrosial mystery
I bow in honor and in wonder, surrender to each sentient molecule
Each tear the sea

each spark the sun each point the pulsing worlds

Rising from the germ of macrocosmic fire
Suspended in the whirling womb of time
Woven from the conscious fiber of creation
And in the ageless presence of all ancestral being
My death mask shatters outward, a glass sky raining stars

From this ruptured shell of self we exit time To enter revelation of pervasive deity At journey's end we thus awaken undivided Blazing in the native flame of immortality

-Roy King



### A WORD TO THE WISE

by Judy Foster

Check out these three exciting possibilities for body/mind/spirit integration/creation offered this season:

CONTRABAND will be offering a number of classes and workshops, as well as a winter intensive. What I have to say about my experiences with them is best expressed in my poem below. Contraband's number is (415) 558-8821.

"JOYFIRE" is a workshop offered for women December 4 and again January 22 by Vicki Dello Joio and Debbie Fier. Vicki has been my movement teacher for almost a decade. She has taught me to shimmy, she has taught me to fly. Her work has been daily bread for my growth. She speaks to the inner mover directly and simply, with experience informed by Chi Kung, mime, Feldenkries, healing body work and a playful, passionate spirit. I haven't known Debbie as long, just through the three Joyfire class series I've been a part

of. She is a drummer, a strong mover, has a clear, ardent presence and a great alto voice. Lucky women who do this workshop! Joyfire is a worship circle, an energy web, an act of creation, pure play. This work heals. Like Contraband's, it invokes and integrates body/mind/spirit, but has a somewhat different focus. The work is gentler, but no less deep. For information, call (510) 654-3762 or (510) 535-2188.

The third opportunity is Margaret and Beverly's class, "MAGICAL BODY," a six week Reclaiming class offered this winter (see page 19). Both teachers have a deep knowledge of magical body, energy and a creative, playful spirit. As Margaret says, "This class is about using magic in your body as well as in your mind. Your body is the biggest magical tool you have and you were born with it. This class will help you get to know it better."

# CONTRABAND HOLY BODY WORKSHOP for my beloved teachers

pencil in new hand body open no words no need thank you I offer/sing praises

totally stoned, all cells buzzing tips of fingers alive, from floor to top of head—all out the space hole inner—outer space thin boundary edges of body separate one from the other wholly body

-Judy Foster

# ON SEEING "LAST TANGO IN PARIS" AND READING BECKY'S TAKE ON PERSEPHONE

That dark myth, the underside exposed; "Egoist," she said in the film. The man on the way down, trapped in his life unable to break out, thirsting for a glimmer from another way, transcendence.

"It's my duty to take you down where the roses bloom."
Indeed it is performing a service, and never underestimate the (sexual) curiosity of the (a) young (woman), or the thirst for experience.





# AFTER WITCHCAMP/Back in the City Reentry Adjustment #3 CZ ELIZ GZ

Dear Reclaiming,

We are shocked and deeply offended by your article, "The Real Scoop About Witch Camp," by Aurora in your Summer newsletter. We understand this article was intended to be humorous but we found it appalling. We have been hoping to go to Witch Camp someday, but Aurora's piece would certainly make us reconsider.

First, Aurora worries that we might "dismiss (her) as some lunatic from the fat people's liberation movement." Well, I doubt seriously that anyone would mistake her fatphobic attitude as one from those of us working very hard to promote diversity in all forms. In fact, we doubt Reclaiming would have printed a letter that referred to feminists or civil rights advocates as "lunatic." Even Starhawk and Z. Budapest have been very clear that we must accept our bodies and not accep prejudice in any form.

It is estimated that each year 150,000 women in America will die from eating disorders. Hundreds of thousands suffer from hatred of their bodies and the constant injunction that they must starve themselves in order to be acceptable. Women and men who don't fit the impossible standards are denied jobs, harassed on the job and in their social lives, publicly and privately abused both physically and verbally, and subject to all manner of derisive stereotypes.

In fact, Aurora's piece is ripe with stereotypes and misinformation. Actually, we know quite a few fat vegetarians as well as thin meat eaters. Repeated studies have found that a person's natural weight range is set by genetics.

Over a dozen studies have tried and failed to prove that fat people eat more or differently than thin people. Certainly it is good for people to get regular exercise and eat healthier. The problem is the assumption that weight loss should be the goal.

Aurora's comments about being forced to hike five miles or trance work that makes one nauseated or "so scared we can't eat for days," also makes us very concerned. What happens to the disabled who can't hike for five miles? What about those people recovering from eating disorders who already have enough trouble eating? The last thing they need is to be frightened off eating again.

We are deeply dismayed by the depth of ignorance shown by Aurora's article and even more upset by the lack of judgment and sensitivity shown by Reclaiming in choosing to print the piece. Would you have printed a piece that promoted other harmful stereotypes? We are also left to wonder just what kind of place Witch Camp is and whether we have any interest in going now.

It is important for our community to promote acceptance of diversity in all areas, including size and appearance.

Sincerely,

Coven Coill Sidhe

Dawn Atkins, Rebecca Samson, David Thomas, Kerry Parker, M.Troy McKee, Morgan Weiss, Constance De Binero

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### FEMINIST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER

As part of Samhain 1992, Reclaiming held a women's ritual for choice. The money raised at that ritual was donated to the Feminist Women's Health Center in Chico, from whom we received this thank you:

Dear Reclaiming,

We wanted you to know that your generous donation to the FWHC was put to good use. The Chico FWHC had a sign that was 18 years old, faded and falling down. We used part of your donation to purchase a beautiful new sign. Women can now easily find our clinic.

Thank you again for your generous support and work for women's issues.

### **FWHC Staff**

FRAME DRUM CIRCLE—Are you be interested in joining a frame drum circle? I'm thinking we could teach each other rhythms, maybe learn how to raise energy, call directions and deities, ground ourselves, engage in self-expression, and, most important, HAVE FUN together. Does this sound good? Call Rebecca at (415) 826-2342.

### LOST AT SAMHAIN:

I lost my magickal cingulum (cord) on Samhain after The Spiral Dance. It is made of silver-grey cotton cord, five strands, nine feet long, tasseled on ends, with knots spaced about 2-1/2 feet apart—one triple knot for the Goddess, quadruple knot for the Guardians of the Towers, quintuple knot for the Points of Iron. Made for me by the late Witch and knot magick master, Wally Lockwood, at the time of my initiation; my favorite and most powerful magickal tool. ABSOLUTELY IRRE-PLACEABLE! I have checked with all the lost and founds. I had it on for the ritual and it was not found in the dressing area after we left. If you have any knowledge of its whereabouts, I would be eternally grateful if you can help me recover it.

-M. Macha Nightmare (415) 454-4411.

### CLASSES & EVENTS

### CLASSES IN SANTA CRUZ WITH LAURA K. WYRD

WOMEN'S SACRED DANCE – Ongoing class celebrating our bodies, our Selves, and each other through dance, movement, trance and ritual. Begins in mid-January. \$10-\$20 sliding scale.

EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF MAGIC – A movement focused approach to learning the elements of magic. We will explore the basics of Wiccam ritual, empowering each person to plan and create their own rituals. Six week class begins end of January. \$60-\$120 sliding scale.

RITES OF PASSAGE – Using dreams, trance, movement and group energy to transform our inner blocks leaving us free to create and move in our power. This class is for those with some previous experience. Six week class begins in February. \$60-\$120 sliding scale.

For information, location, and/or registration, call Laura at (408) 425-3317 and leave your name, address, and phone number. She will contact you in early January.

TAROT FOR LIFE — PATTERNS FOR EVERYDAY LIVING, A Seven-Week Course for Everyone with Mariah the Metaphysician and Mark Hannan. The practical application of the Tarot will be explored using Jungian interpretation, Magick & Ritual, and Common Sense. Discover inner wisdom using the deck of your choice through practice with four different layouts. Thursdays, beginning January 20, until March 3, 1994. San Francisco location. \$75-\$125 sliding scale. For a course outline, call (415) 681-4147.

VISIONING THE NEW YEAR with Margo Adair on January 1, 1994 Start the new year in alignment with your goals! Empower your visions in an energy circle. Sliding scale. For more information, call (415) 861-6347.

Margo Adair is an author and leader in alliance building and applied meditation training. She is available to work with groups that are focusing in on specific life problems so she can lead meditations tailored to the issue.



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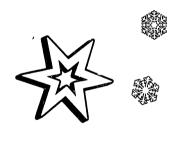
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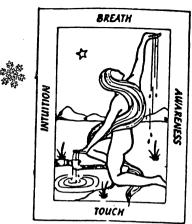
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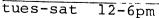


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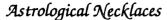


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Thank you again for your support of Reclaiming work.

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