

RECLAIMING NEWSLETTER

#65

WINTER '90



OUT OF STORMS AND WINDS AND RAINS,
OUT OF SORROW, OUT OF PAIN
I SEE A BETTER WORLD A COMIN' WOODY GUTHRIE

\$2

Reclaiming

A Center for Feminist Spirituality

P.O. Box 14404, San Francisco CA 94114

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.

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 make our job much easier. Please include a hard copy of your submission, just in case something funny happens during layout. Graphics are ALWAYS welcome!

We may edit for length, 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.

***Spring Newsletter deadline
February 1, 1997.***

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

Contacting Reclaiming

When requesting information from Reclaiming, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Reclaiming Events Line

(415) 929-9249

This recording 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. Please allow plenty of time, and remember to say where we can reach you with questions.

The Recording Faerie

Reclaiming Web Page

<http://www.reclaiming.org/cauldron/classes/welcome.html>

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

Reclaiming Newsletter

Number 65

Winter 96-97

Reclaiming Classes	19, 20-21, 25
Starhawk's Schedule	22
Reclaiming Rituals & Meetings	23
Witch Camps 1997	24
Announcements	28-29
Letters	32
PantheaCon	33
Crossing Over, Reclaiming Tapes	36
Subscriptions	back cover

Articles

Masks by <i>M. Macha NightMare</i>	4
Loving Fully: the AIDS Quilt by <i>Linda Waite</i>	8
Women's Ritual for Crone Moon by <i>MAB</i>	10
Walk the Walk by <i>Amy Lynn Caplan</i>	12
Defending the Redwoods at Headwaters by <i>George Franklin</i>	14
Saving the Ward Valley Desert by <i>Phil Klasky</i>	16
Peace Camp at Big Mountain	29

Culture

Poetry by <i>Judy Foster, Heather Vuchinich & Morgan le Fay Proctor</i>	18
Brigid's Charge a new book by <i>Cynthia Lamb</i>	19
The Tarot Corner by <i>Margaret & Susan</i>	26
The Hermit poem by <i>T. Thorn Coyle</i>	26
The Spiraled Ants by <i>Casey & Oak</i>	27
Women of the Golden Dawn book review by <i>Patricia Morris</i>	30

This newsletter was produced by Margaret Bovis, George Franklin, & Heather Vuchinich. Special thanks to: Seed, Jim Haber, Madrone, Chris Rubacky, Reya, T. Thorn Coyle, Steve Nadel & Patti Martin. Cover by David Solnit.

Masks

by M. Macha NightMare

INSPIRATION

If you have read Starhawk's book, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, you will be familiar with the notion she put forth in that work of having masked representatives of the voices of the Elements channeled during council meetings. When I read this idea, I was intrigued by it, so I asked Starhawk if the technique had ever been tried. She said it hadn't, it was just an idea she had.

OPPORTUNITY

The Covenant of the Goddess (CoG), a national organization of Witches and covens, holds its annual Grand Council

and festival called MerryMeet in late August each year. Preceding MerryMeet is a day-long workshop or series of workshops, instituted by Amber K in the mid-80s, for members to continue their magical education, to share their knowledge and expertise. This event is called the Leadership Institute. The Northern California Local Council of CoG (NCLC-CoG) and Reclaiming Collective, to both of which I belong, sponsored MerryMeet and its concomitant Leadership Institute in 1996. As a member, I chose my work on MerryMeet to be to produce the Leadership Institute.

MANIFESTATION

Eleanor Myers is a wonderful magical sculptor who has been associated with Reclaiming Collective since before we actually formed ourselves into a collective. Her main medium is clay, and her work graces many a Witch's altar in the San Francisco Bay Area. In fact, Eleanor created the Element headdresses for the very first Spiral Dance ritual in 1979, the ritual which was written and performed as a book party for the first publication of Starhawk's eponymous book. Much of Eleanor's work is shamanic in appearance; she has created masks for hanging, primal guardian figures, small, often horned, shamanic figures wrapped in skins.

Eleanor presently lives in Northern California where she maintains her connections with our community. She is also my long-time friend, as well as being

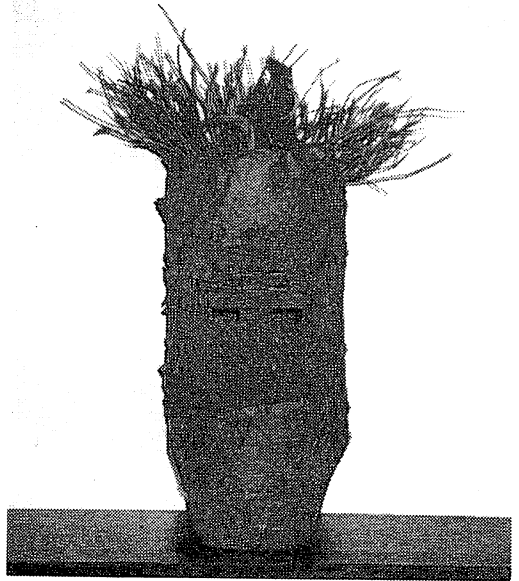


— east —

a friend of Starhawk, the originator of the mask idea. So I approached her with the idea of creating masks for people to wear to channel the voices of the Elements in the Leadership Institute and at Grand Council proceedings. She agreed, but of course the requirements were rather vague, only what she and I could ascertain from Starhawk's suggestion of the technique in *The Fifth Sacred Thing*.

Eleanor began with the notion of creating something along the lines of a Kachina. To that end, she created large cylinders about three or more feet high. We had virtually no budget for this project, so she checked in regularly with her local recycling center to collect useable cardboard. She worked this cardboard into 15 layers of lacquered paper to create the cylinders that formed the basic structure of all four masks. The masks are designed to sit on the shoulders of the channeler. They have eye openings, but are otherwise unventilated.

To find other materials which would work to create these masks, Eleanor did magic and asked for the materials to come to her. She walked along the banks of the Sonoma Creek and found interesting materials which had been washed downstream by the Winter rains and left on the banks. She found rusty metals, a hub cap, a silicon disc, mosses, branches. The shiny chrome hub cap and silicon disc became the Sun rising on the East mask. For the South mask she wanted to use copper; she discovered that discarded plastic-sheathed wires at the recycling center contained copper inside, so she stripped off the plastic and used these many small wires to create the flames of Fire on the South mask. The West mask has a rusted metal face plate and carries perforated rusted metal, driftwood and sea vegetation. The North mask is crowned



— south —

with mosses, twigs and the horns of a young deer.

The colors of the masks are basically brownish, and the textures are similar to fine bark. Their overall appearance is chthonic. One has only to touch them or to carry them or to place them over one's head to immediately feel their primal power. There is nothing flashy about them. They are solid and unmistakable in their power.

EXPERIENCE

The two morning Leadership Institute sessions for structured in a circle, with four "featured participants," or people who were working or had experience in the fields which were to be discussed interspersed throughout the group. A large white candle had been consecrated by the NCLC-CoG staff at the Full Moon two nights before the Leadership Institute began, to be burned during all sessions of

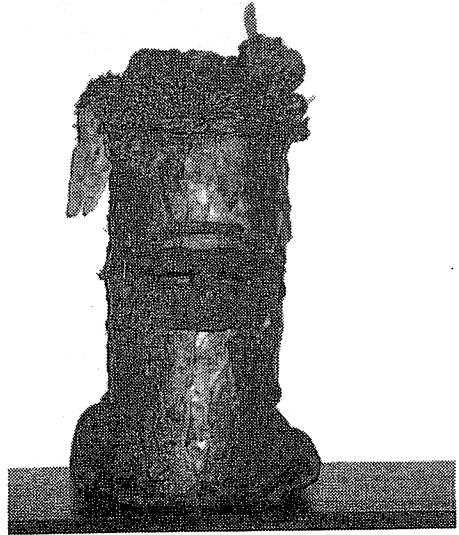
the Leadership Institute and the following Grand Council meetings. This candle burned in the center of the room.

Four volunteers agreed to wear or sit behind the masks during the sessions. They were not active participants in the discussions. I spoke to each sitter in each Quarter, beginning in the East, suggesting that s/he let go of her/his human persona and open up to let the Element fill her/him. The room was uncomfortably hot, inhibiting the actual wearing of the masks for most volunteers. I, as facilitator, asked the mask wearers to signal if and when — and only if and when — they were moved to speak in the voice of the Element.

The first session dealt with prison ministries. During that session, the voices remained silent.

The topic of the second session was counselling the dying, their loved ones and the bereaved. Since I was a “featured participant” in that workshop, another Witch volunteered to facilitate. This is such an emotional topic that most of what people needed to do was talk about their experiences with dying loved ones. This took up much of the session, and we had little time for more helpful “hands-on” discussion. No channeled voice spoke, but I offer this experience from Rowan Fairgrove, who sat under the Earth mask:

I attended Death & Dying — but I can't say I was there. . . . The masks were cylindrical and were made to entirely cover the head and rest on the shoulders. A small slit in the front provided the only ventilation and window on the world. I had volunteered to channel Earth and despite the heat, decided I wanted to wear the mask rather than hold it in my lap, at least for awhile. So for about the first 40 minutes or so of the workshop I was deeply in touch with Earth energy. I felt



— west —

the land we were on, I felt land far away that had things to say to someone who would listen. The sweat pouring from my body became the rivers pouring across the earth. I felt the itch and irritation of pavement and the unthinking works of humans. A part of me heard the folks talking about dying, but mostly the doings of humans were too fast for the pace that I was channelling. It was one of the most thorough trances I have done in a long time. I'm still processing!

At the end of each session, I spoke to each wearer, calling her/him to return to the mundane.

The next day during the Grand Council, the masks rested silently, unattended, in the four quarters of the room while the meetings took place. On the second day, I asked our First Officer, Amber K, who was facilitating the meetings, if four volunteers could use the masks in council. She readily agreed.

Cary the Faerie Chemist wore the Air

mask, as he had in one of the Leadership Institute workshops. He relates:

I was East on two occasions and only felt the need to speak during the second round . . . The issue was about burnout, the specific moment was during the questioning of Thorn, she was asked to address the issue of burnout. As East I did not hear the answer and wanted to speak; however, the group was not focused enough for me to speak and be heard without some sort of handwaving. At that point I had enough of interruptions, appropriate or not, and point of process was not something I wanted to channel.

I wore the Fire mask. The room was wicked hot (as everyone who wore a mask, or not, was all too aware). Rainbow Ranch, the site of the gathering, being clothing-optional, and our being Witches, I removed my clothes and wore only the heavy mask. I was restless. Sound was muffled under there. I moved around a lot and readjusted the mask frequently, but I did keep my focus on being Fire. Sweat ran down my body. At one point in the proceedings, I felt the need to speak, so I stood up, spread out my arms, and spoke the word “burnout.” Discussion stopped and folks looked around in some confusion and asked questions of each other. “What did she mean?” “Did she mean she’s burned out?” “Does she mean it’s too hot in here?” “Does she want to know if so-and-so is burned out, or likely to get burned out?” I had no more to say.

Mevlannen wore the Water mask. She says:

[Wearing the West mask] was transformative and a much-needed way for me to work my way out of being a CoG member and back into being a private Witch. . . .

During that session, the Earth, as is its nature, remained silent.

LESSONS

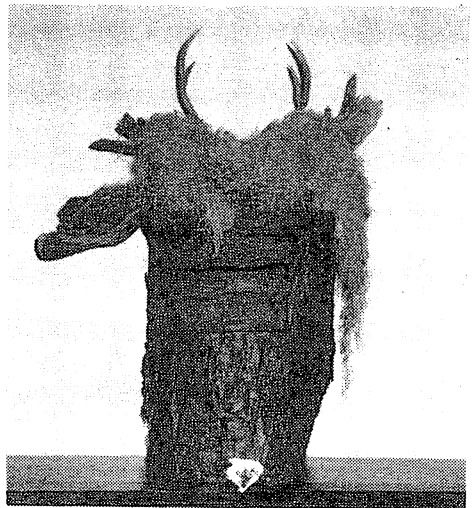
Design: The masks are very heavy. They definitely encourage stillness and attention to what one is about. They’re also hot! Beourn, who wore Fire for a session, said that he “was not able to completely disconnect’ and go to a deep trance. I often came up for air’ to change position.

Mevlannen, myself and others — both wearers and observers — noted that the placement of the eye slots facilitated going into trance:

The eyeslits, being cut as high as they were, pulled my line of sight upward, forming a visual and kinetic focus for trance. . . . I think that having the eyes so high is very, very effective at inducing trance. The mask does muffle sound quite effectively, both incoming and outgoing.

We also found that each channeler needs a tender. This tender’s duties are:

continued on page 34



— north —

Loving Fully

Inspirations from the AIDS Quilt

By Linda Waite

On October 11 and 12, I was in Washington DC where I saw the AIDS Quilt in its 40,000 panel/76,000 person entirety, attended a conference sponsored by Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and participated in a 150,000 person candlelight march and vigil honoring people who have died of AIDS. These experiences have brought forth a cascade of feelings, thoughts and images:

Thousands and thousands of candles illuminating the darkness. Golden light glistening on the water in long, moving, candle-shaped lines. Spirits present, spirits haunting, spirits holding us close as we cried. Parents who have lost their gay children joining with others to advocate for equal rights, love and safety for the gay and lesbian children of other parents. Those parents keeping the love for their child alive by sharing their parental love with gay men and lesbians whose biological parents have rejected them. We ARE family. I am NOT alone. Love WILL conquer all.

More quilt panels than I can look at. More people lost than I can comprehend. Sadness for the people whose panels have only a name spray painted on cloth. Realizing now that I was looking at the very first AIDS quilt panel made by Cleve Jones for Marvin Feldman; bless you both. Finding the panel for "GRASSE" made by his whole family, with enormous love emanating from the cloth, with his mother's daintily crocheted heart in the

corner. Crying, wiping tears, crying more, wiping more, letting it happen. Standing before the panels for Thom Higgins and John Janus. Holding Judy, letting her go, then holding her as she cried for these two boyfriends from high school. "He was the senior class president. He publicly refused to do an assignment that was absurd and put his whole graduation on the line for it. He won. I wish I'd known him better. I wish I'd taken the time." Time—feeling our mortality—how very precious life is.

Admiring the wonderfully creative gay men...drag queens and performers, hairdressers and musicians, architects and designers, teachers and doctors, soldiers and scientists, naturalists and sailors...all dead. Feeling the heartbreak of babies lost and grandmothers grieved. Proud that their loved ones included them amongst all these men. We honored their passing as we walked through that cemetery of loving creativity.

And love—it is what matters in the end, really. Love splattered across cloth, across acres of lawn, across 24 football fields of land in the power center of our country. Bill and Hillary finally went to see the Quilt, on their anniversary. How fitting. Maybe our love for one another melted that place in Mr. Clinton's heart where he's been unable to see that we are true family for one another. I hope he cried. It's hard not to.

I asked Judy what she would put on my panel. "A big heart and a pair of

hands." How would I represent her? What symbols would show her generosity, her humor, her deep kindness? I'd include our kitties, of course, for they are the recipients of so much of Judy's love and joy. I'd not be alone with this honoring, so many panels included cats and dogs who were loved by the person who had died. One dog died 3 months after his person. Both were present in the same panel.

As I walked, love swirled around us, thick in the air, full of spirits. (Do the spirits go with the panels as the panels travel around the world?) I've spent my life loving and always holding back some of my love. If I let it all come forth, and I lost the person, I would lose such a deep part of me, how could I recover? That's been my way...hold back, don't risk all, know you have more to give, but don't give it because then you will lose ALL....Then I looked at the panels. They said everything the panel makers wanted

to say to their beloveds. They did not hold back after the person was dead. They let their hurt come to the surface on the wave of their love. So why hold back the love when our beloveds are alive? We will hurt anyway, and if I let all the love I have for a person show, if I say the words and write the mushy poetry, and sing the songs, and tease and touch, and hold and kiss...if I say, "I love you," with my full heart in my hand and in my throat, won't I then have more to remember when my loved ones are gone? Won't I have the look in her eye when I sent the love in my heart into her heart? Won't I have the feel of his hand in mine as we sat with each other on the couch? Won't I have memories of the words we said to each other that were laced with tenderness and the commonality of daily life? Why hold back all that I have to offer someone else, only to give it to their memorial after their physical form is gone from me? Do I have the courage to let the true light in my

heart shine out of my soul, trusting that it and I will be embraced by the people I know in this world? Love was the thread in each one of the Quilt's 40,000 panels. Is it not also the thread in our lives, the blood in our veins, the life force that makes life the joyful, temporary, demanding adventure that it is?

I want to remove the shroud of fear that's weighted down my life. I want to unwrap my heart, to let it fly and sing, to let it make jokes and be silly, to let it reach out

continued on page 34



Elizabeth Raynham

Women's Ritual for Crone Moon

This is a ritual for the "Crone Moon" which is the dark moon before the Winter Solstice. It takes place in the dark of the year and the intent is to let go of the old and open to the new coming in. In tarot this is represented by the cards Queen of Swords and 5 of cups, the idea of house cleaning, catharsis. This is to clear any blocks, as well as to grieve what is left behind. We call upon the crone as she understands the necessity of death and change, and gives comfort and support during difficult times. This ritual is to help clear and comfort. Every woman present can have a part in the ritual; either the invocations or the different roles: Each role is marked with a star*.

A.* Cast and Invoke

- * Grounding (dark before solstice)
- * Cast the Circle (use an Athame for the Crone)
- **** Call in directions (using late fall, early winter manifestations)
- * Invoke Goddess (perhaps Hecate or Kali)

B. (In this part of the ritual one woman takes the group down the path and several other women aspect the women met on the way: these roles are open to individual interpretation.)

* "One day in the late fall when the branches are bare and the bite of winter is in the air you go out for a walk. You step outside into the cool air and start down the road, the frosted fallen leaves crunching under your feet. Just as you pass a curve

in the road you see another woman, paused looking at the horizon in front of you both. You greet her and ask her what she does on this road: She tells you her story..."

* {Lesbian woman (alternative sexual lifestyle, bisexual and others) leaving behind society and conventional ideas of woman's sexuality, but thus entering fully into her community, and knowing her true love }

* "Then she offers you a gift and her blessing. You continue along the road and a little further on you encounter another woman walking. You greet her and ask her what brings her to this path: She too tells her story...."

* {Childless woman who either chose or was unable to have children and who put that energy into other places in her life. Opening her love from her womb to mothering other situations: political, causes, artwork, poverty, ecology, etc. }

* "She offers you a gift and her blessing. You walk along and see a footbridge further ahead and on it is a third woman. You stop and greet her and as you watch the water flowing below you both she tells you of..."

* {Woman who has suffered great loss: war, famine, death, plague, natural disasters; and knows of the (healing, dulling) power of time to give strength to outlive our catastrophes both personal and public. }

* "She also offers you a gift and her blessing. You cross the bridge and as you

round another bend in the road you see an elderly woman resting on a bench. She greets you and tells you:"

* {Woman past menopause, with grown children and grandchildren and many of her friends and family dead or lost, speaking of the perspective of age, and the possibility of continuing-passion but in a different form; as compassion but not sympathy. }

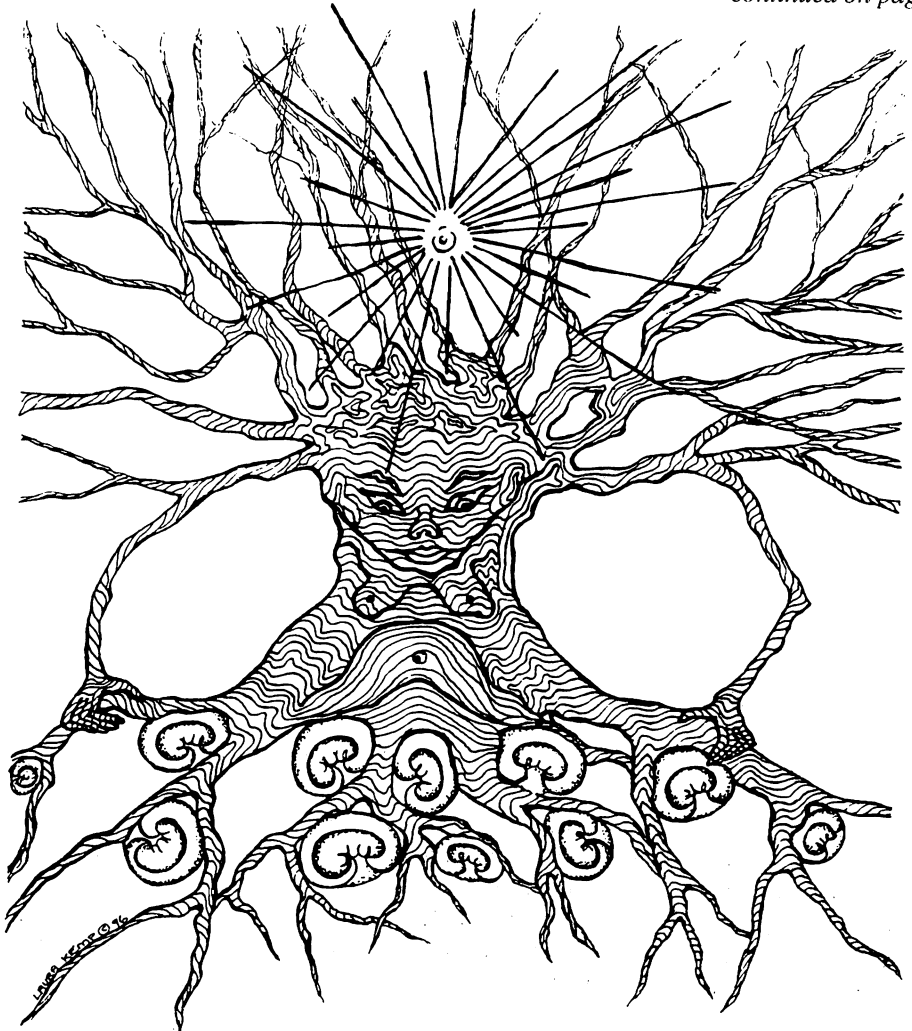
* "She also offers you a gift and her

blessing.

You bid her farewell and you see your home in the distance. As you arrive home you take a moment to consider these women. What have you let go of as they did? What gifts have you received from letting go?"

(Meditation period and/or raising energy with (Hecate/Cerridwen) or other chant for sending out the old and allowing in the new.)

continued on page 34



The Winter Crone: Guardian of New Beginnings, by Laura Kemp

Walk the Walk

by Amy Lynn Caplan

As winter approaches, let's all go deep into those dark, scary places within ourselves as individuals and as a society and see if we are really doing everything we possibly can to save the planet. Are we just talking the talk, or are we truly walking the walk? Are we practicing what we preach? Are we blaming "all those other guys" for the ecological devastation of our fragile home?

Each and every one of us needs to ask ourselves if our personal life style and consumption habits are consistent with our dream for a more sustainable / survivable future. Are we bemoaning Earth's demise, yet only paying lip service? Are we *really* doing all we can? Are there any other ways in which we can make a stronger commitment to help the planet?

Planting trees, donating money and energy to conservation organizations, recycling what we can, buying organics, composting, biking instead of driving, meditating on healing, protesting at Headwaters, beach clean-ups, letter writing... All these are good and necessary actions. But they are not enough. Grieving the progressive destruction and extinction of wildlife, oceanlife, coral reefs, deserts, forests, wetlands, prairies,

jungles — and humans — is inconsistent, when as individuals and as a society, we continue to support and justify our treacherous dependance on the livestock and fishing industries.

Saving the planet begins with the fork and the plate. The personal is political and the simplest, most effective environmental and political action any person can take is to evolve from a meat-inclusive diet to meat-free (vegetarian / plant-based) diet.

We who see ourselves as high spiritual beings while chowing down on a tuna sandwich, we who conduct our fundraising events to dismantle the multinational

Crone Noodles

A vegan recipe for winter. Serves 2-3 with salad.

1 Bunch of green chard
1/3-1/2 lb. mushrooms sliced thickly (more if you like)
1 small onion, or 2-3 shallots, peeled and sliced thinly
16 oz angel hair pasta
Juice of 1/2 a lime, or couple splashes of white wine
Chervil or Thyme • Dill • Olive Oil

Prepare pasta at the same time as other ingredients.

Clean chard and separate green leafy parts from white stalks. Slice leaves and steam lightly. Save steaming liquid.

Trim ends of stalks and chop stalks into small pieces; saute in olive oil with mushrooms, onions or shallots and add spices and juice or wine to taste. When onion is transparent and mushrooms tender lower the heat and simmer until pasta is cooked al dente and drained. Add small amounts of the steaming liquid to keep juicy. When pasta is drained, mix with vegetables and add cheese (optional) or gomasu.

— Margaret Bovis

corporations over a roast beef banquet or burger barbeque...we who claim to be "Earth-friendly" and then go home to a chicken salad... we who want to create a better world for our children and yet still feed them pork chops... *We are the problem!!!*

It should be no longer desirable or acceptable — as persons who are environmentally, spiritually, socially and politically concerned — to continue to consume the bodies of slaughtered animals. Every living thing on Earth is suffering because of our food choices. The personal is political.

Violence is Violence

We are working on overcoming nationalism, racism, ageism, sexism, homophobia. We pat ourselves on the back for reducing, reusing, recycling, living more in harmony with the Earth... and yet we EAT animals. This is speciesism. We condemn killing of humans. We deplore the ravaging and rape of the great outdoors and the wild critters. Yet we are bloodthirsty for the massacre of cows, pigs, chickens, sheep, fish, rabbits, deer, at the expense of the animals themselves, all natural resources on the planet, all communities in distant nations who raise or catch our food, and our own personal health.

Violence is violence is violence. Murder is murder is murder. All animals feel love, compassion, pain and suffering, not only cats or dogs. We do not need to eat murdered animals to survive. We do rituals to heal the Earth but we gobble down factory farmed animals who were raised with torture and agony.

The meat industry is the most insidious, most destructive, most devious "corporation" of all. We will help to end inequities in global food distribution. We will be able to feed all people on the planet. We will be globally healthier and create far less toxic

waste and damage far fewer ecosystems all over the world by going vegetarian and vegan.

Ecological Collapse

Enough literature is available in any bookstore anywhere in the western world for us to have easy access to the statistics on global environmental damage caused by the livestock industry. Any person who refuses to acknowledge and accept this as fact, any person who stubbornly ignores the ecological and spiritual horrors of meat production and consumption, any person who still believes that it is ecologically sustainable for humans to continue to eat flesh must *think again*. The information is out there. The argument that our ancestors ate meat and fish is irrelevant. The human population is exploding. Earth is reaching her limits of carrying capacity. There is no place on Earth untouched by pollution. We know this. Yet, we ignore this because we want the taste of flesh.

If you had to wring that bird's neck, throw that fish out of water and watch it suffocate, slit that cow's throat or electrocute that pig, would you????

Visualize factory farming. Visualize slaughterhouses.

Now... Visualize ecological collapse.

The Earth is now our trash can, our sewer, for the poisons and destruction caused by our addiction to animal "products" as forests, water, and topsoil are forever ruined. The oceans are rapidly becoming depleted of all marine animals — an empty toxic wasteland.

Get educated, get consistent. Claiming to care about the future of the planet and still eating meat is as inconsistent as being a cancer specialist who still smokes cigarettes or a public health worker who has unprotected sex.

Walk the walk.

Defending the Redwoods at Headwaters Forest

1200 arrested fighting corporate logging

by George Franklin

Despite overwhelming public support for preserving the ancient forests around the Headwaters area, Pacific Lumber Company has begun "salvage" logging operations in several groves of the last unprotected ancient redwood forest in the world.

Rallies and direct action coordinated by Earth First! and the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)

have kept a continual public presence at the site of the conflict.

7000 people marched and rallied on September 15th, with over 1000 arrested in a mass direct action. Another 150 people were not arrested when the police ran out of handcuffs.

Protests Continue into Winter

Lockdowns, blockades and tree sits continue, with over 200 more arrests slowing logging operations. A logger from already-devastated Mendocino County, south of Headwaters, locked himself to a bulldozer one morning. Two

hundred people shut down a California Department of Forestry office in late October without being arrested.

Dedicated to keeping the heat on corrupt corporations and inept government officials, activists vow to continue their work until the logging stops. As a popular Earth First! song says, "We're not leaving until you're out of the forest!"



7000 people, including many members of the Reclaiming community, marched in defense of Headwaters Forest on September 15th, 1996. Over 1000 people were arrested for civil disobedience, and over 200 more have been arrested since, as protests continue into the winter.

Photo by Karen Pickett, Earth First!

The Myth of Salvage Logging

Far from being the benign stewardship that it pretends, "salvage" logging is simply the industry's latest cover for attacking previously pristine areas. Logging corporations have targeted many forests across the country, including national and state parks and wilderness areas, with the acquiescence of the government.

On a commercial scale, the practice is ecologically absurd. Decomposing trees are literally the life of the forest. By removing dead or decaying trees (and often damaging healthy ones), the timber profiteers are disrupting the natural processes by which a forest sustains itself.

Preserving Trees and Jobs

The federal government has been involved in negotiations with Pacific Lumber, but the recent deal struck behind closed doors preserves only about 7500 of the disputed 60,000 acres of redwoods.

Forest organizers insist that the entire 60,000 acres must be maintained to preserve the environmental integrity of the redwood ecosystem and the species which live there.

Activists further insist that job opportunities for local residents must be



addressed in any long-term solution. Corporate logging operations sacrifice worker interests to a financial quick-fix. Forests are destroyed, and jobs vanish. Already-logged areas of Northern California could support sustainable forests, providing habitat for wildlife as well as jobs for local residents.

Get Involved at Headwaters

Actions and encampments to protect Headwaters Forest continue. Support of all kinds is needed from around the country. Contact the Ecology Center, 510-835-6303, EPIC, 707-923-2931, or the Trees Foundation, 707-923-4377.

To stay in touch with forest and wilderness defense across the continent, read the *Earth First! Journal*, \$25/year (8 issues), from PO Box 1415, Eugene OR 97440.

GroundWork magazine covers forest actions, nuke news, and grassroots organizing throughout the United States and Canada. Subscriptions are \$10 and up, PO Box 14141, San Francisco CA 94114. Call 415-255-7623 for a free sample copy.

Saving the Ward Valley Desert

Indigenous residents and anti-nuke activists join to stop Southern California waste dump

Ward Valley, located about twenty miles from the Colorado River near the Arizona border, is a proposed site for a "low level" radioactive dump. For the past six years, the BAN Waste Coalition has been working with members of the five lower Colorado River Indian Tribes (including the Fort Mojave, Cocopah, Chemehuevi and Quechan tribes) to save

legislative work, the Coalition and its allies have thwarted attempts by the U.S. government, U.S. Ecology Corporation, and the nuclear industry to force a transfer of Ward Valley land from the federal government to the state of California, clearing the way for the ironically-named U.S. Ecology to open a dump.

This last year was a tremendous challenge and, for the moment, Ward Valley remains safe.

Together, we have weathered numerous attempts by powerful forces in Congress to attach a stealth amendment to federal legislation that would have forced a land transfer and exempted the dump from environmental regulations.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ecology's financial troubles are mounting and it looks like the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) process may take another year to complete.

Earlier this year, BAN Waste, Native American tribes, Greenpeace and other groups non-violently took over federal SEIS scoping hearings when the government prohibited oral testimony. We then jointly facilitated three public hearings and won the right to place oral testimony (including traditional



To many Indigenous residents of the area, Ward Valley is sacred land. Photo courtesy of Bernadette Del Chiaro.

Ward Valley and the Colorado River from nuclear contamination, to protect critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise and help defend Native American land, water, cultural and religious rights.

Through a combination of direct action, community organizing, and

songs by Indian elders) into the administrative record. At the last hearing, government representatives actually said, "thank you for showing us the way."

The Coalition has also maintained both a community office in Needles, and a continuous "peace camp" at the proposed dump site since October 1995, even through the grueling heat of the summer.

The Spring and Fall Gatherings at Ward Valley have united hundreds of activists and representatives from Indian nations to develop strategy, engage in workshops, and share in cultural and spiritual events. The gatherings have served to build coalition and strengthen people's commitment to the land.

As we move into 1997, we are working to develop an ever-growing coalition of groups and individuals opposed to the dump, and to educate Californians about the dangers of radioactive waste. We also need to organize for the next round of federal SEIS hearings, defeat attempts at stealth legislation in the next Congress, continue our research on nuclear waste reduction and storage, keep the Needles office open and the occupation alive, advocate for environmental justice and protect endangered species.

Support is urgently needed. The Coalition is planning a Spring Gathering for April 1997. If you would like more information about the gathering or how you can help to save Ward Valley, or can make a donation to help defend Ward Valley, call the BAN Waste Coalition at (415) 752-8678, or email at pklasky@sfsu.edu.

— by Phil Klasky, edited by the
Newsletter



In November, a Children's Fall Gathering sponsored by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe brought together local youth for a day of workshops and teachings of the area's Native American Nations, with cultural, ecological, and art projects. The gathering educated young people about their desert heritage, and how traditional Indigenous societies have lived in balance with the land for thousands of years. Members of the Fort Mojave, Colorado River, Hopi, Chemehuevi, Inupiq, Quechan, Yakima, Cocopah and other Native American Peoples took part in the event. Photo courtesy of Bernadette Del Chiaro.

**Traditional Dineh (Navajo)
resist relocation from
Big Mountain, call for
peace camp — see page 29**

Capricorn Saturn

The sifter's sign,
the sorter;
does it work?
No?
Cry if you wish
but hard's hard,
real's real
true's true —
it's gotta go.

*Judy Foster,
1970*

For Brigid

Spark is another word for light.
A small orange glint
of all possibility.
The seed you hold
in dark earth

This fire starts slowly
asking you
for a soft breath
let the spark grow.

Red haired cauldron goddess
lust dragon volcano
warm seed lady.

I call you with lava words.

Heather Vuchinich



Morgan le Fay Proctor

Brigid's Charge

by Cynthia Lamb

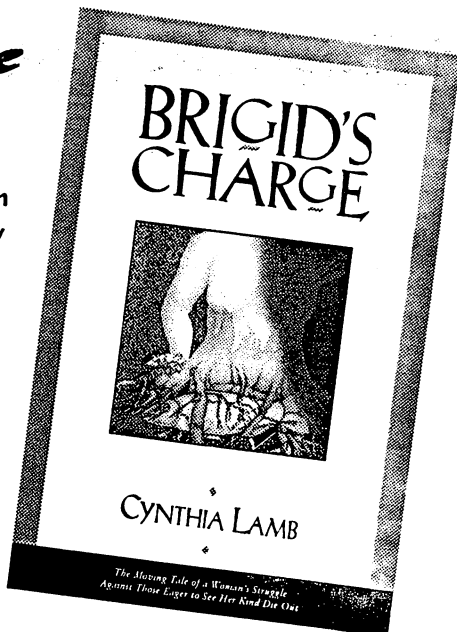
In 1704, a courageous young woman emigrates from England to the colony of New Jersey. Her most precious possession, a book of her grandmother's herbal remedies, contains *Brigid's Charge: the Celtic Goddess's ancient command to heal the sick and comfort the dying.*

But Deborah Leeds' maternal heritage stands in opposition to Crown and Church authorities. "Non-scientific" healing is witchcraft, punishable by death.

In the New World, Deborah marries, raises children, and among the tolerant Quakers acquires a strong reputation as a healer. Yet always she has to live cautiously because of her pagan beliefs.

With Erin, a fiery Irish woman who also possesses powerful knowledge, Deborah forms a loving and dangerous relationship. As they struggle to raise daughters who would follow in their footsteps, they are threatened by a hostile "Doctor of Physic."

The story culminates as Deborah is



about to enter her crone years — when an unexpected pregnancy shatters her world.

Author Cynthia Lamb is a direct descendent of Deborah Leeds. *Brigid's Charge* is based on nine years of research into the customs of both pagan and Quaker inhabitants of colonial America.

\$22 hardbound, \$14 paperback, from Bay Island Books, 415-924-9026. *Brigid's Charge* will also be available at many Reclaiming events.

Reclaiming Recommends:

INTUITIVE PRACTICE THROUGH THE BODY

Taught by Cybele
(aka Suzette Rochat)

Six Tuesday mornings 9-11am. Begins January 21. Sliding Scale \$120 - \$160.

Join an ongoing practice group working with sensate intuitive practices. We practice dropping and opening the attention while sitting in stillness, moving alone, and moving with another person. We explore the relationship between inner and outer senses as channels. For information, call Cybele 415-541-5650.

reclaiming classes

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC FOR WOMEN AND MEN

with Tami Griffith, Margaret
and Heather in Marin

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 follows feminist consensus process. We hope to provide a fair and nurturing environment for all participants. Beginning six-week course. Prerequisite: Read first six chapters of *The Spiral Dance* by Starhawk. Be committed to attending all six classes, **Mondays starting January 6, 7:30**. \$60-120 sliding scale. Call Heather 415-864-6922 (please speak slowly and clearly and repeat phone numbers).

DREAMING THROUGH THE ELEMENTS

with Cybele and Reya
in Santa Rosa

*Meets every other Thursday from 6-9pm,
Jan 23, Feb 6&20, Mar 6 & 20, Apr 3rd)*

This is a course in dreamwork utilizing the airy tools of language and interpretation, the fiery tools of group sculpture and gestalt, the watery tools of trance and scrying, and the earthy tools of artwork and spellcrafting. For the Center class we will make ritual, consult the oracle — take the energy where it has led us. We will ask students to do dreamwork in the between weeks with a “dream buddy” from class. Class size limited to six. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic or equivalent experience with Reclaiming tradition magic. Sliding scale: \$120. - \$160. Call Cybele at 707-525-4992 or 415-541-5650 or Reya at 415-239-6784.

More classes — pages 19, 25

DEVOTIONAL DANCE: THE PENTACLES

with T. Thorn Coyle

Two 5-hour workshops teaching the use of movement as a meditational tool. A time to slow down, breathe and re-connect with She Who Flows through us. Sacred space will be created by our bodies with Elemental Movements. Within this space, we will learn the body mantras of each Pentacle point and find the connections between them.

- Iron Pentacle: attune with Sex, Pride, Self, Power, Passion. **Sat 3/15, 12-5pm**
- Pearl Pentacle: move with Love, Law, Wisdom, Liberty, Knowledge. **Sat 4/12, 12-5pm**

Workshops can be taken separately or as a set. Sliding scale \$45-75 for one or \$80-110 for both. Bring water and a snack to share. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. All movement abilities are welcome. Workshops are held at 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero in San Francisco. Call Thorn, 415-285-3341.

reclaiming classes

PENTACLE: AN INTENSIVE

**facilitated by Patti Martin and
T. Thorn Coyle**

The Mystery School continues with an in-depth, 3 month exploration of the Iron and Pearl Pentacles. We will plumb the energy of blood and bone, of community and spirit. Using trance, journal, movement and music we will reach into our depths and look for beauty. Dance in the partnerships of Sex and Love, Self and Wisdom, Passion and Knowledge, Pride and Law, Power and Liberty. Pre-requisite: Elements of Magic or equivalent. Previous work with Iron Pentacle recommended, but not mandatory.

12 Tuesday eves starting March 4th, please be willing to commit. Sliding scale \$120-240. Call Thorn. 415-285-3341.

SACRED POETRY: GIFTS OF THE SENSES

with T. Thorn Coyle

The Bardic Tradition is an old and sacred road. The beginning of this Path is the poetry that resides in all things. We will use Sight, Sound, Smell, Touch and Taste to activate our Muse. Creating sacred space, we will call on Divine Inspiration to fuel our Craft. For Poets, Bards, Inspired Fools or those who have always wanted to be, this class is a way to explore the use of poetry in magic. We will write and read poems and experience the Muse first hand. Bring a favorite pen and paper. **Five Wednesday eves, starting January 22.** Sliding scale \$50-100. Call Thorn, 415-285-3341.

two classes with Madrone (Kim Jack)

THE MAGIC OF SEXUAL EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN AND MEN

I have been offering this Workshop at Witchcamp for the last two years. It has been a wonderful experience sharing this work at camp, so I decided to offer this class in the city.

Within safe sacred space we explore the realms of our sexual energy. This class is a day long experience for the adventuresome. We will be working naked, exploring our personal boundaries in group work, learning to sense our sexual power, experiencing energy orgasms and sexual healing through breath work, self love of the physical body, working with the sexual woundings we all have. Feeling the joy of allowing ourselves more sexual fulfillment.

Sliding Scale \$40-80. **Two San Francisco dates: Sunday January 26th or Sunday Feb 23rd.** 10am-5am. Bring a potluck lunch to share. All genders and sexual persuasions welcome. Big women especially encouraged. Call Madrone (Kim Jack), 415-923-1458.

THE MAGIC OF SEXUAL EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN ONLY

This is a women-only class, all sexual persuasions welcome. Class content is the same as the mixed gender class. Big women especially encouraged to come along.

Sliding scale \$40 to \$80. San Francisco. **Sunday February 9th 1997 and also Sunday March 9th 1997.** Call Madrone (Kim Jack) at 415-923-1458.

Starhawk's

Winter/Spring 1997 Schedule

Information: Harmony Network 707-823-9377

February 7-9, 1997: Minneapolis, MN

Women's Weekend Workshop

Contact: Old Arizona Studio, 612-871-0050

March 14-15, 1997: Indianapolis, IN

Association for Humanistic Psychology

Midwest Conference

Contact: AHP Midwest, 309-828-2965

March 21-23, 1997: Boston, MA

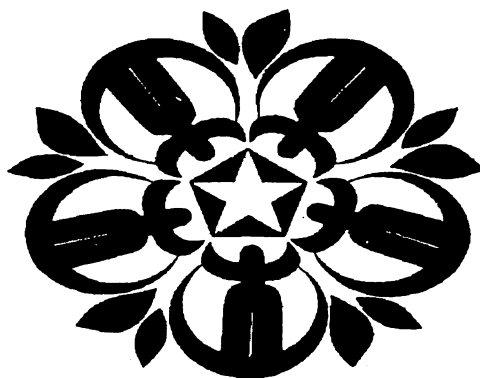
Spring Equinox Workshop

Contact: Interface Center, 617-876-4600

April 25-27, 1997: Boulder, CO

Weekend Workshop for Women and Men

Contact: Naropa Institute, 303-546-3527



graphic by Women for Life on Earth

May, 1997

Sonoma County and San Francisco

Booksigning Parties

TBA, Harmony Network, 707-823-9377

June - August: Witch Camps

Contact Reclaiming

P.O. Box 14404

San Francisco CA 94114

September 19-21: Rowe, MA

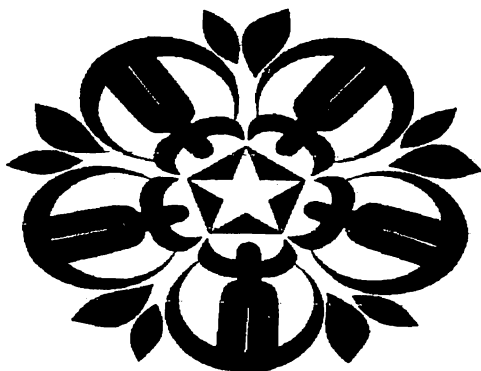
Autumn Equinox Retreat for Women

413-339-4954

September 26-28: Bangor, PA

Weekend workshop for Women and Men

Contact: Kirkridge, 610-588-1793



Reclaiming 1997 Rituals

Winter Solstice '96

Sat, December 21, 3:30pm, Ocean Beach south of Taraval. Bring wood, a towel if you want to plunge, food & drink to share.

Feast of Brigid

Sat, Feb 1, 1997, 7 pm, Women's Bldg, 18th Street between Valencia & Guerrero in San Francisco. Bring waters of the world, flowers for the central altar.

Spring Equinox

Sat, March 22, 1 pm, the Beltane Grove in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Beltane

Sat, May 3, Beltane Grove, time TBA. Bring flowers & vines for head wreaths.

Summer Solstice

Fri, June 20, 7 pm, Ocean Beach south of Taraval, San Francisco. Bring old spells to burn, flowers, wood for a fire & to build the Wicker Man. Bring food & drink to share, & a towel if you want to plunge.

Lughnasad

Fri, August 1, 7 pm, Ocean Beach south of Taraval, San Francisco.

Autumn Equinox

Sun, September 21, 1 pm, Beltane Grove, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

The Spiral Dance

Sat, October 25, 7 pm, Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason, San Francisco.

All events are clean & sober — no alcohol or drugs, please

Between Newsletters, check out events and class listings on-line at <http://www.reclaiming.org/cauldron/classes/welcome.html>, or on the Reclaiming Events Line, 415-929-9249.

1997 Reclaiming Community Meetings

Meetings will be from 3-5 pm on Sundays in the Audre Lord room of the Women's Building, 18th Street between Valencia & Guerrero in San Francisco.

March 9 • May 18 • September 7 • December 7

Witchcamps 1997

Summer Intensives with Starhawk and the Reclaiming Community

Study magic and ritual in a week-long intensive that includes trancework, healing, drumming, dancing, storytelling, guided visualization and energy work.

Witchcamp is offered to women and men at all levels of experience. Newcomers can learn the basic skills of magic and ritual, working with the elements, movement, sound and the mythological and historical framework of the Goddess Tradition. Advanced tracks offer the chance to apply the tools of ritual to personal healing and empowerment, with a focus on taking the craft out into the world, creating public ritual, ongoing groups and healing issues surrounding leadership and power.

TEXAS

April 5-12, 1997
CONTACT: Sharon Russell
5613 Katydid Lane, Austin TX 78744
Telephone 512-443-1629

GERMANY

May 17-24, 1997
CONTACT: Anna Beeckman
Lange Strasse 49, 21614
Buxtehede, Germany
Telephone 04161-54363

MISSOURI

June 14-21, 1997
CONTACT: Diana's Grove
P.O. Box 159, Salem MO 65560
Telephone 573-689-2400

CALIFORNIA

July 6-13, 1997
Mendocino Woodlands
CONTACT: Kim Jack (Madrone)
1394 McAllister St
San Francisco CA 94115
Telephone 415-923-1458

VANCOUVER

July 20-27, 1997
CONTACT: Pat Hogan
PO Box 21510
1850 Commercial Dr
Vancouver BC, Canada V5N 4A0.
Telephone 604-253-7189

MID ATLANTIC

August 9-16, 1997
CONTACT: Summer Intensive '97,
11160 Viers Mill Rd, L15-271
Wheaton MD 20902
Please send \$200 initial deposit

VERMONT

August 23-30, 1997
CONTACT: Trillium, 360 Toad Rd,
Charlotte VT 05445
Telephone Raven, 802-425-2984

**Additional 1997 dates are
being added as they come in.
Up-to-date info is available on
the Reclaiming Web page —
see front inside cover of this
newsletter.**

Evening Classes

The Mythic Kabbalah (with Gary Jaron), Jan 6-Feb 10

Through story, song and drum trance we blend feminist Craft with Jewish Esoteric Mythology, bringing to life the ten sefirahs of the Tree of Life and the indwelling Goddess-head Shekinah. Class culminates in a ritual of Tikkun (restoration of balance). Six Mondays.

Elements of Magic, Jan 23-Mar 6

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 by working with the Elements: Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and Spirit. Six Monday evenings starting Sept 23 or six Thursdays starting Jan 23. (No class Feb 20.)

Spellcrafting Mar 10-Apr 21

Learn the Craft of the Wise by working with the cycles of the sun and moon. Spells for grounding, protection and personal transformation.. Harvest fragrant sage from the Marin headlands by the light of the moon. Six Mondays. (No class March 31.)

The Herbalist's Apprentice, May 1-June 5

Learn to recognize and utilize the magical and medicinal herbs and lichens of Marin. Six Thursdays.

Evening Classes meet from 7:30-10pm. \$120-\$60 sliding scale. Call for registration and information, 415-331-WAND. Location may vary.

Saturday Afternoons

Heart of the Flame Ritual Drumming

Ritual Drumming & Chanting with Beverly & Guests. If you have a drum, bring it; if you don't, use one of ours. Learn and share exciting visceral ways to deepen and energize ritual. All levels of musical and Craft experience welcome. First Saturday of each month.

Healing from Gender Duality, Jan 18

Join us as we examine our scars and move beyond our masks of gender duality with drum trance, role plays, mask work and discussion.

Boundaries and Protection, Mar 15

Do certain people and situations simply exhaust you? Through energy work, role plays and spell work, be more sure of where you begin and end physically and metaphysically.

Tarot and Divination, May 17

Learn to use the tarot, the pendulum, and the runes to receive counsel for yourself and others. Learn to interpret tarot cards by doing. This is definitely a hands-on class. Bring a favorite deck or use ours.

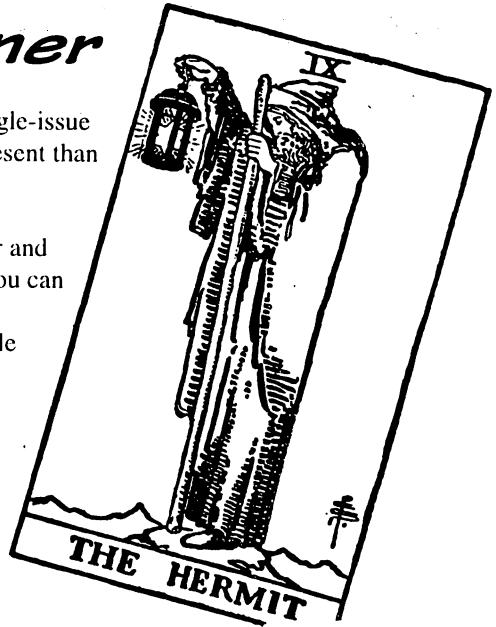
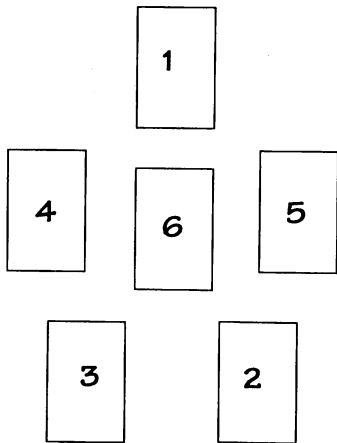
Each Saturday class meets from noon-5pm at our home in Sausalito. \$60-\$30 Sliding Scale. Saturdays finish with a ritual in the Marin headlands.

Beverly is offering a 6-month magical internship — see announcement, page 29

The Tarot Corner

This is the Star Quickie tarot layout. It is a single-issue tarot spread and may be more useful for the present than finding out about the future.

- First, hold the cards in your hands, center and focus on making your question as specific as you can possibly make it.
- Second, focusing on your question, shuffle the cards at least 5 times.
- Third, lay out the cards as follows:



To the Hermit

You cannot hide your spark for long,
Lone wanderer.
Traversing mountains, living
In dark caves of study;
Contemplation.
Comes a time when the lamp
Must beacon others -
Your cave become a den
Of learned women.
Traversing mountains, up
And down. Trailing souls
Behind you, pick sure footing,
Trying not to fall into abyss.
Attempting to follow
A light

T. Thorn Coyle, 1996

1. The querent — you, the person asking the question. There is a lot of information in this card about you in this situation.
2. Obstacle, what is blocking you from resolution of this situation.
3. Helper, what will help you with your question.
4. Past influences that affect the question.
5. What's coming in the future?
6. What's the gift from this situation?

I always look carefully at the cards after I lay them out to see what my gut tells me before I either look at any reference books or try and figure it out. It is important for

me to get any information directly from the Goddess before I filter it through my own or others convenient classifications of specific cards. Good Luck!

— Susan & Margaret

My son Casey is a pagan baby conceived, born, and raised. He has been going to public rituals for almost 5 years (he will proudly tell you "I'm 4 and three-quarters!"). The day of the Spiral Dance at Fort Mason he asked me "Why do we call it the Spiral Dance?" I started in on a lovely pared down theological explanation of the meaning of the spiral when he cut in and said, "I know all that. What have the ants got to do with it?" Oh. "The ants?" I said. "Yeah, the spiraled ants" he replied. "Are there like ants dancing underneath us and then maybe crickets and dolphins and SHARKS?"

The conversation deteriorated into a rant on animals dancing and eating each other. Two days later he brought all of his stuffed animals to where our guests had gathered and pronounced he was going to do the Spiraled Ants. The following is his ritual. The only help he needed was the order of casting a circle and some help making the animals dance. We all joined in on raising the cone. The rest is pure Casey. I think he is ready to student teach at witch camp!

Grounding — Winnie the Pooh "Put your roots deep deep deep. Now take a deep breath. Thank you."

Casting — Bugs Bunny. This was done silently with Bugs Bunny's right ear. He even got above and below.

Invocation of East — Owl. "Birds and airplanes need air. Birds and airplanes fly in the air. Thank you."

Invocation of South — Tigger. "Fire is very dangerous. All animals are afraid of

fire, except me, Tigger. I like fire. Thank you."

Invocation of Water — Alligator. "I swim in the water. My cousin is the crocodile and he swims in the water. We need the water to swim. Thank you."

Invocation of North — Bear Bear (his oldest stuffed animal).

"The earth is like a body. My body is like the earth. Thank you."

Invocation of the Center — Winnie the Pooh. "I am in the center of everything. Thank you."

Invocation of the Goddess — Kanga.

"AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!
I AM THE GODDESS!

Thank you"

Invocation of the God — Bugs Bunny. "I am a trickster. Some people think tricksters are bad. I play tricks on Elmer Fudd and Yosemite Sam but I am not bad. I am good. Thank you."

Trance Journey — Eeyore. "Breathe deep. Go into a seed in the ground. Now become like a big big tree. Now go into the water and float in the water. Thank you."

The animals then were assisted in dancing the spiral while singing something like: "Let it begin with the monkey's dance, and let it begin with the elephant's prance, and let it begin with the bear's dance" and so forth and so on. Thorn helped here some with lyrics. Then a big animal cone with quacks and roars and yelps and barks was raised. Bugs Bunny had to be helped grounding and then Casey had each animal once again say "Thank you". And the circle was open but unbroken.

The Spiraled Ants

by Oak & Casey

To: The Water Path from California Camp 1996

To get to Cortes Island from Victoria, I drove four and a half hours north on Vancouver Island, took a ferry to Quadra Island, drove across Quadra and caught the ferry to Cortes. Everything up here feels BIG-the sea, the sky, the mountains. It's the week before the Equinox; "the days of awe" in the Jewish calendar. I have held our broken cup until now, wanting to give it to the sea at the right

moment and from the right place. So it is from the Cortes Island ferry, crossing the Strait of Georgia, that I send out the energy that we raised together in the summer. (You may have already been finding pieces washing up, magic can do funny things to time.)

Hope you are enjoying these golden fall days.

Love and healing to you all, Sophia.

Witch Camp Scholarship Fund

To Further the Education (and Entertainment) of Witches Everywhere

Help send low-income Witches to camp! Buy a chants book, a T-shirt, or attend one of our events this year. You can also donate to scholarship funds anytime. Send *any* amount to the below-listed PO Box and specify that it go to scholarship funds. If you cannot make a monetary donation, consider volunteering your time at our events.

Chants Books & T-Shirts

Witch Camp Chant Books are now available! Includes 100 old and new chants from camps and rituals. To order send \$6ppd to Reclaiming, attn: George Franklin, PO Box 14404, San Francisco CA 94114 (make checks payable to Reclaiming/WCSF).

Witch Camp T-Shirts still available (limited edition of Laura Kemp's artwork, only 50 left). To order send \$14-24 sliding scale to Reclaiming, attn: Heather, PO Box 14404, San Francisco CA 94114 (make checks payable to Reclaiming/WCSF).

Witch Camp Scholarship Fundraising Events for 1997

Benefit ritual or party • Psychic Fair • Rummage sale • Renaissance Dinner

If you would like to help organize one of these events, or if you have an idea for an event you would like to organize, please call Heather at 415-864-6922 (please speak slowly and clearly and repeat phone numbers when leaving messages).

Thank You

Thanks to John Fox and the Santa Cruz fundraising crew for holding a rummage sale and raising funds for scholarships. Thanks also to everyone who has supported scholarship funds in the past. We were able to send a number of people to camp through your efforts.

Los Angeles Events

In Los Angeles, an exciting new group has been formed by Witch Campers committed to bringing forth community in Southern California. ReWeaving is an open circle celebrating the Sabbats with public rituals in the Reclaiming style. Classes are also offered by former Reclaiming Collective member Suzanne and Witch Camp teacher Laura Wyrd.

ReWeaving Winter Solstice Ritual near L.A. — Sat. Dec 21, 6:30 pm

Unitarian-Universalist Church (The Onion), 9550 Haskell Ave, Sepulveda. Join us as we celebrate the rebirth of the Light in a Yule Ritual. Bring: a pillow or blanket to sit on and food to share. Donation requested: \$9-\$13.

This ritual is sponsored by ReWeaving, an exciting new group celebrating the Sabbats in the Reclaiming tradition. For more information about other events and classes, e-mail to Ilyana Moon Fire: lunafire@ix.netcom.com

Big Mountain Faces Deadline

After years of struggle to maintain their traditional relationship to lands around Big Mountain, the Diné (Navajo) people are threatened with a December 31st deadline to respect U.S. government-imposed boundaries or face forcible relocation and confiscation of their livestock.

The Diné are calling for people to come to a peace camp to resist the eviction. Individuals must be trained in nonviolence and self-sufficient. For more information, contact 510-658-9178.

Six Month Magical Apprenticeship

January-June, 1997

Beverly Frederick, drawing on years of magical study and practice with Starhawk and the Reclaiming Community as well as daily yoga and meditation practice, is offering a Magical Apprenticeship beginning January 1997.

Participants will learn and practice Herbalism and Medicine Making; Yoga, Movement & Stillness; Deep Meditative States; Anchoring & Aspecting; Rhythmic Entrainment Possibilities; Energy work to clarify blocks & boundaries; Dialogues with inflated & deflated Selves; Trust Games to contact Younger Self; Divination; En-CHANT-ment.

The group will meet in Sausalito 10am-5pm the first Sunday of each month, beginning January 5. Participants will also meet in twos and threes during the month, at our homes.

To begin this journey, you should be able to ground, create sacred space and invoke with relative comfort, go into trance states and return, and have an understanding of your personal energy and boundaries, either through the Iron Pentacle, the Chakra centers or some other definable process.

Send a letter of intent, up to pages, describing your present gifts, present challenges and current magical practice. Sliding scale \$360-\$600. Group size is limited, so reservation by full payment requested. Send registration payments and letters of intent to: Beverly Frederick, 27 Crescent Ave, Sausalito CA 94965. Call 415-331-WAND for further information.

Book Review

Women of the Golden Dawn

Rebels and Priestesses

Mary K. Greer

reviewed by Patricia Morris

Women's stories have not been told. And without stories there is no articulation of experience. Without stories a woman is lost when she comes to make the important decisions of her life. She does not learn to value her struggles, to celebrate her strengths, to comprehend her pain. Without stories she cannot understand herself. Without stories she is alienated from those deeper experiences of self that have been called spiritual or religious. . . . If women's stories are not told, the depth of women's souls will not be known.

— Carol Christ

This book provides a clear look into the depth of women's souls by recounting the life stories of four remarkable women who, at the turn of the last century, were using magic and ritual to create their lives.

Refusing to follow the strictures of their Victorian society, Maude Gonne, Moira Bergson Mathers, Annie Horniman, and Florence Farr were original members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, a ritual magic society founded in London in 1888, and one of the first in which women and men worked together as equals. Most of us are aware of some of the famous (and infamous) men associated with the Golden Dawn: Aleister Crowley, S. L. MacGregor

Mathers, A.E. Waite, and W. B. Yeats. Now, for the first time, we hear the stories of the powerful women who worked along side them.

This book is very long and exhaustively researched. (And expensive. But you can always borrow it from the library if the price is prohibitive.) One hundred of its nearly 500 pages consist of appendices, endnotes, and bibliography. Mary Greer, a tarot teacher, astrologer,

and practitioner of Goddess spirituality, goes beyond the typical biographical sources. In addition to presenting material from the journals and letters of the women and their associates and from the media of the day, she describes the astrological forces that were occurring at critical points in their lives (one of the



*The Magician from
the Tarocco Italiano,
from Women of the
Golden Dawn*

appendices contains the astrological charts of each woman as well as the key figures in their lives, including Yeats, MacGregor Mathers, and G. Bernard Shaw), and relates the detailed Tarot readings that the women used to guide them and their friends when facing major decisions.

But do not let this extensive scholarship put you off, because all that aside, the book is a captivating and multi-layered telling of the stories of the lives of these four

extraordinary women, each of which was a creative mix of art, politics, and spirituality.

Maude Gonne devoted her life to Irish revolution and independence. Moira Bergson Mathers, an artist, married one of the founders of the Golden Dawn, MacGregor Mathers, and served as High Priestess at many of the Golden Dawn's rituals. Annie Horniman founded two legendary theatre companies. Florence Farr was an actress, author, and educator.

As part of their magical practices, each woman took a magical name, and Greer shows how, throughout their lives, each created herself in the image of her name. Greer also shows how these women not only carried society's collective feminine shadow, but through their practice of ceremonial magic were able to

integrate and transform that shadow in their own lives. The book also provides insight into the problems that arise within a hierarchical group that concentrates power and knowledge in a few, leading to the inevitable feuds and eventual splintering of the Golden Dawn.

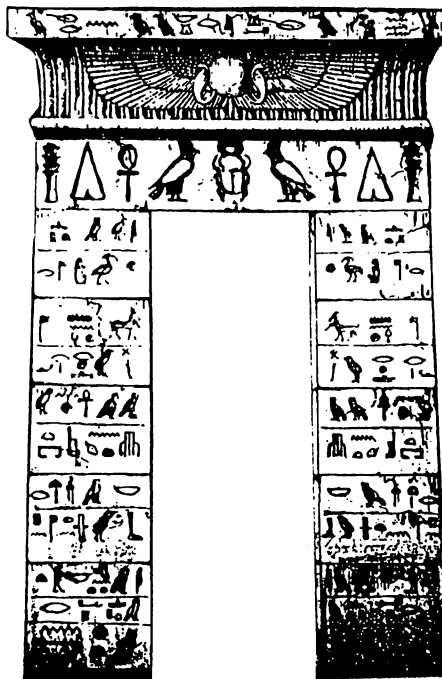
While this book is a fascinating look at four remarkable lives, it is more. The stories of these four revolutionary magicians, dedicated to aligning

themselves with the energies of the Goddess, can inform our own lives and how we choose to live our stories and deal with the shadows that are projected onto us.

These women lived lives of epic proportions. And yet in reading about them, I realized that each one of us, if we are awake and conscious and seeking to align ourselves with the Goddess, live lives of epic proportions. As we approach the turn of another century

— of a millennium — and as we find ourselves living outside the norms of the rest of society, we can gain inspiration and wisdom from the life stories of these “spiritual four-foremothers.”

Park Street Press, 1995. 490 pages. Hardcover \$29.95.



The Portal: part of the Temple equipage used in Golden Dawn rituals.

• Letters • Letters • Letters • Letters • Letters • Letters •

Dear Reclaiming:

I find myself compelled to respond to some of Z. Budapest's comments regarding men in "A Witch at the Millennium's Age" in your Fall issue. Z. writes regarding the need for men to fight sex trafficking that, "Men tend to do what is seen by other men as manly." She adds later in the same paragraph that "The Men's Movement must grow into their own. Enough of the drumming weekends, vacations with other men, crying over daddy. You have to reinvent daddy. Reinvent daddy and manifest the new daddy."

I agree that men should struggle against sex trafficking of women and children (and men, incidentally) with as much energy and commitment as we can muster. But with all due respect, what amazing nerve she has to denigrate the men's movement, our tears, which are so often denied us through our socialization. Can you imagine the response if a man commented on any aspect of women's personal growth and self-nourishment as being superfluous? If a man belittled a woman for struggling to learn a skill she was discouraged from by her socialization, such as workplace achievement? Can you think for five seconds that any man would not immediately be shamed into silence for daring to tell women how to do their women's work on growing and transforming old parental paradigms? Does Z. not understand that the drumming and men's weekends she decries are exactly the sort of transformative, powerful change this earth and the men (and women) on it need?

Enough blame has been hurled from women onto men's shoulders for the world's problems. We co-created it, folks. Women are still typically the primary caregivers to children, due to a variety of reasons including discriminatory child support and custody laws which often operate to make it impossible for fathers to stay in parental roles after a relationship ends. (Yes, men leave too. But, as statistics show, much more often they are forced out, or the mother and kids move away.)

Women need to accept their share of responsibility for socializing men into a narrow stereotyped role which compels them to compete for their favors. As primary caregivers, it is women who socialize boys as to the need to grow up and be men and not to shed the tears whose discovery in later life Z. begrudges us. How often do little boys get taken to dance classes or allowed to wear girls' clothes if they so choose? How many women do you know who have volunteered to be drafted or to work in one of the "death professions" (19 out of 20 workplace deaths involve men) so that a man could stay home and pursue a more peaceful, woman-identified life? Men are dying so that women and children may live. Then Z. would deny us the opportunity to crawl out of the traps and limits that have been placed on us and which are complementary to the ones which were placed on women. It's not all our fault, folks. Don't deny us our attempts to create a better world through our own mysteries and magic.

Magically yours,

Steven Svoboda

Ancient Ways presents:

PantheaCon 97

February 14-17, 1997

Marriot Hotel in downtown Oakland, CA

Friday night: Silk n' Honey, Storytelling with Luisah Teish

Saturday night: Masquerade Ball (prizes, Rock n' Roll Ritual)

Sunday night: a Ritual with Reclaiming and Starhawk

- *Musical performances by Holly Tannen, Avalon Rising, Gaia's Voice, Midlife Crisis, Aural Sects among others, and a Bardic room*
- *Includes workshops from many spiritual traditions- Wicca, Yoruba, Western Ceremonial Magick, Norse, Celtic, Egyptian, Umbanda and more.*
- *Also scholarly papers, author reading and book signings*
- *Vendors of splendorifous Pagan wares.*

Admission fee: \$50 (till Jan. 15) and \$60 at the door (includes all events for the entire conference). \$25 for a full day, \$15 for evening only.

Reserve rooms through Oakland Marriot, 510-451-4000 by January 10, 1997 for special hotel group rate. \$82 for single, double, triple or quadruple.

For more information, contact Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph, Oakland CA 94609, or call 510 653-3244 (11 am and 7 pm PST daily)

TOOLS  OF MAGICK

TUES-SAT 12-6 * SUN 1-5



UMA'S OCCULT SHOP · 668 · 3132
1915 PAGE ST. S.F., CA. 94117

AIDS Quilt

continued from page 9

my hand and send to another the very best and brightest I have to offer; and I want to accept that I will hurt more than I can possibly imagine when I lose each beloved from my life. I want to accept that I will sit in darkness for a while and will grieve, that I will feel weary and alone, that I might have to fight my desire to join my beloveds in the world of spirits. I want to believe that all the pain of loss will not be greater than the marvelous, magical gift of love that we shared. And I want to know, deep in my cells, that our love will not end with their passing, that love shared gains a life of its own. I want to know that weaving my life together with someone else's, using the thread of love, sustains our bonds far longer than just this lifetime. I want the courage to love, knowing all the while that I will lose, and I want to show that love to the fullest extent I am able, when my beloveds are with me. This can be my gift to my world.

For information about the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt call (415)822-5500 or e-mail info@aidsqilt.org.

For information about PFLAG-Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays call (202)638-4200 or e-mail info@pflag.org.

Crone Moon

continued from page 11

C. Bless cakes and wine (should be some pomegranate juice) with discussion of the gifts received and what was let go. It is good to start the discussion while in sacred space. It is Winter and the crone is an old woman, who moves slowly. {While this is a sedate ritual, any movement should be slow, however as sitting and talking is an important part of the ritual, women may want

to move around a little when raising energy and/or for cakes and wine blessing.}

D. Devoke and open circle and continue any discussion.

— by MAB

Masks

continued from page 7

(1) to assist the wearer into the mask; (2) to adjust its fit to some modicum of comfort; (3) to gently talk the wearer into letting go of her/his human persona in order to all the Voice a vehicle to speak; (4) to fan, spray or otherwise keep the wearer cool if it's hot, or to cover the wearer's body if it's chilly, especially if s/he is still for a long period of time and her/his metabolism slows; (5) to recognize when the Voice needs to speak, and then stop the proceedings to allow that to happen; (6) to help the mask-wearer out of the mask, out of a trance state and back to "normal" mundane reality. This last job includes helping the person to stand and giving her/him water and food for re-grounding — and not leaving her/him until assured that this reintegration is complete.

Function: The idea of using this device is to maintain a spiritual focus to our undertakings; to assure that our decisions are in keeping with our professed Earth-based, Nature-worshipping values; to keep our proper magical perspective so that our conclusions, and the way we choose to proceed to implement our decisions, remain in balance with the Elements. To this end, the facilitator, as well as all other participants, need to be aware of the mask-wearers, and to be alert to when they are moved to speak. The very presence of these living symbols of the Elements of Life can aid us in maintaining this important perspective.

As they were used in this initial experiment, we found that the masks and their wearers were largely ignored. As Cary mentioned, he was moved to speak, but his inspiration went unrecognized, so

AVALON MAGICKAL OILS & POTIONS

THE FINEST OILS, BODY BUTTERS AND SPRAYS

MADE WITH NATURAL ESSENTIAL OILS

Price List Available from AvalonMOP@aol.com

OR CALL Morgaine at 415-648-8781

his voice remained unheard. I, on the other hand, just stood and raised my arms. People stopped the proceedings and listened to my single utterance, "Burnout." (My presence and desire to speak was no doubt reinforced by the fact that I was skylad.)

So in future we all, especially the facilitator, need to be ever alert to the inspiration of the Voices.

Uses: Experimental wearers, as well as observers, had some ideas about additional uses of these masks other than the uses mentioned above.

Cary thinks that wearing them could be a good way for beginning practitioners of magic to learn to focus their energy and to learn and experience the Elements.

As Mevlannen mentioned above, she found mask-wearing to be an excellent method for those of us who tend to be very active in discussion to, as she said, "work my way out of being a CoG member and back into being a private Witch." I agree that they are a way shift focus, to re-air (inspire/respire), re-energize, re-emotionalize and re-ground. This is why I suggested that she and I try them on for size.

Starhawk, Rowan, Rhiannon and I all felt mask-wearing, participating in this alternative way, to be a way for more high-profile Witches to shift their focus and to participate in both business and magical workings in a completely different way. Conversely, I believe this could be a good way, somewhat in line with what Cary observed, for shy Witches (shy Witches?) to play a vital role in meetings and ritual from a

rather low-profile or low-key place.

In addition, the masks, worn or standing alone, make fine Quarter altars and touchpoints for warding a circle.

There may also be many other advantages to employing this technique; I welcome more people to use the masks in their workings and then relate their experiences, and the lessons they learned.

CURRENTLY

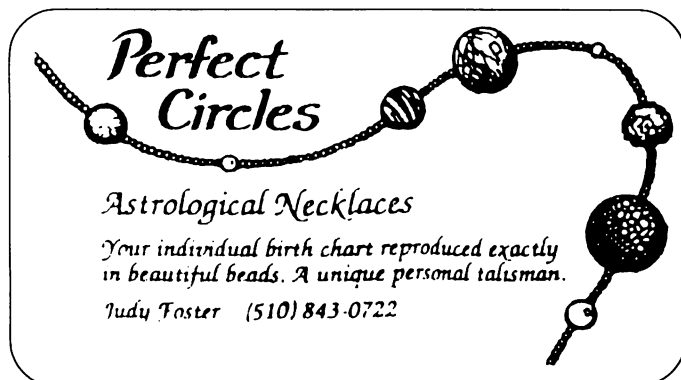
The masks presently sit in the temple of Crescent Ritual Works in Richmond, California. I have neither storage space nor space inside my home for them and couldn't bear to have them gather dust in someone's garage, so I'm grateful that the people of CRW have welcomed them into their temple. They can be made available to local folks for larger public and private rituals.

FUTURE POTENTIAL AND HOME(S)

One of the attendees at MerryMeet, whose first Craft teacher was the late Raven Moonshadow has offered to contribute \$200 towards one mask, on the condition that they be kept together and used at large group rituals (Reclaiming's and others') in the Bay Area. Reclaiming is interested in helping this to come about. We offer our account as a collection point for contributions anyone wants to make.* {1} And we — myself and Crescent Ritual Works — can promise to make available to those responsible members of the greater Bay Area Pagan community the use of the masks for their rituals — public or private. But our first order of priority is to pay Eleanor for her generous and splendid work. I solicit your help in finding this magical art a home and a place in our circles. I believe that this is a righteous endeavor in supporting our own artists, in fostering Pagan awareness, in building Pagan community, and as a teaching tool.

Blessed Be!

* Send checks payable to Reclaiming, clearly marked "Elements masks," to PO Box 14404, SF, CA 94114.



Perfect Circles

Astrological Necklaces

Your individual birth chart reproduced exactly in beautiful beads. A unique personal talisman.

Judy Foster (510) 843-0722

Ritual Music Tapes from Reclaiming

Let It Begin Now: Music from the Spiral Dance

A feast of songs and chants from the ritual that maybe you've been to before. Recreate it in your own home with this evocative recording!

Chants—Ritual Music

All the old standards, some you don't know, and some you probably sing in the shower most every day. Our first teaching tape, from 1987.

Second Chants

More so, only better. Lots of chants from witchcamp and elsewhere, with more instrumental presence in the arrangements. Great sound!

Please send your order to:

Serpentine Music Productions
P.O. Box 2564
Sebastopol, CA 95473
707 823-7425

T A P E O R D E R F O R M			
TITLE	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Let It Begin Now	\$11		
Chants-Ritual Music	\$11		
Second Chants	\$11		
SUBTOTAL			
7.5% SALES TAX (in CA)			
SHIPPING (\$1.50 first tape, 75¢ each add'l. \$3 extra for foreign mailings. U.S. funds please)			
TOTAL ENCLOSED			
<i>Please make checks payable to:</i>			
Serpentine Music Productions			
Name			
Address			
City/State/Zip			
Comments?			

Crossing Over

Crossing Over is a long-needed, beautiful collection of Craft thealogy, prayers, exercises, chants, funeral rites, and songs, including works on sitting vigil with the dying, terminal illnesses and withdrawing life support, abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth, death and children, suicide, AIDS, ongoing mourning, remembering the dead in community, ghosts and hauntings, and ongoing grieving work. Also featured are appendices of useful herbs, incenses, stones and death deities, as well as discussion of legal matters, and suggested readings. This wonderful book edited by M. Macha NightMare, with cover art by Laura Kemp, was published by the Reclaiming Collective on Samhain, 1995 and is available from the Collective for \$18 ppd.

ISBN 0-9649262-0-2. 8-1/2" x 11", 108 pgs, softcover. For wholesale inquiries, please contact Patti Martin c/o Reclaiming, POBox 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114

To order, send your name, address and a check for \$18 to CROSSING OVER, c/o Reclaiming, PO Box 14404, San Francisco, California 94114

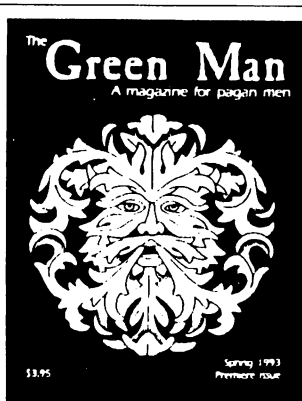
Of
a
Like
Mind

*newspaper & network
for Goddess ♀*

*...the best feminist spirituality listings
found anywhere.—Margot Adler,
Drawing Down the Moon*

sample issue/\$4
\$15-35/year/sliding scale
\$20-40/1st class
\$25-45/outside US

Box 6677
Madison, WI 53716 USA



**WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR
A
FEW
GREEN
MEN.**

The new quarterly magazine for pagan men wants you!
\$13/yr. \$4 sample P O Box 641 · Pt. Arena, CA 95468

Artemis
Creative & Healing
Arts Studio
(415) 826-7247



Classes & Groups:

- ☉ Voice
- ☉ Photography
- ☉ Drumming
- ☉ Theatre
- ☉ Filmmaking
- ☉ Parenting Support
- ☉ Creative Writing
- ☉ Art
- ☉ Magic
- ☉ Red Cedar Circle



Therapeutic Massage

*for Stress Reduction,
Release of Muscular Tension,
Increased Circulation and Skin Tone*

PAM DOYLE, C.M.T.

Sunnyvale, (408)732-5193

Glenn A. Turner



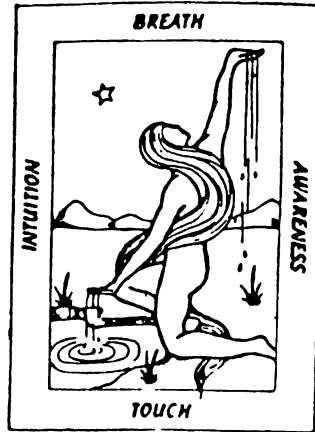
ANCIENT WAYS

4075 Telegraph Ave.
Oakland, CA 94609

A complete metaphysical store and pagan center: books, oils, incense, candles, magical tools, statues, classes, tarot readings, jewelry, mail order and more...

11 am to 7 pm Daily
(510) 653-3244

LOMI BODYWORK



SUZETTE ROCHAT (a.k.a. Cybele)
415/541-5650
or 707/525-4992

Get the Reclaiming newsletter at:

EAST BAY

Gaia Books

1400 Shattuck, Berkeley

Mama Bears

6536 Telegraph, Berkeley

Ancient Ways

4075 Telegraph, Oakland

Shambhala Books

2482 Telegraph, Oakland

Rituals

1106 Solano, Albany

PENINSULA/SOUTH

Two Sisters Books

605 Cambridge, Menlo Park

A Bustle in Your Hedgerow

1640-B Gum, San Mateo

Willow Glen Books

1330 Lincoln, San Jose

SAN FRANCISCO

Tools of Magick

1915 Page Street

A Different Light

489 Castro Street

Sword & Rose

85 Carl Street

Old Wives' Tales

1009 Valencia Street

Rainbow General Store

1745 Folsom @ 13th

Curios & Candles

289 Divisadero

Modern Times

888 Valencia

SONOMA COUNTY

Claire Light Women's Books

519 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa



Bookstore and Coffeehouse

175 Stockton Avenue ▼ San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 293-9372

Bookstore Hours:

Sunday 1-4 pm
Monday-Friday 6:30-9 pm
Wednesday 4-9 pm
Saturday Noon-6 pm

Books ▼ Magazines/Zines
CDs ▼ Cassettes
Audio Books ▼ Videos
T-Shirts ▼ Gay/Lesbian Pride
Goddess/Spirituality

ADVERTISING RATES

Display Ads — Sizes & Proportions			
1/8 page	(1-1/4" x 1-3/4")	\$20	Send us your copy camera-ready and properly sized. Also, we can only accept ads mailed with payment.
1/4 page	(2-1/2" x 3-1/2")	\$35	
1/2 page	(5" x 3-1/2")	\$65	
Full page	(5" x 7")	\$120	
<i>Classified, Personal, Type-only Ads: \$.20 per word</i>			

- Display Advertising has a higher value than Classified or Type-only Ads. *When you send art or logo with your ad, we charge Display Rates.*
- Type-only Ads over 2" should be computed at Display Rates.
- Include a contact name and phone, in case we have a question.
- *Please do not send dot-matrix printed ad copy. It doesn't print well.*
- Although we do print some free brief community service announcements, *if you're charging money for an event or service, please include us as a part of your advertising budget for helping make it happen.*

Thank you again for your support of Reclaiming's work.

WHOLESALE NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We can distribute the Reclaiming Newsletter to shops outside the San Francisco Bay Area. Please send us your orders before each Solstice and Equinox for that season's issue. Be sure to order enough for the season; we can only ship once per issue.

Shipping Information

For domestic destinations: We pay outgoing shipping costs. For foreign destinations: We request shipping costs to be paid with each order by check *directly convertible to U.S. currency*. Each newsletter weighs approximately 2.5 ounces.

We request sixty percent (60%) of sales receipts, to be paid with your order for the next issue. Unsold issues may be returned at any time within one (1) year for credit. Merchant pays return shipping costs.

Back issues are available for \$2.00 per copy and are not returnable.

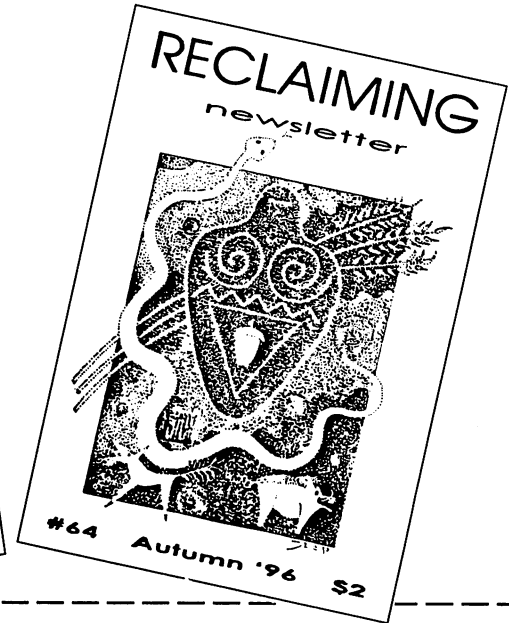
Wholesale Newsletter Order Form

Please send _____ copies of the
 Reclaiming Newsletter, Issue No. _____,
 _____, 19____

TO: _____

Reclaiming Newsletter

your subscriptions help us keep publishing!



Reclaiming Newsletter

- \$6 - \$25 for one (1) year minimal income, free subscription
 \$12 - \$50 for two (2) years additional contribution: \$ _____

Add \$4 U.S./year for Canadian and \$8 U.S./year for foreign mailing.

Please pay via international money order in U.S. currency.

Free one-year subscription to anyone who cannot afford to pay.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

This is a renewal new subscription

COMMENTS:

Send to: Reclaiming, P.O. Box 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114.