

# COVENANT OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER



Birthday Bouquet ©Stachia Ravensdottir

BELTANE 2018  
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*As is consistent with the values and beliefs of our religion, the Covenant affirms our belief in the spiritual and social wisdom of peace in the world. We aspire to stand in fellowship with the people of all religions, cultures, and ethnicities in our shared desire for peace. We do this for the sake of our shared love of the Earth and all living things that dwell upon it.*





## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT LITHA

Litha renewals are due on **June 21, 2018**. The Drop-dead date is **July 1, 2018** after which your membership will lapse and you will need to reapply. Renewal forms are emailed to the email address on file from your last renewal. If you have NOT received this form, please contact the National Membership Officer immediately (membership@cog.org).

### CALAFIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle Athenaeum

### CHAMISA LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of the Winter Moon
- ❖ Coven of the Silver Moon

### EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Lady Magdalena
- ❖ Dragonwhisper Coven
- ❖ Spiraling Heart Coven

### HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of Diana
- ❖ Grove of the Ancient River

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

### ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

### TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Circle of the Wild Wood

### TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Temple of the Amethyst Moon

### NATIONAL COVENS: NONE

- ❖ Lance and Grail

### NATIONAL SOLITARIES:

- ❖ Frodo
- ❖ Juliette Ashmoon
- ❖ Susannah Faith

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATES: NONE

## AMAZON SMILE

*Smile* is a GREAT program where Amazon donates .5% of your purchase to the charity of your choice.

Simply select your charity (*ie*, CoG) and then go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make your purchases. Anyone can select CoG, not just CoG members -- so friends and family, and even our enormous Facebook following can select CoG as their Amazon Smile recipient.

I Smile for CoG. Do you?



## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### FIRST OFFICER

No report given.

### SECOND OFFICER

Greetings Witch Kin!

Merry Meet 2018-Sea Magic-Ft. Lauderdale, Florida August 9th through 12<sup>th</sup>.

As we move towards Beltane celebrations and leave spring behind, Everglades Moon has gotten the Grand Council website updated.

You will find vendor and workshop applications, hotel information and registration as well as all the current information on Leadership Institute.

If you are interested in vending or doing a workshop or know someone that is please fill out an application by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton is a gorgeous venue. Each room is a two room suite with your choice of a king size or two double beds. The living room has a sofa bed.

Even though the hotel's deadline for room registration is July 9<sup>th</sup> please book your room as soon as possible. That way I can obtain more rooms at our special rate if we use up the entire block. If you wait until the 9<sup>th</sup> and the room block is full then the special rate will not apply. Remember you do not have to pay anything until you check out.

Head on over to <https://emlc.net/gc2018/> for further information.

Beltane Blessings,  
Lady Circe

### MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

GREAT news - I am caught up!

**Next up on the NMO's plate:** I am following up on a small number of loose threads, and have starting the printing of hard copy Clergy Wallet cards, wall credentials, membership charters, and handfasting certificates. These will be snail mailed starting in late April and will continue until I have caught up from the start of my tenure. If there was something you were expecting from the NMO but haven't gotten it by June, please feel free to email membership@cog.org.

**Email purge will happen on Sat. May 12 overnight.** Password to the member's website will change the next day. This date is subject to change, please read AIR for the latest info.



**Grand Council Quorum/Proxy/ Attendance form due June 30<sup>th</sup>.** The form will be uploaded to the member's website soon.

Currently, the NetCo and I are updating the subscriptions to the CoG email lists, prior to changing the password to the CoG website. Then I'll move on, with Canu's help again, to using Outlook to send a pre-filled out form with your renewal reminder.

I am also starting twice monthly meetings of the Path to Membership Committee, as well as participating in the Bylaws Review Committee, and at least one other committee started up at the last Grand Council.

**Transitions of Note**

- The Sylvan Forest of the now defunct Dogwood Local Council has joined Everglades Moon Local Council. I do not know yet if Miraselena and Lady Magdalena will join EMLC or National.
- The following members have lapsed/cancelled: House of Oak Spring and Temple of the Rising Phoenix (Dogwood), Amina Cunning-Jones (OCLC), Circle of the Moon (Texas); as well as Rune (Texas): and Cronos, Joel Bjorling, Jose Esparza, Birch, and Terri Gans (all National).
- Moondrake Coven and Grove has requested to change to a Solitary membership (Lord Gwydion) in EMLC, if no objections are received, this will become effective at Litha. (2<sup>nd</sup> mention)
- A'in Qoph Nunn has requested to change to a National Solitary membership (Scott Rhodes), if no objections are received, this will become effective at Litha. (2<sup>nd</sup> mention)
- Temple of the Sapphire Sky has requested to change to a Solitary membership (Minos Lugh) in Touchstone Local Council, if no objections are received, this will become effective at Lughnasadh. (1st mention)
- A member of Crowleymin Coven is applying for a solitary membership (Jude Harrison) in Chamisa Local Council, if no objections are received, this will become effective at Lughnasadh. (1st mention)

This means we currently have 128 members total, consisting of 66 Covens, 62 Solitaries, and no Associates. Because things can change quickly between the Newsletter publishing deadline and the actual date of publication, this may have changed by the time you read it.

**If you have sent your renewal in, and your name is listed below, PLEASE CONTACT ME ASAP so I can follow up.** Membership(at)cog.org is the email address to use to reach me, but mail from me will come from a new address, Thea(dot)Bristlebroom(at)gmail.com.

You can also feel free to call me – I've put my phone number on AIR previously.

The following members are **OVERDUE** and have until **5/11/2018** to renew:

Renewal Sabbat	Roster Name	Local Council
Imbolc	Huthart	National
Ostara	Moonfire Coven	Hills and Rivers
Ostara	Rev. Peter Hertzberg	National

The following members are due at Beltane and have until **5/11/2018** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Merlyn	Chamisa
Vivianne	Chamisa
Marian Dawn	National
Spiral Tor Coven	National
Coven Ashesh-Hekat	Southern California
Circle of the Serpent	Texas
Tree of Knowledge Coven	Texas

The following members are due at Litha and have until **7/1/2018** to renew:

Roster Name	Local Council
Circle Athenaeum	Calafia
Circle of the Winter Moon	Chamisa
Coven of the Silver Moon	Chamisa
Lady Magdalena	Everglades Moon?
Dragonwhisper Coven	Everglades Moon
Spiraling Heart Coven	Everglades Moon
Circle of Diana	Hills and Rivers
Grove of the Ancient River	Hills and Rivers
Frodo	National
Juliette Ashmoon	National
Lance and Grail	National
Susannah Faith	National
Circle of the Wild Wood	Texas





Temple of the Amethyst Moon	Touchstone
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In Her Service,  
Thea Bristlebrook

**PURSEWARDEN**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Chase Main Account: \$71,702.94  
 Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62  
 PayPal Account: \$12,009.82  
 Synchrony: \$31,300.21 (from Statement ending 2/28/2018)

**CURRENT AND PENDING ISSUES & ACTIVITY**

Taxes were submitted with all completed documentation on 3/11/2018 for FY E 2017.

Wells-Fargo now charges for images and we received a fee of \$3.00 and \$.21 sales tax.

**FORTHCOMING ISSUES:**

In May, I will circulate a message on AIR about applying for Travel Funds to MM/GC. I don't think there is a need to update the form from last year.

Also, for the Board members, our travel funds are set at \$450 and of course we can request additional funds for travel.

Our accountant sent an invoice for \$900 which I will execute. For next year, Purple Mountain Tax will be increasing the rate to \$1,000.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

One of my goals this year is outreach and support to colleges. I am preparing for my first lecture/presentation to Fullerton College's Religious Studies Class. I am scheduled for Tuesday at 1:30 pm to talk with Professor Elisabeth Burke's Religious Studies classes about Wicca, Witchcraft and Paganism. As one of my goals for this year I am looking to understand what these students need and want in the way of support and information on Wicca and Witchcraft.

The NPIO webpage is up and running. If you have information you would like to share through additional social media, by all means, forward to my email at [PIO@coq.org](mailto:PIO@coq.org). I can add membership information and benefits, events and awards and even conduct simple surveys of readers.



**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**

I have survived another tax season even though this one got an extra day at the last minute due to the IRS' payment site crashing. I'm even mostly caught up on sleep as work hours have been cut back considerably.

I have been working on the public side of the website and have made some minor changes to spelling and formatting and simplified access to a few things – a little less clicking to find what you want. I also cleaned up some of the orphaned forms so hopefully no more old membership forms will be showing up via the search bar! If you find something that I've missed please let me know. I plan on doing the same to the members side over the next few weeks.

In Her Service,  
Stachia Ravensdottir  
[newsletter\(at\)cog.org](mailto:newsletter(at)cog.org)

**CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER**

Here is my report for the meeting today. Since I may not be able to login, I thought I would at least send this. Azrael and I are traveling currently, so I am a few days behind in the correspondence, but mostly updated.

The religious awards program is up and operating, and I sent out an award a few days ago. I am attempting to spread the word so that we have more awareness of the awards and more young people working on them.

I am still working to assemble a packet of information for incarcerated persons who write to COG; I hope to have that functioning soon.

I have written the job description for the professional staff person, and I believe I sent that out to the entire board a couple of weeks ago. I intend to continue looking into the funding structure, and the legal requirements for hiring employees in the state of California.

I am also going to contact some nonprofit organizations to see how they handle their general, sustaining, or contributing memberships. I hope to report on the possibilities for that before the next board meeting.

I do not feel entirely qualified to make any detailed suggestions about streamlining the current membership process for full membership; I hope others on the board are willing to look at that in concert with the membership committee and make some very specific recommendations.

As far as creating a new governing board structure, consisting of representatives from each local council and from the national membership, I



would suggest that we draft the language of that, run it by someone who is very familiar with the bylaws to make sure there are no contradictions, and then perhaps ask Canu to forward the proposal to the first officers of the various local councils. (And of course the national members.) I think we need to start developing support for the concept well before Grand Council meets.

I apologize for my lack of communication with the board recently; I had a bit of a health scare, and then we had this trip that had been planned for sometime. Anyway, upon our return to New Mexico on Tuesday, I hope to start getting caught up more.

Be well!  
Amber K

### NATIONAL RECORDER

The minutes of the prior Board meeting were circulated to the Board and submitted to Publications by the deadline. The National Recorder Manual is in final draft now and will be finished and submitted to Publications shortly. I intend the manual to be a "living document" that future Recorders can continue to update as needed.

### WELCOME TO COG



Please welcome:  
❖ None this issue

### NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES

~ April 8, 2018

**Call to Order at 6:10pm Eastern Time:** Canu (First Officer), Thea Bristlebroom (Membership Officer), Lady Circe (Second Officer), Stachia Ravensdottir (Publications Officer), Janine Nelson (Public Information Officer), and Morgana RavenTree (Recorder) were present. Manny Tejada (Pursewarden) and Amber K (Correspondence Officer) were absent.

#### Officer Reports:

**First Officer:** No report.

**Second Officer:** (Please see full report on page 2).

**Membership Officer:** (Please see full report on page 2).

**Publications Officer:** Please see full report on page 4).

**Pursewarden:** (Please see full report on page 4).

**Public Information Officer:** (Please see full report on page 4).

**Correspondence Officer:** (Please see full report on page 4).

**National Recorder:** (Please see full report on page 5).

#### Committee Reports:

**Review Committee:** (Please see full report on page 14). The Board discussed what aspects of this committee's activities it is comfortable with. Any changes the committee wishes to make must be approved by the Board. Major changes may require Grand Council proposals. Janine suggested this committee prepare a style manual for future use.

**Path to Membership Committee:** (Please see full report on page 15). Thea reported there has been no activity, but this committee will begin meeting twice monthly in May. She will circulate an email about this next week.

**Social Justice Committee:** (Please see full report on page 14). Morgana said that no one has stepped forward to take over this committee since her resignation as Chair. She recommends Grand Council dissolve or retire this committee if someone doesn't step up by then.

#### Continuing Business:

**Evaluation of Leadership Institute goals and items:** a) membership renewal streamlining process, b) nonvoting level, c) job description for Professional Staff person, d) and reorganizing Board to be comprised of Local Council representatives: Canu discussed the LI goals with EMLC which seems more comfortable with "sustaining member" within the context of CoG membership rather than other variations. Local councils need to discuss this and make sure we don't confuse this class of membership with "associate" members. Stachia discussed the LI goals with Touchstone, which only had one issue, that "streamlining" membership renewal was fine so long as a renewal is submitted within a month. If a lapse lasts several months, then the member should just reapply. Otherwise they are generally in support of the issues discussed. Canu said EMLC is also supportive of some kind of streamlining for renewals. It is important the Board members discuss these issues with their local or liaison councils before Grand Council so we don't use up too much time at Grand Council.

**Conflict of Interest Forms:** tabled until next meeting as National Pursewarden not present.

**Purchase of D&O Insurance:** tabled until next meeting as National Pursewarden not present.

**Webmeeting Alternatives:** Stachia will set up a date to try WebEx, but it will have to wait until after April 17 (tax day) or next meeting.



**New Business:**

**Award of Honor Committee:** Canu spoke with Ken about setting up an elist for this committee, but needs some input from former National First Officer, Jack.

**Purge Update:** After discussion, the Board decided on the new website password. The change of password must wait until after the purge. Canu also said he may sunset some unused elists once he confirms they are not in use. He will consider making an announcement and reviewing the lists and taking off those who are no longer members. Thea said the purge will be announced on AIR. The purge should begin 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. The Board approved that timing.

**Comment re. Fundraising Email sent by Elizabeth Warren:** Lady Circe read IRC description of "political activity". There is no prohibition on an individual responding to Elizabeth Warren's negative characterization of "witches," but an organization cannot. Janine pointed out that Amber K responded as an individual and a representative of Ardantane. Her email response was clear and concise. The Wild Hunt posted an article about the poor word choice. Thea said a properly worded response should not be considered "political activity." Janine said a phone tree by grassroots members might be effective. The board will not respond at this time.

**Quorum/Proxy Deadline:** Thea said she would like the deadline to be 40 days before Grand Council and the Board agreed.

**Membership Issues:** Dogwood Local Council will dissolve very soon. Thea is waiting for the exact date from Lady Arden. EMLC is interested in taking one of its former members into its local council.

Califia Local Council has not turned in any minutes since Ostara 2017, which puts them in Provisional status. Janine says they told her they plan to meet this month. Thea added one of their 3 covens is overdue. Thea said they will go provisional by Grand Council if they don't meet soon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm Eastern time.

**TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY**



**LORD GWYDION**

Everglades Moon AoS  
Florida

Transitioning from Moondrake Coven and Grove  
First publication – Ostara 2018  
Second Publication – Beltane



**SCOTT RHODES**

National AoS  
California

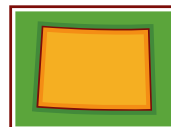
Transitioning from A'in Qoph Nunn  
First publication – Ostara 2018  
Second Publication – Beltane 2018



**MINOS LUGH**

Touchstone AoS  
California

Transitioning from Temple of the Sapphire Sky  
First publication – Beltane 2018  
Second Publication –

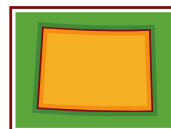


**JUDE HARRISON**

Chamisa AoS  
Colorado

Transitioning from Crowymin  
First publication – Beltane 2018  
Second Publication –

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**



**JUDE HARRISON**

Chamisa Local Council  
Colorado

**STATEMENT OF PRACTICE**

I learned Ritual and Spirituality at my Mama's knee. Dee was a Den mother (Webalos), as well as a Bluebird and Campfire leader. A Methodist's preacher's daughter, she also knew that Jesus was In the trees and the grass and the stars and that there were many paths to heaven. All our rituals seemed to involve singing, movement, and often candles. Even as children we co-created these rituals. This lead easily into being trained in the musical Kroeugh Tradition where all members are priestesses and one is expected to be able to step in and spontaneously pull meaningful ritual out of their back pocket when needed. I was with the Crow im in (and now Crow im out) - Crowymin Coven- for over a decade and ordained in ritual acknowledging my role as Minister and as Elder In that tradition. Now that I have fully accepted myself for who I am and transitioned socially and legally from female to male It is time for me to move on - initially as a solitary Wiccan and perhaps to eventually form a new coven.

I do identify as a Wiccan Priest. I don't follow a god or goddess tradition, I don't personally



have a belief in god/goddesses as external entities running the universe or responding to my prayers. I hold the Earth, all life forms on our earth, the Universe, and Stars as deeply sacred and think of them as conscious entities. While I like to romanticize the idea that stars and trees and our mitochondria sing the same song that doesn't mean that the stars or nature in general care about me as an individual or the human race as a whole other than our effect on world around us. I ask permission before I harvest plants and share energy with the trees in my yard and talk to plants, especially the biggest pinon pine in the woods behind my house and will admit I never know if the tree is really talking to me or I'm tapping into my inner wisdom.

I have had experiences that cause me to believe that there is more to our universe than meets the eye and that there is energy flowing between everything and that our intent affects things and that we have perceptions beyond our physical senses. By focusing my intent and allowing the energy of the universe to flow through me - magic happens. I believe it is very important to exercise integrity in focusing intent and that it should never be for personal gain over higher good and never be used with ill intent to cause harm. I don't have the wisdom or universe wide knowledge and perspective or clairvoyance of the future to discern what's best in the big picture so I don't do magick frequently and always edit my intent with "whatever is for the highest good." And I don't profess to have attained much skill. My psychic abilities feel remedial to me. I am about halfway through Kerr Cuhulain's 18 month Wiccan Warrior Paladin course and am humbled to share that class with Amber K.

I am not western eclectic. I see few binary divisions. As gender is non binary I don't gender directions or elements or need dualism to create sacred space or focus energy. I don't tend toward trappings. I prefer to do ritual outside with what is in the space I am in at the moment. All these years and I still don't own an athame - why when there is always something at hand to use for the purpose. I did christen a chalice this year as a symbol for my primary magical tool.

Being a Wiccan priest carries responsibility, to my personal integrity, to be in service to my family, my community, to our earth, our universe. In addition to the wiccan/pagan community my service is to the LGBTQ/gender and sexual minority communities and other people who are marginalized. Part of this responsibility for me is to be an ambassador between wiccans and other ways of being/thinking. In addition to helping others understand and respect people who are wiccan this also means helping folks who are wiccan find respect for people of other paths; for Christians, and Conservatives, and Republicans - some of

whom are also wiccan, many of whom are not. My hope is that by teaching, holding protective space for others to fully accept ourselves, we will each be able to live in love for ourselves and for each other, letting go of the hate and hurt that lashes out in violent anger, and embracing the joy and passion of the stars and our hearts. My mission is to create communities where each individual celebrates and is celebrated for who they are. This is my quest. A quest that encompasses the Wiccan Rede.

### STARSONG

There's a Song Stars Sing  
Together and with all Life  
Song of life, Song of truth, Song of love, Magic song  
'Cross All time, 'Cross All space  
Every star e're was or will be  
Is singing right here with me

All the Stars are singing tonight  
As they've sung each night for eons  
While my ears don't hear their Song  
All of my Cells sing along  
Low notes can hold and ease all pain  
High notes hold Hope, Joy, and Awe

I'm living in rhythm with StarSong  
When I Laugh and Play with Children  
Use my gifts serving strangers, friends, foe, 'n kin  
Seeing each person shining bright  
Honoring folk as they are; They're Perfect  
As we Dance the Dance of Life

All the Stars are Dancing tonight  
As they've danced throughout the Eons  
Orion's lead is easy to follow  
Waltzing, Twirling, While I  
Don't hear the tones they're deep in my bones  
Stars take me dancing tonight

Hearing your truth: Speaking mine  
Ask Big questions; Listen with heart  
Dancing Sky clad, Making love, Taking time  
Fall in Love again, Knowing death will part  
Heart breaks wide open. yet Loves again  
Love around me, Love within

All the Stars are Loving tonight  
Love they share throughout the Eons  
Love so strong it carries me on  
Forever, Blessed Be  
Love so strong it carries us on  
Forever, Blessed Be

Jude Bennett Harrison 2017

### LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1

Dear Dee,

This is a letter of recommendation for Jude Harrison, who has applied to join the Covenant of the Goddess through Chamisa Local Council.





I have known Jude for many years, during his affiliation with the "Crows," a Colorado coven that is a long- time CLC Member, and since then. He and I are both training with the Order of Paladins, a Wiccan order of knighthood, and we frequently see each other at Pagan events in Colorado and New Mexico, where we have circled together.

I consider Jude to be among the finest people I know, with a strong ethical sense and keen sense of social justice. Through many personal challenges he has maintained his compassion, balance, and humor. He is a credit to the Craft and would be an asset to CLC or any Pagan organization. He has my unreserved recommendation.

Blessed be, Amber K  
Member, Chamisa Local Council

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #2**

I am writing in support of Jude Harrison, who is applying (as an Elder Priest) to be a Solitary Member of Covenant of the Goddess, transferring from a member coven.

Jude has been a member of our coven, the Crowwymmin Circle, since 2000 and is now converting to solitary status. The Crowwymmin are a member coven of the Chamisa Local Council and I am one of the priestesses of Crowwymmin Circle. I have had the opportunity to co-lead several rituals with Jude, to participate in rituals created by Jude, and to perform pagan music with Jude. Jude is a witch and follows the Wiccan Rede. He is a talented ritualist and Pagan musician. He became an elder in our coven's tradition in 2016. He has the experience and training needed to begin a Wiccan coven and to teach Wicca to others. He has been a contributor to our local council and the festivals and events it has offered.

I am pleased to recommend Jude's continued membership in Covenant of the Goddess, with a clergy credential at the elder level, now as a Solitary member.

Goddess Bless,  
Alane Brown  
Crone Priestess Crowwymmin Circle

**LOCAL COUNCILS**



**CALAFIA**

~ February 27, 2018t

Roll call -7:17 PM

- X Karen, First Officer
- Erik, Pursewarden
- X Catherine, Recorder

**Represented:** Circle Angkur, Circle Athenaeum, Circle of Wind & Wave. Quorum was reached. (X = present)

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer (Karen):** There's been nothing but a couple e-mails on the local council website, one request for prayers for those affected by the wildfires, 1 about Witches' Night Out, and 1 request for the scholarship, to which I referred them to the requirements on the website. We have 1 more year for the Calafia website. Payment was sent.

**Second Officer (vacant):**

**Pursewarden (Erik):** last bank balance was \$841.68, and there have been no transactions. Quarterly reports were up-to-date, but there was discussion about needing to get the new National PW on the account. It was agreed to remind Erik about it, and encourage him to get this handled ASAP.

**PIO (office open):** articles of interest being forwarded to Calafia and Calafriends lists. Erik keeps updating the Facebook page.

**Membership/Correspondence (vacant):**

**Recorder (Catherine):** Last set of minutes sent to National.

**Old Business:**

**County Library Matching Funds Program:** There was some discussion about when was the best time to make a donation to the Country Library matching funds program, it was agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting.

**Officers:** It was agreed to keep the current roster of officers for the coming year.

**New Business:**

**Local Class/Meet-Up:** The officers discussed the low attendance at Calafia's first class/meet-up at the Santee Library on 3/13/17. There were only 2 attendees for the roundtable on "Being Wiccan/Pagan in the Current Political Atmosphere," but those who came appeared interested. It was agreed that once the weather was warmer, outdoor venues would be fine. The goal is to have another program in June, perhaps on the use of herbs in magic. It was agreed to see what response this event generated before pushing forward. It was agreed to announce the event on Facebook and East County Pagans. Officers agreed to communicate online about this project.

**It was agreed that** due to the low level of activity in the local Wiccan community, we would meet 3 times a year, next meeting in May before the June library presentation.



**Next meeting** –It was agreed to meet next in early May, date and time to be discussed online.

**Announcements:** none

**Adjourn:** 7:31 pm



**CHAMISA**

~March 4, 2018

**Agenda Check-in:** Rowan

**Called to order at:** 11:57 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Circle of the Winter Moon, Our Lady of the Woods, Crowwimin, Coven of the Silver Moon, Circle of the Cauldron.

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer (Rowan):** Dee has been helping with the Membership Report (has talked to Kamy). Rowan wants to present the findings at Grand Council. The findings so far are illuminating and speak to how CoG is now viewed and its future.

**Second Officer (David):** We will have to stay at Cedro Peak. Oak Flat is now a day use area. Beltane was grandfathered in, so it can still use the area for that event. We can still look for other campgrounds.

Wendy Rule is our guest and the theme is "The Descent of Persephone." Rituals will include opening and closing, main ritual, and the Wild Hunt. Sylvia will do opening and closing ceremonies. Amber and Azrael suggested a ritual that blends the Descent of Persephone with the Descent of Inanna. They will coordinate with Wendy.

Wendy will have use of Darryl's RV.

Workshops: Alane – Dark Goddess chants, Sylvia – Dark Goddess workshop, Rowan – Newcomers workshop, Wendy – Main workshop.

Other activities/events will include the mead maker's gathering, and in honor of Donna Pauline, a gathering of the Fallen Petals of the Magnolia.

People will have to be out by 1:30 on Sunday so that our Gate Coordinators (Circle of the Silver Moon) aren't there all night getting people out.

**Membership (Dee):** Dee is sorting out Jude's membership. There are no new memberships, but she will be meeting with Desert Spirit CUUPs. Lora has talked to them recently, and they are definitely interested in joining. OLW and Ryan have paid their membership. Circle of the Cauldron, and KariIsis are due. Merlyn and Vivieni are due at Beltane.

**Recorder (Lora):** These minutes serve as my record.

**Pursewarden (AmberIsis):** Chamisa Local Council 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report

Beginning Quarterly Balance	\$9960.96
Current Quarterly Credits/Deposits	- \$269.00
Current Quarter Ending Balance	\$9691.96

**PIO (KariIsis):** No Report.

**Interfaith Committee (Amber K):** Azrael and I attended the New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light Legislative Day at the Roundhouse. Below is the NMIPL Newsletter; please contact your legislators with your input on several important bills HAPPENING NOW in the NM Legislature.

Below is a brief run down on some bills that NMIPL is working on in coalition with other organizations. Last week NMIPL advocated/testified: for VW funds for electric school buses (tabled); opposed SB47 Energy Redevelopment (PNM San Juan closing) tabled. Please read on for brief updates and this weeks schedule and please make phone calls.

- **HB138: No state land for border wall** (Reps. McCamley, Linda Trujillo, Christine Trujillo) Support. Would exclude state owned land for projects. **Stalled in House Rules.**
- **HB127: NM Unit Fund Water Projects** (Reps. Rudy Martinez; Bill McCamely) Tabled in House Ag and Water Resources Comm. Feb. 1. Attempt to earmark Ariz. Water Settlement Act funds currently slated for Gila River Diversion project for needed non-diversion projects in Luna, Hidalgo, grant and Catron Counties.
- **HB 161 (Rehm and Hall) Agriculture and Vegetable Seed Pre-emption.** Preempt local governments from enacting ordinances regulating the cultivation and production of seeds. **Oppose.** Scheduled for 8 am, Thurs., Feb. 8, Rm 309, House State Government, Indian and Veterans
- **HB208: (Johnson, Elisio Alcon, Harry Garcia, Tomson, Lundstrom) Study for Workforceraining and Ed for uranium clean-up jobs for superfund sites.** passed committees. Headed to finance. **Support.**
- **HJM6: VW Settlement Funds for Electric School Buses (Rep. Caballero, Sen. Lopez)** Tabled in House Energy Natural Resources, Thurs., Feb. 1. **Supported.**
- **HM51: Natural Gas Venting & Flaring Info** (Reps. Rubio, Garcia-Richard) Identifies leaks as major contributor to methane loss, pollution, and economy. House Energy Natural Resources Comm, Thurs. Feb. 8, 1:30, Rm 317. **Support.**



- **SB47: Energy Redevelopment Bonds (Sens. Neville, Candelaria) Tabled, Sat. Feb 3.** Began as same bill as HB80, continues to be negotiated. As it stood on Sat., this securitization bill for PNM at the closing of San Juan Power Plant did not meet NMIPL criteria for a just and moral piece of legislation. Another version may come back in session.
- **SB79: Solar Market Development Tax Credit (Mimi Stewart)** Solar tax credit for 10% with cap of \$5 million with project cost up to \$9,000. Passed Sen. Conservation. Scheduled for Senate Corporation and Transportation, Feb. 5. **Support.**

Please also consider attending some of the interfaith events listed here. Let's "show the flag" for Wicca and make a difference on these issues!

### **Week of Faith and Climate Action - April 14-22 – Interfaith Power & Light**

#### **New Mexico and Around the US in communities of faith**

Be one of thousands of faith communities across the United States participating in this annual national IPL call to prayer and action to address climate justice. Sign up at <http://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/>

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Join the Nationwide Climate Prayer
- Prayer Flag Project
- Host a Movie Screening or Event
- Take the Paris Pledge
- Tell the President "We're still in" Paris

Worship resources and climate change reports and tools are available at the website, and eight recommended videos. Local groups can also list events they are sponsoring.

#### **Friendly Reports:**

**Ardantane:** Mortgages are paid! Ardantane has \$12,600 for the Uncommon Room. \$30,000 is needed. Ardantane wants to raise monthly monies coming in from the current \$1000 to \$2000. There are several ways people can contribute:

1. Set up a monthly direct deposit with your bank
2. Set up a monthly check from your bank, mailed to the Ardantane P.O. Box
3. Use Paypal
4. Provide your credit card info, for us to make a monthly charge
5. Send a check personally each month
6. Provide an annual lump-sum through any convenient means

**Silver Moon Health Services:** No Report.

**Beltane Southwest:** No report, but registration begins March 15.

**Las Cruces Pagan Pride Day:** After a year's hiatus, Las Cruces PPD will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018. Lora is the new coordinator. We have enough in the bank for the permit of the park, and should have enough from vendors for the insurance and other expenses. Chamisa is willing to help out monetarily *if needed*. Both Chamisa and Ardantane will be attending this year!

#### **Old Business:**

**Report from the Membership Committee (Rowan):** Dee has talked to Kamy and will talk to Panther. Kamy left for personal reasons.

**MerryMeet Report (Amber):** At the last COG Leadership Institute, participants came up with a lot of proposals for renovating and improving COG at the National level.

The National Board is currently examining three of these--see them below. If you have any input on these, or any other ideas that you feel would make COG better, PLEASE CONTACT ME so I can relay them to the National Board. You can also send them directly to [cog-board@cog.org](mailto:cog-board@cog.org).

I appreciate your input!

Three Leadership Institute Proposals for COG:

1. Streamline full membership application process. Create a general (non-voting) membership level (think Sierra Club or ACLU). They receive, for example, newsletter, chat room access, bumper sticker.
2. Create a job description for COG's first professional staff person, and a plan to finance the position. The aim would be to relieve national officers of some of their routine administrative work (reducing volunteer overload) and to make new initiatives possible.
3. Create a National Governing Board composed of reps from each local council and one for National members. Current National Officer positions become volunteer staff positions. All positions would have two-year terms.

Chamisa supports these proposals.

Azrael is considering running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer of CoG to coordinate MerryMeet 2019! Her plan is to have MerryMeet at an Albuquerque hotel and Leadership would be taken up to meet at Ardantane. She has looked into a hotel on Rio Grande just south of US Highway 40 that has adequate conference rooms, good internet, and a restaurant and is near Old Town and other hotels and restaurants.

Chamisa will support Azrael in this endeavor.



### Theme for Litha Retreat (June 15-17):

*Personal Empowerment and Safety in a Sex-positive Environment.* Various workshops on some aspect of this issue:

- Rowan: restorative justice
- Sylvia: structuring the coven system for dealing with sexual

What are the assumptions being made about our community and within it? What do we do from here? A panel discussion was suggested to address these topics.

Elder Training and Leadership Training? A standing Council of Elders?

### New Business:

**We will give a stipend** to Debbie, our illustrious WebWitch. We will ask what she charges and how many hours she works. We have agreed to up to \$400. Sylvia will cut a check.

Adjournment: 1:56 pm



### EVERGLADES MOON

~ March 31, 2018

Having all board members present and quorum being reached, meeting was called to order at 1:38pm EDT. All hands and hearts were held together, candle alit, and blessings of Coventina invoked.

### In Attendance:

- EMLC Board:
  - Kasha, EMLC First Officer, AoS
  - Amber, Second Officer, AoS
  - Lady Bridget, EMLC Membership Officer, Witch & Famous Coven
  - Lady Circe, COG National Second Officer, EMLC Pursewarden, AoS
  - Qabal, COG National Pursewarden, EMLC Public Information Officer, AoS (\*via Zoom)
  - Alpandia, EMLC Publications Officer, DragonWhisper Coven & AoS
  - Aequitas, EMLC Recorder, Beachfyre Coven
- EMLC Members:
  - Canu, COG National First Officer, Beachfyre Coven
  - Coyote Morningstar, AoS
  - Spelcastor, AoS
  - \*Raven, AoS (\*via Zoom)
  - Gwydion, AoS
  - \*Marla, AoS (\*via Zoom)

### OFFICER REPORTS

**First Officer:** Contacted the Lynn University student. Wants to start Pagan-themed student activities.

**Second Officer:** Retreat decision needs to be made. On agenda as old business.

**Membership Officer (Bridget):** All EMLC tithes have been paid, thanks everyone! Renewing at Beltane: Beachfyre, Kasha, and Lord Gwydion. Lord Gwydion has changed from coven to Assembly of Solitary membership, which will be final at Litha. Marla has also been published as an EMLC solitary member. We have one other inquiry from someone who is known to EMLC through Faery Seership.

**Publications Officer (Alpandia):** Grand Council website is up and running! People can register for live and virtual, and book their hotel room with the discount. Online applications are up for vendors and workshop submissions.

Thursday-Sunday, August 9, 10, 11 & 12, 2018 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Embassy Suites by Hilton in Fort Lauderdale 17th Street.

<https://emlc.net/gc2018/>

<http://www.cog.org/about-cog/merry-meet-and-grand-council>

New Ostara podcast is up. We are enjoying many listeners!

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/reaching-for-the-moon/id605970315>

<https://emlc.net/category/emlc-podcasts/>

**Pursewarden (Lady Circe):** The main account has \$7,397.25 out which \$60 is earmarked for the FyreDancer Fund. Also we have earmarked \$80 for our local Grace of the Goddess Fund. Our Paypal account has \$71.55. We have a grand total of \$7,968.80. I have obtained two of the PayPal mobile card readers.

**Recorder:** Kasha is finishing up the minutes from the Sunday, February 25, 2018 meeting, due to Shaylee and Aequitas being unavailable that day.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**What EMLCers are Doing:** Spelcastor is applying to be a notary.

Equinox in the Oaks (EITO) is next weekend. Small intimate grounded festival in Pierson, FL.

Five people have been successful beekeepers for over a year.

Lady Bridget is working on an afghan knitting Project Amigo which benefits children impacted by HIV/AIDS. She has prepared 130 afghan squares, and needs to complete 150 for two quilts. She is looking for yarn donations. Not picky about color or type! Please send along to her.

Temple at The Crossroads, a Hekate devotional group in Miami, has planned a full year of activities which includes public workshops and rituals at Luna Bohemia.





Beachfyre Coven hosted Sitara, a longtime prior member of EMLC, and her new husband for their wedding reception at the Covenstead. Sitara was also in town for First Degree Georgian elevations.

Anne W. is recuperating from an accident. Good news, she will be walking in two weeks and getting handfasted soon. Ask Kasha for Facebook link to donate meals to her and her caretaker.

The Wild Hunt (TWH) has started their Ostara fundraiser. Goal is to raise \$15,000. They are promoting a donation option through PayPal at \$5 a month, or whatever you can contribute. If fundraiser is not successful, there is a chance TWH will go offline by July 1. Contribute at <http://wildhunt.org/>

October 13, 2018 is confirmed as the Treasure Coast Pagan Pride Day at the Savannah's Campground.

**2018 EMLC Meeting Schedule:** The date and location for EMLC meeting is confirmed for Sunday, May 27, 2018 at Casa Raven in Miami. We encourage regional Zoom enclave groups to join online for those who can't make it due to distance.

The next meeting, following May meeting, is confirmed at Cat's House on Saturday, July 28, which is the last meeting prior to Grand Council / Merry Meet 2018. If members needed to visit the host hotel, Embassy Suites by Hilton in Fort Lauderdale 17th Street, it is nearby Cat's house.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Psychic House Party:** Lady Bridget lead the discussion about options and opportunities. After conversation, it was agreed that the Psychic House Party will occur on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Kasha's home. We can advertise at the Treasure Coast Pagan Pride event the weekend prior. Need to create palm cards about the Psychic House Party. Discussed \$45 flat rate for three 15- to 20-minute services (could include tarot, lithomancy, massage, etc.) Snacks and goodies would be provided.

**Movies with Witches (Qabal):** No updates at this time.

**Turning the Tides 2018:** Aequitas invited people to serve on a TTT Planning Committee to assist with coordination and decision-making. Volunteers included Lady Circe, Lady Bridget, Alpandia and Coyote. Aequitas showed a preview of 5 different logo designs for the festival. It was suggested to create a survey monkey to vote on the top design. It was also discussed to offer t-shirts, but we don't want to stock extra inventory. It was consensed that we could offer a "TeeSpring" option, this way people can order a coffee mug, tote, or t-shirt of their choosing, that fits their size and style. Aequitas needs assistance with

converting the top voted artwork into a vector graphic for TeeSpring. As a goal, Alpandia agreed to have TTT registration up at some point during GC/MM 2018 and offer a special promo code discount to GC/MM attendees.

**COG / MerryMeet:** Much discussion occurred about planning and coordination, vendor tables, workshop coordination, and other details. Lady Circe suggested EventsXD app. Aequitas will work with Circe to build out the app. Discussed what should go in attendee goodie bag. Coyote will be coordinating the program.

**EMLC 2018 Annual Retreat:** Amber proposed Rum Island as a location for Annual Retreat. After discussion, the location and cost were factors. Amber will be exploring other locations, one being the Savannah's Campground.

**Belladonna and Dusty:** Discussed hosting Belladonna and Dusty from ATC in South Florida area. Everyone was interested in the ritual and networking, however, this is a very hectic year for EMLC, and the proposed dates are also a factor. Kasha will be

**The Wild Hunt fundraising Ostara campaign:** A motion was made to contribute \$25 a month for The Wild Hunt as a sustaining member, to be reviewed at the Annual Meeting. The motion passed.

**Items for Discussion Proposed for GC/MM 2018:** Three topics from last year's leadership institute will be carried forward into this year. 1) Membership streamlining process and non-voting membership. 2) Hiring an administrative staff person. 3) Changing COG board and officer structure (comprised by local boards and national membership). Much discussion ensued.

## Community Announcements:

**Spelcastor** can guide any local Pagan clergy to be approved as a marriage counselor to be listed with respective counties. Contact him for details.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** with hands and hearts circled up, we concluded the meeting at 5:20 PM EDT.

**NEXT MEETING:** The date and location for EMLC meeting is confirmed for Sunday, May 27, 2018 at Casa Raven in Miami. We encourage regional Zoom enclave groups to join online for those who can't make it due to distance.



## HILLS AND RIVERS

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2017 edition.



## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ November 18, 2017

**Present:** Quorum reached 2:10 pm. 7 covens: 3 present, 2 proxy. Glenn (Trismegiston, Dragonstone), Anna & Don (Trismegiston), Thea (Daduchos), Stardust (Proxy), Dark Moon Circle (Proxy), Felicity (AOS), and Deborah (AOS)

### Officer Reports

**First & Emerita:** Don was planning to resign, since he has returned to college, but was talked out of it. Deborah (Emerita) is tracking our NORTH email, and will alert Don to any alerts or immediate action items, and will assist him in framing an agenda in advance of each meeting. Don is willing chair meetings.

**Pursewarden:** Anna posted report on NORTH. Current balance is \$ 2337.09. Anna will send \$100 to Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County for NCLC's membership. Felicity is our I4C representative. We are paid up with SiVIC and Marin Interfaith Council until Summer 2018.

**Membership:** Thea received email from Lion Gate that they are lapsing. Thea plans to speak to Edey about reconsidering lapsing.

**PIO:** Felicity is setting up a new NCLC website. Discussed the content, and suggested links to blogs, and a blog roll. (examples: The Interfaith Observer, COG's IF blog, Macha's blog, Broomstick Chronicles, local resources such as Ancient Ways.) Suggested we register both .com and .org URLs; Deborah and Glenn said they were willing to help with costs of URL registration.

**Flyers Update:** We set up a Publications Committee to update flyers, pamphlets and business cards. Meeting Dec 12 at ARL. Committee is: Deborah, Felicity, Thea, Anna, Don, Glenn and Macha.

**Interfaith:** November's *The Interfaith Observer* has an article, "A Pagan In Egypt," about Don's trips to Egypt to view inscriptions.

Felicity, reported on the Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN), the climate project of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County(I4C). Andrew Guthrie is seeking audiences for his climate change lectures. Felicity was elected to I4C's Executive Council-their first Pagan!

### Old Business:

**PantheaCon Suite update:** Fellowship of the Spiral Path has offered to co-sponsor the Tree of Traditions Suite. We welcome them. South Bay Circles will not co-sponsor, but will help with volunteers. The Suite Committee thinks we may not have enough volunteers to host the suite this year; Glenn said it is too late to get another group to take

the space, and we are committed! We discussed simplifying the Suite operations by reducing hours and dropping the bar service.

**Suite Activities:** Cary the Faerie complained that NCLC COG's meeting time is too early Friday for working people to make it up from Santa Cruz. Would we consider rescheduling? We discussed having the COG gathering at Sat lunchtime and NROOGD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reception Saturday at dinner hour. Anna emphasized that for good attendance, Suite programs must follow the same time breaks as the overall Con. Spiral would like to hold a raffle to help with Suite costs. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Thea.

### New Business:

**Social Justice:** West Contra County County ICE women detainees mistreated in holding cells. (News report relayed by Deborah, who suggested contacting I4C.)

**Cell phones for Homeless & Immigrants** (Marin Interfaith program)—tabled pending more information.

**Mission Statement-** Felicity explained the differences between various kinds of statements:

- Mission Statement—purpose, what you are currently doing, the scope and geography
- Vision Statement—the view to the future, hopes and plans
- Values Statement—values important to you, speaking to people involved (the stakeholders), values brought to the stakeholders

**The National Board** is planning a Bylaws Review, and is seeking committee members.

**NCLC PO Box:** To preserve individual privacy, NCLC should have a local mailing address. We reviewed costs of commercial and USPS mail boxes, and concluded they were too expensive. Adocentyn Library is willing to act as NCLC's mail drop. Otherwise, NCLC mail can go through COG's San Bernardino PO box. Email scans would be sent on to us from there.

**Next Meeting:** Saturday Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 at ARL (This meeting was later cancelled in view of the Women's Marches held on the same day.)

Saturday Feb 17<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting at Tree of Traditions Suite, PantheaCon.

Saturday Mar 17<sup>th</sup> Location TBD (Western American Academy of Religion is March 24-25)



*Editors Note: January minutes were published in the Ostara newsletter.*

~ February 17, 2017

NCLC hosted a meeting at PantheaCon in the Tree of Traditions suite on Saturday, February 17 at



12:30 PM. This meeting was open to all PantheaCon registrants.

The meeting was attended by the following NCLC members: Glenn of Dragonstone Coven, Thea and Jim of Coven Daduchos, Michelle of Coven Trismegiston, Rowan of Owl Moon Coven, JoJo of Stardust Coven, Deborah, Bill B. and Lady Bhride of the Assembly of Solitaries, Gus of the National AoS, and by Taffy D., prospective applicant for membership in NCLC.

This attendance record was reconstructed from memory because the sign-in sheet went missing. Apologies to anyone who was present and is not mentioned.

The main purposes of the meeting were to give CoG members from various parts of the country to meet each other, and for members of NCLC to fulfill their annual attendance requirement if it is difficult for them to attend regular business meetings. We had a round of introductions, offered the floor to everyone who had an announcement, and mentioned events in the Tree of Trads suite that were led by CoG members. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 PM.

**Lari:** Chad and I are starting classes at Crystal Fantasy in Palm Springs for the Obsidian Oak.

**Temple of the Amethyst Moon (Janine):** I've got 2 new children that are deciding if they want to dedicate to our tradition and we are proceeding along nicely.

**Temple of the Diamond Sands (Theresa):** We continue to instruct the public in Wicca at the Crystal Fantasy in Palm Springs.

**Wiccan priestess and songwriter Wendy Rule** has a concert date at Merkaba Tea up at Idyllwild at the end of the month. Temple of the Amethyst Moon, along with other local covens of TLC are having a community Ostara ritual on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Fantasy at 6pm.

The Hands on Knitting Center in Redlands (Wednesday through Saturday) is focusing on women's stuff, such as hand-done, hand-dyed yarns from the local community. The facility is open till 9pm.

**National Board Liaison (Stachia):** We did have a board meeting on last Sunday and one of the things that the board has been looking at is something that came from the leadership intensive at last year's MerryMeet. The first of which is if somebody's membership lapses we are working on coming up with something other than starting all over and we are looking for feedback and initial responses to that issue. Possible issues that were discussed were extensions of the grace period and other options.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> item is initial impressions on board set-up or splitting the jobs from the board so that the board who makes policy decisions can be 1 person from each local council and then having the job duties be separate from that.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> issue mentioned was a "sustaining" membership type thing to increase CoG's membership by people who follow the path but don't identify themselves as a witch.

No specific proposal has been written or made, we are just looking for general feedback and initial responses to these issues. There was much discussion on these issues; especially the last one.

**Officer Reports:**

**First Officer (Theresa):** Please bring other coven members, students, and clergy with you to our TLC meetings to bring different viewpoints and different talents.

**Second Officer (Chad):** Not present and no report was given.

**PurseWarden (Jack):** The latest information that I have for the present balance of Touchstone Local Council is \$2,956.23 at this moment. We've had no recent expenditures and



**ORANGE COUNTY**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2018 edition.



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2017 edition.



**TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL**

~ No report

Last published minutes in the Samhain 2017 edition.



**TOUCHSTONE**

~ March 5, 2018

**In attendance:** Ecclasian Fellowship, Temple of the Sapphire Sky (proxy held by Lari), Circle of the Emerald Forest (proxy held by Val), Temple of the Amethyst Moon.

**Beginnings:** Invocation - Jack, Vibes Watcher - Lari, Time Keeper - Janeen. Quorum/Sign-in Sheet - Yes

**Announcements:**



deposits have not been made yet for the January and February treasure chest. I have also printed up proposed budgets for 2017 and 2018.

**PIO (Val):** No report other than the Wendy Rule concert coming up in Idyllwild.

**Membership Officer (Theresa):** Temple of the Sapphire Sky is due for renewal and was apprised of this in an email which I sent to them and also in an email from the National membership officer.

**Recorder (Val):** The minutes for the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 TLC meeting were posted over the TLC website; they have been passed out and are awaiting approval by the council before being sent off to National to see if any changes need to be made. *No changes were made and the minutes were accepted, and will be sent off to National at a later date.*

#### Old Business:

The TLC Flier has been fixed by Val with the correct information for our meetings and has been posted to my personal Facebook page and shared with my friends in the local pagan community. However, I am currently having a problem posting to the TLC Facebook page and the TLC Website and am working on solving that issue.

The 2018 budget was discussed and a new 2018 budget was reconciled and approved.

Calendar events were discussed and information on contacting the Sizzler in Banning was provided for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer to make arrangements for a fundraiser there (perhaps 2 fundraisers). Creating a Pagan Pride Day event was discussed and it was decided that creating a similar event with a different name would be in the best interests of the council at this time, perhaps during Samhain which will be tabled to a later date.

Main event #1 is being discussed and decided upon (perhaps a Craft Fair). Main event #2 is going to be Yule. Smaller fundraising events are also being discussed prior to those 2 main events to raise revenue for the council.

The inventory report for the TLC supplies has been taken care of.

Chad and Lari will soon be contacting the people up in Idyllwild regarding the Pagan Renaissance Fair.

Annual donations and Bylaws training have been tabled to a later time.

Contacting the witchy shops is being discussed to possibly create classes there to also create revenue for the council, and to let people know that we (TLC) exist.

It has been decided by the council that little interest is being seen for our hosting Witches Night

Out and this event will be deleted from our calendar for this year.

Val has received no reply thus far from the Unitarian Universalists in Riverside and will try to contact them again.

#### New Business:

**Contact Forms for Board Members:** I have received back one contact form for the Purse warden and one contact form for PIO and other contact forms and we're good on contact information.

**Closing:** Was done by Theresa and was very nice, and sweet

**Next Meeting:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee has been inactive since the beginning of the year and so far, no one has stepped forward to assume leadership of the committee or the blog. We may wish to consider abolishing this committee at next Grand Council.

### REVIEW COMMITTEE

Northern California Local Council has offered to perform the periodic review (currently overdue) of the Bylaws and Policy Manuals as a service to the Covenant, in partnership with the National Recorder and any other interested members of CoG.

The National Recorder is the head/chair of the Review Committee and has accepted NCLC's offer to run the review process. NCLC will bring our results to the National Recorder; whom we expect will take the results either to the National Board (for the easy corrections), or to the Grand Council for any issues which the board feels are more appropriately dealt with in that venue (everything else).

The core group of NCLC people (Don Frew, Anna Korn, Thea Bristlebroom) has met three times as of this date. We recognize that we are a small part of the larger committee, and our plan is to do some preparatory work before bringing the working documents to the larger committee.

Scope: Starting with at Anna Korn's report (in the 2010 Grand Council minutes) of the Bylaws Review Committee (7.10.2 Report of the Bylaws Committee), we believe this committee to have been tasked (at a minimum) with doing these things by the current Board. This was the direction





given to the 2010 Committee and that we are assuming that we are going forward with their mandate. We request that the National Board please confirm that #1-10 are indeed within the purview of the current Committee and that we can go ahead and make changes based on these points, and any such changes would be noted for later review. Specifically:

1. Consistent **capitalization** throughout.
2. **Spell out abbreviations** in official documents.
3. Some **terms** may require us to reach consensus about their usage. For example, "Member Coven" instead of Coven.
4. **Consistency of Terms** - There are several terms referring to Grand Council, like the Great Council and the National Council. We propose changing all such variants to uniform Grand Council, consistent with current usage.
5. **Insert title for each Article and Section citation within the Bylaws document.** That is, not simply "Article 2. Section A.," but rather "Article 2. Section A., Classes of Membership."
6. **Standardize headings and citations as to fonts, point size, use of bold, italic, etc.**
7. Check for **accuracy of pagination**, especially in the Table of Contents.
8. Article 4 (and possibly other Articles) need **Sections and their pagination included in the Table of Contents.** *[The 2017-2018 Review Committee recognizes that the work specified has been completed, but it may need to be applied to future additions/changes to the Bylaws.]*
9. We have decided we will not include **references to specify at which Grand Council a particular Bylaw change occurred.** *[The 2017-2018 Review Committee is reconsidering this point, as it is helpful when doing the periodic review, and indeed, is helpful for anyone who wishes to read the GC minutes having to do with a bylaw and its history.]*
10. **Strive for plain speech and ordinary terminology wherever possible.** We should note when we could make a proposal for a change in wording that might clarify what we are actually talking about.

The 2017-2018 Review Committee further believes that it is within our scope to look for the following categories of possible changes/corrections.

1. Consistency: Typographical errors, grammatical errors, spelling errors, consistency of usage, capitalization, etc.

2. Process Errors: The proposals which were approved at a Grand Council (according to the official minutes) and should be in the document, but which are missing or may have been only partially entered into the document. Also, items which were superseded and should no longer be in the Bylaws, or should be noted in the Policy Manual as no longer in effect.
3. Legality Anything that **MUST** be in the document according to applicable State and Federal Laws.
4. Clarifications Questions which could not be resolved with research, and for which the Committee believes the entire membership should decide the issue.
5. Recommendations The Review Committee's proposal(s) to Grand Council for changes/additions to the documents based on our review.

The NCLC group expects that we will get items #1-4 done for both the Bylaws and Policy Manual in time for Grand Council 2018. Item #5 may or may not happen (there might not be any proposals from the Review Committee, or we might not have time to publish them prior to the GC.)

Outcomes: We are agreed that two documents will be presented at Grand Council for approval by the membership: Bylaws and Policy Manual. These two documents are slightly different in that the Bylaws don't contain anything other than current bylaws, whereas the Policy Manual in the past was one document which contained historical policies as well as the current policies. At some point this document was split into two documents, a Historical Policy Manual, and a Current Policy Manual.

We propose to combine these two documents back into one document. This is because while we recognize the need for clarity about what is/are the current policy on a specific topic, we see the value in having the history of WHY and HOW policy has evolved over time.

Process: We started with the 2009 documents, as we felt that was the most recent time when there was confidence in the accuracy of the Bylaws and Policy Manual. We then compared the documents with the Grand Council Minutes since 2009, to check that the current (2017-2018) documents contained all the bylaw and policy changes that they should, and didn't contain anything that they shouldn't.

Our next step will be to produce a "Working" version of each of the documents, which will be the current document combined with approved proposals from the GC minutes. This will be in a MS Word document, with line numbers for ease of reference. Each of the three Core Committee members will mark up the working



documents separately, creating an individual document of suggested changes referencing the line numbers of the working document. At this point, we may also insert references to when the bylaw and/or policy was added to the document, and when it was superseded or amended.

Then we'll meet with the larger committee and go over the documents using the 5 categories detailed above. We hope to pick the low-hanging fruit first (items #1-3), we expect that #4 will take some time to research what was intended, what was approved, what should the correction/change look like now. Lastly, we may come up with (#5) proposals to be brought before the membership and discussed at Grand Council 2018.

At a guess, we will be meeting 2-3 more times as just the NCLC group, and then will have a meeting with the larger committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thea Bristlebroom

### **PATH TO MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

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The Path to Membership committee has not been active, due to my focusing on other issues. However, I'm going to be calling a twice monthly meeting starting in May, I plan to send out the announcement / poll for dates this coming week.

In Her Service,  
Thea Bristlebroom

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST**

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#### **RAINWOMAN BREWS A STORM**

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*From Vol 3 Issue 9*

*May 1978*

By Seagull Mari

One year, though the days grew winter-short and the nights were winter-long, the skies stayed blue and the weather was warm. No rain fell, which did not bother the people of Earth. But when a second year passed with hardly a storm, when the deep lakes grew shallow and the shallow ones dried up, some of the people began to wonder and some began to worry. Where was the rain that had always fallen in winter, to make the grass green in spring?

The Birds grow uneasy, the Frogs were unhappy, but the Human Beings were worried most of all. They argued with each other about what was to be done, until an old, old woman, who lived by the sea, said "We must seek the help of the Coyotes."

The others were surprised at this, since none of them had spoken with the Coyotes for a

long time. "But the Coyotes are tricksters," said one.

"They haven't talked with us in years," said another.

"But, we have no other solution," said a third.

So they gathered one night by the full moon and sang to call the Coyotes. And the Coyotes on the ridges heard the songs of the Human Beings and wondered.

"Who is singing?" asked a Coyote too young to know of Human Beings.

"It's the Humans of the valleys," said an older Coyote.

"We haven't spoken with them for years" said another.

"They must have a problem; they always call when they have problems," said still another.

"Well, we must help them," said the oldest Coyote of them all. "For we are all Earth's children, and therefore relatives." And the Coyotes went into the valley and spoke with the Human Beings.

"There has been no rain for two seasons and we are worried," said one Human Being.

"Well, have you spoken to Rainwoman?" asked one Coyote. But the Humans were puzzled, for they had forgotten Rainwoman and did not know how to speak with her.

"Ah, you Human Beings! There is much you are forgetting!" said another Coyote, "But we will help you, though it may take a long time. And we must ask you, Human Beings, to remember that we are your relatives, and to give us as a gift some of every animal you kill for food."

This caused some argument among the Human Beings, for they had mostly forgotten about being relatives with the other people and about sharing with them. But no one had a better idea for getting rain, and some of the Humans were very happy to be speaking with the Coyotes again, so they finally agreed. Then the Coyotes set off across the fields and through the forests, travelling northward to where Rainwoman lived in back of the north wind.

After many days they reached the wall of her garden, where apple trees both bloomed and bore fruit at the same time. In the midst of the garden stood Rainwoman's castle, built of clouds and roots and starlight. Rainwoman came out to greet the Coyotes, her rainbow dress shimmering in the cool northern light.

"Greetings" she said, "my Coyotes, my relatives."



"And greetings to you, Rainwoman. We come to speak for the Human Beings, who are concerned about the lack of rain."

"Ah, those impatient Human Beings! I cannot make a lot of rain every year!" said Rainwoman, her sunshine hair flashing. "But they too are my relatives, and so I shall brew them a storm."

Rainwoman sent messages to the people who lived in the corners of the world, asking for things to make rain with. She went to the center of the sky with her staff and began stirring the air, brewing her storm.

First she gathered air and water and dust and made a huge black cauldron to brew the rain in. And from all directions wind began to blow and the people of Earth hid in their burrows and houses and caves and watched the gathering storm. And all over the world the young cried to the old "What is that rushing sound overhead?"

In the north, among the tall trees of the dark northern forest, the Wolf spoke to its pup and said, "The Spirit-swans are flying overhead, carrying ice for Rainwoman's storm."

In the west, gliding through the marsh grass near the ocean, the Garter Snake hissed to its young, "Those are the Spirit-gulls bringing ocean water for Rainwoman's storm."

In the south, hanging by her tail from a tree, the Opposum said to her children, "The Spirit-cranes are bringing swamp water for Rainwoman's storm."

And in the east, in the cool shade of the mountains, the Deer spoke to the fawn, "That is the Spirit-eagle bringing mountain creek water for Rainwoman's storm." And the sky-cauldron grew blacker and filled with the waters of the world as Rainwoman brewed her storm.

When it was ready, she drew her thunder-ax, which shone like lightning and, stepping back, she hurled it at the cauldron of rain. It broke with a crash and rain began to fall as the thunder-ax streaked through the sky. Then Rainwoman threw on her sky-blue cloak and ran to retrieve her ax, to hang it from her belt for another time.

The cauldron was so large and full that rain fell for weeks, filling the lakes and rivers, soaking the ground and running in gullies down the hills. The grass grew tall that year and all of the people of Earth were happy.

The Human Beings met again under the full moon and sang to the Coyotes, thanking them for their help. And the Coyotes sang from the ridges, glad to speak as kin with the Human Beings. And the Human Beings remembered, for years now lost track of, to leave part of their kills for the Coyotes.



## DISSOLUTION OF DOGWOOD LOCAL COUNCIL

15 April 2014

As of Samhain 2017:

The members of Dogwood Local Council have met, by phone conversation, and have collectively come to the conclusion that there is not enough local interest in maintaining a local council in the area at this time, and so we are choosing to dissolve Dogwood as a CoG Local Council.

Although there have been a good number of campaigns through the years to increase visibility and awareness of CoG in the area and to promote membership, we simply have not seen much interest in the way of groups or individuals applying for membership. Additionally, over the years, some member groups have chosen not to renew, which has led to a decreased pool of members available to keep the LC running. Of the DLC groups remaining, many of us have served on the DLC board for more than one turn of the wheel in a number of roles and capacities.

There had been, over the past couple of years, some interest in keeping Dogwood together long enough to give the groups who have more recently hived off of DLC groups, a chance to get their feet under themselves and to meet the membership requirements to join CoG, and to decide if they wanted to participate in DLC. However, as we approached our Samhain meeting, we came to the realization that it could still be another year or two before we could really know if that would manifest, and we also realized that we did not have enough willing to volunteer within our current groups to fill a board slate. We also recognized that even if we were able to get enough people to volunteer to fill a minimum officer slate, there was a good possibility that Dogwood was likely to drop below the minimum LC requirements within the year.

We did take the time to discuss and share what we felt were the primary reasons for lack of participation in Dogwood and for DLCs decreasing membership. One of the primary reasons seemed to be that most members of the DLC groups, who may have otherwise been willing to volunteer, or who have volunteered in the past, were active in other volunteer organizations and activities which limited their time to participate in DLC specific activities. Within our area there have also been a good number of overlapping activities which, when combined with our limited number of local council participants, became a little redundant in form and function at the local council level. We also discussed other reasons, more speculative in nature, regarding our observations of what seems to be a trend of changing culture, and values, of incoming student populations. In the end, while most of us have plans to retain our membership in



CoG, we just all felt it was time to dissolve the Local Council.

Blessings,  
Lady Arden

## A NEW KIND OF MONEY MAGIC

By Link

A young graduate opens a card from Aunt Betty; it contains a crisp green bill, along with congratulations and sincere wishes for success. Grandparents buy their new-born grandchild a Savings Bond, a gesture which will be stored away for decades before being "released" into that child's life. A loyal customer respects the hard work of a local business owner, and goes out of the way to buy THERE, instead of some other business owned by strangers. Money truly is magic.

Most money spells commonly involve a person's wish to RECEIVE money. But what about the opposite? Can you attach and focus magical energy within the money you SPEND, so that it can aid and bless others?

Let's suppose that money is not a tangible object; it is energy. Magic often involves gathering, focusing and releasing energy to achieve a specific purpose. Is that any different than earning, saving, and then spending money? When you spend, you transmit a bit of energy in a certain direction. You decide where it goes, whether to Place A or to Place B, to Purpose A or to Purpose B. You create change -- and that can be magic!

Perhaps we instinctively are aware of the energy within the money we give to others. For example, it is common for local businesses to hang up the first few dollar bills they earn as "good luck" charms. Some bills even have personal handwritten notes penned with good wishes by the merchant's friends and supporters. But early forms of money weren't dollar bills. Early forms of money were metal coins. Today we have a special word for coins; we call them "change." Change? Like the way we change the world? What an interesting word for money! And the mathematical symbol for change? The Delta, a triangle, the same symbol we use today for the element Fire. Energy. Change. It is no accident that our language shows this relationship. Word histories often show how two things were once related.

While money ITSELF is nothing sacred, be aware of the energy you send when you spend. As you write out your monthly bills, use the energy within it to bless others. See the hard work you do for your wages as a way to raise energy to create positive change for yourself and those you support.

Even the "monthly ritual" of paying your bills can be magical. Your phone bill can be a way to bless the loved ones you call each month. Your

mortgage or rent can be a house blessing. How else can you direct energy through money? Your taxes? Your charitable donations? Your savings or special nest egg? Look for your own personal ways to do this. You are limited only by your imagination.

Rather than spells to GET money, try using money magic as a blessing for others -- you may be quite surprised by what you receive in return!

## IT'S FUNDRAISING TIME

### ARDANTANE SEEKS FUNDS FOR AN UNCOMMON SPACE

Imagine: you enter through the great double oaken doors; to either side, dragon sculptures hold lantern globes of light. You come into a place of magic, of scarlet and shimmering gold, unicorn tapestries on the walls, candlelight glowing on the spines of books holding knowledge from many cultures around the world. It is an uncommon space, no matter that it's name is the Common Room of Ardantane.

For several years, visitors to Ardantane (a non-profit school and retreat center serving the Pagan community) have noticed a large, unfinished structure attached to the dome. It's time to finish it.

Ardantane has launched a fund-raising campaign to finish the common room at our campus in the Jemez Mountains. The Board of Directors estimates that we will need \$30,000 for the next phase of construction, and the public is invited to make tax-exempt donations to help this happen.

The Ardantane Common Room will be decorated in much the style of the Gryffindor Common Room in the beloved Harry Potter books and movies, though it will be far more versatile-not simply a place for students to study and socialize.

The large, open, multipurpose room will host classes, meetings, receptions, and even house concerts. It will include a "coffee" nook, and bookshelves will line one of the walls, housing the Deborah Ann Light special book collection and overflow from the metaphysical library in the dome. One large alcove will hold the Ardantane office, another corner will contain a miniature gift shop, and a glass case will present a natural history display: rocks, fossils, minerals, and artifacts found on campus land.

This highly adaptable space will be available for public use, as well as campus events. Anyone seeking a place for a retreat, a meeting, or a wedding reception is invited to contact the Director to learn how to reserve the Common Room, once it is completed.





The structure has other very practical aspects: the slightly sloping roof will hold solar panels, and the solar energy will help run the under-floor radiant heating system in the adjacent dome. PLUS once the Common Room is enclosed, rainwater and snowmelt can no longer seep into the dome from the unroofed space!

Anyone desiring further information, or wishing to make a tax-exempt donation, is invited to contact Amber at (505) 469-7777. Checks may be made payable to "Ardantane" and sent to Ardantane, P.O. Box 307, Jemez Springs NM 87025; or contributions may be made [online](#). Don't have a Paypal account? There are other ways to [donate](#). A tax letter and receipt will be sent to donors.

### CHERRYHILL SEMINARY: CHANGING WORLD-CHANGING SEMINARY

Yes, it's hard to miss the change swirling around us. Climate disasters, violence and social unrest seem to erupt weekly or even daily. Pagans often have no voice and no support during these times unless they live in a large metro area.

Yet Cherry Hill Seminary students and faculty across the country and beyond are serving their communities in ways we would not have imagined two decades ago: as group leaders, spiritual counselors, chaplains, hospice workers and first responders. Some are leading CUUPS or Druid groups, some are teaching where they live, some are promoting harmony and better awareness of our spirituality through interfaith work, and some are adding to the body of research available to scholars.

It's a challenge to be prepared for such service - whether the expected duties of leadership, or the call for extraordinary responses when unexpected tragedy strikes. Cherry Hill Seminary is constantly reviewing our programs to be sure the education we offer will help you meet these challenges. When the president of the American Academy of Religion issued a clarion call for action to stop global warming, CHS developed the *Certificate of Environmental Leadership*. When asked for a self-directed certificate program for non-professional Pagan leaders, we created the 15-month *Community Ministry Certificate*. And when a national Druid group was faced with controversy over accusations of past sexual misconduct, CHS accommodated their immediate need for our *sexual ethics course*.

Thank you to everyone who has shown generosity by your financial contributions over the years. Will you support us again this year?

CHS is still small and relies on our donors to help us continue to provide what is simply not

available anywhere else. You told us in 2016 that you believe in CHS and we met your challenge to continue our journey towards accreditation and support Pagan learning.

We have already raised nearly \$6000 of our 2018 goal of \$12,000. Will you make a gift or pledge to help us reach our goal before Beltane? Ways you can support Cherry Hill Seminary:

- [Make a gift now](#)
- [Pledge to give later](#) (or quarterly, etc.)
- [Set up an automatic monthly payment](#)
- [You can also leave a portion of your estate to Cherry Hill Seminary in your will](#), transfer stock or other assets, and challenge others to join you in giving.

Change is a challenge - help CHS support our Pagan community. We are here for the long run for you.

### THE WILD HUNT

Dear Readers and Supporters,

We know you have questions about our structure, our funding and what we do your donations at The Wild Hunt. So, here it is. *Where Does the Money Go?*

It's easy really. First, let's start with The Wild Hunt's legal structure. The Wild Hunt is a corporation in the State of Georgia and project of Independent Arts and Media (IAM).

IAM serves as our non-profit fiscal sponsor. That helps us be an independent voice; no company or individual outside of TWH controls what, how, who, when we cover stories.

Independent Arts and Media oversees our financial activity and offers us with access to other revenue opportunities, such grants. IAM also offers training and support not only in managing funds but in marketing, legal affairs, and promotion as well.

*This structure helps to assure that we always remain an independent community-based voice.* IAM's service and sponsorship cost 8% of revenue.

Another part of the funding goes to technology, which includes site hosting, email services and annual domain renewals. That total runs about \$6,000 per year.

The bulk of our funds goes to the team for their work. We pay our contributors: writers, editors, columnists and support personnel. It is not a lot, but it is what we can afford.

Here is the breakdown:

- Editors earn about \$100 per month.
- Support personnel earn \$75 per month
- Writers and columnists earn \$25 per article.



Several individuals at The Wild Hunt donate their time and resources but not everyone can. More importantly, we made a decisive commitment to pay individuals for their work. This ideal was part of The Wild Hunt's original mission. We strongly believe that it is only fair to pay people for their work and to thank them for the time and expertise they offer.

Our yearly cost for everything is about \$23,000. That is our sustainable minimum.

Where do we want to go? In a perfect world, our personnel would be earning more for their time - something that looks like a living wage. Our writers and columnists wouldn't have to pay their own gas to cover events and we could reimburse their calls, technology use, and maybe even an occasional lunch during interviews. In other words, we aspire to a budget that provides for the usual professional expenses covered by other media outlets. We're not there yet.

And that's where you come in. You can help us get there. Join us.

With a Monthly Contribution you become part of our [Sustainer Circle](#). \$5 month is all we ask. More if you can afford it.

But if that's not right today, please consider a [one-time donation](#). Every amount helps.

We are grateful for whatever you can give. Share our story- we need that too.

But, please give. We know The Wild Hunt is important to you. And we're committed to keeping our news service, for Pagans by Pagans, around for good.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND COG?

### REACHING FOR THE MOON

Greetings CoGKin! I'm excited to bring you the latest offering from EMLC's podcast, [Reaching for the Moon](#).

In this episode, you'll find:

- Pandie's Pagan Projects, where we're making altar elements
- Rayna's Beloved Dead at Beltane
- Workshop by Amy Blackthorn entitled "Making Magickal Oils." Trust us, you've probably not really dove into the importance of base oils in your blends like Amy discusses at this workshop recorded at Equinox in the Oaks.

Plus you'll hear an amazing musical medley from Emerald Rose!

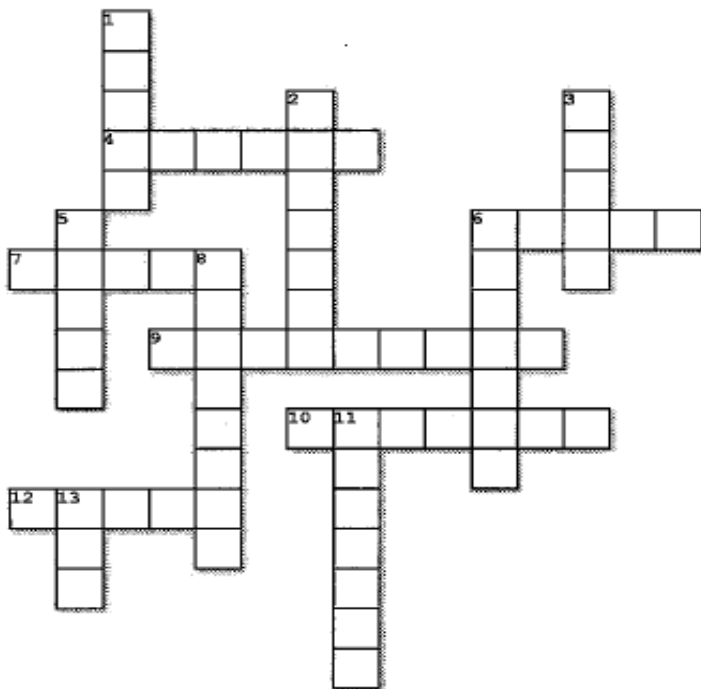
[CLICK HERE to head to our website and give it a listen](#), or check out the episode in your favorite podcast app. While you're at our site, be sure to get registered for [Grand Council 2018!](#)

## KASHA'S BELTANE CROSSWORD

### Beltane Crossword

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Puzzle Generator

Complete the crossword below



#### Across

- 4 - the type of holiday this is
- 6 - another Beltane color
- 7 - what we weave into our lives
- 9 - what all creatures do to create life
- 10 - the people that you dance with
- 12 - what sits atop the pole

#### Down

- 1 - celebrating with food
- 2 - dance around it
- 3 - what you dance to
- 5 - where the pole is grounded
- 8 - saying words together to a beat
- 11 - what you wind around as you dance
- 13 - a Beltane color

Answers are at the bottom of page 22



No Peeking Mister



**Across**

- 4. the type of holiday this is (**sabbat**)
- 6. another beltane color (**white**)
- 7. what we weave into our lives (**magic**)
- 9. what all creatures do to create life (**make love**)
- 10. the people that you dance with (**friends**)
- 12. what sits atop the pole (**crown**)

**Down**

- 1. celebrating with food (**feast**)
- 2. Dance around it (**maypole**)
- 3. What you dance to (**music**)
- 5. where the pole is grounded (**earth**)
- 6. what the ribbons create (**weaving**)
- 8. saying words together to a beat (**chanting**)
- 11. what you wind around as you dance (**ribbons**)
- 13. a beltane color (**red**)