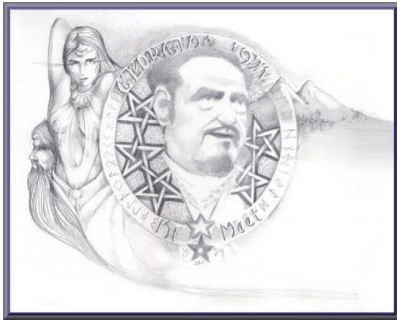




THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER



Ostara 2009

What's Inside:

- Spotlight
- Recipes
- Musings & such
- Events and announcements
- Art
- Ostara Ritual

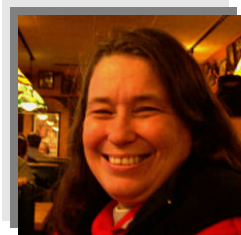
RESURRECTION

Greetings all!! This is the third installment of the Ostara Newsletter since the Newsletters resurrection! See page 3 for all that have graced the Spotlight section!

SPOTLIGHT

LADY AUTUMN STAR SHADOWRAKE

~The High Priestess of Coven Samhain Moon~



GNL - Where are you from originally?

Star - Paso Robles, California, where I lived on 52 acres of almond trees with 22 cats, 1 dog, black widow spiders, rattlesnakes, and badgers (and, no, the last 3 were Not pets!!!).

GNL - Where do you call home now?

Star – Southgate, Michigan with 2 elderly dogs, my 2 youngest sons & Raven from our Coven with assorted wildlife growing in my crawlspace.

GNL When did you "discover" Wicca.

Star On my 50th birthday, I took off from my job at Burger King. I walked into a metaphysical book store to look for a Tarot deck, and became friends with the manager. Later, when I asked for a book for my 3rd son, who was interested in Wicca, he suggested Scott Cunningham's "Guide for the Solitary Practitioner."

I discovered that I'd already bought that particular book for him a couple of years earlier, and read it myself. I had 25 questions per page until he told me, "Star, read the book, and come back if you have any questions." I had one.

I haunted that bookstore, and he jokingly referred to it as my library. That summer, I pulled out a small book. I think it was "Simple Wicca." It had a self-dedication in it. He was outside smoking a cigarette, and I was in the store alone. I read it out loud, and it just felt right.

GNL What tradition did you start in? if any?

Star The manager of the bookstore had a Coven, and they invited me to the Esbats. I was always a guest, never part of the Coven. After about a year, they dissolved the Coven, I saw Puck at Beltane, and started studying with him just after Yule.

GNL How long have you been interested in the craft?

Star Since I found it.

GNL - Are you a Georgian? Who introduced you to the Georgians? Are you an initiated Georgian?

Star I am a 3rd degree Georgian HPs, and I introduced myself to the Georgians. I saw Puck at a Beltane gathering, and wondered just who in the world this person was who was standing there with crown, belt, athame, and nothing else. A couple of months later, he walked into a FOCAS meeting (Federation of Cirles and Solitaries), and just plain looked lost and uncertain, I was the unofficial greeter so I went up and gave him a hug. Soon after, we started talking, and the rest is history.

GNL - If you had to pick someone as your hero, who would that be? And why while your at it

Puck, Star, Susan, and Roy casting a spell →



Star - I have multiple heroes. My children are first on the list. I admire the way they handle their lives, face their mistakes, and ask for help when necessary. I can definitely take a lesson from them.

Next are my friends Greg and Tina. They've both had hard times in their lives (a 2-time Cancer survivor for Greg), and yet have always been there for me. Their dedication to and love of Wicca are what first drew my interest. Their guidance as I took my first baby steps and rare & true friendship helped to form who I was.

Then there's Puck. First, he taught me to laugh, especially at myself and to not take myself so seriously. He showed me that I do have patience, when I want it badly enough. I discovered that it's okay to like myself, to take time for myself, and to ask for help occasionally (although he still doesn't think I ask enough!).

My biggest lesson has been that I can survive more than I thought I ever could, and that I am a strong woman.

Puck has grown so much during 7 years. In becoming the primary care giver for his mother, he has shown me what true love is all about.

Read further down for my last hero.

GNL - What Sabbat is your all time favorite? Why is that?

Star - Yule. It's a time of year when our family gathers, and we have a relaxing time, just spending time together, whether it's with my children or our Coven.

GNL - Describe your life a little these days, what great is going on?

Star Between working at the steel mill, my children and our Coven, I'm kept very very very busy indeed. Once a week, I go to my 3rd son's house and make dinner for my children (unlike the once-a-week Sunday dinners from their grandparents, these aren't required). Most of the time, they all show up. They genuinely like being around each other, and the quarrels they do have may not always be resolved, but they're still family.

Last year I was amazed and awed when my entire roof was Completely paid for "anonymously" (I knew who it was). He, too, is my hero.

GNL - Got any hobby's or special skills, maybe super powers or something?....you know, get bit by a radioactive wombat or something?

Star - I love to crochet, but haven't done it for a couple of years. I love to sand wood, woodstain, and woodburn. And I also Love to paint ceramics! I'm looking for a ceramic mold to buy . . . it's a young girl's face, being kissed by a crescent moon on the

right, with a star-studded burka(?) . . . scarf on the left. If I could find and buy it, it would make my day . . . my week . . . my month . . . you get the idea!

GNL - Attended/Missed many Mt Meets? Or other gatherings you would strongly suggest others attending?

Star - I've never been to Mt Meet, but I've heard many tales from Puck, like the love incense that went POOF!

I love to go to ConVocation in Troy, Michigan, the 3rd weekend in February every year. Sometimes good, sometimes not so hot . . . but the merchants are good, and the company is delightful!

Star, the potions professor →



Since Ostara 2007 we have had a number of Spotlight guest stars grace the Newsletter. Since this is the 3rd edition of the Resurrection of the Newsletter I thought I would give them a mention here!

Ostara 07 – George Patterson
Beltane 07 - Bobbie
Litha 07 - Loye
Lughnasadh 07 - Georgia
Mabon 07 - Shonsu
Samhain 07 – Cindy (Mab)
Yule 07 - Puck

Imbolc 08 – Marla Roberson
Ostara 08 – Lady Kundalini
Beltane 08 - Lady Rhiannon Etain
Litha 08 - Lady Kerridwen (Shawn)
Lughnasadh 08 - Sarasavati (Miranda)
Mabon 08 - Branwen Southernwood
Samhain 08 - Cosette
Yule 08 – Jeff from Fresno

Imbolc 09 – Baldar (Jeff Ray in Porterville)
Ostara 09 – Lady Autumn Star Shadowdrake

Recipe

CANDIES FOR OSTARA

1 lb Confectioners sugar
2 T. Water
1 T. Light corn syrup
1 T. Butter; softened
1 t. Vanilla
1/4 t. Salt
1/4 t. Almond extract
1 pinch Cream of tartar
1 1/3 C. Flaked coconut

-Combine sugar, water, corn syrup, butter and vanilla. Add the salt, almond extract and cream of tartar. This mixture will be crumbly.

-Add the coconut.

-Shape into balls or ovals (in whatever size you want).

Chocolate Coating:

-8 Squares semi-sweet chocolate

-Melt the chocolate in a double boiler over low heat. Cool a little and then frost the balls or ovals.

Serves 5

Submitted by RoseWynd

announcements!

Students and teachers, witches and witchlings, hard at it boiling cauldrons and rounding up newts for spells and potions. The following witches have been elevated in degree, we are all proud of them and the degree's are well deserved!!

~1st degree – Julie and Phillip S, have received their 1st degree initiations on Saturday night, January 31, 2009. Emilie and Tony G would like to thank Erin for performing Maiden duties in the initiation.

Birthdays!!

Skip in BF – January 16

Cindy – January 16

Lady Autumn Star – Feb 3

Jeff's in Fresno- February 21

Rowan Moonstone – March 9

Draco/Gene – March 18 (50 years old!!!)

New Grandparents

Epona and Balder of Coven Symbollic became Grandparents again!

Katlyn Evelyn Ray, 6lbs 1oz, 18 inchs long, born feb 23. Little Katlyn was finally allowed to come home March 6. Both mom and baby are doing well!

Drago and Spiritmother of the coven of Children Between the Worlds are proud to announce the birth of yet another granchild which brings a new total of 7 with the girls beating the boys by one. **Hunter Douglas Jepson** was born on March 5th, 2009 at 1:14 p.m. He weighed in at 7 lbs 10 ounces and measured a nice long 21 inches and is sporting a full head of nice dark hair. Mother Rhianan and Father evin are overjoyed and doing very well.

Croning!!

We haven't named the coven yet, but we are doing a Croning ritual for our **Elder Carol Fulton** in April. I think seeing it mentioned will make her happy.

Margie

Recipe

Spring Sabbat Incense

3 parts Frankincense
2 parts Sandalwood
1 part Benzoin
1 part Cinnamon
a few drops Patchouli oil

Burn during spring and summer Sabbat rituals.

Symbolism of Color

White: Purity, birth, virginity, and innocence.
Yellow: Youth, light, purity, happiness and wisdom
Red: passion, love, enthusiasm
Orange: Endurance, strength, power
Green: Renewal, freshness, hope, victory of life over death
Brown: earth
Blue: Sky, good health derived from air
Purple: patience, trust and power
Black: remembrance, eternity, constancy, death



Some Symbols to try

Nets and baskets: Containing knowledge, motherhood, giving life and gifts
Ladders: Searching, rising above the petty, ascending
Combs: Putting things in order
Rakes: Successful harvest
Trees: Strength, renewal, creation, organic unity, growth and eternal life
Leaves: Immortality, eternal or pure love, strength, persistence
Flowers: Beauty, children, fennel principles of wisdom and

elegance

Fruit: continuity, good fellowship, strong and loyal love, love of the divine

Sunflowers: Motherhood, life, love the Divine

Wheat: Bountiful Harvest

Stags: Leadership, victory, joy, masculinity

Horses: Wealth, prosperity, endurance, speed and the motion of the Sun

Rams: Leadership, strength, dignity, perseverance.

Birds: All kinds, are messengers of the Sun and the heavens, pushing away evil. Fertility, fulfillment of wishes

Roosters: Good Fortune, masculinity, coming of the dawn

Butterflies: Ascent of the Soul, pleasure and frivolity of childhood

Spiders: Patience, artistry, industry, healing and good fortune

Fish: Abundance, sacrifice regenerations

Circles: Protection, everlasting life, continuity, completeness

Triangles: The elements of air, fire and water and earth

Suns: The life-giving all embracing nature of the God

Tripods: Man, woman, and child. Birth, Life and Death

Stars and Roses: Purity, life, giver of light, the eye of God

Curls: protection

Spirals: Mystery of life and death, divinity and immortality



Mad as a March Hare:

Spring equinox is a time for fertility and sowing seeds, and so nature's fertility goes a little crazy. In medieval societies in Europe, the March hare was viewed as a major fertility symbol - - this is a species of rabbit that is nocturnal most of the year, but in March when mating season begins, there are bunnies everywhere all day long. The female of the species is superfecund and can conceive a second litter while still pregnant with a first. As if that wasn't enough, the males tend to get frustrated when rebuffed by their mates, and bounce around erratically when discouraged.

I am Nature

Raven Spirit

I am the Elements

I am Air as I quest for knowledge. I dive deep in to books to learn from those that share what they have learned by written word. I learn as I share my thoughts with other both face to face and through the modern use of computers and the Internet. I am Air.

I am Fire as I am driven by my passions. I work hard for those causes I believe and have faith in. The fire burns deep inside of me to do "Right Action" to help those who are in need. My convictions are strong and grow stronger everyday. The relationships that I have built with friends and family fuel the fire of my actions as I walk to bring honor to The Ancients, My family, and my friends. Whether they can see it or not. I am Fire.

I am Water. I am fluid emotion that is sometimes hard to control. I am in touch with them and comfortable with that. I will show joy, and sorrow. I will cry and laugh. Emotions are a big part of who I am. I have learned this is ok and it is sacred.

I am Earth. I am strong and grounded. I understand I need to care for the Earth beneath my feet, and the friends and family I am connected to, they help me to be stable. Like the Earth I shall provide. Provide encouragement and support for my children, as they are gifts from the Ancients. Provide a positive outlet for my friends and those I am called to serve. I am Earth.

I am my Ancestors. I am the physical embodiment of those that have gone before me. I am my father's son and my grandparent's grandson all the way up the line. I am the last male son in my line, yet my lineage will not die. My family line comes from the shores of Scotland through England and is now in America, and it will continue from there. I am what my ancestors were and they will be what I leave when I return to the Elements, to await rebirth. I am my Ancestors

I am the Old Ones

I am The God. I provide and protect. I grow and nurture. I share my wisdom, which is knowledge backed with experience. I will one day die, and be reborn. This is the order of things. But I shall return. I walk in the light. I am The God.

I am the Goddess. I have a feminine side as well. It is also caring and nurturing, it supports and spawns growth. It enjoys the feel of the green grass and the harsh feel of the rock. It supports my God side as my God side supports the Goddess part of me. My Goddess self points me down the path of my souls and tells me to walk. I walk in Darkness. I am The Goddess

I am Nature. I am a combination of all things. The stream runs through my veins, the fires burn in my soul; the Earth is within my bones, and the Winds blow through my hair. The Ancients whisper in my ears linking me to my past. The God challenges me to run in the wild places where I have never been. The Goddess nurtures me and gives me wisdom to heed my call. I am Nature

Duane "Raven Spirit" Marshall

Art Work

Over the years I have heard art get labeled different terms. Some types of art are Art Nouveau, Abstract, Impressionism, Prison, fantasy, erotica, Ash Can school, Barbizon school etc... But, at the end of the day, for me, art is an expression of ones heart and soul. I have been drawing, painting, working with clay, wood, metal and any other medium I could get my hands on for as long as my memory can recall. I respect the work of all artist, some are better than I and others aren't. When I see their work, I am given a chance to look at their souls. This is a gift, I never take for granted.

Here we have the work of two individuals, Jennifer Gossett and Eddie Mills. Both very talented artist and I for one, feel blessed that they chose to share a part of themselves with us.

Submitted by Jennifer Gossett



Lou and Amalthea



Discovery

These three are submitted by Eddie Mills. I am told that there are plans in the works to sell prints on bandanas of this material and others equally splendid not displayed here.



And Here we have a picture of mine called....Ostara



Infernal Egguinox



Photo of an egg successfully balanced on end... three weeks before the vernal equinox!

Snopes.com

Claim: A special property of the equinox allows eggs to be balanced on end that day.

Status: *False.*

Origins: Every year on the vernal equinox (on or about March 21), one of the two days per year in which the length of day and night are the same, we hear about a magical property of this day that allows eggs to be balanced on end. Rarely does a year go by in which a local TV news station doesn't send a reporter out to a neighborhood park to capture images of people delightedly placing eggs on the ground and watching in amazement as the eggs stand on end. Rarely do we see any new stories reporting that this same feat can be achieved every other day of the year as well.

The equinox, which marks the beginning of spring, has long held a special importance in human society. The first day of spring is the end of winter; the beginning of the season in which daylight again outlasts darkness and life springs anew. Flowers blossom, trees shoot out new leaves and branches, and animals give birth (or their eggs hatch). These tangible signs of the world's rebirth were of paramount importance to agricultural societies, and they naturally developed elaborate fertility rites to celebrate the occasion. Thus eggs — one of the most ubiquitous symbols of fertility and birth — have long been associated with the beginning of spring, and hence with the equinox. Many, many superstitions involving the breaking, balancing, burying, decorating, reading (for purposes of divination) and hiding of eggs have come to be part of the annual spring celebration. (The linking of egg-balancing with spring celebrations is demonstrated by the fact that the practice is associated only with the vernal equinox, not the autumnal equinox.)

The Chinese are thought to have originated the practice of standing eggs on end during the equinox. Just as the equinox symbolically restores balance to the world by signaling its rebirth after a season of darkness, the equinox literally balances the day by dividing it into equal portions of darkness and light. If the symbol of fertility — eggs — could be balanced on end during a day equally divided between day and night, this was a sign that all nature was in harmony. That the balancing of eggs could be achieved on *any* day of the year was of no importance; what everyone wanted and needed was a familiar, reassuring ritual to demonstrate that all was right with the world.

Ostara Ritual

~3-19-01~

Performed by the Travis Earth Circle

Alter is decorated with white cloth and spring colors. Eggs, flowers....

Celebrants line up outside circle area, corners first. **High Priest** (Loye) will ask, "How do you come to this circle?" Each person replies "with perfect love and perfect trust". He then anoints with blessing oil on the wrist, celebrant takes an egg from the basket held by Sammy Jo and a position in the circle. HP and HPS last.

High Priestess reads: As our ancestors once did, so we do today and our children will do in the future; we are here to pay homage to Eostre, Lady of the Radiant Dawn of Spring, and Angus Og, Lad of Love. To the Gods, to the Ancestors and to the Earth Spirits, to the rising light of the year. Now is the time of blooming, when the flowering plants put forth their blossoms and Earth is fertile once again. While frost still threatens, winds blow and rains fall, the light is growing stronger and life is now awake. This is the feast of Eostre, the Goddess of Radiant Dawn of Resurrection. She is the year's new birth, who brings the greening of the Earth. We also make offering to Angus Og, the God of young Love. Through the union of Fire and Water the Ancients, our forebears, worked Magick to welcome the Spring. So let us join together as one to make our offerings in joy and reverence.

HP Blesses the Athame

HPS opens (casts) the circle:

Circle of white

Circle of light

Circle of protection

I summon Thee to keep that which is good within

And that which is bad without.

As above (holds Athame up)

So below (points Athame down)

So mote it be.

HP takes cauldron to **East**:

East lights corner candle and drops seed in Cauldron:

"As the wind scatters the seeds of growth and change
Spirits of Air be with us."

East takes cauldron to **South**:

South lights corner candle and candle in cauldron:

"I kindle the Sacred flame in wisdom, love and power,
Spirits of Fire burn within us."

South takes cauldron to **West**:

West light corner candle and pours water in cauldron:

"In the deeps flow the waters of wisdom,
Spirits of Water flow within us."

West takes cauldron to **North**:

North light corner candle and sprinkles earth in cauldron:

"As the Earth nurtures and sustains us,
Spirits of Earth live within us."

North returns cauldron to Alter.

HPS holds up cauldron:

By Air, Fire, Water and Earth
Akasha we now honor Thee
May we be hallowed one and all
That you may hear us when we call.

HPS invites Goddess:
Eostre, Goddess of Radiance Bright
Fill our minds with Life and Light
And bring new meaning to this night
So mote it be.

HP invites God:
Angus Og, God of Love,
Fill our Spirits now with mirth
And may this night bring forth new birth.
So mote it be.

Celebrants hold their egg and put energy and wishes into them.

Celebrant reads:
“This is the Equinox of Spring. This is the time when Light is once again as powerful as the darkness, and the Sun increases. Spring itself appears around us, with the scent of young flowers, new grass and fresh leaves. We now offer the Eggs of Eostre, in thanks for the Life that is eternal and for the promise of the future.”

Celebrant takes the basket around and collects the Eggs while **Celebrant** reads:

“The Easter bunny comes from the legend of the Goddess Eostre. A lowly rabbit wanted to please the Goddess so much that he laid the sacred eggs in Her honor, gaily decorated them and presented them to Her. Eostre was so pleased that She wished all humankind could share Her joy, so the rabbit traveled the world over to present these little decorated eggs.”

Celebrant holds the basket up and **HPS** says:
Radiant Goddess, Dawn of Light,
Eostre, bringing Spring to sight
Blossoms bright and catkins long
Fertile power, living song
All are manifest in Thee
Radiant Goddess, Dawnlight see.

Celebrant holds up basket while **HP** passes wand over them and says:
God of Youth and God of Time
Vigor of Life is always Thine
Strength of cattle, strength of love, strength of beauty, strength of dove
Wily though thy ways may be
Lover’s help is found in thee.

Place wand in basket as sign of fertilization

HPS:
“Mother Earth, bless these symbols of Your fertility that they may bring new life and growth to all gathered here tonight and be Yourself fertile and blessed.

HP places sword in large cauldron as he reads:
“Now comes the Vernal Equinox, and the season of Spring reaches its apex, halfway through its journey from Imbolc to Beltane, Once again night and day are in perfect balance with the God of the Waxing Sun reigning supreme. The Great Mother Goddess, who was returned to her Maiden aspect at Imbolc, welcomes the young sun Gods embrace and conceives a child. The child will be born in nine months at the Winter Solstice so bringing the Wheel of the Year a full turn.

Cakes and ale:

HP holds up ale to **HPs** as she dips Athame into it
“Great Mother Goddess
Bless and infuse this drink with your love so all will never thirst”
Pour some in libation dish and pass chalice with a kiss.

HP holds cakes up to **HPS** as she circles cakes with Athame
“Great Horned One,
Bless and infuse these cakes with your love so that all may never hunger
Break piece for libation dish and pass with a kiss.

North
Spirits of Earth we thank You for Your nurturing Love tonight
Go if You must, stay if You will
Hail and Farwell!

West
Spirits of Water we thank You for Your wisdom tonight
Go if You must, stay if You will
Hail and Farwell!

South
Spirits of Fire we thank you for your power tonight
Go if You must, stay if You will
Hail and Farwell!

East
Spirits of Air we thank you for our growth tonight
Go if You must, stay if You will
Hail and Farwell!

HP
God of Love we thank you for your joy and strength tonight
Be in our hearts as we go forth from this Ritual in Your honor.
Hail and Farwell!

HPS
Goddess of Spring we thank you for your life and light tonight
Be in our hearts as we go forth from this Ritual in Your honor.
Hail and Farwell!

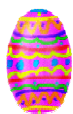
HPS opens circle:
The circle is open yet unbroken
May the love of the goddess be ever in our hearts
Merry we meet
Merry we part
Merry we meet again.

-----END

Ram PA TAPA. Since it is among the stars for the spring equinox, the horned symbol must be a ram or Aries.



Recipe



Natural Egg Dyes for Ostara

Wash eggs in mild soapy water to remove oily coating which could prevent dye from sticking. Boil eggs with one of the below-listed ingredients. Add 1/4 tsp vinegar to water. Simmer for 20 minutes.

Orange: Onion skins

Red: beets, raspberries, cranberries, grape juice, or red onions

Yellow: yellow onion skins, Golden Delicious apple peels, orange peels, saffron, lemon peels, shredded carrot, celery seed, walnut shells, tumeric

Light Blue: frozen blueberries, thawed

Pale Green: spinach

"Chocolate Brown Eggs"

1 Tb. Instant coffee; heaping

2/3 cup boiling water

1/2 ts Vinegar

Wash eggs in mild soapy water to remove oily coating which could prevent dye from sticking. Add coffee to boiling water, stir until dissolved. Add vinegar, stir, and add eggs. Simmer for 20 minutes.

Submitted by RoseWynd



From the Old Newsletter

March 1977

We wound up last night's coven meeting by singing songs from the new song book. We especially enjoyed "Old Time Religion" with 22 verses.

Spring Equinox

By Ivy

We celebrate the Spring Equinox
We gather our coven with care
We'll cast the sacred circle with rocks-
though the earth is no longer bare.
We dance on green grass-
We praise the sky blue...
We thank the God/dess for what each has,
and dance in the morning dew.

We see the Mother's soft tints
laid lightly on the earth,
though these are but little hints
of the wonders of rebirth.

We finish our Spring-time rites
and close the circle down,
knowing we have reached new heights
our love and joy abound.

I'll honor the God/dess in my heart,
and always remember when-
merry we'd meet, merry we'd part,
and merry we'd meet again!

