

# C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

## Connexus Of Reformed Druids

An RDNA Publication

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# Midwinter



Photo: Solstice Meditation Garden, Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, Minnesota

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# News of the Groves

## News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

At Oakdale Grove's early Midwinter Solstice ritual on Saturday, our first order of business was to present and discuss a potential Grove uniform. Since not all druids like to wear ritual robes, I was quick to specify my idea was not to promote robes *per se*, but rather that it would be a diagonal shoulder sash with an iron-on transfer of Oakdale Grove's Great Seal. The uniform would be *strongly recommended* for elected officers (Bard, Server, Preceptor, & Arch-Druid) and *generally recommended* for other members, but the uniform would never be a requirement. They can be worn over robes or plain clothes.



For officers, the sashes would also bear an iron-on transfer indicating any offices they've been elected to in the past.

Since the iron-on patches are vinyl, they

are melted right into the grosgrain fabric of the ribbon sash. I created a set of large wrapped wire "paperclips" which are attached to the sash.

They frame whichever office the member is currently elected to. If they

go a year without running for any offices, the labels stay on the sash, but the wire frame simply comes off and stays home or is transferred to the new officers.

There are also special iron-on transfers for Oakdale Grove's two members who are also Chairpersons Emeriti of the Council

of Dalon Ap Landu. When I ordered the transfers from *Sticker You*, there was extra space on the sheet. Since Ross (one of our Grove's

founding members) has never let our fire go out during a ritual, he's our

honorary Flamekeeper. It's not an elected office in the Grove but I wanted to be able to honor him with that aspect with that additional iron-on.

I meant to have the Grove vote on whether or not to adopt the prototype as our uniform *before* the ritual started. Consequently, not only had I made four prototypes for each of our Grove's officers already, but by the time I was done passing them out to *show* them, everyone had put theirs on, and suddenly it was time to start the ritual. Everyone really seemed to like them, and we finally voted on adopting them after the ritual ended, with the result being unanimous approval. Three voting members were not present, but we still had more than a one-third quorum present with 7 members attending, plus a guest visiting who witnessed our democracy in action.



The sashes tend to generate a few questions. First of all, since they are green, they look a lot like a Fourth Order liturgical ribbon for the *Order of Grannos*. The question is then, **isn't this in conflict with Council of Dalon Ap Landu Missions of 27 January, 1965?** Namely, *Item D* from the 1965 Missions states: “*That the individual Groves retain the right to establish any such identifying marks for its officers as it sees fit, provided that they do not conflict with any other marks already adopted.*” The answer is that these uniforms are specifically green *diagonal* shoulder sashes, whereas the Fourth Order ribbon is a green stole draped over both shoulders, like the winter-white Third Order ribbon pictured above. The Fifth & Sixth Orders, those of Braciaca & Belenos, both have a yellow ribbon, but they are also worn differently. The *Order of Braciaca* indicates the ribbon is worn on the wrist as a maniple, and in the *Order of Belenos* it is draped over both shoulders. So there is precedent for using the same color if worn in different ways.

The second question is something like, **why would you ever want to have uniforms in such an anarchic druid order?** The uniform is a visual aid for visitors to find someone who would be able to help with questions. Our Grove isn't that big at the moment, but the uniforms would be helpful if we start having a bigger turnout if we ever get out of this pandemic. These sashes aren't flashy expensive regalia like in Masonic orders, so we're obviously not trying to lure people in with the promise of posh vestments. We don't proselytize or tell people to join us, but the sashes would act as a passive method of sparking curiosity. Whether the curious choose to take a deeper look into druidry or not – is entirely on them. If they come to us as seekers we would certainly welcome them in so that they can explore their spiritual journey with us.

Another valid question is about the cost of these uniforms: **how much do they cost, and who pays for them?** These are three inch wide grosgrain ribbons that come in three yard spools (no wire in the edges). Two yards are sufficient for a person of average height, but a whole spool is just \$6 on average. A Grove member paid for one, I paid for one, another one was 40% off, so I bought it to sponsor another Grove member. The spare yards from two rolls were pieced together to make one for our fourth officer. The sheet of iron-on transfers from *Sticker You* had room for 12 Great Seal patches, which calculate to \$1.25 per patch. The second sheet of Officer labels calculated to 45 cents per patch. The giant paperclips are 30 inch lengths of 3mm aluminum bonsai wire, spun into double helixes with a hand drill and needle-nose pliers and work-hardened with a hammer.

I mentioned in our meeting that I'm willing to make the sashes if members provide a roll of three inch green grosgrain ribbon – or if they provide the \$6 then I can get the ribbon. I would make the rest of the sash at no cost. They only take about 90 minutes to measure, cut, sew, and iron. The remaining unused yards from two ribbon spools would be retained to make a Grove-sponsored sash for any member experiencing financial hardship. So this is certainly no money-making endeavor. For basic members, **the sash is absolutely less than \$8 in materials.** I covered the cost for the two pages of iron-on transfers which were under \$15 per sheet.

# Bardic Column

## **Alban Arthan Devotional by Kynan**

For a short time the light arises  
Fading into the void of long nights  
An ocean of darkness  
Between electric lamps and headlights.  
Daylight and void dwell together  
In one cycle, exchanging places  
As life gives way to death  
And death opens a place for new lives.  
The solstice of Winter plays host  
To dormant deciduous trees and lively pine,  
A night that seems to never end  
And bonfires launching sparks  
Into the frozen, still sky.  
The Earth Mother finishes a long exhale  
From the height of daylight  
To the nadir of the year;  
The last wisp of air exhausted  
A new phase takes shape  
Under cover of night:  
The inhale will be just as long  
Warmer, brighter, more fertile.

A crane who watched the lake  
Takes flight into the evening before dark.

Yet in the living moment  
The darkness of the world is sacred,  
Where seeds lie dormant  
And trees hibernate with groundhogs,  
Hiding within the frigid land  
Sometimes covered in frost.  
A few luminous points  
Bear the light of hope  
Through the cold season:  
The Bear constellation and Pole Star,  
Memories of a once and future king  
Who held the name 'Arthur',

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The Valley of Silence, Duluth, MN  
by John the Verbose

The silver glance of a full Moon,  
Golden light of candles  
Arranged in a spiral on the yard,  
A fire feeding upon a Yule log  
In the living room hearth...  
The Ancient Lady of Winter  
Keeps vigil through the night with them  
Her spirit expanding between moon and stars,  
Freezing rain to deep roots,  
Falling snow and the clear horizon.

From the eastern quarter of that horizon  
A new Sun breaks calm night  
With the red glow of dawn  
First a mere hint in the dark  
Then growing into blinding light.  
Fires from candle wicks and hearths  
Channel into it  
As eastern rivers flow into the Atlantic.  
Bluejays and finches sing in welcome  
The osprey flies ahead of the Rising One  
Crane finally lands  
Upon the shore of another lake.  
The still lake, surrounded by snow  
Reflects the golden glow  
The same light that shines  
In the eyes of the stag and red fox.

Witness the Oak King take the crown  
From the Holly King,  
Two halves of the Green Lord  
Who struggle and play  
Among the three realms.



Sandhill Crane, Sherburne NWR,  
Zimmerman, MN by John the Verbose

## Overview

This section is an open forum for opinion pieces, letters to the editor, druidic gossip, philosophical exposition, news of solo druids, relevant product reviews, tutorials, and other discourse.

## Contribution from Sencha Skene – Celebration of Alban Arthan

Alban Arthan, or the Light of Arthur, marks the rebirth of the Sun at the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice marks the time of the Oak King, who will rule from now until the Summer Solstice, when the Holly King returns. In addition to its remembrance of the legendary King Arthur, this day is also associated with Ursa Major, the constellation known as the “Great Bear” (“Arthur” means “bear”). Many of the traditions associated with Christmas were actually borrowed from Pagan traditions at this time of year. The Christmas tree, the lighting of candles, the hanging of evergreens and mistletoe, and the Yule log are all pre-Christian traditions.

At this time of year, we celebrate by lighting candles to symbolize the rebirth of the Sun. Up until this point, the days have been getting shorter and shorter, but after the Solstice, the days begin to get longer again. It is a time of giving gifts to family and friends as a symbolic reminder of the gifts of the Sun to come as the plants begin to grow again and the animals return to the land.

The tradition of the Yule log, probably Germanic in origin, is an ancient Pagan tradition. As it comes down to us in its Christianized form, a family would go out into the forest and cut down the mightiest tree they could find, preferably an oak tree. According to Christian accounts, this tree had to provide a log that would burn throughout the twelve days of Christmas. Some scholars believe that this legend was grafted onto an older Pagan tradition of burning the log for the duration of the three-day celebration of Yule.

The fact that the oak tree was chosen, has special significance. Practically speaking, oak is a dense wood that burns for a long time, and would therefore be more likely to last for the duration of the celebration. The deeper, hidden meaning is that the Celtic people held the oak to be sacred above all other trees. The oak is the King of the Forest. One possible source of the word “Druid” is in the Gaelic word for oak, ‘*druí*.’ So the burning of the Yule log of oak signified the return of the Oak King at the rebirth of the Sun.

## Spiritual Significance of the Winter Solstice

The Winter Solstice marks the end of the reign of the Holly King, who rules the darker part of the year, from Summer Solstice to Winter Solstice. At the Winter Solstice, the Oak King conquers the Holly King, and returns as a newborn babe to rule the lighter part of the year, from Winter Solstice to Summer Solstice, when the Holly King shall return again.

Yule represents rebirth. As the Earth lies sleeping during the winter months, growing things seem to be dormant. With the rebirth of the Sun, growth can begin anew in the spring of the year. The movement that begins with Yule is the emergence of Order out of Chaos. The light begins to conquer the darkness yet again. From a psychological perspective, the dark chaos of the unconscious mind

gives way to the enlightenment and wisdom of the conscious mind. The creativity that lies within the darkness of your unconsciousness bears fruit and springs forth into conscious fruition.

As you celebrate the Winter Solstice, think of which gifts might lie dormant within you. If you could experience a spiritual rebirth in your own life, what would it be? How can you bring it to fruition? Just the evergreen trees are always present, even in the dead of winter, so the *neart* (divine life energy) is always present within you. The Sun's life-giving energy returns at this time of year, allowing for a new cycle of growth and Order. Use this season to bring new order into your life by allowing the rebirth and renewal of the Divine within you.

### **Symbols of the Winter Solstice**

Evergreens are hung at this time of year to represent the ever-present influence of the *neart*. Evergreens remind us that even in the dormancy of the colder months, the life force is ever-present.

Holly is also a symbol associated with the Winter Solstice. The Holly King surrenders his reign to the Oak King at this time of year. The use of holly as a decoration at this season reminds us that the Holly King's reign is nearly at an end.

Mistletoe is sacred to the Druids, and to Druids. According to Pliny, ancient Druids gathered it on the sixth day of the moon, using a golden sickle to harvest it. It was prized for its rarity, and was known as "All-Heal." It was considered a powerful aphrodisiac, and to this day we kiss under the mistletoe at this time of year. It also symbolizes fertility and rebirth. Mistletoe commonly grew on oaks, and was seen as a gift from the Gods for this reason.

Yule logs were traditionally burned at this time of year. These logs were usually made of oak, and represented the return of the Oak King and the light he brings. Many modern Druids and Pagans celebrate Yule by baking a cake, usually chocolate, in the shape of a Yule log.

### **Gods and Goddesses of the Winter Solstice**

In Scotland, the Cailleach is the Queen of Winter. She represents the Crone aspect of the Maiden/Mother/Crone triad. The Cailleach rules from Lughnasadh until Imbolc, and brings the winter with her icy breath.

The Holly King is associated with Cernunnos (The Horned God) or the Green Man. Together the Holly King and the Oak King make up Cernunnos. He is Lord of the Wild Hunt, and represents the physical embodiment of nature in human form. He represents the waning power of the Sun, and rules from Summer Solstice to Winter Solstice. The Holly King and the Oak King are constantly battling throughout the year, but the Holly King is defeated by the Oak King on the Winter Solstice.

The Oak King is reborn as the Divine Child (Mabon) on the Winter Solstice. He defeats his twin, the Holly King, and wins the favor of the Goddess, reigning once again until the next Summer Solstice, when the Holly King shall defeat him and take his crown.

Brigid (The Exalted One) is the Goddess of the Poets. She is a daughter of the Dagda (The Good God, Father of Celtic Gods and Goddesses), and one of the Tuatha Dé Danann (Children of Danu, also known as the "Faerie People"). She is the Matron Goddess of the Druids, and her



presence at this season represents the rebirth of the divine light of wisdom and inspiration.

### **Colors of the Winter Solstice**

White represents the purity of the Sun and the growth of daylight from this day forward until Alban Heruin (Summer Solstice). White is also the color associated with Brighid. Red represents the Holly King. It also represents the color of the dawn as the days begin to grow in length again at the sunrise on the Winter Solstice. Green represents the perpetual life found in the evergreens. Green also represents the promise of new growth in the coming season.

### **Traditions of the Winter Solstice**

Many Druids and other Pagans celebrate the return of the Sun by lighting candles for the Winter Solstice. The Yule log tradition is also making a comeback worldwide with Pagans and Christians alike. Another popular tradition is the wassail bowl, which is a bowl of mulled wine or cider topped with bits of toast, to be shared with family and friends. In our Grove, we create a wassail bowl by having each member bring something to put into the bowl. One might bring the toast, another might bring the cider or wine, and others might bring fruits and spices to add to the bowl. Each member brings something unique to the wassail bowl, which is blended and shared with all. The wassail bowl, completed in this manner, is a great metaphor for the Grove itself, in which each individual contributes something to be shared by all.

Another tradition we have at the Mother Grove is the Sharing of Light. Each attendee is given an unlit candle at the beginning of the Winter Solstice celebration. At a predetermined point in the ritual, the Celebrant lights his or her own candle, then lights the candle of the next person. This person in turn lights the next person's candle, and so on. The light spreading around the circle is a great metaphor for the return of the light of the Sun. Songs and chants work well during this portion of the ritual.

## Contribution from Sarah of the Woods – A Variation on Pomander



### Ingredients:

- 1 bag dried orange slices
- White cotton string
- Cloves
- Ground cinnamon
- Orange and lemon essential oils

1. Add several drops orange and lemon essential oils to a bag of dried orange slices and a teaspoon of ground cinnamon and shake and let sit a few days
2. Carefully slice a hole to put a cotton string loop through to hang the pomander.
3. Decorate with cloves.
4. You can simmer the slice in a small amount of water to fill you kitchen with a warm scent or hang as a fragrant decoration. **Not edible.**

# The Seeker's Corkboard

## Overview

This is the place where you can state that you are seeking other druids to form a protogrove. Long has it been said, something to the tune of *in the proper way, at the proper time, at the proper place, may another druid cross your path*. Well, here is a little nudge to help this happen sooner! These bulletins will be cumulative on each issue of C.O.R.D. until you send a stop request. They will be arranged alphabetically by country, then by state/province/region, then by town name.

To submit a Seeker's Corkboard request, email the editor and **provide your preferred name, location, and an email address** that you check consistently at least once per month. Just remember that any contact information you submit to this section does become public. Your email address in the newsletter will be split apart and will use different characters (& and /) instead of @ and '.' to prevent or mitigate random harvester bots from scanning them for spam.

## Example Bulletin

USA: **Kansas**: Hutchinson: Dorian seeking others for starting RDNA protogrove. Email dorian\_the\_druid (at) gmail (dot) com.

## Standard Disclaimer

I advise Googling *safety tips for meeting people from the Internet* or something to that effect. Furthermore, this is not intended as a section for personals ads or soliciting hookups.

## Bulletins

**USA: District of Columbia:** Tyler Vanice seeking others for starting RDNA protogrove in D.C.. Monument Grove that previously met in the capital has been inactive and I would like to meet others in the area and start something back up. Also looking to be ordained if anyone is traveling to the capital region this year or next! If interested, please reach out. Email tyler.vanice&gmail/com.

# Vivid Visions Gallery

## Overview

It's a druidic photo gallery. Enjoy!

### Contributions from John the Verbose



Gate to meditation labyrinth, Barker's Alps Park,  
Bayport, MN



Twelve circuit labyrinth, Barker's Alps Park,  
Bayport, MN



Labyrinth furrows in the snow, Barker's Alps Park,  
Bayport, MN



Fog lifting off the snow in Kennedy Park with 250  
year old oaks, Fridley, MN

## Videos of Interest

### Overview

This section is reserved for videos relevant to druidry. Enjoy!

### Medieval Ballad — Winterwolf



### Oakdale Grove's Reformed Druid Winter Solstice Rite



With a special word at the end delivered by 9<sup>th</sup> Arch-Druid of Carleton Grove emeritus Glenn McDavid

# The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

## Overview

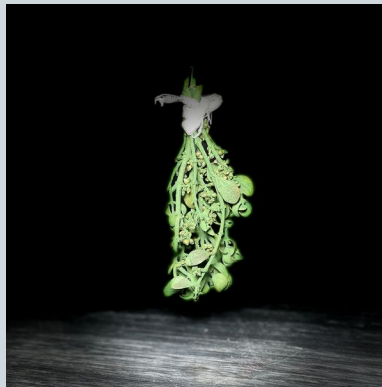
This section is for sharing rituals, devotionals, or other liturgical contributions.

## Excerpts from *Ordination to the Order of the Mistletoe*

*Disclaimer: Don't try this at home.*

O Earth-Mother, O Dalon Ap Landu, O Ye who perceive the mysteries of the Golden Bough, the All-Healing gift of Belenos, the rained-down seed of Taranis, O Ye whom we invoke, be among us now as we consecrate this courageous seeker as a druid to the Order of the Mistletoe.

From the misty veils of dreams on the year's longest night, a vision was revealed. Upon an earthen mound stood an ancient oak. Its great limbs extend far over the mound, limbs from which druids harvest the mistletoe with great ceremony. Wading in a crescent shaped pond that encircles half the mound were two elders and two youths robed in white, each partaking of a white berry to unlock the mysteries within.



O Spirit of Mistletoe within these waters, by the mysteries of your powers, imbue this courageous seeker with your essence, granting the legendary gifts found in the ancient lore. Drink once of the Waters of the All-Heal. Use the mistletoe as a talisman for Healing, for Fertility when needed, and for luck in the Hunt. Drink a second time of the Waters of the Golden Bough. Use the mistletoe as an amulet of Protection, for a time of Exorcism when needed, for Banishing malevolent forces or spirits, and for the removal of curses. Drink a third time of the Waters of the Mistletoe. May this bless you with an enhanced ability to interpret omens. May it grant you the gifts of Otherworld perception. And may you unlock the secrets of immortality!

# Augur's Intuition

## Overview

This section is reserved for reader-submitted divinations, premonitions, soothsaying, prophecies, omens, maybe a Celtic horoscope for the range of a month.

## Submission by John the Verbose

### Methodology: Acorns

### Meanings

You can use acorns or any found objects with a distinct pointy end, such as broken pieces of small tree branches, pebbles, seashells, bolts or screws for the urban druid, or lumps of hastily sculpted clay. There's a prescribed methodology to utilize here for those who want to learn it, and it ain't palmistry, but follow your intuition!

### Interpretation

There's that relationship that you've really gotta start nurturing now. Don't put that off any longer. If you address it now, there shouldn't be any lasting negative effects. Unless you like nostalgia and want to look back on this as some sort of beautiful lost opportunity?



# Calendar of Events

## Overview

This section is for contributors to add any gatherings they wish to announce publicly. This is also an almanac of full and new moon dates, the next Wheel of the Year high day, and any applicable minor holidays of the Schismatic Druids of North America (SDNA).

## High Days & Moon Phases

- 51 Geimredh (December 21) Midwinter Solstice
- 63 Geimredh (January 2) New moon
- 78 Geimredh (January 17) Full moon
- 1 Earrach (February 1) Oimeic

## Shared Open to Public events

**Place:** None at this time.

## Upcoming minor holidays of the SDNA (non-canonical) calendar

- 51 Geimredh (December 21) **Festival of Taranis** – Burn a midwinter solstice need-fire, feast on goat meat and tell stories of storms.
- 55-57 Geimredh (December 25-27) **Festival of the Rebirth of the Sun** – this is the time when a shrewd ancient astronomer could notice the shadows begin to shorten and the days begin to lengthen again. Gifts should be exchanged and parties thrown.
- 58 Geimredh (December 28) **Feast of the Divine Children** – Honor the gods of youth and hold a special event for the children in your Groves.
- 59-61 Geimredh (December 29-31) **Winter Festival of Wine and Pleasure** – it is allegedly obligatory to become intoxicated and engage in abject hedonism.
- 67 Geimredh (January 6) **Feast of Sirona** – goddess of healing springs; spring-fed ponds, streams, lakes, and rivers should be blessed by your local Arch-Druid.
- 85-87 Geimredh (January 24-26) **Festival of Braciaca** – androgynous deity of malt and brewing; it is allegedly obligatory to become intoxicated.

## Long-term notice for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RDNA

6 Samradh, 61 Y.R. (Saturday, May 6, 2023) is the day of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of the foundation of the Reformed Druids of North America at Carleton College! More details to follow as the event approaches.



# Blogs & Social Media Links

## Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

- Courtney's blog [Corey Adventures](#)
- Ellen Evert Hopman's blog [A Druid's Blog](#)
- John the Verbose's [Tumblr](#)
- TheMageiboLine's [Tumblr](#)

## Social Media

- C.O.R.D. Biweekly's [Facebook page](#)
- "Official" Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- [*Editor's note: if you request to join there are four vetting questions. Please answer all four; they're really easy.*]
- New Reformed Druids of North America (NRDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- Ron Stonemage's [Instagram](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Twitter](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Facebook page](#)
- Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program Development [Facebook page](#)
- Tribe of the Oak Celtic Reconstructionist (non-RDNA) Druid Grove [website](#)

# Artisan Promo Page

## Overview

Each article of *C.O.R.D.* will contain up to two pages of featured artists, craftspersons, or small online storefronts that may be of interest to the druid community in some way. There is no cost involved; anyone can request that their content be promoted here on a first-come-first-served basis.

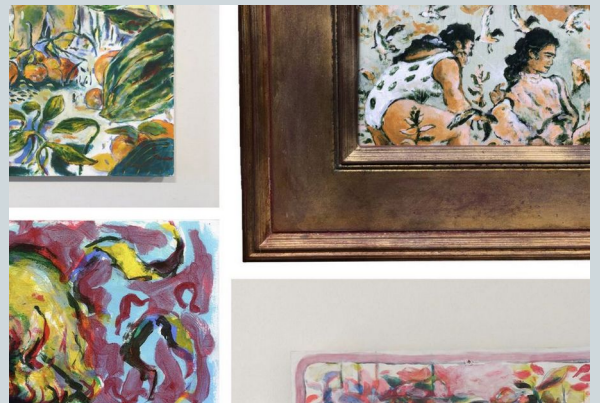
## Reannag Teine Pottery

Historically Inspired Pottery: Islamic, Greek, or Italian Renaissance... skulls, squashed fairies, or Viking kitties, we are devoted to creating unique pieces of historically inspired ceramic art – a touch of the unique you can use all the time. Hand-thrown and hand-painted yet safe for food, dishwasher, microwave, and oven. Reannag Teine, Gaelic for “star fire,” is a mother-daughter team with six degrees and a myriad of art awards between them... and a healthy amount of humor to bring it all together. Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Instagram—and of course at [www.ReannagTeine.com](http://www.ReannagTeine.com)!



## Jeremiah Soup's [art gallery](#)

All he wanted to do was subscribe to the newsletter but I was stunned by the art gallery when I clicked through the link in his email signature out of curiosity. I actually asked if I could share this here on his behalf, and I'm glad he agreed to it.



## Ron Stonemage's [wire art and wrapped stones](#)

I think we originally discovered each other's Tumblr blogs about a year and a half ago. Not only is the wearable artwork intricate and beautiful, but Ron often has a lot of thought provoking



# Reformed Druid Resources

## Overview

The Reformed Druids of North America is probably one of the few major druid orders that provides all resources for learning about our style of druidism at no cost. We might not have all the answers, and unfortunately we don't have a mentorship or official training program, however there is something major in the works on an unofficial capacity. For now, here is a list of resources we *do* have.

## Grove Finder

Everyone wants to know: is there an RDNA or NRDNA Grove in \_\_\_\_\_? Well, the most current source of truth is the [Grove Finder spreadsheet](#). It's been updated *en masse* in January 2019 & 2020, but it can be updated any time on an ad-hoc basis. It tracks Reformed Druid, New Reformed Druid, and Reformed Druidic Wicca (MOCC) Groves & Protogroves.

## RDNA Year Conversion Chart & Calendar

The RDNA Calendar began at Year of the Reform 1 on Beltane (May 1) 1963. It's unapologetically half a year off from the Celtic New Year. As of Beltane 2021, the 59<sup>th</sup> Year of the Reform (Y.R.) began.

- [RDNA Gregorian/Year of the Reform Conversion spreadsheet](#) can be a helpful tool.
- [RDNA calendar \(FREE PDF\)](#) current through April 30, 2024 can help you learn what day of the four seasons it is, because you'll see the RDNA calendar system is all over this publication.

## Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program

This is a work in progress. So far the draft is 114 pages long, and I'm only half way into adding the *basic* content I want to put in it. I am not an educator, so I'm concerned about its flow and efficacy. If anyone wants to help develop it with me, I would greatly appreciate the assistance.

## Books From the Reformed Druids of North America

- [A Reformed Druid Anthology](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (also known as ARDA-2) – this is a monumental collection (almost a thousand pages long), and it comes in various forms and formats due to its sheer size. **The PDF versions are always FREE**, but hardcover prints are available from Lulu Print-On-Demand.
  - [ARDA-2 complete \(FREE PDF\)](#) (Volumes 0-10, excluding vol 6)
    - [ARDA-2 complete ePub format from Lulu \(99¢\)](#)
    - [ARDA-2 Volumes 0, 1, & 2](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
    - [ARDA-2 Volume 3](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
    - [ARDA-2 Volumes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, & 10](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
    - [ARDA-2 Volume 6: \*Green Books of Meditation\*](#) complete **(FREE PDF)** – this alone is almost a thousand pages long and intentionally set apart from the other volumes. The Green Books are only available in PDF and contain inspirational writings from all

religions.

### **ARDA Derivative, Condensed, or Adapted Works**

- [Unofficial Welcome Pamphlet \(FREE PDF\)](#) is the original 22 pages of the main written works plus introductory info on the RDNA and how to start your own protogrove
- [Black Book of Liturgy \(FREE PDF\)](#) is Oakdale Grove's recommended readings from [ARDA-2](#) plus many scripts of RDNA ritual variations and rites of passage)
  - [Black Book of Liturgy](#) (hardcover purchase from Lulu)

### **Top recommended books by authors in other druid orders**

- [The Druidry Handbook: Spiritual Practice Rooted in the Living Earth](#) by John Michael Greer (Ancient Order of Druids in America – AODA)
- [The Rebirth of Druidry](#) by Philip Carr-Gomm (Order of Bards, Ovates, & Druids – OBOD)
- [A Legacy of Druids: Conversations With Druid Leaders Of Britain, The USA And Canada, Past And Present](#) by Ellen Evert Hopman (Tribe of the Oak)

### **Books on ancient druids (scholarly quality)**

- [Druids: A Very Short Introduction](#) by Barry Cunliffe
- [The Druids](#) by Stuart Piggott
- [The Druids](#) by Peter Berresford Ellis
- [The World of the Druids](#) by Miranda J. Green

### **Books to Avoid**

- [The 21 Lessons of Merlyn: A Study in Druid Magic and Lore](#) by Douglas Monroe (fraudulent sources, numerous inaccuracies passed off as historical facts, and other junk wrapped in a shiny literary bowtie)
- Just everything from Douglas Monroe, really.

# Newsletter Info

## About *C.O.R.D.*

*Connexus of Reformed Druids – C.O.R.D. Biquarterly* is a free and publicly available newsletter for the Reformed Druids of North America, its branches, and for anyone else who might be interested. It follows in the footsteps of prior publications such as *A Druid Missal-Any* and *Druid Inquirer*. *Connexus* is an homage to the late Emmon Bodfish, who petitioned the Council of Dalon Ap Landu to update RDNA liturgical nomenclature to make it less churchlike and more unique. *Connexus* is Latin for *connection* (not exactly druidic, but I'm not complaining). Emmon's petition never gained traction (plus the Council had lost its ability to gain a voting quorum and it had no chairperson at the time) but it seemed fitting to adopt this word for a publication that connects druids around the world.

## Past Articles

[Click here](#) to access all prior *C.O.R.D. Biquarterly* articles and the content contribution forms.

## Meet the Editor

Greetings! I'm John "The Verbose." I've practiced generic forms of druidry since I spent a semester in Ireland in 2004. I began interacting with the RDNA in 2011, and in 2013 I was ordained as a priest of Dalon Ap Landu and formed Oakdale Grove in Minnesota with 5 other grovemates. In 2015 I had the rare opportunity to become a priest of Belenos and in 2017 the even rarer honor of becoming a priest of Sirona, as well as the new curator of her Order. In January 2020 I began work on developing an RDNA style druid training program, and as of now that is still a work in progress.

I am absolutely committed to my oath of Service and wish to help others explore Reformed Druidry by a diverse array of means. That includes assembling and issuing these newsletters. Anything in this publication that doesn't have an attribution and is written in the first person is pretty much me sharing my opinions and experiences. That's where your help with contributions is so helpful; we have a newsletter with crowd-sourced content to appeal to a broader druidic audience. I sincerely hope you find this periodical to be a worthwhile investment of your time. I always welcome constructive criticism and suggestions or other feedback.



Peace, peace, peace! ☪

# Contribute Content to the Next Issue!

## Submission Process

Issues will be released within a day or two of the RDNA Wheel of the Year high days. That's more or less the deadline if you wanted to submit any content for the forthcoming article. Anything received a bit late might end up on the draft of the next article thereafter.

## Gmail Users Can Use Our Full-Feature Google Form to Contribute!

We have a [convenient form](#) that allows Gmail users to enter text-based contribs as well as attach files or photos! A Google account is only required for sending attachments through the form.

## Non-Gmail Users Have Two Ways to Contribute

1. There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.
2. Or simply copy and fill the form below when emailing contributions to my Gmail: **MNdruids**

Hello,  
I would like to share the following/attached content for the next C.O.R.D. article.  
**I hereby consent and attest that I (the sender) hold the rights or permission to share it.**  
[Exception for memes, public YouTube video links, certain other content types.]

- I wish to be credited under the name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Subscribe me to the newsletter mailing list? \_\_\_\_\_
- Other comments/suggestions if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_
- [Input your content you wish to share below the line, and/or attach files]

## What Does C.O.R.D. Look For? Content that is PG-13 or tamer in the following categories:

- News of Reformed Druidry Groves, Protogroves, & Solo Druids
- Poetry and Short Stories
- Druidic projects, tutorials, arts, crafts you are making
- Personal milestones, editorials, druidic book or product reviews, critiques
- Seeker Bulletins like "Solo druid looking for other druids in \_\_\_\_\_"
- Your own photography
- Links to videos of druidic interest (need not be your own) or druidry-related memes
- Links to your druid blogs or social media
- Divinations and their summaries
- Events you're willing to announce publicly
- Do you have a druid-oriented Etsy shop or similar online store? One page of the newsletter will be reserved for artisan promo space
- Propose a topic; you can help make this newsletter be a success!

Thank You!

A very special *thank you* photograph dedicated to everyone who contributed to this article!



The Valley of Silence, The College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota