

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

An RDNA Publication
Leaf: White Oak – *Quercus alba*

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Vernal Equinox



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

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News of the Groves

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

On Saturday we celebrated the Vernal Equinox in the warming daylight. Our Grove's elected bard led the ritual as part of his work to prepare for entering the Third Order — the Reformed Druid Priesthood. He was super nervous though you couldn't tell, and he did a great job. We also had four new individuals join as members of the Grove! For now they entered the Order of the Acorn, and they will be able to enter the First Order of the RDNA on or after Beltane. In total we had 11 in attendance. The wind was calm and the sun was shining down, telling us that spring is definitely here.



If there was one drawback, the fire pit that has a perimeter bench-wall was trapping all the meltwater from the dwindling snowpack. The ground below is thawing day by day and any part of that fire pit area not still covered in ice is currently sooty mud. I just had to remind myself of my own axiom — never trust a druid with clean robes. I was mud-flecked halfway to my knees by the end of the ritual, but it's just an anointment of the Earth-Mother anyway. It's a blessing. Despite the mud we had a great crowd and we're looking forward to our next meeting already!

RDNA Spiritual Retreat in Wisconsin

Recharge among the druids! Oakdale Grove will be holding a druidic spiritual retreat camp from Friday May 13th through Sunday May 15th 2022 at Willow River State Park in Hudson, Wisconsin. Oakdale Grove has sponsored and paid for a group camp site for up to 30 people; so if you plan on *camping* with us you will need to RSVP with our link below so that we can be in compliance. The site is for tent camping only, does not have any RV hookups or electricity, but is ADA accessible. Vault toilets are adjacent to the campsite.



The only monetary cost to attendees would be that each vehicle needs to have a Wisconsin State Parks sticker for the number of days they plan on attending. For out of state vehicles, the parking fee is \$13 per day or \$39. At that point, non-resident attendees are better off purchasing a \$38 season pass, then they can visit all Wisconsin state parks through December 31, 2022.

Tentative retreat programming, subject to change, to be finalized in Beltane newsletter:

- **Friday**
 - 3:00 PM earliest check-in, tent setup, free time
 - 6:00 PM potluck dinner (participation encouraged, not required)
 - 7:30 PM opening ritual
 - 8:30 PM sunset, free time
- **Saturday**
 - 8:00 AM breakfast (potluck encouraged if you have food coolers stocked with ice?)
 - 9:30 AM Journaling and Meditation Seminar
 - Free Time
 - 12:00 PM Lunch (bringing your own food (BYOF) recommended)
 - 1:30 PM Druidry & Reformed Druidry 101
 - 3:00 PM Panel Discussion – The Orders of the RDNA
 - Free time
 - 6:00 PM Dinner & “Whiskey Potluck” (charcuterie potluck encouraged)
 - 7:30 PM bonfire with ritual
- **Sunday**
 - 5:45 AM sunrise
 - 8:00 AM breakfast
 - 9:30 AM Calling All Bards – Different Forms of Bardic Expression Seminar
 - 12:00 PM closing ritual
 - 3:00 PM checkout deadline: group camp site must be completely clean and vacated

For those who plan to attend the retreat, here is a list of things to bring:

- Tent, sleep gear, camp chair, warm & cool weather clothes (spring can be chaotic), bug spray
- At least two gallons of water per person in case site water is still off due to cold spring weather
- At least one bundle of firewood from less than 10 miles away from the camp
- Potluck food that can be shared with attendees
- any additional food for "BYOF" meals
- Optional but encouraged: Bottle of whiskey or scotch for the sampling party for the purpose of reviewing them. Whiskey is customarily considered the sacramental "Waters-of-Life" in the RDNA. We can all coordinate brands later. Interestingly there just happened to be a whiskey tasting party at Paganicon this weekend, presided over by Jason Mankey and hosted in the Druids of the Midwest party suite. Needless to say I was taking a few extra notes to add to the ideas I already had.
- A ritual chalice (optional), ritual garb (optional)
- Water to stay hydrated plus any additional food if necessary

RSVP at [Signup Genius](#) here (sorry about the ads, but it's a free and safe signup service).

Bardic Column

“Word Poem” by I Talk To The Trees

Today’s word is: Excellence

Extreme Dedication

Xtra attention

Challenge

Energy

Live

Loyalty

Education

No excuse

Clear choice

Enjoy

“Four Seasons” by I Talk To The Trees

There is a saying in Minnesota. There is several seasons here in Minnesota. Winter. Fake winter. Second winter. Ope there is that pothole. Mosquitoes and detours. Fall number 1. Summer. Fall #2.

I don’t mind the season changing. It’s a great life marker. The “I remember when stories...” happen. The memories and traditions pass down from generation to the next.

But as I get older. The temperature mood swings get this young body that has arthritis does not. But I don’t dare to move. It’s the memories and what is an extra layer of clothing and bread bag got on me?

Bonfire Banter

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.

A Reformed Druid Anthology: Now in AUDIOBOOK Format!

For newer readers, *A Reformed Druid Anthology* (or *ARDA* for short), is a collection of written works of the Reformed Druids of North America. They have existed as free PDFs since the 1990s, and recently have become available in printed form (see the *Reformed Druid Resources* section for links). New for 2022 we now have ARDA in audiobook format! As with all electronic publications in the RDNA the audiobooks are available for free and are being shared from a Google Drive link for now, and have been uploaded to YouTube. The video descriptions also have a direct link to download the installments as mp3 files. This is still a work in progress and only three *roughly* hour-long installments have been recorded, but bookmark the links and watch those spaces!

- [ARDA Audiobook MP3 files for download](#)
- [ARDA Audiobook YouTube playlist](#)

This Newsletter's Next Issue: MWFYDNFUD!

In the RDNA, there's the ancient Welsh holiday of Mwfydndud that's coming up really soon! Actually no it's a modern acronym that means *Mess With Forces You Do Not Fully Understand Day*, and it happens to fall on or near April First. Sound familiar yet? Well the newsletter has a special issue between the Vernal Equinox and Beltane that features reader-contributions that are druid-oriented but also absurd, irreverent, satirical, and humorous. Take any type of content you see from published issues of C.O.R.D Biquarterly and that's the sort of thing we're seeking in for the MWFYDNFUD issue as well, except *silly*. **Send in any contributions you would like to share following the guidelines on page 24 by March 30th.**

The Warrior Mystic

Words From Sencha Skene of the Black Mountain Druid Order

A question that comes up quite often with those new to Paganism in general and Druidry in particular is, "What exactly do we mean by the word 'Druid'?"

Etymonline.com defines "Druid" as "one of the order of priests among the ancient Celts of Gaul, Britain, and Ireland." One possible origin of the word is from the Gaulish "Druides," which itself is supposed to be a compound of the prefix "dru" meaning "strong seer," and the word "wid" meaning "to know."

Let's look at the first part of the compound, "dru." The Old Irish word is "drui" which probably came from the Proto-Indo-European root "dru" meaning "firm, solid, steadfast." Interestingly, this word is also used to describe "wood" and "tree." The Gaelic word for oak is "darach," and this word may be related to "drui."

The Sanskrit "dru," meaning "tree, wood," the Greek "drys" meaning "oak," and the Welsh "drud," meaning "of great worth," may all be etymologically related to the word Druid.

The latter part of the compound "dru-uid" is "weid," which is a Proto-Indo-European root meaning "to see." It is associated with great wisdom, great learning, and those who seek it.

If we take all of these shades of meaning of the compound "dru-wid" together, what we wind up with is something like "oak seer" or "one whose knowledge is great and powerful."

If we accept the premise that "druid" is a compound word with origins in Proto-Indo-European made of the words "dru" and "wid," then the "dru" portion of the word evokes strength and power that derives from the oak, or from the forest. In other words, power that comes from nature.

The second portion of the word, "wid" or "uid," indicates the power of the seer, or one who has great knowledge, usually meant in a vision-seeking way. If we strip away all the baggage that the term "druid" has accumulated over the centuries, and just focus on the basic meaning of the word, we are left with people who gained great wisdom and the abilities of the seer from the woods, and from nature.

While the word "druid" is specific to a particular culture and language group, the practices that make one a Druid are not. They are similar to the techniques practiced by Mongolian shamans, Native American "medicine men," Norse seidr, and modern and ancient witches. When animism was widespread across the planet, each people had their own version of "druid." In fact, our modern word

“witch” also derives from the word “wid.” The meaning of the word “witch” is “wise one” or a practitioner of the “craft of the wise.”

Ultimately if you consider yourself a Druid, you are a healer, a seeker of visions, and one who seeks wisdom through the power of nature. “Druid” is just the label used to identify such wisdom seekers within the Celtic culture.

What did our ancient Druid Ancestors practice? The honest answer to this is that we cannot really know. The only sources that remain about their practices are either those in secondary sources from people like Julius Caesar, Pliny the Elder, Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, Christian monks, and others who were not Druids themselves. In the case of Julius Caesar, he was actively in the process of trying to conquer the Gauls at the time, so taking his word about what they taught and believed is dubious at best.

Celtic Reconstructionists have not been intimidated by this lack of primary sources. By examining archaeological clues, sifting over and de-Christianizing the ancient lore, and piecing things together from their own personal experiences, they are slowly recapturing a modern version of Druidry that may or may not accurately reflect what our ancient Ancestors practiced.

The next question may well be, “how accurately do we really want to reconstruct ancient Druidic practices in the first place, assuming we could find out what they were?”

The Druidry of our Ancestors evolved in a pre-industrial agrarian society. We live in a post-industrial technological society. How much of an agrarian society’s beliefs and practices would even have meaning for us today?

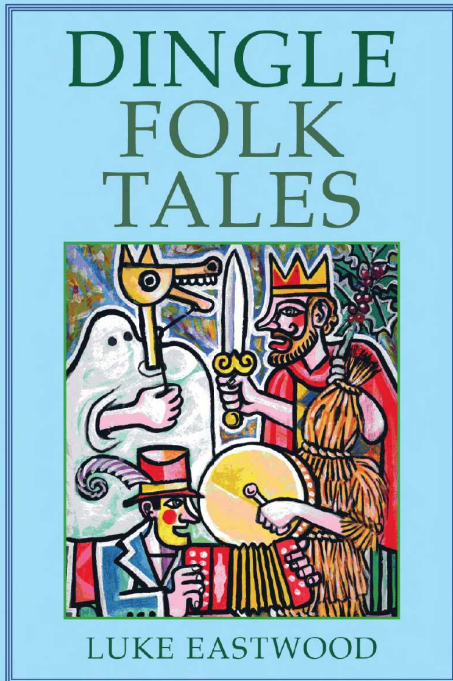
Just one example would be the practice of human sacrifice. Both archaeological and literary evidence suggest that ancient Druids engaged in the practice. Obviously, that is not something that we would wish to revive in modern times. The meaning has changed, as have our morals and laws.

As we re-create Druidry for modern times, I personally think that we should focus on gaining wisdom, power, and visions from nature. If there is anything our ancient Ancestors can teach us about how to do that after the teachings have been filtered through Christian monks and secondary sources, then let’s cling to that and discard the rest.

Blessings of the Ancestors-

Sencha /\

Book Review: Dingle Folk Tales by Luke Eastwood



For the uninitiated, Dingle is the anglicized spelling of *Daingean*, the market town on the peninsula of the same name in Ireland. The Dingle Peninsula has arguably the most breathtaking landscapes of County Kerry, and a colorful history to match. The book Dingle Folk Tales by Luke Eastwood will be available soon and holds a treasure trove of myth, legend, and (often tragic) history of what events helped sculpt Ireland into the nation that it is today.

Each story is engaging and they're easy to breeze through. Verily, when reaching the end of each tale it is quite easy to continue on. "Just one more story then I'll take a break..." and then I keep reading. A good number of these are even perfect as bedtime stories for your kids and grandkids (but read through them beforehand). Practice your Gaelic and read tales to them such as *The Cailleach of Corca Duibhne* or *The Lament of the Fairies*.

The latter tale has its origins in the enigmatic Blasket Islands, which are the westernmost islands in Ireland. Once home to tight-knit communities of fishing settlements, they are now completely abandoned off the tip of the Dingle Peninsula. Preserving these legends for future generations is essential in the twenty-first century, and this book helps them live on.

Compiling the lore and history together for this gem has to have been a monumental task for Eastwood though he is a well-established and seasoned writer. Of other interest to druidic readers include A Druid's Primer, Samhain: The Roots of Halloween, and The Druid Garden. **But what's most anticipated right now is Dingle Folk Tales which comes out Friday, April 1st 2022.**

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



“County Ditch Number 17”



Ruins of a well house, Duluth, MN



Eight-point buck in the grasses, center frame



A budding aspen, Springbrook Nature Center

Videos of Interest

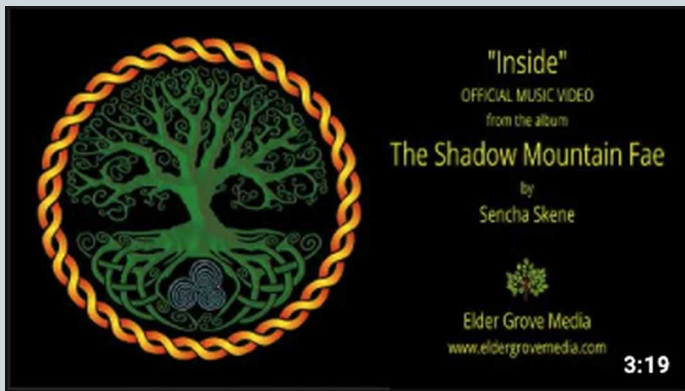
Overview

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

The Druid's House — Survival bushcraft Optimal Comfort



Inside by Sencha Skene



Official music video for "Inside" by Sencha

Skene from the album "The Shadow Mountain Fae"

I Went Another Way



"I Went Another Way" by [Sencha Skene](http://www.senchaskene.com) from the

album "The Shadow Mountain Fae"

The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

Overview

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

A Soliloquy for Equinoxes and Balance in a Time of Cruelty, From Oakdale Grove's Vernal Equinox Ceremony

The druids of old were said to have wielded such influence and authority that they could stop a war just with their presence and their words.

In the words of the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus:

It's not lawful to offer any sacrifice without a druid present; for they hold that by these, as men acquainted with the nature of the deity, and familiar with the gods, they ought to present their offerings, and by these ambassadors to desire such things as are good for them. These druids and bards are observed and obeyed, not only in times of peace but war also, both by friends and enemies.

Many times these druids step in between two armies, when they are just ready to engage near at hand, with their swords drawn, and spears presented one against another, these druids have pacified them, as if some wild beasts had been tamed by enchantments. Thus rage is mastered by wisdom, even amongst the most savage barbarians; and even Ares himself is shamed before the Muses.

It's a colorful metaphor that Diodorus used at the end to signify that even a god of war is put in his place by the power of knowledge and inspiration. Sadly this is no longer the case. Modern druids have inherited this legendary attitude toward pacifism from their ancient predecessors, though I think we'd be ineffective to end a war or even stop a battle now. Our wisdom and our counsel are no longer heeded by the warrior class. It would have been a remarkable feat considering the ancient druids themselves were exempt from warfare while wielding the power to cease all combat. You were either a druid or a warrior but never both.

And in these frustrating times where one country is violating the sovereignty of another and committing war crimes, and because of treaties, what is left of the respectable world can only stand by and do little to affect change, we might feel helpless to remedy the situation. And while our hearts break for what is happening and we cry out in anger, we also still carry on. We find ways to distract ourselves from a situation which seems like it should have no impact on us, though in many ways that impact

just too hard to ignore.

It's important that we don't ignore what's going on around the world. By mitigating ignorance we can achieve a more well-rounded balance within ourselves. Balance... that's usually the main theme of the equinoxes within the druid, pagan, or alternative spirituality communities. For two days a year the length of day is twelve hours and the length of night is twelve hours, and the sun rises due east and sets due west, no matter the latitude.

Some people though will adamantly claim that druids strive for absolute balance, and they take it too far which has some misguided implications. Ope! Time to fetishize balance in all things because here comes another equinox! I've seen people like that who *truly* think we can't have too much of any one thing, and that its opposite is needed on a fundamental level and in equal proportion. Balance in literally all things should not be a virtue; we do not want equal amounts of hate, evil, or violence to cancel out love, kindness, or peace. That's like thinking that *hey someone was nice to me, so I better be rude for a while to balance that out.*

The balance absolutists will say we need the darkness in our life because it's not all peace love and light. They're right about one thing that it's *not* all peace love and light. But the only imbalance is that embracing the darkness equally with the light only adds to the inequity in an already very dark world. As Reformed Druids, we acknowledge this in our recitation of the Second Tenet of belief. *And great is the spiritual importance of Nature, and with it we do live, **even as we struggle through life** do we come face-to-face with it.* The Second Tenet acknowledges that not everything is love and light. It's tough, it's hard, our existence has perils and hazards, sometimes due to our own human nature in our shortcomings.

So what can we do? We even ask the divine to see past our shortcomings. At the very least we are humbling ourselves before the divine saying *yeah we know we've got issues, but we want to do better. We want to improve. We want to bring out the best in ourselves.* Perhaps among many possibilities we can improve ourselves by meditating on kindness. Thinking on whether our actions and our words were kind, or if they were unkind. With empathy, perceptiveness, and introspective thought we can become very well balanced individuals.

But that's not easy. In fact cruelty is vastly more contagious and self sustaining than kindness. Waging kindness is its own uphill battle, but from the top of that hill – or when we're *all* kind, from the top of that *mountain* – there's a pretty good view up there. We can share that view together.

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

Your prior influences are now necessitating a journey of introspection and self discovery. The next question is what will you do to heed the call?



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

48 Earrach (March 20) Vernal Equinox

60 Earrach (April 1) Mwfydnfud and New Moon

75 Earrach (April 16) Full Moon

89 Earrach (April 30) New Moon

1 Samradh (May 1) Beltane (60th Year of the Reform begins)

Shared Open to Public events

Place: Willow River State Park, Wisconsin – RDNA Spiritual Retreat – May 13-15, 2022. See page 3.

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

- 60 Earrach (April 1) **Feast of the Spring Fool** – Do something silly just because it feels good, take the day off and go fishing, or sit on a hilltop and herd clouds.
- 64 Earrach (April 5) **Feast of Alexander Nevsky** – celebrate the Slavic viking who won a victory over the Teutonic knights, one of the rare victories for pagans of that time. Contemplate your pagan pride and hope for total freedom someday.
- 82 Earrach (April 23) **Feast of Ogma** – Spend the day learning and practicing the ogham alphabet.

Long-term notice for the 60th anniversary of the RDNA

6 Samradh, 61 Y.R. (Saturday, May 6, 2023) is the day of the 60th 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](#)

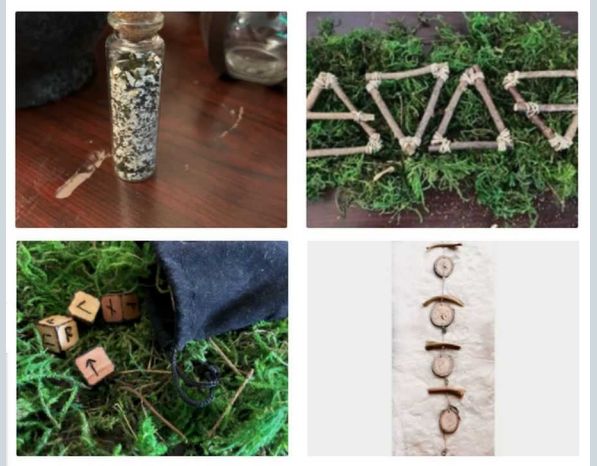
Artisan Promo Page

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.

[Hazel Oak and Yew Handcrafted Spiritual Goods](#)

Hello and welcome to Hazel Oak and Yew, my space to share my love of witchcraft and my pagan practice with you all. Here I share my handcrafted goods for practicing along with sets of things for you to learn to practice on your own, in your own way. This Etsy shop offers altar supplies, handmade décor, divination tools, and grimoire materials. Custom orders are available!



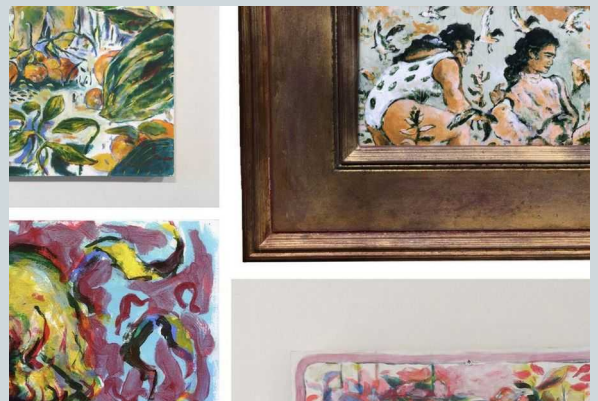
Reannag Teine Pottery

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!



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](#)

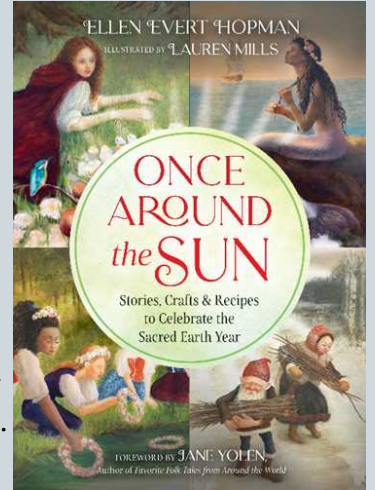
I think we originally discovered each other's Tumblr blogs about a year and a half ago. Not only is the wearable artwork intricate and beautiful, but Ron often has a lot of thought provoking questions about druidry that sometimes takes some time to piece together an answer.



An excerpt from soon-to-be-published [Once Around The Sun](#) by Ellen Evert Hopman on exploring the folklore of Ostara:

They waited for a while, enjoying the stars and the soft spring breeze. Suddenly there was a flurry of movement at the far end of the field. And it—whatever it was—was coming closer! “What could that be?” wondered Henrik in a loud whisper. He was scared he might have to defend his grandmother and sister from a bear or a wolf. Annemie slid closer to Oma so they would look like a bigger lump to whatever was coming toward them. Then the grass seemed to part and the *thing*—whatever it was—was right in front of them...

Find out what happens next and preorder [Once Around The Sun](#), available April 26, 2022 from [Inner Traditions](#) or see other retailer availability at [Simon & Schuster!](#)



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 59th 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](#), 2nd 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!



Vernal Equinox Sunset, Ramsey, MN