

# C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

## Connexus Of Reformed Druids

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

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52 Samradh, 60 Y.R.  
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*Midsummer*



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



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# News of the Groves

## News from Carleton Grove (Minnesota)

Members of Carleton College Grove have been out of contact with the greater RDNA for over a year now. Attempts have been made to reach out to any students affiliated with the druids at Carleton. As of the end of spring term 2021, the graduating Arch-Druid indicated that the Third Order druids and most enthusiastic of the Grove membership were all graduating last year. This meant that whoever was still there for the 2021-2022 academic year were perhaps not even of the Second Order. Thus, Carleton Grove is in their Third Interregnum Period: their third time without any perceived leadership whether Third Order or uninitiated, and the Council of Dalon Ap Landu is without a chairperson. That hasn't occurred since the second interregnum period of 1985-1986, 36 years ago. Now this fall the challenge is to inspire students at Carleton to revive the druids (again) in advance of the Beltane 2023 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the RDNA. To any Carleton College readers, we're here to help your Grove!

## News from the long-closed Birch Grove (New Hampshire)

On May 27, 2022, the Arch-Druid emeritus of the former Birch Grove, Joan Elizabeth Carruth, has passed away from natural causes. Joan has contributed so much to the Reform in her time as a druid among us. Joan was ordained to the RDNA priesthood by the late Robert Larson in 1974 and was a member of Berkeley Grove, eventually becoming an elected Arch-Druid thereof, and also served as the Arch-Druid of Hazelnut Mother Grove, the mother grove of the *NRDNA* or more neopagan leaning *New Reformed Druids of North America* for a time. She was the founding Arch-Druid of Live Oak Grove in 1981 after a fateful day on a beach (see also *Das Edda Todvolkfortgeshritten* in ARDA). She was also one of the editors of the first newsletter in the Reform, *The Druid Chronicler*.

In 1981 during the First Interregnum Period of Carleton College Grove and the RDNA Council of Dalon Ap Landu (CODAL) had no chairperson, many of the RDNA Groves at the time were also silent. The NRDNA had a long list of legislation they wanted the Council to pass, so the NRDNA Third Orders formed their own side-Council: the Coalition Council of Dalon Ap Landu (CoCODAL), rallied by Joan. The CoCODAL appointed Joan as the new Matriarch of Grannos to serve as acting administrator in the absence of the incommunicado patriarch, David Fisher. Naturally there were those on the CODAL who disputed that appointment. Joan then also created the Order of Diancecht with the same function and purpose as the Order of Grannos, and focused her work instead on that order. She was dedicated to her work as a nurse and specialized in substance abuse care.

In addition to her numerous leadership roles and written contributions, she was also a prolific sketch artist and contributed many pen and ink drawings that are now found throughout the written works of ARDA, often initialed *JEC* in the corner.



*I am a warrior. I am a gardener, and a medicine-person, and a student of Life... Though all around you desire Life without Death, fall not into that trap, though your body and your senses much desire it; or the ways of the Mother and plans of the Lord of the Groves will be lost unto you and you shall be at odds with yourself until the end of your days. Blessed be the Lord who has given me to understand this. Blessed be the Lady who givest life.*

*Joan Carruth, D.A.L. 25 Mean Earraigh, 14 Y.R... [circa March 25th, 1976 C.E.]*

—"Letter to the Myopians," Verse 11 & signature, now in ARDA-II.



*Joan Carruth (center) in Order of Diancecht regalia at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Beltane reunion, May 2003*  
*Left to right: Ehren Vaughn, Stacey Weinberger, Larry Press, Joan Carruth, Mike the Fool (in back),*  
*Norman Nelson, Richard Shelton, David Frangquist (the Chronicler)s, Merribeth Weber.*

—Photo from *A Druid Missal-Any* newsletter, Vol 19 Issue 4, Summer Solstice Y.R. 41 (June 17, 2003)

### **News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)**

In early May, Oakdale Grove hosted a weekend spiritual retreat at a group campground in Willow River State Park in Wisconsin. The weather was great, though the nights were downright cold. It was early enough in the season that there were no mosquitoes which was a bonus. We started out with free time and a dinner potluck, where John the Verbose burned *all* the hotdogs and brats. They were still good on the inside though!

At sunset we had our opening ritual, and as a special segment Ross our Flamekeeper and elected Server was consecrated to the *Order of Hephaestus*, an RDNA higher order of the priesthood dedicated to fire tenders. He's never let a fire go out that wasn't supposed to go out! Saturday morning we had breakfast followed by our first seminar of the retreat on meditation and journaling led



*Altar with Order of Hephaestus regalia*



by our elected preceptor, *I Talk To The Trees*. At the end before we broke for lunch, John the Verbose led everyone in a moving meditation called the *Salutations of the Day*, an original RDNA contribution by the late Emmon Bodfish of Live Oak Grove.

During and after lunch we had a casual conversation which actually fulfilled the purpose of our next seminar on *RDNA 101*. We sat in the shade and discussed the history, customs, and philosophy of Reformed Druidism. That segment extended into the afternoon free time, but everyone was very engaged in the conversation with commentary and questions. At dinner we had a charcuterie potluck and whiskey tasting. An easy favorite was the Jack Daniels Tennessee Honey. I was surprised at how smooth that one was.



Altar arranged for Order of Ogmios

At sunset we had another ritual where two members had petitioned to join the First Order of the RDNA. *I Talk To The Trees* was consecrated to the *Order of Ogmios*, a higher order of the RDNA priesthood for educators, teachers, tutors, mentors, and motivational speakers. Then the ordeal began for two members of the Grove, Johano Sycamore Bear and Jeffrey Battleraven who were taking on the All-Night-Vigil. The night went by quickly, and at dawn they were ordained to the Third Order: the priesthood of Reformed Druidism! The morning saw a casual breakfast and our final seminar of the retreat on bardic expression. Then by midday we broke camp, cleaned up the site, and headed out back into the mundane world.

### Oakdale Grove's Tree-ID Walk

In early June Oakdale Grove had a walk in a Minnesota park where John the Verbose identified 26 trees, 18 shrubs or herbs, and a big glacial erratic boulder. The weather was warm and in addition to Oakdale Groves members who attended we had three additional first-timers join us as well! We discussed the different species of trees found right next to the trail, whether they are native or introduced, and whether or not they grow invasively. We also discussed the benefits, uses, warnings, and other features of the plants. At the end we were approached by a random hiker who told us he had overheard some segments of our hike chat, and told us how interesting it was and said it looked like we had a very fun learning activity.



Photo by Johano Sycamore Bear

### Oakdale Grove's New Website

You can now visit us at [oakdalegrove.org](http://oakdalegrove.org)!

# Bardic Column

## "Balance of the Year" by Johano Sycamore Bear

*Days are at their longest  
Nights are at their shortest  
Or is it the other way?*

*North or South  
Warm or cold  
Yet, still a balance!*

*We celebrate the Solstices as times of balance  
But all of year is a balance*

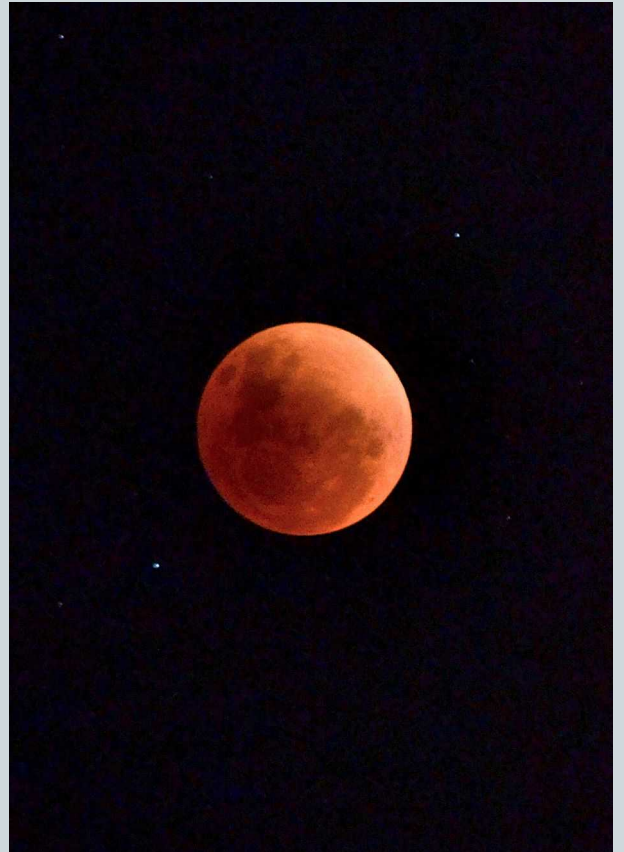
*Day and Night  
Warm and cold  
North and South*

*Warm and cold flow north and south  
Light and dark balanced*

*Our earth is a big balance  
Winds move air to balance pressure  
They move to balance temperatures.*

*The wheel of life  
Balance in all*

*Our Earth-Mother*



*May 16 Lunar Eclipse by John the Verbose*

# Campfire Colloquy

## Overview

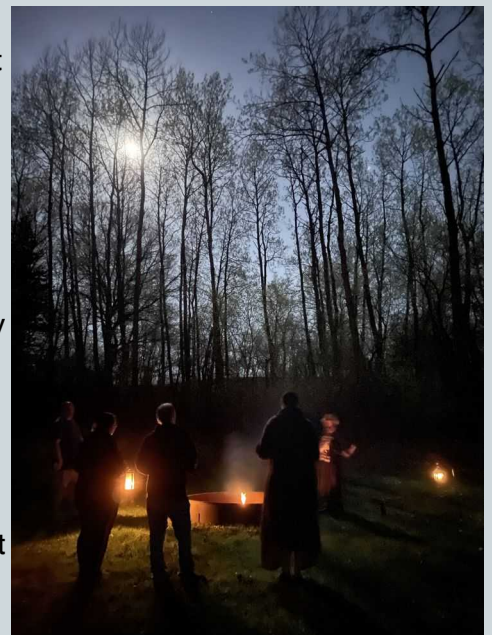
This section is being renamed from Bonfire Banter out of respect to the name of a podcast that was founded two months prior to the foundation of this newsletter. This is an open forum for opinion pieces, letters to the editor, druidic gossip, philosophical exposition, news of solo druids, relevant product reviews, tutorials, and other discourse.

## Contribution from Jeffrey Battleraven: *My Vigil Story*

During a retreat with my Grove in Wisconsin, as evening approached we had a ritual where I had the honor as a Second Order druid to initiate a new member to the first order. One other also joined the First Order that evening ordained by the other Second Order druid that would be doing the Third Order Vigil with me. One of the leadership also rose to a special order for educators. Night fell during the ceremony and it was completed by only lantern and firelight.

The flames were stoked into fire once more, and after asking I was given instructions on how to tend the fire due to my inexperience. It would seem common sense and logic were all that were needed as keeping the flames going for the rest of the evening would come easily. The Full Moon was in the east and so BRIGHT! It illuminated everything so it was never completely dark. As electronics and a watch were not allowed, I used it to mark the time as the hours passed.

I was visited and fellowshipped with fellow grove members including my Arch-Druid, and my dear friend that joined me for the journey I was taking that night. We saw bats swoop overhead, many whippoorwills calling out, and heard deer in the trees nearby, including a silhouette of a buck that gave a [bruff] sound when we were near. I looked at the illuminated trees and thought of the scenes they may have witnessed at this fire pit before and was happy to give them a new and hopefully different display that evening. I thought of the many who had done this vigil before me, knowing the history and proud to be becoming a part of a lineage that I appreciate and look up to.



I asked my Arch Druid for guidance on how to conduct oneself as a minister of our order due to our previous conversations about expectations and the different aspects of his ministry. Most of all we laughed, and enjoyed each other's company. The bright moon crossed the sky and much sooner than I expected. Johano Sycamore Bear, the other candidate, said that the moon had set and at any moment dawn would break.



Sunrise has always been my favorite but this one was special. It's like it was for us. The birds, each local species, began to wake and call for the sun to rise. And it did rise. I had been shivering hard at the end but soon the warmth of Belenos returned. Between shivers from the cold and the excitement inside of me at getting through the night I was very emotional inside. The ritual where I would be ordained was being prepared. I'm getting tears again just remembering the feelings I was having.

Johano Sycamore Bear was ordained first as he petitioned before I did to become a Third Order druid. It was lovely watching the emotions he was feeling while the ritual was carried out. I was so proud of him. We began the ritual again and I stood before my Arch-Druid and tried to focus and breathe to be present for the whole thing. It was beautiful, and I gained new knowledge and had tears. I had accomplished something that I've been working toward since I was a young man. I was part of a clergy, and now I get to serve.



*Photo courtesy Jeffrey Battleraven*

**Book Review: *Once Around the Sun: Stories, Crafts & Recipes to Celebrate the Sacred Earth Year* by Ellen Evert Hopman, Rochester, VT: Destiny Books, 2022**

The words that dominate my thinking as I read this book are charming, enchanting, and enlightening. Enlightening because it is about the wheel of light, as the Earth circles the sun. It is enchanting because it brings alive the Earth's spirits and fairies, and charming because of the magical charms it offers, charms that connect us deeply to the spirits of the Earth. It is a book important for all ages, but as I read it, I wished I had a young child to read it to, knowing that children are open to believing in the spirits and fairies.

The traditions, rituals, and stories of the eight celebrations of the wheel of light are full of beautiful energy, stories that bring alive the spirits of the Earth, spirits that many may call fantasy, but I know differently. The spirits of the Earth gave our hunting-gathering ancestors direction in how to live and survive, magic in life that is denied in recent times because in our rational way of looking at the world only through our five senses of sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. *Once Around the Sun* brings alive that which comes from beyond our senses with the traditions and rituals of reaching out and giving back to the spirits and fairies with food and other gifts, e.g. flowers which they love. They have so much to give us if we would just listen, and the rituals of giving them food and flowers keep them very much alive within us.

Each chapter celebrates a season as we circle the sun. Our journey begins with Samhain or Halloween, the time when the veil between the two worlds, the world between us and the Sidhe, is the



thinnest when the spirits/fairies of the other world are the most available to us. It is the time when the harvest is complete and the beginning of the new year, the time when what remains in our gardens is for the fairies. This celebration is followed by the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, and the beginning of winter, Imbolg. The first of February is when the sheep freshen, a time to look forward to the equinox of spring, and the love of Beltaine or Mayday. As we continue around the sun, the mid-summer solstice followed by Lunasa, with the growth of all life and then the beginning of the harvest. The last of these celebrations on our journey around the sun is the autumn equinox before the circle is complete as we return to Samhain.

Ellen's story of each of these celebrations is full of tradition and ritual, bringing alive the spirits of our Great Earth Mother, rituals and traditions that we can practice and love. These practices, naturally loved by children, can also be loved by adults. We can love and find beauty in them, practices that I believe are most valuable if we are to survive the global climate catastrophe. As I read the stories of each season, I know I need to re-read each at the time of the celebration. The details of each story offer activities for each celebration, foods to cook, gifts to create, poetry to read, and games to play. In this sense, the book is a treasured reference book. I found the recipes especially delightful, recipes I want to use at the time of each celebration. So many of the ingredients of these recipes we find in our garden, and some missing ingredients I want to plant. We have blueberries and lingonberries but not bilberries, *Vaccinium Myrtillus*. We have all the herbs mentioned, grown organically, and we also have a good number of sacred ogham trees. I frequently bake scones, but the recipe offers an additional dimension to the scone, and the fruit-filled pierogies are especially exciting for replacing the potato-filled one I am used to.

Spending my first thirty years in California, we experienced only two seasons, summer and winter. Moving to Pennsylvania 50 years ago and now to the Hudson Valley of New York, the seasons have come alive and Hopman's books have helped to bring them alive. Except for my years in college, I have always had a garden, my first when I was in kindergarten, and while in college, I had many indoor plants. I can't imagine how people living in the warmer climates and in cities can appreciate the seasons, but appreciating them I feel is mandatory to become one with the Earth, and becoming one with the Earth is necessary for saving the Earth from the destruction we have imposed upon her in our greed in seeking wealth. The biblical proclamation that we shall have dominion over the Earth has allowed us to take from her indiscriminately without giving back to her in love and has led to this destruction. Important to begin this journey, to become one with the Earth is to celebrate the seasons, to bring alive and listen to the spirits/fairies, spirits that can give us direction in how to live. Ellen's enchanting, spiritual, enlightening, and charming stories are a beautiful door to this journey. It is available [here](#) and other retailers worldwide [here](#).

—Nicholas Brink, Ph.D. Author of [Beowulf's Ecstatic Trance Magic](#); and [Ecstatic Soul Retrieval: Shamanism and Psychotherapy](#)

# 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



Anoka Kindness Rock Garden, before the storm



Anoka Kindness Rock Garden, after the storm



Anoka Kindness Rock Garden (new spot!)



Elm leaf in rain, Elm Creek Nature Preserve



**Contributions from Johano Sycamore Bear**



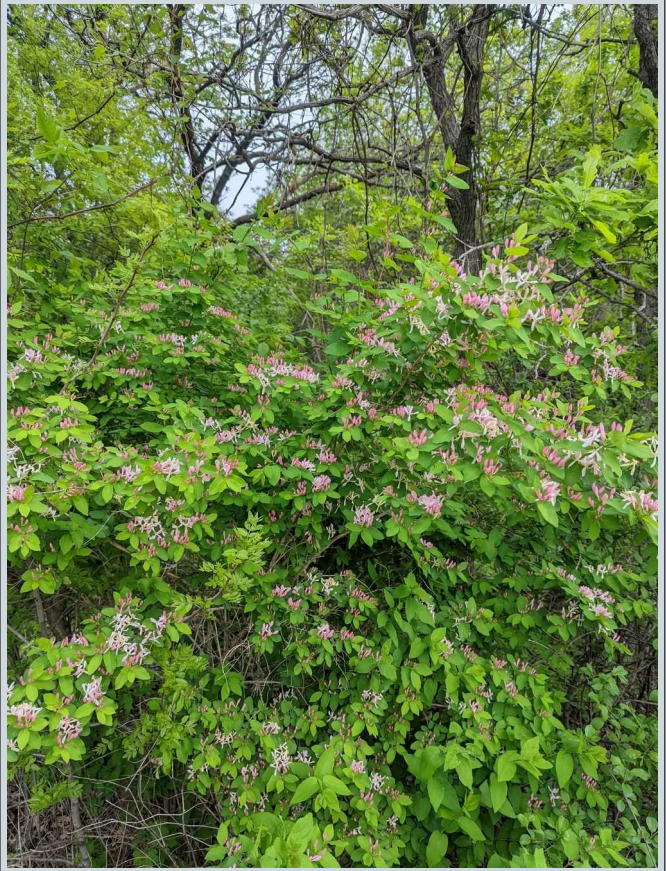
Lake Pepin, Stockholm, Wisconsin



Lake Pepin, Stockholm, Wisconsin



Bucksnot County Park, Chatfield, MN



Tatarian Honeysuckle, Fridley, MN



# Videos of Interest

## Overview

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

## James Hillman on Changing the Object of our Desire



## Heiko's World of Permaculture Plants: Hazelnuts, Chestnuts and Walnuts



With the RDNA's own Heiko Koester!

# The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

## Overview

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

### The Order of Ogmios: A Higher Order of the RDNA Priesthood

**Preparatory details:** *This rite should be done in low-light conditions. Necessary props on the altar include a working oil lamp (symbolic of the Lamp of Knowledge), an apple, a hollow book and cards that fit in it, such as index cards or card stock. There should be a fire or candle burning elsewhere, and a small stick or brand so that the candidate can light the lamp from it. Each card has words of wisdom or words of naivety. The candidate must sort them apart by light of the oil lamp as a test of their wisdom. The presiding druid should be of the Third Order or higher, and must stand between the fire (or candle) and the altar to block the light (and so that they can read this script). The candidate should also be a Third Order Druid, and can only use the oil lamp for light to read the cards.*

*Presiding druid does not need to be in the Order of Ogmios. The badge of office is a metallic gold collarette (Masonic style ribbon as a V-neck necklace) with a book pin or pendant at the tip. **A note to seekers of the Order of Ogmios: it is advised that you do not read the Answer Key in this script, so that when the time comes the revelations will be new to you.** A note to Officiants: refer to the Answer Key to write out the cards of Wisdom and of Naivety. Ogmios' Feast Day is April 23 if you follow the SDNA Calendar.*



### Opening Invocation

There is among us, a person who has shown great dedication and commitment to guiding others in the ways of knowledge. On this occasion we call \_\_\_\_\_ forward. In this rite you are presented with the opportunity to be elevated to the Order of Ogmios. You have already proven yourself worthy through your deeds and in the success of those whom you have guided, and now there is but one final ordeal to face as prerequisite to consecration to the Order.

O Earth-Mother, attend us now. Thou of many forms, do we summon thy divine presence in the form of Ogmios, the Gaulish god of eloquence and deep wisdom. For at this time we have a seeker to offer themselves up to be a servant of thy cause. O Patron of teachers, mentors, tutors, and all educators, join us in this rite of consecration, and offer us a golden-tongued blessing unto the wise.

### Prayer to Ogmios

*Ogmios, master of wordsmiths,  
You have put down your war club,  
And have taken up the golden chains:*



*Feather-light tethers to the ears of all who listen,  
They take your words to heart,  
For you wield the power of wisdom,  
To bring Awareness to the naive.  
Illuminate the Truth with the Lamp of Knowledge,  
Guide us all to build our insights, skills, and good judgement  
So that the learner becomes the learned,  
And in our accomplishments, recognition of our service to others.*

### **The Ordeal**

Seeker, take from the fire a brand, and light with it the lamp.

*(Seeker lights the oil lamp.)*

For thousands of years, the oil lamp has symbolized turning the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge. By turning darkness into light, we may continue learning and helping others learn, thereby shedding our uncertainties. Burning the midnight oil is an old phrase meaningful to students and instructors alike, whether for studying, grading, or preparing lessons and offering guidance long into the night.

Before you on the altar you have illuminated, is an archetypal book of knowledge. It contains pages of wisdom as well as pages of naivety. You are in a position where people look up to you not merely for knowledge, but for your wisdom. Wisdom, as you know, is knowledge with applied experience. In all situations as an educator, it is important to not only teach good knowledge, but to point out the bad knowledge so that those you instruct know what to watch out for. Your test now is to demonstrate your applied experience. Separate out the words of naivety so that the book only contains the words of wisdom. I will then verify that the task is completed correctly.

*(Seeker sorts the cards, removing the bad ones and leaving the good wisdom in the book.)*

### **If and ONLY IF the Seeker Needs Help**

You are wise to know to ask for help if you need it. Even educators need mentors sometimes.

*(Assist them in rationalizing a card they may have difficulty on, using only hints if possible.)*

### **The Review**

*(Officiant reviews both stacks of the seeker's work)*

### **If and ONLY IF the Seeker Has a Card in the Wrong Pile**

There is a discrepancy in your result, but I am here right now as a mentor to you. By working together, we will make it right. A good support network and teamwork help us overcome our challenges.

*(Assist them in finding the one(s) in the wrong place, using only hints if possible.)*

### **When The Wisdom & Naivety Have Been Sorted**

You have now proven your knowledge and applied experience – to myself and to Ogmios. You have demonstrated your ability to separate Wisdom from Naivety, meaning anyone who you take under your wing shall be in good hands.

### **The Sacrifice**

Your dedication, your time, and your efforts that you have given to others: *that* is your sacrifice, and a worthy sacrifice it has been. When you serve others in this capacity, it is a continual sacrifice that I trust is also its own reward. May the Lamp of Knowledge always provide that spark of warmth that carries your momentum forward.

### **The Oath**

Place a hand on the Book of Knowledge, henceforth the “Book of Wisdom” and repeat the following:

*I hereby make my oath to Ogmios, (or attest if seeker is a Quaker)*

*That I commit myself to the service,*

*Of guiding others who seek knowledge,*

*Down a path of applied experience,*

*To empower them with the resources,*

*That may lead to their wisdom and success.*

*That is my solemn oath. (or attestation if a Quaker)*

### **The Consecration**

*(Officiant holds his hand above the apple on the altar)*

O Ogmios, ascend into this fruit and hallow it, bless this individual with your gifts of eloquence, wisdom, and continual love of teaching as well as learning, as they enter into your service on this occasion. The Fruit of Knowledge!

*(seeker picks up the apple and takes one bite)*

Therefore I, a priest of Dalon Ap Landu, do hereby consecrate you to the Order of Ogmios. May you fulfill your oath and demonstrate your continual dedication to the service of others. Bestowed upon you is this golden collarette, symbolic of the gold chains of eloquence from the tongue of Ogmios to the ears of those who follow him.

### **Closing Blessing**

Now shall you go forth into the world in the priesthood of the Order of Ogmios, ministering to those who seek your knowledge and wisdom, for as long as your oath can be upheld. So be it, this rite of passage is complete. And there was much rejoicing.

### **The Answer Key**

(That's a secret for Third Order druids to reveal!)

# 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

Look to the lessons of the past to take on a cooperative effort to improve your situation. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you truly need it.





# 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

52 Samradh (June 21) Midsummer Solstice

60 Samradh (June 29) New Moon

74 Samradh (July 13) Full Moon

89 Samradh (July 28) New Moon

1 Foghamhar (August 1) Lughnasadh

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

- 62 Samradh (July 2) **Feast of Expectant Mothers** – Meditate upon the mysteries of conception and pregnancy. Bring some pickle and ice cream to a friend.
- 83 Samhradh (July 22) **Summer Festival of Wine and Pleasure** – Time to hold a hedonistic outdoor feast.

## 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](#)

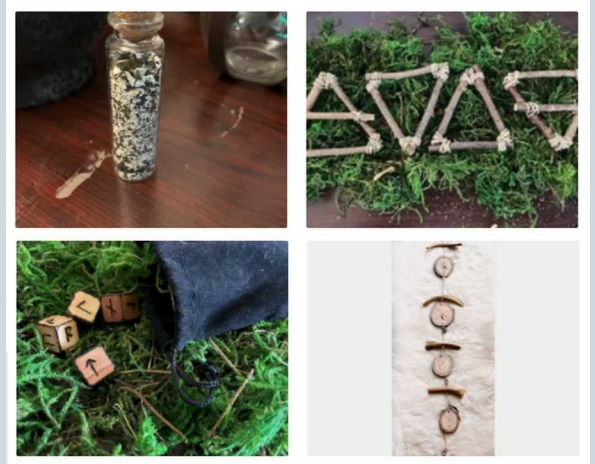
# Artisan Promo Page

## 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.

## [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!



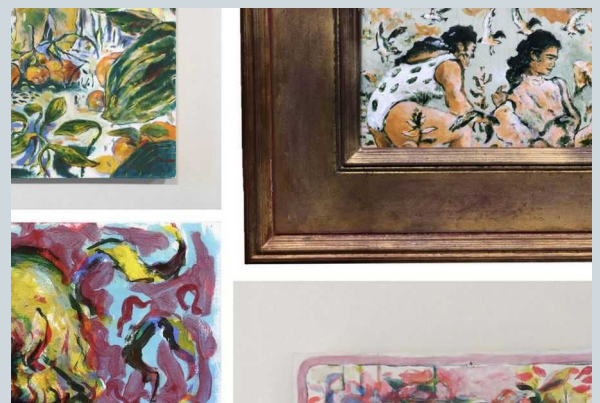
## Reannag Teine Pottery

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](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.



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**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!**



**Trout Run Creek, Bucksnot County Park, Chatfield, Minnesota**