

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

An RDNA Publication

Leaf: White Oak – *Quercus alba*

December 21, 2022

51 Geimredh, 60 Y.R.

Volume 3

Issue 3

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Midwinter Solstice



Photo: Stone Circle, Oak Savannah Park, Elk River, MN

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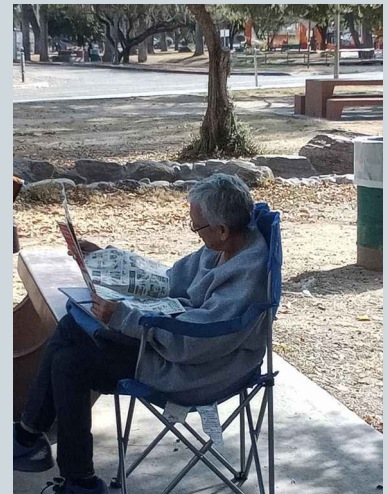
News of the Groves

News from Tucson Protogrove (Arizona)

Tucson Protogrove Report for Alban Arthuan (Winter Solstice) 2022:

Tucson Protogrove, RDNA met for Alban Arthuan (Winter Solstice) on Sunday, December 18th, at Reid Park in Tucson. Two Protogrove members were in attendance. We tried a slight change in format this time out. We used the *Order of Common Worship, Simple Winter Version* (Scharding, 1993), with a few very slight modifications. The advantage there is that since it is a single page, I don't have to wrestle with the Liturgy Book anymore... it seems like the wind only kicks up when I have it in my hands.

Best Wishes to all of you for a Blessed Winter Solstice. May the peace and joy of the season be upon you.



-Meirneal
Tucson Protogrove

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

After Samhain, the Season of Sleep really hit Minnesota like a lightswitch. Nine days went by without sunlight. It rained for a few days, and we had a few uncharacteristic peals of thunder, which is rather atypical of Minnesota in November, though now that I think about it, in the last 15 years or so we've been getting a few November storms when previously light rain or snow had been the expectations for our climate. Finally a few days after the rain we got some snow, and some place much more than others! Then we got a lot more rain again, and then a good dumping of snow. It's finally here for all winter.

My kettles of hot tea have made way for hot chocolate, usually with a little chai mix added in to give it some spice. Each day the sun sets a few minutes earlier and I keep reminding myself that the Midwinter Solstice is nigh. Oakdale Grove held a casual belated Thanksgiving (we called it a Feast of Gratitude to ditch a loaded word with a bit too much colonialist baggage) to extend our appreciation for the Earth-Mother's autumnal bounty. We went to a bustling family restaurant bakery with all sorts of homestyle comfort foods. There were six in attendance including a visitor who was new to druidry and glad to hang out with us and learn about the RDNA.

At our Midwinter Solstice ritual we had seven in attendance including two visitors: a married couple who said they were involved in the local NRDNA Grove in the 1980s. I'm guessing that would have been Isaac's *Twin Cities* Grove (SDNA) which would have reverted to NRDNA after he left to form ADF. They didn't recognize the names I dropped, but to their credit that would have been as much as forty years ago now. Heck, it's hard enough for me to remember three days ago – let alone people we met back in the Reagan years! They didn't bring a chalice, but since mine was clean I offered that they could use my chalice, and that I would drink from the pitcher after everyone else had been served. Our Waters-of-Sleep were pomegranate juice, which made for a very sanguine-violet libation to the fire.



Midwinter Devotionals by Kynan of Maryland

Midwinter Devotional Part I

We step a few feet at a time
Into the borderland between Autumn's end
And new threshold of Winter days
Arctic air drifting into the continent
From the home of the aurora,
Visitors from the North
Who find that old leaves have crumpled
When frost dominates the dawn landscape
Before snow-laden clouds enter this world.

Night rushes swiftly into the late afternoon
Creating a void of cold and twilight
To challenge my eyes, face, and lungs
That learn to adapt to little warmth.
Each night, a mirror for my passing thoughts
And focused words in a journal,
Worries and hopes that rise and fall...
Altar candles reveal the space that I explore
While in the distant constellations above
Mirfak shines as the eye of Perseus
While Algol observes us from a distance
These lucid points
Together with a ray of Awen
Guide me through this first turn of the Year Wheel
Depth of night giving way to faint morning.

In the small hours of the dark time
I first hear the flow of my breath
Relaxed, yet mindful for the vigil
While the Cailleach blows forceful wind
To ring the hanging chimes
Keeping me alert to the altar's light;
Her tears descend from hidden clouds

As freezing rain and sleet
Tapping upon windows, roof, and trees.
A dome of warmth takes shape
Around the space heater and its bright red light
While I remember the sparks
Of the tall Yule tree crowned with a star
Before whom I concluded one Solstice celebration.

Together (and alone) we raise a prayer
Of bright and brave welcome to the Goddess
Who sweeps through air, land, and estuary
In this liminal time crossing between years.

Midwinter Devotional Part II

Bright One, Courageous One,
Who fully departed from the North,
Whose presence all but dissipated
In the last days of Samhain,
Nearly two months past—
Ushas emerges in the orange dawn
And heralds Your return with the end
Of the longest stretch of night.
Belinus, Lord of burning light
Sphere of golden might among the Holy Ones,
I greet Your return with awe and relief.
Dark discs within my eyes
Reflect your emerging glow with joy and praise
For your presence awakens my body
Yet grants permission to hope and rest
Knowing that your return
Halts the night's growing campaign.

You uplift the hearts and spirits
Of a multitude of humans and animals
When you peer at the world
Through the bars of trilithon stones,
Between tall pine and spruce trees,

Between mountain peaks,
And above shining rivers and stiff fields.
I stand outside during brighter evenings
And lighter mornings
Though the cold presence deepens
And layers of winter continue marching
Into coming months.

Through long hours of one night
I sailed upon an uncertain river
Flowing through a tired, willing mind
To greet a youthful, curious god
Whose gaze is as radiant
As the new morning is frozen cold;
Sphere and spirit of blinding light.
For His Awen has already
Ignited my Bardic mind with poetry.
Beams of nywfre flow
Between a winter Sun, frigid fields,
Chilled waters, drifting flurries,
The dormant bare forest,
Upon the Earth, among all the Sacred Ones.

Campfire Colloquy

Overview

An open forum for news of solo druids, letters to the editor, druidic gossip, philosophical thoughts, etc.

Contribution from John the Verbose

Book Review: The Modern Day Druidess by Cassandra Eason

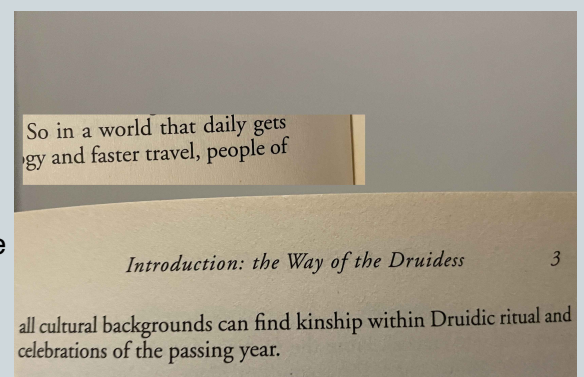
Before we get into the book review, I've been on a quest to find druidry books that plainly state "anyone can be a druid" or something to that effect. And that's true and valid: *anyone* can practice modern druidry. Though there's a persistent problem in the limens of the community where there are those who say that you need to be born into druidry or must at least have Celtic blood in order to practice it. That sentiment is false and is strongly linked to *folkish* druids who have the same issues with race that have been leaching into the Norse, Heathen, and Asatru communities for decades. In those communities such individuals might identify themselves as *folkish* (among other demonyms) as an innocuous way of identifying each other based on their extreme ideologies.

This unfortunately has also become true in the druidry community as well. I've been taking part in a collaborative effort to find affirmational statements that clearly state that druidry is an open tradition. Granted there are initiatory denominations of druidry, but as a whole anyone can practice it in its generic form. I can imagine we won't change the minds of the racists with scans of book passages from druidic authors, but they've already had the effect of polluting the minds of young individuals who would like to explore druidry. The folkish druids have gotten into social media platforms such as Discord, Tumblr, and TikTok, and they're turning people away *en-masse* with the rhetoric of having to be Celtic. *Celtic* isn't even a genetic term. It's about a hodgepodge of Iron-Age communities from Western Europe to Asia Minor who shared a common *material* culture, not a common *genetic* culture. Ultimately this project is about the seekers who were given the wrong information, and to *show* them that they are welcome to explore druidry if that is what they desire, **but I digress**.

On with the book review!

I recently finished reading *The Modern Day Druidess* by Cassandra Eason, and right on page 2-3 it says "People of all cultural backgrounds can find kinship within Druidic ritual and celebrations of the passing year." It was a bit longwinded for what I was looking for, and it spanned a page break which is a bit unfortunate for scanning just that line for showing prospective druids who think they "need" Celtic blood in order to practice.

The book has aged mostly alright in the last 19 years, but with minor inaccuracies or omissions of key details of variable significance. There were a handful of times where I asked out loud why certain parts were left out. I was put off by the sheer number of times



Cassandra green-lights cultural appropriation. A number of times she mentions smudging, and buying from *ethnic shops* because they're *cheap*, not because it helps minority-owned businesses.

The book can sort of be reinterpreted into a gender-neutral context. She's happy to have male readers. She states that plainly, and that everyone can get something out of it. For it's time it wasn't a bad introductory book. But the target audience obviously is *cisgender* women with no mention of transgender or nonbinary spirituality – but such were most books written all those decades ago. As we emerge into the second quarter of the twenty-first century, I personally feel that there are much more up-to-date introductory books to choose from that are more inclusive than this one.

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Book Review: Exploring Celtic Druidism by Sirona Knight

This one turned out to be a bit of a wild rollercoaster ride among the books I've read about druidry. The basis of this book is from *Gwyddonic Druidry*, which allegedly had high priests in the tradition as far back as the 1600s. A source cited includes the Greater Book of the Art and Craft from 1650, and that the *Gwyddonic Druid College* was founded in the late 1700s. The order is initiatory, and related to *Welsh Rite Gwyddonaid* which the author indicates is "Welsh Wicca." At this point I didn't know what to believe and was skeptical of everything she was writing, particularly because Wicca wasn't invented until the mid 20th century by Gerald Gardner. Therefore I am also skeptical of the provenance of the *Gwyddonic Druid College*, especially as Googling such tends to only show references to this book.

The author consistently uses the Crowleyan misspelling of magic. You know, the one with the K at the end, when these days all the authors are saying that *nobody is talking about parlor tricks* in pagan books about magic, and to just use the standard spelling thereof. There's also the time she states that Ceridwen created Cernunnos (both spelled with Ks according to her). I think I missed the part of Welsh mythology where Ceridwen went to the Iberian peninsula to create a Gaulish god – this to be read sarcastically of course. She also misrepresents historic facts, indicating that Siculus had visited Stonehenge. If he did visit stone circles in the British Isles, the ones he mentions are more likely to be in the Hebrides or the Orkney Islands (in reference to the Hyperboreans). I nearly threw the book when she said "the Romans and Christians systematically exterminated the druids" (p. 29) which is only half true in terms of the former, not the latter.

She really only scratches the surface of all the topics she introduces. Chapters are subdivided into small sections that end abruptly, leaving the reader wanting to know more while the book just plows ahead. If anything it inspires further reading, or I should hope so at least. The author also has a very bad habit of mixing pantheons, sometimes without even indicating who is from what culture. Artio is mentioned but is not even identified as being Gaulish. In one section she name-drops Camulos, Epona, and the Morrigan without mentioning they're Gaulish and the Morrigan is Irish. This is hazardous in a book that says it focuses on a Welsh tradition. She says Sucellos carries a large spear

and is the Dagda's twin. Wow. First Sucellos is Gaulish, thank you very much, and the Dagda is Irish. The Irish mythology does not mention Sucellos, and besides he carries a mallet with a handle as tall as a person, not a spear!

This book also pushes cultural appropriation by instructing the reader on how to do a smudging, but it is not one of the proper New-World indigenous methods. She also goes into using totems without explaining the origin of the Ojibwa word *totem* or without using any of the European words for totem either. Oh, and I bemoan the dangerous medical claims in this book! I paraphrase: *Illness and disease come from our emotional pains and are our own fault because we haven't resolved those issues for ourselves*. That's toxic mumbo jumbo. My asthma is not the result of unaddressed emotional strain. She doesn't add in any disclaimer about first seeking modern medicine or professional medical advice.

If you don't mind getting your European mythologies in a jumble, this book is for you! If you want druidry that smacks of duotheistic Wicca, you're gonna want it! If you've ever had a Furby this book will also give you flashbacks. There is some RDNA compatibility though: Gwyddonic Druidry follows a matron theology and even mentions the Earth Mother. She frequently mentions the practice of "Merging" which is basically achieving a temporary alpha state of mind of heightened relaxation, becoming one with Nature. In some cases it sounds like the RDNA's achieving a state of *Awareness*.

Overall, Exploring Celtic Druidism is a bit dated, sections are too short, the book leaves out too many important things, and I was just glad it was a large print book which made for a quick read. It's a bad read for the unwitting newbie and a terrible read for those who know better.

★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Book Review: Living Druidry by Emma Restall Orr

This is the most refreshing of my recent reads. Emma encourages druidic minimalism (or perhaps it's minimalistic druidism, if there's a difference – hard to tell since I'm paraphrasing based on context). There's an interesting rebuke of dualism, claiming that it's a theologically Christian concept. It might not be entirely accurate of her to say that but as a sweeping generality she gets her point across. She also asserts that Nature spirituality does not require supernatural beliefs, which is a great affirmation for agnostic or even atheist druids. She also mentions that we don't need to use magic the way Wicca needs it, but rather magic is not the *means* of druidry, but rather the *result* and we're just here to observe it doing its own thing without our influence or interference. She also encourages exploring solo druidry, since we individually know what is best for ourselves.

The part about "consensual pain" on page 156 started a series of sections that really threw me off from the rest of the book. Emma carelessly promotes various forms of self-harm as parts of rites of passage, claiming pain is a divine force of nature causing the chemical responses in our body to help us feel like a whole new person. There were no trigger warnings there, and no reminders of monitoring

your own safety, or knowing your limits, or not having a sitter to observe or help if something dangerous goes wrong. Emma also covers the use of toxic substances, then contradicts herself with a blanket statement that *druidry does not promote drug use*. I think that's great advice, though perhaps among the diversity of druidisms it might not be an accurate assertion anymore.

Overall the book was informative and lovely to read. At times I felt like there was a bit too much fluffy filler. As if Emma originally wanted to be more concise, but the editors told her to make it a full 200 pages, because that seems to be an auspicious page number for books these days. If she did seem to start rambling of things she already covered, it at least had the effect of being descriptive and thorough, which is great for new readers. It meandered like a river, which is druidic in its own way I suppose. The book takes a hit for the brief self-harm content, but as long as the readers use common sense, they'll probably be fine.

★★★★☆

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 at least weekly. 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 we will use different characters (& and /) instead of @ and '.' to prevent or mitigate roving address harvester bots from scanning them for spam.

Standard Safety Disclaimer

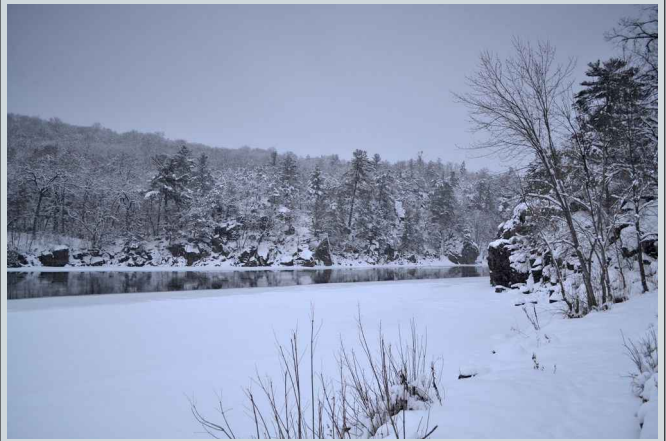
I advise Googling *safety tips for meeting people from the Internet* or something to that effect. Furthermore, this is not intended as a section for personals ads or soliciting hookups.

Bulletins

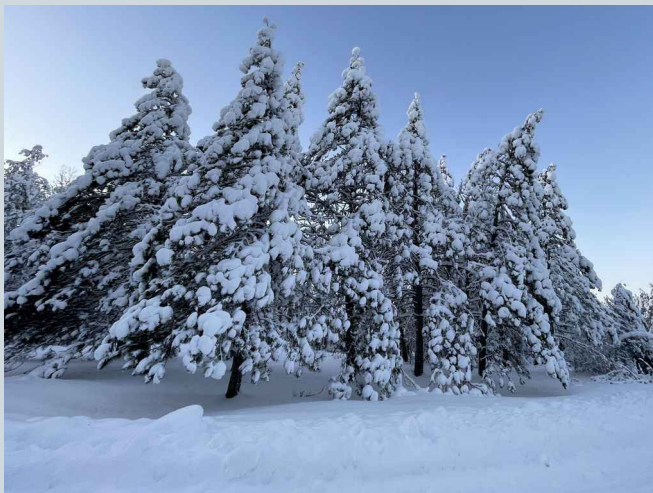
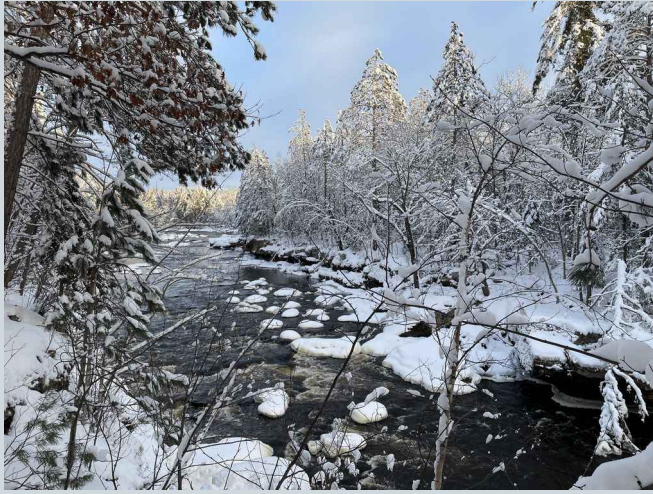
USA: District of Columbia: Tyler Vanice on behalf of *Potomac Protogrove* in Washington DC. If interested, please reach out. Email [tyler.vanice&gmail/com](mailto:tyler.vanice@gmail.com).

Vivid Visions Gallery

Contributions from John the Verbose: Interstate State Park, Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin



Contributions from John the Verbose: Banning State Park, Sandstone, Minnesota



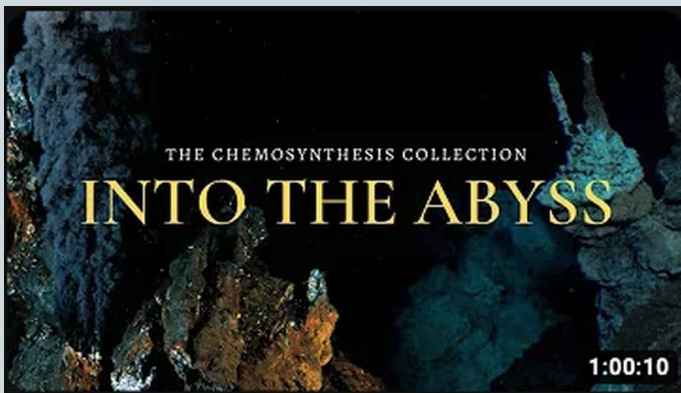
Videos of Interest

Qntal – Winterly Waves (Official Music Video)



Qntal is an electro-medieval band fronted by Sigrid Hausen who often sings in various dead languages or older dialects of living languages. This new song, *Winterly Waves*, is in Old Irish and a real gem! Lyrics are in the YouTube video description.

Into the Abyss: Chemosynthetic Oases



Exploring hydrothermal vents, cold-seep habitats, and food-falls including whale-falls and the communities at shipwrecks.

The Mystery Of The 2,000-Year-Old Tools Frozen In The Yukon



A mystery is emerging out the Yukon ice: human hunting tools hidden for as long as 9,000 years have started to melt out. And each new find is another piece to the puzzle of who these people were.

Augur's Intuition

Overview

Reader-submitted divinations, premonitions, soothsaying, prophecies, omens, etc.

Submission by John the Verbose

Methodology: "Druid Sticks" with a Geomantic Mound

Meanings

Cauda Draconis – Dragon's Tail

Aquisitio – Acquisition

Laetitia – Joy

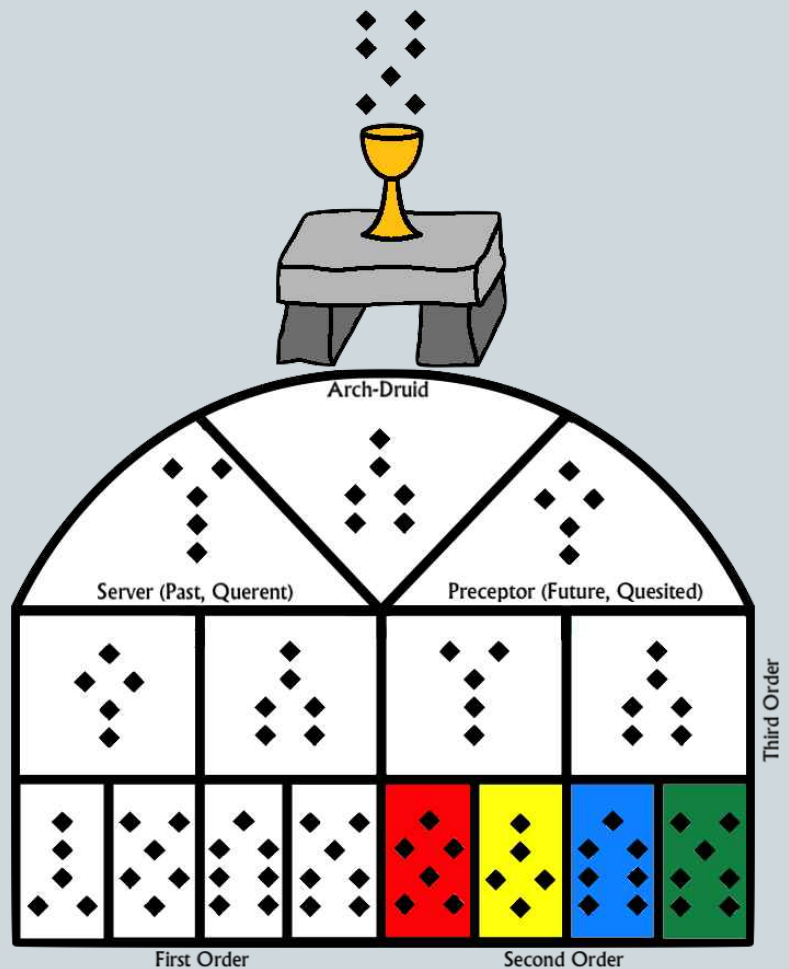
Rubeus – Red

Interpretation

Welcome to a metaphorical hell. The first figure pulled in the reading was *Cauda Draconis*, which is definitively the worst possible omen indicating that something is about to come to an end. Normally in geomancy this reading would cease and that's all the omen you're gonna get! Since that's the *old* tradition, that means that there are newer ways including doing the whole reading. So buckle up 'cause here we go!

So, this is the end. You're getting something you don't want, but it's for the better, so grin and bear it. You have your vices and even may have been aware of the impending disruption. Your intentions and goals will

come to a loss quite suddenly. Normally this would be accompanied by a warning you can heed, but the Dragon's Tail can't be dodged when it comes to sweep you off your feet. Don't be quick to anger, and maybe you can find a silver lining if you try to look on the bright side. All the while remember you're on shaky ground. Help is available though — *after the end* — so don't be afraid to ask. It will be an uphill battle afterward, but focus on the positive and maybe you'll emerge for the better, but for a price. You'll get a chance for a new beginning, but how that pans out will then depend on you; such a minor victory would also come at a cost. The things that are tried and true have worked in the past, and you don't have to struggle through it alone. The result could be another minor win — if great care is taken — likely with growing pains. But first: the end.



Calendar of Events

Overview

Contributors may 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
- 53 Geimredh (December 23) New moon
- 67 Geimredh (January 5) Full moon
- 82 Geimredh (January 21) New Moon
- 1 Earrach (February 1) Oimeic

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.

RDNA 60th Anniversary Beltane Gathering

Overview

6 Samradh, 61 Y.R. (**Saturday, May 6, 2023**) is the day of the 60th anniversary gathering of the foundation of the Reformed Druids of North America **at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota!** Watch this space as details will be refined as we approach Beltane. This event is being coordinated by John the Verbose of Oakdale Grove and also the Arch-Druid of Carleton Grove.

Update as of December 17, 2022: Oakdale Grove's Facebook page has created a public [event listing](#) for the weekend. It is still only a draft and will be updated and refined as the event approaches, but feel free to select *Interested* or *Going* if you want to keep tabs on the updates and not miss out.

Envoys & Delegations Attending From the Following Fellowships:

- Carleton College Grove
- Oakdale Grove
- Potomac Protogrove
- Tucson Protogrove
- *[Your Grove/Protogrove name here!]*



Lodging Information

Please remember the **Archer House Inn** has been bulldozed and can't be reserved. Now the closest lodging is an extra block away: **Fairfield Inn & Suites** with prices hovering around \$150 per night (has pool). Slightly farther is the **Country Inn & Suites** with prices hovering around \$140 per night (has pool). If you plan on having your own car or a rental vehicle, you could drive the extra mile to the **AmericInn** with prices under \$100 per night (has pool). Lastly and a bit farther there is **Coratel Inn & Suites** with prices under \$75 per night (no pool). That's about it for hotels & motels in the city of Northfield.

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](#)
- White Rabbit Grove's [Facebook page](#)

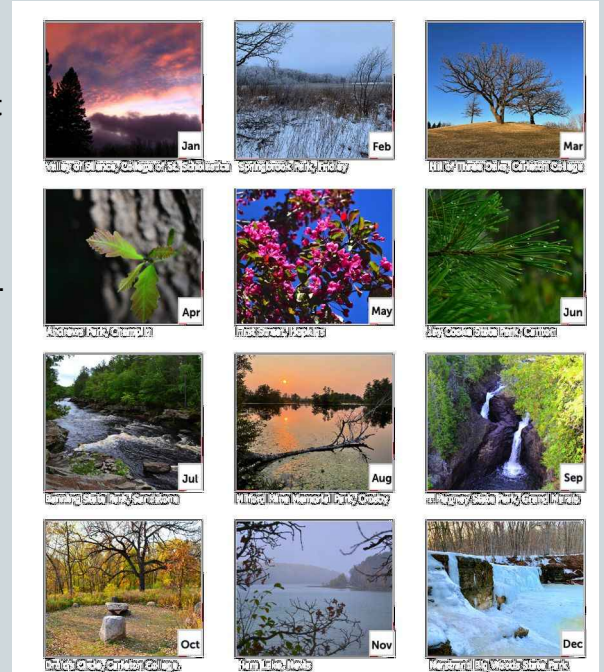
Artisan Promo Page

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.

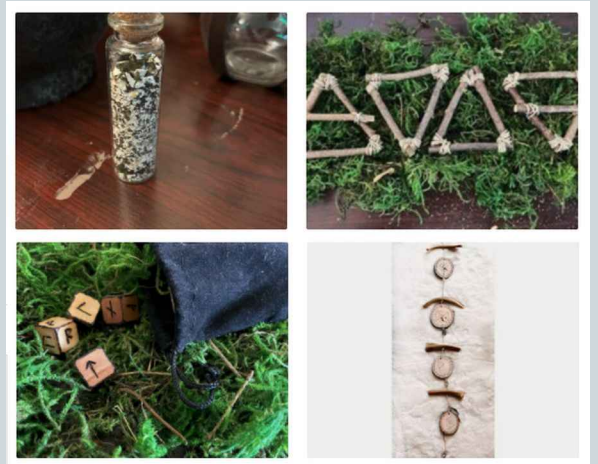
[2023 Minnesota Nature Calendar](#)

This is a specialty calendar for 2023 with moonrise & moonset times for the Twin Cities, Minnesota geographic region. If you live beyond the Twin Cities but you still want the calendar, just ignore the rising & setting times, and the rest of the calendar does its job just fine. The photography is by John the Verbose.



[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!



[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

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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!



Book Reviews for Works by Author Ellen Evert Hopman

Once Around the Sun at [The Hearth & Hedge](#) and at [Pagan Pages](#)

Priestess of the Forest at [Portland Jones](#)

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 (yet), 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 Listings](#) on Oakdale Grove's website. 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 \(FREE PDF\)](#) – 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 and contributions are 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

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.

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!



Yule Tree, City Hall, Anoka, Minnesota.