

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

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

February 1, 2022
1 Earrach, 60 Y.R.
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Oimele



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

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News of the Groves

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

Amid the *time of silence* in the Book of Customs better known as the Season of Sleep, Oakdale Grove has entered a gentle lull that is ever familiar in the cold winter months. I have to remember to pack lightly if I plan on trudging through snow for an outdoor event, and it's deep snow this year because of all the freak storms we've had in this chaotic climate. We've even had a very unusual January rain switch things up a bit, turning the top layer of snow into an icy crust that is slippery, yet also breaks underfoot, sending you plummeting into knee deep snow with almost every step. The state parks in Minnesota have an apparent policy to not apply road salt or even sand to their parking lots and sidewalks. Venturing into nature to appreciate her beauty year-round has an added element of danger, always threatening to bring you to ground-level in the blink of an eye. I was always told that just a bit of added danger is what turns journeys into adventures, so to keep an optimistic outlook in winter, it's quite the adventure!

We recently had our Grove's January casual meetup at a local Caribou Coffee with five in attendance. Though I learned something about the Caribou Coffee locations in the Twin Cities area. They're *small!* I went to a Caribou Coffee location in a rural town of 6,000 people two weeks ago, and that cafe was three times the size of the ones in the metro! I should also specify that Caribou Coffee is currently building a lot of new coffee shops that look like little train depots not much larger than a tiny house and are mostly intended for drive-thru sales, but the ones we meet at are the standard coffee shop size, about the size of a Starbucks. But we don't talk about Starbucks because they over-roast their beans and their coffee tastes bitter or burnt.

Anyway, this is not a coffee house review. I'm just lamenting that the Twin Cities doesn't have any of the really large Caribou Coffee locations that would be much more conducive to meeting in groups. We always run the risk of the one or two big tables being occupied, but it's a fun place. We'll be gathering again in the coming weekend for our Oimelc ritual and return to our annual wanderings through the Como Park Conservatory to enjoy the tropical plants under the humid glass dome. The Season of Life continues, indoors!

Campfire Colloquy

Overview

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

A Letter to the Editor from *Seaglass*

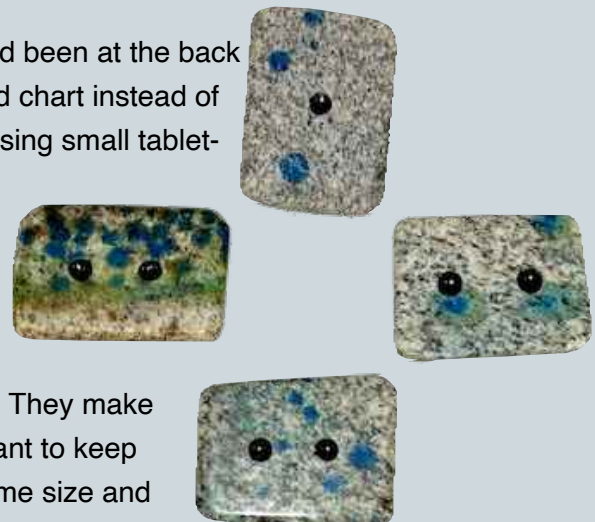
About your geomancy divination.

In the previous newsletters you had pictures of what your divination tools were with the result being shown. But in this season so far when using geomancy you are only showing the chart. I looked up geomancy but with the chart it seems like a complicated system, and I gathered that it needs four readings of staves or "druid sticks" to start the chart. Do you use druid sticks or dice or maybe a random number generator to get your chart started for the reading? Can we see? :)

A Response From the Editor

Dear Seaglass,

Thank you for your inquiry. That's actually been something that had been at the back of my mind ever since I settled on displaying the geomantic mound chart instead of my stones – and then sticks. For the past few years I have been using small tablet-like "K2" stones, which are essentially granite stones from the K2 mountain in Pakistan that contain blue stains of azurite. K2 is probably one of the least imaginative names for a mountain, but I digress.



I always felt like I was going to break my stones by shuffling them. They make such a high pitch glasslike clinking sound that I just didn't really want to keep using them despite having ground them into approximately the same size and shape for the purpose of using as geomantic staves. Even though the *geo* in geomancy has to do with drawing the symbols in the surface of the Earth to create the chart, I initially felt like geomancy should be done with rocks instead of sticks.

Eventually I decided to buy a handmade set of "druid sticks" so that I'd actually have something that are actually sticks. I usually hesitate to call geomantic staves *druid sticks* because there's no archaeological evidence that druids ever used this method of divination. Rather, it was widespread throughout the Near East, Middle East, and northern Africa, and wasn't widespread in Europe until after the time of the druids had come and gone. I purchased these sticks from *BrokenVial* on Etsy, and they're really pretty. I think they said these were upcycled from an old oak baseboard trim, so no new trees were killed in the making of this divination tool.



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.

Vivid Visions Gallery

In Search of *Makoče Wakan* (*Sacred Ground* in Lakota) from John the Verbose



St. Louis River, Jay Cooke State Park



Lone mound above the Crow River, Rockford, MN



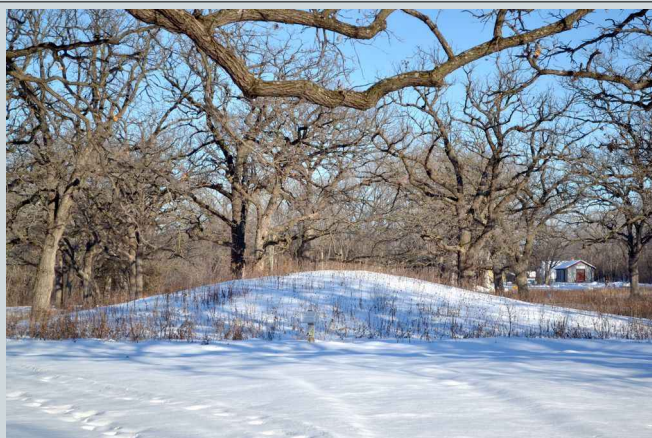
Hayden Lake Mounds 1-3



Hayden Lake Mounds 4 & 5



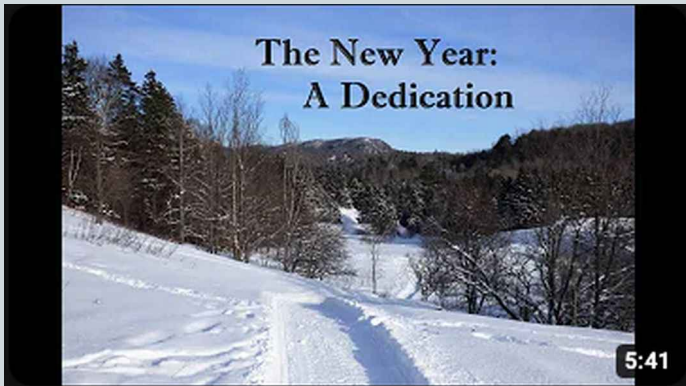
Pond Mound 16, Shakopee, MN



Pond Mound 21, Shakopee, MN

Videos of Interest

The New Year: A Dedication – Joanna van der Hoeven



from fellow druid Joanna van der Hoeven

Stunning winter videography with a meditation

The Moor



A documentary about one of Europe's fragile ecosystems. Trigger warning: a jumping spider drinks a drop water, but it's cool to see

The Cornfield – a Land Full of Secrets



European Giant Hamsters are so cool

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

Puella – Girl

Caput Draconis – Dragon's Head

Puer – Boy

Cauda Draconis – Dragon's Tail

Interpretation

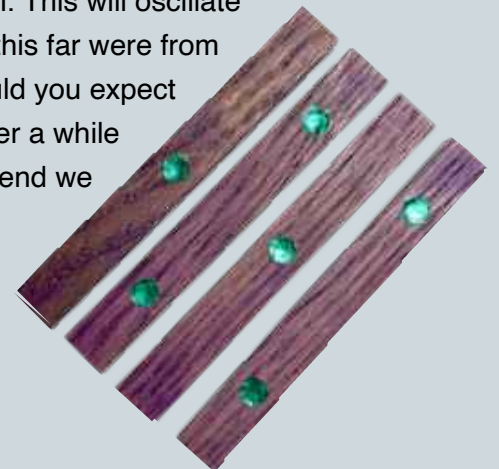
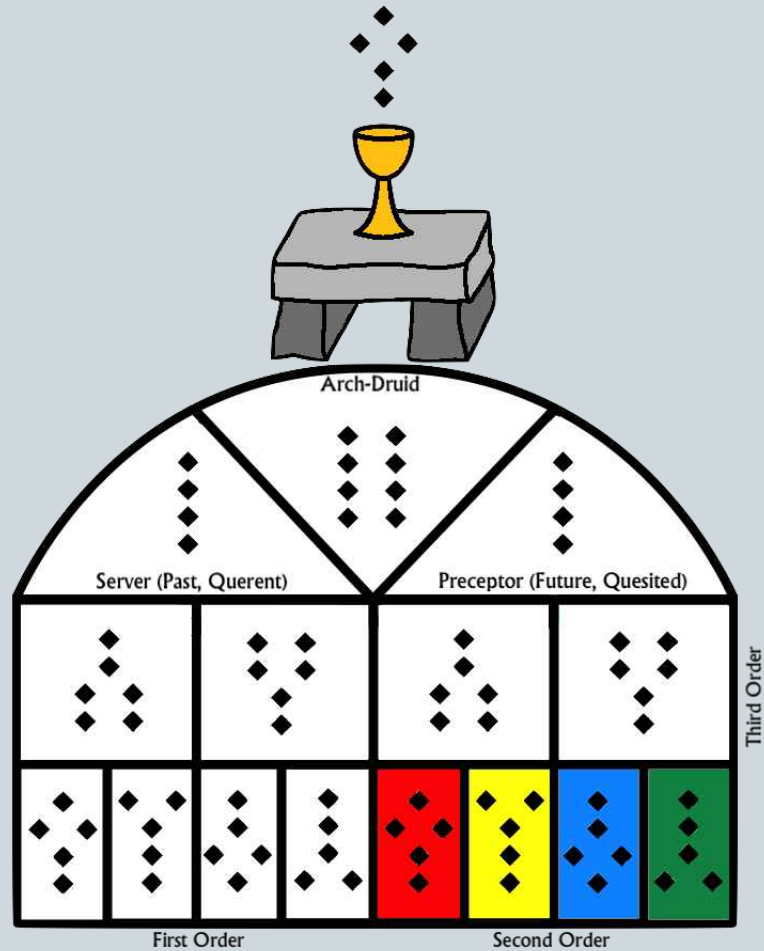
This has got to be the most bizarre geomancy reading that has tumbled out of my hands in terms of polarities and repeating patterns. The four draws are both two opposites, and they cascade up the chart with patterns of repetition.

There is grace amid adversity in a time of new beginnings. Take time to enjoy the sun rise, but then it's time to get moving or the sun will set before you know it. Start by meditating on your goals and cultivating your thoughts and focusing on how to set them into motion. Don't let your strong emotions get the better of you as that is just

a distraction that will cast shadows where you need to see your path the most. Keeping a cool attitude will propel you into an optimistic and rewarding range of possibilities.

It's not all sunshine and butterflies though; it will feel like two steps forward and one step back, but that backstep provides perspective that you didn't realize you can benefit from. This will oscillate through different aspects of your experience. Elements that brought you this far were from an unstable cycle of change, and it can still continually go that way – would you expect any less? The more things change, the more they stay the same, and after a while there will be a cycle of stagnation as if it wasn't doing that already. In the end we must carry on and nurture our next plans and let that continual flow and renewal of life bring whatever may come next.

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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

- 1 Earrach (February 1) Oimeic
- 5 Earrach (February 5) Full moon
- 20 Earrach (February 20) New moon
- 35 Earrach (March 7) Full moon
- 48 Earrach (March 20) Vernal Equinox
- 49 Earrach (March 21) New moon

Shared Open to Public events

Place: Minnesota – Oakdale Grove’s Oimeic Ritual – Saturday February 4, 12:00 PM, Como Park Fire Pits

Place: Minnesota – Oakdale Grove's February casual meetup – Saturday February 4, 1:00 PM, Como Zoo Conservatory

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

- 14-21 Earrach (February 14-21) **Festival of Love** – dedicated to Danu, Cernunnos, and other fertility deities.
- 29 Earrach (March 1) **Feast of Merddyn** – patron of wizards. Do something magical or read Arthurian legends.
- 31 Earrach (March 3) **Feast of Rhiannon** – goddess of horses, matron of mothers and queen of the Otherworld.
- 39 Earrach (March 11) **Feast of Angus Og the Warrior** – Practice with ritual weapons or learn to sword fight.
- 45 Earrach (March 17) **Feast of the Druid Amhairghin** – Celebrate Irish paganism.

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 January 30, 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

Don't bother trying to book at the **Archer House Inn** anymore. They bulldozed the ruins last year after the 2020 fire. It was an iconic building and a block away from the edge of the Carleton College campus. It was a great haunt for the druids, and had superb restaurants in it. Now only the ghosts can float above the foundation. I miss it dearly.

Prices for lodging in Northfield have gone up, sorted nearest to farthest from Carleton College:

- [Fairfield Inn & Suites](#) ≈ \$332/night and up (has pool) (*almost* booked full as of this newsletter)
- [Country Inn & Suites](#) ≈ \$234/night and up (has pool)
- [AmericInn](#) ≈ \$136/night (has pool)
- [Coratel Inn & Suites](#) \$110/night (no pool) promo code as of today: PRM10OFF

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](#)

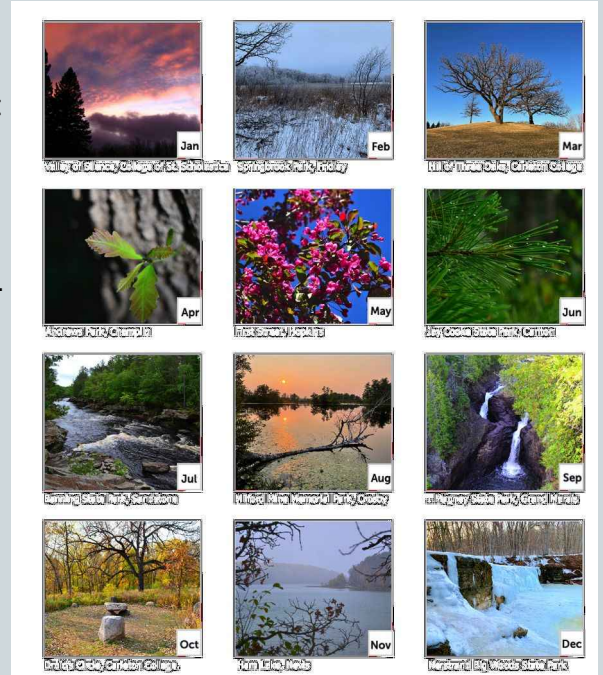
Artisan Promo Page

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.

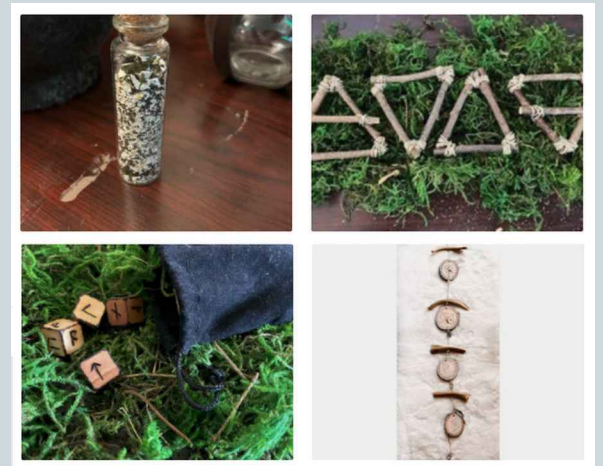
[2023 Minnesota Nature Calendar](#)

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!



Minneopa Falls, Minneopa State Park, Mankato, Minnesota.