

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

A publication for the Reformed Druids of North America – RDNA

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1 Geimredh, 61 Y.R.

Volume 4

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Samhain



Photo: Council Fires Overlook at Oheyawahi, a very sacred place in Mendota Heights, Minnesota that translates to "A Hill Much Visited" in the Dakota language. In volume four of this newsletter we will gain Awareness of seven tribes who were here before us to honor their legacy.

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The Seven Council Fires of the Dakota

Honoring those who were here before us.

This section of the newsletter was added after great deliberation. In the previous three volumes of this newsletter, three different stone circles have featured on the front cover: The Druid's Circle at Carleton College, the Meditation Garden at Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, and a stone circle in dedication to Oak Savanna Park in Elk River – all in Minnesota where the newsletter editor lives. My greatest concern was cultural appropriation of a modern Native American stone circle for use as a cover image on a *druidic* publication.

I am in fact, part Native American. It shows rather prominently in my multiethnic appearance, but my indigenous ancestry does not include any local tribes, and I'm positively certain of that. A key factor is that my family is disconnected from their ancestral traditions, which are still living traditions today. Therefore I can't just start exploring or practicing them unless I was first invited to do so from within those communities. My ancestors had their indigenous identity stripped away when they assimilated into American culture and religion generations ago. Their cultural erasure was likely the only way to survive, but I digress.

The stone circle on the newsletter cover page is located in Mendota Heights at a sacred place called *Oheyawahi*, meaning "A Hill Much Visited" in the Dakota language. It overlooks the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, which they call *Bdote*. In their oral traditions, that is at the tip of *Wita Tanka*, or "Big Island" (which is marked as Pike Island on our maps) where the ancestors of the Dakota descended from the sky. Bdote and Mendota both linguistically refer to the confluence of the rivers, with Mendota either as a dialectical difference or a spelling variation that stuck after it was first transcribed into writing.

Over four months of meditating on *not* choosing that site as a cover feature, I sought out the input of local indigenous voices. I also found various resources provided from their perspective. I learned more about my own state's history, including re-learning about the Dakota War of 1862, which I never would have learned about *at all* except after taking an elective course on Minnesota history back when I was in college. In the end, I decided there *is* a culturally sensitive way to include this stone circle as a feature of volume four of this newsletter.

The Dakota people *want* more people to learn about this place, about their history, about their voices. From our perspective as druids, we understand the importance of sacred landscapes. We have our own ways of expressing reverence for the land, and particularly places of power. As a druid however, I am **not** going to perform druid rituals at their stone circle. That *would* be culturally appropriative. It is far better to show you this sacred space so that it can be inwardly appreciated, so that we can all learn something from it, even if we are thousands of miles apart, and so that we can therefore honor the

legacy of those who have called this land their ancestral home, long before us. The Seven Council Fires stone circle is actually a ring of limestone benches. All are invited to sit there when they are not in use. All are invited to Oheyawahi for reflection and learning.

One other note of importance is some terminology worth learning. This sentence is the only place you will see me use the word *Sioux* to refer to these tribal nations. Most people aren't aware that it is a disparaging term, and not even a word in the Dakota language. It is an Ojibwe word meaning *Snakes*. Dakota, and the dialectical variations Lakota and Nakota mean *Friends* or *Allies*. This section of the newsletter may sometimes collectively use Dakota since it is the most common dialectical variation, though there is another term that some of today's tribal nations are pushing for people to learn and use: *Oceti Sakowin Oyate*, or *Seven Council Fires People*. (Source: [Lakota Times](#))

This article's featured Oceti Sakowin Nation: Wahpetonwan

Prior to the incursion of European-American settlers, the lands commonly used by the Dakota-speaking Wahpetonwan Oyate were much of southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Wahpetonwan means *People Dwelling Among the Leaves* in the Dakota language, and likely referred to the lands that modern ecologists call the "Big Woods" region of Minnesota. Given the nomadic nature of the tribes, the borders overlapped and blurred, given that they were very closely allied with the other Oceti Sakowin nations in the area as well.



The 1851 *Treaty of Traverse de Sioux* was of grave concern to the Wahpeton band. They wanted to keep their lands, whereas other bands were signing the treaty, but their apprehension was the threat of war from the American government if they did not sign. The Indian Removal Act and the Black Hawk War were still within living memory of many members of the tribe, and they knew full well the capabilities of the American military.

Some Wahpeton assimilated into the European-American culture of farming and adopting Christianity in order to avoid having to leave. During the Dakota War of 1862, the Wahpeton also stayed out of the initial battles that other bands were involved in. Many of them wanted to maintain peace for the sake of survival, knowing that they would otherwise be resisting an unending flood of pioneers and wars that would ultimately overtake native lands by any means. The Sisseton and Wahpetonwan Oyate signed a treaty in 1866 to establish the Lake Traverse Reservation on the northeastern edge of South Dakota and a small portion of southeastern North Dakota. About 10,000 of the 13,000 tribal members of both bands reside within the reservation today.

Information courtesy of [Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate](#) tribal website.

News of the Groves

News from Carleton College Grove (Minnesota)

The 60th anniversary Beltane gathering back in May served to ignite the spark of interest and curiosity among the faithful. Over the fall term of 2023, the Druids of Carleton Grove have grown in number. The new chaplain has generously reached out to make sure Carleton Grove has the resources needed for success. As Samhain approached, plans became more elaborate. There would be a processional march across the campus from the chapel to the Hill of Three Oaks. A multitude of revelers would carry the *Spirit of the Prairie* in the procession, a giant puppet accompanied by mummers, drumming, bells, clanking cans, cheering, and the carnyx of Oakdale Grove.



Forty one revelers went with the *Spirit of the Prairie* the half-mile hike to the sacred hill where eight others stood waiting. As we crested the rise above Lyman Lakes, we saw that the fire had been lit and the Flamekeepers had everything ready and waiting for our arrival. Together upon the hill we raised a noise as if to wake the dead. Counting the Spirit of the Prairie, there were an even 50 attendees. At the beginning of the ceremony, last minute initiations were conducted with the season's final Waters-of-Life. The Carleton Grove *provisional* Arch-Druid who was already First Order was elevated to the Second Order. Fourteen attendees entered the First Order. Later into the ceremony, the Third Order Druids switched their red liturgical stoles for their white stoles, and the pitcher of spring water was consecrated as the Waters-of-Sleep to mark the change of the season.

The ceremony continued into the dark of night. The lanterns and a green glow stick were brought out for illumination. Our libations back to the Earth-Mother turned our fire to embers and ashes, though it was fitting, given the words from the liturgy, "*Our fire is turning to ashes and darkness walks the land.*" Another log soon came alight. We remembered cherished ones whom we had lost, and mementos were given out to everyone. The moon arose from the tree line right at the moment of our final meditation. We lived in the moment, observing silence and the sensations that presented themselves to us. Then did the ceremony conclude, and all departed to warm back up indoors for the night.

News from Tucson Grove (Arizona)

Report on Tucson Grove, RDNA Ritual – Samhain 2023

Tucson Grove celebrated Samhain on Sunday, October 29th, 2023. Two Grove members were in attendance, with several people in the park looking on. All went well, as we marked the end of summer and the beginning of the winter half of the year. Here in Tucson, the seasons are starting to turn. The mornings are chilly, and the days are not as hot as they were only a few weeks ago. As a side note, my preceptor (who is a candidate for the 3rd Order) and I talked about having him lead a few rituals this winter, in preparation for his ordination to the 3rd Order. He has been around Druidry longer than I have, so I don't think he will have ANY problems. Best wishes to all for a blessed Samhain!

Respectfully Submitted,

C, Adam G. Grose (Meirneal)

Tucson Grove, RDNA



News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

Time just goes by so quickly in Oakdale Grove! I've long learned to follow my intuition when I pick up on some sort of impulse. My intuition is never really clear about what is going to happen, but I've only learned that if I ignore it, I would soon find out why I shouldn't have ignored it. When I do follow my intuition, I then either experience synchronicity, or I experience nothing out of the ordinary at all; in which case I believe that by following my intuition, I avoided an undesirable outcome. So I started making preparations to be able to do a certain ritual that I didn't foresee myself doing anytime soon.

I was totally flying by intuition. I felt it was a bit foolish when I could have been preparing for the then-upcoming solar eclipse earlier in October, or preparing other things. Then out of the blue, Jax asked if they could enter the Order of the Morrigan as an acolyte. There's the synchronicity. That's the ceremony I had already started preparing for, not having any real clue as to the incoming request. Even better: it was requested to take place on the solar eclipse, so I didn't have to worry about padding the event with more rituals.

The day of the eclipse was overcast. The sun had briefly appeared through the clouds once at the beginning of the eclipse, just enough to notice it. Jax had brought a box of solar eclipse sunglasses for everyone to wear, so we had the perfect safety accessories. Knowing that the eclipse was underway, and that the sky was darkening more than a typical overcast afternoon, we had faith that the time of power was building, and started the ceremony.



Jax had completed all the prerequisites and had more than demonstrated their aptitude for the Order. Each step of the multitiered rite of passage was completed with finesse and dedication. Our newly elected Bard had even prepared a perfect poem as a blessing for the occasion. Bluejays and other corvids cawed in the distance; always a good sign! The divination signaled a new beginning on an important commitment, which was also taken to be a very good sign. The Morrigan herself stood at the crossed spears as Jax was then initiated as an Acolyte of the Order of the Morrigan, to much rejoicing of the Grove!

At the conclusion of the ceremony, another break appeared in the clouds. We donned our protective spectacles again to see the eclipse had just passed its height of intensity. The timing couldn't have been more perfect. The Order of the Morrigan script is probably the most elaborate and dire rite of passage in the RDNA, but that's just how the Dark Sovereign rolls. Congratulations to Jax!

Campfire Colloquy

Overview

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

Book review from John the Verbose of World Druidry: A Globalizing Path of Nature Spirituality by Larisa A. White, M.S.Ed., Ph.D.

This isn't your typical book on druidry. This is an in-depth analysis of survey and questionnaire results from 725 participants in 34 countries on all six developed continents.

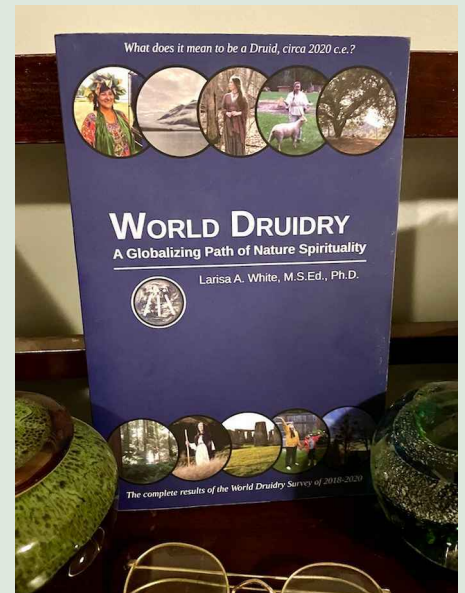
Unfortunately the RDNA's *Ice Floe Grove* in Antarctica has been defunct since 2001 after one of the RDNA's own Druids completed a scientific stint there, but I digress.

The period of this survey of the global druidic community was conducted for six months from 2018 to 2019. This book doesn't tell you *how* to practice druidry, or ways to meditate, or what to believe, and doesn't really go into a lot of history of druids. Rather, the purpose of the book was to gain a big-picture understanding of what modern druids already believe, what they do, how they do it, and to get a sense of how our spirituality as druids affects our worldview, and vice versa.

Larisa even provides a background on how this study was conducted, and what it took to sort through the data and categorize responses. The written questionnaire responses were the most difficult to convert into statistics compared to the simpler multiple choice survey questions. This book depicts the data through extensive charts, graphs, and tables to compare people's motivations, inspirations, and areas of focus that matter the most between different demographics like age, gender, and geographic location among dozens of other factors.

Of the survey participants who reported being part of a druid order, the RDNA was 15th on that list, listed by the most populous druid orders first (OBOD members constituted more than half of the survey participants, followed by solitaries, ADF, AODA, BDO, and TDN) and dozens of other groups. Interestingly, one of the participants skewed the RDNA membership down by listing that their druid order was "Oakdale Grove," so I know that there was at least one other participant from my Grove besides myself. This happened quite a bit with other Groves being listed as druid orders. Some of the listed "orders" ended with "Seed Group" which is OBOD's terminology for the equivalent of a Protogrove (Protogroves showed up as being "Orders" as well)!. In a few cases there were even recognizable big-name ADF Groves that were listed as Orders such as Three Cranes Grove.

Surprisingly for me, 131 of the 725 participants (or 18%) identify as solitaries. My perception was that solitaries would encompass more than half. I suspect that perhaps the participation of solitaries is



skewed low because the survey could easily have been more widely disseminated through Orders and Groves, and many solitaries might not have been aware of the survey at all.

Gotta give it props for the monumental collaboration this was. Furthermore, it may be the first in its category of taking an analytical look at druidry from within the community as a whole, not from the scientific or anthropological academic circles. No disrespect to them, as the sciences are very important, but often the stuffy Oxford types have a notable condescending bias against Neo-druidism. Yes, we're simply exchanging a critical bias for one that we like better, but there's also more sincerity this way, too. Spoiler alert: modern druids really enjoy nature, wisdom, and trees. There's so much more to it than that, and the whole book is full of fascinating details and insights.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Promo: Check out the Druid Dad Podcast!

There's a new druidry podcast on the web, and it's called the [Druid Dad Podcast](#) with host Alder Moonfox. It has five episodes and counting so far, coming out weekly. They're a quick listen, too, which is important for me, because I have a lot of podcast subscriptions, but seemingly never enough time to get through them all. Alder Moonfox also has a blog, Instagram, and a Discord server for the podcast! See all the links in the Blogs & Social Media section.



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.

USA: Georgia: Savannah: Hey this is a PSA. There are druids in your area seeking other druids (like, at least three, and I don't think it's the same person), we just don't have names or contact info. I can't even remember where I've been seeing references to this (Probably somewhere on Discord), but hey, reach out to us if you wanna put in a bulletin here. Contact the newsletter editor!

Contribution from Jenny



Marigolds are among my favorite flowers, partly because they're so enthusiastic about growing just about anywhere and have an enormous bounty of seeds. I love their bright cheerful colors, and in mid-autumn, they harmonize brilliantly with the fall foliage. They're also strongly associated with *Día de los Muertos*, which – although I'm not Mexican – I appreciate very much as an analog to Samhain. These marigolds are wet with this morning's rain and show off just a few of the patterns and colors I've seen over the years. A beautiful and blessed Samhain to all!

Contributions from Jax K.



The Procession of the Druids and the *Spirit of the Prairie* toward the Hill of Three Oaks to celebrate the 60th anniversary Samhain of the Reformed Druids of North America at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.

October 29, 2023.

Contributions from John the Verbose



Acacia Park Cemetery, Mendota Heights, MN



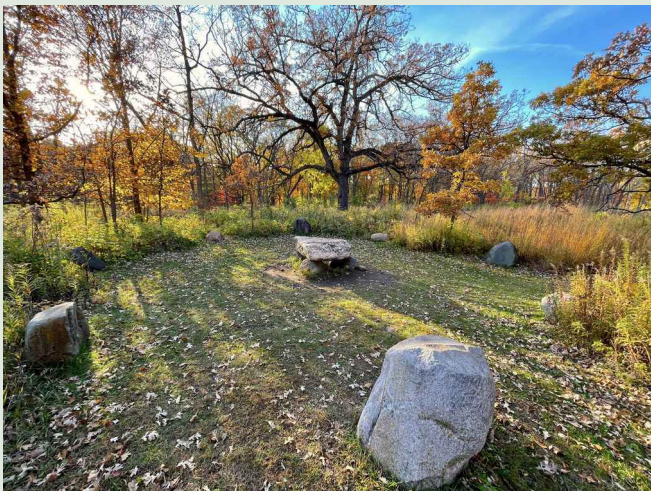
Minneapolis skyline from Oheyawahi



Red oaks & prairie, Carleton College Arboretum



Bur oak, Carleton College Arboretum



Druids' Circle, Carleton College Arboretum



Boardman Memorial, Carleton College Arboretum

Videos of Interest

Advice From the Otherworldly



Not exactly how I imagine Dalon Ap Landu, but the advice is on that level... "to be outside and just exist."

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)



Considered to be the first horror film. Has nothing to do with druidry; just enjoy this mildly creepy classic.

Is Samhain Halloween?



History meets mythology and speculation in this analysis of one of the most sacred Celtic holidays.

The Prophecy That Nearly Destroyed Druidism

Overview

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

The Druid Prophecy That Nearly Shattered the RDNA on Y.R. 1

Sixty years ago: Thursday, October 31, 1963, was a chilly evening after sunset in the Little Grove (now the location of the Druids' Circle) in the Carleton College Arboretum. The moon appeared full enough, though it would be full the next night.

Dozens of attendees: druids and curious visitors alike, gathered around the bonfire. The ones clad for ceremony bore blazing torches. The seers gaze brought her into a trance state, and she began conveying utterances and foreboding prophecies. Some of it didn't make sense, and its meaning has been debated for decades, but one prophesy rang through clearly.

"...Someone is dead... see a great many people... a large circular room there... they need not be afraid... everything is going to be all right."

—Latter Chronicles 5:12

The Druids who were present didn't lend much credence to the prophecies, and some were more bewildered by the evening event as a whole amid the crackling fire, flickering torches, and the darkened glimmer of a chalice passed between all present at the service. When the seer came to, she stated that she had no recollection of anything she had just conveyed. It was an evening shrouded in mysticism and mystery.

Only 22 days later, the nation was gripped by a sudden tragedy; President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. His casket sat in the center of the capitol rotunda from November 24-25th. I wish I could include the iconic [George Mobley photograph](#) looking down into the capitol rotunda, with Kennedy's casket surrounded by mourners, but the photograph is not in the public domain. It is a hauntingly specific image, just as predicted by the seer of the Druids at that fateful Samhain eve.

The memories of the prophesy came back to the forefront of the minds of all who had attended that ominous ritual. Fear and questions arose. How did the seer know this would happen? Did the Druids *cause* it to happen? Was it some sort of fateful repercussion for the already infamous *Curse of the Druids*? Had they all been involved in elaborate black magic? So many people were now spooked by the Druids, that the RDNA had nearly collapsed entirely after its own 6 month anniversary. The few Druids who remained decided that in order to survive as a group, they should tone things down a bit.

And now 60 years later, we still stand together.

Augur's Intuition

Overview

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

Submission by John the Verbose

Methodology: Lorraine Anderson's Gratitude Deck of Appreciation

About this deck

Lorraine asks that you allow this deck to shift your perspective. This isn't an oracle deck, nor a form of divination. Nevertheless, meditate on these cards as a form of guidance. Do they feel intuitively relevant? Are you experiencing any synchronicity regarding what the cards say? Above all, are they helping you and/or others to have a more fulfilling life? Each card has unique imagery on the back. The text from each one will be transcribed here, with the imagery shown on the right.

Cards drawn

- Manage expectations. It's ok to be grateful for what you have while grieving for your losses.
- Embrace challenges. Each obstacle is an opportunity for growth.
- Carry a gratitude stone. Give thanks for something every time you touch it.



The "Carletongny" Calendar

Overview

Did you know Reformed Druidism has its own calendar system? There are different ways of calculating RDNA time, but here is the method that this newsletter uses. Carleton Grove called 1963 the *First Year of the Reform* (Y.R.) which for them began at Beltane. They had no year zero. That's why 2023 was Y.R. 61 at Beltane for the 60th anniversary, not year 60. Beltane (May 1) is when **summer** begins, or **Samradh** (SAU-rah) which lasts 92 days. Lughnasadh (August 1) is when **autumn** begins, or **Foghamhar** (FOE-war), lasting 92 days. Samhain (November 1) is when **winter** begins, or **Geimredh** (GEV-rah), lasting 92 days. Oimelc (February 1) is when **spring** begins, or **Earrach** (ARE-rock), lasting 89-90 days. The term "Carletongny" Calendar is merely a play on words from the *Coligny* Calendar, an archaeological discovery of a fragmented Celtic calendar.

C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.	C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.	C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.	C.E. (Beltane)	Y.R.
1963	1	1993	31	2023	61	2053	91
1964	2	1994	32	2024	62	2054	92
1965	3	1995	33	2025	63	2055	93
1966	4	1996	34	2026	64	2056	94
1967	5	1997	35	2027	65	2057	95
1968	6	1998	36	2028	66	2058	96
1969	7	1999	37	2029	67	2059	97
1970	8	2000	38	2030	68	2060	98
1971	9	2001	39	2031	69	2061	99
1972	10	2002	40	2032	70	2062	100
1973	11	2003	41	2033	71	2063	101
1974	12	2004	42	2034	72	2064	102
1975	13	2005	43	2035	73	2065	103
1976	14	2006	44	2036	74	2066	104
1977	15	2007	45	2037	75	2067	105
1978	16	2008	46	2038	76	2068	106
1979	17	2009	47	2039	77	2069	107
1980	18	2010	48	2040	78	2070	108
1981	19	2011	49	2041	79	2071	109
1982	20	2012	50	2042	80	2072	110
1983	21	2013	51	2043	81	2073	111
1984	22	2014	52	2044	82	2074	112
1985	23	2015	53	2045	83	2075	113
1986	24	2016	54	2046	84	2076	114
1987	25	2017	55	2047	85	2077	115
1988	26	2018	56	2048	86	2078	116
1989	27	2019	57	2049	87	2079	117
1990	28	2020	58	2050	88	2080	118
1991	29	2021	59	2051	89	2081	119
1992	30	2022	60	2052	90	2082	120

Geimredh Y.R. 61 Date Conversion Chart

Geimredh	Winter	Geimredh	Winter
1	Wed, Nov 1, 2023	47	Sun, Dec 17, 2023
2	Thu, Nov 2, 2023	48	Mon, Dec 18, 2023
3	Fri, Nov 3, 2023	49	Tue, Dec 19, 2023
4	Sat, Nov 4, 2023	50	Wed, Dec 20, 2023
5	Sun, Nov 5, 2023	51	Thu, Dec 21, 2023
6	Mon, Nov 6, 2023	52	Fri, Dec 22, 2023
7	Tue, Nov 7, 2023	53	Sat, Dec 23, 2023
8	Wed, Nov 8, 2023	54	Sun, Dec 24, 2023
9	Thu, Nov 9, 2023	55	Mon, Dec 25, 2023
10	Fri, Nov 10, 2023	56	Tue, Dec 26, 2023
11	Sat, Nov 11, 2023	57	Wed, Dec 27, 2023
12	Sun, Nov 12, 2023	58	Thu, Dec 28, 2023
13	Mon, Nov 13, 2023	59	Fri, Dec 29, 2023
14	Tue, Nov 14, 2023	60	Sat, Dec 30, 2023
15	Wed, Nov 15, 2023	61	Sun, Dec 31, 2023
16	Thu, Nov 16, 2023	62	Mon, Jan 1, 2024
17	Fri, Nov 17, 2023	63	Tue, Jan 2, 2024
18	Sat, Nov 18, 2023	64	Wed, Jan 3, 2024
19	Sun, Nov 19, 2023	65	Thu, Jan 4, 2024
20	Mon, Nov 20, 2023	66	Fri, Jan 5, 2024
21	Tue, Nov 21, 2023	67	Sat, Jan 6, 2024
22	Wed, Nov 22, 2023	68	Sun, Jan 7, 2024
23	Thu, Nov 23, 2023	69	Mon, Jan 8, 2024
24	Fri, Nov 24, 2023	70	Tue, Jan 9, 2024
25	Sat, Nov 25, 2023	71	Wed, Jan 10, 2024
26	Sun, Nov 26, 2023	72	Thu, Jan 11, 2024
27	Mon, Nov 27, 2023	73	Fri, Jan 12, 2024
28	Tue, Nov 28, 2023	74	Sat, Jan 13, 2024
29	Wed, Nov 29, 2023	75	Sun, Jan 14, 2024
30	Thu, Nov 30, 2023	76	Mon, Jan 15, 2024
31	Fri, Dec 1, 2023	77	Tue, Jan 16, 2024
32	Sat, Dec 2, 2023	78	Wed, Jan 17, 2024
33	Sun, Dec 3, 2023	79	Thu, Jan 18, 2024
34	Mon, Dec 4, 2023	80	Fri, Jan 19, 2024
35	Tue, Dec 5, 2023	81	Sat, Jan 20, 2024
36	Wed, Dec 6, 2023	82	Sun, Jan 21, 2024
37	Thu, Dec 7, 2023	83	Mon, Jan 22, 2024
38	Fri, Dec 8, 2023	84	Tue, Jan 23, 2024
39	Sat, Dec 9, 2023	85	Wed, Jan 24, 2024
40	Sun, Dec 10, 2023	86	Thu, Jan 25, 2024
41	Mon, Dec 11, 2023	87	Fri, Jan 26, 2024
42	Tue, Dec 12, 2023	88	Sat, Jan 27, 2024
43	Wed, Dec 13, 2023	89	Sun, Jan 28, 2024
44	Thu, Dec 14, 2023	90	Mon, Jan 29, 2024
45	Fri, Dec 15, 2023	91	Tue, Jan 30, 2024
46	Sat, Dec 16, 2023	92	Wed, Jan 31, 2024

Blogs & Social Media Links

Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

- *I Talk To The Trees*'s blog [Corey Adventures](#)
- Ellen Evert Hopman's blog [A Druid's Blog](#)
- John the Verbose's [Tumblr](#)
- TheMageiboLine's [Tumblr](#)
- Druid Dad's blog [A Modern Druid Journey](#)

Social Media

- C.O.R.D. Biquarterly'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](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Instagram](#)
- [Druid Dad Discord Server](#)

Other Media

- Podcast: [Druid Dad Podcast](#)

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!



Ron Stonemage's wire art and wrapped stones

I think we originally discovered each other's Tumblr blogs about a year and a half ago. Not only is the wearable artwork intricate and beautiful, but Ron often has a lot of thought provoking questions that really invoke critical thinking in my responses that keeps me on my toes!



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)

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!



The wild, enchanted Zumbrunnen Trail at Lake Maria State Park, Monticello, Minnesota.