



**Yule Issue,
Year of the Reform “L”
December 21, 2012 c.e.
Volume 29 Issue 8**



Mark your calendars for the
50th Anniversary of the RDNA,
being held at Carleton College, Northfield Minnesota in
2013.

May 3-5 and June 21-23

The one in May will be the primary anniversary, but if you can't make it, then do try to catch the one in June as a back-up.

More details in the RDNA & RDG Facebook groups and in the Oimele Issue of the Druid Inquirer.

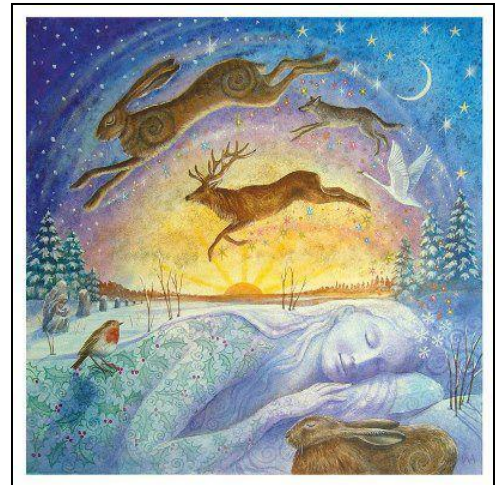


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NEWS OF THE GROVES



Carleton Grove: News from Minnesota

Carleton Updated it's Grove page. Mike just fixed the broken ARDA links. Good to go. Their Archdruid Austen Bain should be returning from her trip abroad in January.

<http://apps.carleton.edu/student/orgs/druids/>

Ravens Grove: News from Quebec

Greetings and much wassailing to all.

Three Stones Protogrove: News from Nevada

The Three Stones protogrove, in S.Nevada is 'still alive and working'.Our focus is now a combination of Irish Celtic and Teutonic elements.We have been working on the 'Nature is Good' moreso out IN Nature and still refurbishing the protogrove training courses that's about to go 'public soon'.

We greet you all again,as in times past now,to today!

-Brid DragonWillow

Oakdale Protogrove: News from Minnesota

Yesterday my wax seal stamp for my embryonic Proto-Grove arrived in the mail, so now the Oakdale Grove of Minnesota can send elegant official correspondence!

I designed the image myself, paid about \$26 and the stamp arrived 2 weeks later!

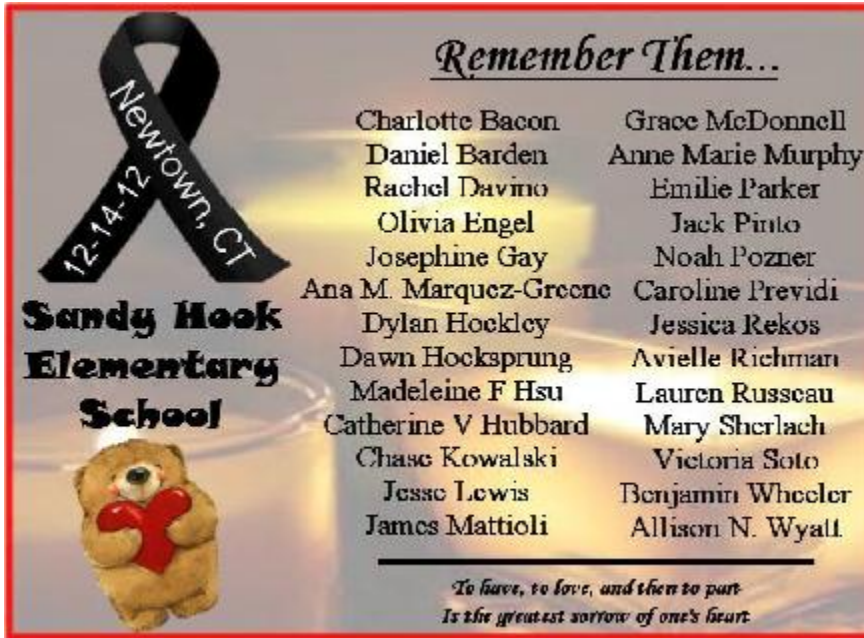


News from Mother Grove, RDG

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Yeah, I know I'm a day late. For the RDG, this marks year 7 of the 2nd Age of the Reform. We'll be celebrating Samhain tonight with a simple water-sharing amongst our Grove members, and the AD and spouse of the Bullhead City AZ Grove, who are on their honeymoon visiting the Redwoods (a 16 hour drive I'm told).

mynt -- el /\

NEWS FROM ADF



Our Prayers For All

As we approach the Solstice, it feels as though the nights are closing in on us. As the ancients did, we lift our spirits with bright lights, decorations, and fellowship, enjoying ourselves as we wait for the return of the light.

But no amount of colored lights can compensate for the shock, sadness, and fear we all felt when we heard of the dreadful events in Connecticut, where 20 little children, with their lives fully ahead of them, were mowed down by a young man who, we assume, was mentally deranged. Who else could do such a thing, we ask?

Some folks see this event as the result of some prince of evil running amok in the world, but others, including us Pagans, have a different view. For Druids, there is no all-good god and all-evil god fighting over our souls. Rather both good and evil exist in us all, and in all of nature. What is 'good' for me may be 'bad' (or evil) for you. Life is like that - many shades of grey, and not black and white. And this means that we all have to take responsibility for our own lives, and support the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors.

The cult of individuality has taken strong root in the western world. In the United States, the lone stranger is an enduring motif - he may be the loner, the man who rides into town and saves the day. He is the Individual who attends to his own needs and cuts himself off from the community. In days gone by, folks didn't behave this way. Instead they all looked to help one another, concerned with promoting the health and safety of the group as well as the individual. And while these ideals still exist for many, the pressures of our busy and crowded lives tend to make us blind to what may be around us ("it's not my problem!").

Tragedies, such as the Connecticut school shooting, will not be prevented by banning guns, or by turning our schools and malls into fortresses. They can only be prevented by reaching out to each other, by paying attention to our friends and neighbors, our groves and solitaries, and by caring. This may be a time of looking for tolerance and acceptance of everyone, and of not isolating ourselves or others.

So as the sun begins Her return this Solstice, let Her arrival bring us new hope and new commitment to our communities. Let us all remember that none of us are in this life alone, that we are all in this together. And together we shall succeed.

May the healing blessings of the Kindreds enfold the survivors of life's tragedies, granting them peace and comfort. Our heartfelt condolences and blessings go out to all who were touched by this sadness. And may these blessings enfold us all, showing us how we may help ourselves by helping others.

Bright healing blessings,
Rev. Kirk Thomas
ADF Archdruid

REFORMED POETRY AND ARTICLES

Darkness Falls

Darkness falls on blackened walls, as i breathe in the gloamin. The
twi-night of twilight, on in-between so scarcely seen, twyleth teg a
path so vague, where caverns run deep, in restful sleep, and bridges
unfold to the morning.

Sinking deep in dream walkers sleep, as stillness comes a calling.
Darkness falls in twi halls as children are a yawning, infinite sight,
comes from endless night, until the day is dawning.

Traveller's rest, we are but blessed, echoes stir the mind, of distant
shores, and crooked oars, and paths that are hard to find.

Following round, to spiral ground, we tread the trodden track,
pastures green, yet to be seen, will we ever tread our way back.

Sound of self and soul wealth, when peace does befall. We travel the
night in soul flight, and rest in twihall.

Time and space does have no face when darkness falls.

By
Penny Young

Elemental

By
Penny Young

Of the core elements, we are made , one needing the other, and so
not o fade.

From the pillars of earth, to air's lofty height, from calming waters
to fires raging might.

Of earth, and flesh and, substance and stone, of structures and
pillars of earth bone. The touch, the tangible feel of flesh, the
fertile soil of earths caress.

Of air we fly on lofty sound, we soar the summit of idea cloud. We
move and float adrift and a free Unattached we view, and so we see.

Of fire and flame and burning bright, inspiration and burn out in
great might. The strength and passion a force to behold. The
transformation to be told.

Of water the fluid feelings do grow, the depths of emotion, the ebb
and flow. The trickle the torrent that moves freely, the shaping and
moulding of sensitivity

Of the core elements we are made, one needing the other, so not to
fade.

From the pillars of the earth, to airs lofty height, from calming
waters, to raging fire might.

Ashes to Ashes

Slumbering the daylight hours away, as smoke plumes rise on air, like whispers on wind they carry. Black and acrid, they can singe your very flesh, leaving you retching and gagging, the dense black vapor does smother all. Eating the very air you breathe. Deep inside your being, from the depths of your conscious you hear a voice. It urges you to stir, in soft yet crisp tones, as a scissors, does cut through paper, the voice does cut through your conscious so that you are only aware of it, and it is only aware of you. Ashes to ashes, all around lays a waste of chaos. Half seen, half hidden in the dense vapor of destruction. Eyes do search the soot stained mass. Crying in pain, the stinging, does penetrate your very living soul. Your throat does rasp for air. You are silenced, ashes to ashes you absorb the black mass. You have roused from the smoke plumes rising on the air. Black as night from the ashes you spawn. Fire spewing every time you breathe. Alive with each breath you are stronger, with each breath, the flame does flicker. It dances and takes your whole being. As you breathe the flame does breathe, as you breathe the flame does grow, as you breathe your breath, becomes living flame. You dance, in flickers of gold, and glimmer in your glory, as you are made of fire. From the flame of truth, from ashes to ashes you rise, triumphant in flame. For you are dragon borne, dragon born of flame. Your flesh is the black charred mass of cinders, but your blood is all flicker and flame. Consuming, devouring and destroying all that it touches, only to be borne again. Ashes to ashes.

By
Penny Young

Yule

Patricia Norwood 2012

Yule comes but once a year
And all through the lands fill the cup of cheer
A feast prepared and on table laid
Snow abounding as the Wintry Queen said
Ice frosted windows and smoked breath
Snow ball fights and Ivy wreathed
The solstice come and winter's rest too
Carolers traveling through the town
Bringing a smile to the heart.
No matter who you are, nor where you live
Or what name you give this day
Blessings to all, be of good cheer
Have a happy everything a glorious life
As Yule tidings and the day moves on
To lands in winter slumbering night

Scél lém dúib

ut dixit Find hu Baiscne

1. Scél lém dúib

dordaid dam.

snigid gaim

ro faith sam.

2. gáeth ard huar

ísel grian

gair a rriith

ruthach .i. tondgarach rían. .i. muir

3. roruad rath .i. raithech

ro cleth .i. ro cheil cruth.

ro gab gnath

giugrand guth.

4. ro gab uacht

ete. én

aigre ré.

e. mo scle.

scél lem duib

Translation

As Finn, descendent of Baíscni, said:

My tidings for you: the stag bells,

Winter snows, summer is gone.

Wind high and cold, low the sun,

Short his course, sea running high.

Deep-red the bracken, its shape all gone,

The wild-goose has raised his wonted cry.

Cold has caught the wings of birds;

Season of ice - these are my tidings

SOURCES

Lebor na hUidre, ll.849-856.

HARP STRINGS

Some are like harp strings

Short or long

Wiry, plastic, or with guts

Thin and thick

Some colored or plain

It takes time to wind up to their true pitch

Some are flat or sharp

Some are clipped tight

Others have curly head dresses

Some are beset with levers as they play

Each has a lovely tune

Some strike a chord well together

Others have foes that disonate

Some find perfect matches an octave above or below

A third or fifth for some

A rare parallel set on some harps

Ignored in some pieces

Humming in resonance as others have their term

The sudden often unexpected snap

To be thrown away

Or reused on a higher note

Or recast or used to tie common things

Which tunes?

Which genres?

Which players?

How often?

How long between?

How skillfully?

-mike passing time at soccer practice



Profound Encounter

While drifting in the Dreamtime,
In search of my Child,
I found myself on a quiet country lane,
It was a Beautiful Spring morning
and a warm breeze Whispered Her name,
Through the Velvet Green of the
Surrounding Trees.
My Heart soared as I heard Her Laughter
in the distant Wind.
Though the farther I journeyed,
Her giggles teased me,
No closer, no sign of my Spring Child.
Twas then I had the most Profound
And Wonderful encounter,
As I came to a fork in the lane,
Not knowing what way to continue,
A gentle and familiar Voice spoke,
"Are you lost Son?"
I was swept by a Wave of Deep Compassion,
As I turned to greet my Father,
Twas strange, but comforting, His appearance,
For He was dressed in a white robe,
And seated in a Full Lotus under a Great Oak Tree.
We sat for moment and Communed without speech,
Then my Father touched my shoulder,
Smiled and pointed towards a Shining Hill,
To Emain Macha,
"There you'll find your Child, my Son, it's
There that Beltainne resides".
And a great contentment overcame me,
And Her Laughter was close, as Sidhe
Playfully danced around the Mound
With the Fox and the Crow.
It is there that my Spirit is at Peace.



--Gréagóir /I\ (In Memory and Honour of my Father and Spirit Child.)O(

Heart of Wonder

May you awaken to the mystery of being here and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.
May you have joy and peace in the temple of your senses.
May you receive great encouragement when new frontiers beckon.
May you respond to the call of your gift and find the courage to follow its path.
May the flame of anger free you from falsity.
May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame and may anxiety never linger about you.
May your outer dignity mirror an inner dignity of soul.
May you take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention.
May you be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul.
May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.
~ John O'Donohue ~

CHILDREN'S POEMS

The North wind doth blow, and we shall have snow.
And what will poor robin do then? Poor thing!
He'll sit in a barn and keep himself warm
And hide his head under his wing. Poor thing!

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make a mighty ocean,
And the pleasant land.

Cocks crow in the morn,
to tell us to rise,
and he who lies late
will never be wise:
For early to bed,
and early to rise,
Is the way to be healthy, wealthy and wise.

The fair maid who, the first of May,
Goes to the field at the break of day,
And washes in dew from the hawthorn-tree,
will ever after handsome be.

A wise old owl lived in an oak
The more he saw the less he spoke
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?[1]

Boys and girls come out to play,
The moon doth shine as bright as day.
Leave your supper and leave your sleep,
And join your playfellows in the street.
Come with a whoop and come with a call,
Come with a good will or not at all.
Up the ladder and down the wall,
A half-penny loaf will serve us all;
You find milk, and I'll find flour,
And we'll have a pudding in half an hour.
But when the
Loaf is gone, what will you do?
Those who would eat must work 'tis true'

Three sweet switched Swiss witches
Watch three washed Swiss witch Swatch watch
switches.
Which sweet switched Swiss witch watches
Which washed Swiss witch Swatch watch switch?

I'm not the pheasant plucker, I'm the pheasant
plucker's mate,
And I'm only plucking pheasants 'cause the pheasant
plucker's late.
I'm not the pheasant plucker, I'm the pheasant
plucker's son,
And I'm only plucking pheasants till the pheasant
pluckers come.

Betty Botter bought a bit of butter. "But," she said,
"this butter's bitter!
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter!"
So she bought a bit of butter better than her bitter
butter,
And she put it in her batter, and her batter was not
bitter.
So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better
butter.

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear,
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't very fuzzy, was he?

Ned Nott was shot and Sam Shott was not.
So it is better to be Shott than Nott.
Some say Nott was not shot.
But Shott says he shot Nott.
Either the shot Shott shot at Nott was not shot,
Or Nott was shot.
If the shot Shott shot shot Nott, Nott was shot.
But if the shot Shott shot shot Shott,
Then Shott was shot, not Nott.
However, the shot Shott shot shot not Shott, but Nott.

Irish: Ná bac le mac an bhacaigh agus ní bhacaigh
mac an bhacaigh leat.

English: "Don't bother the beggar's son and the
beggar's son won't bother you."

A flea and fly in a flue,
Were imprisoned so what could they do?
Said the flea let us fly.
Said the fly let us flee.
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.



Christo-Druidry: a living spirituality

by Sébastien Beaudoin

To ask me how I became a druid is like asking me how a bird knows how to fly. Birds do it by nature. Mostly, a bird knows it can truly fly when it takes its first leap of faith and jumps out of its nest. But there are also some birds that discover they can fly at the defining moment when they accidentally fall out! I am like that last bird; I fell unto the path of Druidry by own misfortune... or was it? Was druidry truly hidden in my own nature? I strongly believe that we were sent here to experience life, and that we each have a soul purpose and calling.

In becoming a Druid, I decided to also keep my Christian heritage, and not deny it like so many do or will do on their druidic path. When I became a Druid, I did not embark on my journey as an act of rebellion or as an act of disgust towards religion. Thanks to many circumstances, I have discovered that I am able to mix both my Christian faith and my Druidry. It is not always easy, but I have discovered that it was always in my nature to do so, therefore impossible to ignore or repress.

I know that some will argue that one cannot be a Christian and a Druid. But my answer to that is I do exist and I do mix together very well both traditions. I discovered that one could keep his Christian traditions and still hold nature in reverence and practice Druidry. If one really looks deeply within this concept, one will easily understand that a Christian Druid can easily identify the immanence of God within nature and easily practice Druidry. Personally, my Druid practices and my reverence for nature has both deepened my faith and brought me closer to God. I find that in Christian Druidry, nature and all its wonders provide us with the key not just to establish the existence of God, but also to find out more about his presence in our world, his presence in the soft wind over a field of wheat, in the loud growling thunder of a storm cloud, in the flight of geese over head, or in the shiny little trout in the swirling pool of a clear brook.

As a Christian Druid, my theology is very down to earth and levelheaded. It seems very obvious to me that if you are in touch with creation, then you are in touch with the creator. For me to rebut Christianity was not the answer to what I was looking for, and did not fit into my personal ethics and values. For me to believe in a multitude of gods and goddesses, or to believe just in one, does not make any difference to me or my own Druidry. I believe that once you become a Druid, a great doorway of knowledge and understanding opens up to you, you begin to see a world hidden that you have never seen or experienced, you start to observe, experience and feel that you belong to a whole new world, a world in constant transformation and mutation; that all is sacred and interconnected to one great central force that I call the source of all creation. Today my druidry is deeply enriched by a combination of many spiritual traditions, but mainly it has become an interweaving Christian and druidic tapestry. I believe that in Druidry, no one is obliged to deny their upbringing, their family, nor their heritage and culture, in fact no one should!

Honestly, it is very nice to be open to all religions and faith. It has permitted me to straightforwardly continue my studies in Druidry and follow my path while I'm always centered within myself and within God. In my opinion, what characterizes a Christian Druid is his love of learning and wisdom, his reverence for Nature, his respect of the ancestors, and his fellowship with Christ in his own way. I personally took the best from the old tradition while still keeping in touch with Christ within me. Today, I attend my own chapel under the sky, amongst the animals, the natural elements and plants. My Chapel is found right in the middle of God's creation. It is there where I can meet God in person and alone in prayer.

In a sense the goal of a Christian Druid isn't to be more religious, but to be more alive, more awake and sensitive to the divinity pulsing throughout the universe. Did I truly fall onto the path of Druidry, or was it in my nature? One thing for sure, it has become my devotion and my calling.

My life journey has always been a long and winding stream, knowing one day that I will find my way to the sea.

Sébastien Beaudoin
Artist, Potter and Druid (RDNA)
Campbell's Bay, Quebec, Canada
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Druid Cooking Corner



Roast goose with Domi

I've been offered a goose to cook for Yule or for Christmas Day or the next Grove, and that sounds excellent. My approach to goose is similar to my approach to duck. A goose has a lot more fat than a duck, though, and that fat is valuable fat (makes the world's best roasted potatoes, keeps well in the refrigerator if well-strained and clean, excellent for traditional salves, and if some of it is messy and impure, mix it with birdseed and put it out in the cold of winter, and your local birds will thrive on it). So you want to save all the fat, and a big goose may have a quart or even more of it. Which also means there is less meat than you'd expect for the size of the bird, so you want to allow at least a lb of goose per person if it's the main attraction

on your winter festival feast table. The goose could be between 8 and 16 lbs. The bigger the goose, the fattier it is likely to be. If it's fresh refrigerate until needed; if it's frozen allow 2 to 4 days to thaw in the refrigerator.

Remove giblets and reserve in the refrigerator. Rinse the duck inside and out and sprinkle it inside and out with kosher salt. Prick the skin lightly all over. Set it on a rack in a large roasting pan and preheat the oven to 450. Have a turkey baster to remove excess fat (to save) as it cooks and avoid an oven fire! Make your stuffing of either 4 to 6 cups (depending on size of goose) cooked rice, brown and wild rice mixture, or mashed or diced boiled potatoes mixed with 2 to 3 cups of cooked peeled chopped chestnuts (roast your own, or buy them precooked in some supermarkets), a cup or so of minced onions, a couple of cups of chopped apples, and some raisins or currants or prunes, and salt, pepper and poultry seasoning (I use 2 to 4 teaspoons Bell's depending on the size of bird). This bird will cook all day. Make sure you have port available for the sauce, unless you prefer plain gravy. (Whole-berry cranberry sauce, lingonberry sauce, or a chutney also are nice accompaniments for goose). 8

hours before you intend to serve it, stuff the bird and put it on the rack in the large roasting pan in the 450 degree oven. Cook half an hour, turn down oven to 350, and use baster to remove drippings; save. Once an hour, remove and save drippings. After 4 hours, reduce oven to 275 if goose is under 10 lbs. After 6 hours, reduce oven to 275 if goose is under 12 lbs and you haven't already turned it down. Take out giblets; cover with water in a small saucepan; add salt and pepper; simmer (if you don't like the taste of liver, reserve that to broil at the last minute and offer separately to a guest who likes it). Remove goose from oven to platter half an hour before you serve; cover with foil. If making goose fat potatoes/carrots/parsnips, turn oven back to 450. Arrange diced or small veggies (baby potatoes or fingerlings, baby carrots, diced parsnips)tossed with some of the reserved goose fat and a little salt in the still hot roasting pan. Place in hot oven. Make sure exhaust fan is on. Cook about 30 minutes or until crisp and tender.

Meanwhile, chop the giblets; bring 2 cups of giblet broth and the chopped giblets and 2 cups of port wine or apple cider to a boil. Reduce by one-half. Have ready 8 tablespoons cold goose fat (or butter, if you aren't really convinced about goose fat) mixed in a cup with 1/4 cup cornstarch and enough water to make a cup; stir into hot giblet-port sauce and cook over medium heat until thickened. Serve the goose, stuffing, and fat-roasted veggies with good homemade or bakery bread or rolls and pass the giblet port sauce. You can feel your arteries hardening. It's worth it.

COMMENTS ON GOOSE

Sébastien wow.. thank you!

Domi A pot of goose grease in the back of the refrigerator is A VERY GOOD thing. And the stuffing is flexible. Don't use a bread stuffing for goose, though; fruit and nuts and veggies and wild rice, rice, or potatoes work well.

Blake Years ago, I got a goose for my kids' Christmas dinner--we had plum pudding too; I was tryna do the Dickens thing. It was a fresh goose, not frozen.

I treated it the same way I would a turkey, EXCEPT I made several thinn slash-cuts just through the ski...See More

Blake Our stuffing was dry-bread, raisins, apples, onions, celery w/ leaves, nuts, and spices, and it worked great. Of course, I did do the slashes, so the fat drained outward, not inside so much..and the bread was dried/toasted, not fresh..

Domi This Grove tries to aim for seasonal feasts; goose and duck, to me, belong on winter tables, and lamb at Imbolg and Mean Earrach. But we eat what's available, and try to have all three realms at every feast. This Grove has one main piece of dogma everyone must subscribe to: We're Druids! We feast!

Domi (And if planning food for a work party or going out for dinner together, we are likely to plan or order similarly-- some fish, some flesh, some fowl on the table.)

Dudley Ok dinner at the O'Briens"! What time should we be there?

Tanya My mother always made roast goose and some very old recipe steamed pudding with lots of spices



Feather rolls

Preheat oven to 375

Heavily butter 2 to 4 round baking pans depending on size of pans (7 inch to 10 inch cake or pie pans)

Four and a half cups all-purpose flour (or four cups flour plus 1/2 cup barley flour or cornstarch)

4 tablespoons sugar

1 teaspoon salt

2 packets active dry yeast, preferably rapid rise type.

Toss dry ingredients together with large fork in large bowl.

4 tablespoons canola oil or 4 tablespoons heavy cream

Quarter-pound butter, ice-cold

Cut butter into 24 pats with sharp knife; cut them in half, drop them into flour mixture; toss with fork until coated. Sprinkle in the canola oil or cream; stir.

Pour in one and a quarter cup very warm tap water, stir quickly and lightly until almost but not quite mixed. Break 2 eggs over the mixture and continue to stir until incorporated. Do not over-mix. Do not knead. It should look ragged and sticky.

Dust the top with flour; cover with waxed paper and a clean dishtowel and set in a warm place to rise until doubled, probably about 45 minutes.

Have another ice-cold stick of butter ready.

Put the waxed paper on a baking sheet or clean table and dust with flour. Divide dough into 2 to 4 balls, depending on pans. Roll one ball on the flour-dusted waxed paper to a 7 to 10 inch circle. Using a pizza cutter or sharp knife, cut in 8 to 12 wedges. Put half a pat of cold butter on the wide end of each wedge; roll into crescents. Arrange in pans. Continue with rest of dough. Dot tops of rolls with butter. Cover pans with waxed paper (you can use the floury piece) and let rise again until doubled.

Bake 16 to 24 minutes depending on size. Makes 16 to 48, depending on size, big fluffy ones or little delicate ones..

Making a Haggis

Martinmas, Hallowmass Foy (also called Old Samhuinn) 11-12 November

This is the last legal “Quarter Day” when rents and contracts were once due. Since cattle and sheep were often killed at this date, it was the traditional time to make Haggis out of minced livers, hearts and lungs. The offal was mixed with oatmeal and suet and seasoned with salt and pepper. It was then stuffed into a sheep’s stomach and boiled. Black Pudding was also made with sheep’s blood.



To Make a Haggis: Lady Login’s Receipt, 1856

1 cleaned sheep or lamb’s stomach bag

2 lb. dry oatmeal

1 lb chopped mutton suet

1 lb lamb’s or deer’s liver, boiled and minced

1 pint (2 cups) stock

The heart and lungs of the sheep, boiled and minced

1 large chopped onion

½ tsp. each: cayenne pepper,

Salt and black pepper

Toast the oatmeal slowly until it is crisp, then mix all the ingredients (except the stomach bag) together, and add the stock. Fill the bag just over half full, press out the air and sew up securely. Have ready a large pot of boiling water, prick the haggis all over with a large needle so it does not burst and boil slowly for 4 to 5 hours. Serves 12.
10



Black Pudding (Marag Dubh)

1 lb suet

1 lb oatmeal

2 onions

Fresh sheep's blood

Salt and pepper to taste

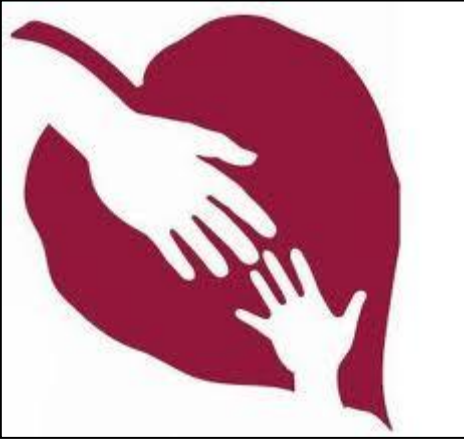
Chop the suet and the onions finely. Mix the dry ingredients then add the blood. Stuff into a casing and tie. Put into a large pan and boil in water gently for three hours. Remove and cool. Cut into slices and fry in hot fat. A classic side dish with fried bacon and eggs. Serves 4.

If you slaughter your own animals, use fresh blood, or get fresh blood from an abattoir (ask your local butcher shop where you can purchase sausage casings).

A banquet is held after a day of fasting. A wether (a male castrated ram) is sacrificed. Guizers enter from the kitchen, hobbling and dancing in pairs. They are dressed in white with petticoats beneath their robes and tall, woven straw caps, making noises like human grunts and bird calls and rapping on the floor with a staff. One of them plays a fiddle and another has a straw basket on his back. They beg for money and food and are given coins, butter, mutton, and cakes.

Cattle are given their feast of an entire sheaf of grain each. Turnip lanterns (the original Jack O'Lanterns) are lit.

Druid Etiquette Essays



Kinship and Fraternity By [Sébastien Beaudoin](#)

Hi everyone! Here is my own opinion and experience with RDNA,

Every druid group has their own type of initiations or rites of passages. It is part life and it is actually found in every society since the beginning of time, it is at the core of every civilisation. It is important to recognized peoples achievements, hard work and devotion. And, yes, these are also called statuses; these statuses are as commons as being a parent, a teacher, a student, a child, a lawyer, a doctor.... If you look at diplomas, certificates, rewards... these are also all forms of recognitions and statuses. I could go on... but I'm sure you understand what I'm saying here.

Even in RDG, they have a similar system. If I'm a 3rd Order druid within RDNA, it is because I decided to go through it and devote myself to my path and tradition, even if I'm consider myself spiritually as an universal druid. There is also a great sense of kinship and fraternity within RDNA that I personally enjoy and appreciate.

What I have understood since the beginning my druidic journey is that it is important to have some type of recognition within a druidic affiliation. I know for some, the question of lineage can be seen as ridiculous, but that is how it works in the international druidic community, it is like knowing to which college or university you went to achieve to achieve your life's occupation. In other words, no matter what tradition you belong to, recognition gives you a sense of belonging and acknowledgment by your own pears and you have to earn it, and this is found in every aspect of life!

The question is not if RDNA is wrong or not, that is not the issue. The real issue is how I should achieve my goal in becoming a druid and which path will I take. How you are choose your path reflects on your own needs and wants. You can choose more the one path... and in RDNA that does not matter, you can merge RDNA with another practice, that is fine, but it is your personal choice! In or grove, we have an incredible diversity, opinions and traditions, but yet we all gather under the RDNA tradition, it is a common choice, based on our own freewheel. No one is forced nor manipulated into anything. Everyone has their own right to their own inspiration and aspiration.

If I'm happy by being in RDNA, I should not have to defend why nor feel the need to justify my choice I should not even be sacred to be judged by others for what I believe and practice every time I post in this group, especially within a RDNA.

I believe that respect of diversity is the key word in druidry. That is what I have been taught in RDNA the fist moment I decided to join. In this group there is no reason to start bashing other people beliefs or tradition in order to promote their own. When people react this way is because they are themselves feeling no security within their own beliefs and practices.



Druid Etiquette 101

By Elm-ily Post (A.k.a. Mike), 2005

I've watched Druids communicate for a long time, and they have a bit of an unwritten code of behavior that they expect. Some have accused Druids of being snooty or snobbish. It is hazardous for me to attempt to codify them, but if you follow these general guidelines, you might avoid putting your foot in your mouth, and probably be respected for your manners.

Reformed Druids usually get irate when someone sets themselves up as the mouthpiece of the entire Reform. You don't want to get that flak from folks when you don't

mean to offend.

This advice is mostly oriented for on-line conference usage, but might also work for in-person relations. I'm not moralizing here, this is just some personal advice, from me to you.

0. Do unto others as you'd have them do unto you.

1. Avoid words like all, everyone, no one, never, always, "every Druid", or "Druidism believes" and other general terms that imply that ALL Reformed Druids believe X or Y. Exceptions are frequent. Instead, you should prefer to use words like; many, most, some, a few, often, sometimes, it seems, it appears.

2. When you are talking about ancient Druidism, say so, when you are talking about modern Druidism, say so; and when you are talking about Reformed Druidism, say so.

3. When expressing a personal or Grove opinion, say so frequently; using words like I think, I believe, for me, in my opinion, personally, in my Grove, or I feel.

4. Use a consistent name in conferences, even if you primarily use an alias. Using multiple accounts or names is not only confusing to many, but may actually engender suspicion that you are trying to "agree with yourself" by using alternative identities. Put your name with a criticism and stand by your words as long as you think you are correct.

5. Be courteous and cordial with each other, even when they ain't.

6. Give each other the benefit of doubt in uncertain matters.

7. Use proper grammar and clear terms and emoticons.

8. Review all letters for a moment before sending, to check for improperly stated thoughts. Write slowly and thoughtfully.

9. Being funny is a fine thing, but apologize if you perhaps poke someone a bit too deeply.

10. Do not be afraid to state your personal beliefs, but try to do so in a tactful or diplomatic manner, when you think they might be controversial. There's a way to make a point without making an enemy.

11. Do not completely demonize or ridicule opponents. Try to give a more balanced and objective view of the situation, although you are welcome to state where your preferences lie.

12. Agreeing with people is nice, tell them so on those rare occasions. Put the extra effort to turn a bland "yeah, me too" agreement posting into a deeper more interesting response, giving illuminating examples from your life or some complementary thoughts.

13. Don't just "quote scripture" on people on an issue. Give clear rational arguments why you believe so, because not everyone agrees that your source material is without doubt.

14. Remember not everyone is as well versed as you. By giving a bit of a clear simple lead-in, you can draw in a bigger audience, than if you start off using technical words they don't know.

15. Try to cite your sources, if you are heavily relying on a few obscure authorities for your opinion.

16. Accept that people will not always agree with you.

17. Listen and try to understand someone you disagree with, then you constructively criticize, also offer a variety of viable alternatives and solutions.

18. Spend less time worrying about organizing, and more about experiencing things. You might change a Grove, but the Reform is very resistant to overall officially proclaimed change.

19. Separate facts from theories.

20. Share fun ideas that work locally, but don't be hurt if they aren't adopted elsewhere.

21. Don't expect even the greatest ideas to be accepted as official outside your Grove.

22. Attempts to make codes of morals are likely to irk people.

23. Don't try to "pull rank" on folks with less seniority or orders.

24. If you say everything you want to say, you'll probably hear something you don't want to hear.

25. Don't post people's private e-mails in a conference without permission or maliciously reveal things in confidence, just to hurt someone.

26. Write a thank you note when someone does something nice for you, or goes out of their way to advise you.

27. Volunteer to help someone who has too many duties.

28. Straight-out refuse (politely) anything you can't handle.

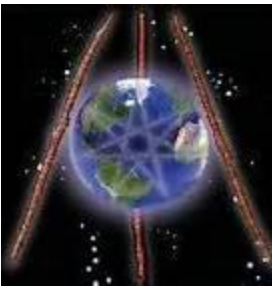
29. Delegate tasks around the Grove fairly, giving others a chance to learn the tasks too.

30. Be on time or reasonably early for activities. Tell people if you are coming or if you need to cancel.

31. Some Groves do not permit minors to be ordained or partake of the Waters of Life (or even attend services) without their parents' written permission for legal or ethical reasons.

32. Be honest, but tactful. Timing & phrasing is key.

33. Except on manners or age, it's rather hard to imagine any Groves treating members less well based on appearance, background, opinion, or orientation.



Reformed Druid Gorsedd List Rules & Agreement

By [Ellis Arseneau](#) in [Reformed Druids Gorsedd](#) on Facebook

-- Reformed Druid Gorsedd List Rules & Agreement --

"The Reformed Druid's are dedicated to the celebration of life, the maximal actualization of Human potential and the realization of the ultimate individual freedom and personal responsibility in harmonious eco-psychic relationship with the total Biosphere of Holy Mother Earth."

The list is maintained for and by members of the Reformed Druids of Gaia, which encompasses all other Reformed Druid organizations, Groves, Order, etc, on the Planet Earth which we call Gaia.

The Gorsedd is sacred space -- a virtual Grove. While we do not share, as a whole, physical space, we strive to act like a Grove within the uniqueness of cyberspace.

We hope to foster personal growth, grow closer to each other, and share ritual and camaraderie, as well as discuss topics relating to living in community and Pagan life.

Topics may include, but are not limited to: The Reform (its policies, organization, beliefs and operations (discussion, NOT attacks, are welcome)), deep ecology, God/dess spirituality, feminism, social action and other topics of interest to the Pagan community in general, including the explicit, the controversial, and the silly. The diversity of our community allows us to weave a unique web. This is space where all opinions, expressed respectfully, are honored.

The purpose of this list is much the same as for a physical Grove, to instruct, to promote spiritual growth, to support the Reform, to have fun, to frolic, to delve into the mysteries of life and to have a blast doing it.

The Gorsedd is not the whole of the Reform, but only a small part. Leaving this list will not cancel your membership in the Reform.

S O C I A L C O N T R A C T

MODERATORS

The Reformed Druids Gorsedd is moderated by members of the **Nemeton of Dalon ap Landu**, which "owns" this list. If you have a dispute, please bring it to a moderators attention.

The moderators are empowered to "flash badges" to let folks know they are dancing on the boundary of acceptable behavior. Official warnings can come from any of them. If dire circumstances call for it, they may moderate, gag or unsubst someone without warning. In the case of very severe circumstances, a member may be removed via an unanimous vote of the NoDaL. Votes of the NoDaL are final.

All list members, including moderators, are held accountable for their actions. Above all, the spirit of our guidelines are the goal; the letters of it are simply to ensure all list members have similar expectations regarding acceptable behavior. Members may be unsubbed without warning for grossly inappropriate behavior. However, repeated behaviors such as constant snide remarks can result in warnings, moderation or unsubbing.

ETIQUETTE

The Reformed Druids Gorsedd is a place of open communication and communion. We are trying here to emulate the social environment of a real Grove. WE are trying to foster perfect love and perfect trust. That means open communications, (in contrast to talking behind our backs, or "tale-bearing"). Toxic behavior (name calling,

malicious posts, attacks, threats, insults, discussing other people's personal issues, trolling, off-list instigation, hate speech, ethnic slurs, etc.) will not be tolerated. If you have a question or concern about and branch of the Reform, or about the NoDaL, no matter what it is, bring it up on the list. Don't go off list and discuss it in a private group of your own making. No one should fear asking a question, or bringing up an issue, no matter what it is. Warnings will be issued, and moderation or unsubbing will occur if members act dishonorably. Personal disputes between members should be taken off list. Moderators are available to act as mediators and help resolve disputes.

The energy of passionate discussion is always underscored by respect; full expression is possible without being hurtful, but never underestimate the power of words. Intended wry humor gets interpreted as corrosive sarcasm, passion can be mistaken for intolerance, intensity for hostility, and disagreement for disrespect. Take the time to consider who is reading your posts, and whose posts you are reading. If you find yourself reacting angrily to a post, wait a while before sending a reply to it, and compose it off line; some people adhere to a '24/48 hour rule' when replying to an incendiary post.

We acknowledge the diversity of software and preferences of our members but feel that following these guidelines will enable all members of this community to enjoy the list.

AESTHETIC

We follow basic netiquette onlist. This is as follows:

- + When replying to someone's comments please make sure you clearly identify who you are quoting.
- + When quoting, endeavor to keep the quoted words to a minimum. Please do not quote an entire message and write "I agree" or "Me too" at the end.

Less crucial but still considerate basic netiquette:

- + Don't write using all caps. It makes people think that you're yelling. If you don't want to hit the shift key, just type in all lower case letters.
- + Use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling to the best of your ability. We strive for clear communication on the Gorsedd, a challenge in a medium where words carry no non-verbal cues.
- + We encourage emoticons (things like a smile :) or <grin>) to make your tone clear.

TOPIC PARAMETERS

Nature, environmentalism, environmental politics, Druidism, your personal health and well-being, magic, science, and always, humor.

Politics, except in regard to the environment, are off-topic for the most part.

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY

Any post on this list is the property of (and copyrighted by) the author and should not be forwarded elsewhere by anyone else without the author's permission. We all own our own words, and may do what we wish with our own posts, as long as it doesn't violate the privacy of others. If you feel moved to forward (also known as cross-posting) any post, or part of a post, please consider how your actions could violate the privacy of the author as well as this community. Use discretion if sharing any conversation with others.

Forwarding/cross-posting without permission are grounds for unsubbing.

There are circumstances, however, when forwarding is acceptable. Net humor often circulates the net, and few think twice about forwarding it. In cases of conflict, forwarding posts to the moderators may be appropriate. Anyone doing so is expected to justify their actions.

Relatedly, please do not provide access to the list for other people. The exceptions generally are: an official statement from RDG, a member who voluntarily unsubbed because of computer problems or time constraints,

letting a current member see the latest posts, etc. However, a person is either on the list or off it otherwise. If they are capable of getting to their keyboard and resubscribing, please do not feel pressured into posting on their behalf.

Your acceptance of membership on this list implies that you agree to these rules and will abide by them.

Reformed Druids Gorsedd Moderators //



Sebastien Beaudoin, Moderator of RDNA Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/2455316244/>

RDNA Facebook Group Guidelines and Rules or "In Frith & Ghosti"

This is a meeting place for the real-life people interested in learning and sharing about the Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA).

It is also a place for Reformed Druids and others to connect.

When joining please arrive graciously and maintain the Frith or Ghosti or Camaraderie that we all feel towards each other. These terms are essentially the thought that what we say and what we do feeds into the collective energy of the company that we keep among each other.

RDNA is an eclectic druidic group. We are not coming together as a class, but a gathering of similar minds coming together to socialize, network, and maybe even learn from each other.

If a post is seen here that someone finds 'toxic' we will ask that everyone refrain from continuing the post and that post may end up being deleted so a larger sillier argument does not break out.

This is not a place to 'fan the flames' or to 'further an agenda' and these such topics will probably be deleted without warning.

If this is something that offends someone remember that the 'Right to Free Speech' has its limits because one person's rights end when the other person's rights begin.

No bigotry, prejudice, racism or disrespect will be tolerated in this group. Anyone exhibiting irrational or disruptive behavior will be automatically be booted out of the group without warning.

If you don't like these rules... just leave the group immediately

Other than that, we invite you to join us and have fun, welcome to the group!

Druid VIDEOS



Desperate Druids Song and Photo-journey through Season 1

<http://youtu.be/gpVMi7ugW2A>

Gayla Drake Paul has masterfully performed the theme song for the Desperate Druids series. You've heard her guitarwork quite often by now, but she's also a talented singer. I've attached some screen shots of my favorite scenes throughout the first 16 episodes. Enjoy.

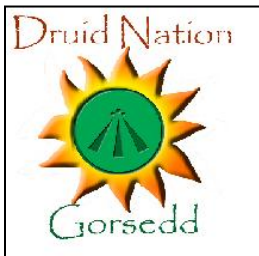
Yes, I am working on Season 2, just building up energy and revising scripts before I begin assembling again.



Brigid Sands

I gotta brag on one of the OOS Bards. Lyrica Ling and I recently collaborated on putting to music lyrics and so she is posting I am the Earth to her webpage and we would like it shared with the Inquirer

<http://lyricaling.yolasite.com/tidbits-and-samples.php> Choose the "I am the Earth" song.



Charlton Hall: Finally got the RSS feed up and running for the Druid Nation Podcast...so you can now subscribe to the feed at www.druidnation.com
And now, I'm going to bed!

By the way, my guest for the December 19th Alban Arthan/Winter Solstice episode is Damh the Bard! We'll be discussing his new album, Antlered Crown and Standing Stone, with cuts from the album!



Druid Tree Meditation - Movement and breathing Exercise from OBOD.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnVRE8yME9g&feature=youtu.be>



Psychologist Tells Inspiring Story of His Giant Uncle

Millions of people seek help from psychologists in part because they feel different from others. But Phoenix-based psychologist Andrew Erlich says everyone

A Giant Lesson on Beauty and Art

Everyone has something that makes you stand out, maybe you're tall, short, got a big nose, red hair, or it could be a fast or slow wit. Whether treasurable or not, that characteristic need not define our totality, there are other skills or traits we can develop and express another side of our soul's beauty. This is one story about a real-life giant, who became an accomplished painter,

sharing his view of the places he worked and those who came to gawk at him, showing as much curiosity of them in return.

<http://youtu.be/JgcCX2uK3JI>



Celestial Elf shared a link.
November 1

Hi Mike, Sacred Samhain Blessings, I thought you might like my new Mead Of Poetry machinima film, A new poetic account of an ancient Norse tale, inspired by Tolkien and written in the old Norse form of Fornyrdislag.



Mead of Poetry

The Mead Of Poetry, a new poetic account of an ancient Norse tale, inspired by Tolkien and written in the old Norse form of Fornyrdislag. Original poem, writ...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GULrcii0ljs&feature=youtu.be>



Celestial Elf Yuletide Film

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9SBeps3A5I>

A short film after Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' but informed by earlier Pagan traditions of the Yuletide. With an eye to current world affairs and the rise of Global Corporatism, I have included a protestors scene, with a call to Occupy Christmas as an opportunity to reconsider what the festival may mean now.

I replaced Dickens' Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future with a mischievous Jack Skellington as Sandy Claws who finally gets his Christmas mission right, and Scrooge as 'Scourge' who is given 3 visions to the Three Realms of Celtic mythology.

Enjoy my pagan Christmas Carol machinima film

It features “**The Holly and the Ivy**” song!



Holly and the Ivy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK2DTadtygg>

Most of the lyrics come from Willow Firesong's Pagan Yule Carol Collection, some I wrote or tweaked. The music is The Holly & The Ivy from Zoom Karaoke. Images used without permission but with much gratitude. All rights belong to the artists. I am NOT a professional singer, so please be kind in reviews. Happy Solstice everyone!

http://members.tripod.com/~willow_Firesong/YulCarls/index.html -

Willow Firesong's Pagan Yule Carol Collection

<http://www.greenmountainchantry.org/media/holly%20and%20ivy.mp3>-
to download an mp3 of the song

Chorus

*Oh, the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The shining of the winter stars
As the longer days draw near.*

The holly and the ivy,
In the forest side by side,
The Lady and the Horned One
Together shall abide.

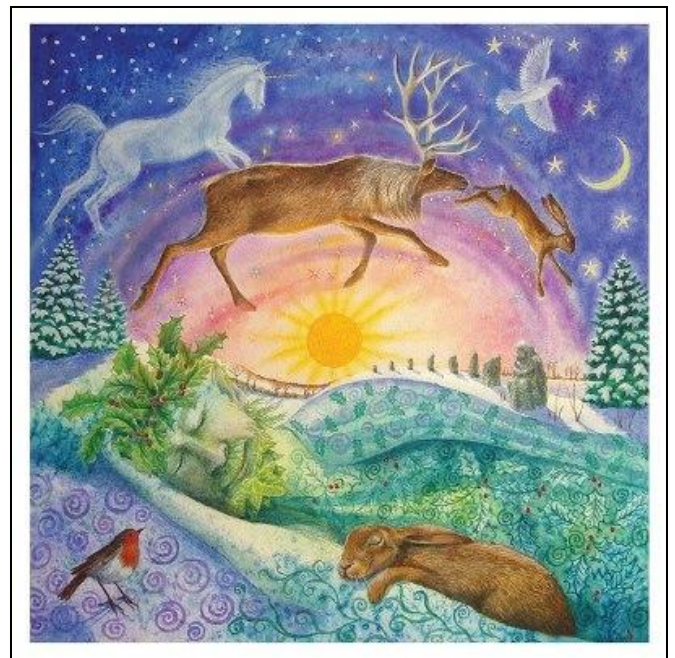
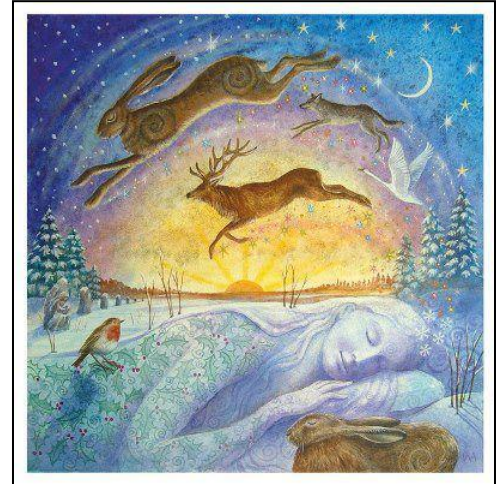
The leaping of the cauldron
And the dancing by its light.
The singing of the Solstice songs
To celebrate this night.

Our Lady is the Goddess
Who brings us joy on Earth.
Let us dance around her circle,
The circle of rebirth.

Tonight is cold and dark
But tomorrow we shall see,
The coming of the Sun-King
In light and majesty.

The moon is riding high,
Tis the winter of the year.
Come sit by the fire and join us
Share the comfort and good cheer

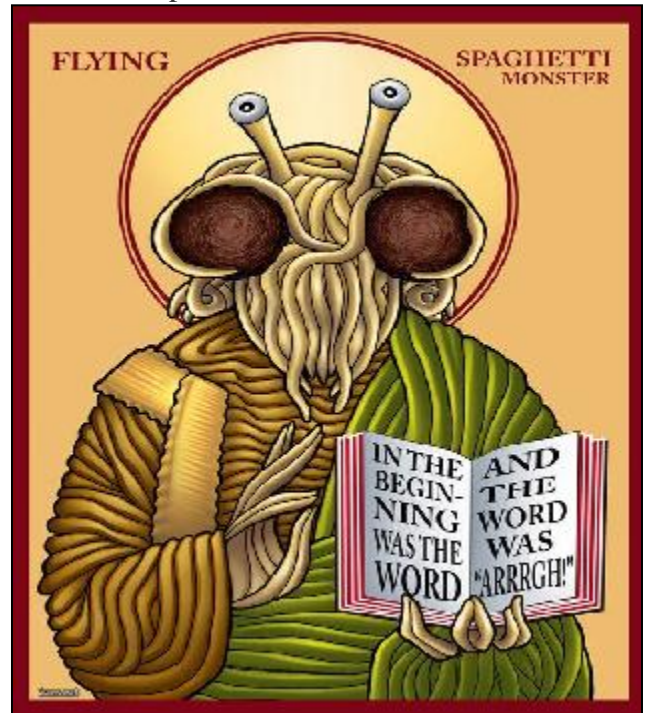
Out of darkness comes the dawning
Out of Winter comes the Spring
We sing and welcome back the light
Celebrate the year's turning



DRUID PICTURES



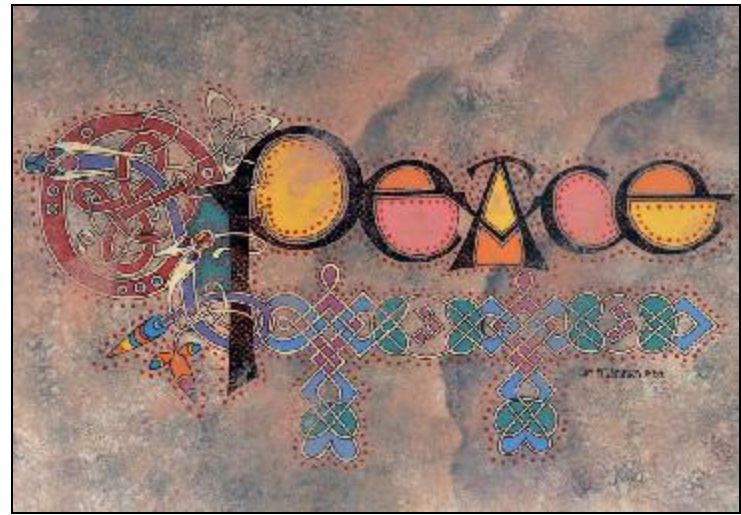
Just saying, take two and sit the woods for awhile with no computer.

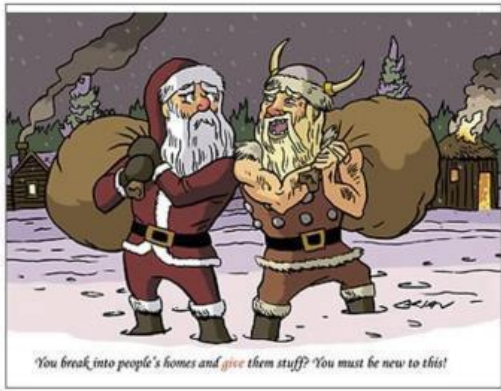


KEEP CHRIST

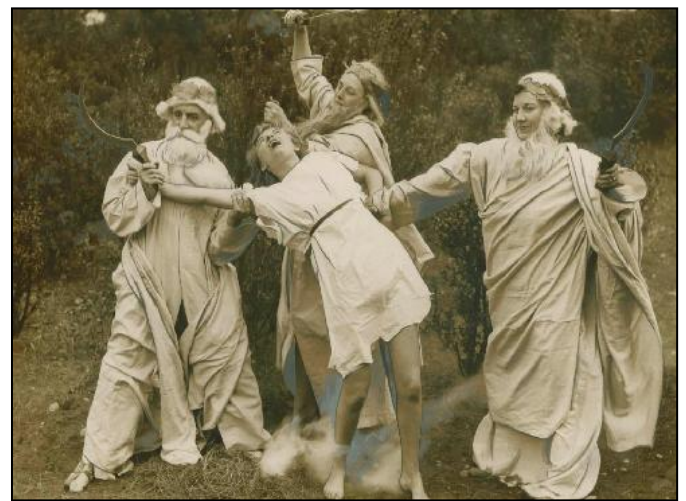


OUT OF YULE

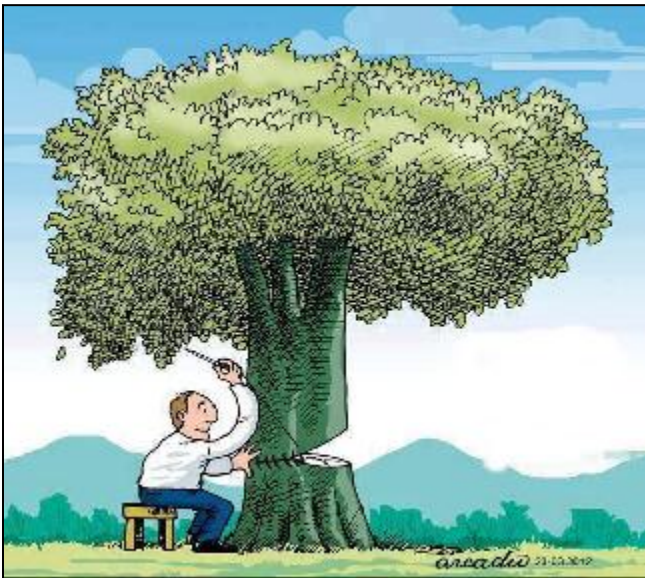




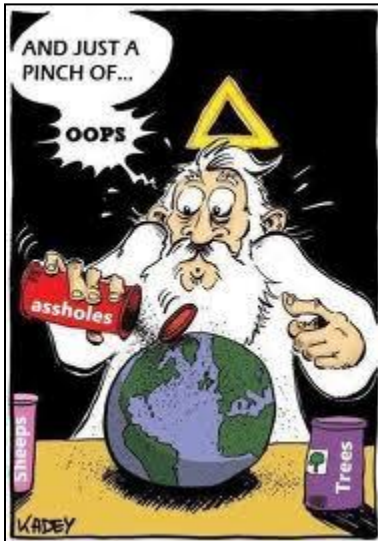
Thomas Harris



How Britains portrayed Druids in 1938.



DRUID DEBATES



Debate #1- RDNA Gods

MIKERDNA: Isn't it odd how people point out that the rdna invented Beal and Dalon Ap Landu but no one notices that we invented the Earthmother too?

Sébastien lol....

Mike TheFool slips right by

Domi I surely notice it, and we do the litany to Her each ritual, knowing full well she is not one of the traditional High Ones.

Domi Because those called upon sufficiently will come into existence, if they did not already exist! Read Isaac Bonewits on egregores!

Cid In what way? I'm fairly sure that references to the Earth-as-Divinity date back as far as the Greeks. While the RDNA might have put a bit of topspin on the "Earth mother" concept, the specific idea has been around for a long, long time.

Sébastien Indeed Cid, that is true... but Mike is talking about the way we honour her in our liturgy. hehehehehe

Sébastien He does not call himself the Fool for nothing...lol

Cid Which part of it? Can you be more specific?

Sébastien oh that would be long for me to explain... give me a minute...

Sébastien Exemple: Our liturgy calls for a "sacrifice of life".

Sébastien Water of life... I need to take out my liturgy book... lol

Sébastien ok... come on guys... need help here... anyone!?!?...lol

Sébastien ok... then... I need my book, got to go upstairs! lol

Rusty Mon It IS odd! Indeed...quite, quite odd! Who points this out, again?

Sébastien Ok... really can't find it... grrrr. But do have our Grove liturgy... will not be totally the same as the original material.

Domi When I went to Cyndie Sallee-Brown's Grove in Seattle they did "Waters of Life" and "Waters of Sleep" depending on season. Our Grove uses alcohol in the cup (and blessed spring water for those who cannot or choose not to drink, in their cups). But after Samhain, to Beltaine, we make it "And has She given forth of Her bounty?", and the response is "She has NOT, but through the wisdom of the Ancestors, we have stored up against need." And

then we go on to bless and pass the Waters. (Bryan Perrin of ADF once said to me, around a campfire at Wellspring, "You're a heretic!" and then added, "I do like that in a woman. Actually, I like that in anyone.")

Rusty Mon Can NOT find the Liturgy? Quite odd...

Sébastien hey... don't push it brother... lol

Sébastien We do not use the old stuff much in our grove. Less is more! hehehehe

Rusty Mon Old Usige? We use it all the time...the older, the more better!

Sébastien ya ya... fine... but up here we have snow...ok... lol

Sébastien Well we use it... but changed a few words here and there... but you would recognize it as RDNA...

Sébastien We do not use the word ``Bosom`` anymore in our grove... We say ``Deep within our Mother`` You see it's a Canadian thing Rusty... to be more courteous, plus I'm the only man in the grove, just sounds weird to be coming out of my mouth during rituals ... lol

Sébastien Plus among our RDNA liturgy we have added OBOD stuff and Native american material. Plus the Druid prayer in English, French and Welsh.

James wat????!!! you mean they'r not real????!!!!!!

Sébastien not real?!?!?! the bosom... you mean???? Well they can if you want them to be... that's up to you...lol

Aonarach I think James was referring to Bael and Dalon Ap Landu (as in RDNA "invented them")

John Michael I almost have the basic liturgy memorized, with two adaptations. After I say "O, Dalon Ap Landu, descend into these waters and hallow them, by the sevenfold powers [at which point I recite the names and associations of Grannos, Braciaca, Belenos, Sirona, Taranis, Llyr, Danu, which is how I interpret the sevenfold powers - correct me if I'm wrong!], by the three ways of day and one of night. give us to know thy power as we partake of thy secret essences."

Immediately thereafter, I invoke the Earth-Mother in a similar way: "O, Earth-Mother, ascend into these waters and hallow them, by thy Natural powers, by the wheel of the year, and the two basic tenets. Give us to know thy power as we partake of thy secret essences.
The Waters-of-Life!"

Lately, I've been testing the cosmic waters by then invoking Be'al in a similar fashion, which seems to have worked, but still feels a bit inconsistent and clumsy (from my end, no doubt).

John Michael If the Earth-Mother wants her bosom to not be real, and wants synthetic implants, where do we go from there? "Reformed Borg of North America - silicone is good!" haha

Jon I think the Earth Mother invented us

Oriana Out of my mouth Jon.

Stacey Our praise is carried up to thee on the wings of eagles, our voices are carried up to thee on the shoulders of the wind. Hear us now, oh our Mother, as we offer thee this sacrifice of life. Accept it we pray thee, granting us thy peace, and life. Okay, like that.

Jon Perfect and beautiful

Stacey Waters of Life used during the Season of Life (Bealtuinne to Samhain) and Waters of Sleep used during the Season of Sleep (Samhain to Bealtuinne), Domi.

Stacey And during the Season of Sleep:

D: Has the Earth Mother given forth of her bounty?

P: She has not. The Waters are there but the spirit has gone out of them. D

: Of what then do we partake?

P: The Waters of Sleep.

D: Then give me the Waters!

Stacey Just call me a traditionalist.

Oriana Traditionalist. There. Happy?

Sébastien hehehehehe

Stacey And lest ye think I'm cutting and pasting, I know the darn thing by heart.

Stacey Wait, I think it's our praise is mounted up to thee on the wings of eagles.

Thomas its good to see the rites coming to the fore again, and discussion of them in our local practice. it keeps it from being stagnant

Sébastien We used `` on the wings of birds``... you know... up here we do not want to discriminate against other birds... plus what are the odds that an eagle will fly by at that process moment! Eh?

Thomas but I will agree with both opinions concerning the Earth Mother. She was understood anciently. the RDNA style observance is unique, too. The Be'al is perhaps less easy to frame as a concept.

Stacey I think I wrote an article in the Druid Missal-Any some years back on Be'al.

Sébastien Ok... I'm back to being serious now. Sorry about that.

Sébastien Man, wish I could go to the reunion... it would be nice to see you all in person.

Stacey Are you very far from MN?

Sean I like the Earth Mother's bosoms. Lol

Jon It was during my vigil that I came to properly understand Be'al

James how come no one notices that jesus invented god?

Rusty Mon Got? More of a Germanic thang...

Dudley Did the RDNA come up with the Earthmother? World of Warcraft uses that term often in the trading card game. Look up 'gift of the earthmother'-one of my personal favorites!

James the earthmother hs been around long before the RDNA came into being

Brigid I used that term long before I ever even heard of rdna. I thought it came from a far older source...like the cave men....

Thomas I live in Oklahoma. We have bosoms of the Earth Mother all over the place. we sit amid the foothills of the Ozarks and the Ouachita Mountains

Mike TheFool Lots of previous earth doddases some like to think all categorical gods are same. gaia=ea othrrs believe all similar gods with diffetent names or variant backstories are seperate gods. that is a perspective. but the rdna basically decided to label her "Earthmother" a pronoun. thats ontologically a bit different than "Mother Nature". and then consistently used the term not really a personal name, mire of a job title i suppose. i suspect wow stole it from isaacs rpg book in essence take an idea, a few characteristics, some anthromorphizing, a name/title, a set of specific practices, and a new god is on the way. chicken and egg. when you create the concept, the concept changes and directs your refinement, and a cycle begins. see epistles of thomas the fool in apocrypha. an eath goddess is such a basic archetype, they often dont see the subtleties. i know from experience (ouch) not to assume two women in my life are identical.... worth doing an article on that one....

Mike TheFool its like whether quebecois and provencal are "french" or dialects or lamguages people will differ on classification, even experts!

Mike TheFool as for waters. there are absolutists who always or usually have "yes" replies onths of year and no for half. you have people who have "Yes" all year if not hit by lightnig. then you have people who are yes/no depending on the omen/divination each service the first is more or less traditional the sevend is semsible in places with all year growing like calif or hawaii the third is for those who are brave and willing to listen when they ask a question. no doubtr a few other options. while i like the six month model, i acknowledge emergencies and strong omens the more likely the water is to freeze overnigt the more reluctant i am to say "they floe"

Mike TheFool disappointment is humbling

Julie hey Mike don't for get we live in snowbanks and drive ski-doods....polar bears are much further north.....brr and ya it's cold

Mike TheFool depends how big your backyard goes.... does it stop with a fence or go to the arctic sea? oh now i want an ice wine and poutine!

Julie my back yard goes on and on and on

Sébastien Julie you own the freaking Ottawa river... lol

Julie ah yes and smith's creek and swamp land and marsh land and a duck pond and a puddle, just call me Fiona, Shrek is in bed sleeping....I also have a beautifull view of the Island and have access to an ascarpment and fields of green and one well known oak tree, jeez sounds like a resume!!! LOL

Sébastien Well... we are lucky that Julie shares Canada with us, she is a kind woman and landowner. She lets us squatters live on her immense property... lol.

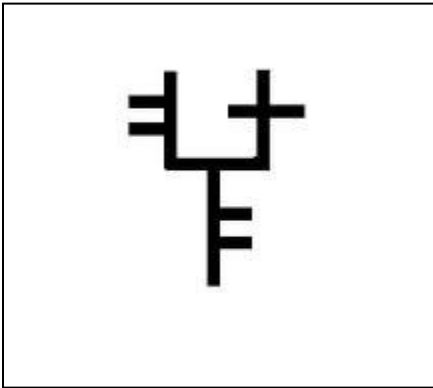
Helgaleena We did not invent the Earth Mother. No way. The others also existed previously but not by those names.

Mike TheFool whats in a name? three names by abrahamic religions has been divisive for monotheism mars and are are not quite the same nor are two earthgoddesses at least to my perspective

Helgaleena Exactly, Mike TheFool-- 'innumerable names and forms' means we have no claim to the things named, ultimately. The founders may have come up with a few out of their wizardly sleeves, but the presences to which they refer are much bigger than our little monkey brains with their human limitations.

Dudley wait - didn't the meek inherit the earth? i.e. Earthmother? so ---- THEY'RE MEEK - WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THEM and then we can say we invented it!!! lol jk of course

Mike TheFool "originality is the art of hiding one's sources" -mark twain works for divinr inspiration



Debate #2 – More RDNA Gods

Thomas -- We have two 'deities' (I use the term somewhat loosely, as I don't know that either of the personalities would consider themselves as such) that are more or less unique to the Reform: Dalon ap Landu, indeed, Landu as well, and Be'al. As we're going into our 50th year, does anyone have thoughts on them?

Thomas Especially, what are we to make of Landu?

Thomas Is he the red-headed stepchild of our mythos?

Charlton Wasn't Landu a character on the original Star Trek series?

Thomas that was Lando. he may have been related somehow.

Thomas And is there a connection between Dalon, Hu Gadarn of the Druid Revival & Nemetona of the Ancient Period, do you think?

Yossi I love both of them. Be'al I see as the Source and Dalon ap Landu as like Cernunos. Both mean a great deal to me.

Mike TheFool They seem to work well. Earthmother too. Kept a bit vague deliberately to give folks more personal liberty to imagine them.

Mike TheFool Ever notice that reformed Druidism never deified their founders?

Stacey What groups (besides Christianity) have deified their founders?

Rusty Mon Mormons...they are a Cult not closely allied with Christianity, and they make lots and lots of "Saints" that are above mortal Law.

Rusty Mon As far as making Mythical Persons (or creatures) into Gods, that is for less strong minds to play with...

Rusty Mon Nature, or as it is known "Mother Nature" is of course exempt from being a Myth!

Thomas just because something is real does not exempt it from being co-opted for purposes of myth

Debate #3 --ORDINATION CERTIFICATES



Helgaleena

I wanted to respond to Ellis about 'ordination certificates'-- my Grove doesn't believe in a paper trail. By their fruits ye shall know them as amenable to our Tenets or not. If an RDNA 3rd Order joins another group such as RDG, it should give us no special clout. A 3rd Order is perfectly capable of beginning their own Grove if they want supreme leadership status in a group. If they choos instead to hobnob with another group of Druids, it is as 'Druid Ordinaire' IMO

Mike TheFool I've found them useful for registering as a minister at local court houses when I perform a wedding. I also tell new Druids their linneage, usually orally, so that they'll forget it quickly.

Helgaleena Oh Mike, I don't know my 'lineage' at all. I just showed up and they let me be a 3rd. Carleton was so sloppy back then.

Helgaleena *well, I mean I did the Vigil and it was a valid one...

Rusty Mon U.L.C. will give ordination as "druid", so ordination does not mean much, except as Mike points out...Helga is supremely right about using it as clout, however!

David what is it with the need to "prove authenticity" or some sort of paper or electronic documentation? When did spirituality need beurocracy?Why do you need that "supreme leader"? At times I think people get a little too full of the need for legitimacy as a religion which, if we were to be honest with ourselves we will never get, most other organized religions will always snub thier noses at any type of pagan,thus I think the reason ADF has only one druid in all of northwest ohio.(thats from ann arbor, mi. to outside of lima,ohio,and fort wayne, indiana to vickery,ohio.So those paper trails may be killing us!Not just us but all pagans

Penny And yet i think druid's where recognized by the Charity Commission in the U.K. in 2010, so they are in some ways starting being taking seriously .

Thomas the Succession used to be much more integral to the Reform, and indeed to other parts of the Druid family tree. I do not honestly know whether the current tendency to disregard it is a positive or negative move on the part of contemporary Druids. there is merit in both stances on the usage.

Penny Oh absolutely, i think my roots, play a huge part, in the way i perceive things, and there is huge merit in balancing both, one of the reasons why RDNA very much appeals to me in the first place, is because of the room for growth, that essence to me is beautiful in itself.

Jess People in our day and age seem to have an obsession with 'proof' of their works via a tiny, easily-destroyed bit of paper. I've not yet formed a grove down here (I'm a little nervous because of the extreme religious orientation of my neighbors etc.) but I do firmly believe that people should be judge by what they do and how they present themselves. I have a serious disdain for bureaucracy in religious/spiritual work, but Mike is right in so far as Ordination is concerned. If you want to be recognized by the government etc. you have to have the corresponding bits of paper. Ridiculousness, thy name is paperwork. Now, what's all this about roots? Are we talking about hereditary roots in spirituality, or something else?

Charlton Roots...the part of the World Tree that delves into the chthonic.

Jess I thought Cthnoic pertained more to Greek mythology and literature . . . ?

Stacey NB: I was just kidding when I said I never got an ordination certificate. It wasn't anything we had ever considered having. (My grove came out of the Live Oak Grove which came out of the Berkeley which came out of the Carleton Grove...) That you vigiled for your Third Order was big enough. Once a Third Order our tradition was you could carry a sickle. I got gifted a beautiful staff from the AD's wife and a Sigil pendant from Mike. Those were enough for me.

Charlton The World Tree pertains to all parts of the world...even Greece.

Stacey Chthonic goes way back before Greece existed as a country.

Thomas it'd interesting that all the groups mentioned here are RDNA, or at least so closely affiliated so that most outside of us wouldn't be able to distinguish between us. Rather than view all this as schizm (no, it's not a typo, it's a pun) it might be better seen as natural diversity within our ranks as compared to any breakdown of observance competition within the Reform.

Thomas oops. I almost forgot. Since its becoming a running joke of sorts, my 'broken' line of Archdruidic Succession is from me to Sterling to some Third Order in the Reform (exact documentation is lost, but we think it was a badly documented grove of the NRDNA located in Colorado City, CO in 1982 or early 83), to the RDNA to some Carpeting. I even got a Dean of Druid Textology, though I hear DDT isn't conducive to plant growth.

Thomas To Carleton, that is. the line of descent of the Archdruidic Succession is one of the reasons I did not join. ROAHD many years ago, which was affiliated with AODA. my line of Succession traces to David Fisher, not Melchizedek.

Mike TheFool Fisher is easier to spell

Dalon 1st, the RDG considers you ALL to be *de facto* members -- the "of Gaia" is to be interpreted "of Earth" and since you are identifying yourself as a Reformed Druid, and you live on Earth....well, I think you can follow the reasoning. 2nd, RDG accepts your 2nd and 3rd Orders as equal to theirs, so that if a 3rd Order registers with RDG he or she brings that with them, and becomes a member of their NoDaL which is like your CoDaL but actually does stuff.

Sébastien chill out man... what is your problem...

Penny Yabadabadoo

Thomas to be fair, which is only just, some of the RDNA literature does list RDG. as being in AND out of the RDNA. they sort of straddle the fence. while it is a recognized stance, it can be somewhat uncomfortable to maintain.

Thomas we all love ya Ellis.

Sébastien Ellis or Dalon? I'm confused... which is which?

Jess I didn't imply that the Chthonic was not a universal idea, but I was more interested as to why the term was being used instead of perhaps Annwyn, which is the more common word I hear/read among Druids. I know I don't post here often, but I'm sincerely not enough of an idiot as to say, "Yeah, but the Greeks invented the Underworld." LOL, Why on earth would you think that was what I meant? I was asking a probing question--I thought perhaps they were hinting at Greek mythology, deities, and rituals. Just . . . I don't hear that word being used to describe the Underworld among Druids/Celtic Shamans very often, and thus my perspective is skewed.

Helgaleena If some ADF or RDG or Henge of Keltrian wants to join my Grove and they are already 3rd Order, I am still Pope of my Grove. Even if they follow paths that are part of the Reform, they are just another Druid here. Welcome, certainly, as are all benevolent beings and a few naughty ones.

Helgaleena Cthonic is not a term reserved for Greek mythology. It's for all truly troglodyte traditions.

Jess Stone I'm obviously not at all getting my point across, so I'm going to just shut up and go away.

Helgaleena No please don't go away! I just don't like pointy things

Dalon Anti-Semitic misogynist pig who left me to pay the bill. Yes I remember you well. Why are you here?

Sean I think we should really abide by the rule of Peace! Peace! Peace!

Sébastien Dalon thank you for letting me know! Indeed his comment is not welcome in this group!

Sébastien Patrick please apologize or leave this group!

Sébastien I'm giving you 5 minutes... if not i will boot you out!

Sean I think you should wait 24 hours Brother Sébastien before making that decision. let's let the emotions die down.

Sébastien Sorry tooo late !

Thomas As it was mentioned on this thread, I do not feel out of sorts bringing it up on this rather long tome of a thread. Mike mentioned, near the beginning of this thread that he found the paper ordinations helpful when registering to do weddings and so forth. I am curious if anyone has filed their paper RDNA or other Reformed Druid ordination papers with the appropriate County or State office so as to perform such services? Were they recognized? And secondly, does that infer a religious status to RDNA ordination, or does it not? There is a reason that I ask the question.

Sébastien Please state your reason Thomas!

Dalon Humboldt County accepted mine (from RDG) but California is very liberal about those kinds of things. YMMV.

Thomas Well, the Missionary Order of the Celtic Cross, which also has a Facebook page, voted in Samhain Convocation of this year to become a Church. Just as does the RDG, the MOCC has the capacity to accept Druids of other bodies as clergy, though where RDG recognizes the 2nd and 3rd Orders, the MOCC observes Full Faith and Credit with other Celtic and Druid bodies where common points of training apply. Thus, if one is ordained as a Druid in another Branch of Druidism and they wished to become a part of the clergy in the MOCC, it would not be problematic. As we've become a Church and will be pursuing at some point 501 c of some sort, knowing if our ordinations will be challenged at the county level will help us prepare for what may arise. In the past, we (like many others) simply had our ordination through the ULC for state purposes. In the future, I fully expect our own ordinations, which though evolved from what the RDNA and RDG observes (but not by much) are actually from the same Archdruidic line of succession, to be the ones put forward.

Thomas Because all of us are so interconnected and similar, it is easy to see where the circumstances encountered by one would be encountered by other Branches of the Reform.

Sébastien Well... I was ordained 3rd order by Mike TheFool!

Sean Wow, good for you. I was especially honored to be ordained by Stephen. He was my bridge to building a friendship with Isaac--something I will always cherish.

Thomas I've long gone back and forth over whether or not there would be much difference in my current status as having a 'broken' line of Archdruidic Succession or pursuing a more direct connection by having my Third Order officially 're-done' or confirmed. I admit that I would prefer to have either Mike TheFool, Stacey or another similar person put me through the vigil if it were to be re-done. But the positive aspect of it being such as it is goes to validate others in the Reform who also have such 'broken' lines.

Thomas I once received a short note from Isaac, handwritten. It was the handwriting I would've expected from him. Grand and bold, but simple and clear.'

Sébastien I love your sincerity Thomas!

Sébastien Good old Isaac!

Thomas <studied handwriting analysis many moons ago

Sean TheDruid having had several conversations with Isaac, I am happy to see that you had a connection with him. I loved him as a druid, and i miss him very much. He gave a reading for my newborn son that i will never forget. I was proud in the small part I had helping Phaedra in burying his ashes at Yosemite.

Thomas I'm too old to not be sincere, Sébastien, duplicity takes twice the time to get the point across.

Sébastien Thomas don't give up, I'm sure you don't need a walker yet! lol

Thomas Isaac is one of my heroes, always has been. If history says nothing else of him, it will make note that the man had great big, gargantuan cocoanut b....

Thomas No, but occasionally I do use a cane

Sébastien Sorry about the cane... but I do agree with you about Issac. There is many more Issac's around, some will become also icons. Oh... I occasionally use crutches.

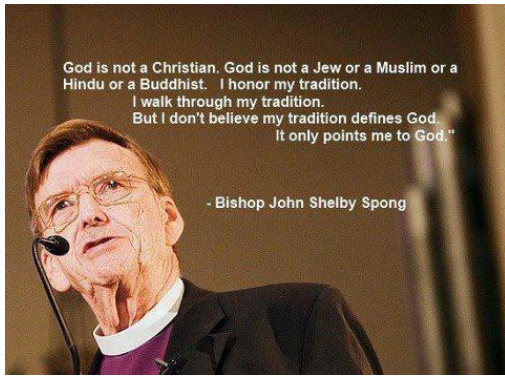
Thomas It makes me realize that some of us are getting up in years a wee bit. I often wonder how history will wind up looking upon my service as a Druid. Already, I've seen my work be the subject of footnotes, and a remarkable number of people have had dreams in which "I" appear over the years, doing teaching. In time, I wonder what will become of these footnotes and visions, which I'm sure will eclipse the work I'm actually doing.

Sébastien Thomas, I always say that no one lives a life in vain. We are all part of something great.

Thomas It reminds me of the old Seth channellings and the concept of the oversoul.

Thomas I wonder, has anyone tried to file a RDNA 3rd Order ordination in the portions of the country in which I live, also known as the Buckle of the Bible Belt?

Helgaleena For ordinations, I welcome others to get 'certified' with the civil authorities if they wish, but I never have. As for weddings, I insist on those I marry that they get their license separately and merely 'celebrate' with them. It's my personal choice...See More



Debate #4 Describe Your Druidism

Sébastien

In you own druidry which belief do you incorporate into your tradition? Do practice monotheist, pantheists or animism? Are you Universalist, Agnostic, Gnostic or Buddhist? This is just a fun survey!

Thomas yes.

Sébastien If I forgot... if I missed any other beliefs please share!

Mark Totemistic Animism myself

Brighde I think I'm closest to animism....each being on earth (including rocks and other so-called non-sentient beings) has its own spirit. But I worship Mystery....we can't KNOW, we can only choose the story we prefer to tell ourselves about the nature and purpose of existence. The story I usually tell myself is that the Mystery pervades and comprises all the myriad things and that there is a deep unity among it all. And simultaneously, each myriad thing is separate and distinct and has its own indwelling soul/spirit. Paganism is a comfortable overlay on that for me. I realize that sounds ambiguous and paradoxical. Yes. If it doesn't carry a seed of paradox, it isn't True....IMNVHO. That's why I call it Mystery.

Sébastien Mark, had look it up.... wow that is very appealing!

Thomas Cherokee Traditionalism and any number of Christian sects. I've often described Druidism as Celtic Universalism

Yossi panentheist and Nightkind (I am a Reformed Druid)

Sébastien Brighde, love it!

Sébastien oh... ok, got it Yossi! You had me thinking there!

Yossi Panentheism is a belief system which posits that the divine (be it a monotheistic God, polytheistic gods, or an eternal cosmic animating force), interpenetrates every part of nature and timelessly extends beyond it.

Mark Thanks Sébastien Beaudoin...!!!

My Father is Scots-Irish and my Mother is Mexican-American... and in order to follow something that equates to both of them I decided to go back to about 500 BCE and adopt an Animal Totem Deity-based belief system...

Using the background from the Selkies in the Hebrides and the Mayans in the Yucatan I have found a workable 'middle ground' which I am able to use to venerate both of my Ancestral backgrounds.

I have incorporated both using what little we know of the Celti-Iberians from the north of Spain (they are among the oldest known followers of Epona in her original Animal form)...

Charlton I'm an agnostic pantheist.

Sébastien I love the term 'middle ground'

Charlton Middle Earth?

Sébastien Practicing both agnosticism and pantheism how do you do that? I'm very eager to learn!

Charlton "I think everything might be god(s), but I'm not going to claim that as truth for everyone"

Charlton Depends on how you define 'god.' There's no good definition of that term.

Kirk I'm a polytheist, with some animist leanings, I'd say.

Sébastien Indeed... ``God`` or Divine is for me to big to define

Charlton So to presume to know what Gods are, and whether they exist, and what they want, is to me the height of arrogance.

Sébastien Thanx Kirk, forgot Polytheist!

Sébastien Nicely said Charlton! I would agree with that!

Thomas if people try to display god in a box, God winds up looking like a pet rock.

Sébastien But, in the druidic philosophy, it is comen to accept that the ultimate truth does not exist but yet Druids and Druidesses quest is to ever seek it. Could someone explain this? I have always had a lot to trouble explaining this even if I understand it!

Sean I suppose if I was to charactorize my own belief, it would lean toward pantheist. It would have to depend on my mood that day.

Yossi As some have said here, the "ultimate end" -- God, gods, Source - is beyond our minds. We never stop going forward, for it is about the journey. The word, "Namaste" teaches us that we are god. As Druids, it is about ever learning and growing. Some call this evolution, but whatever one calls it, it is seen in the universe itself. My Reformed Druid life is not about having all of the answers...it is about asking questions and ever seeking. This is why life and what is to come becomes so joyous. Namaste!

Sébastien hahahahahahaha... that is so funny, but it's make a lot of sens Sean!

Sébastien Yossi... that is beautiful... thank you!

Yossi You are welcome. May we all be unified.

Sébastien In druidry! yes!

Charlton //But, in the druidic philosophy, it is comen to accept that the ultimate truth does not exist but yet

"There are no absolute truths." <<Is this an absolute truth?

Sébastien hehehehehe good one there Charlton !

Sébastien But yet we do have each our own truths... hehehehehe

Oriana Agnostic Buddhist Pagan

Charlton Druidry has been called "Western Buddhism"

Oriana No gods only philosophy the quest to rise above all forms of suffering, and to promote peace and hurt no living thing by following the eight fold path. My pagan is not labelled but more general and lacks in a desire for

formality, structure, paid services, removal of tax liability, brick and mortar and RULES. Not religious, SPIRITUAL. And spirituality is personal.

indigenous cultures over the past 15 years. Those that resonate the most are Australian Aboriginal tribal cultures, Native American culture, ancient celtic/greek culture and the mixing of all of the european peoples thru history. Also fascinating to me is the Indian and Hindu cultures including Tibetan Buddhism. I guess Im a 'native culture gypsy'- picking things I like from all over. And firm in my belief that 'Nature is Good.'
I have studied many

Tony I would have to say I'm more Shinto than anything else. I honour my ancestors who came before and the spirits in the land and my travels

Sébastien "Western Buddhism" lovely term!

Charlton "If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice." -Neil Peart

Sébastien 'native culture gypsy' love it Oriana!!!! I might be wrong, but i think we all pick things we like from all over. Druidry is much about that... well that's me...

Sébastien wow... shinto druid... that iswow... love it!

Penny Young i use to think that i was a duo-theist, but now i find myself, hovering with pantheist and animist, and pagan to me is just an umbrella term, i guess i have changed so much over the last year, i need time for the dust to settle again LOL. This for me has much to do with my experiences with O.B.O.D..For me druidry isn't one thing, it looks to all resources and is constantly evolving and growing. It is living spirituality, with echoes from the past

Sébastien True Penny, I think this is what unites us all as Druids, no matter our traditions (RDNA, OBOD, ADF and every other druidic groups).

Jay I think some of these Gods are only as real as Luke Skywalker and Harry Potter...but seeing the huge, often very positive influence those characters have had on my kids, I think that is enough. I am pretty sure that memories of old Gods and old ways were waiting for me in my DNA, but it's a long story. For me, good stories are good enough and I want to write my own with my family and friends to help me.

Ross Pantheist here but willing to learn about the rest of them. All of us are students because we never stop learning, at least I hop so anyway.

Julie every living thing is a Diety, so that makes me?????

Kim Everything I believe is a working hypothesis until the next hypothesis comes along.

Julie christian, but don't do the dogma, believe in creationism, evolutionism, animism and rebellion so that makes me "confuckled"!!!

Patrick Pantheism (every living thing is diety) is an OMS dogma ("Thou art God") and frankly has no place in Druidry. The ancient Druids did not ascribe to this idea -- they believed in the gods - lot's of them, and they believed in sacrifices and service to the gods, not that they were gods. Along with "naturalism" (another idea recently adopted by OMS). This is all part of "New Age" "Wicca with Trees" Druidism, the kind promoted by the pseudo-Druids, like OMS/RDG. Frankly makes me want to vomit.

Charlton The ancient Druids also practiced human sacrifice, so maybe in the interest of historical accuracy, we should revive that as well.

Oriana @ Patrick - you will find that RDNA is a rare find. No prescribed dogma. Only the search for truth which is never ending. You will find that RDNA members come in all shapes and sizes and do not give a flying farfegnugen about holier than thou judgement wielding labels....
And as non-theistic as I am. I do occassionally love me some fluffy bunnies.

Penny "pseudo-Druids" ? Think you might find that most people here, are speaking from experience, whether new to the path, or having been around for quite some time, in that chain of thought we all experience and learn thinks at different times

Mike TheFool Animistic Shinto, increasingly ancestor oriented, Gaelic inspired, curious of Nordic, respectful of native American beliefs in the ground, moderate environmentalist, non-activist, inveterate lover of stories quotes and superstitions. Permanently stamped by Catholicism but steeled by scientific skepticism to keep religion only in areas of art, metaphor, opinion and feelings. Having seen all the worlds lessons on wisdom, I can offer no excuses for my continued foolishosity and slothful materialistic hankerings A typical mess but an interesting mush mash. Filled with hopes to serve others, had I the time.

Mike TheFool Reformed Druidism is one of the few groups able to contain me

Stephen Christian, influenced by Quaker thought, with heaping portions of "never stop learning but if you do, please fall over so we know you are dead" and "do your own thinking", all liberally seasoned with scepticism. But I don't recall that I have ever tried growing a tradition. Druidry for me is more a way to look at the world, a way of being or relating.

Alix Patrick's path seems to include a great deal of vomit I have noticed, which is unfortunate... Others choose to honor all of creation as "god-like" or renderings of a Divine/Creative Force... Others might be less judgmental and allow for the many variations that we might find in this "new age" of Druids. There is no "right" or "wrong" way to approach our own spiritual path as it is revealed to us, as we each may choose to practice it..

There are a great many "Truths" floating about... We each carry what is True for us... Each Tradition or Practice generally includes principles or applications that are True for them... Mankind is often convinced of the Truth as it is revealed to them...

The Truth of all that exists remains True no matter what we might glimpse of it... I do not believe any one person is capable of fully Knowing all that is True. But I truly believe in a path that seeks this Greater Truth above all else.

Tully We're all MODERN Druids (or New Age Druids, if you prefer) there's not a single Paleo-Druid around today. We are all in the here and now, plain and simple. IMHO, for anyone who calls themselves a Druid to attack and debase another's beliefs just shows how far away from being any sort of Druid.

Thomas I have you know I'm both pale and a Leo

Thomas Wait, that would make me a Pale Leo Druid, woudn't it?

Dudley I believe in the divine trinity. Yugi Moto - Pharoah Atem and The Heart of the Cards

Sébastien I'm loving everyone's post... this is great! I have learned a lot from everyone. Sorry I did not reply earlier...was out at a Chistmas party

Cid I know of the shattered Creator, the "gods" of our ancestors and of the modern world, the divinity of the Mother and the spirits that dwell within all things.

George We try to treat all life forms somewhat the same no matter where in the Veils or Power Curve they may be. TDK

Patrick I don't claim to be a Druid. A Druid is a Priest. What you folks have created is a religion consisting entirely of Priests, which is an impossibility. A joke, and a kind of a slap in the fact to those of us who take Celtic spirituality seriously.

Dalon You've obviously never heard of the Religious Society of Friends aka Quakers. ALL quakers are ministers and they've been around since the 1600s. Still an impossibility?

Sébastien That is your opinion Patrick... even if I do not agree with you... I can still respect yours. If this group does not suit your needs and wants please move on to another group that might. Please respect everyone's here! If not you will be booted out! That is all I can answer you!

Dalon And now you've met your first Celtic Reconstructionist. Has he played the "cultural genocide" card yet? That's what they usually accuse us of.

Sean Hold on there. I consider myself Celtic Recon and have never picked a fight online. I am very close friends with many in the CR scene and I really don't appreciate that comment at all.

Sébastien Dalon.... we do wish peace here... Patrick did go over the line... please do not push the wrong buttons....

Dalon Patrick is the only one I've met, so it's actually refreshing to here that they don't all share his attitudes. I didn't mean to offend you Sean, but if you hang out at all on the Celtic Recon group here on Facebook you'll meet others of the same ilk as Patrick.

Sean d It's all good, so shall we have peace?

Dalon Peace! Peace! Peace!

Thomas Peace

Sébastien I sure hope so.... man....lol

Sébastien Sorry about that Dalon!

Thomas Hear Hear

Sébastien I do try to keep the right-wing-extremist out. This one slip trough! They are a sneaky bunch! I do want to protect people's dignity and want this group to be a safe place to share. Sorry all!

Dalon Not to be picky, but shouldn't it be "Heddwch! Heddwch! Heddwch!" or "Síochána! Síochána! Síochána!"? Now I'm playing devils advocate. lol!

Sébastien ooooook... now back to sharing. lol

Thomas I do owe Dalon a nod. I had previously considered the possibility that Dalon was Ellis under an assumed persona. Several Druids of different schools of thought do that to present different angles on their opinion, and I thought this might have been another such case. It's good to see that you are actually two distinct personalities.

Dalon I appreciate that Thomas. FYI, I also play "Cywarch merch Dalon" so I am sort of a troll but don't mind admitting it. When I write Dalon's blog I try to go into deep meditation, and write what I think he would say, or what I think he is saying. I haven't written in some time though. School is hard and my field is calculus heavy and I've never been that good with calc, so I don't really have a lot of time. In fact, I should be cracking the books right now.

Sébastien When everyone will understand the norm and protocol within this group, things will get much better!

George Nicely Put Thomas! LOL

Tully I happen to also consider myself a Celtic Recon to some extent (and YES I feel there can be degrees of doing so) and take it QUITE seriously. I do also take offense in the fact of what others and myself practice being called a joke. I know whence I have come, tis not hard to say...From the heel of a sage, from a confluence of wisdom, from perfections of goodness, from brightness of sunrise, from the hazels of poetic art, from circuits of splendor, out of which they measure truth according to excellence, in which righteousness is taught, in which falsehood sets, in which colors are seen, in which poems are freshened. So, shall Bricriu bemoan even more at the loss of his hall, Patrick ?

Sébastien Tully... Dalon has apologized, she understood that she over reacted. Can we move on now?

Tully I was not responding to Dalon, I was responding to Patrick. If it is now against board policy to respond with ones own thoughts and feelings in regards to comments such as the ones made, kindly remove me from this list

Penny Geez guy's kicking off again, never a dull moment here, glad to see where all being loving again

Jay Druids fightin' and fussin' - but iif 99% of my neighbors are right, and Jesus is the only way to the Father...then all of our opinions are wrong anyway...so maybe we best be fixin' to get on down to the Church of God of The Living Water of the Four Gospels...if we hurry we can get parking, and a seat up front and make that altar call, Praise God....and I can't find my car keys, oh Glory! Guess I'll HAVE to stay home...

Cheryl Good question... The way I generally roll is, Ancestors first, animals and Nature Spirits second, and then the Gods, or gods..... Never got around to tacking a label on all that....LOL

Jay Bishop Spong's Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalists should be required reading by the way...

Jay (He's the dude in the pic at the start of this thread)

Sébastien Is it really that hard???? This was just to introduce the topic and indeed, I do admire Bishop Spong for stepping out of the box of church dogma and to speak from his heart. Again... please respect peoples opinions in here. It is place to share openly with out fear of prejudice or disrespect. It is common sens people....

Charlton LOL...Celtic Reconstructionists...the fundamentalists of the Druid realm.

Charlton // I don't claim to be a Druid. A Druid is a Priest. What you folks have created is a religion consisting entirely of Priests, which is an impossibility. A joke, and a kind of a slap in the fact to those of us who take Celtic spirituality seriously.//

I take Celtic spirituality very seriously. That's how I know that CR is full of crap.

So Patrick, what are your qualifications to make pronouncements upon the nature of Celtic spirituality?

Charlton Incidentally, not all Druids were priests, so you've already made at least one error.

Sébastien Just to let you all know Patrick has been booted out do to his prejudice and racist remarks.

Sébastien So just drop it.... it was just one man views of his wolrd.

Charlton I must've missed those remarks...thank the Goddess.

Sébastien I erased them in respect of Dalon

Jay A religion of priests...that seems to be neo-paganism's biggest problem - vanity. All of these 19 year old girls who claim to be High Preistesses of their coven...everyone wanting to do magick but not wanting to study...it's like people who ask me if I'm hiring (it's a highly specialized position)...and when I tell them they need to get some experience somewhere else 1st, they get all pissy.

Charlton Yup, 'Lord' and 'Lady' so-and-so. I find it amusing, but that's one of the reasons the BMDO has a five-year education program. If you're not patient enough for the five years, you're not patient enough for clergy.

Sébastien ok... what does this have do with the topic on hand? really???? Read the question on top... we are not talking about what you think is right or wrong.

Jay Right you are...and it was supposed to be a "fun survey!" I guess what I believe in most is PATIENCE. Like they say in AA, more will be revealed...I'm not a 12 Stepper, but that is good advice for anyone...

Charlton LOL...yup, so Sebastien...do you think this discussion is wrong?

In my practice, I incorporate patience. In our Order, we incorporate a great deal of education. Sorry if that doesn't fit your idea of what's 'right' for this thread.

Apologies...

Alix - I think that this discussion is certainly been highjacked a few times and Sébastien is doing his best to moderate and keep it on topic. Dissing other traditions was NOT a part of the original topic, Charlton/Jay.. and already folk have been booted off this list for that very same type of prejudicial and racist remarks..

Charlton Alix...so basically you're being prejudiced against me for answering the question? Why are you 'dissing' my tradition?

Sébastien Charlton... last warning... drop it... or get out!

Charlton Sebastien...do you really think I'd like to be part of a group run by bigots?

Sébastien sorry... have your fun elsewhere buddy... by by!

Sébastien bigot??? no I'm not... just being a good admin... lol

Sébastien What is amazing in all this we have in this group other admins from other Druid and pagan groups that are helping me to sort out the trouble makers.

Sébastien People have taken the good nature this group for granted. Enough is enough!

Rusty Mon You have sorted it out just fine!

Oriana Who you callin trouble maker ?

Sébastien Thank you Rusty!

Sébastien Oriana

Sébastien Everything will be back to normal... we are having at this moment technical behavioural difficulties.
lol

Mark To paraphrase Cheryl Feather..."Ancestors first, Nature Spirits Second and Deities afterward" is EXACTLY how I do what I do.

Perhaps stated in a different fashion; The Deities are always here and nothing we do can make them go away, the Land Spirits are present upon the Land on which you find yourself and you cannot make them leave either... but your Ancestor Spirits can very easily be forgotten or simply not spoken of enough.... and in doing so they are diminished a little bit each time.

So in this time of Kith & Kin gathering around fire places and pianos perhaps, take the time to tell someone about a long lost Grand Parent perhaps and your Ancestors will smile down upon you from behind whatever garland you have draped over your mantelpiece...

Julie yes our elses hold many secrets if we do not talk about them it stays that way....

Rusty Mon Mighty Ones, Great Ones, Shining Ones...it leaves little out, and the Imagination can fill in the rest. Find what resonates, but keep the Door open a bit, for "new things".

Oriana Old and new. New Christmas brunch w family vs Christmas dinner. And Stollen for Christmas and Oliebollen for New Years. Just like my dutch geandmother taught me.

Julie I have instilled in my kids the importance of their grandparents and they do listen intently to their stories and it provides them with part of their identity....I nurture this in my kids

Mark I think this was the cornerstone of my two kids (age 27 and 25 now)... we had a Family Crest over the mantle piece and they were raised to do things "that honored the family name and lineage"
December 9 at 11:12am · Like · 4

Oriana We dont have a lineage. But I do believe in family. And in our family its the people we choose (or as an adoptee choose us) that create family.

Julie Oriana no greater truth on families has ever been found, I've adopted and been adopted into wonderful supportive peoples lives some of my genetic family is still there but your right family is a wonderful thing to hold dear <#

Julie learn from those who've walk before us

Sébastien love that term Oriana!

Sébastien ok... I'm wishing you a great Sunday, it's my family day!!!!

John Michael One thing I've learned over the last three years is that I won't discredit someone's spiritual

Though to be honest, it is sometimes difficult to have the same outlook towards religious extremism or draconian fund...See More

In Memory of Zagradovka
zagradovka.blogspot.com

Julie I like the live and let live, love and be loved and learn all the lessons no matter how hard, thank you, John



Debate #5 -- Christians and Nature

Julia

I'm in a conversation with a few Christians, trying to help them see that the Earth is our home and we must all do our best to take care of it, and make it a happy place to live. But they don't seem to understand me, let alone believe what I say...

Charlton You might point out that even the Bible says that humans were created to care for the Garden.

Charlton Genesis 2:15 (KJV): And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Julia That's one of the points I have brought up - they're saying that Heaven is home, not Earth...

Charlton Then they obviously haven't read the Bible.

Charlton There's also Jesus's parable of the workers in the vineyard

Julia I'm trying to remember which one that is...

Charlton "For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who was the master of a household, who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. He went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace. To them he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. About the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle. He said to them, 'Why do you stand here all day idle?'

"They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.'

"He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right.' When evening had come, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.'

"When those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. When the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise each received a denarius. When they received it, they murmured against the master of the household, saying, 'These last have spent one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat!'

"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Didn't you agree with me for a denarius? Take that which is yours, and go your way. It is my desire to give to this last just as much as to you. Isn't it lawful for me to do what I want to with what I own? Or is your eye evil, because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 20:1-16

Charlton You might have to stretch it a bit, but...

Charlton Ooops...wrong one...hang on...

Charlton It was the parable of the talents, not of the vineyard...

Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Charlton It's about money, but the concept is to take care of what you've been given (the Earth)

Julia Just put that quote from Genesis down, they've hit a stumbling block because there have been no replies yet...

Julian Good luck getting them to engage with you at all. On the rare occasion that they do, they usually they feign not understanding, and if you try to help them understand, you will get accused of being an elitest intellectual.

George Did not know so many Pagans where into S&M. Tess better to talk to a rock than a Fool. TDK

Charlton Spanish and Mexican?

Julian Hahahaha, Charlton. Seriously though, George has a point. When I became pagan 10 years ago after leaving the church, I couldn't wait to "educate" my Christian friends on the realities of paganism. I have yet to have that conversation with any of them. Seriously -- they have evasion down to an art.

Charlton They just don't want their carefully constructed realities challenged. I've learned to leave them alone except when their intolerance starts infringing on my rights or the rights of others.

Sadwynn you cannot assist in the enlightenment of someone who is not ready or not willing to be enlightened.

Maggie Leave them be, or you become a "fundy" yourself.

Jill surely the whole meaning of paganism is that we don't convert as we hold no text to convert to

Charlton Nature is my text.

Niall The Problem with Christians is that they have been sold an insurance Policy. Half of which states that the Earth, animals, Slaves, Minerals were given to us by 'God' [says so in the book] the other half of the policy is that if you play by 'the rules', you will be granted eternal life, failure to comply is of course a horrible reality..Keeps 'em Buying..Poor Sods..Ye can't expect them to respect anything..

George LOL during the Presidential elections a Pagan (Troll) called me a Staff thumber, just before blocking me.

Julia Still no reply to my Genesis quote yesterday...

George Perhaps they are busy casting lots for your bones.

Mike TheFool you need to tap into the writings of environmental stewardship in christian literature as above, abrahamic religions seek to leave behind this world for a paradise somewhere else this world is disposable to them personally. no reincarnation or return to nature for their soul. if they are judgement day followers with body re-integration by gods magic, they are perfectly logical to assume god will wave a hand and fix all the environmental crap. third, there isnt much textual basis that animals trees and rock have spiritual rights to monotheistic theology- they are things - maybe pets excluded to most commoners. thus warm-fuzzies aside, the case to monotheists is that environmental degradation is

- 1 an insult to the artistry of god
- 2 until the second coming a dying environment will bring great social hardship and suffering to gods children
- 3 bad environment cant support room for more people (which they can evangelize)
- 4 the downspiral will rob church coffers of donations as people pay higher costs of adaptation.

Julia I was a Christian for 16 years and Mike, what you say is true of many Christians I have been in contact with. To them the earth doesn't matter - it's a kind of proving ground to see who will 'go to Heaven' and who won't...so therefore maybe they feel no responsibility for it? It's true that while I was a Christian I often got ragged at for never having children, since I see the world as being overpopulated and many people are without food - yet they kept posting links saying no, that's not true, carry on breeding, there's plenty of room for us all...

George Well perhaps Hell is very large as so many of them seem to be putting creative energy into it.

Julia I met a Catholic who told me that their church estimated that 85% of people go to Hell, 10% go to purgatory (second proving ground after earth) and 5% go to Heaven...

Mike TheFool many may actually embrace dire weather and strife, as portents of apocalypse and the coming great afterlife, not the best audience to talk with in that scenario. assuming they dont believe they are going to be raptured from this rotting planet any hour now, you could appeal (by passing religion) their concern for their children and nations economic welfare. we gather great profit from nature's bounty and "free" minerals extracted solely at the cost of labor. as with mothers and wives, those unpaid labor costs, are the very basis of our economy. if we repaid just a fraction of what we take, it would greatly improve conditions. yet we aim for max profits short term, esp. when we believe others will share the costs.

Mike TheFool the other problem is that agricultural festivals and customs - with their carryover of earth concern-arent part of modern church religious calendars since no one farms. those calendar are about historical milestones

of great men, politics, wars, theological inspirational breakthroughs and other man-centered dates. nature's cycles do not threaten our survivals, except the occasional disaster and camping accident. if american crops fail, we will buy them overseas. if we want an orange in january, we can have it. clocks tell time, not the sun and moon. you cant make people care about nature if they dont depend on it, fear it, know it, and thus respect it on a base material level, much less a spiritual exalted level.

Maggie Why not take religion OUT of the discussion....

Julia That's true Mike, people have lost touch with the cycles of nature...

Mike TheFool so you can argue economic sense, social costs, compassion for humans and their souls, even if they wont give you any common ground for textual spiritual environmentalism. but you can also try experiential religion. i.e. havent you ever felt "god" when you leave behind the racket of cities and tech distractions, and are in the wilderness, surrounded only by gods handiwork, not the crass work of man? dont you want to keep that avenue of finding god as an option for others? muhammed, jesus, mooses and other monotheists found great revelation while in raw nature too. the great revival in the 18th century happened after a walk in the woods. thats another tact to try. goodluck! i hope that helps. if they wont listen, the shake the pesticide dust off your sandals at them and go try elsewhere

Julia Good advice Mike, and thanks

Sean I have long ago stopped wasting my breath. It's difficult enough trying to get ourselves (pagans and druids) to get along and try to agree with each other without trying to make closed minded people understand our points of view..

Russell Be sure to lock your door at night, and if "somebody" calls your work and tells them you are a pagan, well, do not talk to strangers, or fundies.

Charlton True. I've already had to quit one job due to religious discrimination. But then, I live in the Bible Belt.

Julia That must be so hard for you Charlton! Sorry to hear about the job!!

Carlos The problem with many christian is that they feel they are above everything in this world, that they can do as they want cause this is a temporary existence and is not important how they abuse the planet and resources.

Carlos And Charlton I know the feeling of religious discrimination, experience that 2yrs ago when I decided to finally change my religious pref on my ID Tags, for months I heard all kind of comments and jokes about me being a Druid.

Charlton Well, it turned out well in my case. I was able to go into private practice instead. Much more rewarding!

Mike TheFool well let mother nature talk to them then

Mike TheFool but id add most christians can talk about the environment with orthodox christian blinders partially retracted . worth a try, because it is so necessary.

Charlton On a positive note, I read recently that even conservative Christians are starting to believe that global warming exists.

Julia For them to wake up is good news Charlton...not the 'good news' they want everyone to hear about, but a sense of responsibility...



Debate #6 ---- Ordinations

Ellis --Question concerning the RDNA 3rd Order: Someone has joined the RDG claiming to be an RDNA 3rd Order. I don't know this guy from Adam, so how can I confirm his claim? Is there a list maintained at Carleton that I can review? He has submitted a copy of his ordination certificate, but how do I ascertain it's authenticity? We have on file other RDNA ordination certificates (well, 3 to be exact) but they are all different. Apparently you folks don't have a standard form you use.

Brandon I'd try to find the grove he claims to be from and ask someone there, most of the groves are listed on the RDNA site, if no one backs his claim, he's lying, if they do, then that's your proof.

Sean Mike TheFool should have an up to date list.

Cid Standard forms would be dogmatic.

John if the grove he was initiated through has since disbanded, that would make it rather difficult to contact other grove members for verification. I've also tried communicating with the current Carleton arch druid, but 3 months on i am still awaiting reply.

Mike TheFool Send me a message to keep his privacy

Stacey I'm interested too. If a grove was disbanded you might still be able to track down the person who ordained him. The Apostolic Succession does have its uses.

Charlton Hmm...brings to mind another thought...maybe my Order (Black Mountain Druid Order) should work out some sort of exchange program with RDNA proper so students in one Order get credit in other Orders. Sort of an 'exchange program.'

Sébastien He should have his certificate of ordination proving his 3rd order and his RDNA lineage

Sébastien RDNA does not give away titles.... you have to earn yourself up to the 3dr. A rite of passage is a ritual or event that marks a person's transition from one status to another within RDNA.

Sébastien We have a system of apprenticeship, similar to the freemasons. Oops... I did it again.... I mentioned the Masons. I should be more careful...

Sébastien Sean has been initiating many ADF members. They all have to go through the torture and pain of RDNA initiation and ordinations. It is really hard to dolol

Sébastien Just give us the names of his lineage on his certificate. Someone should know one of them. It should not trouble him because the admins of this group are all brothers and sisters.

Sébastien Or invite him to join this group and we will size him up for ya!!!!... lol

Charlton all Darn those Druid Illuminati

Sébastien Charlton, you can create an association with a sister grove in RDNA and work out some sort of exchange. We have been doing this with another grove that is not RDNA; we did help a grove by sharing our

grove concept and experiences in order to help them out. RDNA can initiate and ordain your members and your Order can do the same for ours. But everyone has to respect the traditions of each group. But again this is not RDNA responsibilities; it only belongs to each grove initiatives.

Sébastien But there is a solution to long distant initiations and ordinations. But one has to prove that he or she is really interested in becoming an RDNA druid and is not only looking in gaining the titles quickly. The Candidate needs to truly want to be part of the whole process. It takes a longer time, and one has to be patient.

Charlton Is Mike still 'in charge' of RDNA? Our educational materials are online, and we pretty much have the same standards. From Dedicant Path to Bard, Ovate or Druid is a five year process.

Sébastien If you have similar standards, well it should be easy. The only problem would be is if your group asks for money to join. But you would have to find a 3rd order druid and grove that will be willing to this kind of exchange. This does not fall under RDNA structure as such, but it is possible within a grove structure. Because it is not RDNA that gives out initiations or ordinations, it is only 3rd order druids that can do so.

Charlton We don't charge money to join. The Dedicant Path course is free. Subsequent courses are \$9.95 per month, but there's a scholarship program as well. I think there's a 3rd Order Grove that might be willing.

Charlton By the way, I do a podcast called 'Druid Nation.' Is there someone from RDNA who might be willing to be interviewed?

Sébastien Mike is only ``in charge`` of himself. No one can be in charge or speak in the name of RDNA, each grove is kind of independent of each other, even from the Mother Grove... sounds strange to non RDNA druids. Mike acts more like our ``custodian`` and as facilitator.

Sébastien But any RDNA 2nd and 3rd order druid can speak of the structure and how RDNA works.

Charlton Good...next one I don't have scheduled yet is for Imbolc. Any takers?

Sébastien I would ... that's if you don't mind my french canadian accent

Charlton LOL...might be a refreshing change from my Southern twang.

Stacey Yes, I agree with Sebastien. No one is in charge of the RDNA. Mike is the historian and has done a tremendous job of assembling all the liturgy, writings, history. Each grove is self governing. There is no head of the RDNA or Archdruid of the organization.

Ross I prefer it that way. I have nothing but the utmost love and respect for Mike.

Sébastien I believe it is the same opinion from pretty much everyone in RDNA. Mike has done and still does a lot for us. Although, I also believe he does it for himself. Cheers Mike and thank you!!!!

Mike TheFool Rather than custodian, I prefer the title janitor of the reform or sanitary engineer. Ranting mad fool works too.

Mike TheFool Sanitarium engineer?

Stacey Or how about Sanatorium engineer?

Ellis I was always under the impression that the Carleton AD was in charge. No?

Stacey Nope.

Ellis Mike TheFool: "Sanitarium" sounds a lot like "Santorum" (as in Rick) and you most definitely don't want to go there. LOL!

Ellis So then, Carleton Grove being the designated "Mother Grove" of RDNA carries no weight? It's just an honorary thing then?

Sébastien The term Mother Grove is given to Carleton because it is the place of our birth. Other than that, the Mother Grove is as much as equal to any other grove.

Sébastien Carleton druids are keeping with tradition on campus and it is much appreciated.

Sébastien Mother Grove is much more than honorary. One needs to read and research deeper in order to understand why.

Mike I They lead by example, like the way a bowl is useful from its emptiness. One will never fear a dictatorship from Carleton, they are too busy to be busy.

Ellis Brother Sebastien (reminds me of a song): I have read, more than once, the entire ARDA -- even the boring parts. In fact, candidates for the RDG 3rd are required to take Mike's ARDA course, so that they have an understanding of the history of how the two groups (RDG and RDNA evolved). However, in structuring the RDG, we made some assumptions -- I suppose we "misread between the lines" -- of certain relationships between different bodies within the RDNA, and in comparisons with other groups ascended from RDNA (for example, we thought the Mother Grove of RDNA was similar to ADFs -- a completely wrong assumption we have now learned). But you can read our Constitution in one of the recent issues of Druid Inquirer, where Mike reprinted it (Why?) if you're interested. Another assumption we made (though not mentioned anywhere in the ARDA) was that at Ordination, 3rd Orders were given their sigil pendant. At an RDG 3rd Order ordination, they get a treskelle pendant. Well, turned out we were wrong about the custom, and only Mike (apparently) does that. I guess it's true what they say -- "Assume makes an ass out of you and me."

Sébastien ?????

Sébastien oooooook....

Stacey Because only Mike does it (presumably) still makes it a custom. Brother Larry was going to give Sister Susan one when she received her Third. Coming out of the Berkeley Grove tradition/custom the Third Order could wear a sickle. There are many customs that aren't set in stone, but fluid.

Ellis There was a song, "Brother Sebastien, how are you?..." wherein a young man is asking advice of a monk about a girl he likes. I can't find a reference to it anywhere. There is a restaurant in Omaha by that name, where the waiters are dressed up as monks. There also used to be a cartoon series in Look magazine.

Daniel Mr./Brother/Sir/Archdruid (unsure of the titles the RDG uses) Arseneau...In case you were wondering about whether or not the person who contacted you was third order, I have with me a website of the past fair few Carleton archdruids...Naturally, that isn't everyone who is third order, but it may help.

<http://apps.carleton.edu/student/orgs/druids/archdruids/>

Reformed Druids of North America: Recent Archdruids and Archdruidesses at Carleton
apps.carleton.edu

Past leaders of the Carleton grove. Persons who received the title of Archdruid ...

See More

Ellis Thanks. Might be useful in the future. I've been in touch with Mike theFool, who has provided me with the info I needed. Titles: we don't use them really, and I currently am title-less anyway. I recently retired as Patriarch of OMS (Ceridwen is now Matriarch) and the NoDaL voted in a new Senior Clerk (who I am in the process of training, which is why I asked the original question). So my only functions are that of Clerk of my local grove and webmaster for the RDG site.

Daniel Enlightening! I wish you well in your duties.

Stacey Huh. I didn't get an ordination certificate. I didn't even know there was one. HEY!

Mike TheFool Ordination certificates are a haphazard Carleton tradition when needed. No standard format. The ones I make are based on the ones brother Richard gave to me with more decoration. Useful for registering with authorities. Carleton grove is the first among equals at gatherings, and is supposed to initiate matters and do paperwork, but hasn't seen fit to do so for awhile, which suits the other groves. Berkeley mothergrove was much more organized for the rrdna. Hazelnut mothergrove only slightly more than Carleton for rrdna after Berkeley. Adf is very organized. One of the problems with ARDA is that it presents reformed Druidism as far more organized than it really is, because documents by their very nature define things. Sloth laziness do-as-thy-need, experimentation, forgetfulness, lack of access to info, isolation and business leads to a lot of fuzzy practices and "spirit of the law" activity. A loose framework with a few attempts at strictness and form unequally applied by individual groves. The best way to figure out the vibe is to talk to folks about what they actually do. There are more customs and lore even in ARDA than any actual Druid could do in 24/7 reality.

Mike TheFool I could print a certificate in the next inquirer, but that would only serve to fossilize its form. I stick things in the inquirer just to make sure I can find them later. I dread having to make ARDA 3

Ellis Stacey : Register with RDG <http://www.reformed-druids.org/?q=node/18> As a 3rd Order, you'll get a certificate, and other stuff. FOR FREE.

Ellis Oh wait. Scratch that. I forgot -- I learned yesterday that if an RDNA member joins RDG they are considered traitors. I didn't know that. I always thought that the rule was you could belong to anything you wanted to and still be RDNA, but apparently there is an unwritten exception with regards to RDG. So never mind, forget I said anything.

Stacey I see...

Daniel Odd...I never knew that, myself. Who told you that yesterday, Ellis? It doesn't seem very...RDNA-ish - as I understand the organization

Ellis I don't want to name names, but the person is here and if he wants to reveal himself, that's up to him. I invited him, and he replied, "Thank you Ellis for your invitation but will have to decline. It would be a profound betrayal to my grove and RDNA if I would choose to switch organisation." So, my fail. I didn't know. I'm sorry and I won't do it again.

Stacey Oh come on. He was only speaking for himself and not the whole Reform. You know each grove is self governing. Don't be such a drama queen. Go out and enjoy Nature. Hug a tree. Enjoy the rains. This is the small stuff. Don't sweat it.

Ellis Just to be clear, no one was asked to "switch" anything. In fact RDG considers you all to already be defacto members (since you live on Earth and all), but I guess there's a special rule. I wonder if Mike, Cyd and Phagos are aware of it?

Stacey <rolls eyes> Okay, here we go again. Get it out of your system.

Ellis I just don't want to step on any toes and reprise "the OMS affair" all over again, that's all. No worries.

Daniel Perhaps the person in question was speaking first on behalf of his personal beliefs as to how he saw himself as a druid and the whole "betrayal of the grove" bit had to do not with his believing it traitorous, but simply believing that he was being asked to run his grove in a fashion similar to the beliefs he would be adopting from you, which would be against the will of his organization?

Daniel Hum...Sounds like a fair plan, to not step on toes again, true enough, but I doubt it was meant as a slap in the face and perhaps more as language that came off as harsher in your mind than it was meant?

Ellis Well, IMNSHO, he was grossly misinformed by someone. Nor was the invite to his whole Grove (though, we of course would like that). But, it's water under the bridge now. I won't be making any more invitations (which has been my habit). Everyone knows where to find us.

Daniel For what it is worth, I am sorry that the event hurt you so and am glad it is water under the bridge. It does appear to be a blatant misunderstanding for all around. Peace. Peace. Peace.

December 4 at 4:54pm · Like · 1

Mike TheFool Nothing wrong with inviting an individual to join a group. Kind of rdg to offer blanket mbership to all the other branches of the reform. Very kind. Don't be disappointed if some don't wish to join another branch or bring a grove with them. If poor information is the cause try calling on the phone. I recommend about five calls before you really get a feel for someone. Ellis I think we've only had 3? Hate the division of distance

Ellis Peace. Peace. Peace.

Dalon I understand Ellis was kicked off the group? That doesn't seem very nice. Not nice at all.

Catherine No he is still in the group.

Julie Personally know person in question and it was a gross misunderstanding .

Daniel Well then, I'd say our course is clear. Clarifications might be needed, along with future precautions and some mending, but then, drinks for everyone, and a folk dance to boot. Might I recommend "The Lazy Robin"?

Charlton Let's do the Time Warp again...

Daniel It's just a jump to the left...HA!

Charlton ...and then a step to the right.

Daniel Nobody joined in?

Sad...

AHEM

WITH YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HIPS!...EVERYONE...COME /ON/

Charlton Yeah, but it's the pelvis thrust that really drives 'em insane

Daniel Ah well, I suppose I'll forget about bringing my knees in tight first...

Daniel Shall we do it again?

Daniel Or shall we do the Charleston, Charleston, Made in Carolina?

Mike TheFool Can't seem to locate him in the membership, maybe he left on his own discord?

Patrick According to his blog, he was kicked out. About time someone here got a clue. He was openly trying to assimilate the RDNA into his Marxist sex cult and it sounds like one of you called him on it.
<http://redwoodcoastviews.blogspot.com/>

Views from the Redwood Coast
redwoodcoastviews.blogspot.com

Julie HERE IS WHAT I ANSWERD HIM (and he promptly got offended AND deleted the whole thread..." In my understanding of the "Druid Way", brotherly/sisterly love is paramount as is the reverence for nature, the search for knowledge AND the acceptance of differences. That being stated, I will say my peace and will leave it at that.

Since discussions are suppose to be an exchange of ideas are never without a motive of some kind. I would never hide in a blog or in a groupe of my respected peers about this or any particular matter or incident. I am not looking for sympathy or support of any kind I am simply stating what I think.

Ellis, you Sir remind me of a wolf in sheeps clothing. You garner attention and respect through your knowledge, and your devotion. This in itself if highly respectable, BUT when you SOUND OFF because someone (in this case) Sebastien, did not accept your invitation (sent by you innocently you reminded us all). Your reaction was devoid of Druidic intent and became childish. We are all in charge of our own minds and decisions and they will not always be in agreement. The fact that you were "rejected"(no matter your motivation) should have been left at that out of respect for another person. Your continuance to whine and gripe about the "actions taken against you (kicked of RDNA page) as a simple testament that you are acting more like a roman soldier than a Druid. The fact that you reproduced the complete fb thread from the RDNA page to your blog, in my opinion was manipulative and bullish. The fact that you are looking for opinions on whether you stepped on toes or not is a masked demand for support and sympathy. you did this within a circle of like minded peers and not in a broader spectrum of Druid peers.

his I read as manipulative and underhanded. Druids are a broad groupe and as in all belief systems there are differing beliefs and practices, these should be respected accepted and learned from not used as a tool to "divide and conquer".

Some druids are very universal and some are quite content to stick to one groupe because it sings to their souls.

next time Ellis you want to stir the pot, think that , thought we, Druids do share common ground we are not all identical. By your accepting that not all Druids are ready willing and able to follow "YOUR" truth you will face rejection on some level (order recognition included or not).

Furthermore, I will NOT sit back and watch you attack and question the integrity of my grove,Raven's Grove, or that of our 3rd Order Druid , Sebastien.

So if you wish continue to hide in your blog and complain that you were unjustly kicked out of a page, but you lit this fire and you are at risk of being burned.

THAT IS ALL.

p.s you may kick me off this page if you like."

Thomas Ye Gods, they were attacking Ellis and Sebastien? They need to get off the crack pipe.

Mike TheFool Strange weed nowadays.

Tully Wow! One would think that Mercury was still in retrograde! For the RDNA being the most open-minded and eclectic Druid organization in existence, I'm sure seeing a lot of closed minds in this Facebook Group! I'm certainly glad that there is no one person that speaks for the entire Reform and that the actions and comments of some here do not represent the entire Reform. Integrity attacks? Assimilation? Marxist? Reminds me of talk from the self-appointed "Archdruid of Tara and Ireland", one Michael McGrath (at least a few here will remember that incident), rather than my brothers and sisters of the Reform. I saw questions being asked, questions answered, an offer made, an offer declined, and attempts to clarify some points...nothing that required this entire thing to be

blown into the proportions that it has been. Makes me think we should call this whole thing "The Great Disturbance` of The Time of Sleep of Year 50 of the Reform". Thomas, Mike, I agree!

Mike TheFool I remember that case. I still think more personal familiarity would have reduced 80% of the assumptions made here. You cant make these judgements purely from tiny text comments, yet such is the modern era I watch patterns repeat and the gears of history and politics grind towards inevitable conclusions - For want of time and the effort of lifting a phone or making a journey. Such it is. We are all adults here and can make choices and not-choices. Fate is fearsome to watch in motion, no wonder Ovates seem the least desired category of Druidism to study, there is bliss in ignorance of what is to come, the question is when and to what degree. . That remains murky. Human agency clouds that ployout

Charlton Perhaps we should revive an old Scottish custom. In those days, if two kings had a disagreement, they put them both on an island with enough food for three days.

Bryn "The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things:
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--
Of cabbages--and kings--
And why the sea is boiling hot--
And whether pigs have wings."

Jess Call me noobish and anti-establishment if you like, but what exactly is the point of a level exactly? Does it get you special access to the really, REALLY good wine? I'm all for wine levels.

Charlton Levels can be useful for hanging pictures...

Bryn As far as RDNA has been concerned, levels (not to be confused with titles) have more or less been used to demonstrate knowledge and commitment. Some Groves associate more, some less, some none at all. The general mistake that creates the magnificent wedge (such as the one in this thread) is the assumption that one knows how its done elsewhere based on whatever experience one has acquired.

Charlton We're kinda anal about it in the Black Mountain Druid Order. Our ordainment process is five years long. On the other hand, we also honor any knowledge/path that an individual chooses, as long as it honors the Four Sacred Pillars of our Order.

Thomas In the MOCC, we're not as tied to the Archdruidic Succession. After all, our line of Archdruidic Succession is a broken one, and we do not record who ordained who, and who ordained them, just that they were ordained, and that is held at a local level. Perhaps the holding of these ordinations might be a function, in the future, of the Internatiion Druid Archives? In the MOCC, the final voice in ordination is not the Archdruid, but the community whom the new (or continuing) clergy serves. In fact, the final ordination, called the Ritual of the Staff, cannot proceed without the affirmation of the community, but an ordaining Archdruid (or Third Order) is not required. A member of the community can stand in for them.

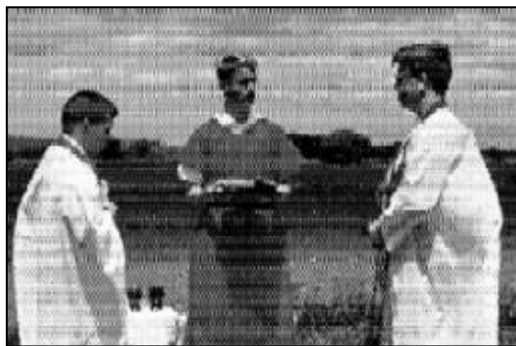
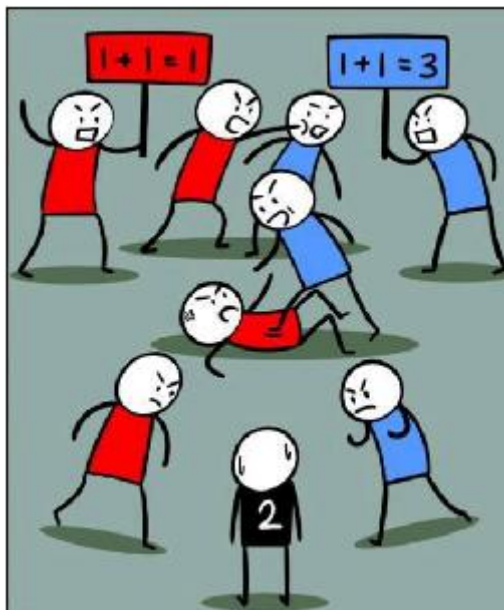
John Not all Third Order Druids make a great Arch-Druid. Conversely, there may be some First Order Druids that have the natural ability, enthusiasm, and willingness to go the extra mile.

Has rank always been necessary to the minimal dogma? There is SOME dogma in the RDNA, yes?

Dalon It should be noted that El had heart surgery in early March. From what Ive read, it takes about a year to recover and many patients suffer emotional trauma and upset around the 6th to 9th month post surgery. This would explain his over reaction to what I think was a minor slap in the face. Doesn't explain the over reaction to his blog post by some in this group though. Time for everyone to calm down. Maybe take a hit of pipe weed.

Penny Ellis has contributed in many ways to the druid community, i have great respect for him, he has helped and facilitated a lot of people, i am so very sorry for his health concerns, and it warms my heart that he has support, and that brothers and sister...See More

Bryn A level that measures the evenness of things has a responsibility. If it says your image is balanced and yet its crooked, it should probably be thrown out in favor of a new one. Maybe even one that's digital!



Ordination Certificates

By Mike the Fool

People have asked what an ordination certificate looks like. It's a piece of paper with writing and sometimes some pictures.

Oddly, the only order which has one is the Third Order; not the first and second, or the higher orders of 4-10. This is probably because there's the chance that Thirds, as "priests" or "priestesses", might have need to register their priestly status with various secular authorities for clergy credentials with country registers, proof of minister status for draft boards, and other activities. I present two versions, one that was given to me (very plain) and the one that I have designed (more ornamented). There really isn't a standard form, and your ordainer can choose whatever style they wish.

I like to print them nowadays on those fancy-bordered raised-edge paper-blanks for certificates that you can get at stationary stores, but I don't use fancy seals or ribbons on them. A glass frame would be nice. I almost never use my own, except for the aforementioned country-registrar visits.

Hierarchically, the ordination credentially comes from the Council of Dalon Ap Landu, but is bestowed by an individual member of the Council, your ordainer, who is also an Archdruid of a Grove. The only way to verify that someone was ordained into the third order (or any other order) is to find the ordainer and/or grove and/or witnesses and ask them. And then if still concerned, go back another generation, and so on. Third Order's should

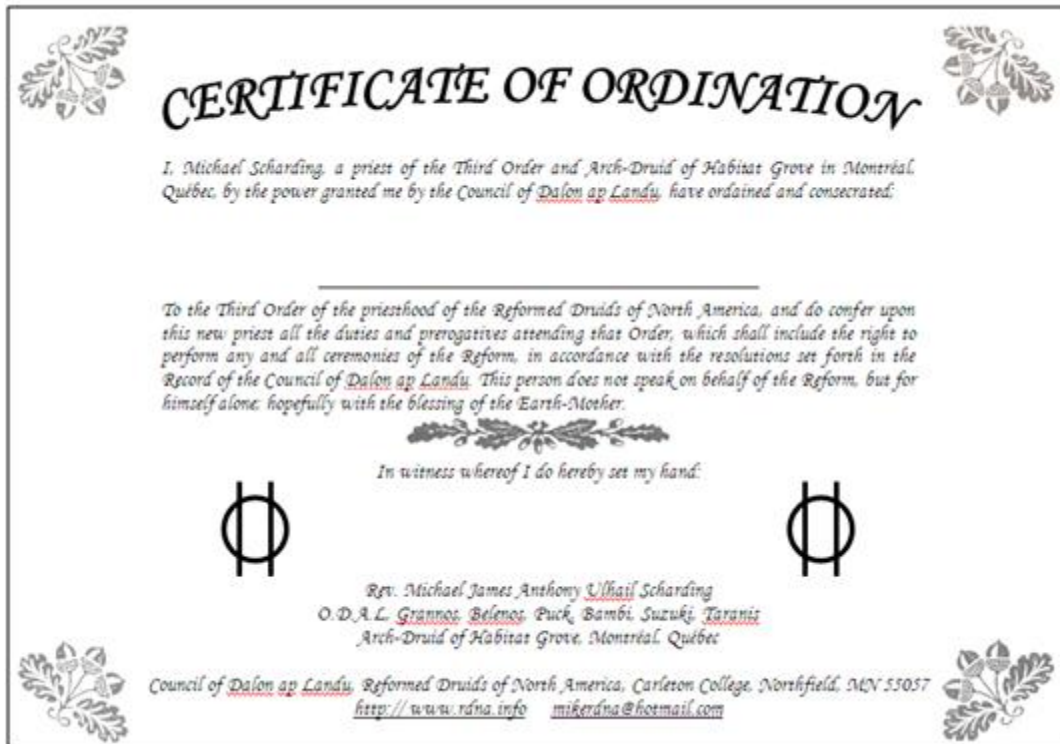
also have a list of past members (probably 95% accurate) in the Third and 4-10 Orders. I'm always glad to verify an ordination, by checking a document or asking a few folks, if you are uncertain (mikerdna@hotmail.com)

Most Third Order's should know their "apostolic succession" lineage, which I usually scribble on the back of their certificate lightly in pencil. In my case it is CL Fisher, CL64: Frangquist, CL68: Peck, CL68: Savitzky, CL69: Shelton and then me in CL93. Most trace back to Frangquist (Carleton alumni) or through Larson (Berkley lineage). Where Fisher's lineage is from, that is a matter of speculation and good for meditation.

If (when) your ordainer dies someday, I suppose another member of the Council could fill out a new one, with modified wording, that they have checked your past or have personal knowledge of your status. Better yet, don't lose the original, as I have, spent the day looking for it, and it mischievously wasn't in my regular file! Perhaps I'll go back to the courthouse, to see if a copy is still there? However, be assured, even without the piece of paper, the ordination remains valid, perhaps even longer than your will or vocation to do anything with the ordination – according to the prevailing theory.

The unspoken question, is from where does an ordained Priest (or any Reformed Druid, for that matter) draw their strength, authority, or vocation. It is a mixture of wisdom, awareness, experience, instruction, study, reflection, practice, investment of offices by the Grove, and blessings from the Council of their Order, and of course from the Gods, spirits, ancestors and Earth. Those who betray the trust or expectations of other Druids, will no doubt be avoided or mistrusted, as one can expect. Sometimes, no Archdruid is better than a bad one, if not always. But that's a whole murky discussion of its own.

Here's the half-size model I used most recently in 2010. Names and dates are written in by hand. I use YOW and Gregorian dates, side by side. I added the last line in the main paragraph, as a humbling reminder of our limitations. Be sure to get gender-specific words correct.



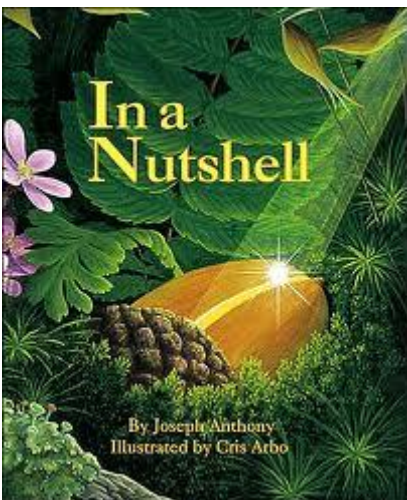
I got the acorn graphics from an issue of A Druid Missal-Any published by Emmon Bodfish in the 1980s.

The trick is sizing it to fit within the printed border of card-stock certificates.

BOOK REVIEWS



Just a reminder that I have a trilogy of Druid novels out, each with the Druid path encoded within it. Priestess of the Forest, The Druid Isle, and Priestess of the Fire Temple. Sacred Land, Sacred Sea and Sacred Fire are covered in each book, respectively. These books are available in the usual places and via my website where you can get a signed copy and a personal note...www.ellenevertthopman.com

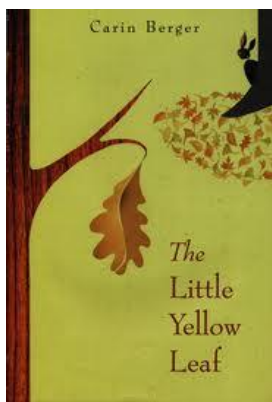


In a Nutshell

Part of the Sharing Nature with Children Books

Follow an acorn through its poignant journey from the canopy to the forest floor. It grows into a sapling, then a tree, makes its own acorns, passes through some dangers and then dies, only to find a further life as it returns to the earth and is reborn in other plants and trees.

Ages three and up will appreciate it. The story is reverent and a very good way to talk about the cycle of life and rebirth with relatives and children unfamiliar with Nature Religion.



The Little Yellow Leaf

by Carin Berger

As all the other leaves float off and fly past, Little Yellow Leaf thinks, *I'm not ready yet.*

As the seasons change all around, Little Yellow Leaf holds on to the tree. *Still not ready.*

Will Little Yellow Leaf ever be ready?

This is a story for anyone who has ever been afraid of facing the unknown—and a celebration of the friends who help us take the leap.

DRUID INQUIRER INFO

Publishing Information

Title: Druid Inquirer: A Scrapbook of the Reformed Druid Communities

Editor: Michael the Fool

Published: 8 times a year. No mailed copies, just free on the internet, print your own.

Submissions Policy: Give it to me! If you have news about your grove, written a little essay, like to write up a book or move, have a poem, saw an interesting news article in the paper, or have a cartoon, send it in to mikerdna@hotmail.com or send by Facebook message to **mike.thefool**

I'll try to give credit to whoever the original author is, and they retain the copyright to their works, and we'll reprint it one day in a future binding also. Nasty works will not be published. Although my standards are not sky-high, incomplete works will be nurtured towards a publish-able form. Submissions are accepted from other publications and organizations, so you need not be a formal member of the RDNA to have your items published.