

Fall/Winter 2011 - 12

Accord





Fall/Winter 2011/12

online Edition



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The Journey Continues.....

A Letter (note) from the Editor:

As always it is a great honor for me to have the pleasure of putting together this edition of the Accord. I must admit that with every edition start with a plan in mind and find that the journey takes me on a different path from what my original thoughts were. Still I am not one to argue with the Muses so to them I give the recognition of this edition.

When considering what the theme of this edition would be I was torn. My thoughts started with Harvest, Wheel of the Year and Transitions. The final product is perhaps a combination of them all or a hodge podge for lack of a better word. Hopefully it will bring some reading enjoyment to you.

As always I am open to new contributors, who wish to have their work included in the Accord. If anyone would like to be a contributor please contact me by emailing the accord@magickal-arts.org. Our cutoff for the Beltane edition is March 15th.

Pamela DragonFlame



A Cup of Tea

Sometimes a steaming cup of tea is more than a beverage, it's a full healing experience.

Tea isn't a casual drink; it requires the careful choice of the best leaves, the patience to wait for water to come to the right temperature, the knowledge of how long to steep, and the time to let the wisps of steam warm your face as you savor every sip. In places from Buddhist monasteries to English parlors, tea has also long been recognized for its healing properties, from the antioxidants in green and white tea to the restorative properties of various herbal blends.

Campfire Chat

“Hello in the Camp...”

Firstly, I want to thank you all for your understanding and support of our decision to cancel the CMA Samhain festival at Spirithaven. It was not an easy decision and it was greatly disappointing to us all. In that posting, I neglected to state that we are going to have to postpone the ceremony for Council Oak to some time in the near future as well. Once we have enough moisture and the danger level has decreased, we will schedule the ceremony with enough notice for everyone who wishes to attend can do so. In addition to passively waiting for the weather to ease up, we are proactively taking steps to ensure the safety of our members:

CMA EMT formation

The emergency situation posed by the Bastrop wildfires showed that we are in need of detailed and practiced planning in the event of a large scale disaster. Therefore, we have decided to form the CMA Emergency Management Team. This team of volunteers is independent of, but will work closely in conjunction with, our current Safety staff. Their purpose is to ensure the Land and our people are as prepared as possible to meet the extraordinary challenges posed by a severe emergency. Gary Parks will head up the team as our Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) -- he will work closely with Blaze and the Safety Staff to get the team set up. Look for more information about this in the near future.

CMA Family Yule Celebration – a Winter Garden

Great news! The building reserved for our CMA Family Yule celebration at Buescher State Park survived the Bastrop area fires. The CMA Family Yule celebration will take place December 3rd & 4th at Buescher State Park. This celebration is open to all CMA people who share a love of family and community (isn't that all of us? -- smiles!). Look for further announcements and details as we get closer to December. A registration page will be placed on the CMA website shortly.

Gray Water Status

With the determination that our permitting requirements fall under State guidelines, our engineer is currently redesigning our Gray-Water system to find the most reliable and cost-effective solution. Once the design is complete, we will submit them to the State for approval. While we don't have a cost on this yet, we can rest assured that it will be considerably less than the amount required to install the previous system.



Campfire Chat conti...

ByLaws

Good news. Our hard working ByLaws Committee has completed the difficult/tedious task of retrofitting our ByLaws. The proposed new ByLaws will be posted shortly for you to review. A vote will be held at the CMA Beltane 2012 Great Works meeting to formally adopt them. Once adopted, we will forward them to our corporate lawyer for legal review. Once they pass the sense check of the lawyer, they will become our new governing document. Thank you to all the members of our ByLaw committee for working so hard to get this done!

Great Works/Elections

Our Samhain 2011 Great Works meeting will be held at the La Cabana Restaurant, 719 Highway 71 W, Smithville, TX 78957, on Sunday, October 16th, from 1 to 4 PM. This is the same place we normally hold our Transition meetings. Additional details about the meeting will be posted on a separate Announcement.

CMA Beltane 2012 – “a Magickal Homecoming” will take place from April 12 – 15, 2012. It is already shaping up to be an awesome celebration and I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Smiles and Brightest Blessings,

Mary Ellen Rainwater,
Executive Director, CMA -2011

Area Rep Reports

Austin: The CMA Austin Pagan Night Out is the fourth Friday of the month at Austin Java near 12th and Lamar at 7ish. Come enjoy good food, coffee, drinks, and conversation! Find out about more events by joining the CMA Austin Village list on yahoo groups.

Candyce

San Antonio: San Antonio PNO's are held at Candlelight Café on the 13th of every month. Since the Candlelight is closed on Sundays and Mondays if the 13th falls on a Sunday it happens on the Saturday instead; if on a Monday it happens on the Tuesday.

Alan MoonDragon

Brazos Valley: No Report

Central Texas: No Report

Coastal Bend: No Report

North Texas: No Reports

Outlands: No Report

South East Texas: No Report

Letter to Area Reps.....

Hello All,

As you know, we have some changes to make at Spirithaven in order to bring us within standards (Grey Water issue). As of this time, we still do not have a final figure on how much it will cost. However, we do know that it will not be cheap. We hope to have a final plan along with a final figure soon so that we can get the project under way. Please understand that we need to have the funds on-hand to pay the contractors BEFORE they can begin their work.

You are the Area Reps for CMA. I ask you come up with whatever fundraiser you can for your area so that we can have funds on-hand to accomplish our goal. A simple raffle conducted at PNO would be nice, however, anything you can come up with to raise money is urgently needed. It would be greatly appreciated if you do something this month (July) to raise monies for the project.

Time is running out for Samhain 2011 and we are looking at formally moving the venue to Recreation Plantation if we cannot get the work completed in time. We will make an announcement on that later (soon).

Please help in whatever way you can. Now is the time we are needed most by our beloved organization.

Thanks in advance for all your hard work!

Smiles!

Mary Ellen Rainwater

Support CMA Grey Water Fund

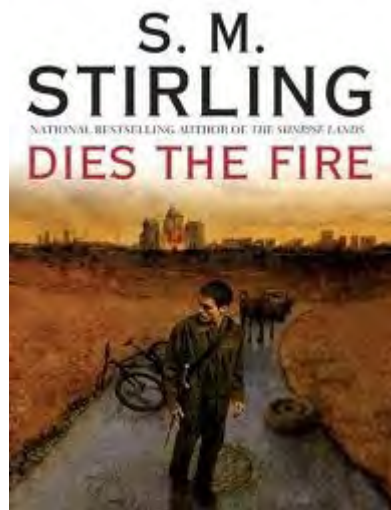


“Dies the Fire” by S. M. Stirling

Book Review by Valna Asterman

What happens when the lights go out...for good? Every thing changes!!! An electrical storm over the island of Nantucket sends out a blinding white flash that shuts down all electrical devices and gunpowder will not ignite. People are also changed, and as the bright light of the storm shuts down all the electronics...everyone experience a blinding flash and a sharp pain in their heads that changes the human brain as well.

S. M. Stirling begins “Dies the Fire” with an introduction of the characters that will make a difference in the world that follows “The Change.” If our world was thrown into an era where there is no electricity or conveniences, who do you think would have the skills to survive? Who would know the art of farming and could grow and store food without refrigeration? Who could defend themselves and their community if there were no working fire-arms? If you thought, “the folks of the society for creative anachronism and Pagans,” you would be correct. Of course there are other folks who survive, and the SCA and the Pagans, are the groups closest to my heart. And as you can guess...much of the conflict in this series stems from religious views, and who has the best survival skills.



Meet the Druids

by John@Powledge



Most of the stereotypical ideas about Druids are **WRONG**. Scholars have shown, for instance, that Druids were NEVER all men. Today, some groups do segregate the genders, but modern Druids have chosen not to let gender (or sexual preferences) bar anyone from participating.

You don't have to be Irish to be a Druid. Although Druidism was developed in Celtic-British cultures, anyone sincerely interested is welcome to participate in modern Druid groups.

Ancient Druids probably did practice human and other sacrifice... and so did ancient Romans and ancient Jews; so did most ancient cultures. Modern Druids don't. And Druidism isn't a cult. Cults revolve around individuals, with followers expected to give up the outside world. Druids were and are community leaders, and networkers; there are solitary Druids, too, which is distinctly un-cultish.

No Druid group can truly claim an unbroken link to ancient times. By 461 C.E., Druids had been brutally suppressed for centuries, and St. Patrick could claim he'd driven all the snakes out of Ireland. He called Druids snakes because the Druids were the keepers of wisdom for the Celts, and in the ancient world, snakes were symbols of wisdom. Druids more or less are Pre-Christian Christians, influenced by Masonry and Mystic Christianity.

Druids have a strong and clear sense of ethics. We believe that ethics and morality should be based upon joy, love, self-esteem, and mutual respect, the avoidance of harm to ourselves and others, and the increase of public benefit. We try to balance different peoples' needs for personal autonomy and growth with the necessity of paying attention to the impact of each individual's actions on the lives and welfare of others. Of course this means that you don't use any of your power — intellectual, social, magical, psychological - to hurt other people, or the eco-system.

Consistent with that, Druids believe it's necessary to have respect and love for Nature as divine in Her own right, and to accept ourselves as part of Nature and not her rulers.

The Kindred are worshipped as the Shining Ones; Ancestors are revered as the Might Ones or the Ancient Ones; and Nature Spirits are beloved as the Noble Ones. Druidry acknowledges a number of individual Goddesses and Gods from cultural pantheons, with distinct personalities, but not the "Lady and Lord" that most Wiccans recognize.

I hope that this helps with what is and what is not about Druids, may the blessing of the Goddesses and Gods be upon you all....





From the desk of The Auntie @ Crone's Corner



I will be back in the next edition of the Accord with more wisdom to share.



Sit A Spell

I believe that each of us to some extent are a kitchen witch. Every time we make something in our kitchen it is our intent that we put into what we are making from a cup of coffee to a sandwich. When children were young we made simple things for them and we put our love into those items.

Recently I was reminded of a movie called 'Simply Irresistible' the main character doesn't really know how to cook, but once a 'magic' crab enters her kitchen she is able to cook delicious foods. What I found inspiring about this movie is how her emotions and feelings are cooked into her dishes.

When you think about it, isn't that exactly what happens when we are doing our own kitchen witchery? It is our thoughts, emotions, and intent that is the true magick. By combining magic and cooking to create sacred food, spells and herbal remedies we heal ourselves, friends and family.

The location of our 'kitchen' can be over a camp fire, an outside grill or inside our own kitchen over the stove top and yes even a microwave. Our magick is not limited to where we cook but rather by our own imagination and intent.

So to my fellow kitchen witches out there, keep the fire going and your sacred soups, dishes, breads and beverages coming.



Bread and Glue Playdough Recipe

Materials

- 8 slices of day-old white bread (use inexpensive fluffy bread like Wonder)
- 1/2 cup white glue
- food coloring in color of your choice (optional)
- flour for work space
- wax paper

Instructions

1. Remove crusts from bread slices.
2. Take the clay out of the bowl and form it into a ball with your hands. Keep patting into a smaller ball until it becomes just slightly tacky.
3. Knead the clay gently until it becomes smoother and more pliable. Then, begin to knead firmly until texture is satiny (about 5 minutes).
4. Once your child has used the clay to make their sculpture and is satisfied with them, simply air dry to harden. Drying times vary depending on the sculptures thickness. To speed up the drying process, place sculptures on cookie sheet and leave overnight in an unlit oven. Once dry, paint sculptures with acrylic paints (optional).

Tips

Keep sticky, paint-covered hands from damaging walls and furniture by keeping a wet, soapy washcloth next to the project area.

