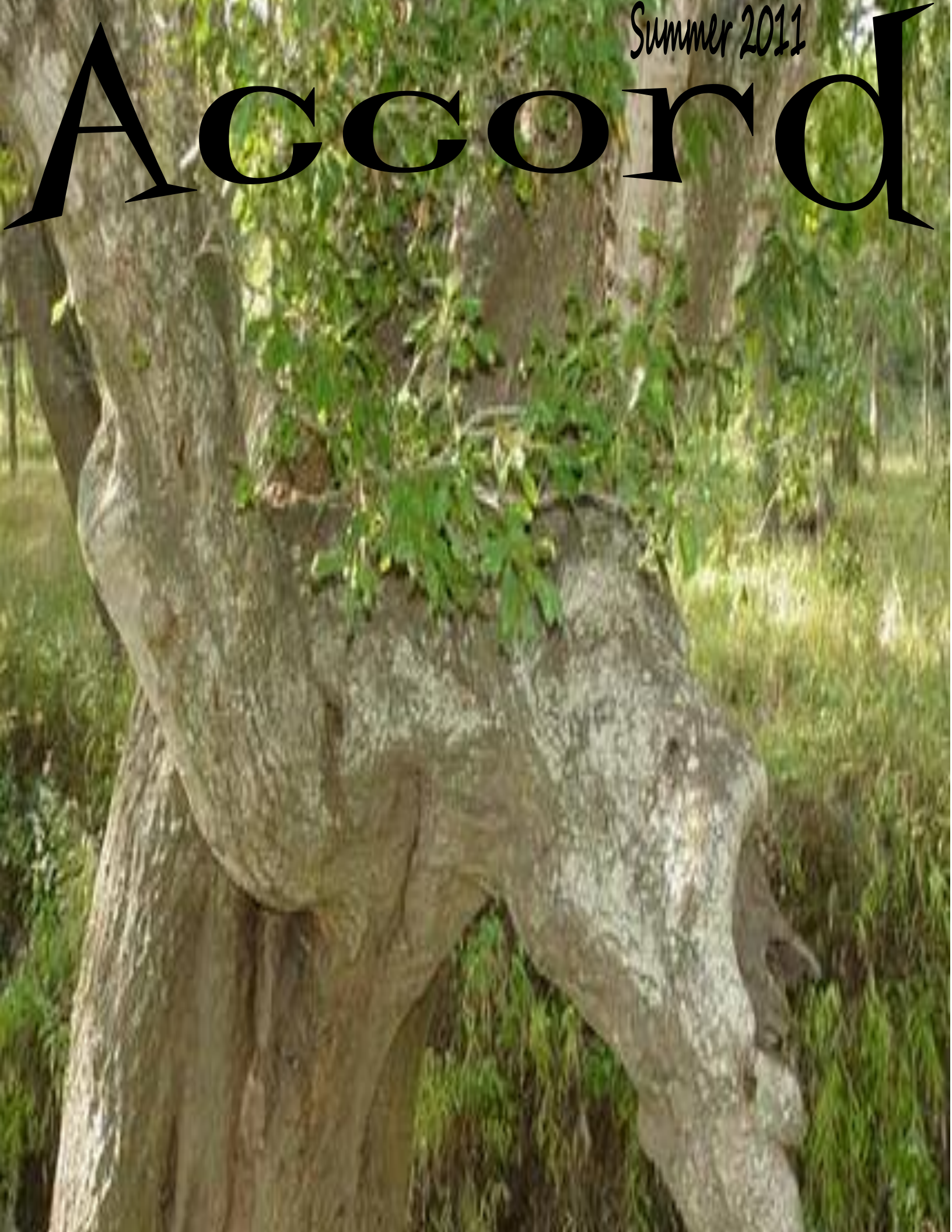
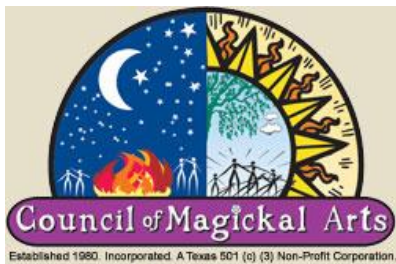


Summer 2011

Accord





Summer 2011 online Edition



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The Journey Continues.....

A Letter from the Editor:

Once again it has been a great honor for me to have the pleasure of putting together this edition of the Accord. It has been a great learning experience for me. When dealing with anything magickal one must learn that things happen when they are meant to happen. On several instances I thought that everything was ready and I could put the edition together. It was my plan to have everything together and published by Summer Solstice, yet each time I sit down to combine the items something would pull me away from the task and I would find some really great tid bit or idea to include. As a result of this I have come to realize that this issue is actually the beginning of a work in progress. As mentioned in the Spring issue, I am on a mission to bring the Accord back to what it once was. While I know that we cannot go back I believe that we can keep the integrity and bring a new life to the magazine that holds such a special place to so many of us.

In the endeavor of bringing this vision into a reality you will find some old and new sections that will become a permanent part of the Accord. These include something that I had found in older versions, a book review. Moving forward it is my intent to have book reviews in all of our Accords. It would also be nice to bring back the Movie reviews. If anyone would like to be the contributor for that section please contact me accord@magickal-arts.org. The new sections include an 'advice' section which will be known as 'The Auntie at Crones Corner'. In this new addition to our Accord you will find some crones wisdom that will hit home in the nicest way while still giving you something to reflect on. Another addition to our Accord is the "Cup of Tea" which will include different tips, tea blends and bits of this and that. Our 'foodies' you will find 'Sit A Spell' filled with everything from recipes to food magick.

I am hoping to also add are reports for our reps as well and any news that the membership wishes to share. Want to help support CMA purchase an add space and all monies will go to our fund for the 'Grey Water'. This after all is really your magazine and it is just one way that we can help support CMA. As always I am open to new contributors, who wish to have their work included in the Accord. Our cutoff for the Samhain edition is September 30th. In the meantime please feel free to contact me at any time with submissions. These can include articles, prose, artwork, or news for the membership.

Pamela DragonFlame



Campfire Chat

“Hello in the Camp...”

Our first ever CMA Family Festival (June 3 – 5, 2011) was a resounding success!!! It was a small group (20 or so adults with 8 children), but the energy was extraordinarily upbeat and positive. Everyone focused on the positive aspects of the festival and little or no mention of anything outside our little "Circle of Dreams". We were our own world for 3 days.

The Park officials really enjoyed having us there and stopped by several times to chat and say hello (more than just their "normal rounds").

We had a Create Your Own Musical Instrument workshop, a Create Your Own Elemental Bag workshop, and a Draw the Music workshop. All were fully attended and exceptionally successful. During the Field Day activities, we had a water race, an egg race, and a Tug-o-War competition. Also, we had several "walk in the woods" with the children, a "Fae Walk" ending up in the Circle of Dreams (S'Mores and More) fire ring, a trip to the playground, and even a quick trip to the lake on Sunday morning.

It was not only a fantastic time with wonderful people -- it was the beginning of a beautiful concept. Many people have expressed regret for not being able to attend this first event, but plan to attend the next one (yet to be scheduled). However, the attendees voted unanimously to have a CMA Family Yule Celebration at Buescher State Park (in the Lodge that has a huge fireplace). The Lodge can house up to 100 people indoors and the fireplace will go a long way to keep the December chill nights at bay. This is tentatively scheduled for 3-4 December, 2011, stay tuned for more details.

In addition, the Family-Fest attendees have started a "CMA Family Society" that has the stated intention of: "CMA - A family made up of families. This group is for members of the Council of Magickal Arts who are supportive of the family culture to discuss child-rearing, the dynamics of family in our community, and plan events and outings for the families within CMA." This society is open to all like-minded members of CMA and can be contacted through Facebook ("CMA Family Society").

The plans for upgrading our Grey Water and Fresh Water systems to bring us within compliance with state code are proceeding on schedule. Our engineer is finalizing the development of the necessary steps we will need to follow in order to achieve this goal quickly and efficiently. As stated previously, the steps will not be cheap. We have estimated that it will take anywhere from \$15,000.00 to \$30,000.00 to bring us within standards.

With that being said, we will begin a fund-raising campaign to bring in as much money as possible very soon. Please keep an eye out for more information about what efforts are

being done in your local community. If you wish to help participate in this effort, please contact your CMA Local Area Representative, or any Board member.

I leave you now with this thought from the book, "From the Corner of His Eye" by Dean Koontz (inspired by a speech entitled "This Momentous Day" by H.R. White):

"Not one day in anyone's life...is an uneventful day, no day without profound meaning, no matter how dull and boring it might seem, no matter whether you are a seamstress or a queen, a shoeshine boy or a movie star, a renowned philosopher or a Down's-syndrome child. Because in every day of your life, there are opportunities to perform little kindnesses for others, both by conscious acts of will and unconscious example. Each smallest act of kindness—even just words of hope when they are needed, the remembrance of a birthday, a compliment that engenders a smile—reverberates across great distances and spans of time, affecting lives unknown to the one whose generous spirit was the source of this good echo, because kindness is passed on and grows each time it's passed, until a simple courtesy becomes an act of selfless courage years later and far away. Likewise, each small meanness, each thoughtless expression of hatred, each envious and bitter act, regardless of how petty, can inspire others, and is therefore the seed that ultimately produces evil fruit, poisoning people whom you have never met and never will. All human lives are so profoundly and intricately entwined—those dead, those living, those generations yet to come—that the fate of all is the fate of each, and the hope of humanity rests in every heart and in every pair of hands. Therefore, after every failure, we are obliged to strive again for success, and when faced with the end of one thing, we must build something new and better in the ashes, just as from pain and grief, we must weave hope, for each of us is a thread critical to the strength—to the very survival—of the human tapestry. Every hour in every life contains such often-unrecognized potential to affect the world that the great days for which we, in our dissatisfaction, so often yearn are already with us; all great days and thrilling possibilities are combined always in this momentous day..."

Brightest Blessings,

Mary Ellen Rainwater
Executive Director, CMA - 2011



A Cup of Tea

Tea is one of those earthly wonders that is delicious and good for you. One reason for tea's preventive powers is strictly hygienic. Today, as in ancient times, tea is safer to drink than water because it's boiled first, killing any disease-carrying organisms.

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

Brazos Valley

No Report

Central Texas

No Report

Coastal Bend

Not much to report from the Coastal Bend. I've been placing "business" cards for CMA at area businesses and attending PNO as often as I can. See you at Samhain! Morien

North Texas

No Reports

Outlands

No Report

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 and if on a Monday it happens on the Tuesday. San Antonio's PPD will take place September 10th at Comanche Park. Alan MoonDragon

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



“A Discovery of Witches” By Deborah Harkness

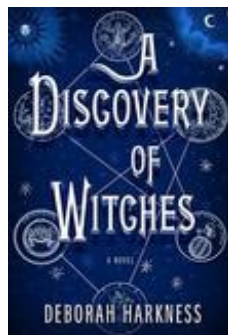
Book Review by Valna Asterman

What happens when a witch, who is trying to live as a human, becomes intrigued and then in love with a vampire? In a world that has humans, daemons, witches and vampires...how is it that the humans have no knowledge of the creatures that share their world? You'll need to read “A Discovery of Witches” to find out.

This is Deborah Harkness' first work of fiction. However she is a scholar and has written several books on history and science. Her writing of “Discovery” combines real places and real people who have been delightfully combined with the fantasy of things that go bump in the night. The book is filled with romance, mystery and not so charming interactions between the different factions of creatures who populate this world. And last but not least, there is an element of time travel that will grab your attention. And while I love the adventures of “Harry Potter”, and the sagas of “Twilight,” Discovery is a much more adult read. The characters are older, as is the magick and the settings and action are more in tune with adult perceptions.

I enjoyed reading “A Discovery of Witches” and I am looking forward to the second and third parts of this trilogy. If your are interested in learning more about the author, I urge you to check out her website at :

<http://deborahharkness.com>



A Dragon's Tale.....

By: Dave Crowley

I've been to the dragon's lair.... I need to go back sometime.....Here's a poem I wrote.....

Long ago... in times forgot....
There once lived a princess...who had been caught...
Her father the king... sent word to each town...
To he that returned her... would inherit his crown....
And though many had gone... only survivors came back...
For her captor was a dragon... named Fafnir the black...
Their tales spoke of caverns.. which had been littered with gold...
And the sound of Morrowyn's voice... and her beauty.. behold !
For she sang to the dragon... whilst she played an ivory lyre...
And so her heros would see her...chained behind a wall of fire....
And so the days had passed.. as the winter took the fall...
And men of heart grew fainter... Till none would come at all...
But then there came a man... with a lion's soul within...
Who's heart had been so taken,.. when once laid eyes on Morrowyn...
His name was Valen... and he had devised something bold...
For he had seeked the helping... of a legend long fortold...
He climbed the highest mountain... for at the top there lay a shrine...
He touched his sword downward.. and he drew a sacred sign...
Then took a deep breath.. with his blade pointing due north...
And Shouted at his loudest... "Svendargan... I summon thee forth !!"
At first all was quiet... but then thunder shook the air..
And then a white dragon.. peered from out it's icy lair...

Svendargan : "What has come to awaken my sleep ?!!"

Valen: "An alligiance that shall free this love that I keep"

Svendargan: "And why should I aid you.. when I know that you're weak"

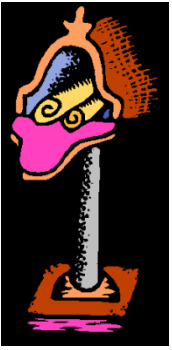
Valen: "This love is like no other... for her I'd climb a thousand peaks...
... she lay captive by a dragon.. she soothes with songs and rhymes..

... her beauty is by far unique..for her I'd die a thousand times..
... She plays the ancient lyre.. made with your own finger nail
And countless many have gone for rescue.. but all have died or failed..
... And this I vow.. to break her chains..
Or make my life.. a death in vain "

"So be it".... said the dragon.. as he bowed to the brave knight..
They tore storms across the skies... within their fearless flight..
A call from destiny beckoning.. from a princess he would save..
He hid behind some boulders.. as Fafnir left his blackstoned cave...
Upon seeing the white dragon.. he let out a fiercesome roar..
And soon between the earth and heavans... the rival dragons soared..
Their battle looked so graceful... their movements so precise...
An epic battle of light and shadow... scorching fire versus ice..
Then Valen went into the cave.. passing all it's golden treasures..
For even with a promised crown... his love for her could not be measured..
And there before him stood the princess.. in the place that she would sing..
Her eyes were shimmering and hopefull... though chained within a firey ring..
A hero's heart is measured... by vows he must defend...
But did they lead to glory ?..For that is where this tale.. ends.....

Moral:

The dragon you feed the most wins... one is driven by riches.. the other by love..
do you have the heart to jump through fire for what you want.



From the desk of The Auntie @ Crone's Corner

And there I was, huddled around a warm cozy lantern with my sisters and brothers, casually fantasizing about electric blankets and thermal under drawers when I heard my name from a friendly voice and then "Oh sure, I'll bet she'd do it" from a firm but kind voice. I perked up my ears and heard another voice say "yeah, she's good at giving advice" and still another "she's wise in the ways". Okay, okay, bossy and opinionated were the actual words used, but, we all hear things differently when suffering from hypothermia and fiction is my first language, but still, Ask The Auntie @ Crone's Corner is here. Since this is a new thing and I haven't been besieged with questions yet, I thought I'd write about Circles at CMA and offer some advice on circle etiquette.

While I realize that pagan time is very flexible and fashionably late is *de rigueur* in many of our traditions, it is, however, polite to arrive before the ritual ends. If you must be late, don't just barge in and squash yourself between other attendees. Try to *quietly* attract the notice of someone who is participating and can escort you to a place in the Circle. Most open Circles have folks who are watching for anyone who needs attention. Please give them something to do.

There are often many who do not feel comfortable actively participating in a Ritual and would rather just observe. I appreciate and respect that choice. I know many HPs who feel as I do and welcome those who are eager to learn about other traditions albeit from a distance. Please, however, don't bring your crunchy nacho chips and slurpy straws and pretend you are the Siskel and Ebert of the pagan world critiquing in strident tones that can be heard over those distracting ritual noises.

Folks, I have written rituals, participated in rituals written by others and have attended more Circles than I can remember and I know how much work goes into the process. I know the feeling that comes from giving your best and hearing how well it turned out (and hearing the stomach dropping dreaded 'how nice' when it didn't). It is a daunting, wonderful, scary, thrilling, responsibility to put yourself, your coven mates and your traditions on display. Our rituals are an expression of our spirituality and should be treated with regard. Please, *please* give the people who are facilitating the Circle you are in your respect and focus. No matter how "out there" you may think whatever is happening is, if you are attending, pay attention. Do not carry on boisterous conversations about how you spent last night practicing the great rite in your tent while someone is calling Watch Towers on the opposite side of the Circle. It is disturbing and we probably all heard it Live and in Dolby sound anyway.

One last thing, I like to drink and smoke. There are many in our community who do not. As it is my right to do both, it is also their right not to be exhaled on or trip over a bottle while trying to line up for Circle. Please ask those around you if there is an issue with your smoking and put some distance between you if there is. I have found that being downwind is better than listening at keyholes for gossip and out of context comments can make waiting for the ritual to start very entertaining. For those who spend the time waiting to go into a Circle looking for a place to stash your mead, please have a care where you stow your drinking vessel. While everyone likes a good trip, you don't want to be the one who is responsible for someone's broken whatever. Just as aside, if you are unable to clearly state 'so mote it be', ritual may not be the best place for you.

Well, it's a start and I will have more on this subject later. Since this is an advice column and interaction is needful to be effective, please send your questions, comments or other musings and I will answer with as much dignity as I can muster.

May your days be merry and bright, Blessings to all,

The Auntie @ Crone's Corner

If you have a topic that you would like The Auntie to provide some valuable insight please send your questions/topic to accord@magickal-arts.org with 'Auntie @ Crone's Corner' in the subject line. She looks forward to your questions and topics.

Wisdom of the Crone

The Wisdom of the Crone is all around us. She is present in every "little old blue haired Lady", waiting to be recognized and honored.

She is the grandmother who cares for her own children's children, she is the old maiden lady who never had children of her own, she is the homeless woman, the pampered matron, the hard-working invisible woman who we pass daily, the lesbian woman who goes unnoticed, the teachers, the nurse, the everyday women.

The Wisdom of the Crone is all around us, we have but to notice Her.

I found this on www.thecronescubboardofmagic.com and thought it was so fitting. Enjoy and remember all the Croness that you are blessed to have in your life.



Sit A Spell

Growing up it never occurred to me to question my great grandmother when she would say, "Namin we are creating potent medicine here. Everything we do is magickal, it all starts here and here (pointing first to her heart and then to her head). Remember sister to always be clear in what you are doing even if it is as simple as peeling a potato." I have always remembered those lessons and carried them forward in life. So it was with great joy that I found this little bit of food magick to share with you because there is magick in what you eat as well...yes, even in junk food!

Some examples are:

CHOCOLATE, STRAWBERRY, & VANILLA SHAKES (or frappes) can be gulped down to bring love into your life.

HAMBURGERS & FRENCH FRIES have a protective quality & are also effective after ritual as a method of grounding (releasing built up energy).

ONION RINGS, as well as BAKED POTATOS, can be eaten for protection

ICED TEA can bring physical & magickal energy.

BANANNA SPLITS, as well as HERSHEY KISSES can be eaten to bring love into your life.

CHEERIOS & RICE KRISPIES can be eaten for luck with money.

UNSWEETENED APPLESAUCE may bring peace.

FROZEN FISH DINNERS, as well as 7-UP, can bring psychic awareness.

RICE CAKES & FIG NEWTONS are great for the sex drive!

Of course, none of these foods are effective alone, but with the proper visualization of your purpose at meal or snack time, they are magickally potent. As my great grandmother said it all starts here (your heart) and here (your mind). Be clear with your intent.

Sources for the above tips are two books by Scott Cunningham: The Magic of Food, & The Magickal Household

Bird Treats

Suet - what is it? According to Websters, it is the hard fat about the kidneys and loins in beef and mutton that yields tallow. But for our needs, all you really need to know is you can get it from your local grocer.

Bird Cake Recipes

Peanut Butter Cake

1 part melted beef suet
1 part peanut butter
6 parts cornmeal

Melt suet. Mix in peanut butter and cornmeal. Spoon into paper-lined muffin tins and cool. Store in freezer till needed.

Oat Cake

1 pound suet in small pieces
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 cup chunk peanut butter
1 cup mixed wild bird seed
1 cup sunflower seeds

Melt suet. Stir in remaining ingredients and blend. Pour into paper-lined muffin tins. Chill until hardened or freeze.

Nut and Apple Cake

2 cups bread crumbs
1 cup nuts unsalted!
3 chopped apples (use seeds too)
1 cup raisins
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup of cornmeal
1/2 pound of ground suet
1/2 cup flour
1 8-ounce jar of peanut butter
1 cup wild bird seed

Mix ingredients, add enough bacon drippings to hold it together. Shape into balls or press into pine cones. Freeze and use as needed.