

C.Φ.R.D. Biquarterly

Connexus Of Reformed Druids

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Beltane

Happy RDNA New Year! Today Starts Y.R. 62!



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

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The Seven Council Fires of the Dakota

Honoring those who were here before us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This article's featured Oceti Sakowin Nation: Ihanktonwan

The Ihanktonwan, typically anglicized as Yankton, are a tribe whose name means *Dwellers at the Edge of the Forest*. Their ancestral homelands were in southwestern Minnesota, western Iowa, and much of South Dakota. Their lands included one of the most sacred places to the Oceti Sakowin: a catlinite quarry that is today protected as Pipestone National Monument. The mudstone clay is easy to carve, and has been quarried with hand tools by Native Americans for a few thousand years. The quarry in Pipestone, Minnesota is federally protected, but members of recognized tribes are allowed to apply for same-day quarrying permits to collect just what they need in order to continue their traditional spiritual practices.



The pipestone quarry is also tied into one of the origin stories of the Ihanktonwan people. The iron in the clay gives it a pinkish to maroon color, and it is said to have come from the blood of bison, killed and eaten by the Great Spirit before the existence of humankind. The Great Spirit sculpted a person out of the red stone, and stood the figure upright in the earth. One day when the sculpted figure was older than 100 lifetimes, a snake bit through the portion of earth that held the figure in place. Then the stone figure and the snake left together, and from them the Ihanktonwan people originated.

Sources:

- [The Yankton Sioux Tribe: People of the Pipestone, 1634-1888](#), Leonard Rufus Bruguier Buckskin Horse (Tashunke Hinzi), 1993
- [Mni Sota Makoce – The Land of the Dakota](#), Westerman & White, 2012

News of the Groves

News from Carleton Grove (Minnesota)

Attention Council of Dalon Ap Landu! The provisional Arch-Druid of Carleton Grove is expected to undergo the time-honored ordeal of the All-Night Vigil in his candidacy for the Third Order this weekend! Austin is a Second Order Druid, and has been supported not just by Carleton Grove, but also by members of Oakdale Grove and the Office of the Chaplain at Carleton College. The Vigil for Third Order is already being arranged, but if there are any additional members of the Council of Dalon Ap Landu who are able to attend as supporting Vigil Wardens this weekend, we can provide a dynamic and memorable Vigil for the candidate.

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

Oakdale Grove has merrily (LOL, stressfully?) been keeping busy since our last update. The time between Oimelc and Beltane has always felt like a fast paced time period with nonstop responsibilities. The shorter Month of February is often spent preparing for Paganicon, the annual indoor pagan convention in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Likewise in March, preparations continue for that, with Oakdale Grove's Vernal Equinox service looming quickly as well, plus releasing the newsletter on the high day. The Mwfydnfud special edition of the newsletter is prepared immediately after that, then much of April involves getting ready for any large Beltane events.

This year in early April we also had our Solar Eclipse ritual, and an early First Order Consecration for a new Grove member who will be out of town at Beltane. I had to consecrate the Waters-of-Life a second time because I forgot to use my red ribbon the first time around. The eclipse itself was on an overcast day, but it did get noticeably dark, and the lamp posts in the park came on for a while. We had a little bit of rain as a blessing as well.

Throughout all of this "busy season" stuff since Oimelc, members of Oakdale Grove have been diligently collaborating to finish our OBF study program. Together, we have made suggestions for program content, edited typos and syntax or continuity, expanded our glossary section, and other contributions. I was even taking the time to work through Unit 1 myself to make sure it was doable. One caveat was that I've been practicing Druidry for 20 years, and Reformed Druidry for 13 years now. I had to constantly think back to when I was new to Druidism while going through the workbook, scrutinizing how effective it would be to newer Druids. In the end I caught two more typos, but didn't make any major revisions to the Unit 1 workbook. As a Grove, we unanimously voted to enact the OBF training program.

An Earth Day Devotional by Kynan of Maryland

*One day in Spring designated
to celebrate the living planet
whom we call 'Mother' and 'Home':
the reality of days and places
that belongs to humanity in common
regardless of our boundaries.*

*Today I feel my inherent connection
with the Living Biosphere
through the flow of my breath, blood,
firmness of bone and muscle,
expansion of nwyfre in the mind.
As my hand touches the soil
and trees of the Land,
my ears listen to bird-song and wind,
the Terran current below
moves through me,
rooting me in Land and Water;
the Solar current comes upon me
from above, lifting me into Sky.*

*When I sauntered among the woods
through fields and the path around the pond
stepped through the pebbles
of the quiet Peace Garden
my breath came freely,
Awareness of Self and the World
expanded and reduced the walls
between my body and Nature.
I know the Holy Ones are with us:
between valleys and tree tops
among Star-light and Night
hiding among blades of grass
and particles of sand flying into the Ocean.
The Xartus manifests Itself
in the pattern of ripples upon a lake,
the branches of Dogwood and Sakura trees,*

and through the force of Gravity.

*The many parts of my self and other beings
the whole of consciousness
the long span of Time
from Beginning to End of all
the inner and outer arms of the Milky Way
are contained in All That Is,
in the Spirit of Be'al.*

Campfire Colloquy

The Beltaine Bannock (May Day Bread) by Ellen Evert Hopman

A Scottish Tradition:

A large oatcake was baked with nine raised knobs on it. It was carried out to the fields where each knob was broken off and offered to an animal that might harm the crops and herds such as crows, ravens, eagles, and foxes, asking the animal to leave the flocks and fields alone. The proper way to do this was to throw a piece of Bannock behind you, in the name of the animal you were petitioning. You might say; “This is for you raven, please spare my corn” or “this is for you foxes, please leave my chickens alone”, and so on.

Bannock Recipe Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup coarsely ground organic oats
- 2 tsp. melted organic butter or lard
- 1 pinch baking soda
- 1 pinch Sea Salt
- a handful of ground organic oats for kneading
- 1 cup hot water

Method:

- Combine the oats, salt and soda in a bowl and stir together.
- Make a well in the center of the bowl with your fist.
- Pour the melted shortening and water into the well and stir until a stiff batter forms.
- Cover a board with ground oats and empty the batter onto the board.
- Cover your hands with oats and knead the batter into a ball.
- Roll out to 1/2-inch thickness with a rolling pin (or a glass bottle).
- Sprinkle with ground oats and cook on a griddle or flat surface until the edges are curled and slightly toasted.

In ancient times the bannock would have been rolled thin and stuck to a sheepskin which was placed on a wooden stretcher near the fire until the bread was toasted. It was considered very unlucky and an offense to the Fairies for iron to touch the bannock if it was intended as a bread for ritual purposes.

From “[Once Around the Sun – Stories, Crafts and Recipes to Celebrate the Sacred Earth Year](#)”

OBF Training Program For the RDNA is Live!

Oakdale Grove's Druidry Training Program

Regular readers will have seen this preamble a few times, but we're always getting a few new readers who might not have read any back-issues of this newsletter yet. Oakdale Grove has wanted to develop an RDNA style training program for itself since 2017. The issue came down to prioritization between other projects, free time, and the pesky fact that *training programs* are kinda-sorta antithetical to the spirit of Reformed Druidism. In the RDNA, every individual's training in Druidry is technically their own responsibility, meaning their path to Awareness is and should be unique from anyone else's.

Being a free Druid order, the RDNA also gets a lot of people reaching out from around the world asking if we have any sort of study program, and they're often told to "go talk to a tree" (cringe). I also feel that a lot of newbies might not understand that RDNA trope, and the commandment comes off as insincere and flippant. Thus, Oakdale Grove wanted to develop a rudimentary training program that offers something more helpful than that, and it also occasionally encourages the student to keep learning outside of the study program so that their Awareness can still have unique elements to it.

In 2020, I finally started working on writing the training program. We suddenly had no shortage of free time, living under a shelter-in-place advisement. It got to the point that I realized I needed to learn so much more myself after I wrote about half of Unit 1's content. I started reading a *lot* more to even be able to make a commentary on certain subject matter, and removed proposed sections for which I will *never* be qualified to teach on. In the end, Unit 1 has 60 cited sources in its *References* section.

The Order of Bradán Feasa

The RDNA has many numeric Orders or ranks within its hierarchy. Nobody *needs* to ascend through any of them. Most Reformed Druids are satisfied to enter the Order of the Acorn (self dedication) or the First Order and remain there comfortably in Druidism. The Second and Third Orders are there for those who feel an urge to serve their community as clergy, either to simply serve as Preceptor of a Grove, or to offer spiritual services from the priesthood. There are many "higher orders" of the priesthood, but there are also "side orders" that don't have any prerequisite rank requirements.

The Order of Bradán Feasa is one of those new side orders, created for the RDNA. When someone completes Units 1 and 2 of the OBF training program and passes the exam, they will be inducted into the Order of Bradán Feasa and receive a certificate of completion. What does OBF Certification qualify them for? Just that: completion of the OBF program. However, the quantity of information provided, and the amount of interaction involved is well above Oakdale Grove's recommended minimum benchmarks for Second Order candidacy. This is where we remind program students that OBF Certification *does not equal* Second Order Ordination. It merely provides an array of information that our Grove believes a Second Order Druid candidate should have.

Is this an Official RDNA Training Program?

No. Oakdale Grove cannot speak on behalf of the entire RDNA. We can make generalizations in our statements, but never anything definitive. In theory, the Council of Dalon Ap Landu could come back together and hold a vote on whether or not to make it official, but I believe there'd be a fair amount of *no* votes on the principal of what we said above about training programs being somewhat antithetical to the spirit of Reformed Druidism. Other RDNA Groves and Protogroves are welcome to adopt the usage of this training program if they find it to be helpful.

The Order of Bradán Feasa would also be applicable to anyone in the RDNA who adopts this program. Higher orders and side orders *do* tend to become recognized by others in the RDNA, especially when the orders established by Third Order Druids. Most of them serve as areas of focus and dedication, and since creating higher orders or side orders doesn't equate to codifying Druidism the way the written word of a study program does, the additional ranks tend to become "official" without needing a vote from the Council. The Fourth Order was the only one the Council of Dalon Ap Landu voted to establish. The rest were created one at a time because an individual RDNA priest *said so* and was *appointed* to it rather than *voted* into it.

So Where is the OBF Training Program?

Unit 1 is live right now at Oakdale Grove's [website](#). It exists as a fillable PDF workbook. It is also available as a coil-bound workbook from [Lulu Press](#), a print-on-demand bookbinder. We *really* advise against the printed version. The PDF is so much easier to use; it was intended to be a digital workbook from the start. Students can download their own copy, fill it out, and email it back. When it is complete and submitted, Oakdale Grove will send out Unit 2, the ARDA Study Course (which is almost ready to go live, too!). When Unit 2 is complete and emailed back, Oakdale Grove will send the link to the Google Forms-based exam. The exam is open book, but will require a 90% score in order to pass.

Once the exam is completed, Oakdale Grove will send the student a certificate of completion and induction into the Order of Bradán Feasa. At that time, they will also be invited to take the *optional* Unit 3: the *Clergy Prep Course and Grove Governance Guide (GGG)*. Unit 3 is slightly more advanced content specific to those who wish to become RDNA clergy or run a Grove or Protogrove. It is optional because there are so many people who want to learn the ways of Druidry, but might not necessarily want to become clergy or run a Grove.

The Seeker's Corkboard

Overview

This is the place where you can state that you are seeking other druids to form a protogrove. Long has it been said, something to the tune of *in the proper way, at the proper time, at the proper place, may another druid cross your path*. Well, here is a little nudge to help this happen sooner! These bulletins will be cumulative on each issue of C.O.R.D. until you send a stop request. They will be arranged alphabetically by country, then by state/province/region, then by town name.

To submit a Seeker's Corkboard request, email the editor and **provide your preferred name, location, and an email address** that you check at least weekly. Just remember that any contact information you submit to this section does become public. Your email address in the newsletter will be split apart and we will use different characters (& and /) instead of @ and '.' to prevent or mitigate roving address harvester bots from scanning them for spam.

Standard Safety Disclaimer

I advise Googling *safety tips for meeting people from the Internet* or something to that effect. Furthermore, this is not intended as a section for personals ads or soliciting hookups.

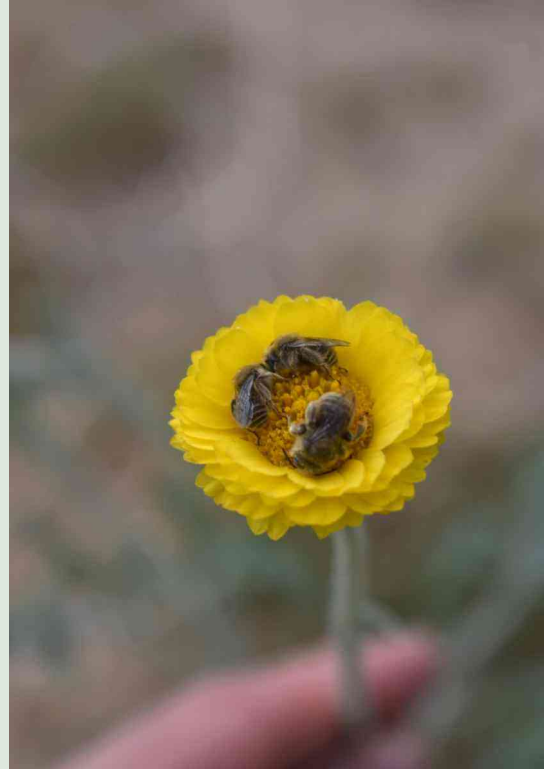
Bulletins

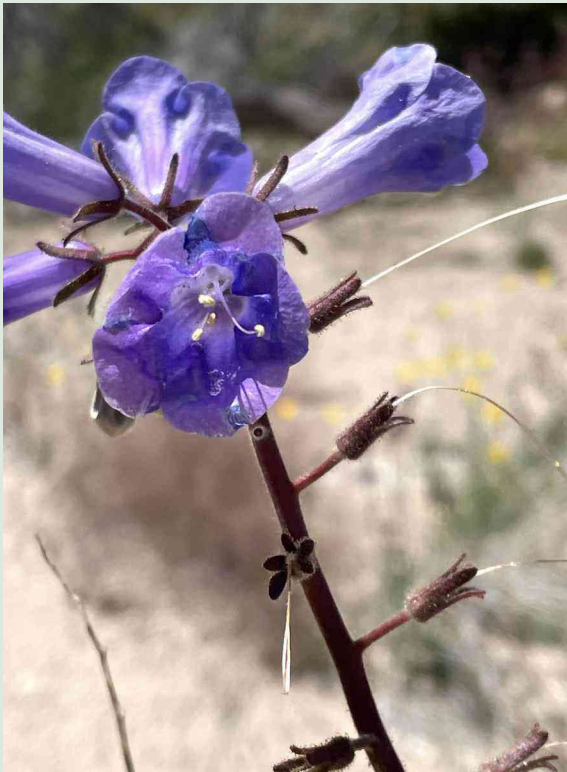
USA: District of Columbia: Tyler Vanice on behalf of *Potomac Protogrove* in Washington DC. If interested, please reach out. Email tyler.vanice&gmail/com.

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

Vivid Visions Gallery

Contributions from Joshua Hubert – All photos from in or near Joshua Tree National Park





Contributions from John the Verbose – Spring Flowers at Eastman Nature Center



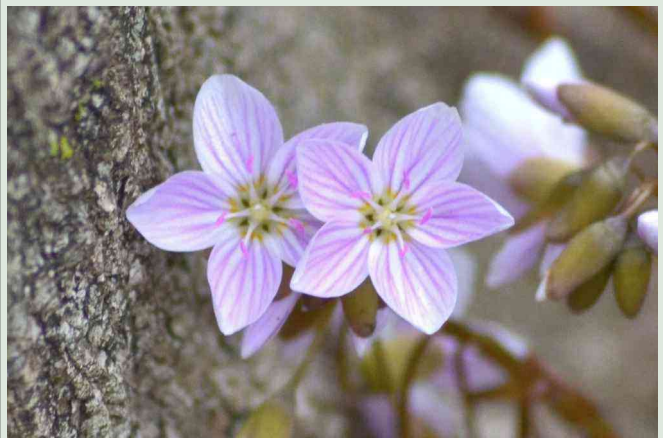
Cutleaf toothwort



Blue phlox



Patch of blue phlox, with obligatory dandelions



Spring beauty

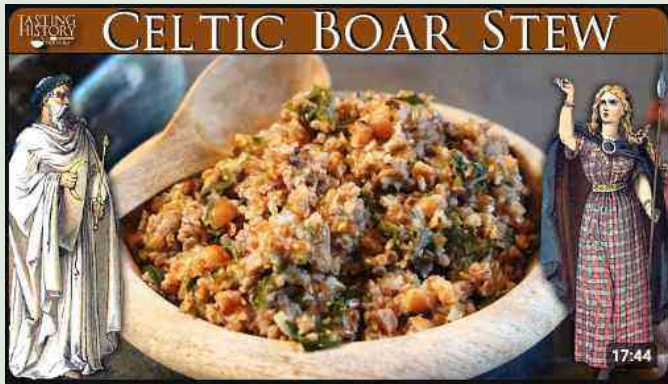


One-eyed Jack, great horned owl (through cage). Jack is one of the "ambassador animals" rescued and cared for by nature center staff. He is kept in a mew which somewhat resembles a Roman *fanum*. I regard it as a "Temple of Wisdom."



Videos of Interest

"How to Eat Like a Celtic Druid"



The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

Overview

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

Solar Eclipse Devotional for 2024

by Kynan of Maryland

I raise these words in honor of the Xartus,
for the Universal laws that allow for such a crossing between two celestial beings:
one of striking Light and bright Fire
the other of silver-hued rock
now casting a deep shadow upon the Land.

The Sky begins this day with clarity and vision
before it dims into a false dusk coming into the afternoon;
Time designated for the Moon to enter into the day-lit Sky.
Night invades the Day
placing Her limits upon the realm of the Sun—
Disc upon disc, sphere upon sphere
ghostly shadow upon golden light.
I witness Terra align with Luna and Sol
from a local place, a small town.
For four minutes a lively ring of fire
emerges around the dark center,
thin, yet unmistakable and powerful
dusk flows into afternoon
owls desire to hunt their prey before Night
a chill falls upon the mid-day air,
relief for my skin from Spring heat.
I breathe in the sudden change upon Earth
receiving both shadow and ring of Sunlight together
blessing the union of Belinus and Luna
for a fraction of this day.

Yet the moment soon passes
Eclipse drifts into the past, felt no more;
I feel the Light seize back its place
overcoming the great Moon-shadow.
Celestial beings part ways
All returns to as it was before,

with consciousness transformed among us.

I remain upon my path to the Sacred
through the world and Sky.

May these words do justice and honor
to the Holy Sun, blessed Luna, Earth-Mother,
and the Shining Ones. I raise these thoughts in praise of the Xartus!

May it be so.

Augur's Intuition

Overview

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

Submission by John the Verbose

Methodology: Lorraine Anderson's Gratitude Deck of Appreciation

About this deck

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

Cards drawn

- Leave little notes with encouraging words around your town.
- Enjoy the routine. It may not be exciting but it means everything is flowing smoothly.
- Love your body. Say a prayer of thanks to your body for its hard work.



The "Carletongny" Calendar

Overview

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

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

Samradh Y.R. 62 Date Conversion Chart

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

Blogs & Social Media Links

Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

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

Social Media

- C.O.R.D. Biquarterly's [Facebook page](#)
- "Official" Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- [*Editor's note: if you request to join there are four vetting questions. Please answer all four; they're really easy.*]
- New Reformed Druids of North America (NRDNA) [Facebook group](#)
- Ron Stonemage's [Instagram](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Twitter](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Facebook page](#)
- Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program Development [Facebook page](#)
- Tribe of the Oak Celtic Reconstructionist (non-RDNA) Druid Grove [website](#)
- White Rabbit Grove's [Facebook page](#)
- Oakdale Grove's [Instagram](#)
- [Druid Dad Discord Server](#)

Other Media

- Podcast: [Druid Dad Podcast](#)

Artisan Promo Page

Overview

Each article of *C.O.R.D.* will contain up to two pages of featured artists, craftspersons, or small online storefronts that may be of interest to the druid community in some way. There is no cost involved; anyone can request that their content be promoted here on a first-come-first-served basis.

Hazel Oak and Yew Handcrafted Spiritual Goods

Hello and welcome to Hazel Oak and Yew, my space to share my love of witchcraft and my pagan practice with you all. Here I share my handcrafted goods for practicing along with sets of things for you to learn to practice on your own, in your own way. This Etsy shop offers altar supplies, handmade décor, divination tools, and grimoire materials. Custom orders are available!



Ron Stonemage's wire art and wrapped stones

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



Reannag Teine Pottery

Historically Inspired Pottery: Islamic, Greek, or Italian Renaissance... skulls, squashed fairies, or Viking kitties, we are devoted to creating unique pieces of historically inspired ceramic art--a touch of the unique you can use all the time. Hand-thrown and hand-painted yet safe for food, dishwasher, microwave, and oven. Reannag Teine, Gaelic for "star fire," is a mother-daughter team with six degrees and a myriad of art awards between them... and a healthy amount of humor to bring it all together. Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Instagram—and of course at www.ReannagTeine.com!



Book Reviews for Works by Author Ellen Evert Hopman

Once Around the Sun at [The Hearth & Hedge](#) and at [Pagan Pages](#)

Priestess of the Forest at [Portland Jones](#)

Reformed Druid Resources

Overview

The Reformed Druids of North America is probably one of the few major druid orders that provides all resources for learning about our style of druidism at no cost. We might not have all the answers, and unfortunately we don't have a mentorship or official training program (yet), however there is something major in the works on an unofficial capacity. For now, here is a list of resources we *do* have.

Grove Finder

Everyone wants to know: is there an RDNA or NRDNA Grove in _____? Well, the most current source of truth is the [Grove Listings](#) on Oakdale Grove's website. It's been updated *en masse* in January 2019 & 2020, but it can be updated any time on an ad-hoc basis. It tracks Reformed Druid, New Reformed Druid, and Reformed Druidic Wicca (MOCC) Groves & Protogroves.

RDNA Year Conversion Chart & Calendar

The RDNA Calendar began at Year of the Reform 1 on Beltane (May 1) 1963. It's unapologetically half a year off from the Celtic New Year. As of Beltane 2021, the 59th Year of the Reform (Y.R.) began.

- [RDNA Gregorian/Year of the Reform Conversion spreadsheet](#) can be a helpful tool.
- [RDNA calendar \(FREE PDF\)](#) current through April 30, 2024 can help you learn what day of the four seasons it is, because you'll see the RDNA calendar system is all over this publication.

Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program

This is a work in progress. So far the draft is 114 pages long, and I'm only half way into adding the *basic* content I want to put in it. I am not an educator, so I'm concerned about its flow and efficacy. If anyone wants to help develop it with me, I would greatly appreciate the assistance.

Books From the Reformed Druids of North America

- [A Reformed Druid Anthology](#), 2nd ed (also known as ARDA-2) – this is a monumental collection (almost a thousand pages long), and it comes in various forms and formats due to its sheer size. **The PDF versions are always FREE**, but hardcover prints are available from Lulu Print-On-Demand.
 - [ARDA-2](#) complete (**FREE PDF**) (Volumes 0-10, excluding vol 6)
 - [ARDA-2](#) complete ePub format from Lulu (99¢)
 - [ARDA-2 Volumes 0, 1, & 2](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
 - [ARDA-2 Volume 3](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
 - [ARDA-2 Volumes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, & 10](#) in one tome (hardcover purchase from Lulu)
 - [ARDA-2 Volume 6: Green Books of Meditation \(FREE PDF\)](#) – this alone is almost a thousand pages long and intentionally set apart from the other volumes. The Green Books are only available in PDF and contain inspirational writings from all religions.

ARDA Derivative, Condensed, or Adapted Works

- [Unofficial Welcome Pamphlet \(FREE PDF\)](#) is the original 22 pages of the main written works plus introductory info on the RDNA and how to start your own protogrove
- [Black Book of Liturgy \(FREE PDF\)](#) is Oakdale Grove's recommended readings from [ARDA-2](#) plus many scripts of RDNA ritual variations and rites of passage)
 - [Black Book of Liturgy](#) (hardcover purchase from Lulu)

Top recommended books by authors in other druid orders

- [The Druidry Handbook: Spiritual Practice Rooted in the Living Earth](#) by John Michael Greer (Ancient Order of Druids in America – AODA)
- [The Rebirth of Druidry](#) by Philip Carr-Gomm (Order of Bards, Ovates, & Druids – OBOD)
- [A Legacy of Druids: Conversations With Druid Leaders Of Britain, The USA And Canada, Past And Present](#) by Ellen Evert Hopman (Tribe of the Oak)

Books on ancient druids (scholarly quality)

- [Druids: A Very Short Introduction](#) by Barry Cunliffe
- [The Druids](#) by Stuart Piggott
- [The Druids](#) by Peter Berresford Ellis
- [The World of the Druids](#) by Miranda J. Green

Books to Avoid

- [The 21 Lessons of Merlyn: A Study in Druid Magic and Lore](#) by Douglas Monroe (fraudulent sources, numerous inaccuracies passed off as historical facts, and other junk wrapped in a shiny literary bowtie)

Newsletter Info

About *C.O.R.D.*

Connexus of Reformed Druids – C.O.R.D. Biquarterly is a free and publicly available newsletter for the Reformed Druids of North America, its branches, and for anyone else who might be interested. It follows in the footsteps of prior publications such as *A Druid Missal-Any* and *Druid Inquirer*. *Connexus* is an homage to the late Emmon Bodfish, who petitioned the Council of Dalon Ap Landu to update RDNA liturgical nomenclature to make it less churchlike and more unique. *Connexus* is Latin for *connection* (not exactly druidic, but I'm not complaining). Emmon's petition never gained traction (plus the Council had lost its ability to gain a voting quorum and it had no chairperson at the time) but it seemed fitting to adopt this word for a publication that connects druids around the world.

Past Articles

[Click here](#) to access all prior *C.O.R.D. Biquarterly* articles and the content contribution forms.

Meet the Editor

Greetings! I'm John "The Verbose." I've practiced generic forms of druidry since I spent a semester in Ireland in 2004. I began interacting with the RDNA in 2011, and in 2013 I was ordained as a priest of Dalon Ap Landu and formed Oakdale Grove in Minnesota with 5 other grovemates. In 2015 I had the rare opportunity to become a priest of Belenos and in 2017 the even rarer honor of becoming a priest of Sirona, as well as the new curator of her Order. In January 2020 I began work on developing an RDNA style druid training program, and as of now that is still a work in progress.

I am absolutely committed to my oath of Service and wish to help others explore Reformed Druidry by a diverse array of means. That includes assembling and issuing these newsletters. Anything in this publication that doesn't have an attribution and is written in the first person is pretty much me sharing my opinions and experiences. That's where your help and contributions are so helpful; we have a newsletter with crowd-sourced content to appeal to a broader druidic audience. I sincerely hope you find this periodical to be a worthwhile investment of your time. I always welcome constructive criticism and suggestions or other feedback.



Peace, peace, peace! ☸

Contribute Content to the Next Issue!

Submission Process

Issues will be released within a day or two of the RDNA Wheel of the Year high days. That's more or less the deadline if you wanted to submit any content for the forthcoming article. Anything received a bit late might end up on the draft of the next article thereafter.

Gmail Users Can Use Our Full-Feature Google Form to Contribute!

We have a [convenient form](#) that allows Gmail users to enter text-based contribs as well as attach files or photos! A Google account is only required for sending attachments through the form.

Non-Gmail Users Have Two Ways to Contribute

There is a [lite version of the same form](#) for those who don't have a Gmail account, which allows anyone to submit text-based contributions only.

What Does C.O.R.D. Look For? Content that is PG-13 or tamer in the following categories:

- News of Reformed Druidry Groves, Protogroves, & Solo Druids
- Poetry and Short Stories
- Druidic projects, tutorials, arts, crafts you are making
- Personal milestones, editorials, druidic book or product reviews, critiques
- Seeker Bulletins like "Solo druid looking for other druids in _____"
- Your own photography
- Links to videos of druidic interest (need not be your own) or druidry-related memes
- Links to your druid blogs or social media
- Divinations and their summaries
- Events you're willing to announce publicly
- Do you have a druid-oriented Etsy shop or similar online store? One page of the newsletter will be reserved for artisan promo space
- Propose a topic; you can help make this newsletter be a success!

Thank You!

A very special *thank you* photograph dedicated to everyone who contributed to this article!



Palisade Head, Tettegouche State Park, Silver Bay, Minnesota