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Photo: Oakdale Grove's Druid Sigil-inscribed stone, moved from our oak grove to the paved trail around 2020 during prairie restoration, probably because it had a mysterious carving on it.

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Note: Click-navigation might only work if you download the PDF.

News of the Groves

News from Oakdale Grove (Minnesota)

In January we had our monthly casual hangout in a mead hall! When we got to the *White Bear Meadery*, we weren't sure if they were open. In fact they had *just* opened right before we arrived. We had seven attendees hang out and talk about yet another unusual winter we're having in Minnesota. White Bear Meadery has nearly 30 different flavors of mead to choose from, including ones with root beer, hops, habanero, or chipotle pepper! The hoppy one is an acquired taste. We'll have to do this again sometime!



In late January, we realized a necessity to establish a DEI statement for our Grove. The RDNA's pluralistic nature has long been established to welcome members of all backgrounds, and I think that notion is still 100% relevant today as it was nearly 62 years ago. For anyone else running an RDNA Grove, protogrove, or that of one of the RDNA's offshoots, we encourage you to make an inclusivity statement for your fellowship as well, for the sake of anyone seeking community who may feel marginalized by wider society.



Oakdale Grove DEI Statement

"Druidism is open to anyone who wishes to be part of it..."

-The Epistle of Midsummer 3:2

Oakdale Grove of the Reformed Druids of North America asserts its dedication to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and diverse community. As a minority spirituality we have a legacy of being inclusive and uplifting of people of marginalized walks of life. All are welcome who would affirm and demonstrate that ALL are indeed welcome.



Leading by Example: The Reformed Druids are the first modern spiritual Druid movement to:

- Ordain women as clergy
- Elect women to the highest level of leadership
- Ordain transgender clergy
- Elect transgender clergy to the highest level of leadership
- Embrace racial diversity up to the highest level of leadership by merit of their character.

In our continuing and evolving traditions, we create an empathetic environment of celebration, learning, and reverence that can be applicable to all regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexuality, socioeconomic class, age, disability, veteran status, or religion. Anyone can be a Druid.

Earlier today we had our Oimelc ritual, with fourteen attendees celebrating the continued onslaught of winter with us! Actually with the weather being so odd, our snow is mostly gone because we've had a strain of warm weather this last week. We broke a previous record high temperature from 1980 when we reached 58°F (14°C) two days ago. It is supposed to be around 25°F (-4°C) this time of year. Actually this happened *last* January, too. At the end of the month we had temperatures so warm that there were gnats and mosquitoes out when we went for a hike in the woods!



Today's ceremony was still warmer than average, but the blustery winds had a chill to them, and it snowed a little during the ritual. It took a while to get the bonfire to light in all the wind, but once it got started, it pretty much burst into flames, and all without accelerant! We brought our small pitcher expecting a quiet turnout. Despite it brimming at the start, we had to fill it up again halfway around the circle of attendees. We should have brought our bigger pitcher! It can also be tricky sometimes to gauge how to ration out the contents of a pitcher for so many attendees, especially when the pitcher has a wider brim, narrow neck, wider midsection, and narrower base. Luckily there was still plenty for everyone! After the ceremony ended, it started to snow just a



little bit more. By the time we got home, the snow was just starting to stick to the roads. It's already melting again.

Bardic Column

"Morning Snowmelt" by Sunshine Flourish

The life-giving sun

Glistening off melting snow

Reeds of grass poke through

Nature does not deal in discrete variables. We are nature.



Meditation labyrinth, Barker's Alps Park, Bayport, MN by John the Verbose

NRDNA "Oimelc Chant" by Robert Larson et al.

For three months, O Earth-Mother,

has Thou been gone from us.

Wilt thou not return?

Our hearts are heavy,

our days our dark.

Wilt thou not return?

All seems dead,

hast thou departed?

Never to return?

O, Earth-Mother, we ask a sign.

A sign of thy return.

A sign of Life in the midst of Death.

A sign of thy return.

Sleep in peace,

but send a sign!

A sign of thy return!

A sign of Life!

The Life of thy return!

Campfire Colloquy

Overview

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

A Slice of Nature... for your everyday

Oriana – Sunset Grove, California – February 2025

As Druids we are all pretty tuned into nature. It's 'who we are'. After all – NATURE IS GOOD.

That said, outside of our druidic pursuits, life happens. Commuting to work, working in an office building/inside our homes etc, and it often happens that adding a slice of nature to everyday can sometimes be slightly outside of our reach.

My contribution to the newsletter this year will be to write a short piece with each edition on ideas on how to incorporate 'A Slice of Nature' into your every day.

IMBOLC

A part of the Imbolc holiday is celebrating 'new life'. During the cold winter months – one way to do this is to bring nature IN! Plant a few seeds, put them on your kitchen window and enjoy them throughout the year.

Herbs are a great idea for easy to grow indoors from seeds.

- If you want planting herbs to be really easy, you can find an herb growing kit to purchase, with seeds, pots and soil all in one. These can be pretty and inexpensive. (Sample online herb growing kit for sale at the time of writing this) <u>Buzzy 11" Spring Windowsill Culinary Herb</u> Garden Grow Kit
- If you have a bit more time... go through your cupboards... find some mason jars, beautiful pots or teacups/coffee mugs to reclaim... another resource for these would be to pick a few up at local garage/rummage sales. You can buy someone else's old cups/mugs for next to nothing!



 And if you are a true creative – try your hand at making some beautiful handmade clay pots!

No matter what you use – some herbs are perennials and can be kept indefinitely.



At my home I've planted herbs just outside my kitchen door in the backyard (I'm lucky as it doesn't snow here), so I can go out and cut a few for any meal. A big joke in our house is when my adult kids are rummaging through my spice cabinet, asking where the Rosemary is...and I say, "Out the back door, turn Left. Take Scissors".

Here are a few suggestions for easy to grow herbs to keep on hand: Rosemary, Sage, Thyme & Parsley, oregano, basil, lavender and lemon balm. ... Thyme, Parsley and Oregano would make GREAT kitchen window herbs as they are tender annuals.

If your plants get big, trim them and dry what you cannot use each day. Store dried herbs in an airtight container for use later. You can even try your hand at making dried herbal blends, and share your creations with friends or use them inexpensive but thoughtful homegrown gifts.

Start small and plant what you know you'll love and use! It's a great way to feel connected to nature in every meal you make and you get the added bonus of caring for a growing thing each day!

A Pagan Response to the 2nd Trump Administration by Oberon Zell

Dear Friends,

The 2020's are the latest in a cycle of Cultural Renaissances that have occurred every 60 years since the Italian Renaissance of the 1480s. The last one was the "New Age" of the 1960s, which saw the birth of so many movements that transformed our society: anti-war, free speech, free love, civil rights, de-segregation, environmentalism, the women's movement, the gay movement, the Pagan movement...

The decade began with the invention of the birth control pill in 1960 and the publication of Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land in 1961. I was 17-27 in the '60s and deeply involved. In addition to founding and incorporating the Church of All Worlds as the first group to identify as "Pagan," and launching Green Egg magazine (1968), I worked with HeadStart, was a family counselor with the Human Development Corp., and taught primary school. I was involved in many campaigns and demonstrations—anti-war, desegregation, civil rights, etc. And at the end of the decade, I introduced my revelation of Gaea as our living planet and Goddess.

Over 20 years ago, in my Grimoire for the Apprentice Wizard, I dubbed the coming 2020's Cultural Renaissance "The Awakening," which has indeed become a major theme everywhere from the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions to the prevalent (and controversial) cultural meme of "wokeness." This year puts us in the middle of the decade, which began with a transformative global pandemic. Now we are witnessing a political upheaval of profound concern. What do we want to see in the coming years?

You are on my list of contacts for a potential coalition of religious and other relevant groups to address our mutual concerns regarding the implementation of Project 2025 in the coming Trump administration —particularly those promoted by the Christian Nationalist/Dominionist agenda which wants to establish an Evangelical theocracy to rule our country according to Biblical laws. To see what they have planned, read the Book of Leviticus! We should all be aware of the Black Robe Regiment—a militarized Christian militia taking over churches to kill in god's name. And I did find it very alarming that during the Inauguration ceremonies we were subjected to a very militaristic rendition of "Onward Christian Soldiers" by a full uniformed marching band...

We need a comprehensive and unified ecumenical religious response to Project 2025. As the "Father of Modern Paganism" I hereby propose and advocate a major campaign of outreach to other religions and organizations to forge a significant alliance/coalition to stand against the right-wing Evangelical/Dominionist/Christian Nationalist agenda outlined in Project 2025—to turn the US into a

Christian theocracy (specifically Evangelical/Southern Baptist) which will have no room for anyone else. Such an alliance would be a fitting accomplishment of this Renaissance decade!

I propose working especially with major Pagan groups, Pagan Pride organizations and Pagan Festivals to reach out to Unitarians, Buddhists, Hindus, Afro-Caribbeans, Indians, Shinto, atheists, liberal Jews and Christians—as well as to the New Age and LGBTQ+ folks. We should also reach out to interfaith and multi-spiritual groups and academies, as there is already a lot of resistance going on in these spaces. We must all unite to stand against the takeover by the Christian Nationalists that will outlaw all of us the way Hitler did with the Jews, Gypsies and gays. We may anticipate replays of the Salem Witch Trials in 1692, the "Red Scare" McCarthy anti-communist hearings of 1950-'54 and the Fundamentalist Christian "Satanic Panic" of the early 1990s.

An excellent connection would be Starr King School for the Ministry. Their 2024 Symposium concentrated on the rise of Christian nationalism and networking to establish solidarity resistance. The school is based on liberation theology concepts as well as "educating to counter oppressions." All the faculty are steeped in these approaches to spiritual activism. Check out the websites: https://www.sksm.edu/about/educational-philosophy and https://www.sksm.edu/academics/the-center-for-multi-religious-studies

For coordinating local demonstrations, petitions and other actions, I recommend all the Pagan and Gay Pride organizations around the country. Since the Pride events are only for one weekend (or one day) a year, these would be the perfect coordinating agencies. Pride organizers could reach out to the diverse appropriate elements in their respective regions and invite them to participate in the next Pride event with booths, talks, workshops, panels, etc. Such coordinators might sponsor or become involved with local interfaith councils as well.

I make this appeal in the name of Gaia—our universal Mother, of whom we are all Her Children. Let's evoke the popular mythos of forging a "rebel alliance" to oppose the tyrannical Empire and reference this theme in popular movies and TV shows, such as Robin Hood, Flash Gordon, Young Rebels, Star Wars, The Handmaid's Tale, House of the Dragon, Mufasa…

I want to evoke the American Dream—a utopian Vision of a "land of the free and home of the brave" with "Liberty and Justice for all;" that cherishes and derives strength from our diversity; a free country of immigrants where all people are welcome—especially refugees and the disenfranchised.

...Give me your tired, your poor,

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Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

-- Emma Lazarus, 1883 (on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty)

As Lutheran pastor, Nazi concentration camp survivor, and President of the World Council of Churches, Martin Niemöller famously said in 1945:

"In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

-- Martin Niemöller, 1945

In that vein, the first prioritized targets of Trump's purge campaign have already been designated: Latin American immigrants who entered this country illegally. The logistical and social impossibility of actually rounding up, confining and deporting 13 million refugees (about 4% of the US population) should keep Trump busy for awhile. The immigrants will be a buffer to the next target populations of Trump's vendetta: the media, journalists, dissidents and political opponents. The first moves will probably be the revoking of the broadcast licenses of ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN/MSNBC and National Public Radio (NPR) for broadcasting news stories unfavorable to Trump.

Next in the crosshairs will be trans and other LGBTQ+ people—as well as women. In his Inaugural Address Trump declared there to be only two genders—male and female. The entire religious right wing, homophobic and misogynous as they are, has always been obsessed with deviations from their professed straight monogamous heterosexuality. And their rampant misogyny also manifests in their perpetual efforts to control women's sexuality, especially in freedom of choice regarding birth control and abortion.

After the queers, trans and free women, the next targets have already been designated by the Christian Nationalists (Evangelicals and Dominionists). These will be atheists, agnostics and minority religious folks. Moslems and Jews have already been referenced—but so far there has been no mention of Pagans and Witches. We seem to be flying under the radar—but make no mistake; they

know we're here, and after they've cleared the field of more visible targets, they will come after us. And we need to be ready.

For a more in-depth discussion and proposal, see my 5-part Manifesto on my personal blog site: "A Pagan Game Plan for the Trump Administration and Project 2025."

https://oberonzell.com/blog/category/worldsafe/

Blessed Be, and Never Thirst!

~Oberon Zell

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!

USA: Massachusetts: Central MA: from Avery Vreeland

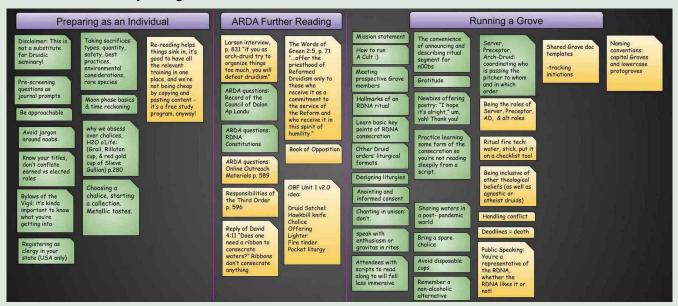
Looking for others interested in establishing a RDNA/General Reformed Druidism study group in the central Massachusetts/Wider New England area, with eventual aspirations of forming a Grove. Please reach out to gremilkin&proton/me.

Order of Bradán Feasa Unit 3 Development Update

As the fall of 2024 progressed, we kept forgetting to include an update on the development of the Unit 3 workbook for the Order of Bradán Feasa Druidry training program. Unit 3 is the optional *Clergy Prep Course and Grove Governance Guide (GGG)*. It is optional because not everyone in the RDNA wants to train for the priesthood, and not everyone wants to run a Grove or protogrove. Early last fall, we had mentioned that we were hoping that Unit 3 would go live by the end of 2024. It's not done yet.

Further, when we say Unit 3 is *optional*, that makes it sound like Units 1& 2 must be "mandatory." There are no real mandates in the OBF program at all, it's just that for those who finish the first two units in good faith and pass the Unit 2 *ARDA Exam*, the successful candidate will be inducted into the Order of Bradán Feasa and will receive a certificate. As a reminder, OBF certification does not constitute any level of initiation, consecration, or ordination in the RDNA. And although the training workbook is written for Oakdale Grove, all RDNA Groves and Protogroves are welcome to adopt this training program if they feel so inclined. Unaffiliated solo Druids are also welcome to use this training program, too. However, the Order of Bradán Feasa (essentially a kind of *honor society*) should be regarded just like any other side-order or higher order of the RDNA.

The following image is of our "blackboard" of sections and ideas. It is scaled down to fit this page; it is not necessarily meant to be legible here, merely to give an idea of how much progress is still needed. The green sticky notes are sections that are considered complete on the draft. The yellow sticky notes indicate a section that hasn't been started yet. We'll change a sticky note to an intermediate color to indicate it is currently being drafted. It also contains a list of ideas to be added to Unit 1 in version 2.0.



The current draft of Unit 3 is already 96 pages and growing. Who knew there could be so much advice for Third Orders or Grove and protogrove leaders?

Vivid Visions Gallery

Contributions from Sunshine Flourish: Starved Rock State Park, Illinois

Videos of Interest

Two videos shared by Ellen Evert Hopman, Tribe of the Oak

Interview with Ellen Evert Hopman



January 2025, I talk about Druidism on Write Talk Wednesday

APC 24 Ellen Evert Hopman Fae



October 2024, I talk about the Good Neighbors (the Fae) at the Ancestral Pathways conference

The Right Rites For Rampant Ritualists

Overview

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

Natural Connections by Johayan Sycamore Bear

There are many ways for a solo Druid to connect with Nature and live in the moment. While living in an urban area, in an area where being Druidic in public would be dangerous, or you have a unsupportive partner.

Stop and listen to any natural sounds that can be heard such as birdsong, wind through the trees, waves lapping up on shore. This can be done while in a park, on a trail, or even on your own porch/balcony.

Go about your day, looking for signs of life in places where you don't expect it. A small plant growing in the cracks of a building, grass that survives between the lanes of a busy street or highway while keeping in mind: Nature finds a way.

A meditation: center yourself and imagine yourself doing your meditation while surrounded by Nature. It could be a forest, an open plain, or an island. It's your Nature place.

If you have pets, they can be a great connection to Nature. Learn what you can about what your pet would be like in Nature. Dogs are domesticated wolves. Cats are related to lions. Even goldfish are members of the carp family. What would your pet's place in Nature be?

Do you have houseplants? Do a meditation or centered thought exercise while you tend to your plant(s). Plants let us bring a piece of Nature into our homes, clean the air in our home, and also provide added beauty to the space they are in.

It can be difficult to be a solo or hidden Druid, but like Nature; you can find a way.

Augur's Intuition

Overview

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

Submission by John the Verbose Methodology: Tarot of Druids

About this deck

This isn't your typical Tarot deck, as the major and minor arcana are different, and you need to keep them as separate stacks. Cards 1 & 2 at the left and right are always from the major arcana deck, and the five cards in the middle need to be from the minor arcana deck. Cards on the left of the minor arcana are of lesser influence, the minor on the right have a stronger influence.



Cards drawn (the Beltane spread)

	3		4	
1		7		2
	5		6	

1. Mood: Eriu – A great undertaking

2. Your Influences: Aillen mac Midhna - Challenging destiny

External Influences:

- 3. Ten of Anguinum Risks or losses
- 4. Knight of Swords Fierce struggle
- 5. Knight of Anguinum Arrogance or lack of scruples
- 6. Six of Chalices Nightmares, nostalgia, or regrets
- 7. Three of Chalices New learning experiences, knowledge acquired

Interpretation

Your destiny has been challenged, and you feel this is a great undertaking. Short sightedness may have led to higher risk that influenced your current path. New levels of understanding can propel you through this time of struggle and horror.

Other Blogs & Social Media Links

Blogs Curated By Druids (accumulative each issue)

- Jax K's <u>Tumblr Blog</u>
- I Talk To The Trees's blog Corey Adventures
- Ellen Evert Hopman's blog A Druid's Blog
- John the Verbose's <u>Tumblr</u> (not updated as much, but still a repository of druidic content)
- TheMageiboLine's Tumblr

Social Media

- C.O.R.D. Biquarterly's Facebook page
- "Official" Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA) <u>Facebook group</u>
- [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) <u>Facebook group</u>
- Ron Stonemage's <u>Instagram</u>
- Oakdale Grove's BlueSky
- Oakdale Grove's Facebook page
- Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program <u>Facebook page</u>
- Tribe of the Oak Celtic Reconstructionist (non-RDNA) Druid Grove website
- White Rabbit Grove's Facebook page
- Oakdale Grove's Instagram
- RDNA on Discord

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, but 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 <u>Grove Listing</u> on Oakdale Grove's website. 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 2024, the 62nd Year of the Reform (Y.R.) began on the first day of Samradh, which is one day after the 90th day of Earrach. It simply counts the days of each season as well.

• RDNA Gregorian/Year of the Reform Conversion spreadsheet can be a helpful tool.

Oakdale Grove's RDNA Druid Training Program

We've created a <u>free training program</u> for the RDNA, and for those who complete the program, an honor society within the RDNA called the *Order of Bradán Feasa* (pronounced *bra-DON FOSS-ah*), named after the Salmon of Knowledge in Irish mythology.

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

- <u>Unofficial Welcome Pamphlet</u> (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
- <u>Black Book of Liturgy</u> (FREE PDF) is Oakdale Grove's recommended readings from <u>ARDA-2</u> 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

- <u>The Druidry Handbook: Spiritual Practice Rooted in the Living Earth</u> 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)
- <u>A Legacy of Druids: Conversations With Druid Leaders Of Britain, The USA And Canada, Past And Present</u> by Ellen Evert Hopman (Tribe of the Oak)

Books on ancient Druids (scholarly quality)

- <u>Druids: A Very Short Introduction</u> by Barry Cunliffe
- The Druids by Stuart Piggott
- The Druids by Peter Berresford Ellis
- The World of the Druids by Miranda J. Green

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 it was difficult to communicate with the Council at the time), but it seemed fitting to adopt this word for a publication that connects Druids around the world.

Past Articles

<u>Click here</u> 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 developing the new RDNA style Druid training program, and established an honor society for those who complete it called the Order of Bradán Feasa.

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.



Photo courtesy of I Talk To The Trees.

Peace, peace, peace!

Contribute Content to the Next Issue!

Submission Process

Issues will be released on the day 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 <u>convenient form</u> 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 <u>lite version of the same form</u> 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
- Propose a topic; you can help make this newsletter be a success!

The Thank You Photo!

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



Minnehaha Falls on a warm January afternoon, Minneapolis, Minnesota