

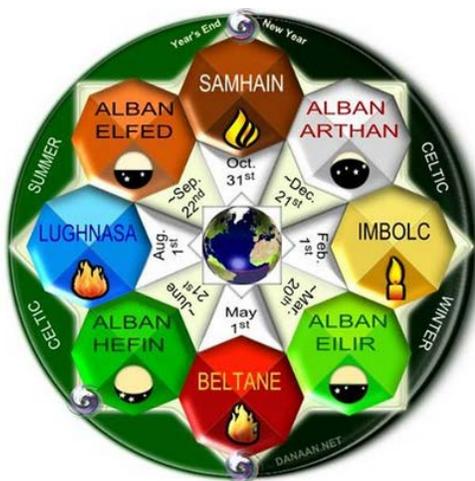


**Fall Equinox Issue
Year of the Reform “LII”
September 20, 2014 c.e.
Volume 31, Issue 6**

Editor’s Note:

It’s been a quiet 6 weeks since the Equinox, but I’ve been neck deep in Arabic studies, and not enjoying the outdoors as much as I should. As usually, most Druids have a good time and forget to write, so this will be a lean issue. I hope the acorns are falling well in your forest.

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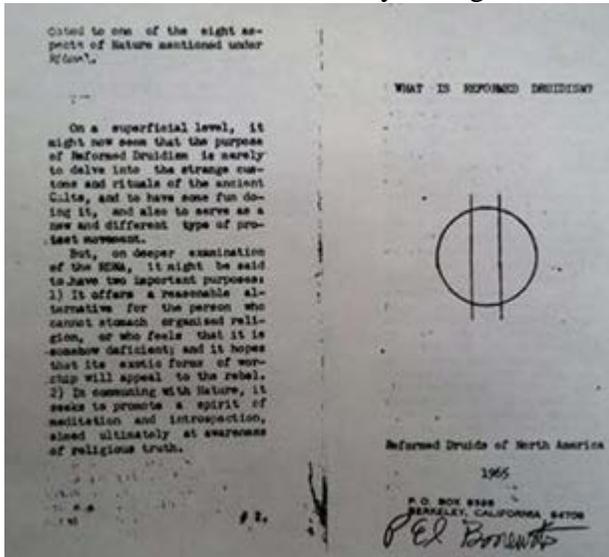


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Poison Oak Grove: News from California

Stacey reports that: Last night I met traveling Dutch druid Willem Hartman and his wife Jennifer and son Noe for dinner. They live in France and are visiting family here. We had some quite wonderful conversation on druidism, shamanism, story telling, life in France, life in the US, farming, mountains, and more.



I've been sorting through the old original Missal-Anies that Emmon published and have been organizing and filing them and found this. It's a Xerox of the What is Reformed Druid Pamphlet that Isaac published in 1965 and he signed it. I didn't know he had joined that early. OR he took an old pamphlet and added his PO Box, signed it, and used that to hand out to people.

Monument Grove: News from D.C.

I had lunch with the Oak and Eagle OBOD seed grove in Northern Virginia yesterday and spent about 2.5 hours talking big-picture theories of Modern Druidism, the RDNA, OBOD and grove mechanics. I think we were averaging about 1.3 raucous semi-blasphemous jokes per minute, and no doubt gathering some confused glances from nearby diners at the Thai restaurant. I hope to attend a few of the OBOD events and services in the Fall, to widen my understanding of a British-based movement that's about as old as the Reform, and remarkably similar in outlook. Talk about parallel evolution?!

-Mike

Koad Grove: News from Michigan

I offered a course in "Indo-European Initiations" at ADF Festival Summerland and at the culmination of the course, I performed an RDNA rite to demonstrate the initiations of 1st Order Druids. Of the 29 people in the class, 27 people either renewed their 1st Order or became Druids of the 1st Order!

- 9 new Druids of the 1st Order from Pan Pagan Fest 38! The Reform continues...
- With prayers offered to Grannos for healing and salutations to Lugh for Lughnasadh

Oakdale Grove: News from Minnesota



Daniel enters the first order with John M

Raven Grove: News from Quebec

Hi everyone, I just wanted to announced that Jennifer H. has officially joined RDNA. So I'm happy to welcome sister Jennifer to the Grove and to Reformed Druids of North America. Welcome to this wonderful and crazy journey.



Alan Jones enters the 3rd Degree of RDG in Cornwall, UK

Ellis announces (July30 2014) This evening I had the privilege to Ordain the (now) Rev Druid Bradius V. Maurus III to the Priesthood of the Reformed Druids. Bradius is also instigating a Proto-Grove, which will be the first in Eastern Europe and the old Soviet Block (he's in Poland). MYNT, TAG, and MFBWYA!

BLOGS OF INTEREST

SEBASTIEN:

Druid becoming a modern Templar – Chivalric Values and Dignity

<http://druidaefigulus.weebly.com/blog-in-english>

SHIMON Recommends: Wild Hunt Blog on Paganism in Australia

<http://wildhunt.org/2014/08/walking-the-world-paganism-in-australia.html>

Penny Recommends: OBOD DruidCast #90 with Ronald Hutton interview

<https://soundcloud.com/damhthebard/druidcast-a-druid-podcast-episode-90>

Penny Recommends: Patheos interview with Welsh Druid Kristoffer Hughes

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/johnbeckett/2014/09/interview-with-kristoffer-hughes.html>

Sebastien recommends: Joanna VanDerhoeven's blog on "What Druidry is Not"

<http://downtheforestpath.wordpress.com/2014/08/13/what-druidry-is-not/>

Shimon recommends: intensive urban farming blog how to raise food for a family of 4 on ½ acre

Off Grid Living Magazine: <https://www.offgridworld.com/subscribe/>

Irony recommends NYT Article An atheist analyzing our old observation of the difficulties translating a direct experience of the sacred through overlying religious contexts.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/31/opinion/sunday/frank-bruni-between-godliness-and-godlessness.html?_r=0



Dear Departed:

You advised me to believe the doctors,
That I'd die in a year or two,
Ten years ago.
Now you're dead
And I am still sick.
-Emmon

UNTITLED

I live in a back room in my parents' house.
The steps leading here are cluttered with junk.
Outdated clothes in the closet,
Light coming in over the door,
No motion, long isolation
All night the mocking bird sings.
-Emmon

WAITING

Black specks of birds disappear
Over the distant hills.
Leaves fall continually
In the empty garden.
An old woman in a blue bathrobe
I sit here: still.
(later)
"You should learn to relax, dear."
She said.
I don't answer.
But I imagine: "That,
Dear lady, I'm
A crack shot at."
-Emmon

NIGHT

Lying awake in my empty room,
Unable to sleep,
I listen:
Only the sound of the river
Where it turns the bend...

THE BOREDOM FARM

(a story in several poems by Emmon Bodfish)

Submitted by Stacey

I saw that.
How many years ago?
-Emmon

DAYS

Days and days,
Years and years,
Trying to face the truth:
Certainly now I will
Never get well.
-Emmon

YES

Sitting quietly on my chair
I watch the autumn
Sun outside my window.
A fresh cool
Marks the end of the day.
I wonder if this is what being sick
Is like for other people,
But nobody talks.
=Emmon

VIEW

Yes, I live in a back
Room at my parents' house,
Dry rolling hills all around.
Hay, dust and clouds
Blend together;
There is no horizon.
-Emmon

OCTOBER

A thousand hills covered
With bleached grasses,
Ten thousand tangled paths,
But no sign of who made them.
Every day, just this,
And sometimes the sound of wind blowing against
the pane.

=Emmon

OUT

A dull winter day,
Clear, then cloudy,
I want to go out,
But cannot:
My aunt's in a bad mood.
Unexpectedly an old friend
Of hers comes by.
They sit and drink coffee.
Gleeful, now, I slip
Out the back door as the sun is setting

-Emmon

TODAY

Bored, I have drunk too much coffee.
Restless, now, beneath the bare limbs
I want to dance:
Nothing to do
Nowhere to go
No one to see
Nothing to be
Music and dance, and a long disused farm.
-Emmon

DRUID POETRY

Hymn to Grannos

The healing waters bubble up,
Deep from within the Earth Mother,
Heated by the fires deep within
The center of her being:
Effervescent.
As I slide into your waters,
I am surrounded by the rising steam,
Minerals and miracles sing and surround,
As you hold me in your care, Grannos,
The spring whispers your name.
To those who know you,
They can sense you
Near the shore,
In the waters,
In the mists that rise to the sky.
To those who come to you unknowing,
You are still a gracious host,
Imparting health and healing;
Rest and relaxation;
Calm and balance.
I submerge myself fully in the waters,
So that I feel you all around me;
As I surface,
The waters recede from me and tell me your name:
"Grannos, Grannos, Grannos":
Effervescent.
-John D.

"When we said 'I wish you enough,' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with enough good things to sustain them," she continued and then turning toward me she shared the following as if she were reciting it from memory.
"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish enough "Hello's" to get you through the final "Good-bye.."
-Discovered by Jeffrey

most I have been questioning
the innermost truths
of the innermost truths
of the innermost I
well, they were not exactly truths
but lampposts for a hopeless drunk
or reasons I found to justify
my terrible treason
ah, well, treason is a great word
for things, not so nice
I did do unto my loved ones
and things not so nice to myself
good thing, lampposts...
-Hennie

no stars yet, no Sun and Moon, no Beings
Oh, the dark, the still, Nothingness in equilibrium
I remember the first spark, the first brush of air,
the first kernel of awareness
Ages of growth and decay, balanced Nature
then this creature of greed
greed of knowledge, greed of power, greed of
possession
the beauty of his making, accompanied by
unbearable horror
this Human, what mysterious ways they walk
and now: some try to predict the future
hoping to take the sting of fear from the peoples
minds
but we will never know, until it is unavoidable
-Hennie

little witches haunt my life
telling tales of spell and magic
singing songs in which they tell
of life and love and beings tragic
little witches make me smile
over dance in rounds and labyrinth
making ever so little sounds
when they poor and drink the green absinthe
little witches, please keep up
the spirits high and pleased
never asking why, why, why
and bring down the Moon, once at least
witches green and gold
keep the whit of old...
-Hennie

the Other Folk
have whispered me well
oh, the lovely tales they tell
have brought me joy and hope
the Other Folk
have sang all along
to keep awake and strong
on the ways of the slippery-slope
the Other Folk
are kind and friendly to me
make me worlds and pleasures see
in the depth of my dreams
the Other Folk
have gently me taught
the visions fantasizing brought
showed what was and what seemed
well, miracles
-Hennie

I think I saw the light
but it could be the reflection
of your innermost self
in peace with the world
strange these things
that you can't really see
but then again
can't really not see
I could disappear
in this striking vision
of time-out-of-time
and life-without-life
what is there to say?
-Hennie

the inspired professor T.
wrote a book, or two, or three
of the finest human traits
it would all become legendary
the inspired professor T.
left us all to come and see
where all wonder waits
and fantasy gets legendary
the inspired professor T.
provided just one little key
to open our hearts's gates
love, be loved, in the end it's legendary
-Hennie

to die is such a conservative act
one might as well be born
oh, wait...
one can't imagine Nothingness
one can't imagine Allness
one can't be separated
one can't be One
truth is an illusion
and illusion is just a truth
I wished I could just be happy
-Hennie

between and betwixt
there's the vision
the eye and the ear
the nose and the mouth
shivering skin
between and betwixt
there's the meeting
hands and arms
lips and tongues
the wonder within
between and betwixt
that's where I will be
bare bones
teeth
nails
all of me
except my soul
-Hennie

DRUID VIDEOS



I was challenged to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge by Karen Clark. I would like to nominate Mike TheFool, Jan Avende, and Sean Harbaugh. ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a debilitating disease and our hopes and prayers go out to those afflicted and to those doing research to combat this terrible disease.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=868160623201817>



Alright, Jon Drum..... A Celt never backs down from a challenge, especially a foolish one! Skip the witty long intro and get to the action at 03:30. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE9Wte-BVUA&feature=youtu.be>

I accepted Jon Drum's challenge to participate in the ALS ice bucket challenge, and I decided to do it Druid style at my grove by a river, with a special dedication to my favorite river goddess Sirona (7th Order Matron of the RDNA). Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), aka Lou Gehrig's Disease, devastates the lining of the

brain and nervous system. I donated \$30 too. I nominate the next people to be Ellen Evert Hopman, Stephen Crimmins, and Daniel Lessin.

Rules are simple: the nominated successors each have 24 hours from the time they receive the video to replicate their own video (simple is fine) of dumping a bucket of ice-cold water on their head and donating \$10 to ALS Charity __OOOORRRR__ they can stay dry and donate a larger amount (say maybe \$100?). They can then nominate 3 people of their own each.

For more on famous people who've done the contest, rules, and online donations to this charity, please see <http://www.alsa.org/fight-als/ice-bucket-challenge.html>



Penny recommends Philip Carf Gomm (OBOD) on Plants and Consciousness



Song of Awen by Damh the Bard (sug. By Eddie)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6Yc-CIF3Ys&list=PLRy9oDtoQokoFrBzQRzC3hkF0P3nBM0cV>



Eddie Izzard – on Stonehenge and Druids (Humor)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiFq_nk8pE0&feature=youtu.be

(From Melanie)



Nancy: TED Talk on 4 Legged Citizens (14min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIBFy5uibZk>



How much of our body is made of Star Stuf?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnsWz4pb11s>



Ellis recommends the Druidic vision of “We Want a World” by Gypsy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4W6GYQliVE#t=77>



Cerridwen shared this video on Humboldt near the Eureka Grove

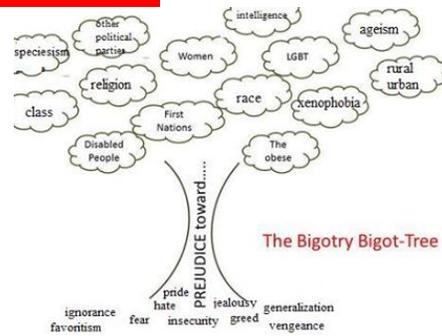
http://youtu.be/glm97au0b_Q



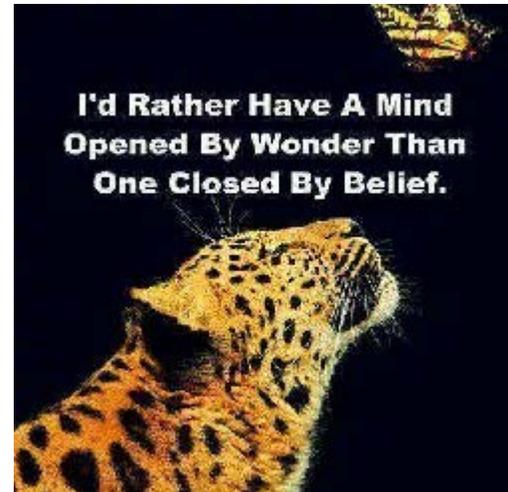
Sebastien recommends this 1998 movie “Dancing at Lughnasadh”

<http://youtu.be/8OZIa9j4j90>

DRUID PHOTOS



Dr. Mike's prescription for loneliness and sadness: **"Take two trails and call me in the morning."**



7 Godly Sins

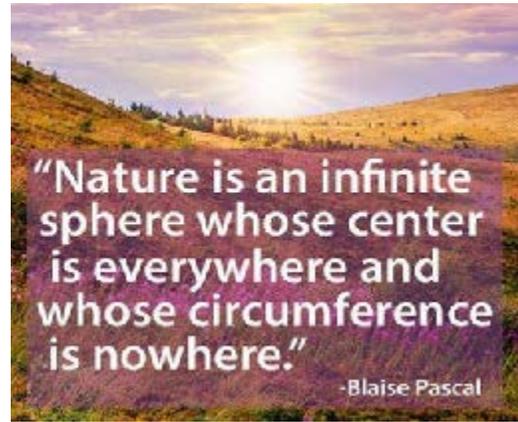
- If God destroys people for not obeying Him, it is **WRATH**.
- If God punishes people for believing in a different god, it is **ENVY**.
- If God lets tragedies and disasters happen that He could have prevented, it is **SLOTH**.
- If God expects His followers to dedicate their lives to worshipping and praying to Him, it is **PRIDE**.
- If God allows anyone to hunger unnecessarily while He has enough for Himself, it is **GLUTTONY**.
- If God insists His followers pay tithes and offerings for His approval, it is **GREED**.
- If God intends on being party to every marriage, it is **LUST**.





From Jeffrey

From Jamie



Jamie: The Druids monument in Forest Home cemetery. The monument is associated with The United Ancient Order of Druids a fraternal organization established in London in 1771. Happy Labor Day.

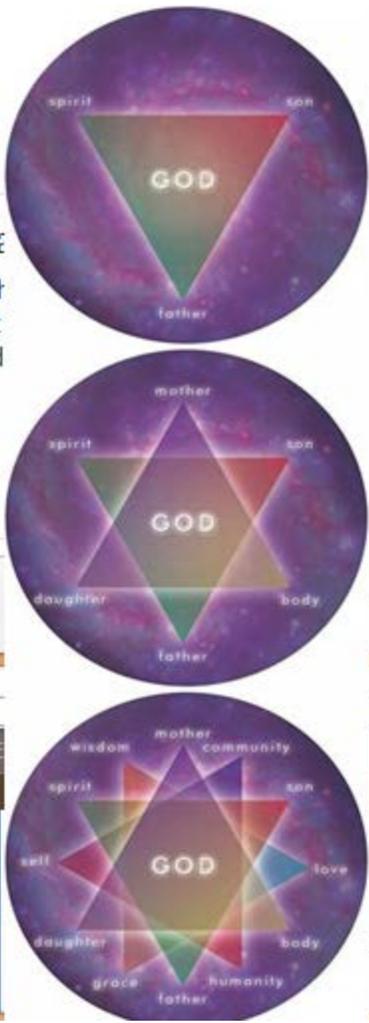


John M: Found my copy of "The Druids" by Stuart Piggott today. I was in my hometown of Stillwater, MN, at a rare & used books store. Just like in the movies, I the "Metaphysical" section is in the back room. The "Magic" shelf was limited to Houdini & stage magic, and the actual "Metaphysical" shelves were barren. Then I spotted this jewel wedged in the Asian Religions shelf! I took it to be a sign, that this misshelved book was waiting for me, AND they take Visa! I made sure it had the page of the Romano-Celtic temple, the photo that started the "False Origin Myth" of the Druid Sigil.



Palm Tree?

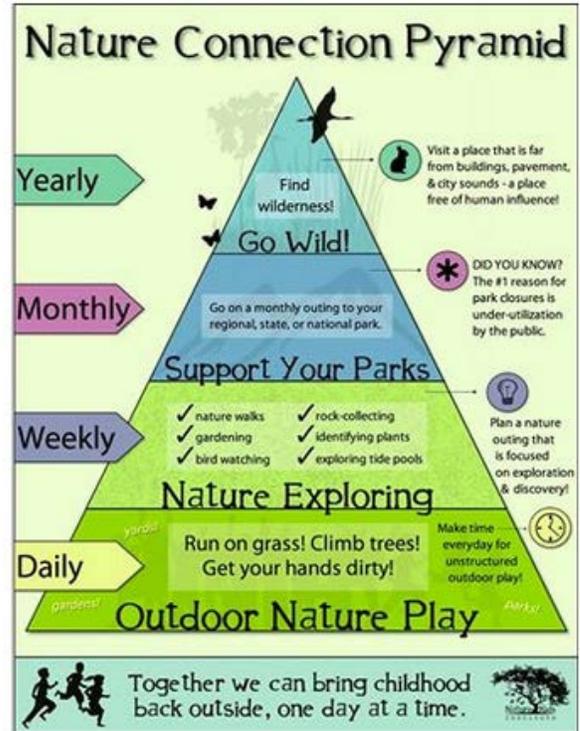




By Daniel – a Mandala on connections



Raven's Grove



From Mike



Remembering Isaac 2011 (sent by Stacey)



Debate #1: Tobacco and Offerings

EDDIE: DO DRUIDS USE OFFERINGS LIKE TOBACCO? I'm tobacco illiterate. What would be a respectful tobacco to offer a Native in exchange for his assistance? I would think Red Man might be an offense to some? Is chewing tobacco different from smoking tobacco? Why do Nature Spirits like tobacco? Or is that only certain ones?

Thomas Harris Different tribes have different expectations. What tribe?

Danielle What Thomas said.

Danielle And yep Red Man not the best choice to show hospitality with.

Thomas In general, smoking, chewing and ceremonial tobaccos are processed differently, and are sometimes different varieties of the species. The only brand I suggest of smoking tobacco, and its sacrilegious, is Native Spirit, which is the only commercial variety that doesn't contain additives. Nicotiana rustica, also called White or Wild tobacco, is usually grown privately, wildcrafted from its fairly small original homeland, and is not commercially available. I grow it, but do not sell it. The small amount I grow is specifically used in prayer ceremony, and even the ashes are preserved as sacred Medicine. My question is, why are you wanting to gift tobacco?

Eddie C Hope to meet some Native Folks, plus it just sounds right to me. The Universe is in a constant state of giving and receiving. So giving an offering in return for a request for assistance is only right. In fact I say all the time. Some are misusing their knowledge by wishing everything up they want, and not giving anything back. Which means they owe. Myself, I try to give of myself any chance I get, and then The Universe will naturally give back.

August 18 at 12:43pm · Like

Danielle May I suggest that instead of tobacco that perhaps you research the local tribe you would like to meet. See if there's anything tangible you can do.

Volunteer work is so much more useful at helping folks. As long as said tribal council really wants volunteer services. Ask. Politely. Like in any new situation.

Take 'No' for an answer.

If you are looking to 'help' you can do right now how about with your Genis Loci. You could start with walking around your neighborhood and cleaning up trash. Everyone appreciates that. And you are actively working to better everyone's environs.

Then perhaps research local folk lore and see if any tales mention what those spirits liked. But in my experience. A clean neighborhood and clean water table and less interference in overly run down by humans areas is more appreciated than incense.

No time to clean up (but really who can't spend 10 minutes walking the block?) Look at your consumption what can you not use? Donate to scholarship funds. Donate to approved tribal charities. Be part of local tribal run credit unions if they are open to non tribal members.

Real life stuff is better than new age wahoo. Every time.

Danielle Much love.

Eddie C well, it's for my own spiritual work as well. I have a rapport with birds already. talked to a circle of stones I made once and put some tobacco in the center, and heard something? a sound in my inner ear, that I actually felt. once I hid something in a bush at a Library that I couldn't take in, a drink in a favorite container, and asked the bush to watch it for me. I again heard and felt a sound in my inner ear. And when I came out and retrieved the container, my guitar pick slid out of the strings and into the bush. I realized this was an exchange on the spiritual level of some type. Because I carried that guitar around with the pick in the strings all the time, and it never just slid out.

Thomas Above all, tobacco is prayer, a sacred plant. Medicine with a capital M. Not reciprocity. When you deal with it, you aren't dealing with a product or exchange medium. You deal one on one with Transcendent Deity. When it comes to a Medicine person, a box of groceries or gift card to a gas station works, and is appreciated. The other suggestions also work. True Medicine is never subject to commercial venture, so stay away from the sacred objects. Other things can come in very handy.

Danielle I am an Animist, Eddie. I too experience similar exchanges with Genus Loci. (Local spirits) Sometimes injured animals catch my attention. Wild things always are less wild near me. I am not doubting your experience or sincerity.

But I am passing on to you my 20 years of experience with searching my own family tree and the tribal connection I have there.

There's no 'Native American Spirituality' like it's a universal religious experience. That's a frank new age lie. One that harms both tribal people and non tribal people.

Each tribe, heck each family group within a tribe can have different religious practices.

A lot of tribal people are Christian. And will really look at you funny if you offer up a pack of smokes. At best they'll be polite at worst. Well

Think of the best humans can behave and the worst. Guess what every body on the planet can have a good or bad day.

If you are looking for a religious practice that can help you clarify your understanding of the universe and your place in it. RDNA folks are great.

Danielle I applaud your interest and I only share my experiences with a loving heart.

Danielle I am sorry Thomas you are correct. And I used the term incorrectly. Thank you for articulating what I meant to say.

Thomas I'm not only a Druid, but a Cherokee Traditionalist. Our Tulsa Grove is named after a 200 year old stomp grounds situated in Downtown Tulsa, which most people don't know exists. I'm very glad to see you use the term 'animist', the correct term, instead of 'shaman', which is a cultural rape of Siberian native culture. Right now, tensions in Native indigenous religious circles is at a fever pitch I haven't seen since the American Indian Movement back in the '60's, so any perceived incursion is likely to not be considered an insult, its likely to be considered an act of intentional violence against all Native American culture. If you want to give a religious item, offer a item from the Druid tradition that does not cross over to the Native culture.

Danielle As I learned my own personal history. My Lenni Lenape family intermarried with Pennsylvania Deutsch Farmers. They never were forced off lands and never were part of the officially recognized Delaware Tribe.

I learned, luckily gently- and because I came not to take but to help preserve, that I needed to look more towards my European heritage to understand my situation.

I still learn the tribe's history. I am learning the language so it's not lost. I work with real life things to help- as I can.

Words matter. Names matter. Why because tribal people say it matters. And I try, in gratitude to the gentle love I've shared and because it the right thing to do, to clear up the bad information and new age bs when I see it.

Help others who seem like I was: lost and wanting to help. And didn't know any better.

Thomas Part of my Cherokee line, the part that comes from around Old Echota, intermarried from the Lenni Lenape a few generations before the French-Indian War. Good to see someone else using the tribal name.

Danielle Thank you Thomas.

Mike TheFool Sam taught me at Carleton to use a little tobacco or sage as a possible offering to the spirits of the land (I need not consume it), and if you could, I would get the raw leaves rather than chemically/mechanically separated stuff. The seeds are ridiculously small and easy to grow. I sometimes use them as smudges. As with alcohol and other once-ritualistic drugs, now abused, I am very very respectful and cautious with them.

Mike TheFool I'd also suggest that local plants (without the glitz of tobacco) are probably in your backyard, and have a closer connection to your life than anything from the store. Go talk to them, see if one draws you more strongly or not.

Danielle Eddie,
I see you've been asking this question in several druid groups.
My question to you is:
Have you found your answer yet?

Eddie C I've had a good response

Mike TheFool I think the answer to many questions with Druids is "Some do, some don't, and I don't know about the rest, go ask them"

Helgaleena Healingline If you are giving a Native tobacco, get an unopened package of the loose kind such as Prince Albert. Afaik only traditional Natives use tobacco in religious ceremony. Druid types from elsewhere (unless you are a tobacco user yourself) don't have a particular connection

Helgaleena Healingline Btw if you do smoke, it's a very good idea to alter your mindset and make every time you light up a form of prayer.

John In my college days along the North Shore of Lake Superior, in my explorations I would sometimes come across a sacred site, decorated with strings and ribbons tied to the Spirit trees, and prayer sticks and whole cigarettes perched upon rocks or in crags.

The cigarettes that they (who I'm assuming to be Ojibwa, as is the predominant tribe in the area) left there were usually partially smoked, complete with filter, and sometimes not smoked, and sometimes just a small heap of tobacco leaves emptied from the papers. It seemed that presentation was not as important as the intent.

Helgaleena Healingline exactly, John. They will pray with whatever tobacco is available with intent. Same with my inlaws. When you are giving it, you get the best you can afford and not used goods

Sam Yes, if you're giving it as a gift to a spiritual person, it's nice to get something fancy, though not strictly required. I was taught that it's proper etiquette to offer tobacco to an Ojibwe or Dakota spiritual person if you are asking them for something. Other nations may have different customs.

Thomas I guess there is a large difference in what was the Southeastern Woodlands tribes and the tribes further North in the offerings. Further South, most take into account the fact that, especially concerning cigarettes, the tobacco is quite unnatural, heav...See More



Debate 2 – Druids and Their Vestments

MIKE _ What do folks generally wear nowadays in their services (pictures too!)

While the original founders made do with white bed sheets & belts, when they did dress up, but by the 1970s more renn-fair type garb became common. I know a lot of people just wear outdoorsy clothes that they don't mind getting dirty or can't be bothered to wear anything fancy. Some, well they don't wear anything but a smile. Here's an article on other Druids and their sartorial tastes.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/johnbeckett/2012/10/druids-and-their-robos.html>

I'm getting ready to make or adapt some ritual clothes myself, so I'm looking for some inspiration.

Domi GarbtheWorld has some nice plain cotton robes. They are easy to trim up or wear with a tabard or stole.

John My Summer Tabard, which also helps keep me warmer in the Season of Winter. Somewhat based on Joan Carruth's sketch found in several parts of ARDA



Domi <http://www.garbtheworld.com/instock/catalog.php>

Pre-made items from Garb the World

www.garbtheworld.com

Historical costumes and shoes ready to purchase from Garb the World

Thomas Full vestments for me are the alb, cingulum, stole and a scribe's cloak resembling the tabard above, but pleated with a tall collar. I use it for weddings and sometimes for winter festivals. Most of the time, i use a sacred t-shirt and holy blue jeans. In the MOCC, we gave some thought to creating patchwork robes of bits of cloth randomly sewn together.

Donald In my humble opinion the only people needing to wear ritual garb are those leading ritual. For everyone else it should be optional. That said there are plenty of designs for Druidic ritual garb out there



Donald



Donald



Donald



Mike TheFool Very tempting Domi, I nearly bought 5 things before I could release the mouse!

Donald



Mike TheFool Those english/welsh haed gear just don't do it for me.

John Looks more Egyptian to me

Donald yeah but JMG swears by em. Says they keep you cool in the summer heat

Thomas Luke, I am your father.

Mike TheFool I like Emmon's ensemble from the 1980s



Mike TheFool Maybe with some belts, a sash and some trim on the neck and sleeves and hem.

John I've posted this one before, but it's the robe I sewed for Anna Smith, with choir robe-like sleeves and a leaf button. Does Emmon's have a hood, or is he wearing it backward?



Donald <http://www.anenchantedapothecary.com/clothingritual.html>

Clothing - Ritual

www.anenchantedapothecary.com

Mike TheFool Oh, that's very nice too. But I think white wouldn't work with me, I'm always getting sooty.

John My robe, with summer tabard on top, and reversible 3rd Order satin Stole overlying that



Mike TheFool Dang, that looks very fine!

Mike TheFool Those stoles for the ribbons, really bling it out. Silk right?

John I wanted to make something heavy that won't blow away. Druids chasing their ribbons in the wind seems to be a pastime

Mike TheFool Sew some weights into the hem and they won't fly up (works with kilts too)

Mike TheFool I usually pin or weight the ribbons (a knot in a pinch).

Mike TheFool Isaac dressed fine too here's one of my favorites...



Mike TheFool As the article mentions cotton and silk (or wool) are generally preferred but the synthetics are good cause they don't wrinkle. Comfort vs. practicality....

Thomas I've noticed a matter of practicality. When sewing sleeves, don't make them wrist length, but elbow length. Wrist length sleeves tend to catch fire or knock over items on the altar in close quarters. Elbow length sleeves are well ventilated and functional.

Mike TheFool Never volunteer to be the burning man...

John Even though I prefer off-white robes, I know they will get muddy, they will get soot on them. It is one of the natural hazards of being a druid. I wouldn't wear bleach-white robes that look pristine or synthetic. That's more for indoor/templistic ceremonialists I think.

Mike Ankle length is fine for flat indoor work. Mid Calf is better outdoors.

John A photo of Earl and Paul sporting the robes I made for them. Earl has earthtone trim on the hood, and Paul has a blue trim around the hood and the sleeves. I've found that having corded trim offers more solid support for billowy hoods. My hood just falls in front of my eyes half the time



Mike TheFool From 2003 reunion. Nelson in two sheets style. I wish I had paid more attention to how he draped them.



Domi The GarbtheWorld cotton robes arrive slightly oversized, very stiff, and very white if you order the white ones. After a half-dozen washings they are a little smaller, much softer, and not so glaringly white.

John Looks like Nelson's second sheet is shaped like a bandanna or boy scout scarf

Mike TheFool I originally thought about a hooded robe, but maybe a tunic with chassible and a separate hood/cowl. You know, accessorize, with seasonal sashes like John Becket did.

Thomas The layered MOCC robe, which we used... rarely.... for years made use of the tabard- like overlayer, to protect the white robe underneath. The tabard could be any color. Occasionally favored was the person's clan tartan, particularly in they were of Scottish descent.

John Cistercian robe style?

Thomas Nowadays the robe isn't as important as it once was to us.

John I showed Earl and Paul the "Druid Handshake" when it comes to long sleeves

Mike For a long time, I wore SCA garb with my dark brown great-kilt (folded like a back kilt), puffy shift, various belts and weapons and long knee length socks and sandals.

Mike TheFool Yeah, I had a Druid Handshake too, but doing so inside long sleeves is a good idea.

John The Druid Handshake: while wearing a long sleeved robe, as you extend your right hand, in the same motion involves the left hand reaching across and sweeping back the sleeve of the right hand, stopping when the left hand sweeps the sleeve as far back as the elbow. Now you're all trying it, aren't you?

Mike TheFool Pulling back your own sleeve or his?

Mike TheFool I thought about palm to palm, pressed, make a circle and then break, and each drop a line for the sigil in the air.

John Well, wouldn't it be polite to sweep back the other's sleeve? hehe

Mike TheFool Or maybe wrist over forearm for each, 3 fingers extended on the top?

John Which way to rotate the palms? If each person rotates their palm sunwise to them, they would rotate them opposite directions... or would the ranking druid lead the handshake?

Mike TheFool Maybe right hand to left forearm for each. Each has a chance for their right hand to be on top?

Mike TheFool Having a few loaner robes is also good idea, especially if there is a guest. Makes it more fun.

Stacey J Emmon wore his Second Order tabbard underneath his robe and I learned that practice from him. After he died I wanted to have a special memorial service (hadn't been doing druids for 6 years since he he moved away) and I had one made for me out of Irish linen. I had it based on his robe. Also in Live Oak Grove (LOG) we would tuck our Third Order ribbons around our belts. Also adopted from Emmon I have a special braided belt. He used to have one belt for the Season of Life and a different one from the Season of Sleep. (I still have his his robes, including his blue Bard one.)

Stacey A hooded robe is good to have. We would and I still do, put it on during the Meditation.

John Found one of Jon Drum, Stacey J. Weinberger, and myself. I'm also wearing a tartan wool blanket as a cloak with a bronze penannular brooch holding it in place



Stacey The blue Bard robe was worn over the Third Order white one. It was open in the front.

Sean Here's my normal vestments, unless it's too hot outside.



Carole I find it amusing that, most of these robes are based on the Druid Order which started around 1717, but I bet most folks couldn't say what they mean.

There is actually a tradition to these robes but sadly, copyists never know why. no one has got it on the Patheos page.

<https://www.facebook.com/.../The-Druid.../580902608609181...>

The Druid Order - British Circle of the Universal Bond

The Ancient Druid Order - British Circle of the Universal Bond - An Druidh Uilea...See More
Community: 106 like this

Geert Whats wrong with jeans and t-shirts ..robes are so medieval ?

Mike TheFool Nothing is wrong. Some people like uniforms and dressing up for religious services... some don't .

Thomas The meaning of the robes, at least in the 1700's, is given in the Barddas.

Rhiannon I had an old Scottish linen table cloth I made into a long pull over robe with bell bottom like sleeves. Did lot of embroidery work on it, Celtic knotwork.

Ian My usual is a simple white robe, with the cord our Grove uses for a membership sign. ADF grants me that stola, which I do like.



Mike TheFool I'm sure you stole the show with that stole!

Mike TheFool Thomas, you gotta share the meaning, don't just hint it.

John John Edwards, aside from in his Satyr costume, mentioned the crimson robe was also his robe for his ADF protogrove

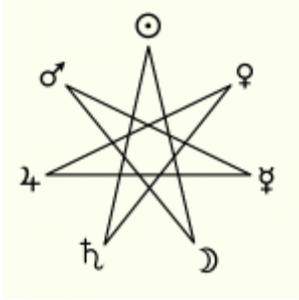
Mike TheFool It certainly leaves an impression on the audience.

Thomas Argh! My phone glitched and deleted a comment. Don't know whose it was. Many apologies.

David As a Mason I know a thing or two about handshakes. How about a Roman shake (gripping of the forearms) and a hug with the other arm? We are family right?

Mike TheFool Isn't that the standard "Bro" chest-bump and arm on the shoulder.

David The Roman grip is what changes everything.



The 7 Pointed Star of RDG

By Alan Moon Bear

<http://www.alanmoonbear.com/the-seven-pointed-star-revisited>

The Seven Pointed Star and the Seven Paths was explored in an earlier article.

Meditation on this symbol has formed part of my reflections over the last few months and I'd like to share some further thoughts – maybe none of them original, but all of them with relevance to my learning.

The layout of the star above suggests that we can move along the pathways defined by days of the week.

So if we start on SUN(day) we can move towards MOON(day) and so on... the pattern of creation of the lines of connection this go from...

Sun to Moon

Moon – Mars

Mars – Mercury

Mercury – Jupiter

Jupiter – Venus

Venus – Saturn

Saturn – Sun

Some basic astrology allows us to derive keywords for each of the planets

Sun – I integrate – self, will, energy, power

Moon – I react – dream, emotion, imagination

Mars – I assert – passion, drive, lust, express will

Mercury – I communicate – intellect, mind, inform

Jupiter – I expand – spiritual and intellectual exploration

Venus – I harmonise – feelings, emotions, love, social attitudes

Saturn – I control – structure, limit, discipline

Sun – I integrate – self, will, energy, power

In terms of self learning, acquiring knowledge and experience on the path towards wisdom we can find a pathway from any point of our lives within the elven star.

I seek to manifest my will (SUN) so I use my imagination to dream of possible courses of actions (MOON).

I assert my will and considered course of action (MARS) and in doing so communicate my ideas to myself and others (MERCURY)

In doing so I explore and expand my awareness (JUPITER) and make changes by bringing my feelings and emotions into balance (VENUS).

I accept the need to plan and structure in order to achieve (SATURN)

I integrate the changes into myself (SUN)

Another way to consider these paths would be...

I take CONSCIOUS action (Sun) and recognise that I am being driven by UN CONSCIOUS energy (Moon).

I direct my actions (MARS) and communicate myself, my desires, my thoughts to the world (Mercury).

I expand my understanding (Jupiter) engage my emotions to fuel and check my actions (Venus) so accepting and creatively challenging limitations (perceived or otherwise) (Saturn).

I am conscious of my actions and the consequences thereof.

Speaking as a transpersonal therapist these seven stages of change and development provide an interesting framework for discussion, exploration and movement in personal coaching work.

In the Gnostic Gospels of Didymos Judas Thomas, Jesus is quoted as saying,

“If those who lead say to you, ‘see, the kingdom is in the sky.’ then the birds of the sky will precede you. If they say to you, ‘It is in the sea,’ then the fish will precede you. Rather, the kingdom is inside of you, and it is outside of you. When you come to know yourselves, you will then become known, and you will realize that it is you who are the sons of the living father. But if you will not know yourselves, you dwell in poverty and it is you who is that poverty.”

(The Gnostic Gospel of Thomas : The Nag Hamadi Library)

Meditation on symbols, especially complex symbols with layers of meaning and subtlety, is about self-discovery and in self-discovery we can recognise any elements of self-sabotage..

So that ...

The Sun – Moon path can be seen as the ‘battle’ between the conscious and the unconscious and the other planets could be taken, in negative aspect, to identify patterns of limiting self-talk...

Mars – I don’t have enough energy : it’s dull : it’s boring

Mercury – I can’t : If only : Someday I’ll : I wish I’d ...

Jupiter – I’m not that lucky : It’s too restricting : It’s all too limiting

Venus – I don’t care : It doesn’t matter that much

Saturn - Yes ... BUT !!!!

NEWS AND ADVERTS



Celtic Cards

FULBERT: With some recent deaths in my family, it has me thinking about end of life issues, especially those related to burials and final body prep. I know that Emma Restall Orr is involved in a natural burial ground <http://sunrisingburialground.co.uk/> though am wondering if anybody knows about anything similar here in the US?

Have a look at this. This guy who is a professor of Medieval studies is making these Celtic themed playing cards. There seems to be more to this, than just the look. Watch the video.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2067672215/celtic-playing-cards-2-full-circle>



<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/news/release/trees-save-lives-reduce-air-pollution>
First national study finds trees saving lives, reducing respiratory problems: Air pollution modeling reveals broad-scale impacts of pollution removal by trees

*[photo:] Rollerskaters with their dog on a park trail in Chicago.
Photo by Keith Weller*

SYRACUSE, NY, July 25, 2014 –
(Recommended by Betty)

In the first broad-scale estimate of air pollution removal by trees nationwide, U.S. Forest Service scientists and collaborators calculated that trees are saving more than 850 human lives a year and preventing 670,000 incidences of acute respiratory symptoms.

While trees' pollution removal equated to an average air quality improvement of less than 1 percent, the impacts of that improvement are substantial. Researchers valued the human health effects of the reduced air pollution at nearly \$7 billion every year in a study published recently in the journal *Environmental Pollution*. "Tree and Forest Effects on Air Quality and Human Health in the United States," is available online at: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/46102>

The study by Dave Nowak and Eric Greenfield of the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station and Satoshi Hirabayashi and Allison Bodine of the Davey Institute is unique in that it directly links the removal of air pollution with improved human health effects and associated health values. The scientists found that pollution removal is substantially higher in rural areas than urban areas, however the effects on human health are substantially greater in urban areas than rural areas.

"With more than 80 percent of Americans living in urban area, this research underscores how truly essential urban forests are to people across the nation," said Michael T. Rains, Director of the Forest Service's Northern Research Station and the Forest Products Laboratory. "Information and tools developed by Forest

Service research are contributing to communities valuing and managing the 138 million acres of trees and forests that grace the nation's cities, towns and communities.”

The study considered four pollutants for which the U.S. EPA has established air quality standards: nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) in aerodynamic diameter. Health effects related to air pollution include impacts on pulmonary, cardiac, vascular, and neurological systems. In the United States, approximately 130,000 PM2.5-related deaths and 4,700 ozone-related deaths in 2005 were attributed to air pollution.

Trees' benefits vary with tree cover across the nation. Tree cover in the United States is estimated at 34.2 percent but varies from 2.6 percent in North Dakota to 88.9 percent in New Hampshire.

“In terms of impacts on human health, trees in urban areas are substantially more important than rural trees due to their proximity to people,” Nowak said. “We found that in general, the greater the tree cover, the greater the pollution removal, and the greater the removal and population density, the greater the value of human health benefits.”

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The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of our nation's forests, amounting to 850 million acres including 100 million acres of urban forests gracing the nation's cities, where 80 percent of Americans live. The mission of the Forest Service's Northern Research Station is to improve people's lives and help sustain the natural resources in the Northeast and Midwest through leading-edge science and effective information delivery.

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