

Serpentstar



Newsletter for OBOD members, Australia and New Zealand, volume 2 no.2, March 1999



Assembly 1999



Hello everyone!

Warm greetings from Cooringal Grove. As most of you know the third annual Australian Druid Assembly will be held here this year on our property just ten kilometres out from Port Lincoln in South Australia. Please copy this date down in your diary now.



Friday 24 to Monday 27 September 1999.

We have sixty acres running on a band of ironstone. Our stone circle in the grove is made up also of this wonderful stone. Rusty brown, purple and orange colours shimmering in the sunshine. The farm is certified biodynamic and over the past couple of years we have trialed lots of different crops from broccoli to peppermint. At the moment I am busily sowing seed so that the fresh food we eat at the assembly comes straight out of the garden. Not to forget either some nice fresh, mixed herbal brews for relaxing around the fire. I am hopeful to secure a big Port Lincoln tuna, which we will bury in the ground and cook in a hangi. Standing on the side of our hill we have a paramagnetic round tower and for anybody interested in dowsing, all of the energy lines have been marked on a map including everything from water to ley lines and geomagnetic lines.

Aside from the formal ceremonies the focus of this years assembly will be to celebrate in sacred sound. Last year we sang daily and from that came the idea of producing a CD of the voices of Australian members. I have received some wonderful contributions and for it to be balanced, the poetry and songs need to come from all over Australia. So please start sending me your work now so we can collate a wonderful selection of material and give those members that are able to attend some time to familiarize themselves with the pieces.



Or it may be your piece is already recorded and finished and only needs to be included. Still send it in ASAP. Cut off point is the Winter Solstice. These pieces of work need to come in now, not in dribs and drabs, so that there is not a hectic overloading rush all in one month. Poets that envisage musical accompaniment please state your ideas so that we can respect and project your fullest intentions.

There will be many sessions of singing as well as a special percussion making workshop led by a gentleman from the Torres Straits. The Sunday afternoon will be dedicated to live recording followed by the Alban Eiler celebration. For those people who want to come to the celebration but perhaps do not want to sing, there will be other activities to become absorbed in. Helpers will also be needed in the kitchen and to tend the fires etc.

A sweat lodge will be set up for those who want to as well as a quiet meditation space in a Tee Pee.



to sing, there will be other activities to become absorbed in. Helpers will also be needed in the kitchen and to tend the fires etc.

A sweat lodge will be set up for those who want to as well as a quiet meditation space in a Tee Pee. **Children** are most welcome to attend and accompany my three in play, and be involved in the celebrations where appropriate. If there are a group of children present, then special activities will be tailored for them and their interests.

Accommodation. You will need to bring your own tents and sleeping gear. There is one caravan on site, first in best dressed, otherwise there is also an excellent caravan park by the sea, 10 minutes from the property, for those who require more conventional accommodation. Ablution facilities are being built now. All eating and drinking utensils will be provided as well as a large marquee set up for dining and workshops etc.

Markets If you wish to showcase your goods and chattels, then bring them along and they can be set up in the big tent. Also if you have a workshop and you are just itching to share it with everyone write and let me know your ideas, as your contributions will help make the assembly special. Please let me know sooner rather than later so that the programme can be prepared.

This year's assembly is looking to be very exciting. I am hoping people will travel from East and West to the middle ground in the South, to happily join with others walking the Druidic path, during this weekend of ceremony and celebration.

Yours under the Southern Stars

Lesley Gentlin

Cooringal Grove

PS. All submissions and ideas to P/O Box 1446, Port Lincoln SA 5606 (08) 86842003

<Cooringalgrove@hotmail.com>



Notice Board



USA SUMMER CAMP....OBOD member Valerie Coventry is going over to the Summer Camp in America She is wanting to know if anyone else is going over. If you are please contact her by writing to V Coventry- P.O.Box. 495 DUNSBOROUGH. WA. 6281. ASAP

NSW.....OVATE INITIATION:

An Ovate initiation will be held on the weekend of March 20th – 21st Alban Elued will also be celebrated in the Bardic Grade so all grades are invited to attend, for further details please contact the NEA Grove at P.O.Box 92 NEWTOWN.NSW 2042 or phone Akkadia on 02-9557-8495.

VIC.....MELBOURNE SEED GROUP is meeting regularly for Discussion and Ceremonies. For more information please contact Heather Whitelk at 17 Anderson St. FERN TREE GULLY. VIC. 3156.

QLD.....MACADAMIA SEED GROUP contacts are Joel Hopkinson P.O.Box 7023, HOLLAND PARK EAST Qld. 4121 and Sandra Gosley on-07-3369-8297.



NORTHEAST ARBOR GROVE

The Art of Tarot

NorthEast Arbor Grove is offering a thirteen-week intensive course, which offers a thorough grounding in all aspects of this potent tool of transformation.

Areas of study will include:

- History
- Astrology
- Alchemy and
- Kabbalistic aspects of Tarot, as well as divinatory layouts.

The course will run from Autumn Equinox to Winter Solstice, commencing Saturday March 20th 1pm-3pm.

And will be conducted at studio Neter, Newtown.

Cost will be \$131 inclusive of notes and a cup of tea! This course is offered to both OBOD members and friends.

(OBOD initiates are welcome to discuss energy-exchange, such as skills/services barter of equivalent value, instead of monetary payment.)

To ensure personal training, there will be a maximum of nine Tarot apprentices in this course.

An advanced course of 7 weeks may be offered to successful participants.

In 1999, further courses will be offered upon request, including "Introduction to Reading Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs" and 'Ancient Egyptian Religion'

A special comparative study of "Egyptian and Celtic Lore" will follow, at the same costs as above, ie \$11.00 per session.

These courses offer members an opportunity to study intensively with Akkadia, who, in addition to being a druid, is a Priestess for the Egyptian temple and currently completing an M.A. in Egyptology.

For further information please phone (02) 9557-8495, or write to P.O. Box 92 Newtown NSW 2042.
Please include 50% of course cost to confirm your attendance.

Melbourne Seed Group

The Melbourne Seed Group has been formed for the purpose of celebrating the 8 festivals.

We Welcome all O.B.O.D. members to join us when they can.

We aim to adapt the rituals to the Southern Hemisphere.

We will be Celebrating Alban Elud on Saturday the 20th of March, at 6pm.. Nine of us shared the Lughnasadh Ritual together here, and it was very moving. I look forward to the next one.

Those interested can contact me, Heather Whitelk, 17 Anderson St. FERN TREE GULLY.VIC. or Kirsty Roberts 2/90 Warna Drive. HAMTON PARK.VIC.



Ganieda Grove

GANIEDA SANCTUARY DEVELOPMENT

Ganieda is undergoing changes: a chalet becomes available soon for use solely for residential retreat purposes. In addition to the facilities already available this moves us toward our residential capacity and opens up the sanctuary further for individual purposes and group retreats. If you haven't already done so, you can acquaint yourself with Ganieda by visiting the website:

<http://www.sunweb.net/kooka/Ganieda/Welcome.htm>

We have a financial structure to accommodate these changes in the form of a Trust; to facilitate the 'druid' infrastructure and attract further investment and involvement.

More significantly, two practical developments are occurring that will see Ganieda become even more alive in 1999!

Our Motto is:

"Natural Health is Good Medicine" Contact us on:
Phone; (08) 9844 6393 or Fax: (08) 9844 6397



HEALTHQUEST

Kennan Elkman is moving away from formal medical practice and is conducting seminars around Australia on the theme of 'Taking Responsibility for Your Own Health'; backed by audiotapes and booklets in the area. He is also completing a book on "Self Health Management", and conducting workshops on health and healing.

As Ganieda develops, the "Healthquest" workshops will be provided here, more in the spirit of natural health and druidry in particular. These will look more at psychospiritual development and are called "Soulquest".

For more details Kennan can be contacted at Ganieda, or on: 0418-935923 (mobile),
Email elkman@healthquest.com.au

Website: <http://healthquest.com.au>

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE WAYS

The core philosophy and material of the "quest" seminars, workshops and residential retreats is Traditional Medicine Ways.

TMW looks at health and healing from our traditional backgrounds, and reconnects them with the spiritual aspects – in particular the way of the shaman. There is a long though somewhat hidden tradition of shamanism in the Northern and Western traditions, which TMW in many ways intends to revitalize as a living and appropriate framework to deal with matters of health and illness in our times. During our Chosen Chief's visit, a strong connection was established and work has begun on developing a distance Education and Residential Course in TMW and druidry. Although extending from the ovate branch of druidry it is more than this, and sees health and healing in the context of our wider personal and planetary development.



The Course is intended to be similar in structure to the existing OBOD training course, but to be more detailed in terms of training and personal development, and backed by a large tutorial team. In this manner TMW may be used not only for personal development, but also for training in the field with appropriate recognition and accreditation, for those so interested.

In addition, the course will have residential components in the style of 'Soulquest', the first of which is planned for the middle of the year at Ganieda.

There is much more to tell! However, Philip and Kennan are presently working on the project in earnest and more details will be forthcoming next issue. Expressions of interest are most welcome. Philip recognises that Australasia is ideally developed and located in the world scene for development of this sort of project and the connection with a network of retreats in the style of druidry, which Ganieda aims to be part of.

This seems a great opportunity for druidry here, and many of our common interests,
I look forward to more involvement.

Many thanks.....Kennan Elkman.





Ceremonies in Whangarie



Alban Heruin.

We held this in a public park in the center of town. It is a large reserve of native bush. There was a tinge of sadness because we were forced to move from our intended location because of the serious illness of Paul Van Eybergen. Our first ceremony was Alban Heruin in 1996 and was at Paul's place, as was the 1997 ceremony. Having Alban Heruin at Paul's was becoming one of those little benchmark happenings, those regularities within the turning year.

We broke the ceremony into three parts. At the beginning we met at the clearing just off the road and spent some time sharing the things of our past year.

We then moved down the winding path, through a 'gateway' of trees into a clearing in the bush, where we enacted the ceremony. There were nine of us and for some reason this was important. As it turned out one or two other people who were intending to come couldn't make it. We were meant to nine that day.

We then moved down to the next level, where we stood by the stream and threw into it, written on leaves or other natural materials, our letting go things and/or going to things for 1999.

After that, of course we all meandered up to our house and had a feed. The three foldedness of the ceremony seemed to give it a shape and power that was stilling and deepening for us all. Celebrating both the power of the sun's ascendancy and the beginning of the oncoming darkness is one of my special times. There seems to be a hopefulness about it all.

Lughnasa.

The beginning of Lughnasagh was a time of remembrance for Paul who had died of throat cancer the previous week. A great loss to our community. A man of humanity and love. Fly free, our friend, you have our love.

We held this ceremony at the same place, Mair Park. This was completely different. Ten of us this time. A light and carefree time. The Lughnasagh meditation was particularly poignant this year. We all felt the sense of belonging, acceptance and deepening of the sense of ourselves, as we stood in the center. This ceremony had a continual sense of circularity.

Things kept moving round the circle, sunwise, throughout the whole time, building up a particular energy. We found it satisfying. The circle had been made quite small so we were a tight group. The fruits of the harvest that defined the circle added to the contentedness.

Again we ended up at our place partaking of a sumptuous shared meal. A crucial time.

Have a brilliant 1999,
Yours under the Southern Skies,
Bill Huddleston, Whangarei, NZ



Bards Corner

ALL THAT IT SHALL YIELD

Lugh, God of light, God of the sun,
Your day has arrived, Lughnasadh is come.

Imbolc for planting,
Beltaine for growth,
Lughnasadh for harvesting,
In this and the Otherworld both.

It is in your honour that the fire wheel is rolled,
To symbolize this cycle that for all time will hold.

You conquered the Formors and captured mighty
Bres
It was from you that you wrested our agricultural
success.

Tailtiu has died while clearing the land,
And Lugh will follow soon as he takes her killer's
hand.

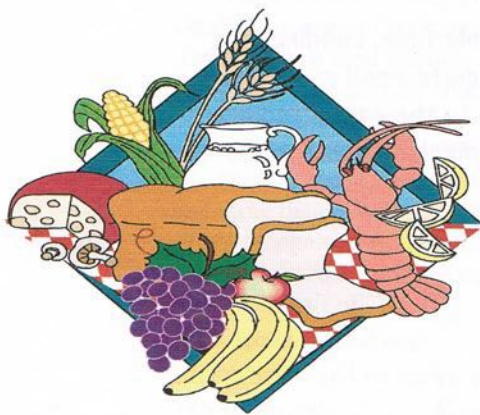
So on this great day both life and death appear,
But more importantly than both, the cycle should be
clear.

The harvest takes place in many realms unknown,
Indeed it is at this time that man shall reap what he
has sown.

Lugh who guards the sovereignty of the land,
Lugh who guides the harvester's hand.

Lugh, the spiritual warrior, holds aloft his spear and
shield,
He represents the harvest and *all* that it shall yield.

Tom van Dooren. ACT.



Summer-Ing

Days like lard in the
heat - sprawled, wobbly,
a slow drip of sweat.

Out of the globules of
effort,
a
pooled vision -

globules of memory

shaping form,

like rock lines in the mind.

An image of you, standing
firm,
hair long, ebbled and
waving.

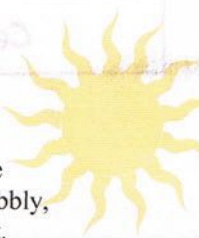
To the right,
mountain's sigh.

To the left, old orb,
spinning eye.

And in the center,
where the ballast wiles,

you with your smile
returning me to sight.

Keith MacNider. SA



Soul Journey

Quiet and deep
Like a dark lake
That is the journey
My soul does take.

Leave the racket
Of man behind
Commune with me
And my kind.

You'll find my touch
Like a soft breeze.
I'll gently blow
'till your pains eased.

Flow with my movements
Voice my song
Blend with nature
Stay ever so long.

Walk these lines
My soul's feet
Stretching, learning
Mystery so deep.

Step out with feeling
In every stride
Wear your sensitivity
With pride.

Touch another soul
Not always there.
Communicate love
To one so dear.
Reaching across
Time and space
To find yourself
That special place.

Look wider now
Reality's vast
Each fleeting moment
Chasing the last

Kirsty Roberts. Vic.



She is rock come to life,

Weaving emotion, mimicking us all,
'tis but a façade, a cloak to hide behind.
When we touch her silver face we see.
Look into the ground, the deep earth
there see the flesh, the love, truth
There are no faces to hide behind.
Be open, stripped bare beneath
her beating stare.
No love no joy, neither pain nor regret
Dive into those cool arms and release.
Let me go to over the water, you'll not find me.
let me go into the night, you'll not hurt me.
Let me go, let me go home into her again. Home

Caroline Williams NZ

Essences for the Journey.2



Lunar month 4

Rose She-oak is for the Counsel of Wholeness.

Colour: Rose-pink. Musical chant ("Om") D#.

The remedy is for lack of interest, no will power, feeling weak, not in tune. Its positive outcome is quick manifestation, acknowledging one's attributes, inner wisdom, and power.

Rose-pink is for the fourth or heart chakra. Situated in the centre of the chest, this chakra is concerned with self-love and universal goodwill.

The physical connection of this essence is to heart, thymus gland, immune system, circulatory system, lungs and respiratory system. Imbalance is linked to heart and circulatory as well as lung and respiratory problems, high blood-pressure, upper back troubles and childhood diseases.

The psychological influences are understanding, compassion, unconditional love. Imbalance is linked to inner conflict, self-destructive tendencies, relationship problems and feelings of alienation or loneliness.

Astrological connection is to the planets Venus and Jupiter. Venus represents your affection, your sense of values and your social urges. Jupiter represents the principle of expansion and growth.

Devic Counsel (Waxing/active phase)

Overseeing Deva: Sel-Bei

We are here to help you draw on the strength of Lady She's energetic. This feminine energy spreads out across our barren land, giving us strength to help you to recognise your own true feminine natures. Keep this feeling close to your hearts so you can feel the energy of Lady She streaming through you with love. Feel it as it earths and then returns up throughout your being. She is only one part of the feminine energy that we all feel and acknowledge. We need you to concentrate on this energy, using it and projecting it outward, for all to draw on its strength, power and wisdom.

Tree Spirit Counsel (Waning/integration phase)

Tree Spirit: Te-Ta

Recognising our many roles and facets is my counsel. It is wise to honour the many sides to yourself, for in the honoring comes true Wholeness.

Wholeness is my counsel. My energy is strong; draw on it. Allow me to show you through the heart. The energy I speak of, send from your heart down through your body to your feet, pouring love energy into your earth, then returning it up through your being. When you truly feel this, you shall know true Wholeness: all as is. Go within, visualizing this.

Realisation:

The Counsel is remembering that Wholeness is many-faceted and always changing, yet never anything but complete.

Affirmation:

I am Whole.

Lunar month 5

Flame Tree. The Counsel of Structure

Colour: Scarlet red. Musical chant ("Om"): E

Remedy for feeling insecure, timid, unsure of self, not focused on goals.

Positive outcome: strength, connected to higher wisdom, courage, goals manifested and grounded.

Scarlet red is for the first or root chakra, situated at the base of the spine and associated with basic raw energy.

Physical connection: large intestine, legs, feet, skeletal structure. Imbalance is linked to problems like obesity, constipation, hemorrhoids, sciatica, arthritis, knee problems and poor circulation in legs and extremities.

Psychological influences: connecting with the earth (grounding), survival, letting go of emotional tension. Imbalance is linked to accident-proneness, dependency, identity crisis and weak ego.

Astrological connection: to the planet Mars. Mars shows your sexual drive and where you expend or don't expend your energy.

Devic counsel

Overseeing Deva: Si-Pee

We take you to great heights in the subtle realms, imparting to you a sense of being. It is our role to act as a buffer for these higher, more subtle levels of the Angelics. We help you to feel the energy of this tree, which enables you to ground the Angelic energy. This lets the Higher Ones discern what is taking place within the Structure of your minds, thus allowing you to process this information. We can help you to re-Structure profound information. This will give you a feeling of courage and strength which will help you to believe in yourself and to believe in what is happening all around you, thus keeping you grounded and open to what is coming in, making you feel strong about where you are and where you are heading in life. So when you are unsure about yourself or your direction, you can focus on our counsel to ask for clarity and strength, always forging forward, connected to higher wisdoms.

Tree Spirit Counsel

Tree Spirit: Li-La-Ti

My tree is the buffer tree. This means keeping your wits about you. My counsel is Structure. To act from needs is not the way of form. Things must have Structure for correct form to manifest. I am the one who stops to assess what has been and what will be. Remembering to stop and evaluate is important for us in all kingdoms. Allowing this brings true insight to act on. Draw on my energy to build your strength and break away from what is no longer needed. Give thanks for in thanking we are always removing and drawing to us just the right lessons.

Realisation:

Connect with me when confused, as I can help assess Structure and form, which is the way to true wisdom.

Affirmation:

I am my true wisdom.

Lunar month 6

Black Wattle. The Counsel of Trust

Colour: Deep violet. Musical chant ("Om"): F

Remedy: for when you feel untrusting, critical, in denial of the self.

Positive outcome: Comfort, trust, acknowledgment, open views.

This essence connects to the 6th and 5th chakras. We now move into a higher, more refined energy. The essence tests our trust at a more refined level of self-growth. It also relates to the 6th chakra, which is associated with perception, discernment and clairvoyance. These essences connect us to our psycho-spiritual bodies with the intention of preparing us to tackle blocks, traumas or emotional outflow, at a soul level. This aligns our free will with our soul growth so we can successfully clear and remove blocks by consciously experiencing them, then one by one removing them. Then you can feel your vibration beginning to resonate more and more closely with the present moment. Always the body must work with the mind.

Physical connections: thyroid, parathyroid, lymphatic system, immune system, neurological system. Imbalance is linked to teeth, ear, neck and shoulder, as well as to sore throats, bronchial problems and hearing and speech difficulties.

Psychological influences: trust, expression, creativity and communication. Imbalance is linked to an inability to express oneself in words, poor memory, stuttering and doubt as to the sincerity of others.

When you clear your body, you move back to the conception point when the Source flashed into biological form. As you clear your mind, you begin to see the agenda of your soul. If you allow your soul time to resonate in your body during meditation, gradually that light of conception fills your cells.

Astrological connection: the asteroid Lilith, the Warrior, giving us connection and the capacity to constructively release repressed anger and resolve conflict. This is a transformer energy between the lower octave planet Mars and the higher octave planet Pluto, the universal principle being Power Devic Counsel

Overseeing Deva: Sib-Elle

We come to show you your true selves. We take you to great heights of emotion and then we bring you down gently. We always bring you closer to home, to your true oneness. Trust in us as we help you find Trust in yourselves. We are here to show you your wonderful multi-faceted beings -majestic and gleaming with pride, to subtle and meek. To acknowledge your all is the way to become truly whole and at one with all.

Tree Spirit Counsel

Tree Spirit: My-La

To let go of "How?" ... to know without asking, is Trust.

Trust, throughout your kingdom, all the processes of life to unfold.

Allow me to take you up high. Soar to your greatest heights, showing your majesty and pride - to become open to what comes, knowing I will always bring you safely down. Come and soar with me in your quiet time. I can show you many sides of your being and in the journey comes a great gift - Trust!

Realisation:

remembering how to journey back home is one of the soul's lessons, and in that we should always Trust.

Affirmation My Counsel gives hope, in that we are already whole, and I am full of Trusting.

Contacts

Member Tamlin Rae is looking for other members near Dunedin NZ....or perhaps someone who knows the lone bard syndrome, that a lot of us has experienced, who would like to write. Tasmin has been working with Tree energy via her Tai -chi/ chi - kung practice.

I hope we may be able to have an article about this in the next issue. Her address is 4 Alexander St. ABBOTSFORD. DUNEDIN. NZ

Some of our Australian members have websites

I will print these as they come to hand.....

Murray in WA <<http://www.inet.au/~muzzza/>>

For things cletic, an interesting resource.

Just type Green Cauldron into your location box to bring up this amazing site which offers Courses in Tarot and Intuition and Readings in Celtic traditions, American Indian Spirituality and others, Free Tarot reading and seasonal/festival meditations. Are available. A must to visit.

Visit the Grove site of Ruiseart agus Ceit

At <<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/oracle/1328/>>

This is a Grove in WA from which the beautiful music from Ravenswing comes.

Those of you who know Caiseal Mor, may like to know that he will be out and about through March and April

Talk, reading and harp playing Wed March 24 6.30pm at Gleebooks, Glebe ph. (02) 9660-2333

Book singing and Harp playing Thursday 11.30am - 2.30 March 18 at Adyar Bookstore 230 Clarence St Sydney.

Booksigning and Harp-playing Sat March 20 at Phantasia, 443 High St. Penrith

Booksigning and Harp-playing, Thursday, April 8th Dymocks City store, 428 George St. Sydney

Astrology from Alice



CYCLES OF BECOMING

The usual meaning of the word ZODIAC is derived from the Greek, translated as "Circle of Animals". I have always felt this interpretation of the word is not very accurate as there are only five signs of the zodiac named for animals (Aries, Taurus, and Leo, half of Sagittarius and half of Capricorn). One sign is named for the insect/reptile kingdom (Scorpio), one sign is named for a machine (Libra) and three and a half signs are named for the human race (Gemini, Virgo, half of Sagittarius and Aquarius). The bird kingdom is also covered by an affinity to Scorpio, Gemini, Virgo and Aquarius, all of which have birds as one of their symbols. For this reason, I felt there must be another interpretation for the word Zodiac.

During a period of my life when I studied sound and its manifestations I came across a book titled "The Lost Language of Symbolism" by Harold Bailey. In this book he describes the "root sounds" of "root words" that are the basis of all European languages. I decided to play with the word "Zodiac" and found to my delight that it can be divided into three root = words: -

Zo which means Circle

Di which means Light

Ac which means Great

Zo-Di-Ac can therefore be translated into meaning "Great Circle of Light". I really feel this is the true meaning of the word, literally and figuratively. The Zodiac in the night sky is a "great circle of light" and the completion of a specific harmonization process of the twelve signs of the Zodiac will produce a Great Circle of Light around our planet our solar system and ourselves (aura).

Many people seem to perceive our human evolution as a linear process. We have started at a certain point in the far past and we have steadily progressed (with some ups and downs) to our present state. The majority of human beings in this culture seem to feel we have reached some sort of pinnacle and are much better off than we have ever been before.

If I understand astrology correctly, we evolve or devolve in a spiral way, rather than in a straight line. Astrology describes twelve major areas of development (called the signs of the zodiac) which give twelve different ways of perceiving reality. These twelve different "doorways of perception" make up the whole gamut of experience on Earth, and when they harmonize together, can produce an enormous leap of awareness and possibly the manifestation of a completely new reality. This can occur at the end of one of the great ages and we are coming to that time as the Piscean cycle of development (which lasted for about 2,000 years) nears its end.

TRANSITS

In our cycles of evolution or devolution a vibration provided by a star or planet triggers us. We react to that energy in our own specific way, grow stronger or collapse through it, but either way learn through our experience. In due course the star or planet moves out of our energy field and the initial impetus is finished. The reaction we had to that vibration, and the decisions we made because of it, set in motion a habit pattern that we respond to each time the star or planet crosses that point in our personal energy field again. These cycles can be as long as 1,000 years or as short as 1 month, but when they are repeated we more or less take up where we left off last time.

The astrological name for these cycles is 'transits'.

According to our understanding and reaction to the energy provided by these transits, we evolve upward to the next level of skill in utilizing the planetary or star vibration or downward to the next lower level. Eventually, when we reach a pinnacle of skill in understanding all the planetary energies in our solar System we become 'enlightened' and move into galactic consciousness, where we start a new cycle or spiral requiring much higher levels of awareness.



EVOLUTION

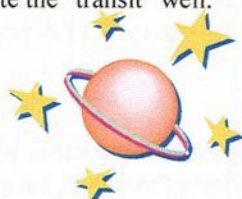
During the longer cycles (which require many incarnations), we eventually perfect our response to the energies provided by the signs of the zodiac and move up to a higher response to that sign. For example, come Aries seem full of energy, excellent at motivating others and will come to the rescue of anyone in trouble. Others just seem to be selfish, angry and aggressive all the time. The latter types are probably on a Lower level spiral of the Aries vibration, and the former have probably reached a higher level of skill through experiencing all the other signs of the zodiac throughout various incarnations and have now re entered the Aries spiral on a higher level.

Just as each individual evolves according to Zodiac and planetary cycles, the planet we live in (Earth), nations and large groups of people have their larger and longer cycles of evolution, to which each individual is connected in the greater whole.

The more profound understanding of Astrology seems to need a mind, which can understand the concepts of smaller spirals of energy within larger spirals, within greater spirals etc. A good astrologer can study the manifestation of energy within a human being, derived from date, time and place of birth. Connect that to the greater spiral of the country of birth, encompass this within the yet greater spiral of the hemisphere in which the person was born and place all of that within the spiral of the evolution of the earth. All are interconnected.

CYCLES AND KARMA

Every time one of the "outer" planets, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune or Pluto, move into a new sign of the Zodiac, the peoples of the earth, separately and as nations, take up where they left off the last time the Planet was in the same zodiac sign. As you can understand, there is a wide range of response to that energy individually, with reactions ranging from very poor indeed to a brilliant level of skill. This also occurs in nations, with some nations being very skilled and others bumbling about clumsily. On a world level the best way to find out how different nations will respond is to study what happened last time that planet was in that sign of the zodiac and then look at the astrological chart of the nation to see if it can improve its reaction. Perhaps the people are more educated, have a higher level of skill in living, are more co-operative with each other, are more compassionate, etc., so this will give a greater capacity for the nation as a while to improve the reaction and assimilate the "transit" well.



As you can see, this explains the cycles of "karma" (the law of action/reaction). What is sowed during one planetary or star cycle is reaped in the following cycles. Where you left off is usually where you pick up the energy again. What you do with the situations provided as a result determines what occurs during the next cycle along. Our "fate" is the situations given as a result of our previous actions and choices, our "free will" is shown by the choices we make during the present cycle. It is therefore sensible to ask for assistance in difficult situations as the help and advice given by those who are wiser or more skilful can enable us to improve our "fate" the next time around.

PLUTO AND ANTARES

At the moment we are experiencing a very profound "transit" of Pluto moving over the same degree of the Zodiac as that of the star Antares.

Antares is found in the constellation of Scorpio and at 9 degrees of the Earth's tropical zodiac sign of Sagittarius. (The difference between the two zodiacs can be explained in another article). Antares is a binary star, fiery red and emerald green. The name derives from Anti Aries, meaning similar to, or the rival of Mars. It was one of the four Royal stars of Persia in 3000 BC. It was called the Watcher of the West, or COR Scorpio, the Scorpions Heart.



If activated in an intelligent being's natal chart, Antares is considered to bring a keen mentality, courage, liberal tendencies and broad mindedness. It can also bring unforeseen events, accidents, self-destruction and at times downright malevolence when it works negatively.

I feel the fixed star Antares is also very strongly connected to the planet Pluto and during this year, when the two are in the same zodiac degree, it can bring to a head, both the better and worse sides of human Nature. It would be wise to prepare spiritually to enable your personal energy system to bring through the best side of this major star.

As I believe that movies often depict how current planetary energies are working within the earth, I was fascinated to see that Episode 1 of the new Star Wars trilogy "The Phantom Menace" is being screened this year. It seems to me that it will very skillfully describe how the Pluto/Antares combination can manifest.

PLUTO IN SAGITTARIUS (1995- 2008)

Sagittarius is the zodiac sign, which is considered to influence exploration, travel, religion, higher education, judgment through law, sport and to some extent bankers and brokers. If we look back to the 18th century, the last time Pluto was in Sagittarius, all of these areas did undergo massive changes. The harsh grasp of religion particularly started to loosen as people began to think for themselves. The countries, religions and organizations that fanatically tried to suppress freedom of thought and religion, or wrongly accused others, or were harsh and cruel in their judgments will find this period difficult.

Those who opened their minds to a vaster range of thought and gave educational opportunities to people who had not had that option before, valued true justice and protected those who were the victims of injustice, should find this period full of wonder. Whilst Pluto is in the zodiac sign Sagittarius the human race will explore both under the surface of the earth and sea and outwards into space. If we are to have a conscious, face to face contact with those who have evolved in other realities, this is a very likely time. It is also a time where there will be radical changes within communication structures of all kinds. We may receive information about the very ancient past of the human race and/or the planet in which we live.

Alice Portman



Samhuinn by the Sea.....Celtic New Year

Anyone wishing to celebrate Samhuinn by the sea is invited to Windang for the weekend of Friday evening April 30th Saturday May 1st and Sunday May 2nd. The ceremony will take place at dusk on Saturday on Windang Island. It will be held in the Bardic Grade and everyone is asked to bring with them something to contribute to the ceremony, i.e. meditation, poem, story etc. and for later, a good 'ghost' story and a lot of laughter for the BBQ and fun around the fire pitBring your favorite CD's tapes etc., music, musical instrument, mead, poems, mask or costume..... whatever.

Crones and Grandmothers especially welcome!

I have room to bed 6 people, there is room for tents in the back yard, or a cabin or caravan can be obtained from the Windang Caravan/Tourist Park, 3 minutes away.

Come for the weekend or come for the day, which ever suits.

If this sounds good to you, phone me on 02-4295-4213. or email me at carole@zipworld.com.au

First in, Best slept!

Carole Nielsen.



JOURNAL ENTRY OCTOBER 31ST

I didn't mean to stop and stare.

She is standing in front of the window getting changed and I didn't mean to stop and stare. She is so beautiful but I didn't mean to stop and stare. A dog barks. She looks up. Stares straight at me, bright eyes boring into mine across the distance. She utters a word in a language that I don't understand. Harsh and guttural. I turn and bolt.

I trip and fall. The ground rushes up to meet me like a friendly dog, except that it's not so friendly. I land hard. I am up again in an instant, running. I think that I am OK. My hands are torn, knees bruised, one elbow grazed but I am OK, I think.

I stop. Something is wrong. The path has changed. Gone is the familiar firebreak-come walk path, houses on one side, bush on the other. In front of me is a path much narrower than the one I have walked before. The bush is somehow wilder and pushes much closer.

I must have run the wrong way when I got up. I turn around. Something is wrong though. There is always noise in the bush. Insects, birds, small animals, the wind in the leaves. Tonight it is deadly silent. Not a whisper of life. Except for the baying of hounds.

I turn and run again. This time for my life. I can hear the hounds whining with excitement as they sniff the spot where I stood only moments before. She speaks. The same harsh guttural language. Her voice comes clearly to me above the baying of the hounds, above the noise I make as I run, as if we were standing next to each other. As if there is no distance between us, no hounds eager to hunt and to kill. As if I am not running for my life.

I am struggling for breath my lungs aching with unaccustomed exercise. I haven't run very far and I am already falling over myself. The hounds are quieter as they run. My fear lends me speed, but I doubt it will be enough.

I stagger over the crest of a hill and, gravity now on my side, I careen wildly down the other side. The hounds have gained on me but they are being restrained. They should have caught me by now. I am being hunted I realize. The woman, I assume it is she in charge of the hounds, is enjoying the chase. She does not want it to end too soon. My whole body protesting I run on.

Time has stopped. There is a crow on the path in front of me.

"Give me your love and I will save you from the hounds" it says.

"You already have my love" I reply, "I love all of the wild creatures".

The crow tilts its head back and laughs. A hideous inhuman laugh

. I panic and start to run again.

The hounds are closer now. My heart is pounding like a drum. My breath is rasping, labored. My legs feel like they are on fire. My arms are cut and scratched where I have deflected branches and run into trees. I cannot run much further. I cannot but I must. I must not let the hounds catch me.

Time has stopped. There is a crow on the path in front of me.

"Give me your love and I will save you from the hounds" it says.

I have a feeling of de-ia-vu.

There is a knock at the door, I get up and open it.

"Trick or treat?" two little witches chorus at

"Very well," I say, "treat me!"

They look perplexed.

"You're supposed to treat us?" one of them o

"Tricked you!" I reply and close the door.

"You already have my love" I reply, "I love a the wild creatures, and especially the crow".

The crow tilts its head back and laughs. My blood cur have heard that laugh before. I run again.

I am on a path that curves forever inward. At the center the path is me. I am the destination. No matter how b I walk, no matter how fast I run I get no closer to the c to myself. I have tried, but there are no short cuts, the curves are not corners that can be cut. My grief a huge weight upon me, I give in to it. I sink to the ground, sobbing.

There is a tapping on my shoulder. I look up through t strained eyes to see a gentle man holding out his hand offering to accompany me. I accept his offer and we w together. Without moving at all I have come a long wa am closer to the center than I have ever been before.

I am running still. My clothes are tattered rags, my fee bruised and bloodied, somehow I have lost my shoes. hounds come on relentlessly, offering me no chance to catch my breath. I don't know where I am or where I going, just that I must run, run, run. I run.

Time has stopped. There is a crow sitting on the path i front of me.

"Give me your love and I will save you from t hounds" she asks.

"I love only you", I reply.

I blink and the woman from the window is in front of r She is very beautiful. She smiles at me and then she la That laugh. I pass out.

The hounds must have caught me, I realize. I sense rat than see what remains of my body. There is a bloodied across the clearing where most of it should be. The ho having revelled in the kill have disappeared. A crow p at what remains of my chest. My awareness dims and become fuzzy.

I have come around again. There is a Jack Russell pup alternately licking my face and barking at me. It has re ears. Standing nearby and looking concerned is the wo from the window.

"Are you OK?" she asks.

She is the same woman and yet different. She is still beautiful but somehow the beauty is more human. Her are softer and don't bore straight through me.

"I didn't mean to stop and stare", I say. She blushes and looks away.

Murray Barton

Member's skill share.

Celtic Chess.

A full range of individually hand-crafted Celtic Gameboards and pieces of Indo-European Tafyl group Including Tailboard, Gwydbowl and Tawlbrdd are now available created by Joel Hopkinson. Any members interested in taking up these ancient Celtic games of the land and kingship, please write to Joel at **P.O.Box 7023 EAST HOLLAND PARK 4121 QLD**

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Carri Myriad

Carri Myriad and the Ragged Band offer great Celtic music on two great CD,s
Up the Sides and Down the Middle, and Distant shores.
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Ravenswingfor the CD Time to Heal, \$20.00 from the WA Grove of Sgiath an Fhithich, PO Box 356, Kelmscott. WA 6911

Serpentstar is an Australian and New Zealand newsletter for members of O.B.O.D.
For more information about OBOD write to OBOD P.O. Box 1333, Lewes, East Sussex BN71DX, email – office@obod.co.uk.
OBOD Web site <http://www.druidry.org>.

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Opinions and statements by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Order.



Serpentstar would like to thank all the contributors to this seasons issue and all those who have paid their subscriptions. If someone you know hasn't got their copy, remind them that only those who have paid will receive serpentstar from now on. (\$10.00 a year)

Many members are on the net now, and remember those who want their email addresses published let me know, so we can develop a contact list for all states.

If you would like your email address to be made available to members but not published in Serpentstar, please let me know. Sometimes this isn't made really clear.

For those of you who drop me a line occasionally..... if you would like your letters, or part of your letters published, please indicate.

I am a stickler for privacy and won't publish anything that isn't so marked, or otherwise indicated, this applies to phone numbers and addresses, so please let me know.

Serpentstar is getting closer to coming onto the internet. When this occurs I have several options.

I can password protect the newsletter, so only members can access it,

I can leave it open for all to see, or

I can have some of it open and some of it password protected

I would appreciate readers letting me know their feelings about this so I can accommodate everyone's needs.

This would mean, for e.g. that if members wanted to share a particular item, or festival date and venue etc with members only...it would go into the 'password protected section,' or simply remain in the printed edition only.

All ideas and contributions are welcome, and may thanks for the offers of help, they are all appreciated.

The Blessing of the Dadga and Ceridwin be with you
And the blessing of the Yew at Samhuinne

Carole /\