

SERPENT STAR

A newsletter of The Order of Bards Ovates and Druids in the Southern Hemisphere



BELTANE 2020

Welcome to the Beltane issue of SerpentStar!

Hullo all

The wild dance that is 2020 is into its final quarter, and our Wheel year turns to the height of Spring. Although we have a long way to go, many communities are carefully poking their heads out into a new world. Which, however you look at it, has the potential to be a powerful time for us all.

Many thanks to Jan Walker for our front cover and the photos on this page, all from her Beltane celebrations in beautiful Tasmania.

In this issue we have poetry from Madeleine West and Les Williams, articles from Danuta Raine, Janine Cobb and a special message from Chris Parker as he hands over the reins of the Druidry Australia website to yours truly. Exciting times, both now and ahead!

May you find peace to be a choice, a prayer, and a life to explore.
Mandy /|\



SerpentStar, Beltane 2020

SerpentStar is a free, volunteer-produced online newsletter for members of the Order of Bards Ovates and Druids in the Southern Hemisphere.

SerpentStar logo by Todd William Dearing. Cover image by Jan Walker. Watermark images courtesy freepik.com and druidry.org. All other images provided by the authors on the corresponding page, unless otherwise credited.

Submission guidelines and subscription info are available from serpentstar.druidryaustralia.org/about

Follow us on Facebook - search "SerpentStar"

Enquiries via email:
serpentstar.obod@gmail.com

All opinions expressed herein are solely the contributors' own.

A reminder to everyone that SerpentStar now has a YouTube channel, which is hosting the DDUDE talk series from Druids DownUnder. I'd like to see other videos from OBODies on there as well though - they can either be linked to ones already on other channels, or we can arrange for you to send them to me for upload. Get in touch if you have a bardic video or a short doco you'd like to share in SerpentStar.

Search 'SerpentStar OBOD' on YouTube to subscribe!

OBOD in the Southern Hemisphere

Groves & Seed Groups

The following are groups currently listed on OBOD's official Groves & Seed Groups List for 2018 and have consented to have their information included in this list. Other groups run by OBOD members are listed in the Advertising section.

Brisa del Sur

We are a Seed Group called 'Brisa del Sur' (Southern Breeze) from Rosario, Argentina, and we are writing to introduce our group and share with you and the Order the fulfilling experience and wonderful learning we have had as a result of our journey along the Druid Path. You can contact us at southernbreezesfellowship@gmail.com and you can see our profile on Facebook www.facebook.com/Southernbreezesfellowship

The Cradle Seed Group

The Cradle Seed Group is based in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Group currently has only one Druid and three Bards 'in the making'. One area of focus is exploring other spiritual philosophies and understanding the synergies. Other areas of focus are to 'convert' traditional Ogham into the indigenous South African trees and also to understand and use indigenous medicinal plants and trees. All the eight yearly festivals are celebrated, all in solo as we are spread through South Africa – Johannesburg in Gauteng, Haenertsburg in Limpopo. Full moon meditations are conducted for peace and harmony. Email debby@triskel.co.za for details.



Druid Pilgrim Grove

We are a grove of wayfaring and friendly OBODies who are happy to support those seeking to engage with pilgrimage as part of their druid practice. We have members around Australia and NZ. A number of us are happy to meet up with pilgrims as they travel close to us. Contact danuta@adruid.com. FB: Druid Pilgrim is a Facebook group that engages with people interested in exploring pilgrimage and druidry. It also acts as a 'Friends of' space for those interested in connecting with Druid Pilgrim Grove.

The Golden Wattle Seed Group

The Golden Wattle Seed Group are an OBOD Seed Group in Adelaide, SA. We hold ceremonies for the Wheel of the Year, nature walks, meditations and other rituals for peace and for the land. If you would like to get in contact with us, email us at golden.wattle.seed.group@gmail.com or connect with our Facebook 'Friends of' page: search Friends of the Golden Wattle Seed Group (OBOD).

The Grove of the Summer Stars

The Grove of the Summer Stars (Pukerua Bay, Wellington, New Zealand) celebrates the eight great Seasonal Festivals throughout the wheel of the year. Each of these Druid festivals is held as a community festival and meeting point for diverse creeds and cultures to honour the turning of the year, and give thanks for its abundance. The Equinox and Solstice festivals are open to all while the four Quarter Festivals are for Grove members only. We meet at The Woolshed/Grove of the Summer Stars at 11am on the nearest Sunday to the particular festival, except for Beltane and Samhain which are held at night. Lughnasadh is held on the Sunday during Druid Camp even though it is a little early, ie the third week of January (Wellington Anniversary weekend). On the day (or night) people can bring stories, poems, songs, dances, readings and insights etc to contribute to the theme. The ceremonies are followed by potluck feasting to which everyone contributes. Contact: pamela@thewoolshed.com

Macadamia Grove

Welcomes and is inclusive of South-East Queensland and Northern New South Wales OBOD members who wish to join in with any activities. We celebrate the eight festivals of the year, and organise other events depending on members' interests. As Brisbane is a central meeting point most of our events are held close to the city, often in the bushland of Mt Coot-tha. Non-members with an interest in Druidry are able to attend some rituals by prior arrangement. Contact Sandra: macademiagroove@hotmail.com

The Melbourne Grove

Welcomes all OBOD members (local, interstate and overseas) to its seasonal celebrations. Family and friends may also attend with a member. We now have a public facebook page: Friends of The Melbourne Grove. FFI contact: Elkie,elkiewhite@gmail.com

Middle Earth Fellowship Seed Group

Tauranga, NZ. Also Medieval village, Medieval craft camps, Medieval dance and Border Morris dance. Contact Yvonne yjames@balnacoil.xtra.co.nz

Silvereyes Seed Group

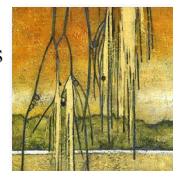
Perth Hills & members throughout the South West. Email: ghrianu@iinet.net.au

Song of the Eastern Sea Seed Group

Situated on the Central Coast of NSW, we invite OBOD members and guests to join us as we celebrate the eight festivals of the Wheel of the Year and explore nature and Druidry together. We have a number of projects in the planning, including a Sacred Grove planting, working on environmental issues as a group, and supporting our local community. Contact Chris at chris@druidryaustralia.org

The Windharp Seed Group

Based in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia and named after the She-oak or Casuarina, also known as a Windharp. She-oaks are known as windharps because of the mystical sound they make when the wind breathes through the knotted leaves - a soft music like that of the Aeolian Harp. We are a learning group who gather to celebrate the eight seasonal rituals of the wheel of the year and study together. We also hold various shared events and ceremonies that non-members are able to attend. Contact Tamzin Woodcock or Adrienne Piggott windharpseedgroup@gmail.com



Wollemi Seed Group

Nestled between the mountains and the sea, Wollemi Seed Group covers Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Greater Hunter Region. Rich with flowing rivers, fields and natural beauty, we meet fortnightly to explore the depths of the Bardic and Ovate paths. We meet for each of the festivals, and invite all interested in Druidry and the love earth to join us. For information, contact Rollick on 0423 626 290 or bonsaidruid@yahoo.com.au

Useful websites for SH OBODies:

www.druidryaustralia.org - A central online resource for druidry in Australia.

Druids DownUnder - Facebook group - a group for druids of any path in the Southern Hemisphere, Australia/New Zealand in particular.

Don't see your group or website listed here? Send a listing to serpentstar.obod@gmail.com and spread the word!

OBOD Worldwide

www.druidry.org - Official site of the Order of Bards Ovates and Druids

www.druidcast.libsyn.com - Direct download and shownotes for DruidCast (or subscribe via iTunes)

Facebook Groups - *OBOD Friends* (open to members and non-members, discussing general topics) and *Order of Bards Ovates and Druids* (closed group for members of the Order).

Publications

Touchstone (HQ) Sent free to all members taking the course, and once you have finished receiving course material you can subscribe separately. Touchstone is only available to members of the Order. Contact Penny touchstone@druidry.org

Druid (USA) www.druidmagazine.com (publication ceased 2018, back-issues still available)

Druidenstein (German) www.druidry.info/das-magazin-druidenstein

Dryade (Dutch) www.obod.dds.nl

Il Calderone (Italian) issun.com/ilcalderone

Menhir (French) issun.com/obod-menhir/docs

Ophiusa (Portuguese) www.obod.com.pt/ophiusa.htm

Pagan Transitions

Pagan Transitions was created over 12 years ago to help pagans create meaningful and beautiful funeral rites which reflect the spirituality of the person who has passed through the Gateway, and offer support to the bereaved.

As well as templates that can be adapted to suit individual funeral requirements, and a selection of reading material and poems, there is also a list of Pagan Funeral Celebrants who can create and lead the funeral rite for you and arrange everything with the Funeral Director. Pagan Transitions is a volunteer-run free service.

If you are a Pagan Funeral Celebrant and would like to be listed please visit www.pagan-transitions.org.uk and complete the application form. Any suggestions on how the service can be improved are welcome.



A little over 4 years ago, one of our Southern Hemisphere OBOD members, Todd Dearing, asked me if I could take over and look after the Druidry Australia website <https://www.druidryaustralia.org>. As I host and build websites for a living, it was an obvious choice. So for the last 4 years I have been the custodian of the website.

The website was being managed using Joomla as the content management system. I wasn't familiar with Joomla and found it difficult to manage, so the first thing I did was to rebuild the website in Wordpress. I am much more experienced in Wordpress and can write custom code for it. After this first rebuild, the site looked virtually identical to how it was, I just had much more control over it.

Not long after becoming the custodian, the seed group I belong to, The Song of the Eastern Sea, was asked to host the 2017 Southern Hemisphere OBOD Assembly. So the first thing that came to mind was 'how can I make this process easier'. So I set out to build a complete booking and management system for the Assembly.

To the user the new system looked like an online version of the previous booking form that we used to manually fill in and post or email to the host. But behind the scenes it was much more than that. As everything was stored in a database it allowed me to collate that data in several different ways. So instead of the organisers having to use notebooks, or spreadsheets to keep track of everything, the system produced lists in pdf format that provided all of the information we needed. All of the information relating to catering, accommodation, initiations, eisteddfod etc, was generated live with the click of a button. Anyway, enough of the boring stuff, let's just say I am quite proud of the system I built and since it has been used for the organisation of a couple of other assemblies.

I always knew that the Druidry Australia could be much more than it currently is. And I did have plans to add a lot more to it. But you know how the painters house always needs painting, and the builders house is never finished, it was like that for me, the coders website was never completed. Also being quite new to Druidry and OBOD, I never felt comfortable being the voice of the website, so I never really did much with it.

After 4 years I felt the site would do much better with a new custodian, someone who would be passionate about looking after it. To me the obvious choice was Mandy, the editor of SerpentStar. She is a passionate OBOD member, a writer, an editor, and knows how to look after a Wordpress website. I knew she was super busy, but Mandy agreed without question to take over the site and look after it. So I have stepped back and Mandy has now stepped forward as the custodian of the Druidry Australia website. I wish Mandy all the best and will continue to be here to help with any coding issues for the Assembly Booking plugin.



Thanks so much to Chris Parker for the amazing job he's done on the Druidry Australia website over the past four years (it's gone so fast), and for leaving me lovingly crafted shoes to fill! - Ed.



*Light of the Earth, Light of the Sea,
Light of the Sky....
Save the Date for Assembly 2021*



*Come call the light of
Alban Eilir with
Macadamia Grove*

*Bribie Island Retreat &
Recreation Centre
Queensland, Australia*

*Friday 10 - Tuesday 14
September 2021*

*Booking details
coming soon*

Statement re COVID pandemic restrictions:

Due to the ever-changing conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, a cancellation policy will be published before any deposits are required. The booking form will serve as an 'expression of interest' only, until the deposit is requested and paid. The booking form will be available on DruidryAustralia.org in the coming months - an announcement will be made via the SerpentStar mailing list and Facebook when the form is available.

It is our intention to conduct the activities of Assembly 2021 according to whatever restrictions may be in place at the time of the event. However, should cancellation become our only option, a final decision regarding the staging of the event will be published on or before 10 June 2021.



Breathing a New Dawn

Danuta Raine

Our training as OBODies involves learning a number of practices that increase our awareness of the subtle energies that are around us and flow through us. Ayurveda and yoga, and other disciplined awareness practices also focus on the awareness and movement of such life energies. Over the last month, I have been increasing my focus on these practices, working with the OBOD practices in alignment with the practices I learned through Ayurveda.

About ten years ago, I discovered the root of many of the difficulties that I have faced in my life when I travelled to Europe and met the scholar responsible for rediscovering the Birth and Abortion Centre where my mother was born in 1943 during my grandmother's time in forced labour in Germany. Three of my children suffered with a number of complaints that were extremely similar to those noted in the descendants of concentration camp survivors, and my youngest had begun to speak to me about concerns she was having just before I left Australia. I, too, suffered from involuntary twitches, fibromyalgia, and a number of quite physical conditions. As I flew home, I felt things shift inside me, like stones shifting into place in a rock wall, and I went, "I know what is happening here."

I have spent the time since returning from Europe applying the illumination of that journey. A door had opened between the worlds, and the ancient mother, the Black Madonna, who followed me throughout my journey in Europe, returned with me. The long-term effects of that pilgrimage have included deep healing and freedom for all of my children. While they still have the underlying conditions that they began with, they are free from many of the disabling attributes and have been blessed with doors opening for them where once they were closed.

That pilgrimage changed our futures. The heavens moved in a way that guided us towards new, more beautiful life paths.

One of the paths that has opened for many in my family began when I joined OBOD, just after New Year's in 2017. My aim was to travel the path of my father's heritage, just as I had illuminated the path of my mother's during my trip to Europe. It has been an amazing journey, and during that time I have grown in inexplicable ways. My work with OBOD has made me particularly aware of the value of the practices that I have done off and on for a very long time. It has also helped me understand the power of consistency.

Again, the stars have illuminated new paths that I may choose to walk.

But choice can be a difficult thing. There is such a thing as too many of them. When my youngest finished school in 2018, I began thinking of pilgrimage again. This time, not out of an acute need to resolve an issue. This pilgrimage was to be a fallow year of opening up a way ahead, a way out of the dominance of motherhood into my next phase of life. It was a true sabbatical.

I travelled to many sacred places in Australia and New Zealand and met people who have slowly and gently helped me to see the branching ways before me. In the last month that has coalesced into a desire to step back from community and retreat into a period of fasting and self-nurture. I felt it an opportunity to settle and take the first steps along the way before me.

This process embraced a number of different modalities, but the root of them were the practices I have learned as a member of OBOD—the meditations, observances and wisdom of our order. It involved preparing for a fast over about a week, a food fast for two days, a water fast for four and a half days, and a recovery period that has lasted just on a week. In line with our understanding of the phases of the moon, I chose a fast that would culminate on the new moon with refeeding beginning with the first whispers of its waxing phase.

Preparation focused on slowing down activity and moving away from talking with people at a distance. It involved a bit of a tech fast, to break my unthinking attachment to my mobile phone and FaceBook. I did this using the following strategies:

1. I made FB post informing my community that I will be away until the 23rd of the month, about a week after the new moon.
2. Texted my frequent contacts and gave them my house phone number.
3. Put my phone in a drawer and only accessed it as needed.

I wove new practices into my life to fill the void of the ones I wanted to give up.

1. I booked in for a series of Ayurvedic therapies called Shirodhara. These are practices for cooling the cerebrospinal fluid and rebalancing thought processes. They also open up a space between worlds where the participant can move freely, resolve issues and come back into alignment with their own soul and spirit.

2. Began a regimented morning practice and grew this over time. It began with:
- a. Brushing teeth and scraping tongue upon waking,
 - b. Drinking a warm tea,
 - c. Taking ghee in warm water with turmeric and black pepper.
 - d. Making a cleansing decoction that I added to my water, of fennel seed, coriander seed, cumin seed, cardamom pods, raisins and fresh ginger.
 - e. Meditating using the Light Body Exercise and Sacred Grove practices.
 - f. Walking my circle.
- Later I included:
- g. Body oiling, nasal oiling, and more advanced breathing techniques.

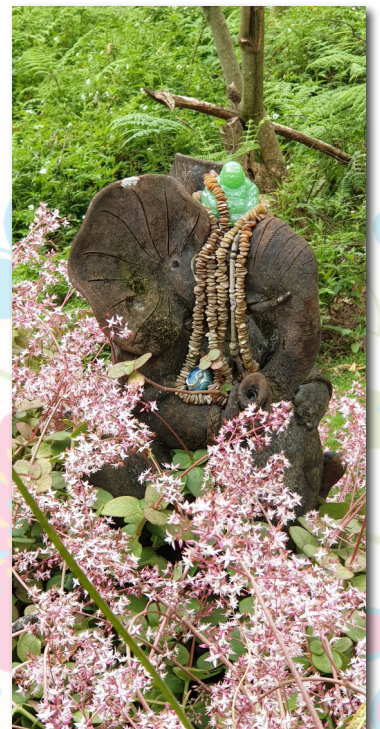
3. Beginning daily practices that increased Nwyfre and Awen. To start with:
- a. I spent time each day sitting in my garden grove.
 - b. Some garden work. Hands in the dirt really grounds me.
 - c. Daily work with my gwersi.
4. Slowly, I cut down the amount of food I was eating and increased the water I was drinking.

Soon, I was really slowing down, and by the Sunday before the water fast I was only eating one meal a day. For two days before the fast, all I ate was ghee and raspberries once each day.

During the water fast, I continued my daily practices, but included an evening practice as well. I became conscious of bedtime, journaled, oiled my head, hands and feet with Brahmi oil in order to facilitate sound sleep and clarity, and meditated. I also took my blood sugar and ketone levels.

Coming out of the fast took longer to do successfully than I expected. It is important not to eat carbohydrates or eat anything heavy on the first meal after the fast.

On the last day of my fast, made a beef bone broth. I used Ayurvedic principals to match the spices to ending a fast, including both pepper and mustard seed to activate my stomach.



When it came time to end the fast, I took my blood sugar and ketone levels again, so I had a baseline to measure the effects of coming out of the fast. Then I had an Ayurvedic pepper compound called Trikatu blended with warm ghee to start my digestive system. I waited thirty minutes before drinking about a cup of beef stock. It took about half-an-hour to slowly sip.

I waited for two hours before I ate a small barramundi filet which I fried in ghee. Ghee is important because it stabilises the metabolism, making sure there are no unseemly spikes in sugar or ketones as you come out of the fast. Unfortunately, my blood sugar did not rise as hoped, and the ketone level stayed around the same level as it was at the end of the fast, so more food was called for. The next morning, I continued strictly focusing on protein rich foods and fats, mostly ghee. Two hours after each meal, I took my blood sugar and ketone levels.

This went on for a couple of days. I had to increase the number of meals, because my body still remained with fasting blood sugar and ketone levels. To nudge the transition, I ate pistachios, about 50gms twice a day. The fat, protein and carbohydrate profile raises blood sugar in a balanced way.

Now out of fasting mode and I moved back into normal ketosis. It will still take about another week to move into my normal diet. If I were eating a standard carbohydrate rich diet, I would need about two to three weeks to transition to normal eating.

This fasting practice can support deep spiritual work. It is like a spring clean and spiritual realignment. It may seem counter intuitive, but my energy levels are so much better. I feel like I have been completely refuelled. I am more clear-headed and more positive and active. My mood is more stable, and I feel like I am better company.

Danuta is a member of Druid Pilgrim Grove, and can be found through the FB Group: Druid Pilgrim or by emailing, danuta@adruid.com. She is happy to answer any questions people have about her fasting experience and practices.





The header image for the Aotearoa section of SerpentStar has been created by Glenn Conroy, who writes: "The image is comprised of several elements that are of special meaning to members of the Grove of The Southern Stars; Matariki, (seven sisters constellation), pounamu, (greenstone), ti kouka (cabbage tree), and of course Kapiti Island."

Sonnet to Beltane

We wake to lively song on warming light,
aroused from slumber, stretching rested limbs,
feathered Bards compose their melodic hymns,
dispatching fast the mysteries of the night.
Through polished glass we look out at the sight
of swallows diving low, still lakes they skim,
fish feeding early, circle as they swim,
our spirits soar, our souls are set alight.
Beltane is here, our ritual for new life,
yellow flowers, green leaves, the bright suns fire
in flame our passion, fuel our deep desire
for love, be it young debutant or wife,
heart's joining, celebrating, joys abound,
creation, nature's bounty all around.

Les Williams, GOSS

November 1st 2014

Beltane

Janine Cobb

Spring is a time of hope. Doubly so for Melbournians. As the year has waxed and waned towards Beltane, the easing of restrictions of the longest and most severe lockdowns on the planet all has us breathing a little easier.

Beltane has always been a time of joy for me, the plants relaxing their toes into the warm earth, reaching their tendrils towards the heavens and pouring forth in exuberance. As an early bird, the sun up to greet me is a lovely bonus.

In the surrounding landscape I see that the Oak is bursting forth acorns, Bottlebrush continues to bloom. Wild weeds of Plantain, Dandelion, Sow Thistle and Cats Ears are bursting their flowers forth to the sun.

Young lorikeets always make me grin with their antics, zooming, and swooping with joy around the streets, shrieking. Hoons of the sky! Crimson rosellas and King Parrots visit my garden at the same time every afternoon. Noisy Miners battle for territory and chased the fat old moves off the deck, little Blackbird hops around the lawn.

My garden reflects Beltane as a traditional celebration of flowers, it is full of the beautiful Elder, her amazing blossoms are beautiful little stars, my roses are beginning to bloom, old fashioned Bourbon Roses full of body and heady of scent. The lavender is reaching towards the sky, and the borage is buzzing with bees.

Living in Melbourne's Outer East I have been especially thankful for my house with its garden. To be able to get my hands in the earth, to practice yoga outside, or meditate well wrapped against the cold, has been a great blessing. It has made the time away from family and friends bearable.

I am lucky enough where I live to be able to grow vegetables all year round and I am currently harvesting Lettuces, Kale, Beetroot, Broccoli, Broccolini, Snow-peas, and Broad Beans.

It is a time to sow all those carefully nurtured tomatoes and capsicum seedlings, whilst planting beans, cucumbers, corn, pumpkin, lettuce directly in the garden.

As I have worked in my garden during this Pandemic I have felt a special connection to my Ancestors, and often think of all those who have survived plagues, wars and times of uncertainty. I think of how Spring must have been a time of relief for them, a time to count their blessings and sow crops and hope for the future. I think of My Nanna Ivy as a young woman who grew vegetables to supplement meals for her young children during the rationing of World War II while her Husband, Brothers and Cousins were half a world away.

Indeed it is because of the acts of love and, or, desire of thousands of Ancestors, each of us exist today.

Ritually speaking Samhain and Beltane are two sides of the same coin and I feel the Ancestors at Beltane just as I do at Samhain, although in a different context. Ancestors for me being a broad term. Ancestors of DNA being milk blood and bone. Ancestors of land or spirit of place being Sea Land and Sky, and Ancestors of Inspiration being Light Creation and Passion.

The Energy at Beltane has an altogether lighter more joyful air. It is about love, celebration, and connection to the here and now.

As an Ovate who has been on their Druidic path for eight years now I am always looking to make my season celebrations more person and more relevant to my own life. Beltane is no exception.

Incorporating the Ancestral aspect of fire at Beltane is something I am exploring. I often hesitate to bring flame into Ritual in Australia, especially in our months of fire danger. Planning a ritual I always keep fire warnings and ratings in mind. Currently in Melbourne our fire rating is low, and in my backyard, thanks to lockdown I will permit myself a small fire in a cauldron.

The purpose of this fire as part of my Beltane ritual is to ignite the fire within. A mirror if you like to a favourite Samhain ritual element of using fire as a ritual of banishment to rid of us the unwanted, this time of year I will use fire to ignite. Invoking the Ancestors of Inspiration and using small slips of paper with words written, or symbolic items such as pencil shavings for creativity, petals for passion; feed them into the fire as you visualise them igniting your internal fire.

Beltane is a wonderful time of year for me. The everyday rituals of planting, weeding and sowing are as important to me as the sacred rituals in circle. May your Beltane be blessed.

'The Goddess and the Horned One'

*Fair woman of the Earth
With raven locks that fall wild
Just like her nature
She waits for him
And craves his touch
Feeling him in the breath of the trees
That mystical man
The Elf of the woods
So enchanted she is by his ocean eyes
That carry the mysteries of the past
And reflect the forest that lives within him
A vast wilderness she longs to discover
Which she tasted among the tall pines the night they first met
When the wind weaved their paths together
Two old souls made of magick
Kindred spirits
They both dance with the Moon
And walk between the realms
To lay with him she so desires
To explore every part of his flesh with her tender lips
Worship his body in its entirety
As if he is a God
The Horned One
Guardian of the natural world
Embodiment of the Sacred Masculine
And she is no less than a Goddess
With the divine light of Lady Luna in her heart
The heart that belongs in another time and place
Where myths and legends are alive
And the land is revered for its precious beauty
It is in his eyes that she has seen this Universe
He opened the door to a world of wonder
With lush meadows of wildflowers
And skies filled with the brightest stars
His touch woke her
Stirring an ancient flame deep in the centre of her being
A lady so mighty with hair of fire
Bearer of eternal light and inspiration
Brigid - the muse of all creativity
Then like Spring she bloomed
Becoming a garden of earthly delights
Where the man with the antlered crown could roam and revel in pleasure
While the beat of Pagan drums echo in the air.*

M.D.W.

'Unite'

*I want to be where it is just you, me and the trees
To make love on a bed of fallen leaves
Feel the nwyfre rising from the Earth below
Pulsating within, it grows and grows
You the athame and I the chalice
Invoking the energy of the God and Goddess
As the Sacred masculine and Divine feminine
join as one
The essence of magick we shall become.*

M.D.W.



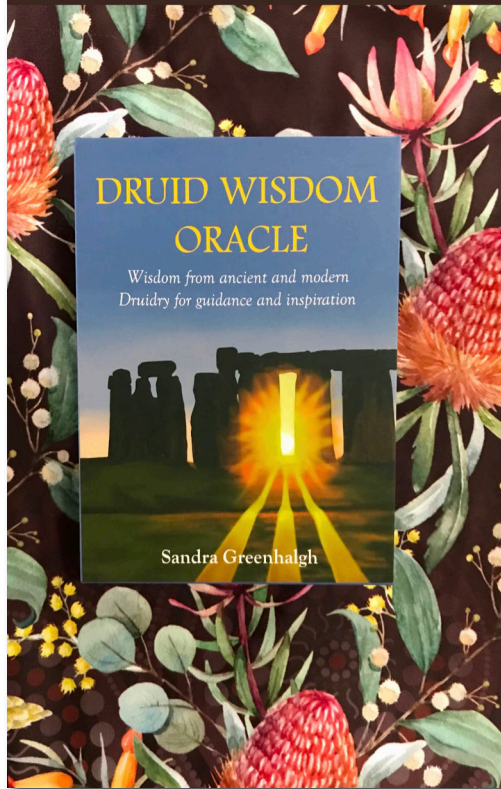
Image courtesy colourbox.com

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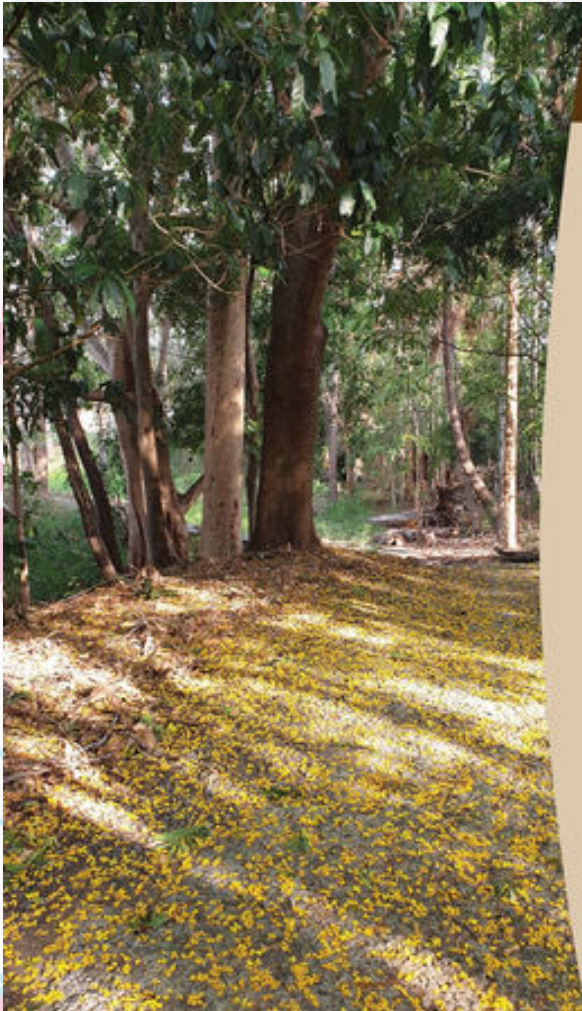
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The Wheel of Segais

The Wisdom of the Four Seasons as a Divination Tool

A big thank you to all of you for your patience while we did our second production run for the Wheel of Segais Personal Reader Kit. The reprinting took somewhat longer than we had anticipated but the good news is (trumpet sounds)...

The Wheel of Segais Personal Reader Kit is now available again! The printing has been checked, the fabric Wheels, hazelnuts and pens tested, the boxes packed and we are all ready to receive your orders once again.

If the **Wheel of Segais Personal Reader Kit** is unfamiliar to you, there is lots more information on my website - <http://www.wheelofsegais.com/> - and you might like to check out this wonderful divination tool by having an online reading with me to get you started.

And if you would like to learn a little more about how this seasonal metaphor and 'thinking like a tree' can be used to understand the cycle of all things, be it a project, an intention, a goal, a life purpose, a relationship, a business etc, you might like to take a look at this live video I did for 'Tea with a Druid' a couple of weeks ago which I call, 'Living Treefully'. It includes a short meditation that you might enjoy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sphYwzcmfM>

THE WHEEL OF SEGAIS READER TRAINING

The Wheel of Segais Reader Training already has a number of students and Graduates in America, Australia, the UK and New Zealand.

If you are interested in taking the **Wheel of Segais Online Reader Training** you will first need to purchase a Personal Reader Kit.

If you already have a Personal Reader Kit then you can purchase the Reader Training course straight away and start your Reader journey. Videos and more information about the Reader Training and its content can be found at:

<https://www.wheelofsegais.com/be-a-reader/>

You can sign up for the Training through Global Spiritual Studies – <https://globalspiritualstudies.com/product/the-wheel-of-segais/> . **Prices are in \$USD.**

- Download seven recordings to your device: **\$279**
- Seven recordings stored on a USB flash drive: **\$290** (includes postage worldwide)

If you are a New Zealand resident, the good news is that you can save on international currency transfer fees by paying in \$NZD. Email me for \$NZ prices and bank account details – pamela@thewoolshed.com

As the seed is nurtured and the Wheel of Segais unfurls its tendrils around the world, I hope you will consider taking the next step with me to becoming a Wheel of Segais Reader. Let us use the wisdom of Nature to grow our dreams and the dreams of others from Seed to Harvest.

WHEEL OF SEGAI'S COURSES

In New Zealand I run one-day facilitated workshops for up to 20 people and also run ongoing monthly courses following the 12 streams that flow from the Well of Segais: Transformation, Openness, Affinity, Passion, Commitment, Alignment, Identity, Discrimination, Ripening, Healing, Harvest and Reflection.

The next one-day (10-4) workshop will be on Sunday 2nd June 2019 here at The Woolshed and from there I will ascertain when is the best time to begin another series of monthly workshops. These will be in addition to the Reader training although they will use much of the same material. I am also exploring the possibility of making these monthly workshops available online for those of you in other countries or out of town.

In the meantime, I will be travelling to Australia in April 2020 and the UK and Europe in May/June 2020 and I am keen to run one-day Wheel of Segais workshops while I'm away. If you would be interested in attending one of these please register your interest. If you would like to organise a one-day workshop for me (promotion, venue, admin, etc) then I would be happy to offer you a place for free.

I look forward to hearing from some of you very soon.

Yours on behalf of the Salmon of Wisdom.
Pamela

*The **Wheel of Segais** is a simple but profound template for understanding the innate nature of the universe and our place within it. It allows us to perceive all that we are and all that we need as we experience the turning of the wheel of the year - the Four Seasons, the 12 streams or stages and the Well of the Salmon of Wisdom, the Well of Segais itself, in the centre.*

If you would like a reading or a life coaching session in person, you can contact me at pamela@thewoolshed.com, 0272068876 or 2399234.

Cost: \$40

Out of town or in another country?

Book an online reading or Life Coaching Session through my website – www.wheelofsegais.com



Spiral Dance's latest album 'Land and Legend'
is now available.



Goddess of the Southern Land	A Piggott
Serpent Energy	A Piggott
Wickerman / Landlord's Daughter	A Piggott / P Gooding
Song of the Trees	A Piggott
The Sheringham Mermaid / Bay of Soles	A Piggott / P Gooding
The Children of Lir	A Piggott
Soul's Gateway	M Adamson
King Orfeo	Traditional
Dark Days and Heys / Tampered Twilight	A Miller / P Gooding
Elen of the Ways	A Piggott
Mallee My Mother	Wyverne Ogma Vyvyan

Featuring:

Damh the Bard on Track 1 & 11
Wyverne Ogma Vyvyan Track 11

To order go to :
<http://www.spiraldance.com.au>
or for more information :
info@spiraldance.com.au

THE GREEN ALBUM

Tuatha Dea and Nightsong Studios Presents:

THE GREEN ALBUM is a collaborative concept album featuring Tuatha Dea, Wendy Elizabeth Rule, SJ Tucker, Sharon Knight, Winter Jp Sichelschmidt, Celia Farran, Bekah Kelso, Ginger Doss, Damh The Bard, Kellianna Girouard, Spiral Dance, Spiral Rhythm, Murphey's Midnight Rounders, Brian Henke and Mama Gina LaMonte.

It's a musical plan of action. An Independent musical compilation created by a consortium of like minded Muses, Musicians and Songbirds from all over uniting as a global Tribe to raise awareness, celebrate and give something back to Mother Earth! All these amazing artists will be offering one gift of song, either NEW or never before released specifically for this Album, and themed toward the universal concept of 'Green!' All of the Artists have banded together, and partial proceeds from every album sold by the collaborators will be donated to Rainforest Trust, a Global Green Charity doing amazing work around the world!

THE GREEN ALBUM and all the artists on this compilation project are proud and honored to announce our association and partnership with this wonderful organisation. 25% of all (That's ALL 14 artists) sales proceeds from this project will be donated to Rainforest Trust! This amazing group so profoundly echoes the sentiments of this project, and has been putting them into action for 27 years. PLEASE spread the word and get involved!

<http://www.thegreenalbum.net/about.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/greenalbum/?ref=hl>

Direct downloads available from <http://www.thegreenalbum.net/home.html>

or you can buy a physical album via

http://www.spiraldance.com.au/?CDs_and_Downloads___Ordering_Spiral_Dance_CDs



RAINFOREST TRUST® *Hero*

The Green Album

donated a gift to protect

**1,817 Acres of Balanga Forest Reserve
in the Congo**

This gift assists Rainforest Trust and our local Congolese partner to establish Balanga Forest Reserve, safeguarding crucial habitat and providing a future safe from poachers for the Congo's magnificent and threatened wildlife, including the African Forest Elephant, Okapi, and Bonobo.

Issued June 20, 2016

*Thank you for your commitment to biodiversity.
Together we are saving rainforest acres, forever!*



RAINFOREST TRUST®

Dr. Paul Salaman
Chief Executive Officer



Okapi

TUATHA DEA	CELIA FARRAN
WENDY RULE	BRIAN HENKE
SJ TUCKER	MAMA GINA
BEKAH KELSO	MURPH'S
GINGER DOSS	MIDNIGHT
KELLIANNA	ROUNDERS
DAVE THE BARD	SPIRAL RHYTHM
SPIRAL DANCE	
SHARON KNIGHT/ WINTER S	



© T12/Lakuru



Anam Cara Soul Space

Readings, Tarot, Astrology, and Sacred Plant
Essences with Fleur Grant



Greetings and Kia ora, my name is Fleur Grant and I am a student of OBOD and a practising tarot reader, astrologer, and sacred plant essence practitioner.

My connection to Spirit has been active for as long as I can remember. I have always been blessed to receive messages, and this ability has been passed down my family line from my Anglo-Irish grandmother, who possessed second sight. I have good reason to believe my Irish ancestors, who left Ireland after one of the large famines, were descended from ancient Druids.

The land of my birth, Aotearoa New Zealand, has provided me with a deep appreciation of the native forest here, and my communion with nature has been further developed through training as a plant essence practitioner. Plant essences contain specific healing properties that shift emotional and traumatic patterns. There are even essences that can shift DNA patterns that have travelled down family lines. This is an exciting area of work, as it ties into the scientific discovery of epigenetics, which is confirming what ancient cultures have always known, that trauma can be hereditary. For instance, there may be a pattern of betrayal and heartbreak in relationships that have travelled down the ancestral bloodline. As Druids, we work with our ancestral inheritance, and it is now possible for us to clear negative hereditary patterns and receive our divine inheritance.

Astrology is an ancient tool which allows us to map the potential of a soul and look at key strengths and challenges. Most people are familiar with Sun Signs, but you are more than just your star-sign! Based on your time, date and place of birth, natal astrology explains the map of the Zodiac for your individual birth, and the position and relationship of all the planets and signs that make up your personality and potential. I also provide updates of full moon and other major astrological patterns for New Zealand and Australia on my Facebook page.

Tarot (I use Rider Waite and the Druidic Tarot) is an amazing tool for Divination. Tarot is my first port of call for questions about relationship insight and decisions.

Anam Cara is an old Gaelic term which means 'soul friend'. Here, at Anam Cara, I work with you in integrity, openness and non-judgement, using the ancient tools of tarot, astrology and sacred plant essences to help you make decisions, clear emotional and hereditary blocks, and move forward with confidence.

Readings are available in person in Auckland, New Zealand, or from anywhere in the world using Skype or Messenger. Please visit my website anamcarareadings.com, and follow my Facebook www.facebook.com/anamcarareadings

Advertising in SerpentStar is free for all OBOD members in the Southern Hemisphere. If your business, event or club is related to our druidry practice, you can advertise on these pages for as long as you require.

Submission guidelines are available from serpentstar.druidryaustralia.org/about



**OBOD Member
Celebrants
Australia & New
Zealand**



Celebrancy Services available in Melbourne
Legal weddings, handfastings, commitment
ceremonies

Contact Elkie - whitelk@bigpond.com



I am a marriage celebrant living on the beautiful Sunshine Coast in Queensland. I have studied with OBOD for the last six years and will soon complete my Ovale studies. My aim is to help make your ceremony meaningful and memorable....



Fully qualified civil/funeral celebrant, and authorised marriage celebrant, with a professional background in customer service and publications writing/editing, and a personal background in performance and community education. If there is any skill needed to write, deliver and make your ceremony special, you can be assured that I have it...or can make it happen.

My gift as a celebrant is a passion for creating a beautiful experience – each ceremony will be individual to your needs and personality, including research into special moments and traditions that you and your loved ones will remember for years to come.

Based in Tamborine, QLD but willing to negotiate travel. If you'd like to know more please don't hesitate to get in touch.

ajgcelebrant@optusnet.com.au

0413 593 609

ajgcelebrant.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/ajgcelebrant



Amanda Gibson
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Celebrations, Home and Business
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JENNETH GRAHAM

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As a registered Marriage Celebrant & passionate creator of ceremonies, I craft unique & beautiful rituals to help you celebrate the important times in your life.

Ceremonies are available on the Central Coast, Sydney & Newcastle Areas. Nationally & Internationally upon request.

Handfastings ~ Weddings
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welcome@WiseCrafting.com.au
0415 158 941





Anne Conroy

REGISTERED CELEBRANT

My celebrancy is heart centred for those looking for someone who can genuinely support individuals and families when the need arises, in a relaxed and caring manner, in the Celtic tradition.

Regardless of the type of ceremony and its level of complexity, you can be assured of respect, empathy, deep listening, compassion, and creativity, along with a healthy dose of humour.



www.ritualcelebrant.co.nz
Ph: 021 781 873
E: anne@ritualcelebrant.co.nz



Member of the Order of
Ovates Bards and Druids



Member Celebrant's
Assn. of New Zealand

Creating meaningful ceremonies and lasting memories

Pamela Meekings-Stewart

Registered Marriage and
Civil Union Celebrant
New Zealand

I offer Druid, pagan and alternative spirituality marriages, hand fasting and civil union ceremonies working with couples to create their own unique ceremony.

As a Druid and committed to a spiritual life, the work is important to me. Couples continue to ask for my services and very much appreciate the gentle spiritual aspect of the ceremonies I help them put together.

I am also able to arrange contact for weddings and civil unions at Stonehenge Aotearoa in the Wairarapa with myself as Celebrant.

Marriage and Civil Unions are the only ceremonies that require a legal, registered Celebrant. However, I also craft and perform many other forms of ceremony and blessing:

Namings (children and change of name); **Birth Blessings**; **Vows of Recommitment**; **Entering The Wisdom Years - Croning** (women) and **Saging** (men); **House Blessings**; **Blessings and Invocations For Passing Over**; **Funerals and Burial Blessings**



Tying the knot

Two lives entwine

Tying the knot

Two families entwine

Binding our futures together



Contact: pamela@thewoolshed.com

TheWoolshedretreats.co.nz

Tel: ++64-4 2399234



Need some time out from your day to day life?

**Want to escape the city and experience the Outback Heart of
our ancient land?**

**Interested in helping with a permaculture self-sufficiency project
and learning new skills?**

Experienced WWOOF host, and OBODie Ngatina, and her family, would like to invite members seeking a time of retreat to consider their home in the Northern Flinders Ranges (SA).

- The stunning ancient landscape and vast starry or moonlit nights are perfect for contemplation and fostering a connection with Spirit of Place.
- Experience living in an heritage listed small town (pop. 20) in a remote location
- Private accommodation in an historic inn first built in the 1870s
- Visit places of significance in the deeply powerful Flinders Ranges
- Help with an arid lands permaculture project – learn skills for self-sufficiency
- Flexible arrangements – either WWOOF for full food and board or be more autonomous as suits your needs.

For more details about our home and project visit <http://casaindomitus.wordpress.com> or contact Ngatina on wwoof@sylvanius.net or 0429795002 to discuss options.



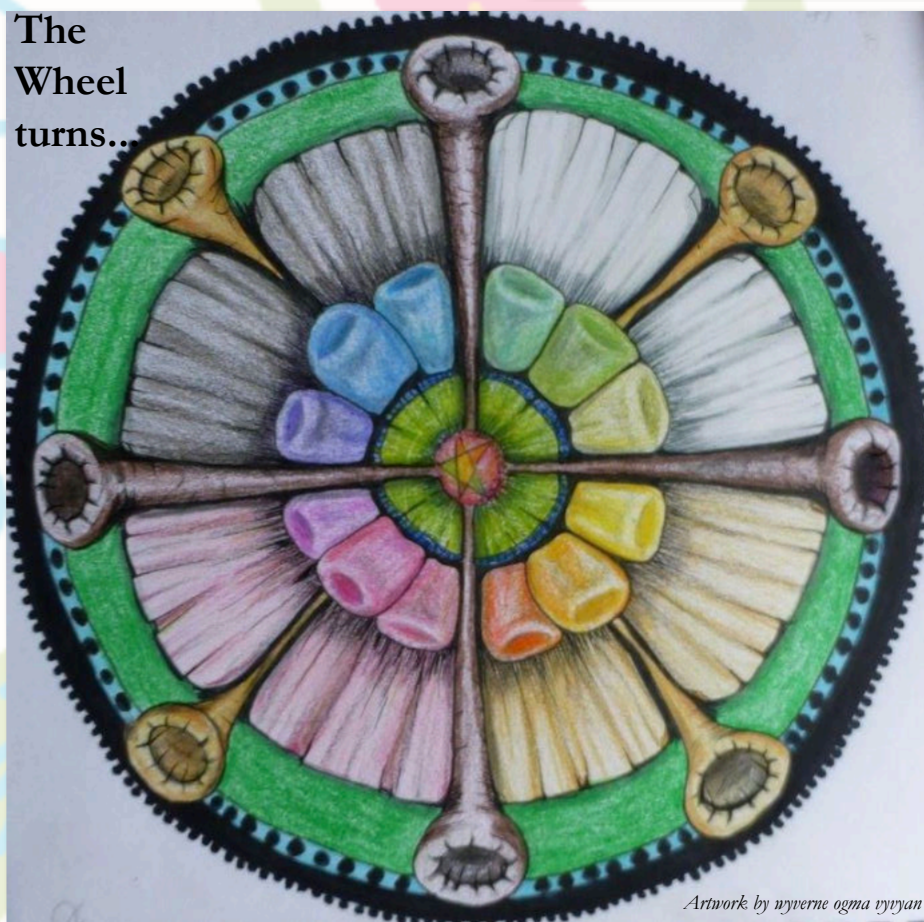
And finally...

A snippet from the OBOD Inspiration for Life series - to receive more of these simply sign up for the Order's newsletter, at druidry.org



'In this modern age, more and more emphasis is placed on the role of speaking out, but few people take time to truly give of themselves by practicing the forgotten art of listening to one another. The deeper implication being that we have forgotten how to listen to ourselves, the wisdom that comes from our heart and our connection to nature...An old Italian proverb says, "From listening comes wisdom"...In addition to listening to others, this intimate art develops a willingness to listen within, to the ever-present forces of the conscience of the soul, and the voice of Mother Nature. There is no place for loneliness if we allow ourselves to truly listen to their wisdom.' ~Victoria Moseley

The
Wheel
turns...



Artwork by nyverne ogma vryjan

Beltane...marks the time of our adolescence and early wo/manhood. Spring is in full bloom, and twin fires would be lit at this time, through which would be passed the cattle after their long winter confinement, or over which those hoping for a child or good fortune would jump.

We see traces of the Beltane celebrations on May Day (in the Northern Hemisphere), when dancing round the maypole celebrates the fertility of the land and creates an echo of the ritual circle dances that must have been enacted in stone circles throughout the country.

Text sourced from Druidry.org

The deadline for contributing to the Lughnasadh issue of SerpentStar is 25 January 2021.
The Lughnasadh issue will be released in the week of 1 February 2021.