

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS



Catrina by Enrique Meseguer

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As is consistent with the values and beliefs of our religion, the Covenant affirms our belief in the spiritual and social wisdom of peace in the world. We aspire to stand in fellowship with the people of all religions, cultures, and ethnicities in our shared desire for peace. We do this for the sake of our shared love of the Earth and all living things that dwell upon it.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT YULE

Yule renewals are due on **December 21 2022**. The Drop-dead date is **December 31 2022** after which your membership will lapse and you will need to reapply. Renewal forms are emailed to the email address on file from your last renewal. If you have NOT received this form, please contact the National Membership Officer immediately (membership@cog.org).

- EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:**
 - ❖ Lyceum of Auset Hauhet
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:** NONE
- TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:**
 - ❖ Circle of the Blood Moon
 - ❖ Circle of the Moon and Sun
 - ❖ Q'est

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL:

- ❖ Zenah Smith

NATIONAL COVENS:

- ❖ Circle of the Lavender Dragons
- ❖ Coven of the Mystical Merkabah
- ❖ Prodea

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

- ❖ Gus diZerega
- ❖ Grace Moonhawk
- ❖ Orion Foxwood

FRIENDS OF CoG: NONE

OUR GOVERNING BOARD

- National First Officer – Lord Verderius
- National Purse Warden – Qabal
- Chamisa – Polaris
- Everglades Moon – Lord Rieken
- Hills & Rivers – Lauren
- Northern California – Deborah B.
- Orange County – Janine
- Southern California – Lady Mariah
- Texas – Kim B.
- Touchstone – Lord Soec
- National Covens – Lord Solandrin
- National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk
- Governing Board Recorder - Bonnie

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

FIRST OFFICER

The end of my magickal journey is drawing near, and my tenure as the National First Officer will soon be concluded. It has been a great and humbling experience guiding and leading the Covenant of the

Goddess these past three years. I am hopeful that the continued work of CoG will be expanded by the efforts of the next Executive Board of National Officers.

As promised, I will continue my service to the Covenant by remaining active on the Marketing & Outreach Committee. We still have lots of necessary work to focus our attention on. It has always been my aspiration that one day we could return to having a greater national footprint of CoG members throughout the United States. I will continue to focus my future efforts in helping CoG re-establish some of our former Local Councils. Moreover, there has been a call from the Witches & Wiccans of Georgia, who have expressed their desire to once again establish a new Local Council; so it appears this is where my efforts will be focused.

The Marketing & Outreach Committee met this past week and discussed our plans for the coming months. We are excited about the topics that will be openly discussed at our next set of Wednesday with Witches. As a friendly reminder, please consider attending or semi-monthly Wednesday with Witches to be a part of these inspiring topics. The WwW offers us great networking opportunity and aids the Covenant members the ability to remain more in-touch with one another between our annual Grand Council meetings. Your participation is graciously requested!

Additionally, I will also continue on as Emeritus to assist the new National First Officer, Morgana Raventree in her duties and give the new National Board counsel when requested. I am sure that Morgana will have things managed and well





organized throughout her coming term. A special thanks to the members of Orange County Local Council for their continued hard work and leadership within our organization. They continue to inspire other members of CoG to get involved and help forge the way for a brighter future with continued growth in the Covenant of the Goddess.

Another important note... I have been advised that there has been great concern for the members of CoG who are Florida residences. To my knowledge we have all survived yet another immense hurricane, without major incident to CoG members here. Therefore, I am happy to report that there was limited personal damage done to anyone's primary dwelling space. However, some members of EMLC have had significant damage to secondary homes they own in our state. This was a wide spread storm that left much destruction in its wake. A request for healing energy for Florida residence affected by this storm is therefore requested at this time. In closing, this will be my final communiqué as the National First Officer. I would like to wish you all a Blessed Samhain and Prosperous Wiccan New Year!

Harvest Blessings,
 Lord Verderius
 National First Officer

SECOND OFFICER

All business and outstanding issues relating to Grand Council and Leadership Institute hosted by OCLC in August 2022 have been successfully concluded. Thank you to all who participated.

Mary Stuart, OCLC
 2nd Officer
 Outgoing NSO

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Samhain Blessings!

The Great Catching Up is just finishing up. Because I was late emailing pre-filled renewal forms this sabbat, the renewal deadline has been pushed back to Yule. Your prefilled renewal forms will come from Lauren Testa, the incoming NMO! I have been training her during these last several months, she and I will continue to train and work together into her term until we're both satisfied that she doesn't need me anymore. I'll be her Credentialing Assistant when she is NMO.

Merry Meet! My name is Lauren Testa and I will be serving as the National Membership Officer starting at Samhain. I have been training with Thea to make a smooth transition and I look forward to working with you all. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns at :Membership@cog.org

FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE IAN, please know that there is money in the Grace of the Goddess fund to assist those Members who might need it, and the NMO will work with you for deferred tithe payments. As a reminder, Grace of the Goddess funds may only be used for tithes and cannot be used to pay for Credential renewals. THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to this fund, we have never had to turn anyone away, and all the recipients are very grateful. Please consider donating to this fund or any of the other special donations on your renewal form.

Elist policies reminder: When replying to a message posted to AIR, please remember to change the email address in the TO: Field to DD (at) covenantofthegoddess@groups.io . I have had to reject many messages for this reason over the last year, and very few of them seem to get reposted to DD.

If you have questions, need to update your email address, or want to join or leave an elist please feel free to contact the NMO at membership@cog.org.

Do you need some help with the NEW Groups.IO platform, or getting subbed to a group? Send email to administer`tors (at) CovenantoftheGoddess.groups.io, and someone (possibly me!) will contact you. I can even do a virtual online meeting with you to walk through how to use groups.io through both your email and the website.

- Applications:
 - Ken Craig-Saunders - Orange County
 - Sara Stewart (Theia) – Friends of CoG
 - Ravin Brackin-Stroncheck – Friends of COG
- Transfer Requests –
 - Macha Nightmare transferred from NCLC to National at Mabon, my apologies for the oversight.
 - Lady Magdalena is requesting to transfer from AoIM to a Coven membership (Temple of the Rising Phoenix)
- Lapsed or Cancelled Members – Dream Walkers of Delos (Orange County)
- Passed through the Veil – None at this time.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS – We currently have 118 Members total (58 Covens, and 60 Individual Members); and 10 Friends of CoG. Because things can change quickly between the Newsletter publishing deadline and the actual date of publication, this may have changed by the time you read it.

In Her Service, Thea Bristlebroom





PURSEWARDEN

Current Assets

- ❖ Chase Main Account: \$ 99,873.96
- ❖ Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: \$5,585.62
- ❖ PayPal Account: \$8,392.89
- ❖ Synchrony: \$33,120.95 (as of 5/31/2022).

We mentioned some additional activities in the previous meeting:

Major Disbursements

Purple Mountain Tax finally charged for the pending and current year as well as finalized our submission to the IRS. They were unpaid last year. They were paid \$2,000 for two consecutive years of accounting services.

Note 1: I am having more challenges than usual connecting from Italy because of some remodeling. I plan to be on tomorrow evening for at least the beginning of our meeting, but I will have to play it by ear.

Note 2: We will have to update the signature cards for the Chase account to add Morgana. Also, we will need to submit officer updates to CA Secretary of State

BB
Manny

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Wheel continues to turn and our year will soon come to a conclusion. I want to thank all those who have joined our Marketing & Outreach Team at one time or another. Your creativity, and knowledge provided a well rounded approach to our visibility in our communities. Your support is invaluable. Thank You.

Our team met recently to discuss our calendar for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023. We have themes for Wednesday with Witches that we hope will bring about zeal and enthusiasm for future salons. We will also create a graphic that can be easily printed and shared during community events, workshops or members that may not have access to Groups.IO or Facebook.

We continue to update our marketing calendar and add creative posts to our digital media. I hope you will join us on Wednesday, October 19th at 5:30 pm Pacific for Samhain in the City on Wednesday with Witches.

And to all, have a safe and magickal Samhain and Dia de los Muertes.

Janine Nelson
NPIO
Covenant of the Goddess

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

As the wheel once again in the changing of the season so I too must pass the torch on to someone else to carry on this vital task. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve the Covenant in some capacity over these many years. As always, I look forward to seeing where we go next in our endeavors to promote the Covenant.

As always, please send any articles, poetry or minutes to newsletter@coq.org. If you have an obituary for Beyond the Veil, training material, or past MerryMeet rituals for the website (or anything else really) please send it to coqweb@coq.org.

In Her service
Jack/LordSoec

CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER

No report submitted.

NATIONAL RECORDER

Please see Combined Board Minutes.

NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER

Position open.

COMBINED BOARD MINUTES

~October 16, 2022~

Invocation:

Roll Call – (Quorum is two-thirds present):

National Officers:

- ✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius – present
- ✓ Second Officer – Mary Stuart – present
- ✓ Membership Officer – Thea – present
- ✓ Publications Officer – Lord Soec – present
- Pursewarden – Qabal –
- ✓ Public Information Officer – Janine N. – present
- Outreach Officer – Bastion
- Correspondence Officer – Grace Moonhawk –
- ✓ Recorders – Bonnie Mote/Faelind – both present

Governing Board Representatives:

- ✓ Everglades Moon LC –Lord Rieken / Alt: – Dennis – present both
- ✓ Hills & Rivers LC – Lauren T. / Alt: Dana present (Lauren)
- ✓ Northern California LC – Deborah B. / Alt: Linnea – present (both)



- ✓ Orange County LC – Janine / Alt: Morgana – both present
- Southern California LC – Lady Mariah / Alt: Lisa M. –
- ✓ Texas LC – Kim B. / Alt: Orin – present (Orin)
- ✓ Touchstone LC – Lord Soec – present
- ✓ National Covens – Temp: Lord V. – Present
- National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk –

Incoming National Officers

- ✓ First Officer – Morgana Raventree – present
- ✓ Second Officer – Bastion – present
- ✓ Membership Officer – Lauren T. – present
- ✓ Publications Officer – Stachia R. – present
- ✓ Pursewarden Assistant–Elizabeth – absent
- ✓ Outreach Officer – Bastion – present
- ✓ Correspondence Officer – Taffy D. – present

Visitors:

- Dennis, EMLC
- Marla Roberson
- Glenn Turner

Officer Reports:

- * First Officer (Lord Verderius): *Please see full report on page 2.*
- * Second Officer (Mary Stuart): *Please see full report on page 3.*
- * Membership Officer (Thea): *Please see full report on page 3.*
- * Publications Officer (Lord Soec): *Please see full report on page 4.*
- * Pursewarden (Qabal): *Please see full report on page 4.*
- * Public Information Officer (Janine N.): *Please see full report on page 4.*
- * Outreach Officer (Vacant):
- * Correspondence Officer (Grace Moonhawk): no report
- * Recorders (Bonnie Mote/Faelind): These minutes are their report.

Governing Board Reports:

- * Evergades Coven – submitted report online. Marla primary, Dennis secondary
- * Hills & Rivers - submitted report online
- * Northern California LC – submitted report online, Linnea will be GB rep and Glenn T will be alt
- * Orange County LC – submitted report online
- * Texas LC – no news
- * Touchstone LC – officers stayed same, Stachia is alt GB rep
- * Nat’l Covens – No report
- * Nat’l Individual Members – No Report

New Executive Board Officers:

Incoming National Officers

- * First Officer – Morgana Raventree
- * Second Officer – Bastion & Texac LC
- * Membership Officer – Lauren T.
- * Publications Officer – Stachia R.
- * Pursewarden – Qabal / Elizabeth
- * Public Information Officer – Janine N.
- * Outreach Officer – Bastion

- * Correspondence Officer – Taffy D.

Old Business:

- Linnea – concerns in NCLC, over consent policy

New Business:

1. Discuss CoG Logo Bowls for purchase direct from vendor
2. Here is the info from Diane on the bowls. All the unglazed bowls will be glazed and shipping is extra.

I have (4) 4.5 inch - wholesale these for \$12.00.
 I have (4) 6 inch and will wholesale for \$20 (I sell for around \$36.00 to \$38.00)
 I have (20) 7.5 to 8 inch bowl
 (some glazed already that I will sell for 25.00 - will glaze the rest no charge)
 The total for all **\$628.00**

Call for Additions to the Agenda:

Meeting Adjourned:

WELCOME TO CoG



Please welcome:

- ❖ Lord Lucian – National AoIM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS



KEN CRAIG SAUNDERS

AoIM, OCLC
 Santa Ana, California

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

Merry Meet,

My name is Ken Craig-Saunders and I would like to become a member of the Orange County Covenant of the Goddess. I have attached my membership application as well as a short bio about my experience in the Craft, Magical training, and work. I am applying as an individual. Camille Lockyer and Mary Stuart would be able to attest to my candidacy.

As a way of introducing myself, I am a 58-year-old pagan living in Santa Ana, CA. My path to paganism began when I was seven and had a series of "remembering dreams" which led to my study of astrology tarot and herbalism. As a child I would take spices and herbs from the garden, side of the road as well as the kitchen and based on the smell and taste create magical mixtures with them. Of course, I didn't really know what I was doing at the time, but it was fun and were my first magical baby steps. When I was a bit older in my teens, I would go into the woods behind my house in Putnam County New York. Going as far as 4-5 miles to a small pond I found where I would practice calling up the wind and hanging out with the wood spirits. My study of tarot continued into my teens, and I began working as a



tarot reader at traveling psychic fairs in Massachusetts where I was going to school. It was during my initial study of Astrology that I came across Sybil Leeks the Complete Art of Witchcraft and Diary of a Witch that I knew I was home spiritually. I have practiced as a solitary, with others and formed a small working circle during my teens and early twenties. I began studying with my aunt, High Priestess of the Gaia Group, Francesca Ciancimino-Howell a few years ago and while the group no longer celebrates/meets as a coven I continue the practices I learned . I am currently an initiate in The Unnamed Path, a shamanic path for men who love men. I celebrate the eight holidays as a solitary or with others depending. My daily spiritual practice includes shamanic meditation/journeying, and manifestation magick. I would currently describe myself as a natural witch. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Mary, Janine and Camile can all attest to me being identified as a practicing Witch. My ethics are fully contained in the Charges refrain "and it harms none, do what you will"

My liturgy honors, celebrates and worships The Great Goddess, the Great God as well as the other immortals (faeries, angels) and ancient ones. I pledge to abide by the Charter, by laws and all policy decisions of the Council as well as to hold harmless any Officer or committee of Covenant member for actions taken in their official capacities.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1

I gladly write this letter of recommendation for Ken Craig-Saunders. Whom, I met over 5 years ago at Pagan Pride LA.

He has attended Orange County Local Council's events both live and online. He is a Witch and has practiced with a Wiccan coven. And he celebrates the sabbats, esbats and full moons.

He lives in the Orange County area and wants to be an active member of the Covenant of the Goddess.

Ken is seeking to join as a Solitary Practitioner and member of Orange County Local Council. Ken has a wise and kind soul and will make a wonderful addition to our local council, bringing his wisdom, years of experience and kind and helpful attitude to our organization.

Blessed Be!
 Camille Lockyer
 Membership Officer of OCLC
 Elder & High Priestess of Greenwood Glen

Letter of Recommendation #2

I met Ken-Craig Saunders at the Conference on Current Pagan Studies about 5 years ago. I've attended multiple events, both in person and via Zoom, where he was also in attendance and I have

been in circle with him at public rituals. We are also connected on social media. I have always found him to be forthright and kind, with reverence and respect for the Goddess. He is a man of integrity and a great sense of humour, and we would be fortunate to have him in COG.

Respectfully in her service, Mary Stuart
 OCLC 2nd Officer

TRANSITIONING FROM SOLITARY TO COVEN



TEMPLE OF THE RISING PHOENIX

National Coven
 Atlanta, Georgia

STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

The Temple of the Rising Phoenix is 40 years old, first established by me in Texas in 1982 and continuing here in Atlanta in 2022. We first joined CoG in 1997 through the Georgia Dogwood Local Council. After Dogwood ended as an LC in 2016, I transferred my membership to National individual membership. Now after advice from Thea Bristlebroom, I am applying to transfer my Individual Membership back to a Coven Membership.

We have always abided by all the covenant's requirements to practice as a Wiccan Coven. We have been meeting continuously for classes, rituals, and interactive fellowship for 40 years. We are of the Rising Phoenix Tradition teaching a progressive curriculum leading to a degreed system of advancement. Upon reaching the Third Degree and Priest/ess level one can hive from the mother coven and establish a daughter coven. Therefore, we have hived groups in our downline in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Texas and Germany.

I was trained beginning in 1979 and raised to Third Degree a few years later by my original group, the Grove of the Unicorn who I hived from. Since then, I have raised up 16 Third Degree Priests and Priestesses to serve the Gods as leaders of their own covens. I was recognized as a Witch Queen by the Georgia community and Dogwood Local Council, and as an Elder within my own tradition. I am now the Matriarch-Mother of the Tradition, the Rising Phoenix Tradition.

Our Coven calls upon and worships both the Goddess and God and this is reflected by having female and male members and a High Priestess and High Priest as leaders. We follow the tenants of the Wiccan Rede and abide by the Covenant Article 9, Section B Code of Ethics in the bylaws.

Witchkin of the Covenant, please consider my request to change my individual membership to



a coven membership for the Temple of the Rising Phoenix.

Thank You

Lady Magdalena
HPS of the Temple of the Rising Phoenix
Matriarch of the Rising Phoenix Tradition

TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY

NONE AT THIS TIME

FRIENDS OF COG APPLICATIONS

RAVIN BRACKIN-STRONCHECK

Hello,

I have been a Seeking Wiccan for about 3 years now. Everything I have learned so far has been self-taught and researched. I focus on the Lady and Lord with some study into Celtic lore. I live according to the Wiccan Rede and try to teach this to my child as well. I am Active-Duty military and am trying to start an Open Circle at each base I go to or at least a weekly discussion with other pagans so no one feels alone in their practice. Though my current request is to be a Friend of the COG one day I hope I learn enough to be a member.

SARA STEWART

Hi,

My name is Sara Stewart (she/her), magickal name Theia, and I am a 42-year-old solitary Wiccan living in Springfield, OR. I have been practicing the Craft for 2 years, although I have felt drawn to it for much longer. I wish to become a CoG affiliate.

The Goddess and the God are the focus of my worship. My patrons are The Morrigan and Cernunnos, and those are the aspects of Them that I most commonly, although not exclusively, relate to Them as.

As for my tradition, I am eclectic but lean strongly towards Celtic. I am enrolled in the Wicca Training Program through Sacred Mists Academy <http://sacredmistsacademy.com>. I haven't been enrolled there for long, only a few weeks, but I plan on completing at least enough of their training to join their online coven. While I am happy as a solitary, it would be nice to gain some friends and network a little (which is one reason I am interested in being a friend of CoG). I took a class on Wicca once, but I have learned mostly through books and instinct. I

have taken some classes through an organization that educates about Goddess worship and encourages women in particular to worship Her and get to know her (<http://orderwhitemoon.org>) and most of the people in it would call themselves witches, but not necessarily Wiccan witches.

I don't know any other witches in my community (which is the main reason I'm applying as a friend and not a member. I don't know anyone who could give me a letter of recommendation). I know there is a pagan community in my area and I know a lot of the people there would consider themselves witches, but due to transportation and health issues, I have not been able to make connections the way I would like to.

I wholeheartedly agree to subscribe to the Code of Ethics, and indeed they won't be anything new for me.

Thank you for your consideration.

LOCAL COUNCILS



EVERGLADES MOON

~ September 24, 2022 ~

Having Quorum the meeting began at 1:45 PM with an opening prayer by

Coyote.

Meeting hosted: In-Person at Lady Bridget & Lord Riekin's Home & Via Zoom

In Attendance:

- Coyote, First Officer, Assembly of Individual Members (AoIM)
- Rayna, Second Officer, Beachfyre Coven
- Bobbi-Jo, Membership Officer, Albion's Spirit Coven
- Raven, Pursewarden, AoIM
- Diana, Public Information Officer, Spiraling Heart Coven
- Shaylee, Co-Recorder, Beachfyre Coven
- Minos Ceos, Co-Recorder, AoIM
- Lord Riekin, National Board LC Representative, Witch and Famous Coven
- Manny/Qabal, AoIM, CoG Pursewarden
- Tanit, Silver Sanctuary Coven
- Lady Bridget, Witch and Famous Coven
- Alpandia, AoIM/DragonWhisper Coven
- Canu, Beachfyre Coven
- Marla, AoIM
- Amber, AoIM
- Minos Lassar, AoIM



- Martha, AoIM
- Jorge, Guest & Friend of EMLC
- Otsana, Abelina’s Grove, prospective member
- Moss, Abelina’s Grove, prospective member
- Opal Luna, Abelina’s Grove, prospective member
- Birch, Abelina’s Grove, prospective member
- Karl, Abelina’s Grove, prospective member
- Renee, Tera Luna Coven, prospective member

Officer Reports:

First Officer - Coyote :It is an honor to have served you this year, I will be stepping down as the first officer due to personal reasons. Thank you.

Second Officer - Rayna :The annual meeting is my report. We are gathering at the Witch and Famous Covenstead, for which we are very grateful! In 2022 we returned to a pattern of holding the annual retreat and annual meeting on separate dates, and we had a great time at the retreat in March. It’s been a pleasure serving as your second officer and I’m happy to do so again.

Membership Officer - Bobbi Jo :Current Membership for EMLC COG is at 12 solitary members and 7 covens.

We lost one member due to his crossing “Spel Caster”

Martha Capo joins us in the ranks of new membership and her second appearance in the next newsletter will seal the deal.

Inquiring and actively seeking membership is:

- Renee Cosentino
- Cristina Gastesi
- Nathan Hall
- Abelina’s Grove

I have reached out to several seekers in the last few weeks through website inquiries that are forwarded to me.

- Mabon Renewals include:
- Coven Albion’s Spirit
 - Alpandia
 - Minos Ceos
 - Pantera
 - Raven

Pursewarden - Raven :It has been generally another slow year for EMLC, with Covid still a factor in public or private gatherings of people. We did manage to hold our annual Turning the Tide festival in January 2022, to modest success.

Current Cash Reserves:

Paypal Account Balance is \$4,780.86. The only monthly expense is a \$25.00 donation to The Wild Hunt.

PNC Bank Balance is \$3,472.61, after paying a deposit to Greynolds Park of \$1,050.00 for next year's Turning the Tide Festival. The only monthly expense is to Liberated Syndication of \$15.00 for hosting our podcast.

Just recently, the donations agreed to at our August 4, 2022, EMLC Meeting were made to 4 animal-based, Florida charities, for a total of \$525.00. These funds came from the Paypal account.

I don't have a current balance for our 3 EMLC charities, but as of May 16, 2021, the balances were as follows:

Fyredancer Fund	\$140.00
Grace of the Goddess Fund	\$205.00
Circe's Veil	\$605.00

As soon as I have the 2022 donation information, I will update these totals.

Publications Officer - Cosette: No report at this time.

Public Information Officer - Diana :No Report at this time.

Recorder (Co-Recorder) - Shaylee/Ceos :Meeting Minutes from the last meeting have been sent to COG

What EMLC’ers are doing:

Alpandia - Mystic South 2023 is happening, the dates are July 14-16, 2023 (see our Upcoming Festivals section below for website links)

Canu for Rayna - Summer Magick Fest 2023 is in the works, the dates are June 8-11, 2023 (see our Upcoming Festivals section below for website links)

Diana - I am in production for a new musical comedy in the Tallahassee area. The musical is a parody of the Gothic Romance-Horror genre. It's called The Cursed House of Ravensmadd, due out in October, check out there the website mickeefaust.com or Facebook Page: facebook.com/mickeefaust for more information.

Bobbi Jo - Coven member Trishia is all set for Autumn Meet Pheonix Fyre on October 12-16, 2022, and Florida Pagan Gathering (FPG) is ready for Samhain’s festival on October 26-30, 2022 (see our Upcoming Festivals section below for website links)

Tanit - Wicket Kitty Craft Co is proud to have been able to provide a vending booth at Summer Magick, we are hoping to return next year!

Shaylee - I am proud to announce that WytchyReader is now an LLC and I have a website too. I am now doing readings at a local metaphysical shop in Miami and online and am doing workshops at the store and festivals.



Minos Ceos & Minos Lassar - Minos Ceos would like to announce that as torchbearers of the Minoan Brotherhood, Sons of the Minitaur is no longer, but that Minos Lassar has created Temenos Tau Theoi Minoan to carry on the tradition here in South Florida.

Martha - My book titled: Thrifty Witchery is coming out in April. Also, I will be featured as a part of a blog spot in Wichology coming soon, and my article for Sage Woman is set to come out in the next publication. I will also be doing a workshop at FPG about Creating a Croning. Book Links: Amazon Link: [amazon.com/Thrifty-Witchery](https://www.amazon.com/Thrifty-Witchery) & Barnes and Nobles Link: [barnesandnoble.com/w/thrifty-witchery](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/thrifty-witchery)

Canu and Lorid Riekin - Pagan Bee Keeping Group in EMLC consists of Marla & Gypsey, Rayna & Canu, Manny, & Lady Bridget, and Lord Riekin

Canu - is being his awesome environmental self, saving the environment in Broward County. He just had a pretty big win for the county.

Alpandia - is now actively working toward a second degree thanks to zoom!

Minos Lassar is hosting Under the Temple Tree a pagan meetup, go to [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) to find the group and join. Under the Temple Tree meets on the 1st week of every month at different locations

Old Business

Discussed while Purswarden’s report was being given - what are some of the EMLC funds and how they worked and what we need to do in order to start working on Circe’s Veil. Coyote proposed following up on Spel’s materials for crossing the veil and approaching his family for some of the material

***** Proposal was Twinkled by all

Canu would like to take a moment to honor Spel Castor and his work with EMLC and our community! Minos Ceos would like to add that he was able to attend Spel’s memorial and it was standing room only! Birch would like to say that he was also honored at the Tequesta Drum Circle.

Turning the Tide

For those who have not heard yet Turning the Tide 16 is officially set for January 27-29, 2023

The Planning Committee on Facebook is up and running.

Rayna suggested adding Turning the Tide to Mandragora Magicka a Wiccan and pagan networking website which I believe is a great idea, all in favor - Twinkled by all

The Wild Hunt is creating its own networking website that will be called Merry Meet Again, once that website is up and running I will add Turning the Tide to it also.

Currently, Our Committees look like this:

Shaylee - Coordinatrix
Raven - Lead Kitchen Witch w/ Lady Bridget assisting

Martha - Decorating Committee Lead

Lady Bridget - Registration Coordinator

Rayna has agreed to be the Workshop Coordinator unless someone else would like to try - Rayna is officially the Workshop Coordinator

Minos Ceos offered to hand out flyers about Turning The Tide to several pagan spots, once we get him a printable flyer.

Still Missing:

Ritual Committee Coordinator - asking for volunteers - no volunteers at this moment will be moved to the planning committee.

Themes

The current working theme is working with a 4x4 elemental theme. A few different names were proposed on our Facebook planning group with Martha suggesting something with Multiply your Magick and Magickal Multiverse, Rayan suggesting The Elements Times Four., The Magick of the Square...Elements Squared...Deepening our Elemental Magick and Shaylee suggesting based on previous suggestions: 4x4 Multiply your Magick Elementally.

After some discussion about the length of name and possibilities Turning the Tide 16: Elemental Multiverse was suggested, liked, and *****Twinkled by All.

Mama Gina/Entertainment

Mama Gina would love to join us again.

Discuss - Shaylee: I think having Mama Gina back would be great and would be willing to work with her about the budget. Others agreed, Shaylee will get back with Mama Gina for further discussion.

Donation/Registration

Shaylee: I would also like to have registration open by November if not before. Since registration via Google Forms worked out well last year unless there are any other suggestions or objections I will begin working on the 2023 Reservation Form.

Shaylee: We also need to discuss the donation amount for attending the event. I would like to propose we go back to our pre-pandemic prices which I think were \$65 with children being free under the age of 13 and I would like to propose a Saturday Pass of \$45 this way it stays under the 50 dollar threshold for anyone who can only attend Saturday. Yes, this is a calculated risk that fewer people will be there Friday and Sunday not paying the full price, but I think it will encourage those who can only attend on Saturday to come since it’s not full price.



Discuss - After some discussion, all agreed to offer an early bird at \$55 for 30 days from the date registration opens, then once the 30 days are over, the price will go up to \$65 and a day pass will be announced for \$45

New Business

Annual Donations:

Normal Donations just given yearly and just recently given are:

Marathon Turtle Hospital - \$25

Friends of the Florida Panther - \$100

The Scrubjay - \$100

Great Apes - \$300

Shaylee volunteers to look into charities for next year via EMLC and research and bring up and next meeting or two for new suggestions. Manny suggested looking into Lube Bat Conservancy.

Canu proposed to authorize Raven to go back and donate another \$75 to Marathon Turtle Hospital to bring it up to \$100 like most of our other donations.

****Proposal was Twinkled by all

Annual Membership Variance Approval: (See *Local Council Variances page 23*)

Officer Elections:

- First Officer - Lady Bridget is running for FO, she is running unopposed - Twinkled by all
- Second Officer - Rayna is running for SO, she is running unopposed - Twinkled by all
- Membership Officer - Bobbi Jo is running for MO, she is running unopposed - Twinkled by all
- Pursewarden - Raven is running for PW, she is running unopposed - Twinkled by all
- Publications Officer - Cosette is running for PO, she is running unopposed - Twinkled by all
- Public Information Officer - Diana is running for PIO, she is running unopposed - Twinkled by all
- Recorder - Shaylee is running for R, is running unopposed - Twinkled
- National Board LC Representatives - Marla is running for NBLCR, she is running unopposed - Twinkled by all
- National Board LC Representatives Alternate - Dennis is running for NBLCRA, he is running unopposed - Twinkled by all

Welcome to our newly elected Officers:

First Officer - Lady Bridget, Legal Name: Elizabeth Field

Second Officer - Rayna

Membership Officer - Bobbi Jo

Pursewarden - Raven, Legal Name: Deborah A. Jones

Publications Officer - Cosette

Public Information Officer - Diana

Recorder - Shaylee

National Board LC Representatives and Alternate - Marla/Dennis

One additional bit of new business, the National Board LC Representatives was added to the board email list earlier this year, and we would like to make that position an automatic add-on to the Board email list. In addition to that, a place for the NBLCR Reports will be added to the Officer reports section of the meeting minutes - Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

Upcoming Festivals

- Jacksonville Pagan Pride Day, September 25th, 2022, Jacksonville, FL Website: jaxpagan.org, Facebook: facebook.com/JacksonvillePagan
- Autumn Meet by Phoenix Festivals, October 12-16, 2022, Trenton, FL, Website: phoenixfestivals.com, Facebook: facebook.com/Phoenixfestivals
- Florida Pagan Gathering - Samhain, October 26-30, 2022, Silver Springs, Website: flapagan.org, Facebook: facebook.com/flapagan
- Trees of Avalon Gathering Ancestral Nights, November 3-6, 2022, Silver Springs, Website: tagmeet.org, Facebook: facebook.com/TreesOfAvalonG
- Utopia, November 10-13, 2022, Plant City, FL, Website: divineecstasy.org/utopia,
- Turning the Tide 2023 - January 27-29, 2023, Miami, FL, Website: emlc.net Facebook: facebook.com/evergladesmoon
- Phoenix Phyre by Phoenix Festivals, March 15-19, 2023, Trenton, FL, Website: phoenixfestivals.com, Facebook: facebook.com/Phoenixfestivals
- Body Magick, April 13-16, 2023, Tampa, FL, Website: <http://divineecstasy.org/bodymagick>
- Florida Pagan Gathering -Beltane - Dates to be Announced, Silver Springs, Website: flapagan.org, Facebook: facebook.com/flapagan
- Summer Magic Fest, June 8-11, 2023, Orlando, FL, Website: summermagickfest.org, Facebook: facebook.com/summermagickfest
- Mystic South, July 14-16, 2023, Atlanta, GA, Website: mystic-south.com, Facebook: facebook.com/mysticsouthcon

Next Meeting: To Be Announced

Meeting ended with a closing prayer given by Coyote Blessed be everyone!



HILLS AND RIVERS

~ September 24, 2022 ~

Present:

- Lady A, Hekate Wheel, HRLC FO
- Denise of HearthFire Coven, HRLC, SO
- Lauren Testa, Coven of the Wooded Vale, HRLC MO
- Lorrie of Coven of the Wooded Vale
- Liz of Leita Visindi Coven
- Faunina del Bosco, Circle of Diana, HRLC Recorder and Pursewarden
- Aurie, Individual Member
- Absent: Kat of Grove of the Ancient River, HRLC PIO
- Absent: Collette of Witches of Arcadia

Quorum Reached to do HRLC Business

Coven Activity since last quarter HRLC Meeting:

Denise: Went to Earth Warriors Fest, a multi Pagan festival.

Aurie: Growing what she and Michael eat

Laure, Lorrie and Liz planned and did Lehigh Valley Pagan Pride with drumming and dance, two authors, and readings, food vendor.

Liz: Jamie of Grove of the Ancient River holding Witches Ball 7-12 pm

Samhain in Wilkes Barre, PA Holding Witches Ball in Lehigh Valley 3-7 PM on Samhain, Associates to Outer Court, Prospective Coveners

Faunina: coven with Kelly, Lauren and Rowan (third degree) plan to do a meet and greet to introduce themselves to the community with a workshop.

Lady A: Gaia Fest, put on by Hekate Wheel, took place in September 10, 2022 at Boyce Park. Sara Mastros did a keynote, and three more workshops were done. Opening ritual by Pittsburgh grove, Sassafras Grove, ADF, closing ritual by Hearth of Ygdrassil, Pittsburgh Heathen group, had a lot of vendors in 2022.

Officer Reports HRLC:

Lauren, HRLC MO, is also moving to be CoG National MO with Lorrrie's assistance. Lauren has represented HRLC on the CoG Governing Board. Lauren mentioned that there has been some issues around mandated reporting for sexual misconduct.

Lady A, HRLC FO, moving to be the rep for HRLC one Governing Board on 1 November. I forgot to note that I wrote our NPIO Janine, and told her about the PA woman who shot someone she knew, and said she was a witch, with a burned book on witchcraft at the site. Janine did research on it, and

it was determined that it was disrelated to HRLC, with no mention in media about our local council with regard to the incidents, Denise brought this to our attention.

Denise HRLC SO: no activity

Faunina, HRLC Recorder and Pursewarden, finished report for last quarter meeting, not sure if it was submitted to the CoG Newsletter Team or not. State College. Rhonymeade is where we held our Summer Solstice Fest. We had a loss from that event, but it as still enjoyable and successful. We will be holding Hills ad Rivers Lammas Fest there in 2023. The accounts have the following: \$3984.82 including the PayPal account of \$833.05. Faunina was talking about co-renting a house instead of the hotel we stayed in which was dingy and not great. The covens and individual members seem happy about this idea.

Submitted by Lady Annabelle,

HPS Hekate Wheel and FO HRLC



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ March 26, 2022 ~

Attendees:

- Coven Trismegiston (Anna, Don, Glenn)
- Waxing Moon, (Taffy)
- Owl Moon, (Linnea, Rowan)
- Daduchos, (Thea)
- Dark Moon Circle, (Brianna)
- Assembly of Individual Members (Joanne, Deborah, Macha)
- Guest, (Laurel L-K)

Officer Reports:

First Officer: Glenn - needs help with editing minutes

Recorder: Anna (for this meeting)- We are trying to get each member group to provide a recorder for a single meeting.

Membership: Anna -

1 - Laurel H-K. is interested in joining COG and is attending to introduce herself and answer questions. She has a letter of recommendation from Rowan, and one offered from Macha.

2 - Macha is supportive of Lawrence L. from Washington State, who wishes to join.

Both these applicants have been waiting since November to hear back from COG!!

Laurel L-K is a Cherry Hill Seminary Pagan Community Minister. She has been Wiccan since the 1980's and identifies as a Witch. She was originally initiated as a Dianic but is now interested in Traditional Witchcraft. She is solitary now and wishes



to join COG in order to network with others. She taught Feminist Theology at Sonoma State for many years, and still resides in Sonoma County.

Pursewarden: Linnea – activity since last meeting is expenses for web services: \$48.00 to Weebly for our URL(s) and \$107.88 to GoDaddy to support our website.

Balances: Total: \$2043.10

General: \$1063.17; Travel: \$382.48; Interfaith: \$434.45; Grace of the Goddess: \$163.00

Discussed donations. Linnea can accept donations to COG via her personal Paypal account and send donation thanks letters if you needed one.

NCLC Website: Deborah is our new Webweaver. NCLC has rented the most basic WordPress package, which costs \$108.77 a year and includes the SSL certificate.

Social Media (Facebook): Joanne needs updates for NCLC Facebook page.

NCLC Email We have an email address: NCLC4COG@gmail.com Katya set this up many years ago when she was NCLC PW; Anna passed on the password to Joanne and Linnea.

PIO: none. Don says PIO activities are both reactive and proactive, we have reactive covered with lots of Elders; proactive is a lot of work but needs to be done.

Governing Board: Deborah and Linnea attended the meeting on February 13, 2022. Here is the summary report: The GB requests that Local Councils and Assemblies invite their members to run for national offices whose occupants will be ending their terms at Samhain. The offices which will be up for election are First Officer, Second Officer, Membership Officer, Publications Officer, and Correspondence Officer. First Officer Lord Verderius requests that more CoG members attend Wednesdays with Witches, particularly the public WwW on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM Pacific Time. This is an opportunity to do outreach by giving people who may be interested in joining CoG a chance to meet some members.

Interfaith: Rachael, Rowan, Don, Macha, Thea, Taffy

Rachael is in Oregon, recovering her health.

Rowan, a National and NCLC Interfaith representative, sent a lengthy Interfaith report to our elist: (this is an edited version.)

SiVIC <<http://www.sivicouncil.org/>> served on the SiVIC Board (and Executive Committee, helped plan our annual Homeless Persons' Interfaith Memorial Service.

PACT <<https://www.pactsj.org/>> I serve on the PACT Clergy Caucus and on the Beloved Community Team.

Poor People's Campaign (PPC) <<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>> I am co-convenor of both the Bay Area and CA PPC Faith Leaders Working Groups.

She is also on the Beyond Vietnam WG, a group organizing at least 54 readings of Martin Luther King's powerful antiwar speech, to be read on April 4

Other Activities: opening prayer for a Fight for \$15 Rally to support a local McDonald's worker with cancer being mistreated by her store in Saratoga, CA.

And is a member of the planning team for Cherry Hill Seminary's Spiritual Feast every Sunday.

Co-convenor of the WILPF4PPC mobilizing action, encouraging people to come to DC on June 18, 2022. I did a talk on Women of the PPC at the WILPF Congress in August.

She is a member of the Spirituality and the Earth CC of URI .

Don—Interfaith Report

URI- Don is not currently a Global Trustee of the URI. He is the coordinator of the Wisdom and Vision Cooperation Circle (WAV CC) composed of former Trustees and Board Members of the URI, preserving the institutional memory of the organization and imagining its future.

They plan to do oral history as event and story oriented histories, as opposed to interviews.

Spirituality & the Earth CC welcomed Adulruna from Odessa in the Ukraine, a member of the Ukrainian Pagan Circle CC <https://www.uri.org/who-we-are/cooperation-circle/ukrainian-pagan-circle> S&ECC is proposing URI support for Ukraine. S&ECC is also considering preparing a program to present at the upcoming Parliament of the World's Religions 2023 which will be hybrid—virtual and in Chicago, as it was 30 years and 130 years ago.

Council of Foreign Relations: Don has been attending Religion & Foreign Policy Webinars

<https://www.cfr.org/webinar-series/rfp-calls> Upcoming on March 30 is "Understanding Russia's Invasion of Ukraine" – especially the religious component to this conflict

Adocentyn Research Library (ARL's) Board includes COG Members Diana, Glenn, Rowan, Anna, and Don, and former member Gus.) Adocentyn has over 15,000 books in its database, and more arriving daily. We have shared duplicate copies with other Pagan libraries and the Pagan collection at Valdosta GA. We have grown so much we recently rented the unit next door and cut a door through to the new unit. Rent is our main expense, but we also need funds for furnishings. You can see our holdings at www.adocentynlibrary.org and there



is now a PayPal donation button on the website. Thank you to all who have donated!

Thea is our representative to **I4C**, the **Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County**. She spoke at a panel on International Women's Day on the topic of "How Does Your Religion Support Women?" gave the homily at a local Congregational church with national COG member Felicity about Wicca, Druidry and Heathenry and is partnering with Andrea K on a workshop on comparative religion for a group of residents in Mexico.

Macha is active with the **Marin Interfaith Climate Action (MICA)**, She is currently part of the outreach to Dharmic faiths. She is also part of a book study group led by Rev McLelland of Tiburon.

Taffy joined the **Sonoma County Interfaith Council**. She has been to 4 meetings so far; there is an outbreak of anti-Semitism in her county, and the group is supporting a local Synagogue. She is hoping local Pagans will join a postcard campaign sending supportive messages to the Synagogue.

Old Business:

1) **Local Interfaith reps** were **approved**, including Taffy as a new rep for Sonoma County. We **approved our annual support** to the various Interfaith groups we are a member of, but Linnea noted that she will need the contact information of each groups' treasurer.

2) Should we renew **Kiva**? Rowan, who has managed our Kiva donations, noted that high interest loans in the host countries have been causing criticism of microfunding programs. We did not reach a decision. Tabled.

3) Discussion whether we wish to match **our election cycle** to the national pattern of alternating officer terms. Discussion not resolved at Jan meeting, although Anna felt two-year terms was a surefire recipe for burnout. Tabled.

4) Glenn needs **help editing old Minutes** for National newsletter. Laurel volunteered to be Recorder at the May 22nd meeting. Who will do July? September?

ACTION ITEM: We need two volunteers for Recorder for July and September.

New Business: All Tabled until May Meeting

- 1) Outreach Event
- 2) Between the Veils in August
- 3) Encourage more coven members to attend NCLC meetings
- 4) Decisions about website? (Not sure what the questions were)
- 5) Discussion about "Relaxing Membership Criteria" added to New Business for May. Is this code for (a) opening membership to non-Witches, or (b)

making the application process less onerous? Thea pointed out that one does not need to be a Witch, or even a Pagan, to join the Friends of COG. Tabled.

Announcements:

1) Questions for Governing Board? It meets on Sunday in 2 weeks (April 10)

ACTION ITEM: Let the Governing Board know your concerns!

Macha had the following announcements:

1) COMPASS (Commons of Modern Pagans and Spiritual Seekers) The Pagan History Project has been revived.

2) Macha is hoping for someone, or an organization, to focus nationally on Pagan Prison outreach.

3) Pcon Panels Macha led have been digitized.

4) Sequoia's memorial is digitized - look at Valdosta Youtube

5) EBSAT Earth-based Spirituality Action Team: meets once a month for a half hour on second Tuesdays



~ July 23, 2022 ~

Present:

- Coven Trismegiston - Don, Anna, Glenn
- Owl Moon Coven - Linnea
- Daduchos Coven - Thea
- Kitty - Darkmoon Coven
- Joanne - individual Joanne, Bill, Deborah
- Laurel - Recorder

Chair Report - Glenn serving on Berk. MH Health Commission. Wrote up job description for Recorder. Recorder Laurel; Linnea - Sept.; Thea - Nov. Membership Report - Anna. Announcement of Laurel's name in newsletter. Thea said Macha asked to go national. She listed others who are members of NCLC and said we are shrinking. Bill, Rita, Deborah, Moonwater (Jojo), Lady Brhride, Brigid (now in Colorado), Laurel, Marilee are individual members.

Pursewarden Report - Linnea. Quiet month, funds sent to Sonoma Interfaith Council; requested Thea to send contact info for Contra Costa so funds could be sent. Thea may become Marin interfaith member. NCLC has agreed to support 4 interfaith councils. Need to write a fundraising letter - Glenn to help. Current bank balance \$2008.08. Tithes \$25 a piece. How to make donations - PayPal- nclc4cog@gmail.com; put this on Facebook page.

Website Report - Deborah provided an update and is getting started soon with help from her wife.



Facebook – Joanne is putting things up and asked us to look at it and like it. Search for COG Northern California Council. Anna brought up Youth Service Awards and Heart and Crescent Awards In COG and had historical materials available.

Interfaith Report – Glenn asked for short reports for the minutes. Linnea suggested posting Rowan’s interfaith report to website or Facebook.

Don in URI aka United Religions Initiative – collecting oral histories. Council on Foreign Relations religious group – only pagan; He teaches at Chaplaincy Institute.

Thea - Andrea Kendall and she had conversation in Mexico about paganism. Hasn’t been able to attend I4C group recently.

Bill is on Board of Unitarian Church, only pagan. Went to national UU. He talks about being pagan at those events.

Anna is giving talks at South Bay Circles online. Don did a talk about ghosts earlier this month. Anna is scheduled to do a talk for SBCs Mini Talks at the Moot on August 10 about Magical Herbalism.

Governing Board Report - Governing board report posted to IO list.

Adocentyn report – Don. We finally bought 32 bookcases for the new unit.

Old Business Outreach event – Glenn, suggested to survey each coven about what members think is important about COG. She discussed Zoom covens and how COG could get involved in that.

Deborah – build up a friends of COG program that NCLC runs itself, Zoom covens could be part of friends of COG.

Kitty – At Darkmoon, in addition to weekly zoom have been doing hybrid rituals. Those vaccinated set up altar – 3 - 6 in person, 20-30 by Zoom.

Don – craft still reeling from COVID, in holding pattern and COG is a networking org, not teaching org.

Glenn – discussed different levels of ritual and supportive of hybrid versions of ritual to attract younger people. Perhaps NCLC does an open online Sabbat, so people know we exist.

Between the Veils – Linnea going on Sunday. Bill planning to attend event. \$85 for day pass.

Deborah as Governing Board rep gave us a brief discussion of its activities.

Laurel was approved by NCLC as member. She will be welcomed as member to COG at Lammas. Approved.

Grand Council – July 24th combined Governing Board and National Council.

Agenda item for that meeting – ½ hour set aside at Grand Council to discuss representatives, alternatives and elect for National Assemblies. Grand Council August 13th and 14th on Zoom. Some proposals to discuss at that meeting. Budget, elections, etc. Glenn discussed the national budget concerning organizing Grand Council. Linnea said Grand Council will meet in person every other year. Leadership institute will be held August 27th.

NCLC Elections – Glenn would consider First Officer and PIO, but only be First Officer if there is a Recorder. Robust discussion about Recorder position.

Discussion of who is interested in what positions. Linnea would be alternate to Deborah on Governing Board. Other positions: Recorder, Membership.

Next meetings: Sept 24th at 2:00pm - election of officers; then Nov 19th at 2:00pm



~ **September 24, 2022** ~

We have quorum

Attendees: Covens

- Coven Trismegiston – Anna, Glenn
- Daduchos -Thea
- Dark Moon – by proxy
- Owl Moon - Linnea
- Waxing Moon – Taffy
- Individuals – Bill
- Proxies: Dark Moon
- Guests: none

Officer Reports

First Officer: Glenn - sent Annual NCLC report to GC, and also the lost March minutes. She still needs to do November 2021 minutes. Approved July minutes sent Friday. Requested a review of consensus – we will do this as new business

2nd Officer: none

Recorder: Linnea for Sept meeting; Thea for Nov. meeting

Membership: Anna

There is little news to report about our membership. Laurel, (who had applied directly to the website, an application route with which I am unfamiliar) and had fallen through the cracks for many months during Covid, until she emailed me directly, questioning the progress of her application (of which I was unaware) and was invited to attend our two most recent meetings by zoom. Shortly after the July meeting, after having gained NCLC’s approval for her admittance, (and served as our volunteer Recorder) she emailed that she was not interested in COG membership and vacated her application. I believe she has since moved to Colorado.



Notes:

Contact has been reestablished with Cary the Fairy

Laurel decided to be a national member of CoG instead of being part of NCLC

Macha's membership unclear - she is currently a member of local, but has stated both that she wants to be NCLC and National. Discussion later.

It is Mabon, and time for everyone in NCLC to renew their COG memberships for the forthcoming year. Our membership currently stands at:

Covens (5): Coven Trismegiston, Daduchos, Dark Moon Circle, Owl Moon, Waxing Moon

Assembly of Individual Members (7)

There was a question about Macha's current membership. Is she a member of NCLC this year? It seems so. Did she transfer to national? Not on paper, so no. She has made conflicting statements. There is a personal conflict with another council member. Question about whether she can renew - do we need to have a formal conflict resolution? An offer will be made (by Don and Anna) for such a meeting.

Prefill renewal forms going out by email tomorrow

Pursewarden: Linnea

No activity at all since last meeting. For those of you who keep sharp eyeballs on the bottom line, I found a \$20. donation I neglected to report last time.

Balances:

General Fund: \$1098.17

Travel: \$382.48

Interfaith: \$384.45

Grace of the Goddess: \$163.00

Total: \$2028.10

Website: Deborah not present, she has stated intention to focus on the website for the coming year

Social Media (Facebook): Joanne H - not present, no report

PIO: none. Glenn will do it this year

Governing Board: Deborah, Linnea

Linnea summarized report that will be coming soon from Deborah. Main issue was the consent statement that the board is working on. It was noted that we lost a coven from OCLC over consent issue. This meeting pointed out that this behavior is a breach of consensus process and requested that this opinion be expressed to the GB at its next meeting.

Interfaith: Rachel, Rowan, Don, Macha, Thea, Taffy

Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, EPs is doing interfaith work locally and nationally with Silicon Valley Interreligious Council (SiVIC), People Acting in Community Together (PACT) which is part of Faith in Action nationally, and the Poor People's Campaign. A video of her talking about her summer of activism as a disabled person is on the WILPF SJ YouTube channel at <<https://youtu.be/ag1PjxYK8GI>>

Taffy: excellent discussions with Sonoma interfaith

Anna (for Don):

Don organized a meeting of the Wisdom and Vision CC of the URI, composed of former Global Council and Staff members, to meet with the new Head of the United Religions Initiative (URI) Jerry White, who lost a leg during his work on remediation of land mined areas.

He has been attending Council on Foreign Policy meetings by the Religion and Foreign Policy group, and was recently asked to join the Social Justice and Foreign Policy group. His first meeting will be a panel on Infectious Diseases, especially new outbreaks, such as monkeypox and polio.

Thea: Has Tide pods to donate to homeless family services, (I4C)

Anna reported on Adocentyn Library progress. Have moved tons of metal shelving into new space and will need a work party to move books onto new shelves. Donations (monetary as well as books) would be welcome.

NCLC Recorder Job description for a permanent reorder

This description received consent

1. Record meeting on Zoom - optional
2. Edit minutes down to less than 4 p. and send the report to CoGNCLC@groups.io within 7 days, within 3 days preferred.
3. Update based on feedback
4. Edit minutes for national newsletter leaving out long reports (which can go straight to CoGNCLC with only an executive summary of 1 or 2 sentences for the nat. newsletter)
5. Send to newsletter before deadline.
6. Help FO with the yearly report of NCLC for national.

Old Business:

1) Possible outreach event - a local zoom event/lecture/ritual?

Autumn Equinox singing ritual with Reclaiming was great.

Next maybe an outreach event with Diana Paxson and Reclaiming? Glenn is starting to get this moving/brewing.



- 2) State of old minutes due to National – Almost finished, not sent in yet. Thank you Glenn
- 4) Recorder office.

Do we want to make a "rotating" Recorder our choice? Consensus is that we will do this until we can find a real recorder office holder, which is our preference

New Business:

1) More Consensus Review and discussion – we will keep this as old business for more work at future meetings

Variations: (See Local Council Variations page 23)

Accepted without changes

NCLC officer elections:

The following slate is approved by consensus:

- First officer: Glenn
- Membership: Anna (wants an Apprentice)
- Pursewarden: Thea (Linnea to mentor)
- Website: Deborah
- Social Media: Joanne
- PIO: Glenn
- GB: Linnea primary, Glenn alternate
- Other open position: Recorder - rotates

Next zoom meeting: Sat Nov 19 at 2 pm, Thea as recorder. then Jan 22 (Sunday) at 2 pm.

First Officer – Morgana presented a draft of the First Officer report of OCLC that she plans to forward to the National Executive Board for Grand Council. There being no changes to the report, Morgana will forward the report to the National Executive Board as required.

Second Officer – Mary presented a draft of the Second Officer report that she plans to forward to the National Executive Board. There being no changes to the report, Mary will forward the report to the National Executive Board as required. OCLC will be hosting a CoGtail party via Zoom as we did last year on Friday evening, Aug. 12, before Grand Council. It will be a surf `n` beach theme so wear flowers in your hair, leis, Hawaiian shirts or muumuus, surf shop t-shirts, or other thematic wear. We will have door prizes and lots of fun.

Membership Officer – Camille reports no new members to report but she helped one of her coven members get her credentials. We discussed possible ways to help the NMO get caught up.

Pursewarden – Lilith: Here are the Pursewarden numbers for July:

Bank Account	4,890.66	
PayPal (203.99 + 161.88)*		365.87
Petty Cash	95.00	
Pending Deposit	1,084.00	
Total \$	6,435.53	

*PayPal’s balance last month was 203.99. There was a canceled payment to Janine of 161.88 that was resolved.

Public Information Officer – Janine is in Atlanta for Mystic South. She brought brochures and postcards and connected with the podcast Desperate Housewitches. Lord V and Janine were there as hosts for this soiree and connections to a Balkan pagan group was made as well as other connections. Workshops begin Friday, July 15. CoG is one of the sponsors. CoG released its statement on the Roe v. Wade decision. Janine will be teaching a class on July 16th. She will share photos later.

Webweaver: Camille: social media updates:
 Post Reach 936
 Engagements 237
 New Page likes 4
 New Followers 5
 Page View 61
 Audience 3,042 Page likes
 Most Engaging Posts:

Selena Fox Solstice Celebration , Reach 97 Engagements 18
 Animism, Reach 185, Engagements 18
 Leaving Bad Religion, Reach 116, Engagements 14



ORANGE COUNTY

~ July 2022 ~

Invocation: Lilith opened the meeting with the invocation.

Roll Call:

- Bran Faol Reannag (BFR) – represented by Janine
- Celtic Circle of Wisdom – represented by Mary and Lilith
- Dream Walkers of Delos – represented by Rayna
- Ghostwheel – represented by Morgana RavenTree
- Greenwood Glen – represented by Camille
- Lyceum of Aset Hauhet – represented by Rev. Dee

Approval of Minutes: Minutes are approved.

Quorum achieved.

Officer Reports:



Recorder – Rev. Dee: Minutes of the June meeting will be forwarded to the CoG Newsletter.

Governing Board Representative Report – Janine: Combined meeting will be Sunday, July 24th. See minutes of meeting in newsletter.

Old Business: (from June minutes)

Leadership: Done on Zoom; date chosen is August 27th. Presentations/Panels: Interfaith Rep(s), Galen on best practices for increasing membership and volunteer engagement. Post to AIR that we are looking for presentations. We have made our choices but others are welcome to present other topics. An hour for each presentation and last hour as general discussion. 9 AM PDT/noon EDT. Presentations an hour each. 4-5 hours with breaks. Include 15 min questions; 15 min bio break. On AIR ask how many CoG members want to attend and how many want to present. Morgana proposed that we have the meeting in August as scheduled. We should discuss specifically Leadership Institute and the CoGtail party. Read reports in advance.

COGtail party- Aug. 12, 5 to 9 PM PDT. 4 sessions; 8 people needed to host. 5: Mary will send out specific info. Mary will send out finalized schedule. 3 25\$ Amazon gift cards will be donated by OCLC; Lilith, Rev.Dee, and Mary will donate readings.

Planning for OCLC Public Event: Plan for next Spring. Try Long Beach UU Rev. Dee asks Patricia to contact Office Manager. Rev. Dee would like to also ask LB Golf Course near LBCC.

New Business: None.

Meeting Adjourned: Lilith thanked the goddess.

current officer gave an overview of the duties of their office and answered questions in regards thereto, as did the current Governing Board rep.

Note: We need to find out if Grain, the tool the Governing Board is using to produce a written transcript of their meetings, is available for local councils to use.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

OFFICERS FOR 2023: The following officers have been selected for the coming one-year term, November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023:

- First Officer: Jenna
- Membership Officer: Paula
- Pursewarden: Monica
- Recorder: Gabriel
- PIO: Lisa
- Correspondence: Lisa

The following Governing Board representatives have been selected for a two-year term, running from November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2024:

- Co-Representatives: Jenna and Monica
- Alternate: Lisa

VARIANCES (See Local Council Variances page 25)

MEETING SCHEDULE: The following meetings have been scheduled so far. All of them are Wednesdays, and the start time for all is 7 p.m.

- November 16, 2022
- January 18, 2023
- March 15, 2023
- May 17, 2023

This meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

~ October 19, 2022 ~

Covens Attending:

- The Circle of The Dragon and the Phoenix -- Tom; Monica
- Ashesh Hekat -- Paula
- Dragon's Weyr Circle -- Lisa
- Wanderers Way – Jenna; Gabriel; Stone

OFFICERS REPORTS

We are dispensing with Officer reports in order to focus on officer elections, Governing Board representative selection, and Variances. Each



TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL

~ September 11, 2022 ~

**X = Present P = Proxy A = Absent
Z = Zoom**

Covens			
P	Circle of Danu – 9/21 Liz	P	Circle of the Star – 2/2 Kara
P	Circle of the Ancient Mother - 9/21 Bastion	X	Circle of the Unicorn – 10/31 Christal
Z / X	Circle of the Blood Moon – 12/21 Chaos and Kim	X	Coven Firemoon – 10/31 Bastion, Amarok, Kara



X	Circle of the Moon & Sun - 12/21 Ruby, Dragan, Rowan	Z	Coven of Diana's Moon - 3/21 Liz
X	Circle of the Serpent - 5/1 Gaelen, Dixie	Z	Tree of Knowledge Coven - 5/1 Faelind
Solitaires			
A	Anastasia - 2/2		
X	Breila - 6/21		
P	Keala - 6/21 Breila		
A	Q'est - 12/21		
X	Jander Zen - 9/21		

Invocation to Coventina by Gaelen at 11:04 a.m.

Moment of Silence for 9/11 Remembrance

Roll Call: Quorum determined by Recorder

Quorum is determined by at least 25% of the membership is present (virtual included) and at least 50% represented (present or proxy).

Bastion determined that quorum has been met.

Call for additions to the agenda and nominees

No additions or amendments made to the agenda

Officer Reports

★ **First Officer:** Gaelen

Jason McLelland in Livingston TX; Gaelen reached out to Jason regarding his planned pagan event and offered advice for events moving forward. Jason stated his appreciation and invited TxLCoG to future events.

★ **Pursewarden:** Micheal L.

Pursewarden Report

Bank: 1,422.79

PayPal: 1,046.61

CashApp: 320

Cash: 50

Total Balance: \$2,839.40

Lammas brought in \$104

Online donations for classes for July through today are \$156.21

Annual budget:

We are currently spending \$3,320 a year on rent for classrooms, Sabbat space, and meeting space for a year between Arlington and Dallas. (Average of

~\$277 per month) Please ask for donations to help us keep these opportunities sustainable.

Amarok provided the updated budget information. No additional information or comments were presented.

Public Information Officer: Kara

Total followers for Facebook: 4,338, which is up by 148 since the last report.

We are reaching up to 9,699 people, down by 6,258 since the last report.

- Total followers for Instagram: 271, which is down by 1 since the last report.
- We have up to 120 reaches on posts, which is up by 46 since the last report.

Total followers for Twitter: 499, which is up by 3 since the last report.

- We have up to 270 impressions, up by 69 since the last report.

Total followers for Tiktok: 80, from June 2nd when the account was created.

- We have up to 1863 views on a video, and 76 likes on that video.
 - Members were encouraged to follow events on any platform and share events in order to receive better coverage.

Webweaver: Kara

All Hallows' Eve is posted!

Tickets are on sale and planning is proceeding. Continue to share the event on social media to encourage attendance.

Membership Officer: Dragan

- Reminded upcoming covens regarding renewals.

Recorder: Rowan has resigned from this position. Newsletter Due Date is October 20, 2022

- Officer elections will occur at the end of the meeting. Bastion has agreed to perform recorder duties for the meeting.

Pagan 101 Classes in Arlington: Ruby

- ★ Classes are growing slowly after the pandemic but they are having regular attendees. Classes are scheduled out through the beginning of 2023 and then a new series will begin. Ruby is encouraging people to make the \$5 donation so we can keep offering



classes. PIO will work on adding classes to TikTok.

Pagan 101 Classes in Dallas: Breila

- ★ Dallas classes are also growing again after the pandemic. Breila said that she noticed a high interest in classes but a low follow through rate. We will continue social media advertising.

Pagan 101 Classes Online: Lopsi has resigned from this position as she needs to focus on family during the week. Kara and Rowan Jade will be sharing the responsibilities going forward.

Online classes continue to do well.

Kara and Rowan will be alternating hosts for the online classes. The online classes continue to be the most attended class series and we plan to continue offering them.

Reiki Class Series in Arlington - 1st Saturdays:

Lopsi Reiki classes are going well and growing in popularity and numbers. Lopsi has the funds from the reiki and tarot classes and will get the funds to Micheal.

No updates for the Reiki series. We will continue to advertise them on social media.

Summer Tarot Series – Gaelen The summer tarot series was well-attended with about 12 regular people. Gaelen plans to continue to offer the tarot series as a summer intensive.

Runes - Jennifer C. The special runes classes have also been well attended and Jennifer has agreed to keep teaching them.

Sabbats: Gaelen

Completed:

- ★ **Lammas:** Circle of the Blood Moon - Due to the heat, this Sabbat was held indoors. We had around 40 attendees.

Upcoming:

- ★ **Autumn Equinox:** Coven Firemoon
- ★ **Samhain:** Circle of the Ancient Mother
- ★ **Winter Solstice:** Circle of Danu

➤ **Moon School:** Guinevere

- There were 5 brand-new families that attended Lammas and Moon School. The online Moon School is still being accessed and utilized.

Governing Board Liaison: Kimberly 8/21 - Boy Scouts - Religious Badge. Kimberly mentioned that

CoG has been approached about providing opportunities for Boy Scouts to earn religious badges through the organization.

Kara asked about the commitment for being the national Recorder. She is still thinking about it.

Old Business

Credentials of Bastion & Christal

Christal has received her credentials. Bastion will ask again at her renewal time.

Renewal of Breila, Circle of the Moon & Sun, Anastasia, and Keala

All renewals have been successfully completed.

Grand Council

Bastion, Kara, Orin, and Faelind provided synopsis of Grand Council.

New Business

Leadership Conference

Leadership institute had less than 20 attendees but overall went well.

12 year old

Gaelen was approached by a 12 year old girl who is part of AVID, an organization that helps kids get through school and into college. She needs volunteer hours as part of AVID and asked if TxCoG needed volunteers. Gaelen wants to talk to the girl's parents prior to agreeing to make sure the parent is ok with the girl volunteering in our organization. The council agreed that we would love to work with AVID volunteers with permission from parents.

All Hallows' Tea and volunteers

This year's fall ball will be Tea themed with vendors, diviners, and a silent auction. Members of the council will be acquiring food handlers licenses in order to provide snacks. Volunteers are encouraged to let Gaelen know they are interested in volunteering.

Samhain Carnival

TxCoG will be re-starting its annual Samhain carnival. Gaelen has asked that each coven provide a booth. She already has prizes and wristbands from previous carnivals.

Grand Council 2023

Bastion offered the Texas Local Council as a host for Grand Council 2023. She is currently looking at hotels in the area that can accommodate a large group and are willing to work with 'alternative groups'. Information regarding Grand Council will be sent out as soon as it is known.

\$3800 is available from National as seed money for Grand Council

Officer Elections

- First Officer: Gaelen



- Membership: Breila
- Recorder: TBD
- PIO: Kara
- Pursewarden: Amarak

The slate of officers listed above was voted in unanimously by the council. The local council agreed to suspend term limits for the First Officer and the Pursewarden in order for those positions to continue serving.

Gaelen thanks Coventina. Adjourned at 12:24 pm.



TOUCHSTONE

~ October 3, 2022 ~

Meeting held at Cocos in Redlands

Invocation: Lari

Roll Call: Yes

Covens/Individual Members:

- Ecclasia – Jack and Stachia were not present but Val has proxy
- Obsidian Oak – Chad, Lari was present
- Emerald Forest – Joanne was present

Verified Quorum

Approval of Previous Minutes

Officer Reports:

First Officer – Val: Nothing to report.

Second Officer – Lari: Nothing to report.

Membership Officer – Joanne: Nothing to report.

Pursewarden – Jack: Not present.

Public Information Officer – Chad: Nothing to report.

Recorder – Val: Will send minutes to National ASAP

Governing Board Rep – Jack & Stachia: Were not present so no report was given

Old Business:

Approved keeping the same variances.

New Business:

No new business at this time.

Anything else of interest locally: No

Approve Minutes: Yes

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2022

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND CoG

ONLINE PAGAN 101 CLASSES

*Kitchen Witchery
The Fae*

*Nov. 9, 2022
Dec. 14, 2022*

Texas Local Council presents a wide variety of Pagan Classes for the public. Our teachers primarily come from several different traditions among the many member covens and individuals in our Local Council and provide a new perspective on Pagan teachings so even long-time practitioners can learn something new!

<https://www.txcoq.org/our-classes/online-pagan-101-classes>

ARDANTANE LEARNING CENTER

Dark Goddess

Nov. 11, 2022

Hekate's Torch and Key

Nov. 12, 2022

Baba Yaga

Nov. 18, 2022

The Pagan Warrior

Nov. 25, 2022

Giving

Dec. 2, 2022

Ardantane offers superb learning experiences and programs of study in the wisdom, practices, and skills of diverse Pagan, nature-centered, and indigenous traditions.

They are a resource for spiritual teachers, leaders, and learners, and promote excellence in Pagan teaching, learning, and leadership around the world.

<https://ardantane.org/events/>

SUMMONING THE ANCESTORS

By M Macha Nightmare

Oh, mighty, many, myriad Ancestors, as we spiral in and out of time, we call to you.

You who first stood upright and walked the savannahs of Africa.

You who explored the inland waters of all the continents in curragh, canoe and kayak.

You who ventured out onto the open sea in triremes, galleons and long ships. You who crossed the middle passage in the bellies of slave ships.

You who learned to read the stars, to harness the trade winds, to ride the oceans' currents.

You who followed the reindeer and caribou beneath the Northern Lights. You who swept across the Great Plains with the thundering bison.

You who climbed mountains with goats, hunted with dogs, worshipped cat and crocodile, monkey, ibis, bear and eagle.



You who rode great distances on the backs of animal allies – the horse, the camel, the elephant.

You who gathered in the wild rice. You who planted wheat and corn, beans and squash, orchards of olives and apples. You who found the precious seeds that give us chocolate, dark and rich.

You who kenneled the healing properties of vines in the Amazon jungle, of roots and barks and mushrooms in the deep, dark forests, and of the flesh of cactus in the burning desert.

You who spun flax and wool, gifts of field and sheep, into garments both cool and warm.

You who shaped clay into pots; dug ore from Earth's depths and pounded metal into tools; painted cave walls.

You who clustered in the Fertile Crescent, in Sumer and Akkadia, erected cities and wrote laws.

You who built the Great Wall of China, the great pyramids along the Nile, the great passage graves in the Boyne Valley.

You who fashioned flutes from reeds, and drums from skins. You who danced and rhapsodized.

You who brought us every gift, it is your DNA that thrives within our bodies tonight. We thank you, dear Ancestors, and we bid you welcome.

WHEN IN TROY

By Oberon

I ventured into the Interfaith world after a bit of a hiatus, due to the Covid Pandemic and other reasons. This occurred on September 21 with the Troy Interfaith Group (TIG) and their celebration of the International Day of Peace.

The Troy group is the Detroit area group where I feel most at home, having a bit of greater diversity between both religions as well as lay persons and clergy. I've always been welcomed warmly to their wide array of events and there is always someone interesting to meet.

The event was held at the Troy Universalist Unitarian church and may have been one of their first in-person events since Covid brought more precautions and restrictions. I'm very happy that they had a mandatory mask wearing for the event and the good-sized crowd didn't either I believe. The attendees were many of the church's members with a good sprinkling of TIG members. I met Ruth, our main spokesperson immediately on signing in and we made some small talk. I told her that this was my 1st in-person event, and I was happy to be there.

BTW, Troy is about 45 miles or so from my home, and more than a county away, but this group was very convenient to attend meetings and other events due to its proximity to my job in Southfield,

nearly next door. And the events were mostly held in evening/early evening hours after my workday were over. So, it really was convenient, but along with the Pandemic and my retirement which was coinciding with that, I was never sure if I would return to this group.

I'm glad I did.

Subtitled 'Overcoming Suspicion. Building Peace' the program was an inspirational gathering of mixed reflections in music and prayer and real time break out groups with narrative focus.

As befits a church setting there was a musical opening, the Peace Medley by the musical director and staff of Beacon UU.

A procession of Interfaith Candles followed with bearers from the various religious communities in Troy: Alhadiyya Muslim Community, Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bhartiya Temple of Metropolitan Detroit, Big Beaver United Methodist Church, Central Woodward Christian Church, Congregation Shir Tikvah, First United Methodist Church, Islamic Association of Greater Detroit, and the Northminster Presbyterian Church. These were assembled on a simple table in the altar area. It was good to see the smiling faces – through eyes mostly as only speakers removed their mask from the front podium. Colorful garb and young people were also in the procession which added warmth and vibrancy. Beacon UU's Rev. Ginger Luke gave us a welcoming to the church and event, followed by a Gathering prayer by Iman Faran Rabbani.

There followed additional opening and welcoming type prayers, which also were sincere and illuminating the interfaith connections in Troy. The TIG's convener and Pastor of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Chris Hallam sermonized "You are the Choir" and Ed Chezick of Congregation Shir Tikvah, and a guiding force in TIG read "Prayer to Begin a journey", aka Tefilat HaDerech – the Traveler's Prayer.

Then began the program's intended purpose. In Sharing Stories, several narrators gave true stories or perhaps a gestalt for some, of incidents occurring to them in religious, educational, and other pursuits, sometimes with children, and of minority concerns or interest. These were personal stories of racial, religious, social, or other disparities and points of inclusion. Afterwards, with a few thoughts and pointers Rev. Chris had us break out into pairs – quite a feat for at least 50 people present. But a few rows away I found the perfect partner and we each related our own "suspicious stories". We noticed that the entire hall was vibrant with conversation and were there wasn't, there was serious listening. After a very brief few minutes we regrouped under the 'Metta, Meditation of Compassion' by Rev. KoGen and Wonrim, Darma Gate Zen. This was uplifting but



not in the usual way. I'm not certain I can put words to this short meditation, but I enjoyed it.

A Musical Reflection, "When Peace Shall Come" was performed by The Beacon UU's Congregation Choir and this was totally uplifting. I have to say the entire experience felt like illumination I had not experienced in years. Because it was. I was not familiar with the song, but the program notes indicate lyrics by J. Jacobson and J. Purify, "English Folk Tune".

Narayanaswamy Sankagiri of the Bharatiya Temple of Metropolitan Detroit gave us the Prayer of Compassion and Gratitude. A few years ago, I had the pleasure of talking with him at one of the IF award dinners. His words are always precise, direct, and kind.

Then Rev. Chris and Rev. Ginger gave Words to Uplift and Empower as a closing statement and we were invited to sing the Going Forth Song, "Let There Be Peace on Earth" which I've heard many times, but this time it seemed a little sweeter.

"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me,"

Afterwards we went down to the church's basement for some refreshments and fellowship. I had a few head nods with some of the folks I've met at TIG over the years, Brenda, Ruth, Narayanaswamy, and others but spent a lot of time with one of the choir members, Barb.

Earlier during gathering I had spoken with several folks about being Wiccan, Pagan and a member of Covenant of the Goddess. This was no surprise to them, these days everyone knows a Wiccan or someone they think is, and I mentioned that some Wiccans like to bring their children and family to UU services because like anyone, good parents want a decent atmosphere that reflects open-mindedness for all religions.

Down in the basement, Barb, probably at least 10 years older than me, stepped up and said, "I was really interested in what you were saying. Because I'm a Born-Again Pagan!". Well, I don't remember if I was still wearing my mask (obviously removable for the basement refreshments) but my jaw must have dropped if only slightly.

But then began a half hour conversation with Barb who touched on her training and history as semi-closeted. We didn't talk much about her involvement with the UU church, but I gathered it was at least 20 years. I listened more than talked about myself or my own involvement with Witchcraft, the Pagan Community and CoG. Eventually a woman she was with came to take them home and Troy is nearly 40 minutes from me, so time to leave seemed right.

I was glad I attended this event and feel confident there will be more. I'm encouraged to get more involved with this group and possibly others,

which would be helpful on the travel time. From the local Pagan community point of view, there doesn't seem to be great involvement with the Interfaith community, so I stand alone at least for the time being. There are good bridges to build on either side but not of plans to achieve that. Yet.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

SHROPSHIRE SOUL CAKES

Vol 22 Issue 8

Samhain 1997

By Rebakah Goldwin

The following Shropshire Soul Cakes were distributed on All Soul's Day until 1850. Similar traditions existed in Belgium, Bavaria and the Tyrol.

3 lbs. plain flour

9 oz. softened butter

1 oz. yeast

2 eggs

1 tsp. allspice

8 oz. sugar milk

Sift the flour and work in the softened butter.

Cream the yeast with a teaspoon of sugar. Mix flour with eggs, yeast, and enough milk to make a light dough.

Cover and leave to rise in a warm place

(+/- 45 minutes). Work in sugar and spice and form into flat bun shapes. Let rise again for 20 minutes, then bake at 425 for 15 minutes.

Soul cakes were given to visitors and to the poor on the last of October or first day of November. One belief (among many) is that this souling (going door to door for soul cakes) is a forerunner of the American trick-or-treat.

This recipe is almost precisely the same (sometimes a dusting of cinnamon instead of allspice was used) Love Feast

Buns the Moravian settlement uses at religious holidays and celebrations. At a Love Feast, everyone takes a bun from a wicker basket, and is served very sweet hot coffee in identical white mugs. This is done with a spirit of reverence and unity. No one tastes anything until the entire congregation has an equal share. Then everyone feasts together in honor of the occasion. Finally, each lights and raises an identical beeswax candles with ribbon frills near the hand to prevent hot wax dripping on the hand. A song for the occasion is sung together and candles are extinguished. This is of German origin. It is breathtaking to see done by the hundreds. It is also beautiful when adapted for other unity purposes.



LOCAL COUNCIL VARIANCES

EVERGLADES MOON

1. A Coven or Individual Member that applies to Everglades Moon Local Council for membership needs two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a member of the Local Council.

2. Any person who is a former member of an EMLC member coven needs to have one of their letters of recommendation be from their former HP or HPS or designated CoG coven contact. This does not apply to a solitary member of a member coven who wishes to hold dual status as a solitary member also. The Local Council Board can waive this requirement on a case-by-case basis at the Board's discretion.

3. New applicants must attend 3 EMLC meetings or events, one of which must be in person* (the Local Council Board can waive this requirement in times of crisis) before membership application materials will be forwarded for National publication

4. Attendees of the meeting agreed no meeting was needed until after the new board begins its turn at Samhain - New board will work on the next meeting date.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES: We conduct all business through consensus decision of the Membership, not by executive action of a limited group. The Local Council Membership Officer's actions consist of bringing new applications and transfer requests to the Membership for consideration and helping the applicants to assemble the paperwork and to negotiate the process.

PROCEDURES FOR JOINING THE COVENANT OF THE GODDESS THROUGH THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: To join Covenant of the Goddess through the Northern California Local Council, the prospective coven representative(s) or individual must:

- 1) Come to a Local Council meeting to introduce the Coven or individual applying.
- 2) Become familiar with the Local Council and allow the Local Council to become familiar with the applicant.
- 3) Present the application to the Local Council, with completed application form, tithes, statement of practice, and two letters of recommendation. Ideally, at least one recommendation should come from a

member of our Local Council. This is a preference, rather than a requirement.

4) Current annual national tithes are \$110-170 per coven, or \$50-90 per individual. Local Council annual tithes are \$25 per coven or \$10 per individual. If the tithes are a hardship, it is possible to arrange for them to be reduced or waived, or to apply for National or Local "Grace of the Goddess" funds. Tithes cover the expenses of CoG projects.

5) Await a discussion of your application at subsequent LC meeting(s) until an opinion is formed. The decision on your application must take place at a meeting following the meeting at which you applied, once your paperwork is completed. Admission takes, at a minimum, about 3 meetings. There have been a few applications where discussions went on for several meetings, or applicants were asked further questions. We understand that some meetings will be quite distant for some prospective members and would not ask you to be present at all of them. We prefer physical presence at least one meeting, but exceptions will be considered, and virtual attendance may substitute on a case-by-case basis. There are rare admissions where application occurred at one meeting and admission at the next, but in practice, this is rare, partly because paperwork takes time to gather. This paragraph is intended to allow prospective applicants to understand that admission (and subsequent credentialing) is not possible in just a few days.

PROCEDURES FOR TRANSFERING INTO THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:

Requirements to Request to Transfer to NCLC: The following are not eligible to transfer to NCLC and must use the New Application process:

- An individual or Coven Membership which voluntarily lapsed more than a year and a day prior to the transfer request, or which was canceled by CoG for any reason.
- A Coven hived from a member Coven.
- A sub-group of a member Coven (some BTW traditions have sub-groups run by 2nd degrees, prior to hiving at 3rd degree).

As soon as the applicant knows that they need to transfer to NCLC in order to continue their CoG Membership, but no later than a year and a day from date of their Membership lapse, they shall submit to the NCLC Membership Officer

1. Their most recent Renewal Form with updated information as needed, with new date and signature,



or a New Application Form with a note explaining where they are transferring from.

2. A Statement of Practice (SoP). A previously published SoP, updated to reflect the current situation may be used.

3. The following recommendation for their specific type of transfer:

Transfer from within NCLC

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF NCLC MEMBER COVEN TRANSFERRING INTO THE NCLC ASSEMBLY OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (AoIM):

- a written and signed Letter of Recommendation (LoR) from either their Coven leadership (strongly preferred), or
- a written and signed LoR from a person known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer, or
- a verbal recommendation from a member of NCLC at a meeting and recorded in the meeting minutes.

Transfer from another Local Council

MEMBER COVEN FROM ANOTHER LOCAL COUNCIL TRANSFERRING INTO NCLC:

- a written and signed LoR from either the leadership of a different Coven in the previous Local Council (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF A MEMBER COVEN FROM ANOTHER LOCAL COUNCIL TRANSFERRING INTO THE NCLC ASSEMBLY OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (AoIM):

- a written and signed LoR from either from their Coven leadership in the previous Local Council (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the Coven leadership requesting the transfer.

AoIM MEMBER FROM ANOTHER LOCAL COUNCIL TRANSFERRING INTO THE NCLC AoIM:

- a written and signed LoR from someone in the previous Local Council (strongly preferred), or

- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

Transfer from National

NATIONAL COVEN TRANSFERRING TO NCLC:

- a written and signed LoR either from another Coven's leadership (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the Coven leadership requesting the transfer.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF A NATIONAL COVEN TRANSFERRING TO NCLC AoIM:

- a written and signed LoR from either their Coven leadership (strongly preferred), or
- from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

MEMBER OF NATIONAL AoIM TRANSFERRING TO NCLC AoIM:

- a written and signed LoR from someone known to CoG who has personal knowledge of the person requesting the transfer.

Upon receipt of a completed transfer request, the Membership Officer will confirm previous/current CoG Membership with either the Coven's leadership, the Local Council Membership Officer, or the National Membership Officer as needed, including the date the membership would have ceased had a transfer request not been made (to keep to the year and a day time-frame for transfers).

The MO will then add the request to the agenda for the next meeting, and publish the transfer request, including the SoP and LoR, to NCLC's e-list. The MO will also bring the SoP and the LoR to the next meeting so the Membership may review them.

Additionally, to allow time for the NCLC Membership to become aware of the request, to ask questions of the applicant, and to submit written objections, the applicant must attend at least one meeting prior to the meeting when the decision on their transfer request will be made. Physical presence at this meeting is preferred, but requests for virtual attendance instead will be considered for reasons such as being out of the local area at the time of the meeting, physical disability, or illness.

In order to meet this requirement, the applicant may attend the meeting announcing the transfer request



or a future meeting. At whichever meeting the applicant attends, a future meeting date will be chosen for the Membership to decide the transfer request in the same manner as new membership applications are decided.

If the transfer request is approved, a short note to that effect shall be added to the meeting minutes for publication, and the Membership Officer shall forward one set of the completed application materials to the National Membership Officer for publication in the newsletter as called for in the ByLaws. The transfer request is not final until after the 45-day period for objections is complete and the NMO announces the transfer and its effective date in the Newsletter.

If the transfer request is denied, a short note to that effect shall be added to the meeting minutes for publication, and the Membership Officer shall notify the applicant and the National Membership Officer within 15 days of the decision.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

"We hereby waive term limits for uncontested Local Council offices. Local Council members will hereby be allowed to serve multiple terms in the same office as long as no one else is willing to accept the post."

Local Council meetings may take place via in-person get-togethers or by any other virtual means, including but not limited to: Zoom, Skype, Facetime, Facebook, telephone conference, chat room, text, email, etc. This variance shall also apply to discussions, decision making, and voting."

While not strictly a variance, we would like to reiterate our Criteria for COG Members Transferring Into Southern California Local Council, as published in the Imbolc 2020 national newsletter.

TOUCHSTONE

1. For All New Applicants Touchstone Local Council requires that:

- a) One of the letters of recommendation be from a current member of Touchstone Local Council; and

- b) Prospective applicants attend a minimum of three council meetings in a nine month period prior to the submission of their application. The purpose of this requirement is to provide the prospective applicant an opportunity to become familiar with the Council and vice versa.

2. Current members who are in good standing with CoG at either the National level or who belong to another local council within the Covenant may apply for membership in Touchstone Local Council by:

- a) Providing a letter of recommendation from a member of TLC;
- b) Submitting a letter of intent detailing the reasons for joining TLC;
- c) Attending three TLC meetings; and
- d) Making an effort to engage as a member of the local community by socializing or attending local council events. When the above criteria are met, TLC will then endeavor to come to consensus concerning the applicant's request for membership within Touchstone Local Council.

3. Touchstone local council allows member covens and Assembly of Individual Members to assign their proxy verbally or by electronic means.

4. Current members of Touchstone Local Council who are in good standing may transfer their membership from Coven to Individual Member by:

- a) Attending three TLC meetings; and making an effort to engage as a member of the local community by socializing or attending local council events if they have not already been doing so. TLC will then endeavor to come to consensus concerning the applicant's request for Individual Membership within Touchstone Local Council.

