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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 OSTARA

Ostara renewals are due on March 21, 2022. The Drop-dead date is April 1, 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).

CHAMISA LOCAL COUNCIL:
- KariIsis

EVERGLADES MOON LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Witch and Famous Coven

HILLS AND RIVERS LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Coven of Bran-Faol Rennag
- Ghostwheel
- Greenwood Glen

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Circle of the Dragon and the Phoenix

TEXAS LOCAL COUNCIL:
- Coven of Diana’s Moon

TOUCHSTONE LOCAL COUNCIL: NONE

NATIONAL COVENS:
- Raven Star Coven

NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:
- Athena

FRIENDS OF COG: NONE

OUR GOVERNING BOARD

- National First Officer – Lord Verderius
- National Purse Warden – Manny
- Chamisa – Tiffany B.
- Everglades Moon – Raven
- Hills & Rivers – Lauren T.
- Northern California – Thea Bristlebroom
- Orange County - Janine
- Southern California – Monica / Lady Mariah
- Texas – Orin
- Touchstone – Lord Soec
- National Covens – Lord Solandrin
- National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk
- Governing Board Recorder - Bonnie

LETTER FROM THE FIRST OFFICER

Greetings CoG Membership,

As the last of winter’s grip holds the land, we acknowledge that the long winter season is slowly coming to an end. We delight in the visions of spring that fills our minds of warmer sun filled days. The growing sunlight heightens those thoughts of the spring season just ahead. Soon the flowers will bloom and the land shall become green with new growth. Spring fills our hearts with the renewal of life and a time filled with joy and merriment.

Here we are at the once more at the time of Imbolc and Brigid’s Feast. As each new Sabbat celebration arrives, I am aware that this will be my final communiqué at Imbolc as the National First Officer. I am hopeful that a conscientious member of CoG will step forward this summer to run for this important position, as my term ends at Samhain of 2022.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Covenant in this prestigious office. More importantly, I am sure there is another dedicated CoG member who is ready to assume this role as the National First Officer. The Goddess calls us into service for the betterment of her children, one and all. Listen for Her voice and heed the call.

We are currently facing this last bout with the Covid pandemic and the Omicron variant. Several members have endured this variant and are on the mend. Hopefully this pandemic will come to an end in the weeks ahead. Afterwards, I look forward to future travels to regions that seemingly need our attention as local councils appear to be stressing from the long plight of the Covid pandemic. Renewals in certain Local Councils have been down.

There have been some discussions reverberating through the Covenant, as a number of members seem to feel that CoG is afraid of making the necessary changes to remain relevant in our ever changing world. How do we relieve their trepidation and make the necessary changes to address these ongoing concerns? Please reach out to your Governing Board Rep to express your thoughts and

SET GOALS... BUT ADJUST AS NEEDED

“GOOD DAY” TO-DO LIST
- Go for a run
- Grocery shop
- Return emails
- Get to post office
- Fold laundry
- Clean toilets
- Call utility company
- Meet lawyer
- Schedule dentist
- Try that Indian recipe

“HARD DAY” TO-DO LIST
- Eat something Anything. Doesn’t matter. It is possible. Email my therapist
- Try to rest
- Be gentle with myself

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feelings on addressing this continued topic that several CoG members feel. We can all make a difference on tackling this important issue together. I am wishing you all a very Blessed Imbolc!
With Light & Love,
Lord Verderius
National First Officer

COMBINED BOARD MINUTES
~January 9, 2022~

Invocation: Lord Verderius invoked Coventina to open the meeting.

Roll Call – (Quorum is two-thirds present): 7 of 9 Officers present and 9 of 10 Constituencies present – We have met quorum.

National Officers:
✓ First Officer – Lord Verderius – Present
✓ Second Officer – Mary S. – Present
✓ Membership Officer – Lady K/Thea – Thea present
✓ Publications Officer – Lord Soec – Present
• Pursewarden – Qabal – Absent
✓ Public Information Officer – Janine N. – Present
• Outreach Officer – Brandon P. – On Sabbatical
• Correspondence Officer – Grace Moonhawk – Absent
✓ Recorders – Bonnie M/Faelind – Bonnie - Present

Governing Board Representatives:
✓ Chamisa LC – Polaris / Alt: Lady K – Polaris - present
✓ Everglades Moon LC –Lord Rieken – Alt: Dennis – Lord Rieken present
✓ Hills & Rivers LC – Lauren /Alt: Lauren present
✓ Northern California LC – Deborah B. / Alt: Linnea – both present
✓ Orange County LC – Janine / Alt: Morgana – Janine - present
✓ Southern California LC – Lady Mariah / Alt: Lisa M. – Lady Mariah - present
✓ Texas LC – Genevieve / Alt: Orin – Genevieve = present
✓ Touchstone LC – Lord Soec – present
✓ National Covens – Lord Solandrin – present
• National Individual Members – Grace Moonhawk – absent

Officer Reports:

First Officer (Lord Verderius): [Please see full report on page 4.] Lord V read his FO report and spoke a little about this time of year.

Second Officer (Mary S): Currently negotiating details for Merry Meet 2022. More information will be available soon.

Membership Officer (Lady K/Thea): [Please see full report on page 5.] Feels like she needs help with technical issues and is looking for volunteers. Removing requirements for all postings to be approved for Council Members to encourage more activity. Still no communications from Lady K.

Publications Officer (Lord Soec): [Please see full report on page 6.] Everything going well. Guinevere offered to provide content for a “Children’s Corner” for the newsletter and it was graciously accepted. She will provide information prior to Imbolc newsletter deadline.

Pursewarden (Qabal) – absent: [Please see full report on page 6.]

Public Information Officer (Janine N.): [Please see full report on page 6.] Wednesday with Witches very well attended – a few reported technical issues and will be addressed with “workarounds”. This year the M&O Team will be working on event program ads, future event attendance & presentations, discussion and execution of a harassment/consent statement and continued promotion of CoG.

Outreach Officer (Brandon P.): still on sabbatical. Lord V mentioned that Brandon was expected to return to his officer duties this month and is to begin planning for Youth Conference to take place Spring 2022.

Correspondence Officer (Grace Moonhawk) – absent

Recorders (Bonnie Mote/Faelind) –

Governing Board Representatives Reports:

Chamisa LC: Only 3 covens left in local council. Discussed possibly losing more covens and what this will mean for local council.

Everglades Moon LC: Local event scheduling conflicts but okay. Alt rep name is accurately in the Yule newsletter.

Hills & Rivers LC: Actively planning local events. Jamie is alt and 1st officer

Northern California LC: Between the Veils – Pantheon replacement - hospitality booth discussed but hesitant to commit due to changing requirements for attendance and refunds.

Orange County LC: Discussing psychic fair and upcoming MM arrangements

Southern California LC: Local covens are focusing on local issues. Considering accepting online covens.

Texas LC: Texas had a very busy 2021, and 2022 is off to an amazing start! TXCOG began to offer in person classes again 4 times a month in 2
different locations in DFW near Samhain, in addition to public Sabbats 8 times a year, public moon school for children 8 times a year. In addition online classes and discussion groups are still going strong as well.

**Touchstone LC:** Held public Yule. Nothing else to report.

**National Covens:** Moving along – working with Thea and Lord V on using zoom.

**National Individual Members:** absent

**Old Business:**

Lord Verderius to contact Canu to get Orin access to C-Panel.

Working on getting access

Thea to create a new, private sub-group for membership where she and Lady K are co-owners and Orin as Net-Co or Lord Verderius as FO have access in case it is needed.

Officers communicating in official CoG capacity should not use private email. Should be using an official Cog email.

Still need access to C-panel.

Orin to forward membership@cog.org to a new, private membership sub-group on Groups.io.

Still needs to happen.

Lord Verderius and Thea to contact Lady K using all means to have a conversation with her regarding membership data.

Lady K did give Thea access to membership records.

Bonnie to add an agenda item to the GB meeting to discuss Membership Officer communication.

Next Governing Board meeting in February. No information about this issue in previous minutes.

Thea to add reminders to Groups.io to remind National Officers to send in reports prior to meetings and to remind membership about Newsletter deadlines.

Will be completed.

Bonnie to add an agenda item to the GB meeting to begin planning for CoG’s 50th anniversary.

Next Governing Board meeting in February.

Lord Verderius to contact Amber K about CoG patches.

Rowan may be a better resource for this information. Polaris will reach out to her.

Janine to add marketing CoG items to marketing and outreach plan.

Patches, pins and advertisements were discussed.

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Patches, pins and advertisements were discussed.

Lady Mariah to schedule time with Manny about the Survey Monkey distribution.

To be done.

Bonnie to update GB Reps on GB Meeting Agenda Template.

Done

Lord Verderius to meet with Lord Solandrin on holding Zoom National Coven calls.

Need to coordinate time to meet.

Thea to meet with Lord Solandrin to populate the National Covens sub-group.

Need to coordinate time to meet.

**New Business:**

Call for Additions to the Agenda:

Survey – Responses

Lady Mariah – survey is under way. Data received and will give more detail at Governing Board meeting next month. Received 10% response – wants to send out again.

Lord Soec wants to discuss the feedback he received on a topic put out on DD.

Lord Soec sent out a question of “What is CoG to you?” He shared a sample of responses from members and asked to discuss. Too much emphasis on the past and not enough on the future. More emphasis should be put on showing how active CoG members are and recruiting replacement officers.

Much discussion about logo and merchandise and advertising.

What do you feel goals should be for this year?

Time to get out of our homes and spread information about CoG Mentorship program and Youth Summit.

**To Do List:**

Lord V to get Orin access to C-Panel.

Polaris to check with Rowan on CoG patches.

Lord Soec to send out template for recording minutes to Governing Board

Guinevere to send Children’s Corner information for Imbolc newsletter

Lord Solandrin to coordinate with Thea and Lord V for National Coven calls.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**First Officer**

I hope everyone enjoyed their winter holidays with family and friends this year. The New Year has come, and I know that we all set new goals
for the year ahead. Therefore, it’s also time for us to get our plans in place for CoG for the spring season that is just around the corner. Personally, I hope to be making some travel plans for March and April to areas where we once had Local Councils. I plan to speak with current and former members of CoG to see if there is still a need and desire to have a CoG presence in their region. I am hopeful that we can start rebuilding our former local councils and the amazing magickal footprint we held, once upon a time.

The winter holidays added quite a bit of stress and overload to my normal life schedule. I am sorry for my delay getting out the Zoom invite and agenda for today’s meeting. I will be on better footing moving forward in the future months. I know you are all counting on me to take the lead in keeping things moving forward with the meeting schedule we have in place. To that end, I am glad we are having our first combined board meeting in this New Year.

Also, as we continue to strengthen our communication this year with both AIR and DD in place, I am confident that we will find new measures to develop for the betterment of CoG and its members. They are counting on us to rebuild and establish new ways of making CoG relevant in the ever changing world we live in. What do you think some of our goals should be for this coming year? More importantly, how do we begin the process to develop a Mentorship program for interested Pagan folks to learn and expand their magickal skills, while showing them what the Covenant of the Goddess has to offer them through membership?

Additionally, the Marketing & Outreach committee will be meeting once again this coming Monday evening, January 11th at 5:30pm PST. We invite all of you to join us in the discussion on how we find new and inventive ways to continue to reach out to potential new members who are seeking a safe haven and magickal home in an organization like CoG. However, I know we have new competition in the Mystical Witches world out there. Therefore, we need to get back on our A-game to reach out to new and younger people who identify as Witches and Wiccans. Our spring Youth Summit will hopefully open the door to new individuals who are looking for magickal growth and guidance. We look forward to this amazing event, being hosted by our National Outreach Officer, Brandon Proctor and his brother Blaine.

The larger question still remains, is there room in our organization to invite other Pagan folks to at least become Friends of CoG, even if they don’t identify as Witches or Wiccans? What happens to our Pagan Sisters and Brothers who are Druids, Ceremonial Magicians, etc from cultivating good relations with our organization and perhaps one day becoming valued members? The future is now! Shall we gather in those other Pagan folks in, who could potentially help us reach new magickal goals?

With Anticipation,
Lord Verderius
National First Officer

SECOND OFFICER

No Report Received. [Please refer to Combined Board Minutes on page 3].

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Merry Meet CoG-kin,

Thea Bristlebroom here, recently I have been assisting Lady K as Co-National First Officer with clearing a backlog. Personal health issues and family matters are continuing to delay pre-printed renewal forms. Thank you for your continued patience!

Please know that there is money in the Grace of the Goddess fund to assist those Members who might need it, and the NMO is willing to work with you for deferred tithe payments. Please do not let a temporary situation keep you from your membership in CoG! As a reminder, Grace of the Goddess funds may only be used for tithes and cannot be used to pay for Credential renewals.

Do you need some help with the NEW Groups.IO platform, or getting subbed to a group? Send email to administrators (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.

I am one of the people (for the moment) who is assisting our new NetCo (Origin) with approving messages sent to AIR, and I have a couple of Netiquette reminders.

1) When you reply to an AIR post, remember to change the address to DD. There is a long-standing CoG policy that replies to AIR go to DD. Because groups.io doesn’t have a way to automate this, I have been manually applying this policy and have rejected (such a harsh word!) several people’s posts due to this.

2) At a minimum, all Coven Contacts MUST remain subbed to AIR. Additionally, anyone who is subbed to a CoG forum (aka subgroup) MUST also be subbed to AIR.

Please Welcome:
Friends of CoG – Amartya
Covens and Individuals - Lord Lucian (Trial Membership with 1 letter, has one year to provide another letter.)
Applications – none at this time
Transfer Requests – none at this time
Lapsed Members – none at this time
Cancelled Members – none at this time

Overdue Members – I will be reaching out to members for whom I don’t have a renewal several times and ways before canceling anyone, and I’m very willing to work with anyone who needs a little time to get their tithes together.

I’m trying to clean up the last loose ends, so if you are on this list and think you have renewed, please contact me ASAP at membership@cog.org. I am missing renewal forms, tithes, or both from the following:

- **Chamisa:**
  - Charlie Kiene
  - Ryan Coe

- **Everglades Moon:**
  - Albion’s Spirit
  - Alpandia
  - Ceos
  - Pantera Apolonaris Draconus
  - Spelcastor

- **Hills and Rivers:**
  - Witches of Aradia

- **Texas:**
  - Circle of Shadow and Light

- **National:**
  - Dragonstar Rising
  - Felicity Grove
  - Gryphonsong Clan
  - Inanna Arthen
  - Lord GoldenOak
  - M Macha NightMare
  - Our Lady of the Trinity
  - Silver Serpent Coven

- **Northern California:**
  - Jae Osenbach
  - Lady Bhride
  - Moonwater SilverClaw
  - Owl Moon
  - Waxing Moon

MEMBERSHIP STATUS – Because of the uncertainty of who is and who is not a Member currently, I again don’t have numbers for you at this time.

May the returning Light brighten your life!
In Her Service, Thea Bristlebroom

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**Pursewarden**

Current Assets
- Chase Main Account: $ 101,302.03
- Wells Fargo Interfaith Checking: $5,585.62
- PayPal Account: $721.46
- Synchrony: $33,114.36 (as of 10/31/2021)

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**Public Information Officer**

Greetings CoG Members and Friends and Happy New Year!

Earlier this week there was our first Wednesday with Witches of the New Year. I have received a handful of emails where members trying to use the Groups.IO message link received errors. There were 45 person registered, so the registration link worked; I do not know why it doesn’t work for some. I will work with the Tech Team to determine why some of you are unable to register. The next Wednesday with Witches will be January 19th. It will be a Members Only meeting and you will not be required to register. The topic will be Magick, Tarot, and the New Year.

Here is the link: Join Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82282860170?pwd=c2FGYWtUWDR6T2dobjNzWEhVOTcxUT09
Meeting ID: 822 8286 0170
Passcode: 606520

We will be continuing our marketing discussions to share ideas, and enhance communications to other LCs and PIOs. On Monday January 10th we will have our first Marketing & Outreach meeting of 2022. For those interested in attending here is the Zoom link:

Janine is inviting you to a scheduled M&O Zoom meeting.
Topic: M&O Meeting
Time: Jan 10, 2022 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82769568565?pwd=M3ZldlVqRTB6WVhnSUdubXF1WmFmdz09
Meeting ID: 827 6956 8565
Passcode: 594736

This year the M&O Team will be working on event program ads, future event attendance & presentations, discussion and execution of a harassment/consent statement and continued promotion of CoG.

**Publications Officer**

Imbolc blessings. The wheel is turning and it’s that time of year when our minds turn to those things we find most important to us... our taxes. Yes, it is once again that time when we fret and fuss and finally break down and pull out all those papers we’ve been saving from the prior year in hopes that the Tax Bunny grants us the exemptions we all feel we deserve. After hours of cussing and pleading we
gather it all and take it to our tax professional, and like a fortune teller and true witch casting their spell, the tax professional tells you if you will celebrate or gnash your teeth. Good luck and may the odds be ever in your favor.

As always, please send any articles, poetry or minutes to newsletter@cog.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 cogweb@cog.org.

**CORRESPONDENCE OFFICER**

No Report Received. [Please refer to Combined Board Minutes on page 3].

**NATIONAL RECORDER**

No Report Received. [Please refer to Combined Board Minutes on page 3].

**NATIONAL OUTREACH OFFICER**

No Report Received. [Please refer to Combined Board Minutes on page 3].

**WELCOME TO COG**

Please welcome:
- Amartya to Friends of CoG
- Lord Lucian to National AIM

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

None at this time

**FRIENDS OF COG APPLICATIONS**

None at this time

**TRANSITIONING FROM COVEN TO SOLITARY**

None at this time

**LOCAL COUNCILS**

**CHAMISA**

~ No Report

Last published minutes in the Yule 2021 edition.

**EVERGLADES MOON**

~ November 12, 2021 ~

Having Quorum the meeting began at 8:10 PM with an opening prayer by Coyote.

Meeting hosted via zoom.

In Attendance:
- Coyote, First Officer, Assembly of Solitaries (AoS)
- Rayna, Second Officer, Beachfyre Coven
- Raven, Pursewarden, Circle of the Moonlit Sea Coven
- Bobbi-Jo, Membership Officer, Albion’s Spirit Coven
- Cosette, Publications Officer, Beachfyre Coven
- Diana, Public Information Officer, AoS
- Shaylee, Co-Recorder, Beachfyre Coven
- Tanit, Silver Sanctuary Coven
- Riekin, Witch & Famous, COG Representative
- Marla, AoS
- Qabal, AoS, National Pursewarden
- Guest
- Cristina Gastesi, Prospective Member (3rd meeting)

**Officer Reports:**

First Officer - Coyote

No Report - Not much going on just wanting to schedule meetings, address signatures for the bank.

Second Officer - Rayna

Beginning to plan the annual retreat, which will be held separately from the annual meeting in 2022. More details will be shared soon. EMLC is invited to Bone Creek Sanctuary, the new land purchased by Rayna & Canu near Arcadia, FL, for the annual retreat

Tentative dates for the retreat are March 26-27, 2022

Action: Rayna to send an email to discuss tentative dates to EMLC

Pursewarden - Raven
Not much to report, except payment for Turning the Tide Festival

Membership Officer - Bobbi Jo

Planning on meeting with Lady B to transition Membership info. No renewals are due until after the beginning of the year

Publications Officer - Cosette

I have access to our website and almost all our known channels. Details are below. If anyone has information about the EMLC Facebook personal profile and Instagram, please let me know.

List of known channels:

Website
EMLC Facebook profile – origins and account details unknown, last post 21 April 2011
EMLC Facebook Group – private members-only group (39 members)
EMLC Page – public-facing Page (1,555 followers)
EMLC Instagram - origins and account details unknown, last post 2 March 2015 (69 followers)
EMLC Google & YouTube – podcast (30 subscribers)
EMLC Twitter – Named changed from EMLCtweets to EvergladesMoon, consistent with other channels (142 followers)
Reaching for the Moon Facebook Page – public-facing Page. Propose to close. (75 followers)
Libsyn account – for podcast
EMLC Board Groups.io
EMLC List Groups.io

Action items:

Instagram – Cosette to check again with Alpandia when she returns from vacation.

Reaching for the Moon Facebook Page – Proposal to the direct audience to EMLC Page and delete podcast Page. Tabled until Lady Bridget can be consulted.

Propose to remove the Members area from the website.

Public Information Officer - Diana

Nothing to report at this time.

Recorder (Co-Recorder) - Shaylee

Annual Meeting Notes turned in to CoG on a timely basis by Co-Recorder Ceos

Digital Channels

Discussion of Publications Officer Report. All known digital channels were discussed with the intention to determine which channels to continue to use and how to use them.

Kasha is getting the email from Covenant of the Goddess link to EMLC and is requesting that it be reassigned. As Public Information Officer Diana is going to contact Canu and CoG to make sure emails are transferred to her.

***Twinkled by all

What EMLC’ers are doing:

Lady Bridget Sidhe-Lyric was interviewed for Samhain along with others by Religion News Services (RNS). If you would like to read the article follow the link: https://religionnews.com/2021/10/28/witches-remember-those-lost-to-covid-19-among-the-dead-at-samhain/

Bobbi Jo is going to be interviewed on a podcast. She will be speaking about workplace religious diversity.

Turning the Tide (Scheduled from Jan 14th-16th, 2022)

Led by Shaylee, attendees discussed the Turning the Tide Invitation to Reserve a Spot email and Reservation Form. We are hoping to have reservations for Turning the Tides open by Friday, November 19th, 2021.

Action: Shaylee to work with Cosette and then send out an email to Board and Tides committee to finalize the reservation email and form.

***Twinkled by all

Future Meetings - Tentative Dates

EMLC has planned the next few meetings. Dates are tentative and will be confirmed later, but the EMLC board wanted to announce meeting dates for any EMLC’er and/or guest wishing to attend can plan to participate. Dates are:

Wednesday, December 29th, 2021 at 8 PM via Zoom

Sunday, February 13th, 2022 at 1 PM (Gather Time) In-Person & Zoom Meeting

Tentative Host: Raven, but if anyone else would like to host let us know

Saturday and Sunday, March 26th & 27th, 2022 - Unofficial Meeting at Retreat

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022 at 8 PM via Zoom

***Dates were twinkled by all

Guest

Cristina - wanted to attend and say hi!

Meeting ended with a closing prayer given by Coyote

Blessed be everyone!
**HILLS AND RIVERS**

~November 30, 2021~

Members Present:

First Officer – Lady Annabelle, Hekate's Wheel
Second Officer – Denise, HearthFire Coven
Membership Officer – Lady Lauren, Coven of the Wooded Vale
Pursewarden and Recorder - Faunina Del Bosco, Circle of Diana
Public Information Officer – Kat C, Grove of the Ancient River

Additional Members:

Lady Elizabeth, Coven Leita Visindi
Lady Lilith Inanna, Witches of Aradia
Lady Lorri, Coven of the Wooded Vale
Aurie, G, solitary

Quorum was established.

Pursewarden Report – Faunina Del Bosco

As of 11/30/2021

$3,689.28 - PNC Bank (includes 1/22/2021 withdrawal of $102.72 for WordPress website)

$463.98 - PayPal

$4,153.26 - total funds

Old Business

Public Pagan Events

Lady A reported on Gaia Fest 2021, held in early October this year rather than Beltane due to pandemic restrictions. Although there were many who enthusiastically said that they had a wonderful time, the attendance was not as large as previous years. There were not as many vendors this year, also due to the pandemic. Lorri and Lauren observed similar low attendance numbers at Pagan events in eastern Pennsylvania. Lady Lilith in York/Lancaster area said that their Witches’ Ball still had a good turnout despite the pandemic uncertainty. As we plan for our events for 2022, we will have to consider that the attendance numbers may be lower than in previous years. Hopefully by summer, we will be in a better place with the pandemic and participation and attendance at public events will be much improved.

Hills and Rivers Website

With our website host discontinuing its service on December 6th, we decided by consensus to move our website to a new provider, WordPress. At our Annual Meeting this summer, we earmarked $300 for the website change and maintenance. Kat generously offered to assist in the copying of current webpages and building of the new website. Hills and Rivers is grateful for Kat’s generosity in giving us her valuable time and technical expertise. Thanks so much Kat!

With our new website, we can host a webpage for each of the member covens, a blog, and a monthly newsletter that will aid our outreach and help us build an email list. This should help us advertise for our public events. On the blog, covens should write or post something once per month. Each coven could choose a sabbat about which to post. Individuals can also share art, poetry, spells, and other relevant material. All material submitted will be first checked by the PIO and if there is a question about a submission, the PIO will alert the First Officer for final approval.

Plans for 2022 Annual Meeting and Festivities continue:

There was renewed discussion about the location of our Annual Meeting and the public festival that we host on the same weekend. In past years, the location was rotated amongst the member covens with the local coven acting as host and main organizer of the event. Often this left a few covens traveling over five hours to our Annual Meeting. Our past discussions have led us to try to have an established event with a predictable location. We also agreed that a location central to all would make attendance to our Annual Meeting easier for all our members. Another benefit of having our meetings in central Pennsylvania is that this region is underserved, with few organized pagan events and few known covens. The region is very closeted, with few opportunities to gather, network, and celebrate with fellow witches. We agreed by consensus that our annual festival should be an annual event with a regular home and central location.

We then discussed possible locations to have the festival in central Pennsylvania—parks, private camps, and event centers. Two locations that seem most promising are Four Quarters Farm, a large Pagan event space and campground in Artemas, PA (Bedford County in southern central PA) and Rhoneymeade, a private event space with large fields, labyrinth, sculpture garden, and arboretum located near State College, PA (Centre County). So far, we have contacted the Happy Valley Golden Wheel group in State College, who recommended Rhoneymeade. By consensus, we decided that Rhoneymeade will be the location for our 2022 festival. (We had planned to hold an event there in 2020, but we had to cancel due to the pandemic.) We will also explore Four Quarters Farm as a future possibility, if we find that Rhoneymeade does not suit our needs.

Our large public pagan events should be collaborative in nature, teaming up with other witches and pagan organizations in the region, such as the Happy Valley Golden Wheel group in State...
College. Three Golden Wheel members met with us during our HRLC member social before our Annual Meeting and one member attended the Annual HRLC Board Meeting. Golden Wheel members have been very helpful during the early planning stages and are ready to help us during the event. They are considering joining CoG, especially after learning that ministerial credentials can be attained through membership. Building relationships like this is essential for growth within HRLC and CoG. We have been very pleased with the relationships that we have built through outreach to the communities in which we had hosted past Annual Meetings and Lammas Fest festivals.

With the change in location to the central region of Pennsylvania and change of date, we discussed the new name for our annual event. It was formerly called Hills and Rivers Lammas Fest, but with the date change to June a new name is needed. After various names were suggested, three seemed most promising: Hills and Rivers Witch Fest, Hills and Rivers Summer Fest, and Hills and Rivers Solstice Fest. The name “Hills and Rivers Solstice Fest” was chosen by consensus as the new name for our annual public event.

Committee for Annual Meeting and Hills and Rivers Solstice Fest – Especially with the new location for our Annual Meeting, we needed to form a new committee to help organize and run the event. The new committee members are Jamie D. (Grove of the Ancient River), Denise (HearthFire Coven), Lady A. (Hekate’s Wheel), Kat C. (Grove of the Ancient River), Faunina (Circle of Diana), Jeff (Happy Valley Golden Wheel - State College local group).

New Business

Local Events: Our discussion shifted from hosting our HRLC’s large annual festival to member covens hosting smaller local events throughout the year. Outreach and building community are important parts of our mission, not only for the local council, but for individual covens as well. As with our annual festival, member covens should collaborate with other local groups to host larger events. We can co-sponsor and lend support to already established pagan events in the region and co-host new events with other groups. Having other groups involved in the planning and organization of the event makes them more invested in its success. Too many times the RSVPs say a large number plan to attend, with only a few showing up at the event. Having more people involved across the community should bring more participants and attendees. Local groups also need to find a regular event space and reach out to other witches and organizations to build interest and community. Right now because Covid infection rates are still high, outdoor locations are safer venues for large public events at this time.

Classes and Meetups: Some of our member covens discussed the success they have had with holding classes and encourage other covens to do so. Grove of the Ancient River, Witches of Aradia, Hekate’s Wheel, and Coven of the Wooded Vale have all recently held classes, either in-person or virtually in online chatrooms.

Fundraising

Member covens could host independent raffles and fundraisers locally to raise funds and give HRLC and CoG some name recognition. These activities will also give publicity for our new annual summer festival, Hills and Rivers Solstice Fest. Lady Lilith mentioned her success at doing paint and pour nights for fundraising in her region. We were encouraged to think of other new and interesting ways to raise funds for HRLC.

Next Meeting

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm, the next meeting will be held in February 2022, the date and time TBA.

Northern California

~ No report ~

Last published minutes in the Ostara 2021 edition.

Orange County

~No Report~

Last published minutes Samhain 2021 edition.

Southern California

~ No Report ~

Last published minutes in the Mabon 2021 edition.

Texas Local Council

~ January 23, 2022 ~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x Circle of Danu – Bonnie, Orin</td>
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<tr>
<td>x Circle of the Unicorn – Chuck, Chrystal</td>
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<tr>
<td>x Circle of the Blood Moon – Chaos</td>
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<tr>
<td>x Coven Firemoon – Bastion, Amarok, Kara, Essynce</td>
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</tbody>
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Meeting convened at: 12:04p

Guests: Jander, Melanie

Invocation to Coventina by Gaelen

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).

Quorum has been reached and determined by Rowan.

Call for additions to the agenda and nominees

No additions were requested to be added to the meeting

Officer Reports

First Officer: Gaelen

Meeting Dates for 2022 @ 11 am:
1/23 /22
4/10/22
6/26/22
9/11/22

Pursewarden: Micheal L.

Bank - $2,864.66
PayPal - $1,339.90
CashApp - $240.00
Cash - $50.00
Total- $4,494.56

Sabbat donations:
Mabon - $175
Samhain - $150
Yule - $66

Online donations (classes)
Sept. - $148.93
Oct. - $17.48

Gaelen said that the donations brought in during classes in person versus online are apparent.

Public Information Officer: Kara

Total followers for Facebook: 3,715.
We are reaching up to 1,800 people.
Total followers for Instagram: 236
We have up to 23 likes on posts.
Total followers for Twitter: 494
We have up to 122 impressions.

Kara said that posts have been put on a regular schedule, which has helped bring in interest. Kara said that in person class postings have been stopped until March.

Gaelen commended Kara’s efforts with the website and social media, saying that Kara has been on top of making sure everything is working and getting out there. Chaos thanked Kara for her hard work.

Webweaver: Kara & Gaelen

The website was transferred from Debi’s widow and is now up and running. Please check it out. It has a Google calendar option, a donation page, and we’re working on adding bios and class descriptions. Some are up. If you have a class, you need to give a brief one of each.

Membership Officer: Dragan

Most recent renewals needed since last meeting:
Mabon: Circle of Danu, Circle of Shadow & Light chose not to renew
Samhain: Circle of the Unicorn, Coven Firemoon, Q’est
Yule: Circle of the Blood Moon, Circle of the Moon & Sun

Upcoming Renewals:
Imbolc: Circle of the Star & Anastasia
Spring: Coven of Diana’s Moon

Dragan said that he has been trying since the beginning of December to get updated information regarding memberships from National. He did finally hear back from National this last week regarding his questions and was told that his questions were not understood. Dragan is currently working on rewording his questions for clarification. He said that he has not received any recognition back from National regarding receipt of membership renewals that have been submitted. Gaelen encouraged Dragan to CC her in on the email when he reaches out again.
Bastion said that she did not remember about her membership renewal until Thanksgiving and reached out to National at that time. She received a response from National that said membership renewal reminders were not sent out because it was forgotten, but they did confirm for her that her membership renewal had been received.

Chuck said that Christal has not received her credentials. She applied for her credentials back in September. He has also not received anything regarding his membership renewal from National.

Gaelen said that while she and Dragan work to get this issue resolved, she encourages everyone to go ahead and submit their membership renewals paperwork themselves to National.

Recorder: Rowan

Rowan has sent an email to the newsletter requesting due dates for the year. She has requested that all notes and edits be turned in in a timely manner so that they can be submitted for the newsletter as soon as possible. Gaelen said that the due dates were in the last National newsletter or that it could be found on the national website.

Gaelen said that she felt 3 to 5 days was enough time for everyone to get their notes and edits to Rowan before the information needed to be finalized. Gaelen said in the past, we gave a week. Anastasia and Q’est requested a week. Anastasia said that when the email gets sent out, she may not see it until the third day. Liz agreed that a week might be the best time frame. It was agreed that everyone would have a week to review the minutes from the local meeting and get their edits back to Rowan. Rowan said that she will get everyone’s edits and notes implemented into the minutes in three days before she sends out a final copy to the local council. After that, she will submit the minutes to the national newsletter.

Pagan 101 Classes Online: Lopsi

Lopsi said that she has noticed an increasing amount of people attending online classes. The attendance has been averaging about 20 people per class. The last online class had 24 people attending. Gaelen said that it was really neat to see people from all over attending the online classes and how glad she is that we are able to reach the people that we are.

Online Discussion Group: Lopsi

We’ve had fewer and fewer people joining each month. This month, no one showed.

Gaelen recommended that we stop the discussion groups as they no longer appear to be a necessity. Bastion agreed. Orin asked if we felt that they might still be needed. Gaelen said it had been the same few people over the last few months and that the need for the group was being filled by the discussion time many teachers were allowing in their classes. Gaelen asked if anyone felt strongly about it and wanted to continue to host the online discussion group, to which no one responded. She also said that if people start asking for them again, we will revisit at that time.

Pagan 101 Classes in Arlington: Ruby

Ruby said that the Arlington classes got off to a rough start, but after working with Gaelen and Kara to establish a game plan for advertising and growth, attendance has increased. She did say that she was concerned about the cancellation of classes until March affecting attendance, but agreed that cancellation was a good idea. Ruby asked Gaelen about how the schedule of classes needed to be handled when they pick back up. Gaelen said that the classes should pick up with the next date on the calendar and that if they wanted to revisit the classes dropped in January and February, she suggested that they be added to the end of the series to reduce scheduling and marketing issues.

Pagan 101 Classes in Dallas: Breila

Breila said that the classes have been quiet. Attendance has been the same 4 people that have been attending for a while. Breila said that people have had a hard time trying to find the location, which she feels is hurting attendance. But she said that she believes with time the classes will grow. Gaelen discussed that they are working on making it easier for people to find the location. Breila suggested a sign to put outside of the location that was moveable. The link for the sign suggested is included:

Outdoor Sign for Classes $43.99
https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B09J567LTL/ref=cm_sw_r_oth_api_glt_fabc_J86XVK29EGANFVYVJPY?encoding=UTF8&th=1

Gaelen made a motion to buy a sign to help people find classes. The motion was seconded by Chaos. Chrystal asked why this sign was the best option. Gaelen and Breila explained that previous signs that had been looked at were heavy and awkward to move and that this sign would be the best option for facilitators of the class to put out and pick up. Gaelen called for a vote. The vote in favor of the sign was unanimous. The motion carried. Lopsi said that she would be willing to go pick and deliver the sign where needed for Breila. Gaelen said that Lopsi and Breila could discuss the details of delivering the sign outside of the meeting and thanked Lopsi for the offer.

Gaelen said that Kara created a great sign to put on the doors of the in-person class locations that is really nice and she is looking forward to the facilitators being able to use them.

Sabbats: Gaelen

2021 Sabbats at Arlington UU

Autumn Equinox: Circle of the Moon and Sun
Gaelen said that the attendance for public Sabbats has been good and the use of the wrist bands has been incredibly helpful. Guinevere did not attend Samhain due to a broken leg, and Gaelen took over moon school for that sabbat. She said that the children that did show up were spaced out and she was able to do the activity with each child individually. She also said that due to the vaccine not being available for younger children, she was not comfortable with attempting to get the children gathered for a group class at the Samhain Sabbat. Gaelen said she felt it worked better for that circumstance to be able to help each child separately.

Guinevere did attend Yule to provide Moon School at that time. Gaelen said that attendance was okay but she believes that it will get better once the Covid numbers calm down again. And until then, we’ve canceled Imbolc. We will visit what to do for the Spring Equinox in March.

Guinevere will no longer be doing anymore work for the online Moon School as she is happy with where it is and does not feel that any further improvements are necessary. Gaelen said that she agreed with that decision.

2022 Sabbats
Doors open at 2 pm, Moon School at 2:30 pm, Ritual at 3 pm
Imbolc: Canceled due to Pandemic #s
Spring Equinox: Circle of the Serpent
Beltane:
Summer Solstice:
Lammas: Circle of the Blood Moon
Autumn Equinox: Coven Firemoon
Samhain: Circle of the Ancient Mother
Winter Solstice: Circle of Danu
Gaelen said that if anyone wanted to volunteer for the Beltane or Summer Solstice public rituals that they were still available.

Governing Board Liaison: Orin/Guinevere

Bonnie said that Guinevere suggested the addition of a Children’s Corner to the national newsletter and it was well received. She also said that it was noted that part of the current problem with membership is due to the fact that Thea has taken over from Dee and is trying to pick up the slack and get information from Dee.

Old Business
Covered in officer notes.
New Business

Committee Leaders- Gaelen asked if anyone wanted to step down from their committee positions. No one said anything.

Members Only Witches Tea- It was suggested that we have a tea that was only open to members of the local council where we dress up and wear witch hats. Gaelen said that she felt this would be a good member perk to add. Bonnie requested that we try to schedule this for May or June and that was agreed provided that the COVID numbers have decreased.

Fairy Ball- Gaelen asked that we revisit scheduling this until the COVID numbers have calmed down and everyone agreed. Bonnie suggested we theme the Witches Ball in October as a Fairy Ball to incorporate the idea into an already existing event. Q’est suggested that the Witches Ball be themed Unseelie or Dark Fae to incorporate the season into the event as well.

Gaelen said that if we have a member’s only event held indoors that we do not have to have a food serving license. Anastasia asked about serving alcohol at those functions and if we needed to have a license to do that. Gaelen said that we did. Gaelen then brought up that we needed to revisit serving food at public sabbats because of this license. Bastion said that it was nice not having to deal with food and it helped get clean up and wrap up of the public sabbats done in a timelier manner. Gaelen said that she felt just having water available for everyone and a few snacks on hand in case someone got heat exhaustion was plenty. Keala asked if we advertise that people could bring a picnic after ritual as long as they cleaned up after themselves, Gaelen said that it sounded like a good idea. Essynce said that she does not mind getting a food handlers’ license but agrees that not serving food has been a big help at the events. She said that the hardest thing for that was the bugs and keeping children out of the food ahead of time. Gaelen said that we will move forward with not serving food at public sabbats for the time being.

Gaelen asked if there were any more items that needed to be brought before the council at this time. There was no response.

Gaelen thanked Coventina. Adjourned at: 11:59 a.m.

TOUCHSTONE
~ No Report~
Last published minutes in the Yule 2021 edition.
WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND COG

WEDNESDAY WITH WITCHES

Feb 16 (Members & Friends of CoG)  5:30 PM
Mar 2 (Open to the Public)                    5:30 PM

Come and join us for Wednesday with Witches! We meet on the first Wednesday of the month for the public and every third Wednesday for CoG members only. BYOB (bring your own brew) and snacks and join us for a spell!

Topics are announced on the CoG calendar

ONLINE PAGAN 101 CLASSES

The Goddess & the Lunar Cycle     Feb. 9, 2022
The Gods & the Solar Cycle          Feb. 23, 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!

Link for Wicca 101: meet.google.com/ukj-twvp-mdt
Phone +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 294 276 029 3791#

Link for Pagan Ethics:
http://meet.google.com/thc-srba-yqu OR Phone +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 299 339 213 6550#

GROUNDING AND CENTERING

Feb 4, 2022                        6-8 PM PST

Grounding and Centering are foundational magickal skills, which any serious practitioner should be able to access at will. Like any skill, practice is crucial. The state of calm, heightened awareness that is basic to any kind of magickal or psychic work is also useful in everyday life.

How can it be achieved? Join Amberis, to learn ways to cultivate this most basic of magickal skills. She will cover types of grounding and centering exercises, the whys and when of introducing grounding & centering, and a review and description of some simple and more complex frequently utilized grounding and centering exercises. Register here: https://www.ardantane.org/event/grounding-and-centering/

CREATING YOUR SACRED HOME

Mondays, Feb 7, 14, 21 28, 2022  6-8 PM PST

Take the space where you dwell, and transform it from a mere house or apartment into a center for rest, healing, and renewal your spirit. Learn techniques to alter and repurpose each area so that it is functional, comfortable, beautiful, and spiritual. This course is four classes, Mondays in February 2022. Register here: https://www.ardantane.org/event/creating-your-sacred-home/

MAGICKAL USES OF COLOR

Feb. 11, 2022                                 6-8 PM PST

What’s your favorite color? You might choose blue, or green, or orange. You might love the witchy feel of black, or the lunar glow of silver, or an unusual choice like azure, Navajo White, turquoise, or russet.

Most of us can see colors, and have our favorites; but few manage to master the use of colors in magick, ritual, and daily life. Yet colors affect our moods and our thinking, and have powerful emotional and symbolic connections for us. Lora will guide us through some of the mysteries and magick in the splendid and diverse world of color.

Register here: https://www.ardantane.org/event/color-in-the-craft-2-2/

TEACHING GREAT ONLINE CLASSES...

Feb 18, 2022                                  4 – 6 PM PST

By now you’re tired of sheltering in place, masks, and endless hot sex involving melted chocolate... and you’re asking, “What else can I do that’s fun, during these dark times?”

The answer is so simple, it will come as a blinding epiphany: teach online. You’ll inform, educate, entertain, mingle with other great minds, and learn a lot about your favorite subjects.

But of course you want to do a superb job, you stable genius perfectionist, you! That’s where this class comes in. Learn some really excellent tips and techniques for teaching online from two top teachers (alliteration), Amber K and Azrael Arynn K (more alliteration, AND each voted into the Top 100 Ardantane Faculty List, more than once).

What guidelines will help the class or training session run smoothly? How you you fascinate your students, capturing and holding attention from the start? What are the “do’s and dont’s” of creating attractive, effective slides? What information must you include, and what should be left out? How can
you easily handle trolls, interruptors, usurpers, and evil archvillains?

And why an octopus? Why not a marmot or a poodle? All shall be revealed. Join us, and avoid spending the grim remainder of your wasted life in tears and regret. Register here: https://www.ardantane.org/event/teaching-great-online-classes-and-an-octopus/

**Blast From The Past**

**TO HEAL OR NOT TO HEAL**

*Vol 22, No 2 Imbolc 1997*

*By Link*

When we help heal another, are we truly helping them? The question is hypothetical, and the answer will surely differ case by case, conscience by conscience. But this is an important question to ponder. Magical healing usually involves sending energy to speed the recovery of an illness or injury. It can be a gesture of love and support. When we help heal someone, we help make their life a bit more comfortable. But are all the lessons of life comfortable? Many important growth steps involve some type of pain. The pain of childbirth brings new life; the pain of adolescence brings adulthood. Perhaps the pain of illness is a difficult part of the human experience, the lessons of the flesh that we are all born to learn. When we work magic to ease someone's pain, are we cheating them out of something they needed to learn? There are no right or wrong answers here, but before we help heal someone we should consider what is best for the patient (They usually know better than we do!). Did the patient ask for our help? What are their beliefs on the afterlife? Do they welcome death as a type of—graduation ceremony? or do they truly wish to live? While it may not always be possible to communicate with the patient, hopefully we know them well enough to understand their wishes. It may be wise to discuss these matters with loved ones beforehand. Many people have a Living Will; does the same concept apply to the use of magic? While most Pagans speak of Karma and reincarnation, many of us were born into a society where death is feared, rather than accepted as a natural part of the cycle. The fear of death may be the root of our desire to prolong life for our loved ones. A healer should always examine their own motives for wanting to heal. Is it because we truly want to help, or is it because we are afraid of being alone? The desire to heal someone may be a sign that all living things are linked together. All life has an instinct to survive and to grow, even under painful circumstances. This is equally true for human life as it is for the straggling weeds poking their way up through a tiny crack in the sidewalk. Everything wants to live! Nature gives all organisms the bodily systems to heal itself of many ailments. Antibodies come running to every cell in danger. But no single organism is ever alone. What if we defined the—organisml as part of a larger Imbolc 2012 Page 17 Volume 37, Issue 2 collective—a loving couple, or a family unit, or even all life as a whole? Healers become the antibodies of society. But our bodies sometimes do not heal; they seem to know when to keep trying and when to quit. They eventually let us go in peace. As healers, perhaps we can learn from this lesson as well.

**BE MINE ESSENTIAL OIL BLEND**

From *Loving Essential Oils* By Jennifer Lane

Why make this DIY Roller Blend for Valentine's Day? It will last longer than a bouquet of roses, benefits you more than conversation hearts, and cost less than a box of chocolates!

Whether you are celebrating with a fancy dinner or an intimate homemade meal, here are the essential oils that make up the Be Mine Aromatherapy Oil Blend.

Mandarin Essential Oil: The sweet and citrusy aroma of mandarin essential oil inspires optimism and relaxation. It also calms nerves and eases an anxious mind. Deeply inhale this oil and feel the tension exit your body.

Rose Essential Oil or Rose Absolute: This popular floral fragrance can bring feelings of love and comfort when inhaled. Let it ease tension and soothe stress so you can have an enjoyable day with someone special or a relaxing night in.

Don't have rose oil? You can substitute with another floral oil like geranium or geranium rose, lavender essential oil would also be nice.

Pink Pepper Essential Oil: Let this fragrant aroma of pink pepper spice up your Valentine's Day! While not a relative of black pepper, the pinkish red berries create an essential oil that is earthy yet peppery aroma that can help stimulate circulation and energize the mind. It's also been shown to be helpful in relieving stress and anxiety too.

Whether you are single or coupled up, Valentine's Day can be a fun and festive day. This year, why not try something new and celebrate with some essential oils?

Apply this valentine’s day essential oil blend to your arms, chest, and neck. It will leave a delicate scent on your skin as you gain the therapeutic benefits from this synergy blend of essential oils.

- 6 drops Mandarin
- 2 drops Rose Oil
- 1 drop Pink Pepper
- Jojoba Oil
- 10 ml Roller Bottle

Directions: Add drops of essential oils into the roller bottle. Fill the rest of the bottle with jojoba oil (or carrier oil of choice). Leave space at the top to place the rollerball insert. Place on cap and shake to mix together.