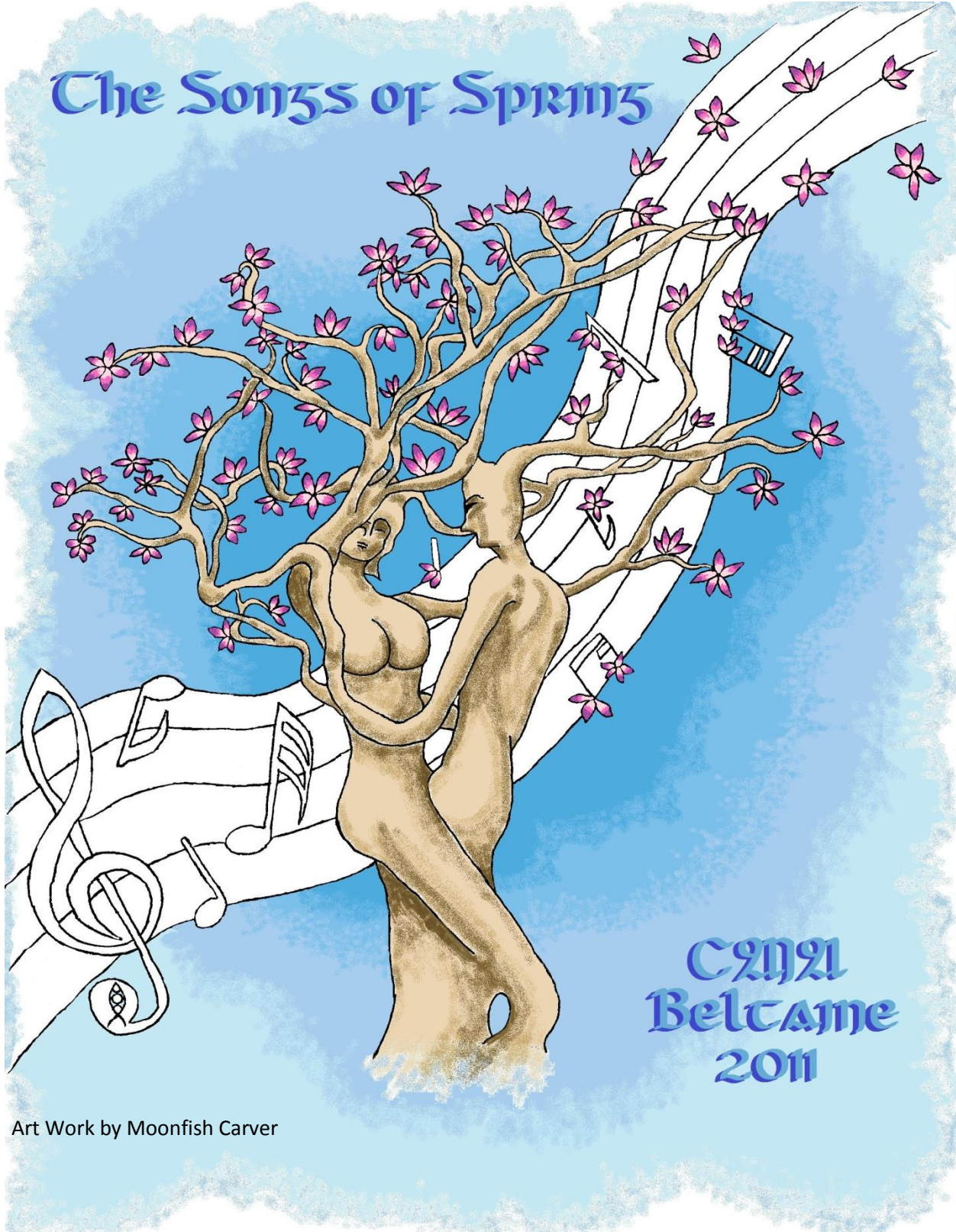


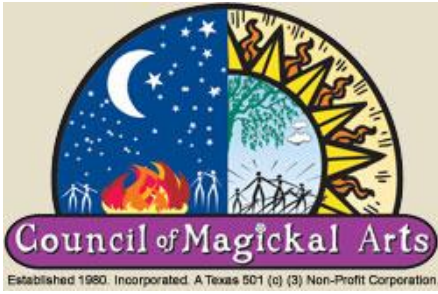
ACCORD

Journal of the Council of Magickal Arts

The Songs of Spring



Art Work by Moonfish Carver



Transitions

Spring Online Edition 2011



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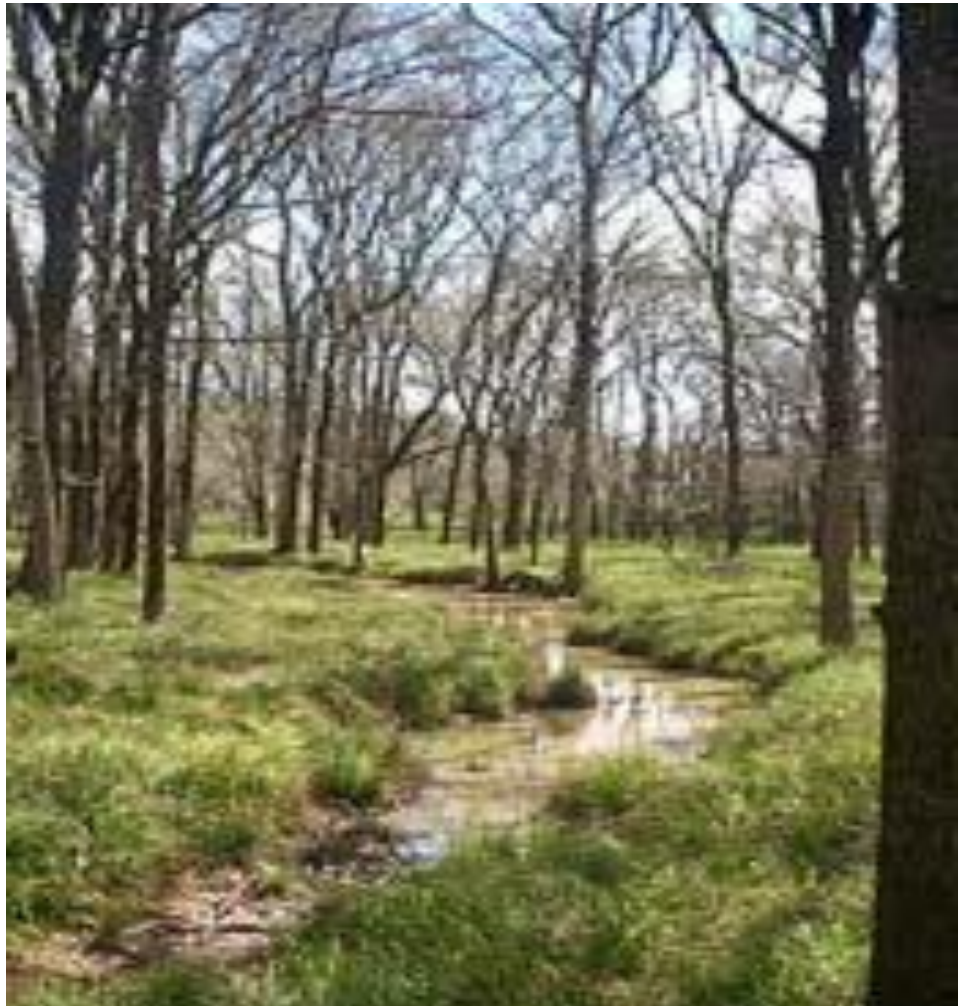
Thoughts and Insights.....

A Letter from the Editor:

I have been reviewing past issues of the Accord some from the very beginning when they started out as a newsletter and watched in amazement as that newsletter grew into a wonderful magazine. Now we are online and while I know that many of you would love to once again have that beautiful printed magazine, at this time it just is not a feasible option. However I see no reason why we cannot bring the Accord back to its previous beauty and fame. Yes it will continue to be an online ezine, and in keeping with today's trends that is not a bad thing. The opportunity to print it will still be there for those of you who desire a printed copy to read. I know that it will not be an easy task, but then nothing worthwhile is ever really easy. However I am willing to take that journey and to commit to that endeavor.

At Beltaine I asked several of you to write for the Accord and I will be coming to more of you in the ensuing months. I have a vision and it will take your help to get us there. For now know that the Accord is alive and a new breathe has been given to it. I am honored to have this opportunity and hope that as it starts to flush out you too will be pleased with the results.

In order to make the editions following this one longer I am asking that the Area Reps please send me information of what is going on in your areas. Also for our membership if you want to announce Handfastings, Births, Wiccanings or Transitions please send them to me as well. The next edition will go out for Summer Solstice so please get them to me no later than June 15th. Together we can revitalize our Accord.



Pamela DragonFlame

Campfire Chat

“Hello in the Camp...”

2011 has been both an exciting and challenging year for our beloved community. These first few months have seen us come together in celebration with our very first Adult Fest (in February), and then again in April for CMA Beltane 2011. Both festivals were resounding successes despite the limitations on both fire (Burn Ban) and gray-water. In fact, the Adult Festival was so much fun it left everyone yelling for more! Rumor has it that there may be another Adult Fest in November (possibly the 4th through the 6th). Stay tuned for more information about that as we move through the summer.

As we turn our focus to the near future, we see that our very first Family Festival is coming up very quickly (June 3rd – 5th). But, what is a Family Festival? What does it mean for “us” (CMA) as a community? What kind of activities will we have? Will there be workshops on Pagan Parenting?

Quite frankly, we are not completely sure. We are in the process of defining that right now. This is our very first time having a Family Festival; consequently, it is a birthing process – an act of creation. It is an exciting time for all of us and those who attend will help answer these (and many other questions) as we come together in celebration of our children, our families, and ourselves to better define what this festival means for us as a loving, nurturing and spiritual community.

What we do know is that with the theme of “Circle of Dreams”, Family-Fest promises to be a wonderful celebration and we are busy lining up workshops and events for kids of all ages. Currently, we have a workshop on “Building Your Own Musical Instruments” (open to everyone) slated for Saturday afternoon. Then, in addition to the fun with Frisbees, Soccer Balls, and squirt guns during the day, we have a ritual on Saturday evening entitled “Wishes for the World”. Afterwards, we will have singing around the campfire with S'mores!

If you would like to facilitate a workshop or event at the Family Festival, simply go to <http://magickal-arts.org/festivals-june.php> and select “Workshop/Event Request Form”. And, while you are there, don't forget to purchase your ticket.

Please remember that with this festival we are reaching out to a broader audience within our community, consequently, there will be no nudity during the Family Festival. Also, the burn ban is still in effect in Fayette County which means that we can have charcoal fires in above-ground (enclosed/screened) BBQ style pits, but ground-level wood fires are not permitted. A final point to consider

is that our engineer is slated to come out to Spirithaven next week to help determine what (if any) of the shower facilities can be used. Consequently, please be prepared by having your own (personal) camp showers available, or be prepared to "rough it" until Sunday.

If you would like to participate in the "Build Your Own Musical Instrument" workshop, please bring along some items from home that you can use. For example, plastic tubing, or a poster tube small or large (these are tubes that you can put posters in to send or protect them) can be used to make your own didgeridoo. An empty coffee container could be used to make a homemade drum. The sky is the limit! Bring whatever items you think might be fun to work with.

I appreciate you spending this time with me and I will close this chat with a beautiful poem from Diane Loomans:

If I Had...

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd build self-esteem first and the house later.
I'd finger-paint more and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.



I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious and seriously play.

I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often.

I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.



I'd care less about the love of power,

and more about the power of love.

Brightest Blessings!

Mary Ellen Rainwater

Executive Director – CMA 2011

Everything She Touches, Changes...Really!!!

For the last few years, my sisters of the heart and I have talked about the Pre Spirithaven CMA vs. the CMA of Spirithaven. There are many things that were done in the early days, that haven't been done in years. A couple of months ago, I went to a funeral and no one stood as the piper came in. I had been told that the piper calls the folk to gather. Whether it is for war, or a meeting or a funeral, everyone stands as a sign of respect when the piper enters and when he leaves. So I started thinking about things we used to do and don't do now. And since my senior moments are getting closer together, I figured I better write things down...just in case anyone wonders about the early days of CMA. Please remember these are my musings, and I'm not speaking for anyone else...nor am I saying that this is the only way it should be. I'm only writing from my point of view, such as it is.

When CMA was in it's infancy, there was quite a few people who were still very closeted. To let folks know where we were having an event...there was always an object stuck on the gate or fence. The besom is a traditional tool of witches and yet every mundane house had one too. So at my first event, I was told to look for the gate with a broom. And lo and behold, there as big as life, was a broom stuck on the fence and we said, "This must be the place."

You should know, in those earlier days, people didn't just look us up on the web, there was no web...nor were ads placed in store windows or in a magazine. You really needed to know someone who had a contact in CMA. The first event I went to, I had to wait for a phone call with the instructions on how to find the campout. I had

met a few of the women at the Celebration of Women (COW) and really like them. Judy aka Lady Bridgette was leading the first ritual that night and I was very excited to be there.

I joined the line to enter the circle and watched as each person was stopped, before they could pass into the ritual. When it was my turn, Judy extended her arm and touched the base of my throat with her athame. I had never heard of being challenged before circle and was a bit startled. She asked how I entered that circle and I replied "in love and trust." I don't know what would have happened if I hadn't heard the passwords earlier. It was a moment I will never forget. I have to wonder how many people in those early days, freaked when a blade was pointed at them. Anyone here have that experience? It really drove home the fact that these people were very serious about their religion. To tell y'all the truth, I had wondered if the people I met were serious and truly practiced a religion that revered the Earth and Goddess as well as being concerned with the Environment...I would have been very disappointed if they were just playing at fantasy. I fell in love with CMA and especially the people who attended the festivals. It was an amazing time to be pagan and this was an amazing organization to join. And after all these years, it is still an amazing organization to be a part of.

There were other differences from those days to now. We cooked for each other. Judy believed that a community should care for the members and form bonds among the different covens. So a coven would volunteer to prepare breakfast on Saturday. Another group would prepare the Saturday dinner and we were on our own for lunch. You should also know that these were the day when the attendance was 30 people...so food prep was not such a burden.

When we got to an event and there were 60 attendees, the way we did things had to change.

And things did change and continue to change as we evolve.

I wouldn't say we need to bring back all the things as they were in the beginning. We have grown way beyond those days. We own land and have become stewards of this sacred place. We now have three generation of families and those children are our future.

There is only one thing I would like to see brought back from those early days. I think it would be a beautiful tribute to those early members of CMA...and I would love to see a broom on the gate for Beltaine.

Valna is from San Antonio and is a priestess of DolenDraig.

She collects cloth dolls and mermaids and her favorite aspect of deity is Yemaya. And as she was once told...if it wasn't for that touch of whimsy, she would be so weird.

Suicide – A Magickal Perspective

by Alexandria

I want to talk about a very serious subject – suicide. My husband’s very best friend, his soul-brother, took his own life almost 4 years ago. We can only guess at why. We will never know for sure what finally drove him to take this drastic measure and that is a discussion that has been beaten (if you’ll pardon the expression) to death. I don’t want to talk about why anymore. That is a subject that brings no comfort, only more pain.

I want to talk about suicide from a pagan perspective. My tradition follows the cycle of the moon, sun, and seasons. Everything has its time; it grows, blossoms, fades, and dies. Catastrophe sometimes strikes in the natural world; a tree is felled by lightning, a flood reroutes a river, drought kills foliage, hurricanes wipe out animals.

However, suicide is something you never see in the natural world. A tree doesn’t cut itself down, a river doesn’t damn itself, grasses and flowers don’t uproot themselves and intentionally die of thirst, animals don’t sit there and just let themselves drown. Suicide is uniquely human.

Why is that?

Is it because of our complex thought processes? Or is it because of our reasoning abilities? Could it be our industrialized society? Perhaps it’s the overwhelming complications of modern life? Even though this is all food for thought, I’m getting off the track here and getting stuck in the endless cycle of “why” again. What I really want to talk about is magick and energy.

When someone dies, we feel grief and pain. There are many stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. These are the stages of grief that are generally recognized and accepted by psychologists, psychiatrists, and therapists. A therapist explained to me that it is the second one – anger – that comes into play most often and is the most deeply felt by those left behind after a loved one commits suicide.

When someone dies of natural causes, you can rage at old age. When someone dies of disease, you can rage at the cancer that killed them or at the healthcare system that didn't do enough. When someone dies in an accident, you can rage at the rainy roads or the drunk driver. But when someone commits suicide the only place to direct that rage is inside, at yourself. You cannot rage at the one who committed the act without enormous guilt overwhelming you. Then the attack of the "if onlys" starts.

If only I had called more often.

If only I had visited more often.

If only I had said the right thing.

If only I had offered more, done more, been more.

The list is endless.

This therapist also explained that suicide "survivors" are more likely (10 times more likely than the average person) to commit suicide themselves within six months after losing someone.

Once I could think again instead of just feel, I wondered at this statistic. Then my faith and belief system kicked in and I asked myself; "what if the pain and despair that drives someone to take such a drastic action doesn't die with them? What if that pain and despair instead is transferred to the loved ones left behind?" That would seem to explain the depth of grief, guilt and, yes, anger that lingers. It could also explain why I didn't want anyone sending me energy, I had a crushing abundance of energy to deal with already. In addition, it is probably why I only told a few people, those people who I

am closest to, the ones I consider family. Sympathy actually made the emotions worse instead of better, probably because offering someone sympathy is a way of giving them energy.

In other types of death, we feel a loss in our lives and sympathy helps us fill that void. With a suicide, we are buried under piles of guilt, anger, and depression and sympathy does nothing to disperse those feelings. Until we can break free of this immense burden, we cannot heal.

So, as pagans, how do we deal with this lingering energy? What can we do to help it dissipate? And what can we do to keep it from taking over our lives? Discussion on these questions should prove enlightening.

For myself, it was the love and support of a handful of friends – magickal friends – who helped me through this. It was their gentle reminders of faith, their kind words, their soggy shoulders, their open ears, and their insistence on helping me (I rarely ask for any kind of help and only grudgingly accept it when offered) that helped me heal. It was also our land, Spirit Haven, who lent Her power to this endeavor. I couldn't seem to let go at home, in the city. Being in my holy place, my sanctuary – nature – feeling the land, the breezes, hearing the owls, loosened something inside me and made it possible for my friends to help me. They pulled at that energy until it finally gave way and started to break up. It was neither fun nor easy, but it was necessary.

So if I didn't seem like myself a few years back, now you know why. Even though it was rough for a while, it was through that roughness – and with the help of my friends – that I finally found peace. I am truly blessed to have these wonderful, caring people in my life. Don't worry. I won't embarrass y'all. You know who you are.

Through my faith, I believe I will walk with our friend again in another life. Harsh lessons have been learned and, I believe, by him as well – mostly after his death. None of us will ever forget until the

next life. Then, as I walk beside my friend once more, we will both probably wonder why I keep slapping him upside the head.

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USA National Suicide Hotlines

Toll-Free / 24 hours / 7 days a week

[1-800-SUICIDE](tel:1800SUICIDE)

1-800-784-2433

[1-800-273-TALK](tel:1800273TALK)

1-800-273-8255

TTY: 1-800-799-4TTY (4889)

Web Journey's

Sometimes I like to just browse through the web and see what I might find to motivate me or make me think. Recently in one of my internet journeys I came across this short poem:

A Very Special Place

“Somewhere between time and space, you will discover this very special place.
A magical kingdom not hard to find, where all the residents are sweet and kind
So filled with love for all mankind.
For that somewhere between time and space lyes not in heaven, but here on earth.
For this inner space is located right here in a very special neighborhood.
Called our heart, our mind & our soul.
Where all residents give their gift of love & is their one and only goal.”
Joseph P. Martino

As I read these lines it made me think of some of the wonderful experiences that I have enjoyed at our beloved SpiritHaven. The acceptance that can be found from the moment that we enter the gate and the chosen family that we spend time with every festival and occasionally on workends plus the people that we've yet to meet.

While we are not a perfect group and as with any large 'family' there are squabbles, overall we manage to get along and we get amazing things accomplished. I am glad that I found this special place that sits in such a magickal place. Even more I am glad that I have met the 'residents' that give their gift of love.

Differences seem to add more flavors to our world and when we take those differences and combine them the recipe that they yield is as unique as the people themselves. I wouldn't wish for it to be any other way.

Anonymous