

**Caring For Our Mother**  
Online Issue 2

**In This Issue....**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Letter from The Accord staff Page 2

---

**Reports & Updates**

---

Assistant & Interim Director	3
Director of Communications	3
Director of Finance	4
Director of Records (Samhain Meeting Minutes)	4-10
Austin	10
Brazos Valley	10
Coastal Bend	10
Merchants	11
North Texas	11
Outlands	12-13
San Antonio	13
Southeast Texas	14-15
Work Weekend Update	15
Youth Activities Update	15-16

**Societies & Camps**

---

CMA Amethyst Camp	16
GLBT and Friends Society	16

**Articles**

---

Walking the Talk...I Think Not	17-19
Eco Web Sites	19-20
In Memoriam: Phoenix Thornhill	20-21

## **Caring For Our Mother** Online Issue 2

In this issue, we explore stewardship of the Earth, with a special focus on our land, Spirit Haven. Many Pagans tend to be very environmentally conscious, yet even the most eco-aware individual can forget the many things we can do to care for our Mother.

After our last Samhain campout, there was shock among some members of our organization regarding the amount of trash found laying about the land. With such a high number of earth-conscious individuals at events, it is surprising that we would find so much refuse on CMA's own property. Thus, we find ourselves with this issue of *The Accord*, reminding us that to keep Spirit Haven in such beautiful condition, we must remember: Leave No Trace!

You may notice that this is a rather sparse issue. We need your help! We're looking for original articles each quarter pertinent to that issue's topic. Have some insights or thoughts you'd like to share on the given topic? Send us your articles! Have you read a Pagan/Spiritual themed book or movie you'd like to review? Send us one! We'd also love to see articles from you on: local community events, personal announcements, columns on Pagan parenting, online resources, community, advice and humor, religious liberties issues, CMA society news, magickal lore—and more! You can send your ideas to [accord@magickal-arts.org](mailto:accord@magickal-arts.org).

CMA's Beltane event draws near! This years theme is Ignite the Fire Within and in that vein, we have some HOT stuff planned for festival.

First, Spoonfed Tribe will be performing Friday night from 7-8:30. Saturday nights entertainment is Vicarious Me.

Some of the workshops and rituals we already have include: Gypsy Myth, Divination Basics, Women's Mysteries, Men's Mysteries, Guardian Training 101, and a Play performed by the Teens.

This year we have a new addition in CMA One, the Newcomers Hospitality Area. This area will be the place for orientation and other ongoing services. We will have host camps and guided tours of the property.

We will also have catered meals on Friday and Saturday night. Tickets for these will need to be purchased in advance. Whether you decided to purchase the meal or not, join us at CMA One both Friday and Saturday evening for bread breaking and fellowship. One of the nights we will be entertained as we dine with a Hafla.

Registrations forms can be found [here](#). Please remember to download and print the community service form too.

See you again when our Spring 2006 edition arrives!  
The Accord Staff

## REPORTS AND UPDATES

### **A Message from the Director**

director@magickal-arts.org and asstdir@magickal-arts.org

We are off to a running start in preparations for Beltaine 2006. This years festival theme is Ignite the Fire Within.

The fires of Beltaine have burned brightly for thousands of years and dotted the country side. The Fires of Beltaine symbolized the Spirit, the Goddess, the All Being. And those Belfires were kindled to encourage the sun to rekindle life in the earth, and the cattle and sheep were driven between the fires to make them fertile. Let us use this time to make CMA, our community, our village fertile.

This Beltaine we Ignite the Fire Within. The fire of spirit that lives within each of us. Let us use the Fire Within us to find our Voices.

Let us each use our individual flames to kindle the fire of our Village. Let us combine our flames to create a Community beyond our imaginations.

Join us at CMA Beltaine and leave the other world behind you. Ignite the Fire Within. In our Village you will find friends, family, rituals, workshops, music and FIRE.

Registration is scheduled to begin February 1st. I encourage you, if you can to pre-register. Our Finance Director has implemented a payment program, so members can make monthly installments instead of paying all at one time.

Workshops and Ritual are already being submitted. If you would like to do a workshop or ritual, email me directly at blazejohnson2000@yahoo.com with your proposal.

It will all be okay.

Blaze  
Interim Executive Director  
Assistant Executive Director

---

### **Director of Communications**

dirofcom@magickal-arts.org

Currently, Bonnie is working on getting the Accord out and hopefully it will get back onto a regular schedule now. Lightning is continuing to revamp and improve the CMA web site. We are going to a new and improved (read: easier to use) membership management so the Portal has been shut down. Mike is working busily on that database, and it should be up soon.

---

## **Director of Finance Update**

treasurer@magickal-arts.org

The new membership portal will be operational by March 1, 2006. This new format will no longer require a membership number. When operational you will be able to maintain your own profile information, buy tickets to any single or multiple events, pay on-line with Pay-Pal, Credit/Debit cards, by check or use the time payment plan (new item).

MEMBERSHIPS may be renewed on your registration form; you no longer must include a separate form. Membership numbers are no longer required for registration.

REGISTRATION is now underway for Beltane 2006. You may download the registration, community service and event request forms from the CMA Website at [www.magickal-arts.org](http://www.magickal-arts.org). If you need forms mailed to you please email us at [tickets@magickal-arts.org](mailto:tickets@magickal-arts.org) or call us at 361-865-9077.

MERCHANT REGISTRATION is also underway. You have special forms available at the Merchants Yahoo Group site or by calling or emailing us at the above address. The Merchant registration is not available on the website.

Our CAFE PRESS store "SpiritHaven" is on-line February 16, from the CMA website or at [www.cafepress.com/spirithaven](http://www.cafepress.com/spirithaven). Come visit the store for CMA merchandise; visit often as need items are added.

FINANCES Our finances are stretched at the moment. We must pay off a non secured loan this year of \$ 4000. If you are able to contribute to relieving debt we encourage you to do so. Please contact the Finance Group at [finance@magickal-arts.org](mailto:finance@magickal-arts.org) or by calling 361-865-9077.

All of our bills are current and we are solvent to date. Our 2004 taxes will be filed in the next 30 days and 2005 taxes will be filed on time this year. The delay for the 2004 tax preparation was due to recreation of our financial books from 2004 to a more accurate and complete electronic system requested by our CPA. Our CMA Accountant, Gypsy, has worked diligently to set up books according to modern accounting methods and requirements of Non Profit Organizations. Please give her a BIG thank you when you see her at the event.

It is important we do everything we can to bring our finances back to NO DEBT other than the mortgage by then end of 2006.

A full financial report will be available at the Beltane Event for your inspection.

Thank You to all that have been helping streamline and improve the Finance area and the new Membership Site (coming March 1st).

---

## **Director of Records Report**

scribe@magickal-arts.org

Great Works Meeting at Samhain 2005

The Council of the Magickal Arts, Inc.

October 23, 2005

*Spirit Haven*

Fayette County, Texas

Board of Directors Present:

Maeven Eller, Executive Director

D. "Blaze" Johnson, Interim Asst. Executive Director

Bruce Denney, Director of Communication

Gary Park, Director of Finance

Joseph "Joe" Rose, Director of Land and Facilities

Mary E. Gray, Interim Director of Records

Welcome given by Hooligan Will, Sergeant of Arms.

Meeting called to order by Maeven Eller, Executive Director, at 12:07pm. Invocation performed by Maeven Eller.

### **Festival Reports**

**Executive Director, Maeven Eller:** Additional welcome and opening remarks. Report of a couple of incidents that required assistance from outside sources, but Guardians and Medics were wonderful. Special thanks were given to the Guardians and "hats-off" to Medic Mathew for his work above and beyond.

**Interim Asst. Executive Director, D. "Blaze" Johnson:** Thanks given to Community Services: Susanne, Watersong, Jericho, Morien, Sierra, Sage, Carolyn, Lyrial and Raven. Special thanks give to all who participated in creating and keeping the Spirit Fire. Recognition given to Merchant Rep, Armand, for smooth running of merchant row. Special thanks given to the "Ellen's" of the café.

**Director of Finance, Gary Park:** The Corporation is solvent. The land payment will be made early. Paperwork processing from the event will take some time, but the financials will be published on-line. The corporation still needs donations and fundraisers. The auction of donated items should go on-line in two weeks. Announce of registration change from 167 to 500 in four days. Few took advantage of the "all-for-one" program. Only 15 were known for sure. Announce of new program to "layaway" event tickets over a 6 month period—details to follow. Corporation must still remain cautious, conserving our assets and curbing spending.

**Director of Land and Facilities, "Joe" Rose:** Compliments and thanks to the set-up crew. Special mention given to Peeps, Medic Jason and Eric for repair efforts regarding the gray water pump failure and its replacement. Special thanks give to Jason of Pooh Clan for leading set-up so successfully. Special thanks given to Paderic for his efforts as Managing Director of Land and Facilities. Special mention/thanks given to Harrison for his extra efforts, especially in regards to the new stage floor.

**Director of Communication, Bruce Denney:** Thanks given to staff especially Mike and,

for the Accord, Bonnie and Lightning.

**Interim Director of Records, Mary E. Gray:** Current registered proxies 47. Call on Front Gate and Youth Committee to report for themselves.

**Front Gate Coordinator, Hope:** 529 people at event. There were some difficulties, but considered part of the learning process. Thanks given to Angela, Tinks, Boo, Paul, Erin and Rama.

**Youth Committee, Raven Mae:** Went well but volunteers are needed in every area. Tweens need a coordinator as Rachel of Fairie Mound did both tweens and littles. Thanks given to Luna for work with Teens. Thanks give to Thunder for spinning class. *Maeven Eller spoke briefly, reminding everyone that Fairie Mound is a co-op.*

### **Old Business**

Chair recognized Thorsark and Diana for old business.

Beltane 2001: Motion made to make Greg E. a lifetime member. Vote postponed at request of Greg until he is no longer on the Board of Directors. Status of postponement? Maeven Eller spoke of Greg's service to CMA and why the membership was deserved. Member questioned what Greg's association and affiliation were currently. Answer: Fire Marshall and Special Projects.

Move the Question to vote on original proposal.

Seconded.

Bran spoke briefly of support of proposal and history of selection for this level of membership. Member asked that for the future, a criterion for consideration for lifetime membership be created. This was agreed upon. Call for acclimation vote by Sergeant of Arms. Motion passed with 2 abstentions. Greg E. given a lifetime membership.

Samhain 1993: Motion made to create a grievance committee/process. Status? In place.

Samhain 2000: Motion made to empower the Board of Directors and/or Land management group to lease the property. Status? Under development.

Samhain 2001: Motion made to limit number of proxies held by any given member to 13. Status? Never addressed. Called the Question. Proposal deferred to Bylaw Committee for inclusion in bylaw amendments to be presented at Beltane 2006.

Beltane 2005: Motion made to empower the Board of Directors and appointed others to investigate the history of the capped oil well on the property and pursue possible use of the well as an income resource. Status? Still under investigation.

### **New Business**

Election Results: Proctor Davida and Sergeant of Arms, Hooligan Will opened the ballot box. Tabulation team consisted of Davida, Jack, Lorna, Luna and Dancer Mike. A variance of 5% was noted as acceptable for this count. Election results were as follows:

Director of Communications:	Bruce 155	Karen 2
Director of Records:	Mary 166	
Director of Finance:	Gary 180	
Asst. Executive Director:	"Blaze" 153	Jason 1, Karen 1, Steve 1, Kevin 4
Executive Director:	Maeven 90	Bran 91      Jason 29

The Election Proctor declared a tie for the position of Executive Director with no clear majority. Run-off between Maeven and Bran. Decision made to hold run-off on site. Call for division of the house for vote (show of hands rather than voice). Personal privilege invoked to allow retrieval of additional members on site to attend meeting and vote. Break from 12:51pm to 1:15pm.

Upon return from break, chair of meeting turned over to Interim Assistant Executive Director, "Blaze" Johnson. Short period of 5 minutes each allowed for statements and 5 minutes of Q and A for each candidate. Maeven and Bran escorted away from meeting by Director of Communications. Call made for disclosure of all counts. Announced by Election Proctor:

Counter 1: Maeven 90	Bran 91	Jason 20
Counter 2: Maeven 88	Bran 90	Jason 31
Counter 3: Maeven 90	Bran 87	Jason 36
Counter 4: Maeven 90	Bran 94	Jason 28
Counter 5: Maeven 90	Bran 87	Jason 33

Before run-off could be held, the Interim Director of Records read 3.02 and 4.01 of the Bylaws regarding elections of Directors and Officers as a precursor to the announcement of eight individuals being written in for "Director at Large" positions. Write-ins were:

Jason W. 14	Kevin H. 13
Lou M. 14	Jason C. 14
Greg E. 14	Brandy H. 12
Jo S. 14	Charlie D. 14

Motion made to disallow votes for these positions. Passed by acclamation. Question from member for total attendance per sign-in sheets and number of proxies at time of inquiry. 228 attendees and 48 proxies

Vote called and verified by Proctor and Sergeant of Arms. The house was split into four sections and one hand count was taken. Maeven and Bran escorted back to meeting. Results declared:

Maeven 131	Bran 132	Abstentions 12
------------	----------	----------------

Membership informed by Interim Director of Records that there was a precedent to allow Maeven and Bran to be co-Executive Directors. A member began to make a motion, but question of privilege was called on behalf of Maeven for 5 minutes. General private discussion ensued. After five minutes had passed, Maeven spoke to the Membership stating that she had no desire to see the Membership divided. She stated that past experience showed that co-directorships did not "work". In an effort to bring peace, Maeven declared that she was withdrawing her candidacy for Executive Director, 2006. Maeven was given a standing ovation. Bran spoke briefly, stating that he honored Maeven for her service and that he would endeavor to serve CMA to the best of his ability as Executive Director in 2006.

Chair of meeting was returned to Maeven Eller.  
Breakout Area Meetings: Election of Area Reps



with the express purpose of leasing or selling Spirit Haven, to provide additional financial support of the corporation and its real property, Spirit Haven.

Question Called.

Seconded.

Vote:

For 104      Against 13      Abstentions 4

Motion Carried.

*(Note by Interim Director of Records: During this discussion and vote, high winds caused the emergency tear-down of the tents used for Great Works. Board of Directors chose to waive its "Open Discussion" segment of the agenda. Question called for membership's willingness to waive its "Open Discussion" segment as well. Passed by acclimation.)*

Motion: Great Works meeting to be held on Sunday at noon of Beltane 2006.

Motion carried with no dissenting votes.

Move to adjourn.

**Maeven Eller, Executive Director, adjourned the meeting at 3:07pm.**

**Meeting minutes were taken and transcribed by Mary E. Gray, Interim Director of Records.**

5

Note:

The Council of the Magickal Arts, Inc. Mission Statement, as part of the Corporation Bylaws, supercedes Roberts Rules of Order requiring legal names to be recorded as part of the minutes. For that reason, for any other person other than duly elected Board of Directors, legal names are not required.

---

*Addendum to Meeting Minutes*

On October 30, 2005, due to multiple concerns and requests regarding a perceived discrepancy in the vote tabulation process, a re-count of the ballots and votes for the position of Executive Director was taken. This re-count was facilitated by Director of Records, Mary E. Gray and former Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director of the corporation in a private home in San Antonio, Texas. The re-count showed the following results:

Total Ballots: 213

Maeven Eller: 90 votes

James "Bran" Langley: 88 votes

Jason Charlsen: 32 votes

Abstentions: 3 votes

---

Due to there being no clear winner, a decision was made by the Board of Directors to have a final decision made by arbitration. The decision, made on November 17, 2005, declared no winner and a new election for the position of Executive Director, 2006 is to be held by paper ballot and counted by a third party. Declaration of the winner of this new election will be made at Beltane 2006. Until such time, the current Assistant Executive Director, D. "Blaze" Johnson, shall act as Interim Executive Director beginning on January 1, 2006. (A copy of the arbitration decision is attached.)

---

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary E. Gray; Director of Records, 2006

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Maeven Eller; Executive Director, 2005

---

### **Austin Area Report**

austin@magickal-arts.org

None available at this time.

---

### **Brazos Valley**

brazos\_valle@magickal-arts.org

We have made some progress. A Pagan Social was started last week. Small gathering, but it has potential for growth. It is Wednesday nights at 7pm. For any passing through, it is at Coffee Station in College Station. Also, flyers have been handed out at the local PSA, which meets on Thursday nights. We hope to report more later.

---

### **Coastal Bend Area Update**

coastal\_bend@magickal-arts.org

The Coastal Bend Area has arrived. We are now an officially recognized area within the CMA community. Yeah!!!!

This is an acknowledgement of the growing number of Pagans living in the Coastal Bend area and we are very proud to be a part of the larger community of the Council of Magical Arts.

We have been meeting with each other at the Corpus Christi area PNO which is held once a month on the 13th at the Café Calypso located in Half Price Books in Moore Plaza. We will be also be sponsoring CMA socials in the near future.

The Yin-Yang Fandango is reactivating the drum circles and currently holding them once a month. There are two pagan friendly bookstores, Angel Light and the Dream Worker which offer classes, books and some supplies.

Your Coastal Bend Area Rep is Watersong. Her email address is watersong1111@yahoo.com

---

## **Merchants Update**

merchantsrep@magickal-arts.org

Sahmain 05, The Merchants were pleased at the setup of the row and the good communication between Merchants and Staff. There were no complaints of Dust this time. There was only one theft reported. The members helped alot in setup and tear down of a few booths which was much appreciated.

Comments. Please let the CMA members know to bring cash since most Merchants cannot accept Credit Cards due to Cellular problems. The event was considered Slow in sales but not dead. Most Merchants wish to return next event. The row is getting big and will probably get bigger so we need to consider a direction to expand into. Most Merchants were content. OH and they seem to like me somewhat. they keep voting me in. Thats all really. Looking forward to Beltane 06!!

Armand Merchant Rep.  
CMA 05/6 MARS family.  
Goddessgear Founder.  
F.R.E.D. nest.  
Thundertopia Member.  
Coven Terripan.

---

## **North Texas Area Report**

north\_texas@magickal-arts.org

Greetings and Salutations from North Texas. As we begin a new year with new reps, I thought that we might take a moment to introduce ourselves. My name is Lisl and this is my second year as a rep. I live in Lakeside, Texas and I have been a member since the second Heltaine at Rec Plantation. I am also a Senior Guardian. I am an eclectic Pagan, member of the Crystal Dragon Circle which is part of the Seekers Veritas Tradition.

Lisl  
NT Area Lead Rep 2006

Events:  
CMA North Texas Social

This event will be held the 1st Thursday of every month. The first date is scheduled for March 2nd at 7pm. The location is Oushaj's Pizza Pasta NY Style located at 600 N Industrial Blvd., Euless TX.

Contact us:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cma-nt/>  
More North East Texas Area Rep introductions coming in the next issue of The Accord.

## **Outlands Areas Update**

outlands@magickal-arts.org

Hey all!! Lots going on here in the Killeen/Ft. Hood Area!

Pagan Night Out every third Tues at the American Legion Post 223, Central Texas Wiccans and Pagans offering classes every month and Fort Hood Open Circle offering classes and open rituals.

We now can boast 4 Pagan/Pagan friendly stores in the area: Three Crazy Ladies/Stork Support and The Urban Goddess in Copperas Cove and Sisters of the Earth and Sea and The Tea House in Harker Heights! Woo Hoo! The Interfaith Spiritual is working to bring an open Pagan festival, so be looking for more information!

Several of us are putting our heads together to do some good fundraising for CMA, so don't think we'll leave you out...we'll let you know!

Here in the Killeen area, I will be taking more flyers out this week to the Pagan/Pagan friendly stores. On Sat we have a Pagans in the Park scheduled for Feb 18 form 2-4 in the Copperas Cove Park I will be conducting a fundraiser raffle for CMA there and passing out more flyers. The next PNO is the 21st and I will pass out yet more flyers and have one more item for raffle.

Blessings upon you all!  
Carolynn Zoll

-----

Next is Killina out on the Blizzardy East coast:

Ello,

Just to let you know, Baltimore had its first PNO last Thursday. It was a humble start with only four people. I'm also talking with Open Hearth Foundation (OHF) about them "sponsoring" PNO, which means promoting it. There's no money involve and I would still be doing the in-person work. They do this for DC with good results and were already thinking of starting a Baltimore PNO when showed up and said I did it.

Washington and Baltimore Pagan Leadership Conference (WABA PLC) is in two weeks and I'm on the guest list. I'll be meeting with the board of OHF there. I'll let you know how it goes.

BB,  
Killina

-----

Greetings and salutations fellow Outlanders! I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for all that you have given to this organization during your time with us, and to thank you for the confidence you've shown in me over the past few years as your Lead Rep. For those that weren't at the meeting, I've stepped down as Lead Rep for Outlands, and I have complete confidence in your new Lead Rep Carolynn.

If you're in the Coastal Bend area, our PNO is held every 13th at Cafe Calypso (Located in Half Price Books) from 7pm until 11pm.

I'll still be helping with a few things here and there, be sure to check out the festival guide for Beltaine, there's something special I've planned for everyone to have fun and it's a fantastic fundraiser for CMA!

Sugars & Loves~  
~ Jaela

---

### **San Antonio Area Update**

sanantonio@magickal-arts.org

Happy New Years Everyone. Well January brings new San Antonio Reps to CMA. This year we have 5 Reps: Tony Beauregard (Lead) Darlene English (Sky Ladywolf) Susanne Dragon-Wolfe Ambühl Kevin Arnold Brian Lyons (Bel) We are looking forward to serving you this year.

We here in San Antonio are going to start having meet ups once a month on the third Saturday. The first one will be at Sam's Burgers over off Broadway and Grayson. This is not a permanent venue what we plan on doing is giving people the opportunity to open their homes to the CMA community. All you have to do is get with Bel and he will create a fair schedule. So keep in mind the 21st of January. We are happy to announce that our own Gypsy (Dee) and Paderic joined in bonds of engagement/handfasting aiming towards their wedding one year and a day from Dec 22. We wish them a happy lifetime together. On a sad note, we have also lost one of our members, Phoenix Thornhill, was tragically killed in a head-on collision on I-35 in San Antonio at 3:00 a.m., Dec 23, on his way home to Alabama for the holidays to see his family. The week following saw a coming together of community that reinforced the feeling of family and friendship that we all seek. Members from all areas of the state came to pay their respects and some members were even able to attend the actual funeral in Alabama. He will be missed. Remember we are here for you and look forward to meeting you at either a PNO or the new CMA Meet and Greet.

Bright Blessings, San Antonio Reps.

## **Southeast Texas Area Update**

set@magickal-arts.org

Hi folks,

Yes, I realize this is late but here's the update on all things Southeast Texas and, as usual, there is no lack of things to do around here if you're a Pagan looking to hang out with others. It's like someone once said, "You can't swing a Cat in Houston without hitting a Pagan or see a weekend without something going on." Here's the list, some of them are for adults, most are family-oriented and all of them are fun. Thanks to Goo for the assist with this list:

PNO, 1st Saturday of the month at Azteca's at Greenbriar and Richmond, 7:00, children welcome.

PMS, 13th of every month, Aunt Bea's Restaurant, 5422 North Fwy, 7:00, children welcome.

Houston Area Coffee Klatch (HACK), 1st Tuesday of every month at Empire Cafe, 1732 Westheimer, 7:00, children welcome.

Pagans Around the Heights (PATHs), 3rd Tuesday of every month, Onion Creek, 3016 White Oak, 7:00, children allowed, but not encouraged (it is a bar that serves food, and allows children).

Drumming in the Spirit of Harmony, third Sunday of every month at Memorial Park. Bring drums and lots of enthusiasm.

Jeannette's Pagan Afternoon Tea - The 3rd Sunday of Every Month - 2:00 pm - Whenever - La Porte, Texas. Please join us for an afternoon of tea, savories and sweets and good conversation. Children of all ages are welcome! Please contact Jeannette at [jkwaldie@earthlink.net](mailto:jkwaldie@earthlink.net)

Pasadena Area Pagans, another e-group that has meetings and events:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PaPs-PasadenaAreaPagans/>

Teen PNO, last Saturday of every month. At Jillians, 7620 Katy Fwy (I-10 at 610).

Westside Pagans Group Meetup: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Westside\\_Pagans/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Westside_Pagans/)

Houston Thelemic Coffee Night takes place on Monday evenings at Byzantio Coffee Bar. We meet at approximately 8:00pm. Byzantio is located in the Montrose area, at 403 West Gray Street. See: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/houston-oto>

Houston Pagan Meet-up: Hosted by Judy Craft, <http://pagan.meetup.com/101/>

And, of course, many of these are listed on Bran's Calendar e-list at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Brans\\_Calendar/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Brans_Calendar/)

We're quite sure we may have missed a get-together or two but, as you can see, there is a lot going on here in the Southeast Texas area for our Pagan friends to join in.

And remember, CMA is coming up soon. Feel free to contact us at [set@magickal-arts.org](mailto:set@magickal-arts.org). Registration for the April event is going on. It's easy to register and we're planning a great event.

See you soon!

Blessed be,

Charlayne, Liz, Keyne, Dancermike, Davida, and Gryphon

---

## **Workend Update**

Work Weekend Schedule:

Feb 24-26

Mar 10-12

Mar 24-26

Apr 7-Beltaine!

There are a number of key projects we will be working on in addition to the usual setup prep (priority ordered):

- Approximately 600ft of fence will need to be rerun before the event to keep the neighbors cows out.
- A broken water line needs fixing, the line that feeds CMA-1.
- A section of the bathhouse roof will be pulled off to replace the water damaged decking, and resingled.
- The area of the outside showers is being converted to private shower stalls.
- Packing up the nonessentials in preparation for the festival.

Only four workend Saturdays till setup week, Beltaine is just around the corner!

---

## **Youth Activities Update**

We're gearing up for a great Beltaine but we could use your help. We are still looking for a Tween Coordinator. This person will be responsible for checking in volunteers, making sure that the Tweens get to the scheduled events and get their glowies at night for a start. If you are interested please contact me, Raven, at [rayvnwytych@yahoo.com](mailto:rayvnwytych@yahoo.com).

We are also looking for people to hold workshops for the kids. I am confirming a few now but it would be great to keep them as busy as the adults! Remember, they are the future of CMA and I would hope that we would want them to be as the adults are today. If you have ideas or want to hold a workshop, email me at the address above.

Great news! Hooligan Will has been wonderful and is working on a play with the kids. Most of the discussion has been happening on the CMA\_Future list but he did post something on the Village the other day. He is starting to cast the parts and there are several parts to cast, so if you have Teens that would like to be involved, lets get them on the list or in touch with Will.

Remember. there is always a need for donations for the kids. Things like snacks, drinks and craft supplies often are needed but in short supply. Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated!!

Blessings,  
Raven  
Managing Director, Youth Services  
NT Area Rep 2006

---

## **SOCIETIES & CAMPS**

### **CMA Amethyst Camp**

Amethyst Camp is the new kid on the block, it's a place to meet and get to know other folks who are Pagans in recovery. Our camping area is not reserved, but the suggested spot to camp is over by the flagpole, first camping area on the right after you cross the bridge. Look for the banner on our pavilion tent.

This time we will be joining the gathering and tending the fire Friday night at Spirit Fire so please come by and say hello! We will also be having a meeting to get to know each other during the festival, please check the schedule and join us. Also see our Yahoo group at:  
[http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/CMA\\_Amethyst\\_Camp/](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/CMA_Amethyst_Camp/).

I look forward to meeting you and hearing your thoughts on what Amethyst Camp can become as we evolve and grow.

Stephanie, Coordinator  
thunderhoof@austin.rr.com

---

### **GLBT & Friends Society**

Hello Accord and fellow CMA people!

This is Q'est, head of the G L B T & Friends Society. Our group is here to provide a place for anyone that feels like they are living differently than the rest of society. We try to perform a Ritual at each Event so that all are aware of us, and most of those Rituals embrace the diversity of our life styles. We welcome any and all to camp near or in our Society grouping. We establish a dedication Altar each Event so that all newbies can feel welcome.

As my friends say,  
Love, Light and Laughter!!

## ARTICLES

### **Walking the Talk: I Think Not.**

By Kim Mott

Did you know...

...The average person (not household, PERSON) in the U.S. produces 56 tons (4.39 lbs. per day) of trash in a year?

...That almost 1/3 of that trash is packaging?

... Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour?

...Americans throw away enough glass bottles every two weeks to fill the spaces (height and base) once occupied by the World Trade Towers?

...Enough aluminum cans are thrown away by Americans to rebuild the commercial air fleet every 3 months?

...Americans throw away enough paper cups, plastic cup, and plastic "silverware" every year to circle the Equator 300 times?

...Only two manmade structures on Earth are large enough to be seen with the naked eye from outer space, The Great Wall of China and The Fresh Kills Landfill, located on the Western shore of Staten Island?

Clean Air Council. "Waste Facts and Figures." <http://www.cleanair.org/Waste/wasteFacts.html>. 10/27/2005.

On the web site, where I found these figures, are even more. But, I choose just these to point out a problem I see happening at events. As practitioners of a religion that claims to revere Mother Earth, there is a lot of failing to walk the talk. As fairly long time member of CMA, (I started coming when my bouncing baby boy was 8. He just celebrated his 20th birthday), I have watched over the years as the amount of trash generated at each event has gotten larger and larger. I don't believe that is due only to the fact that more people are being allowed to attend the events.

I've also noticed besides generating more trash, more and more people are getting too lazy to find a trash can. Many mornings upon waking up, a member of our campsite would have to pick the trash left in the site by others. We always have a nice fire (complements of our own private pyro. Revel fire once closed down and moved to our campsite) and people will come to sit and talk, and leave their trash on the ground. It isn't just in our campsite. It is all over the land.

When I first started attending, I camped with the original "Refugees." (Anyone out there remember Clay and his beautiful dog?) While camping with them, I learned a lot about the art of

waste control. At one event, the Refugee camp was 50 strong. At that event, our campsite generated only enough “trash” to fill a single trash can a fourth of the way full. Other campsites near us filled their barrels three times during the weekend, with a lot less bodies.

I moved from there to Quiethaven (AKA: Pooh-burbs). Most of us were former Refuges. Using what we learned as Refuges, we continued the tradition of avoiding producing trash.

The rules for the campsite are:

If it could be washed, wash it.

If not and it could be recycled, recycle it.

If not and it could be burned, burn it.

If not one of these - find a replacement that could.

How did we do it? A lot of preplanning, a lot of work, and a big fire.

To start with we pooled our resources. We took the time to see who had and could bring what. We avoided duplications. Saving space, trash and money. No body bought new stuff thinking we would need it, only to find out we already had three in the campsite. This also eliminated the packaging problem. Speaking of packaging... why do people bring their new tents, sleeping bags, canopies, etc in the boxes? Are they going to put them back into the box to take home? It is easier stuff those things in the car/truck/trailer without the boxes anyway.

We reduced trash by pre-planning meals as a group. People would send money to one person and several of us would go shopping and buy the supplies. This eliminated duplications. We would do much of the prep work at home, eliminating a lot of trash. We transferred much of the food to non-trash containers as well.

That brings me to another waste reducing idea. WASH THE DISHES. It takes a little planning and work to make sure your dishes are clean, but it means there is less trash in the cans. You are going to wash your pots and pans. It doesn't take that much more to wash plates, glasses, and silverware. If you feel you **MUST** bring disposable dishes, bring paper and burn them. If it can't be washed, if it is not paper plates, etc., don't bring it! **NO STYROFOAM!**

We brought our own recycle center. We had one for aluminum, plastic, glass and trash. Each can was labeled. They were put on the trailer and taken back to Dallas, where they would be taken to the recycle center. The biggest problem was, even though the cans were labeled, people **COULD NOT READ**. We would have to re-sort from time to time. Not only that, people from other campsites, would bring their stuff to our site, instead of walking all the way to the big cans supplied by CMA. **BUT**, at least, it made it into a trash can.

This brings me to the plastic bottle problem. We did bring the small sports bottles. We had kids. They would carry those around. But for the camps needs, like dish washing, cooking, etc, we bought the water in big containers. We had two of the big kind you filled at home, using the hose. We also brought the big 5 gallon size you can buy at the grocery store. You can refill the small bottles from them.

Glass was a bring problem. We recycled it. There is no way to avoid producing glass trash, except don't bring it. Even I'm not going to give up my alcohol. If you drink mead or wine, give the bottles back to some one like Griffon, or some other brewer you know. If you drink other forms - recycle, recycle, recycle!

Our fire was used to remove a large part of the trash that was not recycled. Not every thing could go into the fire. Food, yes. Paper, yes. Cigarette butts, yes. Plastic, NO! The secret is not to burn trash while using the fire to cook.

I'm not asking people to give up stuff, just find a better way to bring it, use it, or dispose the trash it generates. There is always the "you brought with you, you take it home" idea. We are merely tenants on this earth; don't make the landlord mad enough to throw us out because we won't take care of the place.

---

## Eco Web Sites

Your Accord staff has compiled a list of a few web sites with an environmental focus. This is by no means a complete list, but among those we've found are:

Audubon Society - <http://www.audubon.org/>

National organization focusing on bird and wildlife land preservation. Local chapters can be found in many regions.

Care2 - <http://www.care2.com/>

A web site with an environmental focus offering news, free e-cards and email, and tips for healthy and eco-friendly living. They also have a donation page where each time you click a button, money will be donated to the cause of your choice.

GreenBiz - <http://www.greenbiz.com/>

Resource for large and small businesses seeking to use more green business practices.

Earth911 - <http://www.earth911.org/master.asp>

Information on a variety of environmental issues. Featuring a zip code finder that helps you look up local environmental information.

Environmental Protection Agency - <http://www.epa.gov/>

The U.S. government organization that monitors environmental activity in this country.

National Council for Science and the Environment - <http://www.cnie.org/>

Action organization providing information to communities regarding science and our environment.

Organic Gardening - <http://www.organicgardening.com/>

News and information for the organic gardener.

Organic Weddings - <http://www.organicweddings.com/wedding>

For the bride and groom with an Earth focus. Providing resources for everything from organic foods to recycled paper invitations.

Recycle Now - <http://www.recyclenow.com/>

Recycling and composting news and tips.

Reusablebags.com - <http://www.reusablebags.com/>

Featuring a variety of types of reusable bags and bottles for sale.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

A Texas government office focusing on Texas outdoor activities, wildlife, environmental concerns, and tourism.

The Green Guide - <http://www.thegreenguide.com/>

An assortment of articles on green living and news.

The Environment Directory - <http://www.webdirectory.com/>

A directory listing many sites on just about every eco-topic you can think of.

World Wildlife Fund - <http://www.worldwildlife.org/>

Organization focusing on global natural conservation.

---

### **In Memoriam - Phoenix Thornhill**

As everyone knows Phoenix Thornhill was taken from this earthly plain on December 22nd 2005. He was involved in a head-on collision on I-35 with a drunken driver while in route home to Alabama for the holidays. Phoenix was deeply loved by many in the community as well as outside of. His light and energy were unlike any other. He will be missed very much by all he touched. I feel very honored as I know many do to have been able to spend the time I was allowed with him. He touched me and my life in a way I will always be grateful. We had a wake for him on Thursday December 29th at Dancing Moon. It was wonderful to see all of the people that came to share their love for him. I wanted to write something thanking everyone for everything that was done. I was very happy to see the community pull together so well. There are things that will come up that will be hard but it is nice to see that we can be a real family if needed. Thanks to those attending the wake. And especially thank you to all the new friends I have made. I am including a picture of Phoenix taken at Thanksgiving 2005 and the poem that I read during the ritual at the wake. Again thank you and I love you all!

Rain

We wonder why he has gone away.

We wonder why he couldn't stay.

We wonder if we'll meet again.

Where did he go?  
Where is our friend?

We know someday we'll meet again.  
Far from here.  
But who knows when?  
When that day comes.  
Someday, somehow...  
We'll be prepared to take a bow.

A bow to you to say thank you.  
For being you like only you could be.  
You are the one that dried our tears.  
You are the one that calmed our fears.

So till then my love, my joy, my friend...  
Be great, be sweet, take care our friend.

Dedicate in loving memory of  
Phoenix Silvan Asharel Crow Thornhill  
August 16,1978-December 22,2005

You will always be in my heart-  
Rain