



Summerland News

2nd Quarter 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

I need your
magickal
pictures! Our
title picture will
change with
every issue. They
must be
Magically
related!

Random Facts

- Waxing moon is the best time for growth, learning spells.
- Widdershins means Counter clockwise
- Empaths CAN learn to shut it off with proper training.

Spring is flying away

I stepped out of my front door a few weeks ago and the whip of the wind nearly took me down the road. I walked around the yard searching for signs of spring..but I could only feel the desolate cold. I got discouraged. "Where is the warming dirt beneath my feet? Where is the promised quickening of the earth and its inhabitants?" I continued to walk my property in a spiral pattern that is now part of my daily routine. As I circled inwards for the third time..I spotted a robin high in a

maple tree, she was building a nest..HOORAY a sign, a sign! One lousy sign does not make spring! (have I mentioned I'm ever the optimist?) I took my fourth circuit and noticed the frozen buds upon the maple..GREAT the frost has killed my tree grrrr. I pulled off the bud and pulled it apart..It smelled of spring and green and ...hope. By the fifth circuit I was opening my vision to see what I had overlooked previously , I took a moment

to close my eyes breathe deeply of my surroundings. When I opened my eyes...it was Spring. I couldn't NOT see the signs, feel the ancient rhythm of the earth beneath my feet. In the end of my journey..I was right back where I began..my front door. To think...I almost let my own negativity get in the way. Spring almost blew right past me. Remember to really look around you ..Don't let life blow past you.

Council News

The Summerland Council held its first meeting in January. Discussed were a few things like: Proposed upcoming events, name change, policies on dealing with other groups and the closing of the Yahoo Group. By unanimous decision (unprecedented in a Pagan group!) We were able to make those votes in an informed,

calm rational manner. This has to mean we are growing in our knowledge and organization.

Some things that you can look forward to and even volunteer for:

- Newsletter-Quarterly
- Stitch and Bitch

- Event Committees
- Open Discussions
- Teaching individual classes
- Etc Etc

Don't be afraid to volunteer if you see a message regarding something that interests you!



Talking with the Tarot

By: Rainbow the Stonetalker

A Brief Talk with the Tarot For April, May, and June

April brings many changes, according to my Tarot. As with all changes, some of them are going to be pleasant, and some not so pleasant. The cards ask us to remember that often the unpleasantness comes from us not being willing to let go of what has to naturally evolve. Whether the changes are good or bad, they are not going to last forever, for that is the nature of change, and evolution. It is up to us to flow with the changing tides, making the most out of everything that comes our way. That is what is going to lead us to our authentic empowerment.

It is important to be aware that we all make some kind of contribution to any given situation. We also have to take part in the curriculum of the changes around us. They don't just 'happen,' they happen for a reason. The lesson lies in finding what that reason is, and using it to grow our souls.

There are karmic energies at work in May. These seem to be a continuation from the changes in April, for May seems to be full of cause and effect. It is as if we have to choose how we respond to changes in April in order to know what we are going to harvest in May. There's a reminder here though that not everything in May is going to be as a direct result of what happened in April. There are likely to be some unexpected issues arise, and the challenge here is just to roll with them -- again. May is not a time for taking blame that is not ours, or shouldering responsibility that is someone else's. May is a time to bring things into balance, and to accept what is our issue, but let go of what is not.

May is also a time to work on being grounded. Amid all the changes, while we are going with the flow of things, we have to make sure that we are not flying off the handle when the unexpected happens. Remember "This too shall pass." Look it squarely in the eye as a teacher, and respect it as such. Childish temper tantrums won't get us anywhere!

June takes the changes of the previous months and brings to us a choice. Very rarely is the answer going to be a clear cut yes or no, up or down, black or white. There are always going to be shades of gray. The main lesson here is that we need to open ourselves up to where the summer days want to take us. We each have our own path to walk, but it is by being open and receptive to others that they will be open and receptive to us.

The summer solstice may leave us feeling that we ought to be doing 'something,' but not having any idea of what we are being called to do. That's a clear sign that we are not being open and receptive to the guidance of the divinity in which we place our faith. It is very easy to believe that we are being led here, or being told this, simply because that is what our ego disguised as our higher self wants to believe. The hard part is to bypass that ego and listen to the true desires of our heart. We cannot listen to that voice if we are always busy, always doing, always talking. The lesson for the end of June is to learn how to slow down to the speed of life, and get ready for the transition that July looks set to bring.

Moon Lore

April ~ Pink moon -Many flowers turn pink and bloom in April, thus the name pink moon. This is a good time for working on potential relationships, or heading off problems in an existing one.

May ~ Flower moon -Because many flowers bloom in May, after the April downpours, May's moon is called the flower moon. This is a good time for working on commitments, both in spirit and love.

June ~ Strawberry moon—Because strawberries bloom in June, this month's moon is the strawberry moon. Also, the French call this moon la lune rose, which translates into English as "the rose moon." This is a good time for taking stock of the year. It's the mid-way point, so review what you've accomplished and what's left to do. Hopefully you'll find reasons for a celebration and put those strawberries and roses to good use.



Tools of the Craft: Boline

By: Ashley Peterson

When we think of ritual tools we generally think of the main tools. For example, when I say "knife," the first thing that comes to mind is the athame; which is a black-handle knife that is used in ritual to call the quarters and direct and raise energy and cut energy lines but never to cut anything physically. There is, however a boline knife. Truthfully, I was not familiar with the term, but I did recall the white-handle knife, so I did further research.

The boline knife can be made of bone, wood, stone, and/or metal and has a crescent shaped blade. It is used for cutting herbs, carving candles and wands, and other things used in ritual or around the house. Some people prefer to use it just for ritual purpose others prefer to use it for other things as well.

When choosing a boline knife it is important to take your time and find one that calls out to you, rather than rushing to purchase one. It will make your connection stronger along with your magical work.



Cleansing

By: Jamie Stafford

Recipe for Crystal Elixir

- Crystals of your choice but make sure they are water safe and safe to consume
- Distilled water
- Glass Jar with lid

Gather all your crystals into your hands. Roll them around, picturing your intent flowing into them.

Place the crystals in the bottom of the glass jar. Carefully so not to damage your crystal. Fill the jar to top with distilled water. Place jar in sunny spot for a day, or place under a full moon. Remove crystals if you wish. Store your elixir in a cool, dark space and use as needed.

Recipe for Holy Water

Collect living water (rain, running water from a clean source, I often used distilled water from a fountain in my home)
piece of silver
glass jar

Collect your water.
Place your piece of silver in your glass jar.
Fill jar with water.
Place under the full moon to charge.

Heavy Duty Multipurpose Cleaner

½ C. vinegar
1 C. holy water or crystal elixir
1 Tbs borax
15 drops essential oil

Mix water and borax.
Add vinegar
Add essential oil



House Blessing

Bless this house and all it contains
Take away the hurt, negative and pain
Fill it with Friends and Family
As I will, So mote it Be

By: Avalon



Mythology of Beasts

By: Lady Cyote



Photo courtesy of Lincoln Log Cabin, State Historic Site

We are discussing a few beasts that lend themselves to pretty interesting facts concerning the 2 early Pagan holidays of the year. These holidays are known by many names, and celebrated in some form by nearly all pagans; Imbolc and Ostara. I know there are other reasons that these times of year are celebrated, and apologize if I leave out a name that you personally use, but I am going to try to stick with my topic and explain how these holidays are related to my chosen critters.

The first holiday, Imbolc, often celebrated on or near Feb. 2nd, is also known as Oimelec, or "Ewe's milk". To a heathen farmer, it meant that spring was nearing, and the ewes (both goats and sheep) would be birthing and nursing their newborn lambs, a time of first hard spring work to make sure all of the births were successful and all ewes were producing milk for their young. Romans used this time of year for a purification ritual where they struck one another with ewe hide. It was considered fortunate to be "scourged" by the hide. This is also a holiday that involves another critter in some myths: the groundhog! In past times on the heath there could be many accurate predictions made by groundhog behavior, but unfortunately, today the poor groundhog has been ironically commercialized to the point that his/her info is useless for any planting predictions.

The other holiday of Ostara also has several origin myths, but as far as farmers on the heaths were concerned, it was the time that goats and sheep that had given birth around Oimelec were now ready to breed for next year. This is known as estrus. There are vague references to the goddess Oestra in Germanic mythology, as a Goddess of spring and dawn, but in general this holiday probably got its name for a time of budding fertility, or estrus time. Many creatures are fertile, or symbols of fertility are prevalent. This is how the current day "Easter" is celebrated with eggs and rabbits. The eggs symbolize potential fertility, and rabbits symbolize, well, breeding like rabbits!

Herb Lore

By : Avalon



Sage

Made in to a tea sage is a good all round tonic and also a remedy for a cold, fevers and general aches and pains.

The cold tea can be gargled or used as a mouth wash to relieve a sore throat.

Sage is believed to strengthen memory and increase wisdom.

As it's a very pleasant herb it can be added to food fresh or dried.

As a facial steam bath it will help reduce the symptoms of sinusitis and a head cold.

It is also considered to stimulate the metabolism and increase energy, as well as aid weight loss.

Put leaves under your pillow to make dreams come true .

Blessings and Prayers

Ostara Prayers

Goddess Eostre, today we honor you
As the spirit of the coming spring.
The earth once more awakens and
warms beneath your footsteps.
Birds celebrate your dance of new
birth in song.
In the ever-increasing hours of
light, I offer you homage
Through moments of silence,
breaths of fresh air
And stains of damp earth on my
hands and knees.

- *Original*

Willow (Stephanie Johanson)

Beltane Prayers

Circle 'round the Beltane Fires
Crackling flames climb ever higher
We dance until our feet are tired
Celebrating May

Leap the bonfire, nimble, spry
As the midnight hour draws nigh
Grasp a hand and hold on tight
Celebrating May

Fall upon the dew-damp grass
Deep in shadows, fire-cast
Joy throughout the night shall last
Celebrating May

- *Original*

Willow (Stephanie Johanson)

Litha Prayers

In thankfulness we lift our eyes
With loving thoughts in heart
We give thanks for all things good
For blessings the Creator imparts.
Let our hearts be ever glad
For beauty that abounds
And gives a taste of heaven's glory

Susan Kramer-[Bella Online](#)-



Dear Priestess

By: Avalon

Dear Priestess,

I am struggling with the "An it Harm None" Philosophy. I have a horrible feeling that my nieces friend is being sexually abused. Numerous times they have been reported to DCFS for violations, but nothing ever seems to come from it. What can I do magically to protect the child? I want so badly to curse this abuser!

Sincerely, Angry in Illinois

Dear Angry,

Don't give up, but don't curse! I know as a magickal society, we sometimes feel righteous in our assessments. Its hard to disengage ourselves from an issue that directly affects someone we care about. Ask yourself a few questions: What "proof" do you have this is happening? How do I report it? Who do I report it to? If you have solid proof..RUN don't walk..to the police. No proof? Perhaps it would be good to speak to a school guidance counselor . They have information and connections to see things done.

Magically: You may not be able to throw a curse..but you can certainly cast an instant Karma spell!

Have a magickal question for the Priestess? Send them to Avalon_Calling@yahoo.com

Pagan Classifieds

Events

April:

4/27 Seed Exchange Bonanza—
Hosted by: Rainbow Stonetalker

May:

5/4 Beltane— Hosted by:
Summerland Circle—All day event

5/25 Stitch and Bitch—Hosted by
Jamie

June:

6/8–9th St Louis Pagan Picnic –
Tower Grove Park

6/23 Pagan Picnic – Hosted by:
Summerland Circle—"Day at the
Beach"—Fundraising for Witchvox
and Finding your Connection
retreat—



Special Thanks to Summerland Circle for putting up with my constant changes and for submitting articles to this newsletter. If you would like to be involved with us please contact Avalon @ Avalon_Calling@yahoo.com