

Voices of the Grove

October 19-21, 2007

GSG SAMHAIN

Samhain. All Hallows. All Hallow's Eve. Hallow E'en. Halloween. The most magical night of the year. Exactly opposite Beltane on the wheel of the year, A night of glowing jack-o'-lanterns, bobbing for apples, tricks or treats, and dressing in costume. A night of ghost stories and séances, tarot card readings and scrying with mirrors. A night of power, when the veil that separates our world from the Otherworld is at its thinnest. A "spirit night", as they say in Wales.

The Celts called it Samhain, which means "summer's end", according to their ancient twofold division of the year, when summer ran from Beltane to Samhain and winter ran from Samhain to Beltane. (Some modern covens echo this structure by letting the high priest "rule" the coven beginning on Samhain, with rulership returned to the high priestess at Beltane.) According to the later fourfold division of the year, Samhain is seen as "autumn's end" and the beginning of winter. Samhain is pronounced (depending on where you're from) as "sow-in" (in Ireland), or "sow-een" (in Wales), or "sav-en" (in Scotland), or (inevitably) "sam-hane" (in the U.S., where we don't speak Gaelic).

As a feast of the dead, this was the one night when the dead could, if they wished, return to the land of the living, to celebrate with their family, tribe, or clan. And so the great burial mounds of Ireland (sidhe mounds) were opened up, with lighted torches lining the walls, so the dead could find their way.

Not only is Samhain the end of autumn; it is also, more importantly, the end of the old year and the beginning of the new. Celtic New Year's Eve, when the new year begins with the onset of the dark phase of the year, just as the new day begins at sundown.

As a feast of divination, this was the night par excellence for peering into the future. The reason for this has to do with the Celtic view of time. In a culture that uses a linear concept of time, like our modern one, New Year's Eve is simply a milestone on a very long road that stretches in a straight line from birth to death. Thus, the New Year's festival is a part of time. The ancient Celtic view of time, however, is cyclical. And in this framework, New Year's Eve represents a point

outside of time, when the natural order of the universe dissolves back into primordial chaos, preparatory to reestablishing itself in a new order. Thus, Samhain is a night that exists outside of time and, hence, it may be used to view any other point in time.

Perhaps the most famous icon of the holiday is the jack-o'-lantern. Various authorities attribute it to either Scottish or Irish origin. However, it seems clear that it was used as a lantern by people who traveled the road this night, the scary face to frighten away spirits or faeries who might otherwise lead one astray. Set on porches and in windows, they cast the same spell of protection over the household.

The custom of dressing in costume and "trick-or-treating" is of Celtic origin, with survivals particularly strong in Scotland. However, there are some important differences from the modern version. In the first place, the custom was not relegated to children, but was actively indulged in by adults as well. Also, the "treat" that was required was often one of spirits (the liquid variety). In Scotland at least, the tradition of dressing in costume consisted almost exclusively of cross-dressing (i.e., men dressing as women, and women as men). It seems as though ancient societies provided an opportunity for people to "try on" the role of the opposite gender for one night of the year. (Although in Scotland, this is admittedly less dramatic—but more confusing—since men were in the habit of wearing skirtlike kilts anyway. Oh well...)

Samhain is one of the four High Holidays, or Greater Sabbats, or cross-quarter days, which they have discovered through modern research. Of all the Witchcraft holidays, Samhain is the only one that still boasts anything near to popular celebration. Even though it is typically relegated to children (and the young-atheart) and observed as an evening affair only, many of its traditions are firmly rooted in Paganism. It seems only right that there should be one night of the year when our minds are turned toward thoughts of the supernatural. A night when both Pagans and non-Pagans may ponder the mysteries of the Otherworld and its inhabitants. And if you are one of them, may all your jack-o'-lanterns burn bright on this All Hallow's Eve.

"Uniting our community through communication, spirituality and personal growth." We of Greensong Grove, come together from different circles and traditions, covens and solitary practices to create a Grove, just as the Oaks and Palms and Pines of the forest stand together, co-creating and being at peace with one another. We can stand together, and in doing so, build a strong foundation on which to build our own futures.

Samhain Registration:

Registration includes Witch's Ball on Friday evening, all workshops and ritual, primitive campsite with flush restrooms and hot showers, all workshops and rituals. RVs and trailers are welcome but there are NO hookups. Cabin bunk space is available. If your group would like to stay in the same cabin please note that along with the name of the group. Cabins will be assigned on a first registration received basis. Two handicapped-accessible cabins are available, PLEASE let us know if you require one. NO pets, familiars, weapons, or illegal substances will be allowed on site. Children under 18 must be accompanied by their parents or legal guardians.

NAME: _____

MINOR CHILD: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CRAFT NAME: _____

GROUP NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MERCHANT NAME: _____

Type of merchandise: _____

I would like to present a workshop: *Please write description on separate sheet of paper.

REGISTRATION:
Per person for the event: \$17 for members \$20 nonmembers

Saturday after 5 PM no camping rate: \$5 per person \$ _____

CABIN rental rate is for both nights:
\$15 per cabin bunk \$ _____ or \$55 for entire cabin for your group \$ _____
(Cabins are on a first fee paid receives cabin or bunk, reservations will not be refunded after October 10.) Handicapped accessible cabin needed Yes / No

NAME OF GROUP: _____

Merchant:
Per person admission plus \$10 for 10 by 10 space (donation for raffle would be appreciated) \$ _____

Make checks payable to: GreenSong Grove
P.O. Box 55253 St Petersburg, FL 33732-5253
Email: council@greensonggrove.org
Phone: 727-804-9370 (Leave us a message!)

Grand Total \$ _____

Friends of GSG

Mystikal Scents
9545 East Fowler Ave. Thonotosassa
Phone: 727-957-1181

Healing Hands
7132 49th St. N., Pinellas Park FL 33781
Phone # 727-538-8969

May You Never Hunger
www.mayyouneverhunger.com
727-459-5382

Ancient Healing Secrets
5225 4th St N. St. Pete
Phone - 727-522-8281

Mystic Goddess
7500 Ulmerton Rd. Suite 17, Largo, FL 33771,
(727) 530-9994 http://www.mysticgoddess.org/

Under the Gypsy Moon
1500 N. Parson's Ave Brandon, FL 33510
813-689-7595 UndertheGypsyMoon@tampabay.rr.com

Skye Metaphysical Shops and Psychic Readings
12427 US Hwy 19 Hudson, FL 34667
727-697-3617

Angel Heart New Age Gifts, LLC
3441 West Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 877-8117
www.AngelHeartNewAgeGifts.com

Enchanted Forest
3015 16th Street North Saint Petersburg, FL 33704
Phone: 727-823-9291

Everything Under the Moon
514 1st Ave SW * Largo, FL 33770
www.everythingundergallery.com
727-586-5707

Dragon Den
USA Flea Market 73 4th St Port Richey, FL 34669
www.thedragon.com 727-856-8164

Practically Frivolous Salon
4140 16th St N St. Pete, Florida
727-528-2702

Enchanted Cauldron
1-386-789-0708
Website: www.enchantedcauldronllc.com

To submit an article or event to the newsletter, please contact Terrie McGowan tmcg@iwon.com with "GSG Newsletter" in the subject line.

GreenSong Grove Membership Form

GreenSongGrove

"Uniting our community through Communication,
Spirituality and Personal Growth"

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Solitary: Yes / No Coven Affiliation: _____

May send snail mail: Yes / No

Please add me to the email list: Yes / No

New membership: Yes / No Renewal: Yes / No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cut out & Send \$10 donation
(check or money order, NO
cash please !) to :

GreenSong Grove, Inc.
P.O. Box 55253
St. Petersburg FL 33732-5253

Membership includes: \$1 discount to Sabbats, ***Under 18 years old must have parent or legal guardians notarized permission to join.* At no time will GreenSong Grove, Inc. give your name, personal information or email address to anyone without your prior express permission.



Apples are a symbol of magic an apple cut in half through the middle reveals the witches five pointed star. In the Word Ogham of Cuchulain, the apple is described as an “emblem of protection.” The pentacle in its center is a potent talisman of protection.

By: Ann Marie



Gingerbread Witches

- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoons allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- raisins

In a large mixing bowl, cream together the butter, brown sugar, ginger, cinnamon, allspice, and salt. Beat in the molasses and egg. In another bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, and baking powder, mixing well. Add to the molasses mixture and stir until smooth. Divide the dough into four equal parts. Cover with aluminum foil or plastic wrap, and then chill for 1 1/2 to 2 hours in the refrigerator. When ready, roll each quarter to 1/4-inch thickness on a lightly floured surface with a floured rolling pin. Cut the dough with a Witch-shaped cookie cutter (or other Hallowe'en-theme cutters such as pumpkins, bats, skulls, etc.) Press raisins into the dough to make eyes, mouth, buttons, and so on. Place the gingerbread Witches on a greased cookie sheet and bake in a 350-degree preheated oven for eight to ten minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and place on wire racks to cool. Decorate the cookies with black and orange colored icing if desired. This recipe yields about 30 cookies.



September

- 3rd-☾
- 11th-●
- 19th-☾
- 26th-○

October

- 3rd-☾
- 11th-●
- 19th-☾
- 26th-○

November

- 5th-☾
- 12th-●
- 20th-☾
- 28th-○

GSG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Council Meeting dates

All meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at the Pinellas Park Library @ 7:00 p.m.
7770 52nd St., Pinellas Park, FL

October 3, 2007 at 7:00 PM - GSG council meetings at the Pinellas Park Library, 7770 52nd St., Meetings begin at 7 PM. All interested parties are invited to attend and volunteer to create a magickal community, all meetings are in the large room to the left of the library entrance.

2007 Sabbats

Samhain October 19- 21, 2007 - Join GSG and the Tampa Bay Pagan Community for our 9th Samhain Festival and Witches Ball! Theme of the Ball is Pirate's Cove Where: 2900 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL Time: Gates open at 2 PM on Friday, check out 11 AM Sunday The wheel turns to the third harvest festival, harbinger of the darktimes, a time that the veil between the worlds is thin and the Witches meet at Boyd Hill to celebrate another Sabbat in a grandmanner. Friday- GreenSong Grove's Annual Witches Ball at 8 PM and open Mic with Balinnor. The theme for the costume Ball is Pirate's Cove - prizes award for the funniest, scariest, best couple, most original costume. Earth Rhythm Drum Tribe will be Drum Circle facilitators, Friday and Saturday night. Workshops on Saturday with Ann Moura and community guest lecturers Visit the great merchants on vendors row all week end. Balinnor will run our famous auction on Saturday night. Samhain Ritual on Saturday night followed by feasting and Drum Circle with Earth Rhythm Drum Tribe.

Yule December 15, 2007 - Yule - presented by CUUPS - Tampa Join GreenSong Grove as we celebrate the Wheel of The Year Where: 2900 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL When: Gates open at 7 PM Donation: \$4 for members, \$5 for nonmembers Phone: 727-804-9370 Email: council@greensonggrove.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

OCTOBER

October 6, 2007 - Suncoast Pagan Pride Day (which encompasses both Pinellas and Hillsborough County) will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at the Unitarian Universalist of Clearwater Church 2734 Nursery Road, Clearwater from 11am to 9pm.

October 27, 2007 - 6:00 pm - Circles in the Woods CUUPS Witches Masquerade Honoring the Ancestor's Ritual Celebration at 11400 Morris Bridge Road in Tampa. For more information: <http://www.uutampa.org/cuups.htm>

NOVEMBER

November 1-4 2007 - FPG Samhain Where: Ocala National Forest, Florida Cost: \$95.00 to \$115.00 Guest authors who will be presenting workshops are: Dorothy Morrison, M.R. Sellers, Raven and Stephanie Grimassi, Ann Moura, and Kristin Madden., Kirk White. Main ritual will be presented by Synergy circle and amancara. Featured events include drum circle, Bardic circle, Concerts by Hekates Wheel, Earth Drum Tribe and over 90 workshops and activities for all ages. Phone: (386) 235-6144 Website: <http://www.flapagan.org> Mailing Address: PO Box 2311, Bunnell, FL 32110 library entrance.

November 24, 2007 - 7:30 pm - Circles in the Woods CUUPS Full Moon Celebration at 11400 Morris Bridge Road in Tampa. For more information: <http://www.uutampa.org/cuups.htm>

Ancient Healing Secrets new classroom space is now open! The new space in the back of the store will hold classes, workshops, performances, presentations and many new venues to come. We are very excited to announce that the new space at AHS is Kathi Wahls new home for her classes as well. Kathi will open with Crystal Healing Class running six weeks beginning end of September. Ancient Healing Secrets is at 5225 4th St. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33703 727-522-8281

Sept 24, 2007 Crystal Healing with Kathi Wahls. This class runs six consecutive Mondays through Oct. 29th 7-9-ish PM. \$15 per class. Call to register ASAP, space is limited. November 12th, 2007 Advanced Spirituality with Kathi Wahls. If you've taken the "101's" and would like to learn more, this class starts Mon. Nov. 12th and runs the next five Mondays through Dec. 17th. Call Ancient Healing Secrets at 727-522-8281 FMI

Everything under the moon 514 1st Ave SW * Largo, FL 33770 727-586-5707

Thursday October 4th 2007 from 3-6 pm Karen C. Myers - Detox Ion

Thursday October 4th from 6-7 p.m. Gina Kennedy - Yoga Saturday, October 13th 2007, from 5-7 pm ~Tigerlilly~ Women Healing Women

Friday October 12th Store will be closed Tuesday October 16th Store will be closed.

Tuesday October 17th Store will be closed. Open for Classes only.

Friday October 26th Store will be closed Check www.everythingundergallery.com for event more activities and dates.



Kids Crafting

Swamp Gunk

If you'd like a "rainy day" project that the kids will love, look no further than the laundry supplies and your stash of arts and crafts materials for borax and white glue for the basic materials for "swamp gunk", a delightfully gruesome alternative to modeling clay. This project takes about 10 minutes from start to finish, but will keep the kids entertained for hours!



To make a batch of swamp gunk, you'll need:

1 cup of white glue (Elmer's, etc.)

4 Tablespoons of borax (20 Mule Team, etc.)

Optional: Food coloring (Green preferred here; it looks yuckier)

2 mixing bowls

In bowl "A", mix together 1 cup tap water with white glue. Add food coloring, if desired.

In bowl "B", mix the borax into 1 1/3 cups WARM tap water until dissolved.

Pour the contents of bowl "A" into bowl "B". The glue mixture will become "ropy" as soon as it hits the borax solution. Knead it for a minute or so, then remove. Your swamp gunk is ready to stretch, fold, knead, drape over your face so you look scary, or whatever!

Store in a sealed container when not in use, as it will dry out when exposed to air.

If it becomes too dry, add a few drops of water to the container while in storage.

Have fun!

Although the grass may seem greener on the other side, I have come to love and appreciate the many colors of my own yard.

— Wendie King

