

THE WEB

*The newsletter of the BC
Witchcamp Community*

No. 9 DECEMBER 1998

PO Box 21510, 1850 Commercial Drive Vancouver BC Canada V5N 4A0
Events Line: 604-253-7195 Fax 604-253-2191, path@lynx.bc.ca

Dear BC Witchcampers and friends,

Greetings to everyone on the eve of Winter Solstice. The wheel turns and here we are once again at the mid point between winter and summer, dark and light, and camp seasons. May your Solstice and other seasonal celebrations be filled with friends, family, love. And may we all take time to reflect on our world and what we have to give to help make it whole in some real and practical way - a witch's way.

As you read this issue of The Web, now going into its 4th year, please give some thought about how you can be involved. The Web keeps us connected — whether or not we attend camp. From notes, calls and emails received, it's obvious that many of you enjoy The Web and other forms of communication and news received during the year. You want to know what's going on, to be included in the discussions.

I too think it's essential to communicate with each other in order to build upon the community we've already established, to get people involved, let our voices be heard. That's why I started this newsletter. And although I truly love to spew out The Web twice a year, it takes time to do so. I'm at a point where I really need help to organize and write this newsletter, as simple and small as it is. Perhaps there's one or two readers who would be willing to put out The Web every other issue; or maybe we could do both issues together via email. Does that sound like you? Do you have a computer, email, can put together a simple newsletter and love to yak? PLEASE, contact me. I'd love to talk to you about this.

Blessed Be. Pat Hogan, editor

1999 BC WITCHCAMP TEACHERS SELECTED

A Selection Committee consisting of Pat, Sage, Ruby, Cerridwen and Willow — as long distant consultant — met in early November to select the teaching team for the 1999 BC Witchcamp, not an easy task to do considering the long list of skilled applicants to choose from. In most cases the applicants are experienced Reclaiming witchcamp teachers or aspiring student teachers. The latter, in some cases, are already teachers in their home communities and/or have assisted teachers at camp.

The selection was done in consultation with the Reclaiming Guidance Council who approached their work with integrity, experience and fairness. Thank you to Starhawk, Willow Fire (Spokane), Raven (Vermont) and Oriana (Tofino) for their hard work. This is the first time in our history together

as camp communities that we have used this system and undoubtedly there will be discussions on how it worked in the months to come. The great part of working together is to sense the network which has been created between and among camps, as reflected in the diversity of our respective teachers — communities within the larger Reclaiming community.

We are pleased to announce our teaching team for 1999; they are: Sharon Jackson/Duncan BC (resource teacher), Ruby/Courtenay BC, Rosemary/Seattle WA, Inanna/Portland OR, Bridgid/Vancouver, Oak/San Francisco, Anne Hill/California, Student Teachers: Maecan/Vancouver, Puck/Virginia, Sara Morningstar/Vermont. Some of the considerations used for selection were: continuity (from last year), diversity of skills, energy, backgrounds, new people, a fair representation from our home community (BCWC) and representation from other camps.

RECLAIMING WITCHCAMP CONTACTS

BCWC July 25-Aug 1999 near Vancouver BC
contact: (use Web address & #'s)

TEJAS April 10 - 17 1999. near Austin Texas
Contact Suzanne 512-282-5541
mcanna@mail.utexas.edu

GERMANY next camp is in 2000 (Women's Camp)
Contact: Roswitha Pressburger, FreiburgerStr.11,
21682 Stade, Germany Fax 04141/922278
email to Liz at e.shipley@tu-bs.de

MID WEST June 5-12, 1999 at Diana's Grove, Missouri
write to DreamWeaving, PO Box 133, Ames IA 50010
Contact: Todd 515-233-5131. witchcamp@aol.com
<http://members.aol.com/witchcamp>

ENGLAND August 12-19, 1999 (near Glastonbury)
345# dorm 275# camping (# = British pounds)
Contact: Cauldron Workshops, %Ann Flowers
188 Rushmore Rd, London E5 OHB
Phone: Ursula at intl #+0181-686-7438

CALIFORNIA early July 1999
Contact: Madrone 415-923-1458

SPIRAL HEART (West Virginia) Aug 7-14, 1999
PO Box 1773, Wheaton MD 20915-1773
Contact: 301-977-6417, info@SpiralHeart.org

VERMONT August 28 - September 4, 1999
Raven 802-425-2984
Trillium, %360 Toad Rd, Charlotte VT 05445

BREWINGS

The Marija Gimbutas Auction and Dinner Fundraiser held in November was a memorable evening for all who attended - a mixture of feminists, witches, Lithuanians, artists, and people interested in archeology and film. \$2930 was raised which will help reach Starhawk's and Donna Read's goal to complete the film by the end of 1999. Delicious food was served by the Philippine Women Centre caterers. Art, services, weavings and more were bid on in a silent auction. Entertainment continued throughout the evening with Earth Fire, a group of charming mid eastern dancers who had the crowd gyrating their hips. Pauline LaBel belted out a powerful Yoruban chant to Yemanje, Sean Mealing amazed the crowd with his incredible and passionate singing and members of the local Lithuanian community read pagan poetry in their native tongue (and English). Thanks to all who donated prizes and attended the dinner.

Left at 1998 camp: CD/tape player (Cd doesn't work). Call 604-253-7189 if you know its owner.

The **Vancouver Coven Registry** is doing very well, thanks to Mistrel's dedicated work. Print outs of people seeking covens are now available. Sign-up forms available at Aunt Agatha's Metaphysical Emporium, 1888 W. Broadway. Drop by; it's a neat shop to browse and shop.

Coffee Witches: Witches, pagans and friends meet every 2nd Friday eve 8 PM at Harry's off Commercial on Charles St. Next meeting is January 8, Theme is Healing, talks and demonstrations. Thanks to Alan and Sally for their hard work.

Z Budapest's next international Goddess gathering will be held in September 2000 in California with internationally known artists, writers, ritualists, and workshop presenters in the Goddess movement.

SAPPHO WITCHCAMP (For lesbians and lesbian friendly women) will be held in early September 1999. Jade, author, musician and co-founder of the Reformed Congregation of the Goddess, is confirmed as resource person. More details will be available in early 1999. Contact Pat at BCWC addresses.

1998 Camp Fundraiser Feed the Hungry in 3 Cities. Beautiful ceramic goddess bowls, made and donated by artist and longtime bcwc'er Veronica Stewart from Victoria, raised over \$1000 last summer at camp. The proceeds were divided between Victoria, Edmonton and Oregon. Food Not Bombs (an organization with no funding who feed the homeless) were the recipients in both Victoria and Oregon, says Alison Bowe and Colette Gardiner. In Victoria additional donations from the 1997 and 1998 Victoria Samhain Spiral Dances were handed over to Food Not Bombs. Moyra Lang from Edmonton reported that their share of the money went to a women's group. A wonderful example of blending the spiritual with social action.

One of the more popular fundraisers at 1998 camp was the **Witch Funk Trunk Boutique** which grew in size and glamour from the previous year. Stacey Boal, Funk Mistress, knows how to put on a good show. Over \$300 was raised from this venture.

Another fun and funky fundraiser which was organized for and by the teachers collective was a pay-by-donation sacred objects sale -- a conglomeration of sacred, fun, silly objects waiting to find new homes. They did and the tc raised \$200+.

What happened to Ask Hecate? Either everyone knows all that they want to know or they're sitting

on their questions for fear of embarrassment. Don't be embarrassed! The Ask Hecate column will be back next issue if we hear from you!

WIN A TRIP IN IRELAND (+\$250 toward airfare). Write a one page essay, "Why I Want to Go to Ireland" send with \$20 and sase to Sounds & Furies at above address. 150 min. needed by March 1 to run contest. For info on contest and April 22-May 6 1999 Women's Journey to Ireland contact Pat at BCWC addresses. Visit pagan and goddess sites with archeologist/Mod'ODonnell. Women signed up to date come from BC, California, Toronto, New York, Virginia, Illinois and Iowa.

W.E.B.R.A. -- Wiccan Earth-Based Rites Alliance - is the proposed name for the non-profit organization that we have been working on for the past 2 years -- if Victoria stops changing their rules! Maybe by this summer we'll have good news.

Women of Wisdom's 7th Annual Conference "Dancing Our Passion, Birthing our Power" Feb 12 - 20 1999 in Seattle featuring Starhawk, Luisah Teish, Ferron and more. Call 206-622-8475 ext. 135 for info and tix.

UPCOMING CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

VANCOUVER: Thursdays January 7 - Feb 18 **Elements of Magic** taught by Bridgid and Sage; student teachers Linden and Shadow. \$80 - \$120 sliding scale. Call 255-5409.

VANCOUVER: Sunday January 17 - **Deepening Into Being.** Free demonstration and talk on psychic and physical paths related to unlocking awareness. Phoenix Baye, Psychic and Nancy Drewitt (Bramble) Rosen Bodyworker, will facilitate this workshop. 1 -4 PM, Ste 100, 938 Howe St at Vancouver Cultural Alliance. For more info call Phoenix at 224-7385.

PORT TOWNSEND WA: Jan 22-24 **Elements of Magic** taught by Ruby & Oriana. \$60 - \$100 US. Info/registration: Wendy 360-379-9524 or Kelly 360-379-6579.

VANCOUVER: Tuesdays Jan 26 - Mar 3 **Creating Covens, Creating Magic** 6 week Elements class plus a coven component taught by Pat with Rhiannon, Ceridwen, Connie and Susanne. \$48 - \$78 sliding scale. Call Pat 253-7189.

VANCOUVER: Fri eve Jan 29, Sat Jan 30 **The Mysteries of Fire & Ice Workshop** - includes Nordic runes, mythology and magic. Ends with Imbolc Ritual Taught by Aurora 250-361-4680 and Bridgid 604-255-5409.

PORT TOWNSEND WA: Jan 22-24 **Elements of Magic** taught by Ruby & Oriana. \$60 - \$100 US. Info/registration: Wendy 360-379-9524 or Kelly 360-379-6579.

SEATTLE: Mondays starting Jan 4 **Dance Magic** with Amy Moondragon. Feel the power and magic of guided imagery combined with creative movement. 6 weeks/\$50 or \$10 per class 206-523-7907

SEATTLE: Tuesdays starting Jan 5 **Elements of Magic** Soar with inspiration, sizzle with your passions, dive into your dreams and birth your world. Taught by Amy MoonDragon 206-523-7907

SEATTLE: Sat Jan 23, 1-6 PM **The Wheel of Fortune Tarot** workshop with Amy MoonDragon and Kali Rose. \$55

FIERCE FERI MAGIC

This is a system of magic which focuses on the conscious awareness of personal, energetic rhythms in relation to energies of the human realm and energies of the ferri realm. A blend of ferri techniques and human creativity designed to bring the human back to the land. Fierce ferri is an expression of ecstatic passion for existence. This magic is designed to facilitate how the human knows itself, how the human experiences its own existence. The Fierce Ferri classes offer in-depth training in the various skills required for the outdoor ritual as well as for personal magical workings. This magic catalyses cellular memory and knowledge, bringing them to the surface, creating a conscious experience. The Creature's true nature is reflected back as it peers into the soil of the land.

Phoenix Baye leads offers outdoor rituals, classes and psychic readings. (See January 17 under "Classes...") call 224-7385 for information.

MORE BREWINGS.....

A Big Thank You to **SUSAN DEW-JONES** whose generous bidding at last year's camp raffle helped at least one person to attend camp in 1998. A raffle prize not to be forgotten, especially the erotic poetry reading in canopied boudoir, viewed by thousands. Witches certainly know how to put on a good show!

A Skills and Experience questionnaire was circulated at camp to compile resources within our own communities. If you would like to complete a copy, please send a sase to BCWC, or contact Moyra @kmns@sprint.ca

Verna Turner and Mary Billy have started a **Defiant Women's Support Fund** to help women without adequate funds pursue a project or purchase something they need in order to move on in their lives. For more information and how you can donate directly into the fund, write to Verna Turner, Box 132, Sointula BC 250-973-6447 or Mary Billy, Box 2047, Squamish BC V0N 3G0 604-892-5723 mbilly@sea-to-sky.net

The **Reclaiming Spokes Council** whose members represent organizers and teachers from the 8 witchcamp communities meet once a year. Their last meeting was in September 1998 in Vermont and if you are on email you might have received a summary of that meeting. Discussions will continue in camp communities on Elders, the work of the Guidance Council and other topics in the months to come. We urge you to contact Spokes Reps (page 3) for the summary and to engage in these discussions. The next Spokes Council meeting will be the first weekend in October, hosted by Vancouver BC. A public ritual with Starhawk following the meeting is being discussed to raise travel funds for the Spokes Council.

Someone brought up the topic of a **BCWC chatline** on email, which has been established in at least one other camp community, If anyone knows how this is done and is willing to administer a listserver, please get in touch. In the meantime, Alan Roberts is in the process of setting up a web page for BCWC (free). Keep tuned.

And another way of keeping in touch is our **Phoneline**, a service from the Communications Committee and thanks to all the individuals and groups who "sponsor" a month on the phone line. Our phone rates have gone up so the new monthly sponsor rate will be \$30. If you want to sponsor the line, starting in summer 1999, call or write.

A raffle held at the annual Women's Winter Arts & Crafts Faire for the teachers collective brought in \$700 which will be used pre-camp meetings of teachers. This is in addition to money raised at camp and funds from other fund-raisers, including 20% of The Fund. The Big prize was a roundtrip on Alaska Airlines, thanks to Amy Crook's generous donation of her mileage points. What a

gift! Thanks also to Susanne Schibler, Rebecca Games and Lynn Hudson for gifts.

Plans are afoot to organize a raffle for next year, which will be in place by Camp next summer. We would sell tickets at camp, and in our home communities for the next few months until the 1999 Faire (end November) when more tickets will be sold and drawn. If we have some big prizes to attract buyers, and if everyone commits to selling at least one book of tickets, it would be possible to triple or more what was raised and divide this among the teachers, the land fund and wherever else it's needed. If you have fabulous ideas and offers for prizes, please contact Pat now.

Camp themes become hot topics of conversation on email. One theme that is recurring is Y2K. What does it mean to us, if anything? There's a range of opinions out there but it's safe to say that it conjures up talk of Sustainability and Conscious Living which many people feel is important in our work as witches and should be a focus at camp. Ecstatic, mysterious, awesome experiences while in trance, on visits to Ferri, can be, and often is, part of the camp experience, but let's not forget the blending of spiritual and political work which is the basis of the Reclaiming Tradition. Starhawk put this in perspective at a recent workshop in Vancouver entitled "Lessons Learned from the Forest: Grounding Spirit in the Earth". She talked about making doubly or triply (?) sure that while on these inner journeys to check the voices we think we hear are not just some part of ourselves that is screaming out to be heard (*words to that effect*). This is not to discredit these experiences, but to put them into the broader pictures of Witchcraft as we practice it. How will this help me, help my community, the world?

Aunt Agatha's Metaphysical Emporium

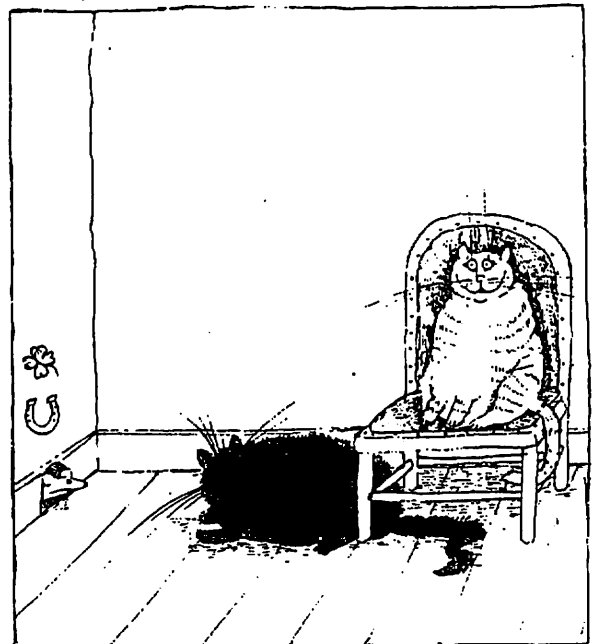
Ph. 730-6959

1888 W. Broadway Vancouver BC V6J 1Y9
Email - Agatha@Rogers.Wave.ca



You can place your ad here for only \$15.

When is it bad luck to see a black cat?



When you're a mouse.

BCWC SPOKES OF THE WHEELS REPS

Alaska/Yukon - Amy Crook, 319 5th St, Douglas AK 99824
907-364-2171 trailhed@ptialaska.net

Vancouver Island

Tofino - Oriana (Jan Bate), Box 606 Tofino
VOR 2Z0 250-725-2962 crowseye@cedar.alberni.net

Victoria & Gulf Islands - Stacey Boal, 426 Powell St
Victoria V8V 2J4 250-247-8368 sboal@pacificcoast.net

Nanaimo/Gabriola Island - Jean MacLaren, RR 1,
Site 12, C-14, Gabriola BC VOR 1X0 250-247-8368

North Island/Lower Mainland - %Verna Turner,
Box 132, Sointula BC VON 3E0 250-973-6447

Vancouver/Lower Mainland - Spokes Hub
% BCWC, PO Box 21510, 1850 Commercial Dr
Van V5N 5A0 path@lynx.bc.ca

Kootenays - Stacy Barter, Box 746 Nelson
BCV1L 5R4 250-352-7666

Prairie Provinces - Rae Watterworth, 9543 - 92 St
Edmonton AB 403-465-4976, kmns@sprint.ca

Eastern Canada - Dona Saunders, 64 Spruce Hill Rd,
Toronto ONT M4E 3G3 416-690-8657

Washington - Judy Jones, 1529 NE 90th St, Seattle
WA 98115 206-525-3704 kaierin@worldnet.att.net

Oregon - Colette Gardiner, PO Box 10914, Eugene OR
541-744-1013; coletteg@efn.org

NOTICE TO SPOKES REPS

The annual Spokes meeting has been set for **Saturday March 20th** in Vancouver. Please plan to attend. Let us know: 1)if you are coming 2)if you need a billet 3)items for discussion. Agenda will include items which the Reclaiming Spokes Council have requested camps to discuss. More information will follow. **Everyone:** contact your reps (above) and let them know what you're thinking about camp, its direction, what goes on (or doesn't go on) in between camps and in our communities. Tell your reps!

WITCH LAND

Land purchase was discussed again at camp this year and a land committee formed. The following points have been raised at camp and by the committee:

- concerns about land ownership and the energy required
- necessity for planning for future generations
- possibility of not always being able to rent Loon Lake and the rising cost
- organization and administration required to provide continuity and longevity
- operational costs
- how and who to use the land
- fundraising: - special events
 - write to UBC to let them know if they were ever to sell, we are interested (shoot for the moon!)*
- use of someone's land
- generous donor

Overheard: "Still waiting for an eager volunteer to step forward to write the UBC letter?!!!"

We currently have nearly \$2500 in the land fund. \$200 of this amount was recently donated by the Victoria Spiral Dance Committee. Thank you Victoria witches!

The Spell Witchland

the following came through Shya DragonWoman from the Mother, July/97

For seven days we come to this place,
To suckle at the breast of Our Mother,
To immerse ourselves in Her healing waters,
To step into the shifting mists of Her mysteries.
For seven days we are free to sing, feast, make music and love. We are free to dance our true selves within
A circle of admiration, respect and love.
We taste our wildness. Set this image, this well of magic in your souls, My sisters and brothers.
Nurture it, feed it, cherish it. See a time when we stand on our own land, The earth of our Mother supporting us beneath our feet. See a time that whenever we are weary of hiding who we are, Whenever we need to renew our power, Draw in the strength our community, Touch Her, The land is there.
See a time when the magic we build on our land,
Day after day, year after year, unbroken, Becomes so strong that it spreads like the mist Whispering, spiraling, caressing with the message of the Mother.
The spell has begun.

Know that 13% of all money raised builds the land fund. We currently stand on maybe one square foot! Curl your toes into it. Send your roots down. Its a tight fit but doesn't it feel good? Take a step back. Pull the land with you as we return to the other world. Work your magic.
So Mote It Be.

Earth's comments at the camp meeting, (the elements were present):

"This camp has already scattered a thousand seeds. This culture will grow. All nature has a structure. If you don't choose one, it will choose us and the children will be forgotten."

Please send your comments/suggestions to: BCWC Land Committee at BCWC's address on letterhead.

Committee Members:

Shya Dragonwomon (Sue Young): syoung@cnet.com
Spiral Moon (Patricia Coffey):

pcoffey@shd.snohomish.wa.gov

Sarah Sjerne: ses@direct.ca

Evelyn Clark: epona@north.island.net

Panther (Judy Jones): kaierin@worldnet.att.net

Maecan and Dana Barton

PLEDGES, SASE'S and more...

Pledges and sase's help sustain BCWC throughout the year. Your help is needed/appreciated. You can:

Pledge \$5 or more per month (post dated cheques o.k.)
Send 5 #10 self addressed stamped envelopes (per year).
- Outside of Canada: send \$2 instead of stamps.
Make pledge cheques out to BCWC and mail.

Did you know that:

In 1997-98, sase's saved BCWC about \$310 in postage.

In 1997-98, pledges and other donations raised \$2700. This money, aka The Fund, was divided as follows:

13% off top - Land Fund. the balance went to:

20% Teachers Collective

10% Communications Committee

70% Camp subsidies, work exchanges, extra camp expenses

Thanks to the following for donations in 1997-1998

Pledges:

Stacey Boal, Jean McLaren, Lyn Pritchett, Suszanne Schibler, Alison Reid, Shya Dragwomom, Katherine Buck, Amy Crook, Judy Jones, Crystal Hyde, Aurora, Verna Turner, Maevyn, Patti Martin & Karl Auld, Susan Swanson, Jean Hansen, Shawna Hohendorff, Mary Stewart, Ellen Dixon, April Stanley, April Tomiye, Jack Davis, Francesca Wildman, Laura Hammell

Teachers Tithings:

Creating Covens: Connie, Pat, Jezebel, Maecan, Bramble plus individual donations from these women.

Elements of Magic: Shasta and Cerridwen

Events: 1997 Spiral Dances in Vancouver and Portland