



**Oimeic Issue  
Year of the Reform “LII”  
January 18, 2015 c.e.  
Volume 32, Issue 1**

**EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

I wish you all inspiration of Brigit over the next few weeks surrounding weeks. We are approaching the halfway point of the Time of Sleep. The lovely festive period around the winter solstice has passed and winter is perhaps at the coldest and bleakest point.

That for me, is why we have Candlemass as we search for ever more clues that Spring is approaching. We can see the days getting longer, but the birth of lambs is heartening. No place is warmer than the blacksmith's forge or the cheery light of the candlemass.

This is another milestone through a long difficult period for some of us, and we fill the persistent darkness with stories, poems and songs.

As many of you know, I am now assembling this newsletter from Egypt and I am carefully figuring out how and where I can express my current spirituality in this ancient landscape. Caution is prudent, but I am watching and listening and wondering what will come my way. The next issue will be much longer.



**SUBMISSIONS:** Send in your materials, news, essays, links, reviews, photos, cartoons and poetry for the Spring Equinox issue before March 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 to [mikerdna@hotmail.com](mailto:mikerdna@hotmail.com)

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## NEWS OF THE GROVES



### Oakdale Grove: News from Minnesota



Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, County Sligo, Ireland, Earrach 2004 when I was studying abroad in college. I objected to climbing on this 5000+ year old court tomb for a group photo, but despite the wobbly passage stone, our tour guide & historian is up there with us. It was sad to think that about 85% of my fellow classmates regarded this as "just another pile of rocks," while to me, it was a catalyst for my druidry. --John M

### Raven's Grove: News from Quebec



A photo from the solstice service.

### Nile Grove: News from Egypt

Just getting matters set up. Probably not going to find any members anytime soon. Feel free to stop by and visit, if you are in the neighborhood.

## DRUID BLOGS & LINKS

OBOD released Druid Podcast #93 <https://soundcloud.com/damhthebard/druidcast-a-druid-podcast-episode-93>  
Touchstone editor interview Mara Freeman and another interview with Penny Billington.

Nimue releases some poetry reading at <https://nimuebrown.bandcamp.com/track/skyclad>

From Glenn on Holy Wells in Ireland: <http://www.strangehistory.net/2015/01/15/struell-wells-ireland-pagan-customs-modern-age/>

From Melanie on a cool Viking manga series: <http://blogs.slj.com/goodcomicsforkids/2015/01/13/yalsa-ggnt-top-ten-manga-vinland-saga-volume-1/>

From Stacey J on Flying Spaghetti Monster display in capital hall  
[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2014/11/atheist\\_humanist\\_and\\_pastafarian\\_holiday\\_displays\\_on\\_public\\_land\\_satanic.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2014/11/atheist_humanist_and_pastafarian_holiday_displays_on_public_land_satanic.html)

From Sebastien on the history of Holly & Oak King  
[http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/yulethelongestnight/p/Holly\\_King\\_Yule.htm](http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/yulethelongestnight/p/Holly_King_Yule.htm)

Tristan reminds us to take a look at Dudeism <http://dudeism.com/whatisdudeism/>

Liz points us to an article on Brehon Law <http://www.irish-society.org/home/hedgemaster-archives-2/history-events/the-brehon-laws>

Richard announced the Aontacht magazine, Winter Solstice 2014 is out : articles on smithing, elements, interview with Richard, poetry, goat's cheese, Lady in the Lake lore, some Herbs, Alaskan ecology  
<http://www.druidicdawn.org/files/Aontacht%20-%20Volume%207%20Issue%201%20Smaller.pdf>

Penny shares etymology essay on “witch” and “wicca”  
[http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt\\_va.html?a=usmo&c=words&id=10563](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=usmo&c=words&id=10563)

From Seb on “Awen” by BDO <http://www.druidry.co.uk/what-is-druidry/awen-the-holy-spirit-of-druidry/>

From Penny on Holly & Ivy imagery <http://woodlandbard.hubpages.com/hub/holly-ivy>

John Bennet blogs on “Killing your inner fundamentalist”  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/johnbeckett/2015/01/killing-your-inner-fundamentalist.html>

## DRUID POETRY

George assures us:

" Life is the Medium. You are the Message ! " TDK

'For last year's words belong to last year's language  
And next year's words await another voice.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.'

~ T.S Eliot

oh, just to belong  
to Earth, and Sea, and Sky  
just to belong  
to Earth, and Son, and Moon  
just to belong  
to Sea, and Mist, and Rain  
just to belong  
to Sky, and Wind, and Breath  
just to belong  
to Body, and Soul, and Spirit  
just to belong  
to You, and Me, and Us  
oh. how I need  
just to belong  
--Hennie

### Prayer

cry from a whispering soul  
to the Ultimo of Deity  
what do You want from me?  
A song of praise?  
A chant of humility?  
A humming of glory?  
A shout of pain overcome?  
or don't you want anything  
Is breathing enough?  
Is breaking bread sufficient?  
Is sharing wine the goal?  
Is partying Life all that matters?  
there is no place where You are not  
so, is where I am, the foothold of You?  
this is the greatest of surprises  
-Hennie

never tell the truth  
for your mixed-up lies  
will be accepted  
as your reality  
which isn't "truth"  
never know reality  
for your hazy views  
will be accepted  
as your opinion  
which isn't "reality"  
never give an opinion  
for your stumbled words  
will be interpreted  
as the truth  
and could you live with that?  
-Hennie

### The Snow Man

One must have a mind of winter  
To regard the frost and the boughs  
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;  
And have been cold a long time  
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,  
The spruces rough in the distant glitter  
Of the January sun; and not to think  
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,  
In the sound of a few leaves,  
Which is the sound of the land  
Full of the same wind  
That is blowing in the same bare place  
For the listener, who listens in the snow,  
And, nothing himself, beholds  
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.  
--Wallace Stevens (From Seb)

## DRUID VIDEOS



From Katya on how to write satire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5uJN-dsals>



Balancing rocks to make art, with Alan Watts' voice in the background.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=807047272666792&set=vb.166354670069392&type=2&theater>



From Seb -- Iceland and faeries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRjatXe5bis>



From Celestial Elf on “Floki in the Temple”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0rFX0H-M-I>

Narrated in the voice of 'Floki', this animated poem describes the perspective of being in tune with the inner self of thought and memory, balanced with the outer self of nature and cosmos. Acting then as a spiritual compass or sun stone, it is a poetic device by which to orient to the divinity within and as such serves as a very powerful blessing.



From Mie, The ancient Hindu teachings that underpin “Chutes and Ladders” boardgame (aka Snakes & Ladders). A history of this 1400 year old game from its roots to its Victorian revamped version.

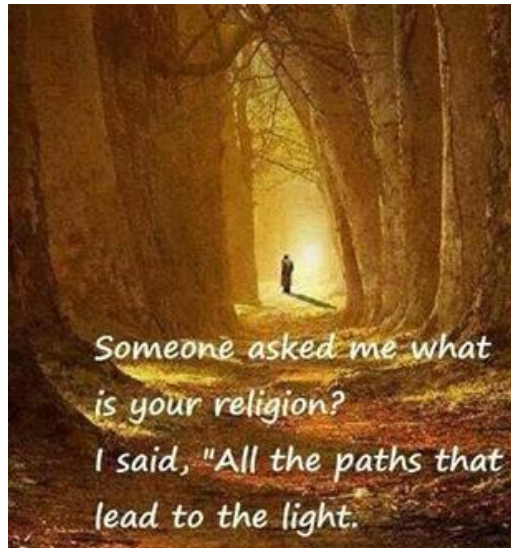
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzLYKY1nPsY>



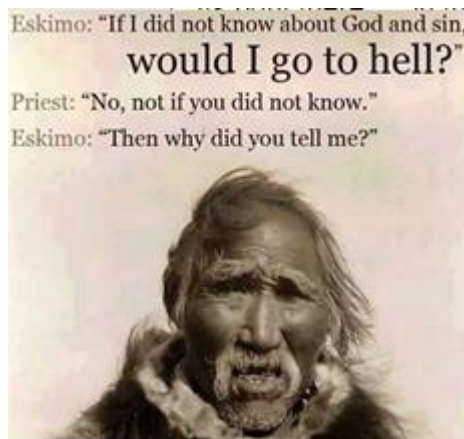
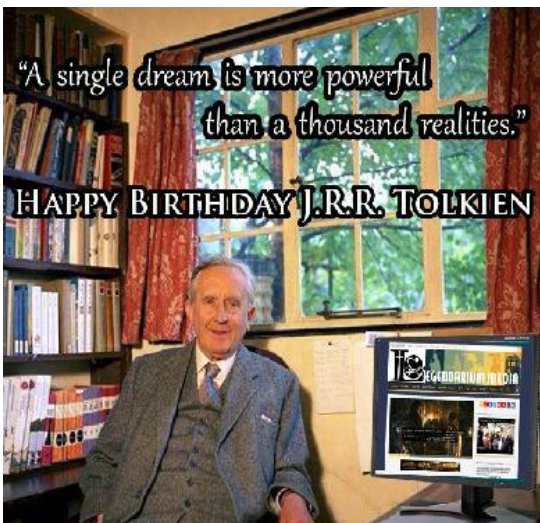
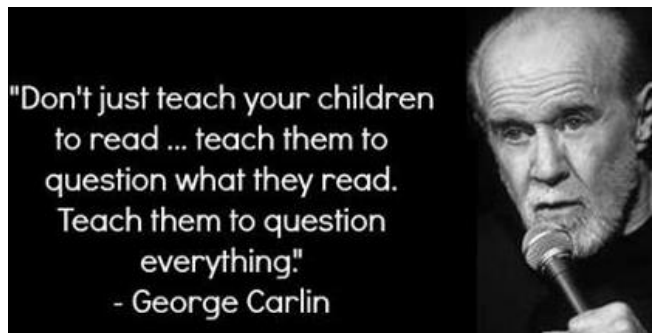
From Mary about a humorous series that parodies New Age gurus, shows how to be “Ultra Spiritual”

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVqOKx7e2qhefIG5IEGOKQ4pCzFf8IScX>

# DRUID PICTURES



The MOCC today celebrated the end of the commercial Christmas season with the annual Sacrifice of Chocolate Thor. -Thomas

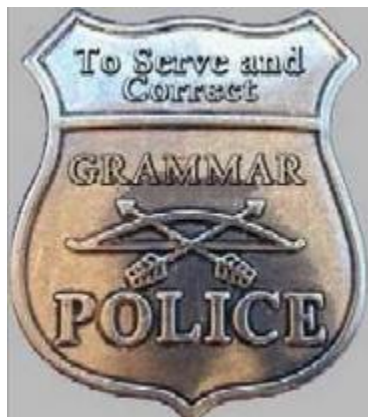




From Julie



Telling a Pagan they're going to hell  
is like telling a christian  
they're going to  
Mordor.

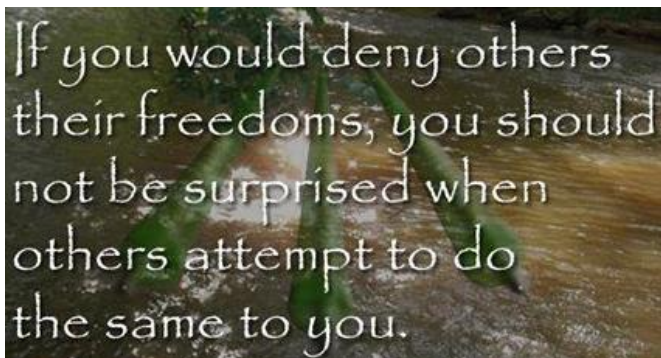




From Jamie



From Jamie



From Bruce



From Ellis

"You know why trees smell the way they do? Stars. Trees breathe in starlight year after year, and it goes deep into their bones. So when you cut a tree open, you smell a hundred years' worth of light. Ancient starlight that took millions of years to reach earth. That's why trees smell so beautiful and old." -- Frances O'Roark Dowell.

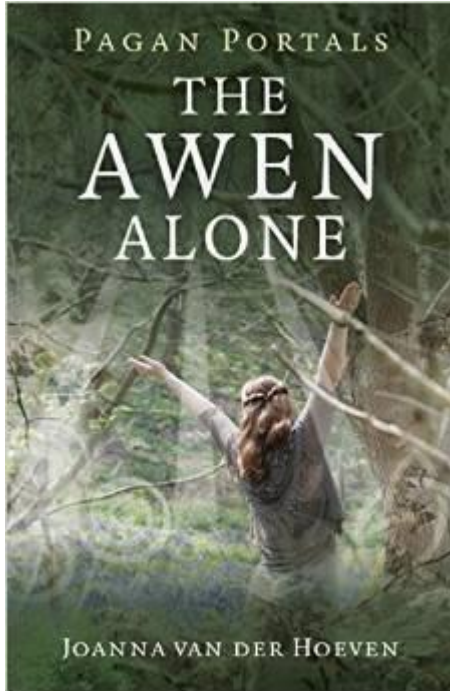


From Ellis



From Lugdag





## “The Awen Alone” by Joanna Van Der Hoeven

Druidry is a wonderful, spiritually fulfilling life path. Through the magic that is Druidry, we build deep and abiding relationships with the natural world around us, and through our connection to the natural environment we walk a path of truth, honour and service. We aim to immerse ourselves in the present moment, in the present environment, in order to share in the blessing that is the cycle of life. Throughout the ages, people have withdrawn from the world in order to connect more fully with it. This book is an introductory guide for those who wish to walk the Druid path alone, for however long a time. It is about exploration and connection with the natural world, and finding our place within it. It covers the basics of Druidry and how, when applied to the everyday life, enriches it with a sense of beauty, magic and mystery. This book is for those people who feel called to seek their own path, to use their wit and intelligence, compassion and honour to create their own tradition within Druidry. – Joanna

**Editor’s note:** you might also her works “Dancing with Nemetona” and “Zen Druidry”

You might also appreciated Skip Ellison’s “The Solitary Druid”



## MTV “Shannara” Series Casts the World’s Last Druid

Dec 18, 2014 •

The MTV project “Shannara,” a 10-episode adaptation of Terry Brooks’ “The Elfstones of Shannara,” has cast actor Manu Bennett in a co-starring role as the world’s last druid, [The Hollywood Reporter’s Live Feed](#) reports.

Bennett’s character, Allanon, is a wise man who gets Wil, played by Austin Butler, to fulfill his destiny and save the world, the story says. It’s not the first fantasy role for Bennett, as he plays the orc king Azog in “The Hobbit: The Battle of The Five Armies.” He also played Crixus on Starz’ “Spartacus.”

MTV gave the project a straight-to-series order in June. The book series now has more than two dozen books, and is considered the highest-selling unadapted fantasy series in the world, the piece adds.

**Title: Druid Inquirer: A Scrapbook of the Reformed Druid Communities**  
**Editor: Michael the Fool**

Published: 8 times a year. No mailed copies, just free on the internet, print your own. Submissions Policy: Give it to me! If you have news about your grove, written a little essay, like to write up a book or move, have a poem, saw an interesting news article in the paper, or have a cartoon, send it in to [mikerdna@hotmail.com](mailto:mikerdna@hotmail.com) or send by Facebook message to [mike.thefool](https://www.facebook.com/mike.thefool). I'll try to give credit to whoever the original author is, and they retain the copyright to their works, and we'll reprint it one day in a future binding also. Nasty works will not be published. Although my standards are not skyhigh, incomplete works will be nurtured towards a publish-able form, so send those earlier for assistance. Submissions are accepted from other publications and organizations, so you need not be a formal member of the RDNA to have your items published.

**Deadline for Spring Equinox March 10, 2015**