
Henge Happenings

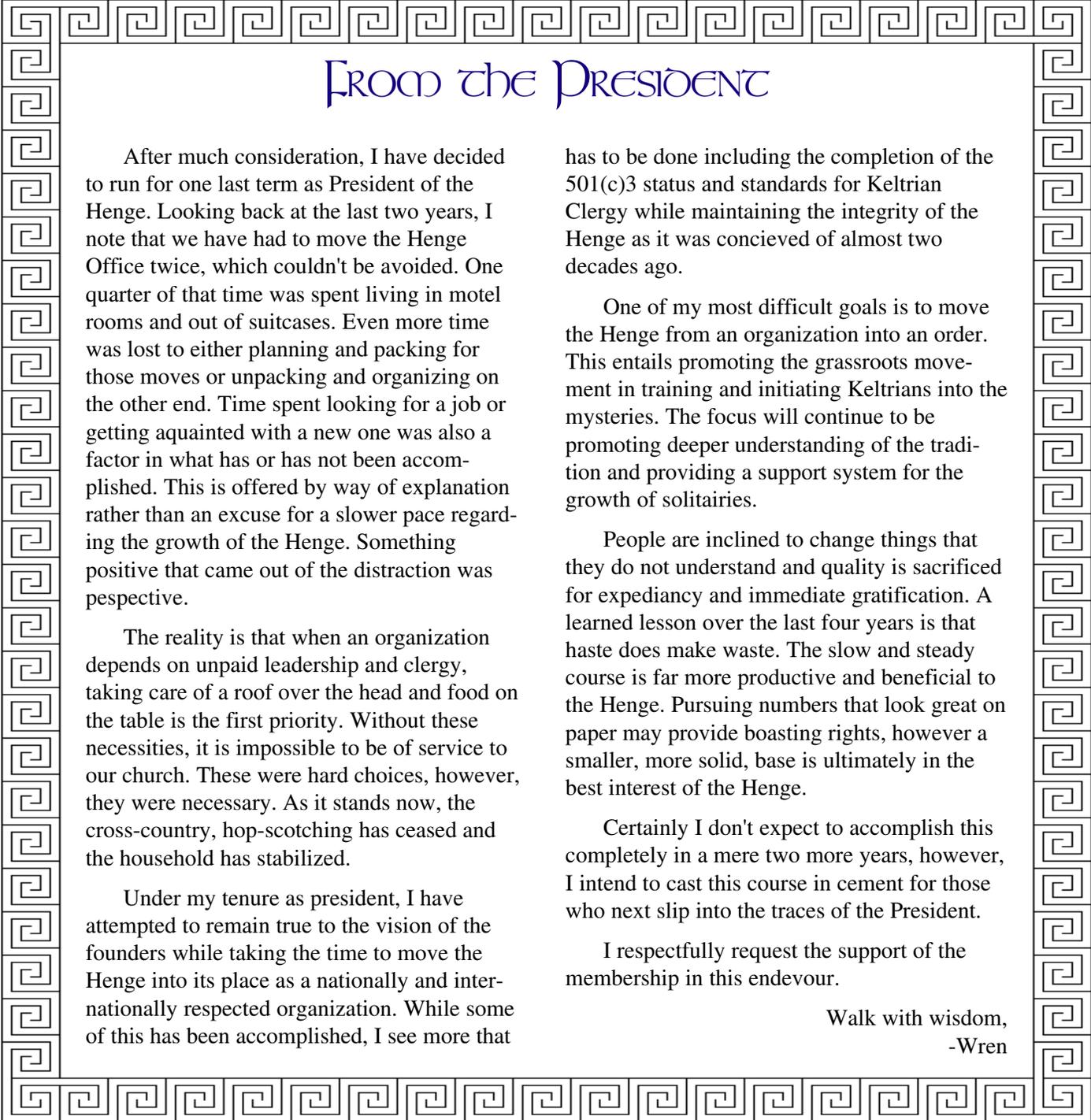
The Henge of Keltria, PO Box 48369, Minneapolis, MN 55448-0369

Issue #49

Editor: Tony Taylor

Keltria-Office@Keltria.org

Imbolc 2001



FROM THE PRESIDENT

After much consideration, I have decided to run for one last term as President of the Henge. Looking back at the last two years, I note that we have had to move the Henge Office twice, which couldn't be avoided. One quarter of that time was spent living in motel rooms and out of suitcases. Even more time was lost to either planning and packing for those moves or unpacking and organizing on the other end. Time spent looking for a job or getting acquainted with a new one was also a factor in what has or has not been accomplished. This is offered by way of explanation rather than an excuse for a slower pace regarding the growth of the Henge. Something positive that came out of the distraction was perspective.

The reality is that when an organization depends on unpaid leadership and clergy, taking care of a roof over the head and food on the table is the first priority. Without these necessities, it is impossible to be of service to our church. These were hard choices, however, they were necessary. As it stands now, the cross-country, hop-scotching has ceased and the household has stabilized.

Under my tenure as president, I have attempted to remain true to the vision of the founders while taking the time to move the Henge into its place as a nationally and internationally respected organization. While some of this has been accomplished, I see more that

has to be done including the completion of the 501(c)3 status and standards for Keltrian Clergy while maintaining the integrity of the Henge as it was conceived of almost two decades ago.

One of my most difficult goals is to move the Henge from an organization into an order. This entails promoting the grassroots movement in training and initiating Keltrians into the mysteries. The focus will continue to be promoting deeper understanding of the tradition and providing a support system for the growth of solitaires.

People are inclined to change things that they do not understand and quality is sacrificed for expediency and immediate gratification. A learned lesson over the last four years is that haste does make waste. The slow and steady course is far more productive and beneficial to the Henge. Pursuing numbers that look great on paper may provide boasting rights, however a smaller, more solid, base is ultimately in the best interest of the Henge.

Certainly I don't expect to accomplish this completely in a mere two more years, however, I intend to cast this course in cement for those who next slip into the traces of the President.

I respectfully request the support of the membership in this endeavour.

Walk with wisdom,
-Wren

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

PAGAN CHILD IN THE WORLD

This issue of Henge Happenings, I have decided to pen a column on parenting a pagan family. A topic I believe other Keltrians have encountered as well. I hope to cover some of my own experiences in dealing with the rest of the community, other parents, non-pagan relatives and schools. Even if you don't have children, you may find some useful ideas or topics to encourage your own path.

One of the most challenging aspects of raising children in a pagan tradition is that although there is more acceptance of it, it is still not widespread nor easily recognized. When holiday breaks come up at school, my children celebrate a bit differently than most of their classmates. This presents a challenge since it is a balancing act to protect my own privacy in religious choice and yet not portray my religion as a shameful secret.

I have found that emphasizing the natural seasonal themes of each Feast really helps. After all, everyone notices the seasons change and just about everybody can relate to the basic things like spring cleaning or preparing for winter (yardwork, etc.). These themes are quite easy to apply to the Feasts and the preparation for the Feasts.

Another way I help out this process of not making my daughters feel left out is to explain that over the world people have many religions and cultural celebrations. This helps since they don't see many other choices other than Christian. I have found some picture books with pictures of Buddhist, Islamic, Jewish and other various religious groups that helps them to see that there are indeed many religions. We have mostly just browsed the books reading what seems interesting and talking about the questions they

raise. I have found it keeps their interest better if they somewhat lead the course of the conversation. I have also found that if you wait a week or two between discussions, new questions arise in the meantime. This leads to very interesting and enlightening conversation.

Another issue is dealing with Christian relatives. This is a hard one. Since most of them are so strong in their faith that theirs is the only way. This gets to be somewhat harmful to kids because it seems that their own parents' ways are shameful and wrong. One solution I have come across is to let others know that although I do not object to the exposure of my kids to Christianity, I will not allow it to be portrayed as the only "right" path. I emphasize the importance of the concept of freedom of religion. I maintain that my children are only to be exposed to religion and will someday make their own choices. It really helped when I explained to my oldest daughter that she could in fact be both a Christian and a Druid. I also explained that it is easiest and best to keep the two religions separated, as mixing them means mixing Deities. I will come back to Deity later on in this article.

All of these discussions brought up another thing I hadn't thought through. My oldest daughter attends a local public school. She naturally wanted to share her thoughts and knowledge of Keltrian Druidism at school. At first I was hesitant to have my beliefs laid out before others. But as I thought more about it, I decided it did more damage to hide my beliefs. This propelled me to find the similar aspects like those just mentioned (seasonal changes and world religions) and emphasize these in my work with her. This was a happy compromise. When she saw that ritual was like church, she didn't feel so left out. When she realized that some of her classmates and teachers were Jewish, she again felt more connected. When she saw in class that people all over the world experience seasonal phenomena that also helped.

The most challenging issue by far has been that of Deity. In a culture where a single god is revered, it is challenging to be polytheistic. I have found that both

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of my daughters naturally believe in a goddess counterpart. It seems to inherently make sense that if there is a God, there is a Goddess. So that part was easy. But multiple Gods and Goddesses have been more challenging. I found inspiration in an unlikely place. Disney © movies are often the easiest and most readily available place to see multiple Gods in action. I have also seen some of their movies with ancestor worship and plant worship. I take the time to point this out to my kids and talk about it. Somehow seeing it in a cartoon makes it more real.

Daily practice of a spiritual path is another area needs work. I have developed a few things that have worked for us. Nature walks are great for noticing seasonal changes and pointing this out to kids. Collecting leaves and other things is also great fun. There are multitudes of books and ideas on this subject. It doesn't typically need much to get started. A blank notebook for pasting leaves, sticks and drawings or magazine clippings is a start. Library books on seasons are readily available. Even planting a seed makes for an easy lesson on nature spirits. Soon the kids have their own ideas.

Coloring pictures of Celtic designs makes a great opportunity to talk about ancestors and our history. This really helps them to see that once the pagan path wasn't in the shadows, but was indeed out in the open. The connection to the ancestors also encourages self-respect and respect for the struggles of our ancestors to preserve what we do have of our past. This also can be a great way to explore the Celtic countries, even by videotape or book to point out the ancestral homeland.

Writing blessings and/or prayers helps to remind us of the spirit world. This can be done spontaneously with kids. A bedtime or mealtime prayer can be short and can be modified if needed. I have found they can help to calm fears at bedtime and can also remind them of spiritual beliefs daily. They are a great opportunity to pray for healing for an ill acquaintance, or just to pause and remind everyone of the spirit world.

Meditation helps to calm and center kids. I have experimented and found that the Tree Meditation is most effective with kids. To really work I typically describe a familiar tree from the backyard they grew up in and really work in all the sensual details I can. The feel of the bark, the roots, the color of the leaves (which you can change with the seasons) and any

other relevant details you can work in. Keeping it relatively short helps small attention spans and also help me in times of stress. Often even a short meditation can be incredibly centering if the senses are involved.

There are so many issues to touch on that this article is only a short summary. By far the best way to teach kids is to involve them in what you do at whatever level is comfortable and to take time to answer questions. Creativity helps to find solutions to tricky areas. Experimentation is really helpful to keep you going when you feel like you are going backwards.

Rain
Vice President, Henge of Keltria
Rain@keltria.org

HENGE ADDRESSES

The Official Address for all Henge Mail is:

The Henge of Keltria
P.O. Box 48369
Minneapolis, MN 55448

The Minneapolis address should be used when listing the Henge as a resource in articles or in books.

Mail sent to:

The Henge of Keltria
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68 Faxon Lane
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will be processed by the Henge Office faster than mail sent to the Minneapolis address. Please use the Quincy address for correspondence with the Henge Office.



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FROM THE SECRETARY

With snow covering the ground in the Northeast and Imbolc upon us, the Board of Trustees elections that will occur at the Annual Members' Meeting this summer seem far away. However, realizing that there is really only one more issue of Henge Happenings to come between the Imbolc issue and the elections, I'd like to remind our Members now of the beginnings of the process for election that we use within the Henge.

Positions up for election this year are as follows:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Trustee

As of this writing, notice of Intent to Run for President has been received in the Secretary's Office from our incumbent President, Wren, and TopazOwl will be running again for Secretary.

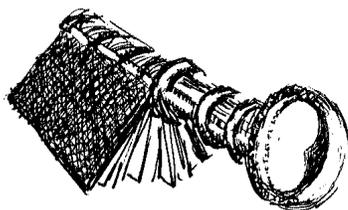
The Henge Bylaws state that any member in good standing of the Henge of Keltria may run for office. Any member interested in running for any of the elected positions on the Board of Trustees mentioned above must submit a Letter of Intent to Run for Office to the Secretary of the Henge in a timely fashion. The deadline will be March 1, 2001.

Candidates will then be required to submit a personal biography to the Secretary for publication in Henge Happenings. This biography can be no longer than 200 words. The deadline for submission of this personal biography is April 1, 2001.

Letters of Intent and Candidate Biographies may be submitted to the Secretary by email at: Secretary@keltria.org, or sent by post to the Secretary in care of the Henge Office.

Blessings,

TopazOwl



FOR MEMBERS ONLY

E-MAIL?

If you have electronic mail, please make sure the Henge Office has your E-Mail address. Send you E-Mail address, membership name and membership number to Henge-Office@keltria.org.

Also join the Keltria-L Mail List. To subscribe just E-Mail Keltria-Listmaster@keltria.org with the work SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Please include your membership number in the text of the message.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

The Board of Trustees



TopazOwl, Page, Tony (Wren in front)
Taken at The Annual Meeting 2000
Photo by Caroline S.

Trustees not shown Rain, Karl, DruidTom

TREASURER'S REPORT

To members of the Henge of Keltria:

Now is the time to send in your renewal membership. See our website www.keltria.org for renewal information.

The Henge has made it through another successful year thanks to the members and the officers. We have a positive balance from the Year 2000 to carry over to the Year 2001.

Now is the time for reflection. Time to prepare for planting. Each day more light enters our lives. I give thanks to the Henge of Keltria and all members and volunteers that have helped us make the Henge what it is today.

May this year bring more success into your lives than last year,

Thanks for your help; walk with Wisdom.
Druidtom@aol.com

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

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Submission Information

All submissions to Henge Happenings become property of The Henge of Keltria, Inc., a nonprofit religious corporation. Categories for submissions are based upon who they are from: Officers, Elders, Coordinators, Groves, Members and the Henge Office. Members submissions are further divided based upon subject matter, Bardic, Seer, Druid, or Solitaire Special Interest Groups.

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The Bard's Path

Following the Druid

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We were nine who followed the Druid through the woods. The sunlight danced through the leaves above us, weaving its way into the white robe the Druid wore. I watched the patterns form, dissolve and reform on the back of that robe as we walked on through the wood on a day that never seemed to near an end.

As the hours passed, some of our number went their own way. One wandered off looking for stones. Another stopped to embrace a tree. A third crouched by a still pool and gazed into its depths and the reflection therein.

One of us lay down in a hole and covered himself up with earth. Another stopped to collect the herbs and flowers which sprung up on that spot. Still another wandered off to the east, talking to herself.

Now we were three who followed the Druid. While we had been walking in silence for so long, now we were becoming restless. One of us was certainly about to ask the others how much farther they thought we would walk, when the Druid suddenly stopped walking and turned to face us. The Druid's robe was white feathers and the sunlight danced in the Druid's eyes.

"Be still, children," the Druid said. "We are among the trees."

We could hear the wind as it joined the sunlight in its dance through the leaves. The snap of twigs and the scurry of little creatures, the distant call of kettling hawks reached our ears.

When the Druid's face once again turned from us to the wood, my two companions turned so that we could face each other. The one to my left seemed very upset.

"This Druid is from my past," she cried, "not the one I believed I was following! Telling me to be still; telling me what I can feel for myself! The way of this Druid is sadness and pain: the pain of children bound, the sadness of leaving home!"

After an uncomfortably silent moment, the one on my right chuckled...a short laugh, but very deep.

"This Druid is a myth," he sneered, "not the one I believed I was following! Telling me to be still; telling me what I can see for myself! The way of this Druid is insanity and ignorance: the ignorance of the guided, the insanity of the untaught!"

During the next few moments of silence, I looked into the eyes of my companions and then at the tiny form of the Druid who was walking again and had gone quite a distance ahead of us. I listened to the hawks and the breeze; I let my eyes become dazzled by the sunlight dancing.

I smiled at my friends and stepped between them. I place my foot upon the endless path, winding its way from the forest of discovery, through the clouded hills of challenge, up the green mountains of glory, down to the pleasant pastures of paradise and back again.

I follow the Druid on the knot with no end.

The Five Shades of You

Sweet and clear is the air that breathes life into the many dreams I'll share with you,

Sultry and ecstatic is the fire, whose glowing flames inspire my passion for you,

Deep and blue run the waters which give birth to my everlasting trust in you,

Green and fertile are the fields whose harvest yields the joy and laughter I'll bring to you,

Calm and centered is my spirit which smiles at the thought of walking life's many paths beside you.

- Ailim /A

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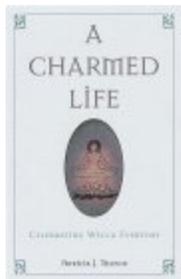
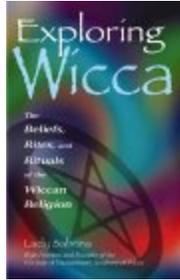
- : Annual Meeting of the Henge, with Election of Officers.**
- : Workshops by & for Keltrian members on a variety of topics.**
- : Summer Solstice Ritual**
- : Food, Camping and General Merriment with other Henge members.**
- : Chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones!**

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

ADVERTISEMENTS

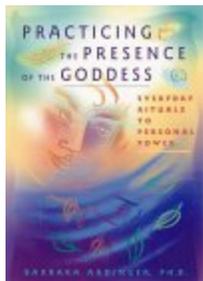
Books

Exploring Wicca: The Beliefs, Rites, and Rituals of the Wiccan Religion by Lady Sabrina gives an overview of the roots and history of Wicca and the many ways the Craft is practiced today. (New Page Books, September 2000, ISBN 1-56414-481-X, 224 pages, paperback, \$12.99)



Increasingly the magickal community is made up of city-dwelling Witches, Pagans, and Neopagans. How do these people combine a natural philosophy with the concrete jungle? **A Charmed Life: Celebrating Wicca Every Day** by Patricia J. Telesco looks at this issue in a fresh, creative, and fun way that anyone can apply,

whether they live in a high rise or on a farm. (New Page books, September 2000, ISBN 1-56414-487-9, 192 pages, paperback, \$12.99.)



More people than ever are incorporating some sort of spiritual practice into their daily lives. In **Practicing the Presence of the Goddess**, Barbara Ardinger, Ph.D. offers a wide variety of meditations and personal rituals to honor the feminine spirit and to commune with the Goddess. (New World Library,

November 2000, ISBN 1-57731-173-6, 128 pages, hardcover, \$16.00)

Advertise in Henge Happenings

Henge Happenings will now accept advertising. For a copy of our advertising guidelines, please send a SASE to The Henge of Keltria. Attn.: Advertising Guidelines, c/o Taylor, 68 Faxon Lane, Quincy, MA 02169.

Gatherings

North Carolina, Apr. 20-22, **Carolina Spirit Quest 2001**, near Ellerbe in Richmond County, NC. Workshops, rituals, sales booths, and more. For further information, contact dickmerritt@mindspring.com or via USPS at Carolina Spirit Quest, PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715.

Ohio, June 17-24, **Pagan Spirit Gathering**, held at Wisteria Campground in southeastern Ohio. For information contact the event sponsor, Circle Sanctuary, PO Box 219, Mt Horeb, WI 53572. phone: 608-924-2216, E-Mail: circle@mhtc.net, or at www.circlesanctuary.org.

Minnesota, June 22-24, **Gathering of the Keltrian Tribe**, held in Anoka, MN For further information, contact the Henge of Keltria, P.O. Box 48369, Minneapolis, MN 55448, or Henge-Office@keltria.org.

Publications

The Seeker is the monthly publication of the Magical Education Council of Ann Arbor, Inc., in support of the magical, mystical, earth-centered religious community in and around Ann Arbor. MECAA, P.O. Box 3326, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, jmm@cyberspace.org, phone 734-665-3522.

Personals

Alone and isolated death-row Pagan prisoner seeking a good friend with whom to correspond with. Loyal, Honest, and Friendly. If you want someone to write to with these qualities, write to: John Marquard #122995, UIC P122305 (A1), P.O. Box 221, Raiford, Florida, 32083-0221.

Magazines

Celtic Connections: The Journal of Celtic and Related Subjects is £11:00 for an annual subscription. Payment to David James sent to Sycamore Cottage, Waddon Portesham, Nr Weymouth, DT3 4ER United Kingdom. U.K. Sterling only please.