

Fall 2001



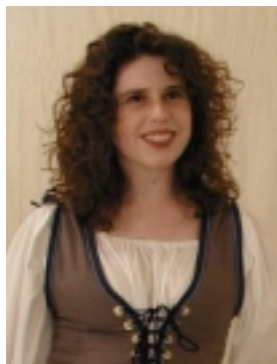
PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY WORLD

Carolina Spirit Quest Fall 2001

Spring 2002 Event Gathers Momentum

Well, here is an example of getting what you ask for. We advertised a number of staff positions in the August Newsletter, and some very talented folks signed up and are already putting their stamp of excellence on the Spring 2002 event. Here is the official staff update:

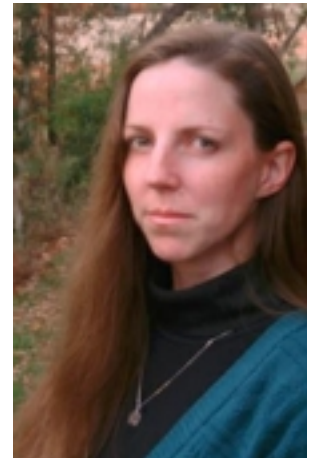
Communications Manager: Give a big round of applause for Laura Dake! Laura is the list mom for Carolina Pagans and has her own ritual and ren-faire attire business, Grey Cat Designs. Look for the CSQ 2002 flyer she developed for more information about the upcoming event. To get extra copies of the brochure to hand out and/or to post on pagan-friendly bulletin



Laura Dake, Communications

boards, contact Laura at <lauradake@yahoo.com>.

Program Manager: Shout out a big CSQ welcome to Julie Hunt! Julie is a professional program manager with strong ties to the pagan community. She is excited to report that there will be an extra special "theme" dessert at the masquerade ball. It will be a masterpiece you'll have to see - and taste - to believe. There will also be a silent auction during the ball. Some extraordinary items and services, all with a wide range of market values - all priceless in their own way, have already been donated, but the list is still growing. To donate items to the auction, contact Julie at <orbitalbat@aol.com>.



Julie Hunt, Programs

On the workshop front, CSQ is very proud to announce that the Zell-Ravenhearts will be our guests of honor. They will be giving a Friday Intensive workshop "Polyamory for Pagans", the CSQ 2002 Keynote Speech, and two addi-

tional workshops during the event. Additionally, there will be wide range of exceptional workshops from which to choose - each one lead by respected members of our own community. All the workshops are available by individual selection or, for anyone seeking a specific focus, through recommended focus tracts. As examples, three tracts in the planning stages are:

- Beginner's Tract**
1. So its your first gathering--Tammie, Asherah, Gryphon
 2. Wheel of the Year-- Dick Merritt

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Special points of interest:

- **Order your CSQ T-shirt with our new Snake logo--details on page 5.**
- **Watch your mailbox for the Spring Quest Catalog--mail date is Feb. 1, 2002**
- **Next Board Meeting is February 15-17.**

Quest: Blood, Stones, & Runes—a Major Success

For days after Quest: Blood, Stones and Runes my feet did not touch the ground and my heart was still singing! A phrase has come to mind recently, “Sacred Servant.” I feel this describes very well all the people involved with making this event possible. In this capacity, as we give to our community, we get back far more than we give.

The Opening and Closing Rituals were very powerful, a taste of the entire day. All the Workshop Facilitators took part; Dan and Danny cast the circle beautifully by calling the Runes; Brydie lead meditations to bring people into Sacred space, then take with them what they had learned; Tammie and I led a gentle spiral dance at the end. Tim and Susan called Directions; all the Staff (besides Bill and Dick) had a part. Bill showed up with his crew to make us a wonderful lunch—then donated the entire cost to Q:BSR! Dick had a family obligation, but put in a lot of time and effort in producing and distributing the catalog and brochure as well as “doing” the spread sheet stuff, as Lance did.

There is no way I can express my deep gratitude and feeling of connection to all these people. I’m not good at statistics and budgets to evaluate a gathering (although attendance was 1/3 of the spring Quest event—which was very impressive!), but I will say this; all the participants left transformed. There is nothing else I can say to each of the people that helped to make this happen except, Nameste, my friends, Nameste!

If you would like to be involved with a one day Quest event like this near you, please contact me (gryph@pobox.com) and I will forward your correspondence to the Quest Special Director.

Gryph



Gryphon Rosemead
Director Quest: Blood, Stones & Runes

Surfing Your Surveys—Q:BSR

Over 30 people attended Quest: Blood, Stones and Runes on October 13. 28 people answered their surveys. That's damn good!

Most people responded with a big YES! when asked the following questions:

- Did you enjoy your workshop?
- Would you attend another one day Quest event?
- Would you recommend these one day events to friends?

The one day Quest workshops were a big hit and enjoyed by all who attended. There are a few glitches to work out. However, for the most part, these one day workshops are something our community enjoys and wants us to offer again. We had requests to repeat these same workshops and suggestions for others, such as drumming, tarot, astrology and the list goes on and on.

So, it seems Q:BSR was a big success. I suppose our biggest question is, where do we go next? We received

suggestions for the Triangle again to Asheville to Winston-Salem. If you would like to see these or other one day

And if you are asking “What is Blood, Stones and Runes?” go to our website at Carolinaspiritquest.org and look in the events section.



Thanks to all who contributed to make Q:BSR a success, both the staff and the attendees. If you have questions please email me at thorsmountain@hotmail.com, call 919-451-0598, or write to PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715-1335.

Blessings,
Tammie Ward
Sacred Blood workshop co-presenter
Board of Directors



workshops in your area, please email me at thorsmountain@hotmail.com. I'll pass your requests on to the Board.

Triangle Pagan Pride Day

First the Numbers:

Attendance: 489 people walked through the gate.

Money Raised for the Red Cross: \$438 in cash

Food to be donated to the Food Bank of NC: 594 pounds of food. That is 1/4 of ton of food.

Overall report of the day: The weather was great and the temp was around 74 for most of the day. People came and went throughout the day. We greeted members of the pagan community as far south as South Carolina and as far north as Virginia. From the West of Charlotte and east as Wilmington.



Mabon Altar by CSQ

CSQ people were in evidence everywhere. Gryphon Rosemead was the workshop coordinator and Dick Merritt, Tamia Buckingham, Bill Elston, and Lance Brown led workshops or participated on a panel. Ginger Rain, Tim Woody and Sundance provided activities for the Cosmic Kids. Lance Brown coordinated the Closing Ritual. He wrote the ritual and was HP to Tamia's HPS and Dick Merritt led the spiral dance.

CSQ provided the altar for Mabon – a circle of grapevine displaying the cycle of life from grape, to wine, to baskets. A representation of an ancestor bowl took pride of place. Other Quest folks worked with groups on the following altars: Imbolc – Tamia Buckingham and Dick Merritt with Celebrate the Circle; Ostara – Tim Woody and Sundance with Children's Circle; Lammas – Kira Dirluk, Brydie Palmore, and Gryphon Rosemead with 7 of 9; Samhain – Cynthia Campbell, Tammie Ward, Gryphon Rosemead, Sharon Hill and Danny Moses of Aett.

Bill Elston and Torrin and Tiana da Myst headed up the kitchen to feed folks throughout the day.

We distributed about 70 copies of the Summer newsletter to interested people. 36 folks added their names to our mailing list. And we recruited several folks to join the CSQ staff – including Julie Hunt, Laura Dake, and Sam Thompson.

Who knows what next year's Pagan Pride Events will bring our way?



Ginger Rain and the Cosmic Kids

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PROMOTING A PAGAN-FRIENDLY WORLD

The purpose of CSQ shall be to devote its resources to religious and educational activities; and to sponsor a program for adults and children, to be held each year in the Spring; and further, the purpose of CSQ shall be to encourage networking and the building of community spirit among Pagans in the Carolinas and the surrounding area.

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CSQ Spring 2002—Event Logo Chosen

As the wheel of the year turns yet again, we look forward to our 7th annual Carolina Spirit Quest Spring Event. This time around our goal is to learn how to bring forward the magick of this annual weekend into our daily lives, and we have embraced the theme “Bringing Home the Magick” to accomplish this.

The staff of CSQ sent forth missives, emails, and newsletter articles to entreat the wonderfully talented artists in our community to come up with a logo that personifies this year’s theme. We were inundated with wonderful works of art, both computer-generated and hand-drawn. Although we would love to use them all, we can only choose one—but we wish to thank each and every artist for their entries. They are all truly beautiful and expressive, and are a testament to the artistic talent that we have within our community.

The logo chosen was created by Moon-dance, and the artist explains the details of her work:

“My logo/t-shirt design shows a hearth, which is the heart of the home. Gazing into the crackling fire, we symbolically reflect back on memories of CSQ. The very act of doing this brings back the feeling of gathering around the fire to scry into the flames at Quest '01. On the mantel, is a simple altar where other mementos of Quests past—runes, tarot cards, a feather, a name badge, a puzzle piece from '99, a piece of bone or rock from Shelterneck, and candles similar to ones we decorated—are sprinkled among basic ritual tools.

The runes are Berkana (growth and renewal), Wunjo (joy, fellowship and harmony), and Gebo (partnership, magickal exchange, and the blessings of the Goddess).

Above this, a framed sign that one might expect to read *Home, Sweet, Home* actually reads *Bringing Home the Magick*, while the foundation of the

fireplace itself reads *Carolina Spirit Quest 2002.*”

A special thanks to all of the artists who submitted their works—Kira Dirlik and Tammie Ward, Cindy Williams, Andrea Wakely, Diana Smith, DaraLuz, and gaiamommy@yahoo.com.



Your Input Counts

As you have filled out evaluation forms for workshops, gatherings and other events, did you ever wonder if anyone ever read them? Did you wonder if they made a difference? The answer to both of these questions is a resounding 'YES' when it comes to the Staff of Spring Quest.

This event has evolved over the past few years because of the input participants have given us. Each set of Co-Directors reviews the evaluation forms from previous years to determine how they can change the event to meet the needs of the participants. Changes happened to Spring Quest 2001 because of your suggestions made at CSQ 2000. Here are some of them and how they were met.

It was suggested that there be more of a focus on composting and recycling. This year Wendy Wenck took on the task of composting. Quest provided plastic containers specifically for this purpose and Wendy coordinated the effort. The containers are reusable and have become a permanent part of the Spring Quest program. Thank you, Wendy. Several participants brought their own recycling bins from home and left with them full. Thanks to all of you as well.

It was suggested that the rituals have more continuity. Danny Moses, as Ritual Coordinator, set up meetings for his Staff to voice suggestions, throw out ideas and pull the Opening and Closing Rituals together.

Charging the Directional feathers during the Opening Ritual, then sending them all over the world with participants after the Closing Ritual will be remembered for a long time. The magic is working already... From the feedback we have received on this year's evaluations, Danny did an excellent job at this and we were honored to work with him.

More variety in the meal plan, particularly for vegetarians, was another issue that was brought forward. Until this event, most of the kitchen coordinators have been volunteers that had not worked in a professional capacity before the event. This year we were honored to have Bill Elston, a professional chef, plan our menu and cook our meals. The feedback we received about him even included kidnapping him so he couldn't get away. He was a wonderful success and received a standing ovation at the business meeting on Sunday. Thank you, Bill!

The cost of registration for the Spring Quest event was a concern. As a result of your feedback, the Bart Wendel Memorial Scholarship fund was established for Spring Quest 2001. Over the course of registration, the Scholarship Committee gave out over \$800 in scholarships so that individuals that could not have come due to cost considerations, were able to attend. This fund started out with \$400 and as the need rose, Celebrate The Circle and several generous individuals donated money to meet the demand.

A special thanks to all those that made this possible.

Also new this year was the one-day intensive workshop on Friday, prior to the main Spring Quest event. There were over 30 attendees to this event and many favorable comments from participants that attended. Since this was the first time we had tried something like this, there was some confusion at the registration table, but all worked out in the end. Thank you for participating, for being patient and for letting us know how this worked for you.

Each and every one of you have something important to say. All of you have ideas and suggestions on how we can better meet your needs and expectations. So know in your hearts that when you fill out those evaluation forms, you are making a difference. There will be changes as the Staff endeavor to meet the needs of our community. Please take a few extra minutes to fill out those forms so future Co-Directors can plan events that will meet the needs of our community.

See you next year!

Asherah, Co-Director Emeritus
Gryphon Rosemead, Co-Director Emeritus

Carolina Spirit Quest—Corporate Logo T-Shirts

The shirts are in. They are natural colored Hanes Beefy T's with the CSQ snake shaped logo in four (full) color. These are generic Carolina Spirit Quest shirts and are not associated with any specific CSQ event.

Several of us were pleased to debut them at Triangle Pagan Pride Day in September. Besides the 12 shirts which were preordered by members of the Board, six others were sold at TPPD.

The idea is to get the Quest name and logo out there for people to see. For that reason, the shirts are priced only slightly above cost at \$12 for all sizes except for XXL and XXXL. These larger shirts are \$14 each. If you want your shirt now, we can send it by Priority Mail for \$3.95. That is a total of \$15.95 for child sizes through XL and \$17.95 for XXL and XXXL.

Get 'em while they are hot and wear them to your local Pagan and Earth-centered activities. Contact me at dickmerritt@mindspring.com or (919) 644-6310.

-Dick



Spring 2002

(Continued from page 1)

3. Elements--Cynthia

Shamanism/Native American Tract

1. Build the spiritual sauna (Friday Intensive)
2. Spiritual Sauna
3. Trip to Indian Mound

Experiential Tract

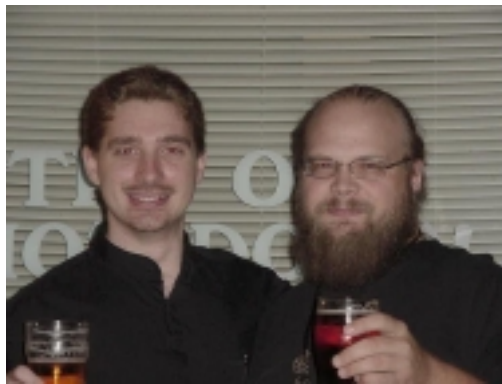
1. Flute Making--Larry
2. Belly Dancing--Rusty and/or Francie
3. Storytelling--Linda

Other non-focus workshops may include sword meditation, tarot reading, pyromancy, journaling, oghams, designing and implementing large group rituals, and drumming. The Long Range Planning Committee will be conducting a dreaming session to gather participants visions for future CSQ events.

Watch the CSQ web site over the coming months to see the final workshop list.



Spring Quest 2002 Co-directors:
Blake Davis and Lance Brown



Changes to the Scholarship Process

After offering scholarships to its spring events for several years, the Carolina Spirit Quest Board decided it was time to fine tune the application process.

There are two main changes. First, the initial round of applications will be accepted through the mail, not email. There will be a deadline and the scholarship committee will review all the applications at the same time. We hope this will give everyone a fair chance. Second, all applicants will be required to send a sliding scale deposit with their application. Applicants can decide where they slide.

The catalog will be mailed about February 1, 2002. The application form will be included in the catalog and listed on the website. All applicants must specify the amount of scholarship they are requesting. After the deadline, the scholarship committee will review the applications. The recipients will be notified by email of the amount of their scholarship. Each recipient will have to notify the committee by email if they are accepting or declining their scholarship by a deadline. If they do not notify the committee one way or the other, their scholarship money will then go back into the scholarship fund. Any further requests will be considered as the committee receives them.

The Board decided to make these changes to make the process as fair and easy for everyone involved, both the applicants and the committee. Check our website for further information and details on the scholarship program. If you have any questions regarding scholarships, please email me at thorsmountain@hotmail.com, call 919-451-0598, or write to PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715-1335.

Tammie Ward
Board of Directors



In Appreciation

Thanks to our Donors.

The following folks contributed to the Board fund to lower the cost of registration for the 2001 Event:

Danny Moses \$50.00
Gryphon \$50.00
Dick Merritt \$50.00
Tammie Ward \$100.00
Tamia Buckingham \$200.00
Susan Hill \$50.00
Lady Asherah & Wolfstone \$50.00
Anonymous \$12.00
The Palmares \$75.00
Nathan Guinn \$25.00

Total \$662.00

Gifts in Kind:

Lady Asherah (2001) \$150.00
Lady Asherah (2000) \$240.00

A thank you to Lady Asherah for donating all the materials required for her workshops.

Next time:
Contributors to the Bart Wendel Scholarship Fund.

Pausing Half-way—President's Ponderings

I realized while sitting at the Samhain Ritual's bonfires that my term as CSQ President is half over. This filled me with mixed emotions: - thrilled to be on the ever closer count-down to Spring 2002, and the spiritual growth that the event will bring to my life - concerned that there is still so much work to be completed in order to clear the decks for the next President's projects - awed that my two year's on the board have flown by so quickly and how much my own spirituality has deepened in the process - amazed at the momentum of the efforts of the current board members and how they bring magick and joy into every activity

I realize that the most important thing that I can do for Carolina Spirit Quest is to encourage more of you, our members, to serve in leadership roles within this religious organization. We have experienced tremendous growth over the last six years, which creates more complexity and specialization in the organization and thereby creating more opportunities - both worship related and business related - for volunteers. Of course, the most obvious areas are those leadership positions at the event level - co-directors and staff. These talented and dedicated folks work for a year or more on all the details of a specific event - the logistics, the worship circles, and the spiritual workshops. It used to be that the board and staff were highly entwined and overlapping, however, with the number of events and scope of activities growing, this is becoming more and more difficult to continue. It is also increasingly important to have the leadership and staff selected well before the event preceding their own - so that they can learn the ropes and get an early start. I also realize that the work of the board is less visible to most folks. Please remember that board meetings are open to members - let us know if you wish to attend. In the meantime, here is an overview of our board meetings this year.

Board meetings, held once a quarter, start on a Friday night and end on Sunday. Board meetings are always full and can be a little overwhelming - bonding between the members, performing a post mortem on the most recent events, reading and re-reading all the evaluations you turned in, setting the stage for the next round of events - including reviewing budgets, attending to all the business details, and setting the tone and agenda for all the work ahead of us. But we also find time to play as well, which has been an extremely important aspect of these meetings. We generally split up meal preparation duties and have time to swim, get a massage, or play music together. Every meeting starts and ends with the acknowledgement of sacred space and attending to a community altar that stands in a central section of the room throughout the weekend. So, in many ways, the board meeting becomes a protracted worship service in its own right.

At each meeting, the Board Members remind ourselves of why we do Quest and commit to focusing the spirituality of the events into the business of Quest as well. We infuse the entire board weekend with our spirituality - we walk our talk. The ancestor bowl sits center stage on the community altar and marks each phase of our discussions with a fresh stick of incense. In the spirit of the Spreading Our Wings event, we honor our past - celebrate our present - and create our future.

We honored the success of CSQ 2001 - and it was very successful: we came away with constructive suggestions, a foundation for expansion, and a cash surplus to apply to the long-term contingency fund. We harvested the best of CSQ 2001 for designing future

events - those workshops that nobody can seem to get enough of. Spring 2002 Co-Directors Blake Davis and Lance Brown used the Spring 2001 event as a springboard for 2002 by building on the format of a special pagan guest for a Friday Intensive and Keynote. I can't wait to attend the workshops with Oberon and Morning Glory Zell-Ravenheart. This Quest will also build on the practice started in 2001 of having a dedicated ritual planning committee work on all three of the large worship circle events. Our own Larry Taylor and Lynda Aiman-Smith are spearheading this task - which indicates that sacred dance and music will be an important part of our large group rituals.

In celebrating our present, we affirmed Gryphon Rosemead as Director of Quest: Special for a Fall Event - Quest: Blood, Stones, and Runes which was held in Hillsborough, North Carolina. This was a successful one-day event that has already been requested in other areas - look for the road show schedule soon! It's no longer a question of whether to take it on the road, but rather a question of where first. We re-assessed the tasks and personnel of our committees and are surging forward with Long Range Planning and two Scholarship Programs - one for attendance at CSQ events and the other a Pagan College Scholarship Program. If you have or know a Pagan high school senior, please direct them to this opportunity - nearly 1200 high schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia have received the scholarship information. Many of us participated in regional Pagan Pride Events. Triangle Pagan Pride Day attracted nearly 500 participants - with the talented CSQ Food Crew providing foodservice and four CSQ board members in lead roles in the closing worship circle.

We are taking charge of our future. We have adopted a permanent logo that will carry forward for all CSQ activities - while still having individual event logos and T-shirts as well. This new logo will, over time, make CSQ more easily recognized as an on-going pagan religious organization. We are looking for potential co-directors for 2003, 2004, and 2005. If you see a directorship in your future - talk with a board member. We have targeted some specific events outside of Spring Quest - Psychic Fairs, one-day intensive workshops, and more. If one of these events sparks your interest - let us know, we are looking for event coordinators. We have filed for federal tax exempt status (known as the 501c3 process) so that all donations to CSQ will be deductible for the donors. We've slashed our per newsletter operating overhead costs by moving to bulk mail rates (slated to drop again due to the tax exempt status) and negotiating a printing arrangement with Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. These steps also allow us to produce a higher quality newsletter than we've been able to achieve at the quick-print outlets.

Finally, at the end of each board weekend, the entire group works on ways to take the magic of our weekend meeting back to our individual areas. To some extent, this comes in the form of action lists and follow-up tasks. But often, it's the ending of the weekend with a group activity - in August, it was a Pudding Toss organized by Blake, complete with colored sprinkles and maraschino cherries. This is definitely an activity to participate in at the Spring Event if offered - it certainly brought out the little kid in all of us. I wonder what the November meeting will bring.

So consider, will you spread your wings and stand for a board position or directorship? I can guarantee you that it will help you find many ways to bring the magick home. -Tamia

Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc.

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The Zells are coming! The Zells are coming!

CSQ is extremely pleased to announce our special guests at the Spring 2002 Event:

Oberon Zell-Ravenheart co-founded the Church of All Worlds in 1962. First to apply the terms "Pagan" and "Neo-Pagan" to the newly emerging Nature Religions of the 1960s, and through his publication of the Green Egg (1968-1975; 1988-96), Oberon was instrumental in the coalescence of the Neo-Pagan movement. In 1970, Oberon formulated and published the theology of deep ecology which has become known as The Gaia Thesis. Oberon is the primary sculptor of The Mythic Images Collection, producing museum-quality replicas and beautiful original altar figurines of Gods, Goddesses, and mythological creatures.

Morning Glory Zell-Ravenheart, Elder Priestess of the Church of All Worlds, was ordained in 1974, and co-founded the Holy Order of Mother Earth in 1978. She is a Goddess Historian, Loremistress and Priestess of the Great Goddess in Her many guises, traveling and lecturing with her extensive collection of Goddess figurines, some of which she sculpted herself. She and Oberon have been together for 27 years, and are now in a group marriage of six people. The term "polyamory", applying to multiple loving relationships, was coined by Morning Glory in 1990, and has been entered into the Oxford English Dictionary.

More information about Oberon and Morning Glory can be found at <http://www.caw.org/clergy/index.html>

