

Spring 2002



PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY WORLD

Carolina Spirit Quest Spring 2002

Bringing Home The Magick - Co-Directors 2002 Report

Lance Brown
Blake Davis

Thinking back to the weekend of CSQ 2002, I'm amazed at the wonderful memories I have and the feelings it brings back to me. I hardly know where to start talking about everything!

Once again, we drew participants from far and wide! People joined us from as far away as New York and California this year. Our reach continues to grow as we learn about ourselves and our communities. Attendance this year matched last years at 102 participants, and counting our special presenters, Oberon and Morning Glory Zell-Ravenheart, we exceeded our record attendance by 2 people!

Camp Millstone was in excellent condition when the staff arrived on Thursday to set up. Gene Shutt, the camp manager, had a crew from the IMPACT program in to clean the camp grounds and buildings during the week before CSQ and were still working on Thursday when we arrived. They did a fantastic job of spiffing up the place. Thanks to Gene and the IMPACT kids for the good work and providing us an excellent venue for our weekend.

The weather cooperated for the most part. There was some rain but it did not greatly interfere with the event, and in no account did we get pored upon like back in 2000, when it rained incessantly for most of the weekend. The temperatures were moderate and very comfortable as well. We're very thankful for the beautiful weather!

Following on from last year, we invited Oberon and Morning Glory Zell-Ravenheart to attend as our Feature Presenters. They brought the wealth of many years of experience in the pagan community to our gathering and a delightful sense of humor and joy in sharing themselves with us. Oberon and Morning Glory led the Intensive workshop on Friday and also led two regular workshops during the main weekend event: Animal Spirit Circle, a workshop leading us on a shamanic transformation through our totem animals, and The

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Power of the Dance
A Letter in Praise

The Board 2002

New Board Members

Each year at our annual meeting, we elect three At Large Board members to serve two year terms. This year we elected Kevin Holden, Joy Tortorelli and Asherah. Welcome aboard!

Look for bios on the entire Board in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, please contact any of our Board members with any ideas, suggestions or questions you have regarding Quest.

CSQ, Inc. Board Members

As of April 25, 2002

Asherah, Secretary
Board Member at Large - Spring Event 2004
Waynesville, NC
shdwveil@bellsouth.net

Lance A Brown
Board Member at Large - Spring Event 2003
2002 Co-Director Emeritus
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Magickal Logo Search!

How would you like to see your artwork displayed on the CSQ, Inc. web page and go down in history? How would you like to receive a free T-shirt with your artworks printed on it? How would you like to see a whole group of people wearing your artwork?

Well this can become a reality for you. Every year we sponsor a Spring Quest Logo Contest. We have some wonderful artists submit their art for this contest and sometimes it has been very hard to choose a winner. Once again we are on our search for a magickal logo.

The 2003 Spring Quest theme is "Stepping into the Light" and we are looking for a very special piece of artwork for our flyers, web page, T-shirts and newsletter. E-mail your ideas to Asherah at shdwveil@bellsouth.net or mail them to her at PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715-1355. Please submit your artwork by July 19, 2002. Logos from previous years are displayed at <http://www.carolinaspiritquest.org/logos.html>

Let us hear from you!

Asherah

Don't Forget Your Survey!

In your registration packet from last year there was a survey form. We rely heavily on input from these to make CSQ better each year.

If you have not filled yours in yet, please do. You can email your suggestions for next year to the Quest 2003 Co-Directors; Lance Brown at labrown@nc.rr.com or Dan Tortorelli at dragonoth999@yahoo.com or you can mail your form to: Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc., PO Box 61335, Durham, NC 27715-1355. Can't find your survey form? That is no problem. Just write down whatever is on your mind and send it in.

In particular we are working on developing a more comprehensive children's program. We need parents' input and ideas on what they would like to see for their children, not only next year, but in the future. Take a few minutes to brainstorm and then let us hear from you.

Whichever way you decide to do it, please, please, do it!! Thank you.

Asherah

2002 Annual Meeting

Tammie Ward Board President

Judging from my experience and comments from fellow participants, I believe we are "Bringing Home the Magick". Normally when I return from gatherings, I have a tough time getting back to work. I have to fake it and pretend like I'm busy. April 15 was different. I returned to work and was productive immediately.

I started the next day reading glowing emails from two friends. They were sharing their experiences at Quest and how they had been transformed. One has offered to be on our staff and the other volunteered to lead a workshop in 2003. During dinner at my house, another friend shared how great it was to be in sacred space the entire weekend. He found new appreciation for community once he returned home. Indeed, we are bringing home the magick.

Our theme for 2003 is "Stepping Into the Light". The entire staff is already working hard on 2003. Look for updates in future newsletters and our website. During the coming year, think about the many ways you step can into the light.

In the winter 2002 newsletter, Tamia wrote about seeds in our spiritual garden. I had this in mind when I read the following in the latest issue of PanGaia magazine.

"The garden must be prepared in the soul first or else it will not flourish. Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh into a harvest." Old English Proverb

In the past seven years, Quest has planted many seeds in many spiritual gardens. Several seeds have grown into beautiful and thriving ideas and events. Some seeds are just below the surface, waiting to sprout forth. Still others are waiting for their gardener to tickle them.

Quest is for you, it is about you and it happens because of you. Quest needs your help to continue to grow and flourish. I ask each of you to look in your spiritual garden. Reach deep in your soul. Ask yourself, "How can I help nurture our Quest garden?" As your Board President, I am willing to talk to you in person, by telephone or by email. Tell me what excites you. Tell me your dreams for Quest. Tell me what you want growing in our Quest garden. Then pick up your hoe and laugh it into a harvest.

Blessings

Tammie

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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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www.CarolinaSpiritQuest.org

Board Members

Tammie Ward, Pres, Durham

Susan Hill, Treas, Greensboro

Asherah, Secy, Waynesville

Lance A. Brown, Durham

Tamia Buckingham, Hillsborough

Stephen Coenen, Hickory

Gryphon Rosemead, Creedmoor

Kevin Holden, Boone

Dick Merritt, Durham

Dan Tortorelli, Asheville

Joy Tortorelli, Asheville

Upcoming QuestSpecials—Check Them Out!

Gryphon Rosemead

If you have not gotten a chance to attend some of the more requested CSQ Workshops, or you would love to delve into them more deeply, check out the QuestSpecials that may be taking place near you. And if there is not a QS happening close by, make one happen yourself! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/nc/gryphon/QuestSpecial.html> to find out more about QuestSpecials and how you can sponsor one in your area. If there is a subject you would like that is not listed, let me know and we can probably come up with what you want. Until then see if one of these might be convenient.

QuestSpecial Greensboro: Herbs, Mandalas and the 5 Senses will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro, NC on Saturday, June 29, 2002. Please see the enclosed brochure/registration form in this Newsletter for more information. Featured Workshops will be: The Hidden Life of Herbs: Medicinal and Magical (Facilitators: Asherah and Starshadow), Creating Mandalas (Facilitator: Gryphon Rosemead) and Healing Through the Five Senses (Facilitator: Sharon Hill).

QuestSpecial: Wilmington will be in the fall and almost certainly will feature the Sacred Blood

Workshop (Presenters: Tammie Ward and Gryphon Rosemead). They are also interested in one of Sharon Hill's Workshops (Chakras or Healing through the 5 Senses). There may well be another QS planned in this area in the off season.

QuestSpecial: Sanford is still in the planning stages with perhaps more than one QS over time at a Pagan friendly store.

QuestSpecial: Asheville will include Magical Herbs (Presenter: Asherah) and perhaps two more Workshops. It will be in the fall or early winter.

QuestSpecial: Charlotte plans are being finalized by the CUUPS chapter there and may be held at PUUC. This should be in late summer or early fall.

QuestSpecials: Far and Wide there are plans in the works for the possible expansion of our reach. Areas not in NC, SC and VA have begun to be interested in hosting QuestSpecials. Whether we will do this or not is still up in the air—it would be difficult. If we do decide to go ahead with this, look for QuestSpecials in Washington DC, NYC, GA and there's still the rumor of one in Texas. And let us not forget the one planned for in Hawaii.

Caring Corner

The caring corner is a spot in our newsletter where our members can share their joys, their sorrows and their concerns. It's a place we can mention members who are recovering from illness or surgery, and send them healing energy. Do you have a new family member, human or pet? Share their photo with us. Share your news with our community on these pages. Please submit any announcements to our editor, Brydie Palmore at oakgrove.nc.rr.com

Healing energy goes to Sharon Hill, Alyse Ford and Joy Tarterelli who are recovering from surgery. Also to the parents of Kathy Sage, who have been experiencing health problems lately.



Drummers drumming at the Closing Ritual.

Come to The Fire

Heartbeats,
drumbeats,
footsteps on the hard sand.

Bright fires dance!
fiery granite glows!
eyes flash in the darkness!

Spirit soars,
warm hugs comfort,
laughter rejoices.

From far we come,
from diverse traditions we come,
from our everyday lives, we come.

We gather!
We share!
We grow!

Our community is made, once again,
friendships made, and renewed.
One People. One Community.

Come to the Fire!

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Dancers and musicians at the Closing Ritual

Spreading Our Feathers - Part Two

At the very beginning of our spiritual retreat (Spring Quest 2001) we blessed and posted feathers in each Quarter of Millstone - enacting the theme of Spreading Our Wings. In our closing worship circle we brought the feathers back to the center of the community and empowered folks to carry them even further afield.

Susan Hill took the East feather with her in anticipation of her trip to France; Roger Dinger volunteered to carry the West feather with him on his trip to Mongolia; Michelle Brewer committed to take the North feather to the Great Lakes area; Silhouette agreed to take the South feather to Key West.

Last newsletter, Susan and Roger shared the details of carrying the feathers in their care. We gained insight into their personal spiritual journeys in the sharing of these stories - Susan's trip through Spain and France visiting a number of sacred sites and Roger's pilgrimage to learn about spiritual practices in Mongolia. This issue, we hear about Michelle and Silhouette's journeys to post the North and South feathers.

Silhouette reports...

The South feather found a home on the slopes of Mount Avila, overlooking Caracas, Venezuela. My parents and I took it about 1/2 way up the mountain and threw it from one of the small cliffs to let it float down the mountainside. It fell to rest in a wild, overgrown area that is completely inaccessible except by the local parrots, monkeys and snakes. So the red feather is now happily blending with the colors of the tropical birds and berries.

Michelle reports...

My original intention was to take the North feather to Niagara Falls - however that didn't work out. I went backpacking over labor day weekend 2001 to Zaleski State Forest. Zaleski is located in the Southeastern portion of Ohio - it houses a broad selection of hiking, camping, forestry and gameland activities. The north feather got placed within the northeastern part of the forest which is an old unmanaged timber plantation. The area has been relatively undisturbed for quite a few years and is home to some unique habitats.

Bringing Home The Magick - Co-Directors 2002 Report

Continued from front page...

Shadow: Dealing with the Dark Side, an exploration of the shadow side of life, of the darkness that balances the light in our lives and how to deal with it. They also brought their statuary and plaques from Mythic Images, a collection of goddess and god imagery suitable for anyone's altars!

Quest is growing in many ways! We expanded our Friday afternoon offerings this year. Oberon and Morning

Glory led the Friday Intensive on Polyamory for Pagans. We also had a trip to the Town Creek Indian mound led by Larry Taylor and Lynda Aiman-Smith. They brought back fire from the Indian mound to light the rituals fires used for the entire weekend. Both events were well attended.



Oberon and Morning Glory

We also had more vendors this year than ever before! Eight people brought their creations and goods to share with us including drums, artwork, jewelry, statuary, clothing, ritual items, and other goodies. It was wonderful to see the variety and a true task to choose what to buy and what had to be left on the tables for next year.

Twenty-two workshops were offered, including a Newcomers workshop to provide information for first-time gathering attendees and welcome them to Spirit Quest.



Relaxing on the front stoop

We drummed, belly danced, spun wool into yarn, made flutes from bamboo, became Reiki level one workers, studied tarot, storytelling, elemental balancing, and design of rituals for large groups, became Votaries of Isis,

built a sweat lodge and used it, and many other things. The selection was amazing and choosing only three to attend was difficult. We'd like to thank the presenters for their work to prepare and present their workshops for us!

Our fire circles ran late into the night both Friday and Saturday. Drummers and dancers shared their magick with us as we joined around

the fire and wove our communities tighter. Several people asked for a silent sweat, so we added another one Saturday night. The rocks went into the fire to heat and the sweaters crawled into the lodge around midnight. Outside, drums played and dancers moved providing a background of music, rhythm, and energy for the sweat. The sweaters reported it was an amazing and powerful experience!

Our kitchen was handled by Bill Elston and Torrin again this year, and we all ate heartily from the delicious menu of meals they provided for us. Thank you for all your good work! They also provided two tables worth of dessert for the masquerade ball. What an amazing sight to behold! Chocolate, pastries, candy, puddings, and all manner of delectables laid out for us to devour and enjoy! Thank you so much!



Kitchen Help



Personal altar
Votaries of Isis Altar



The masquerade ball brought out the dancers in all their finest garb, and the silent auction raised funds for CSQs continued growth. Music was provided by a DJ with a fine mix of tunes ranging from rave to rock to golden oldies even! Auction



Bill and glorious dessert

items included an Aphrodite statue from Mythic Images, signed by the Zell-Ravenhearts, a balloon ride, one of Tammie Wards patented chocolate cheesecakes, artwork, jewelry, and many other items. The funds raised will be used to realize the goals set by the CSQ Long-Term Visioning Process.

Our rituals this year wove song and dance from around the world into a thread that carried through the entire weekend. We became a People of One Fire. The sacred fire brought back from the Indian mound burned all weekend as a symbol of our community. During the closing ritual we were able to bring that fire home with us we lit candles from it and carried them home.

Carolina Spirit Quest is a living, growing thing, and the most important part of it is you, the participants! Without you, it would not exist and your input is vital to its continued success! It is you, the community, who make it the vital and wonderful event we have come to expect each year! Please fill out the evaluation forms and return them!



The Ritual Pole with Hoops

Your ideas and desires will help make each Spring event better than the last. Consider volunteering for a staff position! It's a lot of hard work, and the pay is meager, but the reward of helping make the Spring Event happen are amazing and rich!

This is our last article about CSQ 2002, Bringing Home the Magick. We'd like to say thank you to all the wonderful people we've had the honor to share this past year



Sweatlodge in Process

with, the staff who put so much time and energy into making the event happen, and the participants who came and shared themselves and their joy with everyone. You all make it happen and bring your magick and love to the event. We are honored to be a part of such a wonderful community and look forward to see you all again next year!



Trip to The Mound to Gather Fire for Quest Rituals

Baby Birds and Spring Quest 2004

Tammie Ward, Tamia Buckingham, Co-Directors Spring Quest

Did that title get your attention? Are you wondering if there is a connection? Good!

I have gutter guards on my house. A mother bird decided the gutter over my porch was a safe place to build her nest. It is a great place. It's safe from predators, provides shelter from the elements and there is little chance the baby birds will fall out of the nest. I can't see the birds, but I can definitely hear them, especially when Mama Bird leaves for more food. When Mama returns to the nest, the babies cry out for their share of the worm.

Tamia reports she just spent her lunch hour by the Eno River listening to a nest of baby robins behaving the same way. Regardless of the location we might currently occupy, the activity is the same.

So what is the connection between Baby Birds and Spring Quest 2004? Tamia and I have two managers and several staff in place. You might not see us, but we are working hard behind the scenes on 2004. Our team is very enthusiastic, asking questions, working on details, getting things in place. We don't want to pop our cork too soon, or step into the light of 2003. But rest assured we have a great start on 2004.

If you have an interest in helping us with 2004, please contact any of the following people:

Gryphon Rosemead: Programs Manager, gryph@pobox.com

Asherah: Workshop Coordinator, shdwveil@bellsouth.net

Dick Merritt: Communications Manager, dickmerritt@mindspring.com

Silhouette: Webmistress, silhouette@intrex.net

The Tamboos

Spotlight on Programs, Spring 2003

The Programs Team for Spring Quest 2003 is quickly taking shape. Lots of enthusiastic conversations are underway to help participants explore the theme of "Stepping into the Light" with a series of workshops, discussions, and events that will help make each moment a little more spiritual.

Three aspects of the theme are coalescing: Celebrating our Openness - for those that are public about their spirituality in the mundane world; Contemplating that Step - for those that want to weigh the pros and cons of coming out of the broom closet; and Quiet Spirituality - for those folks that choose to remain private and unobtrusive about their spiritual path in their daily lives.

Which aspect calls to you? Perhaps you have a workshop or ritual idea that would illuminate that path for other members of the community. If so, please contact the staff member of your choice:

Sharon Hill (Skserious@aol.com) - Workshop Coordinator. Sharon was responsible for assembling the delicious menu of workshop choices at the 2002 Bringing Home the Magick event. We are thrilled that she has agreed to do a repeat performance for 2003. Please send your proposals for workshops, along with a brief biography to Sharon for consideration in 2003 Workshop Slate.

Gryphon Rosemead (Gryph@pobox.com) - Ritual Planning Team Lead. Gryphon, along with team members RavenWind and Gary, is coordinating the rituals for the event. This team's

energy is already shining brightly – get involved or pass on ideas by e-mailing Gryphon.

Tim Woody (Tim51370@yahoo.com) - Children's Program Team Lead. Tim was the driving force between offering an expanded program by age level at the 2002 Spring Quest. Over 10% of our participants in 2002 were children! From what I'm hearing, 2003 will be even bigger and better. By offering age appropriate activities for our next generation, we are letting them grow into the leaders of tomorrow. If you have an interest leading/assisting with a children's section or in sharing a craft or favorite activity as a workshop for our children: toddlers, juniors, or teens, contact Tim.

Kathy Sage (KathleenSage@msn.com) and Dick Merritt (DickMerritt@mindspring.com) - Other Programs Co-facilitators. This area just keeps on growing: Community Altar; Goods & Services Auction; Gift Exchange, Bard's Circles; Drum Circles; Keynote events; Post-ritual Parties (Masquerades or otherwise); and more. Kathy and Dick have agreed to tackle this area of "all our other great ideas" and bring the best of them into the 2003 event. If there is something new you want us to try at CSQ in 2003 - this is the two-some to tell.

Being associated with such an awesome, talented team is a truly exhilarating experience for me. It is my privilege to cast the spotlight on each of them - just wait to see what they step forward with!

Tamia Buckingham (owzatagain@earthlink.net)
Programs Manager

Eostre On The Beach

By MoonDance & Tammie Ward

On March 16, 2002, forty-one pagans from North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania gathered on the beach near Nags Head to celebrate Eostre. In hosting this ritual, members of Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. (CSQ) and The Pagan Alliance For Tolerance In Eastern North Carolina (PATIENC) worked together to create what we believe was the first open, public, Pagan ritual on the Outer Banks.

CSQ is a nonprofit, religious organization that was formed to encourage networking and the building of community spirit among Pagans and Earth-Centered religionists in the Carolinas and the surrounding area. Quest currently sponsors an annual spring festival, as well as presenting one-day workshop intensives and other events at locations throughout the Carolinas.

PATIENC is a non-worship, non-denominational, civic-educational group located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. It offers monthly discussions and workshops in Kill Devil Hills, NC, as well as sponsoring a Pagan Parenting group and a lending library.

Representatives of both Quest and PATIENC attended the first North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference in January 2002. At that time, PATIENC was looking for an established group to hold an Eostre ritual in their area and CSQ happily volunteered to be that group. In the following weeks, members of Quest planned the ritual while PATIENC arranged for the location and provided local publicity and support.

Finally, on this warm and windy day in March, we joined together in community to welcome the return of

Spring. As the Equinox approached, we basked once again in the warmth of the sun, celebrating this as a time of renewal and rebirth.

Honoring the Ocean by which we stood, we first constructed altars in the sand and cast the circle with seawater.

Then, continuing a theme begun at the Pagan Leadership Conferences, we used the literal sharing and taking home of seeds as symbolic of the seeds that we each plant within our communities. These seeds were charged with our spoken wishes, hopes and dreams for new beginnings and then distributed to the participants as we sang.

While we celebrated, a small group of Christian "protestors" gathered about 300 yards from us to sing their own songs. However, the ritual continued without disruption. After opening the circle, we set up a bonfire. As we continued with drumming and dancing, the predicted rains finally ended our tired beats with their own rhythmic patter.

The seeds of new beginnings and new community have been planted in the sands. The falling waters of the Mother have blessed them. It will be interesting to see what grows as they take root among us.

For more information on Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. visit their website at: <http://www.carolinaspiritquest.org/>

More information on PATIENC is located at:
<http://www.pagan.drak.net/obxpatienc/>

The Board 2002 – continued

(Continued from page 2)

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2003 Co-Director - Spring Event 2004
Communications Committee
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Joy Tortorelli
Board Member at Large - Spring Event 2004
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Tammie Ward, President
2004 Co-Director Elect
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Davis Leaves Board

On May 1, 2002, Blake Davis sent me a letter of resignation since I am Board President. He stated his desire to resign his Board position as Co-Director Emeritus 2002 effective immediately. I accepted it. Because Blake's position was not an elected one, the Board will not fill his vacancy.

As Co-Director in 2002, Blake Davis helped guide the Quest organization to a successful, enjoyable event. We appreciate his dedication, hard work and contributions to Quest. The entire Board will miss Blake. We wish him all the best in his future pursuits.

Sincerely,
Tammie Ward, President

Quest Annual Report — Tamia Buckingham

When we were last together, we spread our wings. Our wingspan proved much broader than I could have possibly hoped.

Our members carried the feathers from our last gathering to the four quarters:

East to France on the Trail of the Black Madonna;
West to an oboo in Mongolia;
North to an unmanaged old timber plantation in Zableski State Forest in Southeastern Ohio; and South to Mount Avila in Caracas, Venezuela.

We adopted a corporate logo that serves as an umbrella for all of our events and communi-cations – making CSQ more recognizable in the community and beyond. That logo was debuted in our newsletter and at Pagan Pride Day Events.

Our very own Sam Thompson and Alison Dunmore represented CSQ at the Mid-Atlantic Pagan Leadership Conference in Virginia last August and launched the North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference with the help of Triad CUUPS in January. This conference has introduced us to wonderful talent within our own area – and you can look forward to meeting and getting to know some of that talent through CSQ-sponsored events.

Due to the passionate leadership of Gryphon Rosemead, we have established a Pagan College Scholarship that, for years to come, will reward a college-bound pagan student a stipend to further his or her education. The scholarship mailing went to over 500 high schools in the Carolinas and Virginia.

Perhaps Gryphon should receive the flight distance award – as she also launched the first successful CSQ workshop event outside of the Spring Gathering. Quest: Blood, Stones and Runes was a runaway success and is ready to go on the road.

Of course, Gryphon has to share that flight distance award, because Tammie Ward and the PATIENC group took CSQ all the way to Nag's Head for our first public ritual. The publicity for this event was so successful that we even had a small group of Christians camped out nearby to pray for our souls. We are a force demanding to be reckoned with. Everyone that attended this ritual did so on their own funds – at no expense to CSQ.

Of course, we have some flight duration awards to hand out as well. We have a board member that has served for several years. Elected as a member-at-large in 1999, she has also served as a co-director, and board secretary. She has done a fabulous job of putting together policy and procedure manuals and getting the details of

CSQ documented. Thank you, Asherah.

Our Treasurer was originally appointed in August 1998 in conjunction with the From These Roots event. She has served as Treasurer ever since – and has hosted Board Meetings at her family's Lake Norman vacation home for the past four years. Thank you, Susan.

But now, it's time for us to rest from our flight and "Bring the Magick Home." We have applied for non-profit tax status by undergoing what the IRS fondly call the 501c3 process. The IRS has acknowledged the receipt of our application and we hope to have a determination by June of this year. What does this mean for CSQ? When we achieve this recognition from the IRS, we qualify as a charitable organization and your donations to CSQ can be taken into account on your tax returns.

We have started the process of converting our records to fund accounting so that we can track all the multiple events within a year. Our most recent bank statement shows a balance of \$7,550. Our projected deficit for this year is \$650 due to the one-time expenses associated with the tax filings. And our Balance Sheet shows Assets of \$7,970. Our Program Development fund goal of \$10,000 was established to cover a totally blown Spring event and still have funds to seed the next event. In August, the end of this fiscal year, we will be able to move the first installment into that sinking fund and be in good shape to host Quest Specials and Spring 2003.



Presidents: Past. Present. Future?

We have undergone the long range planning process to determine collectively where we want to go in the years to come. My thanks to Dick Merritt and the

LRP Committee on this effort. Thanks to all of you that have attended a LRP visioning session – your vision will drive our future.

It's been a busy and magical year – and I'm tired. I have been so very blessed to serve CSQ as your president for the past year. It's been a year for me to spread my wings and grow as well – I thank you all for the growth opportunities that you've thrown my way. I'm ready to sit by that hearth and let the magick of the last year come home for me. So it's time for me to pass the torch – and let your new president tell you how we will continue to Bring the Magick Home. So let me introduce your new president – Tammie Ward.

Singing and Dancing our Magic

We were the ritual coordinators for this years CSQ, and we brought our conviction that pagans need to sing and dance more into our roles and planning. Last year, Issac Bonewits emphasized the beauty of bardic offerings in ritual. At Isaac's invitation last year we offered a dance called "Seen, Unseen" which honored the goddess. About a dozen CSQ attendees participated and our vision was to involve every Carolina Spirit Quest attendee is a similar way this year.

We sang and danced in the opening, main and closing rituals, drawing from many spiritual traditions. Many of the songs (and some description of dances) can be found in Kate Marks' 1994 book "Circle of Song--Songs, Chants and Dances for Ritual and Celebration" published by Full Circle Press, Amherst, MA.

Music was provided by Larry with the help of RJ Perz-Edwards and Gregory Blaine. These musicians had rehearsed before CSQ and brought a beautiful sound to the ritual space.

Opening Ritual

We opened on Friday 4/12/2002 by dancing in an adaptation of a traditional Choctaw Snake Dance. This is a social dance meant to imitate the coiling and uncoiling and weaving motions of a snake.

The words we sang are not Choctaw language, but are vocables "hey heya hey hey ya heya no heya hey hey ya heya no."

Next, since we were meeting in North Carolina, we danced and sang to honor the Goddess, in a joyful "gospel" style.

*I woke up this morning with the Goddess in my heart
I woke up this morning with the Goddess in my heart
I woke up this morning with the Goddess in my heart
Blessed be Her Name*

*Shine shine shine
Shine shine shine
Shine shine shine
Blessed be Her Name*

*Glory glory glory to the Goddess
Glory glory glory to the Goddess
Glory glory glory to the Goddess
Blessed be Her Name*

Our last song and dance on Friday night was one most of the participants found familiar. It is sometimes called the Celtic Goddess Blessing or the Merry Meet. A version can be found in "Circle of Song."

*May the circle be open yet unbroken
May the love of the Goddess be ever in your heart
Merry meet, and merry part, and merry meet again.*

In this dance the dancers had the opportunity to really

"meet" and sing to each other.

Main Ritual

Saturday main ritual was meant to invoke deep trance. Again, we wanted to honor different traditions. We danced a version of a Chumash song, one from the Buddhist tradition, and one from the Mid-east.

As we cast the Circle prior to the dances, masked animal spirits of eagle, coyote, bear and white buffalo invoked the power of the four directions. Much thanks to Evelyn, Rusty, Cliff and Kathy for their roles. These Dancers of the Directions transcended the stuffiness and discomfort that can go with being masked, and let the Spirit of the elements come through.

Our first dance was Sha Noon - a dance about the strength of the willow tree

*Sha noon ho ya
Shanooh ooh
Hey hey ya hey ya ya honay
Hey hey ya hey ya ya honay
Hey hey ya hey ya ya honay
Ho nay Ho nay*

We then danced in honor of Tara, the Goddess of compassion and protection in the Buddhist tradition.

*Om Tara tu Tara ture soha
Om Tara tu Tara ture soha
Om Tara tu Tara ture soha
Om Tara tu Tara ture soha*

This mantra roughly translates to:

Oh Tara, holy swift acting mother, we pray and invoke you. Watch over us, protect us, bless us, and embrace us in your love.

Our last dance on Saturday celebrated Shaddai, the Many-Breasted One, an ancient Canaanite name for the gratitude to the group who met at Indian mound, and brought back the fire to CSQ. Members of that group decorated and "pulled the pole," symbolizing the Three Worlds. That pole looked over our community during the weekend. Our fire lit the beautiful torch by the pole - all weekend we were Okla Luak Amih Achafa - People of One Fire.

Extra thanks to the musicians (thank you thank you). Gregory, Larry, and RJ gifted us with amazing rhythm and sound. Thanks to members of Chantress who helped sing in the crowd. Thanks to the Dancers of the Directions, who brought their gifts into the Circle, ah yakoke. And thanks to all the members of the Carolina Spirit Quest community who sang and danced joyfully, sang and danced thoughtfully, sang and danced deeply.

We hope you took these songs and dances home with you. Yakoke Chito!

Lynda Aiman-Smith and Larry Taylor

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PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY
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Board Meetings Schedule

August 16-18, 2002
Somewhere near Asheville

November 15-17, 2002
OneSpirit, Pittsboro, NC

February 21-23 (Date moved due to Valentine's Day)
Fairy Stone State Park in Stuart, VA

All members of Quest in good standing are welcome to attend any Board meetings at their own expense. If you would like to attend a Board meeting, please contact Tammie Ward at thorsmountain@hotmail.com for directions

