

Summer 2002



PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY WORLD

Carolina Spirit Quest summer 2002

2003 Workshops

Sharon Hill

The theme for Spring Quest 2003 is "Stepping into the Light". In the last newsletter, Tamia Buckingham, Programs Manager for '03 discussed three aspects of the theme: Celebrating our Openness – for those that are open about their spirituality in the mundane world; Contemplating the Step – for those that want to weigh the pros and cons of the broom closet; and Quiet Spirituality -- for those of us who choose to remain private and unobtrusive about their spiritual path in their daily lives.

Putting together another wonderful menu of workshops under this theme is going to be both a joy and a breeze with all the wonderful teachers and facilitators coming forward. Our friends at PaganNet News have offered to share some of their wisdom and knowledge. Preliminary suggestions include a workshop on "Legal Aspects for Pagans" by Nightshade who is an attorney and "Lessons Learned from Gay Rights Activism" by Kimana and Lisa Lemaster. Our own Asherah and Tamia plan to present "How to Maintain Your Spirituality Without Coming Out." and Gryphon will facilitate "Coming Out at Work."

Continuing our practice of offering a wide selection of opportunities to broaden your magickal knowledge and skill, there are workshops being developed in "Making Your Own Incense (Becky S.), Tantric sexuality (Raven C.), Astrology (Phil R.), Method Acting for Ritual and Magick (Michael M.), Mask Making (LuAnn), and Lantern Making (Garry and Andrea). Each one more appetizing than the last and there are still treats to be added to our magickal menu. For instance, I'm certain I won't miss the chance to teach again – possibly "Designing Your Personal Pagan Practice" since I wasn't able to be there last year.

Some of our old favorite dishes are being repeated: Drumming with RJ, Tarot with Silhouette, and the new and very popular "Newcomer's workshop" done so well last spring by Asherah, Tammie, and Gryphon.

A smorgasbord of magikal offerings, something for every appetite and every sized appetite. We still are seeking workshops, so if you have a topic you'd be willing to present, please contact me at the address below or through Carolina Spirit Quest. Old recipes and new dishes alike welcome. I hope this has aroused your appetite for some of what Quest has to offer. See you in the spring.

Namaste,
Sharon

Sharon Hill is a clinical social worker and a member of Celebrate the Circle as well as some other open and closed circles. This is her second year as workshop coordinator and she has presented workshops at Quest, Quest Specials, CTC, and other venues.

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Carolina Spirit Quest 2003 Logo Selected!

Asherah

Sometimes being on staff for a wonderful event like Carolina Spirit Quest means you have to make some really tough decisions and choices. Well the 2003 staff has spent the last week doing just that, but it was exciting at the same time. We have chosen our Carolina Spirit Quest 2003 logo and Dan Campbell is the artist!

When you ask community artists to submit their ideas for a logo, you get some great artwork and a variety of perspectives that can be spectacular. This year was no exception. We finally made our choice and I contacted Dan to ask him how he went about creating his masterpiece.



"I hadn't intended to submit anything for the '03 logo - was actually thinking more towards '04. But...I started thinking about it and was mildly astounded to get the inspiration I did. What came to me was the image of crossing a threshold, to which the dolmen/tree combo lent themselves. In flailing around for how to represent the light in a concrete fashion, one of my recurring themes of Sun, Moon, and Star(s) presented themselves. From there it was just a matter of working it out on paper, then on panel. Quite shocking, really, considering I normally take over 6 months to a year to complete a piece..."

Join with the CSQ 2003 staff in heart-felt congratulations to Dan Campbell. We are excited about the upcoming event and look forward to seeing folks walking around with his logo on all their T-shirts. Thank you. Dan!

Stepping Into the Light

Dan Tortorelli, Co-Director

I remember pretty clearly the day when my co-director told me what his idea for a theme for CSQ Spring Quest 2003 was. To be honest, on that day, the idea of the theme absolutely horrified me. I am a pagan in western North Carolina, and there are a lot more implications to being pagan out here in the mountains than there are in some of the bigger cities in the U.S. When Lance told me of his dream and the theme he was proposing, I was still very much in the broom closet and scared to death to set a toe out of it. The first thing I thought was "Wow, how about I jump out of a perfectly good airplane for fun too, while I'm at it..."

It's amazing what a few months and a lot of love and support from your friends will do for you. When Lance mentioned "Stepping Into The Light", the wheels started turning. I started to look around and take note of all those people who I knew were pagan, who had found their own ways of stepping into the light. I saw offices set up feng shui, not because it was trendy, but because it made them spiritually content. I found workplaces that had some small token of each element at each quarter, or direction. I saw happy people enjoying their spirituality their own way without ever thrusting anything in anyone's face, and being spiritually secure because of it.

So I guess this brings us to the current day. I have found many ways of expressing my own feelings. I have made my workplace pleasant, and found that it is a lot easier to not worry so much about "someone finding out". Many people who have come to know me through Carolina Spirit Quest have gotten to see this transformation as I changed from wanting to always be referred to by my magickal name to being very happy to be known by my given name. I will always remember though, how scared I was to be "found out".

I feel that it is really important to give something to each and every person that wants to come enjoy the CSQ Spring Event. Maybe you are not comfortable, or even afraid to step into the light. This was part of the reason I became so excited about our theme. I think it's great that so many people have been able to jump straight into that light. But I will always remember how those who can only peek from the crack in the door feel. I hope each and every person who reads this gets to come and experience the love and friendship that is CSQ. I truly believe it will shower confidence and happiness upon you and set your mind at ease that there are more like you out there. And also that there are many here to help you figure out ways to enjoy your spirituality and not be frightened.

First CSQ Inc. Pagan College Scholarship Recipient Named

Gryphon Rosemead

Congratulation to Ms. Kathryn Ross, the first ever recipient of the Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. Pagan College Scholarship. Ms. Ross will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University this fall and carrying a double major, Biochemistry and Philosophy. She plans to become a doctor. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Japanese Club and several different band groups, including jazz and symphonic. She follows a solitary path, developing her own rituals for the solstices and equinoxes. Ms Ross is well deserving of this \$500 scholarship to help defray the cost of college, as well as the waiver of registration fee for the next spring Carolina Spirit Quest! Following is her essay in answer to

"How will I promote a more Pagan friendly world?"



Already I promote a more pagan friendly world, by the charitable work I do and my high place academically and socially in my community. I am often in a leadership position, and though I do not flaunt my religion, I do not hide the fact that I am pagan. I also discuss my faith and practices openly with my peers, and have dispelled many inaccurate beliefs about pagans. I do not discriminate against anyone because of their faith, and have found that this attitude, patience, and discussion dispels any

tensions held by others. I'm very good friends with people of all religions, from Christianity to Hindu to Ba'hai, and respect their alternate views, as they respect mine. In the future, I plan to continue setting a good example of pagans to the world with my work as a doctor, and continuing to promote peace among religious organizations of all kinds. Luckily, the fight is much less of an uphill battle in present times (even while living in the "bible belt" of America), as I've found that many people in my generation that I've come into contact with (even some in older generations) are much more open to religious freedom than those in the past. This world is becoming more pagan friendly all the time (though there will always be Zionists who hate us, but that goes for every religion), though it might be in small steps, and I plan to assist with this movement in all ways possible.

Published quarterly by
Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc
www.carolinaspiritquest.org



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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QuestSpecial Update

Gryphon Rosemead

QuestSpecial Greensboro: Herbs, Mandala and the 5 Senses in June was another success. Here are some comments from the participants:

"It was VERY hard to pick only one Workshop to go to."
"Wonderful Workshops with knowledgeable instructors."
"Extremely reasonable price." "Opening and Closing Ritual was great." "6 hour format really lets us get in depth on a subject." "The subject matter was comprehensive—the time allowed was perfect for the material covered."

If you missed it, here are two other QuestSpecials in the works.

QuestSpecial Wilmington: Stones, Herbs, Blood and the 5 Senses, Saturday, September 28. The featured Workshops and Presenters are: "Circle of Stones," Brydie Fyredragon, "Uses of Herbs," Asherah, "Sacred Blood," Tammie Ward and Gryphon Rosemead, "Healing through the 5 Senses," Sharon Hill. There will be a special Offering to Yemaya at the beach on Sunday, so come on and make an entire weekend of it! More information will be available on our web site soon, as well as the registration packet.

QuestSpecial: Herbs. This will be an entire day of herbology! Kathy Sage will present "Medicinal Herbs," Ursa Madre will facilitate "Culinary Herb Use," and Gryphon Rosemead will present "Magical Uses of Herbs." This will take place in October in the Durham area, so keep an eye out for it!

More QuestSpecials are being developed as you read this, and you are welcome to contact me so we can work one out in your area.

It is good... ...By Asherah

It is good to take time to watch the sunrise because the tapestry of colors are pleasing to your eyes and the coming light brightens your soul.

It is good to take time to feel the winds upon your skin because the feathery touch is pleasing and seems to lighten your burdens.

It is good to take time to experience a thunderstorm because it recharges your inner being.

It is good to take time to watch the miracle of new life

Caring Corner

Congratulations To:

Asherah and Wolfstone who bought a home
Gryphon Rosemead who received her 4th consecutive perfect review as a school teacher
Steve Coenen who got married

Good Luck To:

Kevin Holden who moved to Charlotte to take a new job
MoonDance who is moving to California to take a new job
Tamia Buckingham as she leaves Qualex after ten years
Lance Brown who moved to a new apartment

Bon Voyage To:

Lisa Jeffers and Heather Demerest who are taking a trip to Iceland. Have fun!

Happy Birthday To:

June: 4 Kira Dirlak
9 Danny Moses
17 Phil Reckard
July: 1 Tammie Ward
12 Blake Davis
23 Marisa Meredith
31 Cynthia Campbell
August 18 Dick Merritt
September 12 Dan Campbell
October 1 Asherah
10 Alyse Ford
12 Joy Tortorelli
November 1 Sil

If you have any news, birthdays, births, deaths or anything you wish to share with our community, please email it to Tammie Ward at thorsmountain@hotmail.com.

because it makes your heart smile.

It is good to take time to smile at someone because a smile shared is the spreading of happiness.

It is good to take time to do something thoughtful for someone because that increases good will, one person at a time.

It is good to take time to say something nice to someone because you are never promised tomorrow and it might be the last thing you ever get to say to them.

It is good to take time.

Winter Quest 2003 Spiraling Into Our Center Fairy Stone State Park Stuart, Virginia January 24-26, 2003

Join Carolina Spirit Quest at a new weekend event this January – Winter Quest! So many of us have jobs that don't allow us to listen to the cycle of the natural world – particularly in the winter when Nature's message is one of rest and renewal. The purpose of Winter Quest is to listen to the rhythms of Nature and to do quiet reflective and nurturing rituals and activities. The event will follow a pattern similar to that of a Spring Quest – but on a more leisurely pace and scaled back participation. Registration is limited to 32 participants – so look for the catalog this fall and respond quickly!

A few of the workshops lined up for this event are:

- Journaling as a Spiritual Practice – Sharon Hill
- Creating and Using Prayer/Meditation Beads - Tammie Ward
- Kitchen Witchery – Bread-making and Herbal Foods – Tamia Buckingham
- Hiking in the Winter Landscape – self-guided on Park Trails

Worship – our Opening Ritual will include the construction of our Community Altar. The Main Ritual highlights the sharing of our talents – along the lines of a salon. The Closing Ritual focuses on what we each carry away from our journey.

Housing – the Fairy Stone Lodge and Cabins are heated and air-conditioned. Linens are provided. Full kitchens and bath facilities are incorporated in the lodge and each cabin. The lodge is handicapped accessible. For more information on the Park, please visit the Virginia State Parks website at www.dcr.state.va.us/parks.

Food Service – Meals will be planned and ingredients purchased – however the preparation of the meals would be split amongst the participants, focusing on the spirituality and magick of kitchen pursuits. In fact, the preparation of the Saturday Evening Dinner is even one of the workshops – focusing on herbal foods and beverages.

For more information, contact Tamia Buckingham, Director at owzatagain@earthlink.net or Tammie Ward, Workshops Manager at thorsmountain@hotmail.com.

Surfing the Surveys

Workshops were fantastic! Community, drumming, dancing. The sweat lodge, the meals, the silent auction. Meeting exciting new people and spending time with nature. The freedom, joy and relaxation of being in community.

These are the comments that we received when we asked you to tell us what was best about your weekend. Our community has grown again with 104 attendees this year and the energy was great throughout the whole weekend. We received fourteen evaluations from participants this year.

There were some issues that were pointed out about the rituals this year and next year's Ritual Coordination Team will address them. Gryphon Rosemead and her team will be looking very closely at the suggestions received from this year's event to see just how they can improve the rituals to meet the requests of our community.

Thanks to input last year, the facilities were cleaner this year when everyone arrived and we got very good ratings in this area. The bathrooms were cleaner as were the cabins. Even Bill and Torrin had a cleaner kitchen to start with.

Our wonderful Chef, Bill Elston and his assistant, Torrin de Mist, received many favorable comments, to include one person changing their choices from a 5 for excellent on the survey to a 10! Suggestions for improvement next year included the request for more fruit, less starch and one person offering to exchange some more vegan/vegetarian recipes with him.

The food was fabulous. Bill rocks!

There were many suggestions for future workshops and volunteers willing to present them. Some of them included Drum Workshops, Tarot Cards, Runes, Mythic Working with your Muse and Lantern Making. This certainly gives our Program Manager, Tamia Buckingham, and Workshop Coordinator, Sharon Hill, some things to look at for next year!

Quality of workshops was OUTSTANDING!

Another issue that was brought forward was the length of the Board Meeting on Sunday. The ideas and suggestions that we received from you are flying back and forth now. Staff this year will be working on how to shorten the meeting and still accomplish what needs to be done.

(Continued on page 8)

Carolina Spirit Quest - Our History in Brief, Part I

Compiled by Tamia Buckingham

Part of defining where we want to go is to look at where we've been. Carolina Spirit Quest was the brain-child of Mike Gunther. Mike encouraged his fellow members of Celebrate the Circle, the earth-based spirituality group of Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, to put together a weekend retreat for pagans & neo-pagans. The first Spring Gathering was held in April 1996. This article summarizes the first five events.

What does our history show us? Our history shows an annual event that nearly doubled over five years - despite a last minute venue change for 1999 and a late start on 2000. We've also offered a wide variety of workshops and rituals over the years. It shows we've been living our mission statement calling for the establishment of educational and networking opportunities for earth-centered practitioners and their families. We've weathered storms - political, financial, and natural - and come out stronger for it. As our events have become larger and more complex, our event staff has grown, increasing our geographic scope as well as our personal interactions with one another.

We are still working towards funding our goal of \$10,000 to ensure that the organization could recover from a total disaster on an event and still have funds to seed the next one - but we are getting there. After five years of events, we had built an operating fund balance of approximately \$5,400. This amount is enough to cover the deposits at Millstone (they require about \$2,500 in deposits to reserve the date for the next event) and pay for the expenses that occur before registration fees come in each year (newsletters, catalogs, staples for the kitchen). As a benchmark, expenses for the 2001 and 2002 events came in at roughly \$11,000 each. Look for the summaries of Spreading Our Wings, Bringing Home the Magick, and QuestSpecial: Blood, Stones, and Runes in the November issue.

Dreaming the Web, Weaving the Dream - April 19-21, 1996

Shelter Neck, NC - a Universalist retreat center near Wilmington, NC

Director: Mike Gunther

The Keynote event featured Passion and *Diuvei from Coven Oldenwilde of Asheville with a talk on networking and public relations. Ten workshops were offered - including a sweat lodge experience in every workshop slot! Workshop topics included Ceremonial Ritual, Women's Spirituality, Golden Dawn, Paganism and Prayer, Bardic Magick, Stories of the Constellations, Dances of Universal Peace, Wisdom Wheel, and Planning the Closing Ritual.

Brydie Palmore led the main ritual on Saturday night.

Sue and Greg Woodbury facilitated the closing ritual through the efforts of their workshop. Drumming Circles and Bardic Circles were a part of the first event, as was the Gift Tree.

The Children's Program had workshops for two age groups - 4 to 6, and 7 to 10. The four to six year olds participated in a rhythm workshop, cakes preparation (for the Children's ritual), and fairy tale time. The older children had a chant workshop, stories of the constellations, and planned the Children's ritual - which was held prior to the main adult ritual on Saturday night.

This first event was a success in terms of participants (44), however the event lost money (about \$1000) - and couldn't even reimburse the expenses of some staff members. Clean up of the site became an issue, with staff members having to take time off from work to complete the task.

Initial policies included: no smoking or flames in or around the (highly flammable) buildings, registration of



allergies/medical conditions, designated quiet time (1 a. m. to 7 a.m.), pictures and videotaping only with consent, some provisions for going skyclad at the sweat lodge and in conjunction with late-night drumming, no pets/corporeal familiars other than guide dogs, no illegal substances or firearms.

The Shelter Neck facility made it possible to offer tiered housing fees - bed space in the dormitory (\$55), in-door floor space for a sleeping bag (\$50), and outside space for tent camping (\$40). Most of the site is visible from state roads - so privacy for the rituals was not available - thus late-night drumming was held indoors. Meals con-

sisted of continental breakfasts for both Saturday and Sunday buffet lunch and group feast on Saturday. Participants were warned that Shelter Neck's water had a noticeable sulfur taste - and to bring bottled water if necessary - a policy which stood for the entire tenure of the event at Shelter Neck. Vegetarian offerings were provided.

Decisions made at the April 21 Business Meeting:

- Stay affiliated with ERUUF (Eno River UU Fellowship) for two to three years, until CSQ is ready to incorporate.
- Established a post-event mailing/newsletter that included the by-laws from the board and information about upcoming events.
- Establish liaisons in towns around the area to spread the word about CSQ and solicit participants and volunteers.
- Established the board and a planning committee director position to start developing plans for a 1997 event.

Building Magickal Community - April 18-20, 1997

Shelter Neck, Pender County, NC

Director: Mike Gunther (a.k.a. Grand High Poo-bah)

61 Participants

Total Revenues: \$4,044

Total Expenses: \$3,125

Net Surplus: \$919

The keynote took the form of a panel discussion on the ideal pagan community within the confines of the world today. Panel members were Kate Hofman (UU), Bill Stewart (CAW), Diana Rice (Lunatic Fringe), Chris Donaldson (Talking Drum), and Liz Brown (UNCG).

The workshop offerings grew to 13 topics with the Sweat Lodge and Circle of Stones returning by popular demand. Other topics were: Creating Sustainable Community; Pagan Families in the Material World; Touch and Tickle Philosophy for Peace; Community of the Drum; Life by Design; Grey Mountain Tradition; Networking Dialog; Wheel of the Year; Native American Pipe and Ceremonial Toolmaking; Co-Creating a Song for the Universe; and Healing through Drama. Volunteers provided childcare for the younger children.

Opening and closing rituals were led by the event staff and facilitated by Brydie Palmore. The Lunatic Fringe led the main ritual. PhantomFire Coven presented an open Sunrise Ritual on Sunday morning. Storm Weaver led a memorial for Adam Walks Between the Worlds, former Bard of the Church of All Worlds, who was shot and killed in his own home on February 21st, 1997. Drumming and Bardic Circles and the Gift Tree made return appearances at the second event.

With the start-up funds for the second event arising from unclaimed expenses by staff of the first event, Spring Quest 1997 was very successful - it was able to return the seed money to the individuals that had provided it

and cover some of the losses from the previous event. The second event saw the implementation of a clean-up deposit (\$10) - which encouraged folks to view care of the site as a community responsibility.

In addition to the policies implemented at CSQ '96, the 1997 event implemented the work shift concept for staffing tasks - each participant was expected to register for a two-hour work shift. The registration fees were increased to provide a break-even - bed space in the dormitory (\$75), in-door floor space for a sleeping bag (\$70), and outside space for tent camping (\$60).

A barbecue/pot luck dinner was added to the menu for Friday night, followed by an Opening Ritual. The Saturday food schedule mirrored the 1996 event: continental breakfast, buffet lunch, evening feast - a pig roast. Sunday featured a community brunch. Vegetarian offerings were offered as well.

Dancing Between the Worlds - April 17-19 1998

Shelter Neck, NC

Co-Directors: Dick Merritt and Jenna Parsons Bluewind (both of Celebrate the Circle)

84 Participants

Total Revenues \$7,654

Total Expenses \$4,224

Net Surplus \$3,429

The keynote discussion on "Dancing Between the Worlds" focused on the differences between our spiritual and everyday lives and how to integrate them. Tammie Ward, Phaedra Oorbeck, and Saga anchored it.



There were thirteen workshops including a special community workshop (no competing workshops in the same timeframe) featuring the Dances of Universal Peace that taught the dances that were used in the main ritual. Returning favorite workshops were Sweat lodge, Circle of Stones, and Touch and Tickle. New topics included Creating Ritual for Large Groups, Build your own Gourd Drum, Daily Divinity, Celtic Mythology and Legend,

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Letter of Praise from Lady Silverwolf

I and five other members of Cape Fear Pagans anxiously looked forward to going to Carolina Spirit Quest this year. Most for the first time, some not ever being to any kind of a large gathering, lest being new to paganism and the anticipation into the unknown... All with our own thoughts and anxieties but all still looking forward to this weekend. We arrived Friday afternoon to be greeted by a feeling of warmth and a cozy invitation by the Quest staff, putting I am sure, some fears to rest.

The registration process was painless and pleasant. And it was organized, now this for pagans is a feat in itself but it was well organized as far as I could tell. Being a Virgo this is definitely a super A+.

Workshops, what a dilemma! There were so many good topics to choose from and I had a very hard time with this, wishing somehow I could clone myself. But going with a group and each of us taking the majority of the time a different workshop was great, we got to discuss it amongst ourselves and we all learned something new to share. I found the workshops wonderful, informative and exhilarating, definitely worth it.

The rituals – all three of them were very enjoyable. I really looked forward to the rituals, I think this was truly a highlight of the weekend. Friday night due to rain we ended up inside, but as they say, “there is always a reason”. I personally found this a way to get to know each

other better and we did get to see each other better being indoors. Saturday night the ritual was absolutely energizing, wonderful and definitely full of power. How magnificent to be able to get this energy from people who generally only had contact with each other online. Raising this kind of energy with this group of close to 100 people was such a confirmation of how we can all get along in this world.

Now, the masquerade ball was enjoyable, especially if I have an extra excuse to wear “heavy makeup” dress up and get crazy and really be ME!

And the food, well what can I say? It was absolutely delectable. Bravo to the Chef and his helpers for making sure our pallets were taken care of in such a luscious manner.

The only part of the weekend I found to be on the down side, was after all this glorious energy, love and peaceful feeling, it had to end. Having to go back to our mundane world, I went to the community altar, and picked up my beads and wonderful gryphon that I received at the newcomers meeting on Friday. I had put them on the altar to absorb and capture the mystical feeling of the weekend. Now I honestly had something to remember ... Putting them on my altar at home I truly did get to bring home the magick!

(Continued from page 5)

It was brought forth that the schedule was very tight this year and that breakfast started too early. These issues will be looked at by the Program Staff to find ways to accommodate the suggestions you made without compromising the variety and quality of the program.

It was pointed out that the sign-up process for the mandatory work shifts was too time consuming. We had many excellent suggestions from you about how to make this process work more smoothly. Our Mandatory Work Shift Coordinator will be looking at these ideas as he begins to set up for next year. One suggestion was to include work shift sign up slots in the registration packet so some people can sign-up early. The Communications Manager will work with the Operations/ Facilities Manager and Mandatory Work Shift Coordinator to see if this is something that we can do.

The evaluations that we ask you to fill out before you leave each event are more than just a piece of paper. They go a long way toward establishing what is done in

future years and our response to you, our community. We make changes every year based on the input we receive and then look at how we either met your needs or how we need to change what we did. Keep those ideas and suggestions coming. You may even see some of your ideas implemented next year!

Thank you for your input.



Board of Trustees

Changes at the Financial Helm

This May (2002), Susan Hill decided to step down as Treasurer of Carolina Spirit Quest. Susan has served as Treasurer since August 1998 in conjunction with the From These Roots event. Throughout this time she has worked diligently as CSQ transitioned from a core group of pagans with a dream to an incorporated not-for-profit staffed by dedicated volunteers with professional standards. Susan continues to serve the CSQ organization by maintaining our mailing lists. We, as a Board, commend her for all her hard work and dedication. Thank you, Susan, for your years of service. May you enjoy a well-earned more leisurely participation at future CSQ events.

Susan has turned over the reins, and the records, to the newly appointed Treasurer, Joy Tortorelli. Joy has a strong professional background in bookkeeping and financial management. While new to the CSQ Treasurer position, Joy is no stranger to Carolina Spirit Quest. Joy, also known as StarShadow, has served as Vendor Coordinator since the 2001 Spreading our Wings event and served as Registrar for the 2002 Bringing Home the Magick event. At the 2002 Business Meeting, Joy was elected as an At-Large Board Member. In February 2002, Joy was appointed to perform an internal financial review as required by CSQ By-laws - this review was completed and presented at the May Board Meeting. We thank Joy for her continued willingness to step up to new responsibilities and challenges in the CSQ Spirit.

Steve Coenen Resigns

On May 15, Steve Coenen resigned from the Board of Directors. He cited personal life changes and obligations that kept him from fulfilling his Board duties the way he wanted. Steve remains on the 2003 staff as Sweat Lodge Coordinator. The entire Board thanks Steve for his time and energy

while serving on the Board. We wish him good luck in his future pursuits.

Kathy Sage was chosen to fill the vacant seat which runs through April 2003. Kathy brings enthusiasm, energy and new ideas to Carolina Spirit Quest. We look forward to working with her. Look for Kathy's bio in this newsletter.

Welcome New Board Members

We all hear about the Board of Directors, but what do we know about the members? Who are they and what are their interests? Starting with this issue, look for bios on the current Board members. When you see them at the Spring event, thank them for their hard work.

Please welcome our newest At-Large Board members, Kevin Holden, Kathy Sage and Joy Tortorelli. Each brings their unique ideas and skills to our Board. Kevin, Kathy and Joy all share a commitment to help CSQ grow, improve and move forward. Please feel free to contact them with any ideas, suggestions or concerns you have regarding CSQ.

Joy Tortorelli (Starshadow) is tucked away in the mountains of western North Carolina and has just recently come out of the broom closet (loving it so far). She is Cherokee Irish, the granddaughter of an honest Native American witch; she just didn't know it. She has been a practicing pagan for the last 6 years, but a witch her whole life. Her earliest magickal memories are of digging sassafras with her grandmother for her spring tonic. She enjoys anything to do with herbs or pretty things (double Libra...all that Venus). She has led classes on magickal glass etching, puppet making and has plans to do some children's programs in the next year.

Kathy Sage calls herself a 'syncretist' and blends, under the umbrella of 'neo-paganism' which best reflects her understandings and practices, her experiences with sev-

eral traditions: paganism, Tibetan Buddhism, shamanism and gnosticism. She has lived in various diverse cultures, including France, Nepal and Russia, in which she encountered humbling examples of humanity, tolerance and mystical experience. She has studied herbalism for a decade, and is passionate about holistic health, languages, comparative religion and spirituality, dance, expanding consciousness and the realms of plants and animals. She first sensed the old ways as a child, on her land in the forests and waters of remote Northern Michigan. She regularly attends gatherings to celebrate Spirit, our Mother Earth and goddess theology, and participates in a paranormal experiences group at an institute for such studies in Durham. Kathy's path is that of Compassion; her life and lifestyle are devoted to its authentic expression.

Kevin Holden has followed a pagan path for ten years, both as a solitary practitioner and as a first-degree initiate of the Grey Mountain Tradition. He grew up in the mountains of North Carolina and served nine years in the United States Army.

While serving in Hawaii, Kevin became fascinated with native tribal spirituality. His casual research opened his eyes to the spiritual possibilities. "Those people" who worshipped the various pantheons of the world were not only good people, they were "his people." Kevin read the works of Buckland, Conway, Cunningham, and others then realized that he had been a pagan all along but didn't know it.

Kevin has attended four Carolina Spirit Quests and now serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. He will act as director of security at next Spring's event. He enjoys playing the drums, contra dancing, and playing DJ for his friends. Kevin will be relocating to Charlotte soon to start a new job as a package courier. Kevin supports Cthulhu for President ("Why choose the lesser of two evils?") and a cat named Mystery tolerates his presence.

(Continued from page 7)

Finding the Universal Groove - Group Drumming, Qaballah for Beginners, Spell crafting, Advanced Tarot Work, and Sacred Sexuality. In addition to childcare volunteers, the Children's workshops made a comeback. Programs focused on dance, arts and crafts, and self-dignity. A short children's ritual was also planned.

The Opening and Main rituals focused on ritual dance. The Sacred Cleansing Pentagram Cloth dance was incorporated into the Opening Ritual. Elements of the Sufi celebration of Zikr (remembrance) wove through the Main Ritual. Participants in the Creating Ritual for Large Groups Workshop designed the Closing Ritual that also incorporated the Gift Tree. Drumming and Bardic Circles continued to be favorite activities of the Quest participants.

By 1998, CSQ had its own website (www.rtpnet.org/~csquest) and assembled its staff from a growing number of pagan groups, starting to stand on its own rather than as an arm of CTC. An unfortunate incident involving AIM (American Indian Movement, a militant Native American organization) being alerted to the sweat lodge workshops resulted in staff receiving death threats from AIM members. The sweat lodge section of the catalog was removed from the web-site. The sheriff of Pender County was alerted and did, in fact, step up patrols around the festival area. No further contacts from AIM were received beyond e-mail, however the e-mail threats continued well past the conclusion of the 1998 event. Since this time, all published references to sweat lodge or similar activities (i.e. catalog and web-site) have been listed as Spiritual Sauna.

Policies remained the same as in 1997 - including leaving the clean-up deposit at \$10. The registration fees were increased by \$5 per category - bed space in the dormitory (\$80), in-door floor space for a sleeping bag (\$75), and outside space for tent camping (\$65).

The Friday night potluck (1997) became a hot dog roast. The menu followed the same plan as 1997's event - including the pig roast. Vegetarian offerings were included in the menu.

From These Roots: April 1999

Shelter Neck, NC (Originally scheduled for Camp Kanata in Wake Forest)

Co-Directors: Alison Dunmore and Chris Donaldson (both from Greensboro)

Total Revenues \$5,587

Total Expenses \$4,642

Net Surplus \$945

The gatherings were out-growing the space available at Shelter Neck. This gathering was slated for a YMCA-owned facility - Camp Kanata. Less than a week before the event's start date, the YMCA director canceled the contract with CSQ, due to our non-Christian nature. The

CSQ team scrambled to secure space at Shelter Neck as a stopgap, rather than cancel the event. Those people that did not show up at Shelter Neck received refunds of their registration. \$1,500 was placed on retainer with attorney, Melissa Averitt for incorporation fees and potential litigation of Camp Kanata.

The keynote panel discussion centered on the roots of the speakers' spiritual paths, highlighting the similarities and differences of different Pagan/Earth-centered Communities.

There were seventeen workshops offered. Returning favorites were Sweat lodge, Circle of Stones, Celtic Mythology and Legend, Sacred Sexuality, and Finding the



Universal Groove - Group Drumming. New topics included Developing a Coven; Finding our Roots in Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and Spirit; the Roots of Massage; Touching with Intent; Spell Crafting; Candle Magick; Pagan Parenting; Pagan Ethics; Awakening to Heresy; Sex, Shamanism, and Witchcraft; The Feri Creation Myth; Sand casting Candle making; Circle Skills for Solitaries; Finding Your Healing Path; and the Magickal Web.

The Opening, Main, and Closing Rituals focused on establishing, honoring, and intertwining our roots as a community. The Saturday Morning Sunrise Ritual was led by Zephyr Winddancer. Drumming and Bardic Circles continued to be favorite activities of the Quest participants.

The previously established policies remained in effect. Since Camp Kanata charged the same occupancy fee for tent-campers as well as those people using bunks, the adult registration fee was set at \$75 per person, regardless of sleeping arrangements. For the first time, Quest encouraged the sponsorship of teens in attendance without a parent/guardian, provided the parent/

guardian provided a notarized release of liability. Meal service was provided throughout the weekend.

Fall Quest 1999

Shelter Neck, NC

Director: Brydie Palmore

Staff: Kira Dirluk, Larry Taylor and Denise Huggins

Total Revenues: \$188

Total Expenses: \$591

Net Loss: \$403 (part of fiscal 2000)

The event was designed as a weekend course featuring four ten-hour tracks. This event was literally washed out by Hurricane Floyd. Shelter Neck was unusable. Due to the severe damage at Shelter Neck, and CSQ's long-time association with the site, the deposit on the site was left with Shelter Neck as a donation to repair efforts.

Magickal Tapestry - April 2000

Camp Millstone, Ellerbe, NC

Co-directors: Dick Merritt and Brydie Palmore

Participants: 78

Total Revenues - \$7,362

Total Expenses - \$5,857

Net Surplus - \$1,505

The keynote event was a dramatization and lecture by the Grey Mountain Coven on maintaining a successful pagan group. The Grey Mountain Coven also sponsored the first CSQ Masquerade Ball following Saturday night's Main Ritual.

There were seventeen workshops offered. Returning



favorites were Sweat lodge, Circle of Stones, and Finding the Universal Groove - Group Drumming. New topics included Simple Ritual Robe Creation, the 7 Chakras, Dark Moon Ritual, the Community of the Drum, Druids, Herbology, Make Your Own Tarot, Otherkin, Scaling the Ivory Tower, So You're a What?, Candle Collages, Norse Spirituality, and Magickal Brewing.

Due to continuous rain throughout the weekend, the

drumming circles moved into the Dining Lodge by the fireplace - but continued to be a popular event. A large tapestry was created, which all participants added artistic touches to. The completed tapestry was displayed at the closing ritual.

Luna MountainSea and Ace led the Opening Ritual - with group invocation of the Sun and the Moon and a two-tailed spiral dance led by Chip Knes. Coven Shadowveil facilitated the Main Ritual, with ritual smudging and anointing with oil followed by a tapestry motif in the Spiral Dance. The sun finally put in an appearance at the Closing Ritual - where Tammie Ward unveiled the completed Quest Tapestry and Asherah distributed rosemary seedlings for remembrance of the event.

The 2000 event planning cycle started off with problems - the original co-directors resigned their positions in November 1999, Shelter Neck was unusable due to Hurricane Floyd, and no other site was lined up. Dick and Brydie, appointed as co-directors in November 1999, called upon the varied talents of the board and staff to put together Spring Quest 2000 in a very short timeframe.

Camp Millstone, a state-owned 4-H camp became the new home for Spring Quest. It featured commercial kitchen facilities with a dining room capacity of 150 per seating. Cabins featured bunk beds - 14 cabins with 11 beds per cabin. A staff house with accommodations for 15 put maximum capacity at 169 beds. Tent areas were available, however Quest pays the same occupancy rate regardless of sleeping arrangements.

Workshop areas included the Dining Hall, a Recreation Hall (capacity 150), two picnic shelters, and a gazebo. There were two fire circles - one by the Dining Hall and one in a remote area across the spring run - perfect for the Sweat Lodge and late night drumming.

Policies and vendor fees followed the same format - with the additional exclusion of alcohol (State Law). Outdoor Smoking was permitted, provided participants ensured that no cigarette butts were left on the ground. The adult registration fee was set at \$82 due to the increased cost of the Millstone facility.

Administrative Highlights:

- Carolina Spirit Quest was incorporated under the laws of North Carolina on February 21, 2000. Costs related to the incorporation process were \$500, reducing the amount on retainer with the attorney to \$1,000. The big goal from April 1996 - a pagan organization separate from its Eno River UU Fellowship roots - had been achieved!
- The Board set a goal of \$10,000 as a reserve fund to cover the cost of a totally blown event - to ensure enough seed money to start the next event. Now separate and freestanding as an organization, we have to ensure our future.

Why It's Great to be a CSQ Kid!

Ursa Madre (Tamia, the Mother Bear)

Pagan Children have been a part of Carolina Spirit Quest ever since the first gathering. And from reports I've heard – CSQ is a great place to be a pagan kid. Jessica (age 4) says that the dancing is really good. William (age 6) thinks that hiking, rituals, and friends are the best part of Quest. Sundance (age 12) has been leading workshops since she was 10!

The children helped Asherah lead the spiral dance in Coven Shadow Veil's Main Ritual at Magickal Tapestry (2000) where they also provided the cookies for our Cakes and Ale. The young ones made dream catchers with Ginger, danced as fairies around the fire and the fiddler in the Bardic Ritual led by Isaac Bonewits, and fell in love with Kirby as she pulled them around in a cart at Spreading Our Wings (2001). At the Bringing Home the Magick event (2002) the children built a teepee with Sherri, created walking sticks with Tim, took hikes, waded in the creek, created sand paintings, danced around the near fire circle, listened to Michael Littlebear reading stories, and held off the rainstorm with their chanting "Rain, rain go away". Cynthia reported that the minute that they stopped chanting, the skies let loose! And after such a big selection of high-energy activities – the children slept very soundly.

Tim and Sherri and their team have great plans in the works for 2003 for our young pagans to be "Stepping into the Light". Also, several CSQ veterans have agreed to lead special workshops for the children. Some are still

in the formation stage, but I have heard that Asherah will teach them how to sand cast their own candles. I'm going to help them make some magical tools and a sunshine piñata. Make sure you pack your waders – because creek wading is now an official part of the program!

We'll have snack time, rest time, playtime, and craft time – all the stuff that being a kid is about. Some modifications that we are setting in place to make the event even more kid-friendly are:

- There will be some menu items specifically for the children – hot-dogs, mac and cheese, PB&J, the usual kid favorites, reducing resistance to unfamiliar menu items.
- Kids will go through the food line first – reducing the stress in the food line for everyone by getting the tired and hungry little ones fed expediently.
- A snack area will be set up in the dining room – ensuring that there will be easy access for parents to healthy snacks and beverages in-between meals without putting extra work on the kitchen.
- There will be a child-care co-op – enabling parents to trade-off watching a group of kids at one specific time for some much-needed free time during another portion of the weekend.

At the 2002 event, the children represented 10% of our attendance. What a great infusion of energy! Come let the kid in you be a part of the 2003 CSQ Kids!



Good Luck MoonDance

MoonDance is moving to California in late August. Yes, this time, she really means it! MoonDance will be working with Sage Woman magazine. Her announcement list has been a big contribution and service to our community. Lucky for us, Moon is leaving the list in the capable hands of Laura Dake. Quest wishes MoonDance all the best in California. Keep in touch. We will miss you.

Calling All Co-Directors For 2005....

CSQ has two members who have expressed interest in being Co-Directors for our Spring event in 2005. If you have been thinking about being a future Co-Director, speak up now! Contact any Board member to let us know you would like to be added to the list for consideration. We can fill you in on the details, tell you what kind of skills we look for and you can share your ideas for Quest 2005. The Board will consider all candidates at our February 2003 meeting to be held at Fairy Stone State Park in Stuart, Virginia. Don't be shy; let us hear from you!

The Power of the Dance

Rebecca Emberger

~ Dedicated to Oberon Zell

Dancing around the fire circle
Surrounded by drummers
Energy flowing through me from the earth,
the drums,
the other dancers, the spectators

Hips shaking, arms weaving, eyes closed,
hair flying, feet stamping, mesmerized,
entranced

I allow the Goddess to enter and move me
in celebration of Her
The drumming infuses my blood with energy
and magic and power
I take it in, transform it and share it
with all around me
Around the fire I dance, skirt swirling,
bare breasts gleaming,
I feed off the energy and then return it

Now someone is dancing with me, to me,
to the Goddess
His naked body gleaming in the firelight,
mirroring my own
His hands weaving the magic between us,
shaping the power we're building

Suddenly the magic is more focused
We have danced into another realm
We have become one

We swirl around each other, exchanging places,
riding the wave of power
We are buffeted, consumed and infused
with the magic of all that is
You are the God to my Goddess and we dance in
union to the celebration of life and love and joy....

© 2002 Rebecca Emberger

Vendors Love the Spring Event

Joy Tortorelli

Vendor participation hit a record high at the 2002 Spring event. Nine vendors helped bring home the magick. Everything from God and Goddess images, massages, jewelry and handmade clothing was put on display for the pleasure of the attendees.

Vendors participated in workshops and rituals, donated to the Silent Auction and some have even expressed a desire to join our staff for future events. They also contributed a total of \$139.35 in vendor fees to CSQ.

The following vendors participated and I would like to personally thank them all: The Zells, RavenWind, Lady SilverWolf, Jenna Moore, Gryphon Rosemead, RJ Perez-Edwards, DaraLuz, Andrea Wakely, and Amy Sindermann. Thanks guys! You are part of what makes the Spring event so special.

CSQ now has several events a year. We are planning a Winter Quest, along with several Quest Specials throughout the year. If you would like to vend at the 2003 Spring event or any of our events please contact Joy Tortorelli at Starshadow1007@yahoo.com or 828-242-4547. We look forward to hearing from you!

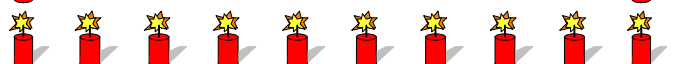


Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. received our determination letter from the IRS, stating we are a 501c(3) organization. Yippee!!!

It's Official!

Why is this so important and how does this impact CSQ? As a recognized not-for-profit organization, Quest can file to have state sales taxes reimbursed and our application for lower rates for postage for our newsletters, catalogs, etc., has been approved. How does this impact our members? Any contributions made to CSQ are now tax deductible. You can feel good about supporting a Pagan organization and get a break on your income taxes.

Way to go CSQ!



Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc.

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PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY
WORLD

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Carolina Spirit Quest 2003
April 11-13 2003
Camp Millstone,
Ellerbe, NC

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Board Meetings Schedule

- August 16-18, 2002-Asheville, NC
- November 15-17, 2002-OneSpirit in Pittsboro, NC
- February 21-23, 2003-Fairy Stone State Park, Stuart, VA
- (Date changes due to Valentine's Day conflict)
- May 16-18, 2003-Tentatively Umstead Park, Crabtree Camp Ground
- August 15-17, 2003-TBD
- November 14-16, 2003-TBD
- February 20-22, 2003-TBD



All members in good standing are welcome to attend any Board meeting at their own expense. Please contact Tammie Ward for directions.