



PROMOTING A PAGAN FRIENDLY WORLD

Carolina Spirit Quest winter 2002

Sacred Service

In the Fall issue, Gryphon described the staff of Quest: Blood, Stones, and Runes as Sacred Servants, those people that dedicate themselves to meeting the needs of our community. She also stated that often, these Sacred Servants get back far more than they give. They get satisfaction from a successful event. They take their spirituality into their tasks and are rewarded by seeing it flourish. As you can no doubt discern, this Sacred Servant phrase has been resonating with me since I read our Fall newsletter – it is a phrase that describes so much of the activities of the Board, Staff, and Workshop Presenters over the past year.

There are many paths of service within our community – working on the event staff; preparing and presenting a workshop at a CSQ event; serving on the board or on a committee; and of course the work shift that every Spring Event participant gives to the good of the event.

Part of the magic within our community is in finding those tasks that call to you. For Gryphon, it has been the organization of Quest: Blood, Stones, and Runes and the College Scholarship programs. The task of building a broader and deeper Children’s Program captured Tim Woody’s passion. Planning the menu for the Spring Gathering – and particularly the Saturday Night Dessert – has been a labor of love for Bill and Torrin. These are but a few of the Sacred Servants I have been blessed to work with over the past two years with Carolina Spirit Quest.

It has been a great joy, and an even greater privilege, to work with people who are discovering the tasks that feed their passions within our community. The great challenge in a volunteer organization is to match people’s talents and interests to the work that needs to be done. In some cases, when someone has expressed a concern or desire within the community, the leadership has

encouraged that person to spearhead the project – thus, Michelle Brewer organized the recycling efforts and Wendy Wenck implemented kitchen composting. In other instances, the board and staff have had to look for the right person to fill a position.

The long range planning process encourages participants to express their dreams for the future of Carolina Spirit Quest. Dreams are necessary and valuable – they provide the blueprint. Then, it is up to each of us to find that part of the plan that calls to our talents and passions and make the commitment to put the foundation in place that the dream can become reality. I urge each of you to find that portion of the dream that calls to you, bring that magick home, and commit to making the dream come true.

Blessings,
Tamia

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Special points of interest:

- *Eostre ritual will take place on the beach, Saturday, March 16, 2002 — Page 6*
- *Watch your mailbox for the Spring Quest Catalog—mail date is Feb. 15, 2002*
- *Next Board Meeting is May 17-19, 2002.*
- *North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference — Page 5*

Board Nominations

Nominations/Elections

According to the Bylaws, three (3) At-Large Board Members shall be elected each year at Spring Quest. Further, elected trustees take office immediately after Spring Quest, serve terms of two (2) years, and may serve not more than two consecutive two-year terms. Each voting member of the Board shall reside in North Carolina, South Carolina, or Virginia. Trustees shall attend Spring Quest, and all meetings of the Board held during their terms of office.

Nominations must be delivered to the Secretary, Asherah, in writing, stating the full name, address, phone number (E-mail address) of both the nominee and three nominators. The nominators must certify that the nominee is willing to serve on the Board.

Voting will take place during the Spring Quest by written ballot. All participants 11 years old or older who registered by Midnight (12:00 AM) of April 12, 2002 may vote. Absentee voting is not allowed. Nominees must attend the Spring Quest at which they are nominated.

Therefore, nominations are open for three (3) two-year terms on the Board.

Give the full name, address, phone number (E-mail Address) of both the nominee and three nominators to Asherah, Secretary.

Board Member Job Description

- Serve on the board for two years.
- Reside in North Carolina, South Carolina, or Virginia. (applies to elected, but not necessarily appointed, board members)
- Attend the Spring Quest each year during the two-year term: the year elected and two following years.
- Attend four meetings per year – Presently scheduled for Friday night, Saturday all day, Sunday to mid-afternoon in May, August, November, and February.
- Make every effort to be available for emergency meetings and/or conference calls, and respond promptly to messages from other board members.

Next Board meeting will be May 17-19, 2002 at a venue to be determined.

The duties of the Board are:

- ❑ Make overall policy, direct and control CSQ affairs
- ❑ Appoint a Treasurer, who may or may not be an elected trustee
- ❑ Appoint the Director(s) of the program(s) for the current year
- ❑ Appoint the Director(s)-elect for the following year
- ❑ Approve the budget
- ❑ Be willing to help with the work of the board.

The officers of CSQ shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Board names the Officers.

Elected Members with Terms ending at Spirit Quest 2002:

Tammie Ward (eligible for 2nd term)

Tamia Buckingham (continues on board as Co-director Elect 2004)

Position vacated by Zomar the Gray

Members remaining on the board for Spirit Quest 2003:

Blake Davis – Director Emeritus of Spring Quest

Gryphon Rosemead – Director of Quest Specials

Lance Brown – Co-Director 2003 Spring Quest

Tamia Buckingham – Co-Director Elect 2004 Spring Quest

Dick Merritt – Member-at-Large (term ends 2003, eligible for 2nd term)

Steve Coenen – Member-at-Large (term ends 2003, eligible for 2nd term)

We thank you for your dedication to Carolina Spirit Quest.



Blessings and Gifts from the Goddess

At the last Quest Board meeting (November 2001), Asherah, Tamia, Gryphon and I were riding together to dinner. We were discussing gifts and blessings from the Goddess and the difference between accepting those She chooses for us versus asking Her for specific ones.

We all know many people who tell about a ritual or offering to the Goddess asking for patience. Then, six months later, this same person is wondering aloud why life those six months have been so challenging. Remember the saying; "Be careful what you ask for."

I believe it is wiser and a bigger challenge to have rituals and offerings to the Goddess and remain open to the gifts and blessings She brings us. A favorite offering of mine involves Yemaya.

Yemaya is an African Orisha, the Great Mother of the Sea. Her number is seven. She loves fruit, especially watermelon, and flowers. Go to the ocean with seven different fruits and flowers. (Don't feel compelled to carry a watermelon, they are quite heavy!) Try to go to the ocean before the low tide and find a quiet place where you won't be disturbed. Arrange the fruits and flowers however you wish. I usually try to arrange the shape of the Goddess, with a yoni, belly, breasts, a smile, and a crown. Place the fruit and flowers where you think the tide will come back up and carry them out to Yemaya. Tell Yemaya this is an offering for Her and that you hope She likes them. Thank Yemaya for Her presence and blessings in your life. Reflect in silence for a few moments, and then take a walk on the beach. Listen to the ocean; marvel at its beauty. Realize you are truly blessed.

Each time I remain open to the blessings and gifts from the Goddess, I am rarely disappointed. Once when I made an offering to Yemaya, She blessed me with a beautiful seashell. I remember picking it up thinking, "Wow, for me? Thanks Girlfriend!" I have looked in many sea shell books and I don't believe this shell is from any Atlantic Ocean beaches. Everyone asks where I bought this awesome shell. I tell them I got it from Yemaya's store! I now keep it on my Yemaya altar.

Make up your own rituals and offerings to the Goddess of your choice. Do them at home or in nature or both. The next time you want to ask Her for something, resist it. Simply thank Her for Her presence in your life. Remain open to Her gifts and allow Her to transform you. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Blessings,

Tammie Ward

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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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Board Members

Tamia Buckingham - President
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Tammie Ward - Vice President
Durham, NC
Susan Hill - Treasurer
Greensboro, NC
Asherah—Secretary
Waynesville, NC
Lance Brown Durham, NC
Steve (Gandolf) Coenen
Hickory, NC
Blake Davis Durham, NC
Dick Merritt Hillsborough, NC
Gryphon Rosemead
Credmore, NC



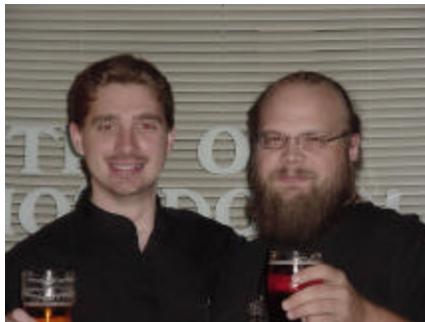
Greetings Fellow Questers

The big event is around the corner, and with two months to go, we can't stress enough the necessity to register as soon as possible in order to reserve a space. Registration forms will be sent with the catalog to the names listed on our mailing list. If your name isn't on the mailing list or if you don't receive a catalog in the mail, then please contact Laura Dake at lauradake@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

Anticipating a challenge in making it to Quest this year? If there is a financial need involved, we have scholarship funds available. The application form is included in the catalog and will be also be available online in PDF format. Financial aid is disbursed on a first-come, first serve basis and the Scholarship Committee will carefully review each application before a decision is made. Partial and full scholarships are available, but the final amount of aid is determined by need, and by the willingness of the applicant to meet us half way. For any questions concerning this process, please contact Tammie Ward at thorsmountain@hotmail.com or Blake Davis at fraterbad@hotmail.com.

Want to sharpen your leadership skills and make a difference in your Pagan Community - get involved! We still have two major positions available and we're hoping to fill them as soon as possible. Know a lifeguard who has their certification up to date? Bring them to Quest so we can swim and canoe and win the thanks and respect of your friends. Know anyone who would make a good Onsite Coordinator? You know that special someone who can keep cool under pressure, who is

organized, and who can pull things together in the end? Speak up, we need you. We also have a few Board positions opening up. If you want to be a part of the "behind the scenes" process which makes Quest happen, then it might be a good idea to drum up a good campaign speech. For more information on any of these positions, feel free to contact a current Board member or speak with Lance or Blake.



With that said, what are you waiting for? Just because you know magick doesn't mean you can wave your wand and skip the work. Check your mailbox for that catalog daily. If you don't see it, let someone know and get a hold of one. *Fill it out. Put it in the mail. With a stamp.* Make copies of the catalog from our website and enroll your friends and family. Surprise them with an all expense paid trip to Camp Millstone for 3 days and 2 nights and help them forget about Tax Weekend. The point is you are cordially invited to a fantastic weekend that will change your life, for the better. Your invitation is in the mail and we can't wait to see you there.

Sincerely,
Blake and Lance.

College Scholarship Applications Delivered!

Gryphon Rosemead

The applications for the first ever Pagan College Scholarship offered by CSQ have been delivered.

Monday night, October 29, a group of dedicated and gifted Pagans folded and stuffed about 1300 envelopes with Pagan College Scholarship application forms. They were addressed to high school guidance counselors in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

The next morning Dick mailed 1027 of them (NC-437, SC-262, VA -328) at bulk rate. Dick was The Man; making and folding the copies of the application—even though he is not an “official” member of the College Scholarship Committee!

Both Al and I work at schools that received the applications and we waited to see how they were handled. The one that came to my school was thrown into the trash. I talked to the Guidance Counselor and provided her with another. She said she thought it was asking for money.

Thanks to all for your support for this endeavor and to these individuals in particular; this would not have come about if it were not for Pagans like you! Dick, Yochim, Debbie, Tammie, Tamia, Lance, Tim PITA), Al, Cindy, Gypc, Abby, Robin, and Scottie.

If you would like to contribute to the CSQ Pagan Scholarship fund, write “college scholarship” in the memo line of your check and send it to the Quest PO box.

Our Pagan Garden - Impressions of the North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference

Tamia Buckingham

When Sam Thompson returned from the Mid-Atlantic Pagan Leadership Conference (August 2001), he described himself as a seed in the garden of history. At the time, I noted his excitement and passion about the work of the conference, but didn't really try to nail him down to what kind of seed he thought he might be. Having just returned from the North Carolina Pagan Leadership Conference that Sam and co-conspirator Allison Dunmore pulled together, I know exactly what he meant - and I'm sure that there is some portion of dandelion genetics in that seed, because a magical wind has carried it across thousands of miles.

The whole process started with the planning of the National Summit, organized by Cairril Adaire, in Indiana in March of 2001. Aranea and Lance of PagaNet attended and caught the spirit. The enthusiasm that they brought back to Virginia germinated and grew into MAPLC under Kimana Lemaster's talented gardening. Then, the seeds that Kimana's event spawned were brought to North Carolina by Sam and Al. Each participant at NCPLC filled the opening ritual cauldron with the seeds of their hopes and dreams for the weekend. At the conclusion of NCPLC, each participant came away with a collection of the assembled community's seeds to carry back to their own spiritual garden.

Now that is not to say that we are all a bunch of dandelions, but there is definitely a magical wind blowing through the nation! Perhaps the most astounding magic of all was to see so many different and diverse groups represented and working together. Egos and grudges were checked at the door, petty squabbles were set aside, and we worked with an amazing amount of harmony. As our meeting facilitator

stated, we don't all have to agree or even like each other, but we do need to treat one another with respect. And that is just what happened.

One of the goals that emerged in the first breakout session was to celebrate our differences as well as our similarities. The descriptive phrase that the participants of NCPLC used over and over was a unified eclectic front. One has only to look at the Gay Rights movement and its success to see the results of working in a unified manner without giving up our individuality. Think about this for a moment. Isn't a garden with a variety of plants much more interesting than a field containing a single-species crop?

Aranea, having participated in all three conferences, envisioned this process as a series of bonfires - carrying the flame from the first fire to an ever-growing number of circles at the Regional, District, and local levels. She stated that while one fire is easy to extinguish, the ever-growing number of fires that the central fire has spawned ensure the continuity of the flame. The initial conference at each level has fueled tremendous passion and energy. However, becoming a national movement requires time, energy, commitment, and lots of nurturing. The ashes of those initial fires make the ground fertile so that our seeds can sprout and grow strong. The hearth must be tended to continue to supply passion and energy. The forty-plus participants, staff, and press went home from NCPLC with seeds and a wonderful set of tools for their local groups. Together, we can grow a beautiful garden - come roll up your sleeves and let's get planting! Stay tuned for much more information!

Tamia Buckingham is the President of Carolina Spirit Quest. She is an active

member of Celebrate the Circle (Durham CUUPs) and a co-founder of Children's Circle. For more information, see websites: www.carolinaspiritquest.org and www.angelfire.com/nc/celebratethecircle.



Non-Profit Status

The IRS has sent us a letter acknowledging receipt of our application for tax exemption under paragraph 501c (3). It has been entered into their computer system and sent to Cincinnati for initial review. The letter says that we can expect to hear from them by about the first of June.

A federal tax exemption is significant in itself, but it is also the key to other benefits such as state sales tax rebates. It is a slow process, but it is well begun.

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*Carolina Spirit Quest 2002
April 12-14, 2002
Camp Millstone,
Ellerbe, NC*

Eostre On The Beach

Spring, a time of renewal and rebirth. The days and nights are equal in length. We bask in the warmth of the sun. Eostre, a time to rejoice in the seeds of new community. Join Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. and PATIENC as we celebrate Eostre on the beach. CSQ is pleased to facilitate the first public ritual on the Outer Banks.

Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. is a nonprofit, religious organization which was formed to encourage networking and the building of community spirit among Pagans and Earth Centered religionists in the Carolinas and surrounding area. PATIENC, The Pagan Alliance For Tolerance In Eastern North Carolina, is a non-worship, non-denominational, civic-educational group located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. PATIENC was looking for an established group to lead an Eostre ritual. CSQ volunteered to lead the ritual. We come together as one to welcome the return of Spring.

The Eostre ritual will take place on the beach, Saturday, March 16, 2002. We will gather at 2:30 PM and the ritual will start promptly at 3:00. There will a bonfire and drumming into the night, so bring your drums. If you would like to help facilitate the ritual, contact Tammie Ward of CSQ at thorsmountain@hotmail.com or 919-451-0598, evenings. If you would like to help with any other details, contact PATIENC at 252-449-8973 or patienc@oldreligion.zz.com. Contact PATIENC for the ritual location and directions.

For more information on Carolina Spirit Quest, Inc. visit their web site at www.carolinaspiritquest.org. For more information on PATIENC, visit their web site at www.pagan.drak.net/obxpatienc.

Please note: this ritual is taking place on Federal Park Land. The Park System has very strict rules we must follow. Please leave your athames at home. Thank you.

