

Voices of the Grove

Feb/Mar, 2008

Imbolc

**Presented by As Always Coven
February 2, 2008
2900 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
Gates open 7 PM**

**For more information check out our website
at www.greensonggrove.org**

**Other ways to keep up with GSG
www.myspace.com/greensonggrove
or
groups.yahoo.com/group/GSGVoice/**



GSG IMBOLC

Imbolc Lore
(February 2nd)

Imbolc, (pronounced “IM-bulk” or “EM-bowlk”), also called Oimealg, (“IM-mol’g), by the Druids, is the festival of the lactating sheep. It is derived from the Gaelic word “oimelc” which means “ewes milk”.

Herd animals have either given birth to the first offspring of the year or their wombs are swollen and the milk of life is flowing into their teats and udders. It is the time of Blessing of the seeds and consecration of agricultural tools. It marks the center point of the dark half of the year. It is the festival of the Maiden, for from this day to March 21st, it is her season to prepare for growth and renewal. Brighid’s snake emerges from the womb of the Earth Mother to test the weather, (the origin of Ground Hog Day), and in many places the first Crocus flowers began to spring forth from the frozen earth.

symbols of protection and prosperity in the coming year. Home hearth fires are put out and re-lit, and a besom is place by the front door to symbolize sweeping out the old and welcoming the new. Candles are lit and placed in each room of the house to honor the re-birth of the Sun.

Another traditional symbol of Imbolc is the plough. In some areas, this is the first day of ploughing in preparation of the first planting of crops. A decorated plough is dragged from door to door, with costumed children following asking for food, drinks, or money. Should they be refused, the household is paid back by having its front garden ploughed up. In other areas, the plough is decorated and then Whiskey, the “water of life” is poured over it. Pieces of cheese and bread are left by the plough and in the newly turned furrows as offerings to the nature spirits. It is considered taboo to cut or pick plants during this time.

The Maiden is honored, as the Bride, on this Sabbat. Straw Brideo’gas (corn dollies) are created from oat or wheat straw and placed in baskets with white flower bedding. Young girls then carry the Brideo’gas door to door, and gifts are bestowed upon the image from each household. Afterwards at the traditional feast, the older women make special acorn wands for the dollies to hold, and in the morning the ashes in the hearth are examined to see if the magic wands left marks as a good omen. Brighid’s Crosses are fashioned from wheat stalks and exchanged as

Various other names for this Greater Sabbat are Imbolgc Brigantia (Caledonni), Imbolc (Celtic), Disting (Teutonic, Feb 14th), Lupercus (Strega), St. Bridget’s Day (Christian), Candlemas, Candlelaria (Mexican), the Snowdrop Festival. The Festival of Lights, or the Feast of the Virgin. All Virgin and Maiden Goddesses are honored at this time.

“Uniting our community through communication, spirituality and personal growth.” We of Greensong Grove, come together from different circles and traditions, covens and solitary practices to create a Grove, just as the Oaks and Palms and Pines of the forest stand together, co-creating and being at peace with one another. We can stand together, and in doing so, build a strong foundation on which to build our own futures.

Friends of GSG

Mystikal Scents
9545 East Fowler Ave. Thonotosassa
Phone: 727-957-1181

Healing Hands
7132 49th St. N., Pinellas Park FL 33781
Phone # 727-538-8969

May You Never Hunger
www.mayyouneverhunger.com
727-459-5382

Ancient Healing Secrets
5225 4th St N. St. Pete
Phone - 727-522-8281

Mystic Goddess
7500 Ulmerton Rd. Suite 17, Largo, FL 33771, (727) 530-9994
<http://www.mysticgoddess.org/>

Under the Gypsy Moon
1500 N. Parson’s Ave Brandon, FL 33510
813-689-7595 UndertheGypsyMoon@tampabay.rr.com

Skye Metaphysical Shops and Psychic Readings
12427 US Hwy 19 Hudson, FL 34667
727-697-3617


Angel Heart New Age Gifts, LLC
3441 West Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 877-8117
www.AngelHeartNewAgeGifts.com

Enchanted Forest
3015 16th Street North Saint Petersburg, FL 33704
Phone: 727-823-9291

Dragon Den
USA Flea Market 73 4th St Port Richey, FL 34669
www.thedragonden.com 727-856-8164

Practically Frivolous Salon
4140 16th St N St. Pete, Florida
727-528-2702

Enchanted Moon,
2909 16th Street North, St. Pete.
727-824-6053



Kids Corner

Find the words in the matrix, then read the leftover letters to find a secret message about Spring.

M	E	A	R	C	H	D	R	I	B
D	G	A	L	L	E	R	B	M	U
A	G	C	C	O	P	I	L	U	T
F	M	R	A	I	N	E	O	S	T
F	I	O	N	L	I	K	O	E	K
O	D	C	A	L	I	O	M	N	R
D	U	U	A	R	E	N	O	L	F
I	B	S	E	L	D	D	U	P	L
L	N	D	G	O	E	S	O	U	Y
S	P	R	I	N	G	R	A	S	S
T	L	I	K	E	A	L	A	M	B

Secret Message:

bloom	bird	bud	butterfly	crocus	daffodil	egg
flower	grass	puddles	rain	spring	tulip	umbrella

Find the words in the matrix, then read the extra letters to find a secret message.

Y	T	P	R	A	S						
P	E	S	O	R	I	E	S				
P	B	U	I	M	O	O	L	B	T	E	
P	O	L	Q	A	T	P	C	U	T	P	E
S	O	L	Y	R	R	F	A	T	A		
S	B	O	Z	I	N	N	I	A			
O	L	G	O	W	A	T	H	L	O		
M	S	I	R	I	T	E	H	O			
E	A	H	K	O	O	D					
M	M	I	L	N	I	W					
E	D	U	B								

Secret Message:

aster	marigold
bloom	orchid
blossom	petal
bouquet	periwinkle
bud	poppy
cornation	rose
dahlia	stem
daisy	tulip
heather	violet
iris	zinnia

- January
- 8th-●
- 15th-☾
- 22nd-○
- 30th-☾
- February
- 6th-●
- 13th-☾
- 20th-○
- 28th-☾
- March
- 7th-●
- 14th-☾
- 21st-○
- 29th-☾

To submit an article or event to the newsletter, please contact Terrie McGowan / council@greensonggrove.org with “GSG Newsletter” in the subject line.

GreenSong Grove Membership Form GreenSongGrove

“Uniting our community through Communication, Spirituality and Personal Growth”

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Solitary: Yes / No Coven Affiliation: _____

May send snail mail: Yes / No

Please add me to the email list: Yes / No

New membership: Yes / No Renewal: Yes / No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cut out & Send \$10 donation (check or money order, NO cash please !) to :

GreenSong Grove, Inc.
P.O. Box 55253
St. Petersburg FL 33732-5253

Membership includes: \$1 discount to Sabbats, ***Under 18 years old must have parent or legal guardians notarized permission to join.* At no time will GreenSong Grove, Inc. give your name, personal information or email address to anyone without your prior express permission.

OSTARA

As Spring reaches its midpoint, night and day stand in perfect balance, with light on the increase. The young Sun God now celebrates a hierogamy (sacred marriage) with the young Maiden Goddess, who conceives. In nine months, she will again become the Great Mother. It is a time of great fertility, new growth, and newborn animals.

The next full moon (a time of increased births) is called the Ostara and is sacred to Eostre the Saxon Lunar Goddess of fertility (from whence we get the word estrogen, whose two symbols were the egg and the rabbit).

The Christian religion adopted these emblems for Easter which is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. The theme of the conception of the Goddess was adapted as the Feast of the Annunciation, occurring on the alternative fixed calendar date of March 25 Old Lady Day, the earlier date of the equinox. Lady Day may also refer to other goddesses (such as Venus and Aphrodite), many of whom have festivals celebrated at this time.

Traditional Foods:

Leafy green vegetables, Dairy foods, Nuts such as Pumpkin, Sunflower and Pine. Flower Dishes and Sprouts.

Herbs and Flowers:

Daffodil, Jonquils, Woodruff, Violet, Gorse, Olive, Peony, Iris, Narcissus and all spring flowers.

Incense:

Jasmine, Rose, Strawberry, Floral of any type.

Sacred Gemstone:

Jasper

Special Activities:

Planting seeds or starting a Magickal Herb Garden. Taking a long walk in nature with no intent other than reflecting on the Magick of nature and our Great Mother and her bounty.

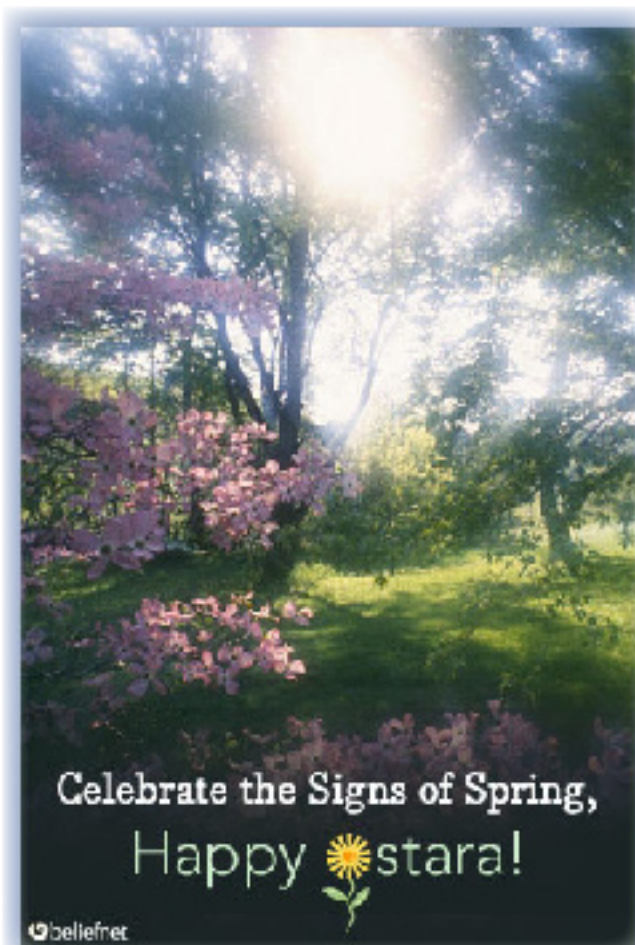


Don't forget to check out our new MySpace page!

www.myspace.com/greensonggrove

Coming Soon
On-line Registration for Grand Sabbats
www.greensonggrove.org

March 15, 2008 – Ostara -
Presented by Coven of the Quill,
Sword and Chalice
Join GreenSong Grove as we celebrate the Wheel of The Year
Where: 2900 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
When: Gates open at 7 PM
Donation: \$4 for members, \$5 for nonmembers Phone: 727-804-9370
Email: council@greensonggrove.org



GSG Calendar of Events

Council Meeting dates

All meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at the Pinellas Park Library @ 7:00 p.m. 7770 52nd St., Pinellas Park, FL

Sabbat dates for 2008

Imbolc - February 2, 2008 – As Always Coven
Ostara - March 15, 2008 – Coven of the Quill, Sword and Chalice
Beltane - April 25- 27, 2008 – Council and staff – Celebration of the beginning of our 10th season of Sabbats
Midsummer - June 21, 2008- The Women of Synergy Circle
Lughnasadh - August 2, 2008 - Mabon -September 20, 2008 - Samhain - October – 17- 19, 2008 – Mystic Mountain Coven
Yule- December 20, 2008 – Avalon Rose

Imbolc

January 27 presented by Padma and Greybeard

Join us as we celebrate Imbolc. This sabbat we will celebrate Lakshmi and the festival of lights. This will be a blending of eclectic Wicca at it's best.

Where: 2900 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida

When: Gates open at 7 PM

Donation: \$4 for members, \$5 for nonmembers
Phone: 727-804-9370

Email: council@greensonggrove.org

Web address: greensonggrove.org

Who doesn't love a roaring sacred fire?

Ostara

March 24 - GreenSong Grove's Ostara Sabbat – presented by Grey Ghosthawk and Becki

Where: 2900 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida

When: Gates open at 7 PM
Donation: \$4 for members, \$5 for nonmembers
Phone: 727-804-9370
Email: council@greensonggrove.org

Web address: greensonggrove.org

Cauldron notes by Ann Marie

Lots of great things happening for GreenSong Grove, we have Great things planned for our two upcoming Grand Sabbat Festivals. At Beltane we will be hosting our 10th Beltane, which means this wonderful community will have presented 73 Sabbat Rites. We are inviting all past council members to be our guests at our Beltane festival so that we can honor their contribution to the GSG community.

Our special guests for 2008's Beltane Grand

Sabbat will be Ann Moura, <http://www.annmourasgarden.com/> and Kirk White, <http://www.revkirwhite.com/>

Our special guests for 2008's Samhain Grand Sabbat and Witches Ball, Pirates the gathering at Witches Isle, will be Ann Moura, <http://www.annmourasgarden.com/> with a performance and workshop by Australia's Wendy Rule <http://www.wendyrule.com/>

Community Events

JANUARY

January 15 - Goddess and God Wicca 101- Open to the public. sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs . Class times are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on the Reserve your seat - Send to gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

Jan. 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21- WICCA 101- from 6:00pm to 7:00 pm - Come to the store and sign up for our the course. The first class costs \$20.00 and that covers the book used for the course which will be Raymond Bucklands Complete Guide to Wicca. (We will be using this as the aid for the class) Each class after that is \$15.00 there will be 6 classes. All those who participate will receive a certificate of completion. Please prepay for the first class at the time you sign up. For those of you who want a total for the whole course is \$95.00, if you wish to pay for the whole course up front you will get \$10.00 off the total and will only have to pay \$85.00. Enchanted Moon 2909 16th Street North, St. Petersburg, Fl 33704 Phone: 727- 824-6053

January 19 – CUUUPs Full Moons - Open to the public. Sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs. Start time is 7:00 PM for more information contact gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

January 29 - RAYMOND BUCKLAND will appear for one day only along with Paul Borda the designer for Dryad Designs www.dryaddesign.com. Dragon Den 5417 Main Street New Port Richey, FL 34652 727-232-0726

FEBRUARY

February 5 - Wheel of the Year Wicca 101- Open to the public. sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs . Class times are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on the Reserve your seat - Send to gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

February 19 - Magick and Ethics Wicca 101- Open to the public. sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs . Class times are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on the Reserve your seat - Send to gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

February 23, 2008 – CUUUPs Full Moons - Open to the public. Sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs. Start time is 7:00 PM for more information contact gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

MARCH

March 5, 2008 Ritual - Wicca 101- Open to the public. sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs . Class times are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on the Reserve your seat - Send to gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

March 19, 2008 - The working Circle Wicca 101- Open to the public. sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs . Class times are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm on the Reserve your seat - Send to gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

March 22, 2008 – CUUUPs Full Moons - Open to the public. Sponsored by Circles in the Woods CUUPs. Start time is 7:00 PM for more information contact gldnpuma@earthlink.net or mail to: UUCT 11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

