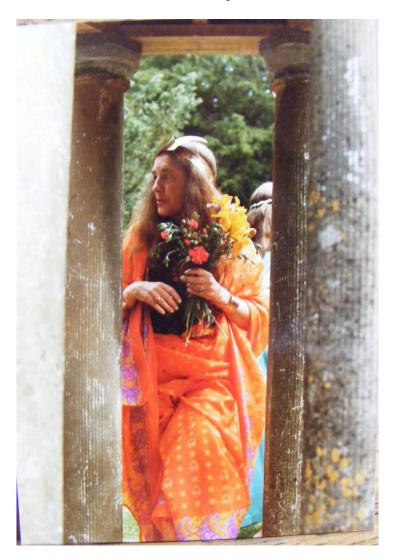
ISIAN * NEWS

Issue No. 188, Beltane, 2023 Published Quarterly Since 1976



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Aset Shemsu – Retinue of Isis

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Part II. The Star of Ishtar. Eight Seasonal Festivals

Festival of Wesak

Beltaine. 1st - 2nd May

Ritual no. 7 ORACLE OF THE GODDESS MAHADEVI

Priestess: (*Invocation*) O Great Goddess, Mother of the Trimurti, the Holy Trinity, soul of every being, how can we extol Thee? By Thee even Mahadeva, the Almighty God is put into trance that He may make worlds. Thou art Maha-Sarasvati, Maha-Lakshmi, Maha-Parvati. Triple Goddess, guide us on our path to Enlightenment that we may awaken into eternal bliss.

Oracle: Look within your Self and you will find the Light of Truth, Buddhi, the Jewel within the Heart of the Lotus. Invisible it is and yet shineth in every creature. It is the dewdrop hanging from a blade of grass: it sparkles in the eyes of eagles and fast-flying swallows: it flows in rushing rivers and rests in rocky snow-capped mountains. The bliss of Nirvana is not in the past nor the future: so no vain regrets nor ambitious struggles in religious practices will bring it to you. No strivings for the reputation of saintliness can ensure your awareness. Rather it is in the moment that Eternity rests, awaiting you in a smile, sudden laughter, tears of compassion. If you could experience one second of enlightenment, it would be yours for ever! Time slips by like a passing landscape to the traveller, who appears to journey with it. But in reality the true Self is at rest at the hub of the turning wheel of life. Place yourself at the centre of this hub in total awareness, and you will be in a position of strength to control each of your lives as they revolve in cyclic reincarnations.

True knowledge brings good feeling, thought and activity. Control is essential. Yet how can you control yourself in alignment with your true Self, if you are swayed by passing passions? Free Will is to be earned not by extreme asceticism nor by selfish indulgence. It is attained by continual exercise of conscious choice between good and wrong behaviour. As you develop, you will observe that the choices both become more difficult and more subtle. Rejoice then, for you draw nearer to Self-realisation! if you could live for one minute in a truthful, compassionate manner, you would transform your day and your year and your life! Do not strive for too much: otherwise you will reach for the stars and fall upon your face! Rather combine spiritual practices with an enjoyment of Mother Earth. It is pious to memorise the myriad Names and Attributes of the Gods and Goddesses: it is also good to remember the names of your neighbours and their children, and to respect the attributes of animals, birds and plants! As I am the Universal Mother, these are your brothers and sisters and children. The mind conveys knowledge: intuition and conscience combined with experience produces wisdom.

I am without: I am within: I am the Lover and the Beloved: I am the Knower and the Known: I am the Harmony that reconcileth all things. Know Me.

At the gates, Priestess and Priest in mitres. Women with flower headdresses, men garlanded. All in orange and yellow robes and carry flowers.

Priest: Friends, we are assembled to celebrate Wesak, the attainment of Nirvana by the Buddha Gautama and his wife the Princess Yashodhara. The Buddha found enlightenment in the land of India and taught his disciples that his wife also had attained the great Awakening. He travelled the land preaching adherence to truth, peace, toleration, a caste-free society and compassion for all living things. He practiced vegetarianism and pacifism. He once gave a simple reply to one who asked what he taught: "do good, abstain from evil, speak the truth." May we rejoice in the attainment of bliss by Gautama and Yashodhara and be inspired by their example! Let us make procession to the high Altar for our celebration.

Flute and drum music. Procession. Altar is draped in red and gold, and on it are 8 lighted candles, burning incense and an earthenware bowl of milk. By it is a gong. Table with vegetarian feast.

Priestess: (offers incense) I offer incense to Mahadevi, the Trimurti, Who manifests in triple form as Sarasvati, Goddess of Wisdom, Lakshmi, Goddess of Love and beauty, and Devi Who shows herself as Parvati, Durga and Kali; Gentleness, Energy and Creativity. Mahadevi's divine Daughters are Prajna, Goddess of Wisdom; Kwan-Yin, Goddess of Mercy and the many-coloured Tara of gentleness and power. (*faces celebrants*) Hear the words of Mahadevi: "I am the Void. I am the Bliss. I am the Knowledge. I am the Unborn, Through Me the Universe came into being. I am below, above, all around." Friends, let us worship the Goddess Mahadevi who shines like a thousand suns. Without Her, the mighty God Mahadeva cannot stir in any of his triple forms. As Sarasvati She inspires Brahma to make the cycles of Time. As Lakshmi She causes Vishnu to dream worlds into Being, and to incarnate within them. As Devi She fires Siva with energy so that He may enact the Dance of Creation.

Priest: (offers incense) I offer incense to Mahadeva, the Trimurti, Who manifests as Brahma, Vishnu and Siva. Mighty are the works of The God Who upholdeth the wide Armaments and lifteth on high the bright and glorious heaven! The Three-Headed One sees as if He were near. If a sinful man thinks he is walking by stealth, the God knows it all. Should he flee far beyond the sky, he would not

be rid of the God Who with a thousand eyes overlooketh this earth. O hear this our calling, Mahadeva, be gracious now; longing for bliss, we call upon Thee! Where there is Eternal Light, in that immortal imperishable world place us. Where life is free in the thirty-three heavens, where all worlds are radiant, there make us immortal. Where there are happiness and delight, free us from sin; there make us immortal!

Priestess: In token of our joy in the coming of spring, let us present our flowers!

Maiden: (*presents flowers*) O Mahadevi, when called to mind in difficulties, you remove fear from us. When we are happy you bestow lovely thoughts. O dispeller of poverty, pain and fear, open your ever-sympathetic heart which bestows love on all! Grant us love and, happiness and abundance for this spring.

Youth: (presents flowers) O Lotus-eyed Goddess, with face as charming as the moon and ever gracious, You are as beautiful as burnt gold and the sun and the moon! Goddess with fire in your eyes, adorned on your brow with the crescent moon, inspire us with the gift of creating beautiful works of art.

Priest: That our souls may be inspired with spiritual understanding, let us witness the Mystery of the Jewel within the Lotus! *Gong struck twice.*

MYSTERY OF THE JEWEL WITHIN THE LOTUS

Actors: Gautama in saffron robe, 1 right bare shoulder, holds staff and begging bowl. Yashodhara in black and yellow sari and saffron veil. Maya in jewelled tiara, purple and gold sari and jewellery. Gandharvas in brightly coloured attire, youths garlanded, girls flower crowned. Yashodhara is seated, veiled.

Enter Gautama leaning on staff.

Yashodhara: Venerable monk, I see well that you have travelled far and long. Be you seated and accept refreshment at my hands!

Gautama: Compassion so freely offered without the need of my begging is welcome indeed, both for the substance and the spirit. I have indeed journeyed for forty-five years and have seldom been seated during day-light. *(sits cross-legged)* What Place is this, so well shaded by trees from the merciless glare of the sun?

Yashodhara: You are in Kusinagara, country of the Mallus. Behold the country folk hereabout wonder, because this grove of Sal trees have flowers out of season! They say among themselves that a great miracle is pending.

Gautama: (looks at her closely) If you were not a woman at least forty years younger than myself, I should say that your voice reminds me of my wife, the Princess Yashodhara, long since departed from this illusory world!

Yashodhara: Your failing hearing does not deceive you. *(removes her veil)* Behold my face! I am Yashodhara. I am she who appeareth to the righteous at the gateway of death. Gautama, you shall depart this life today, when the sun sets behind these trees.

Gautama: In this degenerate age of the Kaliyuga I accept death with tranquillity. But as at the first, give me of your milk.

Yashodhara presents bowl of milk to Gautama, who drinks.

Yashodhara: It is customary for the departing spirit to ask questions of me. What would you know?

Gautama: Why have you been so long silent?

Yashodhara: When intellectual dissertation distracts the mind, I withdraw.

Gautama: Why have you veiled yourself so no man may see you?

Yashodhara: The impurities of the mind causes the veil and not myself.

Gautama: Why do you restrain yourself from helping the sinful, the sick and the soul-weary?

Yashodhara: I answer all who call upon Me from the heart. But few are willing to pay the price for my aid, the surrender of selfishness.

Gautama: I understand. Would you question me?

Yashodhara: Assuredly. Why do you permit devotees to worship you as a God through hundreds of statues they make of you?

Gautama: There are no statues of the Buddha. I forbade it. What you see are toys for the young.

Yashodhara: Why do you teach men to abandon their homes and wives and children to become monks? The water cisterns are dry, the canals are silted up, the fields unploughed. The people are hungry.

Yashodhara: I taught the Middle Way between asceticism and excess. These who neglect the earth are no followers of the Buddha.

Yashodhara: Why have you deserted the Deities, and denied both soul and heaven?

Gautama: I only dispelled delusions, the shadows of Deities, not their Divine Being: the false soul of desires, not the true Soul: fantasies of heaven, not the true Heaven of eternal reality.

Yashodhara: I see your spirit is prepared.

Gautama: Before I leave this earth I would seek a remedy for the misuse of my teachings.

Yashodhara: I myself would find a cure for my rejection of the earth, leaving my children to sin and suffer. We have attained Buddhahood, but this does not make us omniscient. The wider the horizon, the greater the extent of the unknown. What Teacher knows as much as the Mother who bore him? Let us call upon your wise mother, Queen Maya.

Gautama: I call upon the Eternal, the Formless. the form of the Mother of this Universe who took the shape of my mother Maya. Come to us Who art the triumph of spirit over matter, Dispeller of miseries and misfortunes, Bringer of all knowledge, tranquillity and beauty, Mother Supreme, as beautiful as the lotus. Thou Who art the form of the Queen of the Universe, the Protectress, the Benevolent, inspire us to bring good to all.

Yashodhara: Come to us, the One whom Brahma of the lotus-seat praiseth, Who bringeth about Vishnu's super-conscious trance. Thou Who art the soul of everything, come to us who would save mankind from ignorance and evil.

Indian music. Maya reveals Herself. Gautama and Yashodhara stand.

Maya: I am Thy mother, Gautama, and thine, Yashodhara, and I take the form of Maya who weaves the fabric of dreams. I am Mahadevi Who manifesteth with immeasurable Light, of form and activity beyond the ken of thought; the substratum of three Worlds. I am the embodiment of Truth, Consciousness and Bliss and the three powers, Will, Action and Knowledge which are beyond birth and death. Whenever evil predominates over good, the Deities descend into incarnation, that free choice may be granted to all souls. After the age of the reign of violence and cruelty brought about by turbulent passions, an age of the Fishes brings with it the virtues of compassion, stillness and a longing for heaven. But in reply to your question, even the virtues may be misused and so weakness may displace compassion; inertia supersede stillness; and a longing for heaven become distorted into religious fanaticism. But the jewel light of Truth, which is the Spiritual Self, will glow within the hearts of those who truly follow your teaching, Gautama, and they shall attain Nirvana, eternal bliss. It is not for you to ask the number, for would you refrain from helping others because only

few may benefit? Your teachings shall prevail for two and a half thousand years. Your influence, Yashodhara, will dawn at the end of the age and the coming of the sign of the Water-carrier. You shall bring harmony with Nature. Your veil will be set aside, and you shall shine like the stars! (*Joyful Music.*) Do you deny the Deities? This is not possible. (*Maya holds up her arms.*) Yashodhara and Gautama, know that you are the Ninth Avatars of the Goddess Lakshmi and the God Vishnu! The Gandharvas rejoice at your apotheosis.

Indian music. Dance of the Gandharvas. They garland Gautama and Yashodhara.

Maya: My son, it is time for you to rest, Gautama.

Gautama lies encumbent, head on hand. Yashodhara spreads her veil over him. Gandharvas surround them.

Maya: Gautama and Yashodhara have left this earth and returned to the thirtythird heaven among the stars. They shall return to reap the harvest at the end of the age of Pisces. They will descend with the Twelfth Avatars of Lakshmi and Vishnu of the Aquarian age.

Gandharvas withdraw. Gautama rises. He and Yashodhara stand on either side of Maya, all three with hands outstretched in blessing. Gong is struck once.

End of Mystery

Priestess: Aum Mani Padme Hum. Friends, let us meditate upon the Inner Light of Truth, the Jewel within the Heart of the Lotus.

Meditation

Rays of peace and strength are sent forth. Reports are shared. Priestess and Priest give thanks to the Maha-Devi and Maha-Deva. Feast is enjoyed, flowers go to those in hospital. Food is shared with animals and birds.

Sources: *"Images of Devi in Pahari Paintings"*, Chhote Bharany, foreword by C. Sivaramamurti, Clarion Books, C-36 Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110 001 India, 1984. *"Indian Mythology"*, Veronica Ions, Paul Hamlyn, London, 1967. *"The Vedas"*, Frederick Max Muller, Indological Book House, POB 98, Ck 31110 Nepali Khapra, Varanasi, India, 1969. *"The Goddesses of India, Tibet, China and Japan"*, Lawrence Durdin-Robertson, Cesara Publications, Clonegal Castle, 1976. *"Real Tripitaka and Other Pieces"*, Arthur Waley, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, 1952. *"Monkey"*, Wu Ch'eng-en, translated by Arthur Waley, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, for Penguin Classic Books, 1961.

Editorial:

The Time of Blessings: Editorial for Isian News Beltaine 2023

by Hamsadevi

The time of Beltaine is the time of Blessings; all living beings celebrate the vital energies of life – birds sing their love songs, flowers attract bees and butterflies with their fragrances and colours. Did you ever realize, that each season has not only its own set of colours, but also its own tunes?

Where I live, in the western hemisphere and the northwest of Germany the howling of the dogs of the Wild Hunt can be heard in the storms of winter; the only birds, whose voices may be heard now, are the cawing of raven and crow, and the occasional shout of some bird of prey. Mother Hulda covers the land with a blanket of snow, protecting the sleeping plants and seeds in the soil from the icy breath of frost.

How different from that cold season is spring with its flower laden meadows, its golden trails of dandelion, its fragrance of woodruff and lily of the valley, said to grow in the footsteps of the goddesses and gods of life, who celebrate life, who celebrate their wedding feast at the beginning of May!

As the Fellowship of Isis is an international and multicultural community with members everywhere in the world Olivia Robertson's inspiration to create for Beltaine a mystery based on the teachings of Buddha is a choice, that offers a wonderful rite for all members.

European paganism celebrates the wedding feast of Goddess and God, and the idea of the union of male and female is presented in our Wesak mystery, too, but in a subtle and transformative form. It is about the union Mahadeva and Mahadevi, of mind and intuition, the combination of spiritual practice and the enjoyment of Mother Earth, as both are essential for our spiritual evolution – to attain "the Jewel Light of Truth, which is the Spiritual Self, that glows within the hearts of those, who truly follow the Buddha's teachings".

Olivia always encouraged members to be open-minded for all true spiritual paths, and in this ritual we may find an ingenious approach to the ideas about the Goddess in Eastern philosophy.

If you had seen Wesak *celebrations in Asia, you doubtlessly would remember it as a flower laden festivity; so Beltaine with its gift of a multitude of colourful flowers is a very fitting time to celebrate our Wesak, as the offering of flowers is a part of this ritual. In some parts of Asia beside Offering Rites – Pujas – freeing animals, mainly birds from cages and feeding and caring for street dogs as an act of compassion to express the worshipper's endeavours to work for the benefit of all sentient beings are part of the festivities. The dominating colours in our Wesak rite are the warm hues of yellow, golden and orange, colours of life and awareness, reminding us of the robes of Buddhist nuns and monks and of the golden sun as a fitting symbol of the loving heart, touching others with the healing rays of Eternal beauty, that is Heavenly Reality.

*In the worldwide Buddhist community Wesak or Vesakh is the most important holiday, and worshippers celebrate the Buddha's birth and enlightenment.

Daily Attunement Times & FOI Daily Prayer

FOI Worldwide Daily Attunement Times 6:30 to 8:30 every morning and evening.

Members may tune in at any point during these times, twice daily. The flame of the Hearth of the Goddess, as originally conceived by the three FOI Co-Founders, has spread to hearths and shrines throughout the world. So many gifted Members daily tend their private hearths, shrines and altars with due reverence to this Divine purpose. Let us join together, by attunement in meditation, ritual and prayer – as this sacred Flame burns within our hearts, let it lead us to the Divine Inspiration of the Goddess – as we tend the flames of Her hearth in our homes, in loving memory of our past, enjoyment of our present being, and with rich anticipation of a sacred path we create for our future.

Daily Prayer of the Fellowship of Isis (for morning and evening)

Be still and relaxed and surround yourself with light.

Holy Goddess Isis, Mother of all beings, come to our hearts. Grant us, Thy children, Love and Joy, Wisdom and Abundance. We offer Thee our loving care for all who are born of Thee.

Many members have asked, "What can I do?" There is a simple thing every FOI member can perform each day: saying the FOI Daily Prayer. Olivia used this prayer twice daily in the Temple of Isis at Clonegal Castle. She suggested attunement times by members at some point between 6:30 – 8:30 morning and evening in their own time zone.

"When we attune ourselves beyond our physical sense at dawn and dusk, we are learning to commune with the beautiful spheres of the Goddesses and Gods. By inducing a serene and kindly mind, wishing good to all, we receive transmissions from beyond our own Egos. Protected by an aura of Isian Light, we commune with each other, Spirit Guides, angels, and above all, ISIS of 10,000 Goddesses and Their Consorts. There is a cosmos out there awaiting us." ~ Olivia Robertson

Announcement

FOI Operations as We Move Forward into the Future As Designated by FOI Co-Founders Olivia Robertson and Lawrence Durdin-Robertson

The Goddess Isis alone is Head of Her Fellowship. Within Her Family - Shemsu all members will still have equal privileges. Membership will continue to be free. F.O.I. is not a Patriarchal Hierarchy, so no member can have spiritual authority over another. Iseums, Lyceums, Groves and Priories will remain on equal footing. Titles describe work undertaken, and are not a badge of authority over people or beliefs. ... The Manifesto of the Fellowship of Isis, with its spiritual and democratic ideals, linking all religions, paths, races and beings, has already been accepted by over 12,400 members [as of 1980], who have joined because of its assurances. Hence the Manifesto is perpetual and cannot be altered. Members who join the Family of Isis are in harmony through their love for the Goddess. Success and protection for Her Fellowship in the future is assured by Her Starry Wings.

FOI Events

FOI Chicago hosts several events throughout the year, including the Annual Goddess Convention and Festival. Details for the next annual festival, to be announced. For more details, please contact Archpriestess Demetria Nanos at hail_isis@yahoo.com

Isis Oasis Sanctuary, Temple of Isis, Geyserville, CA: A celebration of the Epiphany of Isis, also known as Festival of Lights will be held at Isis Oasis in January. The **35th annual FOI Convocation** will take place Friday, October 6 – Monday, October 9, 2023 at **Isis Oasis Retreat Center** in Geyserville, California. FOI Archpriestess and Director of Isis Oasis, **deTraci Regula** and **Justin Howard** are facilitating this event. Deities honored will be Nuit and Geb.

The **Inner Sanctum Symposium on Infinite Possibilities** will be scheduled for Thursday, April 28 through Monday, May 1, 2023 at **Isis Oasis Retreat Center** in Geyserville, California.

For more information on both of these events, contact: **deTraci Regula** at <u>tregula@msn.com</u>, or **Justin Howard** at <u>templeofisisca@gmail.com</u>

if you wish more information about presenting. Contact **Isis Oasis** if you need information about reservations to stay on the grounds while attending the Symposium: 707-857-4747 or by e-mail, place "Isis Symposium" in the subject line: <u>isisoasis@gmail.com</u> For reservations contact Isis Oasis: 707-857-4747 or by e-mail, place "Convocation" in the subject line: <u>isisoasis@gmail.com</u>

Temple of Isis, Isis Oasis Retreat Center, Geyserville, CA. Monday – Friday noon rites are offered in the Isis Chapel. Sunday services in the Main Temple at 3 pm. For more information contact Isis Oasis: <u>isisoasis@gmail.com</u>

Temple of Isis on Zoom and Facebook Live: please check the Isis Oasis Sanctuary page on Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/IsisOasisTemple/</u> and the personal page of deTraci Regula for live videos. deTraci hosts noon rite on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and sometimes a midnight rite on her personal page. Justin Howard hosts noon rite on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday Scrolls at 3pm pacific standard time every Sunday via the Isis Oasis Sanctuary page.

FOI Germany hosts Moon meetings, Druid Clan of Dana rituals and tours of the sacred history of the land in the area of TeutoForest. Please contact Rt. Rev. Hamsa Devi for more details of upcoming events. sekhmet@online.de Goddess World Blog: https://goddessworldblog.wordpress.com/ FOI Germany Website: https://goddessworldblog.wordpress.com/ FoI Germany Website: https://www.fellowshipofisis.eu Facebook: Priory of Rainbow Tara

Priestess **Janet Seaforth** teaches Qigong and Tai Chi classes Mondays at Cloverdale City Park; Fridays at Healdsburg Parkpoint Health Club; Saturdays at Po Yun Nei Kuan (zoom available). For more information or to register, contact Simu Janet Seaforth at 707-894-7345.

Isian Society for Integrated Studies - a series focusing on the work of our clergy hosted by Rev. Mana Youngbear. For more information please check Isian Society for Integrated Studies Public Page on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ManaYoungbear/

Our Lady's Prayer Circle on the 13th day of every month, led by FOI Priestess Diveena. This prayer circle was founded by Diveena and the late Barbara Lee Westlake in the city of Mount Shasta on the Winter Solstice, 2005. It has been ongoing every month since that time. Diveena is a spiritual advisor and member of the Pomo tribe. She has been inspired to create Mandala Prayer work with Earth Based Totem Medicine. If you wish to participate, FOI Priestess Diveena can be contacted at prayercircle@diveena.com

New Karnak Center is planning to perform the rites from the FOI liturgy books during 2023, open to all members to join by attunement. Michael Starsheen writes: In 2022 we performed '*Opet*', and had a good response of people attuning with us. Rites are enacted at 4PM Pacific Time."For more information please

contact the Right Reverend **Michael A. Starsheen**, Archpriest Hierophant mastarsheen@att.net

Michael A. Starsheen hosts a group on Facebook titled **Isian Rose Ministry** which offers a different rose and blessing daily. It's a nice way to begin one's morning! If you wish to join this group, please send a private message to Michael via Facebook messenger.

Rt. Rev. **Kasey Conder** offers the **FOI Liturgy Circle** to study a particular FOI ritual drama on the second Sunday of every month throughout the year. All are welcome to attune or attend in person. For more information contact Kasey Conder: <u>kaseyconder@hotmail.com</u>

In Utah: Crone's Hollow 2470 S Main St., Salt Lake City, USA (Lyceum of Isis of Utah)

In California: Isis Oasis Sanctuary 20889 Geyserville, California, USA (Lyceum of the Temple of Isis (The name of Loreon Vigne's Lyceum) 1pm Pacific

2023 FELLOWSHIP OF ISIS LITURGY STUDY CIRCLE BY LYCEUM OF ISIS OF UTA-HA

Second Sunday of each Month

1 pm Pacific / 2 pm Mountain

"Athena - Arcadian Awakening" by Olivia Robertson, F.O.I. Co-Founder

January: "Magoland"

February: "Valhalla"

March: "Hawaii"

April: "Utah"

May: "Bohemia"

June: "Yucatan"

July: "Eire"

August: "The Azores"

September: "Glastonbury"

October: "World Mystery Play"

November: "Zimbabwe"

December: "Crete"

Fellowship of Isis Liturgy by Olivia Robertson available freely at <u>Fellowship of Isis</u> <u>Central website</u>.

Blessings of Athena!

Olivia Robertson, Fellowship of Isis (FOI) Co-Founder and ArchPriestess, is the author of the Fellowship of Isis Liturgy. More information about the liturgy can be found here: Creation of the Fellowship of Isis Liturgy

www.isisofutah.org Free, all welcome to attend or attune

From FOI Liturgy booklets by Olivia Robertson published on **Fellowship of Isis Central** (www.fellowshipofisiscentral.com)

Fellowship of Isis Liturgy

Please attune; blessings of Isis-Aset of 10,000 Names!

Olivia Robertson, Fellowship of Isis (FOI) Co-Founder and ArchPriestess, is the author of the Fellowship of Isis Liturgy. More information about the liturgy can be found here: **Creation of the Fellowship of Isis Liturgy**

Free, all welcome to attend or attune Degree sponsorship offered via FOI Center(s).

From FOI Liturgy booklets by Olivia Robertson published on **Fellowship of Isis Central** (www.fellowshipofisiscentral.com)

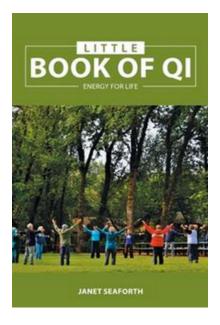
Fellowship of Isis Liturgy

Please attune blessings of Isis-Aset of 10,000 Names!

Links: FOI Liturgy Booklets Table of Contents (FOI Central): https://sites.google.com/site/fellowshipofisisliturgy/

Isis of Uta-Ha<u>www.isisofutah.org</u>

Reports



Little Book of Qi: Energy for Life By Janet Seaforth

Review by Linda lles

This lovely book is a wonderful offering to our community from longtime member and priestess Janet Seaforth. It is beautifully presented so that anyone who is a beginner can easily understand the premises of Qigong and Tai Chi. Janet offers insights into the teachings of these ancient practices which were developed by "Taosists, hermits, healers and warriors for over thousands of years."

The breadth demonstrated within these pages reflects the years of study and practice that cannot be imitated or duplicated by research alone. Janet has been a teacher of this method for many years. She enjoys a following of students who praise not only her knowledge and wisdom as a teacher, but also the actual spiritual and health benefits gained from this practice. I have had the privilege of knowing Janet through our Temple of Isis community in Geyserville. She, herself is a walking testament of her teachings, her energy is balanced, gentle, vital, accompanied by a wonderful smile, which testifies to the great benefits of her daily practice. And that is the best testament of all. She embodies the principle she teaches, that of "Love Joins All Things."

"The Little Book of QI: Energy for Life" Balboa Press, a division of Hay House, 318 pages; \$21.99 (US dollars)

Janet Seaforth teaches Qigong and Tai Chi classes Mondays at Cloverdale City Park; Fridays at Healdsburg Parkpoint Health Club; Saturdays at Po Yun Nei Kuan (zoom available). For more information or to register, contact Simu Janet Seaforth at 707-894-7345.



Priestess Marie Alexander

Marie Alexander, FOI Priestess: Four years ago I spent 4 weeks in Taos. I was needing time alone in the desert. I spent the entire time working through the journeys in Nicki Scully's book "Sekhmet" transformation in the Belly of the Goddess. It was like coming home after spending more than a decade traveling the the realms of mystery with South American shaman's, using the plant medicines. With Sekhmet, I used nothing. I completely detoxed of everything, living mostly on soup, tea, and water. It was an amazing experience that began a new journey connecting to my essential self.

A couple of months later I moved to an apartment that overlooks lake Pepin, and was visited by eagles daily. I did a workshop, and then several workshops that where part of the Shamanic traditions in which I learned to travel to the upper and lower worlds with out any plant medicines. After my work with Sekhmet this was quite easy terrain for me. Much to my surprise, when I went to the upper world I was met by Seshat, when I needed to visit the Akasic Records, but my main teachers in the upper world are Mary and Mary Magdalene. After traveling with them several times a week for a year, I wanted to revisit my journeys with Sekhmet. As I walked across the desert to the Sphinx, preparing to enter in again, Mary and Mary Magdalene were walking with me. As I prepared to enter, they stood back. I asked them if they were going in with me. They smiled and told me they have done these initiations many times in previous life times. They told me it is my turn. I could write a book about all that I have learned....

Last year I purchased an old building that I am restoring on Lake Pepin. I have a yoga studio with a Labyrinth on the main floor, and live in a sweet apartment upstairs that I call the upper room. As I continue to travel to the upper and lower worlds during my meditations, I have been guided most often by the Mary's... There are teachings and prayers that they want me to share. I had to overcome many deep fears to begin a video channel, but this week I did it! I have created my first video and will do more as I'm instructed. The next one will be in about two weeks.

I have checked in to some of the sharings on FB occasionally, but truly I've been deep in my inner work. However, I always remember how much I loved you and your teachings. I often wished I had lived closer to you. As I was praying about who to send this video, yours was one of the first names to come up for me. I made this video at the request of my guides. If it resonates with you, I ask that you please subscribe and send to your network and ask them to do the same.

YouTube Channel: Marie Alexander-Emissary of Mary & Mary Magdalene

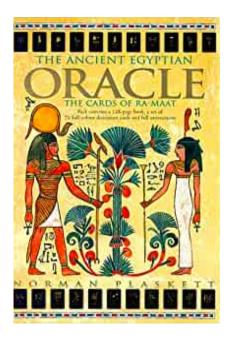
Video of Prayer of Protection from Mary and Mary Magdalene: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldbQspf-SYo

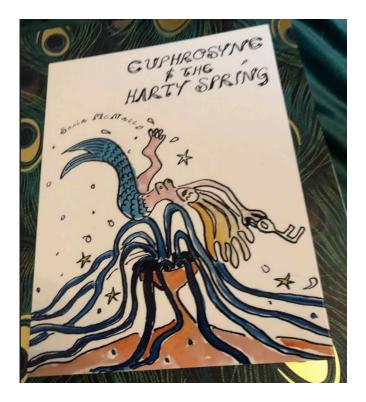
Editor's Note: Marie was a longtime member of Isis Pelagia, the group led by the late and still much loved Laura Janesdaughter in Southern California. I have known Marie for decades and can testify to the authenticity and quality of her work.



Normandi Ellis, Author and Archpriestess of the FOI

On Saturday, January 28, from 12 noon until 4:30 pm, **Normandi Ellis** was at Wicked Glass and Wanderlust Designs located at 234 W Main St. in Frankfort, Kentucky. Normandi offered 30-minute readings from the Egyptian Oracle cards, Tarot, flame messages, and a bit of numerology to help nail down the energies and plan for 2023.





Euphrosyne & The Harty Spring By Sonia McNally

Review by Caroline Wise

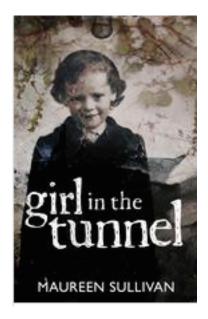
Here is a piece of pure magic and it is great to be holding it in my hand. Euphrosyne and the Harty Spring is a delightful gem of a book illustrated and hand-written by visionary artist and poet Sonia McNally.

The story is "A healing tale about finding one's true nature and bringing joy and mirth to all whose path it crosses." The story transcends place and legend and takes us on a journey underwater to the magical world of Euphrosyne and her merfolk.

There is a magical working I lead yearly on March 5th, for Navigium Isidis, that was inspired by years of engaging with the Isis current (no pun intended) of the Thames. Starting at the Margate area of the Estuary, the spark that ignited this yearly working was a chance paragraph in De Witt's 'Isis in the Graeco-Roman World'. My looking up the De Witt reference came to me (Caroline) from Lawrence Durdin-Robertson's Juno Covella! a real flow of events led to all this! Sea magic responds in a series of gentle waves that bring in treasure with the tide. It inspired several participants to create art or write. One of those gentle waves flowed into this book from our Thames Navigium Isidis observance, along with other streams from the artist's conversations with the water. To see more of Sonia's art and projects https://www.soniamcnally.co.uk/books/

The Girl in the Tunnel: My Story of Love and Loss as a Survivor of the Magdalene Laundries

By Maureen Sullivan



Book Recommendation & Review By Caroline Wise

I am blessed to have met Maureen several times, through The Fellwoship of Isis. A lovely, vibrant and thoughtful woman. Olivia Robertson loved Maureen and admired her greatly, and was always talking with pride about her, how she took on powerful establishments, forces forged by RC church. Justice not just for herself but for all the for others. Once there was no chance of Maureen having a voice, now her story is published. "When Maureen Sullivan was just twelve years old, she was sent to the Magdalene Laundry in New Ross, Co. Wexford. The Girl in the Tunnel is the heart-breaking story of her agonising journey from a violent home to the brutal Magdalene laundry, and her desperate fight for freedom and for justice." Published by Irish Academic Press:

https://www.irishacademicpress.ie/product/girl-in-the-tunnel/

Editors Note: FOI co-founder Olivia Robertson often spoke highly of Maureen during her visits to the USA. Olivia was very proud to have someone of Maureen's caliber in the Fellowship of Isis.

Muses Symposium



A Favor from AllFather Odin By Patrick Norwood MacAllister

Six months after my father died of pancreatic cancer

Ten years ago I was mourning the passing of my father into the Summerlands; and the mourning was not lessening. Then one day at home when my grief was high, I shifted, was transported, to Asgard. I was on a cliff, grass and trees abounded, below me was a huge fjord, the golden light of Asgard shining on the water in the bay; and a number of longships were there; with one heading for a dock; with family and friends waiting to greet their loved ones; arriving I knew for the first time.

Around 20 feet away stood Allfather Odin, in armor and helm. His great spear was stuck in the ground another 10 feet away; close to his great gray horse Sleipnir; and His ravens circled above our heads. After a minute or so he turned His head; and looking straight at me said; "Your father does well in My hall." He looked away and then back and said to me; "And he is most welcome there." He nodded at me warmly and I was shifted back to my house.



Original Art by Olivia Robertson

Psychic Rescue Work By Olivia Robertson Co-Founder of the Fellowship of Isis

"What is wrong?" I ask.

"It's a dragon," he says. ... "I can go no further ..." There is ... silence. Then: "Ive done it!" he says with enormous satisfaction. "...I crawled under him."

"Look back," I say. "What is the dragon doing now?"

Roderick reports in a puzzled voice: "There is no dragon ... Ah! I see his empty skin! Yes - and now I see the fiery spirit of the dragon rising high - high - into the air! This soul, having found its freedom, is rising to dangerous heights in the first intoxication of release!" (excerpt from "The Call of Isis" by Olivia Robertson)

Do We Love Demons?

Answer: Yes. A "demon" may be your dear Auntie Gladys acting crazy after death from a road accident! There is a clear need especially for the Priesthood of Isis to do Rescue Work. I have myself with two Priestesses done this strange work for 10 years in London. It followed being a VAD* nurse in World War II in England.

When people pass in our days, they are not given directions as to what is happening! Often they do not know they *are* "dead." So they haunt the "living." Often they are angry, vengeful, cruel if they have been killed painfully in a war. They need love, reassurance and spiritual guidance. Spiritualists do splendid work in this respect.

Now the Ancient Egyptians gave everyone a useful Road Map as to their procedure in the next world. They did not scare the daylights out of men and women with duality - i.e. *"I'm right and destined for heaven. You are wrong and destined for hell!"*

Of course they had etheric "demons" in the Otherworld who might take the form of a dangerous animal - a crocodile. But the Ancient Egyptians accepted these, by giving them a Totem Deity. They would placate these demons in crocodile form through a Crocodile God - and so would be safe!

I love one lady who when she sees a scorpion in her home does *not* send for the exterminators. She gets her scorpion tongs and removes this Scorpio, puts her/him outside and says telepathically: *"You are safe. This is your territory. Tell your friends to stay out here!"* It works!

The basic premise for Priestesses of the Goddess Isis is that all beings and existences are sacred in their unique quality, as All are born of the Holy Mother of All That Is.

So we who do rescue work do not have the attitude: "We are *good*. We help you as you are inferior!" *No*. We love and honor all "aliens", demons, spirits - as all are born of the Mother and Father. We acknowledge the innate Divinity in those who need our help in Spirit World. So they are loved and learn first to help themselves - and then others. That is what our Fellowship of Isis is all about.

*VAD - Voluntary Aid Detachment for the Red Cross

About the Author: The Hon. Olivia Robertson studied at Heathfield School, Ascot, and later at the Grosvenor School of Modern Art in London. During her years of study she was awarded the Purser-Griffith Scholarship and received her Diploma as a graduate in the study of European Art History from the National University of Dublin. The first exhibition of her art was held when she was only 21 years old. During the 1940s and 1950s she enjoyed a very successful career as a novelist. In 1976 Olivia co-founded the Fellowship of Isis along with her brother Lawrence Durdin-Robertson and his wife Pamela Durdin-Robertson. She still travels extensively, and provides lectures, rituals, and oracles that enrich the Goddess Community. She is very active as FOI co-founder, Global Advisor and Overseeing Consultant to the many branches of the Fellowship of Isis. Olivia passed 'into spirit sphere' November, 2013.



Prayer to Kerridwen By Sara Gamberoni, Triplice Cinta Druidica, Mondo, Italy

We walk in a dark time and the shadow seems to invade every space. But we do not walk alone and therefore we do not lose hope.

Because You are.

Lady of Wisdom. Mistress of Courage. Dispenser of the Light of Knowledge. From Your cosmic Cauldron unravel the rays of the Aen, Silver Light in the darkness. Source of Life, Lady of Destiny, it is at Your source that we draw this night. And to Your Knowledge, so that through us Your Light can shine and expand. Kerridwen, Lady and Teacher, we call you!

Powerful and bright wave, chase the dark from minds! Awaken every corrupt soul! Bring peace to wounded hearts! Hold back the hand of any enemy!

Flood every tormented land with peace. Heal any pain. Turn off any unnecessary madness. Guide the change, as you alone can, so that it may be Peace in every land. In every heart. In every mind. In every soul. So that there is Light inside and out. Over and under. And all around us.

Because Yours is the Power to do it. Because You are. And we bow to You.



The goddess Mahādevī, in a twenty-armed form circa 1725, India (Rajasthan, Bikaner) ink, opaque watercolor on silver Metropolitan Museum of Art

Mahādevī: The Supreme Goddess By Linda Iles

I. The World Mother

The oracle and editorial for this issue of Isian News, Beltane 2023, features the goddess Mahãdevī. This deity is considered to be the singular form of the divine feminine from which all other goddesses of the Hindu pantheon emanate. This includes Lakshmi, Parvati, Durga, Chandi and Mahakali as well as Tripura Sundari to name a few of the well-known goddesses in the Hindu tradition. Even the great gods Brahmā, Viṣṇu, and Śiva offer reverence to Mahãdevī, and worship Her as Mother of All, for it is by Her power that they enjoy their abodes and their power, without her they cannot function. She is the cause of all auspicious things. She is both the Creatress and Upholder of All Things.

Evidence demonstrates that she has been worshipped since prehistoric times. During the Vedic period, she was assimilated into the Hindu pantheon. Here, she represented the female divine energy/power, known as Shakti, thus associating her as the feminine counterpart of the god Shiva. In this form she expresses mainly in two forms: as the benevolent goddess of beauty and light, known as Uma, the gentle mother Jaganmata, and Bhavani and Parvati; and as the darker, fierce forms of the goddess, represented by Durga, Candika, Bhairavi and Kali.

Mahādevī's name is the result of combining the prefix "Mahā" meaning 'great' and "Devī" which simply means 'goddess.' As the underlying unity of all female deities, she drives the process of cosmogenesis and sustains the created world. She is transcendent and immanent, rooted in the world and embodying it but stretching beyond it. "Mahādevī' is the world, she is all this creation." (Kinsley 1986: 133-139)

She is the World Mother, and she is the Mistress of All Creation. Her eminence imbues not only the physical but also the spiritual, etheric realms, for she is the Divine Mistress of the Jeweled Island, which lies beyond all relationship and manifests out of the subtle vibrations of pure consciousness. She is Queen and Ruler of All Worlds. Although these designations may make her seem distant, that is not the case, for she is the Supreme Motherhood, always receptive to the needs of her children – i.e. all those who call upon her. (Pintchman 2001: 6)

Fellowship of Isis co-founder Lawrence Durdin-Robertson shared these insights into this lovely goddess in his book "God the Mother, the Creatress and Giver of Life":

"A triple division of the primordial goddess is also emphasised in Indian Religion. Veronica lons, describing the Hindu female Tritmurti or Trinity, writes: "They are said to have been originally one goddess (i.e. Mahadevi). She divided herself into three forms, which represented Past, Present and Future. These are the white goddess, Sarasvati; the red goddess, Lakshmi; and the black goddess, Parvati (Kali)." (Durdin-Robertson 1984: 32)

II. Goddess of Sky, Light, Sun, Moon and Planets

FOI co-founder Lawrence Durdin-Robertson also featured this passage featuring Mahādevī in his book "Communion with the Goddess: Idols, Images and Symbols of the Goddesses: India":

"DYAUS (Feminine). (Max Muller) on the name Dyaus: "dyaus in Sanskrit is the name of the sky, if used as a feminine, if used as a masculine...it is the sky as a man or as a god - it is Zeus..." (id.) "Dyaus, fem. what is lighted up, the sky." (Massey) "in India the earliest form of Dyaus was feminine, as the mother heaven; she who was personified as Mahadevi, or the still earlier Aditi. This may explain why Dyaus, the sky, does not occur as a masculine in common Sanskrit, whereas Dyaus does occur in the Veda in a feminine form." (Durdin-Robertson 1976:18) It is Her Nature to Lighten, to bring Light where there is no Light, both in the physical sky and in the human soul and consciousness. When FOI co-founder Olivia Robertson wrote of the 'divine spark' in all beings, that divine spark is, in the Hindu tradition, the goddess Mahãdevī.

Mahãdevī, Great or Supreme Goddess, has many names and forms that are recognized in Vedic astrology, or the science of light. She generates not only an overall cosmic influence, but as her essence takes on specific forms, her energies radiate to create associations with the planets, the sun, and the moon in its phases. The Mother of the Universe is the origin, sustenance and dissolution of everything as it arises. She governs all of time, past, present and future, and all of space. In terms used in the College of Isis and the diagram used for placement of rituals for degrees of study, Mahãdevī encompasses both the Star *of* Ishtar and the Web of the Universe and the Tiamat Dragon around the Divine Matrix. The essence of Mahãdevī radiates on all levels, in all dimensions and all the forces of the universe as the Supreme Shakti - extending to the original matrix of time and space.

Vedic astrologers acknowledge the moon as the Face of the Universal Mother. The moon is ruled by the Apas (Cosmic Waters) and embodied in particular by the goddess Parvati, a direct emanation of Mahãdevī.

The Rigvedic hymn "Marriage of the Sun and the Moon" (RV X.85), identifies the Goddess with the Sun, and the Moon as her suitor. As the Sun Goddess, the Supreme Goddess becomes Surya Savitri (Surya = Sun and Savitri = Knowledge). The Goddess is related to the worship of the Sun at sunrise (Gayatri), noon (Savitri), and sunset (Sarasvati), known as the three 'Sandhyas' or transitional times in Vedic astrology. Sandhya is another form of the Supreme Goddess. As Ushas, she is also the Goddess of Dawn in the Vedas. As Adii, the Universal Mother Goddess gives birth to all the Sun Gods (Adityas). Hindu Goddesses associated with the Moon can also be associated with the Sun, like Durga.

The Dasha Mahavidya offers this listing of the Emanations of Mahãdevī (goddesses) with the planets:

Mahakali: the Great force of time and eternity (Kala) behind the movements and influences of the sun and moon and planets.

Sun: Bhuvaneshvari, Queen of the Universe, governing the whole of space, whose mantra is HREEM, representing solar energy.

Moon: Tripura Sundari, Goddess of Beauty, Bliss and Soma. Nectar of immortality.

Mars: Tripura Bhairavi, Goddess of Fire, Purification and Transformation. A fierce warrior Goddess.

Mercury: Matangi, Goddess of Speech, the Arts and the creative forces found in nature. She is a form of Sarasvati.

Jupiter: Tara, Who is the High Priestess and Voice of Highest Wisdom, and Power of judgement. It is Tara who guides the voices of true spiritual teachers.

Venus: Kamala, Goddess of the Lotus, and a form of Lakshmi, granting happiness, abundance, prosperity and grace.

Saturn: Dhumavati or Jyeshta, or Grandmother form of Kali, who is invested with wisdom, power and mystery.

Rahu (the Serpent's Head): The Goddess Bagalamukhi, who has the power to stop and to paralyze enemies and render them speechless.

Keru (the Serpent's Tail): The Goddess Chinnamasta, a shamaness who carries a cut off head, and embodies the deepest mystic secrets of going beyond the finite mind.

I will end with these excerpts from the beautiful Great Hymn to Mahãdevī as found in the work of John Woodroffe (Arthur Avalon):

From the fifth Mahātmya of Caņdī

Reverence to the Devī, to the Devī of the Great, To Her who is auspicious, forever reverence. Reverence to Prakrti who maintains. Setting our minds wholly upon Her, we make obeisance to Her.

To the Devī who is known as intelligence in all beings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who dwells in the form of *buddhi* in all beings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who in the form of forgiveness exists in all beings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence. To the Devī who exists in the form of race and species in all beings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who exists in all beings in the form of faith, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī existing in the form of beauty in all beings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who exists in all beings in the form of prosperity, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who in all beings exists in the form of their respective callings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who in the form of memory exists in all beings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who in all beings exists in the form of mercy, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who in the form of contentment exists in all beings, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

To the Devī who exists in all beings as Mother, Reverence to Her, reverence to Her, Reverence to Her, reverence, reverence.

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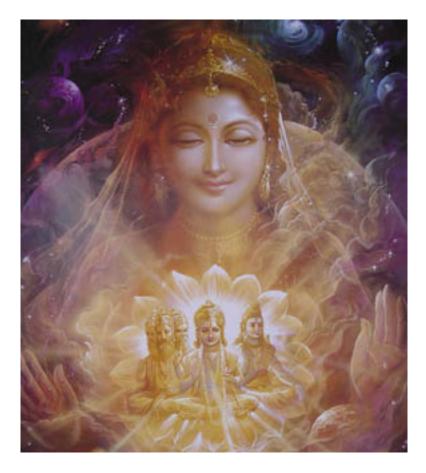
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(Note: Cesara Publications was the private press of the Fellowship of Isis cofounders, located at their ancestral home, Clonegal Castle, Ireland)





Seti I offering Maat in the Chapel of Osiris at Abydos

Politics of Ancient Egypt By Kasey Conder

This research paper will focus on the politics of Ancient Egypt. First, the politics of academic Egyptology will be examined from a Eurocentric versus an Afrocentric perspective to evaluate the politics of Ancient Egypt in our time. Secondly, the politics composing the nation-state of Egypt, from the seat of sovereignty through kingship, and the influence of the priesthood and women on the high office of the ruler of Egypt, will be evaluated to view the political setup.

Explanation of Egyptology

The emergence of the field of Egyptology in the West was culminated with scholars accompanying Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Egypt in 1798-1801 publishing *Description de l'Égypte*. In 1799, the discovery of the Rosetta Stone allowed Jean-Francois Champollion to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs for the first time in modern history. In 1805-1859, Muhammed Ali's government of Egypt allowed European expeditions to Egypt to prosper which led to the large amount of Ancient Egyptian artifacts to be acquired by the British Museum and the Louvre in Paris (Britannica 2013). This birthed the modern field of Egyptology from European explorations of Egypt, being culturally an outside perspective and not an indigenous view.

Fascination with Ancient Egypt was revered in ancient times by both the Greeks and Romans who decorated with Egyptian themes and used Egypt to declare their legitimate sovereignty. Rosicrucians and Freemasons of 16th-17th Centuries implored Egypt into their esoteric lore and popes erected obelisks in Rome. In mid-1600s, Bernini designed pyramid tombs for popes as well as obelisks and sphinxes adorning European gardens (McKercher and Fazzini 2010). Furthermore, the largest collection of Ancient Egyptian obelisks, outside of Egypt, can be found at the Vatican. Egyptian obelisks in Europe became a symbol of European sovereignty, who erected many throughout European cities as landmarks (Brier 2013).

Explanation of Cultural Justice with Egyptology

W.E.B. Dubois one of first black scholars to challenge the notion that Africans had no history before Europeans coming to Africa (Harkless 2006). "Constant denial of African humanity has forced many African scholars such as the late great Cheikh Anta Diop, an African Egyptologist, to present evidence that contradict European narratives of African people" (Alameen-Shavers 2018). Due to the field of Egyptology being created through European explorations and cultural views, a new movement has emerged to view Egypt through African eves. Cheikh Anta Diop became the 'High Priest of New Wave of Egyptology' and Afrocentrism (Harkless 2006). The Senegalese archeologist and nuclear physicist, Cheikh Anta Diop, became a world-leader of this movement, by challenging the academia of Egyptology through his Ph.D. thesis on the Black African origins of Ancient Egyptians and the academia of Egyptology in Cairo in 1976 at UNESCO Symposium (Bauval and Brophy 2011). (Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, former director-general of UNESCO (1974-87), stressed that the refusal to see African people as creators of their own civilization and histories show prejudice and needs to be rethought (Harkless 2006).

In the United States, the African American movement facilitated Afrocentric Ancient Egyptian scholarship by two landmark conferences in 1984: the Ancient Egyptian Studies Conference in Los Angeles and the Nile Valley Conference in Atlanta, Georgia (Harkless 2006). The movement sought to undue limitations of cross-cultural translations and giving histories who had been erased from the schoolbooks.

Further, according to Oyeronke Oyewumi, Eurocentric frameworks are not appropriate to interpret African societies because scholars operate with an understanding that attempts to deny African people humanity and agency (Alameen 2013). In addition, UNESCO, has campaigned to give a voice of African peoples to rewrite a political just history, without being tainted by detrimental colonization stories. The politics of Egyptology in the modern era seeks to undue academic racism and allow African views to be expressed and accepted in Egyptology.

The Pyramid of Political & Social Structure of Ancient Egypt

Now after explaining the political injustices of the academia of Egyptology, the notions of what scholars do know about the politics of Ancient Egypt will be presented.

Ancient Egypt was a theocratic monarchy with the Pharaoh representing gods' will through the laws and policies approved (Mark 2016). The pharaoh was the main landowner, commander-in-chief, and controlled the irrigation system.

Under the Pharaoh, the society was composed of three broad classes: the upper class consisted of the priesthood and court & land nobility, the middle class composed of artisans, traders, teachers, artists, doctors, and scribes (very important position), and the lower class was slaves and peasants who worked the farms, irrigation systems, roads, and building projects (Okon 2012). "The monarchial theocracy of Egypt lasted over 3,000 years, creating and maintaining one of the world's greatest ancient cultures" (Mark 2016).

Pharaoh – Chief of State of Egypt

At the head of the political makeup of Egyptian society sat the Pharaoh. The title 'Pero' or 'the Pharaoh', was an Egyptian word for "the great house" or "the great palace" (Okon 2012). Because the pharaoh was divine, vast resources of the state were concentrated to glorify the throne and accord proper homage to the king (Okon 2012). The pharaoh's claim to divine kingship favored political stability in Ancient Egypt (Okon 2012). Divine kinship in Africa was the belief that the ruler was the living manifestation of God (Alameen-Shavers 2018). The pharaoh's legitimacy was by his adherence to the gods (Mark 2016).

Egyptians generally believed each pharaoh was the incarnation of powerful God Horus, Son of the God Re. The ruler controlled everything in Ancient Egypt, including the Sun, the Nile River, the temples, the army, the economy, trade, and government officials. Menes is generally considered first king to rule a unified Egypt setting up the capital in Memphis in 3100 BC (Kaplan 2004). Menes declared himself Horus god of sky, receiving his power from the god himself. The Tuirin papyrus says the last God to rule over Egypt was Horus. Being a living God, the pharaoh possessed authoritative actions by their utterance is in mouth called "hu", their understanding in their heart called "sea" and their speech of truth, called Ma'at (Harkless 2006). Although, according to many King Lists and the Palermo Stone, stating Menes was the first ruler to unify Egypt, excavations have shown rulers like the Scorpion King, possessing the symbolism of kingship of unification, from an earlier date (Mark 2016). Further, followers of the God Set, with a head of ass, were considered heretics, consisted of a spiritual political oppositional camp (Petrie 1972).

The divine rulers' destination of death was deification when went to see the God of the Afterlife: Osiris. The Sed-Hed festival commemorated the deification of the pharaoh and was important political and religious ceremony (Petrie 1972). The Ancient Egyptian myth of Osiris and Isis serves as the foundation for divine kingship and was yielded to every King and Queen. According to Asante, the legend of Osiris and Set states both were given parts of Egypt to rule with the land of Osiris flourishing green, while Set's land suffered (Alameen-Shavers

2018). Each ruler was a combination of divine and mortal, the same way as such as the living king was Horus, the dead rulers and the royal ancestors, were associated with Horus' father Osiris. The Egyptians' sense of Pharaohs as incarnations of Horus and Osiris caused the tradition of ancestor worship to arise (Shaw 2002).

The concept of kingship in Egypt, like Africa, was composed of the notion of a rainmaker king with power over cosmos and godship (Harkless 2006). Predestined to the position, the ruler came from acts of the Sun-god, and the New Kingdom's recognition of ruler was conducted by oracle of the God Amon to guarantee legitimacy (Yoyotte 1981). Diodorus states Kush, with the same religion of Egypt, had a priesthood select candidates suitable to become the ruler and then through a public oracle through a priestess, the ruler was chosen (Ali Hakem 1979). Oracles in Egypt, according to Maspero, were by dreams, voices, sounds, actions, and signs. Oracles were conducted by means such as a wooden statue with movable arm by priest (with a head that could nod symbolism the oracle of spirit), or a sacred boat carried by priests with silver dishes dangling at sides (suggesting the clanging noises gave the answer from deity). At Memphis, the sacred Apis bull became the renowned oracle (Petrie 1972).

With the ruler to further become deified in the afterlife with the God Osiris, their rainmaking abilities was emphasized. This was due to Osiris being the god of the Afterlife, as well, as the fertilizing Nile and vegetative growth forces in nature. Isis was the fertilized soil which grew seeds and Set was the dry desert. The symbiosis of united lands of kingship was represented by the sedge for Upper Egypt and papyrus of Lower Egypt placed at the outer gates of the Temple of Ptah signify to balance of two lands to indicate Horus and Seth were in harmony (Harkless 2006). In another version of the myth, Isis saves Set from her son Horus' vengeance, upholding the principles of Ma'at, balancing order and chaos (Alameen-Shavers 2018).

The Sed Festival commemorated the ruler's accession and kingship. The king was considered the High Priest because their knowledge to commune with Gods (Harkless 2006). Temples scenes throughout Egypt show images and spells of the rulers communing with the Gods. For instance, at Abydos, Omm Sety describes the Pharaoh Sety offering four golden cups to Osiris, adorning the God Horus, and receiving a mystical menat necklace from Isis, considered to convey vitality and physical well-being for all who touch it. Further, scenes show Sety kneeling to Osiris, while Isis seated behind him is blessing the ruler with her right hand, and holding stripped palm branch in her left hand, symbolic for Heb-Sed festival. Other scenes show Horus holding the King's hand in friendly way and offering him the symbol of life and prosperity followed by Goddess Wepwawat (whose name denotes "Opener of Ways") is embracing the king with a hug to begin the journey in the Afterlife (Sety 1982).

The pharaoh's political role as the leader of Egypt, was deeply spiritual. The Hed Sed festival commemorated their deification. As the pharaoh, becoming the living Horus on earth, they must balance the forces of Seth with Ma'at, in addition to possessing spiritual powers to bring rain and the cause Nile River to flood. This was their connection with the God Osiris of the Netherworld. Religion was the most important political force to declare a pharaoh legitimate, with ceremony and hopes to bring fertility to the land. *Vizier*

One of most powerful political positions in Ancient Egypt was the vizier(s). The vizier managed the government bureaucracy and delegated responsibilities from the Pharaoh. The vizier was the representative and the voice of Pharaoh (Mark 2016). The tjaty or 'vizier', was essentially the prime minister, responsible for public order, and represented the god Thoth, 'the heart and tongue of the sun god Ra' (Yoyotte 1981). The vizier was the Pharaoh's eyes and ears of the current state of affairs of Egypt, in addition to being responsible for hiring lower government officials and mobilizing troops in case of war. The vizier and high priest oversaw lower officials in law, religion, agriculture, and trade. The vizier(s) also oversaw the judicial system (Kaplan 2004). *Priesthood*

The religious government included the position called the Overseer of Prophets, held at various times by vizier or High Priest of Amon, that basically supported the bureaucracy of priesthoods (Harkless 2006). In the Old Kingdom, Temples of Hathor were mainly served by a majority of priestesses and the Temples of Neith, were mainly all priestesses. Priests mainly served kings. Over time, priestesses evolved mainly serving Amen, Hathor and Bast. New Kingdom priesthoods held many high officials of government office (Petrie 1972).

Power of the Egyptian Religion & Priesthood Religion

Religious policy' is the sense that encompasses the relationship between power, politics, and religion (Bricault and Versluys 2014). It describes the relation between the state and religious communities as well as vast influence of religions as a political force. "Religion was the dominant social force in ancient Egypt. Religious influence was pervasive affecting almost everything" (Okon 2012). The temples were not just places of worship, but factories, dispensaries, workshops, counseling centers, houses of healing, educational and cultural centers (Mark 2016). The state religion was theocratic polytheism, ruled by the gods, and every city and had its own peculiar deity protecting the city (Okon 2012). Changes of worship, were due to promoting new capitals, such as Memphis promoting the god Ptah, Thebes praising god Amen, and Sais adoring the Goddesss Neith. Worship of the gods was localized, and when a city attained wide respectability, their local god was established in other cities (Petrie 1972). With a lack of theological unity, it is evident, that even though the god Ra was known by

seventy-five different names, very few of the hundreds of deities of Ancient Egypt were worshiped nationally. They were deities of specific cities. Kings who worshiped Horus, unified Egypt in the first and second dynasty. Political changes deeply influenced religion in Ancient Egypt. For instance, when the capital was relocated to Memphis, the official state god became Ptah, in the Fifth dynasty the capital in the city became Heliopolis with the god Aten (Ra) becoming supreme. In 11th and 12th Dynasties, the capital was relocated again to Thebes adorning Amon and during the 26th Saite dynasty, the Goddess Neith, was the supreme deity in Ancient Egypt (Okon 2012). *Priesthood*

The priesthood became very powerful with exploitative tendencies. As a display of greed, the priests deceptively sold magical charms that supposedly had power to prevent the heart from betraying the deceased. The priesthood benefitted greatly from the structure of traditional religion (Okon 2012). Robert Brow explains the influence of priestcraft reached a point where the organized priesthood of Re, overshadowed the king, and around 2400 BC, this led to a religious revolution, dividing Egypt into warring states, with state control subjected to the priesthood (Okon 2012). No doubt, the temples and priesthood of Ancient Egypt was highly influential political forces that all rulers must come to terms with.

Political Power of Women Goddesses

The rulers of Egypt began their reigns offering themselves to the goddess of truth: Ma'at. Ma'at was the essence of universal harmony and balance. By maintaining Ma'at, the rulers provided Egyptians a space encouraging creativity and innovation. The reigns of the rulers began by 'presenting Ma'at' to gods of the Egyptian pantheon as a way of adherence and societal promotion of her precepts (Mark 2016). The law of Egypt was founded in belief in Ma'at, the goddess of truth, justice, and balance (Kaplan 2004). Ma'at was the Egyptian worldview and was the basis of the concepts of law, justice, and truth. She embodied chief responsibilities of the Pharaoh to re-establish and maintain order and security of the cosmos. The ruler is seen offering Ma'at on temple walls as extremely important political and religious symbol. Ramesside Kings' names included her name as part of their throne name being 'User-maat-re', as Ma'at is the daughter of Re (Wilkinson 1992). Ma'at was the philosophical belief that every person's life must be characterized to prevent or limit chaotic forces (Alameen 2013). Ma'at was the foundation of the Egyptian political philosophy.

"The feminine principle was essential within the spiritual system of the Ancient Egyptians. Female deities were worshipped at least as early as the pre-dynastic period and they continue to receive veneration throughout the history of Kemet" (Alameen 2013). Frank Snowden, of Howard University, states in native land of Ancient Ethiopia (modern day Sudan), Isis is one of four main deities benefacting

initial human civilization, and the Egyptians, were colonized by Ancient Ethiopians under leadership of Osiris (Harkless 2006). The religion of Isis was a supernatural religion, through the power of priesthood, with Philae Island, with her legendary temple, become a holy city, called the "City of Island" or "Holy Island", that attracted pilgrims of all classes and nationalities in ancient world from Greece, Rome, Meroe, and Britain to gain solace from the Goddess (Harkless 2006). Greek historians denote Osiris taught humans how to cultivate wild plants to harvest crops, Isis brought people out of violence and hazardous uncivilized practices. Isis is known to introduce laws and dispense justice, as Isis and Osiris are consider the first humans and leaders to civilize the human race (Solmsen 1979). The Goddess Isis, is the word for "throne" in the Egyptian language, denoting the goddess of divine sovereignty. She is depicted nursing her son Horus, the divine King, to symbolically represent the support from the mother to her son, through his kingship (Alameen-Shavers 2018). Isis personified in Egypt the throne, birthing the pharaohs, and aretalogies in Kyme and Maroneia outside of Egypt, emphasize her sovereignty over every land (Streete 2018). Isis, or Aset, was the vital link to occupy a throne and maintain power (Alameen 2013). She was seen as the Goddess who gave power and legitimacy to rulers of Egypt and many lands thereafter.

The Goddess Mut rose with political importance in the Middle and New Kingdoms. According to Carper and Markoe, she was given same regalia as the ruling king to wear the double-crown, being seen as heavenly queen-regent who manifested pharaohs on earth. Lesko indicates in some Ramesside texts, state she is hailed as the King of Upper and Lower Egypt and the entire kingdom was under her protection (Alameen 2013). Mut evolves to be very important goddess bestowing legitimacy to the sovereign. Her blessing was a political importance for pharaoh.

Queens

The Dawn of Civilization in the Nile Valley gathered groups of people together based on kinship, language, and stewardship. The kinship bond in these matrilineal societies brought people together because women were revered as the giver of life with divine powers (Harkless 2006). The Ancient Egyptian word for Queen translates as "she who sees Horus and Seth" (Harkless 2006). Queenship was a key office in the Ancient Egyptian government and Queens were expected to fulfill duties that were comparable with the King himself (Alameen-Shavers 2018). Queens were vital to the Egyptian political composition.

"Queens acted as co-regents with their husbands or their young sons, political advisers to the King, and sole rulers" (Alameen-Shavers 2018). While the four queens assuming the role of Pharaoh in Ancient Egypt's history are Nitokerty, Sobekneferu, Hapshepsut and Tausret (not including non-Egyptian Ptolemaic Cleopatras), does not debase the power of queens, because of their power through the co-regency system, queens were the ultimate power behind the king, and having to authority to co-rule when the king was too young or too ill (Alameen 2013). Manetho made a decree, stating that in the Old Kingdom women could hold the office of king (Alameen-Shavers 2018). Outside of ruling as Pharaoh, Queens played an essential role of nursing the king, like Isis or Mut, and serve as vital link in the succession to the throne. Queenship required political astuteness and spiritual authority and the king's mother was considered semi-divine, as she birthed the "Living Heru" (Alameen-Shavers 2018). Much evidence supports that Tive and Amenhotep III ruled as co-monarchs and Queen Nefertiti and King Akhenaton co-ruled as well together (Alameen 2013). Men and Women shared power of rulership by key political roles. Co-ruling and coregency expressed the interrelation of genders, and possession of both the feminine and masculine powers, was required in order to rule the kingdom. The importance of the divine gueen was very much part of the leadership of Ancient Egyptian society. Queen Tiye was very active in politics and nation/state relied upon her for political decisions when her husband was ill (Alameen-Shavers 2018).

Conclusion

The academic field of Egyptology was created by foreigners with different perspectives. African history has been written by colonizers with prejudice. The new wave of Egyptology seeks to uncover the mysteries of Egypt from an African worldview. The politics of Ancient Egypt was deeply religious with a philosophy birthed from the heavens to seat of sovereignty declaring a divine rule. While culturally different than modern Western perspectives, queens and mothers, played a vital role in birthing, nursing and protecting the Pharaoh throughout life and when the king was unfit to rule, the queen became the living Pharaoh. They were the political force behind all rulers. Queens also held an important role in the government. Egyptian politics did not differentiate religion from government and the priesthood was an influential bureaucracy of the state. The goddesses, the divine feminine, was the life-force for the Ancient Egyptians, creating law and order on earth and in heaven, birthing and nursing rulers, and playing an important role in government and temples. Women in Ancient Egypt and Kush held more rights than anywhere in Ancient World. The rulers of Egypt gained political power through the sacred masculine and divine feminine. Politically, every ruler must have the blessing of the feminine ruling power. In addition, temples and the priesthood were also an extremely important political force that outlasted rulers.

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For Hekate By Alexandra Axinte

"The Great Hecate,

daughter of heaven and chaos,

Queen of crosses and free choice,

Protector of the less fortunate,

of those who find themselves in difficulty,

Trivia for your nature as queen of heaven, earth and inferno, Ctonia, queen of the abyssal,

that revenge to bring the right reward,

You are the one who holds the keys to hell,

Torches that light up the darkness within us,

our own unconsciousness.

To whom Zeus himself confirmed supreme power over the three realms, You are our guide,

our Lady and Queen of all that is abyss."



Photo courtesy of Michael A. Starsheen

Why We Use Attunement for Rituals instead of Zoom By Michael Starsheen

Many people have asked us at New Karnak Center why we use attunement for our rituals rather than Zoom or other online broadcast methods. Attunement is a process whereby people who wish to perform a ritual together, but are physically separated, make an intention to join together on the Inner Planes while conducting it. They then perform the rite, ideally at the same time, with this intention active. It also means that if they are not conducting the rite at the same physical time, they are still connected to the energies invoked. It was pioneered for the Fellowship of Isis by Lady Olivia Durdin-Robertson, and we learned the method from her.

Attunement works by the activation of that intent in one's circle, to connect with the others who are or who have done the ritual. But aside from that intent, one creates a ritual space that contains the individuals who are physically there in a focused enactment of the rite. This allows the participants to focus their magical energies on what is in front of them, rather than concentrating on coordinating a performance through social media.

In the latter context, all the participants are active at the same time, as is ideal with attunement, but they are physically connected with one another through a program, such as Zoom or Facebook Live. Each person can take a part of the script and perform that section, and share an experience of acting out the rite as a performance with each other. The focus is thus on the **performance**, rather than **magic** of the ritual. It detracts from the focused effort one gets performing the ritual in a defined, sacred space.

While I think the latter method can be used successfully to conduct or study the rites, I feel that the ability to narrowly focus just on what one is doing is generally a more powerful experience. I know that when I attune with others, I can feel their energy fill the ritual space along with mine, so they **are** present, even though they may be physically quite distant.

Goddess World



Remembering Pamela Colman Smith By Caroline Wise

Pamela Colman Smith - born on this day [16 Feb.] 1878, was so inspired by the elemental sea. Back in the 90s, I started having birthday celebrations for her life when at Atlantis - the shop, not the lost continent. Although she was Atlantean in her elemental Cornwall. Her name was not included on the tarot cards box then. We'd always have champagne, pink cake with candles, and a visualisation trip along underground tunnels, to meet various figures from the cards who'd step out from niches. There was no social media, but we'd get mail order customers from around the world to join by attunement, including the Thursday Night Tarot group in USA. Pamela Colman Smith has so much more recognition these days. Scandalous it took so long.

Animal Family of Isis



Princess the cat, photo by Markee Antillon

The beautiful tuxedo cat pictured above, named **Princess**, has come to live with **deTraci Regula** at Isis Oasis. Princess was the beloved animal companion of **Markee Antillon** who passed into the Summerlands on January 1, 2023. Princess will have a good life at Isis Oasis, where Markee spent so many happy hours during her own life. Mau Bast!

News from Members and Centers

From Hennie van Geel, Eindhoven, Netherlands, who writes:

A place to stand.

There is a famous saying by the Greek philosopher Archimedes that goes something like: 'Give me somewhere to stand and I will move the Earth.' He was speaking of the use of a lever to move objects. He had had the insight that, if he would have a lever that would be very long, a fixed place to turn the lever around on, and another fixed place for himself to stand on (of course very far from the Earth) that then he would be able to move the Earth with only the slightest movement of his hands.

Of course, circumstances were against him, and are so still today. But he had seen a very important lesson on levers. In our magical work we may occasionally find a similar situation. We know what to do, how we should go about to make it happen, and then find that the circumstances are thoroughly against us. The simple answer would be: Change the circumstances! But this is often not possible, were it for reasons of practicality, reason, or morality. Or others of course. So there we are left with a beautiful insight, and unable to reach our goal.

But this has its bright side. It teaches us that even in the world of magic, not anything goes. Some limitations are real, and not a question of views put upon us by society or our own limited capacities. The work done is not a failure, but a, perhaps humbling, lesson.

And maybe, our original thoughts are not in vain, for perhaps they can be used for some other work. With time, we learn our more or less true powers in a world with limited possibilities. And when in the future, we stumble across a similar situation, we might not doubt our intention so much (although, generally that is not such an unwise thing to ponder), but feel that we have come closer to Oneness.

Iseums – Hearths of the Goddess

Isian Rose Ministry, an online "Isian Rosarium" on Facebook offers a "rose a day" and blessing from the founder, Michael A. Starsheen. If you wish to become a member of this group please contact **Michael A. Starsheen**. The group is private, and open to FOI members to apply for membership. On Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/429112154578032</u>



Also received from **Michael A. Starsheen** and **Kiel Milner**, Dunsmuir, California, USA: Happy Lunar New Year of the Yin Water Rabbit from **New Karnak Center**!

Claudiney Prieto of **Great Mother's Sanctuary**, Sāo Paulo, Brazil: "Great Mother's Sanctuary is 5 years old today. What a joy! Thank you to everyone who

in one way or another believed in this dream and helps keep it alive. Goddess is on Earth and Magic is in the Air!"



Photos courtesy of Claudiney Prieto



Ritual at Great Mother's Sanctuary, photos courtesy of Claudiney Prieto

Celia Thomas of **Isis of Avalon**, Glastonbury, UK: I was thilled to discover this watercolour, Glastonbury, 1890 by Albert Goodwin (1845–1932) ... knowing I've been walking through his painting on Bushy Coombe ... looking back through time, the view still a recognizable local walk. Tripping over this juxtaposition of time/space feels magical. He studied under the Pre-Raphaelite artists Arthur Hughes and Ford Maddox Brown. I've seen his work before and in Nov 2020 shared his 'Wells Wartime 1917' with photos taken from his painterly vantage point. Feels friendly stumbling across him here on my path... I once wrote on

another post. Sometimes, when in a particular landscape, I can feel as if I'm immersed in a familiar painting; alternatively, looking at a painting I can sometimes feel immersed in a familiar landscape. Here, both realities have mystically merged!



"Glastonbury, 1890" by Albert Goodwin

Celia also sent this notice of a magical gathering which took place on Saturday, 15 April 2023: **Isis of Avalon** held a gathering under the banner of the Navigium, later than tradition, but arranged around Olivia's birthday as it was her favourite celebration. Our gathering brought threads of the past into the present through the magical web of the Fellowship of Isis! In the words of Olivia Robertson 'She who pours forth the streams of wisdom and consciousness into the Grail of the Aquarian Age.' Ceremony and offerings facilitated by friends Mara Freeman, Debbie Baccie and Yuri Leitch. We honoured the sacred and celebrated the Temple of the Stars.

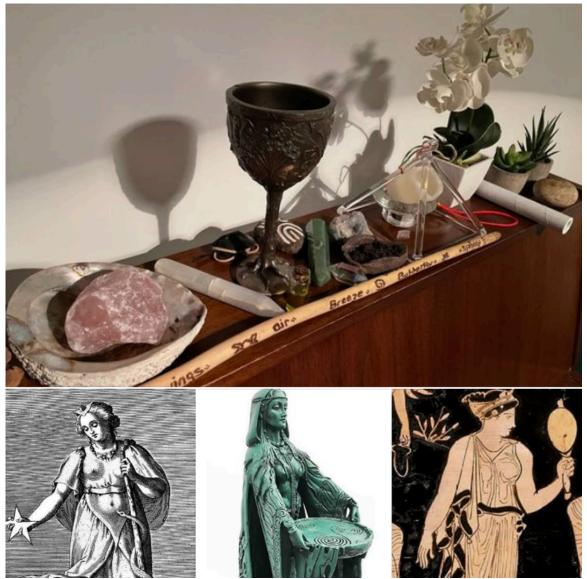


Christine Rhone of **Iseum of 10,000 Names, London, UK, 13 January 2023:** Working with the energies of Vesta or Hestia, we performed "Flamma Vestae: Initiation into a Fellowship of Isis Iseum". This was an initiation for some and a renewal for others. Each candidate walked the labyrinth, making an offering, at the centre, of creative service to the Iseum and to Vesta's transformational power.



Photos courtesy of Christine Rhone

Christine writes: The picture at the top is a unicursal labyrinth, which was made by Jeremy Morgan out of scrap material that he happened to have lying around. I can fold it up and put is in my backpack and flip it out for ritual! Jeremy for many years led a very active Druid group that met for ceremony up on Primrose Hill in north London. He is also a very gifted and skilled tailor and maker of fabric items. **Christine Rhone** of **Iseum of 10,000 Names, London, UK, 10 March 2023:** We performed "Spring: The Rite of Good Health" and the Oracle of the Goddess Dana combined with the Isean Healing Rite, sending healing energies to all and to particular individuals, done as a hybrid online and in-person ritual.



Photos courtesy of Christine Rhone

Lyceums – College of Isis

Received from **Baya Rouzoul** of **Lyceum of Elen**, Ireland: Here is the report from the Lyceum of Elen of Ireland's Imbolc Ceremony. We met on Monday 6th of February, a very important day for us in Ireland. The very first National Holiday dedicated to St. Brigit of Kildare. We decided to focus on her both for our ritual and for the invocation, we cast the four directions with reference to her work. With fire, water, etc. Then we had a cacao ceremony as one of our members has been learning how to do it. Finally, we welcomed one of our sisters to their Enchantress time as she had just turned 50. She had chosen a Moon Mother amongst our elders and her Moon Mother guided her through the doorway of her new life as the elders of the group drummed her in. She was given gifts to celebrate. We then uncast the circle and had a lovely joyful feast. There are 8 of us in the Lyceum, which started celebrating the Festival of Samhain in 2022.



Photo by Michael A. Starsheen

Michael A. Starsheen: We at New Karnak Center conducted the rite Hydrophoria from Panthea yesterday (1/29/23) by attunement. The rite went very well, and I received a much needed blessing from the Goddess in the contemplation part of the rite.

We do rites by attunement rather than by Zoom because it lets us focus on the magic we are trying to do rather than coordinate a performance among a group of people. Attunement allows others to be in their own magical space at the same time, echoing the magic we are doing, but focused locally. I will be writing a more detailed article for the Beltane issue of Isian News on this subject, but wanted to communicate the basics now.

Starsheen also has sent notice that New Karnak Center will also hold an attunement on the 23rd of April enacting 'The Festival of Wesak' from "Panthea, Initiations and Festivals of the Goddess."

Setjataset of the **Lyceum of Heka**, Melbourne, Australia writes: Moon magick is a practice I strongly resonate with. I love to create and venerate with the various phases of moon. I love to engage in the moon's ebbs and flows where I can move with the energies and enact rites with and for my Gods and Ancestors. Regardless of what path I practice, regardless of what sorcery I perform, the moon is my guide through it all – a guiding presence for my workings.

To read more please use the link below to Setjataset's blog post "Special Moons for 2023": <u>https://setjataset.wordpress.com/2023/01/04/special-moons-of-2023/</u>



Photo by Mana Youngbear

Mana Youngbear of **Lyceum of Isis of Inspirational Studies,** Willits, California, USA: "Remembering Olivia Robertson. Lady Olivia I say your name that you may live. In love and respect."

Denise Dumars of **Lyceum of Auset Hauset**, Los Angeles, California, USA: Denise and members of her lyceum celebrated a solstice ritual and guided visualization on December 21.

Sarah Rooke of **Lyceum of Isis and Sekhmet of the Stars**, Portsmouth, UK: This month the Lyceum of Isis and Sekhmet of the Stars has performed two attunements from the FOI liturgy book "Tara of the Oracles" in the Spiral of the Adepti, one on the full moon to the "Portal of Taurus: Through Her Veil" and one on the new moon to the "Portal of Taurus: Tell Me Fair and Tell Me True." Sarah has earned her degrees for these rituals. **Sarah** experienced a lovely vision during enactment of "Through Her Veil." An excerpt is included here:

"During the trance journey, I passed through the Portal of Taurus. There were pictures of a young and old woman either side. But I was not worried as I knew that they were aspects of the goddess. Inside the Egyptian temple, I marvelled at the brightly painted walls of Denderah and as I entered the Holy of Holies, some priestesses were dancing and invited me to join them. I had found my 'winnowing wings' in one of the last meditations, so I unfurled them and danced along with them and was joined by the Goddess Hathor Herself! I started to remember some of the sacred songs and dances of the Priestesses of Hathor from Ancient times and knew that it was regarded as an act of worship in Egypt.

We were then joined by the Goddess Bastet, so you had the goddess of dancing Hathor, joined by the goddess of music, Bastet. We were also joined by other priestesses to much laughter and merriment, some holding sistrums and shaking them. I got the sense this was a very 'priestessy' thing and not what the priests did at all, as their lives were much more stricter. We saw the sun coming through the temple to light up the statue of the Goddess Hathor, this made it shine like the sun when it hit the statue's cow's horns. I was reminded of Johfra's famous painting of Libra depicting Hathor and Thoth. I had a vision of the Goddess with that same veil on this painting, cascading down her back from Her cow's horns. I remembered my channellings of Hathor from the 1990's talking about beauty and how the flowers and paintings reflect nature and creativity. Most of all, I felt the cosmic love of the Goddess Hathor to all things and beings from my head to my heart like a warm tingly rosy glow."

Here is another excerpt from Sarah's report, this time as a result of enactment of "Tell Me Fair, Tell Me True":

"I found myself in open air, and became an angelic being, unfurling my subtle etheric wings, and flying off into the sky and heavens, I came across a cottage and flew down. Realising that it was a dolmen, I walked into its cave like structure. There was Cerridwen, Creirwy and Merlin around a big cauldron on a fire. Cerridwen gave me some of the potion being brewed to drink, it tasted like lavender. I feel energies coming in through me, as she says 'May you drink from the Grail and achieve it in reality'. There was a golden energy cascade, like a fountain flowing through me and I wanted to share these wonderful energies, like a blessing with all. I sent out to the planet, to the other planets and sun in our solar system, to the galaxies, the universe, to people in need, to the environment. I felt a wave of energies go over the planet transforming it for good. Then I came back through the portal and closed the circle, feeling thankful."

Sarah also earned degrees from her enactments of two more rites in "Tara of the Oracles", one on the full moon, the "Portal of Gemini: Wheels Within Wheels" and one on the new moon to "Portal of Gemini: White Sun, Black Twin."

From **Sarah Rooke** of **Isis and Sekhmet of the Stars Lyceum**, Portsmouth, UK: The Rev **Carmen Orellana** (Tarwe Hrossdottir) has gained the degrees of Portal of Aries: The Enchantress, Portal of Taurus: Tell Me Fair, Tell Me True and Portal of Gemini: White Sun, Black Twin from Tara of the Oracles in the Spiral of the Adepti.

Sarah Rooke also sent the following notice for Isian News: Sharleene Chandler has gained her third magi degree of Demeter and Persephone from Dea in the College of Isis.

Ivana Modesto, of **Pharmakou Potnia - Φαρμάκου Πότνια Lyceum e Iseum,** Palermo, Italy: With immense pride and commotion I am here to announce you that on today's date, at 17:30 Rt. Rev. **Marco Gravina** and I had the pleasure and honor of celebrating the sacerdotal ordination of **Laura Scardino**, following the specific ritual contained in the Liturgy of the F.O.I.

The ritual took place from a distance, and yet every word resonated within us, with the knowledge that we had entrusted with a great responsibility a student who has always been patient, humble and willing. We have ordained a profoundly wise, inspired priestess who will certainly be supportive of the community, thanks to her individual gifts. Many blessings to our new minister: Zoè!



Photos courtesy of Ivana Modesto

Solar Iseums of Alchemy – FOI Priesthood

Shannon Michaela Doree Smith of Thirteen Moon Mysteries of the Goddess – Temple of the Rose of Alchemy Solar Iseum, based in Ireland is actively working to keep the sacred wells, rivers and lakes, the waters of Ireland clean and pure. She is the founder of **Women of the Water**. To read more about her activism, and many projects, particularly with the River Boyne, please visit: https://www.womenofthewater.org/

Also from **Ivana Modesto**: I documented the opening stages of my Jericho rose (false Jericho rose, Selaginella lepidophylla). The last photo was taken about two hours after the first, which coincides with the time I laid it out in shallow water. For those who don't know, this plant is practically immortal: it closes on itself in lack of water and from the appearance it would look totally dry, dead. As soon as she is hydrated, she opens back showing very lively green curls; but the exciting and fascinating thing is that her movements are perfectly visible, if you have the patience to observe her for a few minutes straight. This is magic and it concerns everyone, especially the human soul. What appears dead is often actually asleep, waiting to be awakened.



Photos by Ivana Modesto

Hamsa Devi of **Tara Hedge Kollege**, Bielefeld, Germany writes: In February we visited an exhibition about alchemy in a nearby castle. The residing dukes had their own alchemists and a laboratory and a large library with several mss on alchemy.

I love the beautiful colourful drawings that talk in the language of symbols about alchemical transmutation. They talk about transmutation of the spirit. Trying to make material gold in following the instructions of the mss will not be successful.

I think some of those pictures might well be used as objects for meditation on the spiral path of Isis of Alchemy.

Groves – Druid Clan of Dana

Received from **Ossian D'Ambrosio** of **Italian Druidic Circle,** Biella, Italy: The big druidic family of the Italian Druidic Circle, groove of the Ancient Oak. Brigantia Blessing /|\



Photo courtesy of Ossian D'Ambrosio

The Ogham Cyber Grove, a collective of Groves in the Druid Clan of Dana, founded by former students of Archdruidesses **Mana Youngbear** and **Linda Iles** met on Tuesday, January 31, to celebrate Imbolc Eve with an evening of prayer and fellowship. The following week, on February 7, the groves gathered again to take part in a wonderful ritual facilitated by Archdruidess **Ann Brigit Waters** titled "Brigid of the Flame and Water."



Photo by Mana Youngbear

Sara Gamerboni of Triplice Cinta Druidica - Grove del Druid Clan of Dana,

Italy: "Blessings to all of you, in the moment of the first awakening - with the wish that we know how to grasp both the healing of Water and the power of Fire. Happy and magical Brigantia to all of us!"



Photo courtesy of Sara Gamberoni

Sara Gamerboni of Triplice Cinta Druidica - Grove del Druid Clan of Dana,

Italy: Today, 5 February, we celebrated Brigantia, our altar was a rock topped by an oak tree. The energies were tangible, we watched the sun rise and heard the birds singing in the woods. We are grateful for all these gifts. Happy Brigantia to all of you.



All Photos on this page courtesy of Sara Gamberoni

On March 18, 2023 **Sara** and other members of **Triplice Cinta Druidica - Grove del Druid Clan of Dana**, Italy welcomed a new Companion, Barbara Boaglio.



Photo courtesy of Sara Gamberoni

Priories – Noble Order of Tara

Sheila Broun of **Priory of the British Goddess Sulis**, Bath, Somerset, UK: "I was having my hair cut and talking to the hairdresser, when she said, 'well we all live in shades of grey'. Without thinking I said 'yes', and then said, 'actually no - I live in all the colours of the rainbow' - and a lot of my work has been about colour."

Hamsa Devi of **Priory of Rainbow Tara**, Bielefeld, Germany writes: Equinox Blessings of Flora! May the power of the rising light sow and let grow the flowers of peace in every human heart.

Sarah Rooke of **Priory of Cerridwen and the Grail,** Hants, UK: Congratulations to **Autumn Harmony Daisy** on being consecrated as a Dame Commander in the Noble Order of Tara and founding her new Priory.

Dulce Domum



Ayah Buonaugurio Priestess & Sacred Dancer

On February 10, 2023, we lost a remarkable priestess, a "young" elder, a healer, a sacred dancer. But most importantly we lost a very special, warm and caring person who wanted to make the world a better place.

Ayah was well liked and respected by Loreon Vigne, founder of Isis Oasis Sanctuary and the Temple of Isis in Geyserville, California, through which Ayah was a legally ordained Priestess of Isis. She shared with Loreon that her grandfather, who was a war orphan, was given the surname "Buonaugario" which translates as "good luck" before he came to the United States. Ayah also studied with Fellowship of Isis priestess Kalita Todd of Grass Valley, California.

Ayah founded the healing center Obsidian Womb Wellness; and was a wellknown and passionate advocate of Women's Health. She moved to the San Francisco Bay area in 2012 to study dance with Miriam Peretz of Nava Dance Collective.

In 2009, Ayah began working closely with the Obsidian stone through prayer, dedicated practice, and transmission from Mexico-Nahuatl grandmothers during participation in the Danza de la Luna of Ollinthuimetzli in Mexico. Before that Ayah spent over 13 years devoted to a feminine lineage in Mexico that taught her how to utilize a sacred obsidian pipe, as part of the ceremony. Ayah thereafter discovered the Obsidian Egg, and began to apply ancestral shadow work, balancing and womb healing. Ayah received transmission through personal vision and practice as well as guided instructions from experienced practitioners that live in Durango, MX. Ayah taught a specific protocol that originated from

teacher Ana Silvia Serrano who founded an organization in Mexico for obsidian therapies.

Ayah was a former member of the Quimera, a shamanic tribal-fusion dance tribe in the Bay Area, directed by the wonderfully gifted modern dancer, choreographer, dance therapist and priestess, Anandha Ray. It was Ayah who brought Anandha into the priestesshood. Ayah shared her knowledge and performed sacred dance at regional festivals including Temple Dance Festival, Festival of the Silk Road, Nouveou Devadasi, Pranafest, Bliss Camp, Isis Oasis, and Dreamtime. She was honored with invitations to create ceremonial dances at sacred sites.

This is a partial list of her many accomplishments. It is an amazing list, when one considers especially that this lovely soul did not live on this earth (this time) to reach old age.

One thing I know for sure, with all the good, the wisdom and the love she spread out into this world with her devotion and her vision, she made a difference. Now, this special one dances among the stars and rains her love down upon us all!

Ayah, we say your name that you may life!



"We All Have Wings of Spirit" by FOI co-founder Olivia Robertson



Aset Shemsu - The Retinue of Isis

Aset t fem. det. sh-m-s- w "go, walk" det. plural sign

Foundation Centre: Clonegal Castle, Enniscorthy, Eire

MANIFESTO

Growing numbers of people are rediscovering their love for the Goddess. At first, this love may seem to be no more than an inner feeling. But soon it develops; it becomes a longing to help the Goddess actively in the manifestation of Her divine plan. Thus, one hears such inquiries as, "How can I get initiated into the Mysteries of the Goddess? How can I experience a closer communion with her? Where are her nearest temples and devotees? How can I join the priesthood of the Goddess?", and many other such questions.

The Fellowship of Isis has been founded to answer these needs. Membership provides means of promoting a closer communion between the Goddess and each member, both singly and as part of a larger group. There are hundreds of Iseums and thousands of members all over the world, since the Fellowship was founded in 1976 by Lawrence, Pamela and Olivia Durdin-Robertson. Love, Beauty and Truth are expressed through a multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-racial Fellowship. The good in all faiths is honored. The Fellowship of Isis has no particular affiliations.

The Fellowship is organized on a democratic basis. All members have equal privileges within it, whether as a single member or part of an Iseum or Lyceum. This manifesto applies also to the daughter societies: the College Of Isis, the Spiral of the Adepti, the Spiral of Alchemy, the Noble Order of Tara, and the Druid Clan of Dana.

The Fellowship respects the freedom of conscience of each member. There are no vows required or commitments to secrecy. All Fellowship activities are optional and members are free to resign without question or rejoin at their own choice. Membership is free.

The Fellowship reverences all manifestations of Life. The God also is venerated. The Rites exclude any form of sacrifice, whether actual or symbolic. Nature is revered and conserved. The work of the Noble Order of Tara is for conservation of Nature.

The Fellowship accepts religious toleration, and is not exclusivist. Members are free to maintain other religious allegiances. Membership is open to all of every religion, tradition and race. Children, listed as "Children of Isis", are welcomed, subject to parental consent. The "Animal Family of Isis" accepts members' animal and bird friends through centres.

The Fellowship believes in the promotion of Love, Beauty and Abundance. No encouragement is given to asceticism. The Fellowship seeks to develop friendliness, psychic gifts, happiness, and compassion for all life. The Druid Clan of Dana develops Nature's psychic gifts.

The College of Isis has been revived after its suppression 1,500 years ago. Like Aset Shemsu, The FOI itself, it has always been alive in the Inner Planes. It is from these Inner Planes that its return has been inspired. Magi degrees may be conferred through Lyceums of the College. Correspondence courses are offered. There are no vows nor secrecy.

Iseums are the very Hearths of the Goddess, or Goddess and God to Whom they are dedicated. These are listed, along with Lyceums in every Isian News. Tara Priories and Dana Groves are also listed regularly. All these centers and Isian News are for FOI members only.

The Archpriesthood Union of the FOI Priesthood, together with the ArchDruid Union of the Druid Clan of Dana and the Grand Commander Union of the Noble Order of Tara (FOI Union Triad) are Guardians to inspire the ideals of the Fellowship of Isis. All members are equal, and are not subject to anyone. All work with the Goddess - or Goddess and God - of their own Faith. Every Being human, animal, bird, tree - element - is an eternal offspring of the Divine Family of the Mother Goddess.

Current Membership List of the FOI Foundation Union Triad

Archdruid Union:

Germany: Claudia Wehmeyer; Thomas Wehmeyer **Ireland:** Eileen Lawrence; David de Roeck **Italy:** Ossian d'Ambro **UK:** Celia Thomas; Jane Marshall; Jewels Solheim; John Merron; Christine Rhone **USA:** deTraci Regula; Michael Starsheen; Anniitra Ravenmoon; Kasey Conder; Arthur Freeheart; Carolina Amor-Boggs; Mana Youngbear; Linda Iles; Kiel Milner; Carole Linda Gonzalez; Vicki Margaritis; Denise Murray Allen; Kat Robb

Archpriesthood Union:

Australia: Tina Georgitsis Brazil: Bruno Pythio; Claudiney Prieto Germany: Claudia Wehmeyer; Thomas Wehmeyer Indonesia: Johannes Nugroho Onggo Sanusi Ireland: Maire Doyle; David de Roeck, Baya Salmon-Hawk Italy: Aglaia Francesca UK: Sheila Broun; Christine Rhone; Celia Thomas; Jewels Solheim; John Merron USA: Demetria Nanos; Linda Iles; Kasey Conder; Arthur Freeheart; Mana Youngbear; Carolina A. Amor; Anniitra Ravenmoon; Michael A. Starsheen; Normandi Ellis; deTraci Regula; Daniel Campbell; Cathryn Anne Rogers; Lady Isis Cerridwen.

Grand Commander Union:

Brazil: Bruno Pythio **Germany:** Claudia Wehmeyer; Thomas Wehmeyer **Germany & USA:** Dietlinde Brueckner; Ron Cwetna **Ireland:** David de Roeck; Maire Doyle; **Italy:** Aglaia Francesca **UK:** Sheila Broun; Christine Rhone; John Merron **USA:** Kasey Conder; Anniitra Ravenmoon; deTraci Regula; Michael A. Starsheen; Linda Iles; Lori Beth Williams; Helen Bourne-Schmid; Carla D. Jones-Alt; Mana Youngbear; Arisa Victor; Don Lewis; Melissa Anderson

Sister Websites of Fellowship of Isis Central

(www.fellowshipofisiscentral.com)

FOI Germany	https://www.fellowshipofisis.eu/
Fellowship of Isis Utah	http://www.isisofutah.org/
Circulo de Isis	https://circulodeisis.wordpress.com/
FOI Chicago	http://www.foichicago.com/
Temple of Isis	http://www.isisoasis.us/
Aset Shemsu Italia	-

https://sites.google.com/view/asetshemsu/home-manifesto

Irmandade de Isis Brasil Berengaria Order of Druids Circle Sanctuary The Correllian Tradition http://irmandadedeisis.blogspot.com.br/ https://www.stormwatchdruid.uk/berengaria/ https://www.circlesanctuary.org/ http://www.correllian.com/

Official Fellowship of Isis Groups On Facebook:

(*) Fellowship of Isis Central Site and News: https://www.facebook.com/groups/361723650498/

(*) Druid Clan of Dana – Fellowship of Isis – An Clann Draoidheachta Danann <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/315380318522084/</u>

Fellowship of Isis Listening Circle https://www.facebook.com/groups/832069066831545/

Fellowship of Isis Order of the Shining Helmet of Athena <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/500964463404247/</u>

Fellowship of Isis Crones, Sages and Elders https://www.facebook.com/groups/238772979792380/

(*) Circulo de Isis https://www.facebook.com/groups/107041605992128/

Irmandade de Isis Brasil https://www.facebook.com/groups/297719357014030/

Casa di Aset – FOI Italia https://www.facebook.com/groups/365169971033999/

(*) Chartered as official online FOI centers by FOI Co-Founder Olivia Robertson