



## *Farewell to the Season of Beltane (Bealtaine)*

*To be spoken at the back door/window of the house on the last morning of Bealtaine, July 31<sup>st</sup>*

Go with thanks and go with blessing,  
 Season of vitality.  
 Souls with life are deeply freighted  
 Hearts are full of energy.  
 Under bud and blossom traveling,  
 You have come to summer's growth.  
 Soul-Smith, who has forged this brightness,  
 Flower-Maid, whose lips have kissed,  
 Touch the hidden fruit within us,  
 Bring us into Autumn's bliss.



## *Lunar Meditations*

### *For Bealtaine*

The support of friendship  
 Peace and concord among Earth's nations  
 Abundance in your life  
 The skills that you possess  
 The wisdom of Nature  
 Happiness  
 The messages of birdsong  
 The shores of home  
 The beauty of the enduring stars  
 The strength and beauty of the little things  
 Your special place of peace and refreshment  
 The song of night.

*Excerpts from the Celtic Devotional by Caitlín Matthews*

## *July*



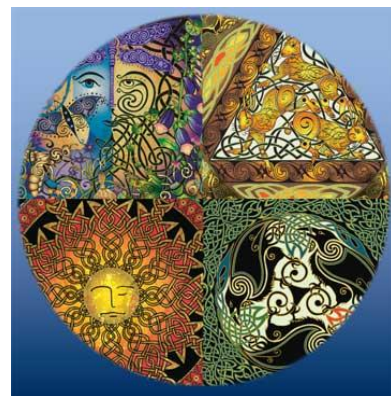
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## *Grove Happenings*



This month's grove meeting will be at La Madeleine Restaurant, located at 7615 Jefferson Hwy in Baton Rouge from 3:00 pm–5:00 pm on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. We meet in the private dining room, and we hope everyone will be able to join us.

If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to join us in Zoom. To join Zoom, go to:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88338465418?pwd=TjFJb1h6NmhzSzUrN0czTzFuRVlvQT09>  
 Meeting ID: 883 3846 5418  
 Passcode: 319206



*Artwork by Jen Delyth*



## The Full Buck Moon

Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, p.m. CDT

July's full Buck Moon will rise on **Monday, July 3**, reaching peak illumination at 6:38 a.m., CDT. It will be below the horizon at that time, so plan to look towards the southeast after sunset to watch it rise into the sky. Being the day before the [Fourth of July](#), it should make for dazzling fireworks displays!

July's full Buck Moon orbits closer to Earth than many of the other full Moons this year, making one of the four [supermoons](#) of 2023! At its nearest point, the Buck Moon will be 224,895.4 miles (361,934 km) from Earth, which means that [August's Blue Moon](#) will be the only supermoon that is closer to our planet this year.

While a supermoon is technically bigger and brighter than a regular full Moon, it only appears about 7% larger—which can be an imperceptible difference to the human eye, depending on other conditions. The full Moon names used by *The Old Farmer's Almanac* come from a number of places, including Native American, Colonial American, and European sources. Traditionally, each full Moon name was applied to the entire lunar month in which it occurred, not solely to the full Moon.

The full Moon in July is called the **Buck Moon** because the antlers of male deer (bucks) are in full-growth mode at this time. Bucks shed and regrow their antlers each year, producing a larger and more impressive set as the years go by.

## Alternative July Moon Names

Several other names for this month's Moon also reference animals, including **Feather Molting Moon** (Cree) and **Salmon Moon**, a Tlingit term indicating when fish returned to the area and were ready to be harvested.

Plants are also featured prominently in July's Moon names. Some of our favorites are **Berry Moon** (Anishinaabe), **Moon When the Chokecherries are Ripe** (Dakota), **Month of the Ripe Corn Moon** (Cherokee), and **Raspberry Moon** (Algonquin, Ojibwe). **Thunder Moon** (Western Abenaki) and **Halfway Summer Moon** (Anishinaabe) are alternative variants that refer to the stormy weather and summer season.

*Image and excerpts taken from The Farmer's Almanac 2023 Edition*  
<https://www.almanac.com/content/full-moon-july>



## Bardic Circle Meeting

The Bardic Circle will be on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at La Madeleine's immediately following conclusion of grove. This month's topic will be "The Stories Within and Without.", discussing some of the histories and traditions of storytelling with activities to follow. If you have any questions before the meeting, be sure to email Ashley, [acrodriquezwrites@gmail.com](mailto:acrodriquezwrites@gmail.com). You can also join by going to Google Classrooms; Join the discussion in our next experimental virtual Meetup Space-Google Classroom (link to join)! <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjE1NTEwMzUxMzY2?cjc=vviza4x>.



## Ovate Circle Meeting

We will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Place of our meeting has yet to be determined. When we gather, please bring pencil, paper and pick a fallen leaf or bark from your backyard. Our discussion will focus on the interconnections in our spiritual and everyday.

If you are not able to attend, please contact me at [k.laborde@druidry.org](mailto:k.laborde@druidry.org), otherwise, look for the time and place announcement in my email.



## Gulf Coast Gathering Meeting

Our GCG board met on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2024 GCG Gathering, that will once again be held at Tickfaw State Park, Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information on GCG 2024 in a later newsletter.

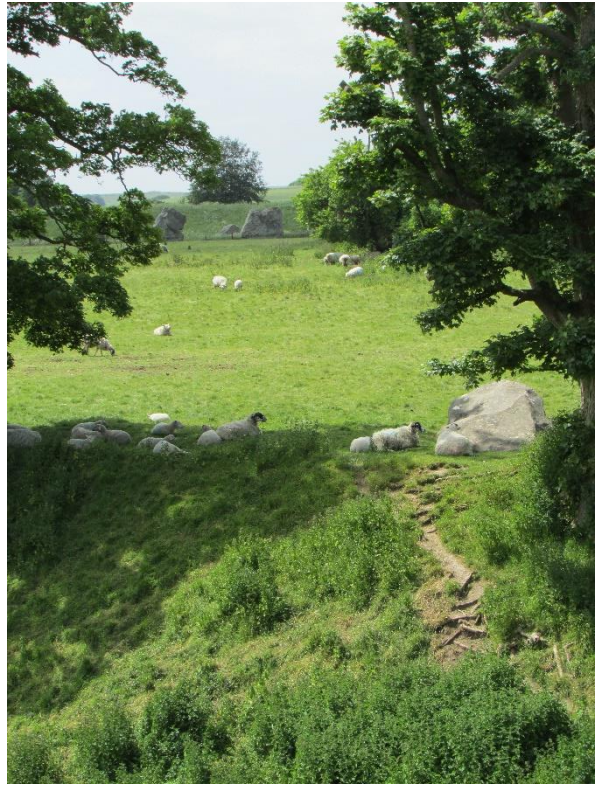
**The Sixth Source Sharing Circle**, Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, will meet at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, located at 8470 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 at 12:45 p.m. For more information, please contact Salvatore Culotta at [salcc99@gmail.com](mailto:salcc99@gmail.com).



*Avebury. Photo by Kate Kane Laborde*

## Final Thoughts

As many of you know, Honora Buras and I recently returned from England after having attended the annual Summer Gathering at Glastonbury Tor. It was a long, overdue visit for me, as it was my first time visiting that part of the world. From seeing the Avebury stones of my dreams, taking part of the ritual on the Tor, the morning ritual at Stonehenge, visiting the healing waters of Chalice Well, or just walking around the town of Glastonbury, greeting familiar faces and meeting and making new friends, it was a magical time that I will not soon forget. I could go on and on about the trip, but I'll just park some photos here for everyone to enjoy.



*View of the sheep in the foreground and the Avebury stones further afield.*

*Photo by Kate Kane Laborde*



The Highland Oak banner proudly displayed in City Hall, Glastonbury for the duration of the gathering.

Photo by Kate Kane Laborde



Every stone at Avebury takes the form of human, animal, or sometimes, both. I call this stone the Keeper of the Gate, located in the southwest of the circle. He has his trusted Jackdaw keeping watch with him.



St. Michael's Church tower on top of the Tor.



Walking up to the Tor.



The Alban Hefin altar on the Tor, including the Oak leaves and the three gifts from the Bards, Ovates, and Druids.

*\*\*All photos by Kate Kane Laborde*



Sunrise ritual at Stonehenge



*Kate Kane Laborde and Honora Buras on the Tor at the end of the ritual.*



*The Heel Stone at Stonehenge*



*\*\*All photos by Kate Kane Laborde*

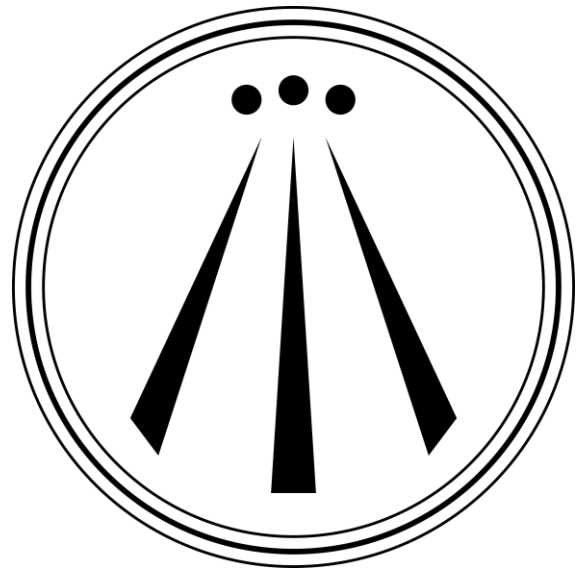


### ***Final Thoughts, cont.***

As you can image, there are many more photos to show and stories to tell from our trip, and I will *continue* to share them in future newsletters for all to enjoy. If ever there were a trip to plan in the future, it would be to attend a gathering in Glastonbury. The countryside, and the people there are so beautiful, kind, and welcoming!

With a full heart, singing the nine cascading Awens, sending peace and many blessings to you all!

Kate /\



### ***Invocation to the Awen***

*I arise and call upon the  
blessings of the Awen.*

*Light of Sun,  
Radiance of Moon,  
Splendor of Fire,  
Swiftness of Wind,  
Speed of Lightning,  
Depth of Sea,  
Stability of Earth,  
Firmness of Rock.*

*May I be always protected  
From above, below, and  
about!*