



## IN THIS ISSUE: CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

### VOICES OF MODERN DRUIDRY

The Modern Pagan movement owes a great deal to Celtic and Druidic traditions. To find out what is happening in the modern Druid community we interviewed three prominent Pagans who practice Celtic and Druidic paths: Isaac Bonewits, founder of *Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship*; Jhenah Telyndru, founder of the Sisterhood of Avalon; and our “Underworld” columnist and author, R. J. Stewart. Each has their own perspective on the topic at hand and together they provide a broad picture of Druidic practices today.

*Interview by Elizabeth Barrette, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 22*

### BEING DRUID TODAY

The original Druids went extinct more than a millennium ago. From the dawn of the 18th century on, however, those who set out to craft a spirituality and a way of life in harmony with nature found in the ancient Druids a potent symbol of their hopes. But does being “Druid” today mean finding the ways of the Old Religion, or creating a new one suited to the times in which we now live? *By John Michael Greer... 29*

### CUTTING THE CELTIC KNOT

We must ask a very simple question — why does the idea of the “spiritual Celt” appeal so strongly to so many? During the industrial revolution a worldview of materialist pragmatism took hold in the Western world, especially in the world of Britain and her (former) colonies. For many, Celtic cultures become an exotic escape from the prison of modern life. The problem — there *is* no escape.

*By Donnacha MacAodhagáin... 31*

### AMONG THE STONES

We could feel them waiting for us. One hundred feet up most Welsh trails, civilization becomes only a hazy memory. We felt footsore when, as often happened, the stones surprised us. Near a farmstead stood a solitary *cromlech*; it loomed like a sentinel for ancient secrets, taller than us, rough-hewn, dark, set deeply in the bosom of the Mother. *By Burdock, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 34*

### THE GLIMMERING GIRL: WOMEN AND NATURE IN THE CELTIC IMAGINATION

On moonlit nights in England’s Lake District, women with antlers used to wade in the shallow waters of the lakes. In the Scottish Highlands last century, a woman believed that the wounded swan she had rescued was a “devout lady under a spell.” In County Kerry, Ireland, it is said that to eat a hare is to eat your grandmother. These are just a few of the ways in which the boundaries between women and animals continually blur into each other in Celtic tradition.

*By Mara Freeman, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 39*

### SPIRAL OF TIME: THE UNFURLING WAY OF LIFE

It’s a profound concept to grasp; the possibility that time does not move in a linear way, but in a circular, spiraling fashion. The idea that history is not passed and gone, but rather that we are revolving around our past in ever-widening circles. *By Rebecca Fitzgibbon, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 47*



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# PanGaia: A Pagan Journal for Thinking People



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## FEATURE FAITH-BASED CHARITY: PAGAN STYLE

"Charity" is often understood to imply *Christian* charity. "I haven't run into a Pagan faith-based group yet, much less a Pagan group that cares for the poor!" says Jim Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. Like Towey, many people assume that mainstream faiths have cornered the market on loving hearts. We can change that by making every act of Pagan charity double as Pagan PR. *By Nicole J. LeBoeuf-Little, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 45*



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## FICTION THE KARMA OF WASPS

Mrs. Polk noticed Beverly as soon as she strode toward her mailbox. One flash from her little silver pentagram that bright morning was enough for Molly Polk to drop a carton of kitchen utensils onto the porch and scurry into her house. Beverly noticed the irritable shuffle of curtains, and the pale face peeking between layers of fabric. *By Patricia Snodgrass, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 50*

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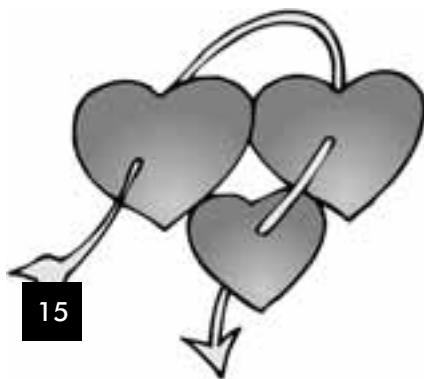
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## ABOUT OUR FEATURED ARTIST

Cynthia Rudzis lives and illustrates on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Her works can be viewed and purchased online at [www.cynrouxart.com](http://www.cynrouxart.com).