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Bright Blessings

Fey Fand Cell: 073 803 2195 Email: feyfand@celestinecircle.za.net Website: www.celestinecircle.za.net

## CELESTINE CIRCLE ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2009 – MAY 2010

The Celestine Circle continues to grow and work together. We now have 159 members of our closed FaceBook Group, and many others who do not have access to FaceBook. Our membership currently stands at 276 people.

Badger Woolfsbane, our High Priest, immigrated to Canada with his family in March. This was a very sad occasion for us, and we wish him all the best with the future. He is already in touch with other Pagans in Canada and plans to attend a Beltaine gathering on 1 May. He remains in close touch with Fey and has made contact with other members of the Celestine Circle who live in Canada.

Many other members have also moved to other countries, and it is amazing that two of them “coincidentally” ended up working for the same company in New Zealand! One member who has been away from us for three years, Tammy Foote, is returning in August and her arrival is widely anticipated with excitement.

With our growth has come the growth of our Council of Elders. In KwaZulu-Natal we now have Tracey Shuttleworth as Maiden, and her partner John Dee, and Jan Atholl Botha, as Elders of the Circle. In Gauteng, DarkRayven Morgaine and her partner Giscard are holding open Sabbat Circles and carrying our flame for us. Thanks go to all of them.

We made a decision early last year to open our Sabbat Circles to all, as we feel that seekers should be able to observe Circles and see what it is that we do, and if they wish to participate, they are also welcome to do so. Circle attendance varies depending on the time of year and other factors, but there are new faces at every Sabbat and there is very exciting energy building.

Pagan Freedom Day in KZN this year promises to be a wonderful event, and we will be hosting a Circle for Planetary Peace, and blessing water to be released into rivers and the ocean during the rite. We see Pagan Freedom Day as an opportunity to enlighten people about the practice of

WitchCraft and to clear up misconceptions, as well as a chance to share and exchange energy with kin.

The Celestine Circle website has been thoroughly revamped, thanks to Leanne from Gaia Concepts. The URL is [www.celestinecircle.za.net](http://www.celestinecircle.za.net). Our newsletter, which is published at Samhain, Imbolc, Beltaine and Lughnasadh, is available at this site, as well as ritual photographs and other information.

Our environmental work continues. We have been working for the protection of the dolphins which are massacred annually by Japanese whalers in Australian Southern Atlantic waters, and we greeted the winning of the Oscar for the documentary *The Cove* with much joy. We have been blessing and releasing water at every opportunity to communicate with cetaceans to move away from signs of humanity. We are also keeping a close watching brief on the proposed mining of the Xolobeni area of the Transkei coast, and at Lughnasadh, four days before the local community were to present their plea to the Dept of Minerals to prevent the mining, we performed a rite asking for assistance for them. The hearings were postponed, giving the people more time to prepare their arguments. Apart from working with magick in these areas, we also encourage awareness and the expression of opinions through petition signing and other work.

As usual, we will be going away together for a weekend, and in 2010 we will gather for Beltaine in the Central Drakensberg. More details will be posted in the Imbolc newsletter and on the website. Details of open Sabbat Circles and other gatherings can be found on the website.

Fey Fand, the High Priestess of the Celestine Circle, has accepted an appointment to the Executive Committee of the South African Pagan Rights Alliance, and remains an Executive Committee member of the South African Pagan Council. She assists Damon Leff with regard to SAFCEI (South African Faith Communities Environmental Institute) as well.

On 5 April 2011 the Celestine Circle will be ten years old, and we plan to celebrate this auspicious anniversary at Fey's hearth the weekend before that date.

To all the members of the Celestine Circle, thank you for your enthusiasm, energy and sense of kinship. You are our family, as we are yours ☺

Bright Blessings!!!