

Morningstar Mystery School

Board of Directors

January Meeting

Minutes

Saturday January 19, 2021

Present: Katie, Laura, Louise, Sandra, Ealasaid, Breven (teaching pillar liaison)

Facilitator: Louise

Started at 10:09 am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Brief checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting
 - Approved, Louise abstaining (didn't look at them)
- BRIEF Pillar and other standing reports
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Breven, who was having connection issues)
 - Self-Possession, Prep for Demon Work, Elements
 - Elements just started Earth quarter.
 - Effort class just finished, very exciting.
 - Upcoming: talked about Elements class and how to move forward. Looking at rolling phases where you can participate in the modules as they want. Will require curriculum wrangling. Need to sort this out, but looking at it.
 - Talked a bit about future of advanced classes. Demon work is the next one up.
 - Looked at keeping Treasurer updated, current plan is to email at the start of each class with all the info.
 - Research & Alumni Pillar (Katie)
 - Have not met.
 - Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
 - Met, working on envisioning the cool things we want to help with in 2021.
 - Louise, John & Laura working on dues spreadsheet, will loop her in.
 - Retreat Committee
 - Haven't met.
 - IRS/Business Stuff
 - Nothing to bring up right now. Next month will need to get tax stuff together.
 - Registrar

- No update.
- Treasurer
 - John emailed.
- BRIEF Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Laura – working on all of it
 - **Schedule for board elections** – emailed a schedule, Sandra gave feedback, will finish over
 - Email each pillar, send written report for next month.
 - Google doc for New Moon and All-School chat signups.
 - Registrar info set up with Louise and John
 - Fee calendar (with John)
 - Sandra – been super busy. Started but not done.
 - Ping Tony about Guardian/elemental work – wound up doing some big picture thinking around the Guardians and the school. Sense that they want our attention. Will talk about during visioning.
 - Update minute book
 - Bylaws amendments
 - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance
- SPECIAL MEETING: Long-Term Planning
 - Discuss oracle readings – Reflection on where we are, what the challenge is, and where we're going.
 - Sandra: Universal Waite deck.
 - Where we are: The World (reversed).
 - Challenge: Ace of Cups. Keeping ourselves open to love and joy and flow as the world is turned upside down.
 - Goal: the emperor. Challenging – lots of connotations that aren't in line with Sandra's goals. But, responsibility, strength, self-empowerment. There are warlike tendencies that are a bit offputting but maybe we need that – which is scary.
 - Katie:
 - Where we are: Prince of Swords
 - Challenge: Pleasure
 - Going: Hanged man
 - Laura: first optimistic reading gotten in a while
 - Where we are: the Hermit. Read as insular wisdom, a beacon but maybe not sharing as much as some of us maybe want to.
 - Challenge: Queen of Pentacles. We have a sense of abundance in the school but we don't know what to do with it. Or, are we struggling with abundance? Same 5 people do everything.
 - Upcoming: 9 of Pentacles, using abundance to create a beautiful space.
 - Ealasaid: Used Froud's Faeries' Oracle

- Where we are: Singer of Intuition. There is information available if we listen to our intuition.
- What the Challenge is: Ta'Om the Poet (reversed) and The Sage (reversed): Confusion about what's true / being silent when we should speak. Exercising good sense is of some urgency! Blocked wisdom, artificial / inappropriate boundaries between different aspects of life. Setting out to prove something rather than to discover it.
- Where we're going: Penelope Dreamweaver – she's Froud's inspiration faery, we all have our own. Seek visions and inspiration.
- Louise: positive reading. Used Wildwood Tarot
 - Where we are: 9 of Vessels, generosity. We're very generous as a school. Folks who teach aren't compensated, work on the board, we come to it with an open heart and a generosity of spirit in the school that is beautiful.
 - Challenge: 8 of Vessels, rebirth. What are we wanting to become? Immediate thought: To Dare, to dare to be who we really can be. Book says, about having a vision: grasp it and shape it in your hands as you would have it manifest in your life. Seeing what the present holds inside the vessel/cauldron, then being able to manifest it. Our challenge is to dare, do we dare to do this, do we dare to step into our greatness as a school.
 - Going: Forest Lovers. Immediate thought, divine twins and that work. About from the two arises the Peacock and we step into our greatness.
- Louise: Hard to synthesize, but lots of cups - watery, pentacles, intuition/dreams watery/air. Listening for inspiration. Emperor is interesting (E interjects: he dares to do whatever the hell he wants).
- What do we want to do over the next couple of years?
 - Louise: all the cups speak of visioning, oracles, dreams.
 - Ealasaid: more teaching! Excited about the school, growing and teaching more people.
 - Laura: service, what in our school would be of service to the greater community? One off workshop video about unbinding? Having someone occasionally offer a new moon / full moon thing? Look at what we are offering internally and externally, and what we want to do going forward. Really wants us to play and investigate and be curious and engaged. If the Guardians are asking us to show up, what does that conversation look like? Very curious about what came up for Sandra.
 - Louise: also interested.
 - Sandra: Tony's original post is from a couple years ago. Guardians introduced in Evolutionary Witchcraft. His work is yet another reprise of elements, but taking it a level (or three) deeper. Every time you do the work, you do the same stuff but dig a little deeper. Struck her as, as we're reaching for "what do we offer the advanced students who've completed the curriculum we have" there's an answer

there that you do it *again*. The 13th step in 12 step programs, you do it again. It's the same work but completely different, and that's the mystery! It's the same thing but totally different because you're different! Not just repeating all the little exercises, but digging into the bigger picture. The Guardians chose to work with Feri and with us, they want to work with us. They are the basis of the curriculum! As connected w/Guardians, consistent message when asked "what do you want, what can we do for you" most consistent message was open to us, connect with us, we are here for you. There's the Morningstar guardians, the internal ones, Dawning Knowledge, etc. and there's the elemental ones, the big ones. Starfinder, etc. One Guardian comes from inside, one from outside; both show if called with a true heart. They do different work but do it together. Has done powerful work trying to bring them closer and closer together, connecting inner and outer, when they meet, something happens. The guardians have a relationship outside of us as well, and can bring us into relationship with external forces as well. Essential elements. During the fires, it was intense, obviously. For the first week or so, the fog didn't come. Usually Bonny Doon fires are a relationship of water and fire and air; the fog interacts with the fire and the wind can keep a fire under control or can make it go wild. One fire years ago, couldn't get under control because the winds kept changing course due to the fog. This year the fog finally came in after about a week and blanketed/cooled the fire. The fire wasn't under control, it saved a lot of homes. During that period, was out walking and saw a giant bare foot walking along tops of the hills. Deep sense of the land guardians. They were there and made decisions about the fire, keeping it healthy and not letting the forest to be destroyed. The forest needs fire. We need to make sure we're in relationship to these forces. They won't prevent a fire, but they can keep it from being hugely destructive. The wind was kept calm. It could've gotten windy but it didn't. Some of that is luck, but not all of it. Felt presence of very powerful beings, felt really important to nurture connection with them, to nurture relationship with them. Desire to explore their relationship to guardians that we call when we cast a circle, whose teachings we rely on as a school.

- Louise: very interested in the Guardians, learned about them during the modules but they weren't the main emphasis. Could this be like a next step, spiral, going back in and revisiting the elements, we wouldn't have to do it in the same format of modules, but maybe quarterly? Do work?
- Laura: similar experience – introduced to the guardians, but not in-depth. Talking w/Jenn about it in Elements. Doing meditation/astral meet for each one, introduction. Not deep work. Thought of Sandra as priestess to the Guardians relationship working in Tony's framework. Having two teachers is really helpful, that was a model in Reclaiming that Thorn departed from, but might be useful to reconsider as a school as we build new things. Having a formal way to build the relationship on our own and then also together as a class.

- Sandra: thinks big challenge with the online only format is getting out of headspace. To build a full relationship w/Guardians, for nonphysical beings, they're very tactile. Experience of each one, can feel them in the body, each feels different. Got to meet them in ritual. When Thorn stopped teaching Feri, deciding what to do about guardians was a big decision, because of who they are and what their chosen work is. In Feri lore, they are the nephelim, the bridge, they're the bringers of knowledge to humanity. It's this set of seven folks who decided to work with, form a bond with Feri and the lines that have come out of Feri. While the Gods of the lemniscate stick with Feri, the Guardians are there. Which makes sense, this is what they do, they teach. They're there to give us knowledge and tools. Their desire is connection with us, to help us grow. When asked Black Mother what she wanted from the school, she said growth. She wants us to grow and flourish.
- Katie: not like, super original to conversation, but when went through elements, did not meet any of the guardians until Earth, which is when Tony and Sandra took over. Thinks there's something to the collaboration, makes v curious about what school could do in collaboration with the guardians.
- Laura: gnosis! Sandra is sharing and has been refining, this feels like the info in the readings. We've got the pragmatics pretty down, but the work of the school now is establishing and creating and sharing our relationship to the elements. Talking w/Cedar about offering something around deity to the school. Part of making us our own thing is naming and claiming. These are our experiences and this is how we're sharing them. This is core to what we are and where we're going.
- Katie: Laura said "naming the things" - thinks of the hanged man as giving the gift of naming things.
- Louise: if we could really establish a relationship with the guardians, feels like it would solidify the temple. We have walls at the temple but it's a little vague. Gives excitement chills to listen to this. Very interested in exploring the guardians and deity. Reading Storm Faerywolf's *Betwixt and Between*, he has info about the guardians and Feri gods there, only other source she's found for info. Would really love to do this work.
- Sandra: the starting point is with us, the first step is strengthening each of our relationships with the Guardians. But the more of the school that has a strong relationship with them, and we'll each have our own affinity for one. It opens up our web to so much more information! Without that, really hard to understand which way to go, etc. would give us so much more, if everybody has that. Personal belief: things are stronger if they're built with consensus, with a group of people. The outcome not being a vision of one person but a group of people coming together. So much stronger than just one person's idea.
- Discussion around talking w/Tony about his work.

- Sandra: doing meditations with the guardians, thinks it's important, gets really nervous when people introduce themselves to the guardians. Thinks it's much stronger and safer if a priest introduces you. Priest can create a framework. Had a student whose attempt to reach the guardians wound up having it go really badly. A bit safer if priest introduces you. That's something that can be done over Zoom, doesn't have to be in person. Maybe would be powerful to do periodic group mstar ritual via Zoom that would consist of meditations with guardians (inner and outer). Just to build relationships. Once a quarter in place of the school chat, maybe?
- Laura: part of respecting Tony's time is talking w/him about ideas and letting him say no.
- Sandra: Tony nearly burned all the way out; he has guilt around saying No, so wants to be careful before asking anything of him. This reaches beyond personal gnosis and into the school – who we are and what we do and how we do it. It's why she's bringing it here and not to the teaching pillar.
- Discussion about how to talk to Tony about it.
- Discussion around online format feeling like an echo chamber, you aren't getting body language/nodding/etc. If you post a thing you only see what people post, not whether people are thinking about it. Online format is all the worst parts of driver syndrome where you think of yourself as invisible and react to things in a way you never would in person.
- Sandra: would like a distinct/concise sentence about our vision for the school.
- Laura getting Zoom fatigue, let's discuss over email? Letting things settle and letting us ruminate
- New Business
- Action Items
 - Laura
 - Email each pillar, send written report for next month.
 - Google doc for New Moon and All-School chat signups.
 - Registrar info set up with Louise and John
 - Fee calendar (with John)
 - Sandra
 - Ping Tony about Guardian/elemental work
 - Update minute book
 - Bylaws amendments
 - Putting accounting stuff together for The D&O Insurance
- Confirm next month's call – February 13, 2021 10am Pacific
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.

Adjourned at 11:42am