



In this packet...

**S**ecrets are purchased with promises. Promise you won't tell. Promise you won't care. I'll tell you a secret so disconcerting that I have never told it to anyone before. Promise it won't upset you. Secrets are bought with promises and I have many secrets to sell - I mean, to tell.

Secrets are purchased with promises because it is with promises that they are made. A secret carves a tiny room inside your life, a tiny room without windows. The door is locked. Only a very few can enter and no one is free to leave.

# Welcome to Mystery School 2002

Dear Mysteries

January 2002

**It begins. We begin.** A myth is the way we story the world. Grab that thread . Let it lead you into the past, into a time that is not your time and into a story that is not your story. It is not yours and yet, this story holds the blueprint for the reality that lined your cradle. With pen in hand, the work begins. Our job... to re-story the world.

**For this year**, in the arms of this community... let's create. Tools for that creation are in your hands or on their way to you.

**The Book of Shadows** is your journal for the year. Curl up with it and read it through, like looking at the map before you being the journey, it will give you the shape of the year to come.

**The Myth, Magic and Community** booklet will tell you about the Grove. It will also tell you about the philosophy that shapes the work we offer you.

**The Bones of Mystery School** is for those of you who are new to the Mystery School community. It will give you some background on the way our work has progressed. It will introduce you to our language.

**And finally, the packets.** We recommend the Web for getting your packet. Here's how. Go to our web site ([www.dianasgrove.com](http://www.dianasgrove.com)). Click on the ball of yarn or "Mystery School Packets". Then enter the user name: mystery. Then the password: tlatm02 (all lower case). Point to January Packet and click and there it is. You need Adobe Reader. If you don't have it , then click on the link and follow their instructions. Its free and you only need to download it once. Problems? Call us. 573-689-2400. We will get a Computer Savvy Mystery to help you.

**If you are getting your packet by E mail**, you should have it. If you don't, **Call**. We will want to confirm your email address. **If your packet is coming through the mail**, it should arrive with in minutes of this newsletter.

**I look forward to meeting and re-meeting all of you.** This year, introductions will go on the web. And Mystery02, the email line, is a place of myth where mortals talk and Goddesses and Gods move among us. Your computer is one way to move Between the Worlds. I hope that you will all be a part of this discussion. The first subject offered on Mystery02@Topic.com is: What is the nature of Magic? My answer is: Interaction. Interaction is the nature of magic. Exchange brings change. For magic to change the patterns of life time that are whisper in our soul's, it's going to take all of us! Jump in!

Welcome to Mystery School, Magicians All.

Cynthia



## Life as a Sacred Path...Musings from The Book of Shadows

by Jane Holt

"The fates lead him who will. Him who won't, they drag." A Roman saying.(found in The Book of Shadows)

**I have to laugh.** I was just reading Skippy's article, after she trotted in and dropped it at my feet. (Oh, you may want to read Skippy's article first to get a sense of just who Skippy is.) I just wish I had her pizzazz. She is always ready for an adventure. She is always ready to dive in and just take off. Skippy loves beginnings. Now me, well I believe I would prefer that the water never came above my ankles and was always pleasantly lukewarm.

**Now it seems probable that someone like Skippy,** with her sense of self confidence and willingness for adventure would thrive in a personal growth program like this. And she does. What about someone like me? That's the funny part. I thrive too, just in a different way. While I envy Skippy's aplomb, yes that is the appropriate word for Skippy. I am more of a plodder. I don't love beginnings, the middle feels like work and the end, well it's suddenly over and I often feel like I missed something important.

**I keep plodding away because the work sustains me.** It fills me, it helps me be a kinder and happier person and makes me feel more alive. That doesn't mean that I always enjoy the journey. In fact, I crumble a lot. This month, this beginning month, is no exception.

**Why has Cynthia put the dedication to ourselves at the beginning?** That's like starting off on the Advanced Skier's hill instead of the Bunny hill. Suddenly, wham, I'm facing some of my most difficult issues. All I did was innocently take that first step toward the Labyrinth. I raised my hand and said, "I'll walk this path." Then I heard a voice asking, "And just who are you who is willing to walk this path?"

**I believe I truly hate that question. Who am I?** My answers always seem inadequate. I always feel as if I am missing huge hunks of myself. Could it be if I would just look around the corner I would be amazed at who I am? I avoid taking that look. Am I afraid? Maybe. But why? I don't really believe I will find a monster, a Minotaur, at my core. I know I am basically a good person. What is around that corner that scares me? What is around that corner, period.

**This year I intend to find out.** I intend to not only look around those corners, but to walk around them as well. I intend to take a good hard look at what I find and reclaim that which I choose to reclaim. I have that choice. I have the ability and the right to make that choice. And that is a revelation. It is a revelation to realize that I have both the ability and the right to choose who I want to be. It has been a long time coming, this revelation. I have the ability and the right to answer that question anyway I want to. Who am I? I am myself. I am who I choose to be. It is a simple answer after all.

**The problem is, I've found** that it usually takes me years to fill in the details of life's simple answers. I suppose that I could do worse with my life. Oh, much worse. Such as spending years letting other people answer that question for me. I seem to have wiggled my way into a dedication to myself after all. My dedication is to Myself. Simply that. To myself! I dedicate



myself to being whoever I choose to be. I dedicate myself to being me, in all my fullness, with all my shadows and secrets and with all my promise.



## The Priestess Path

**Who walks this path??** The labyrinth lies before us, each circuit offers us a challenge. Each circuit asks us, as Priestesses, to make a promise, a promise to the community we serve about the work we offer. It asks us to hold a secret next to our heart, a secret that will enable us to keep our promise. And... as you might know, each circuit, each challenge that we accept, gives us the opportunity to walk through a shadow, to face a fear and transform it. **This page of the newsletter is dedicated to this work** and to the Priestess's journey through the maze that leads to ministry, to accountable leadership. January begins by looking in the mirror and seeing who we are as we answer the question: Who walks this path?

**Here is what each group will explore:**

**Small Group Facilitation:** A small group discussion is a ritual, a ritual of speaking and listening, a ritual of risk and trust, a ritual of community making. In small groups, eye to eye, the Priestess takes the magical name, Facilitator. Her job, to be the one who makes interaction easy. Who walks this path? One who wants to learn the art of holding focus, creating process, establishing and maintaining boundaries and bringing relevance and depth to a group experience.

**Trance Language:** What is the difference between the language of our everyday speaking and the language of the unconscious - the language of trance? What gifts does that language offer us? Why do we care? How do we learn to speak this language and use it in our ritual work?

**Creating and Sustaining Healthy Community:** Are you called to be a healer, to learn the skills of authenticity that invoke authenticity in others? The soul yearns to interact. The choice to be involved calls forth the Priestess. Creating community is the first step. Creating healthy community is the intention. Sustaining that community is the magic.

**Ritual Arts:** The group and the intention are the two most important elements of any ritual. All the other elements, including those who choose to priestess must serve these two elements: The Group and the Intention. What Values lie deep within your center that drive you to hone skills of relentless support? Why do you want to learn the art that blends participants, intention and that which we call Mystery into the dance of Transformation?

**The Gathering:** We will talk about the nature of the Magic that is the Gathering: How do rhythm, sound and interaction turn a group of individuals into a group? Here is the Mystery. Each person is valuable, is person is necessary. With respect and intention, we call you in. In January we will introduce the skills that we will focus on during the coming year and the process that will enable you to develop these skills.

**This work will be discussed on [Cauldron02@topica.com](mailto:Cauldron02@topica.com).** If you are coming to the Grove, even just once, and plan to attend one of these groups, let us know so you can be a part of the ongoing discussion and exploration.



## Meta - Physical and Meta -Phor

by Cynthia Jones

A meta was a Greek Column placed at the farthest most boundary. It marked the end, the goal, the place after which things begin to change. As a prefix, meta means a statement about the general or inherent nature. And so, Meta-physical could mean... standing on the boundary of the physical world, let's talk about the nature of physical reality. Metaphor could mean... standing on the edge of form, let me talk about the nature of form. But Meta seems to look out and not back in. Meta means "beyond the boundary", that which is beyond. Meta also means "transfer". To transfer that which is within the boundary onto that which is beyond it. Metaphysical means beyond the physical. It refers to a process of transferring physical reality onto a non-physical world. Metaphor is transferring the description of one thing onto another. And why do we do all of this Meta transferring? So we can go beyond the known and bring back transcendence in the language of the world.

This year's work is held in the 7 circuit pattern of the labyrinth that sits in our meadow. Seven is a magic number, a number dear to ancient meta-physicians. Long ago life's great mysteries were neatly tied together with 7 strings. There were 7 planets that circled the earth, 7 colors in the rainbow, 7 centers in the body, 7 archetypes that gave us 7 steps on the path to self development. There were 7 days between moon phases - new to half and half to full. Full to half and half to new. If the moon, the fastest moving "planet", circled the earth in 28 days. Saturn (or Cronus) the long ago last planet, the meta planet that held the boundaries, circled the earth in 28 years, 7 years to a phase, just like the moon.

Now Saturn or time does not hurry for anyone, and so Saturn's 28 year cycle might take 29 years. This great initiator might visit his point of origin 3 times before taking another stroll around world, your chart and your life. Seven, it is a tidy number and one that is still dear to metaphysicians, magicians and labyrinth makers. This page will talk about the number, archetype, planet or astrological quality, color and chakra -center in the body-associated with each circuit. These principles - they are dedicants. These Metaphors and Metaphysical ideas, they are dedicants who dedicate their wisdom to a portion of your journey through the pattern of life.

The dedicants await. A principle has been invoked. It waits along the path. It waits... and then it leaps out, full of promises and secrets. It catches you in its shadow and coaxes you to dance through your fears. Then it brushes off its hands and turns to catch the next Mystery who comes its way.

In February, we will enter the labyrinth. You will meet the number 1, the magician, the 1 chakra, the color red-blood red and the color black, and Saturn, Cronus - the keeper of time and form. But this month... who is the keeper of the place before the beginning? Don't read the rest until you have done all of the work in the packet for this archetype might answer the question that you are asked to ask yourself. Who walks this path? The fool does, that's who. The fool does, that's you. That's you and me and everyone who has had the courage to jump into the unknown and take on the adventure of finding out. Zero, the nothing that holds everything, is the Fool's number. My favorite fool is the one Lady Frieda Harris created for the Thoth deck, a.k.a. the Crowley Deck. That Fool has the sun glowing in his first chakra. He has golden feet that are ready to go. His open heart sends out a spiral. A whirlwind of feeling leads his way into life. With golden feet and an open heart, he is the keeper of the mystery of all that can be and all that will be. Don't be fooled by the fool's guise. One fool can ask more question than an 100 wise men can answer.



## The Tools of Mystery by Teri Parsley Sarnes

**"And you who seek to know Me, know that your seeking and yearning will avail you not, unless you know the Mystery. That which you seek, you find not within yourself, you will never find it without."**

The Charge of the Star Goddess, adapted by Starhawk from Doreen Valiente.

The science and art of astrology is the curious practice of taking two seemingly unconnected things, the universe without and the universe within, and finding the pattern that tells the story of meaning for both. For me, how astrology works is not important. What matters to me is that when the edge of the Mystery within touches the edge of the Mystery without, I discover that my spirit is infinite and boundless. This state is both my goal and my starting place when I use astrology in a sacred manner, when I ponder the energy of the moment and my evolutionary growth.

We begin the year hearing from Daedalus, the engineer/magician/artist who walked the edges of Mystery to craft a labyrinth, a device that brings us to our infinite and boundless spirit. Daedalus is the Magician who resides in each of us. We each have the capacity to dialog with Mystery spontaneously, yet it is also possible to build a craft of magic by applying the tools of the Magician. In the Tarot, we see the Magician with the tools of the deck: a sword, a wand, a cup and a pentacle. Astrology's tools are the planets, signs, houses and aspects. Alone, each of these tools tells a revealing story; together, they unlock the Mystery of the heavens.

The planets are the starry wanderers that the ancient people treated as gods in the sky. I see these beings as allies and teachers, the prime movers of astrology. Each planet has a particular mission and a particular area of expertise. It tells its particular myth and it can be called upon, as we call upon the gods, to help us with our challenges and goals. We can consult the planets for wisdom. They always have an agenda for us—a personal growth plan that is spelled out in your birthchart. To begin your relationship with the planets, I recommend Caroline Casey's "Making the Gods Work for You" which deals with the planets as gods. Steven Forrest's book "The Inner Sky" is a great introduction to all the basic tools of astrology.

Begin by learning the myths and qualities of the planets. The names we use for the planets are the Roman version of the Greek names. They are introduced in the packet. When I sit down to write, I like to call upon Mercury to help me express myself. I might call upon Saturn to help me set my intention and stick to it. The planets are set in the picture of who you are, your birthchart. They also moving through the sky telling new stories. After we begin to see the planets as Beings of Mystery, we can move on to the next tool to add complexity to the story.

The signs of the zodiac are like genetic codes for the gods to manifest through. Next month, as we discuss foundation, we can look at the Planets, the Gods and Goddesses, as they move through the seasons - the signs.

There are many ways to acquire the Magician's tools and many ways to use them to hone our skills. Many paths lead us to Mystery. Your heart will tell you which one is for you. If astrology is yours, may you enjoy discovering the wealth of wonder that these tools can reveal. May we remember that all we seek is always first within.

Join [Astology02@Topica.Com](mailto:Astology02@Topica.Com) to talk about astrology and eavesdrop on the conversations of the stars.



### Community Offerings

The **Midwest Reclaiming Intensive** will be held June 8-15, 2002 at Diana's Grove. This year's theme will be "Demeter's Song" with a focus on abundance and prosperity. Full details available at [www.dreamweaving.org](http://www.dreamweaving.org).

**Chicago.** Workshop on **Ecstatic Ritual** - connecting to the Elements and the Divine through rhythm, voice, and movement with T. Thorn Coyle and Teresa Roberts. March 29, 2002 7-10pm. All-day workshop on "**The Black Heart of Innocence**", a tool of the Feri tradition inviting us to explore our connection to the deepest parts of our souls. With T. Thorn Coyle and Teresa Roberts, March 30, 2002 from 10am-9pm - Contact Teresa at [LabyrinthTR@aol.com](mailto:LabyrinthTR@aol.com) for more details.

**Michigan: Cybeles:** for details: 231-828-5666 or [info@cybeles.com](mailto:info@cybeles.com) or [www.cybeles.com](http://www.cybeles.com)

Feb: 2, **Candlemas Ritual**, Women's Retreat weekend. March 1-3, **Frame Drum, Voice and Movement workshop with Glen Velez**. Glen will introduce his unique teaching style, the **HANDANCE METHOD** - Tambourine and tar. No previous experience necessary.

**Kansas City** - contact The Gaia Community for rituals and workshops in this area. 816-931-9900 or on the web at [www.gaiacommunity.org](http://www.gaiacommunity.org)

### Coming Events at the Grove

**February - A 4-Day Drum and Trance Intensive.** This weekend is open to Mysteries and Friends. If you want to throw yourself into the language of change, this weekend is for you. It will work with trance language, dedicating your voice to speaking to the deep self, using the drum to awaken the dreamer within, and to providing opportunities for all participants to offer trance to the group. Learn the basics or deepen your skills. We consider this weekend to be a tutorial with lots of time, opportunities and individual attention. Early reg. \$195

**Opening Mystery School II.** Yes - January Mystery School is full, but if you want a second chance to be first - come on! This month is dedicated to foundations. We will meet the seasons that hold the Corners of the Universe and the Grandmother of Time. We will light the first circuit of the Labyrinth. Early reg. \$165

**March... That month of Contracts - Relating** - A Weekend for Mysteries, Friends, Partners and Families. A weekend to lay the cornerstones in a relationship that matters - be that with a lover, friend, or as a Circle. The focus - Contract and Agreements, Communicating with those who matter most, and Understanding the Nature of Personal Reality. Early Reg. \$165

**Women's Spring Equinox** - This Open weekend - Open to friends we have yet to meet - will bring together Mysteries, women new to the Grove and a few Equinoxians - women who make this weekend a part of their spring planting. It is a great way to introduce the Grove to your women friends. Demeter (Ceres) is looking forward to having time to tell her story with the help of Hecate and Persephone (Kore) - of course. Early reg. \$165

**March Mystery School - Contracts with the Divine...** Sign up quick. This weekend is filling up. Poseidon is glad. He really wants a lot of witnesses at this one. Early Reg \$165



## Introducing Skippocles - Is it a Goddess or is it a Dog

Skippy's editors are going to be working pretty hard this year to keep up with this rambunctious pup. She's definitely got the proverbial leash between her teeth and is ready to go. Remember that Skippy is really only a dog (well, ok, one could hardly call her only a dog, but...), the bottom line is that Skippy is a dog. A most unique dog; the term "Dog-In-Charge" is only the beginning of her numerous titles. She runs the dog population of Diana's Grove, and often the people as well. These days the dog population is down to a manageable 11. Many dogs found many wonderful new homes last year. The truth is, although we claim to be a retreat center, it is just a front for the real purpose of Diana's Grove; which is rescuing dogs and relocating them to great new homes. Skippy's job, which she does with aplomb, is to know what everyone is doing and to keep all the two-legged and the four-legged ones peaceful. She is a fearless and skilled group facilitator and a fine, prolific writer. Now, allow us to let Skippy introduce herself to all of you.

The Prologue: Fair friends and eager readers, join me if you will, as I speed you away to another time and place. Let your imagination drift and gradually settle upon a balmy Mediterranean evening. A starry sky overlooks an ancient amphitheater filling with people. The amphitheater rests on the edge of a cliff which overlooks the Mediterranean itself. Gentle breezes rustle between the marble columns and play with the torch flames. This is a different time than the present time. An earlier time. The columns stand tall and whole, encircling the theater and giving it form. The marble seats are smooth and almost filled by the eager audience arriving. The torches light the stage with dancing shadows that make one think the play has already begun. The audience settles itself and becomes hushed in anticipation. Something extraordinary is about to happen.

Out from those shadows strolls a wonderfully beautiful red-gold dog. The dancing light from the torches illuminate her Magnificent body as she glides towards the front of the stage. Her body is fit and sleek from still being able to outrun any other dog in The Games. Here and there a few gray hairs are telltale signs of wisdom earned and a life led with courage and daring. The touch of gray gives her elegance and stature.

As she reaches the edge of the stage she stops and gracefully lifts her head. Gradually, but with growing excitement she scans the eager faces of the audience. Her tail begins to quiver and then starts to wag happily. Suddenly her excitement explodes. "Alright!", She says "It's you guys! It's the Mysteries! You're here! You're here! Is this just not too cool? Its starting again and we get to play the best roles." The Mysteries respond with a standing ovation. They too have been waiting for this moment. They have been waiting to meet.....**Skippocles**, Ancient World Traveler and Sometime Greek Chorus.

Yes, I have played many roles over the years from Skippena, Warrior Princess to Skippaway, Great Shaman of the E Vorg. But this year, well this year might be my best and most appropriate part. I get to tell you all What's Really Going On. I've often done that covertly, but this year it's what I'm suppose to do. I mean, the Greek Chorus has the best part. They get to come onto the stage any old time they want to and their job is to tell the audience all the stuff they need to know about who is doing what to whom and when and where it's all happening. Occasionally they even give the audience some hints as to why it's all happening. You have to admit those ancient Greeks were a little convoluted and sometimes it takes some explanation. I am so well suited for this job. I've always kept track of everybody and now it's official. If you want to know what's happening this year just send your dinars or should that be dinners to **Skippocles**, **She Who Knows and Plans on Telling**.