

# The Pellet

Newsletter of the Athens Area Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

## *Welcome!*

Welcome to the first issue of The Pellet, part of the Athens area CUUPS outreach program. On the following pages you'll find the work of fellow members and friends. There is also a calendar of events, probably the heart of the newsletter. There have been some wonderful and exciting rituals and events of the last year. For the coming months, there are new classes and workshops being planned. This newsletter is part of our way of letting everyone in on the fun! And with that having been said, I hope you enjoy this first issue.

Blessed Be,  
Melinda

## Book Review

*Drawing Down the Moon*, by Margot Adler

*Drawing Down the Moon* is unique. It offers an anthropological study of neo-paganism from the critical eye of an insider. Adler discusses many of the pagan sects in existence in the 1970's and 1980's. While several of these groups and organizations are now gone -- and many new ones have sprung up to take their place -- this book is the place to go if you want greater understanding of the pagan movement. Within these pages lie our cultural and historical heritage -- the foundations on which we all build.

Another thing Adler accomplishes with her book is the description of paganism as a true religious movement, which many outsiders, not really knowing what it's all about, have trouble grasping. The notion of paganism as a strange, mis-informed cult group is dispelled for anyone after reading just the first section. Instead, Adler states, "The real message of *Drawing Down the Moon* is that the spiritual world is like the natural world -- only diversity can save it." (vii)

At a bit over 500 hundred pages, the book is a bit of a reading endurance test. Also, in some areas, it's easy to get bogged down. I recommend persistence, as the book is well worth the effort. Reading it in stages helps, so don't feel guilty if you put it down and go on to something else, only to return hours or days later.

The revision adds updated research, and Adler's commentary to the first edition's text. These are added on at the end of each chapter, in keeping with their reflective nature. There are also some added sections, such as Norse paganism and men's spirituality. And while the resource section is a bit dated, several of the organizations listed still exist, making Adler's review of them invaluable.

-- by Tilly