

Greetings, fellow clanmates, Druids, *lovers of Dreamland*, friends, chosen family members, I am Mariposa- or Olivia- King of May to say a few encouraging words. Let me start with a story.

May 6, 2023, was my commencement date, and I decided to celebrate it doing something else instead of going to my graduation. I saw an ad in the Wisdom Keepers Facebook group for a Beltane celebration.

What the heck is Beltane? I told my oldest daughter about it and declared: This is how I'm going to celebrate my commencement, and they agreed to meet me there. I drove over by myself from the NEK- my kids and my good friend were to meet me there later- I approached the registration table- and was greeted by a magical, beautiful being wearing wings-

I don't remember who she was, but she asked me if I've ever been to dreamland before, asked me my name, I told her I was celebrating my commencement- this person was my first impression of dreamland, and I'm fairly certain she was a probably part of a Druid clan- she had a magical, inviting energy for sure-

I walked around saw a few vendors, some different people, all friendly and happy- there was something about the land- something about the energy of everyone- that I was instantly drawn to- It was a special place- it was safe- the people were safe- and my oldest who had never been there either, must have known it was going to be a special gathering- my oldest is a transwoman- (newly out to me at the time) and they must have instinctively known this would be a gathering amongst a magical safe community- when they arrived to meet me at the Beltane celebration- they were wearing a dress- it was the first time I saw my daughter wearing a dress- she wanted to be her authentic self – she was beautiful.

We spent a few hours walking around, sat under the Druid Apple trees on the swing, went to the fairy well and sang songs with a beautiful human that I would soon affectionately call Auntie Bear- watched a magical man blow bubbles- this man would later- unknown to him- be crowned King of May- King Puck

I stayed for the choosing of the new King and Queen and for the dance around the Maypole and the closing ceremony- and in all my years of seeking different spiritual paths- I have **NEVER Experienced** the type of **authenticity and magic** as I did that day amongst the Druids and like-minded folks- it called to me and I answered....

That week I signed up for Druid school. I contacted Fearn- did my interview online, went out and bought a tent and a cooler and have not regretted a single second since.

I was called- CALLED into Druidry as I imagine many of you were/ are.

I didn't know what to expect- what to anticipate – I didn't know what I was doing- I didn't know anyone. **I listened and I showed up.**

My first year as a Bard was incredible- it was healing and my magical child came out **PERMANENTLY !**

Theres no putting that girl back!

Now I'm in my ovate year- started off quite different, not with the same momentum – I eventually left transitioned to home study

Fast forward to May 2024- Beltane- I'm excited to be at dreamland and to see my clan-mates and druid family- this time I'm with my partner and his son- it's exciting- it's magical- the maypole is gone, and things have been changed up a bit from last Beltane- but It's just as magical.

Called into action- as a Pole-EE I followed the other Pole-ees as King Puck lead us down near Maple hall- and he passed the little squares of cake. I have a wicked sweet tooth- and those little lemon squares looked really good- the tray came to me and I looked for the smallest bite size square- and low and behold somehow the smallest piece also had the magic marble ...oh fuck I'm king. I just wanted a little taste of lemon cake...

But it's an honor. I listened and I showed up.

And now fast forward to today. This school is young- it's 19 years young- it's a child- if it was a person- and

The saying that it takes a village to raise a child is true. We are that village, Druid school is our child- it's all of ours.

The School is a lifestyle – a safe, healing, magical, living entity- with a beautiful foundation- it's strong- its young- let's continue to build it, expand it,

It's filled with DOZENS of amazing teachers. Every member past and present has gifts- we can all- with support teach in some kind of capacity-

Why are we Druids- Why have we chosen this path? Is it a check in our bucket list box or is it more?

Let it be more!- you all Listened to a call and **are showing up.**

The Order and the School are intertwined- they need each other.

This change is an opportunity for growth and yes- there's going to be growing pains- but I'm so excited to see this transformation.

We got this! All of us working together can help this school to continue to grow and take a new shape.

Thank you for listening and showing up!

With Love and gratitude,

May King Mariposa (Olivia)