Mentoring

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

A Mentor ensures that all students have a common understanding of the Tradition of Correllian Wicca: what it is and what it is not.

Mentors help students along their path to stretch to their full potential. A mentoring relationship is where one wiser and more experienced person assists another person to grow and to learn. It is perhaps the most effective way to teach the desired way to do things and pass on a culture.

A true Mentor will never hurt or manipulate any students. They get personal satisfaction seeing the student implement what they are teaching so that the student can grow and succeed beyond them. The wisest of Mentors won't offer the answers unless the student is brave enough to ask the questions. A Mentor has a sincere desire to enhance the success of others.

A Mentor sets a good moral example and will practice what they preach. Mentors are diligent observers and active listeners.

Mentoring is a two-way street. The Mentor benefits from the opportunity to strengthen his or her leadership skills. At the same time the student benefits from the experience of their Mentor. Mentoring is a partnership.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MENTOR?

Please remember a good Mentor is not going to be the end all and be all of knowledge. Mentors are human too, and make mistakes. Be charitable with your judgment. A good mentor is willing to admit and fix their mistakes. Often times good mentors must make hard decisions that may be unpopular with their students. If you are having a hard time with a difficult decision, ask a Senior Mentor. Keep in mind that we as mentors have to make a choice based on our best judgment, experience, knowledge, and instincts. A good mentor will be as fair as they can be, but sometimes a fair judgment is unpopular.   As YOU have made the decision to become a Mentor, it is up to you to remember to keep to the Correllian view of Wicca and ethics. This is instrumental in keeping the tradition intact and to keep the respect that it deserves. Regardless of your other teachings or religious beliefs or affiliations, you are here to Mentor the Correllian tradition.

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

* Why do I want to be a Mentor?
* Do I have the time to do this? How many students will I be willing to Mentor? Since most students will take the full year to complete this course, am I willing to make the long-term commitment?
* Do I have the necessary knowledge and experience? Am I proficient in the basic Correllian ritual skills? Do I have a good understanding of the Sabbats and Esbats?  Do I have the skills to mentor others? Do I have the patience? Can I explain theories in a simple manner? Am I able to be honest with your students about their shortcomings as well as their strengths?
* Am I willing to answer the same question a thousand times? Can I keep breaking down the answer to that question until the student understands? Am I willing to work individually with slower students to help them?
* Am I willing to go through refresher courses so that I will able to field the questions my students have?
* Would I think of myself as a teacher? Someone who guides their students in their own personal, yet spiritual growth and development?
* Am I willing to also be a part of a family in spirit? Am I willing to respect my fellow Correllians and to revere the Correllian Tradition?
* Am I also willing to be a friend to all students, to help them when they need it the most?
* Am I willing to reassure them in their failures, and encourage them in trying times, and congratulate them in triumph?
* Am I prepared to reassure them when they experience new things, and to help ease their fears of what they do experience?
* Am I willing to confer with other mentors if I myself are unable to answer a question, or if I am in doubt of something?
* Can I set clear expectations and ground rules?
* Have you shared with your mentor your desire to mentor students?
* Have you asked your mentor for a recommendation for you to become a mentor? If not, why not?

CORRELLIAN VIEWS THAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT AS A MENTOR

As a Mentor it is your 'responsibility' that the student completely understand the Correllian Views.

The Correllian Tradition follows the Three Degree system of Traditional Wicca. Today many Wiccan Traditions have moved to a Two Degree system, eliminating the Third Degree. We however, favor the traditional system, believing that each of the Three Degrees has an importance of its own.

Correllianism does put an unusually strong emphasis on the philosophical aspects of Wicca, and on the spirituality and inner mysteries of the Wiccan religion, but liturgically our beliefs do not especially differ from those of other Wiccan Traditions. Rather it is our attitudes toward the Pagan community and its future that tends to set us apart.

The Correllian Nativist Tradition is founded upon the teachings of the High-Correll family. The Correllian Tradition is dedicated to fostering communication and co-operation between Pagan peoples everywhere, and to improving and securing the status and legal rights of Pagans as an ethnic group.

Because we believe all paths lead to Deity, we do not believe that one must belong to any given faith or tradition to be a good person or to grow spiritually. Nor is it necessary to belong to only one. Being a Correllian initiate DOES NOT mean you can not also be an Isian, Druidic, or Dianic initiate as well -or any other Tradition you might wish to study or join. You must however respect our tradition as a member and follow Correllian practices in Correllian temples.

The ancient rule of Wicca is "Do As You Will, But Harm None." Magic is a great power, and can be a great responsibility, and you do well to use it wisely. Everything you do comes back to you, through Karma. Every action you take, in time you will also experience from the receiving end. So that when you do something good for another, you are also doing something good for yourself, as you will eventually experience the same good as a recipient. But if you do harm, that same harm you ultimately do to yourself. This is very important to understand and remember. You should bear it in mind in every aspect of your life, including the magic you practice. To do harm is not only wrong in itself, but ultimately hurts the doer.

Positive energy, good wishes, and general healing energy are always good provided that they do not try to force an outcome on the situation. So long as such energy is sent with the stipulation that it be used only in agreement with the person's/soul's free will, and to aid in bringing about the best possible outcome for their situation as they/their soul sees it, rather than a specific outcome.

It should also be born in mind that sometimes the subject of the magic, might specifically refuse permission for you to proceed with any magical workings. Their objections may be on religious grounds or simple discomfort with the prayer. That person may have several reactions to your well-intended work. They may become very angry about it or may hold the source against the healing, therefore, reject any good that comes as being from what they consider to be an impure source. In extreme cases they may even try to undo it, or come to feel badly about themselves because of it. You must understand if you are working for a specific outcome, it is always best to have the persons' permission.

You should bear in mind that what seems best to you may not always seem best to the person involved -and in the end it is that person who must live with the direct results of the situation.

Correllian Wiccans believe in the 'Law of Three'. This means that what you do comes back to you not only once, but multiple times. Some Wiccans believe that the number 'three' in the Threefold Law is meant to be taken literally -that the Karma of our actions returns to us exactly three times. In the Correllian Tradition we consider the number 'three' to be symbolic of plurality in general, rather than a specific number of times. Thus in Correllian terms the 'Law of Three' means that you will experience the Karma of your actions as many times as necessary to learn the necessary lesson.

OUTER COURT & INNER COURT

Outer Court Members are registered members of the Tradition who are NOT members of the Priesthood. Outer Court Members may attend public ceremonies, take part in many Temple activities, and belong to Temple Orders. The Outer Court constitutes the laity of the Tradition. By far the larger numbers of Correllians are Outer Court Members, and they form the backbone of our Tradition.

The Inner Court, or Priesthood of the Tradition, is much harder to join. We accept students readily, but students for the Priesthood must study hard and pass a series of tests to prove their knowledge. Our Lessons for First Degree Priesthood are considered among the best available, and cover many subjects, which the student is expected to learn about in depth.

A Dedicant is a person who has dedicated a period of one year and one day to study and training toward the Priesthood. During this period the Dedicant is considered a member of the Inner Court. At the end of their year and a day there are ONLY two choices.

The Dedicant may return to Outer-court status, or request First Degree initiation. The Mentor should find out at the end of the First Degree course what the student wants to do.

The First Degree Priest/ess should be familiar with the details of the Wiccan faith, having a thorough grounding in Wiccan philosophy and traditions. The First Degree Priest/ess should be able to answer most questions about Wicca on a practical (as opposed to philosophical) level. The First Degree Priest/ess should be able to take any role in ritual with reasonable confidence, short of ritual leader. The symbol of the First Degree is the downward-facing triangle that symbolizes the Goddess. This triangle portrays Spirit (Goddess) descending into Matter (God), through the medium of the journey of the Soul. This represents the First Degree as a phase in which the initiate is suffused with the Spirit of the Goddess, and immersed in spiritual study and practice.

It has been decided to leave the Second Degree open to everyone who passes First Degree, not just those who go on to Initiation, because we feel that everyone can benefit from the information, even if they do not become Correllian.

STUDENT AGE REQUIRMENTS

At Witchschool.com we can accept students at the age of 13, however, they CANNOT be initiated/become clergy until the age of 18. As a mentor, you personally can say (and include this info in your about me Mentor page) you won't take anyone under 18 or 21.

There is a system in place which will allow you to choose:

- no new students

- students 13-17

-students 18-21

-students 21 and over

Or any combination thereof.

Basically, students who don't fit your age group will not be allowed to choose you as a mentor.

As far as a Mentor for 13-17 years old, Ed Hubbard and his daughter Sherry will be their Mentors unless others choose to accept teens.

Ages 13-17 can register, and are not blocked unless their parents have placed these restrictions on their computer. If a parent learns their child is registered, and do not want them to be, then we will remove them. No child is allowed to be exposed to pornography, nudity, or truly adult themes, which we have NONE of.

These are the legal requirements. We are no different then teen magazines, television shows, or other educational systems for religion. The difference is that we hold ourselves to a higher standard, and we are always more concerned then even the law requires.

 RECORD KEEPING

It is realized that even though Witchschool.com is on-line, and that records are kept on-line, that there are apt to be some glitches. It would therefore behoove the Mentors to keep a notebook on their students. This is something you can update every week or every 2 weeks.

Useful information would include: the student's name, alias, email, location, age, gender and which lesson that they are up to, when the test for that lesson was taken and their grade.

If you choose to run an on-line Study group, keep track of who responds and who doesn't. Post questions to the group and to the students individually.

You may also choose to hold 'chat' sessions with your students. Keep a record of who participates.

These personal records you keep off-line will be helpful when students need a recommendation to become a Mentor themselves.

MORALE

This is a very important part of being a mentor. Morale can make or break a student.

What is Morale? Confidence, self-esteem, self-confidence, poise, self-respect, and pride. It is up to you as the Mentor to try to instill these qualities in your students.

How do you maintain Morale? Congratulate students who pass lesson tests. Encourage those who have problems. Support those who might be slower. Promote confidence within the student. Maintain contact with your students. Guide your students through the Exercises in each lesson. Help your students help others. Involve the students in their own learning. Ask questions. Answer questions in a timely manor. Don't leave the student waiting for a response.

As a mentor you will quite possibly be considered: a role model, a challenger, a teacher, an advisor, an approachable counselor and an encourager.

Most students will take the multiple-choice tests. However, please keep in mind that we also offer essay tests for each lesson. You may have one or a few students who learn better this way. Everyone learns differently and some students have learning and comprehension disabilities.

PROPOSED QUESTION FOR MENTORS TO ASK STUDENTS:

* What do you expect to learn from this course?
* Have you had any past experience with Wicca?
* What is your current view of Wicca?
* Why did you pick me as your mentor?
* What, if any, books have you read?
* How much do you think (at this early point) you want to participate in the Correllian tradition?
* Are you taking this course for information only?
* Are you taking this course with the idea of receiving your First Degree?
* Are you willing to take the time needed to learn this tradition?
* Are you willing to participate in an email study group or chat session?

INFO FOR MENTORS TO TELL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Usually this info is included in your Bio at Witchschool. But it wouldn't hurt to include it in introductory or welcome letters to students.

* what your history is with pagan/witch/Wiccan associations.
* your expectations of your students.
* your website if you have one
* your aol/yahoo messenger names
* your goals as a mentor
* any on line group you have relating to the Correllian tradition
* a little of personal history - age; M/F; married, etc; geographical location
* fields of specialty or experience