



Photos by Mark Souder

# A Gathering of Faeries

by Jay Brown

Late last month, 85 faeries gathered for a weekend of communion and play at the beautiful community of Breitenbush Hot Springs. The gathering was the third held in Oregon and one of many held each year in different parts of the United States and Europe.

The first fairy gathering was held in Arizona in 1979; the gathering was called by a group of gay activists which included Harry Hay, founder of the first Mattachine Society and One, Inc. Harry Hay has been in the forefront of the radical fairy movement for many years.

Harry and his partner, John Burnside, were at Breitenbush last month; they were kept busy with their "talk-shops" in which they related the history of the radical fairy movement and how the movement can revolutionize the hetero-male dominated world we inhabit.

The following is excerpted from a position paper written by Harry Hay in 1979 in which he outlines his revolutionary concept of a Fairy Vision.

*Towards the new frontiers of Fairy Vision*  
by Harry Hay

This last summer (1979) a wonderful Gay Brother, Don Kilhefner, together with John Burnside, Mitch Walker, and I, evoked a SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE FOR RADICAL FAIRIES to be held in the Arizona Desert. At the opening of that Gathering, we called upon Gay Brothers to tear off the ugly green frog-skin of Hetero-male imitation — in which we had wrapped ourselves in order to get through school with a full set of teeth — to reveal the beautiful Fairy Prince hidden beneath.

Perhaps, before I go any further, I should explain what I mean by Fairy Spirituality. To me the term "spiritual" represents the accumulation of all experiential conscious-

ness from the division of the first cells in the primeval slime, down through all biological political social evolution to your and to my latest insights through Gay Consciousness just a moment ago. What else can we call this overwhelmingly magnificent inheritance, other than spiritual?

The pathways we explored, during our Desert Retreat, to transform ourselves from Hetero-imitating Gays into Radical Fairies were many. Because the old ways of Fairy transformation were obliterated during the nightmarish centuries of Judeo-Christian oppression, we felt ourselves free to invent new ones. So — to begin with —

- we reached out to re-unite ourselves with the cornered, frightened, rejected little Sissy-kids we all once were;
- we reached out to recapture, and restore in full honors, that magic of "being a different species perceiving a different reality" (so beautifully projected almost a century ago by J M Barrie's *Peter Pan*) which may have encapsulated our boyhoods and adolescences;
- we told that *different* boy that he was remembered, loved, and deeply respected;
- we told him we now recognized that he, in true paradox, had always been the real source of our Dream, of our strength to resist, of our stubborn endurance, a strength, again in true paradox, that few Hetero Males can even begin to approach let alone *match*;
- we told that beloved little Sissy that we had experienced a full paradigm shift and that he could now come home at last to be himself in full appreciation.

Carl Jung, in this report, proved to be absolutely right. When the Fairies reached out to make re-union with that long-ago-cast-out

shadow-self so long suppressed and denied, the explosive energies released by the jubiliations of those re-unions were ecstatic beyond belief. When we caught up that lonely little sissy-boy in an ecstatic hug of re-uniting, we were recapturing also the suddenly-remembered sense of awe and wonder of the Marvelous Mother Nature who in those years so powerfully surrounded him, we were — yes — even recapturing the glowing innocence of that Sissy-boy's Dream. And in that Dream, the glowing non-verbal dream of young Gayhood, may lie the key to the enormous and particular contribution that Gay People may have to make to our beloved Humankind; a key known as *subject-SUBJECT Consciousness*.

How to infect other Fairies with the same excitement we bubbled with in the Desert, and have soared and circled with ever since? One way would be to share the steps by which *we* made the breakthroughs to the riveting perceptions hereinafter to be known as subject-SUBJECT Consciousness. And then, beyond that, to share some of the gleaming insights these new dimensions to the Gay Vision lend to problems that heretofore have locked us in.

The world we inherit, the total Hetero-Male-oriented-and-dominated world of Tradition and of daily environment, the SUMMUM BONUM of our history, our philosophy, our psychology, our culture, our very languages of communication, *all* are totally subject-OBJECT in concept, in definition, in evolving, in self-serving orientation. Men and Women are sexually, emotionally, and spiritually *objects* to one another. Under the "Fair Play without-which-there-ain't-no-game" rule: of the Hetero-male aggressive territoriality, even the Hetero-Males, precisely because they conceive of themselves as in life-long competition each with the others, engage themselves endlessly in tug-of-war games of Domination and Submission. The

most lofty system of governance the Hetero-Male has devised — Democracy — must be seen as a domination of Minorities by a Majority, a tyranny of the Majority if you will, Domination-submission, subject-OBJECT. Fair play, the Golden Rule, Equality, Political Persuasion, give-and-take, all of these are conditions of subject-OBJECT thinking. In each of these cases, a given person is the *OBJECT* of another person's perceptions, to be influenced, persuaded, cajoled, jaw-boned, manipulated and therefore, in the last analysis, *controlled*. In the parliaments of government, the game of administration is to persuade Minorities to make of themselves *objects of approval* instead of objects of DISapproval, but *OBJECTS* regardless.

Subject-SUBJECT is a multi-dimensional consciousness which may never be readily conveyable in the Hetero-male-evolved two-dimensional, or Binary, language to which we are presently confined in terms of communication. And we need more than mere words and phrases. We need what Scientists invent out of the whole cloth when they attempt to describe and communicate new concepts: we need working models, a whole new mathematics perhaps, a new poetry - allegories - metaphors - a music - a new way of dancing. *We must re-examine every system of thought heretofore developed*, every Hetero-male-evolved subject-OBJECT philosophy, science, religion, mythology, political system, language, divesting them every one of their binary subject-OBJECT base and re-inserting a subject-SUBJECT relation. Confronted with the loving-sharing Consensus of subject-SUBJECT relationships *all Authoritarianism must vanish*. The Fairy Family Circle, co-joined in the shared vision of LOVE (which is the granting to any other, and all others, that total space wherein each may grow and soar to his own freely-selected full potential, reaching out to one another subject-to-SUBJECT.