Day of the Green Man
(for Solstice)

See the women hang the stalks upside down
wort, laurel & heliotrope, tied off with dyed cord
& placed alongside crystal rocks & mirrors
so to capture long light of the waxing sun
spread their herbs to dry & stir the pots of summer stew.

On midsummer night the men bring shells & stones,
not fish or meats; the beasts are protected at this time
in favor of earth magic. Light & dark will intertwine
as stars begin to punctuate the deepening blue.

Now watch the women raise their skirts to jump
the bale fires, their eyes wild, the air around them
filled with wings & feathers, spirits they can't see
but whose presence they can feel, how their enflamed
skin longs for growth, expansion they become obsessed
with open places this long night, before the oak king comes
back to reclaim his tortured piece of swollen sky made new.

Robt O'Sullivan

Robt O'Sullivan hosted various poetry readings around San Diego from 1997 thru 2007, producing the *Drift Wood Highway* series of San Diego poetry anthologies. Since 2007 he has been hosting the Poets INC (Inland North County) monthly reading for the Escondido Arts Partnership, for whom he serves as a Board member, and is editor/publisher of the annual *Summation Anthology of Poetry+Art*, now in its 15th year. He also serves as a regional editor for the *San Diego Poetry Annual* since 2008.

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