



BAY AREA PAGAN ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

BAPAN

BAPA's Mission is to serve the Pagan community as an information resource and to facilitate the practice of Pagan Spirituality.

LITHA 2004

BAPA NEWS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 27, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place before the June Gaia's Gateway at the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Road. All current members are invited to attend in order to elect new board members and to discuss other issues of importance to the organization. Please come and exercise your membership privileges!

NEXT GAIA'S GATEWAY

**Druidic Ritual with Otter Bay
Protogrove
Sunday, June 27, 6:00 - 9:00 PM**

Otter Bay Protogrove is associated with ADF, a Druid Fellowship. A brief BAPA membership meeting will take place before the ritual.

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HAVING A LITHESOME LITHA

by Michael Dilts

Like Yule (Anglo-Saxon *Geol*), the name of the Sabbat celebrated at the winter solstice, *Litha* (pronounced *LEE-tha* with a voiced or "soft" *th* as in *seethe*) is of Germanic rather than Celtic extraction. It is related to the Modern English words *lithe* and *linden* (as in the tree). The core meaning shared by these words centers on the notion of flexibility, or, to be precise, bendability.

A *lithe* gymnast is supple enough to wrap her or his limbs into a pretzel. A *linden* tree contains a particularly pliant fiber for making cord. *Litha* occurs when the sun stands still (*solstice* itself derives from the Latin words for 'sun' and 'stand') and then "bends" around in the opposite direction. So what better way to celebrate *Litha*, etymologically speaking, than by performing a slow, graceful cartwheel under a linden tree?

Published by:

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GAIA'S GATEWAY

Gaia's Gateway is a monthly open ritual featuring a different Pagan tradition each month. Each Gateway begins with an informative talk, and both the talk and the ritual are led by practitioners of the religion presented. We request a \$5.00 donation from non-members. Gateways are held on the last Sunday of the month from 6pm-9pm in the Fireside Room at the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC, 505 East Charleston Road).

Directions: from Hwy 101, take the San Antonio Road exit West. Turn right on East Charleston. The building is about a mile down on the right-hand side of the road. As soon as you cross Middlefield Road, start looking for the church entrance on your right.

Upcoming Gateways

- Sunday, June 27; 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Druidic Ritual
with Otter Bay Protogrove

CALLING ALL CELTS

Shake out your kilts and come to the Celtic Games!

- *June 26 - Annual Campbell Highland Games and Celtic Gathering*
26th Annual Campbell Highland Games and Celtic Gathering from 9:00 am- 5:00 pm at Campbell Community Center. 408-219-9264, info@campbellgames.com, www.campbellgames.com
- *July 10, 11 - Dunsmuir Highland Games*
Dunsmuir Highland Games from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at Dunsmuir House and Gardens, 2960 Peralta Oaks Ct., Oakland. 510-615-5555, mcarden@ix.netcom.com, http://www.dunsmuir.org
- *August 7, 8 - 37th Annual Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival*
Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival at Toro County Park, Salinas. 831-647-6311, temp@montereyscotgames.com, http://www.montereyscotgames.com

The Spirit of the Solstice

by Raven Grimassi

The Summer Solstice marks the period of growth to fullness, the ripe harvest to come. The signs ... of the fruits of our labor are present in this season. In the Wheel of the Year mythos, the God and Goddess are wed together at this time. The world reflects the abundance that arises from the union of the male and female polarities. In many Celtic systems a set of characters appear known as the Oak King and the Holly King. Here they represent the waxing and waning forces of Nature in opposition to one another, for the brothers fight one another in a contest for seasonal reign.

In many Aegean/Mediterranean systems, the waning and waxing forces of Nature are depicted as the Stag and the Wolf. Here the waxing and waning forces of Nature are portrayed in the natural order that maintains balance. At the time of the Summer Solstice we evaluate our lives and acknowledge our participation or lack therein, which addresses the core issue of responsibility. Are we living life according to balance, and if not, then what forces have we allowed to direct things?

From Spirit of the Witch: Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Witchcraft, Llewellyn, 2003

SOLSTICE CELEBRATIONS

Bay Area Pagan Assemblies (BAPA) does not support or sponsor any of these events or contacts unless specifically stated. Please use your own discretion when attending these events or connecting with people you do not already know. This list is intended as an information resource only, and is non-promotional.

June 19 - Celebrate Litha with NROOGD - Mountain View

Dance with the Goddess to the Prayer of the Feet. Flow with the rhythm of the Call of the God. Witness the duel of the Green Man and the Hunt Lord. Help us turn the Wheel of the Year. 1:30 pm arrival; 2:00 pm ritual begins. Eagle Park in Mountain View, 652 Franklin Street (at the cross of Church Street and Shoreline Boulevard). Potluck picnic to follow. Feel free to bring snacks to share

June 19 - Litha Ritual - Cupertino

Stevens Creek County Park, Madrone Picnic Area. Gather at 1:00 pm; ritual begins at 2:00 pm. Bring your own food and drinks to share. No parking fee. Donation \$5 per person. Information: Bill Baldwin at South Bay Circles 408-730-9622, //members.aol.com/wabaldwin/sbc

June 19 - Midsummer Celebration - Santa Cruz Mountains

Amber Oak Protogrove, ADF will be holding a Midsummer celebration at Big Basin State Park at 1:00 pm. We will be camping Friday and Saturday night, and you are welcome to join us for the weekend, or just for the day. We will be having a Potluck feast following the ritual, so please bring a dish to share and something to barbecue. Amber Oak Protogrove follows the Norse and the Celtic hearth cultures. This ritual will be honoring our Norse deities. Join us in the beautiful redwoods as we welcome the summer in. Cost: The park has a \$5.00 day rate and \$16 per night for camping rate, so carpooling is encouraged. Information: kestrellamont@comcast.net

June 19 - Solstitial Tarot Tea Party - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Solstitial Tarot Tea Party with Thalassa from 1:00-5:00 pm. It's the civilized way to learn Tarot. Sip tea, munch bikkies and be introduced to the Thalassa-land Tarot Method, featuring a lively lecture, Q&A, and hands-on work. All levels of interest and experience encouraged - bring a deck if you have one. Hat and gloves optional, sense of humour mandatory. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$10-20. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com, or visit <http://zope270.iniquinet.com/virt/ancientways.com/portal/events/>

June 20 - Summer Solstice Ritual - San Francisco

Dragon Dream invites you to a Summer Solstice Ritual from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. How do the stories of Goddesses like Artemis, Lilith and Persephone reflect our lives? What can these myths teach us about the world and about ourselves? In this cycle, we will create circles of depth, trust, and deep sharing. We will hold space, witness, and go deep into our processes, as individuals and in community. Register by e-mail or phone no later than the Thursday before the gathering. Cost: \$25-45, sliding scale. No one will be turned away for lack of funds (trade and work-exchange are encouraged). Information: 415-339-7888, lilith@dragondream.com or visit www.dragondream.com.

June 25 thru 27 - Summer Solstice "Enchanted Transformations" - Woodside

Tent camping at Huddart Park which is located on Hwy. 84 west of Woodside. We have the Toyon #3 Group Campsite. Our site is filled with redwoods and oaks, and you can practically see the fairies, and nature spirits! It is actually fairly private, as it is the last of the group sites. Cost \$70. If you don't have a tent, or have never camped before, that's okay! Several of us have extra tents, or large tents with room for plenty. Just bring your sleeping bag, comfy clothes, lawn chair and sturdy shoes! Also throw in your old flowy goddess skirt, so we can dance. We'll have crafts, wonderful food, lots of s'mores, ceremonies, hiking, shamanic journeying, sharing, laughing, and lots more! And certainly there'll be lots of communication with the fairies!! To reserve your space, ask questions, or volunteer, simply email me, and I'll give you the details! Laura@shamanmoon.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bay Area Pagan Assemblies (BAPA) does not support or sponsor any of these events or contacts unless specifically stated. Please use your own discretion when attending these events or connecting with people you do not already know. This list is intended as an information resource only, and is non-promotional.

June 23 - Healing Demonstration and Lecture - Mountain View East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St, hosts a Healing Demonstration and Lecture with Master Timothy Dunphy from 7:30-9:30 pm. Open to experience immediate relief from physical pain and emotional trauma. Using his advanced healing technique of Chi Aura Integration, fifth degree blackbelt and International Taekwondo champion, Master Timothy Dunphy has helped hundreds of people move into lives of greater peace, prosperity and freedom. Cost: Free ticketed event. Information: 800-909-6161, info@eastwest.com or visit <http://www.eastwest.com/> or www.chi-aura.com.

June 23 thru August 18 - Introduction to Runes Course - Boulder Creek Air and Fire, 13155 B Highway 9, hosts a 2-part Introduction to Runes course with Willow on Wednesdays. Part 1 is Intro to Runes and Rune Meditation from 6:00-7:00 pm, and Part 2 is Intro to Ancient Norse Deities and Philosophy from 7:15-8:00 pm. Willow has deep roots in Norse Magic, which go back for generations. Her knowledge of the runes was passed down through her Nordic-Celtic heritage. She has experienced the power of these ancient symbols and has devoted her life to the study of runecraft and sharing her knowledge with others. Willow has traveled the U.S. and Canada doing rune readings at Renaissance Fairs and festivals and now resides in Felton. Preregistration is encouraged; drop-ins welcome. Cost: \$90 for all 9 weeks or \$15 each session. Information: 831-338-7567, fireflower@airandfire.com or visit <http://www.airandfire.com>.

June 24 - Tattwas - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Tattwas with Glenn Turner from 7:30-9:30 pm. Explore the powerful images of the 5 elements in these flashing tablets of complimentary colors based on the Golden Dawn system. You can color your own. Sponsored by Sirius Encampment. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com, or visit <http://zope270.iniquinet.com/virt/ancientways.com/portal/events/>

June 25 - Hanuman Puja - Mountain View

East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St, hosts Hanuman Puja with Thomas Ashley-Farrand from 7:00-10:00 pm. Join Thomas Ashley-Farrand, one of the Western world's foremost authorities on the application of Sanskrit Mantra to life's problems, in this Hanuman puja. Hanuman mantras can be extremely powerful for removing disharmonious conditions from our lives. Cost: \$25. Information: 800-909-6161, info@eastwest.com or visit <http://www.eastwest.com/>

June 25 - Calling in Your Power: Rituals for Everyday Life - Berkeley

Women only. Hosted by Change Makers for Women, 6536 Telegraph Ave. Taught by Ouida Joi from 7:00-9:00 pm. This is a how-to workshop on creating rituals that honor the special moments in your life and allows us to call on our own power. Participants will share in a group ritual and will have an opportunity to create a mini-ritual for themselves. Centering, journal writing and sharing are also part of this workshop. Ouida Joi is a shamanic practitioner, ritualist, ceremonial leader, and Interfaith Minister. She uses ritual in her daily life and her healing work that helps others on the Life Path. Register by June 18th. Cost: \$15-25. Information: 510-271-8318, info@ChangeMakersForWomen.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

June 26 - Celebrate Artemis at the SF Dyke March - San Francisco

(Women Only.) Celebrate Artemis at the San Francisco Dyke March with Daughters of the Goddess. Ritual at 4:00 pm in Dolores Park, then we'll march. Information: Leilani at 925-787-9247, leilani@daughtersofthegoddess.com or visit <http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com>

June 26 - Annual Campbell Highland Games and Celtic Gathering - Campbell

26th Annual Campbell Highland Games and Celtic Gathering from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Campbell Community Center, Campbell Ave and Winchester Blvd. Featuring athletic events (stone put, caber toss, shinty and

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rugby demonstrations), pipebands, Highland, Scottish country and Ceilidh dancing, bagpipe band and solo competition and a Friday night concert with Brian McNeill, a Celtic musician from Falkirk, Scotland. Also a haggis toss, Celtic food and dry goods vendors, re-enactors and Scottish dog breeds. (No other dogs allowed). Ceilidh dance at the King's Head Pub after the Games. Cost: \$12 general, \$10 seniors/students, free (7 & under); advance purchase discounts available. Free parking. Information: 408-219-9264, info@campbellgames.com or visit www.campbellgames.com

June 27 - Animal Communication Class - Mountain View

East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St, hosts an Animal Communication Class with Marta Williams from 1:00-6:00 pm. Anyone can learn to communicate by sharing thoughts, images and feelings with others. In this beginning class with Marta Williams, animal communicator and author of *Learning Their Language: Intuitive Communications with Animals and Nature*, you'll learn to communicate intuitively with animals. You'll even check your data to prove that your animal communications are real! Bring animal photographs and a notebook. Cost: \$65 (\$59 in advance). Information: 800-909-6161, info@eastwest.com or visit <http://www.eastwest.com/>

June 29 - Book signing and reception with Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone - Loomis

Janet and Gavin, authors of *The Witches Bible*, *Witches God and Goddess*, *The healing Craft*, and their new book *Progressive Witchcraft* are coming to Earth Central, 3726 Taylor Road, from 6:30-8:30 pm. The book signing will be followed by a reception and refreshments. Information: 916-652-8084 or ruffianwinincolors@yahoo.com

July 7 - Tarot for Yourself! with Amber Jayanti. This hands-on workshop offers you an overview of the Tarot including: its history, cards that are relevant to your life, numerous ways of using the Tarot as a tool to better understand your Self, others, and the world around you. Mystics, Pagans, Heretics, and Iconoclasts Welcome! 7-9 PM, please call Amber at (831)423-9742, or visit <http://www.practical-mystic.com> for more information.

July 9 - Workshop with Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone - Loomis

Let's explore with our favorite teachers, Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone, in a Creative Thought Forms Workshop from 7:00-9:00 pm at Earth Central, 3726 Taylor Road. Cost: \$20. Information: 916-652-8084 or ruffianwinincolors@yahoo.com

July 9, 16, 23, 30 - Introduction to Tarot - San Jose

For beginners or intermediate students who need a review. An informative journey through the Major and Minor Arcana with a final class on spreads for complex and simple queries. Whatever your level of expertise, you'll be doing daily readings by the end of class. Taught by Claire Sage. 7:30 to 9:30 PM. San Jose Book Shop, 1231 Kentwood Ave. Cost: \$80. Pre-registration required. Please call (408) 446-0590 or write sjbookshop@mindspring.com.

July 10 - Celtic Pagan Study Group - Redwood City

Imbas, a Celtic Restorationist organization, invites you to a Celtic Pagan Study Group at the Redwood City Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (back lounge), 2124 Brewster Avenue, at 1:00 pm. The group plans to meet monthly. Please, no small children or food. Cost: \$5; nobody turned away for lack of funds. Information: brenda@twoburrens.com

July 10 - Trance Prophecy Workshop with Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone - Loomis

Join Janet and Gavin for a Drawing Down the Moon and Trance Prophecy Workshop from 7:00-10:00 pm at Earth Central, 3726 Taylor Road. Cost: \$25.00. Information: 916-652-8084 or ruffianwinincolors@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 10 thru 31 - Wicca 101 Classes for Children - Loomis

Earth Central, 3726 Taylor Road, is hosting a Wicca 101 series of classes for children (3 years and over) from 4:00-5:30 pm. Cost: \$10 each class. Information: 916-652-8084 or ruffianwinincolors@yahoo.com

July 10, 11 - Dunsmuir Highland Games - Oakland

Dunsmuir Highland Games from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at Dunsmuir House and Gardens, 2960 Peralta Oaks Ct. Enjoy traditional Celtic music, athletic competition, Scottish Country Irish Step Dancing, Clan displays, and living history reenactments, children's activities, authentic Scottish foods, craft vendors and more bagpipes and kilts than you can shake a caber at. Ceilidh on Saturday night at 5:00 pm - A fun evening of Celtic music with Robert Burns, "To a Haggis" haggis eating (not mandatory), plenty of great Scottish whiskey, snacks, group dancing and more. Cost: \$12 adults, \$8 seniors/children, Free (under 6), Ceilidh cost: \$10. Information: 510-615-5555, mcarden@ix.netcom.com or visit <http://www.dunsmuir.org>

July 11 - Drumming Circle - Montara

ShamanMoon hosts an open drumming circle from 4:00-8:00 pm. Potluck snacks are served from 4:00-4:45 pm and we begin promptly by 5:00 pm. This is an open drumming circle for men, women and older children. Anyone is welcome; no previous experience is necessary. Bring a journal, pen, water bottle, pillow, blanket and any drums or rattles if you have them. The purpose of this circle is to connect with our Power Animals and Spirit Guides on a regular basis, and to come together as a community. Information: 650-728-1407, Laura@shamanmoon.org or visit <http://www.shamanmoon.org/pages/2/index.htm>.

July 11 thru August 1 - Wicca 101 Classes - Loomis

Earth Central, 3726 Taylor Road, is hosting a Wicca 101 series of classes for adults from 3:00-4:30 pm. The classes are a 4-part series with 4 classes in each part. Cost: \$10 each class, plus a \$10 material fee due at the beginning of the first class. Information: 916-652-8084 or ruffianwinincolors@yahoo.com

July 13 - Golden Gate Pronaos Meeting - Mill Valley

The public is warmly invited to learn more about the Rosicrucian Order during our quarterly open meeting at 8:00 pm at Tamalpais Log Cabin, 60 Tennessee Valley Rd. The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, is internationally known as the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. We are a non-sectarian body of men and women devoted to the investigation, study and practical application of natural and spiritual laws. Our purpose is to further the evolution of humanity through the development of the full potential of each individual. Our goal is to enable everyone to live in harmony with creative, cosmic forces for the attainment of health, happiness, and peace. All seekers are welcome. Information: 415-442-1950, awakens@well.com or visit <http://www.rosicrucian.org>

July 18 - Women's Sweat Lodge Ceremony - Boulder Creek

Char Lynn will host a Sweat Lodge Ceremony for Women; Fire at 11:00 am, Lodge at 2:00 pm. The intention is to create a safe, sacred space for healing, and to honor each person's process. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early. Help before the Lodge is appreciated. Potluck follows (nutritious foods please). Cost: \$20 suggested minimum donation; work exchanges available. Information: 831-338-2996 or MtnChar7@aol.com.

July 23 thru 26 - Ravenwood Gathering - Mt. Tamalpais

Join us atop the "Sleeping Lady", Mt Tamalpais, for a mellow weekend camp out with fun, frolic and a feast by Lionheart Catering. Learn about the American Vinland Association and the California Utlandr Alliance. Enjoy Heathen fellowship, workshops, and merriment around the fire with the Politically Incorrect Song Singers, Loggarts Tournament, special events and guests - including Jafnhar member Andy Biggers. More information will be sent with your registration. Vendors welcome, but must donate an item worth at least \$20 to the raffle. All registrations or cancellations must be received by July 21; no exceptions. Registration includes 3 nights camping, feast on Saturday, 1 raffle ticket and a commemorative item. Tent camping only. Campground has flush toilets, water, sinks and food cupboards. Both A & B campsites are available from 2:00 pm Friday

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until noon Monday. Cost: \$25 for 14 and over, Free under 13; plus \$15 for each vehicle. Information: Prudence@freyasfolk.org or visit <http://www.freyasfolk.org>

July 24, 25 - RJ Stewart Workshop - Berkeley

RJ Stewart presents The Well of Light and the Mystery of the Double Rose: From Faery Healing to Earth Healing from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am - 4:00 pm on Sunday. Information: Arisha@dreampower.com or visit <http://www.dreampower.com/Calendar.html>

July 30 - Rosicrucian Open Meeting - Soquel

The public is warmly invited to meet Rosicrucian students and learn more about the Rosicrucian Order at Open Meetings with the Rose Atrium Group of the AMORC from 8:00-9:00 pm at the Masonic Lodge, 3001 N. Main St.. Tonight's meeting will be a Round Table Discussion of Sir Francis Bacon's book, "New Atlantis" (revisited). All Rosicrucian students, their guests, and interested seekers are encouraged to attend. Cost: Free. Information: 831-566-9205.

August 7, 8 - 37th Annual Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival - Salinas

Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival at Toro County Park. This lively weekend festival on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula offers fun for the entire family. Festival goers can enjoy a variety of entertainment including pipe bands, Irish step dancing, Scottish athletic competitions including the famous Caber Toss, and much more. Cost: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors/youths, \$6 children (5-12), Free (under 5). Advance purchase discounts available. Information: 831-647-6311, temp@montereyscotgames.com or visit <http://www.montereyscotgames.com/>

August 12 thru 15 - 16th Annual Elderflower Womenspirit Festival - Mendocino

Relax and enjoy cabin or tent camping in a redwood forest by a creek at the Mendocino Woodlands. Elderflower welcomes all women and girls (age 11 and older). Girls younger than 18 must be accompanied by an adult. At Elderflower each participant is encouraged to bring her unique talents and her diversity to the festival by leading and participating in rituals and workshops. Our purpose is to create a festival for women and girls with a focus on earth based spirituality and honoring the feminine through the Goddess. We celebrate our spirituality by sharing knowledge, music, arts and ritual. Elderflower is committed to providing a safe, welcoming and empowering environment for all women, including older women, women from all cultures, women of all sexual orientation, differently abled women, women in recovery, and limited income women. Cost: \$230-280 by May 1, \$245-295 by June 30, \$260-310 by August 2. Information: 510-549-2748, info@elderflower.org or visit <http://elderflower.org>.

August 12 thru 15 - Firedance Festival - Santa Cruz

Firedance is a magical celebration of drum, dance and song. We join together in community in the beautiful Santa Cruz, California Mountains amongst the Redwoods. Together we create a sacred place for deep play. Each night we join together in spiritual community to drum and dance the fire circle until the rising sun -- connecting nature, our bodies, our voices and our selves with the magic of the fire and the spirit in each of us. Each day we explore ancient and modern mysteries through experiential playshops on drumming, sacred dance, chanting, exploring sacred space, and community rituals. An exciting blend of many traditions, Firedance has its roots in a style of fire circle celebration that evolved over the last two decades at magical drum and dance events held on the North-East Coast. Firedance features many popular and accomplished artists who have brought together thousands of kindred spirits in unity around the dancing flames of the ceremonial fire. Participants have the opportunity to study and share with some of the finest teachers in the worlds of drumming, dance and magickal arts, in small groups, through hands-on playshops, Affinity Groups and community rituals. Cost: \$245 before July 15, \$275 walk-in registration. Children 12 and under get 50% off registration and meal plan fees. Children 5 and under are free. Information: (866) 436-4420 info@firedance.org, or visit <http://www.firedance.org/info.php>