



## 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.

Ostara 2004

### OSTARA AND HER SISTERS

by *Michael Dilts*

*Ostara* and *Eastre* are the High German and Anglo-Saxon versions of a word which appears in modern English as "Easter". Both words point to an earlier Common Germanic form \**Austron*, apparently the name of a pagan goddess. But who is Ostara/Eastre/Austron? One clue comes from the fact that Anglo-Saxon *Eastre* and English *Easter* are related to "east," the direction of the sunrise. In Latin and Greek Ostara's sisters are *Aurora* and rosy-fingered *Eos*, both containing variants of the root word of \**Austron*, both goddesses not of Spring but of Dawn.

Another of Ostara's sisters is *Ushas*, the goddess of Dawn in the Hindu *Rig Veda*. *Ushas* rides a chariot in an endless race with *Ratri*, the star jeweled Night goddess. At the spring equinox *Ushas* pulls ahead, and light lasts longer than darkness until the beginning of autumn, when she inevitably falls behind *Ratri* again during the long, cold winter season.

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### DIVINATION RITE AT GAIA'S GATEWAY

The Sophianic Order will present a Divination Rite derived from Greek Magical Papyri at our next Gateway. The Sophianic Order is a Gnostic Pagan framework founded and taught by Argante Comyn and Owain O'Roddeigh, and dedicated to Divine Sophia and Sarapis. The divination rite, taken from the Greek Magical Papyri, will be presented in Sophianic ritual space. Argante will serve as the Oracle, so come ready to ask her questions!

Sunday, March 28; 6:00-9:00 pm. Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC), 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, CA. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), [www.bapa.net](http://www.bapa.net).

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P.O. Box 4159  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
(408) 559-4242  
[www.bapa.net](http://www.bapa.net)

Newsletter Editor: *Michael Dilts*

## 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, March 28; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
*Divination Rite from Greek Magical Papyri with the Sophianic Order*
- Sunday, April 25; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
*Beltane Ritual with NROOGD*
- Sunday, May 30; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
*To Be Scheduled.*

### BAPA Library

The BAPA library, affectionately known as Athena's Archives, is a lending and exchange library which includes books, videos, cassettes, and tarot decks. Items may be checked out or donated at the monthly Gateway meetings.

## GET READY FOR BELTANE

There will be many opportunities in the Bay Area to dance, sing, and welcome in the lusty month of May. Here are a few...

Beltane Ritual at Gaia's Gateway  
Sunday, April 25  
6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church  
Cost: \$5 donation for non-members  
Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242),  
[www.bapa.net](http://www.bapa.net)

Beltane In the Park  
Saturday, May 1  
Gather 2:00 pm, Ritual at 3:00 pm  
Delaveaga Park, 40 Thieves Picnic Area,  
Santa Cruz  
Cost: \$4 to \$10 donation  
(This ritual is not appropriate for children. 18 and older please.)  
Please RSVP to [info@communityseed.org](mailto:info@communityseed.org)  
or 831-469-0336

The Green Man Ball  
Saturday, May 1  
7:00 pm- ??  
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo, 100 N  
Ellsworth Avenue  
Cost: \$15.00 by April 24; \$20 at the door  
Information: [peers@peers.org](mailto:peers@peers.org)  
510-522-1731  
<http://www.peers.org/index.html>

Beltane Ball & Fantasy Masquerade  
Saturday, May 8  
6:00 pm - Midnight  
Lucy Stern Center, Palo Alto  
Cost: \$20.00 through April 30th.  
Information: [info@fullcircleevents.org](mailto:info@fullcircleevents.org)  
408-224-4625  
<http://www.fullcircleevents.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.

March 26, 2004 - The Lilith Institute and Mystics Cave presents: A Shekinah Sanctuary. Join Deborah Grenn and Yehudit Steinberg for a metatrance ecstatic prayer ritual using healing chants, expressive movement to World Beat music and Kabbalistic meditation. This sacred ceremony will integrate Near Eastern sacred texts, myth and ritual with modern technology. 7-9PM, \$21. Held at Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento St., (cross street Dwight), Berkeley, CA., (510) 883-0600, <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

March 26-28, 2004 - Pentacle of Pearl Intensive with Willow Fire Zachubi and student teacher Copper Persephone of Reclaiming. We will work with the deep, healing energies of the Pentacle of Pearl, moving through the five points Love, Law, Knowledge, Power and Wisdom. Pre-requisite Elements of Magic or equivalent. \$60-\$180 sliding scale, class size limited, pre-registration required. Held in Boulder Creek, CA (in the Santa Cruz Mountains). Camping, dorm style sleeping available, ask for details. Contact Copper at [Copperpersephone@aol.com](mailto:Copperpersephone@aol.com)

March 26-28, 2004 - Dreaming Stones: A workshop for women with Cybele of Reclaiming. Gather with other women to learn from gemstones while awake and dreaming. Create a necklace in sacred space (a circle within a circle) to support you on your path. Limited to 10 women. This workshop is non-residential. \$175, held beneath Mt. Shasta's snowy peak! Mt. Shasta is 5 hrs. north of the bay area- there will be snow! For more information on the workshop, lodging options, ride possibilities or to register call Cybele at (415) 541-5650 or (707) 525-4992

March 27, 2004 - Grounding, Casting: Public Priestessing featuring Various Teachers. Part of a series of 5 classes offered to those in our community interested in helping with offering our Public Rituals. Or, to learn or hone your skill, those with lots of experience and those who are new are welcome to come polish your skills! Check the website for current info on where and time the classes will be held. (Ritual and energy flow will be incorporated into each class). Join our Announcement List <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CoVEvents/> to get emailed directly. Or e-mail Panthera [revpanthera@hotmail.com](mailto:revpanthera@hotmail.com) for more information. Please check out our site as well <http://rcotv.org/index>

March 27, 2004 - The Burning Times Seminar with Gillian Brown and Terry Lingry. A workshop followed by an informative channeling of "Diana," a council of witches persecuted in Germany centuries ago. 10AM-5PM, \$50, reservation required. Held at Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento St., (cross street Dwight), Berkeley, CA., (510) 883-0600, <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

March 28, 2004 - Gaia's Gateway: Divination Rite from Greek Magical Papyri with the Sophianic Order. The Sophianic Order is a Gnostic Pagan framework founded and taught by Argante Comyn and Owain O'Roddeigh, and dedicated to Divine Sophia and Sarapis. The divination rite, taken from the Greek Magical Papyri, will be presented in Sophianic ritual space. Argante will serve as the Oracle, so come ready to ask her questions! 6-9 PM. Sponsored by BAPA. \$5 donation requested from non-members. Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC), 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, CA. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), [www.bapa.net](http://www.bapa.net).

March 28, 2004 - Spring Equinox Ritual, with Dragon Dream. The new year brings a new cycle of Women's Wisdom Circles. More intense. More goddess-oriented. In the coming Winter Cycle we will be looking at Winter Goddesses and the themes of death/rebirth and darkness/light. We can check in with where we are as the new year begins, and where we want to go as we move towards Spring. How do the stories of goddesses like Demeter and Persephone reflect our lives? What can they teach us about the world, and about ourselves? \$25-\$30 sliding scale, due at meeting. Registration by email or phone no later than the Thursday before the gathering. No-one will be turned away for lack of funds (trade and work-exchange are encouraged). 11AM-2:30PM, held in San Francisco, CA. For more information call (415) 339-7888 or e-mail: [lilith@dragondream.com](mailto:lilith@dragondream.com)

April 4, 2004 - Women's Networking and Empowerment Circles with Char Lynn. Let us honor the season, the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

full moon and our unique place in the world through the empowerment of Self. We begin the meetings with a potluck at 5:30PM at which time we network our businesses, new events, books, whatever (bring business cards, fliers, etc.) and at 7PM we have circle, to include stringing the beads, meditation, intentions for our goals and future, and more. Sliding scale \$7-\$15. All Women are invited so please invite your friends and join in. If you would like to chat with me call at (831) 338-2996, or e-mail [MtnChar7@aol.com](mailto:MtnChar7@aol.com). Held in Boulder Creek.

April 9-11, 2004 - Ostara 2004 with Hammer of Thor Kindred and the Troth. Join with friends and family to celebrate in troth at our yearly Ostara Celebration. There will be Blóts, Viking Games, an Ostara blessing, a Seidh, a Bard's Circle, and a Saturday Night Feast! Space is limited to 100 people, tent camping only. Our campground is near the ocean, and it is likely to be chilly (cold as Hela's Tit!) at night. Bring warm clothes. The Fernwood Motel is near for the less hardy at \$82.88 per night, reservations: (831) 667-2422. Vendors welcome, but must donate an item worth at least \$20 to the raffle. Cost: \$45 for singles and \$80 for couples. For more information & registration form, please see <http://www.hammerofthorkindred.org>

April 9, 2004 - Shabbat Ceremony, Moon in Sagittarius. Daughters of the Goddess is an East Bay Womyn-only Goddess Temple, dedicated in the Spirit of Aloha to the preservation and perpetuation of Goddess culture, public ceremony, and Womyn's Mysteries. We meet approximately twice monthly to honor the Wheel of the Year, esbats, Goddesses and ancient celebrations. We begin to gather at 7PM, \$40. Please RSVP for location. Contact Leilani Birely at (925) 787-9247 or see <http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com/>

April 12, 2004 - Celebrate Tsan Nu. Chinese Goddess of silk, prosperity magick and Feng Shui. New Moon in Taurus. Daughters of the Goddess is an East Bay Womyn-only Goddess Temple, dedicated in the Spirit of Aloha to the preservation and perpetuation of Goddess culture, public ceremony, and Womyn's Mysteries. We meet approximately twice monthly to honor the Wheel of the Year, esbats, Goddesses and ancient celebrations. We begin to gather at 7PM, \$40. Please RSVP for location. Contact Leilani Birely at (925) 787-9247 or see <http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com/>

April 17-18, 2004 - Faerie Magic A Celtic Path to Healing: A Spring Retreat with Mara Freeman. Celebrate spring with Mara Freeman in a unique redwood grove in the mountains for a weekend that will open your mind and heart to the beauty and power of the faerie kingdom. Celtic druids, healers, wise men and women worked with faerie allies for centuries. Now, in this new millennium, we can learn how to expand our awareness to re-establish this ancient alliance. By doing so, we reclaim access to the healing and wisdom they offer us. In this workshop, you'll learn both how to connect with the spirits of nature in the sacred grove and also how to journey to the Elven kingdom (the inner world of faerie) through ritual and trance. By working with faerie magic, we learn to reclaim our natural state of being joyful and fully alive, as we allow this stream of ancient wisdom and healing to flow into our lives. \$120-\$180 sliding scale, Sat. 10AM-5PM, Sun. 10AM-4PM, held at the Amity Centre, Alba Road, Ben Lomond. Registration: 1-800-694-1957 or see <http://www.celticspirit.org>

April 23-25, 2004 - Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Gathering, hosted by The Caledonian Club of Sacramento. Featured events include a Friday night concert and a Ceilidh on Saturday. \$10.50/Adults, \$6.50/Seniors, \$3.50/Youth, Free/Children under 10, held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds. For more information, please see <http://www.sacaledonian.org>

April 23-25, 2004 - Ritual Magic I: First Steps in Ritual, presented by Servants of the Light, School of Occult Science. First Steps in Ritual is open to anyone with an interest in the Western Mysteries, ritual or magic. This is a hands-on class where we will be working and learning in an active temple space. Exercises and pathworkings will be a part of each teaching session. Saturday evening will include a formal ritual. Ritual Magic I, II and III are held six months apart. Ideally the same group of participants moves through the series together. The workshops may not be taken out of sequence. Topics Covered: Preparation Intonations, The Officers, Levels of Power, The Inner Temple, The Magical Ring, The Body of Light, The Four Elements, The Magical Temple, Music in the Temple, Priest & Priestess, Openings & Closings, Magical Implements, Magical Personality Group Minds & Group Souls, Three Aspects of Ritual, Assumption of God-Forms, Links between Traditions, Cleansings & Consecrations, The Four Quarters, Tree of Life & Qabalistic Cross, Magic in the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Modern World, Raising Power through Movement and Dance. \$125, class will be held Fri. 7-10PM, Sat.10AM-10PM, Sun.10AM-3PM. Held at the Sunrise Center45 San Clemente, Corte Madera, CA (In Marin just north of San Francisco) To Register Send \$75 to Golden Gate Fellowship, PO Box 2161, San Francisco, CA. 94126 Registration packet will be sent upon receipt of payment. Traveling & Accommodations, or More Info Contact Chris Corey (415) 551-0999 or see <http://www.servantsofthelight.org/>

April 24, 2004 - Muir Woods at Night! Imagine Muir Woods with no people! We have special permission from the Park Service to be in the park after it closes. It is the season of sylvan activity - the creek rushes, mushrooms erupt, millipedes scurry, deer munch, newts wander, and salmon leap. The magnificent redwoods tower over our heads as the stars glisten through this ancient forest. Don't miss this unique opportunity. \$30 per person, contact Michael Ellis (707) 570-2187 or see <http://www.footlooseforays.com> for more information.

April 24, 2004 - Invocations: Public Priestessing featuring Various Teachers. Part of a series of 5 classes offered to those in our community interested in helping with offering our Public Rituals. Or, to learn or hone your skill, those with lots of experience and those who are new are welcome to come polish your skills! Check the website for current info on where and time the classes will be held. (Ritual and energy flow will be incorporated into each class). Join our Announcement List <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CoVEvents/> to get emailed directly Or e-mail Panthera revpanthera@hotmail.com for more information. Please check out our site as well <http://rcotv.org/index>

April 25, 2004 - Giving Great Rite: Creating Effective Large-Group and Public Rituals with M. Macha NightMare. This workshop is for Pagans who feel called to work with the public, presenting open sabbats and other large-group or public rituals. We will discuss theory and technique in producing satisfying ritual experiences for groups of 50 to 500 people, both trained ritualists and inexperienced first-timers. Includes determining a clear purpose, planning, scripting, executing, facilitating, monitoring, sensing and helping to guide and shape the energy/experience of the group as a whole. Attention to setting and creating mood, sounds/music/drums, scents, altars, costume/makeup/masks. Macha brings to this workshop her extensive experience of collaboration on large group rituals of all kinds, ranging in size from 50 to 2,000, indoors and outdoors, with Witches of many traditions throughout North America. Includes handouts. See <http://machanightmare.com/teach.html#large> for more information.

April 25, 2004-April 2005 - Introduction to Magick Course with Tara "Masery" and Michael "Arkayne" Miller. Gather in the redwoods with a small group of people to learn the basics of magick, explore your spirituality, learn techniques and receive materials. The class will have ceremonial and shamanic aspects. Because the class is a personal journey for beginners, space is limited to five people ages 18 to 25. Classes begin Sunday, 1-4PM. We'll meet at George's Picnic Area in Nisene Marks State Park and take a short 1/4 mile hike to a spectacular Redwood grove. Class will then meet at the same time and same place the third Sunday of every month until April of 2005. Some classes will be held at local beaches and plenty of notice will be given. When the weather is bad, an announcement will be sent and the class will be pushed back to the next Sunday. Donation or barter at each session. Nisene marks charges \$2 for parking. How to apply: e-mail your name, birth date, a little about yourself and why you are interested in the class. We will also answer any of your questions. Enrollment ends April 1, 2004. [masery76@yahoo.com](mailto:masery76@yahoo.com) For more information, please see: <http://www.geocities.com/taramiller76/classes.html>

April 25, 2004 - Gaia's Gateway: Beltane Ritual with NROOGD. NROOGD (the New Reformed Orthodox Order of the Golden Dawn) is a magical Tradition founded in 1968-69 by a group of students from the University of San Francisco who created a "Witches' Sabbath" ritual for a religion class and discovered that it actually worked. The name of the organization refers to the fact that it was a wholly "new" Tradition which was "orthodox" in that it took its beliefs from the ancients and was a Magical "Order" as was the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. Rituals in NROOGD usually focus on the working of magic, or on celebration of the divinity of each participant. 6-9 PM. Sponsored by BAPA. \$5 donation requested from non-members. Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC), 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, CA., Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), [www.bapa.net](http://www.bapa.net).