



BAPAN

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

OSTARA 2005

BAPA NEWS

Greetings BAPA Members!

1. On-going Volunteer openings available - As can be seen from our Survey Update, we could use a few good people. We have your names if you expressed interest in hosting events and will probably be contacting you over the next couple of months as we develop a game plan to bring more events to your neighborhood. If anyone else has further interest, please be sure to let us know!
2. Wanna lead a Gateway? - In addition to the few good folks we desperately need to host events, we need some groups to lead a Gaia's Gateways this year. Email Crystal at crblack95054@yahoo.com and she'll forward you to the right folks.

BAPA Officers:

President: Mercury
Jim McCann
Caelyth Sterling
Trish McNeill
Crystal Black
Stan Morest

BAPA Volunteers:

Gateway Chiefs: *Your name could be here!*
Volunteer Chief: Gary Mattingly
Librarian: Caelyth Sterling
Membership Coordinator: Gary Mattingly
Web Master: Crystal Black and Sean Schultz
BAPAN Editor: Crystal Black

GAIA'S GATEWAY

Wanna lead a Gateway?? We're looking for folks to lead the Gateways in 2005. Email Crystal at crblack95054 if you're interested.

Visionary Activism: An Introduction to Medicine for the Earth

Sunday, March 27; 6:00 - 9:00 PM

In this introduction to Medicine for the Earth—a visionary practice pioneered by Sandra Ingerman—we will explore how to transmute negative states of consciousness affecting ourselves and our world. We will perform a ceremony, and will talk about energizing and empowering ourselves for personal and social transformation.

Meg Beeler, MAT, draws on practice and training in Andean and core shamanism, meditation, sound healing, feminist spirituality, and Sandra Ingerman's Medicine for the Earth work. Her passion is to help people connect more deeply with spirit, source, and the natural world through workshops, classes, soul retrievals, journeys to sacred sites, and earth-honoring ceremonies.

More information is available at Shamanic and Energy Healing, Medicine for the Earth, and Soul Retrieval.

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REDUCING STRESS WITH THE FELDENKRAIS METHOD

by Cathy Butler, GCFP

Reprinted from the Starlight Journal, Fall 2004 edition, <http://www.starlightjournal.com/pages/PastIssues/pastissdrty.htm>

Obviously we can handle a certain amount of stress, but sometimes our body's innate ability to function effectively is compromised or too overwhelmed to be effective. Over time when stress is not dealt with fully it causes serious physical problems. One way to help the body is the Feldenkrais Method. This is a technique of movement education, a gentle, pleasurable movement system with a wide range of benefits. Regular sessions or classes in learning new ways to move the body reduce stress and increase overall health.

The real impact of stress on our lives and bodies today

Stress that is not adequately coped with, especially over time, causes a wide range of ailments. In *Prescription for Nutritional Healing* (1990), James and Phyllis Balch describe the stress response. "When faced with a high degree of stress ...digestion shuts off and heart rate increases, with a resulting increase in blood pressure and breathing. Fats and sugars are released from stores in the body, cholesterol levels rise, and the blood prepares for clotting... In primitive times, these changes in the body prepared man to flee or fight. Now, we rarely use this response." (298) James and Phyllis Balch continue by saying, "When sustained over time, instead of preparing us for a crucial action, the stress response tires out our body, weakens our immune system and creates chronic problems of hypertension and high cholesterol (298). Doctors and scientists have linked stress to a range of ailments. Minor conditions include headaches, digestive problems, and fatigue. More serious problems are insomnia, Crohn's disease, depression, impotence, and cancer, to name a few."

The Feldenkrais Method and Stress

Taking part in Feldenkrais provides short and long term benefits. Feldenkrais can be learned in classes (called Awareness Through Movement) or individual hands-on sessions (Functional Integration). Immediate benefits can include breathing more fully and easily, sleeping more deeply, feeling more relaxed and alert, more comfortable in your body and more flexible. Stress melts away and future or past worries take up a smaller space in your brain during a class or an individual session as you learn to keep your mind in the present and in your body. As your breathing slows and deepens your heart rate decreases and your

blood pressure drops. One enters into a parasympathetic state where the body more easily recuperates from stress. However, the real benefit of learning these types of body control methods appears in how you deal with stress outside of a class or session.

Feldenkrais teaches clients to identify and manage stress more effectively on their own. This process begins with improving awareness of causes of stress and learning to identify its effects on the body. The next step is to learn techniques that will help you consciously change your response to anxiety-producing events in the moment. In group or personal lessons, clients learn to move in ways that are easy, light, and relaxing. Repeating these movements during a stressful situation reminds your body and mind how to relax and reduces the negative impact of the event. Breathing is also a crucial element of managing stress in the moment.

The most essential learning made possible by continuing this kind of work guides you to spontaneously respond to events effectively. Babies experiment endlessly with different ways to come up onto the hands and knees in order to be able to crawl across the floor to get to a favorite toy. Although they lack the instinctual knowledge of how to walk immediately after birth that most animals have, they do possess "...an innate urge to incessantly test and search for what works better and what is more enjoyable" (*Mindful Spontaneity: Returning to Natural Movement*, Ruthy Alon, 1996:33). As adults, however, we lose touch with this urge. We get stuck in habitual ways of doing things including habitual ways of dealing with stress. Feldenkrais "...stimulat[es] the urge to search for more gratifying ways of moving as well as awake[ns] the intelligence to adjust more effectively to new situations" (*Mindful Spontaneity: Returning to Natural Movement*, Ruthy Alon, 1996:33). This ability is the deepest and most profound gift -- the ability to reawaken our capacity to learn and adapt to all situations that come up in life.

Cathy Butler is a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner who maintains a private practice in McKinleyville. She will be giving a free talk and mini-class, "Stress Reduction and the Feldenkrais Method", at Moonrise Herbs on Tuesday, October 19th 7-9pm. She also teaches classes and workshops at the Community Yoga Center and other facilities in the area. For more information contact her at 839-0319 or cathyb@cyberhotline.com.

OSTARA EVENTS

Ostara Ritual - San Jose - March 19

Amber Oak Protogrove, ADF, will host an Ostara Ritual at Alum Rock Park, 16260 Alum Rock Ave, at 12:00pm. The buckeyes are blooming, and the hills are a greening. Join us as we celebrate the Spring by welcoming the Goddess Eostare and the bounty of spring. This will be an ADF Norse style ritual, followed by a potluck feast. Please bring a dish to share and something to barbeque. We will be gathering at a private home close to the park at 11:00am if you wish to carpool into the park. Cost: Donations gladly accepted but not required. Contact 650-922-0382 or kestrellamont@comcast.net for more information.

Ostara Celebration - Sacramento - March 19

Calasa Kindred and the Asatru Folk Assembly will host an Ostara Celebration at The Sacramento Unitarian Church. In the tradition of our European ancestors, we will honor the Holy Powers and the return of Spring in a beautiful outdoor ceremony. Anyone interested in honoring their heritage and the Folkway are encouraged to remain for the talk by Stephen A. McNallen, "Rebirth on a Personal and Folk Level". A question and answer period will follow. This is a family event with activities for the children. Each child should bring a basket for the Eostre (Ostara) Egg Hunt. Location: Sacramento Unitarian Church, 2425 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento. Email edbroneske@mac.com for more information.

Eostara Ritual - Palo Alto - March 19

South Bay Circles will host an Eostara Ritual, presented by Cylch Diflannol. Gather/1:00pm; Ritual/2:00pm. We will be journeying to the other side to greet our ancestors. Admittance is by invitation only. Please bring dinner fare enough to share with 6 for the Potluck following the ritual. Lacking that, there is an additional charge of \$5 per person. (We'd rather have the food though.) Cost: \$5/person or \$12/family. Contact Bianca at 408-265-5180, Bill at wabaldwin@aol.com or visit <http://www.southbaycircles.org/> for more information.

Ostara Festival - Penryn - March 20

It is time again for our annual Ostara Festival at Griffith Quarry, Taylor and Rock Spring Roads, from 12:00-4:00pm. This year we want you to join us in celebration of the awakening Earth and help us in waking the Faeries. The Faerie are calling out to be celebrated this year with Ritual, Crafts, Performers, and Faerie Costumes. Cost: Free; donations accepted. Contact 530-652-8084, faeryearthmother@comcast.net or visit <http://www.earthcentral.net/Ostara.htm> for more information.

Ostara Celebration - Santa Cruz - March 20

Circle -A is proud to host the turning of the wheel for this year's Vernal Equinox Pagan Ritual. Gather/12:00pm; Ritual/1:00pm. Children of all ages welcome. Come join us as we celebrate this time of equal day, equal night, and the sacred in between. Ostara Egg Hunt and a Potluck following the ritual. This is a friendly alcohol-free and drug-free Pagan event. Please bring flowers

and/or appropriate offerings for the Spring Queen, an entree dish, and a small basket for the Egg Hunt. Wear fairy wings or brightly colored clothing. Cost: \$5-10. Location: De Laveaga Park, 40 Thieves Picnic Area, 850 Northern Branciforte, Santa Cruz. Call 831-423-1949 for more information.

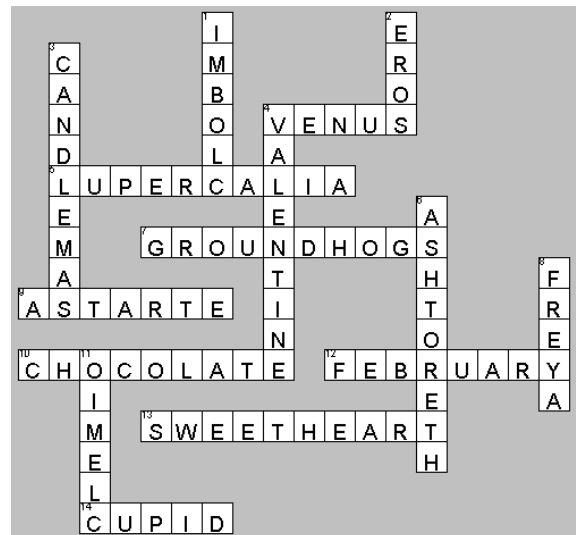
Ostara Egg Hunt - Oakland - March 27

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, invites children of all ages to come celebrate spring with an egg hunt in our beautiful garden from 3:00-4:00pm (preference will be given to small ones). Please bring a small basket and a potluck item to share. Cost: Free; Donations of plastic eggs are appreciated. For more information, contact JoHanna at 707-761-7781, faeriecilidh@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>.

Ostara 2005 with Hammer of Thor Kindred - Big Sur - April 15 - 17

Hammer of Thor Kindred presents their 9th (and final) Annual Ostara Gathering at Fernwood Resort and Camp Ground. There will be blots, Valkyrie games, Seidh, a bardic circle, archery, falconry, Heathen country fair, vendors, children's activities, a Saturday night feast and camping. Cost: \$50/by March 15, \$55/by April 13, \$65/door; discounts for couples. Contact ravenx333@aol.com or visit www.hammerofthorkindred.org for more information.

LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION



BELTAINE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submission and calendar deadline for the Inbolc newsletter is April 25, 2005. If you wish to contribute articles, opinions, recipes, book/video reviews, letters, or calendar items for the BAPAN, send them via E-mail to crblack95054@yahoo.com and type "newsletter contribution" in the subject line.

WHAT IS OSTARA?

From DenElder's Glossary

March 21 and the Vernal Equinox... Ostara* (os ter uh) the festival marking the start of Spring; and if you are into Astrology, you might note this is the first day of Aries, first Zodiacal Sign. This fire festival celebrates the Mother Earth's fertility and return of the God (Sun). A time of new beginnings, and reproduction... the day of Esther who dances with bunnies about her feet and an egg in one hand. When the god Pan, dances with her and together they encourage the Rites of Spring.

.....*Also celebrated as Eostar; and of course the better know Easter! Some will celebrate the astrological timing as Lady Day, and then the next Full Moon as Ostara. Old date being March 25th. Fertility symbols of bunnies and eggs carried over into the present celebrations.

.....Now how the heck did egg-laying bunnies show up? Well the Lady Eostar had a pet bird who laid eggs for her, but one day Eostar turned her bird into a rabbit... who continued to lay eggs. Some stories say She was angry at Her bird, other say it was just a curious whim.

HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

<http://www.abitoblarney.com/saintpatrick.htm>

St. Patrick was born to Catholic parents about 385 in Britain. His father was a nobleman and a deacon. But Patrick's privileged life came to an end at age 16 when he was captured by slave raiders from Ireland. With a large group of prisoners, he was transported to the then pagan island.

Sold as a slave to a king in the northeast, Patrick had the lonely task of tending the pigs and sheep. In the midst of these harsh living conditions, Patrick's faith flourished as he turned to God in prayer.

After being held captive for six years, he heard a voice in his sleep say, "Soon you will go back to your homeland." A short time later, he heard the same voice say, "Your ship is ready."

Trusting in God, Patrick set out on a 200-mile journey through unknown territory. When he arrived at the ship, the captain at first refused to take him. But Patrick prayed to God for help, and the captain changed his mind. Then began a lifetime of dedicating his life to becoming a priest. He envisioned returning to Ireland to teach the Irish about Christianity.

During his 30 years in Ireland, Patrick founded more than 300 churches and baptized more than 120,000 people. Yet he still encountered much opposition, "Daily I expect either murder, robbery, or enslavement," he wrote in his Confessions. He

escaped from 12 attempts on his life. Patrick died a natural death on March 17, 461.

By the end of the 7th century, many legends had developed about him. One, of course, says he charmed all the snakes in Ireland and led them to the sea to drown. Another, probably the most popular, is that he used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity to unbelievers. This is probably why shamrocks, now Ireland's national flower, are worn by the Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY ORIGIN AND HISTORY

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aprilfools1.html>

April Fool's Day is one of the most light hearted days of the year, yet it stems from a serious subject—the adoption of a new calendar.

A Traditional New Year's

Ancient cultures, including those as varied as the Romans and the Hindus, celebrated New Year's Day on April 1. It closely follows the vernal equinox (March 20th or March 21st.) In medieval times, much of Europe celebrated March 25, the Feast of Annunciation, as the beginning of the new year.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar (the Gregorian Calendar) to replace the old Julian Calendar. The new calendar called for New Year's Day to be celebrated Jan. 1. Many countries, however, resisted the change. In fact, some European countries held out for centuries (Scotland until 1660; Germany, Denmark, and Norway until 1700; and England until 1752).

Many French Refuse

In 1564 France adopted the reformed calendar and shifted New Year's day to Jan. 1. However, many people either refused to accept the new date, or did not learn about it, and continued to celebrate New Year's Day April 1.

Other people began to make fun of these traditionalists, sending them on "fool's errands" or trying to trick them into believing something false.

April Fish

The French came to call April 1 Poisson d'Avril, or "April Fish." French children sometimes tape a picture of a fish on the back of their schoolmates, crying "Poisson d'Avril" when the prank is discovered.

Great Britain Accepts the Calendar

In 1752, Great Britain finally changed over to the Gregorian Calendar, and April Fool's Day began to be celebrated in England and in the American colonies.

Pranks and jokes are of course still popular on this day—not to mention the rest of the year.

Scout's List of Local Pagan Events (and Stuff)

ScoutGhst@sbcglobal.net | <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFBayAreaPagans/>

March 22 - 8th Annual Celebration of Spring and the Goddess - Atherton

In honor of Women's History Month, Menlo College, an all-male institution for most of its existence, travels back to ancient times with its Eighth Annual Rites of Spring and Celebration of Peace and the Goddess. This multicultural rejoicing of the feminine spirit and the coming of spring will take place at 7:00pm in the Russell Center, El Camino Hall, 1000 El Camino Real, and is open to all men, women and children. The focus of this year's Celebration of Spring is on the need for peace in the context of today's war against terrorism and the role of goddesses from all over the world as civilizing agents. Speakers will include Laura Strom, a leader of drumming circles and practitioner of shamanistic feminine spirituality, and Evie McDonald, one of the co-founders of the event. McDonald will show Diana Hobson and Susan Alexander's short film poem "Into Being-The River" which blends the natural sounds and scientific frequencies derived from the molecular world of water in the hope of awakening in our ancient consciousness a cellular memory. Marla Lowenthal, professor of mass communication and cultural studies at Menlo College, will moderate the evening's festivities. Following the presentations, the audience will be invited to participate in a simple nondenominational Rites of Spring. As in the past, there will be a musical interlude of drumming. People are encouraged to bring percussion instruments and drums to join in the fun and flowers to rejoice in the coming of the equinox. Light refreshments will be served. Cost: Free. Information: 650-543-3840, mloenthal@menlo.edu or visit www.menlo.edu

March 22 - Trance Drumming Workshop - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento St, will host a Trance Drumming Workshop with Sondra Slade of Axis Mundi World Groove from 7:00-9:00pm. Ancient forms of group trance drumming and dancing have been practiced all over the world ever since the dawn of time, and they serve a far deeper function than just providing a good time in the moment. It is now widely recognized that there are deep biological, chemical and hormonal effects that can lead to radical changes of emotional, physical and psychological states of being within the participants, and have extremely healing, therapeutic and life changing results. We will go beyond pleasure and therapeutic benefit and into the mystical realm of authentic Transformation. This workshop will teach you how to get the best sounds out of your drum, a blend of World Beat rhythm patterns from India, the Middle East and Africa, and the core foundations for understanding, manifesting and journeying the shamanic terrain of rapturous Trance Drumming. You must bring your own drum. Drop-ins welcome. Cost: \$40. Information: 510-883-0600, axismundi@jps.net or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/eventpages/axism.html>

March 22 - Sacred Sexuality: Introducing Tantra - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts Sacred Sexuality: Introducing Tantra with Evalena Rose at 7:00pm. Explore ancient arts of connection and intimacy through energy-moving breathing practices and enjoyable exchanges. Tantra teaches romantic and erotic arts that increase passion and connectedness. Evalena Rose will show you how to enhance intimacy through safe, sacred, heart-centered interactions and how breath, imagery, movement, and ritual deepen contact. Open to your sexual aliveness. Evalena brings 16 years experience leading workshops on intimacy and on healing abuse and addictions to her workshops on Tantra as well as 25 years experience doing MetaTherapy and multidimensional healing in private practice. Cost: \$25/person, \$40/couple. Information: 707-528-1980, evalena@tantraforwomen.com or visit <http://www.tantraforwomen.com>

March 22 - Tuesday Means Tarot - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Tuesday Means Tarot with Thalassa from 7:00-9:00pm. A five-part romp and ramble down the Royal Road, covering history and lore, Major and Minor Arcana, divinatory techniques, and other fun stuff to do with a Tarot deck. Session 4: Those Darned Court Cards - fun with face cards. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10, sliding scale. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com or visit www.ancientways.com

March 22 - Witches Meetup - San Jose, Santa Cruz

Meet up with other witches in your town. Exchange lore, legends and learning at a vote-determined location near San Jose on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm. Visit <http://witches.meetup.com/> to sign up, and Meetup.

March 23 - Dance of the Serpent: Women, Belly Dance and Enchantment - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts Dance of the Serpent: Women, Belly Dance and Enchantment with Lana Nasser at 7:00pm. Let your inner fire awaken the serpent within you on this path of enchantment. Join us for an introductory workshop of performance, dance, fun and passion. Belly dance is an ancient ritual of goddess worship, celebration, grieving and healing, and just as we all have bellies, we can all belly dance; it is simply a matter of connecting with that primal energy which we carry with us, no matter how dormant it has become. "Dance of the Serpent" is a combination of belly dance basics, visualization and intention. It is essentially the practice of dancing with the shadow towards empowerment and integration. The workshop includes a sharp performance, an exploration of serpent myths and the untold myths of the goddesses of Arabia, followed by learning basic belly dance moves and dancing with a dream. Cost: \$15/person, \$10/student. Information: 510-644-1775, corpusenchantus@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

March 23 - Ka Lele: Hawaiian Healing Breath and Movement - Aptos

Sanctuary of Illumination, 3120 Trout Gulch Rd, hosts Ka Lele: Hawaiian Healing Breath and Movement with Gregory Hyman from 6:45-9:00pm. Learn Ka Lele, the ancient Hawaiian breath and movement pattern designed by kahunas (Hawaiian shamans) to heal and energize our body, harmonize our feelings, and clear our minds. Join us as we gather great mana~Spiritual Power~and experience our Oneness with All Life. Cost: \$10-15. Information: 831-685-1138, gregory@sanctuary-illumination.com, or visit www.sanctuary-illumination.com

March 23 - Kabbalah for Healing - Mountain View

East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St, hosts Kabbalah for Healing with Megan Wagner at 7:30pm. Megan Wagner's book, The Sapphire Staff, is a masterful weaving of Kabbalah and western psychology. We'll learn chants, prayers, and spiritual practices from Kabbalah, and hear about Megan's stunning Sacred Robes ceremony that activates the seven chakras and stages of healing. Megan is a therapist, artist, Kabbalah teacher, and interfaith minister. Cost: Free; Reservations required. Information: 800-909-6161, info@eastwest.com or visit <http://www.eastwest.com/>

March 23 - Tribal Community Gathering - Berkeley

The Toltec Center of Creative Intent, 2300 Roosevelt at Bancroft, hosts a Tribal Community Gathering from 7:00-9:00pm on the 4th Wednesday of every month. These Community Circles provide an opportunity for individuals to connect with their divine and creative self as a community. Each evening includes guided meditation, chanting, ritual and snacks. All are welcome. Cost: Free; Donations accepted. Information: 510-649-0352, info@spiritweavers.com, or visit <http://www.spiritweavers.com>

March 24 - Healing Demonstration and Lecture - Mountain View

East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St, hosts a Healing Demonstration and Lecture with Timothy Dunphy at 7:30pm. Using the advanced healing technique of Chi Aura Integration, fifth-degree black belt and international Taekwondo champion Master Timothy Dunphy has helped hundreds open their lives to greater peace, prosperity, and freedom. Timothy will explain the method and give audience-healing demonstrations. Open to experience

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immediate relief from physical pain and emotional trauma. Cost: Free; Reservations required. Information: 800-909-6161, info@eastwest.com or visit <http://www.eastwest.com/>

March 25 - Tarot Deckfinder: Show and Tell - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Tarot Deckfinder: Show and Tell with Shelly Martin and Will Hester from 7:30-9:30pm. Over one year of research has evolved into a premiere list of more than 2,000 tarot decks and oracles. My extensive new manuscript reviews all decks and rates the tarots. Find out which are the best sets available today and hear about some of the little-known packs with punch. If you'd like, bring some of your own decks for Show and Tell. Handouts will be provided. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10, sliding scale. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com or visit www.ancientways.com

March 25 - Full Moon Gathering (women) - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Full Moon Gathering, Moon in Libra from 7:00-9:30pm. All women and girls are invited to share an evening of nourishment and sisterhood. Join us for fun and surprises like: music, poetry, dance, storytelling and tarot; always something different. You are invited to make an offering of your special gifts. Please bring drums, rattles and potluck dish to share. Festive moon attire encouraged but not required. Please RSVP and let us know if you'd like to contribute a song, poem or group exercise. Cost: Free with potluck dish. Information: 510-655-2405, info@ChangeMakersForWomen.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

March 25-27 - Sacred Masks: Faces of the Wild Workshop – Boulder Creek

Sylvan and Copper Persephone of Reclaiming present a Sacred Masks: Faces of the Wild Workshop. Take up the mask, join the dance, and listen to the Call of the Wild. In this weekend we will journey to the inner realms to meet the Primal forces that feed our beings. Through the tools of trance, mask making, voice and movement and aspecting we will invite these forces to come forth, to show their faces, to work with us for transformation into mask form that we will make in Sacred Space. Calling upon the guardians of the elements, our allies, our ancestors, the fey, and the spirits of the land, this weekend will culminate in a fire lit mask ritual, weaving through twilight, an ecstatic spell of healing to re-enchant and bring nourishment to all our lives in all realms. Prerequisites: Elements of magic and one other Reclaiming Class or Witchcamp. Cost: \$60-180, sliding scale; includes overnight dorm style sleeping or camping, please ask for details. Pre-registration required. Information: 831-246-2907 or CopperPersephone@aol.com

March 26 - Spring Equinox Ritual (women) - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, hosts a Spring Equinox Ritual with Carolyn Hunt. Doors open/6:00pm, Ritual/7:00pm. Celebrate the full moon and the beauty of new life in a participatory, sacred, and ecstatic circle of women. Please bring: candle and holder; a poem, song, or story to share; food or drink to share; plate and utensils. Cost: \$10 suggested donation; no one turned away. Information: 510-883-0600, info@carolynhunrituals.com or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/home.html>

March 26 - Alice in Wonderland Egg Hunt - San Rafael

Oh my paws and whiskers! Follow the White Rabbit down the rabbit hole to this fantastic egg hunt held on the lawns of the Victorian mansions in downtown San Rafael. Held at the Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Ave, "E" St, from 2:00-4:00pm. Life-size characters from Lewis Carroll's book will be present. You can ask advice from the Caterpillar, enjoy your un-birthday at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and even have a mock picnic with Alice herself. The egg hunt will be divided into three age groups: 2 and under, 34 years, and 58 years. Also on tap: craft making, face painting, refreshments, and a puppet show. Egg-hunters, don't forget to bring a basket. Cost: \$5. Information: 415-485-3327 or visit <http://www.falkirkculturalcenter.org/>

March 26 - NineSisters Ritual - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a 9 Sisters Ritual with Catherine and Scott Pennington from 11:00am-1:00pm. NineSisters is open to both men and women of any level of magickal/spiritual experience/sexual orientation/religious belief/cultural calling. In this introduction to the NineSisters Ritual Group, founders Catherine and Scott Pennington will lead a guided meditation to meet the Nine Sisters, discuss the ways in which they manifest in our lives and go over the structure and goals of the group's 18-month training cycle. The Nine Sisters Ritual Group is a ritual based training cycle developed by the Penningtons to explore aspects of the 9-fold view of the divine feminine. By working with each of the Sisters in depth through an 18-month long cycle of rituals and personal work we are able to explore the way these energies manifest in order to heal ourselves, support our work and strengthen our partnerships. The NineSisters is a project of MAIA, an education non-profit dedicated to "keeping ritual alive." Cost: Free. Information: 510-655-2405, kate@ninepathways.org or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

March 26 – The Crusades: Two Sides of the Story – San Jose

The Rosicrucian Museum, 1342 Naglee Ave, hosts The Crusades: Two Sides of the Story, at 6:15pm. The period of wars called the Crusades were a powerful influence on the modern world. Through contemporary documents, learn what both sides of this conflict felt about the wars and the colliding cultures. This lecture will not be a treatise on right and wrong, but a study of the historical views from both the Christian and Muslim sides of the story in their own words. Cost: \$20/non-members, \$5/students and seniors. Information: 408-947-3665, pdimare@egyptianmuseum.org or visit <http://www.egyptianmuseum.org/calendar/index.html>

March 26 - May 7 - Natural Magick: Introduction to the Craft - Boulder Creek

Air and Fire, 13155 B Highway 9, hosts a 7-part Natural Magick: Introduction to the Craft course offered by Wytchwood School J'té Argent on 7 consecutive Saturdays from 10:30am-12:30pm. Course work centers upon the subjects covered in Spirit of the Witch, by Raven Grimassi. We cover Ethics; contagion magick; plant magick; season work; a short history of the Craft; Green Man and Green Woman; four and five Elements; ritual tools; basic intro to Lady and Lord; Witch's path and arts and the Three Great Mysteries. This course includes a workbook with informational handouts and approximately 3-5 hours of study each week between classes. Required reading before class begins: Spirit of the Witch by Raven Gramassi, and Spiral Dance by Starhawk. All enrolled students must commit to the full course and pay the full fee. Please note: Completion of this course or a demonstrated comparable knowledge a prerequisite for the course Sabat Wheel to be offered sequentially by J'té Argent at Air & Fire. Cost: \$105 plus \$15 lab fee for workbook and materials. Information: 831-338-7567, fireflower@airandfire.com or visit <http://www.airandfire.com>

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Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, invites children of all ages to come celebrate spring with an egg hunt in our beautiful garden from 3:00-4:00pm (preference will be given to small ones). Please bring a small basket and a potluck item to share. Cost: Free; Donations of plastic eggs are appreciated. Information: JoHanna at 707-761-7781, faerieceilidh@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

Scout's List of Local Pagan Events (and Stuff)

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March 27 - Orisha Worship Services: Obatala - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, hosts Orisha Worship Services with Ile Orunmila Oshun from 1:30-2:30pm. This month's temple service will focus on Obatala, the supreme deity of the Yoruba pantheon, the androgynous creator. Come hear more about this benevolent, wise Orisha and how s/he helps us follow the ethical road to our highest destiny. Cost: A small offering will be requested at the end of the service to help defray our cost. Obatala's number is 8, so please bring offerings that are a multiple of 8 (\$8, \$16, \$88, etc.) Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

March 27 - Sweat Lodge Ceremony - Petaluma

Seven Circles will host a Sweat Lodge Ceremony at Magic Ranch, 6315 Bodega Ave, at 12:00pm. The Sweat Lodge is probably the most recognized of all Native American Ceremonies. The Sweat Leader holds the sacred space and helps the participants with prayer and songs. In most of the Seven Circles lodges, the ceremony within the lodge is somewhat akin to a "talking circle". Participants are invited to speak from their hearts about their life and their community concerns. This is a ceremony of purification and prayer. In the heat and the darkness of the lodge, we can come closer to ourselves, closer to Creator, and closer to understanding each other. Kids are encouraged to attend. Bring a towel and loose clothes you can wear into the lodge. Please bring food for the sacred feast afterwards, a plate, a cup and silverware. We wish to honor the Earth by ceasing to use paper goods and plastic utensils. Information: 510-222-3822 or visit <http://www.sevencircles.org/>

March 27 - Gaia's Gateway: Visionary Activism - Palo Alto

Bay Area Pagan Assemblies (BAPA) sponsors Gaia's Gateway on the last Sunday of every month from 6:00-9:00pm at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd (except December). Each Gateway begins with an informative talk, and the practitioners of a different religion lead both the talk and the ritual each month. This month, Sandra Ingerman will present Visionary Activism: An Introduction to Medicine for the Earth. We will explore how to transmute negative states of consciousness affecting ourselves and our world. We will perform a ceremony, and will talk about energizing and empowering ourselves for personal and social transformation. Cost: \$5 donation requested from non-members. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), or visit www.bapa.net

March 27 - Irish Music Session and Traditional Song Circle - Felton

Don Quixote's, 6275 Highway 9, hosts an Irish Music Session and Traditional Song Circle on the 4th Sunday of every month from 6:00-10:00pm. All singers and instrumentalists are welcome. Sponsored by the Celtic Society of Monterey Bay. Information: Jessica at 831-335-7696, or Sheila at 831-464-2128.

March 27 - Celtic Music Session - Sunnyvale

Scruffy Murphy's, 187 S. Murphy Ave, hosts a Celtic Music Session on the 4th Sunday of every month from 5:30-8:00pm. Information: John at 408-269-1752.

March 27 - Open Goddess Ritual: Liturgy of the Lady - Berkeley

Fellowship of the Spiral Path (SPIRAL) invites you to an open Goddess service on the last Sunday of every month at the Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Church, 1606 Bonita at Cedar, starting at 7:30pm. Information: 510-658-6033 or HDGDPC@aol.com

March 29 - Transformational Drumming Circle - Oakland

All women and men are welcome to a Transformational Drumming Circle with Barbara Druker, MSW, at the First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St at 27th St, from 7:00-9:00pm. Doors open at 6:45pm; Opening Ceremony begins promptly at 7:00pm. Enjoy an easy, fun way to release your stress, renew your zest, free your creative expression, and create heartfelt connections. We will drum, sing, chant, and dance (just listening is also OK). No previous drumming experience is necessary. Bring a hand drum and/or rhythm instruments. Rattles and small wooden block drums provided. RSVP requested. Cost: \$10-20, sliding scale. Information: Barbara at 510-653-6104 or RhythmZest@earthlink.net

March 29 - Tuesday Means Tarot - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Tuesday Means Tarot with Thalassa from 7:00-9:00pm. A five-part romp and ramble down the Royal Road, covering history and lore, Major and Minor Arcana, divinatory techniques, and other fun stuff to do with a Tarot deck. Session 5: 101 Things to do with a Tarot Deck plus Reading Techniques. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10, sliding scale. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com or visit www.ancientways.com

March 30 - The Ecstasy of Sound (women) - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, hosts The Ecstasy of Sound: A Music and Healing Circle for Women with Jennifer Berezan from 7:00-9:00pm. Vibration is at the core of all that exists in the universe. Many cultures have long believed that the world itself was created through sound, and some believe that illness is a musical problem, a result of a lack of harmony in the system. In this workshop we will play with sound and rhythm to open our voices, our hearts and our whole beings. In a safe and supportive environment, we will encounter music as a spiritual practice, a path to healing, ecstasy, joy, wisdom and encountering our own true nature. No singing experience is necessary. Cost: \$20. Information: 510-883-0600, jennifer@edgeofwonder.com or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

March 30 - Linking Circles - Santa Cruz

The Sacred Grove, 924 Soquel Ave, hosts an open meeting, Linking Circles, on the last Wednesday of every month from 7:00-9:00pm. This is a space for all groups to meet and organize, and shall not be a recruiting platform controlled by any one group. Meet in a safe and comfortable environment where solitaires can meet groups, groups can meet groups and solitaires can meet solitaires. Information: 831-423-1949 or the-sacredgrove@the-sacredgrove.com

March 31 - Local Legends: Z Budapest - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, presents Local Legends: Zsuzsanna Budapest at 7:00pm. Belladonna Local Legends is a monthly series that honors and celebrates the achievements and contributions of local scholars of the feminist spirituality movement. Presenters will read from their body of work and discuss the scope of their writing and visions. Cost: \$10, suggested donation. Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

April 1 - Sophia Rising: A Modern Woman's Passion Play - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts Sophia Rising: A Modern Woman's Passion Play with Anastasia Prentiss at 8:00pm. Reaching back through herstory and dancing toward a transformative future this performance is one woman's story of her on-going quest for Wisdom. Interweaving poetry and dance with storytelling from modern and ancient mythological traditions. Join her as she rediscovers and celebrates our common lineage of

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Women's Wisdom and the world's Wisdom Goddesses. A Change Makers Fundraiser. Cost: \$10-15, sliding scale. Information: 510-655-7949, tasa@comcast.net or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

April 1 - Sacred Woman, Sacred Dance (women) - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, hosts a Belladonna Book talk - Sacred Woman, Sacred Dance: Awakening Spirituality Through Movement and Ritual with Iris Stewart from 7:00-9:00pm. A PowerPoint presentation by Iris J. Stewart, author, "*Sacred Woman, Sacred Dance: Awakening Spirituality Through Movement and Ritual*". Today we primarily think of dance as a form of entertainment or as a way to exercise or socialize. There was a time, however, when dance was considered the way to commune with the divine, a part of life's journey, celebrating the seasons and rhythms of the year and the rhythms of our lives. Dance is a language that reunites the body, mind, and soul. While the role of women's sacred dance was most valued in goddess-worshipping cultures where women served as priestesses and healers, dance was once an integral part of religious ritual and ceremonial expression in cultures all over the world, including Judaism and Christianity. In this book the author investigates how dance came to be excluded from worship and reveals how dance is once again being integrated into spiritual practices. Cost: Free. Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

April 1 - Womansong Circle - Berkeley

Betsy Rose invites you to Womansong Circles: participatory singing for peace, healing, joy and transformation at the First Congressional Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way at Dana. Potluck/6:45pm; Singing/7:15-9:30pm. All women's voices are welcome. Come sing, and experience your voice as a sacred and joyful instrument to awaken body, mind and spirit, and bring healing and renewed power to the wider world. Connect with your deeper self, other women and the earth. The repertoire includes songs of peace, justice, the many concerns and joys of women. Chants, folk songs, sacred songs, humor, and spirit are woven through the evening. No skills needed- just an open heart and a willing spirit. Drop-ins are welcome. Cost: \$10-15 donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds. Information: 510-525-7082, betsy@betsyrosemusic.org or visit www.betsyrosemusic.org

April 1 - Goddess is Alive - San Mateo

Goddess is Alive: Exploring the Rich Tradition of the Sacred Feminine at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 300 E. Santa Inez, from 7:00-9:30pm. Join leading women scholars, authors, artists and ritualists as we explore the ways in which the Sacred Feminine is present and "alive" today. Tonight, Chief Luisah Teish will present The Laughing Goddess: Stories and Rituals of the Healing Goddesses and the Power of Laughter as a Healing Modality. Cost: \$20/adult; \$15/students & seniors. Information: Joy at 650-692-6165, jreich14@sbcglobal.net or visit www.serpentina.com/goddessalive

April 2 - Root Chakra Workshop - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Root Chakra Workshop from 11:30am-1:30pm. This is Part 1 of a Spiritual Journey Through The Chakras with Moyosafi Ajabu: a spiritual, transformational journey that will take you through the seven levels of your being one Chakra at a time and more deeply explore The Wisdom of the Chakra. Participants will experience an energy-based approach to spiritual growth, through meditation, crystal therapy, coaching and the healing power of Reiki. Drop-ins welcome. Cost: \$18-25, sliding scale. Information: 510-710-2816, workshops@moyosafi.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

April 2 - The Havana Swing Ball - San Mateo

PEERS invites you to The Havana Swing Ball: All the Guys and Dolls Are Headed South to Dance at the Masonic Lodge of San Mateo, 100 N. Ellsworth Ave. Doors open at 6:15pm; Dance lessons at 6:30pm; Dancing begins at 8:00pm. Sara and Swingtime plays an evening of hot Swing, even hotter Latin dance, and elegant vintage ballroom dance music at this recreation of an evening in 1950's Havana, inspired by the musical "Guys and Dolls." Waltz, tango, fox trot, rumba, samba, cha-cha, and Swing at this eclectic swinging nightclub. For those wishing an introduction or brush-up dance class, there will be a pre-ball dance class in survival Swing and Latin dance. Suggested costume is vintage or modern evening dress, tango costume, or attractive resort wear - anything that might be appropriate for an evening out at a '50's nightclub. No host bar, pub snacks, a half-time floorshow, guys and dolls; who could ask for anything more? Cost: \$15/by March 26, \$20/door. Information: 510-522-1731, peers@peers.org or visit <http://www.peers.org/index.html>

April 2 - All Fools Picnic - Santa Cruz

Join The Index for an afternoon of frolic and fellowship at their All Fools Picnic at Ocean View Park, 102 Ocean View Ave, from 1:00-4:00pm. All are welcome. Please bring: layered clothing, food and drink to share, (no alcohol please), your own eating accoutrements, Frisbees and other outdoor toys, sunblock, and a blanket to sit on. The park has public restrooms, kids playground and is wheelchair accessible. Information: Constance at 831-425-3419 or Index@cyprian.org

April 2 - The Alchemy of Light and Heavy Energy - Menlo Park

Earth Caretakers presents The Alchemy of Light and Heavy Energy, a 5-part series from 1:00-4:00pm on consecutive Saturdays. When our bodies and hearts feel "dense" or "heavy," emotions like grief, depression, fear, and sadness fill us, and the possibility of experiencing a state of radiant wholeness seems unreachable. However, both cross-cultural and shamanic methods can help us learn to transmute the denseness in ourselves and embody the light. We will explore practices we can use to shift our mood, focus, and thought patterns, making space for light-hearted, joyful harmony to enter our lives. As the season turns, so can our intent to experience and embody shifts. Bring a journal. Cost for series: \$190. Information: 650-328-4347, megbeeler@earthlink.net or visit <http://www.earthcaretakers.net/>

April 2-3 - Beings of the InnerWorlds: The Three Worlds - Aptos

The Institute of Co-Creative Arts presents Part 2 of Beings of the InnerWorlds, The Three Worlds: UnderWorld, MidWorld, OverWorld with Andrea Wilson from 10:00am-4:00pm. Explore powerful transformative visionary work, and learn simple techniques for contacting inner teachers and co-walkers. Powerful transformative visionary work; beginning to advanced level accommodated. Cost: \$120-150. Information: Andrea at 831-458-5271 or cocreativearts@baymoon.com

April 3 - Spring into Elderflower (women) - Oakland

Spring into Elderflower, a special daylong festival to benefit Elderflower WomenSpirit Festival, will be held at the Humanist Hall of the Fellowship of Humanity, 390 27th Street and 411 28th Street from 10:00am-6:00pm. Entertainment ~ Workshops ~ Food ~ Silent Auction ~ Women's African Drum Dance Orchestra ~ Goddess Music Sing-along ~ Archaeological Slide Show ~ Craft Making Workshops ~ Massage ~ Amazon Ritual ~ Magic Making ~ Merchants. Cost: \$25-40, requested donation. Information: info@elderflower.org or visit <http://elderflower.org/>

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April 3 - Tarot Playgroup - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Tarot Playgroup from 11:00am-1:00pm on the 1st Sunday of every month. Bring your tarot deck or favorite divination tool. We'll learn new spreads and trade readings for each other in a supportive, low-pressure atmosphere. Beginners welcome. Cost: Free. Information: 510-655-2405, info@ChangeMakersForWomen.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

April 3 – Shamanic Drumming Circle – Boulder Creek

Char Lynn hosts a Shamanic Drumming Circle from 12:00-4:00pm. Within this circle we look at the shamanic approach to moving into non-ordinary reality through what is known as a drum journey. With the beat of the drum we 'travel' into spirit realms with intention and purpose to gather and bring back information pertinent to our lives. After our work together, having raised powerful group energy, we fill ourselves and create a healing circle to send out to those we love and the world. No experience necessary. Open to men and women. Cost: \$10-20. Information: 831-338-2996, charlynn@weavingunity.com or visit www.weavingunity.com

April 7 - The Rhythm of Life's Transitions - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts The Rhythm of Life's Transitions: Reawakening to Wholeness Workshop with Bonita Ford at 7:00pm. Are you going through a transition in your life? Find the ease and power within yourself as you attune to the rhythm of life. When we are connected to our natural cycles, we begin to experience the dance of transformation. Engage with the flow of the Four Directions and the four seasons through movement, artwork and visualization. Uncover the sacred gift of transformation in your life. Together, we will embark on a personal exploration and connect with others who are also on this journey. Beginners welcome. All materials provided. Cost: \$25; no one turned away for lack of funds. Information: 510-286-7915, info@ChangeMakersForWomen.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

April 8 - Goddess is Alive - San Mateo

Goddess is Alive: Exploring the Rich Tradition of the Sacred Feminine at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 300 E. Santa Inez, from 7:00-9:30pm. Join leading women scholars, authors, artists and ritualists as we explore the ways in which the Sacred Feminine is present and "alive" today. Tonight, Dianne Jenett, PhD, will present Cooking Up Equality: Pongala at Attukal Temple, Kerala, South India. Each spring over a million Hindu, Christian and Moslem women line the streets of Trivandrum with their pots to cook porridge for the Kerala goddess Bhagavati on behalf of their families and communities. This multi-media presentation explores the contemporary women's ritual from the viewpoint of the South Indian women who participate and American women who have been privileged to join them. They are performing a ritual which is deeply rooted in ancient Kerala mythology and cultural tradition but which also seems to have special meaning for women today. Cost: \$20/adult; \$15/students & seniors. Information: Joy at 650-692-6165, reich14@sbcglobal.net or visit www.serpentina.com/goddessalive

April 8 - Kali Puja: Sacred Ceremony – San Rafael

Rainbow Body Temple Teahouse, Café and Cultural Center, 923 C St, hosts Kali Puja: Sacred Ceremony at 7:00pm. Kali, the Great Mother of joyous ecstasy, compassionate Goddess of the soul is fiercely devoted to the transformation of every being. Traditional worship of the Great Mother with chanting and ritual. Information: 415-457-4191, info@opensecretbookstore.com or visit <http://www.opensecretbookstore.com/>

April 8 - Dark Moon)(New Moon Circle for Women - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Dark Moon)(New Moon Ritual with Magick Matriarch, Jules Stept from 7:00-10:00pm. The Magick of Connections, Beginnings and Endings with the Great Triple Goddess: Mother, Maiden and Crone. We honor the Great Goddess in Her Threefold Archetypal form: The Crone - Consummate Endings, The Mother - Creating Connections, and The Maiden - Intentional Beginnings. Our ultimate purpose in gathering is that, through honoring Her phases, we find comfort in our own process of growth and healing gaining wisdom and renewed life energy. Within the Magick circle we focus on transformation and the personal process using skills in healing, banishing, divination, spell casting and manifestation. No prior experience with circling is necessary. Each circle is different according to the desires of the womyn present. Bring item to charge for altar, pillow, water and healthy snack to share. Tea provided. Cost: \$20; work-trade available to those who make advance arrangements with Jules. Information: 415-695-9066, ACircleOfOurOwn@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

April 9 – Beginning Tarot Classes – Los Gatos

Inner Journey, 222 N. Santa Cruz Ave, hosts a 5-part Beginning Tarot Course on Saturdays with Lisa Dale Miller from 10:00am-12:00pm. This class combines learning with practice, and is specifically designed for beginning students. By the end of the 5 classes you will have studied the meanings of the 78 Tarot cards, learned some basic spreads, and worked on responsible counseling skills for beginners. Since most students have trouble finding the right context to practice what they learn, we will spend class time doing actual readings. Each student will need to have his or her own Tarot deck (about \$16.00) for this class. Lisa teaches with the Rider Waite Tarot Deck. Bring a notebook and either a Rider Waite Deck or Universal Waite Deck. Students must be 17 or older to join this class. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$125.00 (for a series of 5 classes). Information: Lisa at 408-206-2518, astrotarot@earthlink.net, or visit <http://www.astrowisdom.com/classes.htm>

April 9 - Sweat Lodge Ceremony - San Jose

Seven Circles will host a Sweat Lodge Ceremony at a private residence located at 435 S. 14th St, starting at 5:00pm. The Sweat Lodge is probably the most recognized of all Native American Ceremonies. The Sweat Leader holds the sacred space and helps the participants with prayer and songs. In most of the Seven Circles lodges, the ceremony within the lodge is somewhat akin to a "talking circle". Participants are invited to speak from their hearts about their life and their community concerns. This is a ceremony of purification and prayer. In the heat and the darkness of the lodge, we can come closer to ourselves, closer to Creator, and closer to understanding each other. Kids are encouraged to attend. Bring a towel and loose clothes you can wear into the lodge. Please bring food for the sacred feast afterwards, a plate, a cup and silverware. We wish to honor the Earth by ceasing to use paper goods and plastic utensils. Information: 408-278-1003 or visit <http://www.sevencircles.org/>

April 10– Healing Lodge Ceremony - Boulder Creek

Char Lynn will host a Community Lodge, open to all men, women and children; Fire at 9:00am, Lodge at 12:00pm. Our intention is to create a safe, sacred space where all people may come to heal, be honored in their personal process and purify mind, body and spirit. The Lodge is a sacred purification rite; for cleansing body, mind and spirit, through the use of hot stones, water to create steam and sacred space. The lodge itself is a metaphor of the Womb of the Earth Mother, unconditionally receiving and loving. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early. Help before the Lodge is appreciated. Potluck follows (nutritious foods please). Cost: \$20-50; work exchanges available. Information: 831-338-2996, charlynn@weavingunity.com or visit www.weavingunity.com

April 10 - Sunday Morning Goddess Circle (women) - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Sunday Morning Goddess Celebration with Nancy Ogilvie from 11:00am-1:00pm. Wanting to explore and celebrate feminine images of the Divine? Wanting a greater connection with the Goddess in your day-to-day life? Whether you're experienced in

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Goddess spirituality or new and curious, come honor and celebrate the Goddess within and without at these Sunday morning circles. We will create sacred space and invoke a different Goddess each month, sharing Her story and exploring Her influence in our day-to-day lives. A free will offering of thanks will be taken each time to benefit Change Makers for Women. Cost: Free will offering. Information: 510-690-0467, info@ChangeMakersForWomen.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

April 10 - Sweat Lodge Ceremony - Berkeley

Seven Circles will host a Sweat Lodge Ceremony at a private residence located at 1619 Virginia at Sacramento, starting at 5:00pm. The Sweat Lodge is probably the most recognized of all Native American Ceremonies. The Sweat Leader holds the sacred space and helps the participants with prayer and songs. In most of the Seven Circles lodges, the ceremony within the lodge is somewhat akin to a "talking circle". Participants are invited to speak from their hearts about their life and their community concerns. This is a ceremony of purification and prayer. In the heat and the darkness of the lodge, we can come closer to ourselves, closer to Creator, and closer to understanding each other. Kids are encouraged to attend. Bring a towel and loose clothes you can wear into the lodge. Please bring food for the sacred feast afterwards, a plate, a cup and silverware. We wish to honor the Earth by ceasing to use paper goods and plastic utensils. Information: 510-222-3822 or visit <http://www.sevencircles.org/>

April 13 - Sacred Pipe Ceremony - San Francisco

Seven Circles will host a Chanupa, or Sacred Pipe Ceremony, at Body-Mind-Movement Studio, 1850 Union #6, starting at 6:30pm. The "Chanupa", or Sacred Pipe, considered by many Native peoples to be the single most sacred item used in ceremony. It is used in many good ways and its presence at a ceremony helps keep the ceremony focused. The Pipe Ceremonies hosted by Seven Circles is similar to a "talking circle" where people are supported in speaking from their hearts. The ceremony leader helps hold the sanctity of the space while the participants speak about their lives and community concerns. Once all participants have spoken, the Sacred Pipe is passed around so that everyone can 'put their prayers into the pipe'. Once the pipe is 'loaded' with these prayers it is smoked to release the prayers and set them in motion. A tobacco-less smoking mixture, "kinnickinnick", is used in this ceremony. Please bring food for the sacred feast afterwards, a plate, a cup and silverware. We wish to honor the Earth by ceasing to use paper goods and plastic utensils. Information: 510-222-3822 or visit <http://www.sevencircles.org/>

April 14 – Celebrate Goddess Kuan Yin (women) - Concord

Daughters of the Goddess invite all women to Celebrate Goddess Kuan Yin: Goddess of Compassion at 7:30pm. Moon in Gemini. RSVP encouraged. Cost: \$30 newcomers. No one turned away due to lack of funds. Information: 925-787-9247, leilani@daughtersofthegoddess.com or visit <http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com/index.html>

April 15 - The Big Fat Wisdom Track - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, will host The Big Fat Wisdom Track: Ritual and Presentation dedicated to Aphrodite with Z. Budapest from 7:00-9:00pm. Open to everybody. Cost: \$13; no one turned away for lack of funds. Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

April 15 - Goddess is Alive - San Mateo

Goddess is Alive: Exploring the Rich Tradition of the Sacred Feminine at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 300 E. Santa Inez, from 7:00-9:30pm. Join leading women scholars, authors, artists and ritualists as we explore the ways in which the Sacred Feminine is present and "alive" today. Tonight, Deborah J. Grenn, PhD, will present Lilit's Fire: The First Woman as a Symbol of Empowerment. Who was Lilit? How can she and her counterpart/sister Ishtar serve as role models to help us reclaim our true voices and the suppressed parts of our Selves? How can we co-create a culture that once again honors the Sacred Feminine and our erotic life force? When viewed as natural instead of threatening, these energies fuel our inner strength and creative juices, enriching our intellectual and spiritual lives. Deborah Grenn is the founder and director of The Lilit Institute and author of *Lilit's Fire: Reclaiming Our Sacred Life Force*. Cost: \$20/adult; \$15/students & seniors. Information: Joy at 650-692-6165, jreich14@sbcglobal.net or visit www.serpentina.com/goddessalive

April 15, 16 - The Big Fat Wisdom Track Workshop (women) - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, will host The Big Fat Wisdom Track: Ritual and Presentation dedicated to Aphrodite with Z. Budapest from 7:00-9:00/Fri, and 10:00am-12:00pm, resuming 2:00-6:00pm/Sat. Women only. Gather once a month when the moon is waxing for this exciting new ongoing series. This month's session is dedicated to Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love and Death. Her importance was to open (apere) the doors of nature for the new cycle of life. Morning ~ Altar building to Aphrodite as a form of prayer. We will have a warm up Honoring ritual and later blessings of the genitals. We will pass pictures of the Madonna around and discuss the importance of women's contribution to humanity. Afternoon ~ We will celebrate Haloa, a ritual not performed since the seventies. This is a women's tradition of exercising Free Speech. How was it celebrated? Little is known of Haloa because there was great secrecy involved with the practices. All we know is that the women dressed up to the max, came with all kinds of great foods, especially pastries resembling genitals. Once together they engaged in forbidden speech and could say things otherwise was forbidden to women. Today we are much more free to say what we like. However women's opinions are still suppressed in the media, and in print. Women's views of war and peace totally ignored. But the Haloa is about sex. Women talk frankly about their sex lives, eat x rated pastries, and feed each other. Whispering into each other's ears, passing the word. I see this ritual starting a Third Wave of women coming together once more as sisters, and gain strength from each other's realities. Bring food to share, and pastries that remind one of genitals. Dress nice. Cost: \$85-100/Fri&Sat, sliding scale. Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/>

April 15-17 - Sacred Sexuality: Reclaiming Our Birthright – Boulder Creek

Todd Herriott and Copper Persephone of Reclaiming present Sacred Sexuality: Reclaiming Our Birthright and Embodying the Sacred Whore. In Reclaiming our Power, Reclaiming our Lives and Reclaiming our Spirit, we must not forget that at our root, at the base of who we are, is our Sacred Sexuality. Sex is our Birthright, a birthright that has been perverted, denigrated, stolen, or lost to the power of the Other. Our challenge is to Reclaim our Sexuality and transform the Archetype of the Sacred Whore to a place of honor and sanctity. Through the use of meditative tools, exercises, movement, and trance, we will explore our Sexual landscape. We gather back to ourselves those parts that we have lost or given away. We will reclaim our Sex and Sexuality as essential components to who we are. It is essential that participants work from a place of respect, authenticity and personal responsibility and are comfortable with working skyclad and in mixed groups. Cost: \$60-180, sliding scale. Information: Copper at 831-246-2907 or Copperpersephone@aol.com