



## 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.

Yule 2003

### BAPA NEWS

#### *PAGAN PLEDGE NIGHT*

Twelve volunteers from BAPA took pledges for KTEH during a broadcast of Joseph Campbell's "Power of Myth" on the evening of December 10. We exceeded our goal by raising \$12,875 for San Jose's local public television station. Participants were: Vicki and Ellie Ralls, Jim and Kate Wolf-Pizor, Jim McCann, Irene and Earl Young, Mark Iennaco, Gary Mattingly, Michael and Rebekkah Dilts, and Scout, our BAPA events editor. If you are interested in participating in future volunteer events, please contact Gary Mattingly at: [gsmattingly@yahoo.com](mailto:gsmattingly@yahoo.com).

#### *NEXT GAIA'S GATEWAY*

##### **Siberian Shamanism**

**Sunday, January 25, 6:00 - 9:00 PM**

Note: There will be no Gateway in December.

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### MINI BOOK REVIEWS

*by Michael Dilts*

Looking for a last minute Yule gift? Here are some recently published books of interest to the Pagan community.

#### **Sacred Stones of the Goddess: Using Earth Energies for Magickal Living**

*Galen Gillotte (Llewellyn: 2003)*

The author of *A Book of Hours: Prayers to the Goddess* has assembled a collection of magickal workings oriented toward a variety of western and eastern goddesses. Each is centered around a crystal or gemstone used with a variety of other materials. An affirmation, meditation and spell are given as well, along with information about the goddess and stone whose powers are invoked. For example, the spell for fidelity is addressed to Hera and the stone in this case is lapis lazuli. The corresponding affirmation is: "Our bond

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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

- *No Gateway will be held in December.*
- Sunday, January 25; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
*Siberian Shamanism*  
with the Russian Esoteric Academy
- Sunday, February 29; 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
*Chaos Magick*  
with David Barron

### 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.

### *Book Reviews, Continued from Page 1*

of fidelity is passionate and deep." A guided meditation is provided to be completed within the circle and the spell is a chant inviting Hera's blessing. This book is an interesting and unique approach to mineral magick.

### **An Alphabet of Spells**

*Elen Hawke (Llewellyn: 2003)*

This diminutive volume is less a spell book than a Wiccan "Hints from Heloise." It includes helpful tips for common ailments and complaints. For example, under "H" we learn that headaches can be treated with a handful of feverfew and a small piece of tourmaline wrapped in a square of cotton or linen. For "Confidence," the *Alphabet* recommends burning an orange candle and carrying carnelian. The listing for "Binding" advises us to avoid such spells and to calm ourselves instead with lavender and blue candles. All in all, a handy, dandy little Yule stocking stuffer.

### **Runes of Elfland**

*Brian Froud and Ari Berk (Harry N. Abrams: 2003)*

The Illustrator of *Faeries* and *Good Faeries* *Bad Faeries* has teamed up with a Professor of Literature to create a marvelous and enchanting tome. According to the authors, the Runic letters are descended from a Faery Alphabet based on natural shapes and forms. Each Rune has not only a sound but also a story reflecting its mythic origin. The purpose of the book is to reawaken these stories so that the unique gifts of the Runes may be discovered. The stories are magnificently illustrated by Froud and the tales are beautifully told, with inspiration drawn not only from Germanic legend but also from Celtic and Native American folk traditions. "Any place may provide a door to Elfland if the right runes are known..."

## YULE ACTIVITIES

### Yule Log (Burnable)

*What you need:*

Large Piece of Oak Log  
Small Pine Cones  
Evergreen Sprigs (Holly, Fir, Pine, Spruce,  
etc.)  
Red Ribbon  
Hot Glue Gun

*Directions:*

Arrange greenery and cones on top of log, working out from the center. Attach it with the glue gun. Tie ribbon in a bow around the middle of the log. Light log in fireplace or bonfire while chanting:

*We give you life, Oh flame so bright;  
Return to us your joyful light!*

[From Dorothy Morrison *Yule: A Celebration of Light*]

### Wassail

*What you need:*

3-4 Cups Ale of Beer  
1/4 Cup Sugar  
Cinnamon Sticks and Whole Cloves (To Taste)  
2-3 Small Sweet Apples  
1 1/4 cup Pineapple Juice  
1 1/4 Cup Orange Juice  
2 Lemons  
1/2 Pint Whipping Cream

*Directions:*

Combine ale or beer, sugar, spices, and juice in large cooking pot. Cut up apples and add to mixture. Squeeze in juice from lemons as well. Place on slow flame. Remove from heat just before liquid reaches boiling point. Whip up cream and let flow on top like foam. Serve brew in holiday punch bowl.

[From John Matthews, *The Winter Solstice*]

### Yule Log Roll (Edible)

*What you need:*

Cake:  
3/4 Cup Flour  
1 Cup Granulated Sugar  
3 Eggs  
2/3 Cup Strawberry Jam or Cranberry Relish  
1 Teaspoon Baking Soda  
1/2 Teaspoon Salt  
1/2 Cup Powdered Sugar  
3/4 Cup Walnuts  
1 Can Chocolate Frosting

Filling:

8 Ounces Creamcheese  
1 Cup Powdered Sugar  
2 Tablespoons Butter  
1 Cup Walnut Pieces  
1 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract

*Directions:*

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease jelly roll pan and line with waxed paper. In medium mixing bowl, beat eggs and granulated sugar until well blended. Add jam or relish and beat well, then add flour, soda and salt. Pour into pan. Sprinkle walnuts on top. Bake for 15 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched.

Immediately loosen sides of cake from pan. Sprinkle powdered sugar on towel and turn out cake on top. Roll cake in towel, starting with short end, and cool on wire rack.

Mix filling. Unroll cake and spread filling on top, leaving 1 inch border at edges. Roll cake tightly as for jelly roll, then wrap in foil and place in refrigerator. Ice with chocolate frosting just before serving. Serves 8 to 10.

[From Dorothy Morrison *Yule: A Celebration of Light*]

**NOTE:** “Wassail” was originally an Anglo-Saxon greeting: *waes hal* “be healthy”

## 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.*

### December 19 - Winter Solstice Ritual - Sebastopol

Reclaiming invites you to their 16th Annual Winter Solstice Ritual with Starhawk and friends at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris St. Gather at 6:30pm; ritual at 7:00pm. In the time of deepest night comes the spark of regeneration and hope. Ritual indoors and warm! This event is a fundraiser for the Earth Activist Training scholarship fund, with raffle and silent auction for truly fabulous prizes. Cost: \$10-20 (work exchange available). Information: Mer at mer@starhawk.org, 707-583-2300, ext. 119 or visit <http://www.reclaiming.org/rituals/sonoma.html>.

### December 20 - Yule Ritual and Celebration - Palo Alto

New Reformed Orthodox Order of Golden Dawn (NROOGD) will host a Yule Ritual at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd. Gather at 7:00pm; Ritual at 7:30pm. Celebrate the return of the light throughout the world with Dark Forest and Friends and share stories for a long Winter's Night. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a gift (under \$8.00) for the cauldron. Gifts for children should be labeled accordingly. Pot Luck Feast following the ritual; please bring something to share. Cost: A donation of \$10-25 per adult is requested - no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Information: Nette at lazuli@aol.com or visit <http://www.nroogd.org/calendar.htm>.

### December 21 - Winter Solstice Ritual - San Francisco

Reclaiming invites you to join them for a Winter Solstice Celebration at Ocean Beach near Taraval Street (between Sloat and Taraval). Gather at 3:00pm; Ritual at 4:00pm. Bring firewood, food and non-alcoholic drink to share, and a towel if you want to plunge. Dress warmly; it can get quite cold. Information: NasusLD@aol.com or visit <http://www.reclaiming.org/rituals/sf.html>.

### December 21 - Winter Solstice Ritual - Hayward

All Hayward area pagans are invited to celebrate the turning of the wheel of the year at Starr King Unitarian Church, 22577 Bayview Ave (off of Kelly) from 2:00-4:00pm. Cost: \$5 - 10 donation appreciated but not required. Information: SageFireBeth@yahoo.com.

### December 21 - Celtic Solstice Ritual - Monterey

Mara Freeman hosts, Celtic Solstice: Celebrate the Return of the Light at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 490 Aguajito Rd from 2:00-6:00pm. Discover the magic of the Celtic Midwinter Feast of Yule. ~ Learn about midwinter celebrations in the Celtic lands from ancient to modern times, including the lore of sacred trees, the birth of the Sun in megalithic times, and traditional customs and practices from Scotland and Ireland. ~ Take part in meditations and ritual to help you connect with the inner meaning of this special time when the new light of the year is born. ~ Learn simple customs, crafts and recipes that will add a Celtic flavor to your holiday celebrations. ~ Hear traditional Irish and Scottish tales of the season. ~ Celebrate with ancient songs and circle dances. Cost: \$39.00 in advance; \$49.00 at the door. Information: 831-644-9393 or visit <http://www.celticspirit.org/sacredgrove.htm>.

## 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.*

December 19, 26 - Open Drumming Circle - San Francisco

The Music Store, 66 West Portal Ave, hosts an open drumming circle every Friday from 6:00-8:00pm. The drum circle is open to everyone. All percussion instruments are welcome. Information: 415-664-2044 or visit [www.americanrootsmusicshow.com](http://www.americanrootsmusicshow.com).

December 19 – Women’s Spiritual Journey – Monterey Peninsula

Join us the third Friday of each month from 7-9PM at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula for Women's Spiritual Journeys: A Safe Place to Explore. This is a unique opportunity for women of various faith perspectives, lifestyles, ages, and stages to come together for meaningful dialogue, shared ritual, and the Goddess within. Together we will share our stories, celebrate our lives, and explore our spiritual journeys. Cost: Free. Information: Sheree at 831-899-3565, or Phyllis 831-659-4585.

December 20 – Drumming Circle – Walnut Creek

Every third Saturday, Dolphin Dream hosts a drumming circle from 6:30 – 8PM. Bring your drums and rattles or use theirs to beat away the stresses of the outside world and find that place within where the heartbeat dwells. Cost: Free. Information: 925-933-2342.

December 20 – Rhythm Circle – Palo Alto

Rhythm Circle usually meets on the third Saturday of each month from 6:30-7pm, followed by a potluck, and then a Bardic Circle into the night. For the Bardic Circle, we sit around in a circle and take turns "pick, pass, or play". You can pick someone to do something, pass your turn, or play by singing, reciting stories or poetry, drumming etc. We usually have a few guitar players, fiddlers, drummers, and at least one didjeridu player. Most people sing a cappella. It's a really friendly environment. Most people that show up for the bardic circle come during the potluck period. If you are only interested in the rhythm circle, feel free to stay for the potluck if you want. Bring drums, didjes, and other rhythmic instruments. If you are interested in attending, request to be put on the announcement list. For location and information: [richard@imagecraft.com](mailto:richard@imagecraft.com).

December 20 - Betwixt 'n Between Group - Oakland

Change Makers, 6536 Telegraph Ave., hosts the Betwixt 'n Between Group for Women, facilitated by BodySpirit Coach Nika Quirk, from 11am-12:30pm on the third Saturday of every month. The focus of the group is Change and transitions. Yes, change is continuous because we're evolving. Share your transition stories and increase your ability to embrace ease, grace and magic while in the "space between." This group's atmosphere will be sacred and playful - a great way to spend a Saturday morning in connection, learning, and fun. Our BodySpirits will enjoy breathing, moving, using voices, the depths and whimsy of our hearts and minds, the relief of being together. Change will be held as a whole, essential and common experience encompassing gifts, challenges, and impacts to our lives. Nika Quirk is a BodySpirit Coach, Certified InterPlay leader and life improvisation practitioner, ritual designer and leader, mother, corporate veteran, wise woman and joyful human. Cost: \$10. Information: 510-381-5350, [nikaquirk@betwixtnbetween.com](mailto:nikaquirk@betwixtnbetween.com) or visit [www.betwixtnbetween.com](http://www.betwixtnbetween.com).

December 21, 28 – Pagan Coffee and Open Circle Teaching – Marina

Come to Red Rock Coffee and Tea located at Seacrest and Reservation every Sunday from 11:00am-1:00pm. The first hour is social hour, then a topic will be chosen and the open form teaching begins. Sponsored by Firerose Tradition. Look for a man in a black leather jacket and glasses (Robert aka Dragon Founder of Firerose Tradition) and a knitting woman with dark hair (Kate).

December 21 - Women's Sweat Lodge Ceremony - Boulder Creek

Char Lynn will host a Sweat Lodge Ceremony for Women; Fire at 9am, Lodge at 1pm. 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: The suggested minimum donation is

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\$20; work exchanges are available. Information: 831-338-2996 or MtnChar7@aol.com.

December 21 – Radical Fairies Ritual – Santa Cruz

The Radical Fairies of Santa Cruz gather on the third Sunday of the month to celebrate full moons and solstices, our love for the earth our mother, each other, and the spiritual gift which that love is. Join them for a potluck at 6PM, and ritual at 7PM. Information: 831-335-5861 or 831-429-1388.

December 21 – Women’s Spirit Circle – San Rafael

Women’s Spirit Circle meets on the third Sunday of every month at 5:00pm at the Marin Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin located at 240 Channing Way, San Rafael. A light to heavy potluck will follow, depending on participation. This is a circle open to all women, whether interested in UUism or not. Volunteers provide a safe space for sharing, healing, community in a Pagan, or earth centered spirituality. Information: Marina at 415-893-9999 or songster@cmc.net, or Wendy at 415-892-6983 or foxglove@slip.net or visit <http://www.mindspring.com/~uucm/> Church phone: 415-479-4131.

December 23 – Drumming Circle – Half Moon Bay

The Moss Beach Drumming Collective, a core shamanic drum circle, meets at 7:00pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Half Moon Bay Yacht Club in Half Moon Bay. It is not mandatory to attend every drum circle, but regular participants will benefit greatly from the consecutive teachings provided by JanFreya. This will provide an excellent opportunity to develop shamanic journey skills. Cost: \$10.00 per session. Information: [janfreya@mindspring.com](mailto:janfreya@mindspring.com).

December 23 - Witches Meetup - San Jose

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

December 24 - Open Circle - Berkeley

ALAYA: the Shaman Supply Store, 713 University Ave at McGee, hosts Sacred Circle: A Sacred Interfaith Gathering with Ouida Joi on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6:30-7:45pm. These ongoing Sacred Circle gatherings honor and embrace the sacred traditions and rituals from many faith traditions and cultures, including Native American, Hindu, Yoruba, and Wicca. We will drum, chant, meditate & provide open space for spiritual sharing and transformation. Cost: love donation. Information: 510-548-4701, [alayabr@earthlink.net](mailto:alayabr@earthlink.net) or visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca7/interfaithceremonies>.

December 26 – Women’s Group – Berkeley

"Rituals for Life", a women's group with Z Budapest, meets on the first and last Fridays of the month from 7-9pm. We focus on our lives, we listen to each other, we don't judge. Z then will lead then lead appropriate and powerful rituals to support our goals. Group meets at the 1901 North Berkeley Senior Center (corner of Martin Luther King and Hurst St) second floor; room C. Z Budapest is an internationally known author of seven books on the Goddess and her rituals. She is returning to lead groups for the first time in the 21st century. Cost: \$100 a month. Information: 510-893-3097. Register online at [www.zbudapest.com](http://www.zbudapest.com) via PayPal or E-mail [silverzb@aol.com](mailto:silverzb@aol.com).

December 28 - Dancing with the Divine - Berkeley

ALAYA: the Shaman Supply Store, 1713 University Ave at McGee, hosts Dancing with the Divine: A Sacred Interfaith Movement and Dance Circle with Ouida Joi on the fourth Sunday of each month from 10:30am-12pm. This monthly sacred dance circle is a celebration of movement and dance honoring the Divine within us all. Together we will connect with the Divine Essence through free form movement, breath work, sacred music, and dancing meditation. Come experience the joy, freedom, creativity and fun by dancing with the Divine. No previous dance experience required. Information: 510-548-4701, [alayabr@earthlink.net](mailto:alayabr@earthlink.net) or visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca7/interfaithceremonies>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 28 – Irish Music Session and Traditional Song Circle – Felton

Irish Music Session and Traditional Song Circle every fourth Sunday from 6-10pm at Don Quixote's located at 6275 Highway 9, Felton. All singers and instrumentalists are welcome. Information, contact Jessica at 831-335-7696, or Sheila at 831-464-2128. Sponsored by the Celtic Society of Monterey Bay. ist Church, corner of Cedar and Bonita Streets. Information: Diana at 510-658-6033 or 707-558-8564.

January 7 - Pagan Pub Moot - Sacramento

Join us for non-tradition-specific discussion and socializing on the first Wednesday of every month at the True Love Coffeeshouse, located at 2406 J Street, from 7:30-10:00pm. If you're new in town, new to Paganism, or looking for people of like mind, come to make contacts, learn about issues and have fun.

January 16, 2004 - Benefit for the Interfaith Pagan Celebration - Berkeley

Tempest and Avalon Rising will perform in a benefit concert for the Interfaith Pagan Celebration at the Starry Plough pub, at Shattuck Ave. at Prince St. (a short walk uphill from the Ashby BART station), starting at 9:30pm. Cost: \$10-15; sliding scale.

January 22 through May 13 - Formal Instruction in the Magickal Arts - San Jose

Apprentice Practitioner Program offered by Universitas Fumi et Speculorum. Nine alternate Thursdays, starting January 22 from 7:30-9:30 PM. Discover the world of Real Magick! Topics to be covered include Divination, Herbology, Psychic Protection, Wand Making, Spellcasting. Classes take place at the San Jose Metaphysical Book Shop, 1231 Kentwood Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129. (De Anza Shopping Center, one block North of Highway 85 at the De Anza Boulevard exit..) Cost: \$180 Tuition for 9-class session. Information: 408-446-0590, sjbookshop@mindspring.com.

January 25, 2004 - Gaia's Gateway – Siberian Shamanism – Palo Alto

BAPA sponsors Gaia's Gateway, an open public ritual featuring a different Pagan tradition each month. Gateways are held from 6-8:30pm at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church located at 505 E. Charleston Rd. Each Gateway begins with an informative talk, and both the talk and the ritual are led by the practitioners of the religion presented. This month's Gateway will be a presentation on Siberian Shamanism by the Russian Esoteric Academy. Cost: \$5 donation requested from non-members. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), ScoutGhst@aol.com or visit [www.bapa.net](http://www.bapa.net).

February 13-16, 2004 – PantheaCon – San Jose

Ancient Ways bookstore is sponsoring PantheaCon 2004, a Pagan gathering of workshops, lectures, performances, rituals and vendors at the Double Tree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place. First discount ends September 15, 2003. Information: 510-653-3244, [store@ancientways.com](mailto:store@ancientways.com), or [www.ancientways.com](http://www.ancientways.com).

February 29, 2004 - Gaia's Gateway – Chaos Magick – Palo Alto

BAPA sponsors Gaia's Gateway, an open public ritual featuring a different Pagan tradition each month. Gateways are held from 6-8:30pm at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church located at 505 E. Charleston Rd. Each Gateway begins with an informative talk, and both the talk and the ritual are led by the practitioners of the religion presented. This month's Gateway will be a presentation on Chaos Magick by David Barron. Cost: \$5 donation requested from non-members. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), ScoutGhst@aol.com or visit [www.bapa.net](http://www.bapa.net).