



BAPAN

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

YULE 2004

BAPA NEWS

Greetings BAPA Members!

1. Web Updates - BAPA is getting a bit of a face lift. You'll see some changes to the website in coming weeks and months. Please let Crystal know if there are things you'd like to see changed by emailing her at crblack95054@yahoo.com.
2. Survey Update - Thank you to all members who filled out our online survey at www.bapa.net/members/survey_2004.html! Generally speaking, folks would like to see the Gaia's Gateway continue in the fashion it has over the last many years, however folks are eager to see BAPA hosted events in or closer to their neighborhoods. There also appears to be some interest in some ministry and/or organizational training so we'll be looking into our resources and seeing what we can do to begin to fill these community needs. If you think of other things we can do for you, please let us know!
3. 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!
4. Do you know who the volunteers for BAPA are? - There have been a lot of changes of the guard at BAPA in the last few months. We elected a new board of directors and have lost a few volunteers.

Thanks to those who have stepped up to the plate to take on the extra work!

BAPA Officers:

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

BAPA Volunteers:

Gateway Chiefs: Michael Dilts & Mark Iennaco
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

No Gateway scheduled for December. Please check back at our website as we get organized for the new year!

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BOOK REVIEW - TAROT FOR DUMMIES BY AMBER JAYANTI

by Greg Archer, Editor of *GOOD TIMES*

Reprinted from *GOOD TIMES, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY'S NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY*, April 25, 2002.

Go ahead-pick a card. Any card. She may not actually be a magician on stage offering to tell you your fortune, but on some level...she very well could be. Amber Jayanti went from teaching tarot and Qabalistic study for more than 26 years locally to landing a national best seller in the "For Dummies" book franchise, which provokes one to ask the ultimate question: Was this surprising success written in the cards?

That's up for interpretation. Regardless, Jayanti's story is loaded with the sort of thing that makes all success happen-synchronicity, good intuition, and, well, even better luck. The manifestation of the book append quite simply. Initially, after spotting her Web site www.practical-mystic.com, Hungry Minds, Inc.-the folks who published the popular book series-contacted Jayanti and asked her if she would be interested in creating a book called "Tarot for Dummies."

Jayanti's initial response: "You must be kidding." She had reason to be skeptical. Could she really see herself writing a book about something as spiritual and deep as tarot-and for an enterprise that some might not hold in the highest esteem? But then she began picking up some of the other "For Dummies" books out there-just to see how they were done-and something shifted.

"I decided these (books) are wonderful introductions to people," Jayanti says. "And I saw myself as having an opportunity to bring the tarot up a notch. This was in the midst of the Miss Cleo scandal. I wanted to show it as a Qabalistic Mystery School Tradition, which is how I was trained. When I was considering doing this, I was open-the whole outline came to me while taking a shower, so I said, "OK, I guess I am going to throw the hat in the ring."

When push came to spiritual shove, Jayanti really felt drawn to basically share her experiences with the tarot and showcase it as more than just a "meaningless fortune-telling device."

"I wanted to dispel some of the misnomers about the tarot; to present it as a bona fide spiritual tradition," she says. "And to understand that however people use it, is exactly right for themselves. There is no own-way. It's spiritual psychology. I wanted people to see that it is also rooted in antiquity, and that many people use it-psychologists, social workers, teachers."

So, what is it, actually? What is tarot?

Through surprisingly simple explanations, Jayanti tells her readers, step by step, what tarot is, what it's used for, how and debunks certain misconceptions about it along the way. A few of those are found in the chapter titled, "Top Ten Tarot Misconceptions." Here Jayanti lets the air out of such misconception tires: No, if you use it you won't go to "hell!"

No, you don't have to be psychic to work with the tarot. And no, each specific card doesn't have a specific predetermined meaning- "How boring." Jayanti tells the readers.

The book also features a section on the differing perspectives of the tarot. Throughout the entire book, images from a tarot deck are illustrated and explained. All of this goes to illustrate how tarot is bathed in spirituality. Jayanti also points out that a typical tarot card deck is made up of 78 cards whose bold images are offered for interpretation. A single card, or together, in a tarot spread, a visual story, or oracle, is presented and can be analyzed based upon meditative inquiry.

Perhaps even more interesting, there are points in the book, where Jayanti shares her own experiences with the tarot and her teaching in a Qabalistic Mystery School. She says she believes the tarot illustrates universal and natural laws, truths, and principles, something she considers "ageless wisdom."

Other notables: the History and Mystery section explains where the tarot came from, stringing theories together and mapping its course through time; samples of tarot spreads, from the "chakra spread" to "the relationship spread"; and, humorously, "The ten cards most likely to cause a freak-out."

Born in New York City, Jayanti received her first tarot deck as a Christmas present in 1967. Life lured her to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, where she eventually studied with her first tarot teacher, Jordie Lorrington. What followed were a series of life-transforming events. She became a student of the Builders of the Adytum (BOTA), a Western Mystery School that specialized in Qabalistic tarot. Yoga and astrology classes were also a part of the scenario. When she studies spiritual practices in India, Thailand and the Himalayas, she "received a deep inner certainty about my life's work." In 1975, she founded the Santa Cruz School for Tarot & Qabalah Study, which offers four years of course material. Her previous book, "Living the Tarot" hit high notes, as did "Principles of the Qabalah." She also created a CD of Sacred Qabalistic Chants.

One of the biggest joys she has received from teaching has been to get the opportunity to subtly suggest that students accept and love their perfectly imperfect selves-it is so rewarding for me to see students, getting this message. Self-acceptance and love is a key step in the Great Work, the evolution of consciousness.

Jayanti also suggests that, "after we accept ourselves we start accepting others."

Now that she has a national bestseller under her belt, has life changed that much? Not really. Jayanti says things are moving along at quite a normal pace.

About the book's success, she does offer a very simple and lovingly detached viewpoint: "How nice that the book is resonating with so many people. And that it's a time for this-that people are getting something out of it. I have been writing for years and sometimes you write and nobody reads what you write, so you end up writing for yourself. And I wrote this for myself-only now there's a critical mass for the interest in tarot, so (that's why) the book is happening."

Where to contact BAPA:
P.O. Box 4159
Mountain View, CA 94040
<http://www.bapa.net>

BAPA LIBRARY:

The library is a lending and exchange library; therefore, any materials such as books, videos, cassettes, or tarot decks circulate, with the inventory being mutable over time. The library is accessible at the Gaia's Gateway each month, and the current stock is available online on the new website located at http://bapa.net/Gaia_s_Gateway/. What interesting reading or movie watching have you done recently? Send us a review and a recommendation!

Submission Deadline

Submission and calendar deadline for the Inbolc newsletter is January 30, 2004. 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.

Do you have a web connection?

You can be environmentally conscious and save us postage and printing costs by receiving the newsletter via E-mail or by viewing it via web. Send mail to BAPAMailing@yahoo.com if you would like to save us \$9-12/year! View the BAPAN online at http://www.bapa.net/The_BAPAN/!

CHRISTMAS BARK CANDY

This doesn't have peppermint, but is very pretty when you use M&M candies. Prep Time: approx. 5 Minutes. Cook Time: approx. 3 Minutes. Ready in: approx. 15 Minutes. Makes 1 pound (16 servings).

- 1 (10 ounce) package vanilla baking chips
 - 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
 - 1 1/2 cups mini candy-coated chocolate pieces
- 1 Line a baking pan with wax paper or foil.
 2. In a microwave safe bowl combine vanilla chips and vegetable oil; microwave on high until chips are melted. Stir until smooth; let cool for 2 minutes. Stir in candy-coated chocolate pieces. Spread mixture onto prepared pan; chill for 10 minutes and break into pieces.

CHRISTMAS QUOTE - SUNSHINE MAGAZINE

He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.

LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION



WHAT IS YULE?

From DenElder's Glossary

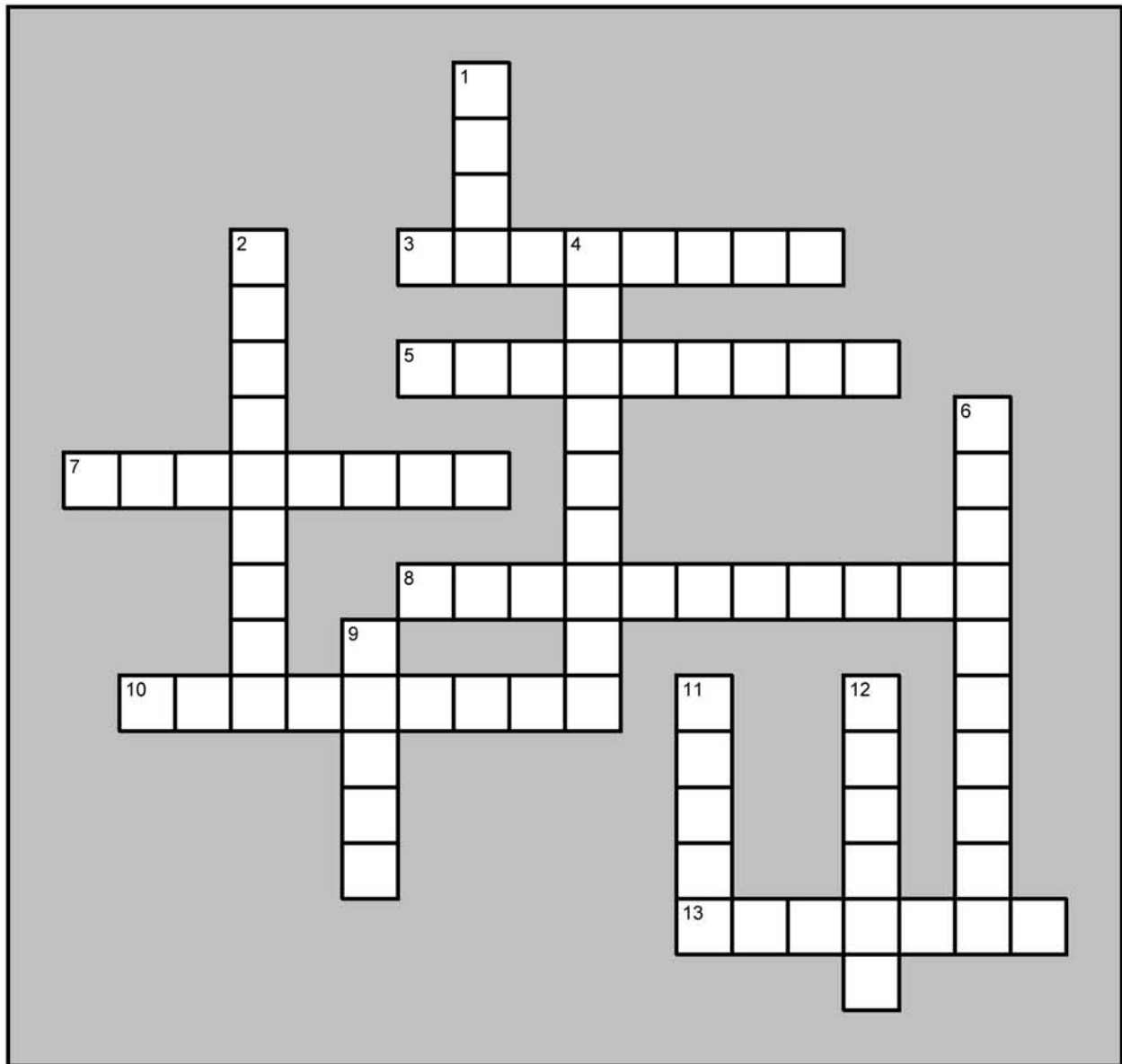
About December 21st... Yule (y-ul) the Winter Solstice (shortest day of year). It marks the God's rebirth from the Goddess, and reminds us that Death's product is Rebirth! Dec. 22nd is the start of the Zodiacal Sign of Capricorn.

Through the Autumn the days have grown shorter, but upon the astrological Solstice, the days now start to grow; this is when the birth of the God comes into manifestation. Older religions celebrated on the 25th, Old Yule and because it is a traditional day of holy births, the Christian leaders had Jesus also born on this date to replace the Pagan births and celebrations. In 274, Emperor Aurelian had Rome celebrating the Feast of the Invincible Sun on Dec. 25th and by the year 529, Christmas had become a holiday celebrated by time off from work, unless you cooked or did something to enhance the festivities; this made into law by Justinian. If you wish to celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas*, which of course are also Pagan; then you might wish to do this Dec. 25th thru Jan. 6th. (*See the entry Santa, for more details of this.)

The American Heritage Dictionary says modern yule is from Middle English, yole or yule; which comes from Old English geol/geohhol; from Common Germanic, jehwla/jegwla, meaning unattested. However, the Ency. of Traditional Symbols, pg 197: yule, is from the Gallic gule, meaning a wheel. While other sources say that yula is Anglo-Saxon for wheel. While Druid friends assure me the word is Germanic.

Christmas Tree trivia: (1999) it takes 4-6 years to grow a 6' tree, which is the average height sought... there are about 15,000 tree growers in the US... only 10% of our Christmas trees come from natural forests... leaving a solid 90% coming from Christmas Tree Farms, whose farms include 1 million acres, and can be just about anywhere in the country because these trees aren't finicky about the soil type... Christmas trees on these farms produce enough oxygen to maintain 18 million people, per day. Additionally, relatives of my husband and my own Grandma once had such farms, on a small scale.

Crossword



Across

3. Do these really fly?
5. Dec. 22 is the start of this Zodiac phase
7. American children often expect these on Dec. 25
8. "Silver and Gold --- on every Christmas Tree" (song lyric)
10. More than kissing used to occur under this flower
13. The anti-Santa

Down

1. Holiday marking the God's birth
2. Christian name of the Yule celebration
4. Santa Claus lives here
6. "Here we come a----" (song lyric)
9. Santa's helpers
11. Christian leaders used the birth of this person to replace the Pagan births and celebrations
12. Nothing like this drink; can be made alcoholic or virgin

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

ScoutGhst@sbcglobal.net

December 26 - Full Moon Gathering (Women) - Oakland

Change Makers for Women, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Full Moon Gathering 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 RSVP and let us know if you'd like to contribute a song, poem or group exercise. Please bring drums, rattles and a potluck dish to share. Festive moon attire encouraged but not required. We can manifest our dreams together. Cost: Free. Information: 510-655-2405, info@ChangeMakersForWomen.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

December 26 - Kali Puja - San Francisco

Our ongoing *puja*, or worship ceremony, takes place at [The Sanctuary](#) at 5:30pm and is dedicated to the Goddess Kali and to those who are recognized in myriad forms as the Dark Mother. Ceremony is held in the [Sha'can](#) tradition and lead by [Chandra](#), who brings together her dedication to the Goddess as an initiate of both The Craft and Shakta Tantrick traditions. This puja infuses methods and practices from east and west in order to create a sacred space for worship and the path of *bhakti*, or devotion, within the western context. Offerings for the main altar are welcome. It is customary to bring flowers, fruit or sweets and to refrain from wearing black to our public rituals. You are also invited to bring an object you would like to have blessed. Cost: \$8-13; sliding scale. No one turned away for lack of funds. Information: 415-351-0213, info@sharanya.org or visit <http://www.maabatakali.org/>

December 26 – Open Goddess Service – 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

December 26 – 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.

December 26 - 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.

December 28 - 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.

December 29 - 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 last 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 and ritual. All are welcome. Cost: Free; Donations accepted. Information: 510-649-0352, info@spiritweavers.com, or visit <http://www.spiritweavers.com>.

December 29 – 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

January 5 - Sacred Feminine Book Club (women) - Oakland

Change Makers for Women, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts a Sacred Feminine Book Club, with Julie Leary from 7:00-9:00pm. This time we are reading [Wild Seed](#) by Octavia Butler, author of Kindred, who brings us another out-of-this world African-American heroine to wrap our imaginations around. A delightful Sci-fi approach to Divine Women. This book club reads books involving all aspects of the Sacred Feminine, with no emphasis on any particular religion or faith. You only need to relate to the feminine as sacred to enjoy this gathering. We meet approximately once a month. Read the book and come. Cost: Free. Information: Julie at 510-847-0239, info@ChangeMakersForWomen.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

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January 6 – Motherpeace Tarot (women) - Concord

Daughters of the Goddess invite all women to explore the Motherpeace Tarot with Karen Vogel at 7:30pm. Moon in Sagittarius. 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>

January 8 – Yule Celebration – San Jose

Amber Oak Protogrove, ADF, invites you to our Yule ritual at a home near Alum Rock Ave. The pre-ritual organization will begin at 11:00am, followed by the ritual at 12:00pm. Join us as we honor Thor, make wishes for the new year and exchange gifts during this Norse style celebration. As the wheel of the year turns, we enter a quiet time of contemplation during the winter. A potluck feast will follow the ritual. Please bring a dish to share, something to barbeque and a gift for the exchange valued at \$10 or less. (A carpool will be leaving from Pacifica to San Jose at 9:00am.) Cost: Free. Information: 408-314-1782, kestrellamont@comcast.net or RichardShimek@sbcglobal.net.

January 8 – Magical Tarot Retreat – San Rafael

Luanne and Urania invite you to a Magical Tarot Retreat. At all levels of practice, elementary to lifetime, the Tarot is a wonderful tool for developing into our most human and authentic selves. In this retreat we will use the Tarot to dialogue with the layers of our souls, identify filters and stories which challenge us, and visioning where next to grow into beauty and Impeccability. We'll relax, sing, do creative readings for the year to come and use the Tarot for art and inspiration. Cost: \$30-60; sliding scale. Information: 415-256-1766 or uraniawitch@yahoo.com

January 8 – A Victorian Twelfth Night Ball – San Mateo

PEERS invites you to A Victorian Twelfth Night Ball: The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball at the San Mateo Masonic Lodge, 100 N. Ellsworth Ave. Doors open at 6:45pm; Dance lessons at 7:00pm; Dancing begins at 8:00pm. Come dance, sing, revel, and game at the loveliest old-fashioned holiday party of the season, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Bangers and Mash the Bay Area's most irresistible country dance band, will play a variety of waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, reels, and country dances popular in the early and mid-19th century (As usual, all set dances will be taught or called at the ball). Partners are not required at the ball as your hosts and their friends will be happy to introduce you to dance partners. If you love Dickens Fair as much as we all do, you'll enjoy our ball. Suggested costume is evening or day dress from 1837 through 1870 (the heyday of Dickens' career), any class. Modern evening dress is, as always, a completely acceptable substitute for period costume and there is no dress code for the evening. Because of the chilly winter evening weather, all too similar to London's, we suggest that the ladies bring a wrap for the early part of the evening (As the evening wears on and the hall warms up, they will no longer NEED a wrap.). Intermission entertainment includes a short performance by the Peerless Music Hall (at which the audience is invited to sing and dance along with the artistes), and a sing-it-yourself Hallelujah Chorus. Gamers may enjoy either an intellectual game of whist or a rollicking game of Wink. As usual, punch and a light snack buffet will be provided. Cost: \$15 by December 21; \$20 at the door. Information: 510-522-1731, peers@peers.org or visit <http://www.peers.org/index.html>

January 8 - Women's Spirituality Workshop: Your Life Purpose - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento St, hosts Women's Spirituality Workshop with Carolyn Hunt on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 1:00-5:00pm. This month's Workshop is Your Life Purpose. No previous experience in women's spirituality or Wicca necessary. Bring notebook and pen, healthy snack to share, and anything you'd like to offer for the altar and/or the ritual. Tea and candles provided. Cost: \$35. Information: 510-883-0600, info@carolynhuntrituals.com or visit www.CarolynHuntRituals.com

January 8 - Energy Walk - Santa Cruz

Community Seed sponsors Energy Walks on the 1st Saturday of each month at various locations in the Santa Cruz area. Gather at 9:45am, and depart at 10:00am; returning around 1:00pm. Today's walk will be at Pogonip. Each walk includes a guided visualization/meditation to help center and become more aware of our bodies and of the earth. Before beginning our walk together, we will take a moment to join hands in a circle and center our minds and bodies. Once we are all fully present, we will begin our journey into the majestic redwood forest, all the while tuning in, listening, and absorbing the energies of the elements, plants, and animals. We will arrive at a pre-selected location to sit in silent meditation and a guided visualization. Please bring drinking water, a small snack, hiking shoes, comfortable clothes, and money for parking. Information: 831-469-0336, info@communityseed.org or visit www.communityseed.org/wallflower

January 9 - Women's Healing Lodge Ceremony - Boulder Creek

Char Lynn will host a Healing Lodge Ceremony for Women; Fire at 9:00am, Lodge at 12:00pm. Our intention is to create a safe, sacred space where women 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

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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

January 11 - Golden Gate Pronaos Meeting - Mill Valley

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

January 12 - Motherpeace Tarot Reading Classes - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, hosts a 3-part series of classes to learn how to do Motherpeace Tarot readings with co-creator Karen Vogel on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00pm. Cost: \$75-95. Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/test/home.html>

January 13 - Breathwork and Transformation - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento St, hosts Creating the New Year: Monthly Evenings of Breathwork and Transformation with Maggie Ostara and Susan Chettle from 7:00-10:00pm. Cost: \$25/advance, \$30/door. Information: 510-883-0600, breathwork@thesuccesspractice.com or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/test/home.html>

January 15 – Arts of Sacred Magic – Ben Lomond

The Avalon Mystery School presents a series of six monthly classes on the Arts of Sacred Magic with Mara Freeman, from 10:00am-4:00pm in a beautiful secluded location. Discover: The basics of Western Magic as taught in the Avalonian Branch ~ How to open your psychic and spiritual centers to contact innerworld beings: Guides, Teachers and Guardians ~ The Three Arts of Meditation, VisionJourney and Ritual: whys and hows ~ Ways to forge a strong connection to Self and Spirit that will transform your life. Cost: \$60/class; \$300/series. (A few low-income discounts available on request.) Information: 800-694-1957, avalon@celticspirit.org, or visit www.avalonmysteryschool.net

January 16 - Motherpeace Tarot Reading Workshop - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento St, hosts a full day workshop to learn how to do Motherpeace Tarot readings with co-creator Karen Vogel from 10:30am-5:30pm. Cost: \$75-95. Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/test/home.html>

January 22 – Making Devotional Masks Workshop - Natomas

Cauldron of the Valley (a Reclaiming community) hosts a Making Devotional Masks Workshop with Copper Persephone from 10:00am-9:00pm. Masks have been used for thousands of years as a way to honor the goddess in all of her faces and to create a deep way to connect in with a spirit or deity. Come create a mask to honor the god, goddess or spirit who calls you. In this full- day workshop we will be making masks in the form of a deity as an act of devotion. We will, in sacred space, be forming and creating the masks, decorating and imbuing them. We will end the day with aspecting and movement using the masks. Prerequisite: Elements of Magic or equivalent. Cost: \$35-95; sliding scale. Information: 831-246-2907, Copperpersephone@aol.com or visit www.rcotv.org

January 22 – Monthly Circle: Collage Workshop – Boulder Creek

Char Lynn hosts a Monthly Circle: Collage Workshop from 10:00am-4:00pm. Create a new life in the New Year through imagery. Bring magazines, colored poster board, and food to share. At our monthly circles, we share different modalities of meditation, art, and spiritual viewpoints that open us to a deeper, more expanded way of looking at this world we live in and our unique place within it. Open to men and women. Cost: \$10-25. Information: 831-338-2996, charlynn@weavingunity.com or visit www.weavingunity.com

January 23 – The Circle of Life: The Daughter (Women) – Boulder Creek

Char Lynn hosts a Monthly Circle for women from 12:00-4:00pm. Our focus this year is on the archetypes of a woman's life as discussed in the book, '*The Circle of Life: Thirteen Archetypes for Every Woman*,' by Elizabeth Davis and Carol Leonard. Each month we will look deeply into one of the archetypes and create time together that will honor that

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archetype within us. Today's focus is 'The Daughter' archetype; we'll share playful activities and crafts (materials provided) with our inner child. Open to women of all ages. Cost: \$20-50. Information: 831-338-2996, charlynn@weavingunity.com or visit www.weavingunity.com

January 25 - Beginner Frame (Tar) Drum Classes - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento St, hosts a 7-part Beginner Frame (Tar) Drum Class with Mary Ellen Donald from 7:30-9:00pm. Mary Ellen Donald, nationally acclaimed author, instructor, and performer in Middle Eastern percussion for over thirty years and lead drummer for the Spiral Dance for fifteen years will be offering Drumming techniques, popular Middle Eastern rhythms, and application to rituals and chants. Cost: \$200. Information: 510-654-DRUM (3786), info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/test/home.html>

January 29 - Festival of Brigit: Goddess of the Growing Light - Carmel

Mara Freeman hosts Festival of Brigit: Goddess of the Growing Light at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 490 Aguajito Rd, from 10:00am-5:00pm. This weekend is the traditional time of the Celtic festival of Brigit, the powerful Goddess of Fire who brought the gift of the sun's growing light and the abundance of earth to her people, and later became the most beloved and powerful of Irish saints. Revered as a woman of wisdom and inspiration, Brigit was also a healer, keeper of the sacred fire, guardian of holy wells, and the muse of poets and visionaries. We will bring our sleeping winter senses to the radiance of this Sun Goddess, and waken to the luminous world of Celtic magic by entering into her Mysteries through: Listening to the old stories, poetry and lore about Brigit from different Celtic lands -- Practicing ritual and meditations that will open the gates to her temple of wisdom -- Working with the Three Fires of this Triple Goddess: Fire in the Head, Fire in the Hearth and Fire in the Forge -- Weaving Brigit's Crosses, symbols of the sun and ancient talismans of protection -- Celebrating the ascending Light of the Year through song and circle dance. And like our Scottish and Irish ancestors did every year, we will once again perform the lovely ancient ceremonies that welcome back this goddess of the early spring who brings the promise of renewal. We will return to the world with gifts for the soul and the power to call upon these ancient teachings to fire the glow of spirit and beauty in our own lives. Cost: \$80. Information: 800-694-1957, events@celticspirit.org or visit <http://www.celticspirit.org/sacredgrove.htm>

January 30 - Gaia's Gateway: Samhain Ritual - 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. Cost: \$5 donation requested from non-members. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), or visit www.bapa.net

January 31 – Healing Night – Walnut Creek

Dolphin Dream, 1437 N. Broadway, will host Healing Night with Paulette Czech from 7:00–9:00pm. Join us for an evening of healing and sharing. Come to receive a healing. Come to give a healing. Come if you just want to watch. Come to meet other healers. If you have any level of Reiki, come to polish your skills. Come if you have questions about energy healing. While the main emphasis is Reiki, healers from all backgrounds will be warmly welcomed. You do not need to have healing skills to participate. Join us as we share laughter and Light. (If you have a healing/massage table, please bring it.) Cost: \$10 donation. Information: 925-229-2736, info@dolphindream.com or visit <http://www.dolphindream.com/>

February 3 – Local Legends: Starhawk - Berkeley

Belladonna, 2436 Sacramento, presents Local Legends: Starhawk from 7:00-9:00pm. 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. Past and present publications, artwork and other materials related to these authors is available at Belladonna the night of the event. Starhawk is the author of nine books, including her bestselling *The Spiral Dance*, *The Pagan Book of Living and Dying*, and *Webs of Power*, winner of the 2003 Nautilus Award for social change. She has an international reputation, and her works have been translated into many different languages. Starhawk is also a columnist for beliefnet.com and ZNet. A veteran of progressive movements who is deeply committed to bringing the techniques and creative power of spirituality to political activism, she travels internationally, teaching magic, the tools of ritual, and the skills of activism. Starhawk lives part-time in San Francisco, in a collective house with her partner and friends, and part-time in a little hut in the woods in western Sonoma County, where she practices permaculture in her extensive gardens and writes. Cost: Free. Information: 510-883-0600, info@belladonna.ws or visit <http://www.belladonna.ws/test/home.html>