

The
BAPAN

☸☸☸ Imbolc 2001 ☸☸☸

Bay Area Pagan Activities and News
formerly the World's Dullest Pagan Newsletter

The President's Pleasure

Another Solstice is behind us. The dying Sun has been reborn and with the returning light our thoughts turn to... presidential politics? Well that's where mine turned recently. The topic has, after all, been hard to avoid during the past few weeks, and I recently spent a week in Florida near West Palm Beach, where the controversy over the election results is still an open wound.

What draws my attention, now that the drama over, the transition of power has reached its denouement, and our new leader has established his precarious tenure, is the timing of the event. The old ruler submits to the sovereignty of the new between Yule and Imbolc. As the new sun grows stronger, the new president firms up cabinet appointments and consolidates influence over lesser luminaries in the concentric orbits of the Beltway.

Can this be anything other than a modern reenactment of the primeval rites of king-killing documented so copiously and enthusiastically by Sir James Frazer in his classic work, The Golden Bough? Even the mandatory limit to eight years in office (a tradition established by Washington himself, though not codified in law until after FDR) is accounted for by Frazer. Eight years was the normal length of the king's reign in Sparta and other parts of Greece because "an octennial cycle is the shortest period at the end of which the sun and moon ... mark time together [I]t is only once in every eight years that the full moon coincides with the longest or shortest day."

Thus our electoral sideshow has roots which reach back farther than our founding fathers knew, despite their Masonic pedigrees. Instead of displaying the ten commandments at our schools and courthouses we should be posting copies of The Golden Bough. It provides much better

insight into our system of government. In the meantime, let us join our fellow citizens in offering this year's solar sacrifice. The king is dead! Long live the king!

Michael Dilts
President
Bay Area Pagan Assemblies

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

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*While winking mary-buds begin to open
their golden eyes,
With everything that pretty bin, my Lady,
sweet, arise!* - E. Holden

Editor's Note: If you would like to save a tree and postage and receive the newsletter via email, drop a note to BapaMailing@yahoo.com Or, view it on our website. If you wish to contribute any articles, opinions, recipes, book/video reviews, letters, or calendar items for the BAPAN, send them via email to nevaawrites@home.com

Submission Deadline:

Submission and calendar deadline for the Ostara BAPAN is March 5, 2001. Calendar items should include events through May 2001.

BAPA Officers:

President: Michael Dilts
Vice President: Yvonne Knebel
Secretary: Lisa Pederson
Treasurer: Walt Main
Board Chair: Roger Schuelke

BAPA Volunteers:

Network Coord: Yvonne Knebel
Gateway Coord: open
Comm. Coord: Jim McCann
Library: Mark Iennaco
Web Master: Jordan Avon
BAPAN Editor: Neva Schuelke

BAPA Basics:

Location and Directions:

Regular activities are held at the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC) unless otherwise indicated. The church is located at 505 East Charleston Road. From Hwy 101, take the San Antonio Road exit West, turn right on East Charleston. The building is about a half mile down on the right-hand side of the road.

BAPA Sponsored Circles:

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 every month from 6PM-9PM in the Fireside Room at PAUUC.

Gaia's Gateway Monthly Schedule:

January 2001

The Sophianic Order with Argante Comyn, a Sophianic Fire Cleansing

February 2001

Valerie Voight will talk about the theories and mechanics of initiation (focusing on the three Gardnerian degrees) and conduct a Self-dedication/Self-blessing ritual.

March 2001

presenter not known at this time



Imbolc (pron. Em-bowl/g) is celebrated on February 2 or on the Eve of February 1 (traditions vary). In the life story (myth) of the God and Goddess, it is the time when the Goddess recovers from giving birth and is rejuvenated, becoming the Maiden once more, and the God is the spirited Youth. It is recognized as a time of purification and dedication.

source: Green Witchcraft by Ann Moura, Llewellyn, 1998.



BAPA Network Services:

To find out about local Pagan events, related to BAPA or not, see Chronos Calendar, and call 408-559-4242(GAIA) to leave a message requesting specific information.

Where To Contact BAPA:

P. O. Box 4159
Mountain View, CA. 94040
408-559-4242

<http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html>



Herbs to use for purification/dedication rituals: bay, broom, chamomile, clove, lavender, pine, rosemary, thyme, vervain, wormwood, yarrow.



Athena's Archives

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. What interesting pagan reading or movie watching have you done recently? Send us a review and recommendation.



A Self Blessing

Bless my mind that I might think clearly.

Bless my ears that I might always hear truth and wisdom.

Bless my lips that I might speak with kindness.

Bless my arms that they may give and receive love.

Bless my hands for healing.

Bless my legs that they may stand strong for my faith.

Bless my body that it might be healthy.

Bless my spirit and give it solid foundations.

Bless my thoughts that they might reflect the light.

Bless my perception so I may see without judgement.

- Patricia Telesco, *A Victorian Grimoire*



Editorial Illuminations

I was out walking in the late afternoon recently after one of the passing rainstorms we have enjoyed this last week in the Bay Area, and I glanced out to the east. Thunderheads forming over the East Bay hills were lit in beautiful golds and purples by the late afternoon sun.

And I remembered reading recently a tale of the Southwest. The pueblo Indians once believed that the great Thunderbirds nested in the clouds. They built their nests of interwoven strands of lightning. And when the Thunderbird chicks hatched and left the nest, they tore apart the nest and scattered the lightning in their quest for freedom. We haven't experienced any thunderstorms close by recently, but I will remember that image next time we do.

I am also noticing the lengthening of days and the return of many of the song birds from their winter haunts. It's not quite Spring, but I feel the wheel turning.

Blessed be,

Neva

✓ Don't forget to register:

PantheaCon 2001

February 16-19, 2001

Cathedral Hill Hotel

San Francisco, CA.

Admission \$70 at the door

contact Ancient Ways

www.ancientways.com

"Standing Stones" - Bedrock Groups of Bay Area Paganism

Organizations:

(BAPA) Bay Area Pagan Assemblies: in Palo Alto call 408-559-4242

(COG)Covenant of the Goddess: Call Arios at 415-584-2659

(DD) Dragon Dream: in San Francisco call 415-820-1500

(LI) The Lilith Institute: contact Deborah Grenn-Scott at 650-345-5449 or

lilith@best.com or <http://www.lilithinstitute.com>

(NROOGD) New Reformed Order of the Golden Dawn: in Berkeley call 510-521-1040 or <http://www.nroogd.org>

(Ph) Phases: in San Francisco call 415-468-5466 or <http://www.phases.org> or lawre@sirius.com

(RE) Reclaiming San Francisco (many areas) 415-256-1766

(SBC) South Bay Circles: in Palo Alto contact Bianca at 408-265-5180

Businesses:

(13) "13" Book Store: in Santa Cruz, 831-425-1313

(AW) Ancient Ways Book Store: Oakland, 510-653-3244 or <http://www.ancientways.com>

(HL) Her Land Book Store: in Santa Cruz

(LD) Lavender Dragon: in Menlo Park call 650-323-4778; on the web www.lavenderdragon.com

(PE) Psychic Eye Book Store: in Mountain View, San Francisco

(SJ) San Jose Metaphysical Book Store: in San Jose call 408-446-0590, or email at sjbookshop@mindspring.com

Chronos Calendar

January

28 - BAPA's Gaia's Gateway, presenters Sophianic Order, fire cleansing ritual.

31 - (SJ) BAPA Discussion Group, 7:30 PM

31 - Sacred Grove, Santa Cruz group networking solitaires, see Ongoing Events

31 - Moss Beach Drumming Collective, core shamanic drum circle, see Ongoing Events

February

2 - Hammer Oak Kindred, rune classes, Berkeley, see New and Upcoming Events

3 - South Bay Circles Imbolc, Menlo Park Masonic, see New and Upcoming Events

3 - Fellowship of the Earth, 3 PM, Modesto, see New and Upcoming Events

7 - (SJ) Trisha McCarthy, channels angelic energies, 7:30 PM, \$20

10 - Full Circle, Pagan Bowling Night, 8:30 PM, see New and Upcoming Events

14 - Sacred Grove, Santa Cruz group networking solitaires, see Ongoing Events

16-19 - (AW) PantheaCon, Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, info. above.

18 - Drumming Circle, PAUUC, 3:30 PM, see New and Upcoming Events

28 - (SJ) Pagan Discussion Group, 7:30 PM, free

28 - Sacred Grove, Santa Cruz group networking solitaires, see Ongoing Events

March

7 - (SJ) Oracle Soul-Joiner, interpret mystical signs, 7:30 PM, \$20

18 - Drumming Circle, PAUUC, 3:30 PM, see New and Upcoming Events

28 - (SJ) Pagan Discussion Group, 7:30 PM, free

April

1 - A Pagan Fools Picnic, Santa Cruz, see New and Upcoming Events

1 - Elf Hill, San Francisco, 5-10 PM, see New and Upcoming Events

New and Upcoming ~~

NEW!

Full Circle Events hosts Pagan Bowling Night on the second Saturday of every month at the AMF Saratoga Lanes in Saratoga. Meet at 8:30 so that bowling can begin at 9:00 PM. To reserve a lane and place a deposit, call the Saratoga Lanes 408- 252-2212 and ask for Arlene Perrin. Tell her that you want to be near the folks at Full Circle and they'll put our lanes side by side. The Saratoga Lanes are located at Saratoga, near Prospect, just opposite the Westgate Mall. For more information, contact Full Circle Events at <http://www.fullciclevents.org/>

Drumming Circle in Palo Alto. Next meeting is set for Sunday, February 18, 2001. For directions to the practice site and information please contact Karissa at karissa@prodigy.net. I hope to see many of you there!

South Bay Circles hosts an Imbolc ritual on February 3rd at the Menlo Park Masonic. Please bring something for the potluck, and a donation of \$3 per person is also requested. This is an open ritual, but an invitation is required if you wish to attend. Please contact Bianca of South Bay Circles at 408-265-5180.

Once again, Ancient Ways bookstore is sponsoring PantheaCon, a Pagan gathering of workshops, lectures rituals and vendors. This event will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel at Van Ness and Geary in San Francisco from February 16 thru 19, 2001. For more information, contact Ancient Ways at 510-653-3244 or www.ancientways.com

A core Shamanic drum circle meets every Wednesday from 7-9PM at the Half Moon Bay Yacht Club in Princeton-by-the-Sea, 25 miles south of San Francisco, CA and 7 miles north of Half Moon Bay. The Moss Beach Drumming Collective is an open community of drummers, percussionists, and journeyers. All are welcome! Potluck after circle. A donation of \$5-\$10 requested for space. For more information, please contact janfrey@mindspring.com

Rune Classes are being offered on the first Friday of every month with Hammer Oak Kindred in Berkeley. Two to three runes of the elder futhark will be studied in each class. Its part lecture, part discussion and almost always there is an activity relating to the rune. A donation between \$2-\$5 is requested to pay for the room rental, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Please contact Lori at lori@webbnet.com for more information.

Open congregation meetings with Fellowship of the Earth take place the first Saturday of every month at 3PM at the Universal Life Church in Modesto. The next meeting is on January 6th. For more information please contact fote@partytown.com

Marin Womanspirit meets on the 1st Sundays of every month at Marin UU Fellowship. For info call Lucille Foppiano at 415-479-9169 or write to Marin Fellowship, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael, CA 94903-2606. Church phone: 415-479-4131

Phases presents Elf Hill on April 1st from 5-10 PM at the Somar Gallery located at 934 Brannan in San Francisco. We will create an underworld and evoke the elves, sprites, etc., and the dark mysteries of the underworld. We will generate the seeds of our subconscious to bring forth the creativity, energy and fertility that we have come to know as spring. We will give thanks for the peace and rest of the winter and evoke the strength of a strong spring for all that grows and sustains us. And it will all begin again. Contact Phases at www.phases.org for more information or Phases, P.O. Box 884911, San Francisco, CA 94188-4911

April 1, 2001 - A Pagan Fools Picnic, hosted by THE INDEX from 1 - 4 PM. Meet at Ocean View Park, (at the end of Ocean View Ave.) in Santa Cruz, near the large stone sculpture on the grass. Please bring food & drink to share, your own eating accouterments, a blanket to sit on, drums, instruments, frisbees, an extra bag for clean-up, etc. Children are welcome. This is a clean and sober gathering. NO drugs or alcohol of any kind, please. For more information, contact Index@cyprian.org. Directions: From Hwy. 17 Santa Cruz, take the Ocean St./Beaches exit, follow Ocean St. through 4 stoplights, at the 5th stoplight turn left onto Broadway, go up about 1 block then turn right onto Ocean View, drive down to Park at street's end.

Phases presents the sixth annual Maying - Flower Gathering at McLaren Park in San Francisco on Sunday, May 6, from 12 pm to 4 pm. McLaren Park is located at the corner of Visitation and Mansell, and the Gathering will be at the southeast corner of the Park, top of the hill. (Accessible via Muni bus line 29. Easy freeway 101 Paul Street Exit.) For more information, contact Phases at www.phases.org or P.O. Box 884911, San Francisco, CA 94188-4911 (More info TBA.)

The Ancient Ways Festival at Harbin Hot Springs is scheduled to take place May 16 - 20, 2001. The "What if?" (we moved it to Big Sur) poll was tallied, and the vote was to keep the festival at Harbin Springs. More information to follow as May approaches, but if you would like more information contact Ancient Ways at 510-653-3244 or www.ancientways.com

On August 19th, Phases will host the 6th Annual Vintage Festival in San Francisco. This is a time when we gather to thank the Mother and the Goddess for the bounty of the season and for her riches we have enjoyed. We celebrate with games of wit and simple agility. For more information, contact Phases at www.phases.org or P.O. Box 884911, San Francisco, CA 94188-4911 (More info TBA.)

Ongoing Events ~~

BAPA sponsors Gaia's Gateway, a public 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 the practitioners of the religion presented. Gateways are held on the last Sunday of every month from 6 - 9 PM at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church located at 505 E. Charleston Rd. (Except December) Call 408-559-GAIA for more information or <http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html>

On the 2nd and last Wed of each month at 7:00 PM, The Sacred Grove will be hosting a networking and organizing called "Linking Circles". Meetings will be located at 924 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, CA. "Linking Circles" will be a time for Pagans to meet each other in a safe, comfortable environment in hopes that solitaires can meet groups, groups can meet groups, solitaires can meet solitaires etc. The Pagan community in Santa Cruz is much larger than most of us think. It is growing at an incredible rate and still very disconnected. We hope a space to organize will change that. "Linking Circles" will be a space for all groups and individuals to meet and organize and shall NOT be a recruiting platform and or controlled by any one group, especially not our own. We will provide space, coffee, tea, places to sit, and people. Contact Birch Tree, Dept. of Water and Public Service, Sacred Grove. Email - sacredgrove@onebox.com or call - 831-423-1949.

Wicca classes for women begin every six weeks at Lavender Dragon in Menlo Park. Learn to create sacred space by casting a circle and calling the elemental energies of air, fire, water and earth. Learn to know the Goddess within you. The classes are taught by Owl Blossom, owner of Two Sisters Bookshop, and healer, and teacher who has been practicing witchcraft for 17 years. Call the Bookshop at 650-323-4778 for more information or www.lavenderdragon.com

There are open Sabbat celebrations in the Bay Area by invitation only. In the Palo Alto area, please contact Bianca of South Bay Circles at 408-265-5180. And in the San Francisco area, contact Phases at 415-468-5466, or <http://www.phases.org> for upcoming dates and locations, and details on how to obtain an invitation.

The Solitaires' Organization for Local Outreach (SOLO) is a San Mateo County Coastside-based, non-profit organization aimed specifically at assisting solitary practitioners of nature-centered/earth-based spirituality - some of whom occasionally practice with groups. SOLO provides forums and resources to enlighten, educate and expand the paths of solitaires. For more information, please e-mail solitairesunite@excite.com or check our web site at <http://www.owensplace.net/solo.html>

Stone Soup Social -- A Pagan Potluck Discussion every third Thursday evening of the month in the El Cerrito area. People may show up at 6:30 if they like, dinner starts at 7. Moderated discussion until 9 PM, followed by social time until 11. The discussion topics will be suggested and agreed upon each time by those participating. A donation of \$2-5 is requested, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For information, call 408-559-8580 or Email: StoneSoupSocial-subscribe@onelist.com <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/StoneSoupSocial>

Dragon Dream offers ongoing workshops, monthly circle gatherings and astrology classes for women. Call 415-820-1500 for more information or visit www.dragondream.com

A Women's Healing Circle is held every second Sunday in San Francisco. Guided meditation, chanting, toning and drumming are used to call in the spirit healers to assist women in need of healing. Contact Lupa at 510-601-1428 or Nancy at 510-839-5292 for more information. "All healing is self-healing."

Drumming Circle every third Saturday at Dolphin Dream in Walnut Creek. Bring your drums and rattles or use ours as we beat away the stresses of the outside world and find that place within ourselves where the heartbeat dwells. Call 925-933-2342 for information.

Moon~Ways offers classes, workshops and full moon circles to women in San Francisco. Call 510-601-1428 for event updates and information.

"Creativi-tea" art and tea parties for women are hosted in North Oakland on a TBA basis. Projects such as candle making and magic fairy wands are created while sipping tea and nibbling cookies. Call 415-601-2488 for information and registration.

Fellowship of the Spiral Path (SPIRAL) offers ongoing classes and teaching circles, open rituals and clergy services in the Berkeley area. Phone Diana at 510-658-6033 for information.

New Reformed Orthodox Order of the Golden Dawn (NROOGD) holds open sabbat celebrations in the San Francisco and East Bay. Contact <http://www.nroogd.org/> for more information.

Sabbat celebrations and classes are being offered by Reclaiming in San Francisco, Marin County and Sebastopol. Call their events line at 415-339-8150 for more information.

The 3rd Road is a school of Celtic shamanism and center for spiritual healing, founded by Franchesca De Grandis. Classes and workshops and long term shamanic training are available. Call 415-750-1205 or contact <http://www.well.com/user/zthirdrd/francescadbrchr.html>

Monthly open circles for families with young children are being offered by Scarlet Cord in the East Bay area. Call Mary at 510-526-1008 for more information.

Seekers' Lunch meets weekly at Hobe's in Palo Alto. Curious, new to the Craft, or Pagans new to the area are welcome to gather on Tuesdays, 12:30 to 2:00 at 4224 El Camino Real. Ask the hostess for the "duck people". Call 650-813-1816 for information. Reservations not required.

Rainbow Path, a group of three holiday-based Dianic circles, meets monthly in the East Bay. The Circles are Persephone's Journey (for girls and boys age 8 and up), Demeter's Quest (women only), and Pomegranate Circle (lesbians). Contact Margaret at 510-525-7184 for information.

There are two CUUPS chapters established in the Bay Area. Official contact information is: Pagan Interest Group (San Francisco) Meets every Sunday morning and full moons at First Unitarian Society in San Francisco. For info contact Sally Amsbury, at (510) 595-1341 or email sally@lionslair.com, or write to FUS at 1446 46th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122-2903, church phone (415) 242-1608.

Circle of Heart's Delight (San Jose) Meets at First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 N. 3rd St. For more information contact Jo Balzer at (408) 274-6288, or email sestes@scu.edu

Visit <http://www.cyprian.org/Index> for additional bay area events and listings.

Note: If you notice any errors in the information printed here, please direct your corrections to nevawrites@home.com