

The

BAPAN

Lammas/Lughnassad 2001

Bay Area Pagan Activities and News

The President's Pleasure

It has been a while since I've written a "President's Pleasure" article. When last I served as President of BAPA back at Samhain-time last year, I was beginning a spiritual restructuring of myself, and of who I am. This has been an ongoing process that has begun flowering into, hopefully, a better "me". This is appropriate for this time in the Wheel of the Year, as this is Lughnasadh, or as some call it, Lammas. It is the time of ripening and the first harvest. And, with BAPA, it is the same.

I am now continuing with what I left behind at Samhain. Many, especially the Board and Officers of BAPA, have planted seeds while I was away. These seeds have grown into a beautiful community resource that BAPA has become today. BAPA is now a safe place where Pagans, old and new, may join in community, find information, network, and do circle at Gaia's Gateway. A community that is supported by, and run by the Membership of BAPA.

Now, I have returned to help you all tend this beautiful garden called BAPA. To make it grow, blossom, and give fruit as it was meant to. Thus, I would like to thank the previous board members, officers, and general membership in your work in making BAPA what it is today. I am grateful for the opportunity to help maintain what you have sown! Thank you Michael, Roger, Jim, Jean, Mr. Y, Lisa, Woody, Jordan, and all the rest of the Membership of BAPA, for all your wonderful work!

My goal as the new President of BAPA is to continue to help create a safe place for Pagans, to help build our membership, to organize and do the public relations as the "voice and face of BAPA". I will strive to be accessible

to our community and the general public who have an interest in things Pagan in the Bay Area. I will endeavor to work with our new Board Chairman, Eric Rodas, and the BAPA Board of
(continues on page 2)



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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There is nothing that has been done to you or that you have done to yourself that the Great Mystery and the Earth Mother cannot heal.

- Jamie Samms

(President's Pleasure cont'd from pg. 1)
Directors and BAPA Officers, Roger Schuelke, Michael Dilts, and Jim McCann (who are continuing their service with BAPA's Board of Directors, with Michael as Vice President and Gateway Coordinator), Karissa Shaw (our newest Board Member), and non-Board volunteers Walt Main (continuing as our Treasurer), Galen du Puis (known to us as Jordan Avon, continuing as our Web Witch), Neva Schuelke (continuing as our BAPAN Editor), and Jean Pakozdi (continuing as our Phone and Networking Witch) in tending our fabulous community efforts.

We will be involved again with "Tapestry In Talent" (TNT) on Labor Day weekend. We need volunteers to help staff the booth. If you want to be apart of our information booth at the TNT this year, contact me at bapaprez@yahoo.com, or Roger at StarDazzled@home.com, or come to the Gaia's Gateway and talk to anyone of your BAPA Board Members or Officers, and say "Hey, I want to help!"

I look forward to an exciting new turn of the year at BAPA, and to serving YOU!

Blessed Be,

David "Blue" Fletcher-MacLeod
President, Bay Area Pagan Assemblies



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:

July 2001

Magna Secht, an eclectic Wiccan group.

August 2001

Owlwind and Ravensong. A Wiccan ritual celebrating our interconnectedness with all life.

September 2001

NROOGD

October 2001

Bridget's Weaving

November 2001

open

December 2001

No Gateway



I care not much for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it.

- Abraham Lincoln



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>



My soul is as a sacred bird.

- Hafiz, *Ode XIV*



Editor's Note: *You can save a tree and postage and printing costs (\$8-11/yr.) 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 Mabon/Autumnal Equinox BAPAN is September 7, 2001. Calendar items should include events through October 2001.

BAPA Officers:

President: David Fletcher-McLeod
Vice President: Michael Dilts
Secretary: Jim McCann
Treasurer: Walt Main
Board Chair: Eric Rodas

BAPA Volunteers:

Network Coord: Jean
Gateway Coord: Michael Dilts
Volunteer Coord: Eric Rodas
Library: *open*
Membership Coord: Roger Schuelke
Web Master: Galen Du Puis (Jordan Avon)
BAPAN Editor: Neva Schuelke

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.

Letter from the Chair

□□□Hello and Greetings. As the new Chair for the Board of Directors, I would like to take a moment to thank the folks who have put so much of themselves into BAPA over the last two years. As many of you know, the previous Board of Directors and Officers were elected when BAPA was in dire straits and there was some question as to whether or not the organization would be able to continue serving the Pagan community. Fortunately, the God and Goddess lent their energies and determination to the Board and the Officers, and they were successful in rebuilding much of BAPA and reconfirming BAPA as a valuable resource for seekers and established Pagans alike. For their tireless efforts, and for all that they have done, these outgoing folks deserve our thanks.

As the Board worked at recreating BAPA, the day-to-day operations of the organization still required attention, BAPA's volunteers stepped in to fill these needs. While maintaining BAPA is a group effort, I would like to mention a few of the people who have put forth time an effort above and beyond the positions they held:

Roger Schuelke served as Chairman of the Board, Membership Coordinator, and all around gofer and problem fixer. Roger has put countless hours into doing the innumerable little things that need to be done in an organization like BAPA. If a task didn't fall under a job description, it generally ended up in Roger's lap and he vigilantly saw that each job was completed. Roger continues on as a Board member and will hopefully be able to hand down a few of his many hats.

Walter Main served as a board member, and continues on as Treasurer. He has served previously in almost every position BAPA has to offer. Walt has quietly volunteered time, resources and thoughtful guidance for almost as long as BAPA has existed. As a board member, Walt brought years of BAPA experience with him that was invaluable during the rebuilding process.

Galen du Puis (Jordan Avon) has served as BAPA's Webmaster for the last two years and has been primarily responsible for the growth and added beauty of the web page. With the web being the newest frontier in communications Jordan has made sure BAPA's presence there has been accurate, professional, and user friendly.

Jean has served as Networking Coordinator for the better part of the last five years and has served on the board for the last two years. Jean is responsible for all aspects of outgoing information from BAPA as well as researching, gathering, and collating BAPA's Upcoming Events list, and she also acts as the 'voice of BAPA' on BAPA's phone system.

Neva Schuelke has been the editor of our newsletter *The BAPAN* for over a year now. Since Neva took over the post as editor she revamped and reinvented the newsletter so that BAPA no longer has the "worlds dullest Pagan newsletter", but a well-designed newsletter that is interesting, informative, and gives a clear representation of who BAPA is and what we do.

With the continued efforts of the new Board of Directors in cooperation with the Officers and Volunteers, BAPA will continue to succeed in it's mission to promote the practice of Paganism and will continue to be a valuable resource for seekers and experienced practitioners of Paganism. For all the hard work that has been done and for all the work yet to be done we say -

"Thank You!!!"

Sincerely,

Eric Rodas,
Chair, BAPA Board of Directors



Secrets of the Inner Circle: Simple Ways of Getting Involved in Pagan Groups (Part I)

by Elizabeth Barrette

This essay began as a thread (beginning 6/29/01) on the OurFreedom mailing list, a forum dedicated to Pagan leadership and activism. We got to talking about community service, and people complained about a lack of much-needed volunteer labor. Others pointed out the difficulties in novices finding groups/teachers and in groups/teachers dealing with the large numbers of novices. So I decided to write out a few helpful tips...

1) YOU are the Pagan community, whether you are a novice or an expert. Teach what you know. Study what you don't know. Get involved. There is no one ultimate authority in this community; there is no clique to shut you out; there is nothing stopping you but yourself. Decide what you want and then figure out a responsible plan for achieving it. Most skills can be learned if you're willing to put in the necessary time and effort. Community is all about forming bonds, exchanging energy, and celebrating both our unity and our diversity. You get out of it what you put into it. Lack of grassroots involvement causes leaders to burn out, and then all the lovely services disappear. So pitch in and do your part.

2) When networking, offer someone a favor before you ask for a favor. We all have knowledge, skills, contacts, experience, etc. to draw upon and exchange. If you're a reviewer and you want to connect with authors, offer tearsheets when you have reviewed their books. If you want people to subscribe to your periodical, offer free sample

issues at a festival. If you want people to attend your lecture on "13 Ethical Rules for Coven Leaders," announce on the flyers that you'll be serving tea and cakes there. If you want help with your current project, offer to help the other person with theirs. You get the idea.

3) Jump right in. You can get terrific results by showing up at a local meeting or a national event and saying, "Hi! I'm Daniel Oakleaf and this is my first trip here. Can you tell me what's going on?" or the like. Pagans tend to be gregarious folks, who usually try to make sure that novices have a good time. More advanced attendees can help you make the most out of the experience.

4) Here is a foolproof way of getting involved: Volunteer. Back in my fangirl days, I decided I wanted to do panels and get to know cool folks in the science fiction community. So I'd show up at a convention and volunteer for whatever needed doing that didn't require vast experience. I never got turned down. NEVER. And I met a lot of exciting people while checking badges and emptying trash cans and carrying coffee ... people who were very appreciative of my willingness to spend an hour or two helping, after spending \$30 to get into the con. Now? I almost never have to pay my way in; I volunteer for two or three panels instead. Everybody wins. And I've networked my way very successfully into what I wanted. So when I started getting involved in the Pagan community, I used a lot of the same tactics. It really does work. Whenever someone asks me how to "break into" a group, I tell them to show up and offer to help.

Elizabeth Barrette is a sought after writer, speaker and lecturer on Pagan and

Women's Studies issues. She made her first sale (an invocation) to SageWoman magazine, and since then has broken into paying publication with articles, ritual and invocational material, poetry, reviews, fiction, interviews, and columns.

Alternative spirituality and speculative fiction are her two primary fields. She remains active in Pagan leadership on a variety of levels. Favorite pastimes include mimetic engineering, creative peacemongering, and taking dictation from Mother Nature. Learn more about her at <<http://www.worthlink.net/~ysabet/admin/biopagan.html>>.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Neva,

I have an idea, and I wanted to tell you about it in the hopes you can help me spread it around.

Last night, as I was getting to sleep, it occurred to me as a way to show President Bush that we are a force to be reckoned with.

Do you remember the Million Man March a few years ago? Then there was the Million Mom March. Well, how about a Million Witch March?

While I'm great at coming up with ideas, I'm terrible at organizing things, so I was hoping that if I notified enough people, spread the idea around, and they spread it around, we'd reach critical mass, and the "hundredth monkey phenomenon" could kick in and an organizer would step forward and take over. She can even claim the idea was hers, that would be fine.

So could you please make some kind of announcement in *The BAPAN*?

Thank you so much.

Blessed Be.

Tezra

"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
 (FCE) Full Circle Events: 615 Malarin Ave. Santa Clara, CA 95050, (408) 224-4625, www.fullcircleevents.org
 (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

July

24 - (AW) Ayahuasca Basics w/Kirby Surprise MA
 27 - (AW) Astrology, The Sign of Cancer in Your Chart w/ Margaret Cole
 29 - BAPA Gaia's Gateway, Magna Secht, an eclectic Wiccan group, see Upcoming Evt.
 29 - Feast of Lughnasa w/Mara Freeman, see Upcoming Events

August

1 - (SJ) Intro. to Tai Chi w/Odette Rickert, 7:30 PM, \$15
 3 - (AW) Full Moon Mandalas w/Manna and Stephen Green Moon
 8 - (SJ) Joy of Chanting w/Dhanayavah, 7:30 PM, \$20
 9 - (AW) The Cauldron and the Chalice w/Mara Freeman
 10 - (LD) Lavendar Dragon Women's Book Club, see Ongoing Events
 11 - (FCE) Pagan Bowling Night, see Ongoing Events
 15 - (SJ) Sex & Tantra w/Scout Bartlett, 7:30 PM, \$15
 15 - 19 - Elderflower Womanspirit Festival, Mendocino, see Upcoming Events
 16 - 19 - Firedance, Santa Cruz mountains, see Upcoming Events
 18 - (AW) Egyptian/New Moon Magic/Fellowship of Isis w/Manna
 19 - Sixth Annual Vintage Festival, San Francisco, see Upcoming Events
 22 & 29 - (SJ) Learning the Tarot w/Joan Lamb, 7:30 PM, \$15 per class/\$25 both

September

1 - (AW) Wicca Cookbook:Recipes, Ritual, and Lore w/ Jamie Wood, 5-7 PM, free
 2 - (AW) Full Moon Mandalas w/Manna and Stephen Harvest Moon, 8 PM
 8 - (AW) Pre-Equinoctial Tarot Tea Party w/ Thalassa, 1-5 PM

- 14 - (AW) Spells for Money, Love, Protection w/ Glenn Turner
- 17 - (AW) The Legend of Min/Homage to the Harvest/New Moon w/Manna
- 18 - (SJ) Forgiveness - Releasing Energy w/ Scout Bartlett, 7:30PM, \$15

New and Upcoming Events~~

BAPA sponsors Gaia's Gateway, an open public ritual featuring a different Pagan tradition each month. July's Gateway will be held on the 29th from 6 - 9 PM at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church located at 505 E. Charleston Rd. Magna Secht will be hosting a Lughnassad celebration. Call 408-559-GAIA for more information or <http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html>

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 August 4th. For more information please contact fote@partytown.com

Hrafnar Circle's open monthly events are held on the second Wednesday of every month in Berkeley; starting at 7:30 PM. This month's gathering will be on August 8th. Open to both men and women, many events are potluck, and contributions of food and drink are welcome. Most meetings are open, but newcomers should contact Hrafnar Circle first to confirm the topic and location. For more information, contact Diana L. Paxson, Box 552, Berkeley, CA 94705, or greyhavn@earthlink.net

Witchy Wednesdays is an open forum on Paganism, Witch Craft and Wicca that meets at 7 PM in Concord on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. Meetings will be held on the July 25th, August 8th and 22nd. Meet with other like-minded people on pagan paths to share ideas, opinions, information, and ask questions. This is a great place for people new or old to pagan ways to meet and learn from each other. For more information, contact [Elayne amethystrose@juno.com](mailto:Elayne.amethystrose@juno.com), or call 925-676-8560

A Summer Fire Drum Circle will be held from July 26-29th in the Stanislaus National Forest. Gather to drum and dance all night around the fire circle, joining together and reconnecting ourselves with the energies of the earth and the spirit in each of us. This will be a 4-day, 3 night campout. *Even though there will be a fire drum circle every night most of the energy will be focused on the main circle Saturday night.* So if you can only come for one day or just the weekend, try to be there for the Saturday circle. This event is FREE OF CHARGE. Kids are welcome but they are your responsibility. Please e-mail Eileen and Laurie at firedrumcircle@hotmail.com for more information.

NROOGD's Lammas Gathering is tentatively set for Alice Eastwood Campground on July 27-29th at Mt.Tam. This will be a camping weekend for those who are interested. A Lammastide festival is being planned and all folks who have something to sell or trade are encouraged to contact NROOGD for vendor space. A Saturday evening feast is planned for those who are staying over. Cost will be \$15 Kids, \$5, Cars \$10 for the weekend. Ritual and dinner on Saturday is only \$10. Please contact Greg at Greg@nroogd.org for more information or to register for this event.

There will be a Witchy Family Weekend on July 27-29th. Join the Witchlets in the Woods for a weekend of games, crafts, spirituality and family fun in the woods featuring a night awareness hike, and a vegetarian feast on Saturday night. Experience and learn the magic of earth, air, water and fire with each other. For more information contact Brighde

at pkallen@ucdavis.edu or call Kara at 510-217-2433.

Sierra Retreats host Shaman's Dream: Manifesting Magic from August 3-6th. Summer, Element of Fire. Calling upon the power of the Full Moon, learn and experience Love Magic, Money Magic, and Health Magic using proven methods of releasing what no longer serves us, and manifesting our desires. Drumming, magickal dance, sacred songs, a manifesting hike, cooking, affirmations and jumping the fire. For more information, contact 530-389-8949, dreamshaman@yahoo.com, or visit <http://www.hermeticsphere.com/retreats.html>

Marin Womanspirit meets on the first Sunday of every month at Marin UU Fellowship. The next meeting is on August 5th. For information, 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.

The American Magic Umbanda House will host a Dance and Consultation Ceremony on August 14th at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists beginning at 7:15 PM. Ceremony begins promptly at 8:00 PM, lasting until 9:30 PM. This month's dance will be in honor of Iemanja, Our Mother Ocean. Share the living presence of the African Powers with our community, in faith and charity. Umbanda is always free. For information, contact AMUH-events@yahoo.com

The 13th Annual Elderflower Womenspirit Festival will be held in Mendocino from August 15-19th. Relax and enjoy cabin or tent camping in a redwood forest by a creek in the Mendocino Woodlands. The focus of the festival is on earth based spirituality and honoring the feminine through the Goddess. Celebrate our spirituality by sharing knowledge, music, arts and ritual. For more information, please call 510-869-3828, or contact elderflower@onemain.com, visit www.elderflower.org, or write to PO Box 72079, Oakland, CA 94612-2079.

Firedance: A Magical Drum and Dance Celebration in the Santa Cruz mountains from August 16-19. Create a sacred place for deep play while exploring ancient and modern mysteries at this event's second annual gathering. At night, drum and dance the fire circle until the rising of the sun, connecting with the magic of the fire, spirit and each other. Camping in the beautiful, remote wilderness. Call 1-877-639-4032 or visit www.firedance.org for more information.

Sierra Retreats host Family Spirit Camp from August 17-20th. Bring the babies, kids, teens, parents and grandparents for three days of spirited songs, crafts, rituals and games. Attend workshops on Parenting as a Spiritual Path, Family Rituals, and Having a Family and a Balanced Life. For more information, contact 530-389-8949, or dreamshaman@yahoo.com, or visit www.hermeticsphere.com/retreats.html

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.)

GAIA GRRLS -- Join other young women for a magical retreat in the redwoods this September. Featuring workshops with personal practice and ritual, Gaia Grrls offers a sacred space to renew your relationship with the earth, deepen personal practice,

develop your leadership, and other celebrations of self. For more information, call 415-487-0584 or visit www.gaiagrlls.org

Hearthstone will host a Fall Equinox Renaissance Feast on September 22nd from 6PM - midnight at Hearthstone home in San Jose. Come in your Renaissance finery and drink a cup of good cheer to the Harvest! For more information, contact <http://www.the-compass-group.org/hearthstone/schedule.html> or email molly@The-Compass-Group.org

The Third Annual Pagan Pride Harvest Festival will be held on September 22-23rd in Sacramento. Authors Patricia Nell-Warren and Mara Freeman will be in attendance. There will also be food booths, vendors, readers, entertainment, music, storytelling, workshops, classes, discussion groups, kids fun area and more. For further information, contact ancientcauldron@yahoo.com

Sacramento Co-Traditional Circles will host a Mabon ritual on September 23rd in Sacramento. Anyone interested in participating in this ritual is welcome to attend. Street clothing is appropriate; however, if you wish to wear other clothes for ritual, there is a place on the premises to change. Children are welcome at SCTC events, but they must be under adult supervision at all times. If you wish to stay for the potluck after the ritual, please bring a generous dish to share. A \$3-\$5 donation is requested. Alcohol and drugs of any type are forbidden at SCTC events. For more information, contact Clarisse at 916-737-7733 or sctcrocks@yahoo.com.

The second annual Witches Ball will take place at the Scottish Rite Temple in San Jose on Saturday, October 20th. The theme for this year's ball will be the work of Brian Froud. This is a costume ball, and attendees are encouraged to be wonderful. There will be vendors and refreshments on site this year. As always, a portion of all proceeds will go to benefit the Humane Society. For more information, contact Full Circle Events at 408-224-4625, or <http://www.fullciclevents.org>. More information TBA as plans progress.

Ongoing Events ~~

COMING UP - August 11, September 8 - PLAN AHEAD!!!
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 (about ten days ahead) 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. For more information, contact Full Circle Events at <http://www.fullciclevents.org/>

A Drumming Circle will be held from 3:30-5:30 PM on the third Sunday of every month in the Patio Room of the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 East Charleston Road. Participants are asked to pay \$5.00 to cover the cost of room rental. Also, bring refreshments to share with the group. For more information, please contact Karissa at karissa@prodigy.net, or call 408-237-5405.

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

If you notice inaccuracies in this list, please notify ScoutGhst@aol.com.
BAPA networking coordinator.

Notes: If you notice any errors in the information printed here, please direct your corrections to nevawrites@home.com or to BAPA at P. O. Box 4159, Mountain View, CA. 94040 Additionally, Ongoing Events are published as space allows. Ed.