

World's Dullest Pagan Newsletter

December 1999: Yule

From the Board of Directors

Bright blessings, fellow Pagans. Yule is here, again, the last Yule of this century. And whether you believe the Millennium hype or not, there is a lot of energy being generated. Hopefully, as Pagans we can direct and focus this energy for positive change.

Our planet, our world, and our personal community are in need of healing. It is my hope that our Pagan community can be the catalyst for this change. Like a pebble tossed into still water, the ripples will eventually reach the far shore. Think globally, act locally.

Life is the ultimate magic. The BAPA board wishes you all Big Magic in Y2K. (Or whatever you call it.)

Thoughts From the Board Chairman

by Woody Smith

I have had a slight case of philosopher's disease this past weekend and I thought I would share with you some thoughts and doubts I am having with my "relationship" to time as a Pagan.

As a consultant I was paid by the hour—time is money. Some days I "kill" a lot of time waiting for other people, or "waste" it watching the tube or sitting in traffic. Sometimes I awake late at night and watch my thoughts spiral off into my inner darkness and

BAPA Officers

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***BAPA's Mission
is securing Pagan
religious freedom and
facilitating the practice
of Paganism.***

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dreads, constantly hoping that the night pass swiftly. I have had "good" times and I have had "bad" times. I "spend" a lot of time trying to figure out how to "save" time. I schedule my time by the month, day, and hour. My time has a past, present, and future set by international agreement and measured to the nanosecond by the National Bureau of Standards. I

have "bought" time and I have "stolen" it. I am judged by my "timeliness." My time feels like a roll of paper constantly unwinding.

Sunrise is at XX hours and yy minutes or is it? Is sunrise at XX hour or is it when the sun breaks the darkness of the night, or that of your life. As Pagans, time is about living. It is about the flow of change—Birth, Death and Rebirth.

Pagan time is simply the appearance of one thing following another. Like Spring follows Winter, followed by Summer, followed by Fall, followed Winter again, the cycle is unbroken. As Pagans, we divide our year into eight regions of time that seamlessly flow and transform the process that is life. Each portion of time is celebrated by a great Sabbat. Mundane time is about the clock, but Pagan time is about preparing and manifesting.

A Sabbat is an intentional act of manifesting. First there is the public announcement of the hoped for event. This is followed by the inner cultivation of "inner readiness" by meditation and prayer; rehearsal for its imminent arrival through ritual; and finally, manifesting—The Wheel Turns. Then the gift of the Sabbat to Pagan time is a connection to the unbroken cycle of the great becoming.

My problem: I am caught between living my time AND letting time rule my living. Use your time well, my friends.

BAPA Basics

Regular activities are held at PAUUC unless mentioned otherwise.

Church Directions

The Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC) 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 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.

There is no Gateway in December 1999. The January Gateway will be a Faery Tradition circle. The February Gateway will be a Shamanic Journey via drumming.

BAPA's Drumming Circle is no longer meeting due to lack of interest and leadership. If you wish more information, contact the GAIA Line, 408-559-4242

Clan of Oak Moon is a BAPA-sponsored eclectic teaching group. Meetings are every second and fourth Thursday of the month at PAUUC. The meetings are for teaching and then circling on the respective nights.

BAPA Network Services

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

Athena's Archives

BAPA Library

The Library is a lending and exchange library, therefore any material such as books, videos, cassettes, or tarot decks circulate, with the inventory being mutable over time. The Library includes:

- Beginner Wicca
- Pagan Traditions
- Psychology
- Tarot & Divination
- Pagan-friendly fiction
- Women's studies
- Miscellaneous

BAPA Book Club

In conjunction with *Clan of Oak Moon*, the Pagan Book Club meets monthly at San Jose Metaphysical Book Shop every second Wednesday monthly, to discuss a specific book to aid in your Pagan education. To discover the current book and discounts on the book of the active month, contact San Jose Metaphysical Book Shop, 408-446-0590.

BAPA Needs

Officer and volunteer positions are vacant or needing replacements: President, Vice President, Network Coordinator and Gateway Coordinator. Call the Gaia line to request more information.

Practical Pagan Tips

Candle Holder Cleaning

Pagans and candles are a given. It is one of the two things which helps to recognize a Pagan when you walk in their residence. The other is a library which does not fit into the said residence.

We use candles on a monthly to a daily basis. At this time of year, some of us may even use them on an hourly basis. All of these candles use holders which we may dislike to clean. Here is an idea for avoiding difficult cleaning.

Instead of, or along with, cleaning in hot water, use PAM anti-stick cooking oil or Vaseline applied to the holder before burning the candle helps in removing wax afterwards, while not damaging the holder.

Practical Poppets

Here is one way to bring your spirituality into your every day. Take some fabric for making a poppet in ritual. Do the ritual and poppet-making as you may find in many books or tradition training. Instead of making a "doll," make a potholder for using in a kitchen. This allows you to use the ritual item on a nearly daily basis, thus bringing your ritual home, so to speak. Plus, a pot holder is often easier to make than a doll. Sewing one piece of folded cloth, to constructing intricate appliqué makes this usable for all experience levels. These make artistic and useful ritual items as well as gifts for any season, or when ritual items need to *not* look like ritual items.

Chronos' Calendar

BAPA in no way endorses or represents any of the listed groups. Opinions expressed by these groups are those of the groups and do not represent the views of BAPA or its representatives.

All groups have on-going community activities which are semi-fixed as they rotate through the seasonal and calendric year. Many of these groups do numerous things under various names and guises, too many to list all of the information here. When contacting them, request all of their information. You may be well rewarded.

“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 415-487-6699
- (NROOGD) New Reformed Order of the Golden Dawn: in Berkley call 510-521-1040 or <http://www.nroogd.org>
- (Ph) Phases: In San Francisco call 415-468-5466.
- (RE) Reclaiming San Francisco (many areas) 415-256-1766
- (RWC) Redwood Circles: In Santa Cruz call 831-335-1501 or <http://www.5-points.com/RWC/>.
- (SBC) South Bay Circles: In Palo Alto contact Bianca at 408-265-5180.
- (WWC) Wyrd Weavers Collective: In Mountain View use the web at <http://www.primeval.com/wwc.html>

Businesses

- (13) “13” Book Store: In Santa Cruz, 831-425-1313
<http://www.13realmagick.com>
- (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.
- (PE) Psychic Eye Book Store: Mountain View, San Francisco
- (SJ) San Jose Metaphysical Book Store: In San Jose call 408-446-0590.

Local Activity Key (loose definitions)

- Sabbats ☼ *Solar agrarian and hunter/gatherer seasonal cycle religious celebrations or calendric chosen times to worship in a Pagan manner.*
- Circles ☉ *Moon phases, solar phases or calendric chosen times are when these groups meet to practice religious and magical ritual.*
- Classes ≡ *Groups which gather to study, lead, and learn about Pagan community or individual traditions or ritual practice. Usually calendric chosen times are when these groups meet.*
- Socials/Networking *Groups collecting together for conversation and company or discovering those with like interests. All are open to the public. Spiritual or ritual gathering is possible but not implied.*
- Gatherings ☼ *Large group functions where many activities (circles, classes, socials) are enjoyed for a day or longer.*

“Pebbles in Time” —Moments Offered by the “Standing Stones”

December

- 1 (RWC) Yule log decorating ≡☼
- 9 (BAPA) Oak Moon Class ≡☼
- 10 (RWC) Gateway Grove ☉☼
- 14 (RWC) Pagan Singing ☼
- 18 (Nroogd) Yule ☼☉☼
- 18 (SBC) Yule ☼☉☼
- 19 (RWC) Yule ☼☉☼
- 20 (Rec-S.F.) W. Solstice ☼☉☼
- 22 Yule ☼
- 31 (SJ) Drumming in New Year ☼

January

- 5 (SJ) Spirit Journey ≡☼☉
- 12 (SJ) Book Club-video *Burning Times* ≡☼
- 13 (BAPA) Oak Moon Class ≡☼☼
- 18 (13) Wicca Class (1 of 5) ≡☉
- 25 (13) Wicca Class (2 of 5) ≡☉
- 27 (BAPA) Oak Moon ☉☼
- 30 (BAPA) Gateway ☉≡☼

February

- 1 Imbolc ☼
- 1 (13) Wicca Class (3 of 5) ≡☉
- 2 (SJ) Quantum Healing ≡☼☉
- 8 (13) Wicca Class (4 of 5) ≡☉
- 9 (SJ) Book Club-video *Full Circle* ≡☼
- 10 (BAPA) Oak Moon Class ≡☼☼
- 15 (13) Wicca Class (5 of 5) ≡☉
- 18 (AW) PantheaCon ☼☉☼☼
- 23 (SJ) Healing with Color ≡☼☼
- 24 (BAPA) Oak Moon ☉☼
- 27 (BAPA) Gateway ☉≡☼

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