



OPEN WAYS

GATEWAY TO THE PAGAN COMMUNITIES



BELTANE 2009

Open Ways

Open Ways

Gateway to the Pagan Communities

Issue 140 – Beltane

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Articles, letters, poetry, artwork, etc., are solicited from the community. We reserve the right to edit for length and content. E-mail or send self-addressed stamped envelope for Writers' Guidelines. Type-written (single-sided) or word processed manuscripts are welcome, electronic submissions via e-mail preferred. Send submissions to:

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Mission Statement

The Nine Houses of Gaia is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1992 to sponsor the Northwest Fall Equinox Festival and publish *Open Ways*.

Open Ways serves as an introduction to and an anchor for pagan communities in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest; a forum for the exchange of scholarly, practical, or experiential information, knowledge, and wisdom; a tool for instruction and communication; a "journal" of events, announcements, ideas, poetry, prose, illustration – anything of benefit or interest to pagans, wiccans, or other nature spiritualists.

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Open Ways

Behold the May Pole

By Oralene F. Worthington

Feel the beat of the drum,
Colored ribbons gently sway.

Friends circle friends.

Energy.

Hands reaching for ribbons,

Energy increases,

Weaving tighter and tighter.

Behold the May Pole!

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OPEN WAYS DEADLINES

This deadline schedule includes all articles, artwork, announcements, events and Advertisements. Send everything to the Vancouver address for Open Ways on page 2. Advertising rates are posted on the bottom of page 2.

Open Ways Issue	Deadline	Available
Summer Solstice 2009	April 25	June 1
Lughnasadh 2009	June 13	July 10
Fall Equinox 2009	July 25	Sept. 1
Samhain 2009	August 25	Oct. 10
Yule 2009	Oct. 25	Dec. 1
Brigid 2010	Dec. 01	Jan. 10

Open Ways

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RITUAL CELEBRATIONS!!!

All events on this page are FREE. Event hosts may accept a small donation.

Donations are optional and very much appreciated.

No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

To have your Events listed here, please make sure they fit these criteria:

1) It is offered at no charge.

2) It is within our geographical area, generally, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Western Montana, Northern California, Nevada, Southern BC and Alberta.

Ritual Celebrations

Public Beltane Ritual
presented by SWHC (Sacred Wisdom Healing Center) April 30th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Being held at the SWHC, 126 Steward Rd. Bldg. 1 unit 1 Pacific, WA. Bring your ritual garb! For directions go to www.sacredwisdomhealing.com. Free to all but donations are appreciated.

SisterSpirit Beltane Celebration
May 2nd 2009 starting at 6pm. Being held at Michelle's Meadow, in Forest Park, Upsher-Newberry Road and Northwest Skyline and St. Helens Road, Portland, OR. All women and children welcome. Meet in the meadow for ritual and a feast. Call SisterSpirit for more information at 503-736-3297. \$5+ donations appreciated.

Open Full Moon Ritual
May 5th 2009 starting at 6pm with drumming afterword until 9pm. Being held at Essential Elements, 3135 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, OR. All full moon rituals are free but donations are gladly accepted to help offset costs. For more info call Essential Elements at 503-231-2831 or Thuri at 503-956-7258 as well as by email at tealafia@gmail.com.

Announcements and Events

Tuesday April 16th - Dream Conversations, 7pm. Come and share your dreams and insights with other women! Held at the SisterSpirit office, 3430 SE Belmont #102. All Women Welcome. Call 503-736-3297 for more info. \$5+ donations appreciated.

Tuesday May 12th - Inner Journeys, 7pm. A journal-writing circle for women. Bring your journal or come and start a new one. Topic: *Journal exercises to listen to the wisdom of our (third) fire chakra, heal imbalances, connect with and celebrate the power and passion and sexuality.* Held at the SisterSpirit office, 3430 SE Belmont #102. All Women Welcome. Call 503-736-3297 for more info. \$5+ donations appreciated.

Wednesday May 13th - Womens Healing Circle, 7pm. Held at the SisterSpirit office, 3430 SE Belmont #102. All Women Welcome. Call 503-736-3297 for more info. \$5+ donations appreciated.

Wednesday May 20th - Nature Magick Group, 7:30pm. Held at the SisterSpirit office, 3430 SE Belmont #102. All Women Welcome. Call 503-736-3297 for more info. \$5+ donations appreciated.

Thursday May 21st - Dream Conversations, 7pm. Held at the SisterSpirit office, 3430 SE Belmont #102. All Women Welcome. Call 503-736-3297 for more info. \$5+ donations appreciated.

Thursday May 28th - Women's Writers Group, 7pm. Topic: *Plan, Climax, and Ending.* Held at the SisterSpirit office, 3430 SE Belmont #102. All Women Welcome. Call 503-736-3297 for more info or email pacmac31@juno.com. \$5+ donations appreciated.

Tuesday June 9th - Inner Journeys 7pm. A journal-writing circle for women. Bring your journal or come and start a new one. Topic: *Journal exercise to listen to the wisdom of the (fourth) heart chakra, heal imbalances, connect with and celebrate the power of love, unity, and compassion for others.* Held at the SisterSpirit office, 3430 SE Belmont #102. All Women Welcome. Call 503-736-3297 for more info. \$5+ donations appreciated.

The former May Queens of Spiritual Anarchists Beltane at Stinson Flats, wish to invite one and all to come and contribute to the spirit of the Goddess, Her healing and beauty at the Queens Pavilion.

Bring your extra pretties to share. Old or new magic objects for the gifting tree. Lotions and massage oils and natural soaps to contribute to the foot rub cache.

We will share with all who bring their open hearts the mysteries of the Goddess at Beltane.

May Ma's Kris and Rose

Open Ways

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

8 Times a year, each Sabbath —

Mystic Art Gathering & Information Circle (MAGIC) holds a public ritual and ceremony for the Solstices, Equinoxes, and cross-quarters in between. Typically in Vancouver or North Portland. These gatherings are free to the public, although a donation can will be passed. Families with kids are welcome. Held on the closest Saturday to the actual Sabbath, 7pm. Locations announced in advance if possible. Call 360-693-7349 or see our listing in the community directory under MAGIC as well as on MySpace.

Full moon rituals - open

On the Saturday night closest to the full moon, starting at 7pm with drumming afterword until 9pm. OFMs are held at Essential Elements Herbal Apothecary, 3135 SE Hawthorne blvd. in Portland. For upcoming dates look in the free ritual celebrations and announcements. All full moon rituals are free but donations are gladly appreciated to help offset costs. For more information call Essential Elements at 503-231-2831 or Thuri at 503-956-7258 as well as email tcalafia@gmail.com.

SUNDAYS

Non-denominational Sunday service

Integrate light into your being. Come to receive blessings and an uplifting spiritual Reading to empower and enlighten your soul. held at Crystal Temple 7275 Richmond Ave. For info call 503-249-0303 or by web at crystaltemple.org.

Wheel of the Year Sunday School

NEW

2nd Sunday of each month. These classes are designed for children ages 6-12 to help

educate them about the Sabbats, Esbats through story telling, art, tales from history and comparative religion studies. The content and frequency of the classes will depend on interest and availability of parents and children in the community. There is also a possibility of classes for teens also dependent on interest and availability of parents and children in the community. Location TBA. Please contact Brother Owl at aaronwps@gmail.com for more info or to volunteer.

1st Sunday Sare-apy.

Always the first Sunday (no Sare-apy in August). Join us each first Sunday of the month. Activities include silent meditation, discussion of healing techniques, individual and group healing sessions and introduction to healing arts practitioners. Everyone is welcome, this is a wonderful opportunity for healing—receiving and giving, and for making new alliances. Held at Hands of Freedom Healing 8725 NE Broadway, Portland OR 97220 from 1-4pm. Donations appreciated.

TUESDAYS

Open Reiki and healing circle

Circle held on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 9-11am. Held at the Celtic Circle 3717 NW 25th St. Redmond, OR. For info call 541-504-4627 or by email pepsi@bendcable.com.

Witches meetup

A social event held on the 4th Tuesday of every month. At 7PM. We have no set agenda or format, just talk and have fun. Held at the Guiding Tree 4831 SE Division Street. For more info <http://www.pagan.meetup.com>.

WEDNESDAYS

Witches Meetup

A social event held on the 1st Wed. of every month at 7PM. We have no set agenda or format, just talk and have fun. We are a friendly, non-cliquish bunch who have been meeting for over five years. Held at the Irishtown Pub, 11600 NE Mill Plain Blvd. Vancouver WA.

Monthly Pagan Meetup

A social event held on the 2nd Wed of every month at 7PM. We just get together to talk and have fun. Held at Old Town Pizza (between 2nd and 3rd on NW Davis). For more info go to <http://www.paganmeetup.com>.

Reiki Share Circle

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at Sellwood Spirit Feathers, 7704 SE 13th. For info call 503-230-0249. All are welcome!

Tarot night

Every 1st Wednesday. Bring your cards, practice readings, become more familiar with your card and discuss Tarot with other readers. Held at Crystal Temple, 7525 N Richmond. For info call 503-249-0303 or on the web at info@crystaltemple.org.

Reiki Circle

Every 2nd Wednesday come and receive healing and develop your skills in a sacred temple surrounded by light beings. Held at Crystal Temple, 7275 N Richmond. For info 503-249-0303 or on the web at info@crystaltemple.org.

Drum circle

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Lets explore rhythms and escape reality in a sacred temple. Bring an instrument if you have

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one, if not we can share. Held at Crystal Temple 7275 N Richmond. For more info 503-249-0303 or info@crystaltemple.org.

THURSDAYS

Open Meditation

Held every Thursday and Sunday from 12-2 pm. Open meditation at Crystal Temple 7275 N Richmond. For info 503-249-0303 or info@crystaltemple.org.

Morris Dancing

Every Thursday join Renegade Rose Morris Dancers, a group of Portland men and women who perform ancient English folk dances on May Day and other community events. We'll teach you dances. For info call Lev at 971-570-3388 or on the web at www.renegaderose.org.

SATURDAYS

Salamander Reiki circle

Intense monthly 3 hour reiki circle, meeting each last Saturday of the month. Free attunements and training. Must RSVP one week in advance. Contact info: Mark Dragonfly Freemon 503-313-6490 or dragonfly5555@verison.net, <http://tribes.tribe.net/toadlovers>.

Pagan Men's Group NEW

1st Saturday of every month. This will be a meeting for self discovery, community service, ritual, education or whatever the group deems necessary for personal growth and finding ways in which to serve our community best. Location TBA. Please contact Brother Owl at aaronwprs@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.



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A Purely Pagan Pledge

By Chrissy L.

Last Tuesday, January 20, 2009 I watched Barack and Michelle Obama walk into history. They went from chipper and excited at the inauguration ceremony to exhausted and punchy at the last of the several inauguration balls that they blessed with their presence—an extraordinary display of stamina and dedication.

But President Obama's message was even more extraordinary. He told the gleefully gathered masses a simple truth. Our nation is in deep trouble. Many of us are out of work; businesses, both large and small, are failing; and the twin specters of hunger and fear are walking among us. There is only so much that a government can do—even a sympathetic government. Whether this country sinks or swims depends upon the efforts of its citizens. Throughout the day, his audiences changed, this message was relentlessly repeated. But he also relentlessly stressed that "Yes, we can do this!" We as Americans have a history of overcoming adversity, each in our own way and on our own terms.

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We must do everything we can to help one another. Donate to food banks, help out our friends when they need it, give to our favorite charities, and/or volunteer our time and energy to a good cause. The only way to overcome scarcity is through generosity and love. In the end, FDR was correct. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. The reciprocal acts of giving and receiving banish fear and create hope.

But these are the things everyone should be doing to help their country. As pagans, we have a few other things to offer. We are very good at lighting candles to help our friends through times of sickness and hardship, why shouldn't we do the same for our country? We have a plethora of national holidays that are ready made for this purpose. Presidents' Day is coming up and the individual birthday's of George Washington, the father of our country and Abraham Lincoln, who kept it united and freed the slaves, are marked on most calendars. Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Columbus Day, and Labor Day are also good candle lighting opportunities.

And then there is May Eve. On this night the rulers of a clan, tribe, or nation got down on the earth that supported them

and made love. They sent the energy of their bodies into the Mother to make their land fertile, to bless their people and to help them prosper. We, as pagans are very good at doing this annual ritual for ourselves, but why not for our country? We live in a democracy, folks. In theory, we are *all* rulers of this beautiful land.

And so I humbly propose that we all pledge to get down on May Eve and **** for our nation's freedom, fertility, and wealth. Let us send our energy out to the nation on this most potent eve and endow it with the Lord's and Lady's blessing and abundance.



Lynn Handlin EA, LTC, CFP

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How to stuff a Five Day celebration into a Three Day event

By Sienna

The five days of the Hindu Diwali festival has a theme that runs through it, which ties into the magick of the Goddess Laxmi. Although Laxmi's presence can be felt all year long, Diwali is the time that we thank her, give sacrifice to her, and give her the raw materials to work with for the coming year. Diwali has many legends and religious accounts to it. Some traditions follow the mythology of Krishna in his heroic feats. Some worship Laxmi exclusively on Diwali.

Diwali is like Christmas; everyone does it a little differently, but the symbolism remains the same. No two Christmas trees are alike, and no two Diwali traditions are alike either. All Diwali celebrations will include a worshipping ritual, called a Puja. Because we are limited to three days, we have taken liberties with the Diwali festival and crunched it down to fit in our format. Nevertheless, the ancient rituals, tried and true, will still create their magick within our community once we set them into motion.

The word "Diwali" means "Festival of Lights." Houses and buildings remain quiet and dark for the first three days of Diwali. On Day 4, lamps are lit to signifying the driving away of darkness and ignorance, as well as the awakening of the light within ourselves. Diwali is a time for family gatherings, food, celebration and worship. The goddess Laxmi plays a major role in this festival. This autumn festival is celebrated for five continuous days, of which each one has its own significance:

Day one: Acceptance. Recognition of the negative parts of ourselves. Recognition that darkness exists within all of us. Lights and noise are kept to a minimum on this night, and people chant mantras to ask for release from bad habits and bad luck. At Fall Equinox, this will be the focus on Thursday evening.

Day two: Cleansing. This includes houses and possessions as well as our selves. Letting go of the dirty, ugly and bad things around us. For Diwali festival, houses buildings are renovated and decorated, entrances are made colorful with lovely traditional motifs to welcome Laxmi, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. This becomes the focus Friday morning

Day 3: Honoring. This is the day that god and goddess ritual invocations, called Pujas, are performed, especially for Ganesha, and Laxmi in her three forms as Mahalakshmi, the goddess of wealth and money, Mahasaraswati, the goddess of books and learning and Mahakali. Kubera, the treasurer of the gods is also worshipped on this day. Songs are sung in praise of the goddess and sweets are offered to her. Stories of heroes and feats of great love are spoken or recreated to teach the mythology and morality lessons. We will be presenting this on Friday night.

Day 4: Rebirth: This is the day that Laxmi appears and grants boons and prosperity upon the people. Lamps are kept burning all through the night, and all homes and buildings are lit up until dawn. Great noisy celebrations where participants toss glitter and colored powder at one another are not uncommon. This will be our Saturday event.


Day 5: Gratitude. This is not only gratitude toward deities who grant boons, but gratitude toward our brothers and sisters who teach us the lessons of life and love every day. It is traditional to give gifts to parents, siblings, and spouses on this day. We hope to encompass this concept in the closing ritual.

We have taken liberties with the traditional Diwali festivities and reduced the time spent on some activities to make the most of the few days that we have. However, remember that like Christmas, there is no way to do Diwali wrong. Not all homes have nativity scenes at Christmas, and not all Diwali festivals have to be 5 days.

)))) ●))))

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Open Ways

PATHS AND JOURNEYS

by Janice Van Cleve

Paths and journeys are not the same thing. Paths are like nouns and journeys are like verbs. Paths are routes that lead to this or that destination. Journeys, on the other hand, are how we drive on this or that path, where we have been, and where we think we are going. Sometimes we take one path and sometimes another. In fact, since we are pursuing multiple short term and long term goals all the time, we probably are journeying on multiple paths every day. We have career paths, relationship paths, financial paths, aging paths, health paths, and many more. We are driving at different speeds, in different vehicles, and talking on different cell phones. No wonder we sometimes get lost or crash into things.

Some paths are determined for us – by bosses, by laws, or by how much money we have or don't have. Some paths we fall into by chance – job layoffs, traffic accidents, or forces of nature. Some paths we choose because we like the path or because we think it will get us to a desired destination. Spiritual paths are no different.

An illustration might clarify. When I was a Roman Catholic, my spiritual path was the church, my roadmap was the Baltimore catechism, and my destination was Rome. I suppose a good Mormon kid takes the interstate to Salt Lake City, a Muslim travels to Mecca, a Jew to Jerusalem, and a Buddhist evaporates into Nirvana, metaphorically speaking. It all seemed so clear to me back then that if I drove this path with this road map I would get to Rome just like they told me I should. A funny thing happened along the way, however. I got pulled over by the Holy Police and when they checked my drivers license and found out I was a lesbian, they said I couldn't drive on that road.

So there I was out in the middle of Nowhere, Kansas, my journey aborted, and no clear destination. I got out of the car and wandered around in the cornfields for awhile until I met a country girl who guided me to a side road. It was then I discovered that there was a whole network of side roads going to all sorts of interesting places. She told me that this was the Pagan path, or to be more accurate, one of many Pagan paths.

Pagan paths are fun. Some are long, some are short, and some are under construction. There are many intersections, many maps, and many road signs, but no Holy Police. Most of the paths don't pretend to go to any one special destination, rather, they just seem to go for the joy of going. And that's when I

began to notice a striking thing about these Pagan paths. They have lots of interesting attractions on both sides of the road and no commandment or necessity to reach an ending. What a contrast to the Holy Roman path I had been driving on!

Or was it? Now that I had seen the reality of multiple paths, I looked back at that Catholic highway. For the first time I noticed that it had exit and entry ramps, too. There were Catholic road crews repairing and replacing sections of it as well. Even the Catholic road maps got updated eventually (although it took the Vatican 400 years to exonerate Galileo). I had not been aware of the varieties of Catholic experience before. Then I noticed that not all the Muslims nor all the Jews were driving down their respective straight and narrows either. I wondered then if all paths were actually more or less equal and a journey on any one of them would be just as meaningful and of value as any other. Then I heard the sirens of the Holy Police and I remembered the difference between the highways and the side roads.

That's not to say I have not encountered sheriffs on the side roads but most of them are pretty laid back and the only laws they enforce are those of common civility and mutual respect as expressed in the Law of Love, the Wiccan Rede, Kharma, and such like. What really holds Pagan paths together is not enforcement but traditions, particularly their seasonal traditions. There's no denying the seasons. They come and they go as the Wheel of the Year turns. Even in parts of the world where the differences of weather are minimal, the energy forces of each season are still at work. Our various traditions help us align with the seasons, the forces of the universe, and our inner spirits so we don't get lost or crash. Here do these traditions come from? Tevya asks that very question: "You may ask, how did this tradition get started? I'll tell you. . . . I don't know. But it's a tradition, and because of our traditions every one of us knows who he is and what God expects of him. Traditions, traditions! Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as a fiddler on the roof!"

Our traditions come from many places – intentional design, borrowing from someplace else, a good idea that sticks, or who knows where? What makes a practice or a set of words a tradition is that it is used repeatedly over time and those who use it invest it with value through their applied energies. In ancient days it was the elders, the lore masters, the bards, and the shamans who remembered the traditions and passed them down orally through the generations. Modern Pagans – and other religious folk

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Thus we have many paths, each supported and balanced by their – write them down in Books of Shadows, prayer books, and liturgies. traditions. However, paths all by themselves do not get us to our destinations. We have to choose which paths to follow, and when, and for how long. We have to put our own energies and efforts into motion. Scribes and shamans, priests and priestesses, bards and lore masters are responsible for maintaining the paths and traditions but only we are responsible for our individual journeys.

One of the most delightful features of paths – either side roads or highways – is that if they are alive, they are continually under construction. Our Women Of The Goddess Circle is a good example. It has been under construction for almost 19 years as of this writing. Over time it has developed some pretty good traditions and practices, based on much study, experience, and good judgment. That's not to say that we haven't built a bridge or two to nowhere in those years, but we learned and altered course as necessary. We continue to encourage our women to seek out many paths and bring back good ideas.

New ideas are sifted and even if they are tried, it is under

stood that they are on probation until they prove themselves. Too many changes too often can erode a group's traditions. On the other hand, closing the door on changes that would improve the performance and appeal of a path could doom it to limited usefulness. The challenge is always to maintain a careful balance between tradition and change.

Part of that balance is to keep reminding ourselves of the mission and purpose of the group and of the path it is on. It is more important for each path to offer its own distinct features and attractions than for it to become either all things to all people or nothing to nobody. Another part of the balance is for each individual to take personal responsibility for their own journey, to contribute enthusiastically to the path she is on while she is on it, and to seek other paths to round out her spiritual needs.

As for myself, I follow the Dianic Wiccan path and I do have a care toward maintaining its traditions and those of the Women Of The Goddess Circle. However, I do journey sometimes on the Gnostic path or the Aquarian path, or I take to the stars with astrology or take to the outdoors alone into the wilds of Nature. My journey is enriched by all of them – and out here there are no Holy Police.

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Open Ways

For Laxmi at Fall Eq

~ Tibetan Prayer Flags ~

By Ophio Kleitera gleaned from WWW

Tradition teaches that the Wind Horse in center of each flag will carry the blessings of love, compassion, peace and wisdom to all sentient beings through out the universe. As wind passes over the surface, the air is purified and energized by the Sacred animals, prayers, mantras printed on the Prayer Flags, bringing Joy, Happiness and Good health to all who see them as well as their families, loved ones, neighbors, and all people throughout the world with a beautiful noticeable effect to the surroundings that quickly uplifts the environment they are in. Bring your Prayer Flags to bless the shrines and Lodges at Fall Eq!

Made from colorful cloth squares, Tibetan Prayer Flags come in sets of Five colors representing the Five Elements arranged in specific order from left to right, starting with blue on the left BLUE (sky/space) WHITE (wind/air) RED (fire) GREEN (water) Yellow (earth)

Woodblocks are used to decorate the prayer flags with images, mantras, and prayers, usually with an image of the Wind Horse at the center which bears the Three Jewels of Buddhism.

On the Four corners of each Prayer Flag, are images of a Garuda, Dragon, Tiger, and Snow Lion which are the four sacred animals representing the Four Virtues of Wisdom, Strength, Confidence, and Joy.

Tibetan Prayer Flags are found in all Sacred spaces in the Himalayas as on rooftops, mountain passes, river crossings, gardens.



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Open Ways

BELTANE WITH THE ANCIENTS AT AVEBURY

*Serena Cerridwen Danu
Red Cedar Grove, Vancouver*

I walk from the parking lot, not sure whether to hurry or linger to smell the liting fragrance. The air is damp with the showers of spring, the soft ground is spongy, my feet skid in the mud. He said that they meet at the pub "around midday", whatever that is, and enter the stone circle around 1 or 2 or 3 p.m., give or take an hour or two.

There is the pub in the distance, a wonderful old half-timbered, thatched roof affair, with centuries of sagging floors. I don't see many cars nor people here yet. Tour Buses disgorge their travelers, Nikons in hand. The leader opens the gate, and the travelers follow obediently. There is a sign at the gate, but do tourists read it and understand how sacred this land is?

The pub smells of fried fish and full ales. Families gather, surrounding tables laden with food. "When do we start?" I ask. "When everybody gets here," is the response.

Children become bored, and engage in giggling games of going-around-in-circles through the great doors to the toilets. The ancient village well penetrates one room, topped with clear acrylic and bearing signs to warn guests lest any of them join the one "unfortunate villager" whose body lies *somewhere* in the unseen depths below.

Cloaks hang on the walls, hand-carved staffs topped with glistening crystals of quartz lean against the cloaks. Nearly everybody seems to have a staff, and those who do not admire those who do.

More people arrive. Hugs and handshakes are exchanged among those who know each other. The priestess arrives, wearing white and a garland of flowers around her head. The priest is already here, settled in at a table, carrying his antler crown. "Don't want to hit me horns on the ceiling," he remarks. The fiddler is warming up with a lively reel. It's getting crowded in here! I nudge my way outside.

A bus pulls up, a passenger alights, jovial handshakes are exchanged. A waiter brings an order outside, looking for the correct diner. Eyes search the crowd, demanding ownership of the repast at hand. We look from one to the other, tacit, heads shaking, shoulders shrugging. "Not mine."

Soon one who seems to be somewhat in charge stands on a stool and says that we will process into the stone circle in about 5 minutes. I wonder aloud: 5 real minutes, or 5 pagan minutes? Sure enough, about 20 minutes passes before anything more happens.

I have heard it said that organizing pagans is like trying to herd cats, and this indeed is no exception. But sometimes we have to get everybody moving in the same direction at the same time!

The parade of people processes along the pathway, give or take a wide swath. Mother with babes in strollers, disabled folks in wheelchairs, the young and old, all gathered for this ancient festival. Circling about the ancient stones, we pass the Guardian Stone, which has stood watch over this land for countless millennia. A child makes his own circle, dancing across the plain, a black dog spirals with him.

A chill wind blows from the east as we move into the circle. Cloaks are clasped tight against throats, hands withdrawn into sleeves.

"Let there be peace!" calls the priest, as the ritual begins. Call the Quarters and summon the ancestors. The fiddler plays a lively tune while the maypole is decorated, young and old intertwining colorful streamers as they dance the ancient steps. Times may come and go, but the fertility of the land and animals remains primary in the lives of all. Cakes and ale are blessed and shared, time for another song.

As the quarters are dismissed, the ritual is closed with those words of time-honored tradition: "As Above, so below; the pub's open, let's go!"

Photo credits: Freya, © 2009

Avebury is a village that arose within an ancient stone circle in England. Located in Wiltshire, Avebury stone circle dates from circa 2500 BCE. Rituals are held there at each sabbat. I was fortunate to celebrate Imbolc at Avebury this year, along with my daughter and her children.



Open Ways

A Feminist View of Prostitution

by Amy K.

WEALTHY, WELL-EDUCATED, RESPECTED WOMEN sit in a public place, feasting on fine food and wine with a group of men. The courtyard is filled with discussions of politics and philosophy, accompanied by soft music and punctuated with the occasional poem. Does this picture bring to mind the word prostitute? Probably not. Most of us are raised to believe that most prostitutes are filthy, disgusting women who walk the streets at night selling their bodies to men, probably for drugs. We see them as weak, and we almost never think of them as strong or powerful.

There is much evidence that during the Greek classical era, courtesans, or high priced prostitutes, were some of the most powerful women in society. They were allowed privileges and freedoms other women were not. In a time filled with Goddess worship, courtesans were seen as healers of men's souls. Many were even priestesses.

Greek courtesans, also known as hetaerae, were the only women in their era to achieve financial status without marriage. Prostitution was not only legal and acceptable, it was taxed and protected. In some city-states prostitutes were even citizens. Hetaerae had fine homes and possessions, dressed in the finest silks, and wore jewels to adorn themselves. They were also the only women to accompany men in public. Being among the highest educated, they were free to discuss politics and philosophy with men, something considered highly inappropriate for wives.

Today's prostitute lives a much different life. Some would argue that the misogynistic morals of the Bible have shunted today's prostitutes into back alleys and sleazy bars. This common view of the corrupt prostitute stems from the belief that sexual desire and pleasure are impure, and that somehow women are the cause of such sinful thoughts, feelings, and behavior in men. Not only do most consider her to be uneducated, but she can hardly compare her earnings with that of a hetaerae. No longer does she dress in fine clothes or jewels, but wears the gaudy apparel of a second class citizen. No longer does she hold her head high with self respect, but recedes in the shadows.

Because they were viewed with respect by society, courtesans were treated with respect by the men who came to see them; they were flirted with and often wooed by their customers, completely opposite to today's prostitute, who is routinely beaten, degraded or otherwise humiliated by her customers. Today, because men are made to feel so ashamed of their lust, they project this shame onto prostitutes through violence, and onto prostitution as a whole through the legal system, which is controlled mostly by men. Perhaps, someday, we can all come to the point at which we can accept that men will always be controlled by their lust, and women, smart brave women, can, and should, benefit from men's desire without compromising their own self respect and power.



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Open Ways

LEGENDARY BEINGS

By Ansur

Did you ever wonder where the ideas and stories about Cyclops, Giants, Griffons, and Centaurs came from? Or how about the “Little People” and Changelings?

Other than the legendary creatures that live in our imaginations and are therefore real in a magical sense, many of the concepts of ancient beings were based on real evidence.

Legendary Creatures

In South America, when the conquering Spaniards introduced horses WITH RIDERS, the natives viewed these ‘new-to-them’ creatures as being half-beast and half-human! Here and in other areas in bygone times, horses with riders were often seen as Centaurs by those unused to horses with riders.

Most mammal bones, especially thigh bones look very much alike, and many of the bones of prehistoric woolly rhinoceros, mastodons, and such were often mistaken for giant human bones. Finding large human looking bones mixed with the skulls of Mastodons, gave rise to the stories of Cyclops. The Mastodon skulls were mistaken for giants with just one “center” eye which was actually the position (hole) in the skull where the Mastodons’ trunk had been attached.

The legendary Griffon was a winged creature with the body of a lion and the head of a bird. These were the remains of the Protoceratops, a four-legged dinosaur that had a beak. The “wings” were the fragile bones on the back of the skull that typically broke off but were still found among the remains.

These and other mistaken identifications were the source of mythologies that populated a world of strange and unusual creatures.

Midgets and Dwarfs:

Midgets:

In the past, there were human-like mythic beings many that are still with us today. The title midget has generally been reserved for people of very short stature but whose body proportions are much the same as people of average height.

Dwarfs:

There are over 200 different types of dwarfs. Dwarfs often suffer from underlying metabolic health problems. Some dwarfs have shortened upper parts of their arms and legs and may have a large head with a prominent forehead, a flattened bridge of the nose, shortened hands and fingers, and reduced muscle tone. Many average about 4 feet in height. The dwarfs with shortened limbs generally have spine, limb, and joint problems—which give them the “rolling walk” that is often exhibited by some “little people”. They also may have: a greater susceptibility to ear infections and hearing loss, breathing problems caused by small chests, weight problems, curvature of the spine, bowed legs, trouble with joint flexibility and early arthritis, lower back pain or leg numbness, and crowding of teeth in the jaw. Many require operations and/or they can end up badly crippled in their elder years.

With modern medicine and surgeries, Dwarfs can lead long and successful lives. Still, when an adult Dwarf is picked up and hugged (read: molested) by a regular-sized person because they are “cute”, the psychological implications can be thwarting. Add to that the extra strain on their bodies caused from living in a world that is out of step with their size, and causes them to continually stretch and climb to access items, being a little person is not always easy. Primordial Dwarfs:

There are a much rarer form of Dwarfs, the Primordial Dwarfs: They are children that have a smaller body size in all stages of life—even beginning before birth. Imagine a grown person about half as large as a new-born infant yet perfect in proportion, uttering words in a strange, high pitched unearthly voice. Then imagine this figure to be about 19 inches in height and 5 pounds in weight! These children and a very few adults are an extraordinary phenomenon. Typically, their features are a bit different too their faces are “smoother with less brow ridges and at their tallest, they seldom exceed 2 feet in height.

It is likely that the Primordial Dwarfs were originally labeled as fairies, gnomes, pixies, and etc. Unfortunately, children that are Primordial Dwarf’s often die young and even if they survive to adulthood, they usually don’t survive past 30 years of age.

Progeria:

An even rarer form of Dwarfism is the children afflicted with Progeria. Progeria is caused by a mutant “clipped” DNA sequence that creates a disease that causes rapid aging. Typically, an 11 year old child with Progeria has the body of an 80 year old person. Children with Progeria actually die of old age, usually suddenly by stroke or heart attack, while still in their early teens.

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Seldom does one live to see 21 years of age. By 3 months of age, babies with this mutation in their DNA begin to lose baby fat, and by 6 months of age, their skin begins to thin and their veins begin to show. Not too long afterwards, they may also become bald.

It is likely that children with Progeria were the source of legends about “changelings” which thought to be fairy children “switched” for human children. According to stories, changelings, not being human, always aged extremely and inhumanly fast. How awful it must have been for such a child back in superstitious past times when one’s own parents did not accept them!

Giants

If you look at our current crop of basket ball players, you will see many humans of greater than normal stature. However, this is not about those of us that are ‘tall-normal.’ ‘Real Giants’ have existed (and still do today). And their stories were found everywhere in legends and in the traditions of almost every culture in the history of mankind. Their stories were traditionally associated with feelings of terror and their large size was related to the fear they could produce.

Ancient Greece was the source of many legendary beings. The Greeks had stories about gods and heroes that were ‘larger than life.’ Many of these stories were probably the result of finding large fossil bones. Greece has always been subjected to major earthquakes that mixed many unrelated bones together. Additionally, although early civilization’s paleontology recognized old bones as pre-existing their current era, they did not have the collection of classification knowledge that modern science has accumulated.

The bones of large animals that approximated the shape of human bones that were mixed together with other bones many of them worn, weathered, or broken, gave Greeks ideas about the elder gods (the Titans). The Titans were described as beings of astounding stature and great strength that rebelled against the Olympian gods.

In some sacred texts, stories can be found about people and races of extraordinary height. The Nephilim were the first peo-

ple to be referred to by the name of giants in the Bible (Genesis). And then there was Goliath, in the second book of Samuel, who was said to have measured about 10 feet. Hercules was also supposed to be about 10 feet high.

Giant legends survived in most Eastern and Western traditions. They were compiled in medieval encyclopedias and books of wonders, and enlarged upon by the accounts provided by new chronicles or traveler’s reports.

Although the subject of mythological legends and fairy tales, the phenomenon of inordinate bodily growth is usually a clinical problem related to the enlargement of the pituitary gland. “Pituitary gigantism” is caused by the excessive secretion of growth hormone. The symptoms of this illness are many, including widespread abnormal growth of tissues and organs, with swelling of the lips and ears, painful joints, and impaired vision.

Many of these symptoms are also found in mythological figures and explain part of the lore of giants in myth and literature. And their abnormal facial bone structures due to an excess of growth hormone and their very deep voices made them seem like they were ‘other’ than human. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, unusually tall persons were exhibited in circuses and freak shows. Given the social and physical barriers they had to overcome during their lives, many giants were forced to make careers as human oddities.

The normal human body grows for a certain period of time and then stops the growth hormone is “turned-off.” But if a Pituitary gland is affected by tumors or other abnormal factors, growth may continue. Sometimes this growth never stops! The result is that most giants have many of the same problems that dwarfs have, such as not having houses, furniture, or appliances that fit them. Plus they usually have trouble walking or end up unable to walk at all. Accordingly, most ‘modern’ giants have weak limbs and little to no athletic prowess. Giants also typically suffer from early deaths.

BUT! Most modern giants are gentle souls not at all like the mean, viscous, and dangerous giants in old legends.

Although we seem to fear what we do not understand or what does not seem like us. Small and big people are human and need to be treated as such.



Open Ways

Basic Evolutional Traits ORA truth regarding life...

by Maria Yracébûrû

As visionaries hoping to manifest dreams of amazing peace, it is important to understand the history and truth of humanity and earth before actually warping time. Through history humanity transitions in its relationship with Changing Mother earth. Our lives here have been more than simple existence with no purpose. We are an element within the cycles of evolution, forces drawn upon fear or love, so that continuance could occur. As we "devolve to evolve," we have experienced what my ancestors have referred to as the "Take Apart." So within a simple earth life philosophy, we see that humanity evolved in two world paradigms... the 1st World of Love and the 2nd World of Kinship. Humanity came to devolve in the Take Apart of the 3rd World of Time and 4th World of Soul Sickness. We change to meet the energy of the 5th World Coming Together... the Communion.

I wish to explore the basic traits, cycles, and characteristics that have been assigned to our evolution. This will help define the basic environment and task of your personal journey.

In the Beginning...

Different version. According to our legends, those that explain the creation of all things, tell of humanity occupying the void as infinite spirit. Our great energies were destined to become the charters of evolution, our heart fire created the history of time passing. Our spirits were considered so large that in an eclipse of thought, we, the Thought of All That Is, then created.

Soon humanity moved from the 1st World of Love, as crystalline form to become humane relations in the physical limited space of the 2nd World of Kinship. Relationships were now the focus for humans, yet even with this move into sensuality, humans always flowed like water. A life giving truth was born.

The next worlds are noted as being the Take Apart worlds. Time took up residency in the 3rd World, living became an act of separation and hierarchy. Human were seldom seen in higher form. Strong, judgmental barriers were created within the psyche and occasionally a truth in connection would shine.

As humanity began to explore inhumanity and polarity, the earth began appearing as non life in the 4th World of Soul Sickness. Many injustices were perpetuated, and must be accepted in the energetic dance to move forward. Consider this.

It is in the 5th World of Coming Together that we take up residence. It is in the 5th World of Coming Together that we take up residence in spiritual maturity, living harmoniously with the land, causing life to exist in peace. We are examples of evolving life that make life possible. Curing our Soul Sickness by Coming Together, co-creating dreams together, we settle ourselves in health and stability.

We are today, the most evolved of all worlds, finally settling in to become responsible co-creators of reality. The 5th World offers excellent opportunity to become all we can be, humane, and initiate us in the truth of our new lives. Peace is found with the daily miracles most welcomed because the only access to the moment is by gratitude and innocent awe.

Historically, humans have been isolated for 758,000+ years, living a psychotic blend of hope and despair. Humans, however, discovered an inner voice that never let them stop trying. Circles of connection now become common, with many coming together offering transitional peace. This is the first Taanaashkaada il'joooni... Coming Together Initiation.

A LIFE CREATED BY LOVE

By the time we establish the miracle of the 5th World manifested within our hearts, we will have evolved further and further into the frequency of potential. We discover that through living in relation with earth, life can be very rewarding, it also provides a rich satisfaction. The children are raised in a supportive and intuitive environment.

We seldom are in need of mediation. We do, whenever possible, sit in council with others discussing the variety sacred points of view. Storytelling is a favorite activity, well worthy of the time and energy involved in telling them. But it is clear through the historical stories that there were times very different that the cooperative era, reverence and honoring are given to those lives involved, and humans are celebrated for their courage to move on as an act of compassion for life.

There are stories that imply hilarity, however, it is always noted that laughter is the greatest source creator of love and health. Usually Coyote, of all Relations, is the source of our good humor.

CIRCLE

There is no division: there is respect. Extremely little is noted of the "Battle between the Sexes." We look to the more evolved philosophy of energetic alignment in our responsibilities.

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Illness is very rare. Maybe one or two things still involving the adjustment of body frequency to the new earth magnetics. Because of this, it is important now to take care of our physical forms by making sure we are assimilating the water we drink. The energies are effecting our pituitary which powers the ability to assimilate the nutrient of water. A good rule is your body weight in ounces + a pinch of rock salt in the morning and another in the evening.

The Circle structure of traditional community lifestyle is structured. The equality of respect is the mother of peace. Within the societal life of community, all humans participate and are honored. During our transitions, the Community Circle is eminent in our aligning in the moment. The intent, focus, and motivation that comes with experience is used to create commonality for understanding.

Initiation occurs in a heartbeat during and spontaneous and exhausting shift as we complete one cycle and begin another. Once the shift has occurred, the settling involves minor shock waves, frequency adjustments. We are faithful. So with each new understanding we embrace the potential and evolve. It is likely that each new moment will have a different attribute, allowing for distribution of the energies within All Our Relations.

History is carried within us until we are wise enough to view it, then we are unhampered by time. We are guardians of life, taking care to respect and appreciate each life for maximum potential. Lives that are lived within isolation are being warmed by the love of those that have connected, much as sunlight on an Indian Summer Day.

After the Worlds of Take Apart, we mature, thanks to the added energies of the universal transmigration. Empowered with hope, we evolve quickly, and we connect with one another in quickening moments. The truth of the newly established Communion are appearing as threads in the beginning of 5th World tapestry... the historical documentation of time. We move out of adolescence. We grow and strengthen.

FLIGHT

It's taken many worlds of evolution for us to reach maturity and hone our physical experience. Because of our great Take Apart, we are feeling like we are dropping from some height. The beginning of flight is a glide that allows the wing sails to fill with energy. Even with strong faith, it takes a great deal of energy to raise above chaos and pull free of the 4th World's illusions of separa-

tion. The very Changing Mother earth is said to groan as our frequency rises.

Once free of fear, we soar along the energy currents much like eagles or hawks, using our reason only when synchronistic to raise ourselves into new frequencies. This style of evolution means that we can remain aloft for longer periods of time, traveling great distances without expenditure of large amounts of energy. The truth of spirit flight is said to be so large that it can block the development of needed abilities.

PROTECTION

Adolescence was a time of life in which our natural powers begin to be apparent. Depending on the prophecy you are aligning with, humans possess the ability to change shapes, taking on other forms; the power to speak with the mind, messaging with silent imaging; and even the power to heal imbalance in the physical form. Many experience telepathic thoughts now on a more regular basis.

More attentive to our spiritual abilities we are more peaceful and encircled in love. Although respect is built on healthy boundaries, there is no real need of protection within the structure of Sacred Law upon which we observe without forethought. Sacred Breath, both refreshing and revitalizing, strengthen the heart and the community. Love oozes like droplets of sweet essence that can heal with just a breeze. Even a smile is noted to cause the betterment of life.

One prophecy tells of the scales of Nakia the Rainbow Serpent, wrapped around us in shimmering iridescent shielding that can, by physicality, reduce planetary stress along the magnetic grid and tektonic fault lines. Leylines are noted as being Changing Mother's nervous system, trembling in their stimulation and change.

With this transition, we can be sure we will arrive at our destiny by way of our breathing ability or impeccability of speech from our hearts. The healing ability of humans is very well noted throughout all time, and growing, there is power of love accomplishing this feat.

Coiling around our mother, Nakia is universal to the indigenous of earth by whatever name you call him. Having wrapped us in the center of his great energy, Nakia begins to slowly reveal the vision of what is to be.

EQUALITY AND THE RAINBOW

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Open Ways

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EQUALITY AND THE RAINBOW

Prophecy speaks of the equality of the Rainbow. No color is more important in creation of beauty; each color sports an equal range of frequency and point of origin orientation. In the 1st World, some of us were gold toned, yet red, blue, or green. The color keys to wisdom we are to see.

We have markings on our energetic bodies that are clues in our evolving. Memories for all 7 Worlds revolve around in our personal belts of atmosphere. The prophecies are revealed in your 7th body.

It has been said we can access three dimensions of time in one viewing.

We grow in frequency through eternity. Ancient lives were extremely impressive. Faith and truth have also grown throughout many lifetimes, as has our purpose. A human of many lives can have energy that flows, with memory revealed. Lessons change throughout our evolution, reaching the same truth in the same moment... synchronicity.

COUNTING COUP

Humanity loves bright, shiny, glimmering personal purpose, and we celebrate our victories over fear. The illusion of fear, doubt and anger are very well documented.

We gather our power while honoring and returning to our personal truth, create a reality of peace upon which life flourishes. Because many prophecies show this, it must be assumed that humans are capable of creating our own reality, and just need to accept our ability to do so. There is very clear evidence to the high purpose of humanity, so it is likely that peace is created in such a way as to be revealed from our own hearts.

It may be that when we were isolated, we created an illusion so strong that it imprisons us. Fear, in its natural purpose to protect us from physical harm, would of course be overwhelmed in the isolation and magnified by self perpetuating anxiety. Thus it was with great courage that we confronted our fears. The larger number of support systems created, the higher we evolved from illusion.

Isolation has been pure illusion, as many have discovered. The Illusion knew exactly how far to push us and where our buttons lay. If this acknowledged truth is proportional to our ability to heal, one can easily understand our ability to create peace.

—Maria Yraceburu studied Quero Apache traditions with her grandfather, and became an akicita (guardian) of Earth. She facilitated the Earth Renewal Festivals by partnering Tlish Diyan ritual with cross-cultural facilitators since 1972. She is author of *Wisdom of the Rainbow Serpent: 2nd Penseh* (FAEW 2008), *Wisdom of the Rainbow Serpent: 1st Penseh* (FAEW 2005), *Prayers & Meditations of the Quero Apache* (Bear & Co. 2004), and *Legends & Prophecies of the Quero Apache* (Bear & Co., 2002). To learn more visit <http://www.yraceburu.org>



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SOON IN COMING ISSUES OF OPEN WAYS.**



Open Ways

In honor of our former Spiritual Anarchist Beltane May Queens and Kings

This list starts with our current May Queen and King and then on in descending order. Think of it like a Beltane Queen and King family tree. Unless otherwise noted the crown has been passed down by the former King and Queen. I apologize for any misspellings or mistakes in the order of names or information. If you notice any mistakes please email the editor the correction for future use. Thank you Oralene for researching this and putting it together. **LONG LIVE THE KING AND QUEEN!!**

May Ma's

Jennifer

Laura

Gypsy

Autumn

Katerra

Rose

NoNo

Terry

Coral

Debbie

Wendy

(This year there was a Moon Queen because Anarchist Beltane was held on two weekends with the second weekend having a full moon)

Lisa

(Morgan was unable to attend Beltane this year so Kelly passed the crown to Lisa)

Morgan

Kelly

Kris

May Pa's

Brian

Jamie

Feathers

Toni

Eryn Dreamweaver

Keith

Mark

Ezerah

Michael

Peter

K.C.

Cameron

?

Scott

Willy Two Feathers

Pagan Family Picnic

July 25, 2009

at Creston park in Portland, OR

Bring the whole family and have some fun in the sun!

There will be something for everyone... games, food, and activities. This is a great time for networking with our Pagan family from near and far.

Look for more information on specific activities in the next issue of Open Ways.

Love is patient and generous.

It is not jealous, boastful or arrogant.

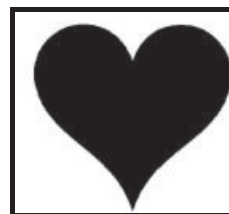
Love is kind, does not quickly become angry, it is not self-serving and keeps no ledger of debt or offense.

Love does not celebrate evil but honors what is true.

Love is consistent in how it protects, trusts, perseveres and remains optimistic.

While many things fall down, love stands tall.

first Corinthians thirteen: 1-8, 13



Open Ways

Pagan Community Directory

Listing various kinds of resources for the Pagan Community, including circles (both open and closed), church groups, meeting places, study groups, and event organizers. Please, no retail outlets. A listing here does not necessarily mean a specific group can or will help you. To be included in this directory, please send information (limit 50 words which includes name and contact information) to Open Ways, PO Box 6283 Vancouver, WA 98668; or email editor@9houses.org.

12 Steps Pagan Style

I am a clean Pagan offering support to assist those on the clean path in Wicca and Paganism. I have 17 years of recovery. I am willing to give assistance, support and counsel to those who are concerned with these issues.

midnight_crow@hotmail.com or
<http://spiralrhythms.org/p12>.

ADF Druids of Portland NEW

Our study group meets on the last Friday of every month and up to 8 times a year for Public Ritual. Affiliated with ADF (Ar nDraoicht Fein), adf.org. We are in pursuit of authentic scholarship and modern practices. See our website at pdx-druids.org.

Announcement Board & Community Directory The Web

"Because folks don't have time to check every website or subject line for current events. Come see what your missing." Post: Rituals, classes, workshops

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/The-Web>

The altar of Epona and Herne Healing Ministry ATC

Our vision is to create a well trained, compassionate Priesthood to serve the Pagan Community. We have an online community, monthly distance healing and prayer request list, and provide free healing to vets and their families. For more info altar-epona-herne@yahoo.com.

The Ancient and Honorable Order of the Sacred Oaks

A Druidic order in the Arthurian/Celtic tradition, chartering groves meeting established criteria and dedicated to authentic Druidic principles and traditions. For those

who aspire to the excellence of Druidry, Inc. in OR and 501(c)3. **503-235-5774**
www.sacred-oak-grove.org.

Aquarian Tabernacle Church

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www.spiralscouts.org

Brotherhood of the Wooden Chalice

We are a group of eclectic Wiccans housed in Oregon State Penitentiary. We gather once per moon for study, ritual, and mutual support. We have a priest but could use volunteers and donations.

khabir.taylor@verizon.net

Cedar Mountain Coven

We are an eclectic Celtic coven, with some Native American influences. We meet for Sabbaths, Esbats, laughter and support throughout the Portland/Vancouver area. Closed to new members Samhain to Beltane, we do keep a waiting list for anyone interested. cedarmountain@gmail.com
www.cedarmountaincoven.com.

Coven Caer Wy'east

A traditional Gardnerian Coven, sponsors a non-oath bound, British Traditional Wiccan Outer Court for seekers of traditional training.. We prefer to work with seekers 30 years or older. New training cycles usually begin each spring. usually begin each spring. For more info contact **Steward Creace 503-622-1381 or steward_creace@msm.com**.

The Earth Gatherings

An eclectic spiritual group with frequent get-togethers to discuss various spiritual paths. Sponsors of The Mother Earth Gathering and The Middle Earth Gathering (June and September), Earth Awareness Festivals, honoring diversity and creating balance between wilderness and civilization. **503-503-1415** bladu@hotmail.com
www.earthgatherings.org PO Box 19655 Portland, OR 97280.

Forces of Nature Metaphysical and Spiritual Center NEW

Celebration and cultural preservation of Africana spirituality in the Pacific Northwest! We offer events and an online e-list of events related to Africana spirituality in the greater Seattle area. To join visit <http://groups.google.com/forces-of-nature-metaphysical-and-spiritual-center?hl=en>.

For Info www.fonspiritualcenter.org, or call **206-781-3565** or services@fonspiritualcenter.org.

The Hermetic Fellowship

Exploring Western Esoteric Tradition: Ancient Mysteries, Wicca/NeoPaganism, Qubalah, Rosicrucianism, Alchemy, Gnosticism, Theurgy and Grail Quest. Meets monthly, 3rd Thursday. Informal presentations, open discussion, rituals and workshops occasionally. 1st semester of 2009, special focus on Hermeticism. For more info call **503-255-7910** or by web (preferred)
miforrest@hermeticfellowship.org.

IleLaiLai NEW

A contemplative ifa-centered spiritual community offering spiritual consultations,

Open Ways

divination, and Orisa and Ifa initiations to sincere seekers in the Pacific Northwest. www.ilelailai.org or 206-761-3565 or iya@ilelailai.org.

Indigo Lights Circle online teen group

A place for uniquely gifted teens to celebrate and explore the gifts the Lord and Lady granted us with. Site address: www.geocities.com/jinksjustjinks/

M.A.G.I.C.

A Vancouver/Portland based group that holds four gatherings a year, teaches classes in metaphysics, and provides ordaining of clergy, and sponsors the Spiral Rhythms Festival. Call 360-693-7349

Email sienna@spiralrhythms.org and www.spiralrhythms.org/magic for more information.

Merlin's Hearth NEW

A traditional Wiccan coven based on the teachings of Alex Sanders, The Farrar's, and Gardenarian Wicca etc. We are now accepting dedicants interested in joining their hearts, minds, and spirits in an intimate and non judgmental circle. We work in a 3 degree system meant to educate, support and enlighten for health, happiness, balance, and community. Please contact Brother Owl at brotherowl5@gmail.com for info.

Nine Houses of Gaia (9HOG'S)

A non-profit organization incorporated to facilitate networking among pagans in the Pacific Northwest. Sponsors of Open Ways Newsletter as well as Northwest Fall Equinox Festival. The NWFEF celebrates the great harvest, begun at Lammus and ending at Samhain. Contact info for Open Ways editor@9houses.org.

North American Council of Witches

A non-profit organization. Primary goal is protection under the First Amendment of the US Constitution; secondary, lobby-

-ing for common power, strength in numbers. Request membership and general information at NACW@hotmail.com or call 503-228-2192.

Officers of Avalon, Inc

A non-profit benevolent organization representing Wiccans and other Pagans who work as police officers and other professionals in the emergency services. Membership dues \$25/yr for full members \$15/yr for associate members. Newsletter The Dispatch. Registration forms available at www.officersofavalon.com. PO Box 22 Baraboo, WI 53913-0022.

Other Worlds of Wonder (OWOW)

We have gathered around a central purpose, the purchase of land for the local Pagan community. We honor all positive traditions, and celebrate diversity at our festival, Sunfest. Contact info as follows: 14308 SE River Rd. Milwaukie, OR 97267. <http://www.owow.org> or email owoworg@gmail.com.

Pacific NW Pagans Yahoo Group

An online community for Pagans in the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and British Columbia. When posting announcements for events in this group, please be sure they're in PNW. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pnwpagans>.

PACT

A democratic, eclectic teaching/training coven in three parts: A semi-private outer circle - by invitation only, two inner-core circles for PACT initiated. Lessons, degrees, and clergy training by PACT university. For info and a waiting list: email — ansur@pacifier.com or lordansur-pact@gmail.com.

PDX Pagan Tribe

This tribe is for heathens, pagans and free thinking individuals residing in or around

Portland, OR, or other metro areas who want to communicate with other like minded folk. Please no political rants, there are other tribes for that. A person has to sign up with Tribe.net for free in order to join this tribe. The tribe is moderated in order to keep out hate mongers and spammers. Web address - <http://tribes.tribe.net/pdxpagans.Portland>

Polyamory Circle

A gathering for folks exploring options beyond monogamy. Discussions include open relationships, extended families, and intentional communities. Everyone interested is welcome to join us. For information and location Laury 503-285-4848.

Red Cedar Circle

(Church of Si. Si. Wiss)

Northwest Coast Medicine Johnny Moses teachings to all. Portland/Vancouver area meetings. For information and location call 503-245-5660 or rlouis@hctc.com.

Red Cedar Grove

The Vancouver grove is accepting new members. We are a Celtic group that enjoys fun, spirituality and fellowship as we move through the wheel of the year. We have many years of experience between our five founding members and meet twice a month for ritual and tutorial. Come and grow with us under the Spirit filled Red Cedar. For information contact Serena at serena@aberle.net or Macha at 360-936-3833 or connieco222@comcast.net.

Sacred Oak Grove

A Druid Grove in the Arthurian/Celtic-Wiccan tradition. For those seeking a true Druidic path of knowledge, truth, justice, spiritual fellowship, and community service. Esbats, Sabbaths and tutorials. Members commit to both group and individual studies for spiritual growth. Now offering an outer circle. For information call 503-235-5774 or oakgrove@teleport.com.

Open Ways

The Saint James Project

A Shamanic Arm of the Red Witch Tradition. Includes Indigenous Shamanic training, pilgrimages and extensive herstory/history from the first century CE to the present. Prerequisite: Reiki 3 and 3 years magickal hands-on experience. Meets at Toad House in McMinnville Oregon. 76y0 Contact info worldtree1@verizon.net.

Seattle Goddess Group

A new site dedicated to worship of the Seattle based deity (As first seen in the "Summer of 2008 art book) "Let your love grow" is her prayer. <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/seattle.goddess/> or SeattleGoddess@yahoo.com.

Shadowluz

Eclectic coven that emphasizes increasing the power of the individual through strength of our Gestalt, focusing on diversity in beliefs and the practice of Magick. Members range from Portland to Hood River and Mt. Hood. Please send letter of intent to HPS Belle Evergreen at belleevergreen@yahoo.com.

Silver Birch Grove, Order of the Sacred Oaks

If the bardic arts call to you, and your love of the Goddess and God speaks to you through Celtic and Arthurian-based mythology and lore, come walk our Pagan path with us as we renew our grove. Now in Vancouver, WA. Contact silverbirchgrove@hotmail.com or (503) 235-5774 or (360) 936-1035.

Silver Star Circle

A Celtic Pagan circle meeting for Sabbats, full and new moons, weekly class and more. Located in Battle Ground Additional. Info: email slvrstarcircle@yahoo.com.

SisterSpirit

Women's spirituality organization honoring the Divine Feminine and celebrating the Goddess in all Her forms. Featuring on-going classes, circles, workshops and one monthly ritual. Presenters of the annual PaganFaire. Contact information as follows: **PO Box 9246 Portland, OR 97207. 503-736-3297.**

www.paganfaire.com. sister-spirit.portland@gmail.com.

www.teleport.com/sisterspirit

Sophia Sanctuary Women's Temple
We are a circle of women committed to healing, education ritual and service. (HERS) We celebrate the eight holy days of the wheel: Solstices and Equinoxes are for all genders and families; Cross quarters are for womyn only. For information: <http://www.sophiasanctuary.org> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SophiaSanctuary>.

The Sorcerers Guild

Dedicated to the enhancement of Magickal work within its membership. Public meet-up at the Dancing Beans 1615 SE 12th Ave Portland, OR held monthly. Email thebinder7@yahoo.com for date and time. For more information: <http://sorcerersguild.tribe.net> <http://www.sorcerersguild.com>, or <http://groups.myspace.com/sorceryguild>.

Spellbound teen online group

An online community for teen Pagans and Wiccans. Our goal is to offer personal pages, forums, articles, links, and other ways of interacting with teens who have similar interests in Paganism and Wicca. Site address: <http://spellboundtpn.ning.com>.

Toad House and Peace Garden

Peace Garden open from dawn to dusk for quiet prayer and meditation. 20' lavender peace pole, erected in 2002, PEACE written in thirteen languages. Hard working

garden volunteers always needed. Hard working garden volunteers always needed. Write for information. Location: McMinnville OR. www.toadhouse-peacegarden.org. <http://tribes.tribe.net/toadlovers>. Director: Silver Red Crow worldtree1@verizon.net.

(WICCA)

A women's church dedicated to the Goddess in Her many forms. Groups, newsletter, retreats, rituals and classes. Contact info: **PO Box 5296 Eugene OR 97405** www.wicawomen.org, 541-485-3654 **Email: normahp@iglide.net**.

Women of African Ceremony

We are women who honor the earth and our African heritage through ceremony and ritual. We meet monthly. Location is Portland, OR. 503-238-1151

Women of the Goddess

Women of the Goddess is a Pagan community in the Dianic tradition. Membership is open to women over 18 years old of good intent who sincerely subscribe to our purpose. Location Seattle, WA. Contacts: janicevc@seanet.com or 206-322-2436.

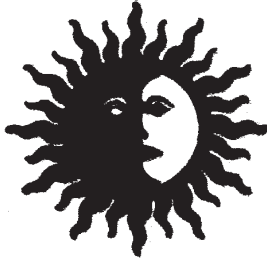
World Tree Prayer Network

Prayer and emergency energy work at no fee; serving the internet since 1994. Post your own requests. Have permission of the energy recipient first; then, include full name, age, basic location including city, state and country along with basic problem. **PRAY FOR PEACE!** <http://tribes.tribe.net/worldtreeprayernetwork>

The Well of Diancecht

Provides free sacred energy healing to veterans, active duty military and their families. We also list practitioners offering sliding scale services to service members, veterans and their families. Info at wellofdiancecht@yahoo.com or altarwponahrne@yahoo.com

Open Ways



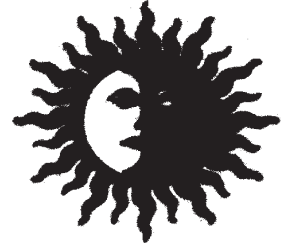
SunFest XXI

June 25 – 28, 2009

Come join us at the beautiful Oregon Coast, on a scenic river for a magickal journey...

"Replenishing your Inner Light with Apollo and Artemis"

We gather in celebration of the Summer Solstice... come and celebrate both the Sun and the Moon in DUAL MAIN RITUALS. We will focus intention on Replenishing and Filling our Inner Light. We welcome you to commune with the Oracles and participate in Greek style games with prizes as well as drumming, dancing and workshops. Don't forget to bring your toga!



To register complete the form below and mail with check or money order or use PayPal at our website www.OWOW.org and email registrations to owoworg@hotmail.com.

FEES:

Adult \$60
 13 - 17 yrs \$30
 6 - 12 yrs \$20
 0 - 5 yrs Free

Vendor Booth – \$30 (additional)

Added to the Primary Registrant Registration Fee's

Meals:

Thursday Night Hamburger & Hotdog Feed
 Friday Night Spaghetti Dinner
 Sunday Morning Biscuits & Gravy / Brunch

All meals \$7 and have Vegetarian options.

Payment in full is required to complete registration.

Cancellations must be in writing by June 1st, 2009. ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

All information is required.

Registration for Sunfest XXI -- Summer Solstice Celebration 2009

		R V Camping \$25			Total		
Registrant _____		Vendor Name _____			_____		
Address _____					_____		
City, State Zip _____		Meals (\$7 each)			_____		
Phone _____		FEE	Age	Th	Fri	Sun	_____
Email _____		_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Attendee _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Attendee _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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Attendee _____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Total _____

Mail Registration to: 15825 SE Patsy Ave.
 Milwaukie, OR 97267

Registration Questions to: owoworg@hotmail.com
 Jennifer (503) 957-1421

How did you hear about SunFest?

Open Ways OWOW.org Natural Awakening Tribe Alternatives Yahoo Groups
 Flier Posted: _____ Other: _____

The Nine Houses of Gaia
Open Ways
PO Box 14415
Portland, OR 97293-0415

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**Proceeds from the
Northwest Fall Equinox
Festival go to producing
Open Ways
Thank you for your support!**