



Correllian Times E-Magazine
Issue 50 October ~2010
Free Publication
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Blessed Beltane



<http://correlliantradition.ning.com/group/correlliantimesissue>

<http://correllian.com/correlliantimes.asp>

<http://www.witchschool.com/group/correlliantimesissues>

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CNT CORRELIAN TIMES E-MAGAZINE ISSUES](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CNT_CORRELIAN_TIMES_E-MAGAZINE_ISSUES)

<http://www.witchschool.com/page/correllian-times-magazine>

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Announcements

Correllian Tradition Ning Site

Rev. Don has set up a Social site on Ning for all members of the Correllian Tradition. A place where you can meet other members of the Tradition throughout the world. Please take the time to join.

Advertise in the Correllian Times

The Correllian Times E-Magazine is a free publication, we are offering space for you to advertise your goods and services at a low price.

Rates:

Banner~~~~~ \$10.00 a month
Text box~~~~~ \$10.00 a month, **50**
Word Maxium

Banner & text~~ \$ 15.00 monthly
Banner~~~~~ \$100.00 yearly
Text~~~~~ \$100.00 yearly
Banner & Text~~ \$150.00 yearly

You can send your ad to:

Windy0716@aol.com

Go to correllian.com, then click on Correllian Times go to bottom and the payment options are there including where to send a check if you prefer that.

Announcements

Apply for Clergy Applications

* Rev. Anna Rowe, HP (UK/Europe)
applications@sednatemple.co.uk

* Rev. Raene Packery, HP (So.Africa)
applications@clanofkheper temple.co.za

*Rev. Don Lewis HP (US/Canada/all other Countries)

CorrellianChurch@yahoo.com

Apply Outer Court Applications

*Rev. Windy Lajoie, HP

Windy0716@aol.com

New Members of the Correllian Tradition

OUTER COURT

Kimberly Pauline Davis (Gwynhwfyr StoneSprite)

Magickal Hummingbyrd

Joseph A.Jechenthal III (Ash)

Heydi Lindenberger (Maryian)

Kenneth Collin Whetstone (Crow VVitzstein)

Jessica Wilson

Announcements

Tarot Course Writers Needed

In need of members to write courses for the Tarot College.

We pay \$25.00 for 10 pages or more and \$2.50 a page for under 10 pages. Please contact me if you are interested in writing a course.

windy0716@aol.com

Blessings, Windy

Letters to the Editor

We are setting up Letters to the Editor so that questions, comments, suggestions, etc. can be sent in.

We will print them in the next addition each month. You may send them to:

Windy0716@aol.com

Free Monthly Tarot Readings Offered

Profile of Reader

Rev. John (Ing) Snodgrass, HP:

Tarot Reader, 25 plus years experience I know that for many of you monthly readers of our magazine here may not

Announcements

always get the opportunity to physically sit down with someone who is skilled in the art of reading the cards, or perhaps afford to pay for expensive regular monthly readings, so what I would like to do is provide you with a free monthly reading...a little guidance as it were, and an easy and convenient access to much needed information for the coming month. What I am offering to you is a free basic 3 Card - Tarot Card Reading which can help guide you through periods when your emotions have become troubled your emotions have become troubled and clouded thoughts are all you have. I wish to be of service to you by offering this free reflection of your past, present and possible future and thus offer to you For this project, I am calling upon all Temples, Proto-Temples, Witan Shrines, a short fresh perspective on your life, and its many problems.

For your free reading just email me at: rev.ing.hp@gmail.com with your 1 question for the upcoming month ... I will post both the cards and their answer for you... At no time will names be used or email addresses posted... I will require you to email me your zip code (or a 5 number code) and a 3 alphabetic letter combination of your choice...these I will use as the title for your printed reply so that you can find your personal reading in totally anonymity... as I will remove the

Announcements

email from my files as soon as your reading is done and thus no further emailed comments will be forth coming from me...

CNT Donations

Greetings Everyone,

It is hoped that someday, through fundraising events such as this and regular monthly donations by our members that we as a Tradition will be able to financially support our High Priesthood who has sacrificed so much through the years to bring this Tradition to the world. Consider becoming a regular supporter of CNT by going to the "Givers Zone" webpage on our website. <http://www.correllian.com/donate.htm>

If you have something you wish to donate for the April Lustration of the Ancestors Silent Auction - it is not too early. contact me at:

<mailto:CNTFundRaisingOffice@earthlink.net>

Blessings, Rev. Mike
CNT Fundraising Office

Crystal Web Mapping Project

Announcements

The Order of the Web Weavers has been working diligently on mapping the Crystal Web. If any of you have a crystal that you have added or removed from the Crystal Web contact us to ensure are records are up to date and accurate. The information we need in order to best catalog your crystal/s is the following. Your Craft Name and E- mail Address along with your City, State, Country, Latitude, and Longitude. Send to the following e-mail address:

Windy0716@aol.com

Please include the above information, if you have removed your crystal from the Crystal Web along with 'Remove' in the subject line. If you have added several crystals then we would need a separate entry for each crystal, unless they are located together. If they are located together then please include how many crystals are at that location.

We are excited about this project and hope that you will be too. Once the crystals have been properly cataloged we can then begin placing them on the map program. This will give us a good visualization on the Crystal Web. Thank you in advance for your participation in this wonderful project.

Bright Blessings~Order of the Web
Weavers

Announcements

Order of Web Weaver's Monthly Ritual

Ritual on the 11th. of each month (Time you do the Ritual is up to you as long as it is done on the 11th.)

The Ritual is for Hope, Peace, Love and Prosperity.

The energy sent out through the Web is for anyone to use throughout the world if they so desire.

Hope

May the winds of hope bloom sweeping away despair & sorrow so that life again may grow building a better tomorrow. May hope clear the air and end the darkling clouds of fear & pain and bright beginnings send that we may dare to dream again.

May what was dark & overcast be now renewed & once more whole freed from all limitations past. Healed by hope within the soul. Awake now hope! Spread wings & fly!

Cleanse & liberate my heart! All things are possible and I in wings of hope shall claim my part!

Peace

May the Fires of Peace burn bright giving light when the world is darkest putting hate & bigotry to flight and laying prejudice

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to rest. May the light of peace melt away the encrustation of violence and bitterness which holds sway so often in the world's events.

May peace transmute & tame unruly aggression and arrogance. Subdue them in humanities name to give the future a decent chance.

Thus I say and thus I pray and thus I will it to come to be I pray and work for peace this day for all the world, for you, for me!

Love Calling

May love like water pour forth filling my heart and soul. Flowing out over all the Earth and making all things whole. Love as deep as the ocean, clear as the mountain lakes crowning all other emotion. The Thirst of Humanity slakes love enters & heals the anchoring heart and washes away its pain.

Thus clearing the way for a better start to reach out & love others again fill me oh love, like a cup to the top fill the world as well like a sea that I may know love from the world without stop and all the world know love from me!

Prosperity Blessing

*Prosperity high as the mountains fastness,
Prosperity rich as the fertile ground,
Prosperity deeps as the caverns vastness,*

Announcements

*Prosperity wide as the World round,
Prosperity helps heal the hating heal,
Prosperity helps heal fear.*

*Prosperity fosters the peace-makers art,
Prosperity I call you here! Prosperity come
make us feel secure! Prosperity helps us love
peace! Prosperity help us the future ensure!*

*Prosperity I pray you increase! Prosperity I
call you to manifest now! Prosperity rumble
& shake! Prosperity now in my life I allow!
Prosperity like an earthquake!*

Creating a Crystal Access Point

Dig the hole in which you will bury the crystal before you start to cast the circle.

Begin by casting a Circle. Since you will be out of doors and may not be burying your crystal in a private place, you may want it to be a very simple.

Circle: you can do it entirely in your head, imagining the Circle around you, then silently calling the Quarters and imagining Them as pillars of white light. You may invoke Goddess and God silently.

Of course if you are in a more private place, or are comfortable being observed casting a Circle, you may do the Circle as elaborately as you choose.

Hold your crystal. Above the crystal imagine a three dimensional triangle of white light. Imagine this fully.

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Then imagine the triangle spinning clockwise.

Imagine a ball of white light in the Heart Chakra. When this is clear in your head, send a beam of green light from the Heart Chakra into the spinning triangle. As the green light enters the triangle, it will change its shape, becoming a cube (still spinning clockwise). Imagine this change fully.

Fill the cube with green light from your Heart Chakra.

Once the cube is full of green light the flow will reverse, and green light will flow back to your heart. Let the green light fill your heart, your chest, your whole body, as well as the crystal you hold. Let the crystal fill with this light.

Put the crystal in the hole and cover it with earth.

Place both hands directly over the now-covered hole and focus white light down into the earth and the buried crystal. Now charge the crystal to link into the Crystal Web.

This may be spoken aloud or done silently.

*"O crystal, I charge you to link into the
Crystal Web, becoming one with its energies.
Through you I gain access to the Web, which
links my Correllian family."*

Imagine a beam of white light coming

Announcements

from the crystal and shooting off in one or another direction, underground – this is the crystal linking into the Web.

To use this crystal in the future, follow these steps:

Imagine the buried crystal within a cube of white light. Imagine the cube spinning clockwise.

Focus a beam of energy from your heart into the cube, and imagine it changing into a triangle, still spinning; the crystal will then be open and may be interacted with. When finished, allow the image to fade. This can be done from a distance; you do not need to actually be at the site where the crystal is buried.

**You have now created a
Crystal Access Point!**

CANDLES

YELLOW HOPE

PURPLE PEACE

PINK LOVE

ORANGE PROSPERITY

Announcements

The Halcyon Gazette

The Halcyon Gazette is restarting publication soon and is looking for artists to design cover art. This monthly newsletter is 8.5" x 5.5" and will be mailed to anyone with membership in our Temple or buys a subscription. This newsletter is a Correllian Temple newsletter, so Sabbat and pagan themes are acceptable, but not required. Family friendly is required however.

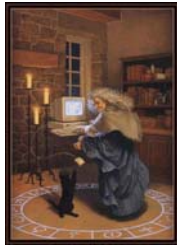
Payment will be your name listed in the Editors' Credits and 2 free issues of the newsletter in the month it is used. Artists will be asked to sign a one-time use release, and we will NOT keep copyright of your work.

For more information or to submit artwork please contact Rev. Isarma at Halcyon_Staff-owner@yahoo.com

Ancestors Bless!

Correllian Tradition Orders

House of Wisdom_Elder, Sage, Crone



This is a closed group for Correllian Members. This group is for Elders, Sages and Crones. A place to share knowledge and wisdom from years of experience.

For more information you can contact:

[Windy](#)

or

[Anna](#)

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Correllian Tradition Ning](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order House of Survivors



Order Head: [Windy Lajoie](#)

This is a closed Order for women 18 and over who have been victims of domestic or sexual abuse or both. A place to talk

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of Mental Mediums: Mediumship Course Group



Order Head: [Susan Wheeler HP](#)

This group is for people serious about studying mental mediumship. Welcome! This group and the mediumship group (mediumship services run by Angellus), form part of the Correllian Order of Mental Mediums.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Artificers



Order Head [Rev. Don Lewis, HP](#)

Artificers, create and handle a variety of objects bearing symbols and sigils, such as banners. They are responsible for creating robes patches, pins, etc.

You can join this Order at the following sites: [Yahoo](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

to others who have gone through this kind of assault. If you have questions please contact me. You must be a member of either the Outer Court or Clergy of the Correllian Tradition.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Correllian Tradition Ning](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Self Empowerment



Joint Heads of Order:

[Rev. Karla Summers HPs](#) &
[Rev. Anna Rowe HPs](#)

This Order is for all members both male and female of the Correllian Tradition who have or are suffering domestic abuse.

A place for moral support, information on where to find help and a place to discuss your predicament with those who have suffered the same.

It is an order, where we as a group can help each other find our inner power of self to help break the cycle that tends to

Correllian Tradition Orders

come along with the pattern of abuse after removing yourself from it.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Peace Weavers



The motto of the Order of Peace Weavers is:

"Be Peace, Live Peace, Send Love, Weave Peace."

Order Head: [Rev. Theresa Helton](#)
(Moonraven)

The Order of Peace Weavers was to provide members of the Correllian Tradition with the means of gathering together to collectively promote the weaving of peace into the fabric of society through meditation, prayer, Reiki, visualization, spellworking, ritual, creative come along with the pattern of abuse after removing yourself from it.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Correllian Tradition Orders

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

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You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of Self Reliant Living



Order Head [Rev. Betty Redding](#) (Epona Dreamstar)

Join us as we discuss topics such as self reliance, homesteading and farming, alternative power, blacksmithing, wild crafting, living off the land, living frugal, raising and storing your own food, both vegetable and animal as well as taking care of the farm animals, farm equipment, etc.

Rediscover the pleasures and challenges of a healthier, greener, and more self-sufficient lifestyle.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: [Order of Self Reliant Living](#)

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

[Correllain Tradition Ning](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Correllian Order of Herbalism



To study the arts of herbalism and their applications.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Correllian Tradition Ning](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Web Weavers



Order Head: [Windy Lajoie](#)

This is a closed Order only members of the Correllian Tradition may join.

We will focus on Rituals. Do a map showing where the crystals are buried. There is now a course for this look on Witch School. To join this Order, you need to be a member of the Tradition.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Correllian Tradition Orders

[Yahoo](#)

[Correllian Tradition Ning](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Divination Order: Spirit Writing

This is presently a teaching/discussion



group of the Order of Divination for teaching 'Automatic Writing' or 'Spirit Writing' Automatic Writing: A form of divination.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Translators



Joint Heads of Order: [Rev. Yoko](#) and [Rev. Mishka](#)

This group is created for the Correllian Order of Translators, and is dedicated to

Correllian Tradition Orders

translating Correllian materials into the many different languages Correllians speak!

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Correllian Tradition Ning](#)

Order of World Walkers



Order Head [Rev. Krystel High-Correll, HPs](#)

The Order of World Walkers deal with issues of conscious incarnation, Ancestors and Spirits, crossing over, and multi-dimensional workings.

The Correllian Tradition includes both incarnate and discarnate members (the Ancestors) and in addition many incarnate members are Conscious Incarnates: that is, they incarnated more than once in this project, and have a very thin Veil between lives.

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Yahoo](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order-of-the-Eagle



Order Head: [Rev. Stephanie Neal HPs](#)

Designed to help Pagan Clerics grow into our Full Calling; giving comfort, inspiration, guidance and support to our Correllian CNI clergy.

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Yahoo](#)

Order of Ares



Order Head: [Rev. Vernon Estes](#)

This is a group for Wiccans/ Pagans in the military, former military, and family members of military. We are dedicated to furthering education and understanding in the military. We are fully behind and supporting the quest for a pagan chaplain in the military. As a military group, we are aware of the Wiccan Rede and the ways of of our pagan warrior ancestors. At this time, the Order of Ares is restricted to those members of the

Correllian Tradition Orders

Correllian Tradition, both outer court and inner court.

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Yahoo](#)

Order of Thanatos



Order Head [Rev. Isarma Crain](#)

This Order will focus on and discuss topics important to the aging pagan population, such as end-of-life issues, proper health care in a non-pagan culture, and choices in death transition

There will eventually be a training course for this Order. It is open to Clergy, Health Care workers, and family members caring for their loved ones.

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Yahoo](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

The Order of Wiccan Educators



This Order is for members of the Correllian Nativist Tradition who are currently (or retired) teachers, teaching assistants, and work with students in the mundane world. It is a place where these professionals, and paraprofessionals, can come to speak about how their Wiccan spirituality assists them in their work and to offer suggestions to one another on how to incorporate their spirituality into their everyday work lives.

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Yahoo](#)

Order of Cerrunos



Order Heads: [Rev. Obsidian Butterfly](#)
and Silent Dragon

The purpose of the order is to be a place to promote sharing of information (both

Correllian Tradition Orders

mundane and spiritual) between animal lovers, keepers, rescuers, veterinarians, technicians, and all those who work to protect and provide for creatures (both wild and domestic)

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Order of Cerrunos](#)

Order of Recreational Fantasy Connoisseurs



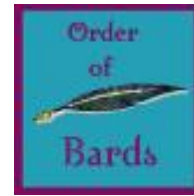
Order Head: [Rev. Alyssa Maxon](#)

The Correllian Order of Recreational Fantasy Connoisseurs is devoted to providing a place where those Correllians who enjoy the myriad forms

of gaming can interact, network, and discuss all kinds of games, whether computer, video, pad and paper, card, board, tabletop, LARP, or anything else that drives you.

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of Bards



Order Head: [Rev. Anna Rowe Hps](#)

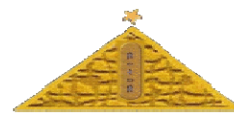
An Order of the Correllian Tradition.

Order of Bards is specifically for members who love to write, poets, storytellers, essay writers anyone who loves to write.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://bardics.co.uk>

Order of Sirius



Order Head: [Rev. Anna Rowe HPs](#)

An Order of the Correllian Tradition For lovers and owners of dogs.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://sepdet.co.uk>

[Yahoo](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of the Muses



The Order honors the nine Muses as the Spark of Inspiration which draws the artist to expression. Either through self-expressions or artist styles. Post pictures, upload poems, collaborate with others or just look around.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Recovering Correllians



Order Head: [Windy Lajoie](#)

This is a Closed Order, members must be either an Inner or Outer Court member of the Correllian Nativist Tradition, and actively working towards recovery from addiction to alcohol and/or drugs. There is no minimum time in recovery to be a member of this order; only an honest desire to become 'clean and sober'.

Correllian Tradition Orders

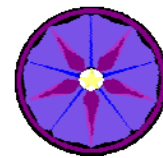
You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Correllian Tradition Ning](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Morning Glory Order



Order Head: [Rev. Don Lewis](#)

This Order is to honor the life and work of Lady Morning Glory Zell-Ravenheart

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Yahoo](#)

Order of Krystel Guardians



Order Head: [Rev. Jason Mycroft HP](#)

This Order is in honor of Lady Krystel as a service Order providing Honor Guards, Ushers, and Escorts for Correllian events.

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of Spiritual Advisors



Order Head: [Rev. Anna Rowe HP](#)

This is for 3rd Degrees and above who wish to help advise on spiritual matters for Correllian members.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://spiritualadvisors.bravehost.com>

Order of German Shepherds



Order Head: [Rev. Wolfciara](#)

This Order is for all owners and lovers of German Shepherds.

Order of Wolves

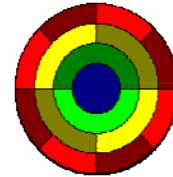


Order Head: [Rev. Wolfciara](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

This Order is for all lovers of Wolves.

Order of Historians



Order Head: [Rev. Richard Lloyd](#)

The Order of Historians was formed in order to better worship our ancestors by knowing our ancestors. The order aims to keep charts and to assist those wishing to research their ancestry.

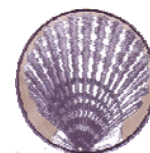
Order of the Hawthorn



Order Head: [Morgan Daimler](#)

Our aim is to learn about, study, discuss and share knowledge and experience relating to building a relationship with faeries and the Celtic Otherworld from a specifically Celtic perspective.

Order of Pagan Basics



Order Head: [Stephanie Neal HPs](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

This Order is intended to provide a resource for the beginner in our faith.

Order of World Light Leadership



Order Head: [Stephanie Neal HPs](#)

This Order is intended as a training ground for Pagan leaders with the emphasis of growth through In-Person Leadership and works.

This Order is for anyone, not just for clergy.

World Order of the Sea Priestess



Order Head: [Stephanie Neal HPs](#)

This is where a women can discover her Sea Priestess through living life with quiet integrity and grace. A person will learn how to become a Sea Priestess.

Correllian Tradition Orders

I Knew You When



This is a closed group, members must belong to the Correllian Tradition either inner or outer court. This group is for friends, families, partners of love ones who are addicted alcohol and/or drug abuse or both. You can contact

[Windy](#)

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Correllian Tradition Ning](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Bast



Order Head: [Rev. Anna Rowe Hps](#)

A member Order of the Correllian Tradition. The Order of Bast is for cat lovers everywhere. If you have a passion for cats and you are a member of the Correllian Tradition then please consider becoming a member. See the web site for more information.

Correllian Tradition Orders

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://bastis.co.uk>

Order of Tcheft



Order Head: [Rev. Raene Packery HPs](#)

The Order of Tcheft is a chartered Order of the Correllian Tradition dedicated to Sabbat cooking and baking. Open to members of the Correllian Tradition.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://www.wiccanwitch.co.za>

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order Of Paranormal Investigation and Research



Order Head: [Rev. Jason Mycroft HP](#)

This Group is Paranormal investigators and Researchers...as Well as people just interested in the topic

Correllian Tradition Orders

Website:

<http://www.orderofparanormalinvestigationandresearch.org/>

[Witch School Ning](#)

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Divination Order: Tarot



Here we shall study all things Tarot. The discussions in this group will range from simple discussions about the meaning of the cards to more elaborate discussions of how to use Astrology and numerology to gain deeper meanings for the cards themselves.

This group is meant to help you deepen your understanding of this rich tool to help improve your own life.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of Defenders



Order Head: Lee D. Fluhr

Correllian Nativist Tradition Order that promotes the Martial Arts, their students and teachers.

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Witch School Ning](#)

Divination Order: Astrology



This group is dedicated to teaching and understanding all of the aspects and elements of Western Astrology. As we grow we will incorporate other forms of Astrology such as Chinese and Celtic Astrology. Our goal with this group is to create a Correllian inspired Interpretation for the Astrological elements.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Correllian Tradition Orders

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Divination Order: Celtic & Egyptian Divination



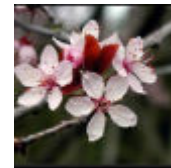
Teach a number of forms of divination through a series of courses. These are the Celtic Ogham, the Witch's runes, The witch's rune cards, and the Sacred Scarab.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Divination Order: Yi Jing



Discussion group for Yi Jing or I Ching. Book of Changes

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Divination Order: Numerology



Numerology is any of many systems, traditions or beliefs in a mystical or esoteric relationship between numbers and physical objects or living things.

Numerology and numerological divination were popular among early mathematicians, such as Pythagoras, but are no longer considered part of mathematics and are regarded as pseudomathematics by modern scientists.

This is similar to the historical development of astrology out of astronomy, and alchemy from chemistry.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)
[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of the Open Door Support Group



Correllian Tradition Orders

Group is for those who want support for coming out about who they are to family, friends, or loved ones. Or support while having to stay in hiding. Our Door is always open! You are not alone!

You can join this Order at the following site:

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of Reiki



Please note this Order is independent of Witch School and is a member of the Correllian Tradition. For more information please see the official Order web site. Membership to the Order requires Master/Teacher status.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://reikiorder.co.uk>
[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of the Magic Quill



A member of the Correllian Tradition
Providing resources, and where to find

Correllian Tradition Orders

pagan children's literature and a facility for the members to contribute their own pagan wiccan writings for all Pagan children and especially Tradition members.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://clik.to/magicquill>
[Witch School Ning](#)

Order for Spiritual Healing and Communication



We strive to promote positive communication between all religions and to help build bridges where needed. We truly desire to make a world community where all faiths can thrive in the hearts of those that practice them without fear, dread or secrecy.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://healingcommunication.ning.com/>
[Witch School Ning](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of the Water Witch



The Order of the Water Witch is a Correllian Order, open to Inner Court members of the Tradition. The purpose of this Order is to inspire, discuss and interpret dreams as well as share skills in order to acquire the ability to do so.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Website: <http://www.wiccanwitch.co.za>

<http://order-of-the-water-witch.ning.com>

[Yahoo](#)

Order of Buddhist Wiccans



Order Head [Rev. Patricia Snodgrass](#)
(Thora)

Correllian Tradition Orders

A closed sangha for Correllian Wiccan and Buddhist practitioners.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Order of the Peony



Order Head [Rev. Anna Rowe HPs](#)

An Order of the Correllian Tradition Specialising in Flowers and their Meanings, Uses in Aromatherapy, Ritual, Magic and Spells.

Website: <http://peonyorder.co.uk>

[Yahoo](#)

Order of Divination



Order Head: [Rev. Anna Rowe HPs](#)

Order of Divination provides several groups for discussions and lessons on a variety of divinations.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

Correllian Tradition Orders

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Divination Order: Runes



This group is for the study of Runes as part of the Order of Divination, an Order of the Correllian Nativist Tradition.

It's purpose is for members to study and discuss the Norse/Germanic Runes for use in divination.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Divination Order: Scrying



Discussion group on scrying.

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Yahoo](#)

[Witch School Ning](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of Esoteric Mystery Schools



Order Head: [Rev. Mike Joffrion](#)

A place to share and study about the esoteric mystery school thoughts and teachings that have existed through the ages.

For more information please go [HERE](#)

Order of Mental Mediums



Order Head: [Susan Wheeler HP](#)

The purpose of the Order to offer training in mental mediumship and mediumship services offered to those who desire this, in the form of channelled messages from the Other side

Information on Mediumship studies group go [HERE](#)

Information on Mediumship Services [Lady Susan](#) or [Alan Byrne](#)

Correllian Tradition Orders

Order of Mental Mediums Reading/Training Group

Correllian Tradition Orders



Order Head: [Susan Wheeler HP](#)

This group is a wing of the Order of Mental Mediums. Striving to provide readings for those needing them, and support for grieving where

wanted/needed. We are all here to help Blessed be and Walk in the Light.
Blessings

You can join this Order at the following sites:

[Witch School Ning](#)

Monthly Incense/Oil

MysticWicks

Hecate Incense

1 part Bay
1 part Mint
1 part Thyme
Pinch of Myrrh
Pinch of Frankincense
13 drops Cypress Oil
3 drops Camphor Oil

Hecate Incense 2

1 part Dandelion
1 part Hemlock
1 part Mandrake
1 part Red Oak
1 part White Oak
1 part White Willow
1 part Black Willow
1 part Arnica
1 part Saltpeter

Burn to honor Hecate and as an aid in defensive magick.

Hecate Incense 3

3 parts Sandalwood
2 parts Cypress
1 part Spearmint
1 part Peppermint
Burn to honor Her.

Monthly Incense/Oil

Hecate Oil

3 drops Myrrh
2 drops Cypress
1 drop Patchouli
1 drop Sage
1/2 oz. Carrier Oil

Wear for defensive magick and to honor Hecate.

Hecate Oil 2

3 drops Myrrh
2 drops Cypress
1 drop Patchouli
1 Mint Leaf
1/4 oz. Base Oil

Wear to honor Hecate and to call upon her powers.

Bread Dough Jewelry Box

By: Heidi Borchers of Inspired at Home

Inspiration can come from just about anywhere! Let [Heidi Borchers of Inspired at Home](#) show you how white bread and glue can become a dough for molding beautiful roses. Use those roses to adorn a jewelry box or for other crafts.

Bread Dough Jewelry Box



Materials:

- Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue™
- Slice of white bread – crust removed
- Small disposable cup (for mixing bread dough)
- Zip top bag
- Craft stick
- Acrylic paint: flower pink, leaf green
- Embellishments: vintage buttons, craft pearls, beads
- Decorative box

Instructions:

Tear bread into cup. Add 1 tablespoon Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue™. Mix with craft stick until a coarse ball begins to form. Transfer mixture to your hands and roll until ball of dough forms. This step might be messy for the first few minutes but as you continue to roll in your hands, the stickiness will diminish

Bread Dough Jewelry Box

and the dough will form. Continue rolling for several more minutes until smooth.

Separate dough into several balls and place into zip bag. To color dough, remove one ball at a time, resealing bag to keep remaining dough moist. Add one drop of acrylic paint at a time and knead color into dough. Continue to add color one drop at a time until desired color is achieved. Return dough to plastic bag. Repeat to color remaining dough.

To make roses and leaves, follow how-to instructions.

Glue roses, leaves and embellishments onto top of box.

How to make roses:

Pinch off a pea-sized bit of dough. Squeeze the pea between your fingers to flatten it into a small, round piece the thickness of a piece of paper. To make the center of the rose, roll the flattened piece between your fingers, turning the top edge back slightly to look as if the rose were just beginning to unfurl.

Pinch off another pea-sized bit of dough and flatten it as before. Press the top edges back slightly to make a petal. Place the rose center in the center of this petal and wrap the petal around the center, gently pressing them together at the bottom.

Bread Dough Jewelry Box

Make another petal in the same manner. Place this petal opposite the first petal. If possible, look at a real rose while making your bread dough rose. Remember, not all rose petals are the same size. Place subsequent petals a bit higher on the rose, so that the turned back edges are even with the rose center.

Add 8 more petals in the same manner, overlapping the edges slightly, to complete the rose. Let the flower air-dry overnight. To glue the rose to a flat surface, cut off the bottom of the rose before it dries completely.

To make leaf, you will need a small ball of green dough. Pinch off a pea-sized piece and mold it into a teardrop shape. Flatten the teardrop so that it is a bit thicker than a piece of paper. Using a straight pin, make indentations in the top of the leaf for veins. Curl the leaf as desired and let dry. If desired, press leaves in place at bottom of the rose before it dries.

Monthly Horoscopes

ARIES OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / ARIES OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (Mar. 21- Apr. 20)



To turn around things, you ensure that they does not leave to them.

Monthly Horoscopes

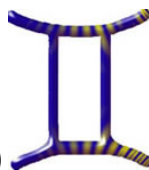
Do not be too prompt to give your opinion. To listen to the others attentively. The possibilities of voyages will be favorable in terms of connections moneymaking. Do not let the others limit you to say how you feel on the family questions. Your lucky events of this month will take place Monday.

TAURUS OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / TAURUS OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (Apr.



21- OCTOBER 21) Perhaps it is time to seek the means you can improve your health. Professional secrecy can only lead to circumstances devastators. Speak with your second on one about holidays and to discuss waitings your relation. Difficulties with your second OCTOBER of leading to insulation. Your lucky events of this month will take place Thursday.

GEMINI OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / GEMINI OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (OCTOBER 22-June



21) It will be of as much around you. You will be emotional on the questions of money. You should take part in activities which can be exerted by the two young people and old man. You can receive a recognition for the work

Monthly Horoscopes

which you made. Your lucky events of this month will take place one Saturday.

CANCER OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / CANCER OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (June



22-July 22) Try not to spend time with your colleagues if you want to avoid problems later. You to benefit from OCTOBER to do something for the musical entertainment. You OCTOBER being more emotional than usually. Your second will do everything to make you things which you do not want to only make. Your lucky events of this month will take place Wednesday.

LEO OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / LEO OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 July 23-Aug 22)



You must make more things than you like. You are better to channel your energy in the work world. Try to reduce your practices, or you could be in an embarrassing financial position. You to be emotional OCTOBER on the way in which an organization you belong is the handling of its activities. Your lucky events of this month will take place one Friday.

VIRGO OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010/ VIRGO OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Monthly Horoscopes



Emotionally , the things OCTOBER not so well. You could experiment of the unusual circumstances and to meet eccentric people. You ensure that you have all the relevant facts before taking measures. You will find it easy to learn and to excel. Your lucky events of this month will take place one Friday.

LIBRA OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / LIBRA OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)



make sure you to take the time life friends or parents, you do not have to see only often. If you are worried, being careful during the exploitation of a vehicle or any type of machines or equipment. Do not hesitate to express your opinion when they are relative questions to work. Your social competences with people OCTOBER being more than one simple useful. Your lucky events of this month will take place Thursday.

SCORPIO OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / SCORPIO OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (Oct.



24 - Nov. 22) Better still, take

Monthly Horoscopes

your second and to let them pay the invoice. You OCTOBER were too in vain for a friend who wanted benefit from you. Made attention not sign your time or your money immediately. Bring changes which will improve your appearance. Your lucky events of this month will take place one Friday.

SAGITTARIUS OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / SAGITTARIUS OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST



2010 (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

OCTOBER close relations annoyed being if they feel limited. Be careful if a friend asks you for councils. Information that you profit can be used in all the aspects of your life. Children OCTOBER demanding being, of entertainment and could cost much more than you can really allow yourselves. Your lucky events of this month will take place Monday.

CAPRICORN OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / CAPRICORN OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010



(Dec22.- Jan. 20) Your words will be taken except context if you are of avoidance with colleagues or employers. You will be OCTOBER mixed in a kind of triangle. You should consider a healthy

Monthly Horoscopes

food. The social activity should be with your day order. Your lucky events of this month will take place one Tuesday.

AQUARIUS OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / AQUARIUS OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (Jan.



21 -Feb. 19) Not so much not to widen if you have your own company. You sit tight. You are better to avoid the litigations. this month is not the day to test people arriving in their giving ultimata. To do a little investigation if it ya somebody with work you made not confidence. Your lucky events of this month will take place it.

PISCES OCTOBER HOROSCOPE 2010 / PISCES OCTOBER ASTROLOGY FORECAST 2010 (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)



Supervise your tendency to live for the day and to pass too much from entertainment and the children, it could recall you. To make projects which will bring you to exotic destinations. To seek the means of better you by improving your dietary habits and of daily life. Be honest in your communication and not to lose its coolness if somebody supports you in a corner. Your lucky events of this month will take place Sunday.

**BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY
THE AGE OF FABLE
OR STORIES OF GODS AND HEROES
by Thomas Bulfinch
[1855]
CHAPTER XIII.
*NISUS AND SCYLLA- ECHO AND
NARCISSUS- CLYTIE-
HERO AND LEANDER.
NISUS AND SCYLLA.***

MINOS, king of Crete, made war upon Megara. Nisus was king of Megara, and Scylla was his daughter. The siege had now lasted six months and the city still held out, for it was decreed by fate that it should not be taken so long as a certain purple lock, which glittered among the hair of King Nisus, remained on his head. There was a tower on the city walls, which overlooked the plain where Minos and his army were encamped. To this tower Scylla used to repair, and look abroad over the tents of the hostile army. The siege had lasted so long that she had learned to distinguish the persons of the leaders. Minos, in particular, excited her admiration. Arrayed in his helmet, and bearing his shield, she admired his graceful deportment; if he threw his javelin skill seemed combined with force in the discharge; if he drew his bow Apollo himself could not have done it more gracefully. But when he laid aside

his helmet, and in his purple robes bestrode his white horse with its gay caparisons, and reined in its foaming mouth, the daughter of Nisus was hardly mistress of herself; she was almost frantic with admiration. She envied the weapon that he grasped, the reins that he held. She felt as if she could, if it were possible, go to him through the hostile ranks; she felt an impulse to cast herself down from the tower into the midst of his camp, or to open the gates to him, or to do anything else, so only it might gratify Minos. As she sat in the tower, she talked thus with herself: "I know not whether to rejoice or grieve at this sad war. I grieve that Minos is our enemy; but I rejoice at any cause that brings him to my sight. Perhaps he would be willing to grant us peace, and receive me as a hostage. I would fly down, if I could, and alight in his camp, and tell him that we yield ourselves to his mercy. But then, to betray my father! No! rather would I never see Minos again. And yet no doubt it is sometimes the best thing for a city to be conquered, when the conqueror is clement and generous. Minos certainly has right on his side. I think we shall be conquered; and if that must be the end of it, why should not love unbar the gates to him, instead of leaving it to be done by war? Better spare delay and slaughter if we can. And O if any one should wound or kill Minos! No one surely would have

Beyond Weird

the heart to do it; yet ignorantly, not knowing him, one might. I will, I will surrender myself to him, with my country as a dowry, and so put an end to the war. But how? The gates are guarded, and my father keeps the keys; he only stands in my way. O that it might please the gods to take him away! But why ask the gods to do it? Another woman, loving as I do, would remove with her own hands whatever stood in the way of her love. And can any other woman dare more than I? I would encounter fire and sword to gain my object; but here there is no need of fire and sword. I only need my father's purple lock. More precious than gold to me, that will give me all I wish."

While she thus reasoned night came on, and soon the whole palace was buried in sleep. She entered her father's bedchamber and cut off the fatal lock; then passed out of the city and entered the enemy's camp. She demanded to be led to the king, and thus addressed him: "I am Scylla, the daughter of Nisus. I surrender to you my country and my father's house. I ask no reward but yourself: for love of you I have done it. See here the purple lock! With this I give you my father and his kingdom." She held out her hand with the fatal spoil. Minos shrunk back and refused to touch it. "The gods destroy thee, infamous woman," he exclaimed; "disgrace of our

Beyond Weird

time! May neither earth nor sea yield thee a resting-place! Surely, my Crete, where Jove himself was cradled, shall not be polluted with such a monster!" Thus he said, and gave orders that equitable terms should be allowed to the conquered city, and that the fleet should immediately sail from the island.

Scylla was frantic. "Ungrateful man," she exclaimed, "is it thus you leave me?- me who have given you victory,- who have sacrificed for you parent and country! I am guilty, I confess, and deserve to die, but not by your hand." As the ships left the shore, she leaped into the water, and seizing the rudder of the one which carried Minos, she was borne along an unwelcome companion of their course. A sea-eagle soaring aloft,- it was her father who had been changed into that form,- seeing her, pounced down upon her, and struck her with his beak and claws. In terror she let go the ship and would have fallen into the water, but some pitying deity changed her into a bird. The sea-eagle still cherishes the old animosity; and whenever he espies her in his lofty flight you may see him dart down upon her, with beak and claws, to take vengeance for the ancient crime.

ECHO AND NARCISSUS.

Echo was a beautiful nymph, fond of the woods and hills, where she devoted

herself to woodland sports. She was a favourite of Diana, and attended her in the chase. But Echo had one failing; she was fond of talking, and whether in chat or argument, would have the last word. One day Juno was seeking her husband, who, she had reason to fear, was amusing himself among the nymphs. Echo by her talk contrived to detain the goddess till the nymphs made their escape. When Juno discovered it, she passed sentence upon Echo in these words: "You shall forfeit the use of that tongue with which you have cheated me, except for that one purpose you are so fond of- reply. You shall still have the last word, but no power to speak first."

This nymph saw Narcissus, a beautiful youth, as he pursued the chase upon the mountains. She loved him and followed his footsteps. O how she longed to address him in the softest accents, and win him to converse! but it was not in her power. She waited with impatience for him to speak first, and had her answer ready. One day the youth, being separated from his companions, shouted aloud, "Who's here?" Echo replied, "Here." Narcissus looked around, but seeing no one, called out, "Come." Echo answered, "Come." As no one came, Narcissus called again, "Why do you shun me?" Echo asked the same question. "Let us join one another," said

the youth. The maid answered with all her heart in the same words, and hastened to the spot, ready to throw her arms about his neck. He started back, exclaiming, "Hands off! I would rather die than you should have me!" "Have me," said she; but it was all in vain. He left her, and she went to hide her blushes in the recesses of the woods. From that time forth she lived in caves and among mountain cliffs. Her form faded with grief, till at last all her flesh shrank away. Her bones were changed into rocks and there was nothing left of her but her voice. With that she is still ready to reply to any one who calls her, and keeps up her old habit of having the last word.

Narcissus's cruelty in this case was not the only instance. He shunned all the rest of the nymphs, as he had done poor Echo. One day a maiden who had in vain endeavoured to attract him uttered a prayer that he might some time or other feel what it was to love and meet no return of affection. The avenging goddess heard and granted the prayer.

There was a clear fountain, with water like silver, to which the shepherds never drove their flocks, nor the mountain goats resorted, nor any of the beasts of the forests; neither was it defaced with fallen leaves or branches; but the grass grew fresh around it, and the rocks sheltered it from the sun. Hither came

Beyond Weird

one day the youth, fatigued with hunting, heated and thirsty. He stooped down to drink, and saw his own image in the water; he thought it was some beautiful water-spirit living in the fountain. He stood gazing with admiration at those bright eyes, those locks curled like the locks of Bacchus or Apollo, the rounded cheeks, the ivory neck, the parted lips, and the glow of health and exercise over all. He fell in love with himself. He brought his lips near to take a kiss; he plunged his arms in to embrace the beloved object. It fled at the touch, but returned again after a moment and renewed the fascination. He could not tear himself away; he lost all thought of food or rest. while he hovered over the brink of the fountain gazing upon his own image. He talked with the supposed spirit: "Why, beautiful being, do you shun me? Surely my face is not one to repel you. The nymphs love me, and you yourself look not indifferent upon me. When I stretch forth my arms you do the same; and you smile upon me and answer my beckonings with the like." His tears fell into the water and disturbed the image. As he saw it depart, he exclaimed, "Stay, I entreat you! Let me at least gaze upon you, if I may not touch you." With this, and much more of the same kind, he cherished the flame that consumed him, so that by degrees he lost his colour, his vigour, and the beauty

Beyond Weird

which formerly had so charmed the nymph Echo. She kept near him, however, and when he exclaimed, "Alas! alas!" she answered him with the same words. He pined away and died; and when his shade passed the Stygian river, it leaned over the boat to catch a look of itself in the waters. The nymphs mourned for him, especially the water-nymphs; and when they smote their breasts Echo smote hers also. They prepared a funeral pile and would have burned the body, but it was nowhere to be found; but in its place a flower, purple within, and surrounded with white leaves, which bears the name and preserves the memory of Narcissus.

Milton alludes to the story of Echo and Narcissus in the Lady's song in "Comus." She is seeking her brothers in the forest, and sings to attract their attention:

"Sweet Echo, sweetest nymph, that liv'st unseen
Within thy aery shell
By slow Meander's margent green,
And in the violet-embroidered vale,
Where the love-lorn nightingale
Nightly to thee her sad song mourneth well;
Canst thou not tell me of a gentle pair
That liketh thy Narcissus are?
O, if thou have
Hid them in some flowery cave,
Tell me but where,

Beyond Weird

Sweet queen of parly, daughter of the
sphere,
So may'st thou be translated to the
skies,
And give resounding grace to all
heaven's harmonies."

Milton has imitated the story of Narcissus
in the account which he makes Eve give
of the first sight of herself reflected in the
fountain.

"That day I oft remember when from
sleep
I first awaked, and found myself
reposed
Under a shade on flowers, much
wondering where
And what I was, whence thither
brought, and how
Not distant far from thence a
murmuring sound
Of waters issued from a cave, and
spread
Into a liquid plain, then stood
unmoved
Pure as the expanse of heaven; I
tither went
With unexperienced thought, and laid
me down
On the green bank, to look into the
clear
Smooth lake that to me seemed
another sky.
As I bent down to look, just opposite
A shape within the watery gleam
appeared,

Beyond Weird

Bending to look on me. I started
back;
It started back; but pleased I soon
returned,
Pleased it returned as soon with
answering looks
Of sympathy and love. There had I
fixed
Mine eyes till now, and pined with
vain desire,
Had not a voice thus warned me:
"What thou seest,
What there thou seest, fair creature,
is thyself;" etc.

Paradise Lost, Book IV.

No one of the fables of antiquity has
been oftener alluded to by the poets than
that of Narcissus. Here are two epigrams
which treat it in different ways. The first is
by Goldsmith:

"ON A BEAUTIFUL YOUTH,
STRUCK BLIND BY LIGHTNING.
"Sure 'twas by Providence designed
Rather in pity than in hate,
That he should be like Cupid blind,
To save him from Narcissus' fate."

The other is by Cowper:

"ON AN UGLY FELLOW.
"Beware, my friend, of crystal brook
Or fountain, lest that hideous hook,
Thy nose, thou chance to see;
Narcissus' fate would then be thine,

Beyond Weird

And self-detested thou would'st
pine,
As self-enamoured he."

CLYTIE.

Clytie was a water-nymph and in love with Apollo, who made her no return. So she pined away, sitting all day long upon the cold ground, with her unbound tresses streaming over her shoulders. Nine days she sat and tasted neither food nor drink, her own tears, and the chilly dew her only food. She gazed on the sun when he rose, and as he passed through his daily course to his setting; she saw no other object, her face turned constantly on him. At last, they say, her limbs rooted in the ground, her face became a flower,* which turns on its stem so as always to face the sun throughout its daily course; for it retains to that extent the feeling of the nymph from whom it sprang.

* The sunflower.

Hood, in his "Flowers," thus alludes to Clytie:

"I will not have the mad Clytie:
Whose head is turned by the sun;
The tulip is a courtly quean,
Whom therefore I will shun;
The cowslip is a country wench,
The violet is a nun;-

Beyond Weird

But I will woo the dainty rose,
The queen of every one."

The sunflower is a favourite emblem of constancy. Thus Moore uses it:

"The heart that has truly loved
never forgets,
But as truly loves on to the close;
As the sunflower turns on her god
when he sets
The same look that she turned
when he rose."

HERO AND LEANDER.

Leander was a youth of Abydos, a town of the Asian side of the strait which separates Asia and Europe. On the opposite shore, in the town of Sestos, lived the maiden Hero, a priestess of Venus. Leander loved her, and used to swim the strait nightly to enjoy the company of his mistress, guided by a torch which she reared upon the tower for the purpose. But one night a tempest arose and the sea was rough; his strength failed, and he was drowned. The waves bore his body to the European shore, where Hero became aware of his death, and in her despair cast herself down from the tower into the sea and perished.

The following sonnet is by Keats:

"ON A PICTURE OF LEANDER.

Beyond Weird

"Come hither all sweet Maidens
soberly
Down looking aye, and with a
chasten'd light
Hid in the fringes of your eyelids
white,
And meekly let your fair hands joined
be,
As if so gentle that ye could not see,
Untouch'd, a victim of your beauty
bright,
Sinking away to his young spirit's
night,
Sinking bewilder'd 'mid the dreary
sea.
'Tis young Leander toiling to his
death.
Nigh swooning he doth purse his
weary lips
For Hero's cheek, and smiles against
her smile.
O horrid dream! see how his body
dips
Dead-heavy; arms and shoulders
gleam awhile;
He's gone; up bubbles all his
amorous breath!"

The story of Leander's swimming the Hellespont was looked upon as fabulous, and the feat considered impossible, till Lord Byron proved its possibility by performing it himself. In the "Bride of Abydos" he says,

"These limbs that buoyant wave hath borne."

Beyond Weird

The distance in the narrowest part is almost a mile, and there is a constant current setting out from the Sea of Marmora into the Archipelago. Since Byron's time the feat has been achieved by others; but it yet remains a test of strength and skill in the art of swimming sufficient to give a wide and lasting celebrity to any one of our readers who may dare to make the attempt and succeed in accomplishing it.

In the beginning, of the second canto of the same poem, Byron thus alludes to this story:

"The winds are high on Helle's wave,
As on that night of stormiest water,
When Love, who sent, forgot to save
The young, the beautiful, the brave,
The lonely hope of Sestos' daughter.
O, when alone along the sky
The turret-torch was blazing high,
Though rising gale and breaking foam,
And shrieking sea-birds warned him
home;
And clouds aloft and tides below, With
signs and sounds forbade to go,
He could not see, he would not hear
Or sound or sight foreboding fear.
His eye but saw that light of love,
The only star it hailed above; His ear
but rang with Hero's song,
'Ye waves, divide not lovers long.'
That tale is old, but love anew
May nerve young hearts to prove as
true."

Moon News

Submitted by: Windy



October 2010

Full Hunter's Moon: This is the month when the leaves are falling and the game is fattened. Now is the time for hunting and laying in a store of provisions for the long winter ahead. October's Moon is also known as the Travel Moon and the Dying Moon.

| | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Last Qtr. | 7th Day | 14th Hour | 44th Minute |
| New Moon | 14th Day | 17th Hour | 27th Minute |
| First Qtr. | 22nd Day | 21st Hour | 37th Minute |
| Full Moon | 30th Day | 8th Hour | 46th Minute |

Void Of Course of Moon -2010

When the moon is about to leave one zodiac house and does not have any major aspects with other planets before entering the next sign after its last major aspect in that sign to any other planet, then the Moon is said to be Void of Course.

This is a period of no activity and is unfit for major projects, ventures and activities. Any activity started during this condition brings no major yield.

Moon News

Tips for Void of Course period

1. Do not start anything new when the Moon is void of course.
2. Avoid doing important things like Interviews, buying a house/vehicle, getting married, starting a relationship, major meetings, signing contracts, etc.
3. Do not plan, decide, purchase/buy and commit anything in this period
4. Avoid consultations with ministers, lawyers,, doctors, counselors, teachers, anyone whose advice you need.
5. Rejuvenate your spirit, relax, take a break, time out, meditate, read, and take a break from your routine life.
6. Avoid communications that are extremely important. Wait to write the letter, e-mail, send the fax, or make a call. The communication will either be disrupted, delayed, or contorted.
7. Take time to reflect and study your inner-self.

October 2010 Void Of Course Moon Calendar

Moon News

| Void Begins | | Void Ends | | Sign Moon Enters After Void |
|------------------|------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Date Void Begins | Time (EST) | Date Void Ends | Time (EST) | |
| Sat Oct 2 | 11:21 am | Sat Oct 2 | 2:21 pm | Leo |
| Mon Oct 4 | 9:52 am | Mon Oct 4 | 4:00 pm | Virgo |
| Wed Oct 6 | 12:43 pm | Wed Oct 6 | 3:52 pm | Libra |
| Fri Oct 8 | 9:38 am | Fri Oct 8 | 3:52 pm | Scorpio |
| Sun Oct 10 | 2:27 pm | Sun Oct 10 | 6:09 pm | Sagittarius |
| Tue Oct 12 | 8:08 pm | Wed Oct 13 | 12:17 am | Capricorn |
| Fri Oct 15 | 5:49 am | Fri Oct 15 | 10:24 am | Aquarius |
| Sun Oct 17 | 2:49 pm | Sun Oct 17 | 10:52 pm | Pisces |
| Wed Oct 20 | 6:25 am | Wed Oct 20 | 11:23 am | Aries |
| Fri Oct 22 | 9:37 pm | Fri Oct 22 | 10:30 pm | Taurus |
| Mon Oct 25 | 3:49 am | Mon Oct 25 | 7:47 am | Gemini |
| Wed Oct 27 | 10:19 am | Wed Oct 27 | 3:14 pm | Cancer |
| Fri Oct 29 | 3:48 pm | Fri Oct 29 | 8:39 pm | Leo |

Retrogrades

Venus goes Retrograde Oct 8 – Nov 18th 2010

Venus Retrogrades in the sign of Scorpio on Oct 8 and reenters Libra on Nov 7. What does this mean and How can you

Moon News

use Venus Retrograde to enhance your love and wealth?

Venus Retrogrades in the sign of Scorpio on Oct 8 and reenters Libra on Nov 7. What does this mean and How can you use Venus Retrograde to enhance your love and wealth?

Retrograde is an astrological term for a planet that turns around and heads back to where it just came from. This changing of direction allows you to review and rechoose in the areas that Venus rules, which is love and money.

When Venus, Goddess of Love and Abundance retrogrades, she offers all of us an opportunity to be initiated into a higher realm of being... a more stable state of inner love and richness. To pass this initiation especially with Venus in Scorpio, we need to be willing to face whatever emotional feelings are buried inside, face them and feel them and then – Let Them Go! We need to be authentic, honest and truthful to ourselves about any hidden, unexpressed fears of unworthiness regarding prosperity and love – without identifying with them and giving them power. Our goal is to eliminate limiting beliefs and feelings.

Let us use the analogy of Venus's rulership over gardening to help us understand how to work with Venus in

Moon News

our lives. When we think of our emotions as a garden then we can see that whatever seeds (feelings) we plant now, will grow into our future. Venus retrograde is a time to reassess our garden of feelings and dreams. We've noticed that some plants (relationships) are dying – what is the cause? Is there some underground 'gopher' program causing a problem? Or is it because our values have changed and new friends are in order. Have we been infected by our neighbor's weeds? Is there a flower we are trying to ignore because it appears too uncomfortable to touch? To become free of the weeds of our limiting beliefs and emotions – guilt, anger, fear, worry – we must first acknowledge them – feel them. The feeling of our 'unwanted' states of being is the action that completes and transforms them. So be vigilant, feel what you're feeling while simultaneously focusing on -thereby planting – what you want.

It is not advantageous to spend time focused on 'problems'. If you do, Oh what a seed! Later down the path you will forget you planted it and wonder 'why, oh why, is such and such happening to me, and what did I ever do to deserve this'... When all the while what you encounter along your road of life is the result of what you planted.

A secret to growing a magical garden is to plant plentiful rows of gratitude. Venus

Moon News

responds bountifully to our gratitude. She is so grateful when we are grateful that she lavishly pours forth gifts, talents, blessings and blissings. Our job is to simply want to remain as vigilant about being grateful as a metronome. Aim to never lose a beat. Venus responds to our hearts intent and graciously overlooks our blunders. We need not be perfect, just do our very best to remain focused on our heart and the gratitude it is filled with. At the same time, attending to whatever 'crops up' in our inner and outer life.

So, Venus is about to stop, turn around, and retrace her footsteps. Where have you been in relation to Her areas of jurisdiction? Have you been in guilt, regret, worry or fear over relationships or money? Have you been swayed by the economic arena to think about lack and loss? Perhaps you've been doing good but you're now ready for expansion into even greater good? In any case, you are about to get a 2nd chance, an opportunity to view your Venus plots in your garden of life from a broader range – and choose again. Turn mistakes into retakes. Turn successes into even greater triumph.

Be prepared, get ahead of the game. Find out where (what house – arena of your life) Venus will Retrograde - know what aspects will be made to your birth planets – call for an Astrological Reading. It can help prepare the

Moon News

The Astrological Correspondences

garden of your mind to be able to receive the grace and blessings of Venus. Mention this article and receive a 10% discount.)

Happy Venus Retrograde!

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The Astrological Correspondences

The Astrological Correspondences for Libra

Astrological Table: Libra.
Astrological Dates: September 23rd - October 22nd.
Element: Air.
Mode: Cardinal.
Astrological Plants/Herbs: Violet, White Rose, Love in a Mist and Yarrow.
Tree: Almond, Walnut and Plum
Metal: Copper.
Power Gem: Lapis lazuli.
Gems: Beryl, Chrysolite,

Gems: Jade, Opal or Emerald.
Colour: Emerald Green, Roal Blue and Black.
Number: 6.
Day: Friday.
Tarot Card: Justice (VIII).
Animal: Hare.
Bird: Dove, Sparrow and Swan.
Symbolic Creature: Elephant and Tortoise.
Anatomy Governed: Lower Back and Kidneys.
Body System: Renal (Liver).
Scent/Oils: Aloe, Calendula, Burdock, Galbanum, Rose or Violet.
Incense: Galbanum.
Harmonious Signs: Not identified.
Geomantic Number: 6.
Geomantic Ruler: Kedemel.
God/Godesses: Maat, Ma, Themis, Yama and Vulcan.
Age Governed: 14 to 21 years of age.

The Astrological Correspondences



Matter of magic can be performed when the Moon is in Libra are those that involve artistic works, court cases, justice and partnerships.

Health matters that can be addressed during this period are those ailments which affect the lower back and kidneys.



The Astrological Correspondences

With Libra as its ruling sign, Justice is about cold, objective balance through reason or natural force. This is the card that tells the Querent that they can't keep smoking and drinking without consequences to their health. It is the card that advises cutting out waste and insists that the Querent make adjustments, do whatever is necessary to bring things back into balance, physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually. In a more mundane sense, this card may signal a court case, legal documents, adjustments in a marriage or partnership. The outcome of all of these may not be exactly what the Querent wants, but it will be a scrupulously fair outcome. If the card is reversed, it can indicate bias, obstruction of the law, or legal complications.

The Aeclectic Tarot -
<http://www.aeclectic.net/>

The Tarot of Hekate

Major Arcana
Artwork and Text
By M. Rev. Donald Lewis

The Mind III



Symbolism: The Mind is shown as a peacock bearing many eyes in its tail. This represents the egocentric nature of the world of perception and involution – the narrowing down of the cosmic nature of the Soul to the much smaller view of the individual life and its concerns. The eyes represent the idea that the mind (in the sense of the Mental Plane) is essentially an information gathering and processing tool. The Soul, regally dressed and bearing the symbol of eternity in her coiffure, holds the chain of the Mind, as the perceptions of each all-too-temporal life go to the enrichment of the Soul, which is eternal.

Monthly Tarot Affirmation

The Empress III



*I am feminine power, blossoming fertility,
creative abundance.*

*I am unconditional love; I cherish and nurture
people and projects, providing a sound foundation
for the continuing growth.*

*I am passion; I have experienced the power of
emotion and sensation; I courageously embrace
life's pleasure and pain.*

*I know the joy of giving and of receiving; my love is
a source of healing and renewal for myself and
others.*

*I love wisely; I have learned to encourage growth
without dominating or over-protecting the people in
my care.*

Witch School International Groups on Ning

Animal Spirit Guides



The ASG Group is great for anyone who loves animals or in general want to talk about our animal buddies who watch over us! ;D If you're having trouble finding out who your's is, this is an excellent place to start!

New England States Pagan, Renaissance Faire & Festivals



This group is a list of Pagan & Renaissance Faire events within the New England area.

Natural Photography



This is a group for anyone who is interested in the photography of nature and all of the creatures of the Earth.

Witch School International Groups on Ning

Newbies Group



For all of us that are just starting out and have a lot of questions to discuss. Please Mentors join too so that we have proper guidance.

Paranormal Moonlight



Paranormal Research, Ghost Stories, U.F.O's-The Moon is a powerful force of nature. Just step outside in the middle of the night when the sky is clear and the moon is full and look it for a moment. You won't be able to deny that it feels.

Stop Smoking Support



For people who have already quit and those who haven't - a place to ask questions, offer suggestions, and help each other through this difficult process.

Mike Gleason's Books & CDs Review

True Ghosts 2 by David Godwin
(editor) © 2010 Llewellyn Worldwide
ISBN: 9780-7387-2294-8 Paperback
278 pages \$15.95 (U.S.) \$18.50
(Canada) www.llewellyn.com

Those of us of a certain age will remember "Fate" magazine as a small (in size) publication, filled with unexplained mysteries, UFO experiences, and paranormal information. In an age before cable programs dedicated to these topics it was the "go to" source. Plus, it was small enough to hide inside a hardcover book so no one could see what you were actually reading. The size has changed over the years, and the cost has risen (as has the overall quality of the magazine). It still contains a mix of professionally written articles, and reader contributions.

One of their mainstays was a column dedicated to "My Proof of Survival". Every month readers could encounter stories of ghostly visitations, unexplained encounters with deceased family pets, and visits with mediums.

True Ghosts 2 contains nearly 100 accounts drawn from the pages of "Fate", over many years. They are accounts written by readers of the magazine, and not professional writers. They cover everything from visits from the dead (human and animal),

Mike Gleason's Books & CDs Review

poltergeist activity, near-death experiences, and continue on to angelic visits. They aren't polished, and they don't attempt to convey anything other than the uncanny experiences these individuals went through. You won't find explanations offered for the most part, although some of the writers share their opinions on causes. What you will find in these stories is simple amazement that "ordinary" people can have "extraordinary" experiences. Although that amazement is, in my opinion, misplaced (there are no such things as "ordinary" people, or "extraordinary" events), it is one that is commonplace.

This is a book which exists for one very simple reason. For as long as the popular media has existed, people have been interested in other people's lives and experiences. "Fate" discovered early on that these types of stories have an almost universal appeal. It doesn't matter if you live in Bangor, Maine or Bangkok, Thailand; there are good odds that your relatives' spirits will pay you a visit; you will see a dearly loved pet after they have passed over to the other side (of wherever or whatever), or things will go clunk in the night; and you won't have a good explanation for it. But you will have a story you will share with your friends and neighbors. If enough of them encourage you, you might even write it down and send it to the folks at "Fate."

Mike Gleason's Books & CDs Review

Then we can all read your story, shake our heads, and say "That reminds me of the time..."

Witchcraft on a Shoestring
by Deborah Blake © 2010 Llewellyn
Worldwide ISBN: 978-0-7387-2136-
1Paperback 210 pages \$15.95
(U.S.) \$18.50 (Canada)
www.llewellyn.com.

For as long as I have been a practicing member of the Pagan/Craft community there has been an often expressed belief that the average Pagan is, if not dirt poor, at least incoe challenged. This was often acknowledged by the question "What's the difference between a New Age supply shop and a Pagan shop? The New Age shop moves the decimal point one space to the right!" Yet in spite of that perception, many of the "necessities" of the Craft carried hefty price tags, if you could find them for sale at all. Add in inflation and you can eat up a budget in no time.

Ms Blake has taken the bull by the horns and given us a book which shows how to cut expenses, while maintaining standards. As one of my former High Priest's put it: "No matter how little you can afford, make it look good."

But before she gets into all the accoutrements that can make magick

Mike Gleason's Books & CDs Review

and worship fun, she reminds us that the only true essentials are belief, will and focus, and they are free (or, in another way of looking at it, priceless). Of course, another essential is knowledge, which is also theoretically free. Books can be borrowed, the internet can be accessed, and ideas can be exchanged for minimal cost.

She lists inexpensive alternatives to many of the things which many consider essential. She also offers suggestions for low- to moderate-cost food for feasts. She also gives some simple, no-cost things many of do every day, and shows how to make them special and Craft-specific.

This is, without a doubt, one of the most common-sense books I have seen in quite a while. Ms Blake has a friendly, easy-to-relate to style of conveying information. I've always enjoyed her books, and she didn't disappoint this time, either.

If you are looking for suggestions on economical ways to practice your Craft, this is the book for you.

Jason on Aug 18th 2010

Paganism, Religion

Quick Notes: Bumper Sticker Problems, Haiti, and Australian Haters

A few quick notes for you on this Wednesday.

Bumper Sticker Politics: If I was pressed to name the most innocuous bumper decoration ever, the “Coexist” sticker would be right up there with the “My Kid is On the Honor Roll at...” (which has been endlessly parodied) tags, or maybe the Christian fish and its endless permutations. But it seems I’m wrong, and the sticker is in fact a sign of everything that is going wrong in America according to Republican Allen West a candidate for the House in Florida’s 22nd district.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Sz21ekZ8aM&feature=player_embedded

*“[A]s I was driving up here today, I saw that bumper sticker that absolutely incenses me. It’s not the Obama bumper sticker. But it’s the bumper sticker that says, ‘Co-exist.’ And it has all the little religious symbols on it. And the reason why I get upset, and every time I see one of those bumper stickers, I look at the person inside that is driving. **Because that person represents something that would give away our country. Would give away who we are, our***

rights and freedoms and liberties because they are afraid to stand up and confront that which is the antithesis, anathema of who we are. The liberties that we want to enjoy.”

Now West, a local Tea Party favorite, seems to be focused mostly on the Muslim “C” in “coexist” when pondering his revulsion of the sticker, but I can’t imagine why a sentiment of peaceful coexistence among all the world’s religions has become the focus for his “Islam is the 5th column” tirade. It’s troubling enough when moderate and mystical elements within Islam are ignored by politicians, but these remarks make one wonder if there are any other faiths coexisting that he has a problem with. I mean, has he had any chats with Pagan tea partiers? Maybe palled around with Dan Halloran? Are there any other letters in “coexist” that have him seeing red?

Who Will Run? Tensions are already mounting in Haiti’s upcoming presidential race. Over 30 potential candidates, including musician Wyclef Jean, are vying to be the nation’s top executive; and Haiti’s electoral commission is supposed to issue a ruling Friday as to who will be allowed to run. Jean, who’s been getting death threats after announcing his intentions, is battling challenges to his eligibility, and it may come down to testimony from a

from a Vodou priest.

“Two people contested Jean’s candidacy on the grounds that he does not meet the residency requirement. A justice of the peace, the records mention, went to the suburban neighborhood of Lassarre — where Jean stays when he visits Haiti — to interview a Vodou priest in an effort to establish Jean’s residency requirement.”

Meanwhile, Jean’s friend and former Fugees bandmate **Pras**, who’s backing one of Jean’s potential opponents, **Michel “Sweet Micky” Martelly** (also a musician), **claims his man has the backing of the “Vodou guys” in Haiti.**

“He’s a transformative figure. Michel is one of the only guys that can unite not only the whole country — the elite, the masses, the youth, the Christians, the voodoo guys — but also the diaspora, the Haitians out here in America, Africa. He’s the ambassador for environmental protection, for disaster relief, and he has a foundation that’s been helping out the community for seventeen years. Michel served in the army. He’s not doing it for photo ops ... People have this affinity for him that is natural. When you have that as a leader, it goes farther than someone coming in who’s popular.”

Once we have an official slate of candidates, and know who the front-

runners are, we will be able to better gauge which candidates will be the best for Haiti’s future in terms of religious freedom and coexistence with that country’s “voodoo guys”. It will be interesting to see who various notable figures in Haitian Vodou, like **Max Beauvoir**, will back.

The “Dark Wave” of Australian Paganism: Conservative commentator Andrew Bolt takes aim at Australian Pagans by holding up some local Pagan-oriented magazines, and **recent cop-dragging news-getter Eilish De Avalon**, as symbols of a “dark wave” of declining reason.

*“Oh, you’re right, **it’s just a few women flirting with their irrational and harmlessly naughty side. But noticed how many of them there suddenly are?** Sen-Constable Andrew Logan has. In February he pulled over a woman driving through Geelong while talking on her mobile, and asked her why she didn’t have a licence, either. “Your laws and penalties don’t apply to me,” replied Eilish De Avalon, a 40-year-old witch. “I’m a being from another world and don’t require one.” And off she drove, with Logan’s arm unluckily wedged in her window. **Penalty last week: two months’ jail. If Logan was surprised to find a witch even in no-mucking-around Geelong, he hasn’t paid attention. In the 1996 Census, just 1849 Australians claimed to***

be followers of Wicca or witchcraft. A decade later, there were 8214 of them, with another 15,516 Pagans. **Most were women, of course, and a Monash University study says a high proportion are bisexual. But what else do you expect, with reason in decline and Greens on the rise?**

Just more pile-on for the Pagans in Australia, who have been dealing with waves of bad press lately due to figures like Eilish De Avalon, and Lizzy Rose making the headlines (and snarky blog posts). As Australian Pagan Gavin Andrew said recently at my blog, *“at two strokes the gains that the Australian pagan community made in terms of local interfaith dialogue and public acceptance last year at the Parliament of the World’s Religions (with the help of so many of the U.S. delegates) have now well and truly been undone.”* It will no doubt take years of work to put these events behind them, while dealing with people like Bolt, who seem to have nothing better to do than wring his hands over Pagan magazine articles.

That’s all I have for now, have a great day!

Tags: Allen West, Andrew Bolt, Australia, Bumper Stickers, Coexist, Eilish De Avalon, Florida, Haiti, Islam, Paganism, politics, Tea Party, Vodou, Wyclef Jean

22 responses so far

Jason on Aug 20th 2010
Paganism, Religion

Using a Wiccan to Call a Bluff and other Pagan News of Note

Top Story: In Marion, Illinois, the city council is weighing the decision of whether to allow a local group to erect a **Ten Commandments** monument on the city’s Town Square. Enter atheist activist **Rob Sherman**, who says **he’ll bring a lawsuit against the city** if they erect the Ten Commandments monument without also allowing a display by a local Wiccan.

*“If a Ten Commandments monument is placed on Marion’s Tower Square, resident Robert Donelson wants equal access to share the views of his Wiccan religion ... **“If Christians are going to have their viewpoint up here, let them at least put up ours,”** he said.*

*Donelson, who said he has been a Wiccan for five or six years, was introduced at the news conference by Rob Sherman, the atheist from northern Illinois who has warned city leaders they could be in for a legal battle if the Ten Commandments go up on public property ... **“I am calling Mayor (Bob) Butler’s bluff,”** Sherman said. *If the city allows the Ten Commandments, it must also allow room for other religious viewpoints, Sherman said.”**

According to Sherman, Mayor Bob Butler has vowed to get the Judeo-Christian monument erected, and that he would only allow the viewpoint of the majority to be represented on the Town Square. Mayor Butler goes further in local paper *The Southern*, and mocks the Wiccan faith.

"I do not believe Mr. Sherman's comments are worthy of comment. Period," he said of Sherman's threat of a lawsuit. Butler did say that the chances of a Wiccan viewpoint making it onto Tower Square were slim. "I only recently heard of the Wiccans and I am not impressed. They probably come from a different planet, maybe the same one Mr. Sherman comes from," Butler said.

So much for equal access! I guess to Mayor Butler, some faiths are more equal than others under the law. It looks like Sherman will get to file his lawsuit against Marion, though there's still a chance the City Council will back down under the threat of encroaching Wiccans. This isn't the first time the seemingly frightening prospect of Wiccan participation has been used to influence local politics, though in some cases they are used as a fig-leaf of diversity. I hope that Robert Donelson knows what he's getting himself into.

The Divine Feminine in Judaism:

Tablet Magazine profiles Kohenet, the Hebrew Priestess Institute, and other groups on the fringes of modern Judaism that (re)embrace the Divine Feminine, earth-based spirituality, Jewitchery, Jewish Paganism, and related concepts. *Tablet* notes that Kohenet priestesses, unlike Jewish converts to Paganism, stays rooted in a Jewish identity.

*Back when Jewish Renewal and Starhawk were struggling to get off the ground, the notion of Jewish paganism was unimaginable because it defied the monotheistic core of Judaism. In recent years, though, Kohenet and other earth-based Jewish groups are challenging that monotheistic essence; in their view, Judaism and paganism can coexist. As Hammer and Shere write in an unpublished manuscript about Hebrew priestesses, Kohenet holds "a soft position with regard to monotheism." While their work "conceives of God/dess as a unity," they "welcome women who experience the divine as a multiplicity." But unlike Starhawk and other Jews who became pagans, today's earth-based Jews ground their theology explicitly in Jewish traditions and texts. "What's new here isn't that Jews are doing paganism," says Jay Michaelson, a columnist for *The Forward* and an expert on Jewish spirituality who confesses that he has become more "pagany" over the last few years. "It's that they're staying Jews."*

The article also notes that these movements, despite their growing popularity in some areas, haven't found much traction within mainstream Judaism, and two quoted Rabbis are quite critical (one calls Pagan Jews "perverts"). However, *The Forward's* Jay Michaelson, **who's written about Jewish Paganism**, notes that "pagan" elements have been emerging in mainstream synagogues lately, so who knows what the future may hold for the Jewish Priestesses, **Jewish Witches**, and Jewish Pagans.

Cults or Pranksters? **The Lancaster Intelligencer Journal** explores whether a recent grave robbery (on Friday the 13th) was the work of a disturbed prankster, or a practitioner of Palo Mayombe. So far local authorities seem to be reserving judgement, and **the expert** the paper talks to doesn't seem to be heading in sensationalist directions.

Tony Kail is a Tennessee author and educator who has studied what he calls "magico religious activity." He spoke to Stamford police about their case and is consulted by other departments about similar cases. Kail cautioned against jumping to any conclusions about a grave robbery. "A disturbed grave alone," he said, "is not an indication of a magico religious activity," he said. "Historically, many of the incidents involving grave thefts are

*done by those who aren't involved in actual magico religious cultures. Individuals who 'roll their own' take elements from established religions and create their own subcultures." Bones used in African-based religious traditions are used to represent ancestors, he said. But most bones used in Palo Mayombe are obtained through legal means, said Kail, who wrote "A Cop's Guide to Occult Investigations" and "Magico Religious Groups and Ritualistic Activities: A Guide for First Responders." **Though disturbing, not every grave robbery is linked to rituals or the occult.***

Tony Kail of **Worldview Consulting** is given high marks by Pagan author **Dorothy Morrison**, so hopefully things won't **veer into racial or religious profiling** for what may be the work of a single disturbed individual. Crates, candles, and even animal parts, do not a religious ritual make. Whoever was the culprit, let's hope he or she is soon caught and brought to justice.

Queens Tribune Faces Scrutiny:

Those of you who followed my coverage of New York City Councilman **Dan Halloran's** political campaign may remember that **it was the Queens Tribune** who outed him in a **sensationalist fashion**, nearly **derailing his campaign** in the process. Many pointed out that the **Queens Tribune**

had a sister company that did consulting for his opponent, and that this created a conflict of interest for the paper, something the paper strenuously denied. Now the *Queens Tribune* is facing scrutiny again, as it's been revealed that Democratic State Sen. Shirley Huntley paid 30,000 dollars to Multi-Media, run by *Queens Tribune* Executive Vice President and Associate Publisher Michael Nussbaum, for political consulting.

"It's uncomfortable and it crosses the line," said [Richard] Parker, a fellow at Harvard University's Shorenstein Center. ***"You should not have a newspaper executive simultaneously serving as a consultant to a candidate being covered by the paper."*** Huntley said Nussbaum's dual roles don't pose any conflicts for her. "I hired him as a political consultant," she said. "Everyone knows he's with the paper. I assume this is a separate business." Huntley, facing a tough primary against Democrat Lynn Nunes, insisted she wasn't looking to garner favorable coverage from the weekly newspaper by hiring Nussbaum.

The article notes that it's an "open secret" that Nussbaum runs both businesses, and mentions the Halloran campaign as a previous instance where the interests of the consulting company and the paper seemed to merge in an uncomfortable fashion. Will this latest

coverage finally "out" *Queens Tribune* as a partisan paper? How impartial can you be when your parent company is cutting checks from the people you're supposed to cover? I wonder how many local journalists are now comparing Multi-Media's client list against the *Queens Tribune's* coverage?

Two Kinds of Witchcraft in India:

Two separate articles published the same day in the *Calcutta Telegraph* spotlight two different kinds of Witchcraft in India. The first looks at the problem of witch persecutions and killings, around 2,500 in the last 14 years, and efforts to "rehabilitate" women who've been ostracized.

Three months ago, it was decided that Purangi Nag, a Munda woman who worked in the Soongachi tea estate in Jalpaiguri's Matelli block, was a witch. Purangi's husband had died seven years ago; her son and his wife were killed by a rogue elephant. The widow's neighbour, Birbal, has a son who fell ill soon after these mishaps. Purangi, he declared, was a witch who had cast a spell on the neighbourhood. One night, Birbal and three of Purangi's neighbours — all men — assaulted her, injuring her grievously and forcing her to flee with her seven-year-old grandson, Dhiren, to her brother in a neighbouring village. When she approached the local thana, she was handed over to a temporary shelter run

by the North Bengal People's Development Centre.

The second profiles popular Indian Wiccan Ipsita Roy-Chakraverti, the "beloved witch".

*"When I started in 1987 in Calcutta, 'witch' used to be a bad word, an abusive expression," she said. **She went on to recount how she has struggled lifelong to remove the stigma attached to the word. In the process she has had to face "brickbats", often quite literally. But Ipsita's success in this context is limited only to a section of the urban populace. In Indian villages, 'witch' is not only a "bad" but also a dangerous word. Even in the city, a witch is generally that evil woman who has stolen one's husband. How did the word 'witch' acquire a sinister ring and the worshipper of Goddess Diana become the 'daiyen' or 'daini'? Ipsita said it was because of the marginalization of pagan cultures by mainstream religions. "This battle was a gendered one as well," she added. Witchcraft has feminist tendencies as witches were the "worshippers of the mother goddess", while conventional religions promoted patriarchy.***

Wicca, particularly among the young, and in urban areas, continues to grow. Roy-Chakraverti has worked, sometimes with the government, to

prevent witchcraft slayings and female infanticide. Can the growth of Wicca, and the subsequent redefinition of the term "witchcraft" change the deadly superstitions in some rural areas? What tensions will we see as these phenomenons start to converge? India is a prime example of how witch-killing is quickly becoming a Pagan issue, even though those harassed, abused, and murdered, would never claim the term for themselves.

That's all I have for now, have a great day!

Tags: Dan Halloran, grave-robbing, Hinduism, Illinois, India, Ipsita Roy Chakraverti, Judaism, Marion, New York, Pagan News of Note, politics, Queens Tribune, Rob Sherman, Ten Commandments, Wicca, Witch Killings, witch-hunts

8 responses so far

Jason on Aug 22nd 2010
Paganism, Religion

True Blood's "Year of the Witch"

The sexy vampire phenomenon (as opposed to the sparkly vampire phenomenon) *True Blood* (based on *The Southern Vampire Mysteries* novels by Charlaine Harris) has grown a respectable cult audience as it ends its third season on HBO, and while the

show has **flirted with Pagan themes before**, that's going to become much more explicit when season 4 starts. Creator/producer **Alan Ball** says that next year will be the **"year of the witch"**, and they have introduced Holly Clearly, a "Wiccan" character who will play a bigger role in season 4. Played by Lauren Bowles, she talks to Movieweb about her role, and the religion of Wicca, **and it's pretty clear she doesn't know much more than what the script tells her.**

*"I haven't gone to Wiccan ceremonies, I must admit. I have done my own perusing. Way back, I had a friend that was way into the Wiccan world. I was also a big fan of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. As you know, Willow was a big witch. **I didn't want to be Wiccan. I haven't gotten to know any. Are there support groups for such a thing? Are there churches? I don't really know ... I wonder what their ceremonies are like. When people started comparing it to a religion, I never thought of it as that. I always thought of it as spells. I thought it was much more active than just praying to a God or a Goddess. I thought that you were always trying to do something, with all the spells. Weren't you?"***

This interview isn't exactly reassuring that they'll portray Wicca in an accurate or balanced fashion. But then, Bowles

doesn't have to be accurate, just a good actress. It's Alan Ball and the scriptwriters who have to do the research. The question is how much Wiccan religion will be included? How will it be portrayed? It's one thing to have witches, they have been stock folkloric characters for generations. But once you invoke the word "Wicca" you're opening yourself up to greater scrutiny (at least from our communities). And season 4 **looks like it will have a lot of witchy action if it follows the novels at all** (possible spoilers at the link).

*"Hallow Stonebrook is the lead witch of a coven that causes a lot of problems for Sookie and crew. **The wiki page for "Dead To the World,"** The True Blood book that most prominently features Hallow and her crew, describes a fairly epic confrontation between the denizens of Bon Temps and the wicked witches of the bayou."*

Good witches, bad witches, and Wiccans. This may be the first series to have a regular Wiccan-identified character ("**Wicca**" **and witchcraft in Buffy bore little resemblance to the actual faith**), as opposed to the often disappointing one-time appearances in shows like **The Mentalist** and **Bones**. There's going to be a lot of attention on this upcoming season, especially since it's becoming so popular. Whether the portrayal of the Wiccan character(s) will

be good or bad, this could be an important teaching moment for our communities. Either by correcting bad information, or by holding up a fair portrayal for praise. What should be made clear, both for fans and for pop-culture oriented journalists, is that there is a clear distinction between fantasy “witchcraft”, and what the faith and practice of Wicca is. The lines are no doubt going to get blurry, which is fine, this is a fictional universe after all, but it might be wise for a coalition of Wiccan groups to issue a “True Blood fact sheet” that will be there for those made curious by the show, and for Hollywood scribes looking to interview “real” Witches.

To my readers, are you a fan of *True Blood*? What do you think of the impending “year of the witch”?

Tags: [HBO](#), [Television](#), [True Blood](#), [vampires](#), [Wicca](#), [Witch](#), [Witchcraft](#)

7 responses so far

Jason on Aug 24th 2010
Paganism, Religion

Pagans and Park51

Whether the [controversy was manufactured](#) or not, the United States has been drawn into what seems an [increasingly bitter and divisive](#) public debate over the proposed [Park51](#) Islamic community center and mosque in New York, dubbed the “*ground zero mosque*”

by the media and various activists due to its proximity (2 blocks) to where the [World Trade Center](#) once stood. Modern Pagans, both in New York and outside it, have taken a keen interest in this situation as it has progressed. There seems to be a sense that, despite the theological and social differences that may exist, religious minorities are looking to see how this resolves itself, and what the ultimate message of the conflict and eventual resolution may be. To some, like Pagan chaplain [Patrick McCollum](#), speaking to the Associated Press, [the fact that we are having this public debate and uproar is in itself a positive sign.](#)

*“I think that the intolerance that we’re experiencing right now is that **for the first time in a long period of time, since almost the founding of our country, we’ve actually begun to ALLOW pluralism to surface in our country.** So we’ve started to uphold the ideals that our country was founded on ... and the people who’ve been in the dominant position begin to feel like they’re under attack.”*

For noted Pagan and activist [Peter Dybing](#), this controversy, if ultimately successful in blocking or moving the proposed center, could have long-lasting repercussions for all religious minorities in America. That our own experiences with intolerance and misinformation should make us see that

we risk much by not supporting their right to worship when and where they want to. That just as some Christians, Jews, and Muslims supported our inclusion in the interfaith movement, and in efforts like the **Veteran Pentacle Quest**, even if it wasn't popular or politic to do so, **so too should we make common cause here and defend them from the ongoing hostility and distortions being peddled around this issue.**

*“So why should the Neo Pagan community become involved in defending the rights of a belief system that holds views so foreign to our earth based community? Islam, an incredibly diverse group of faiths, is faced with being branded as intolerant and violent due to the actions of radical fringe groups. We in the Pagan community have experienced attempts to paint us all with the same brush when individuals who claim to be Pagan commit violent acts. Recent events in New Mexico and Australia make this clear. **To stand by and allow these forms of attack encourages those who believe that our country should not be tolerant of a diversity of beliefs. If we do not stand in support of inclusion and respect we risk our own fight for Pagan rights through our lack of action.**”*

However, not all Pagans feel as Dybing does, openly Pagan New York City Councilman **Dan Halloran**, speaking

at a recent **Coalition to Honor Ground Zero** rally, noted that **Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf**, who is behind the plans to build **Park51**, **should have a greater sensitivity to those affected by the 9/11 terrorist attack.**

*Speaker after speaker testified to the importance of the Ground Zero site to Americans. **“If we want a nation of peace,”** said city councilman Dan Halloran, whose cousin died on 9/11, **“then peace comes with understanding. And they need to understand that this is sacred ground to New Yorkers.”***

Sacred and hallowed are words that are being used quite a bit in this debate, implying that any new Islamic-oriented construction would be a desecration, **even though there were several Muslim victims of the 9/11 attack.** Indeed, **there are splits between the 9/11 families over this question,** leading to the unfortunate omission of narratives that don't fit within the frame of different advocacy groups. Further, some New Yorkers, including New York Pagan **K.W.**, who personally witnessed the destruction of the WTC towers, reject the idea that the ground around the site is “hallowed” altogether.

“Just to put the “hallowed ground” arguments into some perspective here are some of the things I have to walk by every Wednesday in order to get

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to the WTC site. All are either within a 3 block radius or right across: Numerous falafel stands, Sephora, Century 21, Men's Warehouse, numerous phone stores, Starbucks, a Church, a strip club and a really good French restaurant. If the site is such hallowed ground why are these establishments allowed to co-exist yet an Islamic Center is not?"

As things have gotten more tense, with protests and **counter-protests** being organized, **some willfully provocative**, it has gotten hard to separate the light from the heat on the proposed community center and mosque. **Anti-mosque groups have gained unlikely allies**, and even one of the most famous families within the Tea Party movement is divided. According to Peg Aloji, **Witchvox** contributor and Media Coordinator, this battle isn't really about religious rights, or even politics, but about fear.

"I don't think this issue is about religion. I don't even think it's about politics. I think it's about ignorance and fear. People are woefully uninformed or misinformed about so many things that they then feel entitled to denigrate or condemn. And they are fearful, and perhaps rightfully so. We live in a violent, selfish society in which everyone lives mostly for themselves, and people feel they need to act to preserve their own little piece of the world. We need to learn to co-exist.

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We need to try and understand how to think with clarity and logic, so we can understand simple concepts such as the following: Some terrorists are Muslims; this does not mean all Muslims are terrorists, any more than the actions of Timothy McVeigh make all Christians terrorists. We need to open our eyes and ears and learn to distinguish between facts and assumptions. If we don't start behaving like intelligent, rational, compassionate human beings, we're doomed."

As Diane Vera of **New Yorkers Against Religion-Based Bigotry** puts it, **"if even Muslims can be singled out for this kind of harassment, then surely the rights of other, smaller religious minorities are in even greater danger."** No matter where we as individuals stand concerning this community center and mosque in New York, we need to guard against **healthy debate leading to violence, harassment**, or attempts at misguided lawmaking. As we approach the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, feelings and rhetoric may become even more intense, and we may run the risk of collectively **empowering the very demagogues** who have little care for the rights of any religious minority. We should stand guard against the campaign against this community center and mosque becoming a larger campaign against any mosque, anywhere. Not only for the sake of

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American Muslims, but for the sake of the rights of all religious groups in our country.

Modern Paganism is an incredibly diverse religious movement that numbers individuals on both sides of this debate, but I hope we can all acknowledge that secular law, at the end of the day, should trump whatever our personal feelings are. I also hope our community can listen to the concerns from both sides of this issue and find the space to grow from the experience. I encourage comment and debate on this issue here, but wish to remind you of [our comment policy](#), and urge everyone to remain civil. Let's bring more light, rather than heat, to this discussion.

Tags: [9/11](#), [Dan Halloran](#), [Ground Zero](#), [Islam](#), [New York](#), [Paganism](#), [Park51 Community Center and Mosque](#), [Patrick McCollum](#), [Peg Aloji](#), [Peter Dybing](#), [Religious Freedom](#), [World Trade Center](#)

33 responses so far

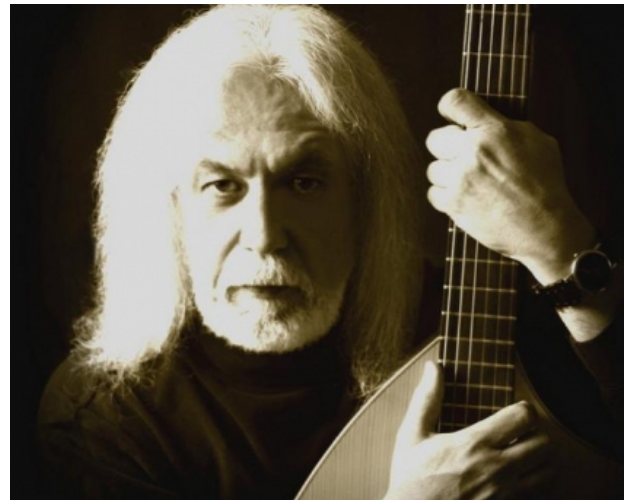
Jason on Aug 28th 2010
Paganism, Religion

Interview with Mike Nichols

The writings of [Mike Nichols](#) are almost ubiquitous on the Internet. [His essays on the Witches' Sabbats](#) have been endlessly re-posted and republished (sometimes without proper attribution), becoming an essential resource for

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many to understanding modern Witchcraft's "[wheel of the year](#)". Some time ago I had the privilege of interviewing him to help promote [the book version of his essays on the Sabbats published by Acorn Guild Press](#). However, due to a computer melt-down the interview was lost. But as luck would have it, the interview was recently rescued from digital oblivion, and I'm now happy to present this "lost" Wild Hunt interview with Mike Nichols.



Mike Nichols

The Wild Hunt: *I know you cover this in your book, but briefly, for the benefit of my readers, how did you come to be so interested in the origins of the holidays, and how did that intersect with your newfound Paganism?*

Mike Nichols: As a kid, I adored holidays. It was like taking a break from normal, mundane time. And since I was raised Catholic, I was subject to a rich liturgical calendar from the start, one that borrowed many elements of custom

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and lore from pre-Christian sources. It wasn't until I was in high school that I started actively researching the origins of holidays, but as I did, I realized that those studies dovetailed beautifully with my growing interest in Witchcraft. In dealing with the eight Witches' Sabbats, I realized I was coming at the same holidays from two different angles, and it was pretty easy to fit the pieces together.

WH: *Your works on the Witches' Sabbats are well known, with the publication of the book do you feel you are "done" with the topic now, or are you still researching, refining, and updating your essays? Can we expect a "The Witches' Sabbats Part 2" at some point in the future?*

MN: When I first set out to write about the Sabbats, I was trying to cram as much information as I could into articles that were originally intended for small magazine publications. So I wrote them in a highly concise fashion. It's true that I occasionally run across new bits of information on one of the holidays, but probably not enough to justify a companion volume. Everything that I really wanted to say about the holidays, I already managed to say in those essays. Other authors have dealt with other aspects of the holidays, such as rituals or decorations or crafts, but my focus was on the history, folklore, and symbolism of the holidays. And I've

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said pretty much everything I wanted to say about that. That's not to say that I don't have other books up my sleeve, and other stories waiting to be told.

WH: *Your writing on the Witches' Sabbats were, thanks to the Internet, already famous within Craft circles by the time the book was published. How has the book done sales-wise since its release in 2005? Do you feel that making a good portion of the book available for free helped or hindered sales?*

MN: Book sales tend to increase around the Sabbats or when I do a live interview. Since the recession, however, sales have dipped, but my publishers tell me this book has "long legs"; they're already planning a second edition. My website (witchessabbats.com) also sees a greater increase in traffic around the Sabbats. Readers write to me, however, that they are happy to have the physical book, which was lovingly edited and designed, so they can toss the pages they've printed from the web and have been carrying in their BOS for many years.

WH: *In your years studying the Sabbats have you seen different trends regarding the Witches' Sabbats come and go? Were there any common elements in the early days of the Craft that are rare now? Any elements popular today that surprise you?*

MN: Yes, there have been significant changes in how the holidays are celebrated, but those changes reflect the larger changes that I've seen happening in the Craft in general. The biggest is that when I first began to celebrate the Sabbats as a Witch, back in the late '60s and early '70s, I had to celebrate them alone, or with a group of friends who were not necessarily Pagan themselves. That's because Witchcraft was so incredibly underground at the time. There were covens, but most would certainly not host open rituals. You'd probably have to train with them for at least the traditional "year and a day" before you would even be allowed to attend one of their Sabbats. Back then, this was a secret, initiatory, mystery religion. No one would come up to you and say, "Hey, we're having a circle on Saturday night. Wanna come?" In fact, the tradition was (similar to the Masons) that you would have to seek them out, not the other way around. That was part of what proved your worthiness to be accepted into the fold.

WH: *One essay collected in the book is one concerning your reflections on the Pagan community in 1999 (after being away for ten years). That essay is itself now ten years old. Have your views changed much since then? What are your impressions of modern Paganism in 2010?*

MN: That's an interesting question. When I wrote the article you refer to, I tended to focus on the growth of the Pagan community, and how quickly that happened. But I think if I were writing that article today, I would focus more on how the Pagan community has matured. Back in the day, if someone said they were a 'hereditary Witch', they were inviting snickers and guffaws. Today, you can't go to a Pagan festival without seeing second and third generation Witches: kids who have been raised in Pagan households and have never known any other way of looking at things. That's a huge difference. There is also greater diversity of viewpoint and tradition, and the first stirrings of questions of "authority". By that I mean, up until now, this has been a grassroots movement wherein every practitioner is seen as a member of the clergy. But now, people are starting to ask whether there should be a separate, paid clergy, for those who want to devote the whole of their lives to ministering to Pagans. And should there be some kind of certification program for teachers? I mean, lots of people are kind enough to regard me as some kind of authority in this field, but I have no actual credentials. Should I have? Do we need them? Or would we simply be caving to the structures that many of us rebelled against when we left our birth religions in the first place?

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WH: *Do you feel that our communities place enough importance on seasonal rites? It often seems as though Halloween (Samhain) and May Day (Beltane) get some attention, but that often the others seem to fade into the background and only get lip-service (if that). How successful do you feel we have we been in reviving pagan holidays?*

MN: Well, first, I have to accept that I may personally have a very skewed perception of this. Practically every bit of e-mail I get is in regard to one of the eight Sabbats and, although Halloween may still be the most popular, all eight holidays are well represented. But maybe that's just because they are writing to *me*, and they know that the eight quarter-days and cross-quarter days are my own particular specialty. And there may be a further distinction between how the holidays are seen by practitioners of the Craft, as opposed to the general populace. Witches themselves may celebrate all eight holidays equally; whereas, they only get calls for media interviews just before Halloween or Beltane. That is why I jump at the chance to do interviews on any of the *other* holidays.

WH: *Also included in your book on the Sabbats is an entertaining and insightful essay called "Rethinking the Watchtowers" where you put forth 13*

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reasons why the element of "air" should be in the North instead of the element of "earth". Have you made many converts to with your arguments? Do you think that some Witches get so worried about tradition that they forget to be informed by their natural surroundings?

MN: Yes, I think I have made some converts because of my arguments, but by far the biggest surprise is how many people have contacted me to let me know they *already* do it that way. They usually fall into one of two categories: either they claim membership in a tradition that places air in the north (many Welsh traditions hold this in common, for example), or they are given the air-in-the-north model as an advanced degree secret, often conveyed to them as the "corrected" information. The funniest example of this was from a High Priestess who is a good friend of mine who spent many an hour in friendly argument with me about which element belonged in the north. After years of supporting the traditional attribution of earth, she went to California to take her third degree from her tradition's elders, and just guess what the big Third Degree Secret she received was? LOL!

WH: *Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions, if there is anything you would like to add, please feel free to do so.*

MN: Only my thanks, Jason, for inviting

me and my thoughts as guests on your Wild Hunt Blog! We are all much obliged! Bright Blessings!

Tags: [holidays](#), [interview](#), [Mike Nichols](#), [The Witches' Sabbats](#), [Wicca](#), [Witchcraft](#)

One response so far

Jason on Aug 29th 2010
Paganism, Religion, indigenous

Suppressing A Pagan Revival in Russia?

Global Voices points to an Open Democracy report from last month on how Mari Traditional Faith (the indigenous belief system of the Mari people in the Republic of Mari El) is facing a renewed form of “anti-religion” in Russia.

In response to an appeal by the local state prosecutor, Yoshkar-Ola Municipal Court found Vitaly Tanakov guilty of religious and ethnic hatred in 2006, sentencing him to 120 hours' forced labour. In 2009, Mari El Supreme Court ruled that his leaflet – “A Priest Speaks” – contained religious and other extremism. It is now banned throughout Russia.

Peoples influenced by the Bible and Koran “have lost harmony between the individual and the people,” argues Tanakov, in what is actually one of only a few references to other faiths in his

leaflet. “Morality has gone to seed, there is no pity, charity, mutual aid; everyone and everything are infected by falsehood.” By contrast, he boasts, the Mari traditional faith will be “in demand by the whole world for many millennia.”

There are growing claims that Russia's controversial anti-extremism law is being used to persecute and suppress religious minorities in the formerly communist nation (with even more restrictive anti-religious passages being proposed). Some fear that a Russian government and Russian Orthodox alliance is partially to blame for growing tensions and hostilities towards resurgent forms of Paganism in Russia. A Mari text mildly critical of Christianity and Islam being labeled as “extremist”, along with several other incidents, paints a grim picture. Some have even considered seeking asylum in the West.

Vitaly Tanakov, the controversial author of “A Priest Speaks” labeled “extremist” for writing lines like: “*you have felled a tree, you have destroyed a living being*”, is now looking outside of Russia for help to fight these persecutions, and wants to reach out to other Pagan and indigenous faith traditions.

A first step, proposes Tanakov, would be an international symposium of peoples true to the Old Religion. He would certainly invite the Native Americans,

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and is somewhat impressed by the Druids' ceremonies at Stonehenge, "although they don't yet know what they're doing, it's just improvisation." Mari El's most notorious kart squints knowingly: "With our unbroken traditions, we have something to tell them."

One wonders if there's a Mari representative at the ongoing **World Congress of Ethnic Religions in Italy**? Can indigenous traditions and revived Paganisms truly gather in a global symposium outside the purview and sponsorship of large events like the **Parliament of the World's Religions**? Can cultural and theological differences be overcome in order to work on a shared political agenda? These remain open questions, but I've seen a new and fragile openness from all sides towards dialog on areas of mutual interest, hopefully it can bear fruit for all sides.

For more on the Mari people and their traditional religion, check out the **MariUver blog** (particularly [this post](#)).

Tags: **European Indigenous Tradition, indigenous, Mari El, Mari People, Mari Traditional Religion, Paganism, politics, Russia, Russian Orthodox Church**

6 responses so far

Jason on Aug 31st 2010
Paganism, Religion

Return of the "I Believe" Plates

Wild Hunt Blog Articles

Religion Clause reports that South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster has issued a ruling that clears the way for a non-profit group to have the infamous "I Believe" Christian licence plates produced.



The new "I Believe" design.

"Nine months after a federal judge barred the state from making legislatively approved plates with the religious message, Attorney General Henry McMaster says a similar plate designed by a nonprofit group is legal. The plate under review at the Department of Motor Vehicles reads

<http://www.IBELIEVEsc.net> along the top. It features a golden sunrise and on the left, three crosses symbolizing the site where Jesus was crucified. The nonprofit group applied for the plates in February under state law that allows private groups to create specialty plates, if they pay a \$4,000 deposit or collect at least 400 prepaid orders before production. It officially changed its name to the website address, in hopes of meeting new DMV rules that require tags

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bear the sponsoring group's name."

The original "I Believe" plates were ruled unconstitutional due to the fact that they were sponsored by the South Carolina legislature, creating the impression of a state-sponsored religion. The DMV has yet to decide if these new plates are indeed legal.

This entire license plate case has been haunted by modern Paganism. McMaster released a campaign video referencing the famous Great Falls Darla Wynne case, in which a Wiccan won a court battle against sectarian government prayer. In the video McMaster vows to fight for prayers to Jesus, and he further proved his commitment to Christian sectarianism by attending pro-plate Christian rallies. Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie, who ruled that the plates were unconstitutional, was also one of the judges to find in Darla Wynne's favor during her many court battles. In addition, State Sen. Yancey McGill made plain that "any" religion could get a license plate, so long as they weren't Wiccans.

"In South Carolina, Baptists wanted the tag on cars here and pitched the idea to Republican South Carolina Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer's chief of staff. State Sen. Yancey McGill, a Kingstree Democrat, got the bill passed in a couple of days without even having a public hearing

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or debate. "It's a great idea," McGill said Tuesday, calling it an opportunity to express beliefs. "People don't have to buy them. But it affords them that opportunity. I welcome any religion tags." What about Wicca, commonly referred to as witchcraft? "Well, that's not what I consider to be a religion," McGill said."

Leaving aside the biases of Christian politicians, the question now is if the DMV approves these new "I Believe" plates under the state's non-profits program, will they then in turn approve other sectarian plates? Hindu plates? Wiccan plates? Any faith so long as they meet the requirements? Are religious plates secular if the sectarian iconography is in the logo?

"The specialty license program has a secular purpose – allowing all nonprofit organizations to identify themselves by a logo or symbol," McMaster wrote in his Aug. 16 opinion. "It is our opinion that the Establishment Clause would not be violated by approval of the plate. Indeed, it is our opinion that denial would infringe upon the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment."

We should be paying close attention to what the DMV rules in the instance, and we should be quick in testing the parameters of an approval to see if the law will be applied similarly to all religious non-profits. If Christ's cross is

OK as a logo, then a Wiccan, Druid, Asatru, Hindu, or Buddhist symbol should be as well. If they aren't, then we may have another court battle on our hands.

Tags: [Christianity](#), [Darla Wynne](#), [Henry McMaster](#), [I Believe License Plates](#), [legal](#), [litigation](#), [politics](#), [South Carolina](#), [Wicca](#), [Witchcraft](#)

24 responses so far

Jason on Sep 1st 2010
Paganism, Religion

Media Outreach at Cherry Hill Seminary

I'm pleased to announce that I'll be teaching a 4-week Foundations course at [Cherry Hill Seminary](#) starting on September 14th.

Media Outreach for Pagan Groups and Organizations

September 14 – October 5

In an age of ubiquitous social media, conveying your organization's goals and values in an effective manner is more important than ever.

Pagan groups and organizations used to have to deal with exploitative, uneducated, or even hostile mainstream media outlets in order to get the word out, but now we're lucky if the local paper or television station even has time for any religion-oriented story.

The last decade has seen some major upheavals and cutbacks in the areas of traditional media, with religion beats being cut back or eliminated across the United States. However, while traditional media outlets have been cutting back, there's been an expansion on the Internet. As a result, it's never been easier for small groups to create and disseminate information to the wider world.

This is a hands-on course that will familiarize you with the latest tools and ideas, using a simple, easy-to-remember system based on the traditional "Witches' Pyramid" (aka Four Powers of the Magus or Four Powers of the Sphinx) to walk you through the process:

Week 1: To Know

The first week we'll look at why understanding the importance of new/social media is vital to furthering your organization's message, and explore who you are actually trying to reach.

Week 2: To Will

We'll discuss why having a dedicated media/press liaison is important, why organizational support is vital, and how to stay committed to outreach for the long haul.

Week 3: To Dare

We'll explore trying new methods of

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outreach, why being bold is an asset on the Internet, and why you shouldn't be afraid to change things that aren't working.

Week 4: To Keep Silent

Issues of transparency, secrecy, dirty laundry, drama, and flame wars will be touched on.

Each week includes special exercises and assignments that prepare you and your group for the future.

You can register for the course, [here](#). I feel this is a useful extension of the work I do with the [Pagan Newswire Collective](#), and the talks I've been giving at events and festivals over the past year. If you are part of a group or organization that is looking to improve its media outreach and strategy, this may be the class for you.

Tags: [Cherry Hill Seminary](#), [Jason Pitzl-Waters](#), [journalism](#), [new media](#), [The Pagan Newswire Collective](#)

2 responses so far

Jason on Sep 3rd 2010
Paganism, Religion

The Pertinence of Being Wiccan and other Pagan News of Note

Top Story: In northern New York state Krista Marie Goley is charged with manslaughter in the stabbing death of

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her boyfriend Timothy C. Rolland. While there is no evidence that Goley's religion had anything to do with the stabbing, [it's brought up in a negative light by Watertown Daily Times reporter David Shampine and the victim's family.](#)

"We had warned Tim to get out of that relationship," Mrs. Rolland said. "He told us she is bipolar, and she was a Wiccan. He was staring at the devil in the face." On Ms. Goley's MySpace page, she lists her religion as "Wiccan," and for an occupation, she lists, "US ARMY 88M/ Wiccan." The background of the MySpace page is covered with images of pentacles, a five-pointed star often used as a symbol of Wicca, which is a neopagan religion that utilizes witchcraft.

The question is why did the reporter think Goley's religion is pertinent in this case? There's been no sign that the murder was religiously motivated, or that it had ritualistic overtones. You could have just as easily listed the fact that [she likes to play Pokemon](#) or that [she likes the "Resident Evil" movie](#). No Wiccan text of any sort I've ever read has advocated for murder, so the inclusion of Wicca (which *"utilizes witchcraft"*) in this article just muddies the water for the purposes of some cheap sensationalism. One wonders if the Watertown Daily Times would have made of point of mentioning her faith if she was Catholic

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or a Lutheran. Reporting on a perpetrators religion **should involve some pertinent reason for doing so**, or else you're simply stirring the pot because you have nothing else to say.

Glenn Beck, Inclusivity, and Minority Religions: In the wake of **Glenn Beck's religious rally** many are trying to figure out what it all means (here are three **Pagan reactions** over at *Pagan+Politics*). Over at the Washington Post's *On Faith* site, **Hindu American Foundation** co-founder Aseem Shukla blasts the **"false inclusivity of supposedly ecumenical events"** like Beck's rally.

"...a persistent insistence on Christian-only exceptionalism and a national Christian primacy is raising alarm bells for others. I have argued before that a religious litmus test most certainly exists in this country-and the litmus paper only reads two colors: Christian or the other. Indian Americans recently elected to national office, such as Bobby Jindal or Nikki Haley were forced to prove that they as converts, they were even more Christian than most Christians, and President Obama's Muslim heritage has been bandied about as a scarlet letter that somehow renders him suspect or unfit to govern. We have experienced before the false inclusivity of supposedly ecumenical events of the far right. There may have been a rabbi or imam at the Beck event, but

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the overall theme was very much "we are a Christian nation" drumbeat, and Hindus have experienced rejection before when they asked to participate in events such as the National Day of Prayer. This is the paradox of religion in the public square: it means very different things to different people."

Leaving aside the political implications of Beck's rally, the event was, in the words of conservative commentator **Ross Douthat**, **"a long festival of affirmation for middle-class, white Christians."** In addition, the prominent inclusion of figures like **John "America has become a pagan society" Hagee** and **David Barton of Wallbuilders** (who argues that Pagans don't deserve the same Constitutional protections as Christians) make it very clear who's actually welcome in Beck's quest to restore honor. So long as those who actively work to deny us our rights are under his big tent, I can't take seriously any argument that religious minorities are truly welcome.

Anti-Pagan Pastor in Porn Scandal: Australian Christian social crusader the **Reverend Fred Nile**, a member of the **New South Wales Legislative Council**, has been caught in an **Internet porn-viewing scandal**.

"The controversy began with the issuance of a report by the Department of Parliamentary Services, which had

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conducted an internet history audit of government computers that said **Nile's office had accessed adult websites approximately 200,000 times**. Coming on the heels of a similar revelation that resulted in the resignation of New South Wales Ports and Waterways Minister Paul McLeay, the news has sent shockwaves through the government. Thursday, in response to the growing scandal, Nile held a press conference during which he denied ever viewing pornography, but admitted that he had instructed his staff to research the issue for legislation that he said he was considering introducing."

Nile is taking a sort of "didn't inhale" defense, saying the sites were never actually viewed, just accessed (200,000 times) for research into legislation. **Sex Party** president Fiona Patten says that Nile just needs to "get over his guilt and shame" concerning viewing porn on the Internet. For those who don't live in Australia, Nile is sort of the equivalent to Pat Robertson there. He's taken many socially conservative stances, including opposing legal Pagan weddings.

Christian Democrat Party leader and anti-pagan campaigner Reverend Fred Nile said: "(Handfasting) can't be in any way acknowledged by the state and should not be listed as a genuine wedding. Our party will do what it can to

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stop pagan weddings and witchcraft or Wicca activities." If this scandal means the political and social downfall of Nile, I'm sure there aren't too many Pagans down under who will be complaining about it.

The OTO Showing Pagan Pride in Utah: **The Salt Lake Tribune** does your typical "meet the Pagans" story with a couple twists. First, the piece profiles a local OTO/Thelemic group Ordo Gnostic Templar (I couldn't find a listing for them, but they could be a newer group) along with several colorful pictures, and secondly, it seems the paper used **Patheos.com** as an information resource.

"More than a million Americans now practice some form of Wicca, or traditional witchcraft, Ceremonial Magick, Hermeticism, Shamanism, Asatru (German/Nordic religion), African religion such as Voodoo and Shamanism, according to **patheos.com**, a multifaith website."

It's nice when a paper steps a bit outside of the Wiccan box to show how diverse modern Paganism truly is, and prints generally solid information. Now if only more such articles would follow suit. We'll soon be entering the Halloween/Samhain season, and that usually means a small flood of "meet the Pagans" articles, here's hoping this piece

is a good harbinger of coverage to come.

The Order of Light for the Establishment of Global Fraternity:

OpEdNews features the latest investigative installment from Georgianne Nienaber and Mac McKinney on post-earthquake Haiti, [this one featuring a look at Vodou religion and the history of Vodou in the country.](#)

At this point the discussion segued into the reality of Haitian Vodou until, rather suddenly and casually, Raymond revealed that he himself was a Vodou houngan, or priest, and that he belonged to a Haitian religious society called The Order of Light for the Establishment of Global Fraternity, actually an almost Masonic, even Theosophical title invoking one of the key words from the motto of the French Revolution of 1789: "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity", hardly what most people, prone to all the stereotyped caricatures of Voodoo in pop culture, would expect.

Raymond, acutely aware of the gross and fraudulent Hollywood image of Voodoo as nothing but zombies, black magic, curses and human sacrifices, went to considerable length expounding that this is indeed a absurd misrepresentation of real Vodou religion. He did point out, though, that there are two streams of Vodou as it is practiced in Haiti, what he calls the Vodou of the Peristyle, and the Vodou of the Temple.

I wasn't aware that Vodouisants split themselves into "peristyle" and "temple" varieties, could any of my Haitian Vodou-connected readers confirm this for me? Is such a distinction common? In any case, the essay makes for fascinating reading.

That's all I have for now. Stay tuned tomorrow for a Pagan community news round-up, and have a great day!

Tags: [Aseem Shukla](#), [Australia](#), [Christianity](#), [Fred Nile](#), [Glenn Beck](#), [Haiti](#), [Krista Marie Goley](#), [murder](#), [New York](#), [On Faith](#), [OTO](#), [Pagan News of Note](#), [politics](#), [Salt Lake City](#), [Thelema](#), [Utah](#), [Vodou](#), [WallBuilders](#), [Wicca](#)

5 responses so far

Jason on Sep 4th 2010
[Paganism,Religion](#)

[Pagan Community Notes: A Celtic Temple, Lady Liberty League, Patrick McCollum, Wendy Rule, and More!](#)

[Pagan Community Notes](#) is a companion to my usual [Pagan News of Note](#), a new series more focused on news originating from within the Pagan community. I want to reinforce the idea that what happens to and within our organizations, groups, and events is news, and news-worthy. My hope is that more individuals, especially those working within Pagan organizations, get into the habit of sharing their news with the world. So lets

get started!

A Celtic Temple in Minneapolis: PNC-Minnesota reports that on September 18th a temple constructed by the **Old Belief Society** in Northeast Minneapolis will be consecrated and opened to the public.

*September 18 heralds a new piece of Minnesota Pagan history: a Celtic Pagan temple, in Northeast Minneapolis, opens to the public. Andrew Jacob, priest of the **Temple of the River**, (TOR) will lead a purification ceremony in the Mississippi River. After the ritual, participants can dry off in the new temple, also called the Irish Cottage Building.*

*The temple is the first official structure of the **Old Belief Society**, a community intended to train Celtic priests by combining academic and spiritual teachings. Temple of the River, a smaller subset of that society led by Jacob, formerly occupied a space in Dinkytown before moving their meeting space to his home in Northeast. He conceived of building a physical temple after helping construct a Native American style pavilion in 2006. “We made it a priority to have a physical temple in a permanent space – because a welcoming meeting space is one of the first things you need for community.”*

While there are many instances of Pagan-owned lands, **Circle Sanctuary**,

for instance, Temple of the River priest Andrew Jacob claims this is the first temple of its kind in North America. Considering the fuzziness of the term “temple” within our communities, it’s hard to gauge if this claim is true. If you know of any other free-standing structures that are solely dedicated as Pagan temples and open to the public please drop a note in the comments. Whether unique or not, this is a remarkable accomplishment, and one that will no doubt benefit Pagans in the Twin Cities.

Lady Liberty League 25th Anniversary Reception: Founded in 1985 by Selena Fox of **Circle Sanctuary**, the **Lady Liberty League** is one of the most active and effective Pagan-run religious freedom organizations in existence today. On September 15th in Washinton DC, at the **Universalist National Memorial Church**, they will celebrating their 25th anniversary.

“This special evening includes networking, refreshments, and remarks by Selena Fox of Wisconsin, Lady Liberty League’s Founder and Executive Director, and Patrick McCollum of California, LLL Chaplaincy Affairs Director and among this year’s recipients of the Hindu American Foundation’s Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism.

The evening will include an overview of the history and accomplishments of Lady

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Liberty League, including its origins in September 1985 in the networking that defeated federal anti-Wiccan legislation. Lady Liberty League activists and Circle Sanctuary ministers from across the country will be helping with the reception. Among the national Pagan leaders already planning to take part in the reception are Marci Drewry of Virginia, Director of Military Affairs, Sacred Well Congregation and Holli Emore of North Carolina, Executive Director, Cherry Hill Seminary.”

This event is free and open to the public. To find out more, check out [the LLL reception page on Facebook](#). PNC-Washington DC reporter David Salisbury is [planning to be in attendance](#) and will be covering the event. Congratulations to Lady Liberty League on their 25th anniversary, here's to 25 more!

Patrick McCollum at HAF's Capitol Hill Reception: Since the Circle/Lady Liberty League press release has given it away, I assume it's now safe to announce that the [Hindu American Foundation](#) will be honoring Pagan chaplain [Patrick McCollum](#) with the [Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism](#) at their 7th annual Capitol Hill Reception on September 14th.

“Join us as we honor Congressmen, government officials and individuals for their commitment to promoting understanding of Hindu American

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issues, pluralism and tolerance.”

A prominent Hindu organization honoring a Pagan chaplain and activist is a big deal, and could signal a new era of cooperation and communication between American Hindus and Pagans. I've been in contact with HAF concerning this, and will be bringing you more on this story after the ceremony.

Wendy Rule Plays for a Pagan

Nonprofit: Australian singer-songwriter and Pagan [Wendy Rule](#) is currently [on a American tour](#) to promote her latest album [“Guided By Venus”](#). In addition to playing at the Pagan music-heavy [StrowlerFest](#) (as reported [here previously](#)) on September 10th and 11th, [Los Angeles Pagan Examiner Joanne Elliott reports](#) that she'll be wrapping up the tour with a benefit concert for the [Temple of the Goddess](#) on September 15th.

“Australian singer-songwriter [Wendy Rule](#) – a self-proclaimed witch – will make the sole Los Angeles area appearance of her 2010 U.S. tour at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15. Rule has agreed to make this a benefit concert for [Temple of the Goddess](#)(TOG), a nonprofit religious organization committed to the spiritual well-being of the Los Angeles and world communities. TOG will also sponsor this intimate, 60-seat, open air twilight performance under elder oaks at a

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private residence in Pasadena.” For more on the concert, including information on purchasing tickets, [click here](#).

Return to Stoudburg Village: Some of you may remember the drama last year over a [Pagan group](#) holding a small festival at the tourist-trap [Stoudburg Village](#) in Adamstown, Pennsylvania. Several Christian-owned businesses, offended by Pagans holding a gathering at the village, [boycotted by shutting down their stores in protest](#). The situation [soon made national news](#), and gained the attention of prayer warriors and Pagan organizations like the Lady Liberty League. Ultimately, the event happened, a few businesses shut down, [and things were largely peaceful and productive](#). Now, the [Reading Pagans & Witches](#) are holding the event again, [expanding it to two days, September 11th and 12th](#), and having Circle Sanctuary’s Selena Fox speak at the event.

“At 10 am on Saturday, Selena will open the festival with a blessing that includes the ringing of a memorial bell to coincide with the bell ringing at the Flight 93 National Memorial (www.honorflight93.org) in Shanksville in western Pennsylvania to honor those who heroically died when the plane crashed there at 10:03 am on September 11, 2001. At Noon, Selena

[Wild Hunt Blog Articles](#)*will*

facilitate a Circle of Freedom and Remembrance. This 9th anniversary September 11 memorial ritual is a remembrance for all who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on America that day. The rite also focuses on healing as well as will include an honoring of Freedom and America’s religious and ethnic diversity. Pagan first responders and Pagans in the US military – present and past - are invited to be part of the procession that begins this rite.

At 1 pm, Selena will give the Festival Keynote: Earth Spirituality & Religious Freedom She will give an overview of Paganism across time and cultures and speak about ways Pagans of many paths can work together for greater religious freedom in society.”

The event is free and open to the public. You can find out more about the event, [here](#). This whole situation shows how religious freedom and acceptance can happen if we don’t back down in the face of opposition and protest, congratulations to the [Reading Pagans & Witches](#) for making this happen.

Happy Anniversary Witch School: In a final note, today is [Witch School’s](#) 9th anniversary. [Here’s an excerpt from a statement by co-founder Rev. Donald Lewis on the occasion](#).

“Today is the Ninth Anniversary of the founding of Witch School!! Witch School was founded on September 4. 2001.

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Co-founders Ed Hubbard, Don Lewis, and Lisa Tuit created Witch School as a response to the tremendous success of the Daily Spell e-zine, which had been offering the Correllian First Degree teachings. The school was initially run out of Rev. Don's kitchen. With its philosophy of an "Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere online Pagan and Magickal education" the school grew rapidly, filling a void created by the lack of accessible teachers. Witch School was and is a revolutionary educational system utilizing peer-to-peer teaching and the power of the Internet to bring Pagan religious and magical education to people around the globe. The Witch School system was able to reach people in remote geographical areas who were otherwise unable to connect with teachers, and to provide training in an extremely flexible and effective way. Today Witch School has students on all seven of the Earth's continents (yes, even Antarctica) and is the most trafficked Pagan site in the world. We are very proud of our school and its students and salute each and every one!"

Rev. Lewis goes on to explain the significance of the Sept. 4th debut, and connections between Witch School and **the Correllian Tradition**. While Witch School has certainly been controversial during its years of operation, few can

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deny that it has become a prominent Pagan organization, and looks to be around for a long time to come. Congratulations to Witch School on their anniversary.

That's all I have for now, have a great day!

Tags: **California, Celebrating Earth Spirituality Festival, Don Lewis, HAF, Hinduism, Lady Libery League, Old Belief Society, Pagan Community Notes, Paganistan, Patrick McCollum, Pennsylvania, PNC-Minnesota, PNC-Washington DC, Selena Fox, Stoudtburg Village, temple, Temple of the Goddess, Temple of the River, The Pagan Newswire Collective, Washington DC, Wendy Rule, Witch School**

2 responses so far

Jason on Sep 5th 2010 Paganism

Quick Note: The Wicker Man & The Wicker Tree

Just want to quickly share some **The Wicker Man**, and its spiritual companion **The Wicker Tree**, news with you today. Starting with [a newly updated and revised book](#) on the 1973 cult-classic film by Scottish journalist Allan Brown. ["Inside the "Wicker Man": How Not to Make a Cult Classic"](#), originally released in 2000, gives an inside look at the many hurdles the film faced, and how it became a cult hit despite these

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setbacks.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i59955VS7c8&feature=player_embedded#!

“Inside The Wicker Man is a treat for all cinemagoers, exhaustively researched and achieving a near-perfect balance between history, trivia and serious analysis. Allan Brown describes the filming and distribution of the cult masterpiece as a ‘textbook example of ‘How Things Should Never Be Done’. The omens were bad from the start, and proceeded to get much, much worse, with fake blossom on trees to simulate spring, actors chomping on ice-cubes to prevent their breath showing on film, and verbal and physical confrontations involving both cast and crew. The studio hated it and hardly bothered to distribute it, but today it finds favour with critics and fans alike, as a serious – if flawed – piece of cinema.”

The revised and expanded edition also talks about the plans for the film’s “spiritual sequel” **The Wicker Tree**, which has [just released a teaser trailer](#) at its web site.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i59955VS7c8&feature=player_embedded#!

There’s also [a collection of photos and videos available on the film’s media page](#). Sadly, we still don’t have a release date for the film, but hopefully the teaser

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means we don’t have to wait too much longer. It remains to be seen if [The Wicker Tree](#) will be able to withstand the weight of expectation, especially after the [unintentionally comic](#) and misguided 2006 remake of the original Wicker Man. Regardless of how well the “sequel” does, the original continues to be a hugely popular phenomenon, inspiring countless tributes [and new contexts](#).

<http://www.filmshaft.com/the-wicker-tree-teaser-trailer/>

Tags: [Allan Brown](#), [film](#), [Inside the Wicker Man](#), [movies](#), [The Wicker Man](#), [The Wicker Tree](#)

[2 responses so far](#)

[Jason](#) on Sep 6th 2010

[Paganism,Religion,indigenous](#)

How We Deal With Death

Maybe it’s the end of Summer, the [recent high-profile passings in our community](#), or maybe my own recent week-long sojourn to [the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota](#), but I’ve noticed a decent number of news articles focusing on death, how we deal with it, and what we believe comes after it (if anything). [The New York Times recently did a piece on reincarnation](#), and how that belief in multiple lives has been growing in popularity lately.

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“According to data released last year by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, a quarter of Americans now believe in reincarnation. (Women are more likely to believe than men; Democrats more likely than Republicans.) [Julia Roberts](#) recently told Elle magazine that though she was raised Christian, she had become “very Hindu.” Ms. Roberts believes that in her past life she was a “peasant revolutionary,” and said that when her daughter sits in a certain way she knows “there’s someone there I didn’t get the benefit of knowing ... It’s an honor for me to continue to shepherd that.” At Cannes in May, a Thai film about reincarnation, “Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives,” won the highest prize. In it, an old man on his deathbed sees the dead as vividly as the living, and his past life as an ox is as clear as his present one.”

The article talks about regression therapy, and interviews reincarnation superstar Dr. Brian Weiss, author of [“Many Lives, Many Masters”](#), along with religion professor [Stephen Prothero](#), who thinks this trend is tied to our relative affluence (“**Reincarnation means never having to say you’re dead.**”). Others, [like Clare Stein at The Kenyon Review](#), reacting to the NYT piece, wonder if reincarnation is our misunderstanding of another phenomenon.

In Joyce’s Ulysses, Molly Bloom

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him pike hoses.” In some cases, this is what the eagerness to believe in reincarnation strikes me as: a mispronunciation of the Collective Unconscious, or something like it. The wealth of history inhabiting the places we like to claim as exclusively ours—mistaken for immortality.

I’m [somewhat agnostic on the question](#) of if we have lived past lives, or if those memories are part of a collective unconscious, but I do believe that [Reclaiming](#) and other modern Pagan traditions are on the right path when they say: [“What is remembered, lives”](#). A look at ancestor reverence and worship in many cultures will show a common thread of keeping those who have passed among us, [of involving the dead in our lives](#).

With fanfare befitting a parade, the shrouded remains of 17 bodies were removed from the family crypt, some sprayed with expensive perfume, others splashed with sparkling wine. Five brass bands took turns belting out cheerful melodies, and each emerging corpse was lifted onto the shoulders of its own set of revelers. The celebrators then joyously trotted about, dancing with the bones of the dead. “It is good to thank the ancestors in person because we owe them everything,” said Rakotonarivo Henri, 52, an out-of-breath farmer who had just set down his dead grandfather

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and was moving toward the remains of his aunt. “We do not come from mud; we come from these bodies.”

Ancestor veneration, as our movement has matured, has become a larger topic of discussion. We are also more concerned about our rites of burial, how we are buried, and seeing that our dead are properly honored. I feel that as we continue, you’ll see more emphasis placed on our “mighty dead”, and that our rituals and traditions will start to mirror existing indigenous beliefs regarding the ancestors. But even in a secular context, I think the idea of memory, or being remembered, is growing.

“Music lovers can now be immortalised when they die by having their ashes baked into vinyl records to leave behind for loved ones. A UK company called And Vinyly is offering people the chance to press their ashes in a vinyl recording of their own voice, their favourite tunes or their last will and testament. Minimalist audiophiles might want to go for the simple option of having no tunes or voiceover, and simply pressing the ashes into the vinyl to result in pops and crackles.”

For the record, if I’m cremated, I’d like to be made into a copy of the The Cure’s “Disintegration”

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A statue of the Mayo brothers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

A prime example of ancestor veneration in all but name.

Why the increased interest in reincarnation, in ancestor veneration, in being remembered? I think it has partially to do with an impulse that has always been with us. One that, to certain extents, has been discouraged by our post-Enlightenment culture, or only approved in special contexts (saints, national heroes). For so long we have been afraid to acknowledge that we long to make the dead a part of our lives. To not simply “move on”, but to continue to weave them into the tapestry of our existence. That it isn’t morbid, but loving. As we approach Samhain, Day of the Dead, and other Winter holidays of remembrance and ancestor veneration, let us focus on how we integrate those who are no longer with us, but are still

very much with us.

Tags: [Ancestors](#), [burial](#), [Death](#), [New York Times](#), [reincarnation](#)

[10 responses so far](#)

[Jason](#) on Sep 8th 2010

[Paganism, Religion](#)

Psychic Services and the Law: Mary K. Greer

Last week [Time Magazine featured an article](#) on a wave of new regulations across the country on businesses that provide divinatory and psychic services. It lead with [a particularly oppressive example of this trend in Warren, Michigan](#).

“Anyone who uses cards, tea leaves, psychic powers, necromancy or other objects and activities to forecast the future, remove curses or effectuate other activity, must apply for a license with the city, according to a new ordinance formally passed by city officials this week. Applicants face strict regulations that including fingerprinting, criminal history checks, past home addresses and employment history.”

Worse still are regulations [in places like Chesterfield County, Virginia](#), or Annapolis, Maryland, where approval isn't merely applying for background checks or filling out forms, but of passing an arbitrary judgement of your “**good moral character**”. Time's reporter

[Elizabeth Dias didn't seem to find any critical voices against this trend except for a spokesman from the ACLU](#), an organization that has been involved in several fortune telling related battles.

“But other observers, peering into their own crystal balls, see new worries. Michael Steinburg, of the Michigan branch of the ACLU, suggests Warren's policy may jeopardize those practicing yoga or predicting the weather. “It makes it illegal to say incantations to give good luck without having a license,” he tells TIME. The ACLU has defended the free-speech rights of Maryland fortune teller Nick Nefedro, who won his case in June to operate a shop in the Washington, D.C., suburbs.”

The only psychic practitioner who spoke on the record to Time was (somewhat) in favor of stricter regulations. Silent in the piece are the many divinatory practitioners within our interconnected communities who have an intimate knowledge of fighting these regulations, those helping to shape fairer regulations where they live, and those who see psychic services and divination as part of their religious calling. [The Wild Hunt has long covered what I've called the “psychic wars”](#), and starting today I'm going to be featuring several voices on this issue that I believe should be heard in a new ongoing series of interviews.

Today, I'm featuring a short interview

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with [Mary K. Greer](#). Greer is an [author](#) and renowned expert on the tarot. She is the proud recipient of the 2007 [International Tarot Lifetime Achievement Award](#) and the 2006 [Mercury Award](#) from the Mary Redman Foundation for “**excellence in communication in the metaphysical field.**” [She also has a blog](#) where she often discusses the regulation of tarot readers by local governments.



Mary K. Greer

Do you feel Tarot readers and other purveyors of various forms of divination should be specifically regulated? If so, where’s the line between fair and oppressive? What do you think of the new regulations in Warren, Michigan where you have to be fingerprinted, pay a yearly \$150 fee, and submit to a background check?

No. I don’t believe in specific laws and regulations for fortune tellers that go beyond the standard business laws of any community. It has been found that

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laws prohibiting fraud cover most cases of abuse perfectly adequately and far better than regulations that discriminate unfairly against this particular profession, especially when they assume criminal behavior where none has been shown by the individual. It has been proved over and over again that discriminatory regulations are created by special interest groups and that they are unfair and almost always unconstitutional.

I’ve always been proud of being part of what I call an “outlaw profession,” partly because it operates outside of the laws, understanding and expectations of regulated society and crosses over the boundaries that tend to distinguish professions, being in-part, entertainment, spiritual guidance, noetic and folk therapeutics, and more. By definition, I provide a service that is not covered adequately by the more traditional and accepted professions. Clients are looking for something extra-ordinary and they get something extra-ordinary. I have the freedom to self-design and describe what I do—which also brings with it the responsibility to explain this as clearly as possible to my clients. I am also responsible to establish my own ethical guidelines and to know and operate my business within the laws and regulations of any area in which I work. While the public is taking a chance on what they are getting, “chance” is, by definition

(fate-fortune-chance), part of what they are seeking. However, most of what I've said in this paragraph has no bearing on the legal issue, which is a matter of free-speech, occasionally freedom of religion, and is a business service that should be treated like other businesses. If fees and fingerprinting are standard for all businesses then fortune telling should be included.

In your writings you've mentioned that fortune telling laws were getting stricter, do you feel there is a religious element to this, or is it simply a case of various interests keeping the "wrong" kind of business out of their neighborhood/town?

Actually, legislation is going both ways – on a case-by-case basis – for instance, Michigan as opposed to the recent Maryland case. Discriminatory laws are almost always urged by people with special interests, whether it's religious (including "skeptics" as a fundamentalist religion) or proprietary interests in the business community or those who want to control the field from within according to their own private standards. There are always people who want to legislate the rights and actions of others, not according to the highest laws of the land but according to their own beliefs and desires.

How do you feel the various communities that engage in the

divinatory arts should respond to tougher regulations? Do you feel we haven't been paying enough attention to this issue?

I think it is part of professionalism to become aware of these issues. I'm all for educating others and spreading the word. I also understand that it can be very expensive, time-consuming and stressful to fight unfair laws, so I don't blame anyone who fails to do so. I honor, respect and want to thank each person who has acted legally or editorially against immoral and unconstitutional practices. I especially honor the ACLU, which has been consistently on the side of standing up in court for the rights of fortune tellers, psychics, astrologers, etc. to practice their professions without discriminatory laws. I don't believe they've lost a single one of these cases. I urge others to donate to this outstanding organization.

I was on the board of the short-lived Tarot Certification Board and I discovered how difficult it is to certify practices that are so unique to each practitioner and viewed differently by each certifier. I don't believe that anything we did, could have served, in practical, consistent-to-everyone terms, both practitioners and clients fairly and equally, nor would Certification, in itself, have prevented fraud. Certification's greatest gifts to the community have lain

in educating everyone involved in laws, ethics, standards, and range of practices, and in acting as a self-diagnostic and rough measurement tool for practitioners who needed help in determining their own abilities relative to others and in understanding and accepting their own professionalism (self-esteem). As a professional field, we are not yet capable of guaranteeing anything, nor of protecting the public through internal investigations and revoking of certifications. However, if there are to be any public regulations or legal certification, I believe it should be defined and overseen by those in the field. A pretty dilemma!

I'd like to thank Mary K. Greer for taking the time to speak on this issue, and hope you'll stay tuned to further installments of the **Psychic Services and the Law** series. This is an issue that has become intertwined with many modern Pagan individuals and businesses and it behooves us to stay informed and engaged.

Tags: [law](#), [litigation](#), [Mary K Greer](#), [Psychic Services and the Law](#), [psychics](#), [Tarot](#), [Time Magazine](#)

[13 responses so far](#)

[Jason](#) on Sep 7th 2010

[Paganism, Religion](#)

[Piracy and Paganism](#)

[Thorn Coyle](#) pointed me to [a blog post at Scarlet Imprint](#), a small publishing company that creates [high quality limited-run esoteric works](#) ([we've mentioned their recent poetry collection Datura here](#)). In the post, the publishers decry the trend of their titles, and the titles of other small esoteric and occult publishers, [ending up on file-sharing sites](#).

“This has been described as a ‘golden age of occult publishing’. From the internet it appears that there is a thriving international occult community and that publishers are reaping the benefits. This could not be further from the truth. Most magical publishers are very small businesses struggling to survive. Occult authors are making precious little, if any, money. This is not the motivation behind the work.

We work a seven day week at Scarlet Imprint because we believe in what we are doing. Producing books is a massively demanding occupation. We wasted another day today trying to stop illegal copies of our books when we could have been finishing Geosophia for the printers and working on our own writing. We are sick to death of this, as are Ixaxaar, Golden Hoard, Xoanon et al.”

This isn't a new phenomenon, esoteric works have been pirated and put on various torrent sites for years now. The

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justifications for this are many. That they can't afford the book, so it's OK to steal it, that it's out-of-print and the used book market is exorbitant, that the author is dead so his beneficiaries should release the works to everyone, or that they don't like the organization or company that controls the rights to a certain author. Some pirates/file-sharers even claim that they are doing the authors/companies a favor by downloading the book for free, that it's a form of promotion. This was an argument used against composer Jason Robert Brown when he tried to convince various individuals to stop trading his sheet music for free.

"Let's say Person A has never heard of 'The Great Jason Robert Brown.' Let's name Person A 'Bill.' Let's say I find the sheet music to 'Stars and the Moon' online, and, since I was able to find that music, I was able to perform that song for a talent show. I slate saying, 'Hi, I'm Eleanor and I will be performing "Stars and the Moon" from Songs for a New World by Jason Robert Brown.' Bill, having never heard of this composer, doesn't know the song or the show. He listens and decides that he really likes the song. Bill goes home that night and downloads the entire Songs for a New World album off iTunes. He also tells his friend Sally about it, and they decide to go and see the show together the next time it comes around. Now, if I hadn't

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been able to get the sheet music for free, I would have probably done a different song. But, since I was able to get it, how much more money was made? This isn't just a fluke thing. It happens."

The problem, of course, is that not all experiences are scalable, and what Trent Reznor or Cory Doctorow finds profitable and worthwhile may not work for every artist, publisher, or company. In the end, and this should be something key to anyone active within the Pagan and esoteric communities, it's about consent. You can't force your preferred business model or promotional ideas on someone else, no matter how right you think you are. If it's unethical within the circle, it is certainly unethical outside of it. It doesn't make you a romantic rebel, it just reveals you as someone with no consideration for how your actions will affect someone else.

Further, our businesses and artists are working on a very small scale, with very limited resources. A few sales could mean the difference between putting out another book or closing shop for some small publishing houses. Even if we allow that piracy against "big" acts or corporations is ethically neutral, to do it to one of our own, no matter what the justification, is a hurtful act. To use another example, Pagan artists like Pandemonaeon, Damh the Bard, or Emerald Rose produce very small

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runs of their CDs, usually only around a 1000 copies. Even “bigger” acts like [Faith & The Muse](#) or various artists on [Projekt Records](#) aren’t all that much bigger in terms of the number of CDs they produce and sell. Every time we download one of their songs or albums for free instead of ordering a CD or purchasing a legal download [we literally cost them money](#).

“Last night I was directed to a [very interesting New York Times graphic](#) showing how little money is left in the music industry. Wow! On [the FB thread](#), there were a few comments along the lines of, “Yeah, I’m sure this affects the major labels, but Projekt fans wouldn’t steal.” Sorry to burst the bubble, but Projekt fans steal just like everyone else. Projekt’s total \$\$ is 50% of what it was a decade ago, and if it wasn’t for legal download (iTunes, mainly), it would be 25% of what it was 10 years ago. When somebody steals an Unto Ashes or Soulwhirlingsomewhere or Steve Roach or Black Tape For A Blue Girl album, that means less money for Projekt, less money for the artists, and a much higher chance that someday you won’t find anymore music from this artist.”

Some may now be wondering what my personal stance on this issue is, after all, I’m a big proponent of [Creative Commons](#) and making information easily available on the Internet. I don’t place

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ads on my site, don’t sell anything, [and hold one fundraiser per year to help fund my activities](#). I also admire folks like Doctorow who are taking chances with their content in order to build new models of making money as a creative person. But that brings us back to problem of consent. I’m choosing this model of doing business. So when you share my articles around, you are doing so with my blessings. Since I’m coming from a place of grass-roots journalism, I want what I’m doing to spread with as few hurdles as possible. But I would feel very differently about it if I were selling a limited edition book, or trying to sell a CD. I love it when people forward my posts around on Facebook or via e-mail, but you are doing a Pagan musician no favors if you buy one copy of a CD and then allow all the other members of your magical or religious group to make free copies of it for their own use.

But even if the moral argument, [or arguments from a stance of magical ethics](#), doesn’t move you there’s a very simple practical reason why we should support our businesses, writers, and artists with our money, and that’s because it enables them to continue doing what they do. Without enough revenue we don’t get better books, or new albums, or thriving businesses. We don’t build the infrastructure that so many say we want and need to move

forward and service our ever-swelling ranks. We are at a time of transition when it comes to media, and how our community as a whole responds to it will decide how able we'll be to face the challenges and needs of the future. Times are tight, and the temptation of simply taking what we want is greater than ever, but if we give in to that temptation we risk hobbling our own progress in the name of short-term benefit.

Tags: [books](#), [file-sharing](#), [music](#), [piracy](#), [publishers](#), [Scarlet Imprint](#)

[25 responses so far](#)

[Jason](#) on Sep 10th 2010

[Paganism, Religion](#)

The Legality of Polyamory and other Pagan News of Note

Top Story: As I've [covered here before](#), the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Canada is about to hear a case that will decide if the practice of polygamy should be considered a criminal act (as it currently is). There's been [an affidavit filed in support of decriminalizing multiple-marriage from a local Wiccan priest](#), and the family behind the case is a polyamorous triad. The defense is taking a "Muslims and Mormons" angle, [arguing that the evils of polygamy outweigh the free expression of the families involved](#). Now, [The Canadian](#)

[Polyamory Advocacy Association \(CPAA\)](#) is requesting that the government [reveal if they think polyamory falls under their definition polygamy](#).

"The CPAA brought forward the motion Chief Justice Robert Bauman will consider on Sept 8. It was heard as part of a court reference to examine the constitutional validity of Section 293 of the Criminal Code of Canada. Section 293 bans polygamy. The CPAA wants to know if polyamorists will be caught under Section 293 should it be determined that the section is constitutional. CPAA lawyer John Ince told Bauman the attorneys general for Canada and BC have not delineated what their thinking is on the polyamorists. That, he said, makes it hard for him to prepare a case."

Ince points out that [polyamory](#) isn't the same as [polygamy](#), as it isn't patriarchal, isn't intergenerationally normalized, and isn't restricted by gender pairing or sexual orientation. The looming case has [provoked some to wonder if polyamory is the "new gay"](#), making legal rights for poly families the next big social campaign after gay marriage. The biggest hurdle will be convincing the public that [there's a difference between the abusive compelled polygamous marriages often found in Fundamentalist Mormon off-shoots and polyamory](#). As I've been saying [since 2006](#), our

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communities, which openly welcomes and celebrates so many polyamorous relationships ([30% of poly families identify as Pagan according to one survey](#)), [needs to be ready](#) for when this issue becomes the next culture-war battle.

“...this is an issue that will continue to gain steam as time goes by. Eventually polyamory will reach a “**tipping point**” and garner widespread national attention. Are our leaders and organizations ready for questions regarding polyamory? Eventually hostile questions will come, and they will **cite this Salon.com article**, and we shouldn’t be found wanting for a clear, empathetic, and inclusive answer.”

I’d say this court case is the “tipping point” I was talking about in 2007. Even if the courts rule that polygamy should remain criminal this won’t be the end of the issue. We see here the beginnings of a movement that will argue that polyamory shouldn’t fall under the same legal restrictions of polygamy, and we might even see a ruling where the criminal code is upheld but that clarifications of the definitions essentially decriminalize the practice of polyamory. Once decriminalization is achieved, legal recognition is the logical next step. You can also be sure that a victory in Canada will embolden activists in the United States and other countries. By 2012 expect “poly rights”

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to be in the popular vernacular if not in the court rooms.

One Way to Handle Regulation: In Romania, [where mystical attacks are taken very seriously by some politicians](#), a proposed law that would hold psychics liable for bad predictions [has been dropped due to fears of a curse](#).

“The politicians who had drafted the new law claim it is because they feared they would be cursed if they passed the plans. Alin Popoviciu and Cristi Dugulescu of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party drafted a law where witches and fortune tellers would have to produce receipts, and would also be held liable for wrong predictions. Maria Campina, a well-known Romanian witch, said that it was difficult to tax thousands of fortune tellers and witches partly because of the erratic sums of money they received.”

Despite the success of Romanian witches in the political process, I don’t think threats of magical retaliation would go over as well here in America. We’ll just have to stick to using lawyers, who are far more scary a threat in our culture.

The Wicker Tree is Done: [Film company British Lion has announced](#) that post- production for [The Wicker Man](#)’s “spiritual sequel” **The Wicker Tree** is now complete.

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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKdns hZz-WM&feature=plaer_embedded

“British Lion has completed post-production on Robin Hardy’s *The Wicker Man* follow-up, *The Wicker Tree*. Hardy has reunited with British Lion CEO Peter Snell, who produced the 1973 cult horror story, for the contemporary tale about two Texan Christians who travel to the Scottish fiefdom of Tressock to spread the gospel ... “*The Wicker Tree* is a chilling contemporary take on the genre,” Snell said. “We have a very strong cast, wonderful locations and like *The Wicker Man*, music plays a pivotal role in the story-telling.”

No word yet on a release date, but at least we know it’s completed. So keep your eyes open for further announcements.

PNC-Minnesota Gets Noticed: One of the goals of the [Pagan Newswire Collective](#) is to better inform mainstream media outlets concerning news happening within the modern Pagan community, so I was very happy to see [the MinnPost’s *The Daily Glean* referencing a PNC-Minnesota story.](#)

“A Celtic temple has opened in Northeast Minneapolis, as [reported by the Pagan Newswire Collective](#) — the small structure is the first of its kind in North America, dedicated to the Old Belief Society, which derives its beliefs from old

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Celtic practices. We point this out, firstly because we find it interesting, and secondly to point out just how wide we at the Glean cast our newsgathering net. Come on, who else is reading the Pagan Newswire Collective? Eric Eskola? Hardly.”

Congratulations to [the Minnesota bureau!](#) This is only the beginning, our network of bureaus continues to grow, and soon our main site will launch which will highlight and expand on the great local stories our bureaus are working on.

That’s all I have for now, have a great day!

Tags: [British Columbia](#), [Canada](#), [film](#), [law](#), [litigation](#), [movies](#), [Pagan News of Note](#), [PNC-Minnesota](#), [Polyamory](#), [polygamy](#), [psychics](#), [Romania](#), [The Pagan Newswire Collective](#), [The Wicker Man](#), [The Wicker Tree](#)

[3 responses so far](#)

[Jason](#) on Sep 12th 2010
[Paganism, Religion](#)

[Agora on DVD and Helen Mirren’s Tempest](#)

For those of you, including me, who didn’t get a chance to see Alejandro Amenábar’s “[Agora](#)”, based on the story of [Hypatia of Alexandria](#), at the handful of art theaters it played at this Summer the wait is finally coming to an end. [The](#)

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film is being released on DVD on October 9th, as well as being made available on Netflix. “Agora”, despite doing very well in Europe, got a mixed response from American movie critics (literally split down the middle), and never managed to break out from its delayed and limited release schedule. However, among Pagans who saw it, the response was almost unanimously positive and emotional.

“By the end of the film I was weeping: for Hypatia, for our destroyed Pagan history, and for humanity itself, that doggedly pursued zealotry and ignorance over and above knowledge and reason.” - T. Thorn Coyle



Even those who had some troubles with the historical changes made in Amenábar’s film, like feminist scholar Max Dashu, were generally positive about the work as a whole.

“I’m not a movie reviewer, but a cultural

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historian, and approach the film from that perspective. What did they do right? Casting the talented Rachel Weisz was an excellent choice, and all the actors are good. The cinematography is luscious. I liked the thematic return to views of the heavens, with the night sky seen from a balcony or through the open roof of an atrium, and occasionally pulling back to satellite shots of earth. A sympathetic treatment of Pagans is not something you often see in historical movies.”

So needless to say, I’m looking forward to seeing this for myself. There are far too few films that present historical paganism in a positive light (one look at the train-wreck that was the “Clash of the Titans” remake proves that).

So while we’re waiting for “Agora” on DVD, and for “The Wicker Tree” to get a release date, what other films can the Pagan moviegoer look forward to? I was perusing The Boston Globe’s run-down of film releases for the rest of 2010, and one picture in particular caught my eye.



Helen Mirren!

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“The Tempest Julie Taymor is a director of adequate fearlessness. She can be gimmicky (“Across the Universe”). She can even be somewhat conventional (“Frida”). But she’s always interesting. In this version of the Shakespeare desert-island play, she’s cast Helen Mirren as Prospero (it’s Prospera now). Djimon Hounsou is Caliban, Felicity Jones is Miranda. Ben Whishaw is Ariel, David Strathairn is Alonso, Chris Cooper is Antonio, and Russell Brand is Trinculo. See? Interesting.”

[Dame Helen Mirren](#) as [Prospera](#)? Sign me up. Also, check out [this quote from Mirren about playing a female version of Prospero](#).

“Women have been punished for being powerful for many centuries and I thought that was the remarkable thing about making Prospero into Prospera. You can bring in that history of female struggle. We can see now in the extreme fundamentalist states, whatever religion they are, that they want to exclude women from education. An educated female sex is dangerous for the status quo, they believe. Women with any interest in education are persecuted for being witches, herbalists, evil. I thought of all these women, now and throughout history, as I was playing Prospera.”

I’m just hoping that Prospera decides to not renounce her magic at the end. Plus, with Taymor directing you know it’s

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going to be a visual feast. Once there’s a trailer, I’ll post it for you. “The Tempest” is set for release on December 17th. Other interesting-looking films include [“Tibet in Song”](#) (November 12th), and [“Vision: From The Life Of Hildegard Von Bingen”](#) (November 5th).

What movies are you looking forward to?

Tags: [Agora](#), [film](#), [Helen Mirren](#), [Hypatia](#), [movies](#), [The Tempest](#)

[10 responses so far](#)

[Jason](#) on Sep 13th 2010

[Paganism, Religion](#)

Psychic Services and the Law: Rachel Pollack

The issue of how local governments regulate psychic and divinatory services has been slowly bubbling up into the mainstream consciousness. These efforts have gone beyond the simple business licences that other industries routinely apply for to include background checks, letters of reference, fingerprinting, and other personal information. Some places, [like Chesterfield County, Virginia](#), limit shops to the “red light” district of town (next to the adult bookstores, pawn shops, and scrap yards), and for some areas obtaining a licence, even if you clear the hurdles, is ultimately down to a judgement of your [“good moral character”](#). When questioned on these

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ordinances local politicians and officials say it's to prevent fraud and will point to a con-artist who managed to bilk thousands out of his or her trusting clients. But are those news-making scam-artists the norm? Is there a greater level of fraud within the divination industry than there is in other industries? Recently, Time Magazine featured an article on a wave of new regulations across the country on businesses that provide divinatory and psychic services. The only psychic practitioner they could get to speak on the record half-favored stronger regulations, while the rest **“refused to discuss their practices”** on the record. I didn't think this lack of voice from those who practice divination was adequate considering how many individuals within our interconnected communities are engaged in the practice. So I've started a new series called **Psychic Services and the Law** to get perspectives on regulation from prominent individuals whose voices should be heard as this issue is debated and litigated. In the first installment I talked with tarot expert Mary K. Greer, and this time I'm honored to present a short interview with Rachel Pollack.

Rachel Pollack is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on the modern interpretation of the Tarot. She has published 12 books on the Tarot, including “78 Degrees of Wisdom”,

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considered a modern classic and the Bible of Tarot reading. She has been conferred the title of Tarot Grand Master by the Tarot Certification Board, an independent body located in Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition, she's a celebrated author of fiction and poetry. Rachel also maintains a blog where she discusses issues related to tarot, writing, and inspiration.



Rachel Pollack

Do you feel that the practice of divination should be a government regulated industry complete with background checks, fingerprinting, letters of reference, and other measures?

No, I do not see any need for such regulation. If people are using the guise of divination to defraud or steal from people I would think current laws cover that. It's not divination that is a problem it's con artists. If con artists pretend to be doctors in order to trick people out of large sums of money, should we be

fingerprinting doctors? Con artists who pretend to be diviners are just the same.

Do you think fraud by psychics is a serious problem, or do you feel it has been overblown by local politicians? Do you have any theories as to why the regulation of those who provide divination or psychic services is still such a popular topic?

Well, I was not aware it was a popular topic. I don't think I've ever seen a news article about it on any of the news web sites I frequent, just on Tarot sites. I really have no way to know how many fake psychic con men there are, compared to people who actually are psychic, or would like to think they are. The actions of con men are very different from psychics, including bad psychics. People who practice fraud are not psychics, they're crooks.

Many local ordinances dealing with fortune telling have been overturned on the grounds of freedom of religion (in fact, in one case a local reader tried to circumvent the law by arguing she was a "spiritual counselor" rather than a psychic). However, a recent case in Maryland overturned an anti-fortune-telling ordinance on broader Free Speech grounds. Have we been taking the wrong tack in arguing from a religious standpoint? Can the business of tarot reading also be a

religious practice?

I agree strongly that free speech is a better grounds than freedom of religion. While many Tarot readers and/or psychics see what they do as religious in some way, I'm sure others don't.

As a member of several tarot guilds, do you think tarot readers should do more to regulate themselves (as several other industries do)? Is such a move even practical?

I don't really see how guilds or other groups could regulate readers who don't want to be regulated. That is, we could have a certification system, but that works only insofar as customers look for it and want readers to have that piece of paper. And what would prevent someone from passing the test, getting the piece of paper to display, and then ignoring all the guidelines they pretended to follow?

As someone who has written several important texts on the tarot, where do you see the practice of tarot reading heading? Do you think it will ever escape the cultural and religious baggage that has haunted it for so many generations?

To be honest, I find it very hard to say where readings might be heading. I do think that we need some sort of breakthrough presentation that would change the societal view of Tarot reading, as bizarre, hokey, and

somewhat ridiculous. Tarot needs to come more into public view so that it gets seriously examined. This may happen through some book or movie or through videos...who knows?

I'd like to thank Rachel Pollack for taking the time to speak on this issue, and hope you'll stay tuned to further installments of the **Psychic Services and the Law** series. This is an issue that has become intertwined with many modern Pagan individuals and businesses and it behooves us to stay informed and engaged.

Tags: [law](#), [litigation](#), [psychic](#), [Psychic Services and the Law](#), [Rachel Pollack](#), [Tarot](#), [Time Magazine](#)

[No responses yet](#)

Jason on Sep 14th 2010

[Paganism,Religion,indigenous](#)

Quick Note: The Rise of a Vodun Activist

The African country of [Benin](#) is thought to be the birthplace of [Vodun](#) (aka Vodou/Voodoo), and it is [the third largest religion in that country](#) (after Christianity and Islam). But despite the enduring popularity of Vodun in Benin, it has been slowly losing ground to Islam and Christianity, particularly in places like [Cotonou](#), the country's economic hub and largest city, where Christianity is

prevalent. [Enter Vodun priest Dah Aligbonon Akpochihala](#), a direct descendant of the semi-mythical [princess Aligbonon](#), who's become an evangelist and advocate for a new openness within his faith.

"Mr. Aligbonon takes it a step further. He regularly speaks on radio and television in Benin, a priest with a will to electronically diffuse the wisdom of ancestors from centuries past. *The aim, in his telling, is to bring voodoo and associated teachings out of the closet and up to date, just like with the rapid-fire training he is developing to create initiates in three months, instead of the usual three years.* Even though voodoo is widely followed in Benin — "The double practice persists, even among university people," says Mr. Iroko — an unjustified stigma still comes with it, Mr. Aligbonon says indignantly. "Voodoo is not the devil, and still less Satan," he writes emphatically in one of the pamphlets for sale in his storefront, a detailed guide to the religion's principal divinities."

Vodun priests in Benin have long complained, [even to directly to the Pope](#), about smear campaigns by Christians against their faith.

"Two days into his 10th African tour, Pope John Paul II tacitly acknowledged vodun's hold tonight, meeting in Cotonou with a group of its practitioners and

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leaders and telling them that, while they would certainly gain from converting to Christianity, “the church considers freedom of religion to be an inalienable right, a right that brings with it the responsibility to seek the truth.” In response to his proselytization, the vodun leaders made their own point about some members of the church that seemed to reflect strains. “One cannot but bitterly deplore the campaign of systematic denigration to which the practice of vodun is subjected by certain churches and parishes,” said Senou Zannou, a spokesman for the group of 30 senior vodun priests who met the Pope and placed him on a carved wooden throne to address him.”

It seems things have reached a point where some aren't content with this status quo any longer. Aligbonon, [according to the New York Times](#), has become quite popular with young people in Cotonou, and a quoted historian and sociologist both agree he's become an influential figure within the Vodun community in Benin. Could this mean the dawning of a new activist spirit within the Vodun community in Benin, the cradle of that religion? Will his new, faster, training process swell their ranks? Perhaps a new day is dawning in the person of Mr. Aligbonon? It will be interesting to see how this affects not only Vodun in Benin, but Vodou in Haiti and the diaspora.

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Tags: [Benin](#), [Dah Aligbonon](#), [Akpochihala](#), [New York Times](#), [Vodou](#), [Vodun](#), [Voodoo](#)

[One response so far](#)

[Jason](#) on Sep 15th 2010

[Paganism,Religion](#)

[Hindu American Foundation Honors Patrick McCollum](#)

Last night the [Hindu American Foundation \(HAF\)](#) awarded Pagan chaplain [Patrick McCollum](#) the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism at their [7th annual Capitol Hill Reception](#). McCollum, a long-time activist for the rights of minority religions, has worked with Hindu organizations and individuals for several years in [his quest to obtain equal treatment for religious minorities](#) in the United States prison system. [HAF recently supported McCollum](#) in the [ongoing court battle with the state of California over their discriminatory “five faiths” policy](#).



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Patrick being presented the award by Suhag Shukla. Photo courtesy of the Lady Liberty League.

Previous recipients of the [Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism](#) include the [Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United](#), [Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles](#), and [Preeta Bansal, Commissioner, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom](#). Holli Emore, [Executive Director of Cherry Hill Seminary](#), who attended the ceremony, had this to say about the event.

“The Hindu American Foundation articulates with refreshing clarity the vital importance of religious pluralism. The skill with which they have reached across the proverbial political aisle, in several directions, should be an inspiration and example to Pagan activists. We do, after all, share the HAF “ideals of understanding, tolerance and pluralism.” The budding relationship between HAF and Pagan leaders like Rev. Patrick McCollum holds significant potential.”

This is, needless to say, a great honor. One that hopefully signals a new era of cooperation, sharing, and solidarity between American Hindus and modern Pagans. Below, I’ve included the full press release sent out by [Circle Sanctuary](#) shortly after the ceremony

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ended.



Patrick McCollum & Selena Fox. Photo courtesy of the Lady Liberty League.

On Tuesday, September 14, 2010, Wiccan minister Rev Patrick McCollum received the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism from the Hindu American Foundation (HAF). The award was presented during the seventh annual Capitol Hill reception sponsored by HAF. This year’s reception was held in the Gold Room of the US Congress Rayburn Building.

Patrick was one of four award recipients. Neal Katyal, acting Solicitor General of the United States received the Pride of Community Award. Community activist Shal Agarwal received the Dharma Seva Award. US Congressman Edward R. Royce (Republican, Orange, California) received the Friend of the Community Award.

“Patrick is not only the first Pagan to receive this award, but the first Pagan

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to receive an international interfaith advancement award. This is an important milestone in Pagan interfaith relations,” said Rev. Selena Fox, Senior Minister, Circle Sanctuary. “I am glad that Patrick and his work to build bridges of understanding and collaboration among those of many faiths was honored.”

In his remarks upon receiving the award, Patrick expressed appreciation for this recognition, and also spoke about the importance of respecting diversity and sacredness of human beings. “We are all part of the human family and we must learn to respect each other and live in harmony.”

About 150 attended the reception, including Hindu American Foundation members, Americans United for Separation of Church and State staff, and several US Congressmen and Congressional staffers. Also among those attending this interfaith reception were Pagans from the Patrick McCollum Foundation, the Lady Liberty League, Cherry Hill Seminary, and Circle Sanctuary.

Patrick’s international interfaith work also will be honored during the Lady Liberty League 25th Anniversary Reception taking place in Washington, DC on Wednesday, September 15, from 7-9 pm EDT. Selena, Patrick, and a variety of Pagan and interfaith leaders will be

Wild Hunt Blog Articles

speaking. Reception is free and open to the public. More details are on-line: www.circlesanctuary.org/liberty. A video of the reception will be streamed live on the internet – tune in!



Maggie Beaumont, [CHS Dean of Students](#), Patrick McCollum, Holli Emore, & Selena Fox.

As the press release mentions, tonight McCollum will be honored at the [Lady Liberty League](#) 25th Anniversary Reception, also in Washington DC. David Salisbury from the [Pagan Newswire Collective’s Washington DC bureau](#) will be there to cover the event, so stay tuned to their web site for more information. I’ll be posting more about this award, and tonight’s ceremony, as the information comes to me. Congratulations to Patrick McCollum!

Tags: [Cherry Hill Seminary](#), [Circle Sanctuary](#), [HAF](#), [Hinduism](#), [Holli Emore](#), [Lady Liberty League](#), [Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism](#), [Patrick McCollum](#), [PNC-Washington DC](#), [Washington DC](#)

[No responses yet](#)

Spell of the Month

Simple Candle Spell to Get a Job

By: Susan Wheeler



www.wikipedia.org

Do this spell after you've submitted your resume or application.

You'll need:

1 large green candle

1 large red candle


Bless the candles by holding your hands over them and visualizing white light coming from your hands, entering the candles. Now see the candles surrounded by a ball of pure white light. Imagine all negativity leaving the candles while you visualize the ball of light.

Then add to the white light, golden sparkles to charge the candles

Spell of the Month

with your intent, which is to find the right job. Imagine this as strongly and clearly as you can for a minute or so, then let the light fade away slowly.

On the side of the green candle, carve out the type of job you want and on the side of the red candle, carve the rune for

“victory” (Tiwaz ).

Start the spell in the waxing moon phase until the full moon and burn the candles once a day for a few minutes, or while you meditate on your intent to find a job.

Repeat the spell for as long as needed, until you find work always during the waxing moon phase to full moon.

Replace the candles when burnt out completely, should there be a need.

You can also repeat this while you burn the candles:

Mighty Goddess, hear my plea

I'll find the job that's right for me

For that, I thank Thee!

So it shall be!

Monthly Tarot Reading

OCTOBER 2010

By: Rev. John Snodgrass, HP

Note: Although I have shown all the Tarot Cards in Upright view - their true positions are noted under the individual card.

The deck of Tarot Cards I am using for this month is "The Norse Tarot" by Clive Barrett...a very beautifully illustrated deck steeped in imagery based on Norse Mythology.

Week One: 10 - 1 to 10 - 4



Princess of Swords (Reversed)

The Princess is shown standing on a rock holding her sword with serene style and grace; yet, at the same time she is ready for action - for the ancient Norse warriors, both men and women, attacking moves were primary, defense was secondary at best.

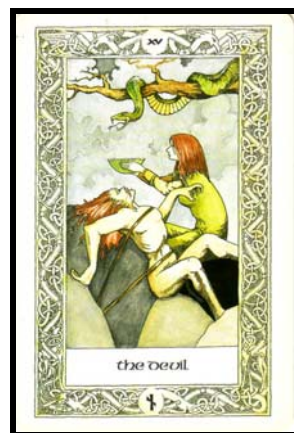
The **First Week of October** finds the Princess of Swords in her **Reversed Position** ...meaning for us that there are

Monthly Tarot Reading

things which we have been overlooking or things we have left uncompleted from over the past weeks or months - even years – we may have even long forgotten about them. These items, as skeletons in dark closets, have now - at this point in time, come to the forefront - to both remind us and to try to force us to deal with them now - within this very moment of time.

These overlooked – left uncompleted items - are going to begin our October with at least 4 days and nights of loud nagging at us, and only finding and doing all the needful actions will end this and prepare us for the rest of the month.

Week Two: 10 - 5 to 10 - 11



The Devil (Upright)

The Devil card in this deck shows us "Loki's Everlasting Punishment." A punishment well deserved because of his first causing the innocent death of Balder and then his refusal to shed a single tear for him, thus refusing to help gain Balder's release from Hel.

Monthly Tarot Reading

Loki was taken to the underworld and chained to a rock with unbreakable chains. Skadi placed a large snake which dripped ice cold poison on to Loki's face for eternity. Sigyn, Loki's wife, sits everyday, all day and night ever catching the fallings drops of poison in her dish. When she must leave to empty it the earth quakes as Loki writhes in his torment.

The **Second Week of October** shows us The Devil Card here in its **Upright Position**...and shows us as being entangled, chained as it were, to our own physical desires, and of the temptation to do a wrong to make a right. We may even be bound up in materialistic endeavors, to the exemption of spiritual matters.

A time of caution is advised for now, as we will find many needing to suppress certain actions or behaviors that may prove in the short run to be self-destructive, or even bring about a time of slavery, to either ourselves or others, after an undesired fashion.

Week Three: 10 - 12 to 10 – 18

Monthly Tarot Reading



The 3 of Swords (Reversed)

The 3 of Swords speaks of a battle or war that has caused all the warriors to be called up by the local authority. A woman, a young wife, sister, or girlfriend, is shown trying to keep the youngest of 3 men from going forth.

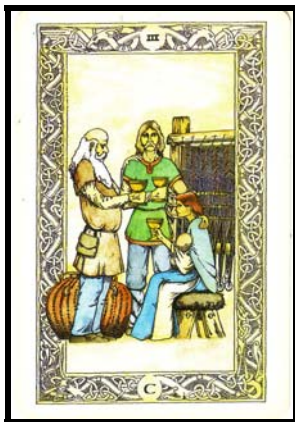
Note: The 3 of Swords, even upright – much less reversed, speaks to us of a separation, a possible loss, a period of heart break.

The **Third Week of October** shows us The 3 of Swords in its **Reversed Position**... which to us speaks the truth that any separations, upheavals in the home, or place of work will come at the worst of times and the effects will be of long duration.

All which comes this week - will come at the time we are the least prepared for them, the least likely to be able to overcome them, so prepare for the very worst you can think of and times it times 3...

Monthly Tarot Reading

Week Four: 10 - 19 to 10 - 25



The 3 of Cups (reversed)

The 3 of Cups shows a group of friends or possibly family members in heartfelt joy and celebration. Possibly, they are enjoying the arrival of good news or even the birth, as pictured, of an infant child.

The **Fourth Week of October** gives us the 3 of Cups in its **Reversed Position**... and it speaks to us of bad news coming this week and the card warns that over indulgence in something to help conceal, or hide, or even aid in the ignoring of fact or truth – possibly the news of a great disappointment or family disaster – to painful at first hearing to be believed.

The drowning ones sorrows, with drink, or even work, never solves anything, it only brings on more misery, and while it may blind one to the reality of the situation, it does so only for a short time.

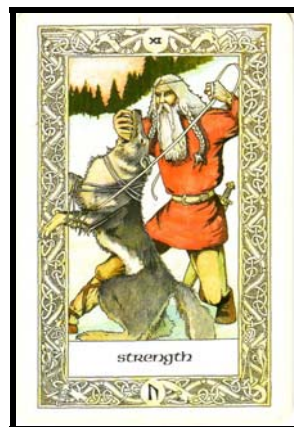
When reality does set in again - it will be even harder to accept, but accept it we

Monthly Tarot Reading

must or be diluted for a long time.

A Short Note on 3's ... It has always been my experience that when the 3 of Swords is before another 3 card...no matter the suit... and both are reversed – it triples time 3 - the effects warned of by the cards. So you see the “losses” of the 3 of Swords and the “bad news” of the 3 of Cups are tied together and brought to us by the Fates – a very bad warning indeed.

Week Five: 10 - 26 to 10 – 31



Strength (Upright)

The Strength Card shows us the “Binding of the Fenris wolf” by the God Tyr. In binding Fenris the God Tyr lost his right hand, bitten off by Fenris.

A small sacrifice made to insure the eternal safety of mankind and the Gods alike from his ravenous jaws.

The Strength Card tells us that when an act of courage is performed to overcome a great wrong in a time of difficulty - a personal sacrifice is most often called

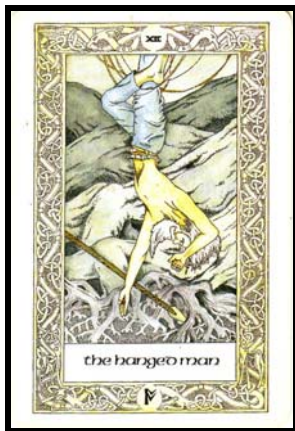
Monthly Tarot Reading

for.

The **Fifth Week of October** shows us the Strength Card in its **Upright Position**... it calls for a time of controlling of our emotions and passions. It is time to take the control over ones environment, at home and the work place, and to be mindful of our way of life.

We have the knowledge and all the strength to suppress and control our actions and thoughts at this time. We rule ourselves. We possess the self-discipline to act where action is needed this week.

The Month in Summary:



The Hanged Man (Reversed)

The Hanged Man shows us Odin hung from Yggdrasil, the World Tree, a living sacrifice, by himself to himself. Wounded, pierced by himself with his own spear, for nine days and nights he hung there, looking downwards into the, deeps of Neflhim, finally he reached

Monthly Tarot Reading

down and grasped true wisdom the Scared Runes, from the bitter chilled waters, and with a shout of triumph, he fell from the tree.

In **Summary of the Months Reading**, the Hanged man in its **Reversed Position**, shows us that we shall face continued: loss, separation, heart break - because of our fears of progress, fear of action, and the placing of too much emphasis upon our false material needs above ours and their true needs.

We shall fail to thrive this month only because - we choose not to thrive; we have chosen failure over success. We have chosen to live under gloom and not bright sunshine.

This can be changed, we can win out, succeed and not be a failure, but only if we watch and read the signs as they appear, and make the right decisions and perform the right actions when it is time to do so presents itself to us.

From the Witch's Armchair

In magic, our intention is everything. It guides our spells, our healing, divination, and meditation. On a mundane, but no less important, level our intention also governs how we behave towards others.

'Intention' means whatever we set out to do in a task, our goal. But sometimes our goal may be a bit general, like 'I want to

From the Witch's Armchair

be successful'. Spellwork with that kind of intention will not be very fruitful, as we are not giving the Universe enough information about the outcomes that we want. Similarly, our intentions around other people - things like ambition, or wanting to help, will govern how we speak to them and behave around them, and ultimately how successful we are in our endeavours.

So often, I find that what people think they want is not what they actually really need. I've had requests for spells when all that was really needed was for the person to speak to another about how they are really feeling. We do not need magic for this, although we can use magic for strength, guidance, and clarity of understanding. We can use magic for protection and healing, and to cut ties with others, but not to create those ties.

The reason we often ask for things that aren't exactly what we need is because we can only see the world from our own limited viewpoint. Our perspective is made up of our experiences, what we've been taught, and what we've concluded for ourselves. But sometimes these sources can be inadequate: someone's advice may have been incorrect, or we may have jumped to the wrong conclusion somewhere along the line.

The only way to clarify a situation is with outside help. So often, just talking through a situation with someone else

From the Witch's Armchair

helps us to see it more clearly. If we speak with an elder or with our guides, or deity, we will often be given other ways to look at the situation, or additional information we didn't have before. But we have to initiate that conversation, we have to acknowledge how we're feeling, no matter how silly or inconsequential it seems. By doing this, we honour ourselves and give ourselves the best chance to grow.

One of the biggest hurdles is how we think the other person is going to react when we describe our situation. This is the Ego speaking: that part of our mind that predicts how others are going to behave so that we can avoid difficult or painful situations. In the Craft, one of our biggest challenges is to transcend the ego, to stop it from inhibiting our actions, and work freely from our true feelings and needs. Not an easy task!

Consequently, when someone asks me for a spell, I will think carefully about why they are asking. What other more straightforward ways might there be to achieve the same outcome? What could be the potential outcomes of a spell that I give them? After all, we are accountable for how people use the tools we give them.

In the craft we are often asked for help, but we should also not hesitate to ask for help for ourselves.

Blessed be, White Sophia

Living The Wheel

Samhain

While Samhain isn't technically until November 1st, I wanted to write about it in October. We go through October celebrating the energy of Samhain as we build up to it.

Samhain is the Witch's New Year. Let's take a look at what was happening in the ancient world....

The harvest season was coming to a close. The late and last harvest was approaching. This was the last chance to gather the items that would be needed to last out the winter. It was also time to put away the stored that would be needed. While there was plenty of work to be done, there was also time to reflect and assess how the growing season went.

This was a time to measure out the harvest. How much of this item was storable, how little of that was left. What would be set aside for seed stock for the next year. These choices would be made with the assistance of hard facts. Measurable produce.

Final adjustments would be made to holding pens, barns, and stables for livestock to weather out the winter. This was a time for final preparations before the long dark.

For us, we can take this time to look at our crops from this year. Samhain is the final accounting for us. How did we meet

Living The Wheel

our goals this year? Did we finish them off? Will we need to hold some of them over to the next year? What adjustments will we need to be aware of as we set goals for the year?

First, like the ancients, we need to take some time and celebrate a successful harvest! Congratulate yourself for a job well done on the goals you have accomplished. Job well done! If you feel some are not complete, note that in your journal for possible inclusion into next year's plan.

The next thing we need to do is open ourselves. This is a time when the veil is the thinnest. We can easily reach the other side and receive messages pertaining to our future. Take some time and honor those who have passed this year. Then, take some time and listen for messages from them. Contact your guides, do they have any words of wisdom for you?

Be open to these messages. Listen for them, look for them. When you find them, note them down in your journal. Who knows how they may come to you? Be open, be receptive. Take some time to meditate. Engage in your favorite divination method. Keep your goal firm in your mind.

As we approach Samhain, reflect and assess. Once we are on the other side of Samhain, take that information

Living The Wheel

that you have received, break out your journal, and apply that to your goal sheet. Spend the time between Samhain and Yule setting up your goals so that when Yule arrives you will be prepared to have those goals blessed by the Gods.

So mote it be!

Talin

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Ing's Personal Readings

Free Monthly Tarot Reading

By: Rev. John Snodgrass, HP

Tarot Reading for: 32866-RT

Date of Reading: 2010 09 19

(This request came in too late for September Issue... and the cards were blank until tonight... very odd ...)

The Readers Question: Will I gain in monies in (September) 2010?



Page of Cups



The Chariot



**Death
(Reversed)**

Ing's Personal Readings

CARD ONE: The Page of Cups

(Upright): This is the proverbial "daydream kid." Head in the clouds, rarely paying attention, great imagination, and love telling, or hearing, stories. Most often overly sensitive; very kind and sweet, will bring you a flower out of the blue, try to rescue abandoned animals even at the risk of their own life, even to taking very seriously the death of the smallest pet. When sad, they're the saddest person you ever saw; when happy, they're positively ecstatic.

CARD TWO: the Chariot (Upright):

The chariot is one of the most complex cards to define. On its most basic level, it implies war, a struggle, and an eventual, hard-won victory - either over enemies, obstacles, nature, the beasts inside you, or to just get what you want. The chariot is also about motion - yet it is often shown as stationary. A union of opposites, like the black and white steeds. They pull in different directions, but must be made to go together in the same direction.

Three main items needed to work with this card are: "control" - over opposing emotions, wants, needs, people, or circumstances; to bring them together and give them a single direction - your direction - "confidence" is needed, and "motivation" to make it all work for every one's benefit.

Ing's Personal Readings

CARD THREE: Death (Reversed): Yes, the Death card can signal a death in the right circumstances (a question about a very sick or an elder relative, for example), but unlike in the movies, the Death card is far more likely to signal a much needed transformation, passage, or change.

So any reversal here could come to mean that something does not come to an end, or it does not die; but about a "time of grief or of thoughtful reflection" on the past - that then leads to a re-birth.

The SUMMARY: While it is true you have your dreams and day-dreams of what would be the perfect world for you and others...it is a pipe-dream....look to the reality of the whole...you have talent, you have desire, you even have the willingness to do what has to be done....but your dreams are what is holding you back.... Let them die for now...do what must be done in the real world...the world we all live in...and then let your dreams be re-born within a context of real world life and knowledge...and all will work out to your betterment over time....go for the long haul solution not the quick fix...

Ing's Personal Readings

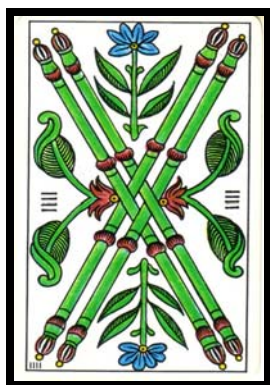
Tarot Reading for: 77229-JAZ

Date of Reading:

The Readers Question: Will I be successful in finding a job quickly or should I persist with my current business?



7 of Cups



**4 of Wands
(Reversed)**



**8 of Cups
(Reversed)**

Note: the Suit of Cups: Represents the emotions and best known for representing one's love life and its emotional extremes, elation, depression or bliss, and the negatives that come

Ing's Personal Readings

with these emotions, like over-indulgence in food, drink, drugs.

CARD ONE: the 7 of Cups (Upright):

Seven cups floating on a cloud, each with something enticing within, this is the "can't make up my mind" card. Yet, you, the chooser, are not in control - you are in the power of the choices.

And there is one other problem: not all of the choices may be as good as they look. This is a "card of illusions," hidden deceptions. Making a hasty decision, therefore, could be as bad as being unable to make any decision at all.

CARD TWO: the 4 of Wands

(Reversed): Often called "the marriage card," this is the card of foundations laid and ready to be built upon.

Reversed would indicate a blockage of this energy - the foundation is not ready - it suggests that there might be quicksand underneath rather than solid stone.

CARD THREE: the 8 of Cups

(Reversed): The Eight of Cups is the "follow your dream card," and in the upright, the person leaves what is comfortable and established to follow their dreams - however remote or improbable.

Reverse this and our dreamer walks away from his dreams to return home and worse still, as the cups are inverted, home isn't comfortable anymore.

Ing's Personal Readings

A very sad and painful card, someone has given up their dearest dream as being impossible, and surrendered to a miserable reality – their one chance at happiness is gone... for now....

The SUMMARY: At the edge of the old world maps were signs saying “here there be dragons” ... today there are still areas like this in our lives...areas of contentment and areas of worry and fear... You are close to if not in the midst of one of these areas right now.... And the choices of direction to go are not clear, not even open for debate...this choice of which way for you to go is not in your hands...others around you will make the decisions – based on decisions you made in the past (...year...) - and these will effect you and yours ... after these choices are made.... A time of refreshment will follow.... New choices will arrive make these with more care than usual...

Ing's Personal Readings

Tarot Reading for: 62702-SEM

Date of Reading: 2010 09 19

The Readers Question: I want to know if I am on the right path, where do I go from here.



**Knight of Swords Knight of Wands
(Reversed)**



**The World
(Reversed)**

NOTE: the Knights: Knights or Princes are the spirit of the teenager, all about changes, and the fact that they are never still. As the Pages / Princesses suggest messages; so the Knights / Princes suggest movement or travel.

Ing's Personal Readings

Although the Knights are usually portrayed as male, they can in fact stand for either males or females...

CARD ONE: the Knight of Swords

(Upright): This young person is too talkative, most likely to engage in any and all forms of debate, he questions his teachers, he can play the devil's advocate and argue just for the sake of arguing. A sharp mind and sharp tongue can, in the negative, lead to the spreading of gossip or nasty rumors just to see what will happen.

CARD TWO: the Knight of Wands

(Reversed): Upright, a warm-hearted, genuinely friendly person who loves to lead and win battles, a person with irresistible charm, open and honest, the natural center of attention and the one in control.

Reverse this, and we get a bully who wants to win at any cost. This is also the person who will steal the spotlight away if they can - they let no one upstage them – in fact a nightmare.

CARD THREE: The World (Reversed):

The World, or Universe, is all about achievement, mastery, completion, and the feeling of being welcome anywhere you go. It is a card of travel, not travelling to travel - but travelling to learn to dispense knowledge thus gained.

Reversed, obviously, the opposite of a

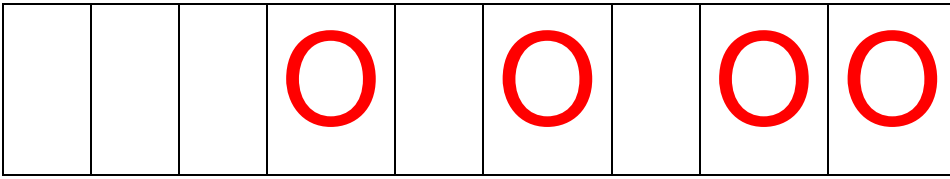
Ing's Personal Readings

travelling card would be staying at home - a person who can't venture from their comfort zone. Something is stopping a person from completing what they have started.

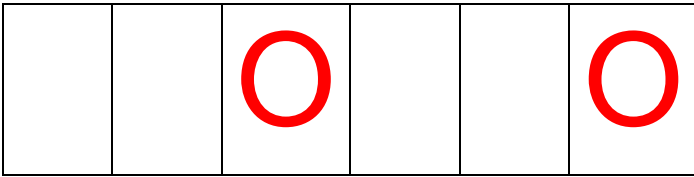
The SUMMARY: You have a sharp mind and a quick wit ... use them to your best advantage... you are on the right path, and you know it, just not as far along that path as you may think you are...relax and flow along... learn and learn to put to use all that you have and are being given....you will know the right time and spot to speed up and the right place to exit the road...but beware ... not all that is shown or offered is for you...but take and learn it all as the one it is intended for will show up eventually and seek from you its needed knowledge....

October Pagan Scrabble

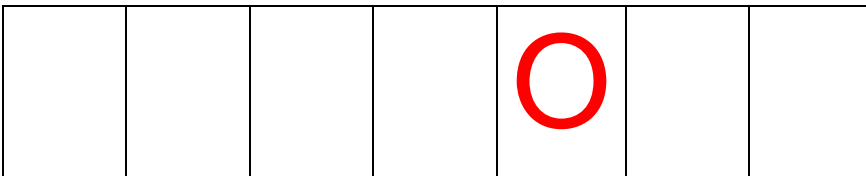
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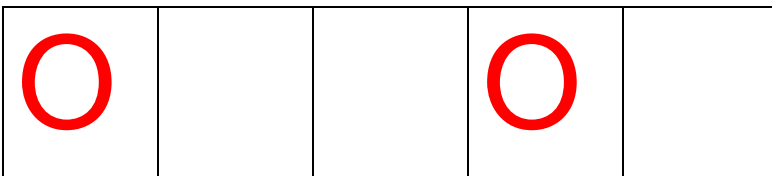
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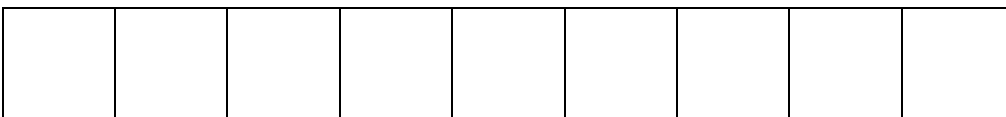
UCESMTO



YFARI



What is usually called the flower is actually a head (formally composite flower) of numerous florets (small flowers) crowded together. The outer florets are the sterile ray florets and can be yellow, maroon, orange, or other colors. The florets inside the circular head are called disc florets, which mature into seeds.



October Word Find

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Word Find

Bones

Boo

Candy

Eerie

Ghoul

Goblin

Graveyard

Halloween

Haunted house

Jack-o-lantern

Mask

October

Pumpkins

Scared

Shadows

Skeleton

Skull

Spider

Spooky

Treat

Trick

Vampire

Wig

Witch

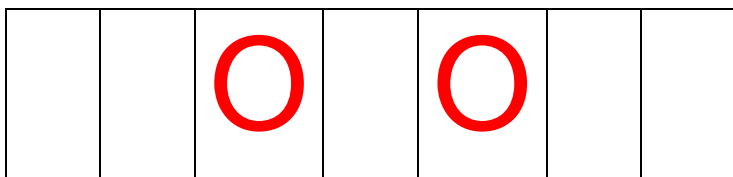
Werewolf

October Sudoku Puzzle

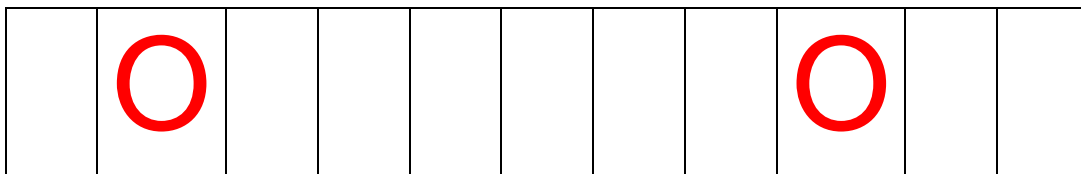
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| | | | | | | 2 | | |

September Pagan Scrabble Answers

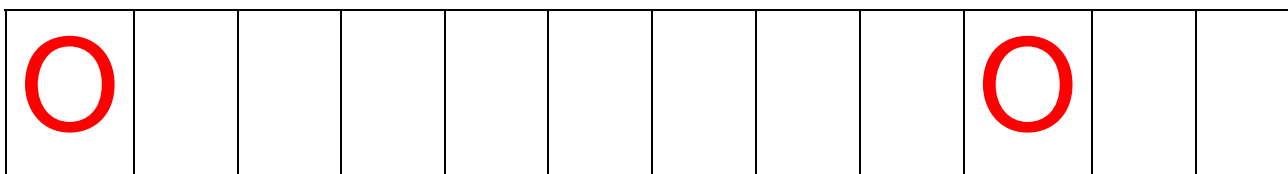
SVEHRAT HARVEST



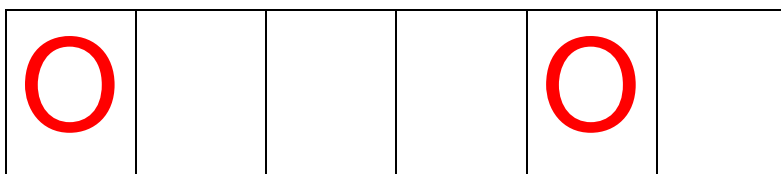
FOXUNILQLEA FALL EQUINOX (2 WORDS)



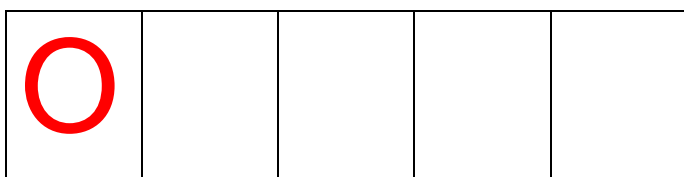
SRKAWTCBEKE WICKER BASKET (2 WORDS)



TCCLEI CELT IC



OAMNB MABON



It was believed the sun or the corn spirit was trapped in the corn and needed to be set free. This effigy was usually burned in celebration of the harvest and the ashes would be spread on the fields. What was it that they burned a -----?



September Pagan Word Find

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | I | C | K | E | R | M | A | N | E | P | T | U | N | E | A | R | T | H | Q | U | A | K | E |
| Q | D | E | A | Q | V | A | Z | A | Q | W | H | X | Z | C | V | N | K | L | O | B | Z | X | R |
| S | T | L | C | U | B | R | E | D | E | W | E | V | B | B | T | Y | U | I | O | P | M | N | E |
| H | M | T | B | I | N | S | K | L | O | B | M | U | N | C | A | Q | Q | C | G | G | I | I | S |
| U | Q | I | M | N | E | X | Z | C | V | N | I | B | B | T | Y | P | S | V | X | X | G | A | H |
| V | O | C | T | O | B | E | R | R | I | E | S | T | O | N | E | H | E | N | G | E | | A | K |
| B | A | S | W | X | V | B | B | T | Y | U | I | O | P | M | N | Q | L | U | J | M | V | V | I |
| N | K | U | N | C | A | H | O | R | O | S | C | O | P | E | S | Z | E | A | S | S | T | Q | G |
| E | K | U | N | C | A | O | U | I | O | P | M | N | Q | P | Z | D | N | X | X | G | Q | Q | A |
| M | I | C | H | A | E | L | I | L | T | H | A | A | Z | O | C | E | E | S | T | H | S | T | L |
| Q | N | Q | O | T | Z | L | C | O | I | U | B | X | C | N | V | R | B | T | Y | E | H | X | Q |
| S | G | S | Y | V | N | Y | N | S | T | Y | B | V | V | A | B | R | U | I | O | S | U | O | S |
| H | W | H | X | V | O | K | U | N | C | A | U | E | B | Z | X | Y | X | X | G | T | V | C | H |
| U | Y | U | F | R | U | I | T | R | B | T | Y | N | N | S | T | Y | B | T | Y | I | S | H | U |
| V | D | V | Z | O | O | N | X | X | G | Q | Q | U | E | M | I | N | E | R | V | A | H | I | V |
| B | I | B | X | V | E | G | T | A | B | L | E | S | O | O | Z | N | M | C | C | V | U | Q | B |
| N | O | N | C | O | N | A | Z | C | A | Q | Q | W | O | R | C | O | I | U | B | B | R | U | N |
| E | N | E | V | R | E | L | W | W | F | T | B | O | P | R | V | K | D | F | I | R | R | E | E |
| O | Z | S | D | T | O | A | S | T | R | O | L | O | G | I | C | A | L | C | H | A | R | T | O |
| O | X | X | G | E | O | X | B | B | U | N | C | A | U | G | B | L | S | T | B | N | G | Z | O |
| G | C | Q | W | X | G | I | U | N | C | A | P | M | N | H | C | I | T | X | C | W | H | A | G |
| X | V | O | T | Z | X | E | K | L | O | B | Z | V | N | A | V | B | Y | N | V | E | J | L | X |
| N | B | I | Y | V | N | S | A | B | R | I | N | A | B | N | K | L | O | B | Z | N | A | N | N |

September Sudoku Puzzle Answers

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 9 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 |



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