



# EARTHTIDES PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

LIVING IN MAINE, CELEBRATING THE EARTH

Beltane 2000

## About the EarthTides Pagan Network

The Maine Pagan community is diverse, independent and geographically distant. We worship in groups or alone, but sometimes need contact and a shared forum to express our ideas and concerns for this community.

The EarthTides Pagan Network was established in 1989 as a support resource for Maine Pagans. All solitaires and groups are welcome to join. Some may choose simply to receive this newsletter. Those who wish to be listed among our contacts or vote on organizational matters must sign our Standards.

A subscription to this newsletter is available for a suggested donation of \$11 per year. Single copies may be obtained by sending a \$1.50 donation and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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<http://www.mix-net.net/~annmarie/earthtides>

## Alternative Religions' Night Out

By StarCat

~~This March, as spring was dawning, I had the~~ privilege of attending an excellent panel discussion on paganism. Sponsored by the USM Pagan Students Association, the discussion was part of USM's "Religion and the Human Experience" series. It was titled "The Faces of New England's Non-Mainstream Religions."

The six panelists were all very knowledgeable and eloquent spokespersons for their traditions. Let me introduce them to you:

Andras Corban Arthen, a self-described "Scottish witch and pagan priest," is the director of the Earth Spirit Community in Western Massachusetts, founded in 1980 (see [www.earthspirit.com](http://www.earthspirit.com) for more details). He was taught by members of a family tradition of Scottish witches.

Marilyn Pukkila, our own EarthTides solitary representative, is a Quaker witch practicing the Reclaiming tradition. She described the similarities between Wicca and the Quaker religion: a belief in nonviolence and Divine immanence, taking personal responsibility, a non-hierarchical structure, and a commitment to social activism.

Kay Gardner, a Dianic Wiccan initiated by Z. Budapest, is a musician, ordained clergywoman, and member of the Fellowship of Isis based in Ireland. She is the founder of Iseum Musicum, a three-year school for priestesses in the Bangor area.

Jennifer Moore, Wiccan high priestess and Christian mystic, is an ordained clergywoman and sacred tattoo artist. She follows a Christianity not informed by dogma or the church but by the teachings and life of Christ. Jennifer has an "affinity to being a facilitator to others, spiritual experiences," and teaches that Divinity is within all of us. Creating sacred art to

*See PANEL, Page 5*

# NETWORKING

The people and groups listed here are mentioned because they have done two things: They have volunteered to serve as points of contact for those seeking Pagan community, and they have signed the EPN Standards, which pledges them to follow a set of basic rules of ethical conduct. Any person or group may be listed here by subscribing to this newsletter and agreeing to those Standards; please contact EPN to arrange such a listing.

EPN has no interest in serving as the "Pagan police," and explicitly supports the autonomy of each person and group in matters of faith, belief and worship. The Maine Pagan community encompasses a wide variety of people and practices, and seekers are cautioned that any person or activity that makes you uncomfortable is probably wrong for you.

Groups and individuals who seek networking opportunities but are reluctant to sign the Standards are encouraged to take advantage of our advertising columns.

## AUGUSTA AREA

**Bill and Johanna Chellis.** Pantheists working with the circle, wheel and labyrinth. 685-3860

**Immanent Grove.** A fellowship of practicing Pagans of all persuasions. Members pursue their own personal relationships with the Gods. We're interested in corresponding with experienced Pagans who would like to work with us. *Harper/Arwen, Immanent Grove, P.O. Box 233, Readfield, ME 04355*

**Wahtonah Grove.** A Pagan Circle honoring a variety of traditions, dedicated to seeking knowledge and understanding, as well as to good friendship. *Aree, tsiganka@prodigy.net*

## OXFORD HILLS AREA

**Khyrohn Ni Mara.** Eclectic Wiccan focusing on healing through herbs and drumming. RR1 Box 2606, N. Waterford, ME 04267. 583-4215.

## PORTLAND/YORK COUNTY

**Temple of Brigantia.** Wiccan group honoring the Goddesses and Gods of Britain and Rome. Offering open Full Moon rituals and accepting selected candidates for apprenticeship. *Jane/Cassius, 646-6634 or temple@janeraeburn.com*

## WATERVILLE AREA

**MoonGoddess.** Eclectic Wicca and Women's Spirituality; area networking online. *Mmmoongoddess@yahoo.com or 873-0528.*

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

**Deaf Pagans.** My youngest daughter is deaf, and I would love to meet deaf adults who are Pagan and other Pagan parents of deaf children. *Ede, 353-6202 (V/TTY) or ede@clinic.net*

**PanCraft.** Pagan artists, musicians and others beloved of the Muses get together to share their work and honor the Deities who inspire them. *Harper and Arwen, P.O. Box 233, Readfield, ME 04355*

## ONLINE RESOURCES

EPN Web site, <http://www.mix-net.net/~annmarie/earthtides>

Maine Pagan Resource Page, <http://www.janeraeburn.com/maine>

Maine Pagan Mailing List, to join send blank e-mail to [mepagan-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:mepagan-subscribe@egroups.com)

EPN Mailing List (open to newsletter subscribers only), to join send blank e-mail to [earthtides-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:earthtides-subscribe@egroups.com)

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Printing: Bradford Copy Center

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# CALENDAR

*As a service to the Pagan community, we seek to list as many events as possible that would be of interest to Maine Pagans. You need not be a member of EPN, or even a subscriber to this newsletter, to list an event here. All we ask is that events be non-profit -- that is, that any fees for participating not exceed the reasonable cost of putting on the event -- and submitted to us by e-mail or post by the publication deadline. (Those planning for-profit events are welcome to avail themselves of our very affordable advertising opportunities.)*

*We make no claim as to the value or safety of any of these events, and caution our readers to rely on their own best judgment when assessing any situation, particularly those involving strangers. That said, we also encourage you to participate in as wide a spectrum of the Pagan community as you can, both for your own enjoyment and because our community needs your positive energy and good fellowship*

## APRIL

18 Tuesday

Full Moon in Libra, 12:41 p.m.

21 Friday

Maine Earth Day, Pagan Student Association at the University of Southern Maine will sponsor a booth with children's activities, seed planting and face painting, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Portland Campus Center. Contact Julie 727-5844 or [anubis@mix-net.net](mailto:anubis@mix-net.net).

26 Wednesday

Last Quarter Moon in Aquarius, 2:30 p.m.

28-30 Friday-Sunday

Spring Thing, EPN-sponsored weekend retreat in midcoast Maine. For more information, see elsewhere in this newsletter.

28 Friday

Third Annual Maypole Dance and Picnic, Runnals Hill, Waterville, sponsored by CIRCLE, Colby's Pagan/Buddhist/whatever group. For information, e-mail Jen at [j\\_multar@colby.edu](mailto:j_multar@colby.edu).

30 Sunday

Beltane at Popham Beach, potluck beach party with ritual by Fred and Leigh. Folks will gather around 10 or 10:30 a.m. Pagan Standard Time. Maypole, music, and more.

## MAY

1 Monday Beltane

3 Wednesday

New Moon in Taurus, 11:12 p.m.

Open New Moon Celebration, Hollis.

Sponsored by the Iseum of Hidden Mysteries. Arrival time 7:15 p.m., ritual at 8 with a potluck to follow. FMI and directions, 727-5844 or [anubis@mix-net.net](mailto:anubis@mix-net.net).

5 Friday

Initiations and Initiatory Rites, facilitated discussion at Apple Valley Books, 37 Main St., Winthrop, 7 p.m. FMI contact [mrpukkil@coby.edu](mailto:mrpukkil@coby.edu), or call 377-3967.

7 Sunday

Portland Coffee Talk and Beltane celebration, noon to 4 p.m., Portland Campus Center, University of Southern Maine. Maypole, potluck, song, drumming, more. Contact Julie 727-5844 or [anubis@mix-net.net](mailto:anubis@mix-net.net).

10 Wednesday

First Quarter Moon in Leo, 3 p.m.

18 Thursday

Full Moon in Scorpio, 2:34 a.m.

26 Friday

Last Quarter Moon in Aquarius, 6:55 a.m.

## JUNE

2 Friday

Open New Moon Celebration, Iseum of Hidden Mysteries, Hollis. Egyptian Wiccan ritual followed by potluck. Arrival time 7:15 p.m., ritual at 8 with a potluck to follow. Contact Wren or Seshet at [anubis@mix-net.net](mailto:anubis@mix-net.net) or 727-5844.

New Moon in Gemini, 7:14 a.m.

3 Saturday

Herb Fest, sponsored by Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association, MOFGA fairgrounds, Unity. \$5. Classes, herb walks, vendors, herbal food, children's tent, music at lunchtime.

8 Thursday

First Quarter Moon in Gemini, 10:29 p.m.

16 Friday

Full Moon in Sagittarius, 5:27 p.m.

17 Saturday

Open Full Moon Ritual, Temple of Brigantia, Wells. The tradition returns! Wiccan circle honors Celto-Roman gods. Potluck supper to follow. For information or directions call 646-6634 or e-mail [temple@janeraeburn.com](mailto:temple@janeraeburn.com).

18 Sunday

Celebrating the Summer King at Litha, sponsored by Immanent Grove, 2 p.m., Ironwood Hollow in central Maine. Please bring ribbons or flowers to tie on to the Summer King, and food to share. Persons under 18 are welcome with a custodial parent. Bug repellent of your choice suggested.

20 Tuesday

Summer Solstice, 8:48 p.m.

24 Saturday

Last Quarter Moon in Pisces, 8 p.m.

30 Friday

Workshop on Magick and Song. If you enjoy music and would like to explore its uses in ritual and magick, please join us! FMI, contact [mrpukkil@colby.edu](mailto:mrpukkil@colby.edu), or call the bookstore at 377-3967.

# Just Do It

By Jane Raeburn

OWWW! The pain in my back had been growing steadily worse for three days. A visit to my doctor (a Goddess-like osteopath) promised some hope, but for today I was barely capable of getting dressed.

The pain wasn't just physical. I'd just started a new job, one where I actually *like* going to work, and was unhappy about missing it. And my wedding was three weeks away! Would my back heal in time for me to enjoy the ceremony and the honeymoon?

I needed something to do, to distract my mind from pain and worry. Like lots of Pagans, I have a house full of books. Of course, I couldn't reach the bottom shelves, but surely there'd be something available that wouldn't overtax my brain.

Aha! "**Teen Witch**" by Silver RavenWolf. That ought to be good for a laugh. I hated the cover, with its seeming implication that Witchcraft is only for cute young things, especially miniskirt-wearing girls. I'd heard a lot from other adult Pagans who hated it, and I'd heard from a few teens who loved it. Now was my chance to find out for myself.

I started reading. Now, no book is perfect, and it's only reasonable that I, well into my 30s, should be less than enchanted with a book aimed at people half my age. So I found some things to disagree with. I found several things I would have done differently, such as the moments where RavenWolf's maternal instinct takes over and she lectures her young readers instead of encouraging them to find out information for themselves.

But one thing I thought she did very well. She spends a good deal of time encouraging kids to DO rituals and spells instead of just reading, and takes a few pages to overcome the most common personal obstacles. As most of us know, experience breeds skill, and there is no substitute.

And ... well, ever have one of those whack-yourself-upside-the-head moments, when you realize you've been missing the

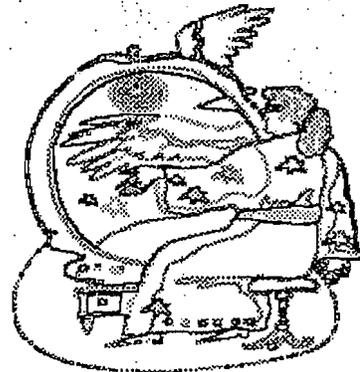


most obvious thing of all? I'd done what I could for my ailing back in the physical world. Now it was time to do magic, to ask the Gods to help me heal.

It wasn't one of my most spectacular rituals: The tools were whatever I could reach. The circle was small, because I couldn't move any furniture. I couldn't dance to raise energy, so I walked. But I offered my sincere intent and the best energy I could summon through prayer and magic.

Within an hour, the pain eased up a little. I started to feel better. My emotions cleared as I realized I wouldn't be crippled for life.

So, though I never thought I'd hear myself saying this: Thanks, Silver, for giving me the nudge I needed. And thanks also to Whoever put the book within my reach.



## Panel Discussion

From page 1

honor all facets of the Divine is important to her practice.

Bill Dwinells is an Asatruar and member of the Raven Kindred North in Massachusetts. The Asatru worship Norse gods, and their tradition has its roots in ancient Scandinavia. It is based on seeking personal individual excellence in order to better support your community. He debunked the Viking stereotype, saying "it's great to be a big strong guy, but it means nothing if you have no place to go home to."

Sarah Winter is a Hellenistic reconstructionist, mask maker, and founder of the Artists of Dionysus, an organization aimed at creating art in the service of the gods. She is also a member of Kin of the Old Gods coven in Portland. Sarah describes herself as a "ritualist," and explained that through direct experience with the gods, she feels a "constant process of deepening."

The discussion was lively and fun. While the different viewpoints of the panelists on some issues were evident, they were handled with respect. A good-sized audience, including many Pagans, posed a wide range of questions. There were some questions about particular deities and details on pagan history, but many of the questions were more general.

Even the broad questions were addressed in what was often a personal context by the panelists, as you might expect from those who believe that one's spirituality is self-directed. Asked to define "religion," three of the panelists described why they prefer the term "spirituality." Jennifer Moore discussed religion as a system of spiritual discipline, and said that although the system one uses is somewhat arbitrary, the discipline itself brings rewards.

In response to a question about the nature of faith, Kay Gardner replied, "Faith, to me, is something you believe in even though you have no proof, and there is plenty of proof." An audience member asked about the panelists' conception of the Divine. Andras responded that to him it was "a deep, visceral, soul-felt experience," impossible to describe with words. He added that paganism is the "only religion on the planet whose original founding teachers are still present," referring to the rocks, trees, waters, animals, wind, the Earth itself.

The panelists were asked about their experience of a defining, "epiphany moment." Marilyn's was "discovering, as a woman, that I too was made in the Divine image." Kay, as a musician, was inspired to discover that ancient women musicians were priestesses of the Goddess. Bill admitted he hadn't had that moment yet, which earned sympathetic laughter from the audience. He went on to describe his understanding of the Web of Wyrd, the patterns of karma in your life. He said it simultaneously brought him "the darkest terror" and was "most liberating" to realize that he's responsible for everything that happens in his life.

A question was raised about what types of community service the panelists were involved in. Most of them are environmentally active, and also work to educate the public about what paganism is. Marilyn discussed EarthTides, and the work of helping Pagans network with each other. Others mentioned bringing art to the community, volunteering at soup kitchens and blood drives, and the importance of living a life that is ethical and socially responsible. The Pagan Student Association's mission to promote tolerance and understanding in the religious

See PANEL, next page



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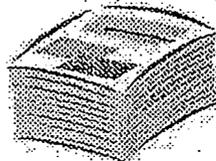
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PANEL, from previous page  
community at USM was also discussed.

The final question was "What are the biggest challenges now facing the Neo-Pagan community?" Andras' reply was that we need to focus on creating Pagan culture, and promoting and living Pagan values in a mainstream culture that is mostly Christian-oriented. Marilyn felt our challenge lay in educating the larger community about Paganism without feeling we have to present a united front. She said we shouldn't be afraid of our differences. As a Dianic Wiccan, Kay said that an important challenge is to let men know they're not excluded from the focus on the feminine divine. Jennifer spoke of ensuring that our teachers and

clergy are prepared for the influx of interest in pagan religions, and also of sustaining ourselves financially. Sarah said the challenge for the Pagan community is to make our practice part of our daily lives, Bill said the Asatru have not been considered part of "mainstream Neo-Paganism" until recently, so their challenge is "to find our place in the Pagan community."

This panel discussion was stimulating, entertaining and inspiring. The panelists and the questions were excellent, and the debate was lively but civil. I send many thanks to the Pagan Student Association for it, and look forward to more such events.

## STIRRINGS

Maine Pagan groups of any kind –religious, artistic, political, social – are invited to keep the community up to date on their activities in this section. Tell us about coffee-talk topics, rituals, festivals, public-service projects, rites of passage and anything else you'd like us to know about! Send your news to [earthides@celticweb.com](mailto:earthides@celticweb.com) or EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343.

## FULL MOON CIRCLE FORMING

Are you a woman who is interested in becoming part of a monthly tradition of holding a woman's full moon circle together? I have created a list in which we can discuss this topic further, and hopefully it will remain as a "home base" even after our community is formed. You may join by sending an e-mail to [freedomwomancircle-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:freedomwomancircle-subscribe@egroups.com) or for more information contact Dawnella [nomar@northlandlink.com](mailto:nomar@northlandlink.com).



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## About This Newsletter

This newsletter comes out eight times a year, around the Sabbats. Literary, poetic and artistic contributions are welcome, as well as letters and opinion pieces.

Please keep submissions to no more than two pages, double-spaced. Submissions sent via disk or e-mail to [earthtides@celticweb.com](mailto:earthtides@celticweb.com) are preferred. Articles are edited for spelling, grammar and to fit available space.

Subscribers' names, addresses and other personal information are kept confidential except to other network members. EPN will aid in establishing contact between individuals if asked to do so, but accepts no legal responsibility for the results.

The deadline for the Summer Solstice issue is Monday, May 29, 2000.

## Publications of Interest

**Di Veteres: Kin of the Old Gods**  
Newsletter, 497 Cumberland Ave., Apt. 5,  
Portland, ME 04101

Maine Well-Being, Portland. Distributed free in many areas.

**Horns and Crescent**, P.O. Box 540622,  
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**Our Pagan Times**, New Moon New York,  
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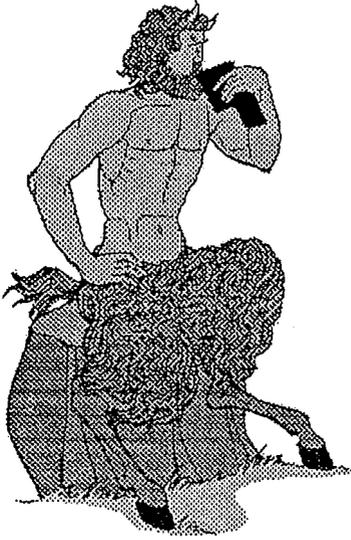
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## BELTANE POEM

By Leigh

*In dappled enchantment  
Green eyes and leaves  
Dance merrily over skin  
and limbs  
Trembling with the rush of  
Sap and blood.*

*Entwined within the trees embrace  
With skin the color*

---

*Of wood  
and nipples  
Knots of passion  
Spurring to ecstasy.*

*Our essence seeps  
Into the cracks  
Between bark  
and pulp  
While droplets of sap  
Drip from leaves.*

---

## BE A PART OF EPN

Stay connected with the community! Annual subscription is \$11.00 for 8 issues of this newsletter. (Full membership, which includes voting privileges and festival discounts, requires signing our Standards; please contact us to obtain a copy.)

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# A TEEN WITCH STORY

By Michelle

Last night me and my BEST friend went on a WONDERFUL walk (which I haven't done in a long time, considering the snow). I didn't really want her knowing about me studying witchcraft, just a fear I had of her getting mad at me.

She wanted to watch this witch movie and my Dad and brother asked what we were watching, and they made fun of me cause I'm all into the whole witch thing (but I didn't really want to watch the movie, she did). And she thought they were joking, she also thought that Witches were like evil and gothic.

I waited until we went on the walk to tell her because we were alone, had lots of time, and I wanted to set the record straight with her. After telling her what I know about what is true and what is not, she told me about how when she was young she and 4 other friends did things similar to the Craft, only one of her friends went all freaky and went to cemeteries to summon spirits' energies into her and stuff like that.

Anyway, my point is because I told her, and straightened everything out, I felt better, a lot better. She respects me for choosing a path, she can tell I am happier, she told me things she didn't tell me before...

## Advertising in EPNN

Sell your craft products or unwanted items, let the world know about your business, take out a personal ad or seek Pagan contacts (for those not listed on the Networking page) through our **Unclassified Ads**.

Cost is \$1 for 15 words, \$1 extra for each successive 15 words or portion thereof. (Thus, a 16-word ad and a 30-word ad each cost \$2.) Send to EPN, P.O. Box 64, E. Winthrop, ME 04343.

**Business-card ads** are \$5 per issue, or \$35 per year including a subscription to the newsletter. Larger ad sizes are available; please write to us at the address above or e-mail [earthtides@celticweb.com](mailto:earthtides@celticweb.com).

## IN THE PRESENCE

By Satsekhmet

*I sing of the Goddess,  
She of the flashing eyes and slashing claws.  
Protected by Her ferocity and strength,  
yet all that I am stands challenged under Her steady gaze  
that says, "You are my child."  
How much more I should do! How much more I should be!*

*I who was gifted with the strength of the Goddess,  
She of the soft, liquid eyes and motherly breast.  
Nurtured by Her love and support,  
I struggle and grow in body, mind and spirit.  
Surviving my failures and facing success without fear.  
How I love You, my Goddess! And I will learn to love myself...*

*I who was born to share in the joy of the Goddess,  
She of the lithe, graceful form and melodious voice.  
Enraptured by Her song and magic,  
I dance through the universe with an open and enchanted heart,  
knowing that I have gifts to share, and to receive.  
Excited by what I can do... and all that I can become.*

# WARNING

By Cailleach, © 1998

*Stay away from me May Eve*

*Tides woman passion sent  
of power and poetry  
hunting wild in your staid blood  
devouring realities  
made out of mewling porridge  
cooling on hearths where swords once  
waited to abort or live  
riding roughshod over  
simple dignity and nice  
thoughts and kind intent greasing  
skids of social intercourse  
singing in silent caverns  
memory you dare not rouse  
your weapons raised you shall not  
loose again by will or choosing*

*leaping on you unwary  
vines over defended walls  
creeping into your bowels  
tightening grasps on courage*

*Gates cut by siren calling  
thrumming pulsing beating fear  
heart and body and soul breath  
waves of need rising through legs  
gone rigid with quick purpose  
fleshrod rampant entering  
loam soft nest of coiling snakes  
woven together like thatch straw  
ephemeral, stout, rhythmic  
Fresh seed offered as payment  
you shall not return from this  
journey into the world where  
no corn dolly is sacrificed  
and vows are for lying to  
yourself and your fey lovers.*

*And who will claim your very soul?*



# SPRING THING

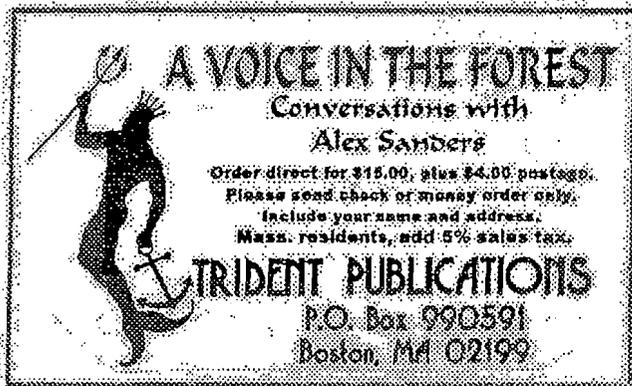
EPN is pleased to announce the third annual Spring Thing Pagan Retreat, which will be held at the same location on the coast, from 5 p.m. on Friday, April 21, through 4 p.m. Sunday, April 23. A Beltane ritual, outdoor fun, bardic circle, games, and workshops will be scheduled, plus lots of time to just relax with fellow Pagans. EPN's Council will hold a brief meeting.

Each paid participant 11 or older will have a meal assignment. Children 10 and under are not guaranteed a bed, so plan on bringing a sleeping bag/mat or sharing a bed.

Don't wait too long; space is limited to 25 registrants 11 and older, with brave tenters being additional. Send the accompanying form with payment to EPN, P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME, 04343.

Confirmation, directions and meal assignments will be sent by e-mail unless otherwise requested.

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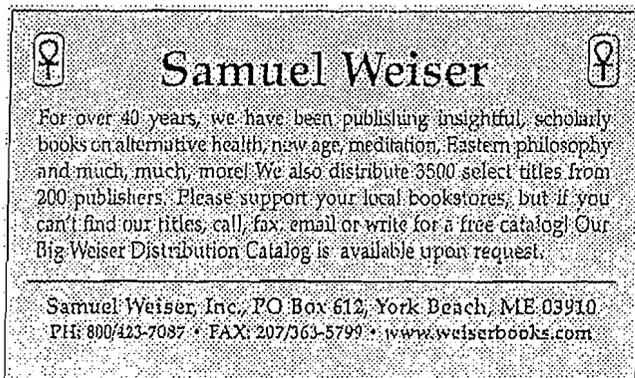
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