



EARTH TIDES

PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

PAGAN PRIDE STATEWIDE! IMBOLC 1999 \$1.50

ABOUT EARTH TIDES PAGAN NETWORK

The Maine Pagan community is diverse, independent and geographically distant. We worship in existing groups or as solitaries, but feel a need for contact and a shared forum to express opinions and concerns over issues bearing on the Pagan Community in general. The EarthTides Pagan Network was established in 1989 as a support resource for Maine Pagans

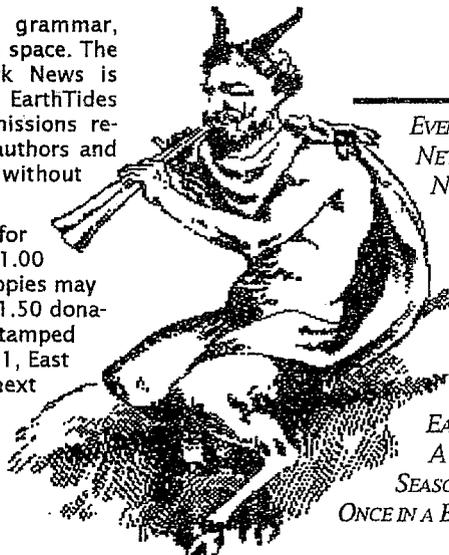
The EPN keeps names, addresses and phone numbers confidential except to other network members. Direct consultation with a custodial parent is required when individuals under 18 years of age attend gatherings or study with members. The EPN will aid in establishing contacts between individuals if asked to do so, but accepts no legal responsibility for the results.

This newsletter comes out eight times per 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, typed and double spaced. Submissions on disc or by e-mail to mugwert@ime.net are preferred

Articles are edited for grammar, spelling and to fit available space. The EarthTides Pagan Network News is copyrighted 1999 by The EarthTides Pagan Network. All submissions remain the property of the authors and may not be reproduced without their permission.

Memberships are available for a suggested donation of \$11.00 US funds per year. Single copies may be obtained by sending a \$1.50 donation and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to EPN, PO Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343. The next EPNN will come out at Eostar. We hope to hear from more of you before then.

Blessed Be!

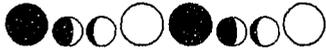


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E.P.N. P.O. Box 161, EAST WINTHROP. ME 04343

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



EVENTS CALENDAR



The calendar section is a service to our members. It is intended for events that are either free or have a nominal donation. Several of these places have more extensive workshops; please call them for information. Support our supporters!

Jan. 30 **EarthTides Pagan Network Annual Meeting.**
Please see the announcement on page 5

Jan. 31 **Full Old Moon** 11:06 AM

Feb. 1 **IMBOLC**

Feb. 4 7:00 PM **Wicca 101** Class at Silo 7 Bookstore in Bangor. For information call Silo 7 942-5590 or Mugwort 848-2850.

Feb. 7 Portland area **Pagan Coffee House.** held at USM. email rhotal61@maine.edu or call 828-2032 for more information.

Feb. 11 6-9 PM **Rhythm Circle** Drummers, Dancers, Listeners. All are welcome. Bring drums, percussion and other rhythm instruments, and a cushion to sit on. Drinks provided. First Universalist Church, Elm and Pleasant Streets, Auburn Free. For more info, contact Lorelei at 782-8704 or e-mail lorelei@exploremaine.com

Feb. 14 Augusta area **Pagan Coffee House** 1:00 PM
Bring a mug and pot luck snack to share. For more information call 377-3967.

Feb. 16 **New Moon** 1:39 AM

Feb 18 7:00 PM **Wicca 101** Class at Silo 7 Bookstore. See Feb. 4 for details.

Feb. 20 7:00 PM **Pagan Coffee House** at Silo 7 Bookstore in Bangor. Please bring a small donation to cover costs and/or a donation to the Pagan Pantry. For info call Silo 7 942-5590 or Mugwort 848-2850

Mar. 2 **Full Crust Moon** 1:58 AM

Mar. 4 7:00 PM **Wicca 101** Class at Silo 7 Bookstore. See Feb 4 for details.

Mar. 7 Portland area **Pagan Coffee House.** held at USM. email rhotal61@maine.edu or call 828-2032 for more information.

Mar. 14 Augusta area **Pagan Coffee House** 1:00 PM
Bring a mug and pot luck snack to share. For more information call 377-3967.

Mar. 17 **New Moon** 1:48 PM

Mar. 18 7:00 PM **Wicca 101** Class at Silo 7 Bookstore. See Feb 4 for details..

Mar. 20 **Eostar** 8:56 PM

Mar. 20 7:00 PM **Pagan Coffee House** at Silo 7 Bookstore in Bangor. Please bring a small donation to cover costs and/or a donation to the Pagan Pantry. For info call Silo 7 942-5590 or Mugwort 848-2850

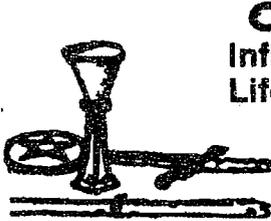


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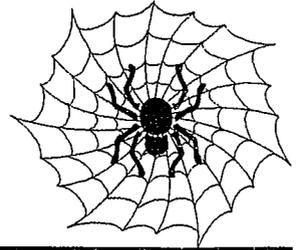
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NETWORKING

NOTE: While all those listed below are EarthTides members, The EarthTides Pagan Network does not screen the contacts listed below. We are not the "policemen" of Paganism in Maine and would frankly resent such an authority. Everyone should be able to follow their own path. But the downside to this freedom is that You must exercise GOOD JUDGMENT when using this list. Anyone who makes you uncomfortable or asks you to do anything which makes you uncomfortable is probably wrong for you. Individuals who are under 18 years of age must submit written parental approval to attend gatherings or study with members. EPN will aid in establishing contacts between individuals if asked to do so, but accepts no legal responsibility for the results



Augusta Area:

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

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. Contact Harper or Arwen at Immanent Grove, PO 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. Contact: Aree Blackcat QGCY88B@prodigy.com

Bangor Area:

Garden Path Coven. Following the garden path to enlightenment. We offer fellowship, help in locating Pagan events in the Bangor area, and a Wicca 101 class. 848-2850 or e-mail gmiller@hypernet.com or mugwert@ime.net

Cyberspace Resources

The Maine Pagan Mailing List To sign up, send a blank e-mail to mepagan_subscribe@egroups.com For more information, e-mail the list moderator pjane@journalist.com

Jay—Farmington:

Circle of the Jade Tiger - Kerry Robinson 645-9570 (after 5:00) - Goddess-oriented Shamanism, with a definite splash of Green Man energy. Simplistic and creative rituals that allow for growth and the understanding of death, change, and personal healing. seeking to start a coven and/or teach

Lewiston—Auburn Area

House O' The Greenwood - Lorelei - 782-8704 or lozelei@explore-maine.com Focusing on using our spirituality and Eclectic Wiccan concepts to help us cope with daily life. <http://www.exploremaine.com/~lozelei>

Meditation/Study/fellowship group forming. We're looking for other sober experienced pagans to share, study and hang out with. Send us a letter about your path, topics you wish to study and what you want to commit to. PO Box 272 W. Paris, ME 04289.

Oxford Hill Area:

LunaSea Arts-Khyrohn Na Mara-583-4215, RR 1 Box 2606, N. Waterford, ME 04267-9629. Eclectic Wiccan interested in meditation, drumming, and herbs.

Portland—York County Area:

Jane Wiccan Priestess: networking, community, and ritual email: pjane@journalist.com

LaWRENce and Julie Marie - We are the Iseum of the Hidden Mysteries and a member of the Fellowship of Isis. We worship the God and Goddess in their many forms. We are an eclectic group focusing on the development of the higher consciousness of the hidden realms. 207-727-5844 or anubis@mix-net.net or <http://www.mix-net.net/~anubis>

Waterville Area:

Dragon of the Mist - Druid/Pantheist Wicca. Contact Dragon of the Mist 9-5, M-Sat., 873-7776, 5 East Concourse, Waterville

Melissa Moon - 873-0528 Eclectic Wicca and Woman's Spirituality - Networking with all in the area online: mmmoon@colby.edu.

Special Interests

I am interested in being a contact for EPN to the deaf community. 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 TTY/V or ede@clinic.net



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ABOUT LISTINGS ON THE NETWORKING PAGE

This pages carries notices of EarthTides member groups and individuals seeking to network with each other. If you are an EPN member group or individual that wishes to accept new members, begin a discussion group, accept new students or hold open rituals, or if you are an individual wishing to find a teacher, group, or ritual, please send us a notice for publication. (send by mail to E.P.N. P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343 or by e-mail to mugwert@ime.net). We hope listings will be specific as to what they are offering: classes, formation of a new group, taking students, being a clearing house for local events or simply offering Pagan fellowship. Listings on this page are FREE to all EarthTides members. Non-members wishing to advertise are advised to take out an "Unclassified Ad". Please see Advertising in EPNN on page 4. If you wish your listing to appear in the next issue be sure to send in your copy.

NEW EDITOR(S) NEEDED FOR EARTHTIDES PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

For the past few years, Mugwert and Kitty have edited and produced this newsletter, putting a great deal of time and effort into helping build Maine Pagan community.

Now Mugwert has decided to step down as editor, both to reclaim some personal time and to open the way for new voices in EPN.

To avoid future editor burnout, EPN is forming an Editorial Board, and we're seeking volunteers from you, our readers and members, to help us carry the newsletter forward. Now is your chance to help other Pagans and reach out to the community.

Volunteers must have some available time, and be capable of traveling for occasional meetings. E-mail access will help us communicate without wasting fossil fuel. Volunteers are being sought in the areas of writing, editing, production, distribution, advertising and art.

Please send a letter describing your interest, along with any relevant contact information, to EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343.

NEW WICCA 101 CLASS IN SOUTHERN MAINE

The Iseum of Hidden Mysteries is sponsoring a Wicca 101 class. This will be in a discussion format with practical hands-on application. The class will include, but will not be limited to, discussions on morals and ethics of the craft, basic terminology, historical information, current pagan issues, and the Sabbats and Esbats. In conjunction with the discussion there will be some practical applications of grounding and centering exercises, meditation exercises, creating sacred space, ritual tools, writing and performing a ritual.

Classes will be limited in size to 10 for the winter because it will be too cold to use the ritual space for extended periods of time because it is not currently heated. They will be held in the Hollis/Buxton area. The classes are free and they will be held every other Sunday starting January 10, 1999. However, we ask students to purchase two books to follow along. The price for each book is approximately \$10.00 a piece.

Class dates: 1/10/99; 1/24/99, 2/7/99, 2/21/99, 3/7/99, 3/21/99, 4/4/99, and 4/18/99. Time: 2 PM to 4 PM on Sunday afternoons.

Anyone who is interested, can contact the Iseum through our e-mail: anubis@mix-net.net

Blessings,

Julie & Wren

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Readers of *EarthTides Pagan Network News* will find these publications worth Their interest:

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

Horns and Crescent P.O. Box 540622 Milieu, MA 02054

Our Pagan Times New Moon New York P.O. Box 1471 Madison Square Station New York NY 10159

Maine Well Being Portland, ME. Distributed free at many sites

PAEAN P.O. Box 635 Farmington NH 03835

ADVERTISING IN EPNN

UNCLASSIFIED ADS: Here you can advertise *anything* you want goods and services, personals, etc. Non-EarthTides members may advertise for Pagan contacts here (Members will get their contact listings free on the new "NETWORKING" page - see the notice on page 3). Cost is \$1.00 per 15 words., in \$1.00 increments. i.e. both a 16 word ad and a 30 word ad will cost \$2.00. Maximum ad size will be 150 words.

BUSINESS DISPLAY ADS: Business card size (2" x 3.5") are \$5.00 per issue, excepting the Mabon Issue where the fee is \$10. Annual subscription (8 issues) for a business card size ad is \$35.00 saving you \$10 and includes a business membership in the EarthTides Pagan Network. Larger size ads can be accommodated, write for details.

Send your ad copy, along with payment to EPN, P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343. While we will allow great freedom of expression, we reserve the right to reject ads too indecorous or illegal or for other reasons.

Want to Join the EarthTides Pagan Network?

Be part of the Network! The annual membership fee is \$11.00. You will receive 8 issues of this newsletter and discounted rates for certain EarthTides' events. Fill out the form below and mail with your check to E.P.N., P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New membership Renewal

If you are a member of an EarthTides' member group or groups, please list them here: _____

e-mail address (optional): _____

EPN ANNUAL MEETING

Agenda for EarthTides Pagan Network Annual Meeting. January 30, 1999

- Greeting and opening
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- President's report
- Council meeting report
- Old business: Standards vote
- New business: - agenda items added at the beginning of the meeting
- Close

The EPN annual business meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 30 at the site of The Annual Cabin Fever Pagan Retreat. The meeting is open to all EarthTides members. Members who need the site location and directions can e-mail mugwert@ime.net or call 848-2850 for the information. Business meeting agenda items should be sent to Geoff at gmliller@hypernet.com or mailed to Geoff Miller, PO Box 191, Blue Hill, ME 04614.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cash Flow Analysis--1998: 1/1/98 Through 12/31/98

Subcategory	Total
<i>INCOME CATEGORIES</i>	
Income from events	\$ 2,102.63
Memberships and Newsletter sales	\$ 915.00
Donations	\$ 856.90
Advertising	\$ 215.00
TOTAL INCOME CATEGORIES	\$ 4,089.53
<i>EXPENSE CATEGORIES</i>	
Events Expenses - Unassigned	\$ 2,212.74
Printing	\$ 779.39
Stamps	\$ 293.97
Office Supplies	\$ 116.85
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 38.00
Bank Charges	\$ 13.02
TOTAL EXPENSE CATEGORIES	\$ 3,453.97
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 635.56



ANNOUNCING SPRING THING!

EPN is pleased to announce the second annual Spring Thing Pagan Retreat, which will be held at the same location on the coast, running from 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23rd, through 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 25th. A Beltane ritual, outdoor fun, bardic circle, and workshops will be scheduled, as well as plenty of time to just relax with fellow Pagans. Each meal is the responsibility of a group of three to four people who plan, prepare, serve, and clean up. Each paid participant, whether adult or youngster, will have a meal assignment. There is no cost for kids 10 or under if you can bring a mat and have them curl up on the floor or have them share a bed with you. Maximum number of paid registrants is 25, with those choosing to tent out being additional. No more registrations will be accepted once we reach that number.

Spring Thing Registration Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____

Telephone (this is for meal team communication): _____

_____ EPN members @ \$15.00 each (members' kids over 10 count here)

First name(s): _____

+ _____ Non members @ \$25.00 each (registrations accepted after Eostar)

First name(s): _____

_____ Tenting (members @ \$10. each, non-members @\$20. each)

+ _____ Children 10 and under (free, see note above)

First name(s) & age(s): _____

+ _____ New or renewal EPN membership @ \$11.00 per household (join now and attend CPR at the members rate!)

= _____ Amount enclosed (payable to EPN)

Send to: EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME, 04343.

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

For further information, e-mail Harper and Arwen at applebooks@ctel.net or call them at 377-3967.

A LESSON IN SPELL CASTING, WHAT COULD HAVE GONE AWRY, DID ...

On the 1st quarter moon I performed a ritual. My intent was to enact two acts of magick. One, was designed for my own self work, and that worked better than I ever could have planned! The other, well, that was another story. This was originally to be what I thought to be a binding spell. As I have completed a number of spells in the past, I believed that I became a bit complacent on this one. One must be extremely clear and aware when spell casting, otherwise, unnerving, unexpected bugaboos can come forth. To explain the story further, someone I had done some photographic work for had been avoiding paying me for over three months. And, this particular person had lied to me and had continued to give a song and dance about her problems. More stories as I found out, adding to my growing anger and, frustration.

So, over time, as I became calmer and more centered, I thought to create a spell to induce this person to pay. This was carefully, thought out, planning down to exact verbiage I would utter.

After ritual purification, preparation and centering, I began the ritual, standard opening format with the invocations necessary to raise the power. As a rule, I raise only enough energy that I need, sometimes more as required with certain, more powerful spells. Unknown to me at that point, I had raised enough energy for six to eight others. That was the first of the problems, again, I wasn't as clear and aware as I thought and should have been.

I began my carefully worded invocation, which is best I do not repeat, using the actual name of the person. In spell casting particularly a binding spell. One would have a representation of the person as a doll, actual hair, nail clippings something of ownership or a picture that provides focus to the spell. I did what was called thought transference, that was problem number two, I had shortcuted. Again, I wasn't as clear and centered as believed.

After completing the spells, just before banishing, I noticed an unusually high level of energy more than I had ever experienced in solo work so, I earthed the extra energy. Everything was just ducky, I was very, very, very pleased. Pleased that is until I went to bed and turned out the lights. It was then that I came to the realization something was very wrong. There was an extremely HIGH level of energy in the WHOLE house. What was more unnerving, I now could detect at least two entities around me, they weren't hostile, but seemed very confused, I could feel them moving about the house, perplexed, one, sometimes both would be in my bedroom. Sometimes, one would 'walk out' only to return.

Rule number one, NEVER panic! THINK first! I simply re-earthed the excess energy. All was well until about a half hour later they were back, even more agitated than before. I was getting agitated as well and I remember sitting up abruptly in bed and saying I COMMAND THY SPIRITS TO LEAVE THIS HOUSE AND DO AS ASKED. Followed by the original invocation I had used for the

spell. All became quiet, all that was left was the excess energy. As an after thought, I realized I had created problem number three. I had forgotten that the space below my apartment was another apartment! all the energy was doing was going downstairs and eventually wafting back up to me because I and my apartment was the source of the temporal disturbance.

I then simply directed the energy through me along to the walls and channeled down into the earth proper. Fortunately the occupants, including their child, weren't home. Afterwards, I needed answers at once so, I called Geoff who explained to me what happened.

#1 Again, it is very important that YOU are centered and grounded. It seems in retrospect, I had some issues of my own to resolve surrounding owing others, I too have bills that I needed to pay, which marked me as a focus for the spirits in the astral planes. henceforth, the entities that 'visited' me. Their confusion stemmed from "who's calling the kettle black?" Once they were themselves clear, they went off to their tasks.

#2 I should have been AWARE of my surroundings (the apartment downstairs) I had mentioned a child. Children are very susceptible to temporal influences usually manifesting themselves as nightmares.

#3 When enacting a ritual spell, be as true and complete as possible, no shortcuts, however innocuous as it seems.

On a happy note, my self work spell gave me a more thorough working knowledge of myself, leaving me in a state of euphoria. Plus, this was very much, a learning experience, and I will practice the Craft with more understanding of the forces which exists around, and through us.

- GreyOtter



SEASONAL MUSINGS

Imbolc is a festival of light. While, especially in Maine, we are still deep in the darkness of winter, it is the quickening of the year. From here on the length of the days increases more rapidly onto the pinnacle at the summer solstice. The word Imbolc, from the Gaelic *i mbolg*, means "in the belly", and now we can sense spring stirring in the womb of Mother Earth.

Here in Maine, while we may be able to sense the promise of Spring, it is hard to observe it when the view out the window is one of snow and ice. So how best to celebrate and turn the wheel of the year at this time? It seems too early to bless the seeds for this year's garden. Besides we are still up to our ears in seed catalogs. It will be a while before the orders are made and the seeds arrive.

This year we, of the Garden Path Coven, will have a festival of light. We will gather together all the candles we plan to use in ritual during the coming year, and bless them. They will be charged with the Goddess's and God's light and with our intentions for the work we see ahead.

In ancient Rome, February was a month of cleansing, *Februarius mensis*, "the month of ritual purification". All decorative greenery from the winter solstice celebrations was removed. This tradition continues today, as we remove and burn (or compost) any remaining decorations from Yule. This was the beginning of "spring cleaning". Here, in the great white north, we'll probably put that off until after the end of mud season.

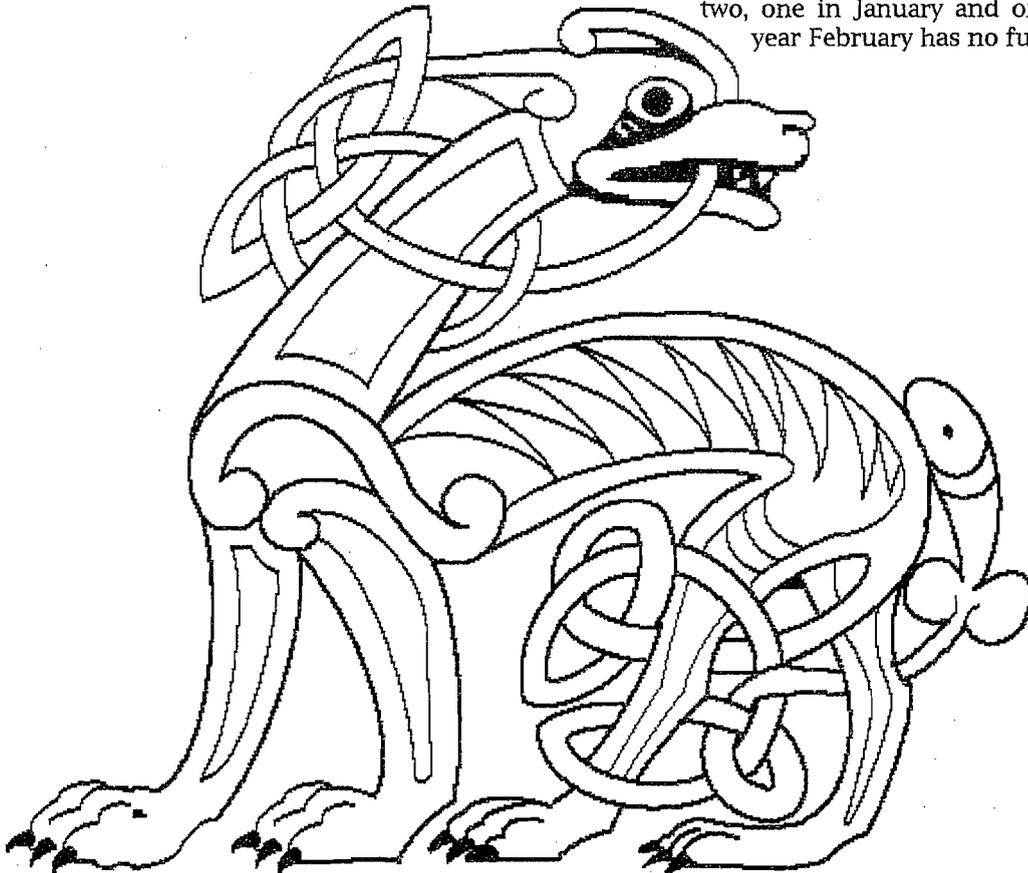
Romans also celebrated the Lupercalia on February 15th. During this festival, the Luperci, priests of Faunus (an aspect of the Great God Pan), ran through the streets naked except for girdles made of goat or wolf skin. They carried strips of hide. Woman, many naked or dressed scantily, who desired fertility gathered in the streets to be flogged by the Luperci. Three blows of the strap were said to ensure fertility. It was a ribald and very popular celebration. It was so popular in fact, that the Christians were unable to finally ban it until early in the sixth century C.E. This tradition, combined with festivals for Juno Februa, a Goddess of love, and for the Norse Deity, Vali, archer God and son of Odin, has strangely enough morphed itself into our Valentine's Day. This is a holiday in which all the sexual connotation has been wrung out in favor of candy hearts and sappy greeting cards. Perhaps all of today's Pagans should eschew the cards and candy and instead whack their significant others on the butt with a piece of goat skin.

- Mugwert

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

We've all heard the expression "once in a blue moon", used to indicate a rare event, but how many of us know its meaning?

When there are two full moons within a calendar month, the second is called a "Blue Moon". Since full moons occur about once every 29 and a half days, in most years we have one blue moon. This year we have two, one in January and one in March. And this year February has no full moon at all.



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