



EARTHTIDES PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

Imbolc 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.

EPN

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earthtides@celticweb.com

[http://www.mix-net.net/](http://www.mix-net.net/~annmarie/earthtides)

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Drive the Cold Winter Away

Maine Pagans know that winter is a natural phenomenon, a brought-to-you-by-Mother-Nature opportunity for reflection, inner work and contemplation of Her powers. It's also a time when it's all too easy to become, well, a little down. In this issue, EarthTides members and friends share some ideas for keeping warm and happy.



Book Review: The Witch's Circle (StarCat's Corner)

by StarCat

I just finished reading a book that I found to be an excellent source of ideas, as well as a great read. *The Witch's Circle* by Maria Kay Simms (St. Paul: Llewellyn, 1994) is a general introduction to Wicca, as well as a handbook for integrating elements of astrology into your Sabbats and Esbats.

The author, known as Lady Mari to her coven, Circle of the Cosmic Muse, was an astrologer for many years before coming to Wicca. She was trained in what she refers to as the "West Coast eclectic" tradition. The book begins with an exploration of astrological ages. She contends that despite the focus on the age of Aquarius, we are still very much in the age of Pisces, and sees the current spiritual renaissance as a move towards the more positive aspects of Pisces, including a synthesis with its opposite sign, Virgo. Next is Mari's overview of neo-paganism and Wicca, including a well-written section on ethics. Her view of the subject is refreshing

see BOOK, Page 6

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 which 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

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

THIS NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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Art: Selina Dring

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.

JANUARY

28-30 Friday-Sunday

EPN's Cabin Fever Pagan Retreat, Stockton Springs. Annual meeting and Council meeting on Saturday. *Laura Northwood, northwood@hotmail.com, or EPN, earthtides@celticweb.com*

FEBRUARY

1 Tuesday

Greenwood Gathering, Auburn, 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays. Ongoing series of informative talks and workshops on Earth spirituality. *Lorelei Greenwood, 783-5148 or lorelei@exploremaine.com*

5 Saturday

New Moon at 8:03 a.m.
Open New Moon/Imbolc Ritual, Hollis. Sponsored by the Iseum of the Hidden Mysteries. 7 p.m. with potluck supper to follow. *Wren/Seshet, 727-5844 or anubis@mix-net.net*

6 Sunday

Coffee Talk, USM Woodbury Campus Center, Portland. Sponsored by the Pagan Student Association. *Julie, 727-5844 or anubis@mix-net.net*

8 Tuesday

Lakes Region Coffee Talk, 6 p.m.-? BYOB plus some munchies to share. RSVP to lsileo@maine.rr.com

19 Saturday

Coffeehouse, Silo 7 bookstore, Bangor, 7 p.m. Informal gathering of area Pagans and Pagan-friendlies. Coffee and tea provided; bring a non-messy munchie to share. Cost is free but a \$1 donation to defray store's expenses is appreciated. *Jim & Kitty (207)848-2850 or mugwert@earthlink.net*
Open Full Moon ritual, Temple of Brigantia, Wells, 7:30 p.m. Potluck supper to follow. *Jane/Cassius, 646-6634 or temple@janeraeburn.com*

MARCH

2 Thursday

Wicca 101 Class, Keepers, Searsport, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays for five weeks. Sponsored by Garden Path Coven. Cost is free, but a \$1 donation for the store's

expenses is appreciated. *Jim & Kitty (208) 848-2850 or mugwert@earthlink.net*

5 Sunday

Coffee Talk, USM Woodbury Campus Center, Portland. Sponsored by the Pagan Student Association. *Julie, 727-5844 or anubis@mix-net.net*

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18 Saturday

Coffeehouse, Silo 7 bookstore, Bangor. See Feb. 19 for details.
Open Full Moon Ritual, Temple of Brigantia, Wells, 7:30 p.m. Potluck supper to follow. *Jane/Cassius, 646-6634 or temple@janeraeburn.com*



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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 earthtides@celticweb.com or EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343.

PanCraft

By Arwen Evenstar

PanCraft's musicians, with the help of others from the community, have been working on music for circle. We'll be offering the Saturday night ritual at Cabin-Fever Pagan Retreat this year, and are excited about how things have been coming together at rehearsals held at the Griffiths' in Starks.

Our artisans' group has been put on hold, while Terry McCabe recovers from a serious back injury. We hope Terry's recovery continues to go well, and are planning to hold a Bardic Circle event, at which all our creative endeavors, as well as the gods which help in those efforts, will be honored.

Other future plans include work on recording some of the great music our members have written and performed over the years.

Temple of Brigantia

By Jane Raeburn

Our open Yule ritual, co-sponsored by the Iseum of the Hidden Mysteries, was a delightful evening. Guests included

members of the Circle of the Cosmic Muse, recently re-established in New Hampshire by Maria Kay Simms, whose book is reviewed in StarCat's column elsewhere in this issue. Iseum members created a powerful temple in the Egyptian style, within which we performed a prosperity ritual honoring the Celto-Roman divine couple Mercury and Rosmerta. That big, beautiful Full Moon enticed us outside for a toast and some impromptu chanting.

On the eve of Mithras' birthday (Dec. 25), our High Priest and High Priestess became formally betrothed, and are planning a Roman Pagan wedding in the spring. While we'll continue to offer our Full Moon rituals to the community, we won't be seeking new apprentices during the next few months.

Santa Fund

By Jane Raeburn

Members of the Maine Pagan Mailing List raised \$100 for the Bruce Roberts Santa Fund. This gift was listed in the Portland Press Herald under "Maine Pagans," and helped buy gifts for needy children of all religions in southern Maine.



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Crafts: Sacred Circle Necklace

By Kim

A Sacred Circle Necklace is a beaded necklace which holds special beads represent three different aspects of Paganism. You can make as many as you like. I have about 13 necklaces in all.

- 13 beads to represent 13 moons (I use 13 of the same beads)

- 8 beads for the Wheel of the Year (Samhain, Winter Solstice, Candlemas, Spring Equinox, Beltane, Summer Solstice, Lammas, Autumn Equinox). I use 8 of the same beads but you can find ones to represent each of the 8 spokes

- 4 beads to represent the 4 elements (Spirit is the Fifth Element and is represented by you when you are wearing the necklace.) Again, I use 4 of the same beads but you can find different ones for the different directions.

- Spacer beads to go in between - larger seed beads, usually 7-10 in a row between segments. These will be the basic color of your necklace.

The sequence for threading goes as follows: *Direction Bead, Spacers, Moon Bead, Spacers, Sabbat Bead, Spacers, Moon Bead, Spacers, Sabbat Bead, Spacers, Moon Bead.*

Repeat this cycle three more times and end with the 13th moon which will rest by the 1st moon (with spacers in between).

In stead of just one bead representing a Sabbat, I might use three, like this: o0o

I would use that sequence eight times around.

Blessed be!

Cooking: A Recipe for Winter Warmth

By Marilyn

Here's a recipe made from roots that will warm and sooth at the same time; it's great for chasing away colds and stuffiness! It's also a quick recipe, something you can whip up right after a long day at work, or outside in the cold and the snow.

Carrot Ginger Soup

Melt 3 tablespoons of margarine in a large saucepan. Peel and slice 4 large carrots; peel and mince one inch of ginger root (about the size of the top thumb joint). Add the carrots and the ginger to the margarine and saute gently for 5 minutes. Add 2 to 3 tablespoons of brown sugar to glaze the carrots and the ginger. Then add 2 tablespoons of flour and 1/2 teaspoon of curry powder. Stir until the flour has absorbed all the margarine.

Add 2 cups of liquid (chicken broth, water, veggie broth, or a combination thereof). Heat gradually, stirring constantly, until the mixture just comes to a boil. Place in a blender or food processor and blend until the carrots are completely "liquefied." Serve immediately.

This is my own variation: I increased the sugar (from one to three tablespoons!) to enhance the ginger and curry. You can multiply the recipe for large groups, but don't hurry the heating process; this is when the flour thickens the soup. Also, if you need to reheat, use a microwave if you can; otherwise, the soup may separate.

Meret Bainbridge, L.Ac.

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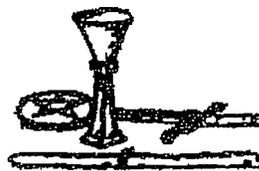
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Book

From Page 1

and interesting reading, even for those who have read many such introductory texts. She includes a discussion of being "out of the broom closet," and the pros and cons of using "the W word" (witch).

Lady Mari has drawn on her extensive knowledge of astrology to create a balanced and intriguing system of rituals. Her unique look at the Wheel of the Year and her synthesis of the movement of sun and moon through the zodiac signs, in my opinion, would be of interest to many Pagans.

The premise is simple: At each month's Full Moon, the moon is in the opposite sign of the zodiac from the Sun. This is common sense, once you think about it. The reason the moon appears full is that it is directly opposite the sun, reflecting all of the sun's light. The complementary and opposing aspects of the two signs are illustrated within each ritual to shed light on our own lives.

A sample ritual is given for each Esbat. The format is the same for each one, merging the astrological elements with more traditional Wicca. A short dialogue between the Sun (God) and the Moon (Goddess) role-plays the two signs and leads into the Charge of the Goddess, in which her special perspective on the season, from the viewpoint of the opposite sign, provides the complement and balance. This provides the theme and lead-in for the participatory working for the group (139-140). The Esbats are connected with the seasons and the cycle of death and rebirth.

In this system, the Sabbats are also linked with the phases of the moon. As we navigate the wheel of the year, we go through similar phases to those the moon travels through each month. Lady Mari has connected each of the eight Wiccan Sabbats with a corresponding lunar phase, which describes the energy of that time of year. She uses the four standard lunar phases, and also the more obscure cross-quarter phases of the moon, which she attributes to astrologer-philosopher Dane Rudhyar. If this brief explanation seems confusing, rest assured that the chapter on "Astrology and Ritual" is easy to absorb, with charts included to aid visual learners.

The only drawback I found in the book is that the rituals are a bit too elaborate. But later in the book Lady Mari does explain that while these are examples of her coven's tradition, they are often improvised within the form given.

I know a couple of Pagan astrologers, and most of us at least dabble a bit. But this book goes beyond "pop astrology." Within our rituals of worship, the system described here can help us to grow spiritually and attune to the cycles of the Earth and the solar system. I think this book with its wealth of ideas would be an excellent addition to the library of any pagan, no matter your astrological sign or tradition.



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Wanted: Affinity Groups

In an effort to demonstrate openness and encourage a wider range of ideas and energies in EPN, the Council has opened its membership to "affinity groups."

Previously, member groups were limited to those who met for worship. Now, Pagans who have something in common but do not necessarily worship together can form affinity groups based on geography, hobbies or life circumstances (parents? Gardeners? Painters? Tarot readers?). These affinity groups, like religious groups, can name one of their members to a voting spot on the EPN Council.

If you're interested in forming a group, or in becoming more involved, please contact us at earthtides@celticweb.com or EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343.



Aesir to Zeus: Pagan Books and CDs

By Harper & Arwen

Allure

Lorelei

Many Pagans in the Northeast have heard Lorelei's enchanting voice at gatherings and coffee-houses, self-accompanied on harp or keyboard, and many have encouraged her to do a recording. Finally she has done just that, and the result is wonderful, a combination of traditional songs and Lorelei's own songs (five!) and arrangements, featuring herself with some impressive guest talent (Tom and David Rowe on pennywhistle, for example). What a fine addition to the world of Pagan music! *List price \$15.00.*

The Alphabet Versus the Goddess

Leonard Shlain

The author's thesis is that the forced decline of Goddesses in religion was connected to the advent of writing. Shlain posits that literacy altered the mode of thought for increasingly modern folk, affecting the nature of their religious world. Optimistically, though, he predicts a reversal of this process due to a proliferation of images in culture. Interesting that these ideas are presented in book form, without illustrations! *List price \$14.95.*

Witchcraft Today, an Encyclopedia of Wiccan and Neopagan Traditions

James Lewis

This is really pretty good, albeit a bit over-priced. I found material in it that I haven't seen anywhere else, like a synopsis of Blue Star Tradition and a selective timeline of events relating to Neopaganism. I've only found one downright error (giving two different dates for the formation of the Church and School of Wicca). While entries tend to be well-endowed with interesting information, there are many important items missing from the lexicon. Valuable but nowhere near perfect. *List price \$93.75*

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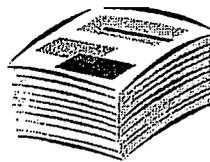
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About This Newsletter

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 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 Ostara issue is Wednesday, March 1, 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.

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Our Pagan Times, New Moon New
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Business-card ads are \$5 per issue, or \$35 per year including a subscription to the newsletter. Larger ad sizes are available; check with the editors.

IN OVR NEXT ISSVE ...

Preview of Spring Thing 2000

Report on the annual meeting at Imbolc

More columns, book reviews and events

... and what else? It's up to you ...

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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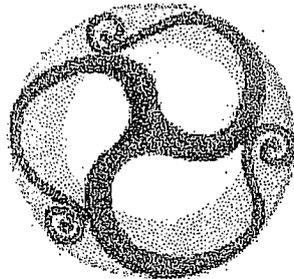
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Look! Up in the Sky!

The astronomers at USM's Southworth Planetarium have started publishing an e-mail newsletter about what's happening in the celestial world. Find out about eclipses, full moons, shooting stars and other facts from the world above our heads. It's published every weekday, and is a great resource for anyone interested in the sky over Maine. (Parents and homeschoolers take note!) It's sometimes a little technical for the average reader, but often includes fascinating information.

To join, send an e-mail to egleason@usm.maine.edu

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