



# EARTH TIDES

## PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

PAGAN PRIDE STATEWIDE! MABON 1998 \$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](mailto:mugwert@ime.net) are preferred

Articles are edited for grammar, spelling and to fit available space. The EarthTides Pagan Network News is copyrighted 1998 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 just around Samhain. We hope to hear from more of you before then. Blessed Be!

EPNN STAFF: Mugwort, Elkwing, and Harper Meader

### PAGANISM IN PLAIN LANGUAGE BY GEOFF MILLER

So much has been written on the subject of Paganism. Bookshelves groan under the weight of the literature turned out in just the past ten or fifteen years alone. This literary tidal wave also shows no sign of receding either. With this much work in the library, one would think that a clear picture and definition of Paganism would surely have surfaced by now.

One would be wrong.

There are good reasons for this. To begin with, Paganism has no central creed. It is not based on truths revealed to a single person nor does it follow the dictates of a great text. Instead, Paganism is based on observation. The world around us has much to teach to those willing and patient enough to learn. As might be expected, each of us hears and learns different lessons. Those lessons develop into a spiritual path that is unique for each person. Many Pagans codify the lessons they have learned into a religious expression. With so many people doing and believing so many different things, and with so many different religious expressions emerging, it is easy to see why a simple definition remains elusive.

There are, however, some aspects of Paganism that are virtually universal to all practitioners. I am stepping out onto a very thin branch in listing them for two reasons. First, someone will not agree with it. That disagreement is inherent in a spiritual path that so highly values the individual and personal responsibility. In the past, people have often stated that getting a group of Pagans to agree on anything would be like herding cats. Actually, herding cats is easy if one opens a can of tuna. You can't expect that same reaction from a group of Pagans. Second, the list is not complete. I can speak only from my experience with the people I know. There may be many other core values espoused by all Pagans, but these are the only ones to which I can point with any authority. The incredible

*(Continued on page 4)*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGANISM IN PLAIN LANGUAGE BY GEOFF MILLER.....	1
EVENTS CALENDAR.....	2
NETWORKING.....	3
OTHER PAGAN PUBLICATIONS.....	5
PAGAN PANTRY.....	5
WITCHLINGS : A SHOWCASE FOR THE CREATIVITY OF YOUNG PAGANS.....	5
A SOLITARY VOICE BY JANE RAEBURN.....	6
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ALTERNATE SOLITARY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE...6	
WINE FEAST: A MABON CELEBRATION OF DIONYSUS BY CHRISTOPHER PENCZAK.....	7
EPN PRESENTS THE WITCH'S "OTHER" COSTUME BALL.....	8



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

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

e-mail:[wachel@wa2000.winarea.biddeford.com](mailto:wachel@wa2000.winarea.biddeford.com)



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 info. Support our supporters!

- Sept. 23 **MABON**, equinox at 1:37 AM
- Sept. 25-27 **MOFGA Common Ground Fair**. Be sure to stop by the EarthTides' booth.
- Oct. 5 **Full Harvest Moon** 4:12 PM
- Oct. 11 Augusta area **Pagan Coffee House** 1:00 PM  
Bring a mug and pot luck snack to share. For more info call 377-3967
- Oct. 11 Portland area **Pagan Coffee House**. held at USM. Call 828-2032 for more info
- Oct. 17 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
- Oct. 20 **New Moon** 6:09 AM
- Oct. 24 **First Annual EarthTides Pagan Network Witches Costume Ball**. 7:30 PM to midnight at Saco UU Church. See ad on page 8. call 727-5844 or 848-2850 for info.
- Oct. 24 USM's **Children's Halloween Party**. Prizes for best costume. Pagan presentation from the Pagan Students' Association on the true meaning of Halloween and its symbols. Free and open to the public. Call Michelle, 780-5773 for info
- Oct. 30 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM **USM Pagan Students Association Witch's Masquerade Ball**. USM Portland Campus Cafeteria. Cash bar, Light snacks, DJ and dancing. Prizes for costumes will be awarded. \$5 non-students (\$3 with a non-perishable donation

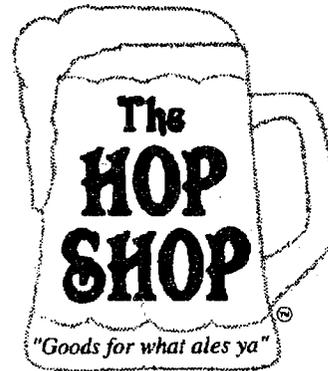
to the Pagan Food Pantry) \$3 USM students (\$1 with a donation. Please e-mail [rhotal61@maine.edu](mailto:rhotal61@maine.edu) or call 828-2032 for more info

Oct. 31 **SAMHAIN**

**Book Discussion Group** for Practicing Pagans to be held in Winthrop on Wednesday or Thursday evenings (Depending on participants scheduling needs. For more info call 377-3967 (days).

Tue.-Sat. 10-7  
Sun. 10-5  
Mon. Closed

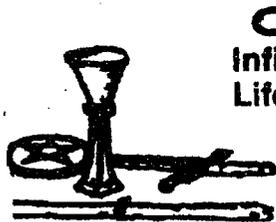
**Home Brew Supplies**



Ed McDowell, Owner  
P.O. Box 900  
59 Portland Rd. (Rt. 100)  
Gray, Maine 04039  
(207) 657-5550 (800) 252-5550

338-Life

338-5433



**Infinity's Life Line**

Metaphysical Books  
New Age Shop

Jane Nealey  
649 Atlantic Hwy.  
Northport, ME  
04849



**"ENCHANTMENTS"**

...CRYSTALS AND MAGICAL GIFTS  
16 MCKOWN ST.  
BOOTHBAY HARBOR, ME. 04538

**TEN FULL ROOMS OF METAPHYSICAL BOOKS AND SUPPLIES**

William G. Kirby, Proprietor  
Telephone (207) 633-4992



**HEALTHSCENTS™**

Reiki Energy Treatments  
Holistic Books & Music  
Aromatherapy  
New Age Gifts

**784-0643**

The Marketplace Mall, 675 Main St, Lewiston

**Apple Valley Books**

*Don't go to a superstore, go to a Super Store!*

One floor new books, one floor used books  
Music, pottery, tarot, incense, Magic cards

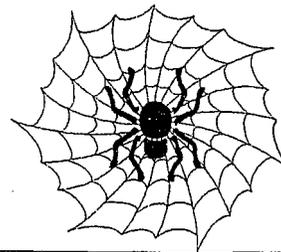
We can special order just about anything  
Ask about our 10% off program!

47 Main St.  
Post Office Box 356  
Winthrop, ME 04364  
(207) 377-3967

<http://www.ctel.net/~applebooks/>  
e-mail: [applebooks@ctel.net](mailto:applebooks@ctel.net)

## 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, newly founded, April 11, 1997. Dedicated to seeking knowledge and understanding, as well as to good friendship. Contact: Wahtonah Grove, PO Box 257, East Winthrop ME 04343-0257 or e-mail: QGCY88B@prodigy.com

### Bangor Area:

**Elkwing and Mugwort** - Garden Path Coven. Following the garden path to enlightenment. We can help you locate Pagan happenings in the Bangor area. We will offer a Wicca 101 class starting in November. 848-2850 or e-mail [mugwert@ime.net](mailto:mugwert@ime.net)

### Clinton Area:

**Nemeton Community Center Celtic Spirituality** - 426-2964 We are rediscovering and practicing the nature-centered spirituality of the Celtic tribes. We observe and celebrate agrarian festivals, and holy days based on a celestial calendar and lunar cycles.

### 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 [loirelei@exploremaine.com](mailto:loirelei@exploremaine.com) Focusing on using our spirituality and Eclectic Wiccan concepts to help us cope with daily life. While there is no formal coven at the moment, Lorelei is available to teach. <http://www.exploremaine.com/~loirelei>

**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, RR1 Box 2606, N. Waterford, ME 04267-9629. Eclectic Wiccan interested in meditation, drumming, and herbs.

### Portland—York County Area:

**Jane** 885-0424 Wiccan Priestess: networking, community, and ritual

**LaWRENce and Seshet** - 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](mailto:anubis@mix-net.net) or <http://maine.home.rr.com/mepagan/iseum>

### 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](mailto:mmmoon@colby.edu).

### Cyberspace Resources

**The Maine Pagan Mailing List** All Maine Pagans with e-mail capability may join in the lively conversation. Send e-mail to [pjane@maine.rr.com](mailto:pjane@maine.rr.com) to sign up.

### 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](mailto:ede@clinic.net)

## Silo Seven

7 Bomarc Rd, Bangor • [www.silo7.com](http://www.silo7.com)  
10 - 6 Mon-Fri: 11 - 7 Sat-Sun  
(207) 942-5590 • [email@silo7.com](mailto:email@silo7.com)

For your magickal enrichment...  
books, candles, incense, magazines,  
jewelry, tarot, runes, music, gifts

## NOTES ABOUT LISTINGS ON THE NETWORKING PAGE

This page 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 EPN. P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343 or by e-mail to [mugwert@ime.net](mailto: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 EPN on page 4. If you wish your listing to appear in the next issue be sure to send your copy in.

## PAGANISM IN PLAIN LANGUAGE BY GEOFF MILLER

*(Continued from page 1)*

variety of human belief and expression is as bewildering as it is miraculous. Please think of this list as a stepping stone to your own greater understanding of who we are and what we do.

Pagans are essentially postmodern in their worldview. While we appreciate the great advances in science and art brought about by the modern era (indeed, many of us hold jobs in high-tech businesses), we also note that one result of those advances has been to separate humanity from the Earth and, consequently, from the Sacred. The worldview of today's mainstream religions has separated the Creator from the Creation and placed humanity in a position of dominion over Nature. Some consequences of this separation are centuries of reckless abuse of the Earth's resources, the extinction of countless species of animals and the fouling of our environment. The separation of Creator from creation has also served to put distance between people and their God.

The Pagan worldview holds that the Earth is a living and dynamic entity which, along with the rest of the universe, embodies the Sacred itself. We hold that the life of the Earth is manifest in Nature which moves in constant cycles of birth, growth, death and renewal. We believe that humans are a part of Nature, not separate from it, and that we are interconnected not only with Nature, but with each other, the Universe and all that we as individuals hold sacred. There is no separation of Creator and Creation, so we walk with our gods. To pollute the water or foul the air, to strip mine or destroy ancient forests is to attack the very source that sustains us and is, in the end, self destructive. To practice good stewardship and use the resources of this planet wisely and with restraint is a goal all of humanity should attempt.

Many Pagans practice the religion of Wicca, though not all Wiccans may consider themselves Pagan and certainly not all Pagans consider themselves Wiccan. All the same, the central law of Wicca seems to exist in some form across all varieties of Paganism. This law, which states, "An it harm none, do what ye will," is the one and only commandment. If one looks at it carefully, however, it quickly becomes apparent just how difficult it is to satisfy. Harming none is a goal for which we strive while realizing that it is probably unattainable. Therefore, we seek to satisfy this law in two ways. First, we recognize that any action we undertake will ripple far beyond our reach, sometimes taking on a life of its own. Before acting, we are called upon to consider the consequences carefully. Second, we accept responsibility for our actions and their results - even those that we failed to consider. For this reason motive, intention and personal will become subjects of deep introspection to many of us.

Paganism is an observant path. By this I mean that, like our ancient ancestors, we carefully watch and follow the many cycles that go on around us. We find that Nature, the seasons, life and countless other aspects of living

move in a circular fashion. What is planted in Spring grows and matures in Summer, is cut down in the Fall and lays dormant in Winter. The Moon waxes and wanes every twenty-eight days. The planets circle the Sun, looking ever so much like a large model of the atom. The circle becomes a highly sacred symbol as it has no beginning and no end, only a constant and never-ending motion.

This sense of wonder at our world and lives is something that we prize highly. We are not unaware of the difficulties faced by humanity and the Earth. Indeed, many of us work in professions that seek to decrease suffering. Many of us are environmentalists dedicated to preservation of Earth's ecological balance. We see reverence for this planet and its many inhabitants as one way to restore much of what has been lost in the modern era. We find great spiritual inspiration in the smell of fresh air, the shade of trees, the songs of birds or the howling of coyotes among other things. Every aspect of life - even the challenging - becomes a lesson in living. This re-enchantment of Nature is necessary if humanity is to survive.

Because our beliefs are so many and varied and because we are so widespread, the Pagan Community in Maine has come together to form the EarthTides Pagan Network. EarthTides functions as a resource for Pagans seeking others with whom to meet, talk, share and celebrate. In a limited capacity, we act as a central authority for groups wishing to become part of the network. All member congregations are required to adhere to a set of broad standards to ensure as much as possible the safety and dignity of seekers who come to us looking for involvement. All groups including solitary members are represented on a Council which approves and maintains the standards. They remain autonomous in all other matters.

Finally, EarthTides functions as an active force for social change. We have fought for the right of like-minded Pagans to create local independent churches with all of the rights guaranteed to mainstream religions by the state. This is an ongoing concern for us. We have raised funds to purchase books and literature by and featuring Pagan people for libraries - books which, unfortunately, are often stolen by people who believe us to be a threat. We work for the equal treatment of Pagan citizens under the law, especially in matters of child custody and discrimination. Finally, we participate in many environmental projects to help keep Mother Earth healthy and vital.

In a global sense, we are a small group of people doing good work. In a spiritual sense, we are a community dedicated to our Earth, our religions and each other. If you see yourself in this picture, please consider joining us. You won't regret it.



## 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 E.P.N. 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.

## THE PAGAN PANTRY

**M**aine has it's own "Pagan Pantry"! It is here to help people and animals in need, Pagan or not. Those who are in need should call (207) 296-3482 and ask for "Star". You may also write to her at PO Box 10, Stetson, Maine 04488

Donations of non-perishable food, money, and non-food items such as cleansers, pet food, toilet paper, shampoo, etc. can be dropped off at Silo 7 in Bangor, Dragon of the Mist in Waterville or with Star in Stetson - call for directions.

## OTHER PAGAN PUBLICATIONS

*EarthTides Pagan Network News* has subscription exchanges with the following Pagan publications. They are all worth your 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

*PAEAN* P.O. Box 635 Farmington NH 03835



### WEISER ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS

P.O. BOX 2050 • YORK BEACH, MAINE • 03910-2050  
TEL: 207/363-7253 • FAX: 207/351-3300  
E-Mail: books@weiserantiquarian.com

Used, Rare, & Out-of-Print Books

All Esoteric Subjects

25,000 + hardcover books.

"Want" lists encouraged!

Phone, fax & e-mail welcome.

Visitors please call for directions.

## WITCHLINGS

### A Poem

I am wrapped in Mother Earth's  
warmth and compassion,  
safely being laid down on the  
heart,  
beating with emotion.



As I look around, I see all the Goddesses  
resting;  
they awaken and point the way to the  
stone temple  
where I am to rest and be  
reborn.

- Rebecca Northwood, age 10

*Editor's Note: "Witchlings" showcases the talents of the younger members of Maine's Pagan community. We hope we will receive poems, stories and/or drawings from EarthTides' members age 12 and under. Send them in so we can make this a regular feature in each issue.*



### 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): \_\_\_\_\_

## A SOLITARY VOICE BY JANE RAEURN



**B**eing a solitary doesn't mean you have to be alone. I found that out in a big way in August, when I was unexpectedly struck by a serious illness.

Wiccans and Pagans from all over - even people I didn't know - sent e-mail wishing me well, or letting me know

they'd sent energy for my healing. (It's going nicely, thank you!). Some of my favorite EPN members even spread the word and showed up at my hospital room. Others, including my beloved Cassius and my favorite co-worker (who's leaning Paganward) brought the beauty of nature into my room in the form of flowers.

I was amazed and delighted by the generosity and goodwill of the people who share my religion. Thank you, all of you! But there was a time when I hardly even knew ANY Pagans or Wiccans - much less a whole community full.

Circumstances and preference make us solitaries. But we're still social beings. And, as I've recently learned, it really helps to have a community around you when something goes wrong. Just knowing that others were praying for me, to the same Gods and Goddesses I called on when I felt most ill, helped me feel less alone and scared. And I know that if I had chanced to fall victim to this illness, my community would see that my spirit was commended to the care of those Deities, not the One my father worships.

How do you FIND this community? You get out of the house and make friends with people. If you pick up this newsletter at the Common Ground Fair, say hello to your fellow Pagans! If you've never attended an open circle, coffee house or other Pagan event, make the time to go. If you don't meet anyone there who appeals to you, don't give up - just try a different event.

While e-mail can bolster long-distance friendships and lead to some interesting acquaintances, true Pagan community grows when we meet each other face to face, share a ritual or class or moment in nature, learning from our common ground and our differences.

We know there are many solitaries in Maine. We'd like to hear more from you. EPN is not just for people in one area or one group - it's for all of us. Get involved - write for this newsletter, volunteer to help out at an event, patronize Pagan-friendly businesses, and let us know what's happening in your part of the Pagan world. Who knows? You may find yourself, not too long from now, helping another solitary find the community you've come to know.

I won't be taking my own advice for a little while - doctor's orders are restricting the car trips I can make. But I hope to meet you one of these days.

*Jane Raeburn is corresponding secretary of EarthTides Pagan Network and is an elected representative of solitary practitioners.*

EPN solitary reps:

Jane Raeburn, phone: 885-0424, e-mail: [pjane@journalist.com](mailto:pjane@journalist.com)

Marilyn, phone: 873-0528, e-mail: [mrpukkil@colby.edu](mailto:mrpukkil@colby.edu)

Kerry Robinson, 15 Mill View Rd., Jay, ME 04239  
phone 645-9579

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF ALTERNATE SOLITARY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The term of office for the Alternate Solitary Representative to the EarthTides Pagan Network Council expires next February. Therefore we need nominations and/or volunteers for this office. This office is currently held by Kerry Robinson.

Nominees should submit a short bio to the newsletter to be published in the Samhain issue along with the ballot.

The section of the EarthTides' bylaws concerning solitaries' representatives is:

#### *III. Solitaries.*

*A. Representation for solitaries: The solitary members of EPN (defined as full members who are not a part of an EPN member congregation) will, as a group, have two elected representatives to the Council. Representatives will serve a term of approximately three years (depending on annual meeting dates), standing for election in time to act as representative at the annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of representatives and alternates to maintain good communications both with the other Council members, and with the solitaries they represent, as well as to attend meetings as may be necessary.*

*B. Alternate Representative: There will be a third elected position, designated as the alternate representative, who may vote when a solitary representative is unable to fulfill his or her duties.*

*C. Eligibility: Any solitary member may run for, and vote on candidates for, the position of representative for solitaries.*

*D. Voting: In the Mabon issue of EPNN, notification will be given announcing a request for candidates. Candidates will send biographical information and position statements to EPNN before the deadline for the Samhain issue, in which this information, and ballots for solitary members, will be published. Ballots must be mailed to the Council at least two weeks before publication deadline of the Yule edition of EPNN, in which the election results will be published. Ballots will be counted by at least two members of the Council.*

## WINE FEAST: A MABON CELEBRATION OF DIONYSUS BY CHRISTOPHER PENCZAK

**M**abon is the celebration of the fruit harvest. Sometimes it's called the wine harvest, because the grapes are gathered and made into the sweet intoxicating elixir. Wine fared well in the ancient world, not only as a beverage but often as a sacramental drink. Libations of wine were poured on the Earth as offering to the Gods and Goddesses, faeries and spirits. The festival of Mabon is named after a divine child in the Celtic myths, the young son Mabon. His mother Modron lost him to the darkness of the underworld for a time. The festival remembering her search is on the Autumnal Equinox, a time of equal light and darkness. The Mabon Celebration is a time between two worlds, honoring the light and the dark, the upper worlds and underworlds.

Another divine child worshipped widely by modern Pagans is Dionysus. Dionysus is the "Horned God" and "Savior", called Bacchus and Liber by the Romans. He is the "twice born" having died and been resurrected, similar to other divine child and savior gods. Some legends say his father Zeus saved him from death when his mother Semele passed on, placing the unborn child in his thigh to grow to maturity. Orphic legends say he is the son of Zeus and Persephone, born as a child of the sky and underworld. In this story he was killed by the Titans and dismembered. They proceeded to roast and eat his remains. Zeus stopped them and had Apollo bury what was left of his body at the temple of Delphi. There Dionysus rises from the dead during the winter months when the Sun god Apollo has left the temple.

This god is the eternal youth, a handsome young man and the patron of pleasure, ecstasy, theater, music, compassion, nature, regeneration, sex and wine. Woodland creatures, satyrs, centaurs and wild woman followed him. The satyr god Pan was his companion. Through his celebrations, Dionysus releases inhibitions. Some rituals were orgiastic, often violent. The wild woman, the Maenads or Bacchantes, would tear apart animals or even men with their bear hands, similar to their god's own death. But he preached compassion, emotion and tolerance before ascending as one of the twelve Olympians. Both light and darkness are celebrated in his worship.

A modern Pagan can choose to honor Dionysus at the wine feast of Mabon. Prepare for your ritual with a bottle of wine, several if you have a large group. Red is

more visceral, like the sacrificed blood, but if you prefer white, then use it. Each is the fruit of the vine. You will also need bread, the bigger the loaf, the better. Vines, grapes, grape leaves and other fruit make an excellent adornment to the altar. When casting a magic circle, call upon four Gods who have helped Dionysus in each quarter with the appropriate element.

"In the North, I call upon the element of Earth and the good god Pan to stand with us.

"In the East, I call upon the element of Fire as the rising Sun and ask Apollo to join us.

"In the South, I call upon the element of Air and the good father Zeus to protect us.

"In the West, I call the element of Water and the dark goddess Persephone to watch over us.

"I call upon Dionysus, Bacchus and Liber, in all their forms, to join us to be honored in the celebration of the wine feast."

For the Great Rite, witches usually celebrate the union of the Goddess and God, but in this ritual, we are celebrating the division of light and dark, life and death. All come from one source. Bless the bread and wine, to imbue the God's essence in them. Take the bread and gather everyone around. Savagely tear the bread apart, like the body of Dionysus, as

each participant rips off their share. Get into the trance-like spirit of the ritual. Then pass the chalice of wine around, each having their fill. The celebration can continue in the true spirit of Dionysus, with wild dancing, music, rattles, tambourines, more feasting, drinking, lovemaking and pleasure.

At the conclusion of the circle, thank all the Gods who have joined you and release the elements. Take any of the remaining fruit, bread or wine and leave it to the Earth, as an offering and libation to Dionysus.

*Christopher Penczak teaches Tarot, meditation and non-traditional witchcraft classes privately in southern NH, combining lightwork, chaos magic and multiculturalism into his tradition. He is also a professional Tarot reader, editor of The Second Road, A Newsletter of Alternative Spirituality and holds a Bachelor of Music degree. Contact him c/o The Second Road, PO Box 2252, Salem, NH 03079 or email [torcboy@aol.com](mailto:torcboy@aol.com).*



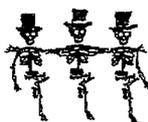
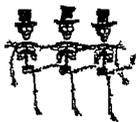


EarthTides Pagan Network presents  
**The Witch's "Other" Costume Ball**

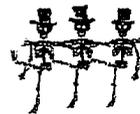
Place: Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco

When: Saturday October 24, 1998 7:30 PM to Midnight

EPN members \$8.00, non-members \$10.00, Children 6-12 \$5.00, Under 6 Free



**Live DJ - Dancing**



**Costume Contest:** best group theme and individual prizes awarded

**Jack O' Lantern Contest :** bring your carved pumpkin with you

**Tarot Readings, Door Prizes, Open Mike  
and many other surprises**

**Apple Cider and Munchies Provided: We encourage  
you to bring potluck, munchies, desserts**

**No Alcohol or Illegal Substances - No Unsupervised Minors**

**Directions:** From the Maine Turnpike (I-95), North or South, take Exit 5, Saco. At the bottom of the ramp take a left get onto the 195 spur to the Saco Industrial Park. At the 1st stop light take a left onto Rte 112 (North St.). Follow to Rte. 1 (Main St.), approximately 1 mile. Turn onto Main St. toward Saco. Follow to intersection of School St. (City Hall on right, Holy Trinity Catholic Church on left). Turn left onto School St. Go through 3 stop signs. UU Church is on the left. Parking is available at the church, across the street and on the road.

**Need more Info? call 727-5844 or 848-2850.**

