



EARTHTIDES PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

LIVING IN MAINE. CELEBRATING THE EARTH

Autumn Equinox 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 solitaries 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
P.O. Box 161
E. Winthrop, ME 04343
E-mail:
earthtides@celticweb.com
Web:
[http://www.mix-net.net/
~anmarie/earthtides](http://www.mix-net.net/~anmarie/earthtides)

I'm Pagan and I vote!

By Arwen Evenstar

I decided a long time ago, that if I wanted to be able to complain about what our politicians were doing, I also ought to vote.

The electoral process, and the general movement toward the conservative right in American society, has not always been kind to our community. The rise of well-planned "spontaneous prayer" at football games, and the fall of Maine's own gay rights legislation, ought to serve us as fair warnings against complacency. The radical religious right knows very well how to organize, how to get out the vote. There's a lot to be learned here.

We Pagans often feel apart from the mainstream. In fact, it's an old tradition with us, whatever you believe about the history of our religion.

Sure, we hold real jobs; we deal with concerns like kids' schoolwork or getting our trash to the transfer station before it closes. But many of us feel just a little bit "different." Most of us have experienced things like that awkward silence when a friend talks to us about the great new preacher at the Baptist church. Hmmm, we think, shall I tell her how *we* celebrate? Shall I worry whether the preacher is warning my neighbors about the evils of witchcraft? Shall I just make friendly noises and hope she doesn't ask about the sermons at *my* church?

We sometimes draw a cloak of silence about us, perhaps to protect ourselves from misunderstanding, discrimination, or worse. We've seen those poison-keyboard Web sites accusing Pagans of all kinds of illegal and immoral acts. We've heard about people who have lost jobs or custody of their children because they were Pagans.

But our preference for privacy, our concern about discrimination, should not turn us away from the political process. Instead, it should fuel our resolve to make things better, to make the world safer for our children. It should make us want legislators who aren't afraid to pass laws that are fair to us, and judges who protect our right

See VOTE. 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*

Circle of the Silver Cauldron, Atlantic. Eclectic Wiccan coven emphasizing creativity and self-development. Great Day celebrations open to the community. *Thea or Harry, 641-0996 or thea@loa.com*

WATERVILLE AREA

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

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Deaf Pagans. 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

Maine Pagan Politics List, to join send blank e-mail to meppolitics-subscribe@egroups.com

THIS NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Editor: Jane Raeburn

Calendar Editor: Heidi

(CeridwynsMoon@aol.com)

Contributors: Selina Dring, StarCat, Arwen

Evenstar, Harper Meader

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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

SEPTEMBER

5 Tuesday

First Quarter Moon in Sagittarius, 11:27a.m.

13 Wednesday

Open Full Moon Ritual, Temple of Brigantia, 7:30 p.m. Potluck supper to follow. E-mail temple@janeraeburn.com or call 646-6634.

Full Harvest Moon in Pisces, 2:37p.m.

16 Sunday

EarthTides Pagan Network Council meeting, 2 p.m., Waterville area. First meeting of the reformed Board of Directors. If you'd like to attend, e-mail earthtides@celticweb.com for directions/info.

Open Mabon ritual, 7 p.m., Immanent Grove, Ironwood Circle, Sidney. Ritual will include burning the Summer King. E-mail applebooks@ctel.net or call 377-3967 for more information.

19 Tuesday

Goddess 2000 organizational meeting, 7 p.m., Maine Artisans, Lincolnville (across from Lincolnville Beach). Artists and volunteers welcome. For more information, e-mail eversong@mint.net.

20 Wednesday

Fourth Quarter Moon in Gemini 8:28 p.m.

21 Thursday

Open Mabon ritual sponsored by Garden Pth Coven, Silo 7, Bomarc Road, Bangor. If you can, bring a donation of food or money for those in need. Suggested donation \$1. Directions at www.silo7.com; for other information, e-mail kahaz@iname.com.

21-24 Thursday-Sunday

Common Ground Fair, Unity, sponsored by Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. Visit the EPN and attend a presentation on Paganism on Saturday. See www.mofga.org for more.

22 Friday

AUTUMN EQUINOX, one of the four solar holidays, also known as Mabon.

24 Sunday

Open Equinox Celebration, sponsored by the Circle of the Silver Cauldron, Atlantic, Wells, at 3 p.m. Weather permitting, it will be held outdoors. The central rite will be an "apple ritual" which gives

each participant a chance to ponder his or her own personal harvest. Those under 18 are welcome with permission from a parent. FMI email pjane@journalist.com.

27 Wednesday

New Moon in Virgo 2:53p.m.

28 Thursday

Harvest Moon Celebration 6pm-midnight at University of Southern Maine, Brooks Campus Center, Gorham Campus. Festivities starting at 6 p.m. with henna painting, harvest games food, live entertainment and a midnight drum circle. Free. FMI: Julie 727-5844 or anubis@sacoriver.net.

OCTOBER

5 Thursday

Second Quarter Moon in Capricorn 5:59 a.m.

13 Friday

Full Moon Gathering, 6 p.m., home of Lorelei Greenwood, Auburn. Kids welcome. Bring snacks/drinks to share. For more information, e-mail mermaidmusic@adelphia.net.

Full Blood Moon in Aries 3:53 a.m.

14 Saturday

Open Full Moon ritual, Temple of Brigantia, Wells 7:30pm. Potluck supper to follow. Minors welcome with parent's permission. FMI email temple@janeraeburn.com or call 646-6634.

20 Friday

Fourth Quarter Moon in Cancer 2:59 a.m.

22 Sunday

Interfaith Panel on the Feminine Divine, Bangor Theological Seminary,, 3 p.m. Free. For more information, e-mail genesisseven@aol.com.

23 Monday

Goddess 2000 Opening Ritual and reception for art show and shrine at the Union Street Brick Church, Bangor. For more information, e-mail genesisseven@aol.com.

24 Tuesday

Goddess Banner-Making Workshop, 7 p.m., Union Street Brick Church, Bangor. Free. For more information, e-mail genesisseven@aol.com.

Calendar

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26 Thursday

"The Burning Times" film and discussion, 6:30 p.m., Bangor Public Library. Free.

27 Friday

Open Samhain ritual hosted by Immanent Grove, 7:15 p.m., Ironwood Hollow, Sidney. Bring written messages to your departed loved ones to send in the fire, and magickal items you wish to dispose of ritually. Persons under 18 are welcome with a custodial parent. Children should be able to maintain respectful quiet. Dress for the weather and season!

New Moon in Scorpio, 2:58 a.m.

28 Saturday

Annual Witch's Costume Ball 8pm-midnight, University of Southern Maine, Portland Campus Center, Bedford Street. Dress up as your favorite fantastic creature, deity, what have you. DJ, munchies and punch, cash bar. All proceeds will benefit a local women's or family shelter. FMI: Julie 727-5844, or anubis@sacoriver.net.

"The Goddess Remembered," film and discussion, 9:30 a.m., Bangor Public Library. Free.

Goddesses and Gods Costume Ball, Bangor Community Center, 8 p.m. Cost \$13 per person. Live music with The Beatroots. For more information, e-mail genesisseven@aol.com.

29 Sunday

Goddess Books and Crafts Bazaar, noon to 5 p.m., Unitarian-Universalist Church, Bangor.

Daylight Savings Time ends.

31 Tuesday

Open Samhain Ritual, Circle of the Silver Cauldron, Wells, 9 p.m. Weather permitting, this will be held outdoors. Those under 18 are welcome with permission from a parent, and this is a particularly fun ritual for kids. FMI email thea@loa.com.

SAMHAIN. Celebrated among many Pagans as a feast of the dead and "New Year."

NOVEMBER

4 Saturday

Second Quarter Moon in Aquarius 2:27a.m.

7 Tuesday

ELECTION DAY. Issues on the Maine ballot include gay rights, clearcutting and assisted suicide.

11 Saturday

Open Full Moon ritual, Temple of Brigantia, Wells at 7:30pm. Potluck supper to follow. Minors welcome with parents permission. FMI: email temple@janeraeburn.com or call 646-6634.

Crafting/Gift-Making Day, all day, home of Lorelei Greenwood, Auburn. Kids welcome. Bring craft materials. For more information, e-mail mermaidmusic@adelphia.net.

Full Moon Gathering, 6 p.m., home of Lorelei Greenwood, Auburn. Kids welcome. Bring snacks/drinks to share, musical instruments, seasonal poetry. For more information, e-mail mermaidmusic@adelphia.net.

Veterans' Day.

Full Mourning Moon in Taurus 4:15p.m.

18 Saturday

Fourth Quarter Moon in Leo 10:24 a.m., void of course 12:03p.m., enters Virgo 4:15p.m.

21 Tuesday

Herbal workshop. 34 Church Road, Readfield.

Directions: off Rte 17, two houses past the brick church. FMI: please rsvp draco@powerlink.net.

23 Thursday

Thanksgiving Day.

25 Saturday

New Moon in Sagittarius 6:11 p.m.

DECEMBER

3 Sunday

Second Quarter Moon in Pisces, 10:55 p.m.

10 Sunday

Eponalia, Temple of Brigantia, Wells, 7:30 p.m., with potluck supper to follow. At this special Full Moon ritual, we honor the Celtic horse goddess Epona. Dress in layers (ritual may be outside). Donations of pet food will be collected and given to a local animal shelter.

11 Monday

Full Long Nights Moon 4:03 a.m., v/c 9:15 a.m., enters Cancer 8:48 p.m.

16 Saturday

Open Yule ritual, hosted by Immanent Grove at Evergreen Circle in South China, 7:15pm.

Participants should bring a candle to represent themselves, and a potluck snack to share. FMI: email snspear@pivot.net.

17 Sunday

Fourth Quarter Moon in Virgo 7:41 p.m.



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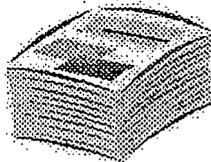
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Symbols

By Starcat

What are your personal spiritual symbols? Christians share the cross as a symbol, and many Pagans identify with the pentacle. But go deeper, into your own spiritual life, the omens you regard as significant, the feelings you experience when you walk between the worlds. Are there symbols that you hold dear?

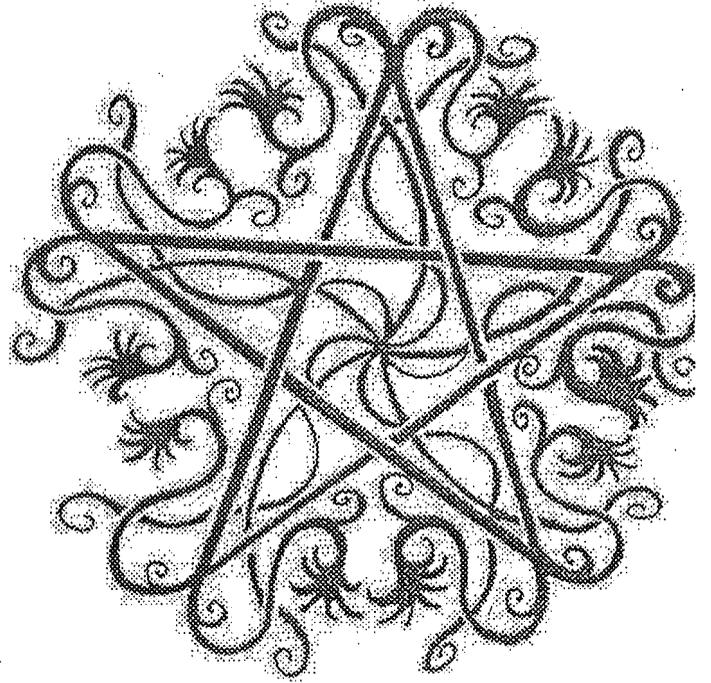
The problem with describing transcendent spiritual experiences is that words are inadequate to explain how one's world is transfigured. The moment may pass in the blink of an eye, yet linger for eons in your soul.

From day to day, we may forget how we have been transformed...but where words fail, symbols can trigger our memories, delivering us back into a powerful moment.

Such a symbol need not be visual. The echoing chime of a set of Tibetan bells, or the smell of a heavy rain, may set us alight. For me, a sensation of spinning, perhaps while sitting still in meditation, carries me away to time outside of time. Symbols can be living beings: a favorite maple, as its leaves become brilliant orange and gold, may remind you of the sacred turning of the wheel of the year.

Most of these symbols come to us unbidden, as gifts of the universe and of our own unique psyches. But at those times when the world seems faded, when you may doubt your power-from-within, you can use personal symbols as triggers to shift your awareness. Put on a recording of your favorite Goddess chants, or burn incense that you have used in circle. Read the Charge of the Goddess aloud, for words too can be symbols. Let your creativity flow; paint, draw or drum your favorite symbols.

If nothing comes to mind as a personal symbol, explore your own landscape. What kind of artwork are you drawn to? How does your clothing reflect your inner self? What songs play in your head as you walk? Allow symbols to enter your life. Make space for them to come to you, and pay attention to what unfolds.



Working with the Tarot or other divination systems is one way to allow archetypal symbols to become personal. Choose a deck that brings you pleasure, and find the cards that evoke strong sensations. Use your intuition to discern what they mean to you, and you may be surprised at how the images become part of your life.

Different cards will cycle through your awareness at different times. For an entire year, the Daughter of Swords from the Motherpeace deck was part of almost every reading I did for myself. As I integrated her energies and lessons, I drew the card less often. But when I need to draw on those energies now, I can meditate on the card, or simply call up its image in my mind, as a symbol to trigger my awareness.

Experiment with your personal spiritual symbols, and remember to honor their gift with a prayer or offering. You will find that symbols can help to enrich your spiritual practice, and can serve as an invaluable reminder, during the "dark times of the soul," of your connection to the Web of Life.

Vote

From page 1

to equality. The simple truth is that our votes will help this become a reality.

I'm not suggesting pagan picketing, or even wearing hub-cap sized pentacles at our town polling places. What I *am* suggesting is that each of us, all of us, become part of the political process. We must pay attention to who is running for office in our towns and counties, as well as in the larger elections. We must listen to what they say and ask questions at Candidates' Nights. We must encourage our fellow Pagans to vote. We must ourselves take the time to vote.

How about making voter registration forms available at places where Pagans gather? How about car pooling or offering rides to those who can't easily get to the polls? How about just reminding each other to vote as election day grows closer?

No, I'm not hoping that all Pagans will vote the way I would; we're too diverse a community for that to happen. But I am hoping that all--that's each and every one of us (whether in the voting booth or by absentee ballot)--will exercise our right to be heard, to have our vote counted.

I'm pagan and I vote!

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 Samhain issue is Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2000.



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HARVEST OF CREATIVITY

A few gems from the pens of Maine

Pagans:

Vision Quest

By Gwydion Griffith

I am in the mountains playing a flute; down
below me a herd of buffalo is in the east
towards the rising sun. A bird is flying
overhead; it is calling to me.
Now I am the bird; I am soaring over
mountains, over rivers, over lakes, until I
come to the ocean. I hold the flute in my
talons. I am an eagle now. As I fly, the
wind plays the flute; it is a beautiful tone.
I am falling now. I fall to the ground.
As I get up, I change. I am now a horse
running through a field. I run; I run like
the wind. I stop to drink. The stream is
cool and refreshing, but I change again.
I am now a fish swimming in the water. I am
swimming swiftly now; there is a log in
the water. I change and I am now a bird
again.
I return to the mountains, to my own body; I
am one again. My quest is over, and I am
home.

Poem

By Quester

I surround myself with freaks and
charlatans,
I dress in yesterday's finery and adorn
myself with baubles and paste,
And you stand there saying you came
seeking truth;
Nay, I say you came hoping to be
entertained.
And that we have done, for I saw you
dancing the dance of the enlightened.
And I was inspired to play the Fool.

Invocation of Pele

By Cailleach

Goddess of Fire, alive in the Earth
Maker of Dance and Maker of Dearth
Flame of Terror and Healer of Cold
Alive in Kilauea's fissures and folds
Your snakes emerge, amber and Gold
To awaken the sleeping: your story is told.
You and your sisters danced together one
night
Sharing your sorrow and sharing delight
You honored earth, wind, fire and sea
Your feet firmly planted like a coconut tree
Your heads unfettered, your minds roaming
free
You embraced love, change and tragedy.
Your skin is black and your hair is flamed
Your nature is passionate, wild and untamed
Your song hisses like steam through a
miniature slot
You cook up your pepper soup in a huge
iron pot
You dreamed and slept more often than not
Until your fire was inescapably hot
You pushed your hands up and opened the
center
You met Ocean and then bade him enter.
Over eons you met and spoke with each
other
'Til you knew one another as friend and
lover
Out of your joining you created another
And became Volcano Woman, our ancient
Mother.
Today you rises up to balance life and death
We know a good target for your anger and
wrath.
Yet we flee in fear of the violence you show
Crying for revenge when the lava's aglow.
We fear even more because inside we know
Our own bitterness is our own worst foe
We ask you this eve to be present with us
here
Pele, honor our circle and ones we hold dear
Keep our hearts and our actions right
Show us truth by lava's spectral light
Keep us safe as we journey this night
With your comforting and awesome might.

Review: Maine Renaissance Faire

By Selina Dring

Jugglers, mud beggars, singing laundresses, and court intrigue mark the third annual Maine Renaissance Faire in Lebanon. The setting for the Faire is the village of Muntabel in the year 1579, and although the Faire itself is only three years old, the cast of characters is respectable and very enthusiastic. They were most careful to stay in character, but clearly had enough leeway to play. I watched the actors' infectious sense of fun and humor draw in more than one skeptical by-stander.

Muntabel itself is clearly a work in progress, but does possess a tavern, a chess board, a kissing bridge (I tried it out twice to make sure it was in working order), a mud pit and numerous permanent settings for merchants.

The surrounding forest provides much needed shade for those visitors who choose to come in medieval garb. Muntabel has room to grow, and it is clear that more buildings are in the works. There was a good selection of merchants for food, clothing, weapons and sundries. I ate fish and chips at the Fat Friar, which were tasty.

The prices were moderate and many of the merchants were Pagan. Most were from Maine, but Lord Vincent of Twilight Armory had come up from Connecticut.

There were numerous performances, more than I had time to see. The mud beggar's rendition of Romeo and Juliet was marvelously silly. I also saw the Linen Sisters sing. They all had lovely voices and I do wish I had bought their tape. Those lovely voices sang some great bawdy songs!

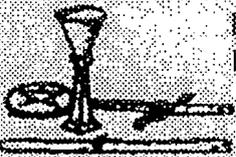
While many things were set on the various stages, the most amusing performances were put on by the citizens of Muntabel and Queen Elizabeth and her court, who were stranded in Muntabel due to a stolen carriage wheel. At one point the Queen herself put on a mask, and her court pretended that she was lost while she skipped about and acted silly and her court pretended to search for her. A pair of inept assassins kept trying to kill the Lord

governor and getting the wrong person, and a poor fellow was thrown in the stocks for some sort of bad behavior.

Although small as yet, the Maine Ren Faire was well worth the \$10 admission price. The Faire was held over five weekends from the end of July through August. There was plenty of parking, and camping was available locally, although if you want to get to sleep before 1 a.m., I don't recommend the Natural High Campground. It will be fun watching this Faire grow.

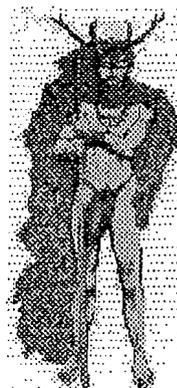
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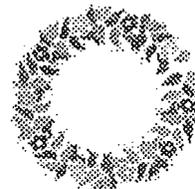
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