

# EARTH TIDES

## PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

PAGAN PRIDE STATEWIDE! YULE 1997 \$1.50

### About EARTH TIDES PAGAN NETWORK

The EARTH TIDES PAGAN NETWORK was established in 1989 as a support resource for Maine's Pagan community. This community is diverse, independent and geographically distant. We practice earth-based alternative religions. Most of us 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 EPN keeps names, addresses and phone numbers confidential except to other network members. Individuals who are under 18 years of age must submit written parental approval to 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, articles, book reviews and editorial pieces. Please keep submissions to no more than two pages, typed and double spaced. You may also send your submission in ASCII, MSWord or WordPerfect format on disc or submit it by e-mail to [mugwert@ime.net](mailto:mugwert@ime.net) or [wachel@wa2000.winarea.biddeford.com](mailto:wachel@wa2000.winarea.biddeford.com)

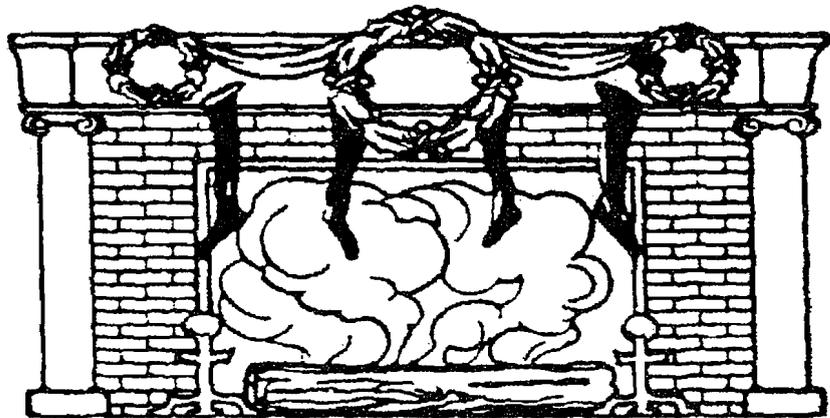
Submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling and to fit available space. The EarthTides Pagan Network News is copyrighted 1997 by The EarthTides Pagan Network. All submissions remain the property of the authors and may not be reproduced without their permission.

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 Imbolc. We hope to hear from more of you before then. Blessed Be!

EPNN STAFF: Elkwing, Harper Meader, and Mugwort

It is now the month of December, when the greatest part of the city is in a bustle. Loose reins are given to public dissipation; everywhere you may hear the sound of great preparations, as if there were some real difference between the days devoted to Saturn and those for transacting business....Were you here, I would willingly confer with you as to the plan of our conduct; whether we should eve in our usual way, or, to avoid singularity, both take a better supper and throw off the toga.

--From the Epistolae by Seneca the younger 50 C.E.



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



# 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 info. Support our supporters!

- Dec. 21 YULE 3:07 PM
- Dec. 21 Last Quarter Moon 4:43 PM
- Dec. 29 New Moon 11:56 AM
- Jan. 4 Portland Pagan Coffeehouse. Meets Monthly. Call 828-2032 for more information.
- Jan. 5 First Quarter Moon 9:18 AM
- Jan 11 1:00 PM Pagan Coffee House at Apple Valley Books in Winthrop. For more info call 377-3967
- Jan. 12 Full Wolf Moon 12:24 PM
- Jan. 17 Dowsers Gathering in Bangor. Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month. For info call 963-5801
- Jan. 20 Last Quarter Moon 2:40 PM

- Jan. 20 Dowsers Gathering in Gardiner. Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Call 582-8615
- Jan 24 7:00 PM Pagan Coffee House at Silo 7 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
- Jan. 28 New Moon 1:01 AM
- Jan 30 Weekend 2nd Annual CPR. See EathTides News for more info.
- Feb. 1 Portland Pagan Coffeehouse. Meets Monthly. Call 828-2032 for more information.
- Feb.2 IMBOLC
- Monthly Dowsers Gathering in Falmouth. Contact Richard McKenzie 797-2513.
- Meditation and Mysticism. Held every Sunday at Silo 7 Bangor Call 942-5590 for more info.

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## EARTHTIDES CONTACTS

*NOTE: 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 JUDGEMENT 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*

### EarthTides Members:

#### 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. All are encouraged to pursue their own world views & personal relationships with the Gods. Contact: Harper or Evenstar, The 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

#### 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 Phillips* 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.

#### Portland—York County Area:

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

*LaWRENce and Seshet* - We are the Iseum of the Hidden Pathways 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.ime.net/teristar/Iseum>

#### Waterville Area:

*Melissa Moon* - 873-0528 Eclectic Wicca and Woman's Spirituality - Networking with all in the area online: *comptutr@maine.com*

#### Cyberspace

*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* to sign up.

Bulletin Board: *Circular Logic* - 873-4981 Data line

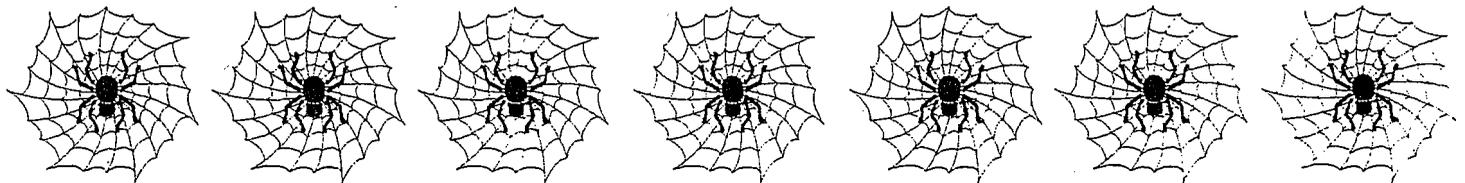
### OTHER CONTACTS (NOT EARTHTIDES MEMBERS):

#### Lewiston—Auburn Area

*House O' The Greenwood* - *Lorelei* - 783-5148 or *lorelei@ime.net* 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.

#### Waterville Area:

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



## CONTACT PAGE TO BECOME THE NETWORKING PAGE

**N**ext issue this page will undergo a major change. It will be called "Networking" and will be just that. Totally revamped, it will carry notices of groups and individuals seeking to network with each other. If you are a group or individual that wishes to accept new members, begin a discussion group, accept new students or hold open rituals, please contact us at the EPN address before each issue that you wish your event or opening published. Conversely, if you are an individual that wishes to find a teacher, a group, or ritual, please send us a notice for publication in the following issue. (send by mail to E.P.N. P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343 or by e-mail to *mugwert@ime.net*). Be sure to check out the various events and calendar sections for open events. Listings on this page will be FREE to all EarthTides members. Check out our new "Unclassified Ads" section (please see the announcement on page 4) if you are a non-member wishing to advertise. It is our hope this change will make weaving the web easier and more meaningful.

## UPCOMING FESTIVALS IN NEW ENGLAND

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4/17-19 1998 **CraftWise** Danbury Hilton Danbury, CT Workshops, rituals, music, Oberon Zell, Janet & Stewart Farrar, Robin Wood, etc. \$70 (\$80 aft 1/1, \$90 aft 2/21) CRAFT WISE, P.O. Box 457, Botsford, CT 06404 (203) 874-6963 e-mail: [fdalton367@aol.com](mailto:fdalton367@aol.com)

<http://www.mhv.net/~tsheeley/craftwise.html>

May 1998 **Rites of Spring** W. Massachusetts Rituals, workshops music, cabins, camping, drumming, bonfires, etc. \$170 EarthSpirit, P. O. Box 723, Williamsburg, MA 01098 (413) 238-4240 <http://www.earthspirit.com> e-mail: [earthspirit@earthspirit.com](mailto:earthspirit@earthspirit.com)

An international Pagan Events calendar is published by Larry Cornett, 13347 Caves Road, Chesterland, Ohio 44026. Six issue, one year hardcopy subscription: \$11.00 U.S. \$16 Canada. You can get a frequently updated calendar on the Worldwide Web at: <http://members.aol.com/lcornncalen/CALENDAR.htm>

## OTHER PAGAN PUBLICATIONS

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

*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

*That Bonny Road* P.O. Box 857 Bath ME 04530

*The Northern Grove* P.O. Box 5363 Portland ME 04101

## THE PAGAN PANTRY

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MAINE 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 Skowhegan or with Star in Stetson - call for directions.



## ANNOUNCING: UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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The next issue will contain a new section "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. ie both a 16 word ad and a 30 word ad will cost \$2.00. Maximum ad size will be 150 words.

Send you 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.

## EARTH TIDES PAGAN NETWORK NEWS

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WE have a winner! The three term solitary representative is Jane Raeburn; two term rep is Marilyn Pukkila, and alternate is Kerry Phillips. These folks will represent the solitary members of EPN. Please make sure that you get to know them and stay in contact with them for any changes in the way that EPN is run.

Although we needed to know about the solitaires in advance, it's still not too late to register your group in time for the annual meeting. All that is necessary if for there to be three adults that practice together; half of the group must be EPN members. If you are a group that is interested in having a vote in the future direction of EPN, please let us know by CPR. Please see the form on the last page. Speaking of CPR:

Second Annual CPR (Cabin fever Pagan Retreat) and EarthTides meeting. This will be held the last weekend of Jan (Jan. 31-Feb. 2) at Hersey Retreat at Stockton Springs. Arrival will be 4 PM Friday. I've been informed that the snow on the hills is amazing, so bring a sled! Cost is \$15 for members; \$25 for non-members. No charge for children 10 and younger. Ritual, community, sledding, bardic circles, workshops, and lots of fun! What more could you ask for? Write to EPN or call 848-2850 for more info. It's starting to fill up, so call soon!

If you are an EPN member who wishes to attend the meeting but not the entire weekend, that's great. Meeting will be Sat. 10 AM until done. Come on down and add your voice to Maine's newest non-profit religious organization. Be a part of this dynamic community!

Beltane will also be held at Hersey Retreat on the last weekend of April. We hope to have both day-trippers and campers for this event. Start planning for the Maypole now!

## HOOFBEATS: A COLUMN ABOUT MEN'S ISSUES WITHIN PAGANISM



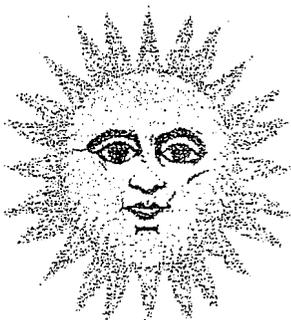
Although this year has been a rough one for me, when I look back on Pagan happenings, I see a year of great forward movement here in Maine. The big changes and the easy-

to-miss moments add up to a pretty nice overall picture. When I started writing this column the focus was to be Pagan issues particularly as they affect Pagan men. After sounding off in that vein for while I found more and more of my writings applying to all of us, as I saw that any issue that touches our men also touches our women. I think I knew this before, but I guess I thought I could somehow write pieces that would really only have interest for Pagan men. In reviewing 1997, I'll try one last time to keep that focus in mind. Starting with the Imbolc issue I will write more for the full readership, and only occasionally throw the "gender equity for men" test into the mix.

This year EPN tried a new site for a weekend event, holding a Cabin-fever Pagan Retreat at Hersey Retreat. It was a wonderful time! Spud Wicca was born, and possibly the first Maine Pagan athletic-ritual event was held. The torch race idea was good, and we'll do it again, but maybe with a better plan.

The movement to organize EPN was begun, and tremendous progress has been made in that regard. Bylaws have been written, some of the representatives have been chosen, and committees are working on other aspects of the group's growth process. Last July we became a domestic non-profit corporation.

Some working groups in Maine have broken up, notably Avalon-9 and Farflung, but several more have begun! The Augusta area study group coalesced into Wahtonah Grove, Immanent Grove went legal, the Iseum was formed, and also the Organic Gardening-arians and the Secret High Council from the Coast. Rumors of a Coven of Rustling Leaves have reached us. Are there more that I've missed or forgotten? Are any of these groups going to be EPN member groups and have a say in EarthTides' future? The only thing that can be said for sure is that our community is growing and becoming more interconnected.



I was in a meeting where a public ritual was being planned, and someone suggested that we invoke the God before the Goddess this time. Nobody fell out of a chair or fainted, and the motion passed. I thought, what a nice clue that gender attitudes may be moving in what I see as a positive direction! Somebody who is proposing a documentary film project specifically wrote that it would include men and women equally, and that a possible market would be for public television. Maybe that three-film series that drives me nuts will get some balanced company on pledge week soon! These and other signs encourage me to believe that the gender balance is swinging less wildly. With the community becoming at once more heterogeneous and better networked, things can only get better.

- Harper

### A POEM

#### THE LETTER

To whom it may concern:

As I sit and think of my life,  
I see the fruit that I have tasted,  
Some bitter, some sweet,  
Some in plenty, some in small amounts.

Each one precious and unique.  
Not one, the same  
Each to its own flavor.  
I have savored and loved each one,  
And my love has grown,  
With each succulent bite.

There were times the fruit was hard to swallow.  
But I expected nonetheless.  
Other times it was an intoxicating liquor,  
And I could not get enough.

As with all things,  
My taste has grown and bloomed.

Thank you Goddess for your fruits,  
A true gift from You alone

Love,

The WREN

## STARCAT'S CORNER

It is the dark time of the year, just now beginning to give us hope with the turn toward the light and the renewal and rebirth of the God, yet also the beginning of the hardest part of winter. It is ostensibly the time when we withdraw and turn inward. Why, then, do most of us find ourselves so busy at this time of the year?

Part of it is certainly our involvement in the customs of the secular American culture. Most of us have extended families who expect us to attend Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's celebrations. Many of us are invited to parties by friends and employers, and go out shopping for holiday gifts for our loved ones. And that's not even taking into account our own planning for Winter Solstice rituals and gatherings. It is one of the busiest and yes, most stressful times of year for many people.

I believe that there have always been "festivals of light", pagan celebrations at the time of year when the days began to get longer. But I think the contrast of those celebrations with the time of quiet rest and retreat that came before, and would come afterward, was part of what made them so special. In other words, if we go through the time from Samhain to Solstice and beyond with a calendar full of social engagements, traveling, decorating, shopping, cooking, making crafts, and more, will we really be happy to celebrate the holidays when they finally do arrive? Or will we be glad when they are over and done, so we can have a much-needed rest?

I'm not recommending giving up entirely the customs and traditions of the "holiday season", as it is now called (which I think is great - it puts Solstice and Chanukah on equal footing with Christmas). Some of my favorite activities at this time of year include making gifts for people I love, going on walks in the city to look at all the lights and decorations, caroling, and going to parties. I just think that we would do well to balance our activities with some time to ourselves.

How can we sustain and recapture the magickal aspects of the Winter Solstice and the dark half of the year? And in doing so, replenish our own energies?

"Why do we hurtle ourselves through every inch of time and space? I must say around some corner I can sense a resting place." - Emily Saliers (The Indigo Girls, *Get Out the Map*, from *Shaming of the Sun*).

It might be too late in this busy season to take time out to do the things that you love, and that make you feel recharged (I'm making a note now to remind myself of this in next Samhain's column...). But that "resting place" is coming - the rest of the long Maine winter stretches ahead of us. Take the days after your celebrations of Yule to wind down, to be with your inner circle of family and friends, those who understand if you want to sit and just be still. Do some private rituals. Sleep in whenever you can. Capture the joyful parts of the holidays and let them seep into your soul.

Personally, I plan to let the bear in me take over, once the preparations and celebrations are through. I have a happy vision of snuggling on the couch with a book and some leftover cookies, reading and daydreaming. In the meantime, I'm living in the moment, enjoying the fast pace, the cooking and card-making and gift-buying and the partying and dancing.

I hope all of you have a very magickal and joyful Yule! Blessed Be!

- Starcat

Correction: In my haste to finish last issue's column (why do we humans love procrastination and busy schedules?), I mistyped an author's name. The author of *The Pagan Family* is Ceisiwr Serith. - Starcat

## A POEM

### A POEM

#### ASLEEP IN THE DARK

Like a pearl in an ocean of ebony,  
Her hair falls around her  
Cascading across the pillow.

So soft is her breathing,  
You would say, she may be dead.

A figure etched in a crystal,  
Sunlight reflected in a rainbow of color.  
Each color a myriad of flowers on a spring tide.

Does she stir,  
Does she move,  
A living expression of the Goddess.

I lie next to her listening for the slightest sound.  
A day's memory shifting and fading away.  
Each movement a wave of emotion,  
Frozen in a flash of time.

How I love her,  
Asleep in the dark.

- LaWRENce

## FOOLERY



**T**ouchstone is one of my favorite of Shakespeare fools (largely because I've only seen the last act of king Lear), and his name itself is very significant. A touchstone is used to judge whether something that appears to be a precious metal

really is. It separates gold from trash. This is in a sense one of the highest roles of jesting and satire, that which is untrue should not be able to stand up to it and that which is true should be enhanced by it (we see the truth from knew and surprising angles and we understand it more.)

I often wondered then what separated this true satire from what I would call hate comedy, distorting slander and such. For a long time I was barking up the wrong tree, thinking it had to do with satire having to be based on at least some understanding of it's target (Like at least read the book once to be fair), when suddenly a radio personality provided the answer, and I realized it was the same answer that Rob Armin (Shakespeare's own fool) would have given.

Armin wrote the "nest of ninnies" This was the first serious study of the kind of fools that existed, it portrayed the lives and studied the styles of six great historic fools and in it's final form was narrated to mother folly by a seventh fool in the form of a cynic.

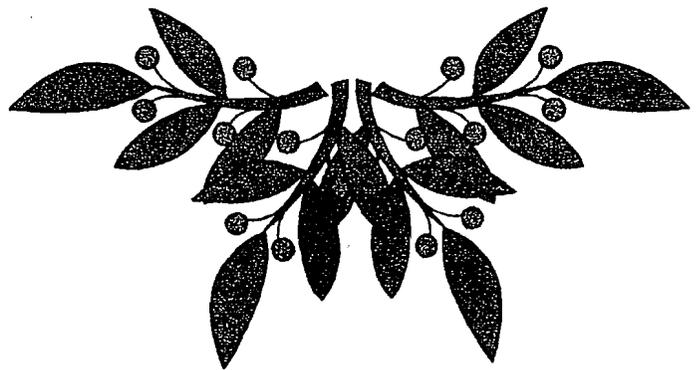
Cynics and fools have long been enemies, the fool believes in everything and everyone where as the cynic believes in nothing and no one. That makes them opposite and yet the same because they are both foolish in a sense. After The cynic displays the fools to mother folly she demonstrates how much he is her true child, exposing his self-conceit as foolishness. This was the same lesson as Lucians feast of the Lapithea, a cynic and a buffoon have crashed the same dinner party (this act in itself identifies the cynic as a kind of fool, the ancient Greek buffoon or parasite always crashed parties and made up for it by his witty talk, both the fool and the cynic have crashed the party and feel justified because their presence will bring something to the evening) Well, the buffoon does what he is suppose to do, he goes down the various guest sitting at the table abusing them with his stinging wit. Each guest does just what he is suppose to do as a polite Greek upper class intellectual type, he laughs it off, maybe yucks it up in agreement maybe throws back a banter at the fool who also takes this in good nature (the fool is completely contrary, everyone is game for his jests but in return he is open game for everyone else's wit and the best fool is always more than a willing target) everything goes smoothly enough until he reaches the cynic, the cynic is not at all willing to be the fools butt he is instead highly offended and demands satisfaction. Buffoon and cynic step out into the center of the ring, or

rather the dinning room and exchange blows in fisted cups. The end result is that the cynic provides excellent fodder for the nights entertainment (fools have always been surprisingly skillful boxers, Lou Costello took a short brake from his Burlesque career to enter the ring, winning most of his fights by knock out.)

What does this have to do with what the talk show host said? He's being sued after calling a judge a wide number of things that not only would make him incompetent to preside over a courtroom but would probable qualify him for a locked ward in the old folks home. When he was informed he was being brought to court he said " he shouldn't take me so seriously" . The point was clear at once, you don't take Penn and teller seriously, you don't take Robin Williams seriously, didn't take Harpo seriously and none of them took themselves seriously which is why you don't either. It's probable wrong to generalize but I'd say most Radio talk shows take themselves very seriously (unless they are in court in which case this isn't news it's entertainment.)

Now it's very hard to learn not to take yourself seriously, It's like when you hit your thumb with a hammer Your going to speak your first language(I've been a pagan since I was 15 and I still scream Jesus Christ). No one takes a fool seriously because he doesn't, well no one will take you seriously unless you take yourself seriously and if no one takes you seriously your not going to go anywhere. We are taught that it's important to go somewhere, but the fool isn't going anywhere. Either he's there or he's no where or he's free falling, That song about the nowhere man was really sad and freefalling is pretty scary. It ends up being more than a conscious choice, you have to decide it with your heart and body as well as with your mind and that is part of what makes a fool magical.

- Fool



**H**otter than Kabbalah, cooler than an outdoor Yule in Maine, it's Jane's Tidings! And as always, Jane is deeply grateful to those who sent in the news that helps make this column what it is. What is it? You decide - and send Pagan- and Wiccan-related clippings to Jane, P.O. Box 64, Portland, ME 04112, or e-mail [pjane@maine.rr.com](mailto:pjane@maine.rr.com).

### Kabbalah chic

The Jewish mystical path of Kabbalah, which is a key element in many Ceremonial Magic and some Wiccan orders, is now hot property in Hollywood. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is referring on-stage to her study of Kabbalah, and other celebrities are reportedly taking up this "new" spiritual pursuit. The San Francisco Chronicle lists Courtney Love, Roseanne, Madonna, Barbara Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor, Jeff Goldblum, Laura Dern, Isaac Mizrahi and Donna Karan among the devotees - and quotes a rabbi saying "I'm not sure if the celebrities can explain what it is, or if it's just a cool thing to be doing." (San Francisco Chronicle, 10/23/97)

### Taking it to the streets

A dispute between two of Salem, Mass.'s well-known Witches has caught the attention of the mainstream press. In a Boston Herald story that was spread worldwide via wire services, Lori Bruno publicly criticized Laurie Cabot for (in the words of the journalist) "charging hundreds of dollars for classes in witchcraft, selling expensive bad art and not writing her own books." The charges are not new in the Salem community, but Bruno's characterization of Cabot as "High Poostus Pompous Rectus Extraordinaire" was. The controversy comes as Salem has intensified the commercial aspect of its Halloween popularity, with tour buses, sidewalk barkers and endless T-shirt sellers. The Herald story played up the unconventional, referring to Cabot's recent tattoo (a Celtic spiral on her cheek) and describing her recent court hearing as taking place in "a courtroom full of pierced and tattooed witches." A side article gave a largely accurate outline of the basics of witchcraft, but the main story seemed to suggest that the religion's name would be better spelled with a capital B. (Boston Herald, 10/19/97)

### Out of the mist

Among the spate of what-is-this-witchcraft-stuff articles that appear annually around Samhain was one in Jane's home state of Maine. Scott Tarbox, proprietor of a Waterville gift shop called Dragons of the Mist, was photographed through his crystal ball, and patiently explained that Wiccans don't believe in Satan. ... Meanwhile, Salon, an Internet magazine, sent a writer to a big San Francisco-area Samhain ritual. Courtney Weaver came back disappointed at the "ungloomy," family-friendly atmosphere. "Few lay Halloween celebrations seem as genuinely child-friendly and unscary as this one." (Kennebec Journal, 10/31/97; Salon, 11/2/97)

### Book note

Margot Adler, public-radio reporter and author of "Drawing Down the Moon," describes the spiritual adventures that led her to Paganism in "Heretic's Heart: A Journey Through Spirit and Revolution." Hers is one of a number of spiritual autobiographies filling the shelves this winter, and was reviewed in tandem with books by Christians and New Agers. (Religion News Service, 11/18/97)

### Ritual leisure wear

Rifat Ozbek, a designer who recently moved his runway presentation from Paris to New York, offered a collection of clothes with a vaguely Santerian theme, called "White Voodoo." Models wrapped their heads in peasant scarves and wore white leather aprons, ruffled georgette pants and voile shirts decorated with red-and-black skulls. (New York Times, 11/9/97)

### Wiccan Webcasting

New technology is allowing "radio stations" on the Internet to "broadcast" for a fraction of the cost of getting on the airwaves. One beneficiary is the Wiccan community, which has the Wicca Pagan Broadcast Network (<http://www.enigma.computers.com/wpbn>). Talisman Winterhawk, the creator, runs it with three computers, two CD players, two tape players, a turntable and a mixing board. Winterhawk's work was part of a news story on "narrowcasting" - appealing to specialized audiences - on the Internet. (New York Times, 11/11/97)

### Vigil in Virginia

Pagans in coastal Virginia tend to play things safe. Fundamentalist preacher Pat Robertson, who lives in the area, has often condemned Witches and Pagans on the Christian Broadcasting Network. But more than 120 Pagans and supporters this Samhain sponsored a public event, a Samhain vigil in support of religious tolerance. Some wore masks to camouflage their identities as they sang songs about the harvest and lit candles in memory of those punished for their religious beliefs. The largest paper in the area, the Virginian-Pilot, sent a photographer to the event, as did all three local TV stations. Christian protesters also showed up, but were largely quiet except for one, who stopped shouting when police asked him to. (The Virginian-Pilot, 10/31/97 and 11/1/97; the Newport News Daily Press, 10/30/97; letter from organizer Drema Baker)

### I'm a Witch, not Martha Stewart

A Witch in Oakland, Calif., was cited by local authorities for her tiny yard, which is crammed with trees, vegetables, flowers and herbs. A code enforcement officer described the result as "brush and debris" and ordered Macheryl Franklin to cut it down. A city councilor took up her cause, and found city resources to help advise her on maintaining the garden; meanwhile, the order to destroy it has been rescinded. (Oakland Tribune, 11/11/97)

## JANE'S TIDINGS CONTINUED

Veil is thin, bottom line is fine

A recent press release from a marketing agency pointed out that Halloween is big business in the United States. It's the second-largest retail holiday, with merchandise sales of \$2.5 billion. Interestingly, the pop-culture version of a Pagan holiday creates more sales than Easter. A majority of 8- and 9-year-olds call Halloween a favorite holiday, and it's the third most popular day for adult parties. (No word on how many of those "parties" include Pagan rituals!) And as part of the fun, one Web site, USA CityLink, created a "witch" who let you cast "spells" online. "Whether the spells are spooky and evil or good and nice, all will be cast by Brunhilda. Each special spell requires different ingredients so into the cauldron will go frog tongues, ox livers, pig snouts, and fish eggs with a sprinkling of flowers for good measure. ... Brunhilda especially enjoys casting spiteful spells such as 'Give my ex-boyfriend endless gas for a year!'" To borrow a term from another much-respected path, oy. (Business Wire, 10/1/97; CityLink press release)

Witches and children's books

My friend Arwen sent me this e-mail, and she told it so nicely I'll let her words stand: "Kudos to the New York Times Book Review! Sure, the October 26th issue re-

viewed three children's books about witches, but Lisa Shea's review began with a startling anecdote. She describes a conversation between two women overheard on a recent train ride. One woman was bemoaning her disappointment in her profession. What kept Shea enthralled in this typical worker's lament was that the speaker was 'a practicing pagan, a witch' who described "the coven of which she was spiritual and administrative head." The reviewer goes on to describe the witch's 'pleasing, careworn face framed by a full head of dark blonde hair.' The review ends, 'What all the books illustrate is the enduring complexity of the witch figure in our collective imagination.' It's always a happy surprise when we are treated with understanding in the media." (New York Times Book Review, 10/26/97)

Happy Special Person Day!

In Hillsborough, N.J., a school board has banned the use of the word "Halloween," saying it connotes a Christian celebration and thus could be misconstrued as a religious event. Teachers must now call their Halloween parties the "fall festival celebration." Likewise, St. Valentine's Day has been replaced by "special person day." (Catholic World News Service, 10/29/97)

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### EPN Member Groups!

Please complete and mail the form below before the annual meeting to be held at CPR

Mail to EPN, P.O. Box 161, East Winthrop, ME 04343

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Name of Group:

Contact Address/Phone #/e-mail:

Names of Group Members:

EPN Representative:

EPN Alternate:

Notes: Please include a means of contacting Representative in the Contact column. A phone number or e-mail is preferable in order to make meetings more practical. We ask for member names to check against our own records; please remember that half of a group's membership must be EPN members. A group's representative and alternate is entirely up to the member group; both may attend meetings, but only one at a time may cast a vote. Our bylaws state that a group must have three adult members that practice together. All members of a household or business (for our purposes, persons sharing an address) are EPN members.

## ON THE GARDEN PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT

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**I**t's a strange time of year to be a gardener. The ground is covered in white, the produce has been eaten or stored, and most of the grounds are inaccessible. The seed catalogues have already started arriving, however, and already I'm plotting how to overcome last year's mistakes and have a better-than-ever garden.

I've been toying with the idea of a designed garden this year. Impractical, of course; most of our land has been changed into raised beds to try and circumvent the shortness of the growing season. Still, the carefully arranged herb gardens, with their paths and areas selected for color and height intrigue me. Could I manage a garden with pathways—maybe with a large stature of Pan in the center? How about a formal knot garden? And another garden dedicated to bringing in butterflies? I bet Martha Stewart has two or three theme gardens!

I expect that by the time I need to start the seeds the madness will have died off. For right now the house is full of traditional Yule stuff. I found a nursery that carried real holly and mistletoe complete with berries. The huge tree stands at one end of the living room and a wreath frames the kitchen window. An amaryllis is almost in bloom, and a hyacinth stands ready after that. The Xmas cactus has been putting on a fabulous display since Thanksgiving. I don't bother with incense or potpourri this time of year; the smell of the fresh balsam is intoxicating enough.

Speaking of intoxicating, Mugwort made his first whole grain beer. It is a wonderful pumpkin ale using fresh pumpkins from the garden. We drank the first of it Thanksgiving. His beers and meads just keep getting better!

- Elkwing

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**EPN  
P.O. Box 161  
East Winthrop, ME 04343**