

# PAGAN Moonbeams

Vol. 1 Issue 7  
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*Homeschooling Quick Take*

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Want to see something else? Let us know! [paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com](mailto:paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com)

## Pagan Celebrations; From the Kids View

In the Pagan world there are many times and reasons to hold celebrations. Rituals, Devotions, and Ceremonies are as common to modern Pagans as prayer is to Christians. Even with this fact there are so many different ways that they are handled. Each individual path within the Pagan realm has their own procedure, tools, and guidelines to follow. Each person adds their own twist to things which make the actual ceremony individualized.

In the past these same festivities were more of an adult activity, and children were not even permitted to attend. As the world has more tolerance for the Pagan religion, it has opened it's doors, so to speak, to the world as a whole. Kids are beginning to be a part of rituals and ceremonies and even the

*(See Family pg. 4)*

## Coming of Spring

As the wheel turns and the silvery duvet of winter is slowly pushed back, a new world lies underneath waiting patiently. This new world is full of growth, power, love, and ambition. Spring time gives us a sense of renewal and hope. All that was is lost and all that is can be gained. Just as the trees are starting to bud with life so is our souls, awakening from a long winters sleep waiting and ready for all the possibilities that life has to offer. Take time out this spring to enjoy the awaking of not only the earth but also the awakening of the passions within. Spring is a time to forge new friendships and take on new projects. It is a time to really appreciate what life has to offer.

When the night has been too lonely,  
And the road has been too long;  
And you think that love is only for  
The lucky and the strong,  
Just remember,  
In the winter,  
Far beneath the bitter snow,  
Lies the seed that with the sun's love  
In the spring becomes the rose  
*Bette Midler*

These words, even though written by Bette Midler, can be found in several places— can you name other places the words can be found.

***“Bread feeds the body ,indeed,  
But flowers feed also the soul. . .”***

*The Koran*

Great American Backyard Bird Count

Join in with the North American scientists to better understand the habits of birds. The event will be held on Feb. 13-18, 2008 . Learn more about the birds and the event at the website when you sign up.

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

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# News Spin



## Quick Clips

By: P. Nichols



### Squirrel Smarts

Remember last month's news of squirrels outwitting rattlesnakes? Those wily little critters are at it again. Researchers in the New England area have observed squirrels pretending to hide food. They did so in response to being watched. They do it in order to fool thieves. They did this procedure not only when other squirrels were around, but also when they saw the researchers watching them.

### The Rodent Family

The rodent family includes little mice and their bigger cousin the rat. But they have even bigger relatives such as the Pakarana in South America that can weigh as much as 33 pounds: the guinea pig like Capybara that can reach 130 pounds. If you lived in South America four million years ago you would have seen a much bigger version of the Capybara rodent that weighed almost 3000 pounds. Fossils of this creature were recently found in Uruguay by an amateur palaeontologist. Imagine having a guinea pig that big as a pet!

### Flowering Palm Trees

Did you know some palm trees produced flowers? No? That's okay because there are very few palm trees that do and until a Frenchman who runs a cashew farm on the beautiful island of Madagascar found some, no one on Madagascar had ever seen one either. This particular palm tree grows for up to 50 years and reaches up to 60 feet in height. It blooms only one time in its life, putting out hundreds of little white flowers on top of the tree. Each one of the flowers can turn into a little berry like fruit with seeds.

## The Hunt Restarts

By: KayBee

In Salem, Massachusetts, 1692, 14 innocent people were accused of practicing witchcraft and were hung. This event has always been remembered as horrible, and we had always hoped that the mistake made by the Puritans would never be repeated. In UIGE, Angola, Congo, and the Congo Republic, there has been an ongoing problem for many years now which has the same outline of the past.

The children of these regions watch for their lives because there have been over 300 hundred children accused of witchcraft and many who have died. Children at just the age of 10 and 12 can be accused, and many are instantly killed, put into institutes where they slowly die from disease or starvation, abandoned, or abused. Many children are killed merely out of fear they will become a witch when they get older.

There have been about 432 children roaming the streets, shunned, because of accusations that they have no control over. Parents who couldn't take care of their children any longer would simply make up an excuse to relieve their 'burdens' and many others caught onto this trend, therefore, starting this unfortunate situation. Even some local churches have shoved the children away, although there are some that take them in.

The number of children being exploited have began to drop recently. Many people and organizations are taking a stand and trying to resolve the situation. Funding has helped by increasing the amount of shelter for starving, abandoned, or abused children as well as spread the knowledge of the situation among the world surrounding UIGE. The United Nation's Children Fund has helped a lot with the children and many abandoned children as well. Many churches around the area have taken notice, are making major impact on the people of Angola, and are making incredible changes.

## Working the Hunt Restarts

Around the times of 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts was very crazy and dangerous time. Many people lost their lives to the label of 'Witch'. There was much ignorance going on about Paganism, especially Witchcraft, and the populace assumed the worse. Superstitious people took over and chaos ruled. The people of Angola, thought it to be a solution to a problem, it has way too many characteristics of the late 1690's here in the U.S..

Read up on the past situation in Massachusetts as well as the situation going on in Angola. Compare the two using a large venn diagram on poster board.

Make a form of media (flier, Power Point presentation, movie, etc...) to inform people of the situation, as well as things they can do to help out. Do as much as you can to spread it to people you know or local places.

## Moonbeam Shorts

Pagan Moonbeams has gotten a new make-over. The website and logo have both improved. Feel free to take a look and see what you think!

The letters of condolences that were received last month for the staff member who had a family loss was really appreciated. Thanks so much for those of you that sent them our way!

Unfortunately there were no winners for the Imbolc Color-by-Number contest because there were no entries. Look forward to more contests in the near future though, we are hoping to have better topics and better awards for winners.

## Global Warming

Global warming is a serious problem for everything that shares life on this earth. It is important that you stay on top of the news for this problem. Below are some links that might be helpful to you:

Find out what Global Warming is and what causes it:  
<http://globalwarmingkids.net/>

Find out about global warming effects by downloading a state level newsletter here:  
[http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/statefactsheets.cfm?utm\\_source=WO&utm\\_medium=Article&utm\\_term=Jan08&utm\\_content=GlobalWarming&utm\\_campaign=1](http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/statefactsheets.cfm?utm_source=WO&utm_medium=Article&utm_term=Jan08&utm_content=GlobalWarming&utm_campaign=1)

Join in the fight to stop Global Warming:  
<http://kids-vs-global-warming.com/>

## Animal Steps

**What makes fish skin shine?** Fish naturally produce crystals that aren't like any other kind found. These crystals are thin and become an underlining for the fishes' skin, which are called scales. These crystals help the fish hide from other water life trying to hunt it, especially when it is close to the surface of the water.

**New Research:** An animal raised without a certain predator does not know to be aware of that animal's call. This is proved by researchers watching monkeys from an island that didn't have big cats on it. The monkeys didn't take the recordings of these big cats that would be predators of the same monkeys located in an area where they are a threat. All animals, however, do take humans to be a threat and are alert to them at all times.

## Scouting Options for the Pagan

Pagan Based Group:

Spiral Scouts: <http://www.spiralcouts.org/>

Earth Based Group:

Earth Scouts: <http://www.earthscouts.org/>

Secular Based Non-Group:

Home school Ponies & Huskies:

<http://www.hs-huskies-ponies.com/>

*Adding the symbol and it's meaning would be a great addition to your journal !*

## Simple Symbols

### Heart



The heart has a two fold symbol.

Firstly, it has symbolized the center of existence since the ancient Egyptians. In ancient Mesopotamia where people were offered to the Gods, it was the heart that was considered the gift because of its importance to life itself.

Secondly, it is the seat where emotions sit. This belief of the symbol is not on a physical level, but more on an emotional level. Today it can be found in notes, cards, and on special days where the feelings it portrays is said to be strongest.

## Ancient Egypt Heart Weight

Today the 'mental size' of the heart is said to be a measurement of the person. This idea may have came from an ancient Egyptian ceremony that was held after someone died. In the ceremony the heart of the one that died would actually be weighed against a feather of Maat (the symbol of truth) in the Hall of Judgement.

**When Dreaming about the Heart, remember that it may be referring to the physical or psychological center. If it is strong, it is showing central power.**

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## Pagan Celebrations Cont...

(Continued from pg. 1)

General population can view as a spectator.

Children being involved in celebration is a new thing to the Pagan scene. Today's children will aid in the education of future generations. Parents are just beginning to explore different ways to involve children without disturbing or losing the sacredness of the ceremony.

Do not view this as a 'chore'. Instead, take it as an opportunity to pave the way for children of the future. Don't keep quiet about your experiences while at any Pagan function. Your voice on the subject will be greatly welcomed because it will aid in making all Pagan gathering suitable for family members of all ages. This is also a chance for you to be among the first generation of children to visit or participate in a freely given Pagan ceremony or ritual.

### Things To Share After Attending

- parts of the Ritual or Ceremony you didn't like
- ideas on how kids could occupy themselves during the dry or boring times
- what parts you feel would be appropriate for kids to do during the ritual or ceremony
- things you didn't understand
- parts or certain times that frightened you
- parts you want to learn more about
- questions you have about anything you saw, heard, or did during the ritual or ceremony

\*\* Be sure to write the answers, things you learned, and the information you contributed to help those doing the rituals and ceremonies into your journal or diary.

### Things To Ask Before Attending

- what is actually going to go on
- find out what is to be expected of you
- talk about what you will wear and how others will be dressed
- find out where it will take place (inside or outside)
- discuss who will be there so you will know how many people will be there
- ask if it is going to be public (meaning there will be people sitting around watching) or if it will be exclusive (where only Pagan's participating will be there so you can prepared mentally)

\*\* Although the answers to these questions really aren't important in your journal or diary, how you feel about going before and after you know all the answers would be.

After you have your own rituals and ceremonies, you will understand them and be able to help fill the gap between kids and adult roles in them. Be sure to share with adults your ideas!

### Your Own Land

#### Quiet Journey

By: Shayla Myst

As I stand at my window  
All the world I see  
Though you see my body  
My heart is wandering free  
To a land that is as wild  
As a storm upon the sea  
A land that my heart knows  
But no one else can see.

Written Feb. 18, 1989

\*Used with permission - Thanks Shayla Mist!

The poem speaks of a secret land where the heart runs free that is visited often.

1. Take your time reading the poem again and try to picture what this land would look like.
2. Draw on a piece of paper your idea of this land and place it in a special place (like your journal, BOS, or even inside your pillow case).
3. Picture this place often and become very familiar with it.
4. Meditate while picturing this place and/or use the picture you drew to concentrate on while slipping into a meditative state.

Connecting with this place and using it when needed will aid in the unfolding of your own strength or energy. You will need this energy as you advance in your own Pagan journey.

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**Tigger's Full Moon Ritual**  
Grove of the Hundred Acre Wood  
*By: Dream Dancer, 20 August 2000*

Under the bright full moon, in the grove at the center of the Hundred Acre Wood, the celebrants come together. Pooh, as summoner, bids them to enter into the sacred space.

One by one, they file in and take their places around the fire. And they wait, and wait and wait, and wait.

“Oh bother!” says Pooh. “Our High Priest is not here. However can we hold our ritual tonight?”

And they wait some more.

Then they hear a crash, and a crash and a crash and a crash, and out of the brush explodes the High Priest.

“Wooohooooohoooo!!! Never fear! The night is clear, and Tigger's here! Tiggers run on Pagan Standard time you know! Now let the ritual begin!!!”

He looks to his left, and takes Rabbit's hand. “Hand to hand this circle is cast.”

Rabbit turns to his left, to Owl. “Hand to hand, this circle is cast.”

Owl turns, and reaches down to piglet. “Ahem. Now from hand to hand, in a most wonderous way, a way that has a history that stretches back into the dawn of time, to when...”

<a series of coughs from the group>

“Oh yes. To you Piglet, hand to hand the circle is cast.”

Piglet turns to Eyore. “Hand to...uh...er...em.”

Eyore: “I don't have any hands. I guess I'm messing things up once again,” he pouts.

Piglet, tho he is a little fellow, feels up to any challenge. “W w w w w well then, hand to ear the circle is cast my friend.”

And so, on it goes.

“Wooohoooohoo,” says Tigger. “The circle is cast, our sacred space is whole. So Mote it Be!! Wooohoo!!”

“So Mote it Be,” reply the others.

“And now, why don't we invite the elements to join us in our celebration tonight? Rabbit?”

Rabbit: “Guardians of the North, Element of Earth, wonderful earth that gives forth carrots, oh beautiful, joyous, wonderful carrots, I invite you to join us in our celebration tonight. Hail, and Welcome.”

“Hail and Welcome,” repeats the group.

Owl: “Ahem!!! Guardians of the East, Element of Air, the spirit of our intelligence and wisdom, of which I of course am a prime example, well read and studious as I am, a font of knowledge as it were, the source for any information you may need, the...”

<coughing from the group once more>

“Ahem, er, yes, Element of Air, we invite you to join us tonight. Hail and Welcome.”

“Hail and Welcome,” repeats the group.

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Piglet: “G g g guardians of South, Element of Fire, I invite you to join us tonight. I know I’m a little Piglet, but I have a b b b big voice, and an even b b b bigger heart, s s so I know you will hear m m m me. H h h h hail and Welcome.”

“Hail and Welcome.” repeats the group.

Eyore: “Oh. I guess it’s my turn. Not that anyone would really listen to me, but it’s my job so I’ll do it. Guardians of the West, Element of Water, I suppose I should ask you to join us tonight. And I’ll probably get all wet, and have to walk around all night, smelling like wet fur. Oh, well, Hail and Welcome I suppose.”

“Hail and Welcome,” repeats the group.

“Wooohooohoo!!! Now, if our sister Kanga can all upon the lady?”

Kanga: “Blessed Lady, Goddess of the moonlight, Mother of us all who keeps us as Joeys in the pouch of her world. Oh, now Roo you musn’t do that. You musn’t play with the cleansing oil like that.”

“But Mama...”

“Now Roo, behave. Thank you. Now, Blessed Mother, you know what children are like, so I’ll just go ahead and invite you to join with us and lend your spirit to this joyous night. Hail and Welcome.

“Wooohooohoo!!! The circle is cast. The Lady is with us. Ain’t it just grand?”

Tigger raises his arms to the sky, and starts to twirl, and starts to bounce, and twirls and bounces, twirls and bounces, doesil around the circle.

“Wooohooohoo. The wonderful thing about witches, is witches is wonderful things. They dance, they prance, they clap and sing. They live a life of joy, peace and fun. But, the most wonderful thing about wiches is...I AIN’T the only one.

“The wonderful thing about witches, is witches is wonderful folks. They’re serious when needed, but always quick with jokes. They honor the Lord, they honor the Lady. They love to lay in a field and bask in the sun, or under a tree where it’s shady. But, the most wonderful thing about witches, I AIN’T the only one.

“The wonderful thing about witches, is witches have wonderful souls. Their hearts will swell, they make folks well, and around campfires, stories tell. They’re happy, clappy, sometimes sappy, and when they don’t ground right, they’re often zappy, but the most wonderful thing about witches is.....I....AIN’T...The.....Only.....One! Wooohooohooohoo! Blessed Be!”

“Blessed Be,” repeats the group.

“Oh, bother,” says Pooh. “That is so silly. This is a ritual. I don’t think we’re supposed to be silly, are we?”

“Au contraire, my dear Pooh. Wooohooohoo!!! We are willy nilly, and silly, but we are celebrating the joy in our hearts, the zest for life that we have, the energy that we share. We heal our souls with happy fun, we set our spirits free to run, we live the beauty of the moon and sun. We’re Witches you know. Hehehehe. Now, please bring forth the bread, wine and honey so we can complete our blessed night.”

“Oh bother,” says Pooh. “The honey jar seems to be empty. I know there was some here, when I checked its taste before ritual. Where ever could it have gone? I guess I’ve ruined the ritual now. Oh brother, oh woe”.

“Wooohooohoo! Christopher Robin is right you know, you really ARE a silly old bear. We’re together, with each other and with the Lady. Hhoney would be nice I’m sure, but our ritual was good and lovely and pure. Perhaps next time tho, you could bring two jars? Wooohooohoo!!! Now, take this cup, and take this bread, and with all being done and said, we are sisters and brothers, from last to first. May you never hunger, may you never thirst. Wooohooohoo!!!”

And so the cup is passed, and the bread to share, and not one thought given to a worldly care.

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“Woohooohoo!!! And now, let us end our Full Moon Ritual. Kanga?”

Kanga: “Thank you Tigger, and for behaving yourself, thank you Roo”.

“Oh, Mama!!!”

Kanga: “Blessed Lady, we thank you for your presence with us tonight, tho like the good Mother you are, you are always with us, at least in our hearts. Go if you must, stay if you will. Hail and Farewell.”

“Hail and Farewell,” repeats the group.

Eyore: “Well, Water, I didn’t think you’d come, but I guess it’s nice that you did. Go if you must, and you probably will, stay if you want to. Hail and Farewell.”

“Hail and Farewell,” repeats the group.

Piglet: “Element of Fire, I kn kn knew you would listen to my c c c call. Thank you for c c c coming. Go if you must, stay if you will. Hail and Farewell.”

“Hail and Farewell,” repeats the group.

Owl: “Ahem!! Element of Air, I knew that you would come, as I’m wont to know so many things, but I thank you none the less. Go if you must, stay if you will. Hail and Farewell.”

“Hail and Farewell,” repeats the group.

Rabbit: “Element of Earth, provider or carrots and cabbages and many great thing, I thank you for coming tonight. Go if you must, stay if you will. Hail and Farewell.”

“Hail and Farewell,” repeats the group.

“Woohooohoo! Just one more thing to do!! As hand to hand the circle was cast, or hand to ear, or ear to hand, or from me to you and you to me, it’s time from hand to hand the circle to set free.”

Tigger turns to Pooh. “Hand to hand, the circle is opened.” And so in widdershins, on it goes.

‘woohooohoo, and now we’re thru. Unlike my furniture, and many other things as well, the circle is open, yet never broken. So Mote It Be!!!”

Tigger starts to bounce, the others to smile and look about.

“Now, music laughter and dance, this is it, this is your chance. Tiggers are excellent drummers you know. Woohooohoo-hoo!!!!”

And the sounds of drumbeats and laughter are heard all thru the night and all thru the Hundred Acre Woods.

\*\* This story was taken from the internet where it can be found in many places. A lot of effort was taken to contact and/or find the author (Thanks Mary Lee Kemper), however it could not be done; Credit’s were given as well as known.

### Story Enhancement

Learn the phases of the moon and all about rituals. Write, prepare and perform your own rituals on each of the moon phases.

## - Correspondence Journal -

### The Days Of The Week

Like so many things in this world, the days of the week hold their own significance as well. Copy the chart below into your journal. Pay close attention the next couple of weeks to the correspondences and see if you can relate to their meaning. Use the chart to help you plan your week and make adjustments as needed when you find a new significance to the days.

**Monday:** Lunar energy, psychic abilities, dreams, astral work, intuition, family, spirituality (Moon)

**Tuesday:** Strength, courage, anger, independence, action (Mars)

**Wednesday:** Creativity, communication, divination, wisdom, travel, (Mercury)

**Thursday:** Prosperity, wealth, generosity, growth (Jupiter)

**Friday:** Love, peace, music, beauty (Venus)

**Saturday:** Banishing, protection, obstacles, the elderly, lost items, freedom (Saturn)

**Sunday:** Health, prosperity, power, joy, leadership, individuality, healing, hope, (Sun)

#### Herb Focus: Dandelion



**Color:** the flower head is a creamy yellow with a dark stem

**Location:** all over the world.

**Magickal attributes:** psychic awareness, divination, wishes, and calling spirits

**Planet:** Jupiter

**Element:** Air

*\*\* As with all natural medicinal items and purposes, be sure to talk to a parent before using.*

#### Mineral Focus: Agate



**Color:** blue-gray, beige, red, brown, strips, patterns, and decorative shapes

**Element:** earth

**Healing Properties:** used to treat headaches and dizziness

**Magickal Properties:** protects children from danger, brings prosperity,

**Care:** Once a month it should be cleaned under warm running water. Place in the sun to increase its energy

*\*\* Crystal Healing is an acquired art and shouldn't be practiced without parental permission and/or guidance.*



## Tree Wisdom: ASH



There are about 65 species of the ash. They can be found all over the world. It is a member of the olive family. The tree is hardy, grows fast and native to northern temperate zone. Although some can grow in the tropics, they can grow in almost any soil, even through the worse of conditions; air pollution.

### *Predicting the Weather:*

**If the ash tree appears before the oak, then there'll be a good soak. But if the oak comes before the ash, then expect a very small splash.**



**In France and Europe** during the 19th century a superstition was well believed; If a person had a fever or toothache, bury their finger and toe nail clippings under an ash tree to get rid of their pain.

### Quick Facts

**Powers/Attributes:** ambition, balance, communication, creativity, growth, healing, protection, stability

**Elements:** air, earth, fire, water

**Goddesses:** Eostre, Frigg, Hel/Holle, Minerva, Nemesis

**Gods:** Ares, Dagda, Frey, Llyr, Neptune, Odin, Poseidon, Thor, Woden

**Other:** Gwydion

**Zodiac:** Capricorn, Libra, Taurus, Virgo

**Celestial Bodies:** Mercury, Neptune, Sun, Venus

**Gemstones:** clear quartz, coral, zircon

**Spellwork & Ritual:** attraction spells, negativity ridding, seed divintaion, protection spells, energy boosting spells, sea magic, solar magic, brings inspiration

### Historical Shorts

- Ancient Egyptians imported ash to use for bows and arrows.
- Medieval Europe used ash for wheel spokes and other products that needed to have strength.
- The Greek god of war preferred ash to make excellent spear shafts.
- Ancient Greeks had a creation story where people were made from the ash and oak trees.
- In England, it was considered lucky if you found an ash leaf with equal number of sections on both sides.
- In Medieval Europe, if an ash tree was on your land and did not produce seeds each year you were to have bad luck in love.
- In Norse mythology, a special ash tree called Yggdrasil connects the heaven and earth.
- Ash was considered a part of the triad of powerful faery trees
- Ash was traditional besom handle material

### Ash Buggy Problems

Meet the ash trees worse enemy; the Emerald Ash Borer. They made their way to America on some firewood in 2001 from overseas where they don't bother the native trees.

These small beetles lay eggs that hatch into larva which eats into the ash tree. They will continue to bore into the tree leaving open wounds and cutting into the tree inners that are used to carry water and other essentials to the tree. When the larva leaves, the hole is used by another adult to lay a new egg in; that egg's larva will bore in deeper. Eventually the tree will starve to death and die off because the small beetles have blocked all of it's supply routes.



Studies are still taking place to see if there is a tree friendly pesticide that can be used to deter or kill the beetle. Check your state and see when the Emerald Ash Borer first came there. Spend some time researching the bug and/or seeing if you can find some and help the tree as much as possible.

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## Churning the Elements

As Pagans we acknowledge the Elements as the very building blocks of our existence. They are the substances of which everything is created. It is important to understand and harmonize with the working elements in order to live in balance with the higher power.



### Fire Correspondences

**Direction** : South

**Time** : Noon

**Season** : Summer

**Tools** : Athame, candles, censer

**Sense** : Sight

**Gemstone** : Fire opal

**Plants** : Garlic, hibiscus, nettle, onion, mustard, red pepper, red poppies

**Trees** : Almond in flower

**Animals** : Fire-breathing dragons, horses, lions

**Spirits** : Salamanders, fire-drakes

**Ruled by** : King Djin

**Goddess** : Brigit, Vesta, Pele, Hestia

**God** : Agni, Hephaestus, Horus, Vulcan



**Fire**, like air is also one of the most important elements to our existence. Sure we could live with out fire but it would be pretty miserable. Think about it. With out fire we could not cook or heat our homes. We would not be able to see when the dark of the night falls. We would freeze in the winter and all of our food would have to be eaten raw, even our meat. We would be in the same boat that the people from the beginning ages were in . We could not use our natural resources, like metal, to its full potential because there would be no way to melt down the ore and shape tools and such from it. Fire keeps us warm, and lights our nights. It allows us to cook our food and live more comfortably.



**Fire** is not something to fear but it can be a very dangerous element when you do not give it the respect it deserves as can all the elements. You must be careful when you are around fire and under estimate its powers, for you will get burned. Try to visualize fire in your minds eye, feel it, smell, it.

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## Churning the Elements....Continued

### Experiments With Fire . . . .



#### Feeling Fires Energy:

On a cold Winters night make you a cup of hot cocoa. Place your hands around the cup and absorb the warmth from the cocoa. Place your hands on your face and feel the heat go from your palm of your hand into your face. That heat is energy. You are transferring that energy from the cocoa, to your hands, and then to your face.

#### Observing Fires Energy:

The next time you take a trip to the beach gather up some drift wood. With adult supervision and help start a camp fire from this drift wood. Watch as the fire laps up the dry wood and you will se the most amazing thing, the flames are blue! This is caused from the salt in the wood. Spend time watching the flames and see if you can make out any pictures in them like you would if you were watching the clouds.



#### Make a Wish

On your next birthday, as you are sitting before your cake, take time to count the candles and really reflect upon the last year. Close your eyes then and make a wish before you blow them out. As the tale goes if you blow out all the candles your wish will come true.

## Celtic Corner

### The Celtic Triad

Triad's are simply a topic and three supporting statements to teach or explain it. For many years Triad's have been used to inform people of different things. The Welsh triad's for instance teach folklore, mythology, and history.

The Celtic triad leans more towards teaching life's lessons and is usually represented in a bard like (storytelling) way. When times change so does the wording of the triad, however, the meaning is something that will stay the same. There are so many of triad's written over time that you could almost have a new one for each day of your life.

Do some research of your own and find a list of traids and choose one to study in depth. Look up the words you don't know, figure out how things are connected together and get a good understanding of the lesson it is teaching. When you understand it you may want to take a shot at writing your own.

### Traid

Three senses a person must have:

*Sense of worth*  
*Sense of understanding*  
*Sense of compassion*

Find a list of many Celtic Triad's here:  
<http://wolf.mind.net/library/celtic/triads/triads.htm>

*\*you will have to scroll down 1/4 way down to find the list*

### The Celtic Scribe

Today there are great artists that reflect the Celtic world for the many Pagan based religions of today. The steps taken to get to this simple world of Celtic knots, crosses, and intricate design is very interesting.

The journey started back with abstract and floral symbols put together in very special ways. These symbols formed intricate designs that could be found in jewelry, armor and other everyday metal objects found in the Ancient Celtic world.

The individuals who made these wonderful things were very respected. They had a design which not only reflected them as a society but left room for individual design aspects. Things they made can be found throughout the world which shows that they were in demand by everyone.

The Christians took over the ancient Pagan world and it changed into a different kind of world. This is when the ancient artists entered their most challenging job; the Christian Scribes. The Scribes job was to document Christian words and great works. The Pagan values did not change in their new Christian environment.

The ancient Celts didn't document anything about their world, the only traces of their world can be found in their art work; this is something that the Scribes carried on. Many of the sacred texts the Christians hold true have many images that show Pagan values.

Although some images are easy to see the Pagan touch in them like the one's with images of animals held sacred by the Celtic religions, other images are more difficult to understand. In this aspect the ancient scribes kept their belief of 'no documentation' true. Take the time to look at some of the great images that the Celtic scribe left behind to the Pagan's of the future. See Some books to take notice in would be the Book of Kells, the Book of Armagh, the Book of Dimma.

Although you can find many places that 'show' or 'teach' you how to draw some of these intricate designs, it is best not to use them. Every individual needs to do things from within for them to be real. Don't worry too much about doing things the way you feel they should be; mistakes are what causes things to advance and/or adds a touch that could have never been reached any other way. Make your own step in this occupation that has been around for longer than most.

Make a journal or BOS entry showing your interpretation of some of these images. Incorporate some of their art work, or your own similar, into some of your writings on a regular basis to aid in keeping the ancient Pagan tradition alive.



# The Bard's Story Tyme

1

## Interactive Poem

Grab a piece of tissue paper to use for actions as you read the poem below. Directions for the poem can be downloaded:

<http://paganmoonbeams.com/offerings/PoemDirections.pdf>

### Active Spring

The top of the world seems to sleep  
But only if you don't look beneath  
The slight stirring of a seed  
As it sprouts and eats its stored feed

The top of the world seems to sleep  
But only if you don't look beneath  
Inside a new birth is stirring  
Its food source filling up soon transferring

The top of the world seems to sleep  
But only if you don't look beneath  
Laying out on branches and limbs  
Small sparks of life stir and begin

The top of the world seemed to sleep  
Inside Mother Earth danced and leaped  
To bring a silent gift so calmly  
A brand new world just for me

2

## Tomato Project

You will be watching how spring prepares for life in the warmth of your own home by growing a tomato from a seed. All during the project take notice of how growth is going on and the weather outside and remember that what is happening to your tomato is also happening to the world outside.

Preparation: go to this site and see what the projected date is for the last freeze in your area:

[http://www.weather.com/maps/activity/garden/usnationalnormallastfreeze\\_large.html](http://www.weather.com/maps/activity/garden/usnationalnormallastfreeze_large.html) write it down. Next go to the calendar and move ahead 2 weeks after that date—this will be the date you need to plant your seeds. Next you will go back and count from the last day of frost back 6-8 weeks. This is the date you will begin your plants using the directions below:

### Directions

Take a bite out of a tomato. Take a look at it and notice at how complicated the inside of the tomato is like. Imagine that this large complicated thing was made from only one of the small seeds you see inside it. When done take out around 5 seeds to use in your project.

Make a hole in the bottom of a Styrofoam cup and fill it with potting soil then tap it down on the floor or counter to get out the air. Use water to dampen the soil being sure not to soak it.

You will plant your seeds in this soil so the dirt barely covers the seeds then place the cup into a plastic bag that has an opened top.

You will sit the starter in a warm location away from direct sunlight. Do not let the dirt dry out, if it looks as though it is drying use a spray bottle to spray it lightly.

After 5-10 days you should see the start of plants. When they come up you will need to separate them and place in a different Styrofoam cup then move to the window sill. If you get more than one put only one in each cup being careful not to rip their roots up.

Each day you will need to turn your tomato starter plant around so the sun will hit all sides evenly.

On the scheduled day plant your tomatoes which will be either in a larger very deep pot or outside in your own garden. Be sure to watch and nurture your plants with water and moving them to get the most sunlight on a regular basis.

Be sure your tomatoes are ripe before picking. Once picked enjoy a gift from nature!

3

## Taking A Walk

As often as possible take a walk being sure to bundle yourself up. Even though the ground looks like it is asleep look for the small signs of it's preparation for the upcoming season. Try to remember the things you saw and in the future you will just be able to look around and know how long it will be before Spring is here.

4

## Make a Seed Mosaic

Cut a piece of cardboard desired size. Draw a fairly large easy drawing of what this time of year represents on it with a black crayon. Pick the color of dry beans to use in each section of the drawing. Color small sections in the picture with glue then place beans in a row or design to have the areas show the desired color. When done hang on your wall or sit on your altar.

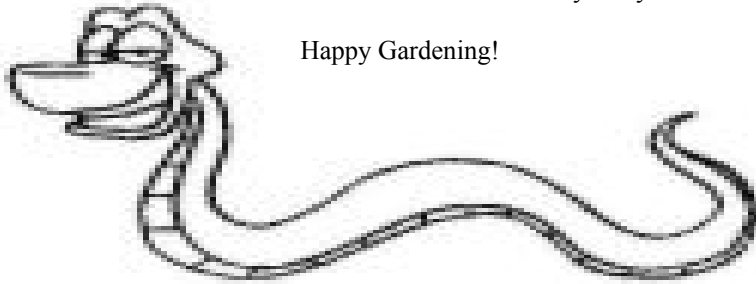
# Spring Is Waking Up

## Garden Snakes

Lets make some garden snakes to help keep the birds and critters out of our newly planted gardens. There is no need to be afraid of these garden snakes though they are only meant to keep out the pest!

Sticks from the yard  
Tempers paint, all colors  
Paint brushes

Use your imagination. Paint the stick to resemble real snakes. Be creative and have fun. Once you are through painting your snakes allow several hrs for them to dry and then you can place them around your garden area. Birds and critters will be afraid of them and stay away.



Happy Gardening!

## My Spring Garden

Here is my little garden,  
Some seeds I'm going to sow,  
Here is my rake to rake the ground,  
Here is my handy hoe.

Here is the big, round, yellow sun;  
The sun warms everything.  
Here are the rain clouds in the sky;  
The birds will start to sing.

Little plants will wake up soon  
And lift their sleepy heads;  
Little plants will grow and grow

## I'm a Dandelion

(sung to the tune of "I'm a little tea pot")

**I'm a dandelion,  
Oh, so small,  
I'm growing bigger,  
Now I'm tall**

*Crouch down.  
Slowly rise.  
Stand.*

**Soon my yellow blossom  
Will turn to fluff.  
Along will come the wind  
With a great big huff.**

*Round arms over head.  
Turn in a circle.  
Blow.*

**Then my dandy seeds  
Will dance around —  
Traveling to places;  
Floating to the ground**

*Wiggle fingers above head.  
Lower finger to the ground.*

—Deborah Burlison

## A Spring Time Snack

### Dandelion Puff Cookies

12- oz box of vanilla wafers  
16- oz pkg of softened cream cheese or white frosting  
14 -oz pkg of coconut

To make a dandelion puff cookie, spread cream cheese or frosting on a vanilla wafer. Dip the cookie into the coconut.

### Dandelion Punch

13- oz pkg of lime flavored powered drink mix  
46- oz can of unsweetened pineapple juice  
Sugar to taste

Following the pkg directions, add water to the powered drink mix. Stir in the pineapple juice; then add sugar to taste.

## Digging Deeper

### Flower Garden

Written by *Eve Bunting*  
Illustrated by *Kathryn Hewitt*  
Published by *Harcourt Brace & Company*

### Alison's Zinnia

Written & Illustrated by *Anita Lobel*  
Published by *William Morrow & Company, Inc.*

### The Flower Alphabet Book

Written by *Jerry Pallotta*  
Illustrated by *Leslie Evans*  
Published by *Charlesbridge Publishing*

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## *Pagan Touch Of Class: Field Trips*

**Pagan field trips** are not totally out of the question; however, not many people think about doing them. Although it may not be something advertised, there are many ways to take Pagan field trips and/or add a Pagan touch to the field trips you already have scheduled. Hopefully some of these ideas will help find a few Pagan field trips, to make your home-school more rounded.

### **Pagan Focused Field Trip Ideas:**

- Call your local new age store to schedule a tour for your family or home school group. This would be a great experience for both you and the store and if a tour is not possible, go there yourself and browse the aisles together while discussing all the different items for sale. Talk about their meanings and/or uses, as well as the different paths within the Pagan spectrum that use them.
- Contact individuals who supply you, your family, or area with Pagan type products and ask for a demonstration. They may even come to a place of your choice to give it to you and let you make your own sample as well.
- Pagan-topic day workshops in your area are appropriate for children. These workshops can sometimes be called in advance and they can set up a small group workshop for the younger home school crowd for only a small fee.
- Local Pagans or Pagan groups within your chosen path would be more than willing to arrange a field trip experience for the younger crowd. You could also call people who are in a higher position to meet your family or small group, to discuss religious topics and/or demonstrate things.
- Set up a demonstration and or workshop with your local divination, palm reader, fortune teller, or horoscope writer. If you live in a large area, setting up more than one per subject might prove for a nice project on comparisons.
- Contact your local Drum or Bard circles for a field trip. These are one of the more fun field trips and offer a lot for all ages. These field trips do not have to be a one time experience; they can offer something fresh each time they are contacted.
- If you live near a reservation, a visit is definitely in order. You can see the absurd amount of demonstrations on many Pagan focused topics. This is also a great opportunity to get a glimpse of a strong Pagan culture that has adapted to today's world without losing their Pagan foundation.
- Visiting a local or semi-local Pagan based facility (such as a church or school) or arranging for a tour, demonstration, or just a question/answer session could be a great field trip. If the facility is dedicated to a different path than you are, simply look at the area of interest instead of the actual teachings it relays (or you could simply learn more about your Pagan neighbors).
- Contact individuals that have jobs (for example: hand fasting) or positions (such as a clergy) within the Pagan religions. These people offer great workshops on their chosen work or position, as well as within the Pagan religion. They are also easy to contact, usually very eager to share, and very versatile as to time and place. Interviews are also an idea here. This would be nice for a school project; also, for the older crowd who interested in a pagan based job.

### **Subject Field Trips with a Pagan Touch**

**Art**– Visiting an art museum to find signs of Paganism in the past always brings fun. Take a notebook, or a camera if allowed, to document the things you find. If going in a group, getting together afterward to compare notes or pictures can be a lot of fun.

**Science**– Planetariums put on great shows during holiday seasons to show astrological stories and many reflect the Pagan view.

**Geography**– Visiting the ‘birth place’ of your chosen path may be a reality for some; however, not everyone will be able to make such a large trip across the ocean. A trip to a famous, well-known Pagan historical landmark or place might be more realistic for others. Some research in your local area most often will reveal special Pagan significance and a field trip possibility.

**History**– History museums cover many different cultures and with them come the beliefs they follow. What a great place to show the blooming or devoted Pagan practices of the past. This is also a great place to learn about the different paths within the Pagan realm.

**Music**– A trip to a larger music store that has world instruments always makes a fun field trip. No tour will be needed; however, taking a book or report on world Pagan instruments would be nice. View, and possibly take a chance to play these instruments. Experiencing instruments played now or in the past by Pagans is always a great treat and can even be inspiring.

**Civics**– Visiting Pagan topic trials or even the court where a well-known Pagan trial took place can be a treat. Contacting a lawyer, judge, or other important figure in the judicial court for interview or discussion on Pagan trials, would be a great field trip as well.

When a specific place cannot be found for an actual Pagan field trip, you can always resort to areas of interest for Pagans. Some of these ideas might be digging for crystals, or star gazing. The idea's for this type of field trip are endless and lots of fun!

**Don't forget** the movies and IMAX theaters that offer Pagan related movies. The documentaries that will be the most informative work well for all ages as long as a coloring page or journal can be used during the film itself.

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# Faith Focus: Hinduism

Hinduism is a religion that has been around since 4000 BCE and the third largest religion of today. It is one of the few religions where there is no founder or teacher, instead a collaboration of many different people and contributions. The actual name 'Hinduism' is used for this religion by people in North America. Other names that are used for this religion is Sanatana Dharma and Vaidika Dharma. The religion itself is also a very controversial religion to this day. The religion itself could, if you dig deep enough, be classified as a Pagan and a monotheistic religion, however, the general populous consider it to be Pagan. The Hindu religion has a strong belief in reincarnation until one reaches enlightenment. To reach enlightenment you have to pass Samsara by earning higher level rebirths through positive karma.

The people following Hinduism are very peaceful serious people. Hindus are not necessarily passive people, they do believe in self defense as well as organized fighting (military) however with both there are a set of rules they must follow which make sure they do things fairly and with only skill. They live by guidelines and are careful not to cross them. Meditation and/or Yoga is heavily practiced. There are many different kinds of religious activities used by Hindus; daily devotions, public rituals, and puja (a ceremonial dinner for a diety).

## Main Worship Branches of Hinduism

Vaishnavism—The view that Vishnu is the main diety.

Shivaism—The view that Shiva is the main diety.

Rural Hinduism—The view that local village or nature diety is the main one.

## Hindu Moral Code

Hindu moral codes are a written collection of books called DHARMA SUTRAS.

Hindu moral codes are the integral part of Hinduism and they come under the big umbrella called DHARMA. It is difficult to translate the word DHARMA.

Some of the codes are:

**AHIMSA (NON-KILLING)**  
**SATHYA (TRUTH)**  
**DHARMA (DUTY)**  
**KARUNA (COMPASSION)**  
**VIRYA (FORTITUDE)**  
**DAMA (SELF-RESTRAINT)**  
**SAUCHA (PURITY)**

The sacred texts of the Hinduism religion could very well be the oldest written religious text ever found. Take a look at the many texts this religion has honored for many decades:

- Veda's (Rig Vega, Sama Vega, Yajur Vega, Atharva Vega)
- Ramayana
- Mahabharata
- Brahmanas
- Sutrus
- Puranas
- Aranyakas

Check into these readings on your own. Pick a page and read half of it. When done write what you learned from them.

The Hindus organize their lives and certain activities around **The Four Folds of Hinduism**

Goals of pravritti / those of the world are:

1. Dharma (righteousness in their religious life)
2. Artha (prosper materialisticly)
3. Kama (gradification of the senses)

Goal of Nivritti / those who renounce the world:

1. Moksa (Liberation from Samsara)

There is a saying within the religion that promotes religious tolerance:

**Ekam sataha vipraha bahudha vadanti**

Translated: The truth is one, but different Sages call it by different names



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## God of the Month : Krishna

The Hindu God Krishna is the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, He was born in the Dvarpara Yuga as the “dark one.” Krishna was born the eighth child of Devaki, sister of the evil demon king Kamsa. It was predicted by a sage that Kamsa would be killed by his nephew so the king killed Kamsa’s first six children. The seventh, Balarama, escaped and the eighth was exchanged for a cow herders daughter. Kamsa did not know that this had happened for it was a secret exchange. After Krishna killed Kamsa, he became king.

*Krishna is a trickster, lover, an instigator of all forms of knowledge. He is the extreme symbol of love, and divine joy willing to destroy all pain and sin. He was born to establish the religion of LOVE.*

### **“The Dark One”, The Savior God.**

#### **FAST FACTS**

*Draw a line from the first part of each fact to the rest of it on the opposite side. Answers can be found on page 20*

The most famous avatar or incarnation	love and music
His birth was announced	of Vishnu.
Shepherds and wise men	hanging between heaven and earth as his blood fertilized the soil.
He survived	by a star and angelic voices.
He was sacrificed by	a slaughter of the innocents.
He was called Redeemer,	Firstborn, Sinbearer, Liberator.
He is the God of	brought him gifts.

*He is said to return at the end of each age to save the righteous, destroy sin , and establish goodness and holiness.*

### ***Janmashthami The Time of the Lord***

Krishna was born at midnight on the ashtami, or the 8th day of the Krishnapaksha, or dark fortnight in the Hindu month of Bhadra ( August-September). This day is called Janmashthami.

This day long religious festival is held on the 8th day of the waning moon. In the evening the Hindu people meet at the mandir ( temple.) They sing religious songs and dance. Many Hindus fast all day until midnight in which they then

#### **Dress up Krishna**

**Follow the link below to get ideals of how Krishna dressed**

[http://www.sanatansociety.com/indian\\_art\\_galleries/ie\\_life\\_krishna\\_paintings.htm](http://www.sanatansociety.com/indian_art_galleries/ie_life_krishna_paintings.htm)

*\*\* Directions for making a homemade doll that can be used when studying or worshipping any of the God/Goddess can be found in December 2007's issue. Idea's on dress and props will be put in all issues as new God/Goddess' are introduced.*

## Goddess of the Month : Durga

### Durga the Invincible

Durga is an incarnation of Devi, the Mother Goddess. The Goddess Durga is considered by Hindus to be the mother of Ganesha, Kartikeya, as well of Saraswati, and Lakshmi. She is thus considered the fiercer demon-fighting form of Shiva's wife, Goddess Parvati.

*Durga is the Goddess warrior of protection*

***The Hindu Goddess Durga, manifested when evil forces threatened the very existence of the Gods.***

In order to destroy the demons the Gods came together and each of them offered their divine radiance to her creation forming the parts of Durgas body. She is said to be exquisitely beautiful. She has three lotus-like eyes, and ten powerful arms, lush hair with thick radiant curls, a red golden hue takes to her skin, and a quarter moon on her forehead. Himalayas gifted her a fierce golden lion, and she is often seen riding upon this great beast. Along with her many arms she was also given very powerful weapons from each of the Gods and assumes mudras, or symbolic hand gestures.

On the end of the 8th and the beginning of the 9th day of the waxing moon, the demons, Chanda and Munda came to fight the Goddess. Her color turned to liquid blue with anger and the Goddess Chamunda lunged out of her third eye. She finally killed the demons with her sword.

### What's Behind a Name

**The name Durga in Sanskrit means "invincible." The syllable "du" is synonymous with the 4 devils of poverty, suffering, famine, and evil habits. The "r" refers to disease, and the "ga" is the destroyer of sins, injustice, irreligion, cruelty, and laziness.**

## Durga's Weapons

*Draw a line from the God to the weapon on the opposite side. Answers can be found on page 20*

**Each of the Gods gave Durga their own most powerful weapon to take with her new form. Can you match the Gods to the weapons that they gave Durga.**

**Researching the Gods and the weapons may help you with your matching quest.**

Rudra	gada
Vishnu	kamandal
Indra	discus
Brahma	trident
Kuber	thunderbolt

### Dress up Durga

Durga wears a shiny ocean blue attire. Embedded in her garments are ornaments carved of beautiful gold with ocean pearls and precious stones.

*\*\* Directions for making a homemade doll that can be used when studying or worshipping any of the God/Goddess can be found in December 2007's issue. Idea's on dress and props will be put in all issues as new God/Goddess' are introduced.*

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## Craft – EE

**Spring** is a great time of year to replace your magickal and or house hold broom. Broom lore has played an important role in many Pagan traditions. Follow the instructions below to construct your own magickal broom.

### The Broom

The broom has been associated with magick sense the ancient earlier days. This common household tool is so scared in so parts of the world that there are actually broom deities.

In China, the broom Godess is Sao Ch'ing Niang, known as the Lady with the Broom. She lives on the Broom Star and presides over good weather.

In the old days several different types of brooms were made for magickal purposes . Today most tend to have one for magickal workings and one for mundane practicle purposes.

### Broom Magick

- When using a broom for the first time, make a wish and it will come true.
- Placing a small broom under a persons pillow was thought to keep evil from a persons slumber.
- Two brooms crossed and hung on the door or a wall is said to guard the house as is placing a broom on the ground before the main door.
- It is unlucky to buy a broom in the month of August.
- If you have nightmares, you can put a broom under the bed to sweep away the bad dreams.
- If a broom drops across a door way, you will soon go on a journey. However, be sure to pick it up quickly don't step over it.

### How to Make a Magickal Broom

It is fairly easy to make your own magick broom.

You will need a fallen stick from your yard, straw (you can find this at your local craft store,) or fallen pine needles and some string( I prefer embroidery floss doubled.)

Take the straw or pine needles and bunch them into small bundles tying them securely with the floss. Do this until you have about 6 small bundles of straw or pine needles.

Now you are ready to attach them to your stick. Take the floss and wrap it around a bundle several times securing it with a knot and then wrap around the stick several times and securing it with a knot. Do this for all the bundles securing them as you go. When you reach your 1st bundle allow enough floss to wrap several times around the stick to insure that the bundles will hold and secure with a knot.

Take good care of your new magickal broom.

Be sure and charge it under the next full moon!

### Besom Song

Besom, besom long and lithe  
Made from ash and willow with  
Tied with thongs of willow bark  
In running stream at moonset dark  
With a pentagram indighted  
As the ritual fire is lighted  
Sweep ye cycle, deosil  
Sweep out evil, sweep out ill  
Make the round of the ground  
Where we do the Lady's will

Besom, besom, lady's broom  
Sweep out darkness, sweep out doom  
Rid ye lady's hallowed ground  
Of demons, imps, and Hell's red hound  
Then set ye down on Her green earth  
By running stream or Mistress' hearth  
Till called once more on Sabbath night  
To cleanse once more the dancing site

## Taghairm's Apothecary



### Cauldron Lore

The cauldron represents the lunar calendar and the wheel of the year. The cauldron is the womb of rebirth. It has been called many things by many different people. Some of which are red claret by the Celts, the grail by the Welch Bards, soma by the Hindus. The Goddess and her cauldron are the center of all feminine power. A symbol of this is a witch and her cauldron.

The cauldron is the center of magick, inspiration, and manifestation, as seen in Cerridwen's cauldron which was sought by the Bards. Though the cauldron holds its magickal place it was also the soul to all families. It represented warmth, and health. It was the where all the food was prepared to insure a healthy family through happy and troubled times.

### A Kitchen Witches Bottle

*Scott Cunningham—adaption*

Place three needles, three pins, and three nails into a small glass bottle. Add a clove of peeled garlic, or if the bottle is too small, add a spoon full of crushed or powdered garlic, and a pinch of dried thyme.

Fill the bottle with sea salt, and shake vigorously nine times and seal the bottle with red wax.

Place the bottle in a cupboard where it won't be seen, and it will protect your kitchen from food poisoning and other culinary disasters.

To be done under adult supervision only.

*Keep out of reach of small children.*

### Cauldron Cookies

By Gerina Dunwich

3/4 softened butter	1 tablespoon of lemon juice
2 cups brown sugar	2 table spoons of grated lemon rind
2 eggs	2 cups flour
	1 cup finely chopped pecans

Cream the butter in a large cast iron cauldron (or mixing bowl). Gradually add the brown sugar, beating well. Add the eggs, lemon juice and rind, and then beat by hand or with an electric mixer until the mixture is well blended. The next step is to stir in the flour and pecans. Cover the cauldron with a lid, or foil and refrigerate overnight. When ready shape the dough into one inch balls and place about three inches apart on greased cookie sheets. Bake in a 375-degree preheated oven for approximately eight minutes. Remove from the oven and place on wire racks until completely cooled. This recipe yields about 36 cookies which can be served at any of the eight sabbats and well as the esbats and all other Witches get together.

*Krishna Fast Fact Answers from pg. 17*

The most famous avatar or incarnation of Vishnu.  
His birth was announced by a star and angelic voices.  
Shepherds and wise men brought him gifts.

He survived a slaughter of the innocents.

He was sacrificed by hanging between heaven and earth as  
his blood fertilized the soil.

He was called Redeemer, Firstborn, Sinbearer, Liberator.

He is the God of love and music



intelligent info for today's pagan kids...and it's free!

What is a male honeybees favorite magickal item?



## *The Caul-drone*

### Inviting A Friend

As a child is usually not custom to actually invite a friend to join in a ritual without first discussing it with your parent or another adult. However, there may come a time that a good non-Pagan friend will attend a ritual or celebration with you. Usually this is not very common, however, in relationships where the families are friends it may happen. Although parents tend to work their own way, your friend will need you to comfort them where they don't feel so awkward or lost during things.

It is best to only give them a few do's and don'ts because too many will make them nervous and on edge during things which usually means accidents happen. In the long list of things you need to dwindle down to the most important and needed, in the end would probably only be two things. If your group casts a circle, be sure to tell them if they feel uncomfortable and a need to leave to ask someone next to them to help them leave the circle properly. It is also important that you tell them to not touch anything, especially things on altars or belonging to people within the group. The only thing left to do is to do what is natural and use their common sense.

During the ritual be sure to stay close to your friend to comfort them throughout. Talk before hand about how people will dress and/or what they will be like. If your group requires participants to say, eat, or do things during ritual be sure to tell them what it is in advance and when it is going on be sure to look at them with smile and such so they are comfortable doing it. Discuss the last ritual you went to and walk them through what happens and how it works. Make sure you prepare them for the before and after festivities as well as letting them know when the actual ritual begins and ends because they may not be familiar with the cues you know of. Tell them to take something small with them to keep in their pocket, like a small stone, to rub when they are feeling nervous or on edge.

You need to prepare yourself for this visit as well as watch yourself during it. Be sure to dress your best no matter what you are wearing. Make sure you, yourself, understand what is going to be happening so you will have no surprises; if you are even a little confused for a second your friend will notice, especially if they themselves are nervous already. Remember you are the example of yourself, the religion, and the group so be sure to act appropriately.

Be sure to share more than just the ritual or celebration with your friend. Have them come a little early for before activities and stay a little after for the activities that take place then as well. If they are feeling comfortable introduce them to other people that have attended, be sure to include the one who was in charge of things as a courtesy to both parties.

It would be nice if you asked them what they thought and/or if they had any questions a few days after the event. Answer everything they ask or let them know you aren't sure and make a point of asking someone who does and getting back to them with the answer. It might also be a nice jester to ask them if you can attend the next meeting, ceremony, ritual, or other special religious event they have coming up. It is great to share and/or understand each other's religions among good friends.

### **Durga's Weapons**

*Answers from pg. 18*

<b>Rudra</b>	<b>trident</b>
<b>Vishnu</b>	<b>discus</b>
<b>Indra</b>	<b>thunderbolt</b>
<b>Brahma</b>	<b>kamandal</b>
<b>Kuber</b>	<b>gada</b>

### **Being Pagan Is Not About . . .**

Being Popular either by being in or totally out  
of the crowd !

## February 2008 Pagan Calendar

1  
Oimeic  
Brigantia  
Kalends of February  
St. Bridget  
Candlemas Eve  
2  
Imbolc  
Juno Februa  
Candlemas  
Wives' Feast Day  
Groundhog Day  
3  
St. Blasius  
4  
King Frost Day  
5  
Nones of February  
Tyche  
Fortuna  
Wyrd  
St. Agatha  
6  
St. Dorothea  
7  
New Moon  
8  
Egyptian Day  
9  
Apollo  
St. Apollonia  
10  
Egyptian Day  
11  
Our Lady  
Egyptian Day  
12  
Artemis  
Diana  
Runic Half-month of Sigel Commences  
13  
Ides of February  
Parentalia  
St. Matthias  
Old Leap Year's Day

14  
First Quarter Moon  
Juno Februa  
Vali  
St. Valentine  
15  
Faunus  
Lupercalia  
Sigfrid  
St. Oswy  
16  
17  
Fornacalia  
Celtic Tree Month of Luis Ends  
Egyptian Day  
18  
Festival of Women  
Celtic Tree Month of Nuin Commences  
Tacita  
Egyptian Day  
19  
Goddess month of Bridhe Ends  
20  
Goddess Month of Moura Commences  
21  
Full Moon  
Ferialia  
22  
Concordia  
Charistia  
23  
Terminalia  
24  
25  
26  
Egyptian Day  
27  
Runic Half-month of Tyr Commences  
Egyptian Day  
28  
29  
Last Quarter Moon  
Leap Year's Day  
Egyptian Day

**This month** was named after the Roman goddess Februa, mother of Mars who is the patron of love. Can you name things below that are connected to this month?



FLOWER



STONE

### LEAP YEAR

Calendars are set up to be in line with the trip the earth takes around the sun. In nature nothing much is totally correct when mixing it with facts and figures. This is also true when it comes to dates and trips around the sun; they are not always the same. There has been no calendar system that was able to be correct without adjustments.

The Gregorian calendar that we go by now uses what they call leap years to adjust the calendar. Leap years are years where an extra day is needed to keep the trip and dates in line with one another. This day is added at the end of the month of February. On the leap year February will have 29 days instead of the usual 28.

## U.S. Holidays 4 February

### Festival of Lupercus

The ancient Romans had a great festival in the month of February called the Festival of Lupercus. The celebration was focused on love, marriage, and starting a family.

During the month an order of Roman priests would meet in a sacred cave where famous God & Goddess' met many years ago. The meeting would consist of the sacrifice of a couple of animals to assure purity and childbirth. The hides would be made into strips and carried by young boys dressed like animals through the fields where they would hit the women with them. If a woman was hit with the skin strips she would be blessed with beautiful and healthy children.

Later that afternoon all the single young women would put their name on paper and put it in an urn that was passed around. Each single male would draw a piece of paper to find out who his girlfriend would be for the year. By the end of year some of these couples would have fallen in love and become married while others would decide they weren't a good couple and join in the Festival of Lupercus festivities in the next year.

This celebration has stood the test of time although it has been adapted to different religions and times. The common accepted name for this holiday is Valentine's Day where most exchange valentines to let other's know how they feel about them.

Try a new version of this holiday by picking someone with the opposite sex that you are not that familiar with. Make a vow to befriend them this year, it may turn into a great friendship that can last a lifetime.

### A Look @ Past Presidents' Faith

Mid February President's day will be upon us. Most of the United States will be showing respect to it's past presidents, mostly Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Take a step further this year and look at all the presidents, their accomplishments, and their contribution to the Pagan based religions in whole.

It isn't actually written that these men were categorized into Pagan based religions, but there are many that stood up for the Pagan way of life. Do a little research on a single president and decide what religion you think they are based on their own actions. When doing your research look deeper into their times, their commitment to their belief's and/or how it influenced the decisions they made in and out of office. As a final note you might be able to come up with a message or even a saying they used a lot to show their support within the beliefs. You will have to look a little deeper than you think because the times and/or position they had were definitely not Pagan friendly which also made their steps within and for the religion, no matter how small, more of a great feat.

A few president's worth looking into for this project would be: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Millard Fillmore, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, Abraham Lincoln, and William H. Taft You may even want to pick one each year to do extensive studies on the religions of the times and compare them to the beliefs of the president that oversaw that time.

### Thomas Edison

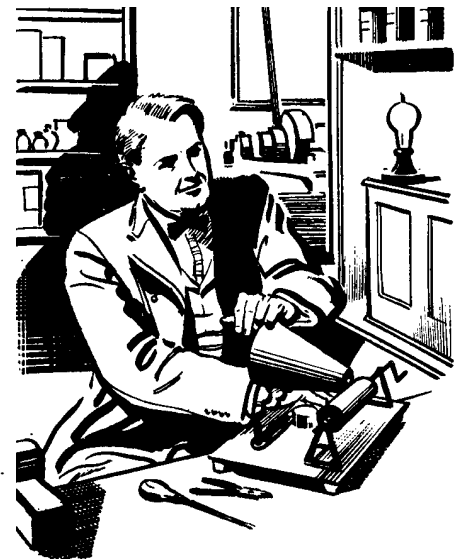
February 11th the world will celebrate one of the great science minds, Thomas Edison's birthday. It is well-known accomplishments and inventions and these things will be reviewed or introduced to most school age kids.

Take time out this year to learn more about the man himself. You are sure to gain so much insight from this project.

Thomas Edison was a man that had many of the problems all men have. At one point he was homeless and almost starved to death and found a way to go from that place to opening up the first research and development facility.

Thomas Edison and you have a lot in common as well. He was home schooled by his parents and the local library. He was an avid reader and made it his most pationate hobby. Thomas Edison looked up to Abraham Lincoln who was suspected to be a Pagan.

The women that he married was very Christian, however, he has been quoted on many occasions saying things only a Pagan would say. He teetered on the line of showing the world that he was Christian and Pagan at the same time. If you are interested in this aspect of his life feel free to come up with your own opinion on this debate.



Some Websites to get you started:

[http://www.infidels.org/library/modern/john\\_murphy/edison.html](http://www.infidels.org/library/modern/john_murphy/edison.html)

<http://www.thomasedison.com/biography.html>

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## To The Parent

### Yearly Cabin Fever

It is that time of year where the kids become very antsy sitting in the house. The weather has more or less froze most of the avenues that used to offer you sanctuary by giving the kids something to do. It is now that you need to kick in full gear with new exciting things that involve both at home and physical things.

I am sure you will find things on your own, but to get your motors in gear here are some idea's:

**Earth Adventures:** Follow a fantastic journey at <http://www.oneearthadventures.com/>. Here they have people that took great journey's or adventures and kept a diary of it. The site offers teaching guides, actual diaries, and everything needed to take that wonderful 'imaginary' trip that can span over days.

**Journey North:** Follow the world as they track the migration of many animals, monitor plants or even find some mystery places by investigating hours of day and night at <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/season/spring2008/>. The site is very education friendly and allow users to actual do some foot work to aid in the tracking. There are different starting times but you can join in anytime, there are a lot of them starting in February.

**Spring List:** Complete a list of 'Things to do this Spring'. You can make your own list or use this one at <http://www.backyardnature.net/101/spring.htm>. Make sure the list will take some time and thought for them to complete. You may help in incentives by offering it as a challenge, a reward fro completion or even race them to see who can get it done quicker (with siblings, friends, or even you racing against them).

#### Lapbook

Download a free lapbook that covers ritual and the moon's cycles. This will be a great addition to the story: *Tigger,s Full Moon Ritual* by Dream Dancer which was in this month's issue of Pagan Moonbeams.

Download directions here:

<http://paganmoonbeams.com/offerings/LapbookPlans.pdf>

Download printable images here:

<http://paganmoonbeams.com/offerings/LapbookTemplates.pdf>

#### Parenting Through the Pages

**Celebrating The Great Mother**  
Written and Illustrated by  
**Cait Johnson and Maura D. Shaw**  
Foreward by Diane Mariechild

#### Home School Tip

Being a homeschooling family doesn't mean being a family living in clutter. It is important that used items that can be used later for activities and lots of books being on hand for reference or later use are readily available. There are a few things that you can do to limit the clutter and mess these two things can bring.

Limit the clutter to an amount; under this table, these three shelves, this closet, etc... By limiting space the importance of items becomes an issue and only what is needed now or soon will be at hand leaving the 'clutter' part of home schooling out.

Break down the years things will be needed and only have out things that might be used or is being saved for the year that is now going on. This is also a good thing because when you are done with the year the clutter has disappeared which brings good spirits and less clean-up at the end of the year or an easy turn-over from one grade to the other for those that home school all year round.



## Children Need to Know Your Near and Feel Your Touch

Harvard Medical School has been conducting research based on children's need to be touched. This should be common sense if we truly broke it down and looked at the assumptions that children don't need to be near their loved ones. I remember when I had children my mother telling me to be sure and not pick my baby up every time she cried. This was thought to spoil the child, but research has shown that by not aiding your children's needs, even a small infant's cry, we are setting life long obstacles for them to overcome as adults. Post traumatic stress and panic disorders are established by not responding to their cries quickly. As a wife, mother of two, and student, along with being a co-writer to this newsletter I can certainly understand how precious time is. There are times throughout the day that I think if I could be doubled in person, even tripled, there still would not be enough of me to go around. But as an adult, facing the responsibilities that life hands us, I also know that I am needed more by my children than anywhere else in this world. It is my guidance, love, and patience, though they are lacking at times, that will help make my children happy, healthy adults. My loving touch is so much more important to them than the dire break I need from life itself. Give your children a fruitful start. Your loving hand can last a lifetime.

When you first wake up in the morning, before you slip into your daily routines, take a moment to Salute the Dawn and welcome the new day. Take time to steady your breathing and if possible take your salute outside and face the sun. The prayer below will help aid in insuring the day ahead of you is focused and on the right path to a calm and productive out



## The Salutation of the Dawn

(Hindu)

**Listen to the Exhortation of the Dawn**

**Look to this Day! For it is Life, The very Life of Life.**

**In its brief course lies all the Varieties And Realities of your Existence;**

**The Bliss of Growth,**

**The Glory of Action,**

**The Splendor of Beauty;**

**For Yesterday is but a Dream,**

**And Tomorrow is only a Vision;**

## Take 10

### 10 ways to sooth your home

Adapted from A guide to creating a peaceful environment

By Sarojni Metha-Lissak

- 1) **turn off the TV.** The TV is clearly a noise producer in the home. Limit the times of the day fro TV watching, or maybe certain days where you don't watch it at all.
- 2) **Light candles and enjoy the warm glow from the light.**
- 3) **Play soothing music.** Introduce classical or nature music into your home and watch as the music can change the mood of your home.
- 4) **Keep the activity level low, especially in the evening.** Find activities you can do as a family that have a low activity level. Play board games, cards, or read books as a family.
- 5) **Practice aromatherapy.** Buy a diffuser at your local health food store. Place several drops of lavender oil in the water then light the candle. Lavender is a calming essential oil and calms the nervous system.
- 6) **Bring nature into your home.** Place house plants around your house in all rooms. They will help cleanse the air and provide oxygen to your home. Plants also soothe the soul.
- 7) **Limit computer time.** The computer is a necessity in many of our lives but it can also be a time grabber like the TV. Try to limit your time on the computer so you have more time to enjoy your day.
- 8) **Turn off the ringer.** During family times, like meal time turn off the phone ringers. There is nothing more precious than family time. Preserve it.
- 9) **Turn down the lights.** Use dimmers and sheers to filter strong sunlight. Turning down the lights signals quite time.
- 10) **Use art work as a window to tranquility.** Chose art work through out your home that promotes a peaceful environment.

### The Power of the Positive

In this day and time it is easy to see all the negative influences out there, but it is not always easy to put your self into that acknowledgement. The power of negativity is so strong that often we do not even realize that we are a victim of its addicting nature. Sometimes we start out with the best intentions to think and speak only positive thoughts, but the people around us throw us off course. It is up to each of us as an individual to communicate the power of the positive mind. We have to train ourselves to steer clear of the negative influences or to be strong enough to sway the conversation or line of thought into a positive outcome. This is not always easy, but just as a smile is addicting so is a positive attitude. You will be surprised at how your positive show can draw negative people into your orbit. There are negative people that are aware of there disarray and want to change for the positive. You are truly giving yourself a great lasting gift to be able to see the light into all situations. After all, no one really wants a glass that is half empty and we all envy those whose glass is always half full. To be a beacon in the dark of negativity, spread the addicting rays of positivity. It will not only better you as a person but it will better all that know and come to know you.

### Pistachio eye treatment

*The pistachio is the perfect nut to remove dark circles from under the eyes. Grind a few pistachio nuts with a mortar and pestle. Add a teaspoon of milk and mix until blended. Gently apply this to the delicate area around your eyes. Then wash it off after half an hour. Like so many natural remedies, this one doesn't work overnight. It takes time and patience. Be consistent and keep with a routine. You will see results! This recipe has a great calming effect to soothe stressed and aching eyes. Spend the 30 min waiting period meditating. Focus on removing the stress that may have caused the dark circles under your eyes.*

Worldly Wisdom: **Don't respond to those who contradict you**

*In order to justify the contradiction you will need to know the exact reasoning behind it. No one has the ability to fairly judge this. Even if you do place judgement there will surely be repercussions. In short exercise caution.*