



In This Issue

Moonbeams Pagan Debate...2
The Nature of It.....6
Pagan Touch of Class.....7
Faith Focus.....8
Divination.....9
Craft-EE..... 10
To The Parent.....13

Summer's End

Maybe it is that the Equinox just passed or that you are turning your Gregorian calendar to the month of October that triggers you to the coming of summer's end. This is a busy time of year as well as a holiday season for almost all Pagan and non-Pagan religions.

When a family celebrates a holiday there are many things that affect the way they celebrate such as, culture, religion, individual preferences and many more. I am sure your family have their own way of celebrating holidays. And if you look closely you may find several cultures and religions tangled together.

(See Celebration pg. 3)

Pagan In The News

It is important to keep up with the news and most people make it part of their day to find out at least one thing going on locally or nationally. The question is how many people find out what is going on within their own belief?

Knowing what is going on in your spiritual world has more benefits than you know. As Pagans we do not run into the streets and try to direct people to our religion, but, we do stand up for rights, fight for things spiritual, and hold many projects for fellow believers. These important factors are some what swept under the rug for many which weakens the plight of the original purpose.

Take time to learn about at least one thing going

on in the Pagan world or even within your own world this month. Follow all news for that event and possibly keep a diary of it.

In the future you can follow more news and happenings; which in turn will strengthen your spiritual knowledge.

Here are a few things you might pick:

Druids are now trying to pass headstone law
(check with ADF group for info.)

Tara Hill is being torn down for road; many are fighting to save it *(protesters and now Harpers, even from US)*

Military being sued for denying non-Christian service *(all over news; started mid Sept. 2007)*

Delicious Autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, If I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns. – George Elliot

Mary Anne Evans (1819-1880) was a great writer and very special woman. Her spiritual beliefs and way of life was unacceptable during her time; however she lived them anyway. At times she would hide her identity by using different names (George Elliot was one) and implying things (like she was married) but always ended up being honest and accepted. Take the time to read a little about her while taking note of her ability to face the persecution of the time. Create your own opinion of whether she was Pagan!



Training A Teen

Next we will work
on channeling.



Which channel do
I need to address ?



No, you don't use
the remote control!



The Readers Voice

September's Pagan Debate

Paganism Going Public; Good or Bad?

Savannah (age 13)

I believe that there are pros and cons to going public with Paganism. Going public could raise personal confidence in Pagans and yet people can be very critical and judgmental, especially on this subject, and Pagans aren't the only ones who want to express their opinions. Though the voices that are not Pagan seem to be louder than those that are. I think that it is up to the individual whether or not they go public because the cause and effect is different for everyone.

Gabbi (parent)

It actually depends on those who are within that religion and belief system. Not all people are prepared to be public about their beliefs so to expect that everyone within a religion is going to handle it well by going public is not a sign of a well thought out idea.

The only way its going to cause a problem to the beliefs as a whole is if those who are public about it are not wise in their choices or are a poor example of the beliefs as a whole.

Moonbeams Pagan Debate

Technology; does it belong in religion?

A lot of changes have taken place since the beginning of religion. The biggest change in our everyday life has been technology. Advances in technology have always been questioned as to whether it is actually a positive step for mankind to take.

Do technological advances add or subtract from religion? Some religions have experienced a lot of changes that can be contributed to the adding of technology and Paganism is no different. Today we can find training and education for Pagan religions online as well as groups allowing like minded individuals to chat and share religious experiences. These changes do not seem to be taking away from the religion itself. At the same time, though, you can find groups having rituals over the internet, shrines to honor gods on websites and sacret religious knowledge found on sites open to the public. These could be contributing factors that might result in ruining the religion itself by allowing information to fall into the wrong hands and transferring energy into a man made device.

What is your opinion on this subject? Send in your answer to this question and include the reason you feel this way. Your answers and thoughts as will be posted in the next issue's Moonbeams debate.

Paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com

Summer's End

(Continued from pg. 1)

The name, date, and ways to celebrate are very different, however it is celebrated by different religious and in many countries. Highlight things that represent what you do with your family to celebrate this holiday. When done see how many countries these traditions come from. Do your own research to find out more about these countries and the religions of their past and present. Compare your findings to your family tree or religious roots.

WALES

Fires are burnt on the vial of the holiday. All family members write their names on stones and throw them into the bonfires. A ritual ceremony takes place with chanting, circling the fire, and praying for good fortune by all members. In the morning of the holiday everyone tries to find the stone with their name on it. If any can't be found it is a sign that lost souls will call upon that person for help in the upcoming year.

CZCHOSLOVAKIA

Extra chairs are placed by the fireside for each family member and one for each family members spirit.

IRELAND

Ancient Celts would hold a three day festival as the light year ended. These days were not counted on the calendar nor did they have any form of normalcy to them. During these days chaos ruled and people dressed out of the normal, no laws were enforced and doors and windows were torn off their hinges and thrown into nearby waters.

MEXICO

Families have picnic lunches on the graves of their family members and loved ones for remembrance and celebration. Many baked goods are made in the form of skulls, crossbones, and caskets. Children run the streets with lanterns asking for money.

GERMANY

people put all their knives and sharp objects away so they will not hurt the spirits that roam free on that day.

CHINA

Teng Chiech – food and water are placed in front of the pictures of dead relatives and friends and bon fires are lit to assure their spirit will make it back to earth.

PORTUGAL

a feast of wine and chestnuts are eaten at gravesites. At home cakes made of cinnamon and herbs are eaten while fresh.

ENGLAND

Nutcracker Night - in the past, and sometimes today, families get together and sit around a great fire in the hearth to tell stories, roast nuts, eat apples and have great merriment.

NIGERIA

Odo Festival – is observed through three stages and is filled with ritual and celebrations celebrating the returning of the spiritual world.

ROME

Dies Parentales – celebrated on the actual date and nine days thereafter by feasting quietly and respectfully in honor of the dead souls. No formal business would take place during these days. Those holding high offices and highly respected positions would not wear their attire that separated them from the average citizen. People would visit graves with offerings of milk, wine, oil, honey and spring water. Graveyard picnics were and are common today.

AUSTRALIA

Guy Fawkes Eve – some play tricks or create mischief but most go to dances and other fun celebration activities.

VIETNAM

Vu-Lan – during this day the gates are open to the spiritual world and all souls are permitted to return to their families altars. All people prepare large meals they place in a big room or outside and place them on altars. They burn votive paper and incense to welcome the family members to their home.

JAPAN

Yue Lan – spirits run free for 24 hours so people burn pictures of fruit and money to comfort them.

Samhain

By: Akasha

Gather 'round the bonfire, **burning so bright**
Watch the shadows dancing, in its flickering light
As the music starts, and we begin to dance
Just maybe, if we're lucky, ahhhhh perchance
We shall see some kindred spirits, as they pass by
On their way to the Summerlands, beneath the Samhain sky.

Expanding English

- Writing - write a poem showing an image you connect with Samhain
- Spelling - pick words from the poem for spelling words
- Dictionary - compare personal meanings to dictionary definitions of words found in the poem.

Draw the image that the poem puts in your mind.



Making Your First Correspondence Journal

Have you ever wondered how on earth you would remember all of the cool stuff you learn about in your Pagan religion? There are so many different topics to study such as minerals, herbs, colors, moon phases, holidays, and so on; it may seem impossible to keep track of all of them. Keeping a correspondence journal will allow you to organize all for these things so that you have them at your finger tips. The best thing is to keep them organized in is a 1-in. 3 ring binder; later you can move them to a bigger binder and/or copy the most important stuff to your own book of shadows (if you use one). You will want to separate your correspondences either by dividers or by making a cover page for each topic. It is then up to you how you go about organizing each individual correspondence. One easy way to do this is by alphabetizing each topic you put into your journal; which can be done by labeling the tops of the pages in each section with the letter for that section. As pages fill up simply add pages behind the letter page as needed.

Be sure to take good care of your journal; as you get older you will find that it becomes on of the most important tools in practicing your Pagan religion.

Herb Focus: Mugwort



Color: Dark green;
silvery undersides

Location: Found in
Europe &
Asia/invasive alien in
America

Common Use: Colds,
fevers, indigestion,

Magickal Properties: Psychic powers,
strength, healing, astral travel, prophetic

** As with all natural medicinal items and
purposes be sure to clear it with an adult before

Mineral Focus: Jet (Black Amber)



Color: Black

Classification: Petrified
Coal

Location: Worldwide

Healing Properties:
Cures Swollen Joints

Care: Cleanse by soaking in Sea Salt
overnight then in Rock Crystals the next

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

See an original watercolor Pagan background
for your computer:

<http://www.brownielocks.com/backgrounds72.html>

Give you an idea? – Make your own!

The Nature Of It

Camouflaged Life ▼

Many plants and animals are hidden in plain site because their colors blend in with the area around them. In animals this is usually done for protection from prey. Plants can do this as a result of the kind of water they are getting or the amount of sun that hits them. Make a list of how this can help you learn about the area you are in.



There are two moths and one cricket on this tree trunk.
Can you find them?

Copycat Colors ►

There are many plants and animals that look alike or almost alike but are totally different in patterns and/or actions. It may be hard to tell them apart without watching their actions or looking at their growing location. Telling them apart is very important because if you don't you will not be able to read nature's signals correctly.

Color; Nature's Traffic Signals

When trying to understand and read nature, color can be an important factor. People have large brains and are able to add feelings to colors but the animals that live in nature tend to have smaller brains and aren't able to accomplish such a task. In order for us to learn more about nature we need to view color as the other animals of the area do.

Animals identify many of their fellow animals strictly by color. Insects do this too. Colors can also tell them if something tastes bad, something is dangerous, their prey will be in this area, and so much more. For those of us looking for animal life to observe we can use the colors in the same way.

Knowing about the colors isn't enough, you will need to get out into nature. You will have to make your own list that tells you what colors attract, repel and camouflage different animals. Not only will you be able to see interesting sites once you have learned your color traffic signals but you will be able to spot, save, and learn all about the animals in our area.

Go for many walks as you learn your nature colors. Keep a small spiral notebook with the names of local wildlife and plants. As you learn about how color affects your area and things around it jot it down on the corresponding page. Before you know it you will have a very thorough and complete nature color dictionary for your own area.

Glowing Lights ◀

There are a few animals that glow. They are better seen in the dark. Most of the reason they glow is to communicate with their own species. If you are out in the dark and see an animal glow look around and see if you can find another of its species.

Walk It

Try taking a walk in an area during the day and focus on the colors you see. Jot down the colors and what they told you. Take the same walk again in the night. After your walks combine your notes into one so you can use them as a reference in the future!

Shimmering Light ▲

Shimmering light comes in the form of glowing or iridescence. But, is merely an illusion no matter its form. Shimmering light can tell us a lot of things such as: The sun's position (iridescent butterflies wing) or the history of an area (sparks in an opal)

Pagan Touch Of Class: HISTORY *The United States Foundation*

The United States was founded by many religious people who walked various paths in life as Pagans, Christians, Muslims and many other religions. It is common place for many religions, including Pagans, to take for granted that the first amendment in the United States Bill of Rights: “*Freedom of Speech, Press, Religion, and Petition*” is merely a statement made to keep the peace. This is nowhere near the truth and to believe this does an injustice to the U.S. and your individual religion.

The problem is we tend to confuse the ‘acceptable views’ of today as the ‘way’ of yesterday. Take a step back into the past to a time when the United States was formed. Take a deep look at all angles and I am sure you will see that at its beginning freedom of religion was more than just a few words that sounded good. Try some of the activities below and do your own search of this important issue.

Take a close

look at the U.S. founding documents like the Preamble, Bill of Rights, Constitution, and the Inaugural Address. Use the entries that are blanket or support specific kinds of religion. Use a different color highlighter to represent Paganism and your own personal religion. When finished take a look at your colored findings.

Many important

figures who helped shape this country were not Christians, a lot of them were Pagan or followed a Pagan based religion. Do a little research and learn more about the personal live of people such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Payne. How did their life represent Paganism and/or your own religion?

1873

was the year that the U.S. began putting “In God we Trust” on all coinage, before that coins held more of a Pagan view. Do research to see how many other U.S. network symbols you can find!



Take a look at the important Physical structures that were constructed or were incorporated into magazines, books, money, online websites, or locally. See how many signs or symbols you can find that represent the many different religions practiced in the U.S. today, Paganism, and/or your individual religion. You are sure to be surprised at what you find!

Faith Focus: Wiccan/Witchcraft

Overview

Witchcraft dates as far back as the Paleolithic times, and surfaces in multiple Pagan religions. The timeline it follows is long and brutal, and has come great distances over the last few hundred years. The historic witch played many roles throughout history such as an advisor, a healer, and astrologer, a midwife, and a caregiver to all living things. Though the Wiccan religion did not find its proper title and place until the 1900's its roots run deep.

Important Wicca/Witchcraft History Happenings:

Pope Gregory I was a major force in Christianizing Europe	ACLU has come to the legal aid of Wicth-Wiccan students should be allowed to wear pentacle to school	King James I Witchcraft Act	Wicca was reaffirmed as a religion deserving First Amendment protection	English Parliament repealed its surviving laws against Witchcraft
Poland last execution for Witchcraft	Raymond Buckland brought Wicca to the USA	Pope Innocent VIII wrote a PaPal Bull about Witches	The first Goddess Statues were found	Salem Massachusettes buring time

** Make a timeline showing the correct order of these events on your own paper.

Charge of the Goddess

by DragonFire

Once a month when the moon is full, you and your family should gather together if you are in need of something.

You can dance, sing, eat and laugh. I am the happiness you feel and I am happy seeing you, and those you love, happy.

Everything you do, do it out of love. Do not do anything to hurt another person.

Keep learning new things all your life. Believe in your dreams. Don't let anyone tell you that what you think or dream is wrong.

I am the spirit inside you. Your spirit will live forever. When you die I will bring you together with your loved ones that have joined me. I will always love you and give you what you need in your life. You do not need to give me back anything. Take what you need from me. You can always see me in the beauty of the earth. I am in the air, water and land.

When you need strength call upon me. I am within you.

I was with you at the beginning of your life and I'll be there at the end.

So speaks the Goddess.

Spelling / Vocabulary Box

Akashic records
altar
amulet
waning
athame

bane
Balefire
Book of Shadows
bolline
waxing

charms
coven
deosil
elements
familiar

magick
magic circle
pentacle
talisman
widdershins

Divination: Runes

Runes originate from Northern Europe, Scandinavia, the British Isles and Iceland and contained the ancient Germanic letters. They were used for divination and spoken of in stories and myths throughout the land. Runes from the past and today do not tell fortunes but instead tell of the path you are currently walking, which can change as circumstances do. Today you can find them made of many mediums: plastic, clay, wood and stone and using different alphabets. We will address Elder Futhark runes (used the most in Northern Europe), but feel free to do research on other forms and alphabets on your own.

Poems to Remember

In the past poems were used to remember what each rune stood for and what it meant. Take a look at a piece of one Norwegian poem & its translation:

Original:

1. Fé yældr frænda róge;
fððesk ulfr í skóge.
2. Úr er af illu jarne;
opt løypr ræinn á hjarhe.

Translation:

1. Wealth is a source of discord among kinsmen;
the wolf lies in the forest.
2. Dross comes from bad iron;
the reindeer often races over the frozen snow.

Blank Not Necessary

In some rune sets there are blank ones. It is believed that this rune is not necessary and was not a part of ancient Rune sets.

More Than ABC's

The rune carvings may look like an ancient alphabet, however when it comes to divination they are actual words. The words are a hint to the meaning of the rune.

Make Clay Runes

4 C. flour
1 C. Salt
1 tsp. Alum
1 1/2 C. Water

Mix in large bowl.
Add water if too dry.
Work dough with hands.
Put dough on floured surface.
Roll with rolling pin.
Cut tiles (squares or rectangles).
Get toothpick and Rune letters.
Carve one letter in each tile.

Put tiles on ungreased cookie sheet.
Bake 30 min. on 250° turn
Bake another 1 1/2 hrs.
Should be dry and hard.
Set out to completely cool.
Sand lightly with sandpaper.
Spray with shellac or acrylic spray.

Learn Your Runes

Young Kids <http://home.earthlink.net/~jordsvin/Runes/Kids%20Runes/Index.htm>

Older Kids <http://home.earthlink.net/~jordsvin/Runes/Rune%20Of%20The%20Month/Index.htm>

Online Class <http://www.magitech.com/~runes/runecourse/index.html>

Craft – EE

By: Shannon Donaldson

Samhain is a great time to honor our ancestors or to preserve the past by making **Grave Rubbings**. Many of us can track our Pagan genealogy back many generations. Wiccans and many other Pagan religions do not view death as an ending but as the beginning of the next phase of spiritual enlightenment. Making grave rubbings is a great way to remember and honor our relatives and those that have passed before us. If you find a head stone that strikes you as interesting there is nothing wrong with doing a rubbing of it.

Materials For Graveyard Trip

Light weight paper (white or cream work best)

Large crayon or rubbing wax (you can also use charcoal but it is very messy)

Masking tape

Soft paint brush to clear dust and debris off of the head stone

Note pad to write down the specifics of whom the grave belongs to (that is up to you)

Directions

Chose your stone and brush it gently to remove debris with the paint brush.



© Damon Hart-Davis

Place the paper over the area you wish to do the rubbing. Use the masking tape to hold the paper in place. Extend the paper far enough on all four side so that you do not get wax on the actual head stone.

Start your rubbing by filling in the outside edges of the area you have chosen. This will give you an outline of what you are rubbing. Then you can go to the center and rub outwards. Don't press too hard and use even strokes. It is best if you use the flattest part of the crayon or rubbing wax. You can go back over the design after you are finished if it is not dark enough.

Once you are through remove all the tape and roll your rubbing design up. You may want to place it in a tube for safe keeping until you get home. Be sure you clean up any pieces of paper or tape that might have fallen on the ground.

Now your rubbing is ready to be matted and framed. This is a great way to pay respect to those that have passed before you, not to mention a wonderful conversation piece during Samhain!

Use your graveyard etiquette: do not disturb those grieving or visiting their loved ones, be quiet because not all people view death and resting places the same, with respect. Pass up headstones that are worn or crumbling, etc...

What's the best thing about Pagan friends?

They worship the ground you walk on.



The Art of Nature: Energy/Figure Collage

Take a walk along a favorite path or other nature area with a small bag. As you walk take notice of signs of nature and it's wonders. If going with an adult be sure to use it as a question/answer session. As you walk pick up the offerings that nature has left for you. Make sure to choose the one's you feel drawn to and that aren't alive or growing. Put them in your bag. You may want to take several walks until you are energy filled by nature.

When you get home take a close look at the things you have and see if you can arrange them in an order to represent something you feel close to; the greenman, a god or goddess, or any other thing you feel close to. Your figure can be flat (on a poster board) or 3D by gluing things together (hot or liquid glue). This would be a great addition to your altar or other place to add energy or offer something more to channel your energy to.

Mix It Up: WITCHES FLYING MIX

1 C Carmel Corn
1/2 C Candy Corn
1/2 C Small Marshmallows
1/2 C Pretzel Sticks
1/2 C Miniature Black Jelly Beans

Mix in a large bowl.

Makes 8 servings

I Know I Am But What Are You?

Today Paganism and some forms of Pagan based religions seem to be in style. Clothing, altars, symbols, and books of Paganism are everywhere and most kids have at least one. This is actually a double sided sword and it is important that you, as a true Pagan, take precautions on this subject.

Fads seem to be turning towards a time when religious issues are openly displayed. Things you use, wear, or see within your religion on a daily basis can be found everywhere. The things that you find sacred and important may be nothing but a fad holding no meaning to others. Remember that fads will come and go as will the people that accept them.

Try not thinking of the signs a person has on when deciding what type of person they are or how to approach them for the first time. Look at their actions and the way a person keeps themselves because that will be a true picture of them. On that same note watch yourself through a mirror from time to time to make sure you are an actual representation of your religion and not just contributing to the fad industry.

WORMY'S BOOK REVIEW:

Sky Castle; Jody Bergsma



All Ages: This book is full of illustrations that will captivate the eyes, minds, and energies of everyone. The poem is very inspirational because it tells us that dreams can become reality. In my opinion this would be a great book to aid children in grounding and meditation by offering a great opening to the activity itself.



For more coloring pages, visit:
www.childrensstorybooksonline.com

To The Parent

Just for you

Just a heads up to let everyone know that during the next few months we will be discussing various types of meditations, prayers, how to include them in your children's daily lives, and their benefits. We are also going to start a parent help column. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want some honest advice please send an email with your question or topic to: Paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com

A Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to bed
Great Spirit, bless my sleepy head.
As I journey through this night,
Mother Earth and Father Sky,
Watch over me here where I lie,
For tomorrow I will greet the day
With love and joy and lots of play.

A Family That Prays Together Stays Together

From the moment we find out that life has sprung forth within our maternal wombs we begin our life long routine of praying endlessly over our children. We do not need to know the sex of the child or what kind of personality they will have. It is a seed of faith that rises from deep within us and grows to wild extremes bounding with unconditional love. As our wombs fill with child our hearts and minds fill with endless fears, hopes, and dreams, all of which are the natural rhythms that help us grow into the new role of being a parent. Once our little one reaches the earthly plane we learn that all of those fears, hopes, and dreams are not just ours alone any more, but every thing we do, think, and feel, is now shared with this new life. A powerful way to help calm fears, charge hopes, and add that magical boost to their dreams is by prayer. It will strengthen the bond between parent and child and allow the child to connect on a personal level with the God and Goddess at a young age. Prayer is a wonderful way to give thanks, ask for protection, guidance, and bless those we love. The start of a new day is a great way to pay respects to the God and Goddess and give thanks for the new day that has been given. Meal time is an important prayer time, especially as a family, by giving thanks for the meal before us and all of our earthly blessings. Let's not forget about bed time. Saying a goodnight prayer with our children calms them and eases their childhood fears. It also allows them to build that special bond with the darkness and the time for rest. There is nothing in the world more innocent and pure than a child's words through prayer. Remember a family that prays together, stays together.

Don't Show Ritual, Teach It

Think about how many times you have attended rituals with your child or even had them participate a little. Although that is very important, it is as important for your child to know what is going on and why. I am sure you, like all good parents, have talked to your child about what was going on only to see a blank face the next holiday during the whole ritual.

As with all 'basic' things learned by children, you will need to approach each step of your ritual with presentation and memorization. To aid in this Moonbeams has designed an Order Of Ritual game you can print out, and play with your child. Although you can do this anytime, October is a great month because you have all month to teach/play and then around the end of the month they can watch and possibly participate in a ritual for the holiday.

Download the game:
<http://paganmoonbeams.com/pdfs/RitualGame.pdf>

Wordly Wisdom: **Character and Intellect together make happiness.**

One without the other is but halfway to happiness.

Wicca/Witchcraft Timeline Answers



Mandala Meditation

Mandalas have been used for hundreds and hundreds of years to aid in meditation. It is also one of the easiest meditations to teach your children. We do this at my house at least once a week and the kids really like it. I like to use this meditation in the mornings just before breakfast.

Have them focus: Before I give them the mandala I have them focus on a personal goal for the day. This might include being kinder to their sister, or being more organized, or staying on task. I have them think about achieving this goal and about how it will make them feel once they do achieve it.

Beginning Meditation: Once the goal has been chosen they need to sit in silence with their eyes closed for about three minutes focusing on it. The time can vary depending on the age of the child.

Mantra: When the time is up they open their eyes and start to color the Mandala I have placed before them. While they are coloring I allow them to make up a song about their goal or say their goal over and over as they color.

Goal Manifest: When they are through coloring the page I have them close their eyes once again and silently tell themselves what a great job they did by achieving their goal for the day.

For best results:

- * Don't use mandalas that are too complex. An open design works much better.
- * Try to let your child do it when they can be alone or have their own space.

Start the Celebration with Us

Moonbeams would like to begin this month's holiday by celebrating with its readers. We do hope that all of you will participate in this fun event, first thing in the morning, on October 29.

To participate have your child or children complete the meditation procedure listed on this page using the mandala on page 12 of this month's newsletter.

A lot of children are in areas or situations where they cannot freely practice their beliefs. By participating in this event they can be sure that they are part of a large group and are joining their fellow Pagan kids and friends in an event that is very important. It could be the start of a new walk or the beginning of the run; either way the fire will be lit in their hearts to tighten their bond to their religion and its practices.

If you join in, write a line or two to share with other readers on how it went. We will include all replies in our next newsletter.

Email: Paganmoonbeams@Yahoo.com