

AXIS MUNDI

Summer/Autumn Issue 48 – February 2012

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Make a Wish
Lorelain Winkler -2011



AXIS MUNDI

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The beginning of a circle is also its end. Not I, but the world says it: all is one. And yet everything comes in season. - Heraklitos of Ephesos



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In addition to our regular Full Moon Circles we also run workshops and classes which are highly interactive and experiential, focusing on participation and engagement of participants. If you want to keep abreast of SOL's circles, gatherings, workshops and activities please click on the banner below to check out our Events Calendar.



SPHERES OF LIGHT & AXIS MUNDI ARE BASED IN AUSTRALIA. ALL EVENTS HOSTED BY SOL ARE HELD IN THE SYDNEY-ILLAWARRA AREA OF NSW.

If you wish to be removed from this list [click here](#). Spheres Of Light is proud to be an official Affiliate Subcommittee of the Pagan Awareness Network Australia Inc. For more information regarding PAN Inc., please visit their website: www.paganawareness.net.au.

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Cover – Make a Wish

by ~LorelainWDigital Art / Photomanipulation / Dark
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FROM THE EDITOR



***“A flock of sheep that leisurely pass by,
One after one; the sound of rain, and
bees
Murmuring; the fall of rivers, winds and
seas,
Smooth fields, white sheets of water,
and pure sky;
I have thought of all by turns, and yet do
lie
Sleepless!”***

William Wordsworth

I have major problems sleeping of late; I have gone from a person who has no trouble sleeping anywhere under any condition to a person who is totally sleep deprived. I lay for hours in bed each night tossing and turning with my mind busily chatting away.

So what is it that is keeping sleep from knocking on my door? Is it 2012's cosmic shift, the increase in solar flare activity, pole shifts or is it a combination of all of these things? I am really not sure! Perhaps it is the universe's way of making me consider some drastic changes to my life. Well I am all ears! I am only too happy to rid myself of any self-imposed encumbrances that are preventing me from realising self-actualisation. I will do whatever it takes to be able to fall into that deep state of uninterrupted slumber once more.

Ah to sleep perchance to dream, ah there's the rub and unless that can occur all my dreams are just not going to be realised.....sigh.

So sweet dreams everyone, hopefully we will get some soon.

Janine

Magical Workings for March



As each day brings us closer to autumn we realise that summer will soon be ending and nature will be beginning to prepare for the gradual onset of winter and darkness. The veil between the worlds become thinner and we are able to communicate more effectively with the spirits of the 'Other Realms'.

Autumn comes under the element of water. This means that Autumn is a season of looking to your emotions, allowing yourself to flow with life, and getting in touch with your inner self.

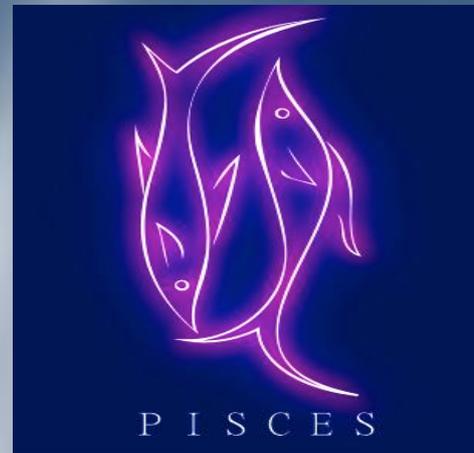
The Sun now begins to fall sooner each day until it eventually passes from our view. This slow sinking back towards darkness allows intuition and emotion once more to eclipse the rational and intellectual mind.

Water is the symbol of our emotions. Water imbibes all life forms and in us we flow with the "tide" of our feelings. It involves intuition, insight, reflection, and divination. The symbols are the cauldron, cup or chalice.



8 March Full Moon in Virgo

The key phrase of Virgo is "I analyse". The Virgo moon is about adapting to change instinctively. Spells for health, healing, diagnosing, wellness, herb lore, organizing, tool consecration, business, bureaucracy, intelligence, logic, mathematics, systems and analysis, climate, science, co-workers, military, police and law enforcement, ecology in general, cleansings, purification.



21 March Mabon - Moon in Pisces

At the Autumn Equinox, the days and nights are equal. It is a time of balance, but light gives way to increased darkness. It is the second harvest, and the Goddess mourns her fallen consort, but the emphasis is on the message of rebirth that can be found in the harvest seeds. The Autumn Equinox is a wonderful time to stop and relax and be happy.

Pisces is ruled by Jupiter (expansion; fortune) and Neptune (delusion; deception; illumination). The key phrase for Pisces is "I believe".

With the moon in Pisces this is a good time for increasing your psychic ability, contacting other planes, merging with Deity, past lives and, magick, potions, brews.



23 March Dark Moon in Aries

The key phrase for Aries is "I am". It is a sign of raw, unbridled energy, with little real direction combined with a potent desire for power.

This is an excellent time to eliminate conflict, negative energy, ego, and for sticking up for yourself. Spells for, combat, battles, war, warriors and soldiers, cutting through the red-tape and cutting the ties that bind.

Autumn Leaf Magick

In Autumn around the time of the Equinox, write a secret wish upon a fallen leaf. Choose a leaf with red colours for a wish pertaining to matters of love, sex, passion, or health. A gold-colored leaf for wishes involving money, a brown one for protection, a purple one for healing, an orange one for energy, a yellow one for confidence, attraction, or persuasion, a green one for fertility, success, or good luck.

Fold the leaf in half, or roll it up and seal it with a kiss. Using the flame of a white candle set the leaf on fire. As it burns, visualize your wish coming true for you.

-unknown

<http://faerieloddwitches.blogspot.com.au/2009/09/autumn-leaf-magick.html>



SEASONS OF THE GODDESS

Perspectives from the Southern Hemisphere

Seasons of the Goddess describes the journey of one woman as she seeks to find ways to express her spirituality in Australia. It provides a perspective on connecting with the Divine Feminine, the unique land and the changing seasons of the year. In the book you will find ritual links to the unique flora and fauna, connections with the traditional wheel of the year and examples of rituals and celebrations in tune with this remarkable country. The art work of Annette Cutelli is inspired and inspiring; the Goddess truly speaks through her.

Blessed be. Tricia Szirom

RRP: \$25

To order go to www.gaia@garden.com.au

Lughnasadh is the celebration of the first fruits of the harvest. It is considered a time of Thanksgiving and the first of three Pagan Harvest Festivals, when the plants of Spring wither and die.

SOL's first circle for the year was Lughnasadh. This is an important ritual for SOL as it sets the energy for the year.

Lughnasadh is the celebration and a way to rejoice over the fruits of our labour. It is a time to consider whether our results have equalled our efforts. It is the time to teach what we have learned, to share the fruits of our achievements with the world. It is time to pause and open oneself to the change of the Season and new possibilities.

This Leo full moon brought to a climax the events that have been swirling around in our lives recently. Times of change are upon us and we must learn to adapt as best we can. Old habits are often difficult to break, but when we do, our lives get unstuck and begin to progress.

On this night our intent was to honour our personal efforts over the past year and to allow us to accept the necessary changes into our lives that will assist us in achieving our goals. At this ritual we honoured Brigid as the Triple Goddess and Lugh as the God of grain harvests, of crafting, metallurgy, grains & breads, looms, and fire.

As the ritual commenced we entered the sacred space as a group drumming, dancing, rattling. As we moved around the altar widdershins we reflected upon the fruits of our labour, and about ritually letting go of the past with ease. As we moved forward we named and shouted aloud our good fortune in gratitude and joy. Our words taking on power and coupled with the music allowed us to build an incredible cone of power.

Our circle was then cast by the power of the Dragons and the Elemental dragons were then called to open each quarter.

The three Brigids and Lugh were then summoned to join the circle.

The Three Brigids then moved to the altar and spoke the following words in unison

“We are Brigid Three in one
Shining power of the sun
In this hour we bring forth
Rest and beauty - healing all
As your hearts have drawn you near
Now is the time - release your fears
By the power of creation
The Divine Eternal flame
I hereby accept these fruits of labour
Be blessed, be blessed, I say
It is time
I now bring forth
Inspiration, beauty, love to all
Within my power lays the law
I say - be free my kin, be free
Go forth empowered

The Three Brigids then walked around the circle and offered the Blessed cider, fruits, and nuts to each member of the circle. Clay charms were given as a gift to everyone.

We were then taken on a meditative journey to connect to Brigid. After the meditation we shared our experiences.

We thanked our ancient hosts for their presence and then the circle was closed and we all finished the evening with a sumptuous Harvest feast.

More information regarding this circle and past circles can be found in our Book Of Shadows. Our next Full Moon Circle will be held near Engadine on Friday, March 2, 2012. Please contact us for further details if you would like to attend.





When: Friday 25th May 2012, 8pm
Where: "Live at the Wall"
Address: The Bald Faced Stag Hotel, 345 Parramatta Rd, Leichhardt 2040.

Cost: Tickets are \$35. Tickets will be available at the door at a \$40, as tickets are limited it is advised that you pre-purchase them to avoid missing out.

If you are pre-purchasing tickets, registration forms need to be filled in and returned with payment to PO Box 1062 North Sydney 2059, e-mailed back to concert@paganawareness.net.au or completed online via the register here link above.

Transport: From Railway Square Central Station take bus 413, 436, 439, 440, 461 or M10.

Contact Email:
concert@paganawareness.net.au

Contact Phone: Kelly on 0412 427 343

Web: <http://www.paganmusic.co.uk/> and <http://www.spiraldance.com.au/>

RSVP: Order forms and money must be received no later than 18th of May 2012

The Divine Androgyne: The Non, Pre and Other-Gendered in Witchcraft

When: Thursday the 1st of March 2012

Where: Sydney – Monterey, Sydney

Cost: \$30 for Adults, \$25 for Concessions/Students/Pensioners

Contact Email: spirited_services@hotmail.com.
Web: www.gedeparma.com
RSVP: By Monday the 20th of February

The Divine Androgyne: The Non, Pre and Other-Gendered in Witchcraft

AND - it's not just for Queer, Androgynous or Trans-identified folks - it's for anyone and everyone wanting to explore past the commonly-accepted and limited duality of Male/Masculine and Female/Feminine ...as the ONLY representation/embodiment of the Divine.

We will be working with God Herself as God Herself - the Non-Gendered, but the SEXED! - And the Feri and WildWood stories of Creation. We will be calling to Protogonos-Phanes - the First-Born Light-Bearer of the Orphic Mysteries, the Pre-Gendered. We will delve into the myth and magick of Hermaphroditos (child of Hermes and Aphrodite) - the Other-Gendered. Above and beyond we will come together to worship at the altar of Life in its Blessed Plurality and we will dance the Power and Potency of the Weaver weaving Her Mighty Web in the Chasm of Chaos.

What is this ordered-gendered world? How do we move through it, see through it and become unlimited? How do we find Cosmos in Chaos? And how do we surrender to the "raging, pregnant" God Herself and embrace our Divinity?



...on interested in the workshop.
...are

GenealogyInTime.com

Fruits & Vegetables of the Season - March

As pagans we acknowledge the cycles of nature, the lunar phases and the seasons to celebrate our spirituality and to worship the divine. It is a belief system that allows us to work and live in harmony with the cycles of life and consequently we achieve balance with all things.

Living with the cycles in regards to the food we eat is also important. Grocery shopping it is far too easy for us these days. We often have no idea about the fruits and vegetables of the season. The shelves look much the same every time you visit, as all foods are usually kept in cold storage for months and months and they become available year-round thanks to worldwide distribution, technology and modern food processing.

The benefits of eating local, seasonal food are significant:

- Seasonal food come straight from the markets and is as fresh as you can get.
- Variation in diet that comes with eating seasonally is better for your overall health.

Now that Autumn has arrived use the list below of March's fruits and vegetables to look for first when doing your shopping. It's best to try and find your local farmer's market to buy from rather than the supermarket chains.

March - early autumn - fruit

apples - aba, cox's orange pippins - gala - jonagold - jonathan - mutso, banana, berries - raspberry - strawberry, breadfruit, feijoa, figs, grapes - cardinal - currant - muscat - purple cornichon - sultana - waltham cross, guava, kiwifruit, lemon, limes, mango, mangosteen, melons - honeydew - rockmelon, nashi, nectarine, nuts - almond - chestnut - hazelnut - pistachio - walnut, orange - valencia, papaya, passionfruit, peach, pears - beurre bosc - howell - josephine - packham - red

sensation - williams, persimmon, plums, pomegranate, rambutan, rhubarb, tamarillo.

March - early autumn - vegetables

asian greens - bok choy - choy sum - gai lan - wonga bok, avocados - fuerte - shepard, beans - borlotti - butter - green - snake, capsicum, celery, chilli, cucumber, daikon, eggplant, leek, lettuce, okra, olive, onions - brown - red - spring, peas, potato, pumpkin, shallot, silverbeet, spinach, squash, sweetcorn, sweet potato, tomato, zucchini.

Try these lunch ideas:

- Include fruits like apples, grapes, kiwifruit, nectarines, oranges, peaches and plums for snacks
- Turn capsicum, cucumber, and celery into sticks for plunging into healthy dips
- Make tasty salads with pieces of cherry tomatoes, avocado and cheese
- Focus on in-season nuts like almond, walnut and hazelnut for snacks rather than buying others that have been in storage for months.

For dinner try these easy and tasty ideas:

- Grate zucchini and potato, squeeze out and moisture, combine with an egg and some herbs and make delicious pancakes
- Make pasta with pumpkin, tomato and butter beans
- Simply boil corn on the cob, add some organic sea salt and serve with your favourite meat.

Reference:

<http://www.victoriaorganicdelivery.com.au/seasonalchart.php>
<http://www.kidding.com.au/parenting-advice/the-best-autumn-fruit-and-vegetables-for-your-kids/>



Mabon – 21 March

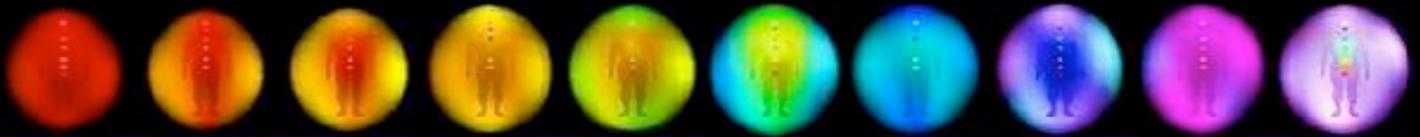
Also known as Madron, Mabon is a balancing point in the light and dark of the year, the day when the sun has equal hours in and out of the sky. It is also the second harvest. At this time food is prepared for storage, jams and pickles are made, and fruits are candied and preserved for the coming winter. Pagans celebrate this as a rite of Thanksgiving, a celebration of harvest abundance, an appreciation of hearth, home, and family. It is a time to reflect on what it means to be a Witch and re-affirm your commitment to the Craft. This is the time when the Goddess is mourning the God even though she carries him within her, to be born again at Yule.

Mabon is the second of the three harvest festivals and at this time of the year the land is full of the gifts of nature through the efforts of our hard work. When we look at the food on our table, we are reminded of how we are influenced by the seasons, and we give thanks to the Goddess for her generosity and for the gifts we have received from her in the foods that have sustained us. We also give thanks to the God for the warmth and strength of the Sun, allowing the food to ripen and mature.

As the season changes, the colours of autumn intensify, the leaves on the deciduous trees change from lush green, to orange and yellow, finally brown, and then drop from the tree to cover the ground. We notice the sun setting earlier each day yielding to the inevitable darkness. The earth begins to cool, and we become more introspective, in preparation for Samhain.

There may be a hint of sadness and restlessness within us now, an inner sense of fear and trepidation, as our world begins to recede into the cold harsh reality of winter. This Sabbat is a time of meditation and introspection; a time to slow down the pace of our lives and to recognise our own personal harvests during the year that is fast declining. It is a time of reassessment and we have an opportunity to review aspects of our life that are out of balance.

As Pagans we celebrate the aging Goddess as she passes from Mother to Crone and her consort the God as he prepares for death and re-birth. This Sabbat is also time to appreciate the connection we have with those around us, as well as those who have gone before us.



Aura Reading Workshop

Saturday 25th February 2012

Aura Reading is a unique, interactive 2 hour workshop to assist in heightening your self-awareness and intuition.

Every living organism is surrounded by an electromagnetic energy field, called an Aura. This field vibrates at different frequencies and reflects our State of Mind, Body and Inner Being.

At this workshop you will learn techniques to read and interpret the colours of the Aura and how to apply this knowledge in your everyday life.



Janine Donnellan from Spheres of Light is an Energetic Healer and a Reiki Practitioner and will be the facilitator of this workshop.

**Where: Lotus Health & Wellbeing Centre
Wollongong**

When: Saturday 25th February 1:00pm – 3:00pm

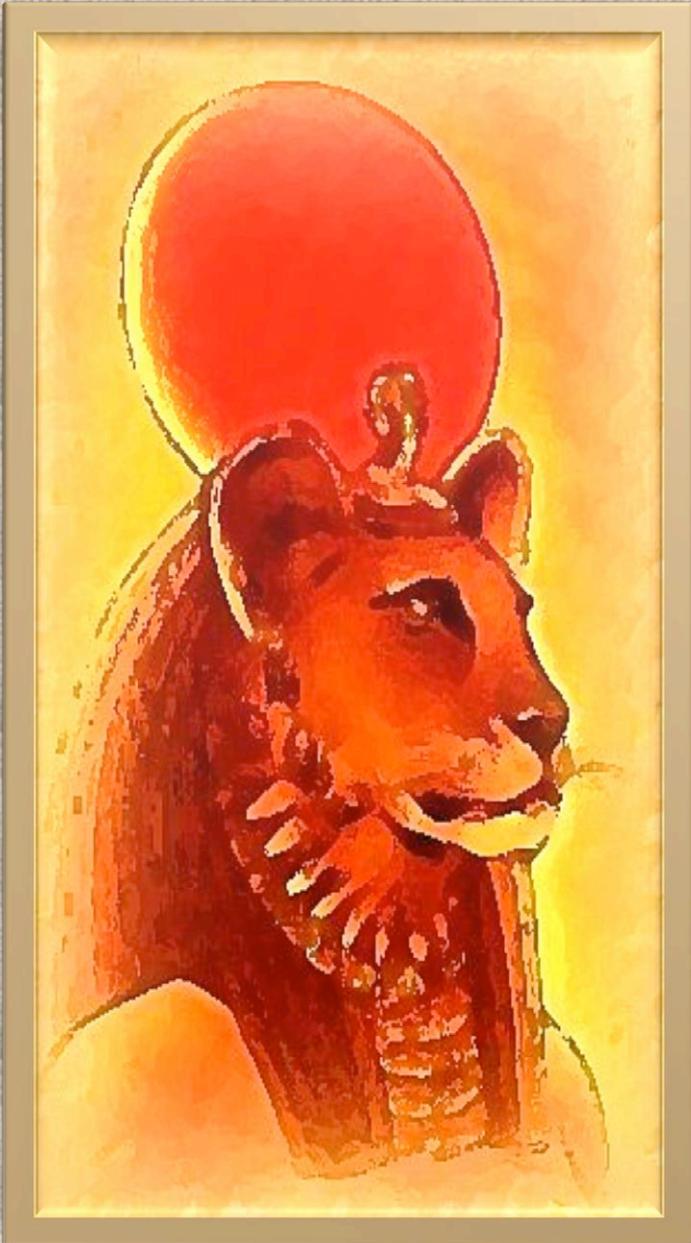
Cost: \$60 includes notes

Bookings: 02 4226 4740 or email

info@lotuswellbeing.com.au

Sekhmet's Roar

by Tina Georgitsis



Sekhmet is a Goddess of the Ancient Egyptian pantheon. She is most commonly depicted as a lion-headed woman with a sun disk and uraeus serpent headdress who was adorned in red. Sekhmet's name comes from the world Sekhem which means "Power of Powers" and is the consort of Ptah and the mother of Nefertem. Sekhmet's center of power in Ancient Egypt was in Memphis originally but moved to Thebes during the New Kingdom.

Sekhmet has been known as many titles including Eye of Ra, due to her being dispatched by Ra to punish mankind for not keeping Ma'at (living in balance and justice in Ancient Egypt) but he felt pity for humanity and ordered her to stop. Unable to tether her rampage due to the blood lust, Sekhmet did not stop therefore Ra poured beer which had been stained red with pomegranate juice in her path, which she gorged on and became so intoxicated she fell into a deep. Once she woke the blood lust had abated and she had been transformed into Hathor the goddess of love and mankind had been spared.

Sekhmet could send plagues to those who offended her and if she could be placated would remove them and therefore was also known as Lady of Pestilence. A goddess of the sun who reins over the west and is favoured by pharaohs: Niusere, Seti I, Ramesses II and Amenhotep III, Sekhmet was also perceived as mother of Pharaoh as she could destroy the country's enemies. Sekhmet was seen as a goddess of war, destruction and retribution but one of her main attributes was as goddess of healing and therefore the elements used in eradicating disease and infection (plague) through its destruction comes under her domain. Her son Nefertem inherited her gifts as a healer but Sekhmet dominated within this area and was petitioned foremost for assistance for ill health in Ancient Egypt. To this day many Sekhmet devotees continue to honour and work with her guidance as a goddess of healing.

The Priests of Sekhmet in Ancient Egypt were not only her faithful religious workers but they were healers for the populace as well. They honoured the Goddess Sekhmet and she in turn aided them with healing and medicine. These priests practised using a combination of rational medicine which included surgery, alongside magic and ritual

which was seen as an integral part of the healing process.

Sekhmet first called me when I undertook studies in Natural Medicine early last decade and over the years she has played a significant role in my life through the healing arts. Despite the feared reputation she is known for I personally found I never approached her with trepidation but instead with awe and respect. In turn I found she bestowed many blessings on my magical and healing path.

I had learned a few alternative and natural healing arts from my matriarchal line (which could be traced to an Alexandrian Egyptian Magus) and over the years I not only drew inspiration from my roots but also from books, Sekhmet devotees online, meditations and dreams until I finally came across a fellow Sekhmet devotee in life - my now retired Master who taught me the vibrational healing technique of Sekhem with the aid of Sekhmet. Working with Sekhem infused my workings with a roar of energy from Sekhmet and my experience working with that energy was at times cathartic but necessary in my healing journey. I worked with this vibrational energy to help trigger the healing mechanism for myself and others with respects to ailments both emotional and physical.

Sekhem is a vibrational healing system and is a channelled vibrational healing energy direct from the goddess Sekhmet. It is an ancient and sacred healing energy which is believed was employed by the Ancient Egyptians who were taught in the temples of Ancient Egypt. It is an advanced form of hands on healing which utilises sounds and symbols. It is said Sekhem is the parent energy of all hands on healing systems and although ancient in its essence, in modern times Sekhem is much more than simply a hands on healing technique. Its power can help you connect to Sekhmet which can be used in an insightful divinatory healing method.

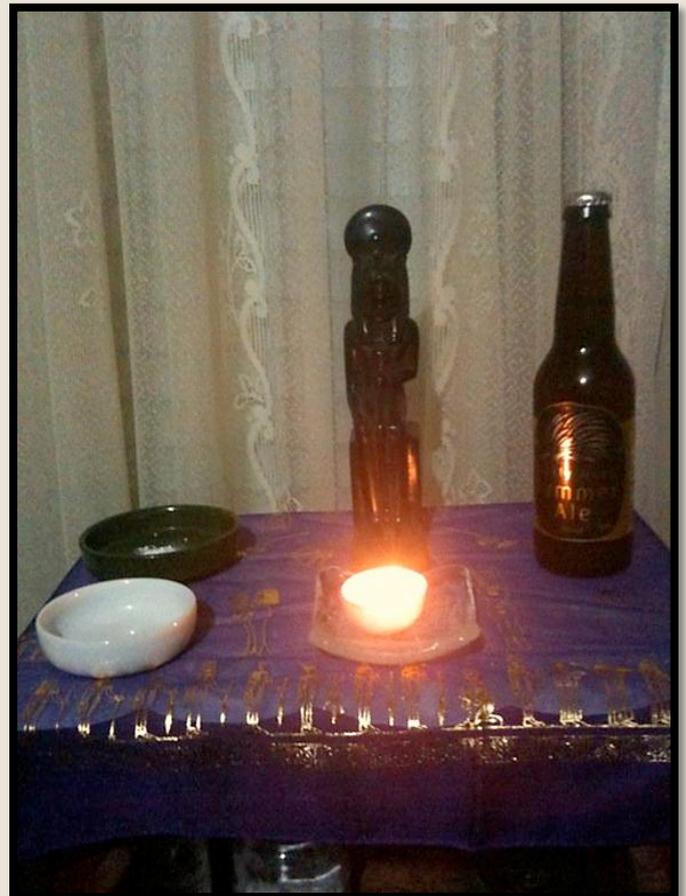
Sekhmet Sekhem can be used to:

- Assist in clearing the mind of unbalanced thought forms and helps break down and release mental blocks;

- Promote the body's own internal mechanisms of healing, whilst assisting with relaxation and therefore pain management;
- Helps you unite to Sekhmet; as a universal connection is established and anchored during intunements; and
- Stabilises the emotions while helping move blockages as it allows an individual to take ownership of health through active acknowledgement.

I have found Sekhem to be a never-ending source of pure healing energy which I can tap into at any time and working with that energy with the aid of Sekhmet has taught me to be very much in tune with emotion-mind-body connections which has assisted others and myself numerous times over the years I have been working with it.

The first ritual I performed to Sekhmet after my initiation into Sekhem, I was asked by Sekhmet to offer her a Lotus Oil Infusion as an offering and this can be used to help those who petition Sekhmet for assistance.



Lotus Oil Infusion

Ingredients Needed

- *Lotus Root
- *Olive or Almond Oil
- *Wheatgerm or Vitamin E Oil
- *Small Piece of Clear Quartz

Method

- *Place some lotus root in a glass jar and add some olive oil or almond oil to cover (depending on how much you want to make).
- *Put in direct sunlight for up to a week macerating occasionally (for best results leave from two weeks up to a month).
- *Strain and separate oil infusion from lotus root (throw out lotus root).
- *Place oil infusion in a blue or green glass bottle and add 10 drops of Wheatgerm or Vitamin E Oil to prevent from going rancid.
- *Lastly place a small piece of cleansed clear quartz with the mixture to enhance its energetics.

Note: To keep the Lotus Oil Infusion for longer store in the refrigerator.
Use to anoint self and items in ritual and spell work.

An offering of beer, natron and lotus oil infusion for the Feast of Drunkenness of Sekhmet

© Tina Georgitsis

Bibliography:

The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt, Richard H. Wilkinson, 2003
The Art of Medicine in Ancient Egypt by James P. Allen, 2005

All Love: A Guidebook for Healing With Sekhem-Seichim-Reiki and SKHM, Diane Ruth Shewmaker, 1999
Ancient Egyptian Magic, Bob Brier, 1998

Contributor Profile:



All her life Tina Georgitsis has always maintained a deep love and appreciation for the occult, whilst also being deeply respectful to the Ancient Egyptian and Greek spiritual/magickal paths which she is devoted to. Priestess Hierophant within the FOI (Lyceum of Heka), Hereditary Folk Witch/Hermetic Magician, Initiated Wiccan Priestess and Torchbearer for the Covenant of Hekate. Qualified as a Usui Reiki, Tibetan Reiki, Isis Seichim and Sekhmet Sekhem Master and Tarot Councillor with the ATA, Tina has also studied various modalities within natural/alternative medicine and operates a spiritually based business which includes readings, healings, magickal items and workshops in various metaphysical and occult subjects.

Contact: tarotwithtina@yahoo.com.au

Tina will be offering a workshop in Melbourne on April 1st 2012 in Sekhmet Sekhem healing and further information can be found here:

http://www.facebook.com/groups/160531014007694/301220293272098/?ref=notif¬if_t=group_activity#!/events/241138195970679/

The Tales of Little Purple Pt 9a

OR

MY TIMETABLE ABC's

By Amethyst



On his first day at school
Little Purple did meet with so many of his teachers
So big and so small
That he grew confused and just wandered about

Till one kindly old soul did say
"There, there Little Purple let me sort out what's going about"
And before he knew it his first day was at an end

He looked at his timetable and his eyes nearly popped out
So many classes and lectures to attend
His father did say "that it seems difficult at first
But before long your days will be bouncing along".

Little purple did study his timetable again and again
And it did boggle his mind
That there were so many letters
He had to attend.

A: is for Altitude must be obeyed, or into others you might fly – See E
B: is for Breath, management there of – See F
C: is for Co-ordinating – mapping and such – See J
D: is for Defence – See S
E: is for Elementary Flying School – Little Purple has passed

TO BE CONTINUED

Ragnachars
12/2/12.



My Sacred Epona

**In my dream I breathed her; while fast asleep,
And after she woke me, her dreams I did keep.**

**We clattered down mountains with sparks at our
heels,
We galloped past graveyards as church bells rang
peels.**

**The thundering hoofbeats, the sweat of her mane,
As we coursed over oceans to her wheat woven
plain.**

**We worked our way up to our Brighid's bright light,
And the moon fell to earth; and the day fell to
night.**

**The legions they fell, by sword and by spear,
As we two one rode, through that Hell and that
fear.**

**As silence descended that field of battle,
Morrigan's ravens picked corpses and chattle.**

**We stopped on a cloud, and in tears I made troth,
That my heart beat for hers; while hers beat for us
both.**

David Jenkins - 2012

Epona

By Jenny Taylor



Epona is the Continental Celtic Horse Goddess who proved so popular She was adopted by the Romans. Shrines to Her could be found in stables, and it is likely the Romans brought Her worship with them to Britain, where She was unknown before, even though the people there were also of Celtic stock.

Her name comes from the Gaulish word for "horse", epos, which derives from the same root as both the Latin word for horse, equus and the Greek, hippos. Her name means "Divine Mare". Though Her name is said to give us our word "pony", the actual source of that word is from the Gaelic ponaidh and/or Irish poni.

Epona is the protectress of horses, animals, riders and stables. She is the Mistress of animals. Foals, dogs or birds followed her. Her many fertility attributes make her a Mothergoddess, which was maybe only reduced later to the horse-aspect. Or: The great importance of horses for the celts and the symbol of the fertile mare giving birth to a foal and taking gentle care of it as a loving mother led the celts to worship in her nature and fertility in general.

Epona is shown here in the so-called Imperial pose, the usual depiction of Her outside of Gaul. She is seated between two of the little wild horses known in the Camargue, the marshy area in the south of France. These horses (by modern standards, ponies, since they average about 13 hands high) are descended from ones that escaped from the Romans when they were in the area. They are a strange-looking variety, with square heads and a fay look, and though they are born dark brown or black they become white when they are adults, though some of them keep the dark mane and tail.

Epona and Her friends are depicted within the head of the White Horse of Uffington, in Wiltshire, England, with the Horse stretching out behind them and White Horse Vale in the background. The White Horse is likely a little too early to have been originally associated with Epona, as it's pre-Roman, and it was probably carved by a horse-worshipping Celtic tribe as a boundary marker.

Epona may well be related to the Welsh horse-goddess Rhiannon, and one of Epona's titles is "Queen"--in Latin, Regina, and in Gaulish, Rigatona, which later became the name Rhiannon.

Epona is also a fertility and abundance Goddess, and is shown holding in Her lap apples, carrots, and oats. Check out that horse on the left--he's like, "Are those treats I see? Are they for me?"

References::

<http://www.thaliatook.com/epona.html>

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Symbolism of the Horse



The Horse symbolizes success, freedom, travel, courage, strength, power, nobility, wisdom and loyalty. It is also a symbol of life and death, grace and beauty.

As a symbol of loyalty and devotion; he believes completely in his rider. The Horse can also be your warrior spirit - the brave fighter who brings you safely home after your long journeys.

As a Celtic symbol the Horse was associated with war and fertility. With war comes victory, domination, long life, and the wealth that comes with the triumph in battle.

Over the course of time, many animals have developed a great deal of magical symbolism. The horse in particular has been found in folklore and legend in a variety of cultures.

Sometimes, a horse is representative of doom and despair. Death is one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, and each of the four rides a different coloured horse.

The Greeks represented the duelling aspects of the soul with a chariot pulled by a team of Horses. One of the horses is patient and sensible (White) while the other horse is impulsive and disobedient (Black). The

rebellious horse attempts to thwart the driver and hinder his teammate on their journey towards heaven or "perfection".

Horses are symbols of freedom. This totem brings new journeys. It will teach you to ride in new directions and discover your own freedom and power. It is your guide to overcoming obstacles.

The Horse is the symbol of Wind.

Horse people are usually friendly and adventurous.

If a horse has shown up in your life, you must ask yourself: "Am I feeling constricted? Do you need to move on or allow others to move on?"

Horse will teach you how to ride into new directions to awaken and discover your own freedom and power.

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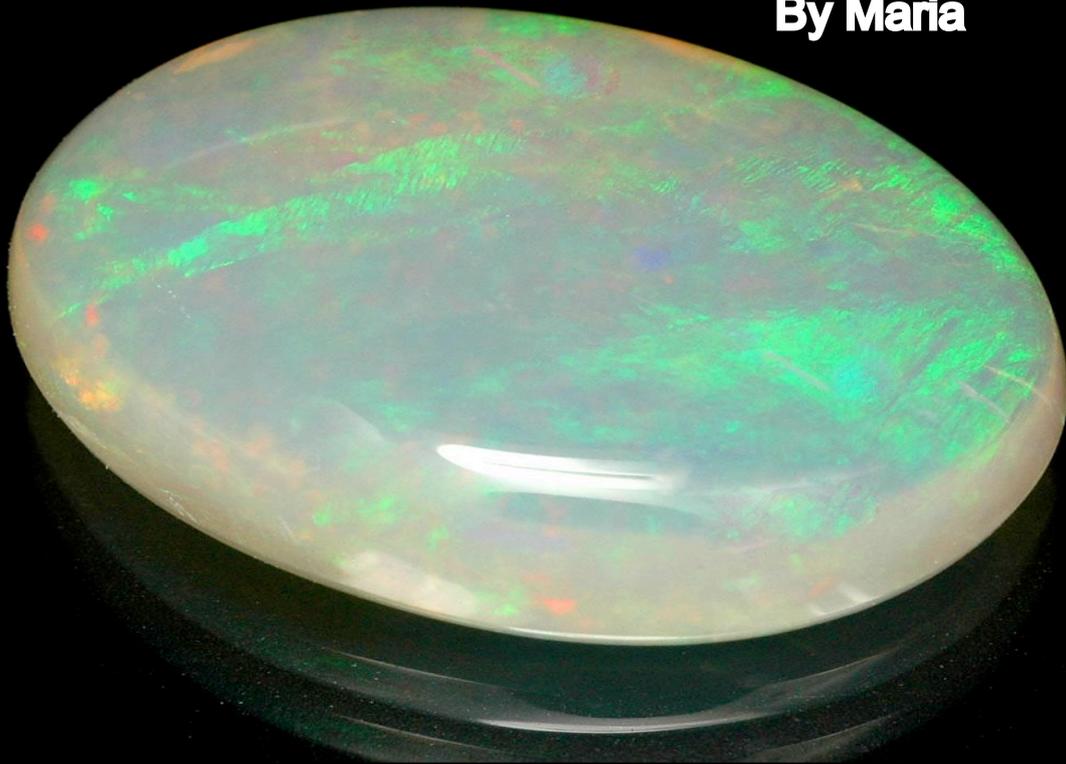
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Chrystal - Opal

By Maria



What a month we've had; rain and more rain, at times very severe storms. January full moon was in Cancer. Cancer full moon meant that the weather, mainly water was prevalent. Parts of the country suffered floods and rising rivers. Still in February more rain and storms. What happened to summer?

Due to the watery months I thought it apt to discuss opals. Opals are comprised mainly of water. It can range from 3 to 30% of its total weight.

Opals are divided into two categories – common and precious. Precious opal show flashes of colour depending of course on angle of light and viewing. Common opal is opaque and lacks the display of colour of precious opal. Common opal is also called Potch.

There are many colours contained in opals, blue, green, red, orange, pink, white, black, brown and grey, literally a rainbow of colours. I have been told that opals are unlucky stones yet there so much reference on the contrary.

It is a very protective stone especially when astral travelling, or spiritual journeying, also it can be used for past life recollections. Opal can also help one be invisible in situations where one doesn't want to be noticed therefore assisting in going unseen to otherworld's or dangerous places.

Opal encompasses all the elements, but due to its high water content the psyche ruled by water moves to the fore. If psychic powers are to be developed you can utilize this stone for this purpose.

As emotions are also ruled by the water element this stone connects to your feelings. It may amplify or mirror your thoughts and reflect them back to you for dissection. Thus assisting you to identify and better understand the root of these thoughts. It brings with it emotional healing and balance.

Due to opals beauty, its iridescence, this stone is worn to enhance one's beauty. It brings that inner beauty forward.

A beauty spell: place a round mirror on the altar or behind it so that you can see your face within it while kneeling. Place two green candles on either side of the mirror. Light the candles. Empower an opal with your need for beauty – while holding the stone, gaze into your reflection. With the scalpel of your visualization, mould and form your face (and your body) to the form you desire. Then carry or wear the opal and dedicate yourself to improving your appearance. (Taken from Cunningham's Encyclopaedia of Crystal, Gem & Metal Magic).

You can utilise an opal, preferably a fire opal, to draw in money. Use it in business to attract more clients/customers to your establishment.

Opal is a particularly powerful stone; its energies are projective and receptive. In magic, it increases, frees and awakens power.

This stone symbolizes hope, innocence and purity. It fosters love, passion, loyalty and faithfulness. It brings stability to a relationship.

In healing it treats: Parkinson's disease, infection and fevers, cleanses blood and kidney, eases childbirth and regulates childbirth. It also strengthens memory.

Due to opals many varied colour spectrum, it relates to all the chakras. It will depend on the colouring of your particular specimen as to which chakra relation.

Some notes on caring for your opal. Opals are delicate they don't take kindly to change in temperature. They may crack if the weather gets hot or cold suddenly. It's also best when cleaning or using cleaning products to remove it. Another point, don't allow opal to dry out, when storing this stone it was recommended to place it in an air tight bag with a drop of water, or a damp cotton wool, its stops it from drying out. I always wondered why opals were stored in jars with water, this is the reason. If the stone dries out it will crack.

Please, do not use ultrasonic jewellery cleaner, if there are any cracks within the stone, which is very common, it will crack.

Most stones have inclusions or cracks that the naked eye cannot see, so it's best not to use this particular equipment.

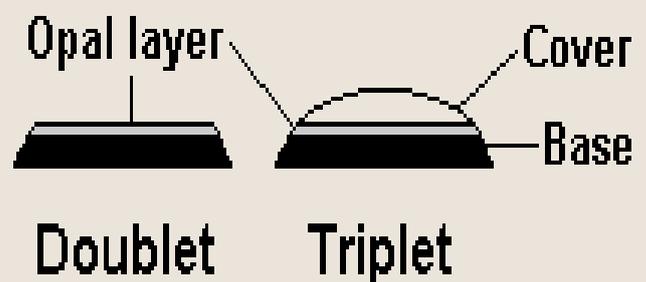
Opals can be an expensive purchase, so it's best to care for this stone. You want to enjoy its beauty many times over.

Care must be taken when purchasing opal. When buying an opal beware of the Doublets and Triplets that are on the market. As the names suggests, a thin slice of opal is mounted on a either common opal or black chalcedony and triplets have an extra layer of clear rock crystal in a dome shape on top.

Special care must be taken with these items the layers may come apart or show signs of peeling from its backing.

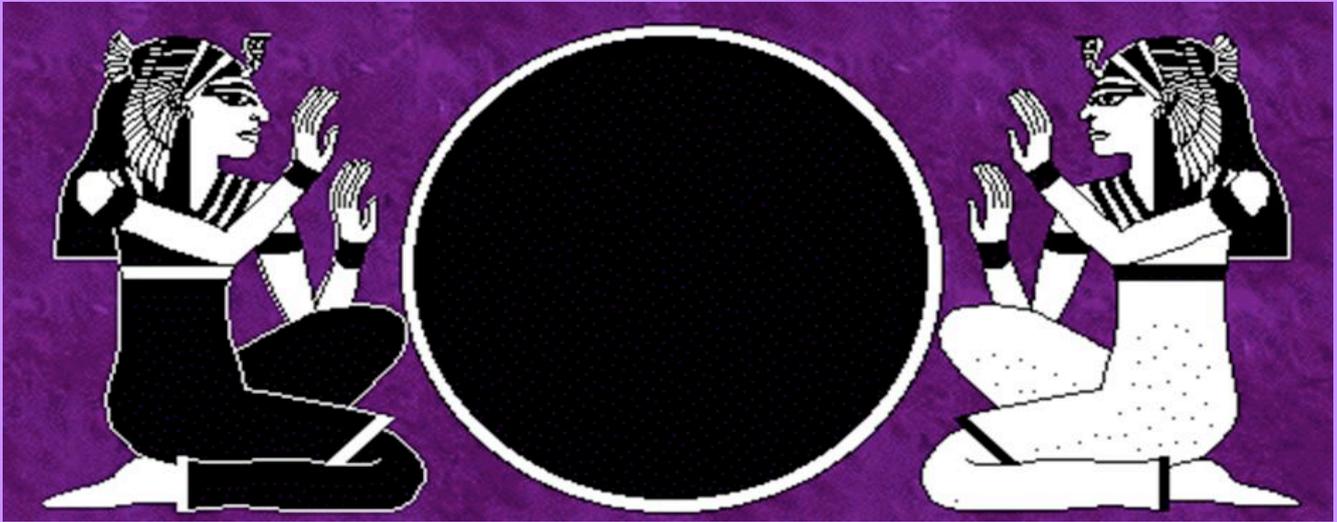
Opals are sometimes cooked, yes, I thought that was weird myself. It was explained to me that when it's cooked in sugar it brings up the colours and sometimes the price. So be aware of that. I am unable to distinguish if cooked or not but those experienced with opals sure can tell the difference. Take them with you if you decide to purchase an opal.

I realise that opals are a rather expensive stones to purchase. A visit to a gem show or lapidary club open day can be a good source for stones in the rough or polished, and information too.



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Workshop on Understanding the Dark Goddess

By Frances Billingham

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Contact: Frances

Phone: 0401 788 790

Email: frances@templedarkmoon.com

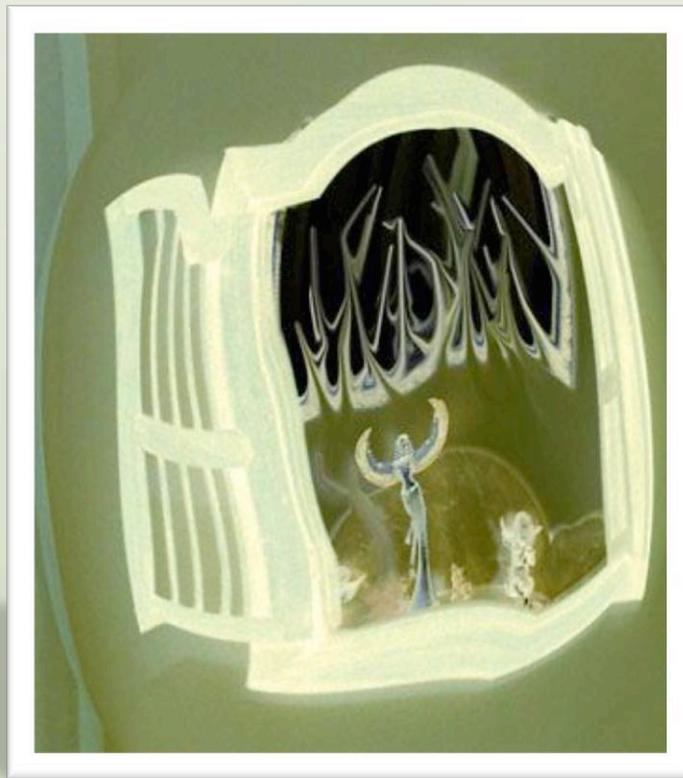
Website:

<http://www.templedarkmoon.com>

Temple of the Dark Moon

PO Box 2451

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EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS A MIRROR

In the ebb and flow of life and in balancing our inner/yin and outer/yang focus over the days, weeks, months and years, we sometimes need to intentionally shift our ways of doing and being.

The easiest way that we can affect change into our life is by noticing what is being mirrored back to you. The basic concept behind this type of "feedback" is that everything that you experience in life, positive or negative is a reflection of your-self.

Your life and everything in it is a reflection of you. The circumstances of your life can speak volumes about the person you have become.

This reflection is like the image that you see when you stand before the mirror. In many ways this reflection represents the real you. It is that shadow side that you often refuse to

face, to acknowledge and yet if we can embrace, integrate this shadow side then our life is going to flow in a more balanced state of being.

All your life experiences are results, images, shadows. They are messengers "sent" to tell you something about you. It is important to use these life circumstances (positive or negative) regardless how painful they are to learn and grow.

As you live in this world, it is as if there is a mirror everywhere you look. Therefore everything you see is your own reflection. Everything reflects self. Your life is a reflection of your thoughts, feelings and actions. You don't necessarily get what you want out of life. You get what you are. Things don't change; you do. And when you change, they do.

"The Mirror" - photography & digital artwork by Janine Donnellan



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LAMMAS HERBES

By Amethyst

Well what herbes did you use at Lammas? As it was the first of three harvest sabbats, you could have used any one of the grains. If you were lucky enough to be able to harvest your grain yourself (after all the hard work of planting and growing it first of course), then there would be an added magickal component to the herbe.

Here is some information about a few different grains:

BARLEY – Hordeum Vulgare

Planet: Saturn, Venus

Element: Earth

Gender: Feminine

Zodiac: Virgo

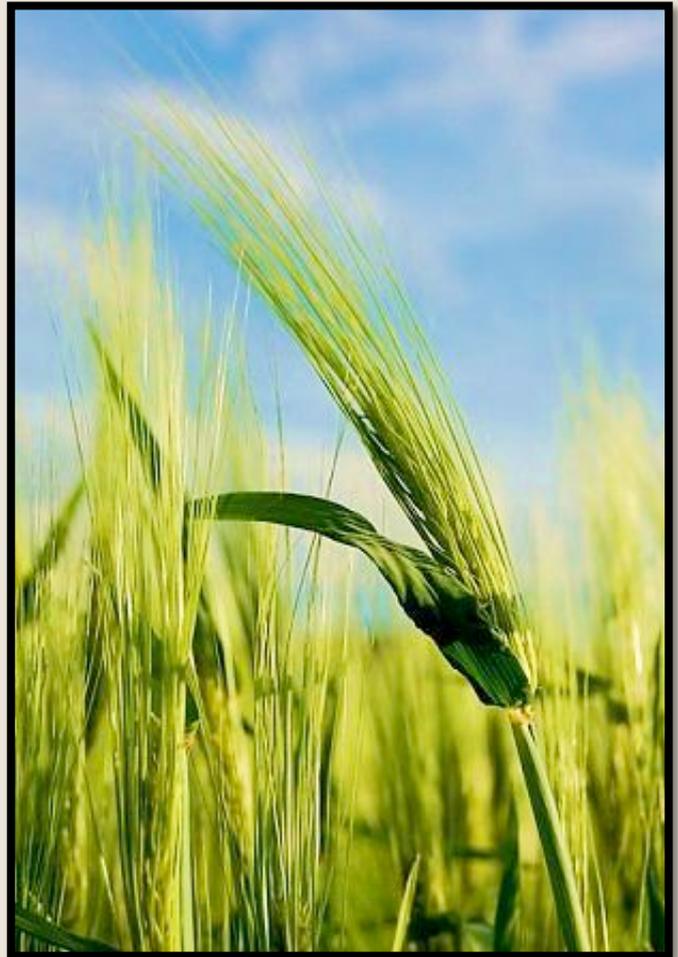
Deity: Cronus, Demeter, Rgl

Magickal: Fertility & Religious Herbe

Folk Names: Pearl Barley (hulled), Perlatum, Scotch Barley

Barley has been associated with the harvest and is held to be sacred to Demeter. When Demeter was searching for Persephone, she stopped to rest at a farmer's cottage and quenched her thirst with a sweet barley-drink. A boy name Askalabos mocked her hunger and in anger the goddess cast the drink upon him, transforming him into a lizard. The flecks of barley became the creature's spots. According to Robert Graves in *The White Goddess* one of the old Pagan gods of Russia, Rgl, is also associated with barley. An ancient Greek cult on the Peloponnisos peninsula used both barley and human sacrifice in their rituals in honour of Cronus and the Barley Mother. In Bavaria barley figured in an animistic practice. Frazer in *The Golden Bough* informs us that the last barley of the harvest is fashioned along with corn into a figure of a woman which represents the spirit of the harvest, but not without humour.

Barley water is used in love potions. Scatter the grains on the ground to ward off evil and negativity. And according to Pliny, a man



with a boil could use nine grains to heal the eruption. Tracing a circle around the boil three times with each grain, he should then throw them into a fire with the left hand to get rid of it. To get rid of a toothache, barley straw may be wound around stone while visualizing the pain into the stone. Throw the wrapped stone into running water or a river to wash the pain away.

HOPS – Homulus Lupulus

Planet: Mars, Pluto

Element: Air

Gender: Masculine

Zodiac: Scorpio

Deity: Bacchus, Dionysus, John Barleycorn

Magickal: Magickal, Religious & Visionary Herbe

Folk Names: Beer Flower, Flores de Cerveza



Hops is a healing and visionary herb, and is magically related to sleep and healing. According to Scott Cunningham, the fragrance of hops will also help you drift off. Sophie Hodorowicz Knab, author of "Polish Herbs, Flowers and Folk Medicine", describes hops as associated with strong and enduring, as well as secret love. Hops can be mixed with most other herbs associated with Dream Magick. It is believed Hops increases the restfulness and serenity of your dreaming time. Hops may be brought into rituals which honour the gods and goddesses who brought the gifts of ale and beer to humankind. Use

Hops in healing rituals through incense, pillows, and sachets. And if you want to try mixing the two herbes together, well follow this link & see what you get!

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Neptune at Zero Pisces



Starting at Zero: Setting the Scene for Neptune in Pisces

By Frank C Clifford

It's been my experience that when an outer planet moves through the final few degrees of a sign, we let go of (or 'say goodbye' to) certain aspects, ideas and even iconic figures that have been at the very heart of that ingress. For example, the deaths of Princess Diana and Mother Theresa occurred when Neptune was at 27° Capricorn in August–September 1997. Both passings impacted the world: some people were part of a wave of grief (Neptune) while others exhibited head-shaking incredulity (Neptune) at the extreme set of emotions their deaths provoked in others. At the time of their deaths, neither figure had been enjoying the Neptunian fog of blind admiration she once had, although both had embodied Neptune in many ways – the fairy tale media princess reaching out in Angola and the nun devoted to ministering the poor and sick in India. (TR Uranus was conjunct Diana's Jupiter in Aquarius in much of 1997 and at the exact time of her death – with progressed Jupiter Rising through Paris. This fits in well with the symbolism of her work to publicise landmines, is mirrored in her need to 'blow the lid' on aspects of the Royal Family, and reflected in her sudden, violent

death in a foreign country before she could do so.)

Some ten years on, I was intrigued to read about the deaths of two high profile 'queens' in August 2007, a time when Saturn was leaving the sign of Leo. New York high society socialite Brooke Astor died on the 13th (Saturn at 27° Leo) and Leona Helmsley, the imperious New York 'hotelier from hell', passed away exactly a week later (Saturn at 28° Leo). Both donated millions to their city: Astor was a noted philanthropist who said, 'Money is like manure; it should be spread around', while Helmsley, on the other hand, was branded the 'Queen of Mean' who apparently said, 'Only the little people pay taxes.'

Outer planets spend much time creeping towards the end of the sign, but in highlighting the key 'letting go' period before the ingress, I would consider the time a planet has remaining in the sign before the ingress, and if the planet has already traversed to the end of that sign. For example, Neptune had reached 29°57' in April 1997 and, at the time of Diana and Theresa's deaths that autumn, it was retrograde but only five months away from its first entry into Aquarius. In the example of the New York doyennes, Saturn moved into Virgo on 2 September 2007, just a few weeks after the deaths of Astor and Helmsley.

But what of the first degree of a sign? The recent entry of Neptune into Pisces has surprised and taught me how significant it is when it comes to deaths and endings, too.

But whereas the final few degrees are the 'last stand' (the end of an era), endings occurring while the planet has just entered the new sign seem to be harbingers of events to come and signposts of the mood of the new transit. Deaths or events when outer planets are at 0° set the scene for the years ahead.

As Sue Tompkins pointed out in her profile of Derrick Bird (The Astrological Journal, Jan/Feb 2011), Bird's killing spree occurred just days after Uranus moved into Aries. It could be said that, on one level, Bird acted out our own collective frustration with the helplessness and apathy of Uranus's seven years in Pisces, and took a very obvious, very violent course of action to express himself (Uranus in Aries). Certainly the messages of Uranus in Aries (e.g. civil unrest and fighting collectively for individual rights and freedom) are being felt and heard in the news: from the thuggery and civil disobedience in London, the sudden violence in Norway, revolution in Egypt and collected protests in Wall Street... to violence linked to youth (Aries), such as the shooting of three kindergarteners by a gun brought to school by a six year old, and the very publicized and shocking spectacles of two leaders killed by shots to the face or head: Osama Bin Laden and Muammar Gaddafi. Note the gung-ho and self-righteous/self-congratulatory Aries energy in the horoscope of Bin Laden's murder back in May 2011.

In April 2011, France became the first European country to ban the niqab and burqa with Neptune at 0° Pisces (suggesting an increasingly uneasy alliance between country and religion as Neptune travels through Pisces for the next fourteen years). But perhaps more apt was that this happened when Uranus (which represents freedom of speech as well as censorship and bans) was at 0° Aries (a sign that rules the face, and a sign concerned with firsts). On 1 May, China (infamous for its censorship of political ideology on the internet) outlawed smoking in public places (I've often seen transits or directions involving Mars/Aries and Uranus –

extinguishing the flame – when people give up 'lighting up'), and on 1 July 2011, books by sci-fi writer and Scientology founder L Ron Hubbard were banned in Russia as 'extremist' (Uranus). Bans 'in the name of freedom' seem to be the order of Uranus in Aries!

Other planetary activity

Before considering Neptune's brief entry into Pisces last spring–summer, I think it is important not to forget that during this time:

Pluto was in Capricorn square Uranus in Aries

Saturn was in Libra

Jupiter was moving through the latter half of Aries and reached the end of the first decan of Taurus

Saturn in Libra appears to be reflected in the equal rights of legalizing civil partnerships/gay marriage in some American states, as well as the announcement (26 April) that the first Gay Pride rally in Moscow would take place. During this Saturn trip through Libra, the Presbyterian Church have approved people in same sex relationships to be ordained, and the Church of Scotland announced on 23 May 2011 that it will allow gays to become ministers. The lesson of Saturn in Libra must surely be to learn diplomacy, negotiation and compromise – and this seems to be reflected in the number of coalitions set up around the time of its entry in late 2009 and once again in mid-2010. It's arrival (and station) at 29° Libra (late January to early March 2012) will be the true test of such coalitions.

Neptune in Pisces

Neptune in Pisces will not only bring Piscean themes to the fore (from issues of religious devotion and gurus... to 'telepathic' forms of everyday communication... to changes in drug laws and an array of new addictions), it will also have a direct link to Virgo areas of life (from the disappearance of a retirement age... to diseases, viruses, plagues... to the scandal/uncertainty/evaporation of charities, pensions and health care provisions).

First off, here's some data from Neil F. Michelsen and Rique Pottenger's *American Ephemeris for the 21st Century* (ACS Publications, 2010):

4 April 2011, 13:52 GMT Neptune enters Pisces

3 June 2011, 07:29 GMT Neptune goes retrograde at 0°55' Pisces

5 August 2011, 02:55 GMT Neptune retrogrades back into Aquarius

3 February 2012, 19:04 GMT Neptune enters Pisces

30 March 2025, 12:01 GMT Neptune enters Aries

22 October 2025, 09:49 GMT Neptune retrogrades back into Pisces

26 January 2026, 17:38 GMT Neptune enters Aries

So, what happened in the four months (4 April to 5 August 2011) that Neptune travelled through Pisces last year? And how does this act as an omen for the years to come, starting February 2012?

I went online and looked up the news on Wikipedia for each one of those days, and here are some of the highlights, particularly those at the very start of the ingress. Bearing in mind that the other outer planets will 'create' their own 'headlines' in the news, I have attempted to stay with those that have a strong Neptunian feel. (Interestingly during this four month period, Neptune completed its first full barycentric orbit since its discovery – a cycle different from the exact discovery degree.)

The promises of politicians

4 April Neptunian US President (of Hope) Barack Obama announces he will fight another Election just hours after the ingress.

4 April Controversial former musician, Michel 'Sweet Micky' Martelly, wins the Haitian Presidential Election; he is known for his use of profanity and homophobic slurs on stage.

4 April As part of the British government's package of welfare reforms, the 1.5 million claiming incapacity benefit (Neptune) will now be required to attend work capability assessments (Virgo–Pisces polarity).

4 April a boat carrying asylum seekers and migrants (Neptune) from Libya to Italy sets off today. Two days later it capsizes and more than two hundred people drown. During Neptune in Pisces, will we see more migrations of 'nomadic' communities without a fixed abode?

4 August The UK Government launches a new e-petition website to encourage the public to prompt Parliamentary debate (Uranus in Aries, too).

Hacking, invasions and injunctions, oh my!

I used to wonder whether the age of Neptune in Pisces would bring greater awareness of psychic phenomena and planet-visiting aliens, but it appears that we are experiencing invasions and abductions of a very different kind – most notably, the invasion of privacy. (Viruses – computer and otherwise – also fall under this umbrella.) Cyberwarfare – politically motivated hacking, espionage and sabotage – is the new global world war of the 21st Century.

Is nothing sacred? Invasions of privacy and privacy laws appear to be key issues with Neptune in Pisces. With Twitter postings, computer hackings and the super-injunctions scandal, we are becoming aware that no one can stop leaks or get away with cover-ups for long. There's an obsession with exposing high-ranking subterfuge (Uranus in Aries square Pluto in Capricorn) and the emergence of Julian Assange's WikiLeaks online (Neptune) has guaranteed an instant, global awareness of the mere whiff of scandal (Neptune). The Law appears to be powerless in stopping such infiltrations and leaks – and consensus suggests this is a 'good thing' with large corporations and public figures (News International, philandering footballers) but a 'bad thing' on a personal level (Milly Dowler and other victims of crime). Some of the biggest battles of Neptune in Pisces will involve the processing of information (mutable), and we are already aware that

major power lies in the collection, sale and distribution of personal data (the Mercury-ruled sign Virgo).

6 April Silvio Berlusconi, beleaguered and scandal-soaked Prime Minister of Italy, stands trial (yet again). This time, the charge is for having sex with an underage prostitute. This period appears pivotal for Berlusconi and it 'feels' like the bitter end of a sleaze-ridden premiership.

8 April News International announces it will admit liability in some of the breach of privacy cases being brought in relation to phone hacking by The News of The World.

Employees of the tabloid had been accused of engaging in police bribery and hacking into the phones of celebrities, politicians and royalty. But discoveries were made in April proving that the phones of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler, relatives of deceased soldiers, and victims of the 7/7 London bombings were also hacked. Ironically on 7 July itself – following a public outcry, various resignations and concern over publisher Rupert Murdoch's strange hold over the media in the UK – The News of the World was closed (the final edition is printed on 10 July, ending 168 years of publication). Murdoch has a very fishy chart, with Sun–Mercury in Pisces and Neptune elevated on the MC – he is everywhere and has infiltrated most areas of media. Neptune's move into Pisces appears to have signalled a change in his fortunes – for the time being. (In spring 2011, by Solar Arc, Mercury had just squared his Neptune and, if his birth time is accurate, TR Neptune was squaring Solar Arc MC at 0° Sagittarius.)

21 April US Congressman Ed Markey sends Steve Jobs a letter asking him to explain the purpose of a file embedded on iPhones and iPads that keeps a detailed log of the device's location. Some governments announce intentions to investigate any violation of privacy laws.

25 April WikiLeaks (founded on 4 October 2006 with Jupiter in Scorpio square Neptune in Aquarius) releases classified cables detailing the interrogations and victimization of the elderly and mentally ill (Neptune)

carried out by the US in the Guantanamo Bay detention camp. The people were later released without charge.

26 April Sony's PlayStation Network remains offline after a worldwide security breach obtains 77 million of users' personal information, making this the largest breach of personal information in history. (On 3 August, McAfee uncovers one of the largest series of cyber attacks against the IOC, the United Nations, the Indian government and major businesses.)

9 May Super-injunctions are big news due to anonymous writers on Twitter deciding to 'name and shame' a list of celebrities who had issued gagging orders (most, in fact, were not 'super-injunctions'). 'Super-injunctions' ensure that facts/allegations not allowed by law to be reported – and the injunction itself is said not to legally exist (Neptune).

9 May American billionaire Louis Bacon wins a judgment in the UK against Wikipedia, The Denver Post and WordPress, allowing him to obtain information on the identities of those who have allegedly defamed him.

29 April Prince William and Catherine Middleton marry, starting perhaps another fairy tale worthy of Neptune (certainly a stellium in Aries, including Jupiter, suggests the start of a new generation of British royals).

10 May Max Mosley loses his European Court of Human Rights bid to force newspapers to warn people before exposing aspects of their private lives.

4 July Hackers break into Fox News' Twitter account on Independence Day to post a story that Obama has been killed.

Deaths of Neptunian Figures

When deaths occur at the beginning of a planet's sojourn through a sign, what is this telling us? Consider the deaths of three significant Neptune people while Neptune was at 0° Pisces – Osama Bin Laden, Amy Winehouse and Sai Baba. Bin Laden's death could signal the start of a search for another

guru or saviour for those who believe in his cause (Neptune/Pisces). And while martyred Amy Winehouse – the first music industry victim of the Neptune in Pisces era – may have joined the ‘Club of 27’, her passing may be the first of a new wave of drug-related deaths in the years to come. Or her predictable but pointless passing could actually signal a change in perception (or in the Law) of drugs and act as a wake-up call to the current Neptune in Capricorn generation intent on having it all (Capricorn) but throwing it away (Neptune).

Sai Baba

In an article in The Daily Telegraph (5 August 2011), the subheading ran: ‘The death of an Indian guru who built up a worldwide following of up to 50 million people has triggered an unholy scramble for control of his £5.5 billion empire. This, of course, begs the question: how does a man of God in poverty-stricken India accumulate that sort of fortune? And, in the age of Neptune in Pisces, who will India seek out now their beloved guru has left the earthly plane some years earlier than he predicted?’

With his trademark saffron robes and afro hair, Sathya Sai Baba (who died on 24 April 2011) stood at 5ft 2” but was truly a towering, influential Neptunian guru to millions of followers (and critics, too). Like most Neptunian figures there are numerous believers and detractors. Sai Baba’s devotees hold on to his wise teachings (which on the whole can’t be faulted), his education centres, philanthropic work and ability to work miracles (creating objects out of thin air) as proof of his benevolent sincerity and divinity. His critics cite the persistent allegations of sexual abuse with boys, the role he may have played in the murder of four followers, and the ‘trickery’ in manifesting holy ash and trinkets of a clever magician who held his gullible followers and Indian’s elite in his hands. (When seeing these manifestations on film, the sleight of hand trickery of a magician appears to be at work, but with Neptune, one never knows...)

There is also the accumulation of Neptunian ‘facts’ about his birth. Firstly, there are contradictions surrounding his true age.

There is a belief that he was the reincarnation of an earlier saint of the same name (Sai Baba of Shirdi) and that he was born 23 November 1926 in Puttaparthi, around the time of the original Baba’s prediction of his reincarnation. Yet some cite a later birth date (4 October 1929). The arguments and responses can be found at:

<http://saibabaexposed.blogspot.com/2006/10/sai-babas-school-records-new-light.html>

<http://www.saisathyasai.com/baba/Ex-Baba.com/ssb-school.html>

Here’s part of Sai Baba’s entry on Wikipedia:

Almost everything known about Sathya Sai Baba’s early life stems from the hagiography that grew around him, the presentation of narratives that hold special meaning to his devotees and are considered by them evidence of his divine nature. According to his followers, then, Sathyanarayana Raju was born to Easwamma and Peddavenkama Raju Ratnakaram in the village of Puttaparthi, in what was the Madras Presidency of British India. His birth, which his mother Eswamma asserted was by miraculous conception, was also said to be heralded by miracles.

On 8 March 1940, while living with his elder brother Seshama Raju in Uravakonda, a small town near Puttaparthi, Sathya was apparently stung by a scorpion. He lost consciousness for several hours. Within the next few days there was a noticeable change in Sathya’s behaviour. There were ‘symptoms of laughing and weeping, eloquence and silence.’ ‘He began to sing Sanskrit verses, a language of which he had no prior knowledge.’ Doctors believed his behaviour to be hysteria. His parents brought Sathya back home to Puttaparthi. Concerned, they took him to many priests, ‘doctors’ and exorcists.

On 23 May 1940, Sathya called household members and reportedly materialised prasad and flowers for his family members. His father became furious at seeing this, thinking his son was bewitched. He took a stick and threatened to beat him if Sathya did not reveal who he really was. To this Sathya

announced calmly and firmly 'I am Sai Baba', a reference to Sai Baba of Shirdi. He proclaimed himself to be a reincarnation of Sai Baba of Shirdi – a saint who became famous in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Maharashtra and had died eight years before Sathya was born.

Does Sai Baba's death, when Neptune was at 0° Pisces, leave the door open for new spiritual philosophers (or opportunists) to rush forward and assume the position he has left vacant? Or will a country polluted by corruption and, to some extent, spiritually bankrupt be lost without a guru to guide them?

A few additional thoughts

We can expect breakthroughs in Neptune-related illnesses such as myalgic encephalomyelitis (M.E.) and viruses, and health issues such as euthanasia. On 15 May 2011, the people of Zurich voted to reject a ban on assisted suicide in Switzerland, and also rejected the restricting of assisted suicide to Zurich residents only. On 31 May, the World Health Organization classified cell phone radiation as a 'carcinogenic hazard' and a 'possible carcinogenic to humans' (i.e. linked to causing cancer). On 7 July, Jerusalem scientists identified the molecular basis for the breakage of DNA (which results in the development of Cancer). On 1 July, the

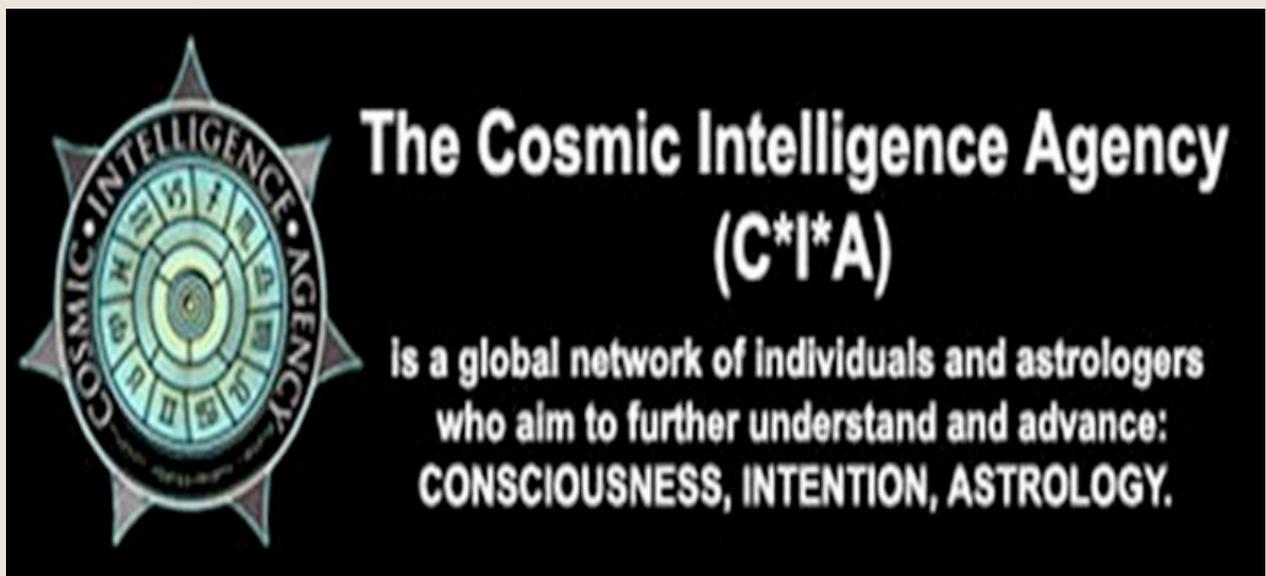
Danish drug company Lundbeck restricted use of its Nembutal drug to stop it being used in lethal injections in some US states. And on 29 July, Johnson & Johnson announced that it would lower the maximum daily dosage of its Extra Strength Tylenol to reduce the risk of liver damage.

Films released during this time include Neptune-tinged stories such as *Insidious* (a movie about a boy who enters a comatose state and becomes a vessel for ghosts in the astral dimension) and *Source Code* (a tale in which a time-loop program allows a man, whose brain is being kept alive, to return to the past in someone else's body and re-enact the last part of the life to alter future events). As always, film will lead the way and give us a glimpse of Neptune's return to its own sign.

Data and Sources

Bin Laden Murdered: 2 May 2011, 00:40 (-5), Abbottabad, Pakistan (34n09, 73e13). Source: FCC quotes newspapers on date. Wikipedia has 'after 1am'.

Rupert Murdoch: 11 March 1931, 23:59 AEST, Melbourne, Australia (37s49, 144e58). Source: Gwen Stoney quotes a newspaper announcement given in *A Paper Prince* for 'midnight ending the day'.



SOuL Searchers Parapsychology Certificate Course

SOuL Searchers is pleased to announce the commencement of a
Parapsychology Certificate Course
starting Wednesday 7th March 2012.

Parapsychology is the scientific study of paranormal phenomena. The paranormal refers to exceptional human experiences that do not seem to be explainable in terms of our everyday understanding or known scientific principles. This Parapsychology Certificate course takes a look at how we perceive ourselves and events outside our own personal world and what we understand about these paradigms. Some of the topics covered include history and philosophy of parapsychology, paranormal investigations, the nature of ghosts, spirits, hauntings and other paranormal phenomena, the role of technical equipment in investigations, geopathic stress, dowsing, vortices and portals, extrasensory perception and psychokinetics, clairvoyance and other psychic senses.

Module 1: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March 2012

Prerequisite: None.

Module 2: 11th, 18th, 25th April & 2nd May 2012

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Module 1.

Module 3: 16th, 23rd, 30th May & 6th June 2012

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Modules 1 & 2

Location: Sutherland (southern Sydney, NSW)

Course Duration: 3 modules run over 3 months – 12 evenings
(2.5 hrs each from 7 – 9:30pm)

Course Payment: \$180 per module.

Class Facilitators

Janine Donnellan is the founder and Lead Investigator of SOuL Searchers Paranormal Investigations and the editor of their online magazine. Janine has been conducting house clearings and investigations for over 15 years and established the SOuL Searchers Paranormal Investigation Team in 2006. Janine has a Certificate of Advanced Achievement in Parapsychology (1998) Australian Academy of Applied Parapsychology.

Steve Millard is the Case Manager and an Investigator of SOuL Searchers Paranormal Investigations. Steve has Clairvoyant and Clairsentient abilities which he utilizes during the investigations.

For bookings and detailed information about the topics covered in this course please send an email to:

soulsearchers@spheresoflight.com.au

or contact Janine on 0408 025 268

WITCHY CRAFTS



Demeter Oil

3 drops Myrrh
2 drops Vetiver
1 drop Oakmoss
10mls Base Oil

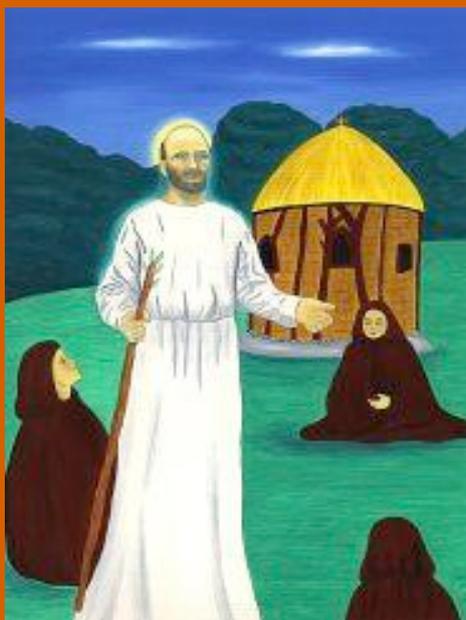
Wear to honour Her and to call upon her powers.

Dragonwicc's Mabon Incense

1 part Benzoin
1 part Myrrh
1 part Cinnamon
1 Vanilla pod
3 drops of Cypress
aromatherapy oil

Burn this incense during Mabon or to attune with the change of the seasons.

MARCH TAROT READING Hierophant



Hierophant literally means "the one who teaches the holy things" and he holds the keys to forbidden or secret knowledge. Ideally, the Hierophant prepares the seeker spiritually for the adventure of their life.

This card may indicate that your current situation seems to require more experience than you can call upon, so now is a good time to be open to the presence of a teacher or mentor in your life. Keep in mind the old proverb saying, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear".

When you pull the Hierophant Tarot card, it may be drawing your attention to your spiritual convictions. The occurrence of this card could be a message for you to examine your belief system, how you operate within these beliefs, and how they affect others and your life.

Tarot card is from Glastonbury Tarot by Lisa Tenzin-Dolma

<http://www.ecauldron.net/lammasoils.php>

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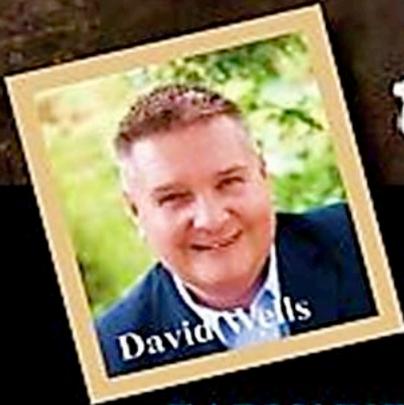
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and more....

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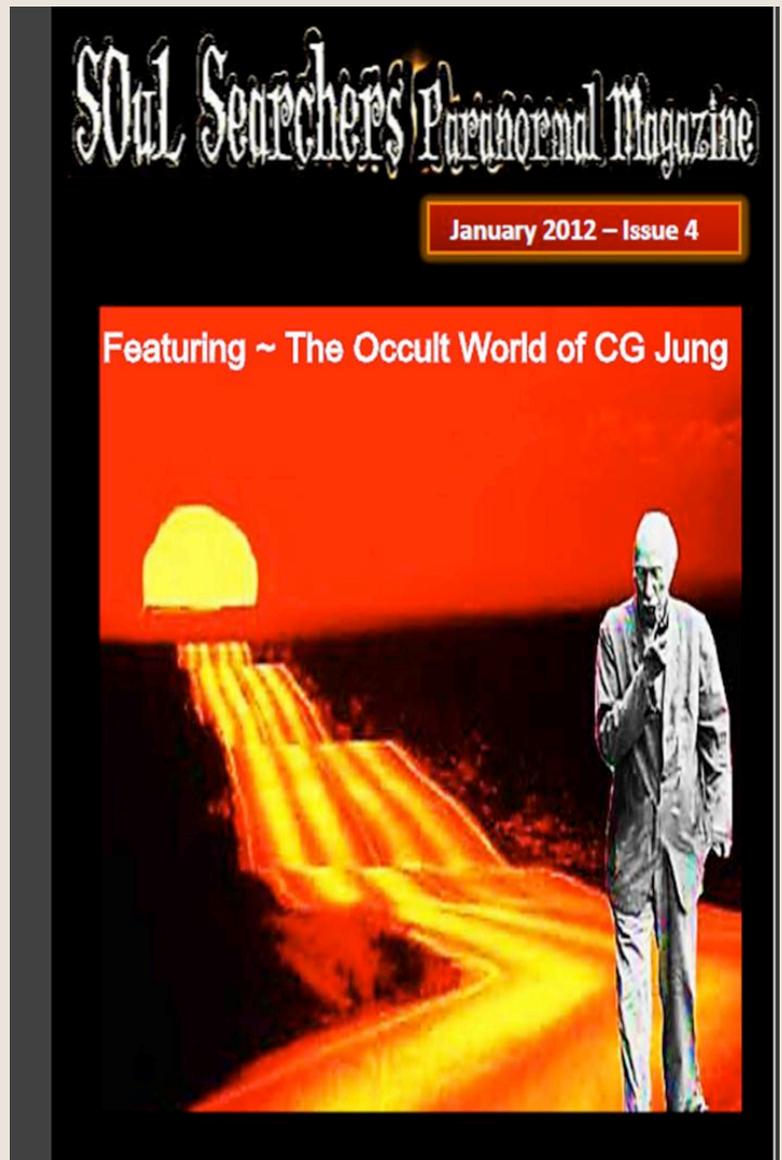


Welcome to SOuL Searchers Magazine

This free bi-monthly online magazine was developed from SOuL Searchers Investigations as a way of communicating our experiences and to further our explorations into the realms of the supernatural and the unexplained.

Our magazine is produced every two months and provides topical information to keep you up to date on news and the latest developments happening in the Australian paranormal community. In addition to our announcements on upcoming activities and events, SOuL Searchers Paranormal Magazine will contain articles, photos and information on the paranormal, parapsychology, ghost tours, mysterious locations, psychics and mediums etc.

Click on the magazine cover to see the latest issue.



Join our Mailing List

...so you'll know when a new issue is available.

SPACE CLEARING & PSYCHIC PROTECTION WORKSHOP

Sunday 4th March 2012



This is a 2 hour workshop to learn how to conduct a space clearing in your home or place of business and also learn to psychic protection.

Sometimes a house or office can feel uncomfortable, and there is no apparent reason to explain your uneasy feeling. There may be instances when you moved into a space and just felt like someone else was there, or the space just didn't feel right.

At this workshop you will learn the basic techniques to conduct a space clearing on your home or business. You will learn how to clear negative or stagnant energetic 'imprints' built up over the years from the accumulation of day to day living and from previous occupants. You will also learn how to remove unwanted entities that may be attached to your home and to protect yourself from psychic attack.

Janine Donnellan from Spheres of Light & SOuL Searchers will be the facilitator of this workshop. Janine has been featured in the Daily Telegraph, Mania Magazine, The Sun and the St George & Sutherland Leader as well as appearing regularly on Psychic TV.

**Where: Embrace, Shop 1015 Westfield,
Miranda NSW 2228**

When: Sunday 4th March 2012

Time: 5:30- 7:30pm

Cost: \$65 includes notes & Supper

Bookings: 02 9531 0009

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOL?

SOL Full Moon Circle March 2, 2012



Spheres Of Light holds regular Full Moon Circles near Engadine (Southern Sydney, Australia) on the Friday before each Full Moon. These Full Moon gatherings are Open Circles, meaning that all Pagans are welcome to come along any time and experience a Full Moon circle with us. [Details here...](#)

SOL Meditation in the Royal National Park Sunday March 18, 2012



[Click here for more information.](#)

Come join us for meditation in the beautiful surrounds of The Royal National Park. Our meditations will be conducted every third Sunday of the month. Please email inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au for times and meet up details.

(Please Note: you must be over 18 years of age to attend any SOL gatherings, events, classes & workshops.)

OTHER PAGAN AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please email us the details of any pagan or community events, classes, workshops or regular meetings that you'd like to see promoted here in this free listing.

PAN Full Moon Public Circle Thursday 8 March, 2012 at Seven Hills, Sydney ([map](#)) 8:30pm



PAN Inc. full moon ritual. PAN runs a public full moon ritual each month at Rotaract Hill, Seven Hills. Anyone is welcome to attend - the purpose of the ritual is to provide members of the pagan community an opportunity to celebrate the full moon together & network with friends, it is also a public ritual where those new to paganism can attend to learn more and meet like-minded others, and the rituals also help inform the general public about what pagans do and dispel misguided myths about paganism and witchcraft.

The circle is held on the top of Rotaract Hill on Terminus Road Seven Hills NSW, just next to the train station. Getting there is easy. If you take the train, the hill is less than five minutes' walk (and easily visible from the station). If you drive, there is plenty of parking available both at the base of the hill and across Terminus Road. Full Moon info and contact details here.

Introduction to PaGaian Cosmology

When: April 13th 2012
Where: Springwood, Blue Mountains
Cost: \$65 or \$50 concession
Contact Email: glenys@pagaian.org
Contact Phone: 02 4751 6100

Web:
<http://pagaian.org/forum/viewtopic.php?id=843>
Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/257877322873/>

RSVP: glenys@pagaian.org

Description: PaGaian Cosmology celebrates Cosmogogenesis in the Wheel of the Year, in metaphor of the Triple Goddess, who is perceived as the Creative Dynamic unfolding the Cosmos in every moment. It is described at Witchvox: http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=aunsw&c=trads&id=11568. This introduction evening may serve as a beginning to the year-long course that is offered, but not necessarily. The year-long course is based on the book PaGaian Cosmology: Re-inventing Earth-based Goddess Religion by Glenys Livingstone Ph.D.: it is a mentoring through the eight Seasonal Moments/Sabbats of the Wheel of the Year, which is always a deeply individual Journey as well as deeply connecting to Other and All-That-Is.

The Introduction and Course is also offered on-line: for more information <http://pagaian.org/forum/viewtopic.php?id=868>



SOuL Searchers is Spheres of Light's paranormal investigations subgroup. They use a common sense scientific approach to all investigations but also have an open mind to all theories & methodologies.



Crone and Sage is a website that is dedicated to our pagan elders who want to share their knowledge and wisdom, magic and life experiences in the form of articles, poetry, recipes, artwork and music.



The Spheres Of Light Holistic Centre has within its members practitioners who can provide Spiritual Healing in a variety of natural healing modalities.



If you want to know about current topics click here. This is a place where you can discuss ideas and catch up on general news. So if you want to participate please become a member



as we would love to hear from you.

The National Pagan Directory is a Spheres Of Light initiative to help Australian Pagans connect with each other in their local area. It is a FREE listing & provides links to information about covens, groups, workshops, retreats & other special Pagan events, plus Aussie Pagan businesses & services. If you would like your coven, group, regular meet-up to be listed in the NPD please send us your details. To list your one-off or special events please use our Australian Pagan Events forums. We also invite Celebrants in the Pagan community to promote their services in the NPD. For further information & contact details click on the banner above.



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