

AXIS MUNDI

Autumn Issue 50

April 2012

ISSN 1839-4396





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.

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From the Editor



Check Your Ego at the Door Please!

I don't know what planets are transiting at the moment but there seems to be numerous disagreements, power plays and unchecked egos going around. It appears we have quite a few 'spiritually based' people with unbridled egos seeing themselves as the only sun in their individual universes.

You may think that there is no harm in that, but I guess the potential for harm does come down to how each of our 'conscious thinking selves' operates in our community and how our ego

manifests, particularly if we live life with no thought other than looking after our own interests.

As humans we have altruistic origins, but it's apparent our selfishness, aggression and egocentricity can clearly get way out of hand at times if we are not fully grounded. The danger lies when the pendulum falls too much towards "Numero Uno" - when the feelings of others are no longer a source of concern, or when our conscience is no longer concerned by our words and actions.

Whether we realise it or not we all have the gift of humility; it comes from our heart centre which is often subdued when the ego of our conscious mind overrides our understanding of others and their feelings. We must never forget that although each of us in our own mind is the centre of the universe, it really only exists in our minds.

"Humility is not a weakness, rather it is the ability to evaluate your strengths and failings objectively. Humility leads to self-respect that is grounded in reality. Ego says you are never wrong and that those who question you are disloyal and should be squashed. Humility brings you back to earth." - Rolf Dobelli

Blessings

Janine

Magical Workings for May



As we move energetically and spiritually into the colder months, we are reminded that winter is just around the corner. This time of darkness is an opportune moment to assess and let go of what no longer serves us.

As we progress through the dark aspects of this coming season, may we all acknowledge the voices from our shadow that lies hidden in our emotions and our soul.

No longer are we distracted by the summer with its outdoor activities and bright sun. This is the time of the dark mysteries. The time of staring into the light of warm fires and watching the shapes of the flames as they dance on the wall.



6 May Full Moon in Scorpio

Full Moon in Scorpio provides us with the light we need to clarify our choices. Are we adjusting to new circumstances or remaining controlled by old forces. The sun in Taurus is there to remind us of the beauty in the present, while Scorpio reminds us to treasure them because all things end so there can be new beginnings. Scorpio rules merging with another, emotional truths, hidden talents, ritual magick, surgery, transformative experiences, rebirth, solitude, dealing with crises, mortgages and credit in general.



21 May Dark Moon in Gemini

Dark Moon in Gemini is a time of moving about both physically and mentally, gathering data and information, learning and studying, communicating viewpoints and beliefs, sharing advice and opinions, brainstorming, and collecting the intellectual resources to

move the "solid new beginnings" into expanded growth and greater accessibility -- through the power of promoting an idea whose time has come.



Samhain Ritual

Source unknown

When the veils between the worlds are at their thinnest the living and the dead co-mingle, and we can talk to departed souls and learn the mysteries of Hecate's kingdom. For this is Her festival, just as the dead are her realm.

Incense

You can burn sage incense, cloves, cinnamon and mugwort.

Ritual

Cast the Circle and then invoke the Goddess, Hecate, pounding the earth or floor. Whisper at first, then grow louder and louder.....

Hecate, Hecate, Hecate, Hecate!
Goddess of the marsh and heathland
Goddess of the sacred crossroads.
Crone Goddess of Wisdom
bringer of death, scavenger of souls
Queen of the Night, Lady of the Underworld,
I call upon you.....

(Now howling, beating the ground, banging drums and wailing, bring up the Goddess from the land of the Dead.)

Sweet mystery, dark knowledge
Hidden wisdom

Bringer of chaos and madness
We seek to enter your world----to know you.
We bring libations, we bring offerings
Show us your darkened face,
Your blood wise mystery
Lead us into the shadows
into the darkest night

Now sit in silence and see yourself sitting in a sacred circle out in the woods. There is a briskness in the air. In the middle of your circle is a fire burning and you can smell the burning of the wood and the heat from the fire. A cauldron sits hanging over the fire with a bubbling brew in it. The sweet scent of sage fills your nostrils. Everything is still....nothing moves. All you hear are the creatures of the night.

Suddenly, the energy shifts, and you feel as if someone is there. The air begins to stir, and you feel a slight breeze across your face. The dried leaves on the trees begin to rustle and then the wooded forest seems to open on its own accord.

Out walks three hounds. They seem wild, but something tells you not to be afraid of them. The hounds walk into your circle, and although they sit, they are forever watchful. Each one is looking in a different direction. The breeze really picks up now, and as you watch, out from the forest comes friends and family you have known from other lifetimes, and in this lifetime, but have passed over, and they come into your circle. Sit and wait to see if any of them come to talk with you, giving you a chance to clear things up, or to say the words that remained unspoken when they passed over. If nothing is said, do not worry. They are there to let you know that you are never really alone.

As you feel comforted at that, you notice movement from the corner of your eye that someone is coming out from within the forest. The trees seem to part on their own. You watch as an old woman walks out from the forest with an owl perched on her arm. You are drawn to her eyes, which seem to be deep dark pools of wisdom. She walks with a cane made from a Yew tree with a crystal

sitting on top of it, and feathers are hanging down the side. You know from the power that resonates from this woman that She is Hecate.

She lifts her arms, and the Owl leaves her to fly over to you. Listen to the words of wisdom of what the owl has to share with you.

After a few minutes have passed, Hecate approaches, and as She does so, her face keeps changing from maiden, to the mother, and to the crone, because there are many faces of Hecate, as She is the three and the one. As She stands before you, her face stops changing and rests the way you see Her. You look deep into her eyes and you see the key that unlocks the door to the mysteries. As you look deep within, you realize that it is the reflection of your own eyes that you see with the key and that you yourself hold the key to unlock those mysteries. You realize that it is you who has to look within your own soul for the answers.

She then takes your hand and leads you over to the big cauldron and motions for you to look into the deep pool of darkness to see what you need to see or need to know. Spend some time now to search for the mysteries that will be revealed to you. Hecate turns you around to walk back to where you were sitting, but as you do so, you notice that the forest has opened up once again and that everyone is leaving. The hounds are sitting at the edge of the woods waiting for their Mistress. Hecate smiles at you, and assures you silently that everything will be all right. You then realize that She has always been with you. She turns to leave and as She does so, She lifts up her arm and the Owl flies down to once again perch on Her arm. After She has gone, you sit and think of all that you have learned this very magickal night. You hear the howling of the hounds, and this awakens you from your meditation.

Do the libation to Hecate and and magick which you wish to perform on this most magickal night of the year. Then close the circle in the usual manner.



SOL's MABON CIRCLE

Mabon 2012 - The Second Harvest

Friday 30 March 2012

On this night we gathered to honour the spirits of nature, our ancestors and the gods and goddess. We honoured the Earth, for it is she who sustains us. As the land begins to die, the earth turns cold. The soil becomes stagnant and the world descends into darkness. It was Mabon again; the time to rest and reflect on what the warmer months have taught us and to revisit the joys we shared, for they will keep us warm in the cold of the dark season. Mabon is traditionally one of the two times of the year we celebrate the balance in the universe; the dark and the light, the good and the bad, joy and sorrow. We also honoured the darker aspects of the goddess, focusing on the aspects of our lives which are without light.

By the powers of the Earth, Sky and Sea we opened the circle. We then called out to the spirits of nature to thank them for their presence over the months gone by.

We invoked the goddess Macha (maax-ah) who is the great queen of phantoms, mother of life and death, Queen of Emania land of the moon where the dead reside. We requested her to help us to see and understand that all our troubles are but simply lessons. We asked her to help us feel that the problems we will face during the coming darkness need only a small time of dwelling upon.

We then invoked the great god Lugh the shining one, the great sun god, our hero god to fill us with his love and burning light.

Black & White candles were then lit.

A balance of light and darkness
Balance is sought for our souls
Black candle burn and represent our
Darkness
All the things we wish to destroy from our
lives
White candle burn and represent our Light
Bring forth joy and love
A balance of light and darkness

We then called our ancestors to come and honour us with their presence; those who lived with our blood in their veins of memories past, whose blood still flows within us and reminded us of who we are and gives further meaning to our lives.



We then connected to Macha & Lugh through meditation. We became a magnificent tree and offered up our prayers and energy to the great spirits and opened ourselves up to receive the powers, advice and encouragement they offered.

At the close of the circle we thanked our hosts and the ancestors. With love in our hearts, we bade them farewell and then we sent out healing to the earth.

A MABON EXPERIENCE

By Rayvensclaw



By the time this article is printed Mabon will have come and gone and our clocks would have been set back and the evenings are getting dark earlier.

When we connect to the Earth, the energy carries us through the cycles of the year. These are the cycles that coincide with the eight Sabbats, which are spaced equidistant (evenly throughout the year), and relate to the acknowledgement and celebration of agricultural and astronomical events; as well as the continuing cycle of life, death and rebirth. The eight Sabbats are: Samhain, Yule, Imbolc/Candlemas, Ostara, Beltane, Litha, Lammastide and Mabon. Another common name is the Witches Wheel, an annual cycle which is accompanied by the integration of the consciousness and the world of nature. It is a way to feel integrated with nature and all that that term creates in our being, our past and the effects of our upbringing along with our habits both good and bad (light and dark) effect how well we work with nature and also how nature works with us.

The other night I was glad to be a part of a Mabon ritual, which was brought to us in a Celtic way. This ritual encompassed the trees (which we became) and the life that co-existed in and around the tree. We felt the water come up through our roots, we felt the wind in our branches and through our leaves. Being a part of the feeling of being a tree (even if only briefly) made me feel as when I was young, without the everyday responsibilities of adulthood, you know money, work, owing things and the like.

The key words for understanding the Sabbats are cycle and integration. The Sabbats are Celtic and Nordic in origin, having descended from the seasons as experienced in the ancient Northern Europe and relate specifically to the planting and harvesting of crops. You can see why this would be important; there was no Coles, Woolies or Aldi in the neighborhood (how tragic would that have been). No crops no food and Death would certainly follow. The way we

experience the seasons in Australia is quite different to Northern Europe (this was before global warming of course) Australia is such a large continent the seasonal shifts vary across the land. But the meaning and the being is still the same.

Mabon acknowledges balance, the day will become as long as the night, it is the time to harvest the crops you have nurtured and cared for, or the seeds you have sown in your life, be it the new job you are longing for, or now that you have retired how to plan your time best, or the kids are moving out and you want his/her room for yourself, or your kids have gotten a job at long last and that means more independence. Whatever it is, it is still a harvest. It is a time to look back on your year and see where you went well and where you need to pick up your game.

Mabon Incense

Grind together two teaspoons of Frankincense, one teaspoon of Sandalwood and seven drops of Cypress oil with two drops of Patchouli oil.

With this incense in front of you, write where you want to be for next Mabon, where you can change the flow and bend the cycle to help and assist you with what you need. Make it short and to the point, breathing in the incense, say what your needs are three times, then place this on your mirror (so you can see what it is you want when you wash your face)

Remember Mabon (God/Goddess) cannot do it alone, you have to put the effort in otherwise the Magic could and will take longer than you can stand it. And how much of a pain are you going to be if you don't change or get what you want.

With assistance from:
A Magickal Year by Fiona Horne

Death by Drowning

By Eileen Harlow



In January 2011, I watched the waters rise around my home. I watched the creeks become rivers and rivers become oceans! We became an island, no way in, no way out!

For countless days we wondered what was happening outside in the world as the electricity and communications including phones were down. We teamed up with our neighbour, using up what resources of food, gas bbq cylinders and other resources we had left before the food went off. We listened during breakfast as a horse that had been moved from its flooded paddock was shot by police. However, we still got off lightly

compared to those in Toowoomba and Grantham!

The water invaded the bottom of my yard, and we feared it would rise higher, but although surrounded we were safe. The wall of water in Toowoomba was not so kind, no one who lived through this time will ever forget. I can't forget the feeling of devastation and fear. To those who risked their lives to save others we say thanks. To those who died tragically we say Rest in Peace! We honour your memory this Samhain. We remember you. To those who helped clean up and mourn with us afterward, we also say thank-you.

Mother Nature screamed her rage!
Rivers raced, taking centre stage
Spewing a torrent of rain and pain
Battered and bruised we felt the strain

Endless Nights of lawlessness and fear
Lives lost amongst many a tear
When the wall of water came
Unexpected fury was to be the blame

Disrespect me now she cries
As many a Queensland person dies
Among her raging waters deep
Forever now their souls to keep

We watched her fury through the night
As silver waters rose before our sight

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Brisbane Witches Meet-up

A Strange Morning

By Jenny Taylor



I attended another group meditation with friends in a bushland setting this morning. There were definitely some strange energies lurking in the background today, which made it difficult for me to concentrate properly on the guided meditation.

However, I was eventually able to get into the swing of things and make some connection with the Earth and the Elemental beings around me, although I went off in a totally different direction to the guided part of the meditation.

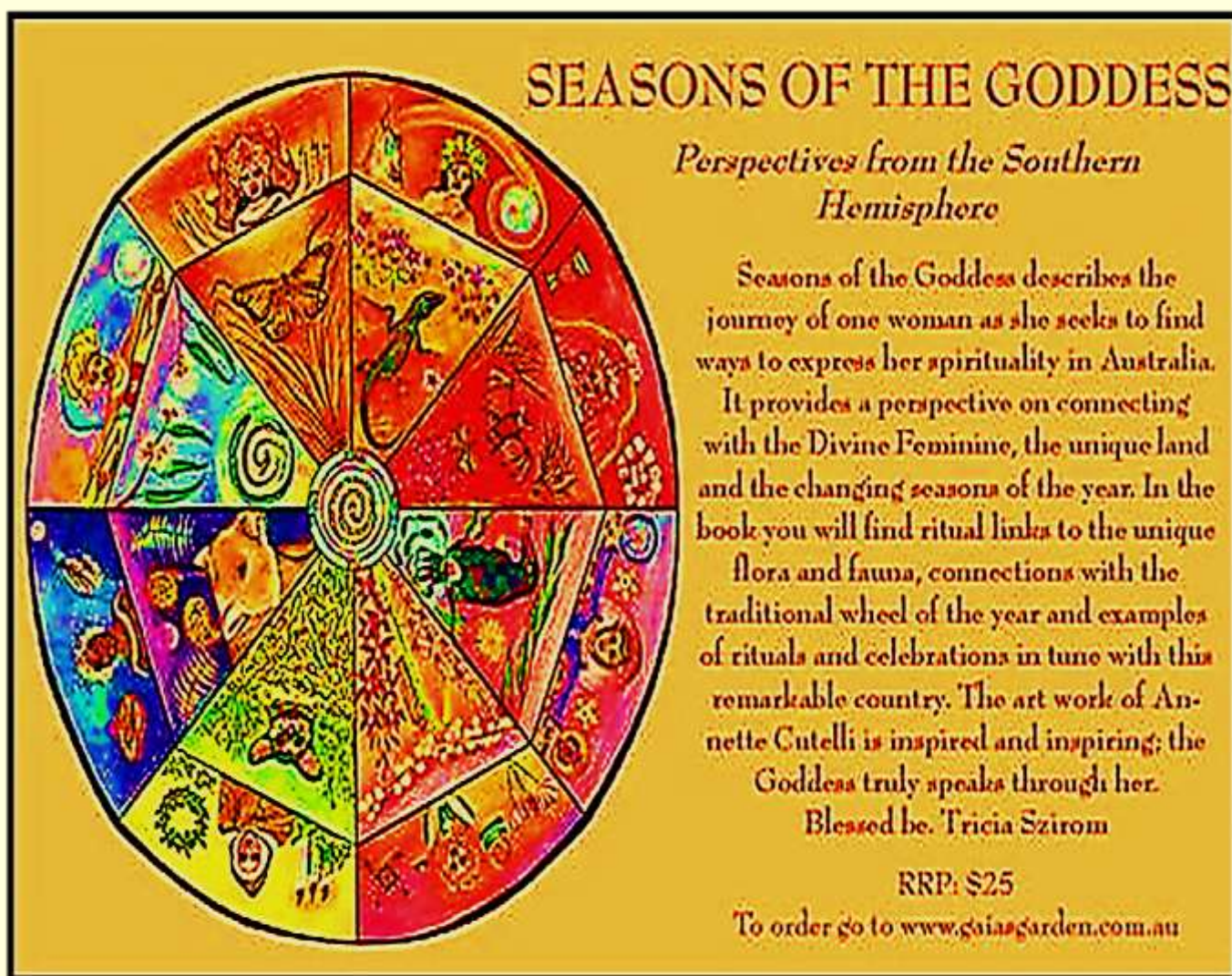
There were colours swirling all around me — blues, greens and bright pinks. The bush seemed alive with movement and I felt certain there were Elementals and other beings moving around the periphery of our meditation circle. A raven flew overhead, cawing loudly as it approached from a long way off in the south, the sound getting louder then finally trailing off as it flew out of hearing range — a distraction which caused me to break out of the meditation momentarily. Finally I got back into it again.

Not long afterward a small brown Dragon popped his head over my right shoulder to peer into the centre of our circle. He seemed to be just over one metre tall, quite friendly and inquisitive, and rather cute with his elongated snout and large dark eyes. He was different to any Dragon I'd seen before though, as he had a large bony extension sticking out from the back of his head, exactly like a *Parasaurolophus* dinosaur. The little brown Dragon pulled back and then stuck his head over my left shoulder before stepping back behind me, folding his wings and merging with me through the middle of my back. It was quite an odd sensation as I could feel his wings sprouting out of my back as if they were mine. Then they too dissolved and merged into my body to become a hidden part of my being.

All too soon it seemed, we were being called out of the meditation, back to 'reality'.

The picture is my rendition of the little Dragon I saw in this morning's meditation (Photoshopped from drawings of a Dragon and a *Parasaurolophus* (dinosaur) found online and added to my own photograph).

As usual, the others in the group had also experienced many things in common, including seeing many bright colours and being aware of the presence of Elemental beings and even seeing them. As one person later said, "It was good to ground ourselves and tap into nature and the Elementals. It was amazing that a few of us experienced a similar nature spirit in our meditation."





Fruits & Vegetables of the Season - May

In autumn we learn more about ourselves, perhaps, than in any other season. Having provided the harvest, Nature now makes everything bare. In this season Nature lets go of its abundant creation of the past year in a grand final display. Autumn marks the end of the growing season - a turning inward, a falling away of outer-directed energy.

May - late autumn - fruit

apples - bonza - braeburn - cox's orange pippins - fuji - gala - golden delicious - granny smith - jonagold - jonathan - mutso - pink lady - red delicious - snow - sundowner, banana, cumquat, custard apple, feijoa, grapes - purple cornichon - waltham cross, kiwifruit, lemons, limes, mandarin - imperial, melon - champagne, nuts - chestnut - hazelnut - peanut - walnut, pears - howell - josephine -

packham - red sensation - williams, persimmon, quince, rhubarb.

May - late autumn - vegetables

asian greens - bok choy, - choy sum - gai laan - wonga bok, avocados - fuerte - sharwill, beetroot, broccoli, brussels sprout, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, daikon, eggplant, fennel, garlic, ginger, horseradish, leeks, lettuce, mushrooms - wild - field - pine - slippery jacks, okra, olives, onions - brown - spring, parsnip, peas, potato, pumpkin, shallots, silverbeet, spinach, squash, swede, sweet potato, taro, tomato, turnip, witlof, zucchini.

<http://www.victoriaorganicdelivery.com.au/seasonalchart.php>

Ritual Wine for All Sabbats



Mulberry Wine Recipe Ingredients

1.75 Kg of Mulberries
1.5 Kg Sugar (Dissolved in 1 L of boiling Water) (Then Cooled)
1 Campden Tablet
1 Teaspoon Pectinase (or 2 drops pectinex)
1 Teaspoon Yeast nutrient
1 Teaspoon general purpose wine making yeast
3.5 Litres water

Method

Wash Mulberries and put into fermenting bucket
(I used a large 11 litre Pot)
Crush with Potatoe Masher
Pour on 3 Litres Boiling Water
When Cool, Add Campden Tablet
Leave 24 hours (Don't be tempted to miss this step)
Add pectic enzyme - Leave 1 Hour
Add ½ Sugar and Yeast (Note ½ not all of the Sugar Water)
Stir Daily for 4 days (Important, don't miss this step)

Strain into Demi-John with Airlock

Add remaining sugar (½ sugar water to go in now!)

Ferment, Rack and Bottle!

(Wait 8-10 days or when you can see no more fermentation, bubbles not active like earlier, then bottle).

This makes about 6 750 ml bottles!

Yes, 6. And the ingredients aren't expensive
All items here can be found at Brewers Choice Stores, except fruit.

Sterilization of Tools for this Process

Don't forget to make your bottles and demi-john sterile! I used steradent tablets after washing them, then let the glass heat and remove all moisture droplets in the sun for as long as needed! Yes, letting the Sun bless and sterilize the bottles as not much can live in the heat! (Get rid of any nasties that way). Sterilize the fermentation pot also as your growing your wine in it! I have personally utilised this recipe and it works!! I have a gorgeous ancient mulberry tree who gifts me her fruit from first new leaf at Imbolc to approximately finishing fruiting season just prior to Beltane. Which helps me recall the seasonal tide! Great for reminding myself about the sabbats. Mulberry trees with wasted fruit can be found in a lot of places, even suburbia! I've also made the most scrumptious mulberry jam with the fruit! Again you need about 2 kgs of fruit for the recipe. You made need some muslin to strain the mulberry and seeds from the wine, and some small funnels. You can also sterilize your muslin (obtained from any haberdashery) by pouring boiling water over it prior to use! Note the elements are cleansing your tools!

Have a Wonderful Sabbat!

Blessed Be

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Dark Goddess - Hecate



<http://mmat.deviantart.com/>

Everyone that works with the Goddess Hecate develops their own unique relationship with her. We know that she is the Goddess who can see the past, present and future simultaneously. She has that special wisdom that knows where you are coming from, and where your paths are taking you.

Hecate can assist you to link patterns from past relationships and situations, and see how they are affecting the present circumstances you find yourself in. Hecate's wisdom is born from experience, and helps us learn lessons from them as we grow older, and hopefully wiser.

Origins

It is said that she was the daughter of Demeter or Pheraia. Hecate, like Demeter, was a goddess of the earth and fertility. Sometimes she is called a daughter of Zeus. Like many ancient mothers or earth-goddesses she remains unmarried and has no regular consort. She was originally a goddess associated with wild places and wild animals. She was adopted by tribal cultures in the Balkans as a goddess of childbirth and nocturnal mysteries.

The earliest depictions of Hecate are single faced, not triplicate as we now know her. Some classical portrayals show her as a triplicate goddess holding a torch, a key and a serpent. In Egyptian-inspired Greek esoteric writings connected with Hermes Trismegistus, she is described as having three heads: one dog, one serpent and one horse. Hecate's triplicity is expressed in a more Hellene fashion, with three bodies instead. Her attendant and animal representation is of a dog, and the most common form of offering was to leave meat at a crossroads.

In some myths Hecate is seen as a governess of liminal points and the wilderness, bearing little resemblance to the night-walking crone. This ultimately led to her role of aiding women in childbirth and the raising of young men. Another myth helps to explain how Hecate gains the title of the "Queen of Ghosts" and her role as a goddess of sorcery. Images of Hecate were placed at borders to serve a protective role. It became

common to place statues of the goddess at the gates of cities, and eventually domestic doorways. Over time, the association of keeping out evil spirits, lead to the belief that if offended Hecate could also let in evil spirits. Thus invocations to Hecate arose with her as the supreme governess of the borders between the normal world and the spirit world. Eventually, Hecate's power resembled that of sorcery. In the magical papyri of Ptolemaic Egypt, she is called the she-dog or bitch, and her presence is signified by the barking of dogs.

Hecate had a special role at three-way crossroads, where the Greeks set poles with masks of each of her heads facing different directions. The crossroad aspect of Hecate stems from her original sphere as a goddess of the wilderness and untamed areas. This led to sacrifice in order for safe travel into these areas. The goddess of sorcery or magic is Hecate's most common modern title.

Symbols



Hecate by cemas

Traditionally, Hecate is represented as carrying torches, very often has a knife, and

may appear holding a rope, a key, a phial, flowers, or a pomegranate. The torch is presumably a symbol of the light that illuminates the darkness, as the Greeks secured Hecate in her role as the bringer of wisdom. Her knife represents her role as midwife in cutting the umbilical cord (possibly symbolized by the rope), as well as severing the link between the body and spirit at death. The key is significant to Hecate's role as gatekeeper, being the one who could open the doors to sacred knowledge. The Orphic Hymns list her as the "keybearing Queen of the entire Cosmos". The pomegranate was seen by the Ancient Greeks as the fruit of the underworld, though it was also used as a love-gift between Greek men and women.

Animals



Blake, William - Hecate or the Three Fates

Animals sacred to Hecate are often those associated with darkness such as frogs, owls and spectral "black dogs". However lions were also sacred to her. The she-dog is the animal most commonly associated with Hecate. She was sometimes called the 'Black she-dog' and black dogs were once sacrificed to her in purification rituals. The frog, significantly a creature that can cross between two elements.

As a triple goddess, she sometimes appears with three heads—one each of a dog, horse, and bear or of dog, serpent and lion. During

the Medieval period in western Europe, Hecate was revered by witches who adopted parts of her mythos as their goddess of sorcery. Because Hecate had already been much maligned by the late Roman period, Christians of the era found it easy to vilify her image. Thus all her creatures were considered "creatures of darkness".

Plants and Herbs



Trees and herbs sacred to Hecate include the Yew, Hazel, Black Poplar, Willow, Mugwort, Hemlock, Opium Poppy and Belladonna. The leaves of the black poplar are dark on one side and light on the other, symbolizing the boundary between the worlds. The yew has long been associated with the Underworld. The yew has strong associations with death as well as rebirth. A poison prepared from the seeds was used on arrows, and yew wood

was commonly used to make bows and dagger hilts. The potion in Hecate's cauldron contains 'slips of yew'. Yew berries carry Hecate's power, and can bring wisdom or death. The seeds are highly poisonous, but the fleshy, coral-coloured 'berry' surrounding it is not. If prepared correctly, the berry can cause visual hallucinations. In fact many of Hecate's plants were those that can be used shamanistically to achieve varying states of consciousness.

Queen of Ghosts



Queen of Ghosts is a title associated with Hecate due to the belief that she can both prevent harm from leaving, but also allow harm to enter from the spirit world. Hecate thus has a role and special power in graveyards and helping in ushering unwanted spirits back into the underworld.

Samhain & Hecate



Mid-autumn was the time of year when the "veil between the worlds" was thought to be the thinnest and most easily penetrated, a time when the laws of space and time were temporarily suspended, allowing the spirit world to intermingle with the living.

During Samhain Hecate is often invoked during the ritual to mark this sabbat. Many covens will invoke Hecate at this time as she is a liminal Goddess who listens and will protect you from harm, she even can help you with communication to the departed spirits.... safely.

One of Hecate's duties was to ease the transition of the dying and, after their deaths, to act as guardian of the gateway. It is said that she sometimes took those who were restless and finding it difficult to "settle in" on brief trips back to the land of the living--just to help them gradually adjust to the change.

Some people leave offerings in honour of the Goddess and leave it at a cross road (please it is important that you don't look back as you leave).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hecate>
http://www.goddessgift.com/Pandora's_Box/hecate.h
<http://thegoddesshouse.blogspot.com.au/p/past-events.html>



The Power Of Books

A Crone's Perspective

by Etain Butterfly

A wise person told me that books were my way out.... that books could take me to the high seas, to fly in the sky, to cook better, to sew, to learn about myself. I was a teen looking to find out who I really was just as most teens do and like so many teens I was not happy with my home situation. The wise person who told me "books were my way out" was the librarian at my high school. I will call her Mrs. B. Mrs. B talked me into working in the library in 11th grade and that is when the world opened up to me!

Dr. Phil tells us that there are pivotal people in our life that help mold us into the individuals we are today. Well, I have to say that the librarian was just that person for me. As I said earlier, I did not like my home situation and I was determined to change things so I could have more control in my life. Mrs. B was very subtle at first by suggesting a book I might find interesting, or giving me books to shelf in the self-help isle. Oh she was a wise person indeed and I must say a bit sneaky too.

After I read a book she had suggested to me, she would ask how I liked it. I would give the usual answer, "It was okay". Then she started doing her magic. She asked questions: Did I find anything in the book that reminded me of me? Did I find anything that caught my attention? Yes, she spun her spell well. I started picking out my own books that took me to exotic places all over the world. I also found that books filled with 'success stories' were the ones that captivated me the most. People who started with nothing and later ended up "forever happy". They never gave up hope and did whatever it took to achieve their dreams. Now that is the key that opened the doors and that is the key I wanted.

One Wednesday afternoon, I was putting books back onto the shelves that people had brought back to the library. I always read the titles and sometimes even read the small introduction to the book. Books had become such a huge part of my life now. Anyway, one book caught my attention and so I started thumbing through the book. Oh my gosh! Was this for real? The book I found so interesting was *Witchcraft Today* by Gerald B. Gardner. It was an eye opening experience for sure. Remember when I said I was not happy with my life and I wanted more control? Well, this book stated:

"Witches are taught and believe that the power resides within their bodies which they can release in various ways, the simplest being dancing round in a circle, singing or shouting, to induce a frenzy; this power they believe exudes from their bodies, clothes impending its release. In dealing with such matters it is, of course, difficult to say how much is real and how much imagination". — (*Witchcraft Today* by Gerald B. Gardner; page 20)

Could this be true? Could I hold such controlling power within me? How do I find this power? I knew right then and there that I needed to read this book. I wanted to learn more on this thing Gardner called witchcraft.

One day, I ask Mrs. B if she believed in God and did she go to church. She smiled that 'knowing smile' that she so often did and asked why that was of interest to me. I continued to tell her that I had so many questions about God and religion and witchcraft. "Witchcraft, now that is a thought-provoking topic," she said. She then asked me why I found this book so interesting. She explained that witchcraft was not well understood and brought fear to many people

via the mere mention of its name. She continued to tell me that people are very cruel to those who have the nerve to follow the beat of their own drum.

She was a wise one and did not discourage me from exploring what my heart wanted me to explore. She cautioned me to be careful who I shared what I learned with and reassured me that I could come to her with any question or concerns I had while on a journey to learn about witchcraft. And so my journey began!

As my 11th grade was coming to an end and summer was just around the corner, I felt a sadness that I would not be able to get to the library as often as I did while in school. Mrs. B could see the change in my behaviour and ask what was bothering me. I told her that I wanted to continue to learn about witchcraft and was afraid that I would not be able to get books during the summer months.

She gave me a huge hug and said, "I was going to wait until your last day to give you this gift, but I see that it is the right time right now". She gave me a box wrapped in beautiful wrapping paper with a note on the top saying, "Enjoy your summer, Love Mrs. B". I opened up the box and there were two items wrapped in tissue paper. As I removed the tissue paper my heart began to beat faster as I held two books: *The Meaning of Witchcraft* by Gerald Gardner, and *Aradia: Gospel of the Witches* by Charles Godfrey Leland. Tears of joy ran down my cheeks. I was thrilled to have new books to read over the summer.

Over the years, I have pursued scholastic education in the healthcare arena and

received two degrees, one in nursing and one in healthcare administration. I still follow the Pagan path, and I still am a lover of books. Right now I am participating in the Pagan Reading Challenge for 2012.

To this day, I have wonderful memories of working in the library with Mrs. B and having a mentor who did not discourage me from having the guts to following the beat of my own drum. This wise person was right when she told me that books were my way out. Books could take me to the high seas; allow me to fly in the sky, to cook better, to sew, and to learn more about myself. I also found that the power I was looking for, just as Gardner said, was 'within me'. I am now a mentor myself, one who will not discourage others from having the courage to follow the beat of their own drum. I am a wise Pagan who will be forever grateful to Mrs. B.

About Etain Butterfly: I am a proud CRONE, I have done much in my life and still plan on doing more. I have 2 beautiful adult children (a male and a female) and 2 beautiful vivacious grandchildren. I have been in healthcare for over 35+ years – retired from a large medical center and now enjoy working in a small surgical center. I dabble at writing, love designing and crafting, quilting and painting. I love networking with other Pagan/Wiccan minded individuals – learning what they have to offer. I am Head Minister and President of Sacred Birch Society, a legally incorporated Pagan/Wiccan group centered in Mid-Michigan. My favorite quote:

"Life is not about waiting for the rain to stop, it's about learning to dance in the rain."



Snake – A Surreal Experience

By Janine Donnellan



Just recently I had a surreal encounter with a snake. It occurred on my garden path at night after I had been to the Dark Moon Circle.

As I follow a shamanic path I often have strange encounters with animals, they are what I call messenger guides. On this night the snake was travelling up the path towards my front steps, and we were both heading in

the same direction. It was an initial shock as you don't expect to encounter a snake at 1am in the morning.

It was quite dark so I couldn't be sure what type it was. It had dark colouring and was about a half a metre long.

It appeared that the snake was oblivious of my presence and was totally focussed on

where it was going. The strange thing about that situation was that I was completely calm and I still continued up the path and walked passed the snake with a sense that I was not in any immediate danger.

The next morning I consulted my local bush care expert and it appears the snake was probably a dwarf-crowned snake which belongs to a group of snakes in the genus *Cacophis* which are mainly found along eastern Australia. The 4 species in this genus are all venomous, but not dangerous to people. They inhabit a variety of forest types, from woodland to rainforest. They are generally nocturnal and feed on lizards and reptile eggs. They have a distinct "crown" on their heads, which gives them their name.

Snakes over all are very sensitive to their environment, they are usually silent, calm creatures and seem to be very serene on the outside, but within this animal is coiled power that can deliver lethal blows, with well-timed and startling accuracy. The snake can be a powerful totem, symbolising the attributes of wisdom, transformation and intuition.

From a shamanic perspective the snake can be a protector or a guardian totem. If a snake totem comes into your life it can indicate that your creative forces are awakening. It also signals a transition in your life.

Snake medicine can mean different things to people. It is how the encounter is interpreted and utilized into one's journey that makes the medicine offered very important to the individual.

The power of snake medicine is the power of creation and the transmutation of the fire medicine. In this dance of fire and chaos we learn to accept every aspect of ourselves and learn to transform thoughts, feelings, actions and desires so that wholeness can be achieved. This wild dance of creation allows us to shed the skins of ego and the past so we can become the creators of our own lives, as we disintegrate the old and transmute the energy we hold, we can effectively utilize the power of fire within.

My encounter with the snake has been an exciting experience. This reptilian messenger has reminded me of the interplay and the connectiveness of the alchemical forces around me. It is therefore important at this stage of my journey that I remain calm and focussed and don't become distracted by the chaos that seems to be unfolding around me.

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Photo:

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Reiki Treatment Contact

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thirtythreeenergyhealing@gmail.com

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Samhain

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The spiritual retreat will be divided between instruction, hands-on exercises, periods of silence and meditation in natural power spots. Enjoy a weekend of just "being" in a place of seclusion between the worlds.

When: 6pm Friday 27 to 3pm Sun 29 April 2012

Where: Southern Sydney, Australia. Full details and address will be sent to you via email once you have made a booking.

Cost: \$130 includes accommodation all meals and notes. Please note numbers are limited.

If you would like further information phone Janine on 0408 025 268 or email:

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Crystals – Herkimer Diamond

By Gabriel Vaz



Herkimer diamonds, Silicon Dioxide (SiO_2) formed approximately 400 million years ago and are not actual 'diamonds' but can be easily mistaken for their shiny crystal royal cousins because of their small size, clarity and bedazzling sparkle. Like their diamonds cousins, they are much harder than traditional clear quartz because of their high carbon content, although not enough to endow them with the industrial strength necessary for industry and luxury jewelry. Nevertheless

they are highly sought after and can be found in Afghanistan, China, India, Mexico and the USA.

Herkimer Diamonds are a double terminated quartz crystal typically found in exposed outcrops of Middleville and Little Rock in upstate New York, USA. Since their discovery in the late 1800's they have been primarily extracted from the surrounding outcrops of the Herkimer Diamond mines

because they are plentiful there and easy to find. The mine was named after the revolutionary War General Nicholas Herkimer. They are rather expensive to buy, ranging anywhere between \$10 -100 for a decent sized crystal.

According to some sources, these crystals were traditionally used in ritual and ceremony by the Mohawk Indian tribe who were referred to as "People of the Crystals."

Herkimer crystals are probably one of the most powerful transmitters of thought and healing energies making them very popular among Reiki practitioners, urban shamans, magicians, witches, wiccans, and anyone who understands that crystals can be programmed for specific tasks. Their potency is most noticeable when they are used for extreme clarity and complete transformation within the realm of the mind and the higher planes of our etheric (astral) being.



They are reputed to be effective tools used for divination and meditation because of their ability to help to focus the mind by stabilizing the electrical energy of the brain, relieving mental fatigue and insomnia. They can also attune the etheric energy of the third eye and the crown chakra with the harmonic resonance of our Higher Self and the Higher Order of Universal Consciousness.

As most of us know, in order for any energetic work to have long-lasting effects the energetic shift must originate within the etheric realms. Herkimer crystals can aid your progress not just by their implicit pulse, but also because when they're carefully and lovingly programmed they can transmit your desired intent for long periods of time, and they will not lose their programming. I personally consider them to be long-term collaborators in both my meditation and magikal practice.

They are used in body work layouts as 'attunement' facilitators. Other uses include cellular detoxification, as well as helping to restore normal cellular function resulting from long-term/over-exposure to wireless or electro-magnetic frequencies (EMF) radiation, and geopathic stress.

One way to efficiently use these glittering gems is to place them in the center of a crystal grid (like an orb spider) made from carefully selected crystals for a specific tasks such as – cleansing, healing, love, protection, money. Be creative, have Fun and remember to Experiment!

Resouces:

<http://www.herkimerdiamonds.com/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herkimer_diamond

Leon del Sol – Life's journey, the experiment.

http://www.healingcrystals.com/Herkimer_Diamonds_Articles_100.html

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PAN Inc Sponsored Events



Australian Wiccan Conference
Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd & Sunday
23rd September 2012



SOLANACEAE

By Amethyst



withania somnifera



Solanum hispidum



Datura metel



Solanum tuberosum



Capsicum annuum



Solanum Xanthocarpum

For SAMHAIN I'm on a Celtic bent (more on this later), and the herbe I've decided to cover this month is not just one herbe, but a whole family, below are just two; the family "Solanaceae".

Solanaceae is a family of flowering plants that includes a number of important agricultural crops, unfortunately many species are TOXIC. The name of the family may come from the Latin Solanum "the nightshade plant" Alternatively, it has been suggested the name originates from the Latin verb solari, meaning "to soothe". This presumably refers to soothing pharmacological properties of some of the psychoactive species of the family.

The family is also informally known as the nightshade – or potato family. The family includes Datura, Mandragora (mandrake), Atropa belladonna (deadly nightshade), Lycium barbarum (Wolfberry), Physalis philadelphica (Tomatillo), Physalis peruviana (Cape gooseberry flower), Capsicum, Solanum (potato, tomato, eggplant), Nicotiana (tobacco), and Petunia. With the exception of tobacco (Nicotianoideae) and petunia (Petunioideae), most of the economically important genera are contained in the sub-family Solanoideae.

Many members of the Solanaceae are used by humans, and are important sources of food, spice and medicine. However, Solanaceae species are often rich in alkaloids whose toxicity to humans and animals ranges

from mildly irritating to fatal in small quantities.

DATURA

Datura stramonium

Gender: Feminine

Planet: Saturn

Element: Water

Folk Names: Poison Also known as Devil's Apple, Ghost Flower, Jimsonweed, Love-Will, Mad Apple, Madherb, Manicon, Stinkweed, Sorcerer's Herb, Thornapple, Toloache, Witches' Thimble, Yerba del Diablo. (Spanish: Herb of the Devil)



Datura are known as Angel's Trumpets, sometimes sharing that name with the closely related genus Brugmansia. They are also sometimes called Moonflowers, one of several plant species to be so. The word datura may come from the Hindi dhatūrā ("thorn apple"); record of this name dates back to 1662 (OED). In Mexico its common name is toloache. Datura has been used in Shamanism and religious rites for many centuries. The Aztecs considered the plant sacred. The possible earliest mention of a plant of this genus was by the Arab Avicenna in the 11th century in an account of Arabian medicinal plants, later translated by Dioscorides. The English herbalist Gerard also made mention of Datura in reference to the plant Greek writer Theocrastus called Hippomanes, thought to drive horses mad. He also believed Datura was responsible for putting the priests of Apollo in ancient Greece into their prophetic state.

Datura belongs to the classic "witches' weeds," along with deadly nightshade, henbane, and mandrake. Most parts of the plants contain toxic hallucinogens, and datura has a long history of use for causing delirious states and death. It was well known as an essential ingredient of love potions and witches' brews.

Magickal Uses: Sprinkle Datura around the home to break spells and to protect against evil spirits. To treat insomnia place some Datura leaves into each shoe, then place them under the bed with toes pointing toward the nearest wall. A few leaves placed in the crown of a hat protects the wearer from apoplexy and sunstroke. Datura may be sprinkled around the home to break spells and protect the house and inhabitants from evil spirits.

If you're like me and don't want to trip the lite fantastic, there is another way to bring this family of herbes into your ritual and it's very Celtic (see I did get back to it after all & yes I know it wasn't introduced till late). You can honour your ancestors and delight your tastebuds at the same time! The member of the Solanaceae family I'm referring to is the humble potato.

POTATO



Latin Name: Solanum tuberosum

Planet: Moon

Gender: Feminine

Element: Earth

Deity: Axo-mama

Animal: Wolf

Zodiac: Cancer

Magickal: Religious Herbe, Greene Herbe, Magickal Herbe, Herbe of Healing, Image Herbe

Folk Names: Blue Eyes, Flukes, Lapstones, Leather Jackets, Murphies, No Eyes, Pinks, Red Eyes, Rocks, Taters, Tatties.

Highly toxic, fatal if you eat potato sprouts and green skin of old, spoiled potato tubers. Nausea, vomiting, salivation, drowsiness, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, weakness, respiratory depression; may be fatal.

Potato may be dismissed as a common vegetable, but its ability to sustain the generative forces of life must have been a source of awe. You can store a potato for a long time, yet, even when cut into pieces, it is able to regenerate a new fruitful plant. Grieve's *A Modern Herbal* contains a comment that "to carry a raw potato in the pocket was an old-fashioned remedy against rheumatism" has proved to have a scientific basis with modern research. The humble potato is also said to help with toothaches, warts and gout. To protect yourself against contracting a cold, a potato should be carried in the pocket/purse all winter (the same potato).

The spiritual nature of this plant has been recognized in many different places. Frazer records some of these beliefs in *The Golden Bough*. There is mention of its magickal use in Lithuania and Peru, just to name a few.

A magick spell for prosperity is to carve a money sign into the skin of a potato before baking it. This money sign can be any monetary sign (ancient or modern).

If you're a farmer, you can do the whole Celtic ancestor thing and plant, grow and harvest your potato before using it in your ritual. Otherwise just go out and buy a suitable potato (organic if possible please).

Here is a suggested use:

Pre-ritual preparation:

1 potato (per person) cooked and dry mashed, mixed with a small amount of flour (either plain or self-raising) and a dab of best butter (Celtic ancestry showing up here). Salt and pepper can be added if you wish. Shape the mixture into a ½ inch (1-1 ½ cm) high flat cake. You can either pre-fry it in best butter before your ritual or actually cook it in your ritual, it's up to you.

Additional items needed for your ritual are: Small frypan to cook/reheat your potato cake; Fondue pot heating system or one burner gas cooker; Spatula or something to flip the potato cake with; and of course a plate, knife and fork. You might like to serve it up with a small knob of best butter, salt and pepper.

I'll leave it up to you as to how you work this into your ritual, but ENJOY!

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Goddess Journey

Goddess Journey in Ireland 2012



Are you looking to explore ways of connecting with the Divine Feminine?

The Goddess Journey in Ireland 2012 is for any woman interested in exploring her Goddess spirituality in new ways, new settings and with a group of like minded women.

Ireland, the magical land of Celtic Mythology and ancient sites is home to many Goddesses: Boanne, the guardian of the Boyne Valley; Maeve the Goddess of Sovereignty and the sacred site of Tara; Brighde, the keeper of the sacred flame and Cailleach, the ancient Hag Goddess.



The journey will take us to Sacred Sites including Newgrange, the Castleruddery Stone Circle and Tara. We will also visit places of natural beauty and spiritual powers including the Crystal Path in Glendalough, the Living Flame of Bridgid in Kildare and the Seat of the Ancient Hag in Loughcrew.

There will be guided meditations, Shamanic journeys to the Goddess, chanting and rituals. There will also be time for your own personal exploration of the sites and space for personal rituals (either on your own or supported by the group). The creation of handmade artefacts and symbols has been part of the spiritual process for thousands of years. We will follow this path using felting and beading to create unique items of power and ritual.

Where : Ireland

When: 17. - 26. August 2012

Facilitators:

Ulrike Ascher was born in Germany and moved to Ireland 15 years ago. She is an experienced Shamanic Practitioner, Reiki Teacher and workshop facilitator who has been running courses in Ireland, Germany and Austria for over 20 years. She is the founder of Goddess Gathering - a forum and network for women who want to deepen their connection to the Ancient Mother and each other.



Tricia Szirom is the co-owner of Gaia's Garden in Melbourne, Australia, a place for Goddess rituals and worship. She has participated in many Goddess events, conferences and gatherings worldwide. She has also published several books on women's and Goddess topics. She facilitates workshops for women all over the world and creates beautiful pieces of Goddess jewelry and ritual wear for women.



Goddess Journey in Ireland - 17.-26. August 2012

Places will be limited to 12 and applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. A deposit of \$600 will secure your place, rest amount due by 1 July unless otherwise arranged (early bird booking before the 29th of February with the full amount of \$1400).

For information on the course please contact Ulrike Ascher at info@ravenowl.com



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To find out more about these two wonderful tours
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www.dragonseyetours.com

For tour and booking details
contact Christine Casey

Tel: 0437 034 056

Email: dragonseyetours@gmail.com



EarthSong WitchCamp

healesville, VIC



1ST - 6TH OCTOBER, 2012

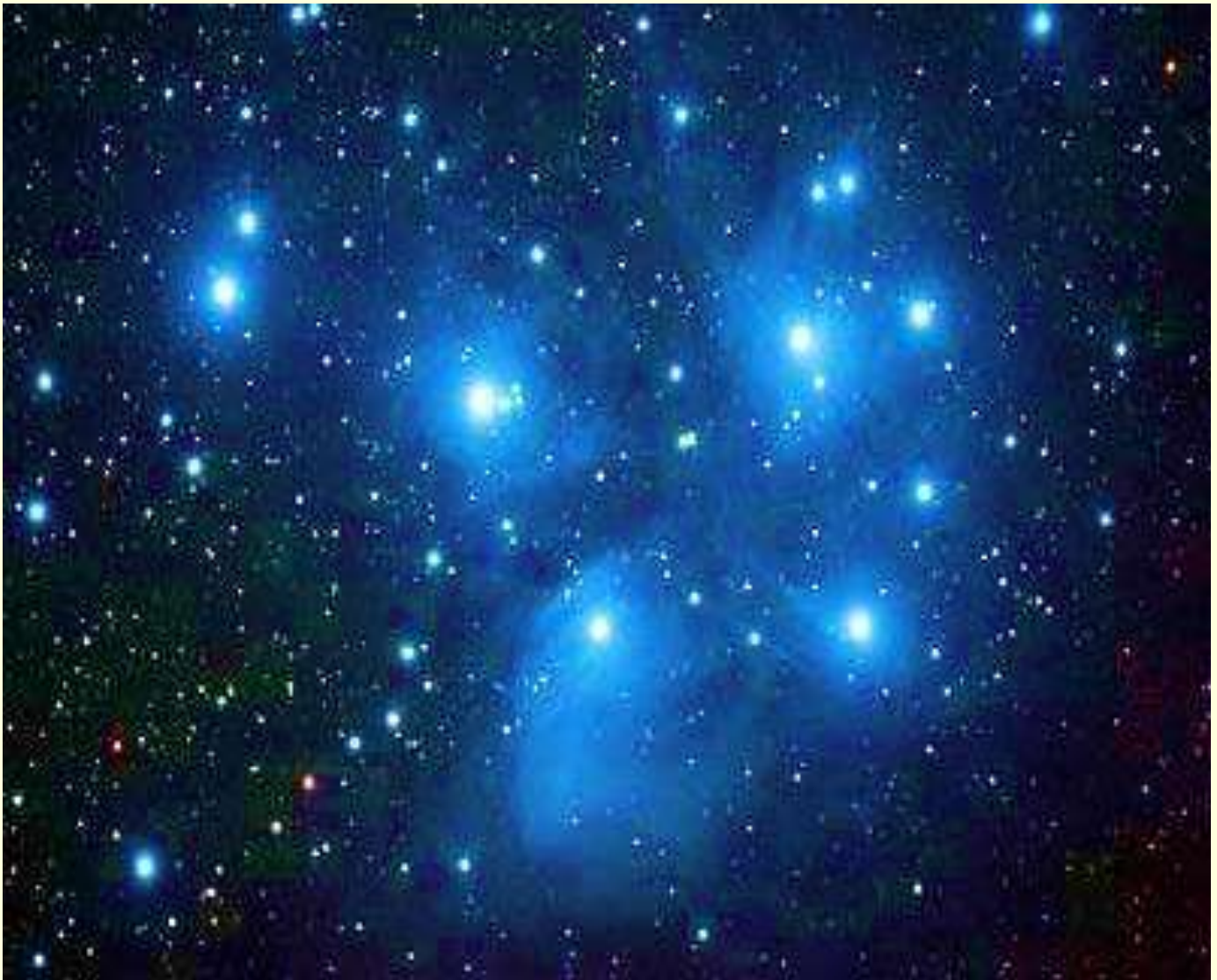
EarthSong will be a six-day intensive program in the Reclaiming Tradition of Witchcraft for newcomers & experienced folk alike. It includes deep exploration of a chosen path, with time to connect and reflect, culminating in evening rituals that take us into the heart of ancient tales, creating a powerful, transformational energy that builds throughout the Camp.

You will be supported by a team of teachers, gifted practitioners of magic, dedicated to building the Reclaiming community in Australia. They are Ravyn Stanfield & Dawn Isidora; Reclaiming witches, healers, writers & educators from Portland (US) along with Rose May Dance, witch, healer, teacher and elder of the Reclaiming Tradition from San Francisco.

The private venue overlooks the Yarra Ranges National Forest north of Melbourne and features comfortable cabin accommodation and gourmet vegetarian cuisine.

Register now at <http://earthsong.australiareclaiming.org.au/>
for an Early Bird offer that expires in March
for more information: earthsong@australiareclaiming.org.au

Eclipse Gate 2012



by Olga Morales

“Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath
hewn her Seven Pillars”
Proverbs 9.1

In 2012, two magnificent eclipses will shadow our Earth, one in May across Hong Kong, Tokyo, and across the Pacific Ocean into the western United States; and the other in November directly over Cairns, Australia. Astrologically, they both connect with very significant stars to which the ancients gave much spiritual credence. These two eclipses both precede the end of the Mayan Calendar that is said to end on 21 December 2012 and, according to John Major Jenkins, an alignment of the Solstice Sun with the Milky Way culminates a World Age.¹

Eclipses come and go without much interest for many, however the Hermetic astrologers of the mystery schools of Egypt and Greece knew that an eclipse created a tunnel to higher realms where they could communicate directly with the star gods and access their sacred wisdom. They were a cosmic thoroughfare and stellar gateway. Scientific tests have shown that during an eclipse, electromagnetic fields increase in magnitude significantly, especially near sacred sites. What could it mean for us?

On 20 May 2012 a solar eclipse will occur, one that I believe underlines why 2012 is so cosmically significant. The Sun and Moon (the New Moon) will be exactly conjunct

Alcyone, the central star of the Pleiades, in the constellation Taurus. The Pleiadian star system has been one of the most revered cosmic objects in history, poetry and mythology across all cultures. According to these cultural traditions, the seven visible stars of the Pleiades have been referred to by many names, such as the Seven Sisters, Krittika, Kimah, Flock of Doves, Hens, Virgins of Spring, Sailor's Stars and the seven Atlantic Sisters. The Pleiades were known as Seven Sisters by indigenous people in North America, Siberia and Australia and this common heritage means they were described more than 40,000 years ago.²

The Pleiades seem to be among the first stars mentioned in astronomical literature, appearing in the Chinese annals of 2357 BCE with Alcyone, the lucida or brightest star, then being near the vernal equinox. Their beginning of the year gave rise to the title 'The Great Year of the Pleiades' for the cycle of precession of about 25,900 years.³

Professor Charles Piazzi Smyth, in the late 19th century, suggested that the seven chambers of the Great Pyramid of Giza commemorate these seven stars.⁴ There is a wonderful corresponding fact, that in the epoch of the Great Pyramids' completion, at midnight on the autumnal equinox the Pleiades were distributed over the meridian of this pyramid, with Alcyone precisely on the line.⁵

What if the Great Pyramid was actually built (started 2336 BCE and completed by 2170 BCE) in honor of the Pleiades, when they rose at the vernal equinox, as suggested by Siess? According to Albert Churchward, the name of the Great Pyramid was 'Khuti,' which denoted the seven Lights, or Glorious Ones. Egyptian texts allude to the Pleiades' archaic significance as Krittikas, judges of men, assigning them also to seven planetary spheres as the seven Hathors. The dead had to speak the names of these Goddesses to pass their 'critical' examination and enter paradise.⁶

I believe this is the source of the Judgement of the Dead linked with the month of November, when the Pleiades are high in the night sky. In the Halls of Amenti, Maat and

Thoth weighed the souls of the dead against the feather of truth as did Archangel Michael on the day of judgement, All Soul's Day, 2nd November. The ancient Celtic civilisation gathered to celebrate the festival of death, 'Samhain,' during the dark night of October 31st and at midnight, a time of death to the old year and birth to the new, it was the Celtic New Year. November is the month of the dead and Scorpio and ruling planet Pluto are all connected with death and rebirth. The Persians called November Mordad, or 'Angel of Death.' I often wonder how the zodiac signs acquired their symbolism, for example why Scorpio, the eighth house and ruler Pluto are all linked to death and rebirth. What I have found through my research into The Pleiades, might be the answer. It has been recorded in the Babylonian Talmud that the flood of biblical Noah was the result of two stars falling from Khima (the Pleiades) towards Earth. Could this correspond with the legend of the lost Pleiad? Was this the sinking of Atlantis and the end of the Golden Age and thus we still mourn the dead in November? I discovered some very supportive evidence in the book *When the Earth Nearly Died* by Allen and Delair. They argue that the world experienced total catastrophe in 9500 BCE when a supernova in the constellation Vela exploded and the Earth's axis subsequently tilted to 23½ degrees and the Age of Darkness took hold. What I found in the book was this: 'Chinese traditions similarly tell how, during the time of the legendary emperor Ya-hou, a brilliant star issued from the constellation of Yin, prior to a tremendous global upheaval.'⁷

I searched my Chinese Astrology book and found the Yin Star to correspond with β Scorpii (Graffias, a triple star situated in the head of the Scorpion) and connected with plenty of water (flood). The symbol of Yin and Yang thus represents Scorpio (Yin) and its opposite sign Taurus (Yang). Remember that in November, the Sun is in Scorpio but at night the Pleiades are high in the sky, in Taurus. Thus, does the symbolism of the constellations, zodiac signs and planets reflect actual historical events? Many ancient traditions state that Alcyone was the central spiritual Sun that emits creative light, that which sends great teachers of light into the world. It was believed to be the centre of the

Universe around which our own solar system revolves but this idea is not supported by our current astronomers although in the 1850's it was well accepted. Science has at last discovered that the Sun is not a dead centre, with planets and comets wheeling around it but the Sun itself remaining stationary. It is now ascertained that the Sun is also in motion, around some other and vastly mightier centre. Astronomers are not fully agreed as to what or where that centre is. Some, however, believe that they have found the direction of it to be the Pleiades, and particularly Alcyone. To the distinguished astronomer Prof. J.H. Maedler belongs the honour of having made this discovery. Alcyone, then, as far as science can perceive, would seem to be the 'midnight throne' in which the whole system of gravitation has a central seat, and from which the Almighty governs his universe.⁸

An astronomer will tell you this is complete rubbish but I want to go back to the ancient traditions. Alcyone was called Al Wasat, the Central One by the Arabs, and Temennu, the Foundation Stone by the Babylonians. The next quotation I found in a wonderful book on ancient constellations called the Mazzaroth: 'Wasat, an Arabic name of Alcyone, transmitted by Ulugh Beigh from early Arabian astronomy, is the centre. It thus testifies, like that of Alcyone, to the knowledge of the first astronomers of the long lost but lately removed fact, that in this group is the centre of the revolving, contains the same reference, if explained by its primitive roots. The ancient name Alcyone, now so celebrated in the annals of science, is evidently of Oriental origin, having the Arabic and old Hebrew article Al, prefixed to its root Cyon, centre. Its meaning, centre, foundation, anticipates one of the greatest achievements of modern astronomy, the discovery that to this point, this centre, gravitates the whole magnificent arrangement of the stars called the Galaxy, to which our sun belongs.'⁹

Does Cyon not sound like Sion/Zion – the heavenly city of God? 'Glorious things of Thee are spoken, Zion city of our God.' (Psalm 87). The Hebrews believed it to be the City of David – the City of the Lord – the City of Foundation. I found an intriguing

article by Ken Raines on the Internet called 'Jehovah: Ancient Astronaut from the Pleiades?'¹⁰

Apparently for 62 years, 1891 – 1953, the Watchtower Society (Jehovah's Witnesses) taught that God resided on the star Alcyone in the Pleiades and that from this star he governed the universe. It was also stated that the City of Zion in heaven was Alcyone. Much of this was based on Rev. Joseph Seiss' book, *Miracle in Stone*, that he based heavily on Prof. Piazzzi Smyth's *Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid*. I'm going to add something here, just for a bit of bite. According to David Icke,¹¹ Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Watchtower Society was a high-degree Mason. Why am I going here? Because secret societies keep ancient wisdom behind locked doors. I have a book by Robert Hewitt Brown, a 32-degree Mason called *Stellar Theology and Masonic Astronomy*. On page 54 is a picture of a mystic ladder that leads to the seven stars of the Pleiades. He explains: 'This Masonic emblem, has a direct allusion to the vernal equinox, and thus becomes a beautiful symbol of immortality, reminding us, also, of that starry home beyond the grave to which the soul of man aspires. It was for these reasons that, of all the 'hosts of heaven' the Pleiades were selected as an emblem by our ancient brethren.'¹²

Is there a Pleiadian conspiracy? Who wants to keep us in the dark? The Mayans called the Pleiades 'the granary' for it was the seedbed of their civilisation and the cosmic star mother who gave her children the codes of light.¹³

Jose Arguelles describes the beginning of the current Mayan Age from 3113 BCE – 2718BCE, which is said to end in 2012 CE, the Baktun of the Star Planting. For him, the Maya were star-beings, from a starbase, possibly in the Pleiades called Valum Chivim.¹⁴

Does this suggest that every 5200 years, the Earth experiences a massive star seeding? This brings me back to the eclipse in May 2012, conjunct Alcyone. Remember the ancients believed an eclipse created a tunnel to their star gods – could a portal open

directly to Alcyone? If you believe all the channelled material regarding the Pleiadians, they are returning to aid our planetary ascension into a higher frequency. In Australia, on 14 November 2012, a solar eclipse will shadow across our land, the centreline directly over Cairns. This eclipse will be exactly conjunct the fixed star α Serpentis in zodiacal Scorpio. The serpent is one of the most ancient of symbols denoting wisdom used by high initiates in the mystery schools. 'Many Gnostic traditions identified the serpent with Jesus. In the Pistis Sophia, Jesus was the serpent who spoke to Eve from the tree of knowledge and the tree of life, which were in the paradise of Adam.'¹⁵

Mark Amaru Pinkham in his book *The Return of the Serpents of Wisdom*, explores the worldwide migration of serpents, some from Mu (Lemuria), and others from Atlantis. They were called Nagas, Naguals, Nacaals, Adders, Djedhi, Amarus, Levites, Lung Dragons and Quetzalcoatl. In ancient Aramaic, Jesus was called a 'nagger'¹⁶ which in the Bible was mistranslated as a carpenter when in actual fact I found the word for carpenter to be 'nanger.' Jesus was a nagger – a serpent of wisdom. According to Pinkham, at thirteen years of age, Jesus left Palestine and set off to study the mystery traditions of other branches of Serpents of Wisdom around the globe. His subsequent adventures are currently mentioned within various records, including the travels of 'Issa' (Asian name for Jesus) which were discovered in 1887 by the Russian adventurer Nicholas Notavich in a monastery in Ladakh.¹⁷

There are many traditions which also state that the Serpents were extra-terrestrials. 'Some of the Interstellar Serpents on Atlantis came from the Celestial Serpent, the Pleiades. According to Dhyanis Ywahoo and the records of Cherokees, these androgynous Serpents are known as the 'sacred seven,' and are said to have travelled from the universal seat of Divine Mind, the Pleiades, in order to instil within developing humankind the spark of the individuated mind. Once on the Earth the Pleiadian missionaries mated with the human population and their progeny spread throughout Atlantis.'¹⁸

Could this be the source of the Fallen Angels in The Book of Enoch?

This Pleiadian and Atlantean mating was also mentioned by Greek historian Diodorus who claimed that Celoene and Alcyone, two of the seven Pleiadian sisters, had mated with Poseidon, King of Atlantis and their offspring populated Atlantis. The Maya/Aztecs called the Pleiades the 'tzab' (rattle) – that of a snake – and every 52 years, in the middle of November, when the Pleiades were directly at the zenith at midnight at Mexican latitude, it was believed that the world would end; it had already been destroyed and re-created four times in the past. The New Fire Ceremony was held once they knew that they were safe for another 52 years. Using my Solar Fire astrology software, I calculated a chart for 14 November 2012 at midnight, at Yucatan in Mexico, and Alcyone is exactly at the zenith. Therefore, the eclipse over Australia coincides with the New Fire Ceremony – the symbolic beginning of the New World. 52 years is a micro-cycle of the greater 5200 years of each of the Mayan world ages, these in turn being a fifth of the Great Cycle of 26,000 years, originally called the Great Year of Pleiades. In 2012, we have reached the end of an Age and thus are at the dawn of a New World.

In esoteric literature, Australia has always been believed to be the land to host a mass spiritual awakening. Australia is said to be a fragment of Lemuria or 'Mu' – an ancient motherland of advanced spiritual light beings (nagas) now below the Pacific Ocean. The Australian Aborigines are believed to be direct descendants of the people of Lemuria, much like the Native Americans, Mayans and Incas. Will this eclipse put Australia on the map as the spiritual center of the New Age? See you in Cairns!

Eclipses for 2012-UTC

May 20th -2012
Solar @ 0 Gemini-
conjunct fixed Star Alcyone, square Neptune

4th June – 2012
Lunar @ 14 Gemini – Sagittarius - Venus
Transit which the day after at 15 Gemini

November 13 2012

Total Solar @ 21 Scorpio – The nodal axis has moved to North Node Scorpio, South Node Taurus, and Saturn in Scorpio

28 Nov 2012 2012

Lunar @ 6 Gemini – Sagittarius – Nodal axis in Scorpio Taurus – The last eclipse in Gem-Sag polarity

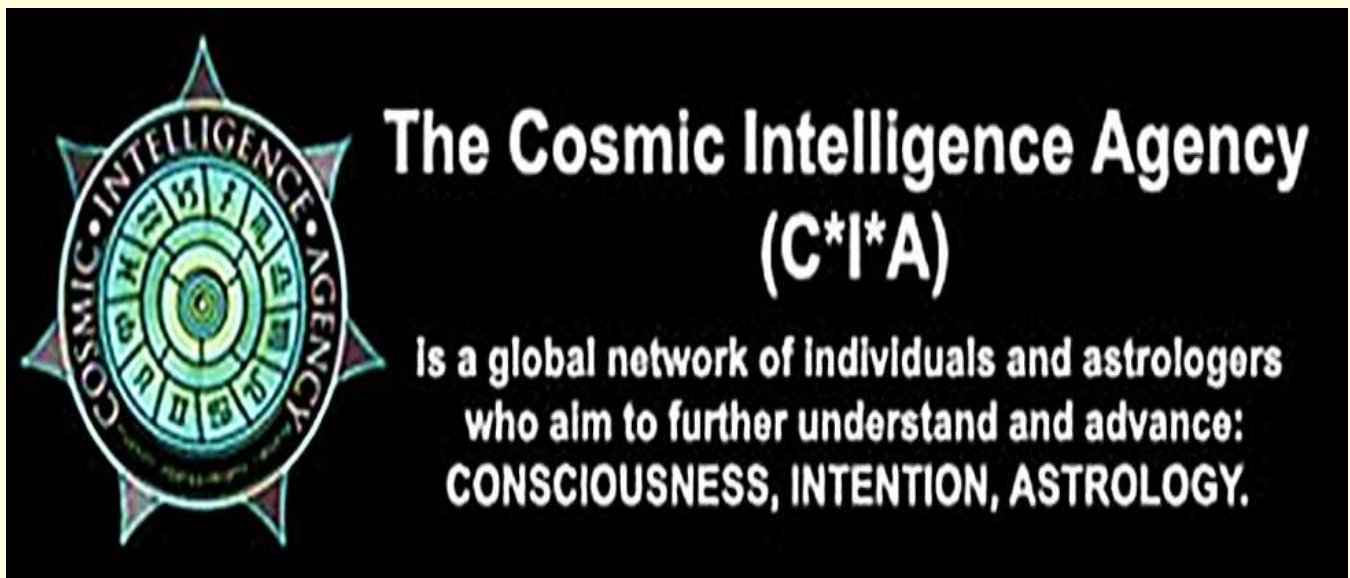
For Charts for the 2012 eclipses – see link below

<http://www.cosmicintelligenceagency.com/eclipses-2012-2013/>

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SPELL CASTING WORKSHOP

Sunday 6th May 2012



This is a 2 hour workshop to explore the workings of spells and magick. You will be taught the basic techniques for casting a spell, plus you will have an opportunity to participate in a hands-on session where you will be guided to perform a spell on your own.

Spell casting is a technique that assists individuals to magically enhance their spiritual and material lives through empowerment and motivation.

Janine Donnellan as seen on Psychic TV will be the facilitator of this workshop.

Whatever your goals are, whether you want to achieve financial freedom, get fit, or find true love, this is a workshop you don't want to miss.

Where: Embrace, Shop 1015 Westfield,
Miranda NSW 2228

When: Sunday 6th May 2012

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Cost: \$60 includes notes and supper

Bookings: 02 9531 0009

WITCHY CRAFTS



Hecate Incense and Oil

Hecate Incense:

3 parts Sandalwood, 2 parts Cypress (can be substituted with pine, ground), and 1 part Spearmint or Peppermint. Grind on the new moon.

Hecate Oil:

3 drops Myrrh, 2 drops Cypress (again can sub. pine oil, not Pine Sol), 1 drop Patchouli, and 1 dried Mint leaf.

MAY TAROT READING High Priestess



A Hierophant is a person who holds 'forbidden' or 'secret' knowledge. On a more personal level, the Hierophant is also a teacher or a mentor. One major role of a spiritual leader is to initiate others into the

community and teach them the ways of the group.

It may seem 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 we pull the Hierophant Tarot card, it may be drawing our attention to our convictions. The occurrence of this card could be a message for us to examine our belief systems, how we operate within these beliefs, and how they effect our lives.

Tarot card is from Glastonbury Tarot by Lisa Tenzin-Dolma

<http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/Hecate.html>

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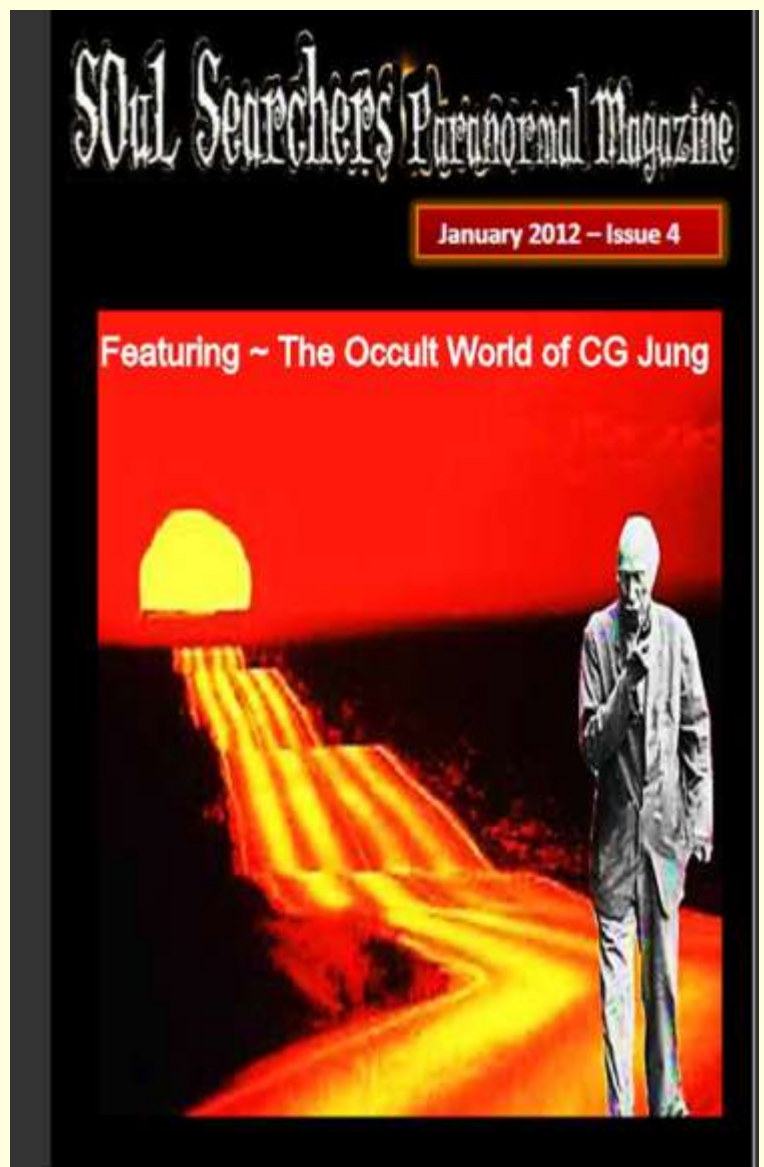


Welcome to SOuL Searchers Magazine

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.

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WHAT IS WICCA?

WORKSHOP

Sunday 3rd June 2012



Do you have an interest in Wicca? Are you confused as to what Wicca and Paganism are about and would like to know more?

At this 2 hour workshop, facilitated by Janine Donnellan as seen on Psychic TV and from Spheres of Light, will be introducing you to basic Pagan philosophies and you will learn the mechanics of circle casting and creating sacred space. You will experience alternate realities through meditation and ritual.

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

When: Sunday 3rd June 2012

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Cost: \$60 includes notes and supper

Bookings: 02 9531 0009

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOL?

SOL Full Moon Circle March 30, 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 May 20 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 Saturday 6 May, 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.

PAN QLD Witches Ball 2012

When: Friday 25th May 2012

Where: The Uber Lounge, 100 Boundary Street West End Qld 4101

Cost: Tickets are \$50.00. This includes light nibbles.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$60.00, but as they 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 PAN Inc. PO Box 1062 North Sydney NSW 2059.

Or e-mailed back to qld@paganawareness.net.

Tickets and invoice will be sent out once payment and order form has been received.

If you would like to organise a payment plan please contact us.

Payment Methods Accepted: PayPal, Cheque, Money Order, Credit Card, Direct deposit. Details are on the registration form. Click here to register online

RSVP: Order forms and money must be received no later than 15th of May 2012.

Email:

qld@paganawareness.net

Phone: Lisa Kenny on 0407 661 118

Host: Brought to you by PAN Inc

Description: Come dance the night away with Spiral Dance and Damh the Bard from Albion's shores, as part of their Heading North Tour. Dress to impress and show off your witchiest and most outrageous outfits.

There will be finger food, lucky door prizes and prizes for the best costumes.

Tickets are strictly limited so please get in early to avoid disappointment.



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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We stand in our power. The spark within us is one with the eternal flame that guides and sustains us on our journey.



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