



BAY AREA PAGAN ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

BAPAN

BAPA's Mission is to serve the Pagan community as an information resource and to facilitate the practice of Pagan Spirituality.

Beltane 2004

You Spell It Bealtaine...

by *Michael Dilts*

What's in the spelling of a name? Whether it's spelled Beltane, Beltaine, Bealtaine or even Bhealltain, it's still the First of May. But what is behind the orthographic alternation?

Bealtaine is the standard Irish spelling, while *Bhealltain* is Scots Gaelic. In Irish the *e* after the initial *b* and the *i* before the *n* mark them as palatal consonants, pronounced *by* and *ny*. Thus the Irish pronunciation of the word is *byAHltinyuh* with stress on the first syllable. The extra letters are suppressed in English spelling.

As to the meaning of the name, Irish *Bealtaine* is the name for the entire month of May, not just May First. Since *tine* is Irish for "fire," a typical etymology is "fire of Bel," where *Bel* is identified as an ancient Celtic deity. Unfortunately, there is no *Bel* in Irish mythology, although a *Belenos* was the Gaulish Apollo. Since Irish *beal* means "opening" or "entrance," perhaps the bonfires of May were originally seen as marking the beginning of the hot season, the season of fire.

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PLANETARY MAGICK AT GAIA'S GATEWAY

The Magickal Arts Guild, International, is a teaching organization which provides education in esoteric philosophies and practical training in the metaphysical crafts and sciences.

First acknowledged by the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, the occult influence of the heavenly bodies is a central component of the philosophical systems of Astrology, Alchemy and the Kabbalah. This Gateway presentation will include a discussion and ritual illuminating the use of planetary resonances in the timing and enactment of magickal work.

Sunday, May 30; 6:00-9:00 pm. Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC), 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, CA. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), www.bapa.net.

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GAIA'S GATEWAY

Gaia's Gateway is a monthly open ritual featuring a different Pagan tradition each month. Each Gateway begins with an informative talk, and both the talk and the ritual are led by practitioners of the religion presented. We request a \$5.00 donation from non-members. Gateways are held on the last Sunday of the month from 6pm-9pm in the Fireside Room at the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC, 505 East Charleston Road).

Directions: from Hwy 101, take the San Antonio Road exit West. Turn right on East Charleston. The building is about a mile down on the right-hand side of the road. As soon as you cross Middlefield Road, start looking for the church entrance on your right.

Upcoming Gateways

- Sunday, May 30; 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Planetary Magick with the Magickal Arts Guild.
- Sunday, June 27; 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Druidic Ritual with Otter Bay Protogrove
- Sunday, July 25; 6:00 - 9:00 PM
To Be Scheduled.

BAPA Library

The BAPA library, affectionately known as Athena's Archives, is a lending and exchange library which includes books, videos, cassettes, and tarot decks. Items may be checked out or donated at the monthly Gateway meetings.

CELEBRATE THE SOLSTICE!

Solaris Festival

June 16-20

Solaris is a four day, clothing optional, Pagan camping event held at Gaia's Oasis, a Pagan retreat in the Sierra Foothills. Registration is available online now, and it is limited to only 50 people. We highly recommend that you sign up early. Information: 831-469-0336, community_seed@mindspring.com or visit http://www.communityseed.org/CS_-_Events/Solaris/solaris.html

Summer Solstice Aloha Retreat for Womyn

June 17-20

Celebrate the Summer Solstice by renewing and restoring your spirit in an outdoor camp setting. Our campground is located in the East Bay Regional Park District, in the City of Oakland. Please see:

www.daughtersofthegoddess.com/events/retreat2004-print.html for more information & registration.

Solstitial Tarot Tea Party with Thalassa

June 19

1-5 PM

Sip tea, munch bikkies and be introduced to the Thalassa-land Tarot Method. Held at Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Avenue Oakland, CA. Cost: \$10 to \$20 sliding scale. (510) 653-3244, <http://ancientways.com/>

Summer Solstice Ritual with Dragon Dream

June 20

11 AM-2 PM

How do the stories of Goddesses like Artemis, Lilith and Persephone reflect our lives? Held in San Francisco, CA. Cost \$25-\$45 sliding scale. For more information or to register call (415) 339-7888 or e-mail:

lilith@dragondream.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bay Area Pagan Assemblies (BAPA) does not support or sponsor any of these events or contacts unless specifically stated. Please use your own discretion when attending these events or connecting with people you do not already know. This list is intended as an information resource only, and is non-promotional.

May 7 - Siberian Shamanism Workshop - Boulder Creek

The Russian Esoteric Academy of Happiness will host a Siberian Shamanism Workshop at Sunbeam Farm from 7:00-9:30 pm. This workshop introduces the knowledge of Siberian Shamanism; presented to you by a disciple of the great Siberian Shaman Bogomudr Altai Kagan the founder of the Academy. Siberian Shamanism is an ancient tradition, dating back over 40,000 years. Shamanism practices the idea that everything comes from One Source (Spirit or God). Therefore everything is imbued with spirit according to individual characteristics. These individual characteristics of Spirit are very useful for managing our lives. So, the primary task of the Shamans is to assist people to use their own connection with Spirit, at the deepest level. With this Knowledge you will be able to; Develop your State of Health, Develop Harmonious Relationships, Open your Intuition and Super-natural abilities, Get rid of bad habits like smoking, alcoholism, and drug addiction, Become a Healer. Cost: \$33; Reservations required by 5/1/04. Information: Jonathan at 831-338-0327 or jfurst@pobox.com.

May 8 - Beltane Ritual - Santa Cruz Mountains

Otter Bay Protogrove ADF (A druidic community) invites you to our Beltane ritual at Big Basin Redwood State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Gather at 2:30 pm; Ritual starts between 3:30-4:00 pm. This is a potluck so bring something to share. We will be staying the night for those who wish to remain. Information: Katherine at beebop28@hotmail.com or Ali at Morrigan@speakeasy.net.

May 8 - Pentacle of the Senses - San Francisco

Oak (aka Deborah Cooper) and Denise Castleton present Pentacle of the Senses, a day-long workshop from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, focusing on the power of the pentacle, the sacred symbol of the Craft. Participants can expect to deepen their understanding of how and why the pentacle represents the earth, the body and the senses, and experience how attunement to the senses is rudimentary to practicing the art of magic. Theoretical and experiential knowledge will be gained of how to utilize this tool of magic and how, when and why to run pentacle energy. The pentacle's use in personal healing will be explored, as well as its place in priestessing, ritual and magical activism. We will work on the skill of embodying the five-pointed star and every participant will craft a pentacle, which is charged with the power of the senses and the magic of the day. This workshop will enhance knowledge of the Iron and Pearl pentacle, and serves as either a great prerequisite or sequel. Cost: \$45-90. Information: Oak at 415-647-7916

May 8-9 - Nature Awareness for Witches 102 - Boulder Creek

Jonathan Furst and April Cotte host Nature Awareness for Witches 102, a weekend workshop. Join the flow of the nature more fully through the gateway of our physical and psychic senses. Go deeper with the wild as we weave our Magic and Awareness closer together. More skills (making fire!), more tracking, and more time in the forest. Prerequisite NA4W 101 or equivalent (call to ask). Cost: \$50-\$75 or barter. Camping/dorm-style sleeping available. Information: Jonathan at 831-338-0327 or jfurst@pobox.com

May 8 - Beginning Tarot Classes - Los Gatos

Lisa Dale Miller will be teaching a 5-part Beginning Tarot Class on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Inner Journey, 222 N. Santa Cruz Ave. This class combines learning with practice, and is specifically designed for beginning students. By the end of the 5 classes you will have studied the meanings of the 78 Tarot cards, learned some basic spreads, and worked on responsible counseling skills for beginners. Since most students have trouble finding the right context to practice what they learn, we will spend class time doing actual readings. Each student will need to have his or her own Tarot deck (about \$16.00) for this class. Lisa teaches with the Rider Waite Tarot Deck. Bring a notebook and either a Rider Waite Deck or Universal Waite Deck. Students must be 17 or older to join this class. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$125.00 (for a series of 5 classes). Information: Lisa at 408-206-2518, astrotarot@earthlink.net, or visit <http://www.astrowisdom.com/classes.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13 - Liber Resh - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Liber Resh with Glenn Turner, from 7:30-9:30 pm. Learn the meanings and use of this daily practice of saluting the 4 directions and times of day. Written by Aleister Crowley this salutation of the Sun is a basic in Thelemic work.. Sponsored by Sirius Encampment. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com, or visit <http://zope270.iniquinet.com/virt/ancientways.com/portal/events/>

May 14 through 16 - Rites of Passage - Boulder Creek

Wilow Fire Zachubi and student teacher Copper Persephone of Reclaiming present Rites of Passage in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Rites of Passage focuses on dreams, myths and language, using traditional and non-traditional tales and techniques to create a personal rite of passage. Through storytelling, trance, release work and dreams we receive our challenge(s), meet our helpers, work through our blocks and emerge renewed, reborn. This class culminates with a ritual created by the students. Camping, dorm style sleeping available, ask for details. Pre-requisite: Elements of Magic class. Cost: \$60-\$180; sliding scale. Pre-registration required. Information: 831-246-2907 or Copperpersephone@aol.com

May 15 - 3rd Annual Interfaith Pagan Pride Parade and Celebration - Berkeley

We are pleased to announce our third Annual Parade and Celebration from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Civic Center Park on MLK between Center and Allston Way. This year our theme is "Divine Feminine", and we have expanded the celebration to include vendors, crafts, and food (positioned nearby). We are also excited to announce that we will be featuring an "Author's Circle," in which you can meet and converse with the Pagan community's leading published Authors. We are continuing to encourage the participation of floats and costumed participants this year, and will offer special awards for both Best Float and Best Costume, so don't miss your chance to show us how creative you can be. Camera Shy? Bring a mask, or come down and cheer the community on...we would definitely love that :-). Information: 510-496-6051, paganparade@earthlink.net or visit <http://www.paganparade.org>.

May 15 - DivinationFest - San Francisco

Thalassa and Daughters of Divination (DOD) invite you to DivinationFest at the Unitarian Universalist Center from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. This will be a unique and spirited exploration of a variety of divination systems, including palmistry, crystal skulls, Tarot Twister, Aura Soma, and so much more. Information: 415-753-5041, airndarkness@yahoo.com or visit www.thalassaland.com

May 16 - Thoth-A-Palooza - San Francisco

Thalassa and Daughters of Divination (DOD) invite you to Thoth-A-Palooza at the Unitarian Universalist Center from 1:00-5:00 pm. Spend a lively and informative afternoon with Lon Duquette, the acknowledged Master of all things Crowley, and author of the groundbreaking Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot. Everything you ever wanted to know about the Thoth deck. Information: 415-753-5041, airndarkness@yahoo.com or visit www.thalassaland.com

May 16 - Women's Sweat Lodge Ceremony - Boulder Creek

Char Lynn will host a Sweat Lodge Ceremony for Women; Fire at 9:00 am, Lodge at 12:00 pm. The intention is to create a safe, sacred space for healing, and to honor each person's process. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early. Help before the Lodge is appreciated. Potluck follows (nutritious foods please). Cost: \$20 suggested minimum donation; work exchanges available. Information: 831-338-2996 or MtnChar7@aol.com.

May 19 - Dark Moon)(New Moon Circle for Women - Oakland

Change Makers for Women, 6536 Telegraph Ave, hosts Dark Moon)(New Moon Circles with Jules Stept from 7:00-10:00 pm. The Magick of Connections, Beginnings and Endings with the Great Triple Goddess: Mother, Maiden and Crone. We honor the Great Goddess in Her Threefold Archetypal form: The Crone - Consummate Endings, The Mother - Creating Connections, and The Maiden - Intentional Beginnings. Our ultimate purpose in gathering is that, through honoring Her phases, we find comfort in our own process of growth and healing gaining wisdom and renewed life energy. Within the Magick circle we focus on transforma-

UPCOMING EVENTS

tion and the personal process using skills in healing, banishing, divination, spell casting and manifestation. No prior experience with circling is necessary. Jules Stept is a Dianic Wiccan High Priestess who has been leading and teaching womyn through rituals, apprenticeships, classes and mentoring for the past 15 years. RSVP requested. Cost: \$20; no one turned away. Information: 415-695-9066, dianic.witch@angelfire.com or visit <http://www.changemakersforwomen.com/>

May 20 - Making Friends with the Qabalistic Tarot - Soquel

Amber Jayanti presents Making Friends with the Qabalistic Tarot, an introduction to the history and basics of the Qabalistic Tarot. This is a 12-week, 36 hours, in-depth esoteric and practically-oriented course, beginning to advanced level class. Curriculum is directed to the study of "attributes" such as the Hebrew letters, Qabalistic Intelligences, astrological, numerological, alchemical, herbal and psycho-spiritual correspondences of the Major Arcana. You will discover what cards are relevant to your life at this time. An overview of the Minor Arcana is also presented. This class is designed to help students find out whether working with this system appropriate for you. Mystics, Pagans, Heretics, and Iconoclasts are welcome. Cost: Sliding fee scale. Information: 831-423-9742, amber@practical-mystic.com or visit <http://www.practical-mystic.com>.

May 21 - Astrology: Retrograde Planets - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Astrology: Retrograde Planets with Margaret Cole, from 7:30-9:30 pm. Why does it seem to be harder when planets go "retrograde"? Let's talk. Bring your chart. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com, or visit <http://zope270.iniquinet.com/virt/ancientways.com/portal/events/>

May 22 - PSYCHIC FAIRE! - San Jose

11 AM - 6 PM. Astrology, Clairvoyants, Tarot Readers, Aura Photos, Past Life Readings, Palmistry, Numerology, Reiki. No Admission Charge, Inexpensive Readings. Location: San Jose Metaphysical Book Shop, 1231 Kentwood Avenue, San Jose, CA (De Anza Shopping Center, one block North of Highway 85 at the De Anza Boulevard exit). Information: 408-446-0590.

May 22 - Wicca, All About It - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Wicca, all about it with Glenn Turner, from 2:00-5:00 pm. Learn the basics of Wicca, get your questions answered. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com, or visit <http://zope270.iniquinet.com/virt/ancientways.com/portal/events/>

May 26 - Runic Magic - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Runic Magic with Keath, from 7:30-9:30 pm. History of how Runes came to man, the difference between Elder Futhark, Younger Futhark and Anglo-Saxon Futhark. Each student gets a Normic (3 stave) reading. Drop in students welcome. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com, or visit <http://zope270.iniquinet.com/virt/ancientways.com/portal/events/>

May 28 - Venus Dances Before the Sun - Oakland

Ancient Ways, 4075 Telegraph Ave, hosts Venus Dances Before the Sun with Will Hester and Shelley Martin, from 7:30-9:30 pm. On June 8, 2004, Venus will cross the sun's face for the first time since 1882. Come get a copy of the chart from us and let's talk about its potential meaning. Open to both men and women. Cost: \$5-10. Information: 510-653-3244, store@ancientways.com, or visit <http://zope270.iniquinet.com/virt/ancientways.com/portal/events/>

May 30 - Gaia's Gateway: Planetary Magick with the Magickal Arts Guild.

The Magickal Arts Guild, International, is a teaching organization which provides education in esoteric philosophies and practical training in the metaphysical crafts and sciences. Tonight's presentation will include a discussion and ritual illuminating the use of planetary energies in magickal work. 6-9 PM. Sponsored by BAPA. \$5 donation requested from non-members. Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC), 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, CA. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), www.bapa.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2 through 6 - Ancient Ways Festival - Harbin Hot Springs, Middletown

Ancient Ways hosts an eclectic pan pagan gathering of magical folk. Weekend includes workshops, rituals, camping in a clothing optional environment. Cost (before April 15): \$70, 1-night; \$105, 2-nights; \$135, 3-nights; \$160, 4-nights. Information: 510-653-3244, festival@ancientways.com or visit www.ancientways.com

June 2 through July 28 - Introduction to Runes Course - Boulder Creek

Air and Fire, 13155 B Highway 9, hosts a 2-part Introduction to Runes course with Willow on Wednesdays. Part 1 is Intro to Runes and Rune Meditation from 6:00-7:00 pm, and Part 2 is Intro to Ancient Norse Deities and Philosophy from 7:15-8:00 pm. Willow has deep roots in Norse Magic, which go back for generations. Her knowledge of the runes was passed down through her Nordic-Celtic heritage. She has experienced the power of these ancient symbols and has devoted her life to the study of runecraft and sharing her knowledge with others. Willow has traveled the U.S. and Canada doing rune readings at Renaissance Fairs and festivals and now resides in Felton. Pre-registration is encouraged; drop-ins welcome. Cost: \$90 for all 9 weeks; or \$15 each session. Information: 831-338-7567, fireflower@airandfire.com or visit <http://www.airandfire.com>.

June 6 - Women's Networking and Empowerment Circle - Boulder Creek

Char Lynn invites all women to join her Women's Networking and Empowerment Circles at her home, 20200 Big Basin Way. Potluck begins at 5:30 pm, at which time we network our businesses, new events, books, or whatever. At 7:00 pm we have circle; to include stringing the beads, meditation, intentions for our goals and future and more. Let us honor the season, the full moon and our unique place in the world through the empowerment of Self. Cost: \$7-15; sliding scale. Information: 831-338-2996 or MtnChar7@aol.com.

June 6 - Drumming Circle - Montara

ShamanMoon hosts an open drumming circle from 4:00-8:00 pm. Potluck snacks are served from 4:00-4:45 pm and we begin promptly by 5:00 pm. This is an open drumming circle for men, women and older children. Anyone is welcome; no previous experience is necessary. Children are welcome, if they are able to lie still during the journey. Bring a journal, pen, water bottle, pillow, blanket and any drums or rattles if you have them. The purpose of this circle is to connect with our Power Animals and Spirit Guides on a regular basis, and to come together as a community. People are welcome to volunteer to "put on" the circle each month for the group. This includes planning a journey topic, altar focus, check-in, songs, etc. Information: 650-728-1407, Laura@shamanmoon.org or visit <http://www.shamanmoon.org/pages/2/index.htm>.

June 13 - Sweat Lodge Ceremony - Boulder Creek

Char Lynn will host a Community Lodge, open to all men, women and children; Fire at 11:00 am, Lodge at 2:00 pm. The intention is to create a safe, sacred space for healing, and to honor each person's process. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early. Help before the Lodge is appreciated. Potluck follows (nutritious foods please). Cost: \$20 suggested minimum donation; work exchanges available. Information: 831-338-2996 or MtnChar7@aol.com.

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June 27 - Gaia's Gateway: Druidic Ritual with Otter Bay Protogrove. Otter Bay Protogrove is associated with ADF, a Druid Fellowship. 6-9 PM. Sponsored by BAPA. \$5 donation requested from non-members. Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC), 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, CA. Information: 408-559-GAIA (4242), www.bapa.net.

