

The
BAPAN
Beltaine 2001

Bay Area Pagan Activities and News

The President's Pleasure

Tax Day, thank Goddess, is behind us. Most of us have finished our annual bout with the IRS and have said "merry part" to a decent percentage of our annual income. For me, however, putting my 1040 in the mail did not bring a sense of relief this year. Instead, I found myself trying to calculate how much of the tax money being taken out of my pocket was going to end up in the hands of fundamentalist churches and right-wing religious groups.

Under President Bush's so-called "faith-based initiative," sectarian organizations will be eligible to receive government funds for administering social welfare programs. This means that churches may soon be running the after-school program at your local public school, giving them ready access to young, impressionable minds ripe for indoctrination - all at taxpayer expense. It means that economically disadvantaged women may be denied access to birth control at a publicly-funded clinic because the staff believes it is immoral. It means homeless families may be forced to recite prayers and listen to fire and brimstone sermons before they are given food and a bed at the only shelter in town.

The President's notion of "charitable choice" may be a dream come true for the extremist religious organizations that helped put him in office, but for those of us who are not members of the right faith or who still believe in separation of church and state it is a nightmare. If you are as troubled as I am by the idea of tax money being siphoned into the pockets of sectarian organizations, then now is the time to take action:

- Write to Senators Feinstein and Boxer (U.S. Senate, Washington D.C., 20510 - 9998) and to your congressperson.

- Support the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and other similar organizations.
- Get involved and help make the Pagan community more visible. Join BAPA if you are not a member, become an active volunteer if you are. There are openings on the Board of Directors and many other ways for you to help BAPA fulfill its mission.

Michael Dilts
President
Bay Area Pagan Assemblies

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

<u>Contents</u>	
President's Pleasure	1
BAPA Basics	2
Athena's Archives	3
Letter from the Chair	3
Chronos' Calendar	4
New and Upcoming	5

BAPA Basics:

Location and Directions:

Regular activities are held at the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC) unless otherwise indicated. The church is located at 505 East Charleston Road. From Hwy 101, take the San Antonio Road exit West, turn right on East Charleston. The building is about a half mile down on the right-hand side of the road.

BAPA Sponsored Circles:

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 every month from 6PM-9PM in the Fireside Room at PAUUC.

Gaia's Gateway Monthly Schedule:

April 2001

Coire ap Sidhe, a Gardnerian coven

May 2001

Runic Tree of Knowledge, Michael Dilts

June 2001

Hearthstone, summer solstice

July 2001

open

August 2001

open)

September 2001

NROOGD

October 2001

Bridget's Weaving

November 2001

open

December 2001

No Gateway

BAPA Network Services:

To find out about local Pagan events, related to BAPA or not, see Chronos Calendar, and call 408-559-4242(GAIA) to leave a message requesting specific information.

Where To Contact BAPA:

P. O. Box 4159
Mountain View, CA. 94040
408-559-4242

<http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html>

Editor's Note: *You can save a tree and postage and receive the newsletter via email, drop a note to BapaMailing@yahoo.com.*

You can actually save BAPA \$8 to \$11 a year this way, so please consider making the change. Or, view it on our website.

If you wish to contribute any articles, opinions, recipes, book/video reviews, letters, or calendar items for the BAPAN, send them via email to nevawrites@home.com

Submission Deadline:

Submission and calendar deadline for the Litha BAPAN is June 11, 2001. Calendar items should include events through August 2001.

BAPA Officers:

President: Michael Dilts
Vice President: *open*
Secretary: Lisa Pederson
Treasurer: Walt Main
Board Chair: Roger Schuelke

BAPA Volunteers:

Network Coord: Jean
Gateway Coord: *open*
Comm. Coord: Jim McCann
Library: Mark Iennaco
Web Master: Jordan Avon
BAPAN Editor: Neva Schuelke



A goddess whose name means simply "giver", Gefn was regarded by the Norse-Germanic people as a frolicsome, fertile figure and seeress who embodied the earth's greenery. Gefn brings this abundance to us today...

...Patricia Telesco, 365 Goddess



Beltaine, or Bealtaine, meaning "bright fire", also known as the "fire of Balor" (or Beli) is celebrated on May Day. Legend has it that in hundreds of villages (in the British Isles) on May Day there was a procession beginning with the hag, Black Annis, representing winter, followed by a maiden (Godiva) riding naked on a white horse, representing the female complementary symbol to the phallic maypole (to the Saxons she was a representative of the wonderful and terrifying Freya).
- sources: *The Witches' Goddess* by Janet and Stewart Ferrar, and *The Encyclopedia of Wicca and Witchcraft* by Raven Grimassi



Athena's Archives

BAPA Library:

The library is a lending and exchange library, therefore any materials such as books, videos, cassettes, or tarot decks circulate, with the inventory being mutable over time. The library is accessible at the Gaia's Gateway each month. What interesting pagan reading or movie watching have you done recently? Send us a review and recommendation.

Letter from the Chair

Merry Beltaine to you all!

First a reminder: The **annual meeting of the membership of BAPA will be held on Sunday, June 24th at 5:30 PM**, just before the June Gateway. The membership will vote on a new slate of Board members. **Please attend** if you can.

These last couple of years the Board has focused on organizing processes and making sure that BAPA can continue even as its membership changes from year to year. Now we are starting to plan for the transition to a new Board in June. BAPA has its annual membership meeting before the June Gateway every year. At the annual

meeting any membership business is conducted. At this next meeting we will nominate and vote for new board members. Currently there are four nominees for new to the Board, Joe McMannis, Eric Rodas, Karissa Shaw, and Roger Schuelke (2nd term). After all of the nominees have been introduced, the membership will vote for those to be on the Board. The Board may have no more than nine and no fewer than five members. Michael Dilts will be continuing for the second year of his term.

We still are in need of a Gateway coordinator. This person would be responsible scheduling groups to do the Gateways and calling in reminders to those that have committed. It is a great way to get to know people and groups in the pagan community and a great way to give service back to the community. If you are interested or know someone who might be, let me know by email (stardazzled@home.com) or any other of the 'contact BAPA' methods.

And lastly check out the "Chronos Calendar" section of this Bapan. There are a number of events around Beltaine. I will be out at the Palo Alto Bay Lands to watch the Morris dancers and to sing and dance the sun up on Beltaine. There is something quite magical about watching the Abbot Bromley dancers come out of the pre-dawn dark. And the Morris dancers are always fun to watch.

Blessings,
Roger Schuelke
Chair, BAPA Board of Directors



Did you know? *The month of May is named for the Roman goddess Maia, whose name means "mother". Her festival day was celebrated with an abundance of flowers, and she was associated with Bona Dea, the "good goddess".*



The Greymalkin Gazette is seeking good original material for future issues. Articles can be on any topic in the general area of: Paganism, the Craft, Goddess Spirituality and Magick. Length should be between 300 and 900 words. Also, we seek poetry, and length is not an issue but a full Edda would probably be too long. We can give no payment but gratitude and a copy of the issue in which your piece appears. Material can either be send by email or snailmail. If email, please have the piece be the main body of the email as I have no way to open attachments. We can also use b&w artwork. Probably that should be sent snailmail, unless you have a way of scanning it into an email. But please, no erotica as some of our readers are very young.

Email: tezra@earthlink.net

Snailmail: The Pythoness

The Greymalkin Gazette

PO Box 6775

San Jose, CA 95150-6775

"Standing Stones" - Bedrock Groups of Bay Area Paganism

Organizations:

(BAPA) Bay Area Pagan Assemblies: in Palo Alto call 408-559-4242

(COG)Covenant of the Goddess: Call Arios at 415-584-2659

(DD) Dragon Dream: in San Francisco call 415-820-1500

(LI) The Lilith Institute: contact Deborah Grenn-Scott at 650-345-5449 or lilith@best.com or <http://www.lilithinstitute.com>

(NROOGD) New Reformed Order of the Golden Dawn: in Berkeley call 510-521-1040 or <http://www.nroogd.org>

(Ph) Phases: in San Francisco call 415-468-5466 or <http://www.phases.org> or lawre@sirius.com

(RE) Reclaiming San Francisco (many areas) 415-256-1766

(SBC) South Bay Circles: in Palo Alto contact Bianca at 408-265-5180

Businesses:

(13) "13" Book Store: in Santa Cruz, 831-425-1313

(AW) Ancient Ways Book Store: Oakland, 510-653-3244 or <http://www.ancientways.com>

(HL) Her Land Book Store: in Santa Cruz

(LD) Lavender Dragon: in Menlo Park call 650-323-4778; on the web www.lavenderdragon.com

(PE) Psychic Eye Book Store: in Mountain View, San Francisco

(SJ) San Jose Metaphysical Book Store: in San Jose call 408-446-0590, or email at sjbookshop@mindspring.com

Chronos Calendar

April

25 - (SJ) Pagan Discussion Group (BAPA sponsored), 7:30 PM, free

29 - BAPA Gateway w/Coire ap Sidhe, 6 PM

29 - Hearthstone Beltaine at John Mise Park, 11 AM to 4 PM, see Upcoming Events

29 - Sacred Grove Beltaine, San Lorenzo Park, Santa Cruz, Noon, see Upcoming Events

May

- 1 - Morris dancers at the Palo Alto Baylands, dance up the sun, predawn gathering
- 2 - (SJ) Animal Communication with Judy Dunn, 7:30 PM, \$15
- 5 - Feri Community Building Beltaine, SF, see Upcoming Events
- 9 - (SJ) Aromatherapy for Beginners with Carolyn Clines et al, 7:30 PM. \$15
- 12 - Pagan Bowling Night, see Upcoming Events
- 16 - (SJ) Communications from Beyond with Scout Bartlett, 7:30 PM, \$15
- 16-20 - (AW) Ancient Ways Festival at Harbin Hot Springs, see Upcoming Events
- 20 - Palo Alto Drumming Circle, see Upcoming Events
- 23 - (SJ) Wooing Your Intuition with Dorese Elsa Thulin, 7:30 PM, \$15
- 24 - (SJ) Wicca 201 (first meeting) with Brendan and Sharon, 7:30 PM, \$10/session
- 27 - BAPA Gateway, Runic Tree of Knowledge w/Michael Dilts, 6 PM

June

- 6 - (SJ) Angelic Vizion with Trisha McCarthy, 7:30 PM, \$20
- 9 - Pagan Bowling Night, see Upcoming Events
- 16 - (SJ) Psychic Fair!, 11 AM to 6 PM, FREE ADMISSION
- 17 - Palo Alto Drumming Circle, see Upcoming Events
- 21 - (SJ) Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Beings with Wayne Peterson, 7:30 PM, \$5
- 24 - BAPA Annual Membership Meeting, 5:30 PM, Gateway w/Hearthstone, 6 PM

New and Upcoming Events~~

New series sponsored by Serpentina. Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:30 PM, Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Center, Oakland, CA. \$20 regular admission, \$15 students, \$75 for entire series. No one turned away for lack of funds. Series includes:
April 24th Jalaja Bonheim "The Hunger for Ecstasy: Fulfilling the Soul's Need for Passion and Ecstasy"
May 1st - Z. Budapest " A Pilgrimage to the Three Fates"
For more information see www.serpentina.com or call 650-325-2761

COMING UP - May 12, June 9, July 14 - PLAN AHEAD!!!

Full Circle Events hosts Pagan Bowling Night on the second Saturday of every month at the AMF Saratoga Lanes in Saratoga. Meet at 8:30 so that bowling can begin at 9:00 PM. To reserve a lane and place a deposit, call the Saratoga Lanes 408- 252-2212 (about ten days ahead) and ask for Arlene Perrin. Tell her that you want to be near the folks at Full Circle and they'll put our lanes side by side. The Saratoga Lanes are located at Saratoga, near Prospect, just opposite the Westgate Mall. For more information, contact Full Circle Events at <http://www.fullciclevents.org/>

Drumming Circle in Palo Alto. Next two meetings are set for May 20 and June 17. For directions to the practice site and information please contact Karissa at karissa@prodigy.net. I hope to see many of you there!

A core Shamanic drum circle meets every Wednesday from 7-9PM at the Half Moon Bay Yacht Club in Princeton-by-the-Sea, 25 miles south of San Francisco, CA and 7 miles north of Half Moon Bay. The Moss Beach Drumming Collective is an open community of drummers, percussionists, and journeyers. All are welcome! Potluck after circle. A donation of \$5-\$10 requested for space. For more information, please contact janfrey@mindspring.com

New website: www.demeter.spiritualitea.net and click on "In Demeter's Grove"

Rune Classes are being offered on the first Friday of every month with Hammer Oak Kindred in Berkeley. Two to three runes of the elder futhark will be studied in each class. Its part lecture, part discussion and almost always there is an activity relating to the rune. A donation between \$2-\$5 is requested to pay for the room rental, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Please contact Lori at lori@webbnet.com for more information.

Join Mara Freeman for discussion on the history and customs of Beltaine: The Celtic Rite of Spring on April 20th from 7-9 PM at the UCSC in Santa Cruz. The evening will be richly illustrated with slides and stories following Beltaine's pagan origins down to the present day, from maypole to morris dance, bonfires to bringing in the may. For more information or to enroll, call 800-660-8639 or visit www.ucsc-extension.edu. Class code is EDP 004W60.

Discover the Mystical Path of Sufi Poetry with Lindsay Rosalba, MA, on April 21st from 9 AM - 5 PM at the UCSC in Santa Cruz. In this introductory class students will explore the basic themes of Sufism and its symbolic language while becoming acquainted with Rumi and other Sufi poets. Through lecture, viewing of slides, readings and reflective writing, students can explore their own spiritual connections. For more information or to enroll, call 800-660-8639 or visit www.ucsc-extension.edu. Class code is EDP 004W49.

A weekend workshop on the Ancient Hermetic Sciences is being offered at the UCSC Extension located at 10420 Bubb Rd in Cupertino on April 21st and 22nd. Explore the ancient sciences of alchemy, astrology, Kabbalah, and theurgical or ritual magic with Lewis Keizer. For more information or to enroll, call 800-660-8639 or visit www.ucsc-extension.edu. Class code is EDP 004W57.

Hearthstone's Beltane Celebration will be on Sunday, April 29th at John Mise Park in San Jose from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The Beltane ceremony will begin promptly at 11:30 AM, and those who show up after 11:30 will not be permitted to join the ceremony. Afterward, a May King and Queen will be chosen, and there will be dancing around the May Pole, music (bring your drums and rattles), a Morris Dancing troupe, and after dancing there will be lunch. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult. John Mise Park is a public park; please keep this in mind as we celebrate and be considerate of others. Please bring a picnic lunch, rhythm instruments, a blanket or folding chair to sit on, colorful clothing and comfortable shoes for dancing (Renaissance-type clothing is suggested, but not required!), sunscreen and/or a hat. There is no cost for this event, however donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, contact 408- 446-0590, Email at molly@the-compass-group.org or visit <http://www.The-Compass-Group.org/hearthstone/>

Dance Prayer For The Bay on Sunday, April 29th from 11am - 3pm at Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Park near the Oakland Airport. Join in this response to the largest proposed fill of the Bay in 60 years by both the San Francisco & Oakland airports. Put your human hands right into the ongoing restoration project here, led by Save The Bay, then participate in simple inclusive ritual (movement, sound, prayer, drumming). Dance to honor, protect, and celebrate our magnificent life-sustaining Bay. Children are welcome. For more information, contact Jacqueline Lasahn at 510- 655-6998, info@bodytales.com or visit www.bodytales.com/danceprayer

The first graduating class of The Sacred Grove Witchcraft courses is pleased to present Beltane in the Park on Sunday, April 29th at Noon. All are welcome to join them at San Lorenzo Park (the park next to the courthouse) in Santa Cruz. Please bring food and/or drink to share for Potluck and look for the red ribbons. Please keep in mind this park is a very public place. For more information, contact Sacred Grove at sacredgrove@onebox.com, or 831- 423-1949, or www.the-sacredgrove.com

Beltane at the Baylands! Once again, our favorite local Morris dancers will dance up the sun on MayDay morning. Join us before dawn at the Palo Alto Baylands at the East end of Embarcadero Road as we celebrate the sun.

Discover exciting new ways to communicate with your animal friends on May 2nd at 7:30 PM at the San Jose Book Shop. Animal psychic Judy Dunn will provide tips on how to handle behavior problems, share insights on resolving human-pet issues, and describe how we communicate through thoughts, feelings and images. For more information, call the San Jose Book Shop at 408-446-0590.

A Feri community-building Beltane celebration will be held during the day on May 5th at a location just north of San Francisco. All initiates and persons on the path to initiation in any branch of the Feri path are welcome. For further information, please contact Larry Jensen at 408-995-6904 or ljensen@ix.netcom.com

Open congregation meetings with Fellowship of the Earth take place the first Saturday of every month at 3PM at the Universal Life Church in Modesto. The next meeting is on May 5. For more information please contact fote@partytown.com

Phases presents the sixth annual Maying - Flower Gathering at McLaren Park in San Francisco on Sunday, May 6, from 12 pm to 4 pm. McLaren Park is located at the corner of Visitation and Mansell, and the Gathering will be at the southeast corner of the Park, top of the hill. (Accessible via Muni bus line 29. Easy freeway 101 Paul Street Exit.) For more information, contact Phases at www.phases.org or P.O. Box 884911, San Francisco, CA 94188-4911 (More info TBA.)

Marin Womanspirit meets on the 1st Sunday of every month at Marin UU Fellowship. The next meeting is on May 6th. For information, call Lucille Foppiano at 415-479-9169 or write to Marin Fellowship, 240 Channing Way, San Rafael, CA 94903-2606. Church phone: 415-479-4131.

An Experiential Magical Workshop series will be held on Monday nights at 7:30 PM in San Lorenzo. May's meetings will be held on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and the 28th of the month. The first series of workshops will focus on the sephiroth of the Qabala. Future topics will be announced. These workshops are open to any experience level, there is no fee, and you are not required to attend the whole series. Children are welcome. For more information contact Foxglove aka Stacy at foxglove999@hotmail.com

Practical Magic: A weekend retreat for women will be held from May 11-13th in the San Geronimo Valley. This weekend will offer you a look at ritual creation and practical tools to work magic. You can explore questions such as 'what is magic?', work with the 3 aspects of the Goddess and moon cycles, meet the four elements and, of course, create a ritual. For more information or to reserve space, call 415-488-1702 or visit www.dragondream.com

On May 16th, spend an enlightening evening with noted KEST radio psychic and practical mystic, Scout Bartlett, as he talks about "Communications From Beyond" at the San Jose Book Shop. Discussion begins at 7:30 PM and there is a \$15 charge. For more information, call the San Jose Book Shop at 408-446-0590.

The Ancient Ways Festival at Harbin Hot Springs is scheduled to take place May 16 - 20, 2001. The "What if?" (We moved it to Big Sur) poll was tallied, and the vote was to keep the festival at Harbin Springs. More information to follow as May approaches, but if you would like more information sooner, contact Ancient Ways at 510-653-3244 or www.ancientways.com

Daughters of Divination presents Divination Fest 2001 on Saturday, May 19th from 10-4 at the Fort Mason Center, Room C, in San Francisco. There will be lectures and workshops on divination including Shamanistic Divination Techniques, Tarot and Movement, Runes, Animal Card Systems and much more. For information, contact 415-753-5041.

The second weekend workshop on the Ancient Hermetic Sciences will be offered at the UCSC Extension located at 10420 Bubb Rd in Cupertino on May 19th - 20th. Explore how the Hermetic Sciences became fused in Templarism, Rosicrucianism, and the Hermetic Renaissance with Lewis Keizer. For more information or to enroll, call 800-660-8639 or visit www.ucsc-extension.edu. Class code is EDP 004W58.

Join Hearthstone Circle for a drumming circle on the last Sunday of each month in the San Jose area. Their next gathering will be on Sunday, May 27th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Please contact Molly for more information and directions at molly@the-compass-group.org or <http://www.The-Compass-Group.org/hearthstone/>

On June 20th, spend an enlightening evening with noted KEST radio psychic and practical mystic, Scout Bartlett, as he talks about "Manifestation and Prosperity" at the San Jose Book Shop. Discussion begins at 7:30 PM and there is a \$15 charge. For more information, call the San Jose Book Shop at 408-446-0590.

The 8th annual California WitchCamp will take place July 1-8 near Mendocino in Northern California. Come and study magic and ritual in a week long intensive that includes trancework, healing, drumming, dancing, chanting, storytelling, and energy work. Witch Camp is offered to women and men at all levels of experience. For more information, call 415-789-7674, email vetiwitch@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.sirius.com/~kimjack>.

On July 18th, spend an enlightening evening with noted KEST radio psychic and practical mystic, Scout Bartlett, as he talks about "Identify Your Gifts and Value" at the San Jose Book Shop. Discussion begins at 7:30 PM and there is a \$15 charge. For more information, call the San Jose Book Shop at 408-446-0590.

The 13th Annual Elderflower Womenspirit Festival will be held in Mendocino from August 15-19th. Relax and enjoy cabin or tent camping in a redwood forest by a creek in the Mendocino Woodlands. The focus of the festival is on earth based spirituality and honoring the feminine through the Goddess.

Celebrate our spirituality by sharing knowledge, music, arts and ritual. For more information, please call 510-869-3828, or contact elderflower@onemain.com, visit www.elderflower.org, or write to PO Box 72079, Oakland, CA 94612-2079.

Firedance: A Magical Drum and Dance Celebration in the Santa Cruz mountains from August 16-19. Create a sacred place for deep play while exploring ancient and modern mysteries at this event's second annual gathering. At night, drum and dance the fire circle until the rising of the sun, connecting with the magic of the fire, spirit and each other. Camping in the beautiful, remote wilderness. Call 1-877-639-4032 or visit www.firedance.org for more information.

On August 19th, Phases will host the 6th Annual Vintage Festival in San Francisco. This is a time when we gather to thank the Mother and the Goddess for the bounty of the season and for her riches we have enjoyed. We celebrate with games of wit and simple agility. For more information, contact Phases at www.phases.org or P.O. Box 884911, San Francisco, CA 94188-4911 (More info TBA.)

Ongoing Events ~~

Visit <http://www.cyprian.org/Index> for additional bay area events and listings.

Note: If you notice any errors in the information printed here, please direct your corrections to nevawrites@home.com

Second note: Ongoing Events will only be published as space allows in future issues. Please save the current listing for future reference. Ed.