

The
BAPAN

Litha/Summer Solstice 2001

Bay Area Pagan Activities and News

The President's Pleasure

This year the Solstice marks the beginning of what promises to be a long, hot summer, punctuated by rolling black-outs and sky-rocketing electric bills. Given that the head of our government is a former oil exec and that his best friends and strongest political allies are the same power production pirates who are happily draining the contents of our wallets, we should be surprised neither by the situation we are currently in nor by the solution our fearless leaders are proposing: build more power plants and drill, drill, drill.

For those of us who worship the Earth as a Goddess or love Her as a Mother or even for those who have a sentimental attachment to the lonely piece of rock they call home, this solution is unacceptable. At some point, we will suck the last drop of oil from the last stretch of ruined coastline and from the final decimated wildlife refuge. There will be no place left to drill and the planet will no longer be a fit place to live. Even the power pirates must realize in their cynicism that the party can't go on forever. But they have us where they want us and they're making hay while the smokestacks belch.

We're addicted to alternating current. As with any addiction, the first step is to admit that we're addicts. Once we've done that, it's not too late to start a twelve step program, a program that starts with conservation and moves on to increased reliance on renewable resources, such as wind and solar power. If you think you need a degree in rocket science to start wiring up a solar home, stop by your local book shop (metaphysical or otherwise) and check out the practical, easy-to-read books listed at the end of this column.

If there is a silver lining in the gathering dark clouds of the power crisis, it may lie in the fact that, like it or not, we will be forced to be a lot more aware of our natural surroundings. As the artificial climate and artificial lighting that insulate us from the world outside begin to degrade, we will begin to rediscover the cycles of nature that governed our ancestors' lives, along with the magic of candle-lit evenings and fresh nighttime breezes. Maybe this whole power emergency isn't such a bad thing after all.

(continues on page 2)

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

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(President's Pleasure cont'd from pg. 1)

Solar Energy Resources:

Consumer Guide to Solar Energy by Scot Sklar and Kenneth Sheinkopf (Bonus Books, 1995)

The Easy Guide to Solar Electric for Home Power Systems by Adi Pieper (ADI Solar, 2001)

The Solar Electric House: Energy for the Environmentally Responsive, Energy Independent Home by Steven J. Strong (Chelsea Green, 1994)

Solar Living Sourcebook: Complete Guide to Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Living by John Schaeffer (Real Goods, 1999)

Michael Dilts
President
Bay Area Pagan Assemblies



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:

June 2001

Hearthstone, Summer Solstice Ritual, see note below.

July 2001

Magna Secht, an eclectic Wiccan group.

August 2001

Owlwind and Ravensong. A Wiccan ritual celebrating our interconnectedness with all life.

September 2001

NROOGD

October 2001

Bridget's Weaving

November 2001

open

December 2001

No Gateway

June Gateway Note: Hearthstone Circle will be performing Gaia Gateway's Summer Solstice Ritual on Sunday, June 24th. We will dance and chant to honor the Sun, so please bring drums, rattles and other rhythm instruments to use during the ceremony. Also please dress festively in bright sun-like colors! If you'd like to see the Hearthstone Summer Solstice ritual, please check out their website: <http://www.the-compass-group.org/hearthstone/>

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 printing costs (\$8-11/yr) and receive the newsletter via email, drop a note to BapaMailing@yahoo.com. 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 nevaawrites@home.com

Submission Deadline:

Submission and calendar deadline for the Lammas BAPAN is July 15, 2001. Calendar items should include events through October 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

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

Greetings . I hope to see many of you at the BAPA annual membership meeting June 24th. The meeting will be held at PAUUC before the June Gateway. Directions to the church are elsewhere in the newsletter. We will be voting on four new members and one returning member. This is an

opportunity to meet and get to know your board. The meeting will start at 5:30 PM to finish up before the Gateway at 6.

Well here it is summer already. Soon it will be fall and it will be time for San Jose's Tapestry in Talent festival. What has that to do with BAPA you ask. Well, one of our more important outreach opportunities occurs at this time. The festival is held on Labor day weekend running from Saturday through Monday afternoon (1st, 2nd and 3rd of September). BAPA will have an information table in the non-profit section. Last year we gave out a large number of information pamphlets and engaged in a number of interesting and stimulating conversation. We answered a lot of questions for those curious and interested in paganism. Again this year we will need a number of volunteers to be at the information table during the weekend, at least two at a time. We will probably break the weekend up into four hour shifts. Last year everyone that participated enjoyed the experience. There were several unique and rewarding encounters. If you didn't participate last year, consider helping this year. The board will be looking for volunteers as the date draws nearer.

This is my last note as the current board chair. The positions rotate as the new board is convened each year in July. I have enjoyed serving you, the membership, and the community at large as a member of the board and as the chair. I have watched the organization recover from difficult times and continue to grow. Thank you for putting your trust in me these last two years.

Blessed be,
Roger Schuelke
Chair, BAPA Board of Directors



"Knowing other people is intelligence.
Knowing yourself is wisdom."
- Lao Tse, *Tao Te Ching*, translation by
Ursula K. LeGuin

**June 24 - Members' General
Assembly!!!**

Please attend the annual membership meeting at 5:30 PM at the PAUUC on June 24, 2001, preceding the June Gateway. As a BAPA member, your participation in electing the Board for the coming year is very important. The Board slate includes new nominees - Karissa Shaw, Joe McManon, and Eric Rodas. Two Board members are running for re-election - Roger Schuelke and Jim McCann. Michael Dilts will continue with one more year on his current term.

Leaving the Board, with our gratitude for their service, are Lisa Pederson, Jean Pakosdi, and Woody Smith.

The BAPA Board must have a minimum of 5 members and no more than 9, so there will be an opportunity to make additional nominations from the floor at the meeting. Please come and support BAPA with your participation.

Thanks!!!

A Tribute to the Sun Goddess
by Neva Schuelke

Although in western tradition, the sun is often called male and the moon female, in ancient Oriental traditions the sun is female. In Japan,

ruling clans traced their family lines from the Sun Goddess, Omikami Amaterasu, the supreme one. In the third, the tribes were ruled by a queen named Himiko meaning Daughter of the Sun.

In Tantric Buddhism, the monks greet the Sun Goddess at dawn as "the glorious one, the sun of happiness... I salute you, O Goddess Marici! Bless me, and fulfill my desires. Protect me, O Goddess, from all the eight fears." (L. Austine Waddell, *Tibetan Buddhism*, Dover, 1972)

The Celtic Sun Goddess was Sulis (*suil* means both "eye" and "sun"). To the Germans, she was Sunna, and the Norwegians called her Sol. The Sun Goddess Sulis, Sol, or Sul was worshipped in Britain at the megalithic complex on the artificial mountain in Avebury, now known as Silbury Hill. Throughout southwest England she appears to have been worshipped on hills overlooking springs, thus near her springs at Bath, the isolated hill of Solsbury, or Sulisbury, was probably the seat of her worship. Later the Romans identified Sul with Minerva and set up altars to her as Sul Minerva.

(much of this information was gleaned from Barbara G. Walker's *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets*, Harper/Collins, 1983)

"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

(FCE) Full Circle Events: 615 Malarin Ave. Santa Clara, CA 95050, (408) 224-4625, www.fullcircleevents.org

(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

June

21 - (SJ) Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Beings with Wayne Peterson, 7:30 PM, \$5
For Solstice activities and celebrations, see Upcoming Events below.

24 - BAPA Annual Membership Meeting, 5:30 PM, Gateway w/Hearthstone, 6 PM

July

1 - 8 - Witch Camp, Mendocino, see Upcoming Events

11 - (SJ) Numerology & Sacred Geometry w/Odette Rickert, 7:30 PM, \$15

14 - (FCE) Pagan Bowling Night, see Ongoing Events

13 - (LD) Lavendar Dragon Women's Book Club, see Ongoing Events

14 - (SJ) Gemstone & Crystal Healing Fair, 11 AM - 6 PM, Free

18 - (SJ) Identify Your Gifts & Value w/Scout Bartlett, 7:30 PM, \$15

29 - BAPA Gaia's Gateway, Magna Secht, an eclectic Wiccan group, see Upcoming Evts.

29 - Feast of Lughnasa w/Mara Freeman, see Upcoming Events

August

1 - (SJ) Intro. to Tai Chi w/Odette Rickert, 7:30 PM, \$15

8 - (SJ) Joy of Chanting w/Dhanayavah, 7:30 PM, \$20

10 - (LD) Lavendar Dragon Women's Book Club, see Ongoing Events

11 - (FCE) Pagan Bowling Night, see Ongoing Events

15 - (SJ) Sex & Tantra w/Scout Bartlett, 7:30 PM, \$15

15 - 19 - Elderflower Womanspirit Festival, Mendocino, see Upcoming Events

16 - 19 - Firedance, Santa Cruz mountains, see Upcoming Events

19 - Sixth Annual Vintage Festival, San Francisco, see Upcoming Events

22 & 29 - (SJ) Learning the Tarot w/Joan Lamb, 7:30 PM, \$15 per class/\$25 both

New and Upcoming Events~~

Rune Classes are being offered on the first Friday of every month with Hammer Oak Kindred in Berkeley. Next meeting will be July 6. 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.

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.

An Experiential Magical Workshop series will be held on Monday nights at 7:30 PM in San Lorenzo. June's meetings will be held on the 4th, 11th, 18th, and the 25th 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

Celebrate the shortest night of the year and summer solstice with Manna and Stephen at Ancient Ways in Oakland. Join them for the New Moon on the Solstice on June 21st at 7:30 PM. For more information, contact Ancient Ways at 510-653-3244 or www.ancientways.com

Full Circle Events is organizing and hosting a Pagan Family Picnic at Sanborn Park in Saratoga on June 23rd. Come enjoy a day of feasting and merriment in one of the most beautiful parks in California. Parking is \$4.00 cash for each car to be paid to the park on entry. Anyone over 60 years of age gets free parking with I.D. FCE is also requesting a Sliding Scale Donation of \$3 - \$10. This will help pay for the reservation of this area. You will need to bring 1) a picnic lunch and/or food to cook (barbecues will be available - remember to bring some charcoal if you plan to barbecue). 2) Beverages and drinks for your party. (Alcohol is allowed in the Picnic Area, but not on the trails.) 3) Cash to pay for parking and your donation (if any). For more information, please contact Full Circle Events at <http://www.fullcircleevents.org/>

South Bay Circles will host a Litha ritual, presented by Luna Circa on Saturday, June 23rd in Palo Alto. Gather at 1 PM., ritual at 2 PM. For more information, contact Bianca at 408-265-5180, or Bill at 408-730-9622. Write to wabaldwin@aol.com, or visit <http://www.batnet.com/sbc/>

BAPA sponsors Gaia's Gateway, an open public ritual featuring a different Pagan tradition each month. June's Gateway will be held on the 24th from 6 - 9 PM at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church located at 505 E. Charleston Rd. Hearthstone Circle will be hosting a Summer Solstice celebration. Come dance and chant to honor the Sun, and bring drums, rattles and other rhythm instruments to use during the ceremony. Also please dress festively in bright sun-like colors. If you'd like to see the Summer Solstice ritual, visit Hearthstone's website at <http://www.the-compass-group.org/hearthstone/>. Call 408-559-GAIA for more information or <http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html>

Community Seed will host a Summer Solstice Celebration on Sunday, June 24th from 4:30 - 10:30 PM at the Harvey West Park Clubhouse in Santa Cruz. Proceeds from this evening of dining, dancing, and live entertainment will benefit Jacob's Heart - Children's Cancer Association. Show the true power of this community, by supporting a local children's cancer organization. Tickets are \$45.00. For detailed information, contact 831-469-0336 or <http://witchway.home.mindspring.com>

A six-week course on Buddhism: Wisdom and Compassion is being offered at the UCSC extension in Santa Cruz from June 25-July 30, meeting Mondays. Geared to beginning and intermediate students wishing to acquire both theoretical and experiential knowledge of Buddhism, the course is structured around Buddhism's Three Jewels;

Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. For more information, contact 800-660-8639 or www.ucsc-extension.edu. Use reference code EDP 011W39 for this course.

Ancient Ways in Oakland hosts a Tarot Tea Party with Thalassa on June 30th from 1 - 5 PM. Sip tea, munch bikkies and take in a lecture by Madama Thalassa on the glamour, mystery and uses of the Tarot, followed by hand-on work. All levels of interest and experience are welcome. Hat and gloves are optional, but a sense of humour is mandatory. Bring a deck if you have one. For more information, contact Ancient Ways at 510-653-3244 or www.ancientways.com

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>.

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 July 7th. For more information please contact fote@partytown.com

Hrafnar Circle's open monthly events are held on the second Wednesday of every month in Berkeley; starting at 7:30 PM. This month's gathering will be on July 11th. Open to both men and women, many events are potluck, and contributions of food and drink are welcome. Most meetings are open, but newcomers should contact Hrafnar Circle first to confirm the topic and location. For more information, contact Diana L. Paxson, Box 552, Berkeley, CA 94705, or greyhavn@earthlink.net

Witchy Wednesdays is an open forum on Paganism, Witch Craft and Wicca that meets at 7 PM in Concord on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. July's meetings will be held on the 11th and 25th. Meet with other like-minded people on pagan paths to share ideas, opinions, information, and ask questions. This is a great place for people new or old to pagan ways to meet and learn from each other. For more information, contact Elayne amethystrose@juno.com, or call 925-676-8560

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.

BAPA sponsors Gaia's Gateway, an open public ritual featuring a different Pagan tradition each month. This month's Gateway will be held on July 29th from 6 - 9 PM at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church located at 505 E. Charleston Rd. Magna Secht, an eclectic Wiccan group, will be hosting the ritual. Call 408-559-GAIA for more information or <http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html>

Join Mara Freeman for The Feast of Lughnasa: A One-Day Workshop on the Celtic Harvest Festival on Sunday, July 29, from 10AM - 5.30PM at Lotus Heart Center, 530 Sunlit Lane, in Santa Cruz. The great Lughnasa gatherings of the Celts celebrated both the first fruits of the land and the "ripened" talents of human society. On the spiritual level, we can ask ourselves: What wisdom we have garnered so far this year? What will be the harvest of our souls? In this one-day workshop, you will: Learn all about the gods and goddesses who preside at this sacred time, find out about Lughnasa customs and

traditions of Ireland, Scotland and Wales from ancient to modern times, listen to Celtic myths and legends of the harvest. Special Guest Linda Carol Risso, teacher of sacred arts and illustrator of *Kindling the Celtic Spirit*, will teach a traditional Lughnasa craft. For more information contact 831-644-9393 or 800-694-1957 or events@celticspirit.org

The American Magic Umbanda House will host a Dance and Consultation Ceremony on August 14th at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists beginning at 7:15 PM. Ceremony begins promptly at 8:00 PM, lasting until 9:30 PM. This month's dance will be in honor of Iemanjá, Our Mother Ocean. Share the living presence of the African Powers with our community, in faith and charity. Umbanda is always free. For information, contact AMUH-events@yahoo.com

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.

On August 15th, spend an enlightening evening with noted KEST radio psychic and practical mystic, Scout Bartlett, as he talks about "Merging Energies/Sex and Tantra" 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.

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.)

GAIA GRRLS -- Join other young women for a magical retreat in the redwoods this September. Featuring workshops with personal practice and ritual, Gaia Grrls offers a sacred space to renew your relationship with the earth, deepen personal practice, develop your leadership, and other celebrations of self. For more information, call 415-487-0584 or visit www.gaiagrlls.org

Ongoing Events ~~

COMING UP - July 14, August 11, September 8 - 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.fullcircleevents.org/>

A Drumming Circle will be held from 3:30-5:30 PM on the third Sunday of every month in the Patio Room of the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 East Charleston Road. The next gatherings will be on June 17th, July 15th. Participants are asked to pay \$5.00 to cover the cost of room rental. Also, try to bring refreshments to share with the group. For more information, please contact Karissa at karissa@prodigy.net, or call 408-237-5405.

Lavender Dragon in Menlo Park hosts a Women's Book Group on the second Friday of each month from 7:30-9PM. This month's meeting will be held on July 13th. Meet with other women to talk about a book of common interest. Casual, free flowing discussion, about the book we've read and how it relates to our realities. (Receive a 15% discount on the book when you tell us you are buying it for this discussion group.) For more information contact Martha Evans at 650-598-9095 or the bookstore at 650-323-4778 or <http://www.lavenderdragon.com/>

Hearthstone hosts a Belly Dancing Circle on the second Saturday of each month, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in San Jose. This month's circle will be held on July 14th. This is not a class, but men and women of all shapes and sizes are definitely welcome to participate, and no experience is necessary! For more information, please contact 408-446-0590, Email at molly@the-compass-group.org or visit <http://www.The-Compass-Group.org/hearthstone/>

On June 27th, July 11th and 25th, The Sacred Grove will host "Linking Circles". This will be a space for all groups to meet and organize, and shall not be a recruiting platform controlled by any one group. Meet in a safe and comfortable environment where solitaires can meet groups, groups can meet groups and solitaires can meet solitaires at 924 Soquel Ave in Santa Cruz. Contact Sacred Grove for more information at 831-423-1949 or sacredgrove@onebox.com

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

If you notice inaccuracies in this list, please notify ScoutGhst@aol.com.
BAPA networking coordinator.

Note: *If you notice any errors in the information printed here, please direct your corrections to nevawrites@home.com or to BAPA at P. O. Box 4159, Mountain View, CA. 94040*

Second note: Ongoing Events are published as space allows. Ed.