

World's Dullest Pagan Newsletter

February 2000: Imbolc

A new President steps forward...

It is funny, sometimes, what shows up around the next corner in life's twisty roads. Almost a year ago I was asked by the then residing President of Bay Area Pagan Assemblies, BAPA, to accept the nomination for the Presidency, as his term of office was, shall we say, coming to a conclusion. My reaction at the time was a "You've got to be kidding!" stare of disbelief.

President of BAPA, who me? Hey, I was just a spiritual seeker trying to find his way through all the facades of this world to what I find to be TRUTH. I wasn't out to be a "politician" of any sort.

Well, I became more involved after I saw a great idea called BAPA start to flounder in political mire. I saw a place that had been a portal to many in the Pagan community coming to a dismal end with the direction things were taking. I wanted to help retain a place that Pagan seekers could:

- Go to find out about the varying paths of Paganism
- Have a safe environment for these seekers to come be a part of the growing Pagan community

I wanted to help this same community in some way, and give back the gift of friendship that it had shown me.

Since that day, I have found myself residing on the Board of BAPA and elected President out of necessity. I have also found

BAPA Officers

President: David C. Fletcher
Vice President: Yvonne Knebel
Secretary: Lisa Pederson
Treasurer: Muriel
Board Chair: Woody Smith

BAPA Volunteers

Network Coord.: Deborah Snavely
Gateway Coord.: Meredith Angwin
Oak Moon Coord.: Woody Smith
Comm. & Library: Mark Iennaco
WDPN Editor: K.C. Anton



***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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[http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/
bapa.html](http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html)

very strong feelings on what it means to be President.

First of all, it is a great honor to have the respect of your community peers to elicit such trust.

Secondly, I feel that being President isn't a place of power, but of service to those who elect you.

And thirdly, I believe that the governing body of BAPA is its mem-

bers, led by the Board of Directors.

My duty as President is to:

- Uphold the bylaws
- Serve the membership and Board
- Be a figurehead for the BAPA community
- And to continue helping keep the door open to this place called BAPA, so that we all have a place to be proud and Pagan

I have agreed to help serve the Bay Area Pagan Assemblies *until Beltane*. I thank those who trust me to hold this office, and I promise to do it with honor. I only ask that if I trip over the doorstep of this portal, that you help pick me up and dust me off. May the Higher Powers bless our community. Blessed Be!

David C. Fletcher
a.k.a.: Blue Moondancer
President, BAPA

NOTE: If you would like to save a tree and postage and receive the newsletter via email, drop a note to roger_s47@yahoo.com Or view it on our website.

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A New Vice President has walked in also

Hi Everyone,

My name is Yvonne Knebel and I am signing on as Vice President of BAPA. How this happened is actually pretty interesting, but suffice it to say that I was talked into it by a friend.

I currently live in Oakland, but I used to live in the South Bay, ten years ago now. At that time I was part of Waxing Moon and South Bay Circles so you might remember me from that. I have been in the craft for fifteen years now. I've practiced eclectic Wicca, Gardnerian, Norse, Greek, and a smattering of Yoruba. I am now a Feri tradition initiate and that is my main practice although I still dabble with other traditions.

Educationally, I have a Master's degree from the California Institute of Integral Studies in East-West Psychology with a specialization in Ecological Psychology. This last term means the relationship between people and nature, a topic good for a pagan to study I thought. I am now in the process of looking for work at an environmental non-profit organization. I am also looking for an inexpensive dependable car if you have any leads. I love Saturns. I look forward to contributing to BAPA also meeting and working with all of you. Blessed Be.

Yvonne

Who Are BAPA's Volunteers?

BAPA is a community created to get information about Paganism out to the general masses and to practicing Pagans. This means we try to have some thing for everyone, which can be a daunting task. Some pessimists have modernly modified Socrates' quote, saying "Try to please all the people all the time? Yeah, right." But guess what, BAPA has been doing just that going into our 11th year now.

Here are some of the large volunteer areas BAPA has which you can be or help with:

Gateway Coordinator

Meredith Angwin starts this year by breaking a BAPA record! She is the first remembered Gateway Coordinator to start the year by having nearly all the Gateways prescheduled. She is needing to leave this position soon though, so anyone desiring the position has a fabulous head start on the big part of the job: finding presenters. Other duties include finding new groups or individuals to present various spirituality forms or classes, maintaining contact with them, scheduling the space being used for the Gateway, and passing the schedule on to those who need it.

Network Coordinator

Deborah Snavely has been answering the GAIA line and e-mail contact for BAPA. She is also the voice of BAPA on the GAIA line, updating it with current activities. She is also in need

of handing this activity over to someone come Spring time. This is a wonderful means to learn more about all of the activities and groups in the Bay area and nation-wide if you are starting out in Paganism or want to extend your knowledge of it.

Oak Moon Group Coordinator

Oak Moon Group is just that, a group which was formed from a need for people to learn more about Pagan practice. Woody Smith is the contact, but leadership is actually done via a 6week rotational "board" positions and a "High Priestess & Priest" who move the group to studies and spiritual activities (dare I say circles) which the group desires to pursue.

This group is for those with little solitary or group training while learning about all the choices within Paganism. This is not a Tradition, nor a coven. It is a guided eclectic group experimenting together.

Librarian

Mark Iennaco has been trundling the BAPA Library to Gateways as it was handed down to him by his predecessors in a time-honored tradition, as only Pagans are able too. He maintains the collection of books, tapes, tarot cards, and such at his place (which are viewable there also). The library is a great way to recycle those pagan resources in your abode which you know want to be re-loved by others.

Electric Communication Coordinator (ECC)

Mark Iennaco has taken on this task also where the idea is to have communication between the various activities of BAPA, especially the newsletter, the website, and the GAIA line. Thus these activities all know what is going on, what needs to go on, and what is not going on as the external contacts of BAPA.

Newsletter Editor

I, K.C. Anton, have been the WDPN editor for a year now. This activity is to pass on to the membership all that is going on within BAPA and its surrounding community. This can be tricky at times, but very enjoyable. Keeping up with calendar activities via contact the Network coord., Gateway coord., stores, and groups. Then contacting folks which are appropriate to be heard from within BAPA. (This includes convincing some people that they *need* to be heard from at times.) President, the Board, new officers, and members.

Website Coordinator

Jordan Avon is creating, testing, and presenting the current BAPA website. The website compiles much of the information of the activities mentioned earlier. Here you can go on the world wide web and see BAPA's mission statement, activities, new member information, newsletters, talk to us via e-mail, we are also looking at linking BAPA to other Pagan groups via this means.

The Board of Directors

This is a group of individuals who I believe each felt strong enough about the need for BAPA's Pagan community activity, that they stepped in where others feared to tread.

They are rediscovering and affirming what BAPA is and wants to be whenever they hold their open meetings. These are the people creating the BAPA mind to go with its heart, soul, and body which is the membership. You know how hard it is to make up your own mind; try helping nearly 80 individual Pagans do it.

Ritual Requests

BAPA is made up of many spiritual traditions, groups, and individuals. Talking about ritual with such a diverse group can become very complicated quite quickly. I am going to give it a try, though, because at nearly any given public circle I overhear comments like this:

"That was a great ritual! Too bad I can't do it at home."

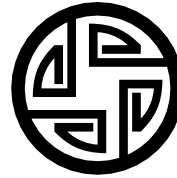
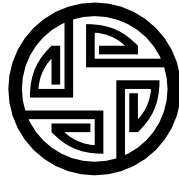
"That felt wonderful. What just happened?"

"I understood the woman with the sea shell and the guy with the sword...Who was the guy with the chocolate cake? (The caterer) Oh."

The point is to connect

A key idea to most Pagan religions, though not all, is seasonal changes. If you want to keep up with a ritual, make your own, or improve upon one, a starting point is to realize what is going on in the current season.

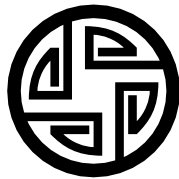
Mythically, geographically, environmentally, and socially are all ways we use to place ourselves in our timeline of the present. These factors may be used, knowingly or not, in ritual. These factors change with the seasons, and help you to realize and personalize your rituals. We get so caught up in *making* ritual, or doing it right, that we forget the point sometimes. The point is to connect. Connecting to yourself, each other, nature, deity, the all. These connections may be experienced through seasons at any level of ritual ability and knowledge. Plus, realizing this often helps in enjoying and understanding the ritual.



Tribute Gifts

In recognition of
Jean Pakozdi
for her contributions to the
community

In Memory of
Doreen Valiente



BAPA Basics

Regular activities are held at PAUUC unless mentioned otherwise.

Church Directions

The Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church (PAUUC) 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 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.

The January Gateway will be a Faery Tradition circle. February will be a Shamanic Journey via drumming. March will be Owl Blossom of Lavender Dragon. April will be an English Tradition Beltain by Daoine Sidhe Coven.

BAPA's Drumming Circle is no longer meeting due to lack of interest and leadership. If you wish to recreate this group, contact the GAIA Line, 408-559-4242.

Clan of Oak Moon is a BAPA-partnered eclectic teaching group. Meetings are every second and fourth Thursday of the month at PAUUC. The meetings are for teaching and then circling on the respective nights.

BAPA Network Services

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

Athena's Archives

BAPA Library

The Library is a lending and exchange library, therefore any material such as books, videos, cassettes, or tarot decks circulate, with the inventory being mutable over time. The Library includes:

- Beginner Wicca
- Pagan Traditions
- Psychology
- Tarot & Divination
- Pagan-friendly fiction
- Women's studies
- Miscellaneous

BAPA Book Club

In conjunction with *Clan of Oak Moon*, the Pagan Book Club meets monthly at San Jose Metaphysical Book Shop every second Wednesday monthly, to discuss a specific book to aid in your Pagan education. To discover the current book and discounts on the book of the active month, contact San Jose Metaphysical Book Shop, 408-446-0590.

BAPA Needs

Officer and volunteer positions are needing replacements for the future: our next President, Network Coordinator, and Gateway Coordinator. Call the Gaia line to request more information about any of these positions.

Practical Pagan Tips

Don't get burned

When you graduate past stick incense, you can choose from many lovely incense burners. Most incense burners are metal; they get hot with charcoal in them. First tip, half-fill the burner with sand, to insulate between the metal and the charcoal. Second tip, keep a trivet on the altar to set the burner on. Third tip, keep a pot-holder handy. Fourth tip, use a small pair of tongs or tweezers if you have to move the bricket. Finally, for fire safety we do have sand and water on the alter, but you may wish to save these and use an extinguisher in emergencies.

An Imbolc Recipe: Atholbrose

This Scots equivalent of egg-nog, is perfectly suited to Imbolc rituals of multiple spiritualities. Tastes good with or without liquid spirits added.

Ingredients:

- One pint whipping cream
- One pint oat water
- One cup honey
- Single malt whiskey optional

To make oat water, put 2 cups rolled oats into 2 1/2 cups spring water. Let it stand over night. Then strain out the oats and measure out the thickest 2 cups of the oat water. Add honey and stir until completely dissolved. Mix with whipping cream and serve chilled or *chambred*.

Caution: This is highly addictive and very rich.

NOTE: A non-dairy version can be made by using twice as much oat water and no whipping cream.

Chronos' Calendar

BAPA in no way endorses or represents any of the listed groups. Opinions expressed by these groups are those of the groups and do not represent the views of BAPA or its representatives.

All groups have on-going community activities which are semi-fixed as they rotate through the seasonal and calendric year. Many of these groups do numerous things under various names and guises, too many to list all of the information here. When contacting them, request all of their information. You may be well rewarded.

"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 (*new #*)
- (NROOGD) New Reformed Order of the Golden Dawn: in Berkley 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
- (RWC) Redwood Circles: In Santa Cruz call 831-335-1501 or <http://www.5-points.com/RWC/>.
- (SBC) South Bay Circles: In Palo Alto contact Bianca at 408-265-5180.
- (WWC) Wyrd Weavers Collective: In Campbell/Los Gatos at "The Nexus;" use the web at <http://www.primeval.com/wwc.html> or wyrd-weavers@primeval.com

Businesses

- (13) "13" Book Store: In Santa Cruz, 831-425-1313
<http://www.13realmagick.com>
- (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.
- (PE) Psychic Eye Book Store: Mountain View, San Francisco
- (SJ) San Jose Metaphysical Book Store: In San Jose call 408-446-0590.

Local Activity Key (loose definitions)

- Sabbats ☼ *Solar agrarian and hunter/gatherer seasonal cycle religious celebrations or calendric chosen times to worship in a Pagan manner.*
- Circles ☉ *Moon phases, solar phases or calendric chosen times are when these groups meet to practice religious and magical ritual.*
- Classes ≡ *Groups which gather to study, lead, and learn about Pagan community or individual traditions or ritual practice. Usually calendric chosen times are when these groups meet.*
- Socials/Networking *Groups collecting together for conversation and company or discovering those with like interests. All are open to the public. Spiritual or ritual gathering is possible but not implied.*
- Gatherings ☼ *Large group functions where many activities (circles, classes, socials) are enjoyed for a day or longer.*

"Pebbles in Time" — Moments Offered by the "Standing Stones"

January

- 27 (BAPA) Oak Moon ☉☼
- 30 (BAPA) Gateway Imbolc ☼☉☼
- 30 (RWC) Brigid ☼☉☼

February

- 1 Imbolc/Brigid ☼
- 1 (13) Wicca Class (3 of 5) ≡☉
- 2 (SJ) Quantum Healing ≡☼
- 4 (BAPA) Oak Moon Imbolc ☼☉☼
- 5 (Nroogd) Imbolc ☼☉☼
- 8 (13) Wicca Class (4 of 5) ≡☉
- 9 (SJ) Pagan Book Club - vide a Full Circle ≡☼

- 10 (BAPA) Oak Moon Class ≡☼
- 10 (SJ) Present Time (1 of 6) ≡
- 11 (RWC) Gateway Grove ☉☼
- 13 (RWC) Mojo Walk ☼
- 15 (13) Wicca Class (5 of 5) ≡☉
- 18- (AW) PantheaCon ☼☉≡☼
- 21 (AW) PantheaCon ☼☉≡☼
- 23 (SJ) Healing with Color ≡☼
- 24 (BAPA) Oak Moon ☉☼
- 27 (BAPA) Gateway ☉☼

March

- 1 (SJ) Drumming ≡☼☉
- 8 (SJ) Pagan Book Club ≡☼
- 9 (BAPA) Oak Moon Class ≡☼

- 10 (RWC) Gateway Grove ☉☼
- 12 (Nroogd) Initiate's Tea ☼
- 22 (SJ) REgenesis (healing) ≡
- 23 (BAPA) Oak Moon ☉☼
- 19 (Nroogd) Ostara ☼☉☼
- 20 Oestara ☼
- 25 (Ph) 3rd Annual Elf Hill ☼☼☉☼
- 26 (BAPA) Gateway ☉☼
- 29 (SJ) Santaria Workshop ≡☉

April

- 13 (BAPA) Oak Moon Class ≡☼
- 10 (RWC) Gateway Grove ☉☼
- 27 (BAPA) Oak Moon ☉☼
- 30 (BAPA) Gateway Beltain ☼☉☼

W D P N

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