

The  
**BAPAN**  
Samhain 2000

Bay Area Pagan Activities and News  
*formerly the World's Dullest Pagan Newsletter*

***The President's Pleasure***

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!!!

Merry meet folks! The wheel of the year is about to turn, in most of our Pagan traditions, with the new year we call Samhain. This is a time of reflection for what we have reaped throughout the year and for giving thanks to our Higher Powers for all that we have in life, love and friendship. It is time for being with family and contemplating our needs for the year to come. We, at BAPA, are also giving thanks for our family, the members of the BAPA community. It is our wonderful membership that allows the Bay Area Pagan Assemblies to exist as a non-profit organization, through your membership dues and donations. Recently, our "Mail Witch" has sent out membership renewals to those members whose membership is nearing expiration or already expired. Your continued support as a member of BAPA is integral to continuing BAPA as an organization that serves the Pagan community in the Bay Area. We need your help! BAPA asks that you renew your membership by filling out the renewal form and mailing it in along with your membership dues. Remember your membership supports the activities and functions that allow for outreach in the Pagan community, such as Gaia's Gateway, our monthly open circle at the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church, as well as other festival events, craft fairs, and educational provisions such as our lending library. Your continued membership provides a community in which you, and others coming into our community, have a place to be Pagan. Please renew your membership, and help keep BAPA going!

The last couple of months have been great for BAPA. The BAPA booth at the "Tapestry In Talent Festival" was

a great success! The last two Gaia's Gateways featured wonderful presentations by "Bridget's Weaving" and "Coire ap Sidhe". BAPA thanks both circles for allowing us the opportunity to enjoy ritual with them at the August and September Gateways (especially those that were able to be a part of both rituals!). The Witches' Ball at the Lucy Stern Center in Palo Alto was a well attended event. This event was put on by Full Circle Events with BAPA sponsorship. BAPA had an information table there and we hope most of our membership was able to attend this wonderful event which allowed us to be our witchiest!

Have a wonderful Samhain everyone. And, don't forget to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Bright Blessings,

David "Blue" Fletcher  
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.***

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*Editor's Note: If you would like to save a tree and postage and receive the newsletter via email, drop a note to [BapaMailing@yahoo.com](mailto: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 [nevawrites@bigfoot.com](mailto:nevawrites@bigfoot.com)*

**Submission Deadline:**  
**Submission and calendar deadline for the Yule BAPAN is December 10, 2000. Calendar items should include events through February 2001.**

**BAPA Officers:**  
 President, David C. Fletcher  
 Vice President: Yvonne Knebel  
 Secretary: Lisa Pederson  
 Treasurer: Walt Main  
 Board Chair: Roger Schuelke

**BAPA Volunteers:**  
 Network Coord: Yvonne Knebel  
 Gateway Coord: El Ystradyfodwg, "Mr.Y"  
 Comm. Coord: Jim McCann  
 Library: Mark Iennaco  
 Web Master: Jordan Avon  
 BAPAN Editor: Neva Schuelke

**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:**

**November 2000**  
 Molly from Hearthstone, a seasonally appropriate Wiccan ritual

**December 2000**  
*No Gateway.*

**January 2001**  
 The Sophianic Order with Argante Comyn, a Sophianic Fire Cleansing

❖❖❖  
*In my house, we set up a family altar, with the pictures of our Beloved Dead on it, appropriate artifacts, sugar skulls from Mexico for El Dia de los Muertos, skeleton figures, and offerings of apples and pomegranates.*  
 - Starhawk, *Spiral Dance*  
 ❖❖❖

**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>

### Editorial Illuminations

As I prepare this newsletter to go to press (a figurative statement, since this one actually comes via laser printer and a copying shop), there are more changes in the offing for BAPA and possibly for the BAPAN. New ideas keep coming, people move on to new pursuits, and I must adapt. But Samhain is the end of the Wiccan year, the beginning of a new cycle, and it is a fitting time for such changes.

My hope is that more of the BAPA membership will come forward in this new year with ideas and energy to implement them, so that the organization can continue to be a blessing to the pagan community.

My personal challenge falls into the realm of stretching myself, taking new risks, and allowing myself to have new experiences. I have all kinds of excuses for staying safe and doing less than I know I am capable of. With the closing of this cycle and the coming renewal in the dark time, I am being asked, no, *commanded* by the Goddess to explore new territory. I am adding to the fullness of my experience as a pagan, and I hope that will be reflected in these pages.

I have asked many times for submissions by members to this newsletter, and I am doing so once again. I would love to have essays, poems, book reviews, even pagan humor, which will add flavor and diversity to our seasonal celebrations.

At Samhain we are in a time of transformation, the God passes through the realm of the Dark Goddess to be born once again from the womb of the Great Mother. May your passage into the dark time bring you peace, joy, and new life.

With Her blessings,

Neva Schuelke  
Editor, The BAPAN

### Letter From the Chair

Greetings and Happy New Year. Samhain is the beginning of the new year for many of us and the time between

Samhain and Yule is a time for reflection. This last year has been a time of "house cleaning" for BAPA. The Board reviewed the bylaws and presented some changes. The primary change provides that the bylaws can only be modified with the approval of the membership. The BAPA literature was reviewed and updated. Literature is provided at BAPA information tables and to those who write to the BAPA PO box. BAPA staffed an information table at Tapestry in Talent. The last news letter included numerous anecdotes from those that were at the table. BAPA also had an information table at the recent Full Circle Event's "Witches' Ball". And finally, the membership has grown by a few new members.

Samhain is also the end of the membership year. If you became a member of BAPA prior to this last year, you should have received a renewal form in the mail. BAPA has many small reoccurring expenses that are only covered by your membership dues. One is this wonderful and information filled newsletter (postage and copying expenses) and if you don't renew you won't be receiving it again. So please return the form and your renewal dues as soon as possible.

Now I would like to thank you for your support this past year and, as the Wheel turns, may your new year be joyful and blessing filled.

Roger Schuelke  
Board Chair

### 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.

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*And it harms none, do what you will.*  
- Witches' Rede

★★★

*This is the Great Mystery...  
The partition between the Hallowed (Holy) afterlife and what is material incarnate life disappears at midnight on All Hallows Eve, and because the partition vanishes, all becomes Hallows - the whole world becomes holy for an instant.*  
- Ann Moura, *Green Witchcraft III*, p.160

*The Greymalkin Gazette*, a Pagan and magickal publication which comes out eight times per year, is soliciting good original material, poetry, articles from 300 to just under 1000 words, and short-short fiction in the same length range as the articles. Since we operate on a broken shoestring budget, the only payment will be our gratitude and a copy of the issue in which the piece appears.

If you send the piece by email, please have it be the body of the email. I will also need your snailmail address so that I can send you your copy of the issue.

My email addy is: [tezra@earthlink.net](mailto:tezra@earthlink.net)

If you want to send hard copy by snailmail my address is

*The Greymalkin Gazette*  
P.O. Box 6775  
San Jose, 95150-6775

*Drawing Down the Moon*, an action-adventure flick, starring Walter Koenig of Star Trek and Babylon 5 fame, is now in distribution. Ask for it at your favorite video stores, and if they don't have it yet, tell them it's being distributed by Tapeworm Video Distributors at 661-257-4904. Be sure to tell the store manager that you think it would make a great rental. To order your own copy, here's how: VHS, NTSC \$22.95 plus \$3.50 s/h = \$26.45 (PA \$28.04)  
1-800-606-9642

<http://www.drawingdownthemoon.com/ecommerce/purchase.html>  
Chaos Entertainment  
220 N. Second Street  
Sunbury, PA 17801

★★★

**"The Goddess is Alive!"**

Just a reminder to save your fall Tuesday nights for the Goddess is Alive! series in Oakland. You are invited to join us for the sixth season of an extraordinary series of classes, as we share with you the newest research, art, dance, poetry and projects which honor the Sacred Feminine around the world.

**October 31st-** Katarzyna Rolzinski, Ph.D.- "*Bringing Mother Home*"

**November 7th-** Election Day- No Goddess is Alive!

**November 14th-** Lenore Friedman and Susan Moon "*Being Bodies: Buddhist Women on the Paradox of Embodiment*"

**November 21st.** Caroline Brandy "*The Sacred Drum*"

Tuesdays, 7:00 ^ 9:30 PM

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Center  
1650 Mountain Blvd.

Oakland, California

Sponsored by Serpentina

\$20 Regular admission, \$15 students.

No one turned away for lack of funds.

For more information see

[www.serpentina.com](http://www.serpentina.com) or call 650-325-2761

The new *Talisman Newsletter* has been posted to the Redwood Circles website. The invitation URL for the upcoming Samhain ritual is...

<http://www.5-points.com/RWC/Oct-Dec2000/Samhain2K/samhain2k.html>

✓ Don't forget to register:

**Pantheacon 2001**

February 16-19, 2001

**Cathedral Hill Hotel**

**San Francisco, CA.**

Admission \$60 (until 1/15/01), \$70 at the door

contact Ancient Ways

[www.ancientways.com](http://www.ancientways.com)

## ***“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  
(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

### 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](http://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

## ***Chronos Calendar***

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### **November**

- 3 - (SJ)**Practicing the Presence of the Goddess** with Barbara Ardinger 7:30-9:30  
PM *Mini Workshop and Book Signing with the Author of “Goddess Meditations” -  
Explore How the Presence of the Goddess Manifests in Our Everyday Lives - Shares Ways  
We Stay Centered on Her While Washing Dishes, Sitting at Our Computer Screen, Trying  
to Stay Sane on the Freeway - \$15*
- 8 - (SJ)**The Pagan Path: Basics of Wicca** with Mark Cook, Michael Dilts & Lady  
Sharon  
7:30-9:30 PM *Discussion Series Exploring Topics of Interest to Those on the Pagan Path -  
\$15*
- 15 - (SJ)**Life Insights** with Scout Bartlett 7:30-9:30 PM *Topic to Be Announced - \$15*
- 17 - **Lecture and Book Signing** with Raven Grimassi 7:30-9:30 PM *Noted Author of  
“Wiccan Magick,” “Wiccan Mysteries,” “Hereditary Witchcraft” Will Introduce His Recently  
Published “Encyclopedia of Wicca & Witchcraft” - \$15*

## December

**1** - Phases is hosting their fifth annual Medieval Manor Yule Feast in San Francisco. Come and give thanks for the Earth's sustenance and bid for a gentle passing of the sleeping time of the Earth. There will be dancers and entertainment to pass the winter evening away, and a feast like the days of old. Contact Phases at 415-468-9664 or [www.phases.org](http://www.phases.org).

**2** - **Yuletide Crafts Faire** 11 AM - 5 PM *Sign Up Now to Show Your Wares at this Fun Holiday Event - Even If You're Not the Crafty Type, Reserve This Day to Start Your Quest for the Perfect Yule Gift - Takes Place at the Divine Science Center in Willow Glen - FREE ADMISSION - Call San Jose Book Shop at 408-446-0590 For More Information.*

### ***Ongoing Events ~~***

BAPA sponsors Gaia's Gateway, a public 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 the practitioners of the religion presented. Gateways are held on the last Sunday of every month from 6 - 9 PM at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church located at 505 E. Charleston Rd. (Except December) Call 408-559-GAIA for more information or <http://www.batnet.com/bapagan/bapa.html>

Wicca classes for women begin every six weeks at Lavender Dragon in Menlo Park. Learn to create sacred space by casting a circle and calling the elemental energies of air, fire, water and earth. Learn to know the Goddess within you. The classes are taught by Owl Blossom, owner of Two Sisters Bookshop, and healer, and teacher who has been practicing witchcraft for 17 years. Call the Bookshop at 650-323-4778 for more information or [www.lavenderdragon.com](http://www.lavenderdragon.com)

There are open Sabbat celebrations in the Bay Area by invitation only. In the Palo Alto area, please contact Bianca of South Bay Circles at 408-265-5180. In the Santa Cruz area, contact Redwood Circles at 831-335-1501 or <http://www.5-points.com/RWC/> And in the San Francisco area, contact Phases at 415-468-5466, or <http://www.phases.org> for upcoming dates and locations, and details on how to obtain an invitation.

Stone Soup Social -- A Pagan Potluck Discussion every third Thursday evening of the month in the El Cerrito area. People may show up at 6:30 if they like, dinner starts at 7. Moderated discussion until 9 PM, followed by social time until 11. The discussion topics will be suggested and agreed upon each time by those participating. A donation of \$2-5 is requested, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For information, call 408-559-8580 or Email:StoneSoupSocial-subscribe@onelist.com <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/StoneSoupSocial>

Dragon Dream offers ongoing workshops, monthly circle gatherings and astrology classes for women. Call 415-820-1500 for more information or visit [www.dragondream.com](http://www.dragondream.com)

A Women's Healing Circle is held every second Sunday in San Francisco. Guided meditation, chanting, toning and drumming are used to call in the spirit healers to assist women in need of healing. Contact Lupa at 510-601-1428 or Nancy at 510-839-5292 for more information. "All healing is self-healing."

Moon~Ways offers classes, workshops and full moon circles to women in San Francisco. Call 510-601-1428 for event updates and information.

"Creativi-tea" art and tea parties for women are hosted in North Oakland on a TBA basis. Projects such as candle making and magic fairy wands are created while sipping tea and nibbling cookies. Call 415-601-2488 for information and registration.

Fellowship of the Spiral Path (SPIRAL) offers ongoing classes and teaching circles, open rituals and clergy services in the Berkeley area. Phone Diana at 510-658-6033 for information.

New Reformed Orthodox Order of the Golden Dawn (NROOGD) holds open sabbat celebrations in the San Francisco and East Bay. Contact <http://www.nroogd.org/> for more information.

Sabbat celebrations and classes are being offered by Reclaiming in San Francisco, Marin County and Sebastopol. Call their events line at 415-339-8150 for more information.

The 3rd Road is a school of Celtic shamanism and center for spiritual healing, founded by Franchesca De Grandis. Classes and workshops and long term shamanic training are available. Call 415-750-1205 or contact <http://www.well.com/user/zthirdrd/francescadbrchr.html>

Monthly open circles for families with young children are being offered by Scarlet Cord in the East Bay area. Call Mary at 510-526-1008 for more information.

Seekers' Lunch meets weekly at Hobe's in Palo Alto. Curious, new to the Craft, or Pagans new to the area are welcome to gather on Tuesdays, 12:30 to 2:00 at 4224 El Camino Real. Ask the hostess for the "duck people". Call 650-813-1816 for information. Reservations not required.

Rainbow Path, a group of three holiday-based Dianic circles, meets monthly in the East Bay. The Circles are Persephone's Journey (for girls and boys age 8 and up), Demeter's Quest (women only), and Pomegranate Circle (lesbians). Contact Margaret at 510-525-7184 for information.

There are two CUUPS chapters established in the Bay Area. Official contact information is: Pagan Interest Group (San Francisco) Meets every Sunday morning and full moons at First Unitarian Society in San Francisco. For info contact Sally Amsbury, at (510) 595-1341 or email [sally@lionslair.com](mailto:sally@lionslair.com), or write to FUS at 1446 46th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122-2903, church phone (415) 242-1608.

Circle of Heart's Delight (San Jose) Meets at First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 N. 3rd St. For more information contact Jo Balzer at (408) 274-6288, or email [sestes@scu.edu](mailto:sestes@scu.edu)

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@bigfoot.com](mailto:nevawrites@bigfoot.com)**