

Magickal Musings

Volume 2, Issue 2

July 3, 2014

The Midwest Pagan Council:

- First Temple of the Craft of W.I.C.A.
- Phoenix Rising
- Sanctuary of the Healers' Heart
- Solitaries

Newsletter Editors:

- Lizzy
- Dori
- Kristi

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Contest! Contest! Contest!

You didn't think that we'd forgotten did you? This year though, the contest is going to work a little differently.

There's no short answer, no questions. This contest is a little more hands on, and will be judged not by the council but by our wonderful attendees at Pan Pagan Festival and the winner will be announced at Feast on Saturday.

Naturally, because those at Pan will be the ones determining the winner we won't be offering a registration. This year, the prize will be \$10 Merchant Dollars to spend on Vendor's row.

Yes, that means you need to attend the festival in order to claim your prize.

The contest this year is based on our theme: **Bringing Old and New Together.**

The terms?

It's pretty simple. We want you to go out and take a picture of what this theme means to you. What do you see as old and new, and how do you bring them together? Show them to us.

After you've taken that picture, send it to the MPC at midwestpagancouncil@gmail.com (preferably as a jpeg or png, no tiff files)

It is limited to one entry per person. The deadline for the photographs to be in to us is July 20, 2014. Submissions will be printed out and posted in the registration tent for all to view and vote on.

Now. You may be asking, what if I don't do well with a camera. Is it strictly limited to photographs?

No. If photography isn't your craft and you'd like to do a more 3-dimensional craft from knitting

to sculpting or woodwork you can do that.

Just please keep in mind that there's limited space in registration (not too big). And note that you will have to bring that with you when you come to the festival.

The council will only be taking the photograph submissions ahead of time. Though, an email with a note to us so we know you'll be bringing something, and maybe a photograph of your work before you show up would be nice.



Have you Registered Yet?

As we get closer and closer to the festival, the Council just has one question for you. Have you pre-registered yet?

For those that might have missed it, our pre-registration closes July 10, 2014. This means that your paypal transaction needs to be posted by that

date or the envelope you mail your check in has to be stamped by the post office by this date.

And if you aren't sure if you'll be able to get the time off from work just yet? We have a fix for you too. With our **Hold My Space** plan all you have to do is send us \$5 per person,

with each name on the form. When you get to the fest all you'll need to pay is the pre-registration price instead of the full on-site price.

So don't wait! Get your registration in today!

Pagan Community and the 22nd Annual Pagan Picnic in St. Louis, Missouri by Taz Chance

Like the preceding 21 years, this year's Pagan Picnic was amazing. In this two-day event, they held four rituals all representing a different perspective and a different path.

They also held at least 20 workshops that spanned the Pagan spectrum. There were workshops that included topics like Altered State of Darkness – The Shamanic Herbs and Methodology, Basic Introduction to Crystal Healing, Breathlife Conscious Touch for Couples, Gender, Sex, and Magick, Growing in Community: Listening from the Heart, Leading Rituals: Chanting, Trancing, Raising Energy, and many more¹. They also had a great line up of entertainment²,

including the main guest stars Tutha Dea³. Included in the amazing programming, from workshops, rituals and entertainment, is one of the largest collection of Pagan vendors in the mid- West.

This year there were well over 50 vendors selling wares representing paths from Wicca to Hoodon as well as supplies from stones to clothing. Moreover, all of this diversity exists with peace, harmony and

acceptance as the Pagan populace converges in Tower Grove Park, every year to share, and learn from each other.



¹ [Workshops](#)
² [Programing](#)
³ [Tutha Dea](#)

Book Review by Dori

Celtic Moon
by Jan DeLima,
Ace Books, New York, 2013

If you enjoy werewolf stories with a mix of mythology, especially Celtic mythology, I think you'll enjoy this new series. This first book in the series is the tale of a women who while attending college is swept off her feet by someone who is much older than he looks and enters a world she never thought possible. As is with the young and idealistic, she makes a choice which will keep her in

hiding and on the move for over fifteen years.

The story is set in the sparsely populated area of Maine and gives an interesting insight into the myths surrounding the Celtic Goddess, Cerridwen and Talisen.

The main characters and side characters are very believable and will most likely lead to addi-

tional interesting tales which will unfold in the following books.

What I enjoy most is the fact that the characters make choices that show that they can grow and change as necessary for their life to continue on an upward spiral of growth. I am looking forward to reading the second book.

“Taliesen has powers beyond ours. I don't know how he sees what he does, but I believe his warning is real.”

Recipe Hour with Michelle B.

Fruit Pizza

The crust for this pizza is a sugar cookie. You can use your favorite sugar cookie recipe or a roll of the refrigerator kind. This is the one I use:

1C unsalted butter, 1 1/2 C granulated sugar, 1 egg, 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract, 1/2 tsp almond extract, 2

3/4 C flour. 1 tsp salt

- * Cream the butter and sugar until fluffy.
- * Beat in the egg and extracts.
- * Mix in the flour and salt
- * Press into a large greased pizza pan or cookie sheet.
- * Bake at 400F for 8-12 minutes
- * Cool completely

- * Blend one package of cream cheese with 1 Tbsp granulated sugar and 1 tsp vanilla extract.
- * Spread onto the cooled cookie.
- * Top with your favorite fruits

We prefer berries and mandarin oranges on ours.

Joining the Council by Dori

The Midwest Pagan Council has been in existence since the early 1970s. It was established in order to let Pagan/Wiccan Groups gather with like-minded people in a safe environment to commune with the Lady and the Lord, nature and each other. As its name implies, it is a Council of Covens, Temples, Churches and individuals in the Midwestern United States who work together to put on events for the Pagan/Wiccan community.

At this time, the Council is looking for groups and/or individuals who are willing to help continue this work – for it is work – to put on events for the community. Pan Pagan Festival, Invocation, and PPF-Nic are/were all sponsored by the Council.

Most of you know the Pan Pagan Festival, but did you know that it is one of the longest, continuous running pagan festival the United States? It has seen high attendance

in its early years when it was one of the few festivals in the country, and it has seen a decline in attendance as more festivals have appeared across the country. But, it has stayed true to its original purpose of being a place where children and adults of all ages can work and learn together, and grow in the knowledge of the Lord and the Lady, nature and most important, each other. It is meant as a spiritual retreat where one can revitalize ones spirit and strengthen ones purpose.

The Council from its inception, knew that people are pulled in many directions and do not always have enough time for everything they would like to do. Therefore, three types of memberships were set up for both groups and individuals. Active Memberships are for those who are close enough to work in putting on pagan events in the Midwestern area and can attend

4 meetings a year. (Close is a somewhat relative term with computers now.) Associate Memberships are for those who have attended at least one Council event and wish to work directly with the Council but cannot attend meetings. And last, but not least, Supportive Memberships are for those who regard the Council as a positive entity and who wish to support by advertising Council events, write articles for the newsletter, or give a workshop at an event. – A number of you could be considered Supportive Members in absentia.

If you would like more information about becoming a member for the MPC please e-mail midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com

Thank you all for your support.

I 3th Annual Mid-Missouri Pagan Pride by Taz Chance

Mid-Missouri Pagan Pride Day Columbia, Missouri coincides with hundreds of Pagan Pride festivals around the globe that take place to celebrate the diverse nature of our faiths and to embrace acceptance and education for all. This year Mid-Missouri Pagan Pride is sponsoring the festival for education and acceptance on September 07, 2014. Our focus this year will be "Building Community Heart to Hand." We

hope to engage all members of the community in religious diversity discussion. An interaction that is positive, educational, and entertaining.

We have well known Pagan Children Book Author Lyon Martin teaching workshops on writing children's books, we have a certified movement therapist Vic Day, teaching movement and spirituality and much more. We cannot do this without you. We are inviting you to join

us in our celebration of diversity, acceptance, and charity. Every donation is a gift and helps us move toward these goals. For more information contact Taz Chance at midmopaganpride@gmail.com or visit our webpage at <http://www.midmopaganpride.org/>.

PPF unannounced events

As in the past, Pan will have a on-site **CONTEST** following what has been done the past two years. This means that you cannot just sit and look at the program book, you have

to walk around the campground. Please let everyone else do their own work for this. If you were not at Pan the last two year, you will have to read your Program Book!!

The Moonlight shines on the ground below, across the land light winds do blow, carrying the lilt of a magickal horn. Lo, Pan the Goat God is again reborn! — See him at PAN!!

Cultural Appropriation and Wicca

by Taz Chance

There is currently much discussion about the topic of cultural appropriation in society. There are arguments that claim cultural appropriation does not exist¹. There are some peoples, generally from the cultures that we have taken the practices, that argue against the use of their spirituality in our European centered practices². As with all topics, there are also those that are just trying to educate people on the concepts and what it could mean³. Whether we want to admit it or not, cultural appropriation is rampant in our society and in our spiritual practice. For me, the appropriation of spiritual practice is at the least rude and at the most unethical. For many people they may not understand what they are doing is offensive to the people they are “borrowing” the information from, they may not understand the difference between using the influence of something and the appropriation of a culture. The last two articles above do a great job explaining this concept.

Once a person has a grasp on what cultural appropriation is, they need to understand the difference, between being “influenced” by that culture and actually appropriating their religious, ceremonial practices, and spiritual items. In Wicca, we grow, we learn, and we have generally adopted influences from across the globe in our practices, but we should respect where those influences come from. Nevertheless, in doing this, we also need to ask ourselves, would what we are doing be offensive to the original culture that practiced with this ceremony or object? A perfect example of this is the “Sweat Lodge.”

Sweat lodges are found in many forms in cultures around the world have used them as a means of purification. These cultures include Scandinavian, Baltic, Eastern European, Irish, and other Gaelic-Speaking areas. Each culture presents their lodge is specific ways as well as having rules about who can utilize them, who can lead them, and when. Yet for some reason, we, as American Wiccans, (a Gaelic/European based tradition) feel the need to specifically use “Native American” sweat lodges.

We do this without permission, without the proper training and without consideration for the culture from which we took it. In turn, this upsets the Native American tribes for whom this practice is very spiritual. They are offended by our lack of respect for their ways.

We have appropriated many things from different Native American Tribes. Most of the time, without thought to what that particular culture might think about what we are doing, and without training in the use of the items. Some examples of this are feather fetishes used during smudging, using white sage for smudging, medicine wheels, totem animals, and much more. Do you use these items? Do you use them because they speak to you? Do you use them because they are “Native American?” Have you been trained to use of these items? For instance, did you know that the smoke of white sage can be toxic and needs to be only burned with excellent ventilation or outdoors? Separating what is influence and what is appropriation can be difficult.

In my group, we have are heavily influenced by multiple cultures, including specifically Native American cultures. We have also utilized a few of the traditional practices that are specific to the Arawak Peoples of Puerto Rico⁴, The Kickapoo⁵, The Blackfoot⁶, and in general some Cherokee⁷. Most specifically is the concept of giving thanks and honoring our ancestors. There is some evidence that the European indigenous peoples had similar practices, but we do it in a way that is very reminiscent of the teachings we received as children from our families.

You can often use singular episodes of ceremony from other cultures, for a specific purpose, especially if someone in that culture has trained you. My Stepfather, Roger, was a full-blooded Cherokee, who wanted to have the end blessing in the Cherokee fashion when he passed. To fulfill

his wish, I went to a Cherokee Healer, and was taught the blessing away that is traditional for this particular circumstance and I performed the right, with the correct tools for the correct period to fulfill that request. However, I would not advertise that I could do Cherokee Blessing's to the public, because to do that would be to disrespect the intention behind the training of which I was given.

“Although Lakota activists and several traditional leaders have stated that non-Natives should be prohibited from participating in Native American ceremonies, when they outline the complaints against them, it is the ignorance of protocols rather than their ethnicity that is the issue.” (The Appropriation of Native American Spirituality by Suzanne Owen⁸) Take the words of the culture and practices that touch you to heart. Do not make assumptions about whether an action is appropriate, ask. In the end, we have free will to do as we wish, but just because we can, does not mean we should.



Footnotes:

¹ [Argument claiming cultural appropriation does not exist](#)

² [Argument against using their practices](#)

³ [Educate on concepts and meaning](#)

⁴ [The Arawak](#)

⁵ [The Kickapoo](#)

⁶ [The Blackfoot](#)

⁷ [The Cherokee](#)

⁸ [The Appropriation of Native American Spirituality by Suzanne Owen](#)

Planetary Influences for PPF 38 by D. Clark

What will the planets offer us during PPF 38? We asked our favorite astrologer to give us some ideas and here is what she found.

Wednesday morning, the Moon will be sextile Venus and Saturn. This is a good time to meditate and balance your emotions. Prepare to have a pleasant, happy morning with loving feelings and friendly camaraderie.

Thursday morning the Moon is sextile Mercury. This is good time to renew friendships and make new ones. It is also good for attending workshops. In the afternoon the Moon is sextile Jupiter. Merchants prepare for a good day, but it is also time socializing and supporting group activities.

Friday morning Venus is trine Saturn. Go with the flow, and be careful of what you demand of others. Consider your purchases wisely if you don't want to impulse buy. The evening brings the Moon sextile Mercury which will improve communications with others, but be careful Mars squares Jupiter. Do not lose track of your goals or go off on a tangent. Follow the golden rule – Think, then act and watch your

emotions.

In the evening, the Moon is in opposition with Uranus. Beware of being impulsive and try not to leap to conclusions (or over bonfires). Make sure your emotions are under control. You might find it beneficial to walk the Labyrinth.

Saturday evening Mercury conjuncts Jupiter and squares Mars. This is a good night for spiritual discussions and sharing ideas and feelings, but not everyone will understand, avoid verbal confrontations that make some irritable. Dori – be careful there is a tendency to be accident prone.

Sunday morning the Moon squares Jupiter offering positive spiritual feelings and optimism. The Moon also conjuncts Mars and squares Mercury which makes it easy for tempers to flare. Joe – be careful avoid confrontational discussions and the urge to pick a fight. Count to ten, at least 3 times, before speaking. This is a poor time for communication.

As always, individuals experience these aspects differently and your experience may differ from your

neighbors.

Hints for non-astrologers:

Sextile is an aspect formed when planets are two signs apart, i.e. 60 degrees. It is positive harmony between planets that opens up new pathways for growth.

Trine is an aspect formed when planets are three signs apart, i.e. 120 degrees. These are areas of natural grace, support and when things fall into place.

Conjunction is when two planets are in close orb, i.e. within 10 degrees. The energies of both are amplified.

Square is when planets are three signs apart, i.e. 90 degrees. The tension of the square show areas of stress, and often bring obstacles.

Opposition occurs between planets exactly across from each other on the Chart Wheel, i.e. 180 degrees. Planets in opposition will have energetic tension.

Shopping Merchant's Row

At the 38th Annual Pan Pagan Festival will have a wonderful array of shops that festival goers will be able to visit along our Merchant's Row.

Pan Pagan is one of the only festivals in the country that doesn't charge a fee in order for merchant's to set up their wares. The Council has always felt that the merchant's are taking a risk with their wares by putting them out in the elements in order to supply them to the Pagan community that there shouldn't be a cost for doing such.

This year we are happy to have the following merchants pre-registered and coming back to our festival.

The Witch's Closet features capes, robes, and festival wear from recycled and upcycled materials.

Wicked Treasure features hand crafted jewelry inspired by nature using a variety of mediums.

At **Whimsical Kreationz** you'll find handknit and hand crafted gifts and more.

Mystic Beauty Jewelry is where you can find hand cleaned crystals from Arkansas and hand crafted fine gemstone jewelry.

Troll and Fairy Creations is your one stop Pagan shop from smudge fans to wands to runes to wooden camping tables and ritual alters.

Rhiannon's Apothecary supplies incense, oils, ogham & rune sets, herbs, and all things witchy.

Make sure to stop and see all our bright, cheerful vendor's shops.

Ever wondered what the Program Schedule looked like way back when the Pan Pagan Festival was just in it's infancy? Well you don't have to wonder anymore. Here was the schedule for the 2nd Annual Pan Pagan Festival. (Remember folks, we're putting on the 38th Annual Festival this year.)

1977 Pan Pagan Festival
Scheduled Events

Workshop leaders will select their own sites for their workshops. The group will gather at POINT A or POINT B and be led to the selected site by the workshop leader. **WARNING:** If you're late, you may never find the workshop!

Workshop leaders are asked to begin and end their workshops on time.

SEE POSTERS FOR CHANGES, ADDITIONS, NEW INFORMATION, ETC....

MEET AT POINT A FOR THE
WORKSHOPS BELOW

MEET AT POINT B FOR THE
WORKSHOPS BELOW

MYSTERY PLAY WORKSHOP by the Temple of the Pagan Way, Chicago. This workshop will lead to a play for the evening's ritual.

SAT
10 AM

PSYCHIC MASSAGE presented by Epiphanes. This workshop will last until 3pm, so take your lunch with you. Adults only.

ETHNIC FOLK MAGIC presented by The Mystic Church and Healing Center.

11:30 AM

LUNCH BREAK

12:30

HEALING WORKSHOP presented by the Coven of the Sacred Stones.

1:30



RESEARCHING PAGAN ROOTS presented by Epiphanes.

3:00

BALKAN MUSIC presented by LADUVANE from Massachusetts.

ASPECTS OF ATHENA presented by Parthenon West.

4:30

ECLECTIC RITUAL WORKSHOP presented by the Church of All Worlds.

MUSIC AND MAGIC presented by Circle.

6:00

DINNER

7:00

DINNER

8:00 THE BIG, ECLECTIC, INTERDENOMINATIONAL, ECUMENICAL PAGAN RITUAL

10:00 GHOST STORIES, by Richard Crowe.

NATIVE AMERICAN MAGIC presented by Parthenon West — learn to make it rain!

SUNDAY
11:00 AM

Looking to giving a PPF Workshop?

Having workshops at Pan Pagan Festival has been a long, time honored tradition that has continued from the very start of our festival's creation, as shown in the recreation of the 1977 Pan Pagan Festival schedule.

While some things have changed, like giving the workshops a permanent home so no one coming late gets left out, some things have not.

The workshops at Pan Pagan Festival are given by attendees and Council members that feel they have knowledge to share. This year with Stan's passing there is one less person to help with the work and the workshops. Therefore the Council is looking to attendees who can lead a workshop Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

If you have been studying a subject that is considered pagan or pagan

related and would like to do a workshop or have a discussion on it at Pan, here is your chance.

If you like crafts and would like to lead a workshop, contact Dori at midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com. I have a couple craft ideas for Pan or you can come up with a craft on your own and lead it.

The workshop times on average are at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. With the fixed programs being Opening Ritual at 12pm on Wednesday, Town Meetings at 10:30am every morning, Meet and Greet at 8pm on Thursday Labyrinth to follow, Follies at 7:30pm Friday, Auction/Raffle at 4pm on Saturday immediately followed by the feast. Main Ritual is at 8pm on Saturday as well, with Closing Ritual at 12pm on Sunday.

Since August 1st is Friday, the

Council will be doing a Lammas Celebration in Area A at 1:00 pm.

On Saturday in Area A at 1:30/2:00 pm, there will be a Memorial Service for Stan and all pagans who died this past year.

If you have any questions please feel free to email us. If you would like to offer a workshop, please go on MidwestPaganCouncil.org and download the program presentation form. Once downloaded you can either print it out, fill it in, scan it and email it back to us, or you can just put all the information in an e-mail without the form itself. Please make sure that you are registered for Pan if you are submitting a workshop.

The Midwest Pagan Council is comprised of covens and solitaires in the Midwest region. We are always open for new members. If you are interested in joining the Council, please email us at: midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com.

Annually the Council puts on the Pan Pagan Festival, currently in our 38th year. We are an outdoor, week long, family friendly festival that usually is the first full week of August, July 30—Aug. 3rd, 2014 specifically this year. For more information or a registration form, please visit the website or email us at midwestpaganCouncil@yahoo.com and we will happily get you the information you need.

The Newsletter is always open and taking submissions for articles that touch on pagan issues, crafts, recipes, Holidays, etc. If you would like to submit an article, please send it to: midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com

If you are not already on the Newsletter subscription list and would like to be, please send an email asking to be added to: midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com and we will be happy to add you.

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The Midwest Pagan Council, INC.

Bringing Pagans together for decades.

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