

Peppermint and Sage



SAMHAIN 2013



Peppermint and Sage



MERRY MEET



Welcome to the first issue of Peppermint and Sage. Our plans are to have an issue out around each of the Sabbats. So our next issue will be Yule 2013 and should be longer than this one.

Peppermint and Sage is a publication of Dragon Palm Circle, but is open to all both to read and to be part of. All non-editorial materials are owned and copyrighted by their creators.

As I write this we are still a day shy of the deadline, so am not sure how large we will be. We hope to see many items show up over the next day or so.

We will have several departments that will be in each issue including **Around The Hearth** and **Calendar**. If you would like something added to the Calendar send it to us. Events on the calendar will be listed elsewhere in the issue giving contact information. (The listing for full moons, new moons and Sabbats are on the day they fall not a listing for an event)

Send all contributions to pas@dragonpalm.com. We can use articles, stories, poems, Filk songs, artwork, photos, cartoons.

NOTE: most of the logos and story titles were created using clip art and printshop and were added by editorial.

Peppermint and sage vol. One issue One Samhain 2013
 All material copyright by their respective owners - editorial content copyright©2013 by Dragon Palm Circle.
 Editor/Publisher: Dreamweaver
 (dreamweaver@dragonpalmcircle.org)

All submission should be sent to pas@dragonpalm.com

Peppermint and Sage is published eight times a year Samhain, Yule, Imbolc, Ostara, Beltane, Litha, Lammas, and Mabon.

All issues are free in PDF format. Permission to print it as long as all content is included and nothing is added. A printed copy may only be sold for the cost of printing it.

November 2013		
1st	F	Earths Web Samhain Gathering
2nd	S	Earths Web Samhain Gathering
3rd	S	Earths Web Samhain/ New Moon
4th	M	
5th	T	
6th	W	
7th	T	
8th	F	
9th	S	
10th	S	
11th	M	Veterans Day
12th	T	
13th	W	Chattanooga PNO
14th	T	
15th	F	
16th	S	
17th	S	FULL MOON
18th	M	Festival of Jupiter (Roman)
19th	T	
20th	W	
21st	T	Dragon Palm PNO
22nd	F	
23rd	S	
24th	S	
25th	M	
26th	T	
27th	W	
28th	T	Thanksgiving Day
29th	F	
30th	S	

**On November 3rd Daylight Savings Time Ends -
 Don't forget to reset your clocks.**

December 2013		
1	S	
2	M	New Moon
3	T	
4	W	
5	T	
6	F	
7	S	
8	S	
9	M	
10	T	WIP
11	W	
12	T	
13	F	Chattanooga PNO
14	S	Earths Web Yule Gather
15	S	Earths Web Yule Gather
16	M	
17	T	Full Moon
18	W	
19	T	Dragon Palm PNO
20	F	
21	S	YULE
22	S	
23	M	
24	T	
25	W	Christmas Day
26	T	
27	F	
28	S	
29	S	
30	M	
31	T	



ASK TIGER-LILY

by Tiger-Lily Dancing Dragons

Dear Readers,
 I am Tiger-Lily and I am here for you. Every issue will include questions from you and my answers. Questions can range from basic how-to type questions to etiquette, and advice. If I can find an answer to your questions, I will find someone who can. Send your questions to asktigerlily@pas.dragonpalm.com and look in the next issue to see if your question has been answered!



Bones in the Wind
 created by Cardea Hinges of Hearthside
 Handmade



Around the Hearth.....

by Lady Pinkie Luna Fae

This column will be reoccurring in each issue and will cover everything from crafts with he kids, cleaning tips, recipes, homeopathic remedies, how to's etc.

Fall is a wonderful time in my home, albeit a very busy one. I have three children, a boy who is a senior in High School and Marching Band. And two girls, one a sophomore and vice president of the Engineering Club and one in third grade.

Needless to say between their schedules, mine and my husbands, we tend to stay on the move. I am always looking for inexpensive, quick ways to bring us together. I am on the prowl for recipes that are tasty, seasonal, and easy.

As a mother and Pagan, I search and try many remedies and home made alternatives to medicines and cleaners.

This edition my family and I are preparing for Samhain. We will be carving pumpkins soon, making trips to the local orchard, doing fall cleaning of the house in preparation of the long months ahead and putting away the last of the things from the garden.

Since the only time of year I buy apples is when the local orchard is open, right now I am apple crazy. Two sure fire winners so far are my apple cake and apple dumplings.

APPLE CAKE

4 - 5 apples, peeled, sliced, and cored.
1 cup sugar
Cinnamon to taste

Roll apples in sugar/cinnamon mix and let set.

3 cups sifted flour
2 cups sugar (I use ½ white, ½brown)
1 cup vegetable oil
4 eggs
¼cup apple cider

3 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
2½ tsp vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°m grease and flour Bundt Pan.

Mix all dry ingredients in one bowl.

Mix all other ingredients in another bowl.

Combine dry ingredients and sugar/liquid mix. (Batter will be thicker, not runny)

Layer batter and apple mix starting with batter in pan until all ingredients are used. Bake approximately 45 minutes to one hour or until tooth pick comes out clean.



APPLE DUMPLINGS

4-5 Apples

2 Cans croissant rolls, 8 rolls each

1 Cup sugar

Cinnamon to taste.

Peel, core, slice apples and toss in sugar and cinnamon.

Working with one package of rolls at a time, unroll and in each triangle stack slices of apples in center and pull corners together. Place about 2 inches apart on baking sheet and bake @ 350° for ten minutes.

Topping-

Place left over apples and cinnamon and sugar mix in a heavy pot, add ¼ block of cream cheese, a bit more

cinnamon and a dash of nutmeg. Heat until cream cheese is dissolved. Spoon over dumplings, serve immediately.

A good sinus remedy I have recently tried is as follows (even though the taste leaves much to be desired)



TIPS & TRICKS: When roasting pumpkin seeds this season, soak them for 24 hours in water before roasting them.

I have had great success with a cleaner I made about a month ago. I use it on almost everything. Kills mold,

mildew, removes hard water and bad smells. And is generally hypoallergenic.

- 2 - 3 Lemons (or oranges)
- 1 gallon White Vinegar

Score, slice, squeeze lemons into gallon jug, pour vinegar over lemons, set in cool dark place for about a week, shaking every other day or so. Strain into storage containers.

With colder weather always comes sore throats, runny noses, and all manner of “feel bads”. I keep many teas for the varying tastes of my house to soothe throats and coughs and help stuffy noses.

So far this year I have chamomile and a mint blend from the garden dried and ready to bundle in coffee filters to add to teas or as a stand alone.

I have also made a ginger tincture and mint tincture by slicing and mashing them and pouring vodka over them. I then let this sit with a shake or two every so often in the back of my cabinet. I will strain them in a couple of weeks for use in the dead of winter when the dried herbs are gone.

TIP: Heat evaporates alcohols so heat any doses up that the alcohol is not beneficial in.

A good cough remedy/ sore throat remedy is ginger sliced and suspended in honey. Put enough honey to fully cover ginger in jar and let set. After about a week you can add a spoonful or two to hot water and enjoy the soothing benefits.

- ¼ Cup lemon juice
- ¼ Cup apple cider vinegar
- Dash of cayenne
- Dash of Turmeric
- ½ tsp Cinnamon
- 1 Cup hot water
- (I added honey as well)

Until Next Time

Love and Light From

My Hearth to Yours!

Lady Pinkie Luna Fae

Rain falls
 Night falls
 Snow falls
 Leaves fall
 Rocks fall
 Water falls
 Dawn breaks
 Why?
 By Lady Sky

Communicating with the Dead

By S. Stuller

Communicating with the Dead.
10/31/2013

People contact spirits to speak to lost loved ones, and or any numerous spirits to gain insight and knowledge, a feeling of well being for their loved one, doing magik work, and advice. You can attempt spirit contact at any time but Samhain is probably the day you would be most successful because it is the day the veil is the thinnest between the realms many traditions contact ancestors at this time.

Contacting the dead

First before attempting to contact the dead through any method make your space and objects sacred. Clean Ouija boards, etc. with salt and water, or whatever method of cleansing you use. Gather your supplies close to where you will attempt to contact the dead.

Take a shower before, and wear special clothing, which has been anointed for the purpose, my method taught to me is to use incense for air and fire, and salt water for earth and water over robes, or clothing you will wear, smudge and anoint yourself.

Cast a circle, call your deities, light candles, light incense of star anise with cloves in equal parts, and a separate incense of sandalwood. Call your guardians, and say a poem, prayer or spell or invocation of protection, and shield yourself with white light, then fill the whole space with white light. (For newbies at least 15 minutes) before beginning.

The cleansing, and making your space sacred and guarded against other entities is very important or you may get something you do not want.

If something goes haywire, and you have an entity that you do not want be prepared to banish. You already have a banishing incense ready with the cloves and anise. Use a banishing phrase such as: I banish you from this space and this realm. Return from where you came never to

return and never to be replaced to trouble the living again.

First open a gate between this world and the world of the undead calling a deity that is between the two worlds. I Say Herm Anubis, Keeper of The Gate, Lord of Hidden Road between Life and Death, I call on you. Hermanubis, I summon you. A follower of the Old Ways calls out to you. Open the gate between the Realm of the Living and the Realm of the Dead for I would traffick with the Peaceful Departed.”

Summoning

Open the gates of the dead, ask them to do something to show you they are there, and once you have summoned the specific spirit which could be done for magik work, help in life, talking to one that has passed on. Concentrate, meditate, raise your energy then start communication with spirits.

To summon the specific spirit by saying whom you're trying to call, ask them to come peacefully, or if you want any spirit ask for an unadulterated, peaceful spirit. Ask the spirit to make its presence known by, moving the planchette to yes, by writing yes, by moving the smoke east or whatever method you choose to use.

Get in a trance state, and do your spirit work, take notes as you go if possible or immediately after.

Releasing a spirit, when you're done with any work of contacting spirits, deities, or guardians, you want to thank them for their assistance, and peacefully dismiss them to their realms.

Séance

To conduct a séance you would follow the rules for summoning a spirit except that everyone would sit around a table holding hands so they can raise energy and speak to spirits. You talk one at a time.

Automatic Writing.

Use a blank piece to write on. Meditate for a few minutes to relax. When you're ready to start say, please make your presence known and say the name of who you wish to speak to if it is someone specific.

Try to make sure your mind is clear so you're not writing your own thoughts. If the pen starts to move ask who the spirit is, if it is someone you know have a normal conversation. If not ask if they can help you get in contact with whom you're looking for if it is someone specific.

If you choose to continue speaking to the unknown person, I would ask who they are, where they're from, some yes no questions let them know if you do not understand something. Once you're done dismiss the spirit by thanking them and bid them to go in peace, guardians, deities, and take down your circle.

If this does not work the first time work on using your third eye, meditation, and concentration and try again. Keep a record of your writings and progress for future reference. Use the same process for automatic writing for the Ouija board. The only difference is using a planchette on a board instead of a pencil.

Medium ship

This is a form of psychic ability to connect with the spirit world. Some people it comes naturally to, and some people have to work on it. You need to concentrate, meditate, believe and affirm that you can connect with the spirit world. Make your space sacred, then begin trying to communicate by crying, mirror gazing, séance's, summoning and or deep meditation. Cleanse yourself and your space. Follow the basics of asking a spirit to come to you, once you start as stated in automatic writing.

Do a meditation to attempt to put yourself in a trance state, or deep meditation. Listen for any voices within, or around you, as well as a possibility to speak yourself the words of one that has passed on, you may see visions, feel sensations, feelings, or even smell something unusual like smoke, alcohol, flowers or any number of things. This has happened to me before. I have many times experienced smelling my granny's perfume when I wake up.

For mirror gazing put a small candle next to the mirror in a dark room, after putting yourself in a trance state stare into your eyes for a while, until you see other faces or spirits in the mirror. Practice daily until you build up to being able to mirror gaze.

Scrying involves

Use a totally clear crystal, do not use lead crystal, water, a candle flame, fire smoke, or a mirror can all be used for scrying. You stare, without focusing on your scrying try to look past the "smoke" image in a relaxed manner. Images can appear in many forms such as a mist, actual images, or shapes.

Praying: Pray with a mantra such as a prayer to a saint, or a phrase that makes you feel calm, and or using an object such as rosary beads, a candle, or any object of your choice that helps you focus and makes you feel connected. Relax and go into deep meditation while praying. You may have visions or direct contact.

Aztecs and Mexicans go directly to the grave and leave gifts of whisky, water, cigarettes, or whatever the person was familiar with, as well as flowers, lighting candles, and bringing candy. Many also constructed alters for such purposes and they include ancestor pictures. You can try this as well before or when trying to communicate with someone specific.

As with everything you have to practice until you get good at it, if it is not a natural talent. So don't get frustrated, just do the rituals to communicate as often as you can.

This is just some basic stuff to get you started. You should research each method to get a method that is going to work for you, as well as matching up deity's to the type of work you're going to do, and who you want to open the gate for you. Wishing you the best on your quest. Blessed Be.

Bibliography

Day of the Dead Facts. (n.d.). Retrieved from Celebrate the day of the Dead:

<http://www.celebrate-day-of-the-dead.com/day-of-the-dead-facts.html>

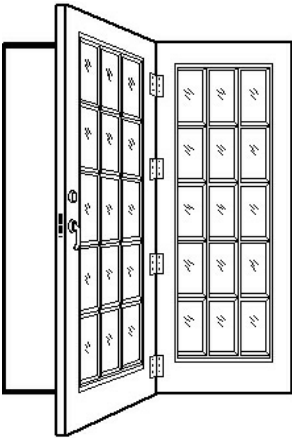
Magic, G. (n.d.). *Safe Summoning.* Retrieved from Rune Summoning:

<http://runesoup.com/2010/04/safe-summoning-spells-a-guide-to-contacting-the-dead/>

Sayce, A. (2009, August 4th). *How the dead communicate with us (from mediumship and the afterlife book).* Retrieved from Psychic but Sane:

<http://www.psychicbutsane.com/mediumship-and-the-afterlife/how-the-dead-communicate-with-us>





The Door to the Beyond: Mental Health and Paganism by Moss Bliss

Introduction

Merry Meet, my name is Moss Bliss. I have been an Initiated Wiccan since 1983, the middle part of my spiritual trek. (The Third Movement, so to speak, is developing as I learn to integrate all spirituality into one through my studies in Kashmir Shaivism, adding a couple thousand years' worth of written works to my pagan beliefs.)

I have also been considered "weird", "sick", "disturbed", etc. since about the age of three (due to a period of sexual abuse by my uncle and brother, which my mother has begun to accept recently). I went from doctor to doctor, my parents trying to find some medical excuse for what was "wrong" with me.

Many of you will recognize this pattern; some of you will identify with it. Most of you won't even bother to ask the question, "What has that got to do with paganism?"

The answer, unasked or no, is that many of us don't feel like we fit in to the "normal" society, especially with all the negative judgments we receive from whatever church to which our parents caused us to attend. You start looking around. You find other churches, which is almost safe for you, but they don't fit any better, just more strangely. In the 1960s and 70s, there didn't seem to be any other options, so you either stopped going to church or stopped believing (whether you continued to attend or not). My own path to Wicca culminated in 1982.

But that's not the whole story, is it? Even though you find a group of people who accept you as being "different", even if they're the same **kind** of "different", you are still being judged by the people around you. In my time, I was diagnosed as some form of "mentally ill" long before I found the Goddess (or rather, before She found me), and paraded through legions of social workers, therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists before learning how to ritualize – both to rid myself of the "bad" and to celebrate the "good" (and learn what

the heck the rest of it was and how to deal with it). Guilt and shame are not effective tools for healing these issues.

By the time I was 12, I was on Mysoline (primidone), an anti-convulsant. Another doctor put me on Valium. The medications started to add up. One neurologist said I was "borderline epileptic", but if any doctor had bothered to read a medical journal I could easily have been labelled "ADD" and put on Ritalin. These drugs made others think I was "better", but they only made me feel like I was about 2 feet underwater, scratching for the surface.

It wasn't until I was 31 that I was given a psychiatric label – "mild cyclothymic disorder" – and placed on lithium (carbonate). That was the first **ANYTHING** I had been given that made me actually feel better.

And when I was 48, my kidneys failed from too much lithium. The carbonate form is such that the effective level and the toxic level are so close as to keep the doctors monitoring your kidneys, but unable to tell anything until you're in great danger.

My doctors began what I call the "Medication Guinea Pig Dance", changing me from one drug to another, using drugs that were toxic only to my liver to give my kidneys a break. I have taken just about every psych drug on the market. None of them felt as good as lithium, all of them had "side" effects that made me hurt again. All the doctors repeatedly told me there were no alternatives, and these drugs would "cure" me.

In mid-2003 I was directed to the ALT-therapies4bipolar Yahooogroup, and learned that there **were** natural alternatives. By early November 2003 I was entirely off all medications and felt better than ever. My doctor told me that they would no longer treat me or meet with me, until such time, as he cheerfully predicted, that I relapsed and needed their drugs again.

As that prediction has not been fulfilled, I thank Goddess for showing me the nutritional deficiencies I had and what I can do to help myself heal.

At the present time, I am functioning as Owner of ALT-therapies4bipolar and am also a Moderator of Bi-Polar_Pagans Yahooogroup, and am also a co-founder of the Asheville Radical Mental Health Collective. I also have training as a leader in Recovery, Inc., which provides a number of helpful tools in keeping one from making one's symptoms worse (or preventing them in the first place), and have been a group leader in NAMI CARE.

It is my opinion that all cases of "mental illness" are caused by nutritional deficiencies coupled with traumatic experiences. If you take care of the nutritional aspects, you will be much better equipped to deal with putting your brain back together. I do believe in talk therapy, although I know there are probably as many good therapists as bad ones, and there are always other ways to work things out if you know where to look. I have also learned that at least 90% of the diagnoses themselves are based on politics, to allow doctors to sell you drugs – and that a lot of people are afraid to hear that. My opinion should not be taken as Law, and I support everyone who tries to heal from or control their "disease" regardless of the method they choose to employ.

Just as in religion, there is no One True Right and Only Way to heal from "mental illness". I hope to provide information on some of the easier ones to find and use. Most of my information applies mainly to "bipolar disorder", although I have known it to work equally well in cases of schizophrenia, PTSD, "unipolar" depression, and even multiple personality disorder (or whatever the "in" term to use may be).

A good High Priestess will help, as much as a bad one may hurt. I have known both – those who understand, and those who refuse to even talk to you because they are afraid of you (or your diagnosis).

That should be enough for an introductory article. If you are curious as to some of the methods I employ, you are welcome to visit my website, Hippo Haven, <http://mosshippohaven.info>, or join one of the groups mentioned above. Write me at zaivalananda@gmail.com if you would like more information or an invitation. If you need a hint, the magic words for you may be, as for me, "fish oil".

Bright Blessings,
Moss



Check out our website at <http://www.earth-elementals.com/> or our facebook page

Shadow Theatre of the Closet Divine
by Cardea Hinges

Don't tell me the laws of physics when you witnessed the syrup of silver light poured down my throat and heard tale of my deed at the birth of the Walrus King.

The Harbinger of the Monkey Mask put its eyes in a pocket and intoned the verses of Carpet Cleaning while echos of dust bunnies climb aboard the corset lacing and sleep against the smooth, stoney skin. Although twin snowflakes explode in HER mouth, the washroom is full of sand. I sit on a dune and ponder the sliver of skin caught in my teeth while tetrahedrons dance spirals through the sky. I don't claim the dove's breath, but the harvest in June was far more than the river thinks should be. The castle banner flaps at the discussion and would frankly rather be left alone.

Hearthside
Handmade

If you are looking for unique, hand-crafted gifts of jewelry, decor, altar tools, and more, come visit our

website or find us at a gathering or festival. We have a wide variety of items to choose from and we are happy to create a custom piece if you need something extra special. Stop by today!



<http://hearthsidehandmade.webs.com/>

Back cover is a picture Angus' Jack o' Lantern.



Toddler Craft

by Lady Aurora Leilani



Just a couple very simple dollar store crafts for the youngest ones that i can remember off the top of my head...

For Samhain:

spiders: need 3 pipecleaners any color, but black looks best. Cut 2 in half, and hold in a row or as a bundle. Cut 3rd one in

half, wrap one half around center of bundle. Arrange legs.

These can be made in varying sizes by adjusting the length of the cuts. Eyes can be added or not.

Spider web: Why buy it?!! Just pull apart a few cotton balls. String up just like you would the expensive store-bought stuff.

hanging ghosts: These can be made with varying degrees of complexity. Here's the 2 simplest versions:

Easiest: Take a tissue or plain white paper towel. Place a wad of the same (2 or 3 crumpled up) in the center. Fold whole/flat towel around wad. Tie at "neck". Leave extra string to hang with. Draw and mouth (if desired) with a plain black marker.

Medium: Take a square piece of white or grey cloth (sheer or cheese-cloth looks best). Place a white foam craft ball in the center, and fold cloth around it. Tie just below ball with clear jewelry string or fishing line. Glue on google eyes and/or buttons for eyes (and mouth if desired). (Make sure glue goes through cloth to ball.

Hot glue works best.)

For Yule:

Candy canes can be made by simply twisting one white and one red pipe cleaner together and bending top to hook.

Free, Easy Ornaments can be done by taking complimentary and/or damaged CDs and gluing odd bits of leftover string, buttons, beads, etc to one or both sides and threading some string through the middle to hang them.

Cds can also be decorated with dried or fake leaves and berries to resemble wreaths.

A few really cool simple things I've found over the years:

Hot dogs wrapped like mummies with refrigerated croissant dough then baked.

Red or green jello with gummy body parts in it. (mix the in when the jello is abot half way set)

Chocolate pudding with crushed oreo type or chocolate chip cookies and gummy worms mixed in

pretzel sticks with a mini-marshmallow on each end dipped in white chocolate

refrigerated (croissant) bread twisted to look like bones and baked with marinara sauce to dip

pineapple soda poured over a punch bowl of lime sherbet. (It smokes and foams and still tastes good). Soda and sherbert flavors can be varied for different effects. Gummy body parts can be added if desired, but they melt pretty quick so wait until the last minute.

baked apples with jack-o-lantern faces carved in them

sugar or almond cookies shaped like fingers: roll dough into strings. leave one end ragged and smooth the other when ripping apart strings. make knuckle line with a butter knife and slightly depress the smooth end with the knife tip. use red decorator icing to place almond slices on depressed end (finger nails). drizzle rest of finger with extra red icing.

bell peppers with faces carved in them filled with spaghetti (brains) and baked

Element, Guardians,
Gods of old;
protect us as
our lives unfold.

Without a beginning,
Without an end,
the circle holds
all life within.

Lord and Lady,
Elements four,
protect me now
and ever more

By Lady Aurora Leilani



A World Apart, A World Together

Explorations in IndoPaganism

by Mass Bliss

*O Thou who has declared intent to become one of us,
hear then that which thou must know to do."*

Welcome to the first article of this new series. While this article will be mostly autobiographical, I hope I can also whet your appetite for more.

I have been writing about Wicca, under a variety of pseudonyms (principally J. Random Folksinger), since around 1987, and I'm happy to say that almost everything I've written can be found on the Internet. This means either that I had something worth saying, or something worth throwing darts at. I'll leave it up to you, the reader, to decide which.

The coven I was first initiated into (and the coven it hived from) had a tendency to take their magickal names from Hindu -- rather than the more common Greek, Roman, Egyptian, or Norse -- deities. So without much knowledge of Hinduism, I was initiated under a Hindu name (in 1983). I took it upon myself to collect English translations of or commentaries on Hindu scriptures, a book here, a book there, often finding the matter "over my head". I kept the books anyhow.

Also during this time I was on a variety of psychiatric "medications", which kept me from understanding

much of anything. Over six years ago, I completed my research on supplements and herbs and took myself totally off the "medications", which were poisoning me and had already largely destroyed my kidneys. (I have written about my findings and insights in another series, "Door to the Beyond: Paganism and Mental Health".)

After taking myself off the drugs, I found myself becoming much more clear-thinking, and started reading some of the books I had collected. I also (quite accidentally) became re-acquainted with one of my ex-wives, who had fairly much given up Wicca and had concentrated on Hinduism during the nearly 14 years we were out of contact with each other. She was looking for a book on Wicca she had given up years earlier, as one of her Hinduism students had asked her to teach him Wicca, and she stumbled onto my website and contacted me. (The story is richer than this, but has nothing much to do with this series. If you wish to hear it in full, I can probably get permission to give you her email address and you can get it directly from her.)

We talked about much, getting to know each other again. Then we talked about Hinduism. She referred me to certain books -- some scripture, some poetry -- and I fell in love with the depth of emotion in some of the poets' writings. Eventually I found a gentleman in New Delhi



A World Apart, A World Together

Explorations in IndoPaganism

by Moss Bliss

who was willing to talk to me, and he referred me to even more good books. Things have grown from there, including the fact that I have been donating toward the rebuilding of a few ancient, rural temples in India for the past year.

In December 2005, I was invited to join a new IndoPaganPaths Yahoogroup by its founder, Devi Spring. I do not remember how she found me, but becoming a member is sufficient for now. In 2006 Devi administered a survey to group members, which led to her writing an article on IndoPagans (people who are working on merging their various Pagan paths with various Eastern paths). The article was published in the Spring 2007 issue of PanGaea, and I was quite surprised to see my statements (which I had long forgotten about) quoted throughout the article. (I do have a problem remembering things I've said, but they usually read well. I often remark, seeing my statements in print, "I don't know who said that, but I'd probably like him.")

There may not be "authorities" on IndoPaganism; the first Saint I would nominate, given the opportunity, would be Len Rosenberg (now in hospice). I would guess that Devi and myself might not be far behind in the minds of members of the group. The group currently numbers over 200 members despite Devi requiring new members to have *current* knowledge of both some Western Paganism path and some Eastern religion and already be working at merging their paths.

Why would someone want to merge their current Pagan beliefs with those of Eastern spirituality? Quite simply, it is very hard to get verified documents on Wicca and Paganism which date back before 1952, or even confirmable evidence that Wicca itself predates 1939. (What evidence there is seems to be available only to the most Traditional of British Traditional Witches, and Philip Heselton's books on the subject are rare and quite expensive in America.) There are few, if any, written documents of Wicca or Paganism prior to 1952 other than those written by Christians, which represent us poorly if at all. Thus, some of us are feeling a lack of historical

depth to our beliefs. Hinduism (and other Eastern religions) has this depth, and thousands of years' worth of it, and does not stop there.

Further, there are major features in Hinduism which we, as Pagans, can learn from, if indeed we have not already. For one, there is not even a word in Sanskrit which translates as "heresy" or "heretic" -- a good teacher (guru) will ask what you believe, and point you to a general path, including scriptures and commentaries, which fits those beliefs. Nearly all good beliefs can be justified in the Hindu scriptures (and a number of "bad" ones too, e.g., some of the more negative forms of tantric practices). I know I have served many times as a "gatekeeper", with my students passing on to other paths which I helped them find.

It is my intention to show that there is much Hindu "DNA" in the roots of Paganism (and specifically Wicca). I am not going to present information on Gardner's time in the East, which is well-known to most Wiccans, but about much deeper layers of philosophy and belief. I may not be a good researcher, but I remember bits and pieces I've come across that, often, fit together and make sense in ways that have not previously been spotted, hence I cannot "prove" it. If you'd like to take this journey with me, send feedback to me and to the editors of this journal, and we'll see if we can't continue.

Moss Bliss
Knoxville, TN
October 2013



"Triple Goddess of the Blossom" and is done in mixed media: drawing and collage.
by Cassandra Creasap



EARTH'S WEB

by Lady Pinkie Luna Fae

Earths Web is one of the newest Pagan Umbrella Groups to have recently formed in East Tennessee. Seeking to establish 401.3 status as a non-profit group, they began holding “family Reunions” or “gathers” in Harrogate, Tennessee.

Earths Web’s first Gathering was Beltain this year. The group has managed three gatherings so far and will finish out the calendar year with Samhain and Yule.

Anyone familiar with Serpent Stone will recognize some familiar elements to these gathers as many of the founding members have some roots with that group, although there are as many difference as there are Pagan paths.

A typical Gather generally takes place from Friday – Sunday and will usually consist of workshops, rituals, a central sacred fire, camping, soup on Friday nights, pot luck or family style dinner on Saturdays, vendors, unique contest, and assorted fun raisers.

Much of each Gather is put together and pulled off by volunteers within the community. There is usually a work day leading up to an event where whoever is available comes to the site and does things like mowing, weed eating, cleaning the kitchen (which has been built with donations and volunteer labor) plant gardens and build structures that enhance everyone’s experiences on the property.

The property that Earth’s Web uses to host most of their events boasts a large field for camp set ups, a large fire pit for drum circle and ritual, a smaller ritual circle with an ancient tree in the North gate, a utility fire pit, a barn hat has become the kitchen, a Labyrinth that is a work in progress, and a river that is definitely a good thing in the heat of summer.

There are many projects from planting community gardens to building flush bathrooms and showers that are all being conceived, implemented, resourced and constructed by members and volunteers from the community.

Since Beltain, community members have brought their friends, mothers, brothers, sisters, spouses, children, and Grand children growing the Earths Web community into a true “Phamily” that stretches it’s Web of community from Georgia to North Carolina and possibly further.

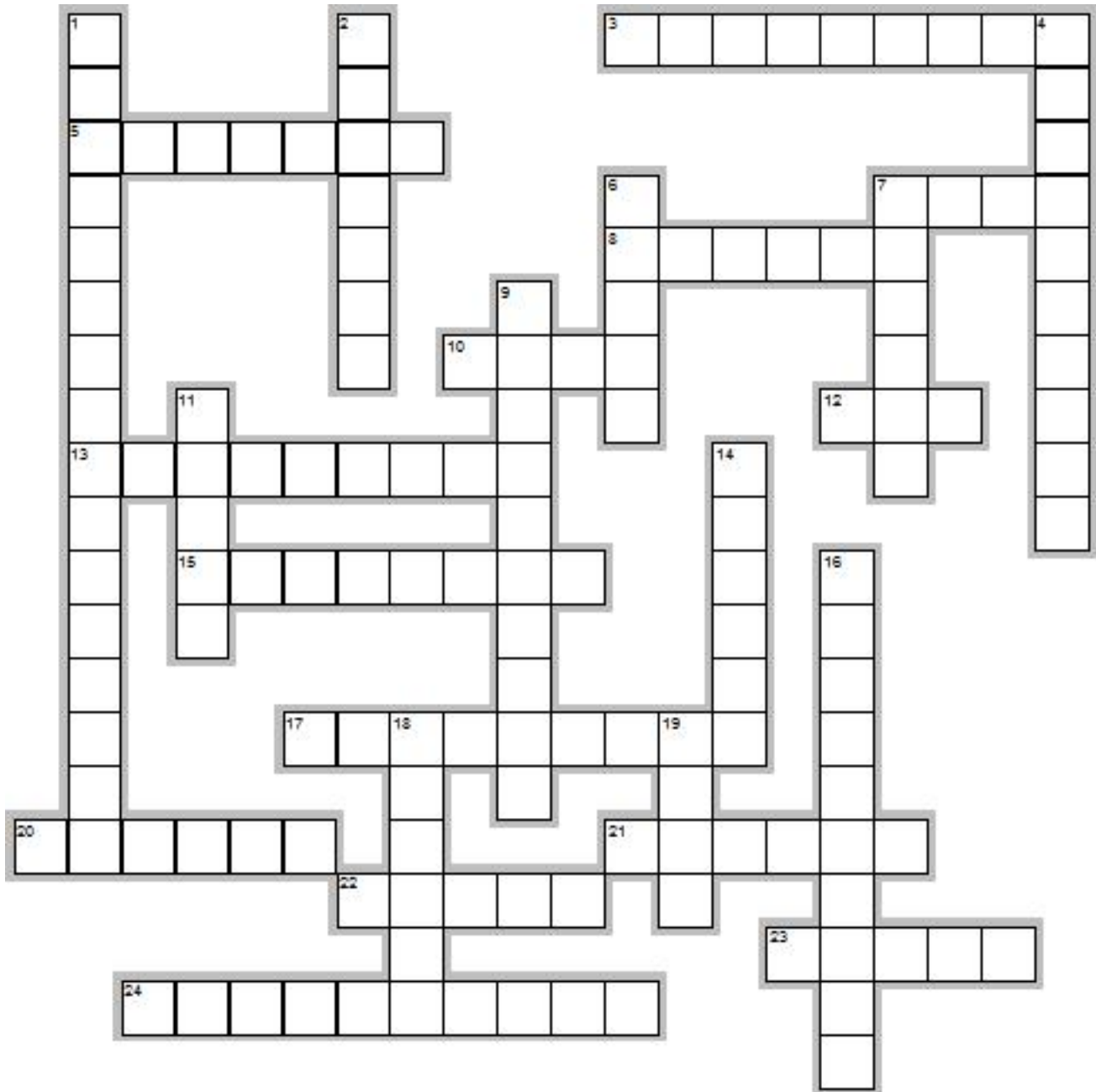
If you might be interested in joining this Community or attending a Gather please visit EarthsWeb.org for contact information.



By Dragonfly

If you want to reprint any article or picture in this issue you must have the permission of the author or artist. We will forward request for you - just send to pas@dragonpalm.com. Permission is granted to all to reprint the entire zine, but it must be complete with nothing removed or added. Printing a section for your own personal use is also granted.





EclipseCrossword.com

Across

3. a Celtic god, the lord of nature, animals, fruit, grain and prosperity
5. the occult science of transformation and transmutation
7. element represented by South
8. a term denoting pure spirit
10. Winter Solstice
12. black
13. publisher of new age and pagan books
15. Pagan writer Raymond
17. the act of raising power or drawing a spirit or deity to appear as an external presence
20. clockwise
21. Another name for a Witch
22. element represented by North
23. summer solstice
24. the first in the trilogy of harvest festivals in ancient Celtic culture

Down

1. Coven who puts out this zine
2. Halloween
4. Italian Witchcraft
6. three goddesses of destiny
7. Janet and Stewart
9. A Wiccan and popular author of more than fifteen books on Wicca, Scott
11. medicinal and Magickal plants
14. the witches alphabet
16. the art of foretelling future events by various means
18. spring equinox
19. chief of the Norse gods



Dragon Palm Circle's Clergy. Lord Dreamweaver, Lady Sky, DragonFly, Lady Pinkie Luna Fae, and Lord Angus WaterStone.

Cook bacon, drain and crumble

Cut up chives, shred cheese, whatever else you want to put on top after soup is served.

When soup reaches a consistency you like its done

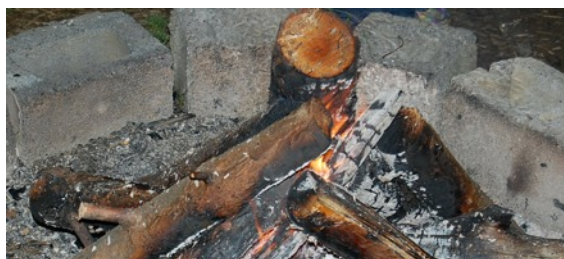
Easy peasy

More info on calendar events

For Dragon Palm PNO you can check our website
www.dragonpalmtree.org/PNO.html or check our facebook page Dragon Palm Events.

For Earths Web check their website
www.EarthsWeb.org for more information.

Information of Chattanooga PNO go
www.facebook.com/ChattanoogaPagans.



Loaded potato soup

Peel and cut about 4-5 more taters than people you are serving

Put in pot, rinse, cover about 2-3 inches above taters with cold water

Put on to slowly come to boil (I do an all day version, but you can speed the process if you like)

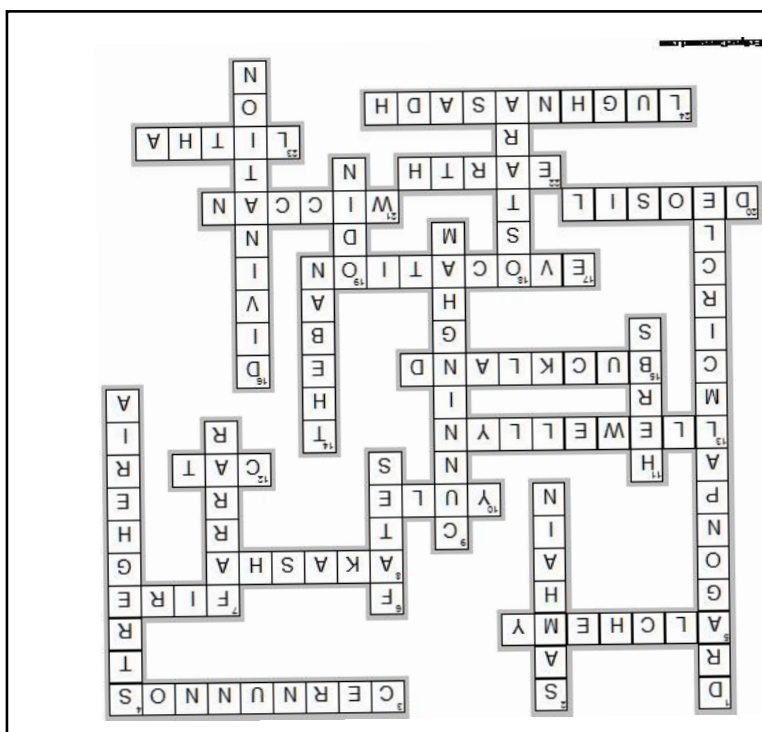
Stir occasionally

Taters will get soft and start to fall apart and cook into water, keep the water level fairly constant by adding water as it cooks out.

As the taters disperse into water lower cooking temp so it doesn't boil

Add salt and pepper

**About an hour or so before you serve:
 Add about a cup of half and half or heavy cream, add butter to taste (quit adding water at this point)**





Mother

Maiden

Crone

NEXT ISSUE

Next issue will be our YULE issue we want to get it out about a week before Yule - please starting sending material for it now, you don't have to wait for the deadline, this way I wont have to wait till the last minute to get started.

We are going to need covers for each issue. For the Yule issue we are thinking of doing a cover contest. Look for more detail at the Peppermint and Sage facebook page.

We would like to start a letter column next issue, but this is up to the reader. Send your letters to pas@dragonpalm.com They can be about articles, articles you would like to see, or just comments.

Because the issue is a YULE issue articles and other material doesn't have to be on YULE, but we do hope to get a few that are.

There has been talk about going monthly if we can get enough material.

Don't forget free ads -

Always need spot art..... Only send material that is yours to send. There is a lot of public domain items out on the Internet, but we like having things by their creator.

Until Next Time

Blessed Be

Dreamweaver



Raining

By Lady Sky

Patterns on my window pane
Puddles on the ground
Umbrellas in the corner
And no one around.

Clean and peaceful
Persistently poring
Quiet and gray
Violent and boring.

Animals undercover
People complaining
They may get wet
But it keeps on raining.

Nowhere to go
Nothing to do
Rain is not spoiling plans
For me and for you.

We need the water
The weathermen say
But when it rains
We wish it away.

I like to listen
To the rain at night
If it is okay with you
Just turn off the light.

Come lay here beside me
And do not complain
Hold me and love me
And listen to the rain.

Reprinted from Palm Beach Pagan #1



By WindSong Reprinted form Palm Beach Pagan #1

Blood Death and the Shell

by Iris

Just watch, I bid you. Nothing will happen as long as you stay here. Its only blood, something we replace as easily as the breath in our lungs. And just as loosing ones breath, don't loose too much or lest you die. But see, its red, it shows life before it even escapes the cut that loosed it. Watch it, as it dances on the edge of its encapsulation just a small ruby of the mortal coil. Take it, and see its power, it holds all that we can be, even more than we realize. The mortal coil is propelled by this substance; we can feed from it, figuratively as well as bringing that bead of crimson to our lips and take it as nourishment. Not too much, as it will make you sick if not used to its power. Take it before it grows as cold as the heart that spilt it. Don't worry about whom you take it from, they are of no consequence, just the shell of what has been of the past. Wipe away those memories, they will be lost in what you take, don't worry that shell wishes only to forget the past, be another as things have forced it to be.

Look again; it darkens as it hits the surface, a pool of one drop then another spreading steadily outward trying to find its container again. Soon, it will lose the form it has now, separating into two. Duality even shows in its progression before it will be maroon, almost black unless looked at in the light, and then its nature will be revealed. To quote the Lady MacBeth "Out, out damned spot". It will never go away, it will seep into its surface and await some freedom from the air and whatever rains that may wash this place, Mother Nature's vain effort to replenish this place of death.

Forget the shell again, let it bleed. Surrounding you is death itself, where bodies rot, and becoming one with the worms that would infest us all given the chance. But we move, we run from them in each gesture. We fear the grim reaper yet celebrate his power in this place. Set your hand upon a stone, a memorial to a light extinguished. Here we all will rest in time. Father Time is a sadistic bastard, know that for a fact. Red is not the color here, it is gray and black, that where no light can shine; it is evaporated before it reaches down

to touch the shells that lay beneath the ground. Is this place hallowed or cursed? Even the trees weep, losing their leaves in progression of the seasons. Each season they weep, in Fall is when they shriek showing their own blood in red, gold and brown. Winter they still cry the vagrant wind picking up what stays upon their cheeks. Come Spring when they try to recover they push their own tears away with new growth. Summer they still try to find equilibrium losing only when the thunderstorms come, they share their tears with the heavens then. And then the cycle repeats as it has for eons.

The shell? It is nothing but stolen breath from a god that has no trust in the creation of this blue and white marble hurtling inside the radiation filled fluid of space and time. Without question the shell wants to believe it is divine, that it is unique and will use their considerable intelligence to fall into a false reality that in some ways they will live on after that breath that was stolen is taken back, or lost to the curtains of the veil we have erected between divinity and mortality.

Find it strange to have such contempt for fellow man? What reason is there to hold man to a pedestal? Beyond this daisy factory they stay at war. They keep no respect for their shells polluting it with drugs, drink or the sharing of their body with another with no compunction to walk away and never speak again to the other. No trust, no convention of taking care of those that would be less off than them. Many would rather be a hypocrite than a martyr.

- Iris



Candle by Hawk reprinted from Palm Beach Pagan 1

