

Peppermint And Sage

Imbolc

2015



11



MERRY MEET



On Facebook we have over 600 Likes with more coming every day. Hope all who like it downloads a copy.

We still want to hear from you, our reader. We have several columns that need feedback to work. So drop us a line at pas@dragonpalm.com. Or send a question to ask Tiger-Lily at asktigerlily@pas.dragonpalm.com - I would like to see Ask Tiger-Lily again, but it all depends on you. Pagan Postings is for our letter to the editor. To have it we must get letters. I know the people who send in submissions would love to hear from you.

This issue is a little shorter than usual, but a lot of people have been sick this winter. I lost the first two week of the year to sickness would put me behind with getting a early start on asking for submission. This month's cover is done with clip art. - We need covers every issue both a front cover and a back cover. The front cover must be something we can add the logos and issue information to. The back cover can be more creative. Blessed Be Dreamweaver.

February 2015

1	Sun	St. Brigid's Day (Irish)
2	Mon	Imbolc
3	Tue	Full Moon / DPC Imbolc rit
4	Wed	
5	Thu	
6	Fri	
7	Sat	Earth Web's Full Moon
8	Sun	
9	Mon	
10	Tue	Witch in Progress
11	Wed	
12	Thu	
13	Fri	
14	Sat	Valentines' Day
15	Sun	
16	Mon	President's Day
17	Tue	Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)
18	Wed	
19	Thu	Dragon Palm PNO / Chinese New Year
20	Fri	
21	Sat	
22	Sun	
23	Mon	
24	Tue	
25	Wed	
26	Thu	
27	Fri	
28	Sat	

Peppermint And Sage Issue Eleven

Imbolc 2015

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ed.**

March 2015

1	Sun	
2	Mon	
3	Tue	
4	Wed	
5	Thu	Full Moon
6	Fri	
7	Sat	Earth Web Full Moon
8	Sun	Daylight Savings begins
9	Mon	
10	Tue	WIP
11	Wed	
12	Thu	PAS 12 Deadline
13	Fri	
14	Sat	
15	Sun	
16	Mon	
17	Tue	St. Patrick's Day
18	Wed	
19	Thu	DPC Ostara rit
20	Fri	Ostara
21	Sat	
22	Sun	
23	Mon	
24	Tue	
25	Wed	
26	Thu	
27	Fri	
28	Sat	
29	Sun	
30	Mon	
31	Tue	

Calendar Events:

For more information on Dragon Palm Circle Events join the Dragon Palm Events group on Facebook or contact: dreamweaver@dragonpalmcircle.org

For Earth's Web events information go to their web site: EarthsWebg.org

If you have a calendar event mail the information to pas@dragonpalm.com. The calendar can be used for festivals, retreats, open rituals, PNO's, concerts and other events of interest to pagans. We try to fill in the dates that we don't have events on with holidays of the past or in other parts of the world. If you give us contact information we will print it here. Don't forget we will print a free ad for your event. We just ask that it is sent in a format such as JPEG, gif, PNG. This way any art stays where it should and we have a little more control of where we put it.





Around the Hearth.....

by Lady Pinkie Luna Fae

Greetings friends and Phamily!! Are you tired of being indoors yet? I know I am. Cabin fever is eating me up, but I know that spring is right around the corner. I am beginning to plot out the garden and make brief forays outside to do a little bit of work when I can. Or at least get a list together of what needs done. I have spent the first part of deep winter dreaming up visions of what i would like to see this year, and now it's time to put it down on paper and get a handle on what i can realistically do. If I start out organized I just may finish that way with a shred of sanity left. That is a joke..... kind of, there are always so many wonderful things going on with the kids and their activities and community get togethers and just plain social things, if I don't start organized I will get behind so quickly we all get frustrated.

Below I have included some history and tradition straight from the web. There are many other traditions, including butter making, bread making, the lighting of candles (pre-electric households would use this time to test candles made over the winter by lighting them and then putting them out again.) and the blessing of seeds (although i suspect it was good for checking to see if there had been any damage to the things stored over the winter) This was and is truly a festival of hearth and home probably more than any other.

[Wiccans](#) celebrate a variation of Imbolc as one of the eight holidays (or "Sabbats") of the [Wheel of the Year](#). Imbolc is defined as a [cross-quarter-day](#), midway between the [winter solstice](#) ([Yule](#)) and the [spring equinox](#) ([Ostara](#)). In Wicca, Imbolc is commonly associated with the goddess Brighid

Imbolc is mentioned in some of the [earliest Irish literature](#) and there is evidence it has been an important date since ancient times. It is believed that it was originally a [pagan](#) festival associated with the goddess [Brighid](#) and that it was [Christianized](#) as a festival of Saint Brighid, who herself is thought to be a [Christianization](#) of the goddess. At Imbolc, [Brighid's crosses](#) were made and a [doll](#)-like figure of Brighid, called a *Brídeóg*, would be paraded from house-to-house. Brighid was said to visit one's home at Imbolc. To receive her blessings, people would make a bed for Brighid and leave her food and drink, while items of clothing would be left outside for her to bless. Brighid was also invoked to protect homes and livestock. Feasts were had, [holy wells](#) were visited and it was also a time for [divination](#).

Irish *imbolc* derives from the [Old Irish](#) *i mbolg* "in the belly". This refers to the pregnancy of ewes.^[4] A medieval glossary etymologies the term as *oimelc* "ewe's milk".^[5] Some use *Oimelc* as a name for the festival.

HOW TO MAKE A BRIGID'S CROSS

Instructions

1.

○ 1

Cut 16 pieces of reed or heavy straw into even lengths of 10 to 12 inches. Also cut four pieces of twine three inches long each for finishing the cross.

○ 2

Soak the reeds in cool water for approximately 30 minutes to make them more pliable. Remove them from the water and allow them to drain on a clean cloth. Fold all but one of the reeds in half. The reeds may not stay folded on their own but creasing them first will make them easier to handle as the project continues.

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○ 3

Hold the straight reed in one hand and wrap a folded reed around the center of the straight one. Pull the folded reed taut against the straight reed.

○ 4

Hold the two reeds together at their intersection and rotate the cross 90 degrees to the left.

- 5
Wrap another reed around the base of the second straw so its open ends face right. Pull the reed taut so that it is snug against the center intersection.
- 6
Continue rotating the cross to the left and adding another reed at the base so that its ends face right until you have used all 16 reeds. Keep the reeds snug as you work.
- 7
Tie the ends of each arm of the cross together with the twine pieces. Snip off any excess twine and trim the ends of the reeds for neatness if you desire.

Read more : http://www.ehow.com/how_6813880_make-st-brigid_s-cross.html

Materials: 28 long, large diameter wheat straws without heads

Soak straws in a tub of cool water for half an hour before starting, then wrap in a towel for another 15 minutes.

Make the core first by positioning two straws to make a plus sign, placing the horizontal straw on top. Pull the upper section of the vertical straw down on top of its other half (Fig. 1). Turn the weave 90 degrees counterclockwise. Repeat to fold down the straw that is now vertical. (Fig. 2)

Turn the straws 90 degrees counterclockwise again. Add the next straw by placing it to the right of the vertical folded straw and under the horizontal folded straw, as shown in Fig. 3. Fold the added straw, turn the straws once again, and add

the fourth and final straw to this round in the same fashion. Continue to add folded straws. Avoid letting them bunch up or lie on top of those in a previous round. Instead, build the weave outward, resting the straws side by side. At first, you may find it difficult to hold the arms together and at right angles, but as the weave gains substance, this will prove easier. Just remember to watch for gaps and fill them by repositioning and tightening the straws as necessary. When all 28 straws have been incorporated, tie each arm off about 4 inches from the center of the design. Trim the ends of the straws and threads.

Weather prognostication is another big part of this time of year. The tradition of looking at animal behavior, especially that of hibernating and burrowing animals, can indeed tell whether the winter is coming to an end. It really isn't as simple as whether the groundhog sees his shadow though. It relies more upon how long and even if these animals are awake and foraging. For those growing their own food, or food for others, timing can be crucial as you want to maximize your growing time but not have to start all over because of freezing. The animals are usually a much better judge of these things if you know what to look for.

Regardless of what the old groundhog says this year, Spring is closer now than farther away, and my flip flops and I have a date for the first set of warm days that will come along.

Blessed Be,
Lady Pinkie Luna Fae



Ayesha Khan

Sigh

By Ayesha Khan

sigh I wake up on the same time I always do. I rub my eyes and get out of bed. I walk to the huge window and draw the curtains. It is all there. The frosty streets, chalky pale ground, gray mountains, tinted sky, snow-covered trees - then, why do I feel different? Like a change has occurred, like a new sun is shining upon me... I walk to the other side of my room, shoulders limp, thoughts tinged. Lost and confused, I pace to and fro. I keep thinking. And then, I glance up at the calendar. Oh, it's January 1st. It is the first day of the new year! This explains. It is a new beginning. A new start.

I think about all the things I would do. About goals I wish to accomplish. So much to be done. A thousand promises to keep. All of a sudden, I feel so new, so full - of hopes, dreams, passion and with the excitement of what is to come. A happy grin stretches across my face, from ear to ear.

But I think harder. I see the other side. And I bet it isn't as pretty as the first. I know the danger now, I know the risk. What if it goes wrong? What if everything I plan turn out to be a disaster? What if I fail?

The smile disappears, my face goes blank. I feel so empty. I have no answers and yes, I am afraid. I fear to try something new. I fear to trust what I cannot see or touch. I want a guarantee. My face gets tense. I am desperate. I want a secure future. My share of happiness and success. I want to be sure.

I think deeper and it is not very soothing. The deeper I dive, the more I get lost. It is like a whirlpool. Of darkness. Of unpredictable future. I feel annoyed. Why wouldn't it just give me answers? Calm me

down, tell me it would be nice to me and not ruin anything? I carry a sullen face now, my lips pouted and my jaw set. And then I see a tiny ant. Walking up the wall, carrying a food grain larger than its

own size. Up she goes and falls. But to my great astonishment, she picks the food grain and starts again. It repeat. She falls again. I lose the look. Now I sit focused, my head in my hands, my legs

curled up, eyes keen. I observe and think why wouldn't she just give up? She tries and tries..... four times, five, six..... and then at last, she succeeds. I feel dazed. Ashamed. If a creature so little does not give up, how much coward do we humans look? Why do we fear to try? And what if that fear is worth nothing?

And then I know, it is all in our head. We fear what we cannot see. We are big, nasty supporters of materialism. And then I think, why do we care for feelings then? They are not materials but we do trust them, don't we? It is because we know they exist. We know they are somewhere out there for us. Why can't we trust future then? Why can't we cherish something so full of promises and possibilities? Why don't we just try for once in our lives and see for ourselves if the outcome is good or bad; instead of hiding in the back and running away in fear?

Trust me, the risks we take are the most driving catalysts in our lives. Jump in a wrong train and get stuck somewhere. Grab a different bar of chocolate and try what something you have never had tastes like. Pick a wrong profession and see for yourself where it takes you. What? You don't know what might happen? Congratulations! Neither do I. So why on Earth should we fear when no one knows? Can't hear you, speak louder! Do you think it might be a bad idea? Well, who the hell cares! I can't say the same for other things but believe me when I tell you this, pretty much every single person on this planet is at your level on this thing - except for the fortune tellers and this is however, open to debate - so take the challenge. Go for new beginnings. Take some serious risks. This is not the time to make right decisions and fear, but to make mistakes and learn from them. You can't tell how bright your future might be. How much more it can guarantee than just some material stuff. So start now!

Eat, sleep, take risks, hope for the best and repeat!



Ayesha Khan

Antaios Moon

by Faucon

When we bask in Mistress glow in full splendor,
the world may take on a different perception.
Softened shadows project more soul than human form,
and a passing stranger forever seems to smile,
and our heart can reflect without fear of stumbling.

The night is more than not the friend of those in love.
With the dark comes the dream; gifted a clearer eye,
the world masked over, no false clues to the lovers lie.
Ever in the mind and heart -- love and trust remains.
Proud love, in the dark, can always be reborn again.

It might be said we walk our chose Path more clearly
without the glare distractions of the too bright day,
but by most ancient claim there is another reason.
For our favored moon is an eye of Antaios;
god of heaven's falcon; bold watch-guard of the soul.

He careth not what Path does guide your spirit foot;
but if you have not found one, your soul knows un-rest,
and if shame you do not seek one, the moon will dim,
the gods show no favor, and love will you ignore.
He is ever watching that action match your words.

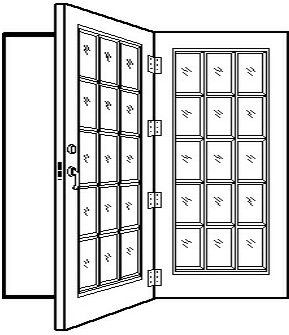
So dance in the light of the Mistress graced smile,

and laugh at shadow fears that beguile other
men,
for the Guardian eye of Antaios is most kind.
As you see compassion and open fellowship,
so shall he, my friend -- and such will ever be.





Caroline Di



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

This month I have asked another writer to take us through the Door. This article appeared in 2008 in The Witches' Voice, and I received permission from its author to republish it here.

Pagan and Crazy

by Alex

I remember meeting my first prospective High Priestess and High Priest in a coffee shop. I arrived agonizingly early, purchased a chai tea and seated myself facing the door, scrutinizing everyone who entered. Finally a man and woman fitting the description arrived to greet me. We sat and chatted. I was charmed by them and eager to learn more about their group and their practice; intrigued by the faraway look the Priestess had in her eyes when she said that a Witch was essentially a Shaman. I nervously wondered when the right opportunity would come up in conversation for me to mention a potential deal-breaker. I suffer from what most people consider to be a severe mental-illness. As the conversation wound down to a close, the two Witches were satisfied with me and invited me to visit their home for their next meeting. As the gentleman gathered up his coat he jokingly said, "you're not a psycho or anything, are you?"

"Actually," I said, "there's something I have to tell you about." We all slowly sat back down. I explained to them that I have been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, an incurable brain disorder that causes me to experience disorganized thinking as well as altered perceptions.

At the time of this writing, I have been managing my illness for about five years, and have been Pagan for considerably longer. My Pagan path has led me to British Traditional Wicca, which can be a complicated route to follow when mentally-ill. Not only do I deal with the psychological issues inherent in any religious practice that involves the supernatural, but Traditional Wicca requires that I work with others who are historically cautious about the company they keep. In fact, Ed Fitch wrote a document titled "So You Want To Be A Gardnerian" that implies that the ideal prospective coven member is, "not currently in psychological therapy." Coven of the Wild Rose does not accept people who take psychotropic medications or require therapy and writes as a footnote to the above document that, "if you cannot function as a fully responsible adult individual in the mundane reality then you cannot function effectively in the magical/ mystical realities and should not even attempt to do so until you have all your oars in the water and they are working all in proper tandem." Their view may seem extreme or even discriminatory, but it is not unusual. In fact, most coven leaders that sincerely care about their members will at least view a mental-illness as a red flag. After all, they owe nothing to an eager outsider, and it is in their best interest to be careful with whom they let into the most intimate part of their lives. Not only that, but there can be a real danger to the a mentally-ill person. Some worry Witches may worry that their fellow Shaman may never return from the other worlds. Some religious practices might exacerbate an already precarious mental health situation. Ultimately, the decision as to whether to admit a mentally-ill member is up to the individual coven or group in question.

Issues with reality differentiation be a monkey-wrench in a coven's engine, after all, nobody wants to explain to the psychiatrist on duty at the emergency room just what the patient was doing naked in the covenstead when he or she had a psychotic break. (Ironically, the reality issues for a Pagan in the psych ward goes both ways. I

can't tell you how many times my religion has been considered a delusion by a health worker who can't even spell "Pagan.") A mentally ill Witch can trouble Elders in other, more subtle, ways. Although schizophrenia is not a mood disorder, I know that other Pagans with emotional problems can have trouble finding a spiritual community. Prejudged as potential trolls, individuals with bipolar disorder or depression inspire visions of tearful melt-downs. It is often reiterated to prospective members that a coven is not a substitute for a support group!

With barriers like these, is it possible for a mentally-ill Pagan to find a group in which they can be accepted? Though your mileage may vary, expect delays. The wonderful couple that I met that night in the coffee shop politely and compassionately asked me to leave the group eight months later, the Priests last words to me that day were, "sorry we chickened out on you." After trying out a couple more groups, I was initiated into another coven a few years later that I currently consider my Family.

My mental-illness extended my seeking process and may make my training much longer as well. However, this journey has taught me a few lessons I might otherwise have overlooked. First, I learned to be honest about my limitations, not only with myself, but with others. It could be argued that if I hadn't told anyone about my illness, they might never have known, but that wouldn't have done me any favors. It would have been especially cruel of me if I had to tell them later by telephone from within my local psych ward. I learned, also, to enjoy the time that I am spending with those who are with me, however brief that time may be.

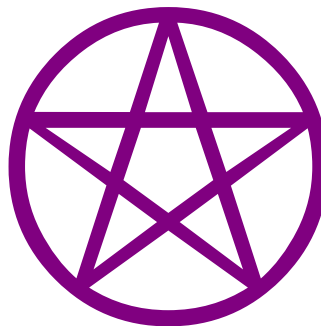
I've also learned to be just as critical of potential Elders as they are of me. For the mentally-ill, this can be an especially vital consideration, since our risks of being victimized can be greater and our pool of potential covens may be smaller. The mentally-ill are not always shunned in the Pagan community. Some groups consider being mentally-ill akin to being an oracle! It's important to be cautious of groups that pursue aggressively, and at the same time it is a fact of life that some groups do not desire mentally-ill members. I have my own strengths, and even Elders have their weaknesses. Don't "settle" for questionable leaders simply because others may not be as welcoming. If you're a mentally-ill Pagan and are asked if you're a "psycho," you may do well to answer, "Why, yes! And what's your dysfunction?"

Alex is a tarot reader in Asheville NC. Her website, <http://www.earthshod.com>, shows her recovery and what she can do with you.

Join me next month for another walk through the Door.

Hugs,
Moss

[Moss Bliss is a Pagan priest, bard, helper and successful human being living in Blaine, TN.]



Bag Method for Soaking

By Cardea Hinges

Sometimes, I need to soak something, but don't have enough liquid to submerge it or don't have the free space for a tub or bowl of whatever to just sit. In these cases, I like bag-soaking to save space and materials.

If you're soaking meat to marinate, use a zip bag. Be sure and choose a brand that seals securely. Mix your marinade right in the bag (and save having to wash a bowl), drop in the meat, then close it, pressing out the air as you zip. This keeps the liquid in constant contact with the meat and you can set it anywhere it fits in the fridge without worry about it tipping over.

If I'm soaking something for crafts or cleaning purposes, I wrap the item to be soaked in paper towels, put it in the bag, and only pour in enough liquid to thoroughly wet the towels. Since it's not food, I use any plastic bag I happen to have on hand as long as it has no holes. For most things, you still want to press out the air and seal the bag to help prevent evaporation, which wastes your liquid. I tend to hang these somewhere out of the way rather than having them take up table or counter space.

If you're soaking bones or bloody fabric in hydrogen peroxide, Do Not seal it up. Hydrogen peroxide is made up of 2 hydrogen atoms and 2 oxygen atoms. When it comes in contact with a reactant substance, one oxygen atom breaks off from the molecule and we see the white foam bubbles. If you seal this reaction in a plastic bag, you'll have a bag, half full of air pretty soon, and the pressure could cause a leak. I've never seen one actually pop, but I haven't ruled out the possibility. For something like this, I hang the bag upright and open.

Please use common sense and practical safety practices in your crafting and cooking.

Happy Holidays, and Merry Making!



FAERIE DEW

By Faucon

I asked questions of my parents,
'bout myst'ries large and small,
and was told in scarce helpful terms,
"Learn then of the Faerie Dew."

I teased found friends with magic,
in mirth and questing jest,
and was pushed away in mild fear,
"Go searching the Faerie Dew."

I tossed conundrums at teachers,
of the wisdom they had claimed,
and found they rarely 'walked the talk',
knowing not the Faerie Dew.

Then I embraced each lonely stranger,
in simple open hand and heart,
and claimed the awesome secret there,
that I must 'faire ye do'.



Bards of Silence

By Faucon

There are Whispers in my soul,
shadow Signs I might behold,
but I can't remember what they mean.
So, I trust the Bards of Ages,
Seers, Crones and wizened Sages
to sing again the songs I need to hear.

But now the Bards are silent,
sure Sign of disillusion,
and I must fumble my way along.
Oh, I yearn for Bards a singing,
friends, kin and learned mentors
to tell once more of truths I'll ever heed.

There echoes in the Silence,
fain memories and portents --
Songs and Murmurs from Mountain and Sea.
No, I do not wish to ponder,
search, guess and mental wander
when there're Bards who could be singing to
me.

You need no special talent
nor need for acclamation
to tell all others what you have seen.
But, to know a touch of magic,
see, hear of awe and wonder,
and deny this to the world must be wrong.

You're a Bard if you speak out,
something else if thee do not,
forcing me learn from Silence alone.
But, you will surely grow wiser,
happy, keen and more aware,
if you but release the Bard you hide inside.

There are Whispers in my soul,
shadow Signs I might behold,
but I can't remember what they mean.
So, I trust the Bards of Ages,
Seers, Crones and wizened Sages
to sing again the songs I need to hear.

Imbolc - the Feast of the Torches

By Ayesha Khan

Imbolc (pronounced as "EE-molc" or "IM-bulk"), also known as Oimealg ("IM-mol'g"), by the Druids, is the festival of lactating sheep. It is derived from the Gaelic word "oimelc" meaning "ew-milk". It is when either the herd animals have given birth to their offsprings or their wombs are swollen and the milk of life is flowing in their teats and udders. The holiday is commonly known as 'Candlemas', or Brigid's (pronounced as "BREED") Day and is one of the four Celtic "Fire Festivals". It commemorates the changing of the Goddess from the Crone to the Maiden, and hence, also called "The festival of the Maiden". It celebrates the very first signs of spring and is the time of blessing of the seeds and consecration of agricultural tools. It also indicates the mid of the dark half of the year and the successful passing of winter and the beginning of the agricultural year. From February 2nd to 21st, it is the festival of the Virgin, and her season to prepare for renewal and growth.

In this season, the first signs of spring and the return of the sun are noted, like the first sprouting of leaves, the sprouting of the Crocus flowers, etc. It marks the transition point of the threefold Goddess energies from those of Crone to Maiden. It is the day when we celebrate the passing of winter and make way for spring. It is the day when we honour the rebirth of the Sun. It is also a day to celebrate the Celtic Goddess Brigid - the Goddess of poetry, healing, smithcraft, and midwifery. She is a triple Goddess, so we honour her in every way. This time is for communing with her, and tending the lighting of her sacred flame. Wiccans will light multiple candles, white for Brigid, for the Gid usually yellow or red, to remind us of the passing of winter and commencing into the Spring, the time of the Sun.

Imbolc (February 2nd) symbolizes the recovery of the Goddess after giving birth to the God. The lengthening periods of light awakens her but the God is a young, lusty boy, but his power is felt in the longer days. The warmth yields fertility to the Earth (the Goddess), and is the cause for the seeds to sprout and germinate and in this way the earliest beginnings of the Spring are marked. This is also a Subbat of purification after the shut-in life of winter, by the renewing power of the Sun. It is also a festival of light and fertility, once marked in Europe by huge blazes, torches and fire in every form. Fire here represents our own illumination and inspiration as much as light and warmth. Imbolc is also known as the Feast of Torches, Lupercalia, Feast of Pan, Snowdrop Festival, Feast of the waxing light, and probably by many other names.

All for Imbolc/Candlemas:

Incense : Rosemary, Frankincense, Myrrh, Cinnamon, Wisteria, Bay, Basil, Violet, Vanilla.

Decorations : Corn Dolly, Besom, Spring flowers.

Colours : White, Orange, Red, Yellow, Green, Brown, Pink.

Deities : All Virgin/Maiden Goddesses, Brigid, Aradia, Athena, Inanna, Gaia, and Februa, and Gods of Love and Fertility, Aengus Og, Eros, and Februus.

Symbolism : Purity, Growth and Renewal, The Re-Union of the Goddess and the God, Fertility, and the Dispensing of the old and making way for the new.

Herbs : Angelica, Basil, Bay Laurel, Blackberry, Celandine, Coltsfoot, Heather, Iris, Myrrh, Tansy, Violets, and all white or yellow flowers.

Food : Pumpkin seeds, Sunflower seeds, Poppyseed cakes, muffins, scones and breads, all dairy products, Peppers, Onions, Garlic, Raisins, Spiced Wines, and Herbal Teas.

Stones : Amethyst, Bloodstone, Garnet, Ruby, Onyx, Turquoise.

Activities : Candle lighting, Stone gathering, snow Hiking and searching for the signs of Spring, Making of Brideo'gas and Bride's Beds, Making Priapic Wands, Decorating Ploughs, Feasting, and Bonfires may be lit.

Ritual for Imbolc/Candlemas:

Supplies : Symbol of the season, such as a white flower or snow in a crystal container will be needed. An orange candle anointed with cinnamon, frankincense or rosemary oil (unlit), red candle to repre-

sent the elements, and your ritual supplies. Arrange the altar, light the candles and censer, and cast the Circle.

Invoke the Goddess and God.

Say the following words:

"This is the time of the feast of torches,

When every lamp blazes and shines

To welcome the rebirth of the God.

We celebrate the Goddess,

We celebrate the God;

All the Earth celebrates,

Beneath its mantle of sleep."

Light the orange taper from the red candle on the altar. Slowly walk the circle clockwise, bearing the candle before you. Say these words:

"All the land is wrapped in winter,

The air is chilled and

Frost envelopes the Earth.

But the Lord of the Sun,

Horned one of the animals and wild places,

Unseen but you have been reborn

Of the gracious Mother Goddess,

Lady of all fertility.

Hail Great God!

Hail and Welcome!"

Stop the altar, holding aloft the candle. Gaze at its flame. Imagine your life sprouting with creativity, with reborn strength and power.

If you need to look into the future of the past, now is the time!

Celebrate the simple feast.

Thank God and Goddess.



Dreamweaver

SINGING IN THE TREES: THE MAKING OF BARDS

by Moss Bliss, BardMaster of Earth's Web



Singing in the Trees:
The Making of Bards
Imbolc 2015
by Moss Bliss, BardMaster of Earth's Web

What's in your soul?

When life hits you upside the head, where do you go? Do you watch a movie? Curl up in bed? Listen to music? Are you active or passive?

What kind of music do you retreat into? What you do for comfort is where your soul is.

If you retreat into music, what music soothes you?

How you tell your story is influenced by the background music in your personal movie. Is your music feeding your soul, numbing it, or are you ignoring it altogether?

Do you write your story, sing it, or dance to it?

Your turn.



Caroline Di



Caroline Di



Caroline Di

Imbolc and Fresh Energies

Imbolc 2015
by *Nightress*

At Samhain, the New Year began and it was a time of reflection. A time to give thanks for what we received and thankful for what we will receive. To give thanks, for all our ancestors have done so we can be where we are today.

During the Winter Solstice, it is a time of rest. A time of being with family and friends, and to help those who are less fortunate than we are. Taking time to get away from the mundane energies, which have a tendency of weighing us down and to remember why we are here.

Now Imbolc is upon us and it is time to gather our energies for what is to come.

One thing I like to start with is cleaning and cleansing. I do this for the Spring Equinox. So, before it gets here I make plans for what all I want to do. I used to just start at one end of the house and work my way to the other, but I find I get weary too fast. So, now I start by making plans first. I write down the things I feel that needs to be done. If I need to go thru boxes and storage containers, I can start there as soon as I get all my ideas written down.

I want to get ideas to brighten up the house and lighten the energies. Winter time can bog us down so changing colors schemes, rearranging and adding a little Fung Shui can do a lot to help with renewed moods and energies. Also, creating a new flow of energies can refresh our minds and bodies which will help with a peaceful home and the creativity we need for our magicks.

Next is planning wardrobe changes, such as changing out coats, sweater and boots for shorts, tank tops and sandals. Of course there are many more such change outs, but you get the idea.

Next is planning any gardens you want to get started. Depending on where you live, you could plant seeds inside now so they can be planted in spring. If you are not sure what you need then look at what you want to bring into your life such as lavender for luck, mugwort for health or rosemary for protection. All herbs have magickal uses so check them out for what you might want to plant.

These are just a few ideas that I like to start with and you may find you have more which will work for your home. Once you get these set straight, the cleaning will be easier and you can do your cleansing. You should feel much better after this is done and the Spring Equinox will be upon us.

Nightress is the creator and High Priestess of the Deithean Tradition

You can contact her at: deedeewitan@yahoo.com or <https://www.facebook.com/DeitheanGroup>

We are reconstructing our site at: <http://changingelementsidc.com/>





Caroline Di

Imbolc-Bring back the light

By Lady Sky

Bring back the light
Bring back the life
Bring back the warmth
Bring back hope

As the days start to get warmer
And the animals start to roam
As activity returns to all creatures
Let us welcome hope to our homes

Light is returning
The sun is shining
Soon flowers will bloom
Warmth is returning to the frozen land

Another winter has been and gone
Cold weather will soon give way to warm
Dreary days will be filled with light
There will be more day than night

Bring back the light
Bring back the warmth
All the creatures roam outside again
Instead of hovering in the shadows

Bring back the light
So we may once again feel the heat
Bring back the light
So we may once again hope!

Another December Just Ended

By Ayesha Khan

Another December just ended
Another year died
Another beginning is here

And where are we?
Are we where we were supposed to be?
Where we had aimed?

Or are we still just stumbling in the dark?
Holding on to some shredded pieces of the past
Afraid of what is to come

Another chance is here
To let go
Recollect, restart and redeem

What we really want
Who we really are
Where we really are meant to be

To give up all those fears
That kept us bounded
Be fearless and strong

To darkness
To days unseen
To past that cannot be changed

It is another chance
A chance to be someone
Worth it all

Another chance is here
To make the right choice
To go for the right thing

Another year is here
All new and full
Of possible achievements and hopes

Another new year has begun
Another January
Another beginning

Another chance to change
Another challenge to take
But are you ready?

To be another you?
A better, fearless person?
Or would it be another waste?





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Caroline Di

Dragon Palm Yule







We meet every third Thursday of the Month at 8 PM at the Sevierville Books - A - Million in the coffee shop. If the weather is nice we meet in the outside patio. They are located at 190 Collier Drive, Sevierville, TN. (collier Drive is the light at the Sevierville Walmart). This is not an official BAM event, so do not contact them for information on the PNO, but for directions their number 865-908-8994. Contact dreamweaver@dragonpalmcircle.org for more information or join our facebook group "Dragon Palm Events" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/221898301197684/>

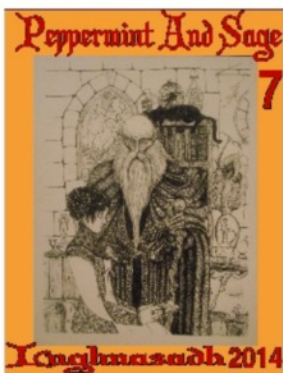


**Home made
butter made at
the Dragon
Palm Circle Im-
bolc ritual**

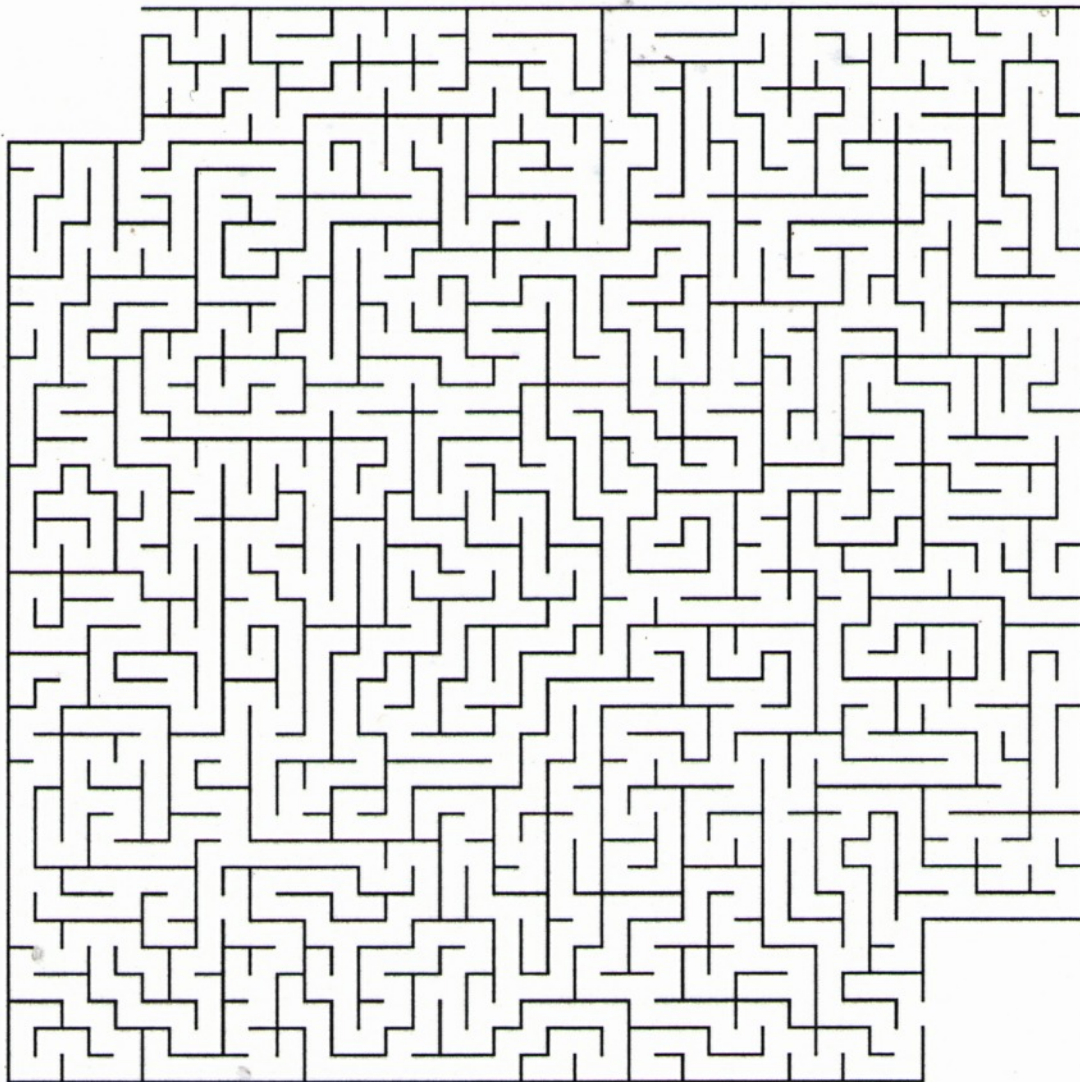


Become part of Peppermint And Sage
 Deadline for our next issue is March 12, 2015. We can use article, poems, cartoons, artwork, photos, jokes, reviews, events for the calendar, cover, words for crossword, word search words. We also need to hear from you!! Let us know what you think of this issue, let our writers, artist, poets, photographers know what you think of what they are doing.. Submissions and letters can be sent to pas@dragonpalm.com and letter to Ask Tiger-Lily send to asktigerlily@pas.dragonpalm.com Each issue has gotten bigger and the price has stayed the same FREE.

You can start sending in items for it at anytime. Lets make this issue the biggest yet! We can use COVERS (both front and rear) Start submitting today!!



Pagan Fun Time



Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com

Bridgit

S , THE , B BRIL U AND NG - RES
NE , IGH FL Y , PRI IST TER OF
SA W , GRE LAD ER , HEA GIT AT
S , BR D S LER CRE OET PON ITH
CAL OF EXA AME IT D OS . MAK
U : , M F P RRO TH S OWE NAL
RIG LTE SM YO NGS T A E E KI

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com



Imbolg Word Search

W	T	I	G	I	R	B	S	E	L	P	P	A	G	M
D	H	E	A	R	T	H	F	I	R	E	U	Y	Q	W
W	A	L	T	E	R	K	M	J	C	S	R	V	U	N
P	S	E	A	C	O	R	N	X	M	E	G	B	E	W
R	J	F	N	L	A	C	P	E	T	R	S	D	K	P
Y	Z	K	O	C	K	X	D	E	O	B	R	C	E	W
I	T	A	P	W	V	I	M	U	X	E	O	R	U	B
C	B	I	E	T	R	E	N	P	S	R	S	L	T	F
A	R	S	L	B	D	D	U	N	F	E	V	Q	E	N
N	I	D	K	I	H	L	E	T	P	Q	O	A	I	C
D	G	I	B	O	T	C	I	H	G	L	S	L	K	J
L	I	U	G	U	F	R	O	V	S	T	R	X	G	M
E	D	R	H	M	S	N	E	U	N	E	O	T	B	I
H	J	D	W	A	E	F	Z	F	M	A	H	A	D	P
O	E	M	U	N	O	M	A	N	N	I	C	G	W	K

Word search

- Brigit
- Brigid
- Bride
- Demeter
- Persephone
- Groundhog
- Candle
- Alter
- Apples
- Anvil
- Censer
- Cinnamon
- Corn
- Druids
- Epona
- Feast
- Fertility
- Hearthfire
- Merlin

Imbolg

E E R E M D T	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P E S R E P N E O H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R D N O G H O G U	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C I N N O M N A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D I R B E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

Created by [Puzzlemaker](http://Puzzlemaker.com) at DiscoveryEducation.com

Decode

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Γ				Δ																H					

$\frac{\text{Υ}}{\text{Υ}}$ $\frac{\text{Φ}}{\text{Φ}}$ $\frac{\text{Ρ}}{\text{Ρ}}$ $\frac{\text{Ι}}{\text{Ι}}$ $\frac{\text{Ψ}}{\text{Ψ}}$ $\frac{\text{Π}}{\text{Π}}$, $\frac{\text{T}}{\text{H}}$ $\frac{\text{E}}{\text{M}}$ $\frac{\text{E A T}}{\text{Δ}}$ $\frac{\text{T}}{\text{E H}}$ $\frac{\text{A E}}{\text{I Σ}}$ $\frac{\text{A E}}{\text{Σ Ψ Γ Φ Δ Ε}}$

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Φ								K																	

$\frac{\text{O P H H A}}{\text{O P H H A}}$ $\frac{\text{O P P Ω}}{\text{O P P Ω}}$, $\frac{\text{O P H H A}}{\text{O P H H A}}$ $\frac{\text{A}}{\text{θ Φ H Ω}}$, $\frac{\text{O P H H A}}{\text{O P H H A}}$

$\frac{\text{A A I}}{\text{Φ Δ Φ K Δ}}$

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				Y																					

$\frac{\text{E}}{\text{Δ Υ}}$ $\frac{\text{H E Φ Φ}}{\text{H E Φ Φ}}$ $\frac{\text{Z K Υ Δ}}{\text{Z K Υ Δ}}$ $\frac{\text{Γ Ψ Ζ}}{\text{Γ Ψ Ζ}}$, $\frac{\text{Π Χ Ρ Ω Ρ Β}}{\text{Π Χ Ρ Ω Ρ Β}}$ $\frac{\text{Υ θ}}{\text{Υ θ}}$

$\frac{\text{E E E}}{\text{Β Ι Υ}}$ $\frac{\text{E E E}}{\text{Υ Β Υ Χ Δ Ε Φ}}$ $\frac{\text{E}}{\text{θ Φ Ε θ Υ}}$

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W	T	I	G	I	R	B	S	E	L	P	P	A	G	M
D	H	E	A	R	T	H	F	I	R	E	U	Y	Q	W
W	A	L	T	E	R	K	M	J	C	S	R	V	U	N
P	S	E	A	C	O	R	N	X	M	E	G	B	E	W
R	J	F	N	L	A	C	P	E	T	R	S	D	K	P
Y	Z	K	O	C	K	X	D	E	O	B	R	C	E	W
I	T	A	P	W	V	I	M	U	X	E	O	R	U	B
C	B	I	E	T	R	E	N	P	S	R	S	L	T	F
A	R	S	L	B	D	D	U	N	F	E	V	Q	E	N
N	I	D	K	I	H	L	E	T	P	Q	O	A	I	C
D	G	I	B	O	T	C	I	H	G	L	S	L	K	J
L	I	U	G	U	F	R	O	V	S	T	R	X	G	M
E	D	R	H	M	S	N	E	U	N	E	O	T	B	I
H	J	D	W	A	E	F	Z	F	M	A	H	A	D	P
O	E	M	U	N	O	M	A	N	N	I	C	G	W	K

Answer to mixed squares:

Great Lady, Exalted One, King-maker, Bright Arrow, we call upon you; Brigit of the eternal flame, Brigit of the sacred springs,

Imbolg

EEREÄDT

DEMETER

PESREPNEOH

PERSEPHONE

RDNOGHOGU

GRONDHOG

CINNOMNA

CINNAMON

DIRBE

BRIDE

CENRES

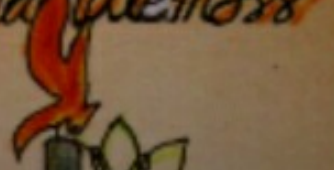
CENSER

DRUIDS

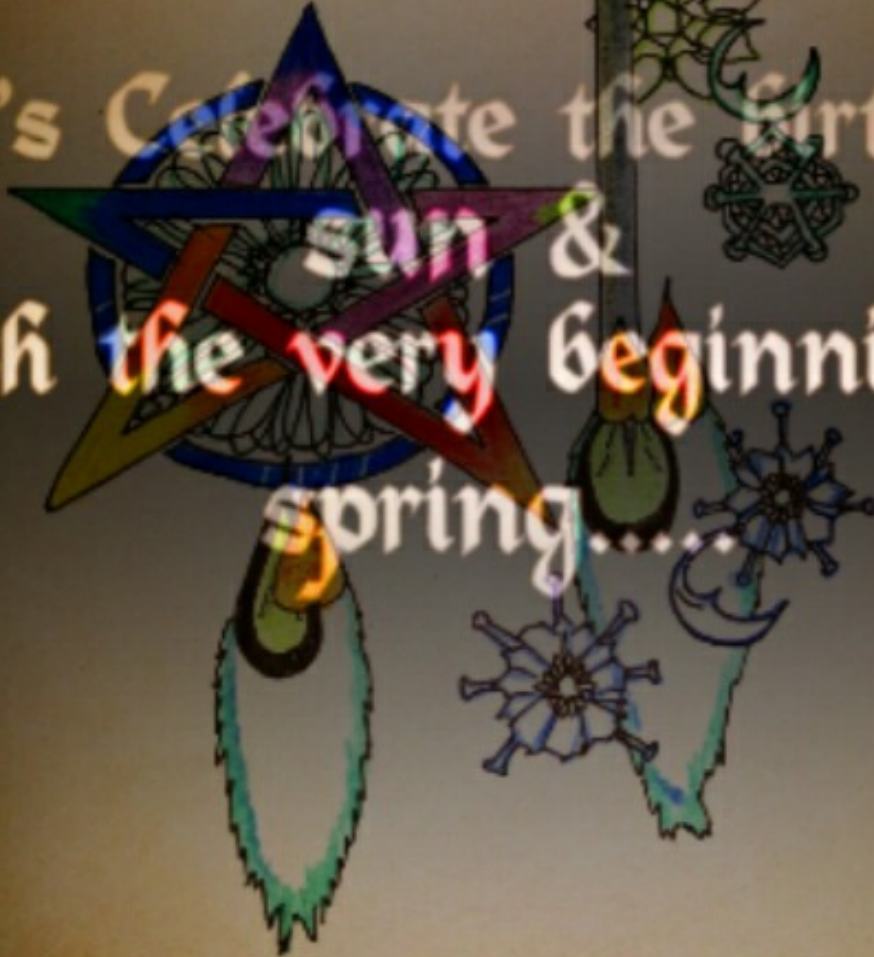


Timbolic

Candlemass



Let's Celebrate the birth of
sun &
cherish the very beginning of
spring.....



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