



Peppermint And Sage

25

Winter 2017



This is the latest of any issue of PAS to date. With it we have changed from eight times a year to 4 times. This changed from the Samhain issue to the Yule issue to the Winter issue. PAS is still getting a lot of downloads - but we get no feedback - and we have lost a lot of people who were submitting in the early issues. Some because of other things taking their time - but some because their articles depended on feedback - hard to do a feature on answering questions if no one sends in the questions. And I'm sure that some stopped because regardless of what the downloads say - with no feedback - does anyone care. I know I have found it harder and harder to take the time to put this together than I did with earlier issues. We hope to see more interest and go back to eight times a year. When we first started we talked about going monthly. We were having several thousand copies downloaded each month. We still have several 100 from the site (one of the sites we had downloads on went under) We will go over the future of PAS elsewhere in this issue.

Blessed Be

Dreamweaver

**Peppermint And Sage Issue 25
Winter 2017**

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All submission should be sent to
pas@dragonpalm.com

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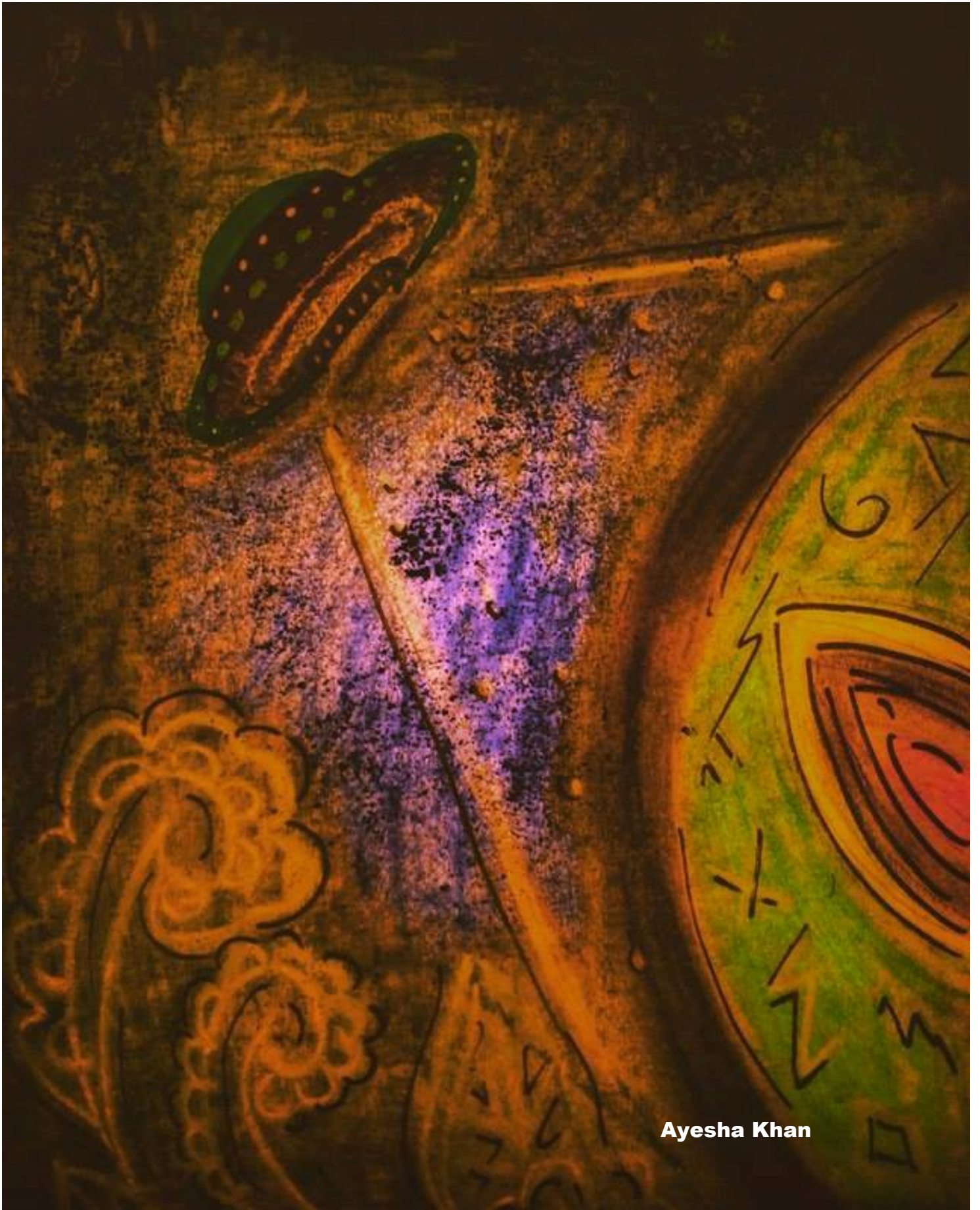
1	Sun	New Year's Day
2	Mon	
3	Tue	
4	Wed	
5	Thu	
6	Fri	
7	Sat	
8	Sun	
9	Mon	
10	Tue	
11	Wed	
12	Thu	FULL MOON
13	Fri	
14	Sat	
15	Sun	
16	Mon	Martin Luther King Day
17	Tue	
18	Wed	
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22	Sun	
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February 2017

1 Wed
2 Thu IMBOLC
3 Fri
4 Sat
5 Sun
6 Mon
7 Tue
8 Wed
9 Thu
10 Fri FULL MOON
11 Sat
12 Sun
13 Mon
14 Tue
15 Wed
16 Thu PNO
17 Fri
18 Sat
19 Sun
20 Mon President's Day
21 Tue
22 Wed
23 Thu
24 Fri
25 Sat
26 Sun
27 Mon
28 Tue

March 2017

1 Wed
2 Thu
3 Fri
4 Sat
5 Sun
6 Mon
7 Tue
8 Wed
9 Thu
10 Fri
11 Sat
12 Sun FULL MOON
13 Mon
14 Tue
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Ayesha Khan

NEXT ISSUE

I know this is silly of me to ask - but I could really use some feedback. If you are reading this issue and if you have read other issues - could you just drop me a note letting me know at dreamweaver@dragonpalm.com . I have to decide what to do with Peppermint And Sage. I have some very loyal supporters with whom I would not be able to put out an issue. As of this issue we are cutting from eight times a year to four. Hoping this will give people more time to submit things. But again I turn to the reader. You are the most important thing to us. Again if you drop us the line - you could tell us what you liked, what you would like to see and if features that you liked in earlier issues that you would like to see return, or poets you would like to see their work again, artist that are missing. This would help a lot. Are we just being downloaded by robots - or are people reading us. It doesn't take long to send an email. And all you need to do is let us know you are reading us. - But any other input would be nice.

We also need people who will submit things. It's very hard to put together an issue with almost no submissions. One of our feature writers said we could make the issues smaller - and we are, but we need material to not have big white blocks of nothing between articles. When putting them together when I have blank space I go through my personal photos looking for ones that wouldn't look out of place and can be cropped and still look like something to fill the void. pictures, art and ads are what I like to get from people to fill these spaces - and the ads are free - just need to be of something of interest to Pagans.

When I put together an issue of PAS I start with the main articles and stories - then I fill in and add more for poems, art and photos. When there is nothing to fill with it takes more time to do it.

Also you may notice that the Pagan Fun Pages went away - to do a word find all I need is 24 words and a theme that the words fall under. Then I toss them into a program which will use most of the words - print it out and give it to Lady Sky to find the words - so we have 1. A list that includes only the words used and 2. An answer sheet. Cross Word puzzle we need a little more - we need words and the hints. Again we toss this into a program and it will toss us out a crossword puzzle - and an answer sheet. But we need people to send this to us. We give them credit for making the puzzle. Several people have made these for us, but when we stopped getting them sent to us - we stopped doing them.

I really don't want to see PAS go away - it took me 13 years from concept to the first issue. Now I wasn't working on it all those year - and I tired out several ideas before coming out with the idea of making it an e-zine. For me this has been a labor of love. We have done 25 issues and I want to thank all of the people who have helped me from issue one to issue 25 - I couldn't have done it without you.

I hope to hear from you -

Deadline for issue 26 is April 5th it will be our Spring issue. You do not have to wait until the deadline to send in submissions - the earlier the better.

SINGING IN THE TREES: THE MAKING OF BARDS

by Moss Bliss, Bard of Blaine



Singing in the Trees

Yule 2016

by Moss Bliss
The Bard of Blaine

So we are closing in on the end of another year, one where many of our musical and acting icons appear to be dropping like flies in a cloud of Raid. I'm sure it hasn't actually been as bad as it seems, but emotional damage beats physical damage any day.

I am writing to you for the first time as a (happily) married Bard. This has limited my creativity only in that I have much less time to myself, which is of little consequence as I was wasting most of what I had. Sound familiar? When was the last time *you* sat down to write something, and found that two months had passed in the effort?

I almost skipped that "got married" part. There were about 20 in attendance including myself and my intended (intentions met, achievement unlocked!). Lady Emrys and Faucon were there, and Emmie kept us entranced with her harping. She also had composed (and performed) a song just for us. Oz the Great and Powerful (Do Not Look Behind the Curtain) and Jade Lion hosted the event. Another bard, my friend Cat Faber, also attended, and glad indeed we were to have her. I'm not going to name the entire guest list, short though it be. But it was mighty fine, and I am now Mr. Zia Lyllyth Terranova... or something like that.

Winter is upon us. we have felt the string of the first freezes, but have yet to see the full-blown Southern Panic which results from the hint of the first snowflake. There is much to write about, tender and hilarious, both simply and in a more erudite fashion. But most of us start withdrawing in the cold, jealously guarding our core as if freezing would damage it forever. And so we sink into our seasonal fugue, and before long are wondering if that is not our "true self".

The antidote to this is, of course, joy, activity, and sharing. This is a poor time to take up jogging, but a fine time to engage in blogging. Put your thoughts on paper, if only to yourself and if only one electronic paper. There are lots of free places (Blogger, WordPress, LiveJournal) to start a blog, and I recommend my diary.org for journaling (there is a facelift in the works, looks nice - test.my-diary.org).

Do I practice what I preach? Well, my blog is underutilized, but I have not missed a day all year (and not many days for years) posting to my diary. You are welcome to set out to do better than I.

Most bards, poets, and other fey folk are saddened by the political turn of events. It does not feel a good time to be singing praises and uplifting songs. The American victor's supporters are busy slamming and shaming everyone in their sight, just because it is now acceptable to do so.

May you remain above the fray and remember that we are all inhabitants of the same spaceship, and need to remember which way to row this boat (and that it's taking on water). Remember that we have had dark days many times in the past. Now is a time for heroes, both brash and quiet. If you don't feel strong enough to attack the demons, give a hand to the fallen and helpless. Times may yet get worse, and we may be looking for places to hide people. Sing about the potential plight of the downtrodden. Defend those who have less than you.

To be a bard is to tie into the Earth's great love for all.

Happy Yule

[Moss Bliss is a fallible human being who also appears to be a decent musician, singer, and songwriter, and is an Elder Bard in the Triad Bardic College (triadbardic.org) tradition.]



INTERVIEW OF CJ GRIMM by Mistress Belladonna



Just in time for the holidays, I am finally releasing my interview with CJ Grimm. Musician, composer, performer, businessman, and all around wickedly cool gentleman, this man cuts a classically intriguing figure. Dashing in his own right, he glides through the crowds of Pagan Michigan with his equally stunningly dark beauty, Morganna Grim, as they seem to move in their own space of Flashpoint Noir. Let's get started.

Who is CJ Grimm, and what is the Terror Network?

CJ Grimm, is a stage name that I came up with when I was getting started in industrial bands in 2012. It just kinda stuck, and I felt like it gave a bit more depth to my stage persona. Off-stage I can be kinda shy, but once I get that guitar in my hands, I become something else.

How would you describe your style of music?

Eclectic? Schizophrenic? It's kind of mash-up of every genre I've ever played. That's the problem, though, when you don't just subscribe to one genre, you almost feel its your duty to represent each of them equally.

It kind of crosses genres a bit, so what influences do you feel have come into play with the development of your style?

Ha! all of them. My top three guitarists of all time are Jimi Hendrix, Kirk Hammett (Metallica) and Carlos Santana. I also really dig Richard Z.'s (Rammstein) style. A lot of my songs tends to lean towards heavier bluesy type stuff and into metal a bit as well. I always try to temper one with the other.

<https://www.reverbnation.com/cjgrimm/song/26467549-behind-the-walls>

Listen to "Behind the Walls"

Vocally, what front men do you feel you share a vibe with in performance and presence?

Definitely James Hetfield (Metallica). Once you put on a guitar and start growling into a microphone, you better pay homage to Papa Het. Before it was always me without a mic, and you could kinda see shades of Zakk Wylde (Black Label Society, Ozzy), Richard Z., and even some Munky (Korn) but now, trying to play some of my riffs while singing at the same time, you have to invoke a little bit of Hetfield.

And your bandmates, how would you describe your collective soul? How did you all meet? How often do you play venues?

Back when I was in bands, it felt like maybe twice a month. I used to be in some pretty hard gigging bands. No tours though, we just played the hell out of South-

east Michigan. right now, I've only played the one show by myself. kinda gotta start back at the bottom, ya know?

What's is going on right now as far as a label?

Haha, that's in the works, so i don't want to jinx anything just yet. I'm currently in talks with someone who I know to be a fantastic business man, and would love to see this partnership come to fruition.

You are on [ReverbNation](#), what do you like about it?

I'm not all that tech savvy, so I love that its REALLY user friendly, haha. I can upload music, pictures, videos, show dates - the whole nine yards. Back when I first started playing, we barely had Myspace or any other social network platform to really get out there. Now-a-days, its so easy if you know what your doing.

Tell us about your fan base.

Mostly just friends right now, and a few people that remember me from previous bands, but I'm also getting new people after the last show. Thats one of the biggest problems when you start a new project - I've been a gigging musician for 13 years now, and every time you start something new, you've got to start all over again. so far though, the new fans that have been digging my music are just awesome.

Describe for us a typical show.

Nerve-wracking - the whole day is almost a ritual for me. I wake up, put myself together, and practice my set. gotta make sure everything is ready for people to not just hear, but see as well.

You gotta remember, you're not just playing music, you're putting on a show. You're not just a musician, you're a performer - an entertainer.

After all that, its packing up, getting to the gig, and then its hurry up and wait. Gotta wait for the other bands to back-line, gotta do the sound check. It's when people start filing into the venue, that's the hard part for me. I'm going through a million different things in my head -did I bring the right guitars, did they need new strings, what the hell was the set list, did I do this or forget to do that - I'm juggling all these things in my head, but when fans come up to you and want to talk before the show, you gotta push all of that to the back of your head, and be the cool guy that they're expecting to see, not the worrying emotional wreck that you are on the inside.

Then there's that moment - that moment when you just hit the stage, stop worrying and let it all go. You pour out your frustration, anger, whatever you've been holding onto all day, it's cleansing really. And then after that, I feel ten times better.

And what is the after-party time like?

ha! it used to be “stay up, party, get rowdy”, now its, “holy shit i hurt everywhere, wheres my comfy clothes, is it bed time?”

Do any of your gig experiences feed into your inspiration for your songs?

Not particularly.

Speaking of inspiration, what inspired you to pursue this dream?

I know it sounds cliché, but being able to really express myself, I guess. It's such a release to just pick up a guitar and let go. It's therapy.

You performed at [Michigan Pagan Fest](#) this year. And you made some new fans. Tell us about that experience.

Man, it was unreal. I really wasn't expecting a big response, mostly because i wasn't sure how they were gonna respond to my style, but the crowd loved it. I don't wanna say that I “became a rockstar” but they definitely made me feel like one.

Where can we catch your next performance?

Not really sure yet. Life's been so busy lately that while i would love to have a gig every weekend, it doesn't pay the bills. Right now, I essentially have two jobs, one in a factory, and the other is making jewelry with [Poking Dead Things](#). It's hard to fit what most might consider a hobby in between those things. Yay adulting!

Time to put you on the spot. What is your favorite track right now? And why?

You're asking me which of my children is my favorite... honestly, I'd have to say this cover I just did. It's a mash up of "Freak on a Leash" by Korn, and "Closer" by Nine Inch Nails. I maintained the drums and programming from NIN, most of the guitars from Korn, and then I threw in vocals from both. I didn't sample anything either, so it was a real stretch on my abilities.

And is this the one you would most like to promote for radio play?

Haha, I'd love to, but I would probably get sued.

Do you have an agent that handles your bookings right now? If someone wants to book you, who do they contact?

Not just yet, the only real way to get a hold of me is either through my band page on Facebook, or on my e-mail, cjbarebones@gmail.com

What are the three things most important to you when it comes to your music right now?

Inspiration, Passion, and Patience.

Why?

Writing music isn't just something that happens, you have to be inspired to write a song.

That's the easy part. With my process, most of the time when I'm first writing the song, I'm also recording it. Every note that I hit has to have the passion behind it, or it has no life to it at all. George Carlin once said, and I'm paraphrasing, “its not

as important to know which notes to play, if you don't know WHY they have to be played".

And the tough part is the patience. When I'm recording, it can take me anywhere, from a first take to the seventy-fifth take, to nail a part. It would be so easy to just say, "oh that's good enough, lets move on". But good enough isn't good enough. If its not just right, then you gotta keep going. That persistence, and endurance is what makes a song great.

What is your dream concert location?

Somewhere huge where I can have lots of pyro, hahaha!

Honestly, I love the smaller more intimate shows. I like it crowded, more standing room only. It's those shows where you can tell that everyone is suffering just a tiny bit that you can tell they REALLY want to be there and get into the music.

For the singers who are just starting out, what advice do you have?

Never give up. Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Kurt Cobain - those guys didn't have the voice of an angel, yet they were able to shape generations. If any of them had given up because their voice wouldn't win them American Idol or some bullshit like that where they measure perfect pitch instead of passion, the world would be a very quiet dull place.

You're out there to connect with people, not impress them. You're trying to give a part of yourself, and see if someone feels the same. So never, ever give up.

Since this initial interview, CJ Grimm has thrilled local Pagans with even hotter performances. This includes a shredding set at Pagan Pride Day Detroit 2016 for the closing. He has also, in the tradition of the Blues Brothers, "gotten the band back together", and we look forward to Terror Network coming to a venue near you.

If you don't know this man, you need to know his music at least. He is one to watch. His music is perfect to set your Pagan gift-giving apart from the crystal clique cornucopia crowd for the Solstice.





Ayesha Khan



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 on 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 is 865-908-8994. Contact dreamweaver@dragonpalmcircle.org for more information or join our Facebook group "dragon Palm Events"
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221898301197684/>

2017PNO

Jan. 19	Feb. 16
March 16	April 20
May 18	June 15
July 20	Aug. 17
Sept. 21	Oct. 19
Nov. 16	Dec. TBA

Our PNO's are informal gathering of Pagans - we talk about just about everything and check out the new books. We always welcome new people. Check out our website to see our pictures so you know who we are.

www.dragonpalmcircle.org

I come from a long line of prepared women

My grandmother

Worn thin from the jersey surf

Always carries a sweatshirt

And an extra one for you

And my mother in law

Always with a "pair and a spare"

Her house is made of just in case

And she's always eager to share

And my own mother

With her Mary Poppins bag that could fit me inside

Somehow, everything you didn't know you needed all at once

Roomy like her heart, with a space for everyone

Luck favors the prepared

Is the adage cross-stitched on my second x chromosome

I was raised by ready for everything women

Market militia with all the love in the world to share

Today

I am uncertain of the state of the universe

So I carry an umbrella

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a list of forgotten things

a grocery list

abandoned on the sidewalk

medium: pink post-it notes

a train whistle

some thirty miles away

medium: cloudy north carolina air

a boy (?)

carries an umbrella every day to class

medium: preparedness

three young women

heels in the sand, feet in the surf

medium: nostalgia

clarity

the idea that everything will be understandable

medium: the unknown

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By Rose

Samhain

By Lady Sky

Samhain is a time for endings and beginnings. A time for remembrance and renewal. I believe that the Goddess and God are preparing the world for a rest before the year ends because we have a lot of work to do later.

Samhain is a time to remember relatives and loved ones who have gone ahead to the Summerland. To honor their memories and their lives. We need to give these loved ones the respect and tribute they deserve. We need to keep them in our hearts so they can help guide us on our own special journey to eventually be reunited with them.

Samhain is a time to renew our own lives, and works towards a change in the attitudes of the past. We have been lacking in keeping our studies and our commitments to our traditions and religious paths up, we need to renew our resolve to the dedication of our lives to the Goddess and the God.

We are all on separate journeys but we are all eventually going the same way! Let's start actually practicing what gifts when have been given and using our lives to better our Pagan community. We need more than good intentions to get the best results. We need to put in the effort and do the work!

Yule

Yule is a beautiful time to share with your family and friends. Now sure we can and probably will share presents, but in this busy, crazy time of year what else can we share?

We should be sharing our time. Our friendship. Our memories. Ourselves!

Too many people forget to check their egos at the door. We are only looking for what we get out of the holidays and sleepwalk through get togethers. We forget to make a connection.

Maybe make a difference!

See that young girl, she may have lost something important to her recently. React! Reach out to her and tell her you are there for her. Not because you feel obligated to, but because you want to truly help her.

See that young man, his world may be falling apart around him. Let him know you will welcome him into your world. Let him know you care.

See that old lady sitting by herself in the corner? She may be ill, she may be depressed, she smiles so others can't see her pain. Bring her a reason to believe that hope is not lost!

Now I know it's difficult this time of year to be thinking of darkness such as this, but just as Yule is a time to renew our resolve to get through the rest of winter, we need to resolve to bring others back from their darkness!

So the most important things we can give this time of year?

Time

Hope

Friendship

Kindness

Light

Memories

Energy

And most importantly...

Ourselves!

By Lady Sky



November 28th 2016



On November 28th, 2016 a wildfire in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was spread by high winds into the city of Gatlinburg. Many of the members and friends of Dragon Palm Circle live in this area. We reprint with permission Appalachia Burning by Danny Mullikin of Tuatha Dea. We have also reprinted from Facebook his reasons for writing the song.

FOR MY APPALACHIA....I know I have been quieter than usual during all the tragedy that has struck my home. I suppose we all deal with things in our own way. I've been at a loss for words. Gatlinburg... Appalachia... is a part of who I am and who everyone in Tuatha Dea is. We were lucky. Our home was spared and my family is in tact. We've lost some time with progress musically and work, were displaced and separated for a week but we are here. The trauma of it remains and some of us cry, some of us get angry, some of us go out and get to work in the community to cope with what, we the people of Gatlinburg, have lost. I am the patriarch of my family as many of you already know and it's my job to remain calm. To stay in control and yet inside I was filled with sorrow. So I did what I do. I put pen to paper and guitar in hand and I wrote and a song was created. Immediately I shared it with the band and it poured out of us. I'd like to share the words with you tonight and ask for you to keep your eyes open for a sneak peek live version of what I've titled...

Appalachia Burning

Appalachia Burning

My Appalachia's burning
There's crimson on the Mountain side
The wicked winds are blowing cold
Fire's falling from the sky
Momma's grab your babies
Babies grab your daddy's hands
Cause Appalachia's burning down
And Misery's in the Promised Land
So I'll hold you in my heart
And adore you from afar
Cause no matter where we are..... It's ok
And we'll all be together..... someday
In the misty mornin light
The rains are gently falling down
Mixing with a million tears
Consecrating hallowed ground
We don't need no wings
To hear our angels sing
And winter turns to Spring..... Always
And we'll all be together..... Someday
When the morning sun comes shining down
The whole wide world will see
Cause Mountain Strong
We'll surely always be
Now tomorrow's on the way
An we'll rise to meet the day
Like the Phoenix from the flame..... and remain
Come a bitter sweet tomorrow
Life'll blossom on the mountain side

May her rivers sooth our sorrows

And her beauty be our guide
So I'll hold you in my heart
And adore you from afar
And no matter where we are..... It's ok
Cause we don't need no wings
To hear our angels sing
We will be together..... Always

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