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Cover: Painting Oak Queen by Judith Page www.judith-page.com

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Note from the Editor

Clear as Mud!

My life has been a bit topsy turvy of late. I have been renovating my house and the progress has been exceedingly slow. In addition I have been feeling lethargic and unmotivated. My life has been anything but perfect over the past 12 months, and I certainly hope that this nothing year is a product of my own malaise rather than from any grand cosmic intervention.

Actually the thought of a higher being preplanning my year of dissatisfaction is sheer evil. I am retracting that statement as I look to the skies for free falling thunderbolts. Ok I concede that destiny plays a part in getting us from A to B but sometimes the process is delayed because we have a tendency to deviate from the plan or occasionally just get stuck. Anyway my ponderings on the hiatus I had to have, gave me a moment of clear vision to get me back on track. Well I did say a moment of clear vision and now my vision is clear as mud. I am reminded primarily by myself that I have some major goals I want to complete and yes these goals may be ambitious but if I don't aim for the stars and give it my best shot then I am going to get stuck in a permanent hiatus.... and I guess this is where I am at the moment.

This is my journey and if I want it to achieve my goals I have to take personal responsibility for my own transformation. I am well aware that I can harness the power of positive thinking and the creative energy of my own thoughts to manifest whatever I desire. Well maybe tomorrow I will feel more inspired!

**Blessings
Janine**



Diana of the Grove
By Caroline Wise
Painting ~ Oak Queen
By Judith Page

I entered a forbidden wood, and the Nymphs and half god Faunus bolted from my sight. If any knife has robbed a grove of a shady bough to give ailing sheep a basket of leaves: forgive my offence. Do not fault me for sheltering my flock from the hail in a rustic shrine, nor harm me for disturbing the pools. Pardon, Nymphae, trampling hooves for muddying your stream... placate the gods dispersed through every grove. Keep from our sight the Dryades and Diana's bath and Faunus lying in the fields at noon.
Ovid, *Fasti* 4.

We recognise the Goddess Diana by her familiar iconography: Buckskin tunic and boots, bow and arrow with quiver, a hound at her heels, and a crescent moon worn on her brow.

Also familiar, are lurid paintings showing the famous legend of Diana watching the hapless Acteon, who she has turned into a stag, being devoured by his hunting hounds. He has paid a high price for spying on naked Diana and her nymphs as they are bathing in a spring.

Intriguingly Diana's etymology derives from the same roots from which we get the words 'daylight', 'open air', and diurnal. She is of the sky, but also the earth, a complex character, seen as a wandering celestial deity, who eventually becomes the wandering moon; she is a bringer of light, which is how she later became associated with Lucifer. Diana is visible to all as the moon which is essential to the hunter, yet she is elusive, hidden deep in earthy forests by sacred waters. Before her hunting and lunar attributes developed, she was of the woods, of the oak. Diana is guarded in oak groves, and Oak is the King of the forest. Diana is attributed with ensuring the succession of kings, as it is by her grace that kingship is bestowed. Diane de Poitiers, mistress and controlling influence of the King, Henry II of France, appeared to understand this well, and she portrayed herself as the goddess Diana personified, as moon queen to the solar king.

Diana of the Grove

Diana's primary cult site was at Lake Nemi, in Ancient Aricia, some thirty miles south east of Rome. She was honoured in a sacred grove of

Oaks by a spring-fed egg shaped lake that lies in a volcanic crater, with steep heavily wooded slopes. She was hailed as Diana Nemorensis, Diana of the Woods, at the festival of the Nemoralia, or, the festival of the Torches, which was held here on August 13th each year. The grove may well have been the home of an earlier native nature nymph or goddess of the spring, Egeria, and certainly this water-nymph and Diana were enshrined in the legends of the place, making a triad with Virbius, the woodland god, or original King of the Woods.

The veneration of the Goddess at Nemi was simple, and included the tying of inscribed tablets to the trees or, as Ovid reports, a long fence that was apparently erected for this ritual purpose, and was perhaps the boundary of the Grove. Women would make pilgrimage, walking all the way from Rome to pay homage. At the festival of the torches, hundreds of people walked in procession down the sacred road of the Appian Way, branching off along a stone road towards the lake. They would be carrying burning torches or oil lamps. It must have been a spectacular site.

Worshippers, with flowers in their hair, gathered and processed with their flaming torches, accompanied by dogs that were decorated with flowers. Women were put on equal footing with men, and slaves and women were given a break from their tasks. Fruit and cakes, along with small statuettes of deer, or of women with babies, were offered. Although a festival of the goddess of the hunt, no animal was killed during the Nemoralia. It was very much a place of women, but men were included, especially in the later times.

The Wooden Idol

How did Diana come to be established at Nemi? Myth and legend are fluid and they shift around over time and place through the centuries and syncretisation. They come to us via poets, and travellers. The story of Diana, in one of its guises, is carried by Orestes, son of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon. Orestes is instructed by Apollo to steal the cult statue of the Tauric Diana – or Artemis Tauropolos, and bring it to Athens. Taurus is present day Crimea, where there were Greek settlements from 5th C BC. Crimea sits across the Black

Sea from Anatolia, Asia Minor. Tauropolos suggests an older local Asiatic goddess with lunar attributes, and of cattle.

Orestes and his sister, who has become a priestess of Tauric Artemis, flee and end up in Aricia, with the cult object hidden in a bundle of sticks. Artemis is the Greek counterpart to the Italic Diana.

The cult object that they took was a Xoanon – plank, a tree trunk, a piece of wood that represented the goddess. Xoana developed from plain wood to be simple and crude narrow wooden statues with basic features. They were mainly made of oak, the king of trees, and of fruitful trees, such as apple or pear. The Xoana had a similar roll to a palladion, sacred statue that keeps a place safe, and by extension the community, so it is a statue to be guarded. Such a statue would bind the tribe together, so if the cult figure is taken, or destroyed, the soul of the place and the community falls, they are defeated. So, it is a big trophy to obtain, having more value than an elaborate statue made of ivory or gold.

Rex Nemorensis

The legend of Rex Nemorensis is best known from Sir James Frazer's monumental work, *The Golden Bough*. The story of Diana's grove at Nemi is on the first page of this thirteen volume work. The story is that the Grove of Diana is guarded by a priest, Rex Nemorensis, King of the Woods, a stressful job if ever there was one. He reigns only as long as he can defend himself against the next man, who must be a runaway slave. This man must obtain the Golden Bough, a special branch of mistletoe, from the sacred tree of the grove. Rex Nemorensis must fight this challenger who wields the Golden Bough in mortal combat. If the interloper wins, he then becomes the King of the Grove and the Priest of the Goddess, and must start his own anxious, lonely watch as he now guards her. Diana was beloved of slaves and plebeians.

Starbo, born the Greek geographer, says that this ritual drama was "a barbaric, and Scythian element predominates in the sacred usages, for the people set up as priest, merely a runaway slave who has slain with his own hand the man previously consecrated to that office;

accordingly, the priest is always armed with a sword, looking around for the attacks, and ready to defend himself."

Offerings

The site was excavated in 1885; thousands of terracotta lamps were found, plus a splendid cauldron, and the terracotta tablets with petitions written on them. There were statues for healing and childbirth, statues of body parts that needed healing. As the site developed over the decades, and became fashionable, big statues were offered from the rich, and other valuable objects, such as jewellery.

Before the cult statue of the goddess arrived with Orestes, the goddess of the oak groves was probably a dryad, a tree spirit, who presided at Nemi with her sister nymph, Egeria of the spring mentioned above.

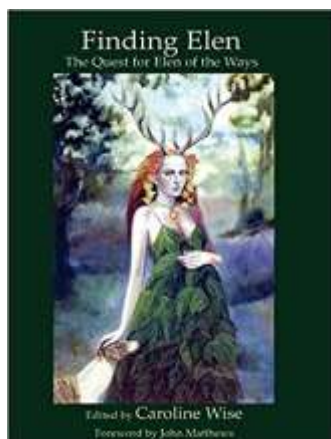
The painting on the cover of this magazine depicts the Goddess of the Oak Groves. Inadvertently, she has the look of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, whose legacy is indeed a line of kings, and whose own legend is developing some twenty years from her death; Her fateful marriage to the future king of The United Kingdom was at St Paul's Cathedral in London, a site that was once a temple to the Goddess Diana. She was named for the goddess of the hunt, but became the hunted herself, as hordes of press photographers pursued her. In the immediate weeks after her death, the trees around her London home, Kensington Palace, were hung with cards and pictures, just as the tress at Nemi had been adorned. And the paths around the park were marked out with lanterns of candles set in jars, creating a modern festival of the torches. By remarkable synchronicity, this period between her tragic death and her funeral, contained the date of Diana's festival of the Nemoralia.

Deep in the forests of Aricia's vale, and there the Nymph moans of misery disturbed Diana's shrine that once Orestes built. How many times the Nymphaeof Lake and Grove warned her to cease and tried to comfort her. Ovid *Marmorphoses* 15.



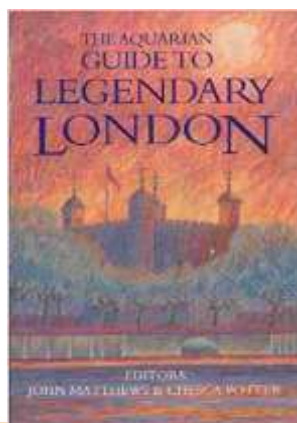
For over 30 years Goddess expert Caroline Wise has been working magically with Elen of the Ways. Her initial publication was *Elen of the Ways* (Spiral Press 1986 with illustrations by Chesca Potter)

Books by Caroline Wise



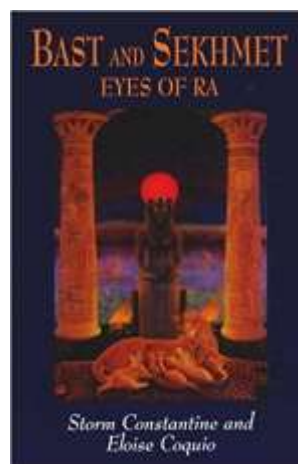
Finding Elen by Caroline Wise: This is a remarkable quest for the elusive deer goddess led with contributions from Caitlin Matthews, Andrew Collins and others. With its rich harvest of words and ideas, it brings the figure of

Elen into focus more than ever before. And what a dazzling figure she is; part goddess, part dream, part saint, a green lady and a water nymph, primordial mother and patroness of deer, and guardian of the Old Straight Tracks and solar alignments. Her name is remembered even in healing plants. If this book does nothing more (and it will surely do much more) it will encourage people to dig deeper into the loam of tradition to follow the footsteps of the divine Elen of the Ways. Elen is as real as the roads named after her, as solid as the ancient paths that carry her presence and story across vast tracts of Britain and the European continent and beyond. What an intriguing and exhilarating journey it is.



Caroline Wise's initial publication was *Elen of the Ways* (Spiral Press 1986 with illustrations by Chesca Potter) and she has contributed to **The Aquarian Guide to Legendary London** (Aquarian Press 1989).

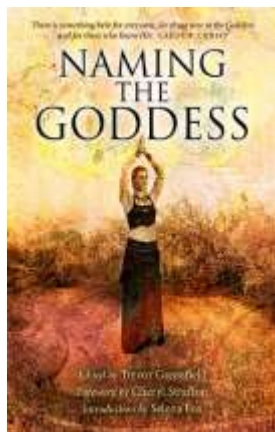
An unusual collection of diverse works on the many legends of London, together offering intriguing insights into the well-known buildings and streets of the world's most legendary capital. Among topics discussed are the mythic foundation of the city, the goddesses associated with it, the talismanic internment of the head of the Celtic god Bran beneath the present-day Tower of London, the practice of witchcraft and magic and Blake's vision of the city. From the esoteric significance of the buildings – including Westminster Abbey and St Paul's cathedral – to the location of the London leys, from the Arthurian legends to the folklore rituals and observances that continue to this day. The *Aquarian Guide to Legendary London* introduces a completely new view of the city – perhaps the first since William Blake's visionary poetry. As well as 11 essays by contemporary experts, the book contains key essays by earlier writers and a wealth of illustrations. **Contributors include: Gareth Knight, Caitlin Matthews, Bernard Nesterfield-Cookson, Ross Nichols, Nigel Pennick, Lewis Spence and R. J. Stewart.**



Bast and Sekhmet: Eyes of Ra by Storm Constantine and Eloise Coquio, contributions by Caroline Wise.

A unique work on the history and magic of the Egyptian feline goddesses, Bast and Sekhmet, from the ancient land of majestic splendour and long-held secrets. Practising pagans Storm Constantine and Eloise Coquio discuss the important role cats - who have been both worshipped as gods and reviled as demons - play in many people's lives, not just as pets but as spiritual totems. A manual for magic incorporates all the rituals the authors' circle have used, with suggestions for creating one's own, whether working solo or in groups. Also discussed are such aspects as temple creation, attuning with your own cat familiar, and ritual techniques. Finally, the authors suggest ways in which you can work in Bast's

name in this world, such as by 'adopting' a lion or helping animal charities. Bast and Sekhmet: Eyes of Ra was written in response to the ever-increasing popularity of and demand for information about these powerful and mysterious deities - ancient goddesses for a new age.



Naming the Goddess by Robert Hale is a collaborative work bringing together essays written by over eighty scholars and practitioners of Goddess Spirituality, including contributions from Caroline Wise, Selena Fox, Kathy Jones, Rachel Patterson, and

many others. A unique aspect of this book is that it is a two-part project with the first part of the book containing a series of contemplative and scholarly essays and the second part serving as a "gazetteer" of different goddesses, making it useful both as a reference book and as well as one that encourages reflective spiritual thought.



The Secret Lore of London by John Matthews.

London is an ancient city, whose foundation dates back literally thousands of years into the legendary prehistory of these islands. Not surprisingly it has accumulated a large number of stories, both historic and mythical,

during this period, many of which, though faithfully recorded at the time, have lain almost forgotten in dusty libraries throughout the city.

The Secret Lore of London is a guide to the legends, including a discussion of their importance as part of the oral tradition of Britain, combining Prehistoric, Celtic,

Arthurian, Roman, Saxon and Norman levels - each of which has contributed to the many-layered life of the city.

The first part contains a unique selection of essays (some printed here for the first time) by experts in their fields, each of whom possesses a unique interest in the legends of these islands, and who have written widely on associated themes.

The second part of the book will consist of a Gazetteer of the sites mentioned which are still in existence, together with various other sites of associated interest, compiled by the Editor, the contributors, and members of the London Earth Mysteries Group. This part will be fully updated and extended to include many more sites.

The result is a wide ranging and wholly fascinating book, with wide sales application possible. A series of appendixes will include William Stukley's extraordinary document The Brill, which relates to the ancient prehistoric sites around the area of present day St. Pancras, and excerpts from some of the best known 19th and early 20th century works on Legendary London by Lewis Spence and Harold Bayley

Contributors to the book are:

Nigel Pennick
John Matthews
Caroline Wise
Caitlín Matthews
Carol Clancy
R.J. Stewart
Bernard Nesfield-Cookson
Gareth Knight
Robert Stephenson
Geraldine Beskin
Chesca Potter
William Stukeley
Lewis Spence
Harold Bayley
Alan V. Insole
Ross Nichols



The painting 'Oak Queen' by Judith page is now available as a print on canvas and can be purchased from the Canvas Factory, Australia.



canvasfactory



Pagan Awareness Network Inc

Australia

FIND PAN ONLINE AT [HTTP://WWW.PAGANWARENESS.NET.AU](http://www.paganawareness.net.au)

You are invited to the

2016-2017 Annual General Meeting

12pm-4pm Sun 5 November
Liverpool Guide Hall
90 Memorial Ave Liverpool

- Free sausage sizzle
- Meet the committee
- Hear what's on for 2018

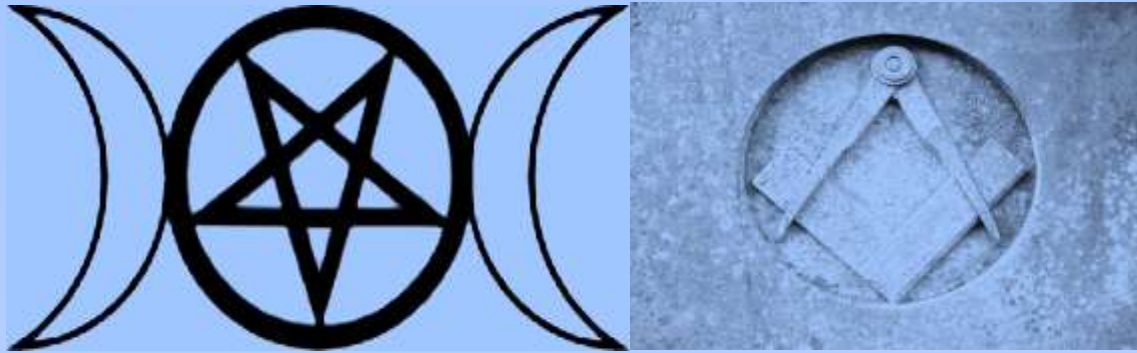


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witches, fairies & mystics

Sunday 10 December 2017
LIVERPOOL GUIDES HALL



Comparisons between Modern Wicca and the Rite of the 1st Degree in Co-Masonry

By V. Lore

Modern Wicca can be broadly defined as a nature based religion which has its roots steeped in the ancient solar and lunar mystery religions of pre-Christian Europe (predominately the Celtic traditions). Wiccans can be polytheists (believe in more than one god or goddess) or monotheists (believe in one supreme being) or monolatrous (the belief that god can manifest into other aspects and manifestations with their own personalities and interactions between one another, without ever losing sight of the fact that they all spring forth from the initial one) to make it more simple I would like to quote Dion Fortune "All Gods are one God, all Goddesses are one Goddess and there is but one Initiator."

Masonic rituals were superimposed into the witchcraft practice in the mid-20th Century by Freemasons, Gerald Gardiner and Alex Saunders who were very instrumental and influential in the creation of present day Wicca in the 1950s (it can't be proved that modern day Wicca predates the 1920's.)

I was initiated into a Wiccan coven at 21 and from a personal point of view I found that although there are distinctive practices, rituals and beliefs when you compare Wicca and Co-Masonry, I found that my initiation into the 1st Degree of Wicca (title of Witch) and 1st Degree of Co-Masonry (title of Entered Apprentice) I noted many similarities.

Similarities between Freemasonry and Wicca

- Before we enter Lodge the Director of Ceremonies instructs us to "Tile the Mind" and similarly in Wicca before we enter the circle (which is the form our ritual working space takes) we are requested by the High Priest (which has a role similar to the Grand Master) to leave any negative energies out of the circle before we enter it. Both these measures assure that we enter the working space in a spiritually pure environment or utilising a Wiccan quote "in perfect love and perfect trust".
- Both have ceremonial form of purifying the ritual area before commencing any ritual work.
- Both have an opening and closing of the working ritual area. In Wicca it's called casting the circle and closing the circle whilst in Masonry it's Opening and Closing the Lodge. This is done by all members of office in Masonry and in Wicca it's done by the title bearers (i.e. N, S, E, W Witches, Man in Black, Maiden, and High Priest & High Priestess).
- Both work within their sacred enclosures in a clockwise fashion. In Wicca it has to do with the progression of the sun rising in the east and setting in the west and the general movement of the sun around the earth.
- Both have the prospective initiate remove all secular clothing and are dressed with a white robe to distinguish the working from the mundane world and to show the

innocence and purity of the candidate, as well as removing all metal as it will interrupt the initiatory current and both are hoodwinked (blindfolded) and tied up ceremonially with rope as part of the trials of death and rebirth symbolism in Wicca and similarly form part of the symbolical journeys of the candidate.

- Both challenge the initiate by placing the point of a working tool on the breast over the heart area of the candidate. In Wicca they use the point of the sword or athame (working short sword) while Masons use the point of a compass or sword.
- Both challenge the initiate by asking for secret passwords before they are allowed to enter the working space or progress with the initiation.
- Both first degree initiates are led around the ritual blind folded by two individuals. In Wicca the initiate is led around the circle by the High Priestess and her Maiden (her adept) whilst in Masonry the Deacons lead the initiate around the lodge.
- Both give offerings of Earth and Water, Air and Fire during the first degree initiation.

In masonry the elements are presented on behalf of the candidate as well as the following words recited:

“Earth/water/air/fire to earth/water/air/fire, he gives you of your own”

In Wicca tools symbolising the elements are placed in the corresponding cardinal points. A Wand for Fire in the South, a Chalice for Water in the West, a Sword for Air in the East and a Pentacle for Earth in the North.

- In continuation of this part of the 1st degree ritual both take the blindfolded candidate and introduce them to the 4 portals/ gates:

In masonry:

“Behold! A blinded child of mortality, seeking Immortality, approacheth!

As he thus recognises you, so shall you henceforth always recognise him as of the Brn. Open your ranks that he may come here to the Warden of your Gate. “

In Wicca:

“Hail Guardian of the Watchtowers of the East, and powers of Air, we ask you to open your gates and allow them access to your hidden mysteries.”

- The oath of a Wiccan which is undertaken during the 1st degree initiation (title of witch) goes as follows:

“I, [Name], in the presence of the Mighty Ones, do of my own free will and accord, most solemnly swear that I will ever keep the secrets of the Arte and never reveal the secrets of the Art, except it be to a proper person, properly prepared and within a magic circle such as I am now in. All this I swear by all my hopes of a future life, mindful that my measure has been taken and may my weapons turn against me, if I should break this my solemn oath.”

If this oath is broken the initiate is branded a warlock - a traitor and is expelled from the coven.

This is quite similar to the oath of and Entered Apprentice:

“I, A.B., in the presence of TGAOTU and in the body of this Chartered and Right Worshipful Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, regularly assembled and properly dedicated of my own free will and accord, do hereby and hereon most solemnly and sincerely swear that I will always here, conceal and never wilfully reveal any part or parts, point or points, of or belonging to the secrets and mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry, which may heretofore have been known by me, and which shall now or at any future time be communicated to me, to anyone in the world, unless it be to a true and lawful Bro or Brn and not even to him or them.....these several points I solemnly swear to observe without evasion, equivocation or mental reservation of any kind under no less a penalty on the violation of any of them....having my throat cut across and having my body buried at cables length below the high water mark; or the more effective punishment of being branded a wilfully perjured individual, void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into this or any other warranted Lodge...”

- Both have the ceremonial revealing of the candidate (meaning the blindfold is taken off) after they have taken the oath which is a symbol of "illumination."
- Both explain to the new initiate the "working tools" pertaining to that degree & each tool's use is taught to the initiate.
- In masonry you have an apron which shows the level of initiation you have achieved, similarly in Wicca you have a singulum, which is a 9 foot knotted cord of different colour depending on rank tied around your waist, to show your level of initiation.
- Both have a foundational system of three degrees. In Wicca: Initiate/Witch, Priestess and High Priestess. In Masonry Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.
- Both are considered part of secret societies because they both keep their membership rolls secret, their workings are kept from the general public and both usually meet in secret, with the exceptions of rare open public events.

Differences between Freemasonry and Wicca

I have to mention that although I found quite a few similarities between Freemasonry and Wicca I also found some differences which tended to be at the opposite end of the spectrum:

In Wicca you are encouraged to write everything down in a Book of Shadows which is your ritual working book and/or Grimoire (books of magical recipes) so the knowledge you accumulate is kept as a record to pass onto your students and fellow coven members.

In Freemasonry you are not allowed to write anything down as part of the 1st Degree Oath you take you state:

"I further solemnly promise that I will not write those secrets, indite, carve, mark, engrave, or otherwise them delineate, or cause or suffer the same to be done by others (if in my power to prevent it) upon anything movable or immovable under the canopy of heaven, whereby or whereon any letter, character, or figure, may become legible or intelligible to myself or to anyone else in the world, so that our secret arts and hidden mysteries may improperly become known though my unworthiness."

- In Wicca you chose a magical name for yourself (or it is given to you by your initiator) to assure secrecy of identity outside the coven. Whilst in Masonry we use our birth name. Although in both cases you never reveal the true identity of a fellow crafter outside the lodge or circle.

In Wicca you train for a year and a day with a High Priestess which is called outer circle before you are initiated into the 1st Degree and then allowed into the inner circle.


Whereas with Masonry you do not formally undertake any training until you are initiated into the 1st Degree as Entered Apprentice which is your first official working within Masonry.

Photos:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Logo_Wicca_Celt%C3%ADbera.png
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SPHERES OF LIGHT
PRESENTS
'AVALON ~A COSMIC POWERPOINT'
BELTANE WEEKEND

10-12TH NOVEMBER 2017

- 
- Rituals
 - Workshops
 - Craft Making
 - May Pole Dancing
 - And much much more



Where: At a private property in the Sutherland Shire, Sydney (full details will be sent to you via email once you have made your booking).

Dress: Casual

Cost:

Friday – Sunday: \$180 (includes accommodation and meals)

Saturday – Sunday: \$145 (includes accommodation and meals)

Not sleeping over: \$110 (includes meals)

Please note that this weekend is limited to 18 people. Bookings for the weekend must be confirmed by 22nd October 2017. For further information or to make a booking please send an email to inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au



The Band - Macha and Morrigan

By Peter Millsom

Macha and Morrigan are an internationally renowned pagan/spiritual band from the U.K. The band members are Peter Millsom and Kaarina Vanderkamp. Both Peter and Kaarina are on a spiritual path together. Peter is Wiccan based and Kaarina is an herbal Druid and healer.



Peter is a self-taught musician and has composed various songs and decided that a good way to honour his spiritual path would be to write and sing about his own experiences of magic.

Kaarina is the female energy influence within the band and her haunting and enchanting vocals weave around the beautiful strong voice of Peter.

The name for Macha and Morrigan is very important to Peter and Kaarina as these are the goddesses they work energetically with on stage.

At each performance they cast sacred space and during the performance they include their own interpretations of some traditional chants.

[Inkubus Sukkubus](#) has been a great inspiration to them both and they feel so blessed that this successful band are allowing them to cover the famous track **Pagan Born**. Peter and Kaarina are currently working on the album which will be available very soon.

They are currently working on a Chants album alongside the founder and Speaker of

[Wolfenhowle press Tyllaun Penry](#) which they believe is a great honour.

Here is some short reviews from a fan....Marco from the Netherlands

Artemis a tribute to the Goddess of the Hunt that fires an arrow straight to your heart. The guitar accompanied by flute and the soothing vocals for Macha and Morrigan makes this song excellent to close your eyes to and drift away

Peter's normally sweet, almost angelic voice is grittier and darker this time and it suits the song well. This song radiates power and I like it in Beltaine Blues.

I just listened to Macha and Morrigan's cover of the Inkubus Sukkubus song Pagan Born and I got goose bumps from the very first notes. The vocals are spot on, the guitar and violin are wonderful accomplices in this song

To hear the songs click on the image below:





The Dragon is a celestial being that can take on a multitude of forms and energies and inhabits many dimensions throughout the cosmos. The Dragon represents the unknown and the hidden energy within nature.

The wisdom of the dragon is symbolized by the treasure it guards. To find this wisdom and knowledge one must search his/her inner aspects and in the unknown.

The dragon also represents the Kundalini, the force that is hidden inside us, which for the most part lies dormant waiting to be activated. The Dragon path strives to make this unconscious force and knowledge conscious. The symbol of the dragon and the myths about it carries information about how the unconscious can become conscious and how one can evolve. You are now on the threshold of a great journey, let go of your restrictions and let the dragons guide the way.

The Dragon Attunement is a process of attuning to a particular element of the dragon and can be compared to attuning yourself to a particular frequency like you would do if you were trying to find a particular channel on a radio station. In February 2018 we will be attuning to the Element of Earth.

Where: Girl Guides Hall, 129 Loftus Ave, Loftus NSW 2232

When: Sunday 17th February 2018

Time: 10am – 4pm

Cost: \$70

Please bring lunch to share. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL ~ Please contact Janine on 0408025268 or spheresoflight@hotmail.com to make your booking.

Judith Page & Paul F. Newman



THE OVEN OF OTLEY DRIVE

'There's no easy way to say this, Stella... We are witches.'

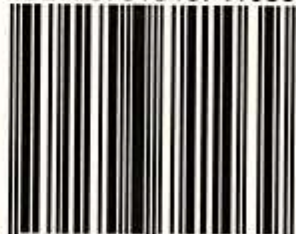
In the early days of WW2, Stella inherits a house and a herbalist shop in Yorkshire from her down-to-earth yet enigmatic aunt. As the threat of Nazi invasion increases, Stella finds her new home is a satellite in a network of magical working lodges across the country, their base being the mother lodge in Bayswater, under the leadership of an arch priestess and adept of the mysteries. The aim is to protect the blessed isles with magic; from high angelic forms to the old guardians of the land. These include the mythic hero Robin Hood, and the green gods of the woods, who are but masks of the oldest territorial guardians of Blighty. By necessity, Stella is fast-tracked in her magical initiation, against a backdrop of the Blitz. As the bombs drop, espionage and enemies of the state abound. The Lodges, who the War Office keep an eye on, are one step ahead of the game. Judith Page and Paul F. Newman skillfully entwine, as do their protagonists, the correspondences of high esoteric wisdom with paganism, mediumship, witchcraft and myth to form a cohesive and vibrant defence of the realm in that very real other Battle of Britain – the magical one.

Caroline Wise author of Finding Elen, the Quest for Elen of the Ways

Cover design: Judith Page

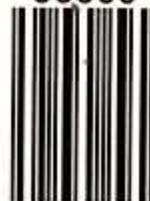


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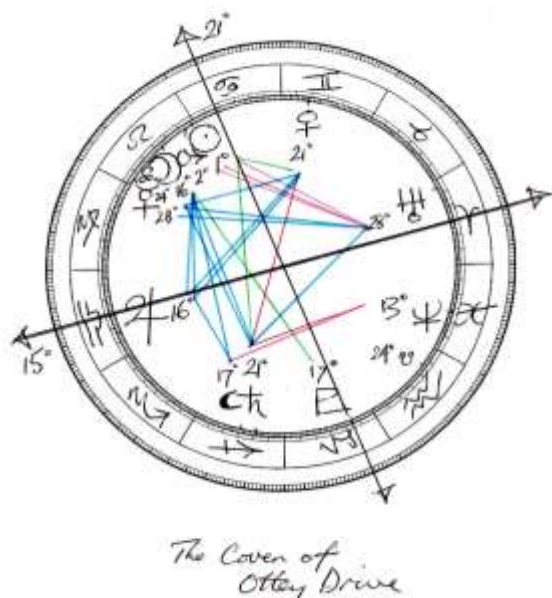


In the early days of WW2, Stella inherits a house and herbalist shop in Yorkshire from her down-to-earth yet enigmatic aunt. As the threat of Nazi invasion increases, Stella finds her new home is a satellite in a network of magical working lodges across the country, their base being the mother lodge in Bayswater, under the leadership of an arch priestess and adept of the mysteries. The aim is to protect the blessed isles with magic; from high angelic forms to the old guardians of the land. These include the mythic hero Robin Hood, and the green gods of the woods, who are but masks of the oldest territorial guardians of Blighty. By necessity, Stella is fast-tracked in her magical initiation, against a backdrop of the Blitz. As the bombs drop, espionage and enemies of the state abound. The Lodges, who the War Office keep an eye on, are one step ahead of the game.

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[Caroline Wise]

Analysis of the birth chart of the book by Paul F. Newman.



Much of the story of *The Coven of Otley Drive* was driven by Judith's cover design of three cloaked and hooded women standing on a hill of rubble in the height of the London Blitz in 1940. Three witches is a familiar female theme that runs from the three Fates or Norns of classical mythology through the Three Marys in the Bible to the three weird sisters in *Macbeth*. And three is a lunar number. Witches are ruled by the Moon, they draw down the Moon, dance under the Moon, do ceremonies by the Moon's phases...

'Upon the corner of the moon
There hangs a vaporous drop profound;
I'll catch it ere it comes to ground...'

[Part of Hecate's speech from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*]

When our latest book was published (24 July 2017), the birth chart unsurprisingly turned out to be born on a New Moon. Both the Sun and the Moon were in Leo, a regal Fire sign, and the Sun was in a close conjunct to Mars, the god of war.

And that is very much the backdrop to the text of the book, the wartime setting, the nightly raids, much 'fire' and lion-hearted courage and defiance. The Sun and Moon on the chart could also represent the main male and female characters, Stella and her Ministry of Defence husband Richard, who should be together as the Sun and Moon should be at New Moon. Yet they are separated here on this chart by Mars and this reflects the story where the man and the woman are separated both in geographical distance and increasingly divergent ideologies. Mars is a friction between them as the Moon symbolically becomes more independent and distant from the Sun.

The ruling planet of this Libra Rising chart is Venus, another female planet and another indication that the story has a woman as the main protagonist. With the Moon in Leo and Venus in Gemini women in general are strong and highly communicative in the plot. The magickal network of covens and circles in Britain

that put up psychic blockades against enemy invasion were mostly directed by women; most men were fighting on tangible battlefields leaving women to fight on the intangible ones. But the Moon was important on both the inner and outer planes. The moon's phase was an historical consideration in the outer battle because full moon nights meant more illumination for bombing aircraft to see their targets and dark moon nights were better for stealth. Charismatic group leaders like Dorothea Fretuno, based on the real-life high priestess Dion Fortune, also exemplifies the Moon in Leo with her

leadership, courage and colourful showmanship.

Jupiter rising in Libra reflects the wartime spirit of optimism and the need for justice and fair play, Uranus in the seventh shows the unexpected twists and turns in relationships, while Pluto at the roots hints darkly at the death and rebirth of families and homes.


Lastly Saturn in Sagittarius seems an apt metaphor for judgement and redress in the hands of the Great Archer.



Lisa J Winter

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*"Until you make the unconscious conscious,
it will direct your life and you will call it fate."*

-C.G. Jung

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SET



compiled by
Judith Page & Don Webb

Set ~ God of Chaos and Confusion? Or just an outsider

This book is written as a stand against dogmatic philosophies of religious history. Protest is needed, since the Late to Middle Kingdom an emphasis on Set and his influence has passed from historiography into our culture at large. So much of our current literature and thought rejects the role of the scapegoat in mythological history, denies the importance of this god's individual genius in social change, refuses to recognise his superiority, and promotes a fear of uniqueness and discord.

In recording the mythical life of Set, we have applauded him. The strength and warmth of his intellect demand similar warmth in his dramatic performance throughout Ancient Egyptian history. To adopt an attitude of detachment, particularly towards the ancient and unknown, can bar those scenes glimpsed by the historian who approaches the role of reconstructing an era with sympathy, insight and understanding. Neither the truth nor the equilibrium of scholarship is disturbed by controlled imagination and honest praise of this much maligned Egyptian god.

Though applause need not conflict with scholarship, it must conflict with theories of historical destiny, which has continued to deny that a single great deity can profoundly alter the course of events.

We are portraying the mythological concept and personality of Set not in order to worship a hero, but to recognise him as a leader and a hero. Set strived to take his stand against a 5,000 year drift of history with the introduction of Osirian and Amonite tradition and preconditioning, before being replaced by Christianity.

The fatalistic approach that learned authoritarians have taken regarding the Set figure, has received increasingly influential support, while his many concepts have appeared in varied guises. It is quite apt to quote A L Kroeber's phrase of "deep seated, blind and intricate forces that shape culture". The hero is a particle caught in the drift of religious and cosmic history, a mere by-product. What happened had to happen.

Set has become a controversial figure in recent historical researches and discussion, but not all the facts are being disclosed. Scholars have attempted to strip him of his reputation for originality, genius, harmony and pure brotherly love by maintaining that his chaotic actions were something to be highlighted and condemned. They have called attention to his murderous ways and continued alienation of all things harmonious.

Whoever delves into the fathomless secrets of the land of the Nile, or is fascinated in the five millennia of history before the Christian era cannot help but admire the great kings of Ancient Egypt who worshipped and fought under the name of Set and continued to bring both fame and fortune to this black land.

Whatever is the true judgement of Set's personality and forbearing as the first son of Nut, it is discussed in this book and will help to provide a more valid interpretation of his true nature.

In this Ur-Egypt, it is Osiris, Horus, Re and the other 'good' gods of Egypt who are the usurpers, the intruders. It is the sovereignty of Set they seek to overthrow, not the other way around; an eldritch worship they must overturn and vanquish. This they do to become the victors, the heroes of a sun-lit Egypt filled with their worship. The stellar darkness of the oldest Egypt is overturned, demonised and rejected, but not forgotten. The worship of Set, his liturgies and images, seep through into the religions of the solar gods, the old ways always remain in Egypt.

It is our intent in this book to return the backdrop to its original primacy, to reveal what came before the victors, to provide the Inner guide to Set. We tend today, due to our Western Judeo-Christian conditioning, to see this older Set and his landscape as stereotyped 'evil' that is always destined to be overcome by the equally stereotyped 'good'. This conditioning usually tends to narrow its focus on the viewpoint of the winners. Only rarely do we consider the viewpoint of those that have been demonised or conquered. Maybe we do not want to hear what it will tell us about ourselves.

In this book we let Set figuratively speak for himself. We feel it is time to hear his side of the story. He has only had to wait 5,000 years for it to be told.

Written by Judith Page

'This book has taken 20 years in the writing... but Set has waited 5,000 years to tell the world his side of the story'. Drawing together from scholarship, religion, art and magic Judith Page and Don Webb have added considerably to the unfolding understanding of the figure of Set. Originally situated in the Egyptian culture the god Set has seemingly torn himself loose, finding an improbable contemporary interest and adherents. Rather than deny any of the attempts to apprehend this re-emergence of Set, Page and Webb have integrated, contextualized it, and most importantly given methods for you to create even greater meaning from this highly variable, mysterious and overpowering god.

James Fitzsimmons ~High Priest of Set

"This is an extremely interesting, thought-provoking and inspirational collection of essays and articles on Set by Judith Page, Don Webb and others. Here are diverse approaches to the deity, ranging from the contemplation of historical material through to considerations on meditational and magical working. The collection is profusely illustrated by examples of Judith's striking artwork and many historical diagrams and drawings that convey a wealth of information. A very absorbing and enjoyable read; and one which I would heartily recommend to anyone interested in finding out more about Set."

Michael Staley, Starfire Publishing

'Behold, I am creating everything anew'

Another landmark in the rise and rise of Egyptian Seth. Both authors are well-known advocates and devotees of this now, not so hidden god, whose influence on the modern

occult revival is difficult to ignore. Co-author Don Webb, calls this his 'religious text' and what is on offer is a complete survey of the historical and mythic-field together with extended liturgy and rites, some reconstructed from ancient sources, some created anew. The book is illustrated throughout by Judith Page, who has also re-drawn many famous images or vignettes for the collection, together with informative essays, crucial topics for the mythos. I was particularly struck by Don's admonition that this book is for the hopeful; 'an antinomian stance on a polluted and troubled world' – despite which, a life affirming Seth is at work behind the scenes, creating wealth & reducing poverty ~ Essential stuff.

Mogg Morgan author "Phi-Neter: Power of the Egyptian Gods"

SET is available from Amazon Books in both colour and black and white. *The Special Edition will be on sale until 8 October 2017 then it will be withdrawn and replaced by an ordinary publication.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Set-Neter-Confusion-Judith-Page/dp/154552887X/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1501433702&sr=1-2&keywords=set+judith+page

https://www.amazon.co.uk/SET-Outsider-Judith-Page/dp/1548138061/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1501433702&sr=1-1&keywords=set+judith+page

*Special Edition includes signatures by the authors Judith Page and Don Webb, plus a 'secret' page



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Gender and Sex Rules in Paganism Thinking beyond male/female sex and procreation.

By Quill

Written 8.1.06.

A lot of paganism involves the same sort of thing: earth, moving in cycles, the system of male and female, moon and sun, the two poles and the rotation of the world.

It's a traditional image, one which has a lot of power to it, and which is effective for a whole lot of people. For a few reasons, however, some are disconnected from it: they're asexual, or they don't fit into a binary gender system, or they don't have or want children. Doesn't make them a bad pagan. It's just another way of being.

Take the Gallae, for instance. They were priestesses of the goddess Cybele, transgendered women who castrated themselves for their patroness. The Gallae are a grey area between genders. Their very most

sacred action of worship, this castration, clearly separates them from male/female fertility-based dualism. Someone who chooses not to have children may walk a similar path.

At the root of it, child-bearing sex—or even any sex at all—is neither a crime nor a joyous ritual, unless you make it so. It is certainly not inherent to the practice of paganism. There are mysteries associated with sex that a person who remains celibate will be ignorant to, but by the same token, can't a celibate person learn mysteries unique to their own experience?

Sex-positivity is important. It is ridiculous and puritanical to be anti-sexual. But it may be equally important, among pagans and in the very sexual context of modern culture, to recognize asexuality and child-free-ness as legitimate (albeit different) ways to get in touch with the gods. A balance is crucial. Odd, isn't it, how there are multitudes of balances within balances? Male/female, asexual/sexual, pagan/not.

Even that polarity of male and female, beneficial as it may be among some groups, is not crucial. Certainly there have been single-gender groups, particularly ones composed of all females. There are people, however, who simply are not male or female. Androgynous, bigender, agender. Transsexuality is something of a different matter, since a transsexual person generally identifies with one gender, although it is different from the one they were assigned at birth.

Transgenderism can and does have a sacredness about it. The Gallae are a good example; some Native Americans and people of the First Nations have viewed transgender or gay people as two-spirited, part masculine, part feminine. (Balance within balance....) It seems likely that this bit of spiritual culture can apply to LGBT pagans as well. European-based religion is quite polar and fertility-based, which can be difficult to live with for asexual, queer, or child-free folks. Especially if they're trying to stick to that kind of tradition exclusively.

A good way to start is to take a look into other traditions or deities, ones that are generally less concerned with polarity and fertility, if

you've already been heading in that direction. There is a movement of modern Gallae, for instance; some of them don't quite consider themselves pagan, but a fair number of them do. Their worship of Cybele can be taken in either a reconstructionist or neo-pagan context. Bahuchara Mata is a Hindu goddess, the patroness of hijras (male-to-female transgender women who have formed their own subculture in India). Artemis is a goddess without children; Loki is a shape shifter god who takes on female roles in many myths. Feri is a strongly queer-positive witchcraft tradition.

Taking it less literally is also a beginning. Beltane, just one example, could be interpreted a fairly heterocentric and sexual holiday, the beginning of spring where lots of new things are fertilized and born. It's a bit alienating for me to celebrate this—I don't have children or work with them all that much, and I don't go out and do anything sexual on May Day, or even anything romantic.

Still, every year I attend a local Beltane celebration.

Thinking about sex and male/female roles is certainly a central part of the holiday, but I can carve out a place for myself if I think of it in different terms. The conception of a child is not the only kind of fertility I can celebrate. It's rebirth. It's the sun over the horizon, the potluck where we laugh and tell stories, the cauldron of fire we jump over and shout wishes.

My Beltane happens to be more about metaphysical renewal than literal birth, and Beltane is only one example. This diversity of views is not a conflict as such. People are different from each other, pagans are different from each other. All sides—and there are more than two—are equal in the sense that none of their beliefs are "inferior," and their traditions are equally effective if used by people who feel comfortable with them.

Do you prefer black-and-white, or pure grey, or something beyond both? It doesn't matter. Just as long as it works for you.



absurdism.

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Jupiter in Scorpio – Exploring and illuminating the Mysteries- Oct 10 2017 – Nov 12 2018

By Cassandra Joan Butler

It's time to get into your 'I spy' garb; Jupiter the Cosmic Santa Claus is coming to Scorpio Town! Jupiter ingresses into Scorpio on October 10th, 2017 until November 8th 2018, paving the way for an expansion of all issues related to Scorpio: sex, death, finances, and transformation.

Jupiter, defined by learning and expansion, is like the adjective 'big' when it transits a sign. This suggests that the spotlight will be on "big" transformation, the core Scorpio issue, for the next twelve months. Jupiter spends approximately one year per sign, as it takes twelve years to make a complete orbit around the sun. Each of us have a Jupiter return year every twelve years-a year of new growth, risk-taking and exploration. This is why the ages of twelve, twenty-four, thirty-six, forty-eight, sixty,

seventy-two and so on are often 'break-through years.' Check your chart to see where Scorpio falls. It is THAT arena which will be emphasized during the next twelve months. You can compare what's upcoming to the last time Jupiter graced the sign of Scorpio; 2005, 1994, 1982, 1970 etc.

Scorpio relates to power and mystery. The underbelly of power is knowing when and how to navigate change, since, everything within the universe is in a state of perpetual flux. There is a mystery at the core of life's biggest changes; the genesis of life and death. How do we shift from one state to another? Scorpio fuels this process wherever it activates our chart. Positioned between the balance and beauty of Libra, and the levity of Sagittarius'

light, Scorpio is the energy of magic, mystery and intensity.

The base animal depicting the zodiacal Scorpio is the scorpion; repulsive, evasive with a creepy crawly poisonous stinger attached to its tail used to kill. Sometimes this stinger hurts the animal itself when it's in a frenzy fit. Likewise, where we find Scorpio can be where we hurt ourselves. Fortunately, Scorpio energy has two other symbols reflecting its complexity; the majestic eagle and the mythological phoenix. The eagle, king of the birds sees all as it surveys the landscape with grace and wisdom. Nothing escapes the gaze of Scorpio! The story of the phoenix is the ultimate turn-around tale; rising from its' ashes to ultimate power.

Before one soars' one needs to crawl. Everyone has scorpionic challenges to transform. Such issues read like the 'seven deadly sins'; envy, lust, gluttony, pride, despair, compulsion, obsession. Where you find Scorpio in your chart is where you undergo obvious trials and tribulations. We grow through facing our darkness, or, we don't. We heal our issues, or we don't. To quote Scorpio Rising Friedrich Nietzsche, "That which does not kill us...Makes us stronger."

Many healers, therapists, physicians and mediums have a strong Scorpio signature in their charts. Because they have gone through their own personal process of 'healing their darkness' they feel compelled (a good Scorpio word) to assist in the process of others. Healing others assists in our own healing.

Scorpio rules sex and death in all of its 'complexity. The sex act can lead to the ultimate creative mystery, birth, or, it can be denigrated into the ultimate power trip, rape. Sex like, death, is a transformative process. The French word for orgasm is 'petit mort'; the little death. When we surrender to a sexual connection it can heal. The mystery of Scorpio is in this conundrum. One can be healed through a sexual bound, or denigrated, death can lead to 'heaven or hell'.

As Jupiter transits through Scorpio we may discover the healing path of our own darkness, but first we need to identify it. Jupiter, ruler of

Sagittarius, enhances learning and the dissemination of ideas via travel and academia. Jupiter, the archetype of 'Santa Claus', is a 'world traveller', generous and jolly! We can expect the Jupiter transit in Scorpio to cast a spotlight on our Scorpionic themes, and in essence unveil what needs to be healed. Jupiter adds a touch of levity and learning to the depth of what 'lies beneath'. To learn what's ahead we cast an eye backwards to earlier transits of Jupiter in Scorpio.

There were at least three breakthrough books in sexuality published in 2006, the last time Jupiter was in Scorpio; 'A Brief History of Human Sexuality' by Heather Whipple; 'Sex among the Rabble; An Intimate History of Gender and Power', by Clare Lyons; 'Mysteries of Sex: Tracing Women and Men through American History' by Mary Ryan. Even the titles of these works reflect the Scorpio themes; mystery, power and sex! Also in 2006, NASA launched its first mission to Scorpio's modern ruler Pluto, blending the theme of Jupiter expansion with travel. The planet, Pluto, is often considered the energy of the volcano, and on January 9th in 2006 there was not one but two eruptions of the Alaska Volcano, Augustine. As the ruler of 'power' Scorpio rules the stock market. In January, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 11,000 for the first time in the decade.

Going backwards another twelve years to 1994 most of the top tunes reflected sexual love; 'Endless love' by Luther Vandross; Elton Johns' 'Can you feel the Love'; 'Love is all around Us' by Wet; '100% Pure Love' by Crystal Wake; and the ever popular Boys to Men rendition of 'I'll make love to you.' In keeping with the times, one of the top movie hits of 1994 was, "Four Weddings and a Funeral"!

Also in 1994 there was a notable astronomical event reflective of the Jupiter/Scorpio symbol; the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 slammed into Jupiter causing an array of debris. In this example Jupiter truly played the role of big benefic 'Santa Claus' protecting earth from the rogue comet!

Going back to other Jupiter in Scorpio years, we discover that the horror/mystery movie, 'Poltergeist' was released in 1981; Elisabeth

Kubler Ross published 'On Death and Dying' in 1969; and the ultimate transformative therapy for alcoholics, AA, was founded in 1935 by 'Bill W'.

Scorpio rules depth and darkness, and anything precious but not obvious. Underground is where we find precious metals, gems and oil; the lifeblood of shared economies. Deep within the human psyche lies the richness of our own being. Expect Jupiter to illuminate these complex themes.

What to expect over the next twelve months? As Scorpio is the energy of shared resources we can expect an expanding world economy...heading towards a new destination! Once the planet of quick and eclectic change, Uranus jumps into the sign of 'money' in May of 2018, a new structure begins to take shape. Underground commodities; precious metals and oil will likely increase in value. The foundation of a new global economy will likely to emerge.

Socially we may see an interest in the tolerance of sexuality diversity or greater understanding in sexual expression. Scorpio cares about depth, intimacy and ways to craft these goals within relationships. Perhaps we may see more interest in workshops or learning designed to strengthen the ties that bind.

Jupiter in Scorpio may also expand our understanding of the death process including information on ways to nurture and comfort the dying. Expect more interest in the field of

thanatology; the study of death. We might see court another landmark legal case regarding the right to die, such as the one played out with Terri Schiavo in 2005, the last time the planet of the law, Jupiter, was transiting Scorpio.

The major transits Jupiter makes in 2017-2018 are 1) a sextile to Pluto in Capricorn (1/15, 4/14 and 9/12); 2) a trine to Neptune in Pisces (12/2, 5/25, 8/19); and 3) a trine to Chiron in Pisces. The Jupiter sextile Pluto transits generally favour us to pursue personal and professional goals in a more systematic and ambitious manner. It's change with a sense of purposeful motivation. The trines of Jupiter to both Neptune and Chiron suggest a deeper motivation to heal old wounds. We may also collectively want to make deeper connections with people 'other than ourselves' and instil humanitarian goals. Spiritual goals mixed with compassion and enhanced understanding takes precedence over practicality.

Secrets and lies have a lessoned shelf life with Jupiter in Scorpio. We may see revelations concerning long-standing conspiracy theories, as, being just 'fake news.' Or we may see a rise on NEW conspiracy theories based on actual evidence. Either way, Jupiter in Scorpio needs to flush out the truth of any situation.

Overall, the Jupiter in Scorpio transit presents an opportunity to shine a light collectively and individually on the murky hidden facets of ourselves and our culture. The blending of the 'Santa Claus' energy with Scorpio promises to be a time of healing, discovery and expanded awareness.



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**Halloween – Sometimes, it's
good to get a little scared!**

By Janine Donnellan

Each year on the 31st October I do a candy run to the supermarket to make sure I have a ready supply of candy just in case someone comes knocking on my door "trick-or-treating" for Halloween. Unfortunately no one seems to bother in my street and I end up eating all the candy. I know it is a messy job, but someone has to do it!

I will be going to a Halloween birthday party this month and I am in a quandary as to what to wear. It's not that I don't have enough witch clothes to wear, after all I am a witch!



Friends and myself at a costume party.

It seems that this trend of "trick-or-treating" and wearing ghoulish clothes has been catching on here, after all we all like to be scared sometimes! Notice the number of scary movies being shown over this period, also there is an ever increasing number of reject stores and party supply shops and supermarkets now selling a variety of Halloween costumes and paraphernalia to cash in on this disturbing trend. Note to self must buy Halloween paraphernalia now for Samhain next year!

Interestingly, more people seem to go on Ghost Tours and visit haunted places during Halloween, but do you realise that paranormal activity can occur at any time every night of the year and believe it or not even in daylight! Yikes!

Actually Halloween has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sowin),

but I don't think mainstream peeps really know that! The name is derived from Old Irish and means roughly "summer's end" which doesn't quite fit in with the Southern Hemisphere seasons; in fact Halloween at this time of year in Australia doesn't make sense at all. The bright sunshine and the complete absence of any atmospheric gloom completely ruins the concept.

To be authentic to the season Halloween or Samhain should be really be conducted on 1st May which is the Southern Hemisphere's "summers end".

Well what is the real Halloween all about anyway? The ancient Celts believed that during Samhain the veils between this world and the Otherworld become thin, allowing spirits to freely walk the earth. The purpose of people wearing a costume and a mask was an attempt to placate or confuse the spirits into thinking that they were spirits as well and thus avoiding harm. The family's ancestors were honoured and invited home while harmful spirits were warded off.

The Celtic holiday of Samhain, the Catholic Hallowmas period of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day and the Roman festival of Feralia all influenced the modern concept of Halloween. In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing Ireland's potato famine of 1846, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Taking from Irish and English traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition. Halloween began to lose its religious connotation, becoming a more secular community-based children's holiday.

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Photo - Pumpkin king -

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Halloween#/media/File:PumpkinKing.jpg>



Embracing Rosie

What do you get when a bricklayer falls for a psychic? “Embracing Rosie” of course!

Psychic Rosie, runs a spiritual store, “Embrace”, a Christmas bauble franchise “Santa’s Little Painters” and a new age event “Festival of Dreams”. Her partner Ross prefers brick dust to glitter and fairies, but he is always there to provide the muscle to make the magic happen.

Produced by She She TV, this charming, funny and completely unscripted reality show, is an access-all-areas glimpse into the life of Rosie and those she shares it with.

From the day to day running of her beloved shop Embrace, to catching up with great friends, such as world famous psychic medium Lisa Williams or the chaos of family life; once you see her in action, you won’t be able to stop yourself from absolutely adoring and embracing Rosie.

Kicking off in Sydney Australia, the series centres around Embrace the “hub” of the spiritual community at Miranda Westfield and then ventures to Europe and USA where Rosie and her team show the world that Australia really has got some great psychic talent!

CHECK OUT THE FIRST FEW EPISODE TEASERS

1. Embracing Rosie EP1 Promo ‘Sydney Lovers’
<https://www.hyvio.com/embracingrosie/oAG9eyU3>

2. Embracing Rosie EP2 Promo ‘I Love Chocolate’
<https://www.hyvio.com/embracingrosie/AcbFMwqr>

3. Embracing Rosie EP3 Promo ‘Hot Cronulla Christmas’
<https://www.hyvio.com/embracingrosie/lld1Rznp>



DOWNLOAD THE ADVERTISING PROPOSAL

<https://www.embraceaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Embracing-Rosie-Sponsorship.pdf>

MUCH LOVE XXX



In Light of Healing

Energy may not be visible, but it is as real as the air we breathe. Having that energy balanced within and around you is vital to your emotional, mental and physical wellbeing.

In Light of Healing was born to bring such balance, to give you the treatment and tools you need to live your life, amongst all the good and bad, while maintaining the most magnificent and optimum version of you.

EVIL EYE REMOVAL:

Negative energy is a force that can affect us more than we realise, the Evil Eye is the belief that a person can bestow bad luck onto another through the very gaze of their eyes, the words that they speak or even the thoughts that they have. Such energy can leave the receiver feeling tired, sick or simply out of sorts. I clear these energies through an ancient Greek ritual that lifts the Evil Eye restoring positivity and equilibrium to the person affected.

CHANNELLED HEALINGS

My channelled healings are a gentle non-invasive process that restores harmony and balance to your mind body and soul. Guided by Spirit my healings are tailored to the individual needs of my clients ensuring that they are attuned to their very own perfect vibration.

During my Healings and Evil Eye Removal I also receive messages and when guided I use cards as a tool for Divination.

Blessed Be Effie

Email: angel4e@optusnet.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/inlightofhealing

Website: <https://www.inlightofhealing.com/>



Tarot Corner

The Star



The Star suggests that guidance can be found from within as well as through contact with the universal mind. The Star encourages you to apply your self as you will reap the rewards.

The Star reminds you that you are seeker on a journey of discovery, when you keep your mind open, you can rise above the darker side of your nature. The stars shining above represent the parts of you that aspires to be better than you are and this journey represents the life force, a creative power directing you towards a better future. This is a special time in your life when you should trust your inner wisdom and intuition

Tarot card is from Glastonbury
Tarot by Lisa Tenzin-Dolma

When you wish upon a star,
makes no difference who you are,
Anything your heart desires
will come to you.

Spheres Of Light

Member Information

Spheres Of Light is an association of individuals from a variety of Pagan paths who seek to share experiences, understandings and teachings and who come together to celebrate and to connect with the cycles of the Earth through Lunar and Solar gatherings.

We are dedicated to the development of our own unique philosophy and practice which incorporates the honouring of ancient shamanic forces, as well as the integration and adaptation of ancient mysteries from other traditional and ancestral Pagan cultures. To this end, we seek to draw upon this accumulated knowledge to further develop and deepen our own understanding

and practice of evolutionary witchcraft.

We believe that however complicated we, or our systems become, that the essence of our truth is simple, and that is the truth of our experience of connection with ourselves, the earth and spirit, and the inspiration this provides.

There is no prerequisite learning to attend our Full Moon Circles. These Full Moon gatherings are Open Circles, meaning that all people are welcome to come along any time and experience a Full Moon circle with us.

We also run Dark Moon circles which consist of a group of dedicated seekers from Spheres

Of Light who are embarking upon a journey of discovery to know themselves and to experience new realities. The Dark Moon circle is held during the dark moon of each month which is a time when one can walk between the worlds, a time when one can face their shadow to find their hidden potential.

The focus of our activities is on integrating and adapting ancient teachings and shamanic techniques into our own perspective of evolutionary

Witchcraft. Each member brings to this Circle their own unique skills, knowledge and qualities, which helps to make the experience of the Circle a valuable resource of learning. It is the core Circle where we develop our Group Mind by working strongly and regularly together. The development of the Group Mind takes time, hard work and practice to achieve, thus dedication, commitment and regular attendance is critical to the Circle's long term spiritual growth and development.

Membership

To apply for membership of the dark moon circle you will be required to send a formal application to be admitted to the group listing your reasons for joining. You can send your application to

inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au

If you are invited to join you will be required to:

Regularly attend full moon circles and dark moon circles.

Demonstrate a high level of commitment and dedication to the circle's activities.

Ensure that you are able to fit in with the existing members of the Dark Moon group.

Regards

Janine





National Pagan Directory

A Spheres Of Light initiative to help Australian Pagans connect.

The National Pagan Directory (NPD) is a Spheres Of Light initiative to help people connect with other Pagans in their local area. It is a FREE listing & provides links to Australian Pagan groups & organizations. If you would like your coven, group or regular meet-up listed here please send us your details.

The NPD also provides a place for Aussie Pagan business owners and practitioners in many diverse fields, including Celebrants, to advertise their "Pagan-friendly" businesses and services here for FREE!



National Pagan Directory



Janine Donnellan

Space Clearing & Paranormal Consultant

Clearing negative energy from a building space creates an atmosphere that feels clean, smells fresh, feels lighter and more inviting and often allows the occupants to experience clearer thinking and happier harmonious environments.

The space clearing procedure usually takes between 1 & 2 hours, depending on the size of your home or office. The space clearings include marking out the Hartman gridlines with a dowsing rod and advice about the positioning of furniture, clearing out any spiritual inhabitants and finally concluding the session with a house blessing of your property.

Janine Donnellan can conduct a private space clearing in your home or business, clearing away negative or stagnant energetic 'imprints' built up over the years from the accumulation of day to day living and replacing them with calm, balanced energy.

Cost: \$150.00 plus travelling costs if outside the Sutherland Shire (in Sydney, Australia). **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL** ~ Please contact Janine on 0408 025 268 or <http://illumination.spheresoflight.com.au/> to make your booking. A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 is required for all bookings and can be paid using PayPal.



What is PAN Inc.?

The Pagan Awareness Network Incorporated (PAN Inc.) is a not-for-profit educational association with members Australia-wide. It is run by a management committee whose members are drawn from a broad cross-section of the Pagan community. The Association is incorporated in the state of New South Wales, with sub-committees in other states of Australia. It has no formal ties with any religious body, but works in a proactive fashion, both within the Pagan community and as a point of contact for the public, including government and media organisations.

PAN Inc. aims to continue as the Australian Pagan community's most effective networking and educational body.

Our Mission

The Pagan Awareness Network Inc. (PAN Inc.) aims to:

Correct misinformation, raise awareness and educate the general public about Paganism and associated beliefs and practises in order to achieve religious tolerance

Foster the growth of the Pagan community through service

Brief History

The Pagan Awareness Network began in January 1997 when the Witches League for Public Awareness (Salem Mass. USA) withdrew their regional controllers. David Garland was the Australian representative and with the support of the coven he worked with,

had already embarked upon the task of making the WLPA a registered organisation here in Australia when this happened. Rather than waste all the work that had already been done David decided to start a new group here in Australia and so came up with the Pagan Awareness Network (PAN).

Join PAN

When you join PAN you are helping us to continue to provide help and services to the Pagan community. You will receive:

- A regular newsletter mailed to you.
- A membership card entitling you to discounts at selected PAN friendly businesses.
- Discounts on selected PAN run events
- Occasional giveaways and special deals.

Your membership goes towards helping us advocate for the Pagan community in the media and support events, groups and initiatives around the country.

Applying to join

To join PAN, first obtain a membership application form from our site. Applicants must be 18 years or older unless they have prior approval of the committee. Then fill out the membership form and send it back to us with payment. If you have any questions about joining please email us via our contact form [here](#).



Spheres Of Light

We stand in our power. The spark within us is one with the eternal flame that guides and sustains us on our journey.

Full Moon Circles - Sydney & Nowra



Spheres Of Light holds regular Full Moon Circles in the Sutherland Shire area of Sydney (Australia) and in Nowra (NSW south coast) on the Friday before each Full Moon (see dates below). These Full Moon gatherings are Open Circles, meaning that all Pagans are welcome to come along any time and experience a Full Moon circle with us.

SYDNEY & NOWRA

Next Full Moon Circle is on 3rd November 2017

TIME: arrive at 7:45pm for an 8:00pm start

WHAT TO BRING: a plate of food and/or drink (non-alcoholic) to share at supper afterwards.

WHAT TO WEAR: neat casual attire - cloaks/robes/ritual clothes may also be worn if desired.

COST PER CIRCLE: \$15 per person to help cover venue rental and other ancillary costs. If you would like to attend a circle please contact us for further details please send an email to inquiries@spheresoflight.com.au for Sydney Circle or phone Janine on 0408025268. Contact Nowra Circle at nowra.circle@spheresoflight.com.au

[Website: spheresoflight.com.au](http://spheresoflight.com.au)

SOuL Searchers

Centre for Paranormal
Research & Investigation



SOuL Searchers is so much more than a paranormal investigation team! The SOuL Searchers website is your one stop place for all things paranormal. We provide:

- Information and articles about our investigations and research
- We conduct training, workshops and paranormal meetups
- We produce a quarterly paranormal magazine
- We conduct private investigations in the Sutherland Shire, Sydney.

SOuLSPI (SOuL Searchers Paranormal Investigators) is our specially trained paranormal investigation team and during our private investigations we conduct in-depth evaluations of spiritual activity from our own unique perspective in order to resolve the concerns of the client and to assist grounded souls to move on to higher realms and to further our own understanding of the nature of spirits and the afterlife.

Our mission is to investigate all logical explanations of environments that are associated with paranormal activity. We use a common sense scientific approach to all our investigations but also have an open mind to all theories & methodologies. Our SOuL SPI team is composed of individuals with a variety of talents both scientific and psychic, including skeptics and believers.

Each investigation is conducted in a professional manner, addressing any concerns such as privacy, safety and security. Adherence to the wishes of the client is paramount in every case study.

PLEASE NOTE: All members are volunteers and we conduct all team investigations free of charge.

If you have got a question or a story that you would like to share or you just want to talk about ghosts in general, please "Like" and leave your comments on our Facebook page, we would love to hear from you.

Contact SOuL SPI: 0408 025 268





Axis Mundi Advertising Rates

Would you like to help sponsor our free online magazine and advertise your pagan-friendly business or your pagan website in Axis Mundi? If you do not have a suitable advertising banner we can make one for you, based on graphics from your own website or from photos and logos you email to us (jpg or png formats preferred).

Attention Advertisers!!

Did you know that SOL Magazines has now received over 100,000 visits? If you advertise in the Axis Mundi Magazine your ad will also be advertised for free in Soul Searchers and vice versa! Our advertising costs are the lowest in our industry. If you write an article for our magazines then your advertising is free.

Contact Janine Donnellan (Editor) at: axismundi@spheresoflight.com.au
For further information and payment details.

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- Shamanic Healing
- Tarot Reading
- Mediumship & Psychic Development
- Paranormal Investigations
- Parapsychology
- Space Clearing
- and much more...

Contact:

Janine Donnellan

Janine.donnellan@gmail.com

<http://illumination.spheresoflight.com.au/>

0408025268



