

BUILDING BRIDGES PUB MOOT

Newsletter
October 2009

Editor's Corner

Our Building Bridges Newsletter has turned a year old. We would like to thank everyone that made this year possible; the community has been the driving force behind our newsletter and without you we would not be celebrating this mile stone.

I would especially like to thank our staff of Building Bridges newsletter: Kathryn for all the work she does on our layout and Terrie B for all her help with the and graphic design that graces our pages each month. Recently Jesika has joined our team and although she has only been with us a few months her contribution to our newsletter has become extremely valuable.

Our pages have been graced with wonderful even reviews from Samantha Wu and the festival community's own "Giggle Girl" Lupa. Kelly has shown us what is in the stars for us all with horoscopes that show us the way. Tameika Oak has graced our pages with insight and knowledge. Thank you to all our contributors.

It truly has been an amazing year, one that I could never have gotten through without Jimmy. His support and encouragement has kept me going even when I thought I was beating my head against a wall. Thank you to my wonderful husband who was always there with a hot cup of tea to keep me pumped and going forward during the deadline crunch. Mostly I would like to thank the Gods for showing me the path before me is not always an easy walk and my muse, who often comes in the form of the most beautiful belly dance I have ever cast eyes on.

I look forward to the year ahead with anticipation and hope that you will all continue to offer the support you have shown for our newsletter as we continue to grow.

Crystal

Editor In Chief

Features

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- ❖ Samhain by Tameika Oak
- ❖ Events
- ❖ Pagan Pride Review by Lupa
- ❖ Festival Calendar
- ❖ Horoscopes By Kelly Surtees
- ❖ Festival Spotlight

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M O O T L I S T I N G S

C-K Pagan Pub Moot

Date: Oct 2/09
Time: 7-12 pm
Location: The Montreal House
Street: 185 Grand Ave East
City: Chatham

A social night out for Pagan's in C-K and beyond
If anyone wishes to donate a prize or service to the raffle table, everything is welcome.

Barrie Pagan Pub Moot

Date: Oct 3/09
Time: 6-10 pm
Location: Down the Road Irish Pub (Sunroom)
Street: 650 Big Bay Point Road
City: Barrie

We are a friendly bunch of pagans, very approachable and love good discussions. Whether you are new to the area and want to network with like-minded people or have been to many moots before and feel like enjoying a meal in good company. You are most welcome.
Make sure to bring your sense of humour!

Durham Pub Moot

Date: Oct 7 /09
Time: 7-11 pm
Location: Riley's
Street: 104 King Street East
City: Oshawa

Durham Pagan Coffee Moot

Date: Oct 5/09
Time: 1-4 pm
Location: Country Style
Street: King and Centre
City: Oshawa

Join us for the Durham Pagan Coffee Moot!
We've picked a new location, have 3 awesome organizers, and have picked a new day. This is a child-friendly event, alcohol free, and allows for those early morning jobs that some of us have. All are more than welcome! Hope to see you there!

Born out of a community need and a joining of efforts between the Hamilton Pagan Harvest Festival and the former Hamilton Pagan Pub moot, HPPM was created to form a monthly event that all Pagans in the Greater Hamilton and surrounding area can gather in a fun, social environment.

Come out and get to know who your community is, get to know your fellow pagan/magically inclined neighbour. Join us; Amanda Hyde, Amy Taylor, George Thomson and Frank Ryan, (on the 3rd Sunday of every month with some noted exceptions) for evenings bound to be filled with much fun, laughter and some interesting conversation.

HammerTown



Pagan Pub Moot

**Don't miss our
1 Year Anniversary!!
Sunday
October 18th,
starting at 4 pm**

We have some amazing events planned, trust us, you won't want to miss this moot!!

So what exactly do we have going on, well, check out our schedule of events, we are sure you will be as excited as we are about this landmark event!

**OCTOBER 18TH, 2009
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**
(subject to change)

4 - 9pm **Vendors and Readers**
4 - 6pm **Mask Making Area (free!)**
6 pm **Corktown Area Ghost Walk**
hosted by Missus Eugenia Mooney & Michael Furey . . . Ghost Guides
**** Masks required after 7 pm****
7 pm **Bellydance performance by Sheherezade**
8 pm **Mysterion the Mind Reader**
9 pm **Dragon Ritual Drummers CD Release**

AND if that's not enough to excite you and entice you, we still will have our amazing Raffle & 50/50 draws. We promise some other fun surprises too!
Come on out and join us for what is bound to be an exciting and memorable pubmoot!

Hamilton's Pagan Community Pub Moot
Starts at 7pm, Corktown Pub and Fare, 175 Young Street, Hamilton
Our community is our future; let's learn to nurture it together.
www.hammertownppm.com

Cerridwen's Mug

Date: Oct 9/09
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Lettieri Espresso Bar & Caf e
Street: 77 Wellesley Street
City: Toronto

Come and join us for the October Cerridwen's Mug. Enjoy delicious paninis and pastries as well as gourmet coffees, teas, and juices from Lettieri's amazing menu. Fall is with us, Samhain is on the horizon so come and share in the joys of this magical season with Pagan friends and the Pagan friendly. We are located in the heart of Toronto's Pride Village with plenty to see and do in the immediate area and more only a few subway stops away. Stay turned for announcements for Samhain events to come as well as plans for our November meet as we celebrate eight years! For more information, please contact Samantha Wu at rayvyn@gmail.com or call her at 647-206-5540. Our long overdue website launch will be available soon enough but August. We also may have a few more surprises but you have to come out to see what they may be. until then, you can also find us on Facebook by searching Cerridwen's Mug.

M O O T L I S T I N G S

Kingston Pagan Pub Moot

Date: Oct 13/09
Time: 7:00-11 pm
Location: The Toucan
Street: 76 Princess St.
City: Kingston
Contact 613-544-0852

Ottawa Pagan Meet and Greet

Date: Oct 14/09
Time: 7 pm
Location: Dow's Lake Pavilion "Malone's Lakeside Bar & Grill"
Street: 1001 Queen Elizabeth Driveway
City: Ottawa

HammerTown Pagan Pub Moot

Date: Oct 18/09
Time 7 pm
Location: Corktown Pub & Fare
Street: 175 Young St
City: Hamilton

We have some amazing events planned, trust us, you

won't want to miss this moot!! Here's what's happening:

4 - 9pm - Vendors and Readers

4 - 6pm - Mask Making Area with Natalie Rubyhill (free!)

6 pm - Corktown Area Ghost Walk hosted by Seika and Edd

**** Masks are required after 7 pm****

7 pm - Bellydance performance by Sheherezade

8 pm - Mysterion the Mind Reader

9 pm - Dragon Ritual Drummers CD Release

AND if that's not enough to excite you and entice you the Corktown will have a Haunted House happening in the newly renovated upstairs! We still will have our amazing Raffle & 50/50 draws. We promise some other fun surprises too!! Come on out and join us for what is bound to be an exciting and memorable pubmoot!

Need more information? Want to donate a raffle prize or would like to volunteer?

Email us at info@hammertownppm.com. Check out our website at www.hammertownppm.com



For more information please visit our website at www.wcc.on.ca or contact us at 416-656-6564
109 Vaughan Road, Toronto, ON, M6C 2L9

Toronto Pagan Pub Moot

Date: Oct 19/09
Time: 7-11 pm
Location: The Fox and Fiddle
Street: 1535 Yonge Street
City: Toronto

The Toronto Pagan Pub Moot is the first and longest running Moot in Canada (c. Feb. 1996). It is an open and friendly social event that meets every Third Calendar Monday of every month. It is open to Pagans, Wiccans, Witches, Druids, Asatru, etc of ALL ages. Open to those who are new and would like to learn more, to those who have been walking the path for decades. As this is a social event, there are no lectures or specific talks. It is a GREAT place to meet up with old friends and make new friends.

For more information, please feel free to contact either Evan or Karen

torontopaganpubmoot@rogers.com

<http://torontopaganpubmoot.shorturl.com>



Wyrddwood Publications

A small eco-friendly
publishing house selling
Pagan/Heathen eBooks.

www.wyrddwoodpublications.com

Forest City Pub Moot

Date: Oct 21/09
Time: 7 - 10 pm
Street: TBA
City: London

The moot WILL still happen on the 3rd Wednesday of October, and we WILL have a fantastic show, featuring burlesque, and the Bluesy/ Jazzy vocals of Raven Black. However, we will NOT be hosting these events at the Black Shire Pub. We are in talks with three different venues who we hope will be more accommodating. Please check our Facebook Page for updates

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=52870726646>

M O O T L I S T I N G S

Toronto Building Bridges Pub Moot

Date: Oct 21/09

Time: 7-11 pm

Location: The Ground Hog Pub

Street: 401 Bloor St East

City: Toronto

Just a reminder: we are accepting donations for our "Need Table". It is a community driven initiative and we hope its success will continue. If you need anything or know anyone who is in need and can't make it to the pub moot feel free to take from the table. That is what it is for. We are in tough times, and we have folks in the community who could use some help; either starting up a new apartment, clothes, or food items...so any donations will be appreciated.

Don't forget our networking table. It's the best way to network your businesses. Also our upcoming events announcements on what is happening in our communities for

Pagan Meet and Greet

Date: Oct 24/09

Time: 10-6 pm

Street: 1346 Hwy 15 Kingston Ontario

City: Kingston

Hosted by Goddess Blends - 613-544-0852

www.goddessblendspagan.com

London Ontario Pagan Coffee Social

Date: Oct 24/09

Time: 7 pm

Location 513 Queen St

City: London

The LOP coffee Social is held at 7 pm on the last Friday of every Month behind Need hams Funeral Home (side door)

There will be Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate provided for \$1 cup. All proceeds will go to fund our local Spiral Scouts group.



www.thehedgewitch.com or contact us at 905 478-1837

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journals • crystals • tarot cards • pendulums • candles • aromatherapy
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Tibetan Singing Bowl Meditation Concert with Julie Groulx

Date: October 2/09

Time: 7-9 pm

Book Launch Mandala: The Colouring Book by Deirdre Norman

Date: October 3/09

Time: 6-8 pm

'Losing It All... But In A Good Way' with Marina Ford and Irina Petrova

Date: October 10/09

Time: 1-4 pm

Akashic Records Certification: The Soul Journeys(TM) Method with Jennifer Longmore

Date: 17/09

Time: 11 am - 7 pm

Ecstatic Trance Body Postures with Ingrid Cryns

Date: October 21/09

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Goddess Alive - 8 Point Wheel of Celebration with Mary Marzo - Samhain Cross Quarter Festival

Date: October 29/09

Time: 9:30 pm

For more information please visit our website at

www.gowonderworks.com or contact us at 416-323-3131

79a Harbord Street, Toronto, ON, M5S 1G4

Moot Night

Date: Oct 28/09

Time: 7 pm

Location: Winchester Arms in Belleville

Street: 173 Dundas Street East

City: Belleville

This event will re-establish itself in August!!! Come and enjoy an evening with other pagans..This event is a social evening and is a wonderful place to make new friends and contacts...Hope to see you There...Any details needed contact Tracy at "The Crystal Crib" 613-969-7415. Good idea to call Tracy to confirm event is ongoing.

Samhain

The holiday now celebrated as Hallowe'en has a long history, stretching back to the time of the Ancient Celts. The Ancient Celts lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France. They believed that all months began at full moon, and therefore celebration of the New Year took place during the full moon nearest to November 1st. The evening of October 31, and morning of November 1, was called Samhain (or Samhuinn, pronounced sow-en), the Gaelic word for November, meaning "summer's end", and it was (primarily) a celebration of the dead.

The Celts believed that at the time of Samhain, more so than any other time of the year, that ghosts of the dead were able to cross the veil and mingle with the living.



It was after Samhain that the faerie folk would depart the land, not to return until Beltane. Before leaving, the little people would cause a raucous, and it was considered unwise to travel alone at night, lest they take you

away. Folks would carry iron or steel to ward them off, and treats were left as offerings to appease the faerie folk.

People gathered to sacrifice animals that wouldn't make it through the harsh winters ahead. Since the Ancient Celts were pastoral people, this was a time when sheep and cattle were moved to closer pastures and all livestock were secured for the winter months. Crops were harvested and stored. This date marked both an ending and a beginning in an eternal cycle. As the new year began with winter, a season of death, it was only natural that the Celts would honour (and ward off) those that had already passed on.

Bonfires played a large part in the festivities. Bonfires were lit in honour of the dead, to aid them on their journey, and to guide them away from the living. The English word 'bonfire' derives from "bone fires". Even into Christian times, villagers cast the bones of the slaughtered cattle upon the flames. The animals that were spared were herded through the bonfire as a means of purification. The smoke and heat actually killed many parasites carried in their fur. With the bonfire ablaze, the villagers would extinguish all other fires. After the festivities, each family then solemnly lit their hearth from the common flame, thus bonding the families of the village together.

The fires consumed some folks as they ran through the fire. Blood sacrifice was considered a fitting payment to the earth that had sustained them during the previous year. It was a contract between them and the earth.

Samhain is one of the eight solar holidays or sabbats. This holiday, along with Beltane, is one of the most highly attended celebrations amongst pagans. It is the last of the harvest festivals (after Lughnassadh and Mabon).

The presence of otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, to make predictions; therefore Samhain was a preferred time for divination, and forecasting the future. For example, lovers would place two nuts in a fire to see if their relationship would last. If the nuts burned, it showed they had a strong relationship. If the nuts popped there would be trials ahead. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

Unknown to many, is that Samhain was also a time of peace, when no fighting or divorce was permitted. In fact, many people got married at this time. Many tricks were played as it was thought that nature's natural order was reversed. People would lead away other's cattle, block up chimneys and throw things at notable figures. Of

course, this was all likely blamed on the ghosts and faeries.



A common practice at this time of year is the ritualistic Feast of the Dead, or Dumb Supper (meaning lack of speech). The Dumb Supper is derived from the old belief that the

dead cannot physically "speak". The feast is thrown in honour of our loved ones who have passed through the veil into the Summerlands. This is a perfect time for reflection and remembrance. It is not uncommon to receive messages from our beloved on this night, while the veil is at its thinnest, in the form of visions, feelings, or words in your mind/heart.

Roots of Traditional Practices:

Trick or Treat - Children were sent door to door to sing songs and be given a "Soul Cake". Treats were also left to appease the spirits, so they wouldn't destroy homes or crops.

Costumes - Were worn as protection from the evil spirits, and tricks of the Faerie folk. It is said that only your Loved Ones would recognize you behind the disguise.

Jack-O-Lanterns - Originally Turnip or Squash were carved with scary faces to frighten away evil spirits. Pumpkins are more commonly used in modern times.

It's enlightening to see that the practice of Samhain has been preserved over the millennia and throughout many different cultures/religions. Although time causes change, and observances are personalized to certain paths, the importance of honoring our ancestors has been revered.

*Tameika Oak
Mhorag Coven, HPS
Spirits of the Earth Festival*

Events

International Psychic / Medium Sayge

Date: Oct 1/09

Time: 6 sharp-8 pm

Location: London Public Library - Landon Branch

Street: 167 Wortley Road

City: London

Zoltach Live Open Reading Night - (All Welcome)

More Than A Psychic Experience

You have seen him on T.V. psychic star of the hit paranormal show "History of a Haunting" and heard him on national radio, now come and experience the energy, wisdom and love of the spirit known as Zoltach who is channeled by International Author and professional Deep Trance Medium Sayge. On this evening we welcome your personal questions about your life's quest.

Please call 289-241-6983 if you would like to reserve your spot for this spectacular event or order your tickets through the Zoltach web site at www.zoltach.com
This is a 2 hour event with spirit.



Candle Magic

Date: October 2/09

Time: 7-9 pm

The Comic Book Challenge

Date: October 3/09

Time: 12 noon

Full Moon Guided Meditation

Date: October 4/09

Time: 7-8:30 pm

Moon Magic/Lunar Energies

Date: October 5/09

Time: 7-9 pm

Tarot Course...4 weeks

Date: October 6, 13, 20 & 27/09

Time: 7-9 pm

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MAGIC COURSE

Date: October 7, 14, 21 & 28/09

Time: 7-9 pm

Quartz Crystal Bowl Meditation

Date: October 30/09

Time: 7 pm start

*****Please Register in advance for all workshops*****

For more information please visit our website at

www.theancientmystic.com

5694 Highway 7 East ~ Unit 13, Markham, ON, L3P 1B4

Spirits of the Earth
Presents... 519-762-2000

FEAST of the DEAD

FRI OCT 23 - SUN OCT 25

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area
Dutton, ON

\$20/person (Sat Only) ♦ \$40/person (Fri-Sun)
Ritual: Saturday 10pm, Potluck Feast to Follow

Mirror Scrying ♦ Harvest Games ♦ Divination
Kitchen Witchery ♦ Drumming ♦ Dancing

** Heated cabins available. Tent Trailers/Campers welcomed*

For more info visit...
www.SpiritsFest.com

Temple of The Phoenix - Public Full Moon Ritual

Date: Oct 4/09

Time: 7-11 pm

Location: Willow and Michael RedEagle's home

Street: 1406 Caille Aveune

City: Belle River

The Full Moon is the time at which we gather and release those things that we no longer need in our lives. So come with what you want to release in mind. We will focus our energies and banish all those negative things that are holding us back from becoming all that we can be.

Need more information contact us by phone at (519) 968-3560 or our website at

<http://witchesofwindsor.ning.com/events/temple-of-the-phoenix-full>.

Ottawa Pagan Brunch/Party 15th Anniversary

Date: Oct 3 & 4/09

Time: 5 pm for the dance & 11 am for the brunch

Location: James Street Feed Company (Party)/ Uncle Louie's (Brunch)

City: Ottawa

Come Celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Ottawa Pagan Sunday Brunch. For more information please contact Jean-Marc AKA Pagan Owl or or on our facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=11594320194#/event.php?eid=88583798478>

Events

Firedance Drum Circle

Date: Oct 16/09

Time: 9:00pm to 2:00 am

Location: The Black Swan

Street: 154 Danforth Ave

City: Toronto

Come out to join Firedance as we celebrate the Samhain season! Bring your drums, bells shakes, and dancing feet. There is a potluck table for anyone who would like to bring food to share, candles to honor our ancestors, and loved ones, and prizes for the best costumes!!! Hope to see you there!

**The Order of the Temple of Archallem
(Witchvox Sponsor) presents...**

An Evening with John Michael Greer

Date: Oct 17/09

Time: 6 pm

Location: The Unitarian Fellowship of London

Street: 557 Clarke Road

City: London

Join noted author and Archdruid John Michael Greer for an evening of enlightenment and fellowship in London Ontario. The event will begin with a meet and greet, followed by a workshop presentation entitled Magical Ecology.

Tickets are available by contacting archallem at yahoo.ca., or from any OTA member. Need more information contact us by phone at (519) 643-6459 or our website at <http://www.archallem.org>.

THE STATE OF THE ART CONFERENCE

Date: Oct 22 - 26/09

Time: Various

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Street: 33 Carlson Court

City: Toronto

CAAE PRESENTS: USING SOLAR RETURNS IN YOUR
ASTROLOGICAL PRACTICE

MEDIUMS and MESSAGES

THE SOTA TRASH & TREASURES SALE

THE BANQUET

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS with Christian Borup

HOW TO MAKE YOUR INTUITION AND ASTROLOGY

WORK FOR YOU

For more information please visit our website at

<http://www.donnavantoen.com/>

THE WCC PRESENTS
The Witches Ball
Samhain Countdown 2009

October 30, 2009 at 8:00 pm
at Zemra Bar Lounge
778 St. Clair Ave. W. Toronto

\$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door
Music provided by a DJ
Bardic show/competition

Wear your finest Costumery!
(Costume optional, prizes for best costume, male and female)
For more info, please contact the Occult Shop at
(416) 656-6564

Tasseomancy A Two Part Workshop to Learn to See Whats In Your Teal

Date: Oct 22/09 & Oct 29/09

Time: Oct 22-7:00 pm/Oct 29 8:30 pm

Location: White Flame Company

Street: 10 Hempstead Drive

City: Hamiton

Join Amy Taylor in a workshop about the Art of Tasseomancy or better known as Tea Leaf Reading. This will be a two part workshop. This workshop is taught with much interaction and hands-on experiences. Handouts and actual readings are included.

In Lesson One you will learn the history of tea, tea reading and what teas are best for readings. Discover the nuances of teapots, teacups & saucers and their significance in the Tasseomancers process and how to brew a proper cup of tea for a reading.

In Lesson Two after a quick review of Lesson One, you will learn how to ground yourself prior to a reading, how to set the mood for the inquirer, the ritual of tea and cup, symbols and their meaning and you will learn to actually read the tea. This session may go longer so be prepared to stay.

Cost \$25.00 for each night must be prepaid.

Pagan Bride

Isn't that such a lovely pair of words? I think so....

Ok, now that you have got your groan on, and think I am going off on some tangent about how little Pagan Pride I see, I'm not going to. I'm actually going to tell you about my experiences at Toronto Pagan Pride, and Hamilton Pagan Pride.

First Toronto. The trip started off on a bad note, with the brake issue, and of course I was late for my own workshop, but once we got there, the day couldn't have been better. The weather was fabulous which at that time of year is usually a crap shoot. Hats off to Rebecca for keeping us all fed and running the grill. She is one awesome person, and always goes above and beyond to help out.

The workshops were plenty, and you could pick and choose what you felt like attending. Again I apologize for mine, it didn't go quite the way I had planned, but, it was a learning experience for me as well.

At some point during the day, a couple arrived, dressed up a little more than the rest of us, and of course it peaked our curiosity. It turned out that it was a Handfasting. Interesting. Not my choice of marriage venue, but hey, it was free, it was full of Pagans, and it was a beautiful day, what more could you want? Congrats to the happy couple.

For me the biggest treat of the day was the ritual. It was by far one of the better ones I have attended. Crystal and Jimmy work great together and at times I let myself get lost in the energy around me. As we danced and sang we laughed, we smiled, and we reveled in just being together. (Again sorry to the drummers who we distracted with our giggles....*big cheesy grin*). When working with a large group it's hard to get all that energy focused and working together, and to see that happen, to feel it, was something that I will carry with me, and remember for a long time to come.

Bardic was interesting, to say the least. As luck would have it, The four of us (The Sisterhood aka the Giggle Girls) ended up being the judges for the Bardic. Let me tell you, hats off to all those who judge the various Bardics, its not an easy job. Everyone should get a prize just for having the courage to get up there, especially in front of us. We are known for being the hecklers. Although its not as easy to heckle when you have to pay attention, let me tell you. Everyone was awesome, and there was so many good performances it was hard to pick. I'm not going to list the winners, (because honestly I don't remember the order) but big congrats to all those who entered and to all those who

went home with prizes.

Hamilton was an adventure in getting lost. We got lost trying to find the park, and yes, I know, maybe if we had of brought directions. Found the Corktown while looking for the park, but do you think we could find it after when we wanted too? HELL NO!!

Anyway, I digress. Hamilton Pagan Pride is like a mini-fest without the annoying task of crawling into a damp bed at the end of the day. The weather, this year, was outstanding!! The vendors were far and wide, and had everything from honey, to leather, and smelly stuff to pretty stuff. If you were looking for it, I would not be surprised if you found it. Workshops, rituals, and musical performances carried on throughout they day, and everywhere I looked people were learning, dancing, bonding, and creating magick. Amanda and her staff did a stellar job of putting together a day full of information, entertainment, and a variety of ways to spend your money on pretty shiny things!! I'm already saving up for next year!!

Now, the after party left a bit to be desired. Certainly this is no reflection on the Pagan Pride staff, but of the bar itself. They were vastly unprepared for us, which is kinda surprising. Now, every year I have had a really good time at the after party, and poor service aside, this year was no exception. Still had a blast, but that was because of the people, not the place. This experience just proved to me once again, that when you are with good people, family and friends, you can have a good time anywhere, in any circumstance. Now, that being said, I think it was very tacky to put the bachelor party smack dab in the middle of all the Pagans. They were rude, obnoxious, and really loud, and coming from a rowdy pagan, that is saying a lot. But all in all, it was a good time.

And now....I wait... for Harvestfest!!!



FESTIVAL

CALENDAR

Harvest Fest

Oct 9 - 12/09 (on the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend).

SAMHAIN: Feast of the Dead

Oct 23 - 25/09 - Stay tuned to www.spiritsfest.com for further details

WomynSpirit Festival

October 23 - 25/09 A women-only festival to celebrate Samhain, held at The Ecology Retreat Centre in Hockley Valley. Please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/womynspirit/Home> for details.

Horoscopes October

By Kelly Surtees. www.kellysurtees.com

Astrology Insight

The balance between 'me' and 'we' is highlighted under the Aries Full Moon on October 4. Use this energy to rebalance relationships so that harmony and equality become more common.

Aries March 20 - April 19

It's all about Other People as the Sun moves through your opposite sign this month. Try to see things from someone else's perspective. Compromise is your key phrase, especially under the New Moon on October 18.

Taurus April 20 - May 20

Your ruler Venus gains strength from October 15 and you'll follow suit. Work, health and daily routines improve as you get clearer on what you really need. Professional prospects are boosted as the Sun and Jupiter align October 11 - promote your skills then.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

Your creative side demands attention from October 10 - 29 so scale back work and allow more time to play. Your imagination is open and you're curiosity to share your passions is high. Relaxation leads to success.

Cancer 21 June - July 22

Family and home plans dominate as the Sun in your domestic zone helps highlight where change is needed. The New Moon on October 18 helps you start afresh with family and flat mates. Focus on where you're going rather than where you've been.

Leo July 23 - August 22

Hope and possibilities lead you towards new experiences as the Sun and Jupiter align October 11. Expand your horizons and explore new locations. The restless gypsy within craves movement and seeks new opportunities.

Virgo August 23 - September 22

Life is in flux, especially as Mercury and Venus align with Uranus October 4 and 10. Be open to the change and other's suggestions, no matter how unconventional they may seem. Personal transformation is possible October 29.

Libra September 23 - October 22

Make every effort to move your career forward before October 17 - Mars helps support professional progression until then. The New Moon in your sign October 18 kick starts a new 12 month cycle around identity. Consider how best to express your authentic self.

Scorpio October 23 - November 21

A new cycle at work begins October 17 as Mars energises your career zone. The next six months brings the opportunity to review and revise professional plans. Take your time to consider all options.

Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

As the Sun and Jupiter align mid month confidence and creative energy peaks. Seek new outlets to honour your true self. Leadership offers are worth exploring - you have a lot to give and are ready for bigger, brighter prospects.

Capricorn December 22 - January 21

Relationship energy has been intense, passionate and at times feisty under the influence of Mars since August 26. This cycle ends October 17. New balance is possible between your personal and professional lives under the Full Moon October 4.

Aquarius January 22 - February 17

The combination of Mars and Mercury with your co-ruler Uranus on October 4 - 5 brings many new ideas and contacts, as well as added enthusiasm to pursue new directions. You're ready to take the next step in breaking away from the crowd.

Pisces February 18 - March 19

Shared resources, taxes and family finances are in focus under the Sun's influence this month. The Full Moon on October 4 highlights earnings, debt and cash flow. New balance on your personal spreadsheet is possible.



Womyn Spirit Festival

The 18th annual WomynSpirit Festival is being held on the weekend of October 23rd to 25th, 2009 at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Orangeville.

The main purpose of WomynSpirit is of course to get in touch with our feminine spirituality. Each year three formal rituals are held, one on each evening of the Festival. Because it is Samhain, rituals will focus on turning inward and honouring our own mysteries, reflecting on our crone aspects, and mortality. The ritual on Saturday night is when we remember our ancestors and those who have passed on recently. A beloved dead altar will be set up to hold the photographs and mementoes of Festival attendees who wish to honour their loved ones. The Sunday ritual is family-friendly, so our daughters can participate too.

Planned workshops for this year include Mask-Making; Belly Dancing; Meeting Our Spirit Animals; Introduction to Simple Spells; Prosperity Talisman; Yoga for Pleasure; and Dianic Witchcraft. As well as the workshops, WomynSpirit also gives attendees the opportunity to shop for handcrafted items, to get a Tarot reading or a Reiki treatment, socialize with warm, wonderful women, and to explore The Ecology Retreat Centre's labyrinth walk and nature trails.

Vendors are welcome at the Festival (limited to attendees only). In past years we've had altar tools, candles, glassware, jewellery, pottery, sculpture, artwork, clothing, runes and many other items for sale, at very reasonable prices. If interested in showing off your handiwork, please contact our Vending Officer at womynspirit.vend@gmail.com.

Bring your daughters! WomynSpirit features activities and rituals designed specifically for children, and on the Saturday they get to have a masquerade ball. The girls have a wonderful time, and teenagers have the choice of hanging out with the younger kids or attending the adult activities.

Coming Next Month

Special 1 Year
Anniversary Edition

Harvest Fest 2009

Friday October 9th to Monday, October 12th

Featuring: *The Corn King, Wendy Rule, and Prince Bamidele Bajowa of Nigeria with Witch Doctor Utu of the Niagara Voodoo Shrine!*

*Join us in ritual,
song & celebration
as the fields ripen,
the grain is brought
in & the Earth offers
up Her abundance.*



Mansfield Outdoor Centre
Mansfield, ON
1.5 hours north of Toronto



<http://www.wiccanfest.com/harvestfest/> or call (705) 454- 3077

The crops have been gathered in from the field, the leaves are changing and the smell of wood smoke hangs in the air - it's Harvest Fest!

This is a time for gathering together and fostering communal links to see us through the winter. It's a time of thanksgiving, of feasting and fire, and honouring the ancestors and the Corn King.

The Corn King takes his final journey of the seasonal year, traveling to the Otherworld laden with our wishes and blessings. As is our fest tradition, we will be sending him forth with fire, song and celebration. Join us for the procession in your garb, masks encouraged, and be ready to dance and hail his passing.

New this year, the King's head will be travelling the rituals and nightly fires of the festival so that he can truly celebrate with us before the main ritual bonfire. Bran the Blessed's head continued to talk and give wisdom and was feasted long after he fell in battle. In this spirit, we welcome you to get to know your Corn King! We will also be making a sacred cornucopia for you to fill with offerings in thanks for the plentiful harvest. Bring flowers, vegetables and fruit from your garden or charms of your own making (as long as they are natural and burnable).

Music is also time-honoured way to connect to the Mysteries and to each other. There is magic in music and the way it transcends language and culture. We encourage you to listen to the many songs around us: the wonderful music of our guest Wendy Rule, to the drums, the crackling of the fire, the wind in the forest, the geese leaving for warmer climes.

Welcome to our Feasting Table! Come warm yourselves by our fire.