

# BUILDING BRIDGES PUB MOOT

*Newsletter*  
*January 2010*

## Editor's Corner

*Happy New Year!!!*

Regardless of belief most of us can't help getting caught up in the excitement that surrounds New Years Eve. We reflect on the old calendar year and have high hopes and dreams for what lies ahead. Some see it as a clean slate with an opportunity for new ventures

As 2009 passes its torch to 2010 may the blessings received during its reign guide and support us all as we begin to plant the seeds of New Year.

From all of us at Building Bridges Newsletter we thank you for an amazing 2009 and we look forward to growing and serving our Communities in 2010

Blessings for a prosperous New Year

*Crystal*

*Editor-in-chief*

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# Moot

## Durham Pagan Coffee Moot

**Date:** January 10/10

**Time:** 1-4 pm

**Location:** Country Style

**Street:** King and Centre

**City:** Oshawa

The Coffee Moot is an opportunity for local Pagans to chat, drink coffee, and just hang out. Come out and start 2010 right!

## Kingston Pagan Pub Moot

**Date:** January 12/10

**Time:** 7:00-11 pm

**Location:** The Toucan

**Street:** 76 Princess St.

**City:** Kingston

**Contact:** 613-544-0852

# Listings

## Durham Pub Moot

**Date:** January 6/10

**Time:** 7-11 pm

**Location:** Riley's

**Street:** 104 King Street East

**City:** Oshawa

## C-K Pagan Pub Moot

Please Be Advised: This Pub Moot has lost its location and is currently seeking a new venue. The Organizers of this Moot regret their short hiatus and hope to find a new space soon. Check their Facebook page for updates.

## Ottawa Pagan Meet and Greet

**Date:** January 13/10

**Time:** 7 pm

**Location:** Dow's Lake Pavilion "Malone's Lakeside Bar & Grill"

**Street:** 1001 Queen Elizabeth Driveway

**City:** Ottawa

## Cerridwen's Mug

We'll be taking the months of December and January off to search for a new venue and consider the change of going from a coffee networking social to a pub moot (with a change of name). If you have any questions, concerns, feedback or suggestions please contact **Samantha Wu at 647 206 5540 or at [rayvyn@gmail.com](mailto:rayvyn@gmail.com)**. I look forward to your replies. Thank you once again for all your continued support throughout the years and beyond. Have a blessed and safe Yule and I'll see you all on Friday, January 8 2010 when the Mug will pick up again. Blessed Be!



**Wyrddwood Publications**  
A small eco-friendly  
publishing house selling  
Pagan/Heathen eBooks.  
[www.wyrddwoodpublications.com](http://www.wyrddwoodpublications.com)

## Barrie Pagan Pub Moot

**Date:** January 16/10

**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!

Please check the Facebook page for monthly date.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=138897710275>

## Tea Readings with Amy Taylor

Saturday January 2nd, 10 - 5pm, (call to pre-book your appointment), at White Flame Company, 10 Hempstead Drive, Hamilton, Ontario. L8W 2E7 (905) 385-7251

Saturday January 9th, 12 - 5pm (call to pre-book your appointment) Kellys Kandles, 48 Dublin Street, Brantford Ont (519) 750-1280

Sunday January 10th, 11 - 4pm, (call to pre-book your appointment), at White Flame Company, 10 Hempstead Drive, Hamilton, Ontario. L8W 2E7 (905) 385-7251

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

## Toronto Pagan Pub Moot

**Date:** Jan, 18/10

**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](mailto:torontopaganpubmoot@rogers.com)

<http://torontopaganpubmoot.shorturl.com>

## Toronto Building Bridges Pub Moot

**Date:** Jan 20/10

**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.

## HammerTown Pagan Pub Moot

**Date:** January 17/10

**Time** 7 pm

**Location:** Corktown Pub & Fare

**Street:** 175 Young St

**City:** Hamilton

Please join us for a night of fun entertainment put on by YOU! That's right, this month we are having our 3rd Open Mic Night, this time hosted by Franco "Is It 11 p.m. Yet?" Minatel! Got a story or poem to tell, a song to sing, an instrument to play? Then share your talent with YOUR community! Franco will have sign up sheets at the moot, be sure to sign up early as the open stage will end at 10:00 p.m.!

As always, we will be holding our awesome raffle and 50/50 draws and maybe some other fun Capricornus surprises too! So, come out and get to know YOUR pagan and magically inclined community!

Need more information? Want to volunteer?

Email us at [info@hammertownppm.com](mailto:info@hammertownppm.com)

Check out our Website: [www.hammertownppm.com](http://www.hammertownppm.com)

## Moot Night

**Date:** January 27/10

**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.

## London Ontario Pagan Coffee Social

**Date:** January 30, 2010

**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 Needhams 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.



## Blessed Arts The Sacred Art of Hairstyling

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# Dream Interpretation for Kids

## Creating a Personal Dream Dictionary with Your Children

Winter is a time of turning inward, hibernating in a way. Dreaming is a beautiful and mystical phenomenon that occurs while we are deeply asleep, snug in our warm beds.

Scientists are still debating why we dream, what dreams are really made of and whether or not we all dream. Until science has a definitive answer for us, many understand dreams to be personal messages from the deeper, subconscious self. I believe dreams are a way to work through and process the leftover thoughts, fears and ambitions of the day. And since the mental, spiritual, emotional and physical selves are all connected on a deeper level, dreams may be where they meet to bring us to a higher awareness of ourselves.

I think that fact that everyone from babies to grandmothers, dream is very interesting. Being able to share, discuss and interpret your own dreams gives one a great sense of comfort, ease and self-confidence.

When my son was two years old, we started a dream journal for him. Every morning when he woke up, I would ask him what he dreamt about the night before. Sometimes the dreams were very detailed, and a recurring subject would be found. Other times the dreams were very abstract "Mommy, there were hands reaching for me, they were grabbing me". That's all he said, and that's all we wrote down. We simply kept a chronological order of his dreams. I did not think at the time to try to create a Personal Dream Dictionary for him.

As my son became interested in different subjects they would also appear in his dreams; dinosaurs, caterpillars, snow, swimming.

Dream interpretation is an age-old practice. The ancient Egyptians had special rooms in their healing temples, The House of Life, where patients could sleep during the night and the next morning have their dreams interpreted by a Physician, Seer or Priest/Priestess. This practice was taken very seriously and considered to be an effective treatment for certain diseases and illnesses.

Some people believe dreams are prophetic, and tell of an event that may happen in the future. Other people have told me that they never dream. When I first met my husband, I used to always ask him 'How did you sleep last night? Did you have good dreams?' Even though he told me

the same thing every time "I slept okay. I didn't dream. I never dream." I believe that everyone does dream, but that maybe you don't always remember your dreams. If dreams are a form of therapy where we work through our deepest thought processes while we rest and recover, sometimes remembering those dreams may not be what the conscious mind wants to do. But after several years of asking my husband "Did you have good dreams last night?" - guess what? He started to remember and tell me his dreams! I believe by giving him a safe and non-judgmental space, and sharing my own dreams with him, he allowed himself to begin to remember his dreams. So even if you or your kids feel like you don't dream or can't remember your dreams, you can if you set your mind to it.

Before you go to bed, tell yourself: "Tomorrow I will remember my dreams". Start there. Be patient and say that to yourself or your child every night. Have a notebook and pencil nearby so that when you wake up in the morning, you can immediately write down a few notes once you do start to remember your dreams, however small the memory may be. Do the same for your kids.

For children that have scary dreams, I like to teach them about lucid dreaming. I tell my boys to look at their hands once they realize that they are dreaming. If they say they have been having scary dreams, or wake from a nightmare, I say to them "Remember to slow down in the dream and look for your hands. If you can see your hands, it's the first step to controlling your dreams and reminding yourself that it's only a dream". This is actually a very advanced technique that is used for adults in Dream Therapy. However, it works great for kids who have nightmares, because it gives them something else to think about and focus on before they fall asleep, and gives them a sense that they are in control of their dreams and they are safe.

## **Creating a Personal Dream Dictionary**

Take time with your child to decorate the cover of their dream dictionary. Perhaps you can set a theme that appeals to their current age, interests and hobbies. Fairies, dragons, skateboarding are just some ideas.

If your children are too young to write on their own, decorate the cover with pictures from magazines, like a collage or with stickers and hand drawn pictures. Use these inside the dictionary as well for their 'dream definitions'.

Divide the inside alphabetically. A nice way to do this is to use a binder with alphabetical dividers. That way, new sheets can easily be added as the dictionary grows, or the needs of your child change.

Keep the dream dictionary in a handy place. If your child needs your help to write in the journal, keep it in the kitchen so that you can discuss dreams over breakfast or before school. If your child wants to keep the dictionary private, have them keep it by their bedside. Discuss dreams in an open manner around the house with a casual question. "How did you sleep last night? Did you have nice dreams?" provides a neutral and supportive environment for sharing and discussing dreams.

### **Dream Interpretation**

Your kids will naturally turn to you for interpretation. Remember that the purpose of keeping a dream journal or, in this case, a Personal Dream Dictionary is to encourage your child to learn to listen to their own internal messages and thought processes. You can assist in the development of interpreting their dreams by asking open-ended questions. Let's say your child dreamt that they were in a park on a sunny day and suddenly a flock of birds fly overhead and they all crash on the ground. You might be shocked and think "What a strange and scary dream!" But try not to reveal your feelings. Instead ask supportive and open-ended questions. Break down the dream one piece at a time, noting the most important details. You may want to write down the dream on a scrap piece of paper the first time your child tells it to you so that you can go over the details to together. Give your child plenty of time to ponder each element and think about their answers.

1. Q. You said you were in a park. What do you think about parks?  
A. Fun, freedom, playtime
2. Q. You said the birds flew overhead? What were the birds doing there? Did they want something? Were they moving fast or slow?  
A. The birds were flying fast and they were noisy. I was surprised and happy when I saw them. They were my friends
3. Q. Then the birds crashed? Why? How did you feel?  
A. The birds saw me and wanted to play but they came too fast. I was scared.

When you first get the feel for creating the Personal Dream Dictionary, keep it simple, only look at three major elements:

1. Park = fun, freedom
2. Birds = friends
3. Crashing birds = going too fast, feeling scared, noisy

This child was starting in a new school when she had this dream. She made a new group of friends, but the change and excitement was overwhelming.

Each of the above items would be filed under their corresponding divider in alphabetical order, just like a dictionary, hence the alphabetical dividers noted earlier. Encouraging your child to write these interpretations by themselves in their dictionary will give them a sense of ownership regarding both the Personal Dream Dictionary and their own dreams.

Once we break it down, we can connect it to everyday occurrences. This is a very effective tool for gaining insight into how our children are feeling when they can't easily vocalize their fears voluntarily. This may not seem like much, but each time a new symbol appears in a dream you analyze the dream step by step asking your child what those symbols mean to *them*. You can add new words next to the original interpretations as the same subjects reappear in your child's dreams.

### **The Bigger Picture**

Help your child to understand the connection between their dreams and the world around them. Without telling them what you think the dream means, ask questions that help them to make connections to a possible bigger picture. "Your birthday is coming up next week, do you think this may have something to do with that?"

Creating a Personal Dream Dictionary with your child when they are young will help them to begin the practice of self expression, and teach them to trust their own instincts about what is happening in their mind's eye in connection to the outside world.

If your children are older (teenagers) and you are just starting to create a Personal Dream Dictionary with them, they likely will want to keep the information private and may only approach you once in a while for input. Give them their space and privacy. If they are interested in dream interpretation, they will appreciate the opportunity to analyze their own dreams and maybe even help their friends with dream analysis!

Sweet dreams!

**Valery Mitkos Philip**  
Aromatherapist, Certified  
Yoga Instructor  
[www.valeryphilip.com](http://www.valeryphilip.com)

# Reconnecting

## The Socially Minded Pagan and Her Way Back to the Spiritual

It all began with a girl looking at the sky. That was me and I was 11. The bookish girl that kept to herself; the one in search of...she didn't know what. I knew I was asking questions that many kids my age didn't ask; questions about life, the universe and everything in it. Was there something larger than myself "out there" and what role did I play in "it"? I was raised in a Buddhist household though my parents didn't tell me much. I knew what prayer was, I knew what meditation was, though as much as I tried it didn't seem to work for me. What else was there?

The bookish girl turned to her books. I started reading about religion and spirituality. That was tough. Not much that reached someone my age, and certainly not in the public school library. I absorbed a lot of what I read, both fiction and non. It was the stories that kept me captivated, stories of ancient lands, pantheons of Gods and the adventures they had, meddling in the lives of mortals. Around the same time that I read the story of Persephone and her descent to Hades was the time that I started reading about a modern Pagan religion named Wicca. The dreams I had soon after, of the Gods welcoming me to my new path sealed the deal. I found where I belonged.

I began my path of discovery at that point on. After dedicating myself on my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, I realized something else - I seemed to be walking alone. Holding this witch secret in was proving to be difficult. "Witches don't exist," was what I was usually told. When I finally found the courage to exit the broom closet, a few of my other friends did the same, they simply required a catalyst. I worked with this small crowd for the next few years always hoping for something more. I lived a somewhat sheltered life in the suburbs, rarely entering into the city. I had heard about the Toronto Pagan Pub Moot at that time and longed to go, but being under 19 made it difficult to enter pubs.

When I finally found this newly started social called Cerridwen's Mug, I knew I had found my outlet. Finally, I had found a doorway to walk through into a Pagan crowd I could mingle with without my age being a barring factor. This Pagan life that I lead need not be one of predominant solitude. The Mug gave me a new aspect to my then 17-year-old life that I didn't have before, the number of people I considered my friends expanded, I could relate to people outside of my high school crowd. My scope of what Pagan meant and what Pagan was changed drastically.

I quickly became a regular, attending every month that I could and feeling rather guilty about it when I couldn't. My scope of Paganism as a whole expanded even further when I attended Toronto Pagan Pride for the first time in 2002, then hosted by the now disbanded *Caer Avalon*. I rapidly saw my world expanding from the spiritual solace that I first only knew in my mind and when I walked through the park to standing in a circle of over a hundred strong. Was my mind blown? Yeah, you could say that. I knew that I didn't want to go back to being that little girl alone anymore.

And from there it grew. I attended the Mug so many times that when the former hostess needed to step down, she asked me to take over. At that point, it was the biggest honour I had ever taken on and to this day I still consider it as such. I knew then that part of my calling in my Pagan path was to bring people together. Being able to find Cerridwen's Mug was the first step and it then would become my outlet. I remembered very clearly the struggles I had with finding a community on my own without having someone to guide me through it. If I could help others searching and give them a hand along the way, I did my job. This became my goal in hosting the Mug.

I also became further involved in Toronto Pride. I realized early on that I would never be satisfied in just attending something; I had to be further involved. I started volunteering year after year and saw my involvement evolve into photography and website hosting to being a fellow organizer at this year's event. I am a full-fledged social Pagan now and if I so wanted to, I can fill my social calendar with Pagan events alone. It's a great feeling! Especially for someone that was a complete recluse growing up. I feel a great sense of disconnect if I'm not attending Pagan social functions regularly as the community has become a significant part of my life and my Pagan path...

And that has become a current hindrance in my life right now, something I've come to realize not long ago. For a while, my social responsibilities to the community and celebrating Sabbats in rituals with friends made up my Pagan path as a whole. I didn't meditate; I didn't speak to the Gods meaning I certainly wasn't listening to them. I didn't perform rituals on my own, my own magic, I stopped taking the time to open my senses to the world around me. I was the social I always wanted, but I lost the spiritual I started with.

And thus the reconnect and reclaim of what I once had. It's time for me to go back to my roots. I started my own Pagan blog as a way of reflecting on my current path and as a constant reminder to always look inward before looking outward. I walk the frozen grounds and feel all that there is to feel of winter. I read more, I divine more. I focus on my own magic whenever I can. It's a work in progress to properly balance out my life. That really is the keyword - balance. I won't hide away from the community to live a life of contemplation in my room, it's already quite clear that the social is a significant part of my Pagan path, but I cannot let it be the only part. I have nothing to offer the community if I'm not honouring my own spirituality and growing with it.

So why write about a spiritual, and somewhat solitary, reclaim in a networking newsletter? I do believe that I am not the only one that has let social responsibilities overshadow personal growth. There are probably quite a few people reading this right now going through a very similar dilemma. If you find yourself relating to my story, why not take 2010 as the year to remember and further explore what the path you walk truly means to you. Take moments each day to quietly reflect, listen with your whole being to what the Gods, the spirits and the Earth have to tell you. Write it down, so you don't forget and use what you learn to fuel your social endeavours. Trust me, images that appear in dreams and meditations can make for great conversation topics.

By Samantha Wu

# Weaving the Web

## Internet Sacred Text Archive

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/>

I'm pretty sure many of you are familiar with this site. That isn't surprising since, after just 10 years online, they consistently receive an average of one million hits per day.

It is for those who may not have visited this website that I mention it in the newsletter this month. It is an amazing resource for researching ancient texts and books that deal with pretty much any sacred or spiritual topic you can imagine, including occult and esoteric topics, mythology, legends, folklore, and religion in general.

I have to say that I appreciate the fact that this site has no particular agenda other than promoting religious tolerance and scholarship. The aim of the Sacred-Texts archive is to provide reading material, about all branches of religion, mythology and the esoteric in general. The site makes available texts and books that we may otherwise not be able to access. That is it and that is all. They don't sell advertising space, nor are there any annoying pop ups. This site is a breath of fresh air!

The first time you visit the site, you are bound to feel a bit overwhelmed. There is so much information available that it can be difficult deciding where to begin. If you don't have a specific text in mind, I would suggest scanning the list of categories that are on the left hand side of the main page. There are eighty categories to choose from and that will help you narrow your search.

Also on the main page, scroll down and you will find a comprehensive list of all the recent additions. This is also helpful if you aren't searching for anything in particular. Perhaps something listed there will pique your curiosity! It also should be noted that the most recent additions (added within the last month) are featured along the right hand side with related images.

One of the nice things about this site is that it is completely user friendly. With two clicks, I am at the front page of the Egyptian Pyramid Texts. The introductory page has notes on the author, the year of copyright and other applicable tidbits of information. Following that, the table of contents is laid out in a simple column and I can simply click on the entries I wish to read.

There are scanned images of some books (Sacred-texts actively purchases first editions and scans them page by page) and others are simple e-text documents. There are books on this site that are rare, if not completely unavailable, to the general public. There is no way for me to fully represent the mass amount of literature available on this site but it is safe to say that there is a little something for everyone.

A word of warning though: be prepared to spend a lot of time checking out this site! It's hard to tear yourself away!

Amanda Hyde  
Hamilton PPD Chairperson  
Regional Coordinator for PPD Canada  
[info@ppdhamilton.org](mailto:info@ppdhamilton.org)

# The Dirt and Nothing but the Dirt

## Hedgewitchery throughout the Seasons

Well, the Yuletide season has passed. We celebrated Yule in earnest and we reveled in the light of the Blue Moon on December 31<sup>st</sup> and brought in the calendar New Year with a bang. Or maybe you, like me, spent your New Years quietly with friends or loved ones. My husband and I always burn a Bayberry candle down to nothing on New Years Day to bless the rest of the infant year. This is an ages old tradition, "*A bayberry candle burned to the socket brings food to the larder and gold to the pocket.*", such as the old Germanic poem cites. We all could use good fortune and full larders!

Now we look about our homes and see the leftovers of the holiday season, the tired looking Yule tree, the dried out greenery that helped us make merry in our homes, all those festive reminders. So, the clean up begins and the decorations get put away until next year. But what about all that once lush, beautiful greenery and the tree, what do you do with it all?

The first thing you *don't* do is throw out the greenery! Keep it all outside in your shed, or in a large garbage bag sealed at the back door of your house or apartment; you will want to have it all on hand for Imbolc in February.

In our home we have had a tradition for the last dozen or so years that I know some other pagans follow. Our Yule tree becomes the Yule log for the next year. After Yule has passed and the New Year has been brought in, the Yule tree is taken out into the back yard and left to weather the elements. It becomes a temporary shelter or home for small birds and animals. I tend to put it out into our shade garden, so when all the needles fall from the tree over the rest of winter and spring, they become food for the plants there that need more acidic soil.

In the spring when we do the major clean up in the yard after the winter, we cut all the branches off the tree. We use them as kindling for our Spring fires, the trunk is cut into pieces and the bottom, fattest part of the trunk becomes the Yule log for the coming Yule season. A piece of this Yule log gets saved to start the Yule fire the following year. The log gets put into a special spot until it's time to bring it into the house to decorate at the Winter Solstice.

Once all the cleanup is done I turn my attention to other green things, like forcing some spring flowering bulbs to bloom. Each fall I buy spring bulbs like crocus, daffodil, hyacinth and scilla with the best intentions of planting them, so I usually have them around. You can force the bulbs to grow and bloom in about 6 weeks. Here's how: plant them in pots, water them lightly, keep them in a cool dark place and just keep an eye on them. Once they start to show some new growth, bring them into the light (not direct sunlight) and water weekly, don't let them dry out. You should have lovely blooms by the time Ostara comes around. I also take the month of January to go through my garden files, seed and plant catalogues to plan for what I'll be growing for magical needs, herbal needs or just because!

Whatever you end up doing this January, may it bring you delight and allow you to dream a little about the warmer, sunnier months ahead and longer days now coming our way.

by Amy Taylor

# Events



## **New Moon/Solar Eclipse Guided Meditation**

Friday January 15th

8:00 p.m.

## **Full Moon Guided Meditation**

Friday January 29th

8:00 p.m.

Check our website to see all the classes and workshops to come this month.

We have remodeled our 3500 square feet to better accommodate our customers' needs.

*Please Register in advance for all workshops  
For more information please visit our  
website at*

[www.theancientmystic.com](http://www.theancientmystic.com)

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

## **Etobicoke Winter Multi-Meetup**

**Date:** Jan 9/10

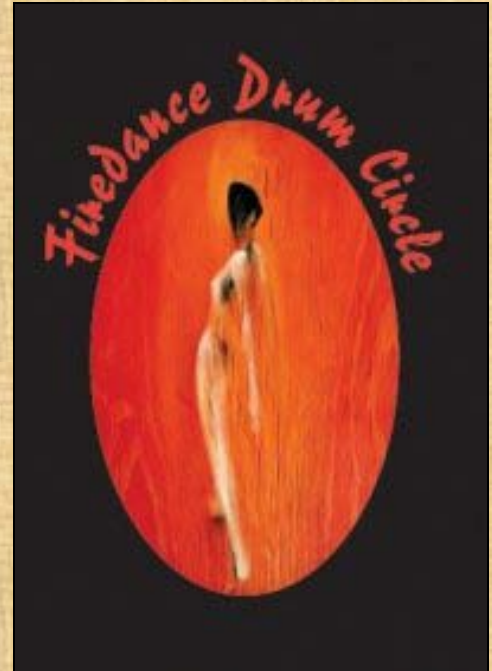
**Time:** 4:15 pm

**Location:** Kingsway Fish & Chips

**Street:** 3060 Bloor Street West

**City:** Etobicoke

GTA Asatru/Heathen, GTA Druidry/Celtic Religion and GTA Reconstructed/Revived Religion Meetup Groups are holding their joint monthly meeting. These meetings are most suitable for those starting out, or interested, in one of the "old faiths". This venue is 1.5 blocks west of Royal York Road. Our meetings are held monthly on different times, dates and locations in Toronto & Mississauga. For more information contact the organizer, Steven Cullen, at [stevenjbc-meetup@yahoo.ca](mailto:stevenjbc-meetup@yahoo.ca) or check the following websites: [www.meetup.com/Toronto-Asatru/](http://www.meetup.com/Toronto-Asatru/) or [www.meetup.com/Toronto-Druid/](http://www.meetup.com/Toronto-Druid/) or [www.meetup.com/recon-religion-Toronto/](http://www.meetup.com/recon-religion-Toronto/)



**Date:** Jan 9/10

**Time:** 9:00pm to 2:00 am

**Location:** The Black Swan

**Street:** 154 Danforth Ave

**City:** Toronto

**Cost:** \$10:00

Come on out to join Firedance at the Black Swan as we begin the new year with some great grooves, good friends and wicked vibes. We are beginning our festival fundraising efforts for Firedance Drum Festival 2010 with a 50/50 raffle, and we will be raffling off one FREE ADMISSION to Firedance fest each month, tickets will be \$10.00.

Admission is \$10.00 with the chance to win a door prize!

Please feel free to bring food to share in the potluck feast :)

## **Port Drum**

### **Begin the Year with a Beat**

**Date:** January 10/10

**Time:** 5-9 pm

**Location:** Bathe Hall

**Street:** 289 Eulalie St.

**City:** Oshawa

**Admission is \$10 includes snacks and drinks**

Let's get the New Year started off right! Are you ready? Let's Sing and Drum together and get ready to kick off our one year anniversary! Remember, Community Events happen with Community Support!

# EVENTS

## The World of Tea with Amy Taylor

Date: January 19/10

Time: 1:00 - 3:30pm

Location: Prana Yoga & Wellness Studio's Inc

Street: 245 Wycroft Road #2

City: Oakville,

Cost: \$35 pre registered, \$40 @ door

Fresh, yet timeless, tea is both the flavour of the moment, and the taste of the past. Countless lives have been enriched by it - and more than a few sacrificed for it. Join Amy Taylor as she takes you down the historical tea road. Try different teas while learning how tea has been processed and the best forms to drink it in, what its origins and tasteful history are. Discover the best ways to taste teas for the fullest flavour and health benefit while you enjoy a lovely "tea-lightful" informative evening!



### Heart Resonance Therapy Level 1

Saturday, January 16th, 2010 9am-5pm

Cost: \$288.

### Crystal Course Intensive

Sunday, January 17th, 2010 9am-5pm

Cost: \$150 Early registration by Jan 4th \$175 after

### Healing with Crystals Intensive

Saturday, January 30, 2010 9am-5pm

Cost: \$ 200 Early Registrant Jan 1st, \$175

\*Register for both Crystal Workshops save \$25 and pay \$275 for early registration by Jan 4, \$325 after

### Hypnosis for Healing

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 7-9pm

Early registration: \$35 by Jan.4th or, \$40

### Channeled Harmonic Sound Healing

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 7-9pm

Early registration: \$35 by Jan.4th , or, \$40

For both evening workshops pay \$60 save \$10 for early registration by Jan 4th

### 'Nightmares...But In A Good Way' with Marina Ford & Irina Petrova - Psychotherapists working with Gestalt

January 23, 2010 1-4pm

Registration: 416 843 4963 [www.inagoodway.ca](http://www.inagoodway.ca)

Cost: \$50.

For more information please visit our website at [www.gowonderworks.com](http://www.gowonderworks.com)

or contact us at 416-323-3131

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

## The Hedge Witch

[www.thehedgewitch.com](http://www.thehedgewitch.com) or contact us at  
905 478-1837

18944 Leslie Street, Sharon, ON, L0G 1V0

### Let's Talk RESPs with Debbie Spiegelman

Date: January 22/10

Time: 1:00 - 3:30pm

Location: Prana Yoga & Wellness Studio's Inc

Street: 245 Wycroft Road #2

City: Oakville,

Join us for Tea and Talk time with Debbie Spiegelman, and have all your questions answered about RESPs, the different types, and the benefits of saving now! No obligation to buy anything, this is just an information session. Come and bring the kids too.

No Registration required, however please be on time as latecomers will be turned away out of consideration for everyone

### TASSEOMANCY: Learn to see what's in Your Tea

Date: January 24/10

Time: 1:30 -4:40 pm

Location: Royal Botanical Gardens

Street : 680 Plains Rd W

City: Burlington

Cost: Members: \$25; Non-members: \$32

Tea has been a part of our world for centuries and so has tasseomancy or tassology which is the method of interpreting the patterns in tea or better known as tea leaf reading. Amy Taylor teaches you the history of tea, tea reading and what teas are best to do this, how to brew a proper cup of tea for a reading and how to set the mood for the inquirer. Handouts and actual readings are included.

Maximum 15 people. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15.



Pinecone Wild Bird Feeder Courtesy of Amy Taylor  
Instructions for this feeder were given in last month's issue.

# Musings of a Pagan Noob

## Come Together.

I've had a lot of fun interacting with the Toronto Pagan community over the past few months. From what I can gather it's a big hub for other Pagans in the rest of the country and abroad. There are several large moots that run monthly, as well as plenty of events.

I've been asked to write a column regarding being new to the community. I'd like to use this opportunity to illustrate issues that I'm sure plenty of other newcomers are having.

Even a moot that vaunts itself as a networking event still has some pretty steep social boundaries to overcome. Pagans tend to be a very secretive and cautious group until they feel safe so newcomers are generally met with trepidation, a powerful phenomenon to people who are more attuned to energy than the common person. This is not necessarily a fault of anyone and plenty of people actively combat it daily. People like us have been persecuted for a long time, and little has changed in that time as far as how Pagans see the common person. We see an unknown, when we ought to see kindred.

When I entered the community, I expected people to know about different local covens, practices and how to get in touch with the people therein. Instead I found more walls. More people are unwilling to speak up about their practices.

Frankly, it infuriated me. I came into this community expecting to find someone who can guide me and make sense of what I'm seeking, as I'm met with many people who are really only comfortable having a beer. I expect (and respect) that attitude coming from solitary Pagans. However, I can't be the only person who's having this problem.

So how could we possibly remedy this? Here's my plan. The newsletter you're reading right now requires web space to disseminate. That web space can be used for a great many things in tandem with the newsletter.

What I want to do is put together a website. If someone were to go on to this site, they'd log into a forum and gain access to a listing of local leaders and perhaps even covens, complete with descriptions, denominations and contacts. From the contact's side, it would seem a little like an email service. They'd get messages through the site, which they could use to hand out sage advice, sift through the eager masses for new members to their covens and block if necessary. The potentials can woo prospective teachers, and the teachers can operate with complete anonymity and control. Even those who don't want any new members might just wish to sow the seeds other journeys. Leaders could come to the fore.

If it works, we can expand as much as we want and even share the model with other large communities around the world.

In ancient times we had to contend with so much persecution that the rules of silence were a matter of survival. Today for many of us that's no longer the case, yet we insist on living in the shadows, even among our own kind.

Earlier this year, at Toronto Pagan Pride, a great sage of our community who kinda looks like the late great George Carlin told us that we should all focus on community enrichment. This is how I intend to do it. The process will be slow and I expect quite a few people to resist out of some ill-conceived sense of protectionism (which is really xenophobia) or worse, power-hoarding. It is my hope that the truly great among us will see this project for the good it can do and act on it.

By *Giancarlo*

<http://orderofdragons.wordpress.com>

# Moon Moments

## January 1 Full Moon Eclipse 11 degrees Cancer 6:12am

The New Year begins with a soulful lunar eclipse that highlights the importance of work / life balance. Domestic dreams demand attention as you realize action is needed if you want to create your ideal home life this year. Venus aligns with this Full Moon helping you find balance and compromise with significant others. Mars retrograde under this Full Moon suggests turning your attention inwards rather than moving forward. Explore your motivations and desires - you may be surprised by the homely truths illuminated under Full Moon. Use your new awareness to adjust future plans.

### Planet Tracks:

Mercury retrograde until January 14

Venus in Aquarius January 18 - February 11

Mars retrograde in Leo

Jupiter in Pisces January 18 - June 6

Saturn in Libra retrograde from January 12

## January 15 6:11pm New Moon Eclipse 26 degrees Capricorn

This potent eclipse is enhanced by a strong link from Love Goddess Venus. Relationship themes, especially romance, are in focus, with an abundance of opportunities for new direction and affection. The New Moon in Capricorn highlights ambitions and long term goals, helping you see a clear path forward. The next step in close partnerships, business or personal, is now easier to manifest. Mentors and authority figures may unexpectedly step back from their roles, leaving a void to be filled. A potent Mercury / Pluto link indicates new possibilities for truth as hidden facts come to light. Information has power now so share what you know wisely.

## January 30 5:17pm Full Moon 11 degrees Leo

The Full Moon in Leo signifies a release of dramatic creative energy. The balance between the demands of the individual and the needs of the group are in focus as you find new ways to meet both. This dynamic fire Moon is enhanced by a conjunction from energetic Mars. Physical energy reaches a peak that demands expression. New outlets for creative and passionate energy are easy to find. With Mars still retrograde, revisiting the past, especially around family matters, helps you find necessary motivation to move forward.

By *Kelly Surtees*

## Coming Next Month

\*Celebrating Imbolc

\*Event Review by Lupa

\*and More