

# Magickal Musings

## *The Midwest Pagan Council:*

- First Temple of the Craft of W.I.C.A.
- Phoenix Rising
- Sanctuary of the Healers' Heart
- Solitaires

### **Newsletter Editors:**

- Lizzy
- Dori

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## **MPC & Pan — A History**

by Dori

In 1976, three Chicago area Pagan groups gathered to discuss the formation of a Council of Pagan groups. Although their traditions varied, these groups had been celebrating together for several years. Now they wished to extend this sharing to other pagans.

The primary purpose of the Council was and still is the sharing of traditions, information, and exchange ideas in order to nurture unity and understanding within the Pagan community. The name Midwest Pagan Council (MPC) was chosen and guidelines for membership were kept simple; each group must: 1) be Pagan and view Paganism as a religion, 2) have no less than three active members, and 3) attend most Council meetings.

The MPC encourages solitary pagans of like mind to join them. Solitaires can have as much input into the Council as groups, if they are willing to donate their time and energy to the pagan cause.

In order to further fulfill this purpose, the idea of an "all" pagan, i.e. "PAN" Pagan Festival was suggested by the late Richard Clarke. The idea was to sponsor a "common ground" meeting place where Pagans of all traditions could share knowledge, ideas, and experiences and commune with Nature and the Lord and the Lady. The secondary purpose was to sponsor a Festival that would be affordable to as many in the Pagan community as possible. Thus the PAN PAGAN FESTIVAL was born!

The first Pan Pagan Festival was held in Indiana in August of 1977 and was successful beyond the Council's dreams. It was the first of its kind in the Midwest area and is one of the longest continuous running pagan festivals in the US.

Since the Festival's inception, presenters and attendees have all donated their time and efforts in sharing knowledge, ideas and experience.

If you wish to join the MPC in furthering the Pagan community, please email us at [MidwestpaganCouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:MidwestpaganCouncil@yahoo.com).

## **Restarting A Newsletter**

by Lizzy

No one said it would be easy, though it certainly has been a learning experience and it certainly has been fun to get this Newsletter restarted.

What inspired the crazy idea?

Well, it wasn't lack of things to do on my plate. The council is already busy getting PPF 37 set up.

But after some thinking on it and digging out old issues, I really thought

that it'd be nice to get something out to you, the community, between festivals.

Thus, the rebirth of the newsletter. I do hope everyone loves it.

# Fixing Food Fast For Pan

by Michelle B.

During the Pan Pagan festival food is usually the last thing on my mind. It's such a fun week full of friends that I haven't seen in a year. Then there are workshops, shopping on merchant's row, the follies, meet and greet, the labyrinth, drum circles, and for the over 21 crowd boozy goodness.

We need to keep the body fueled for all that fun, so food is a must. One of the foods I bring every year is a fruited chicken salad. I make it at home, and pop it in the cooler. A light and refreshing meal, it's especially nice if it happens to be an uncomfortably hot August.

To start debone a grilled or roasted chicken (tip you can debone left-

overs and freeze them until you're ready to make chicken salad).

- 2 cups of chopped or shredded bite size pieces of chicken
- 1/3 cup diced celery (2 ribs)
- 1/4 cup diced dill pickles (I like the baby dills they have a better crunch)
- 3/4 cup of chopped fruit

Now you need to select the fruit you're going to use. I personally like to use a pears with the skin on, I also like to use grapes and sometimes pecans. You could make a Waldorf chicken salad with apples, grapes, and walnuts. Raspberries and blueberries are also a nice addition to the salad.

Now that you have everything diced give it a good stir to mix it up.

Add 1 cup mayo or miracle whip and just a bit of pepper.

Stir until it's creamy and good, remember you can add more mayo if you need to. You'd rather have it too creamy than dry, it will get dryer overnight so make sure it's moist.

This is great served on crackers, croissants, or bread. Add some fruit and cheese on the side and you have a lovely meal.

## PPF 37 Workshop: Druidic Poem

by Nancy G.

The Pan Pagan Festival aka PAN, always offers a variety of workshops. This year Nancy, one of PAN's regular attendees, has already offered to give a "Druidic Poem Workshop".

Nancy, a solitary eclectic witch, will expound on the topic of poetic expression, as taught to her by the official Bard of OBOD (The Order of

Bards, Ovates, & Druids). She will also give a brief introduction about OBOD and then show how to write two poems at one time. All that you need to bring is paper, pencil and an idea for a short poem. If you are unsure, suggestions will be made at the onset. No rhyming experience needed.

Creativity is a main tenet of Druid-

ism. Just as the stain glass windows in the cathedrals of Europe taught religion to the illiterate through images, Bards shared the ancient stories of their gods, tribes and land through words and music. Today, many people are drawn to Druidry because they sense its spirituality that connects them to the land, sky and sea, while helping them develop their creativity.

## Pan Camping Tips

If you are not used to camping, or have not camped in a while, here are some suggestions on what to bring.

### Don't Forget:

- \* Prescription and nonprescription medications — a weeks worth.
- \* Simple First Aid Kit: band aids, antiseptic, sunscreen, burn ointment, mosquito repellent, ace bandage.
- \* Soap, towels, toothbrush, tooth

paste, bathing suit.

\* If you bring a pet, make sure you have a leash, pet stake, and clean-up material.

\* Insurance ID cards.

\* Name and phone numbers of your health care providers.

### Upon Arrival:

\* Check in at Registration.

\* Talk to Registration if this is your

first time, and find out the best place for your to camping experience. We have Quiet Areas, Noisy Areas, Drumming Areas.

\* If you feel it is necessary, check in with First Aid.

\* If you are with children, make sure that they know where First Aid, Registration, and Kids areas are.

# Friends, Fire, And Drums

by Kristi C.

There are some things that a person has to experience for themselves or they never truly understand it.

Pan Pagan is one of those things, but I can help you get a feel for it before you make it. A small group of ridiculously great people make you feel welcome from the time you pull up to Registration until you leave to go home. At Registration you'll likely meet Joe, affectionately known as Registration Ken, and if you're lucky he'll be modeling the latest fashion in kilts.

Likely to be around the Registration Tent is our Hostess with the Mostest, Lizzy, the Festival Coordinator. Spotting problems and settling them is her job, so, mind your P's and Q's, and everything will be peachy. Wandering around making sure to *enforce* those P's and Q's, is Michele, our Security Barbie.

After you get checked in, get your badge, your program booklet, and your parking pass, it's time to pitch your tent and get settled. Luckily, there are generally some very helpful and quite wonderful folks who are willing and able to help you with this. I know, as your PPF

Tour Guide, that I take advantage of this help when it's offered, and beg for it when it isn't!

You may be asking yourself, "Who is this *wonderful* Tour Guide taking me on this mental frolicking adventure around PPF?" Hi, I'm Kristi. I've attended PPF for two years now, mostly because our lovely Coordinator is my best friend. Well, that's how it started. I keep coming back because it's a great chance to hang out with my friends, make new ones, and because it's *fun*.

And there's shopping!! Man, if there's something I love more than hanging out with some really cool people, it's shopping. There's a Merchant's Row, and if last year's empty pocket book is any indication, you can be sure it's a good haul.

I'm not going to get into specifics about rituals or workshops (spoilers darling) because to a degree they change from year to year, and presenter to presenter. If you want to go to any or all events, that's awesome, if you don't want to, well, that's awesome too. Everyone's pretty laid back about attendance

and that makes it easier to ease into things, especially if you find yourself "seeking" or new to the community.

My favorite part of PPF, beyond the people and the shopping, is the crafts. I'm a *sucker* for crafts. This last year we had an elemental bracelet craft and a coloring contest. Sometimes I get this child-like glee when someone lets me know there's something to make, because I'm all over the hands-on projects and I am looking forward to them this year.

That's kind of the outline of what's going on at any given time. Fun, frolicking, people hanging out - children running around with a bell and doing just about anything you ask them to do. Most people will like you just how you are. Come for the friends, enjoy the feast, and the bing cherries last year were really addictive. So I say to you, enjoy the fest, the workshops, the hilarious Follies - we need Merida back! - and just enjoy yourself!

Come on, you know you want to.

## Pan's Logo

by Dori

Did you ever wonder where the PPF logo comes for each year?

After PPF is over and the Midwest Pagan Council, i.e. the Council, has had time to recover, they start looking toward the next year's festival.

Step 1 is to decide on the dates.

Step 2 is to decide on a theme.

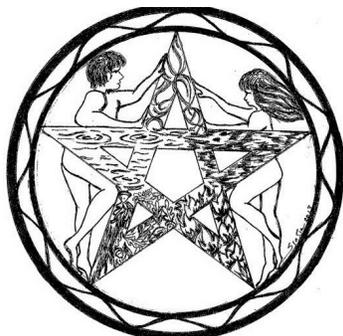
Once the theme is chosen, the Council announces it to the pagan community by sponsoring an art contest and the winning artist receives a free registration to that year's PPF.

The best logo that depicts the theme is chosen by the Council without knowing who submitted it.

Some years the theme easily lends itself to a depiction, others not.

Apparently this year's theme "An Elemental Connection" was a difficult concept or few found time to submit. I hope you enjoy this year's logo which contains the symbols for us and all five elements within a pentagram.

Come to PPF and share a special elemental connection.



Pan Pagan Festival 37th's Logo

# Safety Tips For Pan

by **Security Barbie**

With the return of the Goddess comes the return of life, along with our yearning to experience and reconnect with nature. Soon we will be planning our summer camping trips, one of which will be our Celebrations at Pan Pagan Festival. While the council works hard setting up and clearing the area where we camp, there are things that you should keep in mind and try to do as well to stay safe when camping.

Getting to your campsite early enough to check for potential hazards and set up before the sun goes down is always a good idea.

Never pitch your tent under trees with

dead or broken branches which could fall and hurt someone.

Check the area for poison oak and poison ivy.

If you plan on building a fire, make sure you use one of the designated fire rings and keep the fire a safe distance from your tent and any gas/propane stoves or lanterns.

NEVER leave a fire unattended. When you leave at the end of the fest, please make sure the fire is completely extinguished.

When camping with children please make sure you keep an eye on them.

Our pets may also be with us and need to be watched and cleaned up after as well. Make sure you have plenty of food and water for them. Also remember, we will be out in nature and dogs love to chase things so please keep them on a leash.

Because we are out in nature's domain we will need to keep our food and garbage in their proper places. Never store food in your tent unless you want to share your tent with hungry wild animals like raccoons. Make sure you dispose of your garbage in the dumpster and leave the area as clean, or cleaner than you found it.

By remembering these basics we will all be able to have a good time at PPF.

# Registration—What's With The Long Haired Hippie Behind The Table?

by **Registration Ken**

Pan is fast approaching. I am really looking forward to the outdoor woods (as the Persian cat in Over the Hedge would say) and the energy that is PPF. Hard to believe it has been 36 years. (6th for me personally) I have been asked to write up a little thing on registration.

1) The full form with names and signatures is something that we need. It lets

us know who is coming and any dietary restrictions (Vegatarian, etc) they might have. It does help us to be able to plan our food purchasing for the feast, meet and greet, and follies. The signatures indicate that you are accepting the waiver.

2) We accept money orders and checks through the mail. We do have a paypal

account as well for credit card or debit card transactions. But with those transactions, we still need you to fill out the form and mail it in.

We are looking forward to seeing our existing friends and meeting new ones this coming year. (Yes, Registration Ken is a Virgo. He likes to plan things well in advance.)

# And The Winner Is...

by **Lizzy**

For a little over a month the council opened its email account for suggestions for a title for this new Newsletter. A number of people submitted wonderful names for consideration.

After much discussion and deliberation, a winner was chosen. We would like to thank Kristi C. for her winning suggestion, Magickal Mus-

ings. As the winner, Kristi C. will receive a FREE! Registration to this years 37th Annual Pan Pagan Festival.

And as an ever returning bonus, the pride of seeing her winning suggestion on the top of the Newsletter every issue.

The Council thanks everyone that

submitted a name for this Newsletter, and sends a big congratulations to Kristi C. .

The Festival Coordinator and Newsletter Editor wishes to add her special congratulations, so come to PPF 37 and claim your secret thanks.



# General Health Safety Tips

by Suncat

- **Poison Ivy/Oak/Sumac:**  
The plants are plentiful around the campground. Be aware and PLEASE keep kids and pets out of it. If you do not know what it looks like, see pictures at Registration.
  - **Shoes:**  
This is not our campground. Broken glass and scrap metal have been found throughout the grounds. Be aware and wear your shoes.
  - **Drugs:**  
Illegal substances are not allowed at the fest. See program book.
  - **Familiars:**  
Pets are welcome at the fest, but four legged familiars must be kept on a leash. Please remember to clean up after them.
  - **Water:**  
Dehydration can be a problem, even if it's cloudy or cool. It is recommended to limit your carbonated beverage and alcohol consumption in favor if drinking more water.
- Excessive use of alcohol can cause one to be asked to leave the fest.

*The Midwest Pagan Council is comprised of covens and solitaires in the Midwest region. We are always open for new members. If you are interested in joining the Council, please email us at: [midwestpaganCouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:midwestpaganCouncil@yahoo.com).*

*Annually the Council puts on the Pan Pagan Festival, currently in our 37th year. We are an outdoor, week long, family friendly festival that usually is the first full week of August, Aug. 7-11th, 2013 specifically this year. For more information or a registration form, please visit the website or email us at [midwestpaganCouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:midwestpaganCouncil@yahoo.com) and we will happily get you the information you need.*

*The Newsletter is always open and taking submissions for articles that touch on pagan issues, crafts, recipes, Holidays, etc. If you would like to submit an article, please send it to: [midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com)*

*If you are not already on the Newsletter subscription list and would like to be, please send an email asking to be added to: [midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:midwestpaganCouncil@gmail.com) and we will be happy to add you.*

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