

Magickal Musings

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Pan Pagan Festival 38 Bringing Old and New Together.

The Midwest Pagan Council:

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

Newsletter Editors:

- Lizzy
- Dori

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The 38th Pan Pagan Festival, i.e. PPF, is fast approaching. This year it is taking place from July 30 to August 3, 2014. This time was chosen to allow families to attend the fest without interfering with the start of school. If you have children and are planning on attending, check out the Family Rate Plan. The registration for can be found on the website www.MidwestPaganCouncil.com and we accept pay pal.

PPF began in the 70's and is one of the longest continuous running fest's in the country. It was established to give anyone who considers themselves pagan a safe place to gather, commune with nature, the God and the Goddess, and share and exchange ideas with others. It also encourages families and provides special work-

shops for children of all ages.

This year besides an Open, Main and Closing Ritual, the Council will lead a Lamas Ritual and a Memorial Service for Stanley Modrzyk, who will be added to our ancestor's wheel. We ask those who attend and have knowledge to share with others by giving a workshop.

As in the past, there will be an auction and main feast on Saturday evening before the evening Main Ritual. If you would like to be part of main ritual, please let us know when

you register or let registration know when you arrive.

Other events that will continue are the Bizarre' Bizarre' where one can find pagan orientated goods for sale, the candle lit labyrinth on Thursday night after Meet and Greet, and Friday night's Pagan Follies. Unfortunately the Polish Pope will not be MCing the event, but if you

call to him, he may put in an appearance.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



MPC Fest Coordinator,
Liz

Stanley Modrzyk August 15, 1945—February 5, 2014

By now most of you are aware that Stanley passed to the summerland last February. He is one of the founding fathers of our Pan Pagan Festival and the Midwest Pagan Council. He has been active in the Pagan community since the early 70's and continued to be active until his death. He was a teacher, counselor, leader and priest to his

community; and had a foresight that few were able appreciate. Of his three books on paganism, two were published by Samuel Weiser, and the third will hopefully be released as an e-book in the near future. He made many appearances on radio and television at a time when few had the courage to do so.

There will be a memorial service for Stan at Pan this year on Saturday at 2:00 pm. If you wish, stop by and share your thoughts and good-byes with his friends and family.



Troll & Fairy Creations Joe Gladkowski from Joliet, IL

Troll & Fairy Creations returns to Pan with high quality hand-made Pagan and American Indian beaded articles, including smudge fans and beaded feathers, hand beaded, leather

wrapped crystal pendants, wooden wands, rune sets and rune amulets, rune pouches and medicine bags, colonial style candle lanterns



and collapsible wooden camping tables and ritual altars. Recycled materials are used in the creation of many items.

Whimsical Kreationz Kristi Cagle from Dupo, IL

New on the scene this year is Whimsical Kreationz.

Handknit gifts and more will be for sale (no longer in a picnic basket or stealing space in another

er shop, for those of you familiar with my 'wares' from last year), but instead graduating up into the 'big leagues' with a shop of my

own. Stop by and see what's for sale!

Wicked Treasure Michelle Bergeron from Morris, IN

Wicked Treasure is very happy to be returning to vend at PPF for the third year in a row. I create hand crafted jewelry inspired by nature, using a variety of mediums. These include natural stones, fresh water pearls, shells, ceramic, art glass, and silver. I've been creating a variety of Goddess inspired jewelry that I can't wait

to share with you.

Also I've been working on some lovely head pieces and hand flowers for those looking for something regal and unique.

If you want a sneak peak visit the Wicked Treasure Etsy shop at www.wickedtreasure.etsy.com/

I'm looking forwards to seeing everyone there.

~Blessed Be,

Michelle Bergeron
Artist and Proprietor

Mystic Beauty Jewelry Dori & Liz Modrzyk from Berwyn, IL

Mystic Beauty Jewelry will be returning to vend at PPF again this year.

While under new management, we still offer quality gemstone jewelry from Alexandrite to Zircon and nearly everything in between in sterling silver.

Earrings, necklaces, rings, even belt buckles and bracelets. Be sure to come and see what talks to you, or what several things talk to you.

As well, we will have hand spun pottery made by Liz.

And, of course we wouldn't forget to bring all those crystals that take

over half the shop space. All the crystals, from large clusters to small wand and jewelry points, are from mines in Arkansas. Need a crystal for some work or because they just speak to you? Be sure to stop on by.

Grab a peak of the jewelry at: www.mysticbeautyjewelry.etsy.com

Infusing Life with Magick by Sage

As a practitioner of the Craft I have found most of us share a deep and intrinsic relationship with the Earth. For me, she is an embodiment of the Mother Goddess, my Earth Mother, and the bounty of her gifts is astonishing. A mainstay in my practice is working with her plants. The original Witches, Wise Women, worked with plants. I love working with the “weeds” of the herb world.

“Weed” plants such as comfrey, wild yarrow, stinging nettle, dandelion and purple clover are not only a food source, but are used in medicinal approaches for poultices, salves, infusions, tinctures and extractions, I involve them in my Craft as well.

Stinging nettle is used in healing teas. In

nature it is prickly and earns its name because it often leaves a rash in the wake of its bite. I make a small mojo bag or fill a jar with it to keep away someone who causes me distress and pain, while I work on healing myself from their influence. Or, I meditate on the plant when someone difficult in my life needs healing or to help me to be more understanding.

Dandelion – I love this plant! - brightens a room. It's a sunny little flower has a tenacity to grow and is indifferent to adversity. It feeds our bees and is the bane of well kept lawns. Its tea helps digestion, its leaves are edible, and its root makes great salves. What does dandelion bring to my altar? It strengthens me, allows me to dig in deep and

not let go, brings me abundance and prosperity. I look to dandelion when I need to grow and branch out and find a way where there seems none. At the end of its life, the dandelion becomes a seed head, allowing itself to be taken where the wind will take it. For me, a lesson to lighten up and let go, this from the plant that holds on so well!

I am honored to walk the path of my ancestors, to work the earth and herbs as the wise ones did; excited to use them in new, creative ways.



Stinging Nettle

The Medicine Wheel by Security Barbie

A friend commented that many people are building Medicine Wheels in their yards and asked I built one in mine. I never really thought about it, but something inside me wanted it, so I built it. I had read about the Medicine Wheel a while back, but had forgotten its true meaning. So I meditated by my wheel for a few days and its meaning became clear to me.

I am going through some major changes in my life and the Medicine Wheel seemed to be calling me. The knowledge I had gained from the past study began coming back to me.

According to Kenneth Meadows in his book *The Medicine Way – How to Live the Teachings of the Native American Medicine Wheel*, the word ‘medicine’ means more to the American Indians than to just heal a sick, run down physical body; medicine is also knowledge. “The ‘Medicine Wheel’ might be defined as, ‘a Circle of Knowledge that restores wholeness and gives power over one’s life.’” It is a way to connect with one’s inner self and for tuning into the psychic energies of Mother Earth.

I have always known that everything is connected and that there are many cir-

cles of power. The Medicine Wheel is a Circle of Power that can help teach us lessons at each stage of our lives, and help us to move on to the next lesson as we travel the Wheel of Life. The Medicine Wheel helps me to find my true power, or Medicine, and helps guide me as I travel my life path.

I guess you could say that I have built a Medicine Wheel in my yard to help me gain knowledge and to grow in the right direction.

Recipe Hour with Michelle B.

Fried Green Tomatoes.

First you must go into your garden. Take off your shoes and dig your toes into the earth. Close your eyes, raise your face to the sun, and breathe deep.

Now that you have taken a moment to enjoy and just be you can find some nice green tomatoes.

Take them back inside to wash and slice thin. Make a flour dredge with flour, salt, and pepper. Make an egg wash with eggs and milk.

Make a breading with flour, corn meal, salt, pepper onion powder, garlic powder, and paprika.



Heat some oil in a pan (I prefer olive oil and a cast iron skillet). Once the oil is hot, dredge the tomatoes in the flour, then egg wash, and then the breading.

Fry crispy and serve hot.

Contest! Contest! Contest!

You didn't think that we'd forgotten did you? This year though, the contest is going to work a little differently.

There's no short answer, no questions. This contest is a little more hands on, and will be judged not by the council but by our wonderful attendees at Pan Pagan Festival and the winner will be announced at Feast on Saturday.

Naturally, because those at Pan will be the ones determining the winner we won't be offering a registration. This year, the prize will be \$10 Merchant Dollars to spend on Vendor's row.

Yes, that means you need to attend the festival in order to claim your prize.

The contest this year is based on our theme: **Bringing Old and New Together.**

The terms?

It's pretty simple. We want you to go out and take a picture of what this theme means to you. What do you see as old and new, and how do you bring them together? Show them to us.

After you've taken that picture, send it to the MPC at midwestpagancouncil@gmail.com (preferably as a jpeg or png, no tiff files)

It is limited to one entry per person. The deadline for the photographs to be in to us is July 20, 2014. Submissions will be printed out and posted in the registration tent for all to view and vote on.

Now. You may be asking, what if I don't do well with a camera. Is it strictly limited to photographs?

No. If photography isn't your craft and you'd like to do a more 3-dimentional craft from knitting to sculpting or woodwork you can do that.

Just please keep in mind that there's limited space in registration (not too big). And note that you will have to bring that with you when you come to the festival.

The council will only be taking the photograph submissions ahead of time. Though, an email with a note to us so we know you'll be bringing something, and maybe a photograph of your work before you show up would be nice.

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.

Annually the Council puts on the Pan Pagan Festival, currently in our 38th year. We are an outdoor, week long, family friendly festival that usually is the first full week of August, July 30—Aug. 3rd, 2014 specifically this year. For more information or a registration form, please visit the website or email us at 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

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 and we will be happy to add you.

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The Midwest Pagan Council, INC.

Bringing Pagans together for decades.

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