

Magickal Musings

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
- Kristi

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Great Year! Great Fest!

Bringing Old and New Together. That was the theme for this past year's 38th Annual Pan Pagan Festival.

This year certainly did that. We had several new faces, something that we love to see with the ever lasting hope that new faces will become regulars at the festival. We had a new MC at the Follies, with a little help from the past. And we had that old, and incredibly warm feeling of Community that is always there and always readily shared by all those that attend the festival.

Some of the new things we tried, will not be returning. Like the earlier date of the festival. While it had been suggested that it might be a better fit for some people, it wasn't

for the festival and as such the festival will be returning to its regularly scheduled time (the first full week in August). Like all things in life, it was a learning experience.

Every night of the festival brought the wonderful sound of drumming to fill our area, either to dance by or to sooth you asleep.

The memorial ritual saw a tearful, but healing sharing of memories for those that have passed.

And it was followed by a beautiful Main Ritual where those that have passed came back to join the festivities during the bonfire. While they are gone, they are not far from those they love.



Looking To The Future

While everything has started to simmer down from this last amazing year at Pan, the Council is already looking forward to the new year.

The 39th Annual Pan Pagan Festival will be held **August 5-9, 2015.**

And with a new year, comes new changes. The biggest of which are the ones that affect wallets.

This year, the M.P.C. is proud to offer a Student rate. With a copy of your current Student ID pre-registration is now \$65 and on-site is now \$75.

As well, you said our price for the Saturday Day Rate was too high, and we heard you. So it has been reduced to \$25 if you come on Saturday.

And also! We will be having **Murphey's Midnight Rounders!** So make sure to pre-reg today!

Autumn Winds Bring Creativity by Kristi C.

It's Autumn.

Pumpkin spice wafts through the air (I may be helping that along---I've bought just about every pumpkin spice product on the market), the temperature is dropping and I'm searching for jeans and sweaters instead of capris and tee shirts. I've got a notion to clean out the chimney pretty soon in preparation for my family's use of the fireplace, sipping tea or hot chocolate while I read or knit, cozy and content, watching the leaves changing color as they fall on our deck.

If you can't tell, I love fall.

I love fall for all the reasons previously mentioned and a ton more besides. There's nothing better to me; it's when I thrive. When people stop looking at me like I'm crazy for knitting big, cozy accessories. If you know me, or know of me, you will probably point out they're looking at me like that because I just

may be crazy, but I digress. This is when I come alive.

This is the time of year I start in on gift giving creation. I'm a planner---I do nothing "fancy free" even if I do try hard, upon occasion. I like having lists and plans; it helps with the season for me. Between balancing my "day job", family, my side business (Did I mention knitting cozy accessories?), and my crafting, I don't have a lot of down time. That's fine with me. This is when I feel most in tune with the world, and the most balanced with the Divine in my life; I am a mini-Creatrix in my own right.

To steal Trava's imagery, I am taking a straight line and bending it to my will, creating...well, anything I want. Cows that are so big I can hide myself from the chill (and probably hide the fact that I may have lost a tissue in the mass of knitting); shawls that add just the right *thing* to transition a summer dress into

the fall season; fingerless gloves so my hands stay warm but my fingers are free to do as they wish (like knit more!); and yes, of course, add more to the dysfunctional Pengi family tree.

St Louis doesn't have a lot of fall. It has two major seasons: Really, Stupidly Hot and Really, Stupidly Icy. So, when I get days like today (It's mid-afternoon and roughly 60 degrees outside), I treasure them. I take every bit of Autumn and cherish it.

I recently learned how to dye yarn, and I'm getting a spinning wheel for Christmas. I'm constantly learning, we know that there is never an end to our education, nor should there be. Life lessons, "school" lessons, spiritual lessons, and yes, even new crafts are always at our fingertips. Maybe fall will become your time to learn something new.

Just know, if you ask me to teach you to knit, you'll learn "backwards"!

The Legend Of The Dreamcatcher by Security Barbie

I became interested in Dreamcatchers when my oldest daughter was very young; she'd been having nightmares. I was doing a craft show and found a vendor who was selling Dreamcatchers that had been made by Native Americans from Wisconsin. I brought one home and told my daughter the legend of the dreamcatcher that was told to me, hung it in her bedroom window, and sent her to bed. She never had another bad dream as long as the dreamcatcher was in her room.

The legend that was told to me is this: Certain Native Americans believe that all dreams come from the night sky. While we sleep, the good

dreams pass through the center of the web to the dreamer. The bad dreams get caught in the web and are burned off with the morning sun.

I decided to research the dreamcatcher to see if all Native Americans believed the same legend and found several variations. Some tribes believe that the good dreams are caught in the web and slide down the feathers into the dreamer, while the bad dreams pass through the center hole and keep moving on. Either way, dreamcatchers protect the dreamer from bad dreams.

The traditional dreamcatchers were made of wood, usually willow, and

were shaped in a circle or teardrop. Some believed this is to represent the circle of life. Traditionally, the web is fashioned after the spider's web, and was made using deer sinew. The feathers were used to help the good dreams find their way to the dreamer. In more recent times, beads were added, as well as other decorations such as arrowheads or gemstones.

Because I believe in the dreamcatcher's power, I will always have one in each bedroom of my house. May the power of your dreams guide you safely through your journey through life.

PPD Season In The Air by Dori

What season is this? It's Pagan Pride Day (PPD) Season!

Most Pagan Pride events in the Midwest take place during the months of September and October. These events are set up so people who want to meet others of like mind or possibly learn more about this path have a place to meet where they can be open and accepted.

If you're looking to attend an event, below are the upcoming Pagan Pride Days in the Midwest Area.

Indianapolis, IN: September 27
 St. Louis, MO: September 27 & 28
 Fort Wayne, IN: October 4
 Bloomington, IL: October 11
 Madison, WI: October 11

Not in the Midwest, or want a little more information? Head to the Pagan Pride Project Website: www.paganpride.org

Headed out to a PPD? Send us an article about where it was, and your thoughts on the event to midwestpagancouncil@gmail.com and we'll publish it here!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Mid-Missouri PPD Review by Heather

The 13th annual Mid-Missouri Pagan Pride celebration was held Sunday, September 7, 2014, in Columbia, Missouri. Approximately 300 people wandered in and out throughout the day to enjoy the gorgeous fall weather and to participate in the education, the celebration, and the spirit of community.

The day started with an open ritual by Naofa Tintean, celebrating the harvest and the sacrifices that we all make for our community. Afterward, the crowd moved on to visit the numerous vendors selling everything from homemade incenses to hand-crafted leather masks. The Stage was filled with the sound of music from our performers, includ-

ing the Baraka Project and Gaia Rain. Open drum circles were held between performances. The celebration closed with a ritual by crone and elder Aislinn Firehawk which recognized the humanity and interpersonal connections between the members of our community.

As always, the centerpiece of our event was our educational program, and this year did not disappoint. Our guest speaker was Dorothy Modrzyk, High Priestess, First Temple of the Craft of W.I.C.A. Dorothy spoke about "The Pagan Community: Then and Now," comparing today's community with the past. Other workshop presenters included children's author Lyon Martin,

discussing the process for publishing children's books, and archaeologist Charlynn Wells, presenting on archaeological influences on Pagan practices.

Columbia, Missouri is a college town with approximately 100,000 residents. Although we are located in a rural, red state, we have a very active Pagan population. Pagan Pride Day is the largest annual Pagan event in the city, providing a rare opportunity for pagans to meet and celebrate together.

Recipe Hour with Michelle B.

Fall Pork Stew

As the air turns crisp, I turn to some of my favorite crockpot recipes. Hearty comfort food ready to eat when I get home from work.

One of my families favorites is a fall pork stew.

Start by cubing a pork loin. Add it to the pot and seasoning with salt and pepper.

Then, slice an onion and put them on the pork loin.

Peel and cube a couple sweet potatoes, and wedge some apples and add them to the pot as well.

Season with cinnamon, nutmeg,

and just a hint of cloves.

Pour in some fresh apple cider and a bit of raw honey, and let it cook.

It's a sweet and savory stew. I've made variations with dried cranberries, pecans, carrots, and celery. What goes in it is really up to you!

The Roots Of Numerology by Lady Anna

Numbers are all around us. Not just on Bus Routes, receipts, and addresses, but in Nature itself. We can see it in the geometric shape of flowers and snowflakes. We can see them in ripples of a pond or a sound wave. We can see numbers in nature every day. We also see numbers hidden in symbols and buried in mysticism. This article is designed to take some of the mysticism out of a system called Numerology.

There are several definitions of Numerology with most calling it a form of divination. I have always believed it is more than that. I like Michael McClain's version when he says, "Numerology is the study of numbers, and the occult manner in which they reflect certain aptitudes and character tendencies, as an integral part of the cosmic plan" (McCain, 2013).

Simply put, Numerology is the study of numbers beyond basic mathematics. The universe is filled with vibrations. These vibrations interact with each other to create quantum entanglements, a type of cosmic mathematics. In Numerology, each number represents a cosmic vibration and each letter has a numeric

value. A numerology chart shows the correlation of the vibrations; to you, your life and the world around you.

The history of numbers is as old as the recorded history of man. Numerology was used by the priests in the Temples of Ancient Egypt, as well as by Greek philosophers such as Pythagoras. Pythagorean Numerology has evolved to for the spiritual basis for many secret societies, such as the Rosicrucians, Masons and others. The actual origins of the Science of Numerology is open to conjecture, but the foundation of numbers and mathematics is as old as the universe itself.

The Science of Numerology is based on your Name and your Birthdate. No other information is needed. "How can this be possible?" you might ask. (I get asked this all the time.) It's easy to explain.

There is only one you. You have your own personality and character. You are an individual. With millions of people in the world, we are all as diverse as snowflakes. no two are alike. Some people might have the same name as you and others

might share the same birthday. But, only YOU, and You ALONE, have the combination of the two.

This gives you a Numerology chart as individual as you are. The chart will tell you your strengths and weaknesses, your tools and talents, what forms your hidden dreams and desires will take as well as, helping you understand your challenges to overcome them.

Going a little father, the numerological meanings are applied to Tarot, Cytometry, and other forms of divination. Each number has a corresponding color, element, planet, chakra, etc. And of course, each number has a meaning, both positive and negative aspects, depending on where the numbers are in the chart.

In future articles, I will show you the meaning behind the numbers and mathematics behind the chart. So, keep in reading and don't miss the next article to start your chart.

McClain, M. (2013), Numerology retrieved from <http://www.astrology-numerology.com/numerology.html> on Sept. 7, 2014.

The Wood-Wife by Sage

As the leaves turn their fiery colors I will venture to the woods. As winds come, nestling in my bones, tangling and snarling my hair, tugging and tearing at my garments, I will walk on. When I find that spot, that little perfect place, I shall lay down. The leaves will dance around me, over and on me. I will close my eyes. I will fan my hair out like the lady of the lake, to become the lady of the leaves. I will listen to them speak and sing, rustling, cracking, whispering. I will let it all into my soul. Buried like a faerie tale in the cascade of leaves, surrounded by the woods, I will become me, more of me, more of her, all of it. I will drink in the oranges, yellows and reds, the dark weathered browns, I will taste of earthy headiness and spice, I will smell like smoke and burning leaves, moss and evergreen trees. I will leave the woods like a shadow, a shade, a wisp, wearing vines and brush, my lips will taste like the sweet sap of the maple infused with the berries and fruit of the elder and apple. I have left lost and returned wild....



Pan Pagan 39—We Have A Theme!

Exciting News! We know that everyone has been curious as to what the new theme will be for this upcoming year.

Well! Wait no longer!

The theme for the 39th Annual Pan Pagan Festival is:

drumroll

“Open Spirits, Open Hearts”

A big THANK YOU! To all those that submitted suggestions to us.

And an especially BIG THANK YOU! To Sage for her winning suggestion!

Articles—The Heart Of A Newsletter

We, the Council, know that writing an article does take time, and as such we would like to thank everyone that has written for not only this article, but everyone going back to the very first issue of *Magickal Musings* for taking the time to write and keep this Newsletter going.

And on that note, we would like to continue to ask those that have in-

formation they would like to share to keep sending us wonderful articles.

As you can see from this and past issues, we are happy to accept and publish articles about different aspects of the Craft (numerology, herbs, dreamcatchers, to name a few). But also, we are happy to publish book reviews, TV or Movie

reviews—though we would prefer they relate to Paganism in some way.

As well, if you have art or poems, or a cute seasonal craft idea that you would love to share, by all means please submit it to the newsletter.

All submissions can be emailed to: midwestpagancouncil@gmail.com

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@gmail.com.

Annually the Council puts on the Pan Pagan Festival, currently in our 39th year. We are an outdoor, week long, family friendly festival that usually is the first full week of August, Aug. 5-9, 2015 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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