

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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Pan Pagan Festival 39 Open Spirits, Open Hearts

The 39th Pan Pagan Festival, i.e. PPF, will be here sooner that you think. It's taking place August 5—9, 2015. We have moved the fest back to the first full week in August, because it doesn't conflict with other fests.

We have some new rates, including Students, Seniors, and a new Weekend Rate. Check them out at the new and improved [website here!](#) Yes, we accept pay pal, but you still need to complete the Registration form and either



e-mail or snail mail it to us. If you like the new website let us know, many hours were spent improving it for ease of navigation and expanding the content.

As always Pan Pagan Festival is a way for pagans to meet in a safe place to commune with nature, the Goddess and the God and share and exchange ideas. We encourage families, seniors and students with our special rates. This year the theme is "Open Spirits, Open Hearts" and we ask you to bring both to the fest.

This year besides Open,

Main and Closing Ritual, we will have a Memorial Service to celebrate the life of SunCat and other pagans who have gone to the Summerland this past year. Their names will be added to our ancestor's wheel.

This year we have a special performance on Friday evening by Murphy's Midnight Rounders. For more on the band, see our website. They will be the opening performance before the Follies.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



Pan Pagan Merchandise

This year, we will not be selling t-shirts on-site. Instead, we've put the artwork on Redbubble so that you can purchase the t-shirts before hand.

This gives people the option to not only get the shirt in a color they like, but also in a style that they'll wear more than what we

otherwise might have on hand if we printed them ourselves.

Because the artwork is on Redbubble, we also have enabled travel and coffee mugs, tote bags, pillows, and scarves for sale with the artwork.

Please note, that you should make sure to order your Pan Pagan Merchandise in advance as it can take one to two weeks for the items to be printed and shipped to you.

Order [Here!](#)

Letterboxing 101

According to legend, letterboxing began in southwestern England in 1854 when a Victorian gentleman, James Perrott, hid his calling card in a jar in a remote area by Cramere Pool in the moors of Dartmoor. Perrott was a guide on the moor and encouraged his clients to leave their card in a jar as well.

Eventually visitors began leaving self-addressed post cards or notes in the jar hoping for them to be returned via mail by the next visitor. The origin of the term "letterboxing;" letterbox being the British term for what we know as a mailbox. This practice ended in time, and the current custom of using rubber

stamps and visitor logbooks came into use. Today, there are more than 3,000 letterboxes in the 365 square miles of Dartmoor National Park.

The hobby came to the US in 1998 following the publication of an article in the Smithsonian magazine about Dartmoor. Letterboxing North America is host to a website and discussion list where new clues are

posted to sites where these Letterboxes are located.

Letterboxing is intended to be an environmentally friendly activity with no destruction of nature involved in the hiding or discovery of letterboxes. Boxes are hidden in publically-accessible areas, yet out of sight of casual visitors, and come in a varied amount of sizes depending on the stamp, log book, and possibility of having a 'hitchhiking' visitor stamp.

For more information on Letterboxing, check out the official Letterboxing North America website [here](#). To find clues to letterboxes in your area, check out Atlas Quest [here](#).



Muse Bitten by Kristi

Amongst the Pagan community, there is a prevalence of really talented, really creative people. Even amongst the "family reunion" regulars of Pan Pagan you can see it. Not just the vendors (although, for our homey little fest, we do have quite a few, don't we?), and not just the people giving workshops. Every single person that comes has a special talent.

That's what I call "Muse Bitten".

I get bitten by my muse quite often; I'm always trying new things. I'm lucky because I have a family that supports my 'craftiness' and cheers me on. In fact, at the time of writing, I'm going to be putting my "Sally Owens" hat on and start working on some soap-making next weekend.

But it really is this fire that is within that drives me. That drives us all to explore these talents within us and give that muse the most delicious taste

of what we are and what we're driven to do. This is something that we should kindle inside ourselves and let explode forth in whatever way we have the talent. I know where my talents lie: they lie in making things with my hands. Others have musical talents. Some have talents with words. There's many talents, and a muse for us all.

What muse is biting you?

Tell us [Here!](#)

Gifts from the Divine by Linda Rhodes

A ruby red cardinal greeted me on Beltane morning. I knew this was no ordinary bird. It was a messenger from a friend long past. "Today you will begin to heal your soul. Keep your eyes, heart and mind open from this moment."

Such a wise bird to know my spirit was dark. I began my journey.

No sooner had the cardinal flown away did I see a mighty hawk in a distant pine. The hawk glanced in my direction while he devoured his prey. "Celtic Lady, hear my words. Eat what you must in moderation, should you desire to succeed. Listen to your spirit guides and choose wisely."

Upon my new car, Stella, I saw a dried green and brown leaf at rest on the door handle. With a gentle touch I swept at the leaf. Alas! T 'was no leaf on my car. The leaf came to life and rested on my finger. I looked ever so close at a sphinx moth in camouflage. I felt so blessed with the moth and its message. "Look close, my Lady, as things are not what they seem. The Gods have blessed you with intuition. Use it!"

I sat in wonder and thought, what lessons I have learned. Are there more to come?

A light went on inside my head. I

turned my eyes and saw the great magnolia tree in full bloom, soft white petals in circular formation as large as my face. The magnolia flower is a symbol of the Goddess and virgin. Purity is around mortal man every day. Man needs only to open his eyes and heart.

A gathering of turkey vultures in the road were busy at work. They are nature's garbage collectors. They deserve respect; their value is immense. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

I must stop my Stella as the gopher turtle crossed the road. He is small yet persistent. His message is loud and clear. "All journeys begin with one step. This needs courage and determination."

A large black and yellow garden spider was weaving her web. She took a look at the crystals of dew that shimmered on the web. The spider was weaving her web. The spider bowed her head to the Great Mother for the gift. "Beauty is all around for those that see with open hearts."

From out of a wreath on a door came cries of warning from a nesting bird. The cries were ignored. The nesting mother bird flapped her wings in distress. Off she flew, ex-

posing two small blue-green eggs deep inside her nest. The nest, small in size, was neat and well constructed.

I stood and wondered if mortal man or woman would defend their home and children as the mother bird.

Nature in all her glory was quite apparent in my father's yard. A crow bathed with delight in the basin provided. Droplets of water sprayed the air and greenery. Bluebirds darted from the wooden house. What else did my eyes spy? An aging live oak with a basket of hot pink azaleas hung from the branch. A pair of dragonflies hovered above the tiny flowers. A circle of Easter lilies surrounded the base of the mighty oak, their heads danced in the gentle breeze.

The message was clear; the months of light and summer were here.

The God and the Goddess were in unison performing the "Great Right." The Earth and the Sun gave fertility to all for a bountiful harvest.

The gifts from the Divine come each day; a bird, and insect, a tree or a plant for all to see and share. For these gifts from the Divine am I blessed.

Pan's Birthday—A Picnic Get Together

This year, in May, the Midwest Pagan Council hosted Pan's Birthday—A Picnic get together to bring the Pagan community together to enjoy some good food and good time.

The Midwest Pagan Council supplied the grilled hot dogs & hamburgers, and buns for everyone. Everyone was asked to

bring a side dish to share.

While the weather turned a little darker than we would have liked, we didn't cancel the picnic—we had a lovely pavilion to settle under while we broke bread and had some wonderful conversations.

A hardy bunch of people did show up to make it a great

time.

We hope that next year will be brighter, sunnier, and much more fun because we'll be able to venture out from under the pavilion.



Letterboxing—A Pan Pagan Festival Contest

Every year the Pan Pagan Festival has a special contest for the attendees. It started out as “find the hidden word in the program book”. This was the Council’s way of getting attendees to read the program book; when asked what attendees thought of a workshop the response was “I wish I knew about that workshop, I would have liked to attend.” For the past few years, it has turned into a “treasure” hunt to find objects around the campground or in our main festival area.

This year, we are doing the contest a little differently. The contest is to find Letterboxes.

Letterboxing is a growing hobby that combines elements of hiking

(well not so much at Pan), treasure hunting and creative expression into an activity that attendees of all ages can enjoy. Participants seek out hidden letter boxes by following clues—the first clue will be hidden in the program book and each letter box thereafter will contain a clue to the following box.

Each letterbox will contain a stamp and stamp pad, which attendees will use to stamp Letterboxing page of their program book. The last box is special, as it will contain a log book that you, the attendee, will stamp with your own personal stamp, to mark that you found all the boxes.

There will be a workshop on how to make your own personal stamp if

you didn’t bring one with you. (If you don’t want to make a stamp, or didn’t bring one with you, =(see Dori and she might be able to help you out.)

As with all our contests, once you have found all the letter boxes, bring your completed sheet, with your name on it, to Registration and turn it in. The contest ends at 4pm Saturday. Winners will be drawn from the completed sheets. Winners will receive \$10 Merchant Dollars to spend on Merchant Row.

If you have questions about letterboxing on site, see our Fest Coordinator, Lizzy, who started letterboxing as a Girl Scout.

Merchants & Workshops

Exciting things are abound for the 39th Annual Pan Pagan Festival!

We are extremely happy to have a plethora of merchants that will be in attendance and selling their wares.

The current merchants are:

Green Fairy Botanicals
GreenSong & Grandmother
The Magic Spindle
Murphey’s Midnight Rounders
Mystic Beauty Jewelry
Spiral Fae Accents
Taldish Castle
Troll & Fairy Creations
Whimsical Kreationz
Wicked Treasure
The Witche’s Closet

For more information on the Merchants, checkout our website [here!](#)

We also have an amazing list of workshops being presented. To give you a teaser, here are the titles of the current workshops.

Tai Chi for Psychic Defense

Letterboxing and Stamp Making

Cards Against Humanity Tournament

The Feminine Divine

Agents of Conscious Evolution

Grandmother Turtle’s Wisdom Tales

How Shall We Shape the World of Tomorrow

A Journey into Healing

Grounding Through the Feet

Pirate Magic—Sorcery on the High Seas

For more information on these workshops, check out our website [here!](#)

Want to be a Merchant or Present a Workshop? It’s not too late! [Pre-Register](#) for PPF 39 and make sure to fill out and send in a Merchant form and a Workshop form with your registration today!

Pre-Registration ends July 10th!

The Characters of Numerology by Lady Anna

There are many different designs of Numerology charts. Like any magical writings, you can make it as complex or as simple as you want. I will keep it simple for learning purposes.

Each numerology chart has three pillars. These pillars describe you, your path and your future. I have also seen different names for each section. I will attempt to give you samples of variations for each section.

The following list is the basic sections of a numerology chart:

Destiny- or Life Path is the number represents the particular types of influences you must successfully encounter to achieve maximum fulfillment in your total lifetime.

Birth Path - This represents the understanding of who you are and where your talents lie. This is the gift you are born with.

Life Cycle- Three cycles that reveal the kinds of influences, opportunities and people that will be

most important in that cycle.

CYCLE #1 – The Formative Cycle is learning and mental development.

CYCLE #2 – The Productive Cycle is using the education with work and productive activity.

CYCLE #3 – The Harvest Cycle is what it implies; a time to reap what you have sewn, usually retirement.

Attainment- or Pinnacles are in effect for nine years each, with the exception of the first Attainment.

Challenges- This number indicates potential obstacles which must be overcome.

Personal Year- The nine year cycle that holds opportunities for new beginnings, development, and completion in each cycle.

Soul Urge- or Motivation represents what you consciously want out of life.

Quiet Self- or Impression represents the pure fantasy side of you.

Expression- This indicates the manner in which you best express yourself.

Lack of Karma- This indicates experiences which you have not met in past lives and therefore are lessons you must learn in this one.

Abundance of Karma- This indicates experiences which have occurred frequently in past lives.

Sub-Conscious Response- This is the way you instinctively react in times of crisis.

Corner Stone- The foundation upon which your life is built.

Balance Number- This is the number you fall back on in emergencies and seek to stand firm.

Key- This indicates how your life will be lived.

Spiritual Balance- What your inner self is being exposed to in this life as a form of a lesson in life.

Recipe Hour with Dori

One of the things I remember when I first started in the craft was making Sabbat Cakes. For the recipe, everyone went to Lady Sheba's book. Since that was more than 30 years ago and my High Priestess, like my mother, never followed the receipt exactly, this is close to what we used with a few changes which are in italics.

1 cup shortening or ½ cup shortening and ½ cup butter
1/3 cup sugar (or 1 ½ tbs honey)
2/3 cup ground blanched almonds (or 1 tsp almond extract and 1 tsp

white wine)
1 2/3 cup flour (or 1 1/3 c flour and 1/3 c oats)
¼ tsp salt
1 cup confectioner's sugar
1 tsp cinnamon

Changes: there was never time to dip the cakes in sugar and cinnamon, (besides the confectioner's sugar gets all over everything) the cinnamon was put in the batter. And since this can be really dry, 1 egg was added.

Mix together shortening, sugar and almonds, Sift together flour and salt. Stir into almond mixture until soft dough forms. Chill dough for at least 1 hour. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Break off pieces of chilled dough and roll pencil thin. Cut rolled dough in 2 ½ inch lengths and form into crescent shape. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet until set, but not brown, about 14-16 minutes. Mix together confectioner's sugar and cinnamon. Cool cookies on pan and while slightly warm carefully dip each in cinnamon mixture. Approximately five dozen crescent moons.

To The Summerlands...

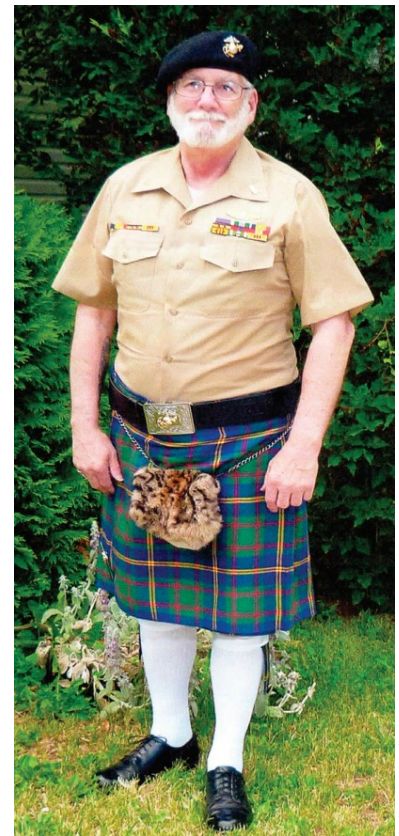
Our Beloved Brother, SunCat was welcomed to the Summerland on Spring Equinox Eve by the Lord and the Lady and our ancestors. He was a priest, a warrior, a healer, a counselor, a musician, a composer, a writer, and a friend to many of us. He touched the lived of many people across the United States.

He came to Pan Pagan Festival with his then spouse, Ceanna, as a traveling bard. They asked if they could walk around the campground playing their music and singing. Over the past 20 years, he became a staple at Pan. He took his calling a priest seriously and did everything he

could to help the pagan community.

We will miss him and ask the Lord and the Lady to wrap him in their cloak of Love, Laughter, and Song until we meet again. We will be remembering him in a special Memorial Service at Pan Pagan Festival which has been home to him for the past 20 years.

We will be honoring Suncat, and all that have passed at Pan Pagan Festival in August. If you have lost someone in the past year, come and honor them and add their name to the ancestor wheel.



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 39th year. We are an outdoor, week long, family friendly festival that usually is the first full week of August, August 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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Bringing Pagans together for decades.

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