

PAGAN Moonbeams

Vol. 4 Issue 5
March, 2011

Staff Notes

A little note to the readers' from our small staff.
Staff Members listed in chronological order.

Raven

Editor since: Aug.ust 2008

It's March! In my part of the world, this means that Spring is just about upon us! The days are getting longer and the air outside is beginning to lose it's icy chill. Everything around us is getting greener. Now is the perfect time to do some mental Spring Cleaning. If there have been some negative emotions you have been harboring, shake them off and get rid of them. Let's plant some new seeds in our mind of positive and creative energy.

Blessed Be!

Lionfirestone

Writer & Editor since: September 2008

Greetings Pagan Moonbeams Readers,

March is a great month. The weather is starting to change and the world is coming to life again. I hope each of you has the opportunity to enjoy the changing of the seasons and the wonder it brings. If you enjoy the outdoors it is not too late to garden, even a window garden is something to enjoy.

Blessings

A Few Words

As we bring an end to the cold weather be thankful for all the beauty it brought to you. Look forward to the great weather on it's way and enjoy it for the short time that it is among us.

The animals will be everywhere scurrying to bring in the new phase of weather and the young one's that are there. Be careful not to interrupt them while they are taking care of their young, you will probably get more out of just observing them as they go about their normal duties.

I am in great hopes that this month will bring you lots of good things and closer to your dreams. Magick is in the air so be sure to take advantage of it while it lasts.

paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com



Issue Shorts

- Pandora is taking a well-deserved break. We are sorry you will miss her great recipes and stories this month. Don't worry so much she will be back next month.
- A new beginner's magic series will begin this month for our teen readers. This section is located in the parent's section for approval. We hope you all enjoy it.
- We have begun a new children's radio show on Cauldron FM, get more information in our news section.

Index

Volume 4, Issue 5
MARCH, 2011
"Rites of Passage"



Topic Focus

Rites of Passage

News	pg. 3
Making The Connection	pg. 4
Wee Pagans (grades PreK-2nd)	pg. 6
Gran's Present / Story	
Mystical Baby / Craft	
Rite of Passage Ideas	
Herb Focus	pg. 10
Mistletoe	
Young Pagans (grades 3-6)	pg. 11
Rite of Passage Info.	
Web of Passage / Craft	
Mineral Focus	pg. 12
Onyx	
Pagan Teens	pg. 13
Rites of Passage Info.	
Pagan Resources	pg. 14
Parent Section	pg. 15
Mystical Evening	
Raven's Note to Parents	
Special Pagans	
Parent Rites of Passage Ideas	
Beginner Magick Series	

For advertising questions, comments,
submissions, and more contact:

TristA Nichols
306 W. 6th Street
Muncie, IN 47302
(765)631-3372

Paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com

We Appreciate Your Readership

Pagan Moonbeams is proudly published monthly, by an all-volunteer staff. The publisher and authors believe that this publication has been compiled meticulously and, with knowledge; however, the publisher and authors can in no way guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information. Therefore the publishers and authors do not accept any liability for any damage resulting from actions or decisions based on the information in question.

Users of this publication are strongly advised not to use this publication as a sole means of information, but to rely on their personal knowledge and experience, to check the information to be used. Users should also be aware that statements, insights and conclusions made in good faith in articles may need to be re-considered in the light of later research and development. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of information provided by participating companies and authorities. The publisher reserves the right to combine, delete and change sections. The publisher reserves the right to edit and reuse (parts of) the articles and to distribute the information, by any means.

All right reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced; stored in a retrieval system; or transmitted, in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, printing, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except through the written permission of the publisher.

For more information, contact: TristA@paganmoonbeams.com

©2007/2011 Pagan Moonbeams

Community Centers?

A Salt Lake City, Utah woman, Rita Morgan, has just opened up a community center called the Crone's Hollow. It will offer many things for Pagans. There is a reading and lounging area as well as many areas offered for rituals and other Pagan get-togethers. There is also a new age shop located in the community center.

It would be interesting to know how busy this community center becomes. Think about this: would you like to see a community center like this one in your own area? Would you go to the community center? What kinds of things would you put or add to the community center if you had a say in it? Talk to your Pagan adult that you confide in about this new idea and see what they think.

Romanian Witches

Romanian witches are known for reading tarot cards and giving predictions. Many people from all over the world visit Romania and have their cards read. This trade has become so big that the Romanian government has begun taxing those who do the readings. With this new tax law in place another law is trying to be passed, one that will put any witch that makes a wrong prediction in jail.

What do you think about this new law? What will it mean for those who read cards in Romania? Only time will tell. See if you can find and follow this story. It was originally found in USA Today.

Moon Beat

Moon Beat is a radio show hosted by two of the writers from Pagan Moonbeams on Cauldron FM. If you haven't yet listened to the online podcast, you should surely head over and take a listen. You will find the same quality in the radio show that you find in the e-zine itself. There are a total of 2 shows up and both are well worth listening to. Each podcast is unique as it is an interactive radio broadcast for kids.

Cauldron FM: <http://cauldronfm.podbean.com/> and look for Moon Beat. Have a listen and add to the comments so we can see how we are doing!

t s w r s s p l r n o r f f s
s d d e i t v d d o r e l e n
v r d r e e m o r n o o h d r
d s u m m e r l a n d n o o
h g l m s n a n n w y n s r a
n s r h l r l a e n a n r i y
e a w a a r a i c o h a m l r
e n l v r l a r r n l a h a r
e t e a d d l r o w r e t f a
a i s l e o f a p p l e s i i
n n d o n d l r o w r e d n u
b r s n r e o e l s l o r l o
s d l e i f n a j s s y l e n
m o y s d u i c s u i s n o d
r f r d n l a b t a d p f l r

- Afterworld
- Annwyn
- Asgard
- Avalon
- Bifrost
- Caer Arrianrod
- Elyssian Fields
- Hades
- Hel
- Isle of Apples
- Necropolist
- Summerland
- Underworld
- Valhalla

After Death

Answer Key

Making the Connection

By: Raven

Making the Connection – Rites of Passage

Religion, at best, can be daunting. If you are a young child or teen, the task of making a connection between yourself and where you fit in to your religion, no matter the path, can be a difficult one. Don't allow this to discourage you, as we have all, at some point in our lives, felt this same way. Allow yourself to listen to the whispers deep within you, as they will bring you to the path you were meant to walk. When you open your mind and spirit to let these whispers in, you may even find that they have been leading you down your path all along. Being Pagan, we realize that we are connected to everyone and everything around us. Finding that connection is easier than you think.

There are moments in life, milestones, which are important and meant to be celebrated. These moments, won't typically happen again for you in this lifetime. While some may repeat themselves, there will only ever be one first. So, what's so important about these rites of passage? Why do your parents make a big deal over them? Well, let's go through some of them one by one and really look at them to find that connection in our spiritual life. Remember that while some of these will follow a specific order, not all of them follow that way.

The first Rite of Passage is known by a few names depending upon your path. You may have heard it called a Naming Ceremony, Wiccaning, or even a Paganing. It is in this instance where a child, many times as an infant, is presented to the Gods & Goddesses, as well as their Pagan community. What may happen is a request of the Gods and Goddesses to protect the child and guide them until they are old enough to choose the path they will follow. Those at the ceremony may present the child with a gift or a bead stating what it represents. For example, at one of my sons Wiccaning, he was given a copy of the book Sons of the Goddess so that he may always find his way. Some of these rites will have a child's magickal name chosen, as this is how the child will be known in their gatherings. There may even be a God Father and Goddess Mother named to help guide and raise the child up magickally. This rite is an important first one as it is typically the one that introduces them to their Pagan community. As traditions differ, the way this is celebrated may vary, but this is the first rite of passage in a Pagan child's life.

The next large step, or Rite of Passage, is the Coming of Age. Again, this will vary by tradition, but is typically celebrated at the time of puberty; when a girl has her first menses and when a boy's voice starts to change. This is close to the age of 13. In general, this celebration marks your entrance into adulthood. While you are not considered an adult until the age of 18, at least in the United States, once you reach puberty then you have reached a sexual maturity and that is what is really being celebrated. Your tradition may have you celebrate this level of maturation with people your age and older of the same sex. There may be a large event with all kinds of people from your Pagan community. In any instance, this is an important next step.

A third Rite of Passage would be the Rite of Initiation. This is definitely one that happens AFTER your Coming of Age. Whether you are self-initiated or Initiated within a group on your particular path, it makes no difference. It is an important step to take. When you were young, your parents, or community, asked that the Gods and Goddesses watch over you and protect you until such a time that you could choose for yourself the path you wish to follow. This is THAT time. You have chosen to follow a specific path and are now old enough to be able to choose for yourself.

Following along in the Rites of Passage is a Handfasting. A Handfasting is the joining of two people in a union of love and trust. Now, whether that union is a temporary or permanent one is left to the couple. You are Handfasted and saying that you will be with this person for as long as the love lasts. Some people may handfast for a year and a day, to see if this is really the union that they want. From there they may look to make it a legal ceremony. For others, this IS their legal ceremony. They do not need a period of time to pass before they decide if this is the relationship for them.

Making the Connection

By: Raven

Making the Connection – Rites of Passage

(Continued)

Now with a Handfasting, I think it is worth mentioning that there is such a thing as a Handparting. As the name suggests, it is when you decide that this is not the union you want and therefore part ways. Obviously if this is a legally recognized union, there is going to be a filing for divorce involved. However, whether a legal union or not, the Rite of Handparting is a good way to spiritually recognize the separation of a union of a couple. Not all traditions have Handpartings, but I do feel that it is worth mentioning, as this rite could be as important as the Handfasting.

Some people feel called to become a Priestess or Priest, so they would then go through the Rite of Priestess or Priesthood. This will be individual to the person, group, coven, lodge, etc. Sometimes this Rite is specific to the Path, but it may or may not include the ability to legally marry or perform other legal unions and Rites. At other times the rites that may be performed by the Priest or Priestess are limited to any not requiring legal documentation. In any instance, the act of being able to legally perform certain rites or ceremonies does NOT make the position of the Priest or Priestess any better than a Priest or Priestess that is not recognized as able to perform such rites or ceremonies. We are all equal and the same respect should be shown to both types of Priests and Priestesses. Becoming a clergy member is a very important step and one that is never undertaken lightly.

In addition is the Rite of Elderhood, Croning or Magehood. Those receiving this rite are the Elders of the community. This doesn't necessarily have to mean that they are older. It can denote a person's esteemed position of respected knowledge as well. However, you will find that older persons do go through the Elderhood Rite. They have reached a point in their life where they are older and more seasoned. These are the ones we look to like grandparents. Elders should be respected and honoring this next phase in their life is a wonderful thing. Too often our society looks to shuffle those who have reached this point in life out of the eye of mainstream society, but they are knowledgeable and typically well versed in many aspects of life.

The last rite I am going to touch upon is the Rite of Final Passage or the Summerlands Rite. As with the others, the name suggests the type of rite. Your spiritual self has shed the body for this life and is moving on to the next. So, with this we are celebrating the life you had here as well as helping move you forward on to the Summerlands or to whatever name your path may call this. While a sad occasion when someone dies, it can be a joyous and heartfelt one too. Remember that death is just another step in life.

While there may be other rites that are followed within a person's path, these are just a few that I wanted to touch upon. Life should be celebrated and the many changing moments highlighted. However, don't feel that you need only celebrate these rites and not other momentous occasions. Another Rite of Passage would be the day you get your driver's license. By all means, celebrate it! This is a grand undertaking and such an exciting thing. Small passages and big ones can all be celebrated. Birthdays are a rite of passage and the act of blowing out the candles is magickal itself. Enjoy life. The most important thing you can do is to make sure that you do take time to recognize these occasions and celebrate. As stated, these aren't all the rites of passages, but a few and I am sure in your lifetime there will be some that you create as well.

May the Blessings of the Lord & Lady be bestowed upon each of you.

Rev. Raven, HPs

Wee Pagan

By: TristA

Gran's Present

Darwin and Darci had been with their father all afternoon. They were searching around the grape vineyards for a branch that had at least five twists in it. Darwin was really happy because he was just learning to count and was able to help.

Darci complained when dad stopped for the sixth time for Darwin to count the twist in a branch of a large tree. "Dad, there isn't five that is only four. Why do we have to stop for Darwin? I am tired of walking around the vineyard and he stops all the time and takes forever counting."

Her dad laughed a little then said "Getting this right is important to Gran and it is important to Darwin to get it right. He is younger than you and needs more time counting. It wasn't too long ago and you were the same way, be patient."

They turned into a new row and Darci began to play in the dirt with her feet. She didn't notice that dad and Darwin had moved on and was counting another branch that had fell off of a very tall tree.

"Yes, Darwin, I think we have it." Dad said as he hugged Darwin.

Darwin took off and found Darci to tell her that they had finally found what they were looking for. He was so happy that he was the one that got to count the right one. Darci was so happy that they were done looking for the branch.

When they got home dad was working on the branch. He stripped all the bark off and was carving something in the top of it. Darci had gotten away without eating all her vegetables to come and watch what dad was doing.

"Dad, why do we need that branch anyway?" Darci asked as she continued watching dad carving.

"Gran needs it, it will be our gift to her." Dad told Darci "She is entering a new stage in life's cycle where she is entering elder hood.

"What is Elder hood?" asked Darci.

"It is the stage where you begin to prepare for the end and where you are able to take it easy with things. This is the time where Gran will be telling you stories to teach you and have more time to spend with you. Gran has earned herself a big break in life." Dad softly said as he looked at his carving closely.



Wee Pagan

By: TristÅ

Gran's Present

(continued)

"Dad when is a stage in life mean?" asked Darci quickly

"There are many stages of life in Paganism; when you are born or named, when you reach puberty, when you get initiated into a Pagan path, when you get married, when you reach the middle of your life, when you reach high positions or time in Paganism, when you achieve things you are to in life, when you reach the point Gran has now, and when you pass over to Summerland, or die." Dad went on to tell her "Everyone reaches these stages, but they are not always celebrated. Gran's Pagan path does celebrate all of them so this time in her life is important to her."

"Dad does our Pagan path celebrate all of them?" Asked Darci.

"No," Dad said, "We celebrate some of them but not all of them. You have a few more years but it won't be long and you will be celebrating puberty not long after you become a teenager."



"Dad, will I get a stick like Gran is getting when I reach my celebration?" Asked Darci.

"No, silly" Dad told her "You will get something more fun for you."

"I can't wait until my party" said Darci "I will be sure to invite Gran, maybe she will tell me a story on that day about what it was like for her when she had her puberty celebration."

"I'm sure she will." Laughed Dad. "But for now, lets get this branch turned into a walking stick that she can use on her journeys to her pilgrimage to Europe next week."

"Can I go with her to Europe, I love to travel" asked Darci.

"No, Darci," Dad replied, "this is a trip for her to go on a religious journey to be closer to the places of her Pagan heritage. She will need to go by herself. When you get to celebrate your elder hood you will have a chance to go then, if you want to."

Darci was happy with that and went away. She returned quickly and asked if Gran would also like to borrow her sun lotion since it will be hot there. Mom allowed her to pack it in the special basket of goodies that she was preparing for the same celebration dad was making the walking stick for.

Wee Pagan

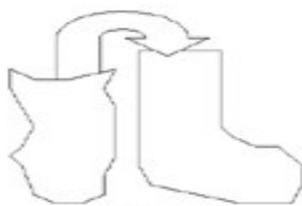
By: TristÅ

Mystical Baby

Needed:

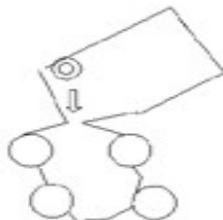
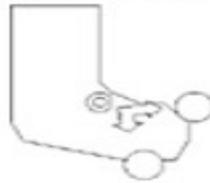
Rubber Bands (few different sizes)
Stuffing of some sort
Thin Sock (similar to girls knee-hi socks)
Sharpie Marker

Procedure:

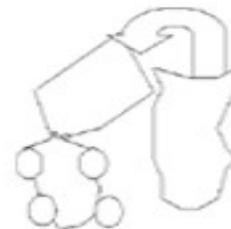


Stuff the tip
of the sock

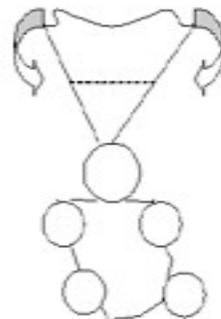
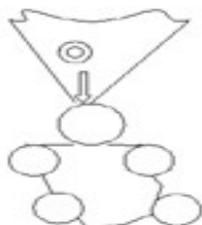
Use rubber bands to make
4 balls for hands & feet



pack tight then
rubberband it
down and add
more stuffing for
head.



pack down
then rubber-
band the head



roll the sock
down half-way
then fold the
remainder
down to the
head to make
a hat

when done use a sharpie to
make face on your baby.

Wee Pagan

By: TristÅ

Naming / Paganing

After making your own Mystical Doll hold a Naming, Paganing, or Wiccaning ceremony, whichever your path calls it. Be sure to include some traditional favorites as well as things you feel important. Allow your parent/mentor to be a part of the planning but you can do the ceremony alongside them. Below are some idea's to include in your ceremony or celebration.

Naming

This is the time for you to pick a name for your mystical baby. Think of a nice name together with your Pagan adult. Allow them to show you a few ways Pagan names are chosen. This is also a great time to find out how your name was chosen, or theirs if you don't have a Pagan name yet.

Trinket Gift

Find small trinkets that you have or make some out of paper and tie them to a string. Make sure to make knots for each item that you place on the string. Hang this in your room or where ever your mystical baby lives. This is a traditional gift for the occasion.

Altar Set-Up

Set up a small area or altar in honor of the celebration. You can include traditional items like incense, items for the elements, special gifts for the mystical baby, or anything you and your adult Pagan decide. Leave it up for awhile after the ceremony and near the celebration so the energy flows for awhile.

Plants

In most Paganings / Wiccanings, trees are planted in honor of the baby. Since you are doing yours for the Mystical Baby you can use any type of plant you want. Put it in your room and take care of it as its energy will help take care of your mystical Baby.



Herbal Focus

By: Lionfirestone

The well-known Mistletoe is an evergreen parasitic plant, growing on the branches of trees, where it forms pendent bushes, 2 to 5 feet in diameter. It will grow and has been found on almost any deciduous tree, preferring those with soft bark, and being, perhaps, commonest on old Apple trees, though it is frequently found on the Ash, Hawthorn, Lime and other trees. On the Oak, it grows very seldom. It has been found on the Cedar of Lebanon and on the Larch, but very rarely on the Pear tree.

When one of the familiar sticky berries of the Mistletoe comes into contact with the bark of a tree - generally through the agency of birds - after a few days it sends forth a thread-like root, flattened at the extremity like the proboscis of a fly. This finally pierces the bark and roots itself firmly in the growing wood, from which it has the power of selecting and appropriating to its own use, such juices as are fitted for its sustenance: the wood of Mistletoe has been found to contain twice as much potash, and five times as much phosphoric acid as the wood of the foster tree. Mistletoe is a true parasite, for at no period does it derive nourishment from the soil, or from decayed bark, like some of the fungi do - all its nourishment is obtained from its *host*. The root becomes woody and thick.

---History---Mistletoe was held in great reverence by the Druids. They went forth clad in white robes to search for the sacred plant, and when it was discovered, one of the Druids ascended the tree and gathered it with great ceremony, separating it from the Oak with a golden knife. The Mistletoe was always cut at a particular age of the moon, at the beginning of the year, and it was only sought for when the Druids declared they had visions directing them to seek it. When a great length of time elapsed without this happening, or if the Mistletoe chanced to fall to the ground, it was considered as an omen that some misfortune would befall the nation. The Druids held that the Mistletoe protected its possessor from all evil, and that the oaks on which it was seen growing were to be respected because of the wonderful cures which the priests were able to effect with it. They sent round their attendant youth with branches of the Mistletoe to announce the entrance of the New Year. It is probable that the custom of including it in the decoration of our homes at Christmas, giving it a special place of honour, is a survival of this old custom.

The curious basket of garland with which 'Jack-in-the-Green' is even now occasionally invested on May-day is said to be a relic of a similar garb assumed by the Druids for the ceremony of the Mistletoe. When they had found it they danced round the oak to the tune of 'Hey Derry down, down, down Derry!' which literally signified, '*In a circle move we round the oak.*' Some oak woods in Herefordshire are still called '*the Derry*'; and the following line from Ovid refers to the Druids' songs beneath the oak:

'---*Ad viscum Druidce cantare solebant*---.'

Shakespeare calls it 'the baleful Mistletoe,' an allusion to the Scandinavian legend that Balder, the god of Peace, was slain with an arrow made of Mistletoe. He was restored to life at the request of the other gods and goddesses, and Mistletoe was afterwards given into the keeping of the goddess of Love, and it was ordained that everyone who passed under it should receive a kiss, to show that the branch had become an emblem of love, and not of hate.

Enjoy the bookmark below.

Herb Focus: Mistletoe



Parts Used: The leaves and young twigs, berries

Location: Common used plants are found in the Americas and Europe.

Healing Properties: Nervine, antispasmodic, tonic and narcotic. Has a great reputation for curing the 'falling sickness' epilepsy - and other convulsive nervous disorders. It has also been employed in checking internal hemorrhage. Other unverified uses included treatment of internal bleeding, convulsions, infertility, arthritis, rheumatism, gout, hysteria, whooping cough, asthma, hypertension, headache, dizziness, menstrual cycle and menopausal symptoms, diarrhea, chorea (rapid, jerky movements), and rapid heartbeat

Magickal Attributes: Celts and Germans believed that Mistletoe is a key to the supernatural.

Latin Name: *Viscum album*

Mistletoe is especially interesting botanically because it is a partial parasite (a "hemiparasite"). As a parasitic plant, it grows on the branches or trunk of a tree and actually sends out roots that penetrate into the tree and take up nutrients. But mistletoe is also capable for growing on its own; like other plants it can produce its own food by photosynthesis.

Mistletoe has held interest as a possible anticancer agent since the 1920's. This is because extracts derived from it have been shown to kill cancer cells and to stimulate

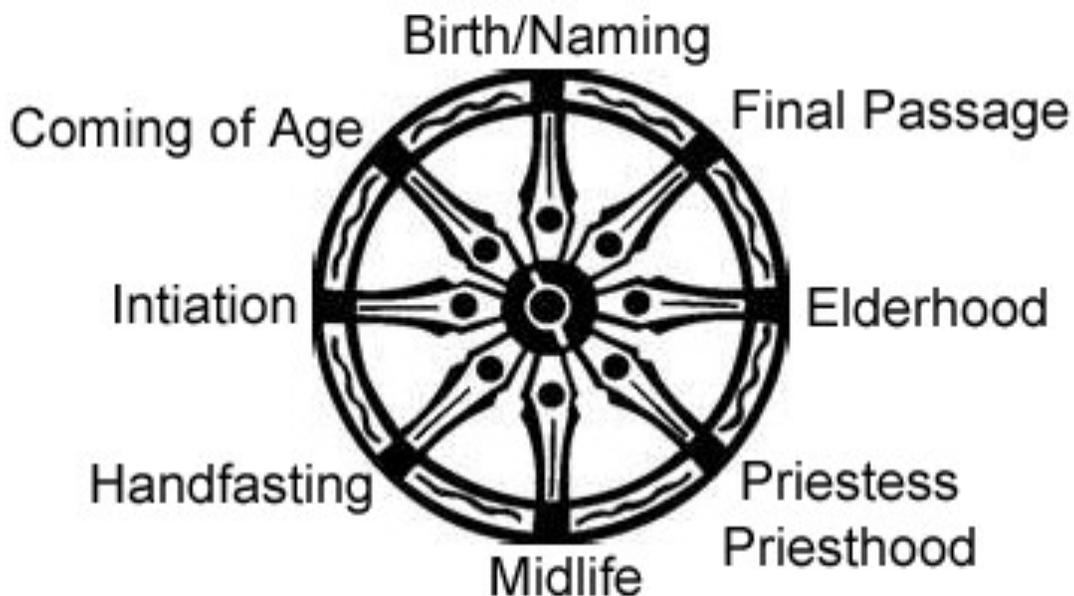
Young Pagans

By: TristÅ

The Pagan Wheel of Life

Life goes in special stages that can be considered spokes of a wheel. The easiest one for you to relate to would be the education. The education wheel has spokes for each level of schooling you must go through. It would have spokes for pre-school, elementary school, junior high school, high school, and college. Each spoke would be labeled to form the wheel.

The Pagan wheel of life mainly has eight spokes on it. According to the Pagan path you follow determines how many of these spokes are celebrated. Below is a wheel with all spokes. Talk to your Pagan mentors and ask them to tell you about the spokes that you will celebrate and color them in!



Your Stage Preparations

If you are not near a stage because of your age there are other things you could do to celebrate small steps in the stages of your life. Below are some idea's you could use as you walk the baby steps to your next rite of passage.

- Have a ritual where you separate from the toys you have outgrown to pass them on to those that aren't too old for them, or donate them.
 - Celebrate learning large things educational or social.
 - Have a ritual when you complete a grade in school.
 - Celebrate your new role when a new member of the family arrives.
- Have a ritual when you have a birthday

You and your family can probably think of many more times it is appropriate, just be sure to enjoy the baby steps to your next rite of passage.

Young Pagans

By: TristÅ

Life's Web of Passage

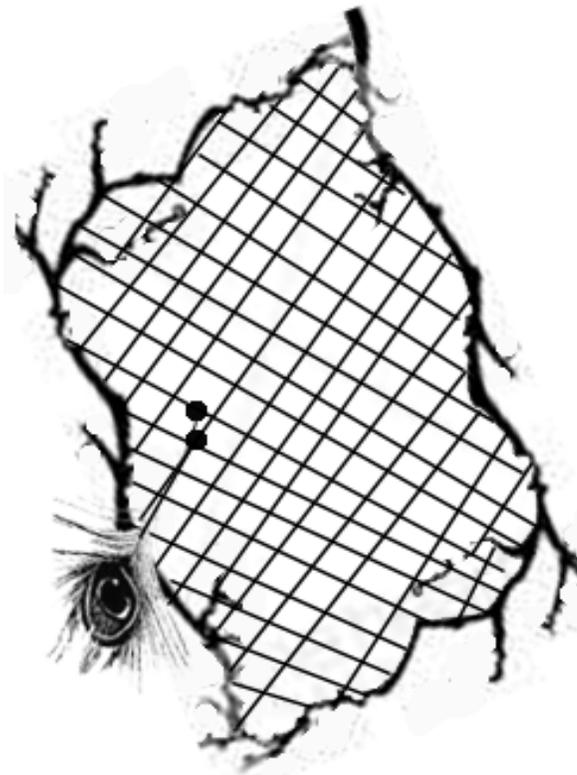
Begin a web of life craft to hang in your room. On each rite of passage or stage of life you come to add something to the 'web' portion. This can be a great memory trophy for you to always have near.

To make the web:

Find two twigs that are pretty flimsy and at least an adult arm's length long. Use string to tie them together in any shape you like; a tear drop, circle, oval, or anything that feels right to you. Once done use thin cord, string, or yarn to weave a web inside of the shape you made. Use any pattern or colors that you feel good using.

Additions:

When you add things to your web of passage craft be sure they will not mess up your original design. You may always want to weave the item into the web instead of tie it on for certain stages of life that stand for freedom. Have your items represent either the rite of passage, how you felt during it, or just something that caught your eye while it was taking place.



In this illustration above a girl was given the name of Moon Rainbow as her Pagan name. She chose to put a peacock's feather in her life web of passage to represent it.

Mineral Focus

By: Lionfirestone

- The name comes from the Greek word onyx which means nail of a finger or claw. Legend says that one day while Venus was sleeping Eros/Cupid cut her fingernails and left the clippings scattered on the ground. Because no part of a heavenly body can die, the gods turned them into stone which later became known as onyx.
- Thought to increase regeneration, happiness, intuition, instincts, helps to change bad habits.
- Retains physical body strength. Receives and holds vibrations both good and bad. Protects from negativity.
- Onyx is the Mystical birthstone for the month of December. It is also the birth stone for the Zodiac sign of Leo. Onyx is also given on the 7th and 10th wedding anniversary.
- True onyx is simply a black and white banded variety of quartz allied to agate. These bands being straight and parallel, onyx is sometimes known as "zebra agate" or, if the stone is completely black, "black agate". During the 1950s it was very popular as a stone for men's signet rings. It is now used for intaglios and cameos, necklaces and small pieces of jewelry.
- Onyx is a strength giving stone. It provides support in difficult circumstances and brings personal strength and self-confidence. It promotes vigor and stamina. It is a secretive stone that helps you to keep your own counsel. Onyx is a very grounding stone. It is useful for past life work because of its ability to hold memories. It heals old grief. Onyx balances the yin and yang of the body. It is beneficial for teeth, bones, blood disorders and the feet.

Onyx is great for defense against negativity. Onyx is an extremely potent protective stone, and is widely known for its ability to protect against psychic attacks.

Associations:

- Associated Crystals: Jet and sardonyx.
- Candle Color: White.
- Chakra: Root.
- Element: Earth.
- Flowers & Plants: Blackthorn blossom, edelweiss and flowering ivy.
- Herbs - Incenses - Oils: Aloe vera, ambergris, cypress and patchouli.
- Planet: Saturn.
- Zodiac: Capricorn.

Enjoy the bookmark below.

Mineral Focus: Onyx



Color: Black or brown sometimes with white bands

Chakra: Root

Healing Properties: It promotes vigor and stamina, beneficial for teeth, bones, blood disorders and the feet

Magickal Properties: Black Onyx is excellent for grounding negativity and releasing stress. Black Onyx can be worn for protection, to banish grief, and to encourage happiness and good fortune. It encourages happiness, good fortune and morality

Lustre: Vitreous

Due to the enormously high demand, natural occurrences not cover it all; as a result, the majority of the Onyx available in the trade available Onyx is man-made.

Black Onyx is often used as a backdrop in jewelry, such as cameos. It is also used as cabochons and as a building material.

Black and colored onyx is always dyed. Onyx is easily dyed, so beware of the more "unnatural" looking colors, such as bright blue, etc. Onyx with red and white bands is sometimes referred to as "Sardonyx". Onyx is the black variety of agate. However some parts are more or less translucent. This is why it is often heated to accentuate the intensity of its color.

Pagan Teen

By: TristÅ

Coming of Age

For some of you it is close to time for your own Pagan rite, the coming of age. This is a celebration of you reaching maturity in the Pagan world. You are sure to have a nice ritual and celebration with your mother, father, or local Pagan group. Be sure to enjoy yourself and be proud of the mark of man or woman hood that you have reached. This will be one of the important steps of Paganism that you will have.

Be sure to talk to your elder Pagans about the ceremony and it's meaning. Ask about what will take place and what is expected of you during the festivities. Find out who can come and see if you can invite your friends if you would like to, sometimes it is possible.

Most importantly find out what is expected of you once you have passed over the ritual, ceremony, or celebration. Be sure to try your best to achieve what you need to, act the way you are expected to, and take them as an honor not an obligation. Enjoy your new position and be sure to make the most of it!

Special Time

Most coming of age passages begin celebration with some separation of the one passing from society. This could mean spending time in your room without any electronics for a week-end to spending a week alone at a quiet resort without having any interaction with the people there.

This time is granted so that you will have time to remember the past and prepare for the future. You will let go of your childhood, for the most part, and begin entering the adult world. Be sure to use your time wisely because you will never be able to go to this time again.

How will you have your special time? Be sure to ask your Pagan adult about this and any other questions you have concerning it. It is best to be prepared for everything that is coming your way; especially the important steps that it contains.

Markings

There are many who reach the coming of age and it is tradition to mark it in some way. The marking is used to mark the great event of the child crossing over to the grown-up world. The most common markings of today are tattoos, piercings, and the wearing of a certain kind of jewelry, or a new hobby. What kind of marking did or will you take on?

College Connections

Don't feel that you will not be able to continue your Paganism once you left home and head out to college. Each college has a Pagan community in the form of a group. There are usually special meetings, rituals, as well as community based activities all within the Pagan group. For some teens this is the first Pagan group that they are in with their peers instead of all adults which makes it very fun and exciting at the same time.

There is also a newly forming group called The National League of Pagan Students. This group is a combined effort of the Pagan groups of every college to join together and educate one another as well as grow as Pagans. In the group students must maintain a good GPA and contribute service to the Pagan community. The group is very busy and lots of fun. If you are heading to college soon be sure to check out a branch of this group at your local college.

Pagan Resources

There are many Pagan resources for kids, however, they seem to be hard to find. Below is a small list of the ones we found for you to check out. If you know of others or want your own listed here feel free to email us!

PaganMoonbeams@yahoo.com



W. Lyon Martin
artist • writer • storyteller • presenter



roots & shoots



**Grey School
of
Wizardry**



Meagan Stories



intelligent info for today's pagan kids...and it's free!

**PAGAN KIDS!
GUIDES**



ANCIENT LIGHT

Challenge for the mind, fun for the hands, joy for the soul

Mystical Evening

By: TristÅ

Take the time, each month, to have a mystical evening with your family, focusing on our monthly theme. Make this the time that Paganism and modern day meet within your own realm. Involve all members of the family, allowing them to help and gain knowledge, both, with this one day. To get you started on ideas, take a look at some listed below.

At the Table Discussions

Share a story of when you or someone you know celebrated a rite of passage. Tell funny stories and small details as casual conversations. Ask your children which rites they would like to have and some of the things they want at them. Let them know if there are any coming up, especially if they are for them. They will love you sharing this knowledge with them.

Showing food stages

In your meal include some things that show food at different stages. It will help with the discussion of rites of passage. When food has a rite of passage it is simply prepared which in itself is a celebration of sorts honoring the stage it is in. When we bless our food with the God and Goddess we are also showing our thanks to the food that made it to our table.

Some ideas for food to do this with are:

- Peppers (they change colors as they grow and with each color is a different flavor; hot, mild, bland)
- Tomatoes (they are good as fried green tomatoes and as they age into the familiar red)
- Grapes (they are good when they are in their prime as well as when they are almost dead as raisins)
- Fish (we eat them as eggs, caviar and as they age in fish dishes)
- Chickens (are eaten before they are born in the form of an egg and then as they grow in chicken dishes)

Moving Around

Now that the worst part of winter is over it is a great time to consider having your mystical evening somewhere other than the house. You may need to add a few more candles, move things around, or simply lay out a few more blankets in places that you never thought you could hold this great dinner at. I have held them in sheds, garages, behind a grove of trees, and in the car before.

When thinking of new places to explore it is wise to also think of the symbolic or connection to the topic of the month, sometimes it will turn out that this was the reason we chose it anyway. Things seem to come together when we use our creative thoughts. The goddess does move in mysterious ways and thoughts are a well-known mode.

Do not worry if the place you chose holds no meaning except it is the warmest, or the only one that holds all the things you are preparing. The thoughts of why it was chosen may come in the middle of eating, a month after the event, or not at all. The most important thing is that you have a new place to hold your sacred event, which will hold meaning in itself.

To The Parent

By: Raven

RAVEN'S NOTE TO PARENTS

Hello Parents! Well another month has passed. My how the year is flying! As time passes on our children seem to grow in leaps and bounds. Celebrating their changes is a wonderful way to recognize and honor their growth. With younger children, they always want to grow up so fast. Simple rites of passage, even of the smallest kind, will help them feel like they are really growing without the need to jump from diapers to high heels.

Recognize and celebrate the small achievements and milestones as well as the large. For smaller milestones, keep it simple. You don't want them to seem unimportant, but, at the same time, you don't want to over do things. A special cupcake with a candle in it and maybe a chant that encompasses what you're celebrating with your child is a simple, yet special way to celebrate these smaller milestones.

For larger rites of passage, plan ahead and really make a day of it. Try to figure out what you'll need or what your child may need. Celebrating a rite of passage is great, but if the one's whose rite it is doesn't feel comfortable with it then it may not go so well. Depending upon the type of rite, talk to your child and get their input. What would they want or how would they plan if it were up to them? Now this won't be true in all instances. You can't always get a child's input, but there are times that it may work out. A coming of age rite would be a good one to get input on, but a child is obviously too young to have any say in a Naming or Blessing ceremony.

Rites of Passage are exciting times. There are so many changes in life and things we take for granted. We sometimes get so caught up in life that those moments, small and large seem to slip by. To a 30 year old, celebrating another birthday may not be exciting, but to a 4 year old about to turn 5, the whole world is about to open up to them in their eyes because they are a WHOLE YEAR older! These are the things we should celebrate and not let pass as just another thing that happens. Point out the magick and wonder in any rites you may attend. While a Summerlands Rite may not be a momentous occasion of great joy, there is still magick there. Make sure you remain open enough to be able to point these instances out to your children.

While we all may celebrate rites of passage in different manners, what we all have in common is that we celebrate the importance of these moments. These are once in a lifetime happenings. How many times will your youngest child turn 1? How many times will we go through a Croning? I'm pretty sure the answer is once. So, make the moments memorable and celebrate them and the magick that surrounds us. Make sure your children understand the importance and answer all questions as they arise. Last, but not least, while as grown-ups we may not WANT to get older, enjoy the changes as they come.

Until next time, may the blessings of the Lord and Lady be upon you!

** Article requests, questions, or comments can be emailed to raven@paganmoonbeams.com **

Special Pagans

By: Raven

Sharing your Pagan faith with your children can sometimes prove a difficult task, especially if one of those children has special needs. First and foremost, remember that you are the best parent and teacher for your child. As the mother of a special needs child I often have to re-think the way I am conveying a message. Each month we will cover a different topic, and while I will give suggestions for ways to convey meanings, in the end, it is you, the parent, who knows which ways work best for your child.

Celebrating rites of passage for your special pagan is, in my opinion, very important. It is as important to celebrate their small accomplishments as well as their larger ones. To the rest of the world, simple tasks to us like tying our shoes or moving up to the next reading level isn't anything difficult, but to our special pagans these could be very huge steps. Now, I'm not saying that this is the case for all of our special pagans, but I am just trying to point out that even some of the simplest accomplishments should be recognized and not just glossed over. For our wonderful children, who give us the ability to look at the world differently, those small tasks may have taken them some time to complete, so why not celebrate?

So how do we celebrate the smaller accomplishments? Maybe a dinner of their favorite foods is the way to go. You may want to take them for a special outfit, or out for ice cream. Maybe even a special piece of jewelry or a crystal would be appropriate. Whatever you decide for these smaller rites, keep it simple. Make sure that it is different from the everyday usual, but not so different, or big, that it makes the larger rites not seem to carry a great importance. Also, be sure to explain why you are giving them something or doing something special.

When it comes time to plan for a larger Rite of Passage, such as Coming of Age ceremony or a Handfasting, be sure to include your special pagan. Any rites meant for them should always have their best interest and their abilities in mind. If you know they don't do well in situations where there are lots of people, don't plan a rite where the attendees are many. All nuances, even the smallest one, should be taken into consideration. The same applies if you will be attending a rite of passage for someone else with your special pagan. Giving them the information they need or the basic layout of how the rite will be performed will help them understand. Try to walk them through the basic steps of the rite. Make sure to let your special pagan know who the rite is for, why it is happening, what is being celebrated, etc. In my own experience, I have found it is better to really explain things to my special pagan and give her "advance warning" as I like to call it. When she knows the whats and whys of things, she is so much better equipped to handle the situation. It also makes things go smoother. Another way to prepare your special pagan is through pictures. If there is anyone, including you, who has gone through this rite before, pull out the photo albums where the pictures are and show him or her what they may see or experience. It's just another way of helping them understand what will be happening around them.

Whatever the rite, or celebration, enjoy the moment. Try to see things from your special pagan's viewpoint. Help them to make the magickal connection with the day and the celebration. As many questions as they may have, answer those and then ask them how the celebration makes them feel. Find out from your special pagan what they were thinking as the rite was going on. At the end of the day, you want your special pagan to be happy and comfortable, so do what you feel is needed to make sure that happens. However you celebrate for your special pagan, I am sure it will be the most perfect rite for them.

Until next time, blessings abound!

To The Parent

By: TristÅ

What Should the Kids Know?

It is difficult sometimes to decide whether or not to include your children in all things Pagan. The subject is so touchy that many families steer clear from it for the most part.

Involving your children does not mean that they should attend things with you all the time, sometimes just knowing what is going on is enough. Taking a child to a Pagan gatherings without them knowing what is going to happen there may be a mistake.

I remember once taking my daughter to her first Pagan Pride Day event at the age of 7. While watching the belly dancers she blurted rather loudly, "I'm tired of watching that old woman dancing." As a parent and a fairly known person in my local Pagan chapter I was totally embarrassed. I then pulled my daughter aside and explained about why the woman was dancing and how she needed to act as part of the audience. It is times like this that you question yourself as to why you didn't prepare your child in advance.

You can simply tell your child what you did while you were gone, and get specific so they actually know. You don't have to include anything you feel not age appropriate, but the basics should be covered. Telling them you went to a ritual, what it celebrated, and a few things you saw while you were there is usually enough information for most kids. Of course, the older ones could know more.

Whenever you feel it is time to include them in Pagan gatherings then do so. Some feel from day one while other's feel a certain level of maturity should be there first. When you do it is entirely up to you and your beliefs, just be sure to prepare your child first; this should not be a sink and swim experience.

Rites of Passage

All Pagans have rites of passage ceremonies and times, each path however has different names and times they are celebrated. You should educate your child on the rites of passage; it is one of the Pagan things that they can look forward to. Share when you or those you know celebrate and allow them to watch or be educated on the subject.

Beginner's Magick Series

Pagan Moonbeams would like to start a Beginner's Magick Series for the teen and above age levels. The series will show small magick from different Pagan paths so they can be compared. The page itself for this series will be located in the parent section of Moonbeams so it can be distributed with parental consent.

We hope you enjoy it !

