

PLUS: SPECIAL SECTION ON MAGICAL ARTS & CRAFTS

No. 45

Pan Gala

A PAGAN JOURNAL FOR THINKING PEOPLE

**Should Pagans
proselytize?**

One nation, under Goddess

*Why America's Founding Fathers are our
best allies in the fight for religious freedom.*

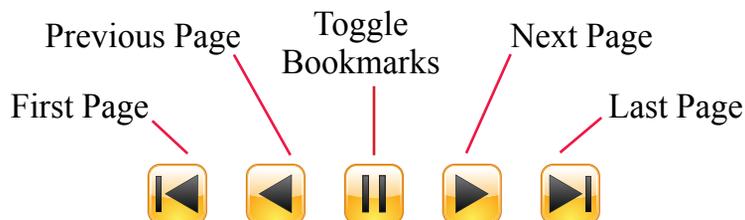


Magazines that feed your soul and liven your spirits.



Navigation Controls

Availability depends on reader.



PanGaia: A Pagan Journal for Thinking People

SPECIAL SECTION! **PAGAN ARTS & CRAFTS**

SCRAPBOOK OF SHADOWS

Scrapbooking your Pagan life can seem a daunting task. But like all grand endeavors, creating a scrapbook breaks down into smaller, more manageable jobs. *By Michelle Benedicta with Elizabeth Barrette... 25*

MAGICAL SCROLL BEADS

If you are looking for a way to make your magic real, there's nothing better than finding a simple, fun craft that reinforces intention with concrete action. Scroll beads is just such a craft. *By Autumn Damiana... 32*

HOOF AND HORN: RITUAL CRAFTS WITH ANIMAL PARTS

My apartment is full of skulls, bones, antlers, fur, feathers, and leather. They aren't there by accident: the vast majority become integrated into my ritual tools. *By Lupa... 37*

MILAGROS: LITTLE MIRACLES FOR ALL

The use of *milagros*, a tradition in the Southwestern U.S. as well as in Central and South America, bears striking similarities to Pagan customs. *By Joan Robinson-Blumit... 39*

FAIRY FROND QUILTING

Quilting is a quintessential folk art that dates back many generations. We decided to interview two Pagan quilters and ask them about their unique perspective on this popular craft. *Interview by Elizabeth Barrette... 43*

I'M NOT CRAFTY – AND THE GODS DON'T MIND

An online search of "spiritual crafting" pulls up spiritually-minded groups hosting circles where members bring their projects (typically knitting, crochet, or sewing) and work together with spiritual discussion. But what about those of us who can't stitch a straight line to save our lives? *By Carol Haytko... 45*

ON THE COVER: ONE NATION UNDER GODDESS

As Pagans we often imagine ourselves on the fringes, but rather than thinking of ourselves as rebels, let us strive to restore America to Her original ideals. I propose that we identify those figures from history that will help us in our quest to strengthen religious liberty and ask for their help. Let us call upon our American ancestors. *By Diana Paxson... 17*

Plus: a survey of global resources for religious liberty. *By Kenaz Filan... 21*

Image © Corbis 2006



47

PanGaia: A Pagan Journal for Thinking People

PAGAN ARTS & CRAFTS (cont.) HANDCRAFTED RITUAL TOOLS

A look inside Melbourne, Australia's ritual tools industry.
By Ian Rorke with Lisa McSherry... 47

FEATURE NORTH DAKOTA PAGANS

As one of the most sparsely-inhabited states, one might imagine North Dakota would be a wasteland for Pagan culture. But scrappy Roughriders find community nonetheless — or make it themselves. By Kenaz Filan... 51

POETRY

- Birth of Fall by Renée Hummel... 16
- Nine Patch by Elizabeth Barrette... 24
- Craftwise by Elizabeth Barrette... 36
- Music in the Leaves by Fredric Zydeck... 38
- Casting Light by Elizabeth Barrette... 46
- Willing Sacrifice by Mary Pat Mann... 53

COLUMNS

- IMPRESSIONS By Elizabeth Barrette... 3
- UNDERWORLD By R. J. Stewart... 55
- TAROT JOURNEY By Joanna Powell Colbert... 59
- MIND AND MAGIC By Judy Harrow... 63
- RITE BEHAVIOR By Kenaz Filan... 65
- CONNECTIONS By Archer... 80

DEPARTMENTS

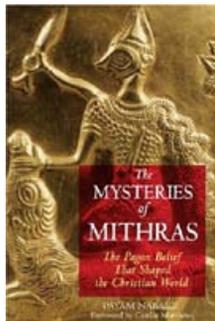
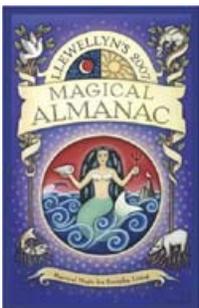
- FEEDBACK LOOP Letters from Our Readers... 5
- TOE-TO-TOE Debate and Controversy: Should Pagans Proselytize?... 9
- POINT OF VIEW Perspectives from Our Readers... 15
- INNER CIRCLE PanGaia recommends... 69
- MARKETPLACE Goods, Services and Ideas... 78

Cover image © Corbis 2006



© 2006 clipart.com

9



69

OUR FEATURED ARTIST

Canadian April Caverhill is an illustrator and fibre artist living in Victoria, British Columbia. You may visit her online portfolio at www.caverhillquilts.com, or write to her c/o PanGaia.

The Art of the Craft



"It is in the gift for employing all the vicissitudes of life to one's own advantage and to that of one's craft that a large part of genius consists."

– Georg C. Lichtenberg

Everything that you create arises from some hidden place within you and emerges into the world through your actions. You put a little bit of your spirit into each thing that you make. You take the tools and supplies around you, and shape them into things of worth and beauty. Your experiences become part of your creations. That's craft — and sometimes, that's genius.

As Pagans, we believe that the world is alive. All things contain spirit. The stones, the metals, the woods, the fibers, the pigments, everything we work with — we understand that these things do not wholly belong to us. We did not cause them to exist. Yet when we take them into our hands and give them a new form, we create works of art. We begin with raw materials and turn them into something unique, based on our own inner vision. Those creations belong to us, made as much with our time and our imagination as with the goods themselves. They are expressions of ourselves, and therefore sacred.

Why do we create things? It is part of what makes us human. Primates have existed for millions of years; even hominids are not very new. What's new is this creative spark that emerged about 35,000 to 40,000 years ago. From that period onward, we have cave paintings, beads, statues, musical instruments, and other artifacts that demonstrate our ancestors' love of beauty as well as practicality.

Many of the surviving examples are sacred crafts, things made for the glory of the gods, for magical or

spiritual purposes. We see shamans and magicians working their magic. We see gods and goddesses, each with their unique symbols of fertility, might, wisdom, and other powers. We see abstract patterns that may represent "landmarks" in the realms where the spirit travels. Ceremonial containers give us hints of their uses, like the canopic jars of ancient Egypt. Murals and friezes on walls show us rites otherwise forgotten.

Sometimes all that we have left of a culture is its crafts. Stone and bone, ceramic and paint, even parchment and ink — these can outlive their artists by thousands of years. We are left with potshards and parts of statues, fading paint like footsteps where others have gone before us. These things survive the ravages of time. They tell us what our ancestors considered important, beautiful, holy.

Crafts are as diverse and ubiquitous as religions. This is because they both spring from the same source. Divinity is creative; therefore we are creative. Most religions posit that humans are created in the image (or at least an image) of the Divine. Since we were made by a Great Creator, we must naturally be creators ourselves. That divine spark burns within us all, demanding we let it shine forth.

Perhaps you whittle wood into wands, or mold clay into chalices and bowls. Perhaps you weave altar cloths, sew ritual robes, or embroider magical samplers. Perhaps you make flower arrangements or centerpieces for sabbat decorations. Maybe, though, you haven't yet found the craft that calls to you, the one that lets your spirit spill out almost effortlessly through your fingers. Keep searching. You will find it — or more precisely, it will find you.

Sacred crafts characterize much of the contemporary Pagan community. Go to any Pagan festival

and walk down the Merchants' Row. There you will discover an amazing diversity of folk art. There will be ritual robes glittering with metallic embroidery, or quieter ones of homespun wool; candles in all colors and shapes; handmade soaps to cleanse your body before a ceremony; gold and silver jewelry set with sparkling gems, honoring dozens of deities. There will be all these things and more.

Sometimes people make fun of us for buying so much "stuff." Magic, they say, lives in the magician and not in the tools. Religion, they say, lives in the soul and not in the altar trappings. Well, that's true — as far as it goes. But the objects we make and use are special, even so. They speak to us. You've heard them, I'm sure. You've walked past a merchant's table or squeezed through a dusty antique shop, and heard some treasure whisper your name or felt a gentle tug at your sleeve.

Certain objects evoke in us a sense of awe and reverence. They enchant us, making us more aware of the magic that flows around and through us all the time. They bless us with small symbols of divinity that our limited yet open minds can comprehend, making us more receptive to the vast and marvelous deities whose totality far exceeds our capacity. They are bridges between what was and what is, between what we are and what we could become. Touchstones. Mile markers. Signs along the way.

The crafts we choose send a message. They speak to everyone who sees them, touches them, interacts with them. There is the elemental balance of clay, earth and water fixed by air and fire into a permanent form. There is the delicacy of paper crafts, the sturdiness of stone. There is the indomitable will of iron, the flowing grace of silver, the richness of gold. There is a quilt woven of patience and pieced with love. The things we make, or acquire and keep around us, whisper who we are even when we are not there.

Looking around my room I can see examples: a wall hanging braided

PanGaia

Issue #45 —

November 2006 - January 2007

Publisher

Blessed Bee, Inc. aka BBI Media

Editor-in-Chief

Anne Newkirk Niven

Managing Editor

Elizabeth Barrette

Art Editor, Cover Design & Invaluable IT Support

Alan P. Niven

Proofreader

Shanti Fader

Office Deities

Christina White & Tim Hall

PanGaia Office

PO Box 687, Forest Grove, OR
97116. Customer service
call toll-free in U.S. and Canada,
888-724-3966 or 503-430-8817,
fax 206-309-0589.

On the Web:

www.pangaia.com

e-mail:

www.bbimedia.com/email

PanGaia welcomes submissions of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, reviews, photography and art from women and men of all Earth-affirming spiritual paths. For submission guidelines or queries, please email the Managing Editor at www.bbimedia.com/email.

In 2012 *PanGaia* is now part of *Witches&Pagans* magazine.

Contents © 2006, 2012 BBI Media, Inc. Printed in the United States on recycled paper.

from brightly colored rags, sketches and paintings of characters from favorite stories, a dreamcatcher made from white leather and blue macaw feathers, brilliant skirts and blouses for dancing around bonfires, a copper cauldron still bearing hammer marks like dragon scales, and a goddess figurine made from clay that I dug and fired many years ago. Some of these I've made myself, others have been gifts from friends or things I've bought. All of them reflect a little of who I am.

What do people see of you in the things you've made or collected? What do the gods see, when you lay out your altar and dress for ritual?

In this issue, we celebrate "Sacred Crafts" — all manner of arts and crafts devoted to spiritual or magical expression. Our lead feature for this section is "Scrapbook of Shadows" by Michelle Benedicta and me. This article explains how to use scrapbook techniques to preserve memories and cultural material, so that people many years from now will know what the Pagan community was like in our time. Sidebars introduce useful tools, supplies, and vocabulary.

Next "Magical Scroll Beads" by Autumn Damiana describes the construction of beads from colored paper, as an aid in spellcasting. In "Hoof and Horn: Working With Animal Parts," Rebecca Lexa explores the uses of such materials as bone, antler, leather, fur, and feathers. She covers both the artistic and the ethical aspects. "Milagros: Little Miracles for All" by Joan Robinson-Blumit shares a piece of Latino culture. These tiny charms can represent fulfillment of a vow or acknowledgement of a miracle.

In "Crafting the Spiral," Carol Haytko takes a look at creativity from the perspective of a noncrafty person. What does it mean when you love art, but seem to have no knack for making it?

We also have two features that introduce some Pagan artisans. "Faery Frond Quilting" is an interview with Cara Anam and Robe'.

"Handcrafted Tools" is part interview and part photospread, covering the work of several Australian folks.

Our lead article for this issue is a timely discussion of politics and religion. Pagan scholar Diana Paxson presents "American Ancestors: Invoking the Founding Fathers to Guard Our Religious Freedoms." This is accompanied by Kenaz Filan's "Not Just the Red, White, and Blue," a thoughtful sidebar on religious rights in Anglophone countries outside the United States. Back inside the states, Kenaz also explores the opportunities for "North Dakota Pagans."

For "Point of View" this time, Georgie L. Schnobrich reveals "Why I Love the Halloween Witch." I had the good fortune to sit on a panel presentation with the author, and I found her description of fairytale and Halloween witches so fascinating that I talked her into writing it down for me. There's more to this archetype than meets the eye.

In "Toe to Toe" our debaters tackle the question, "Should Pagans Proselytize?" Don't worry, nobody will be ringing your doorbell anytime soon ... but maybe they should be.

A generous selection of poetry this issue includes "Birth of Fall," "Nine Patch," "Music in the Leaves," "Craftwise," "Casting Light," and "Willing Sacrifice."

It's autumn. The year is winding down. Leaves turn colors and fall, casting a quilt over the cold ground. Ice feathers decorate the windowpanes. Now is the perfect season to spend some time indoors, learning a new craft or practicing an old favorite. You can get a headstart on the holiday gift season by making things for your loved ones. Just look through these pages for inspiration, and enjoy! ▲

— Elizabeth Barrette is the Managing Editor of *PanGaia*. She lives in Charleston, Illinois. You can write her c/o *PanGaia* or email her at www.bbimedia.com/email.