

# witches & pagans

Earthwise Spirituality for Today



## Between the Worlds

Charismatic, Enigmatic Cernunnos • Meeting Elen of the Ways  
Cunning Folk and the Fairy Faith • Cooking with Gwion Raven  
Race & Identity in Fairy Lore • In the Footsteps of the Ancients

ISSUE 39

## BETWEEN THE WORLDS



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## People, Place, &amp; Practice

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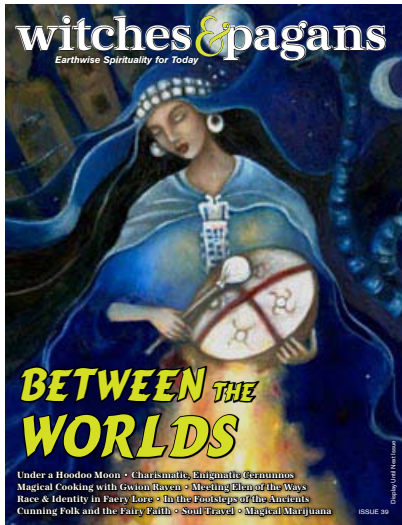
**25 A Liminal Practice: Cunningfolk and the Fairy Faith.** Despite the risks, there have always been some — the cunning folk, the poets, the healers and storytellers — who have good relations with the faeries. Pagan author and folklorist **Danu Forest** discusses the history and lore of fairy in the Celtic imagination. *With original artwork by Clinton Meister.*

**30 The (White) Elephant in the Room: Race & Identity in Fairy Lore.** In pop culture, we almost always see fairies as white. Pagan Folklorist **Morgan Daimler** describes how this non-traditional view came to be, and what we can do about it. *With original art by Kate Freuler.*



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# CONTRIBUTORS the people who make the magic happen

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## OUR COVER ARTIST



### CLAUDIA OLIVOS

(cover image "Kuyen: Moon Goddess of Chile & Argentina") is an intuitive artist whose paintings celebrate and honor the Divine Feminine. Claudia spends her days at her easel, channeling symbolic visions

into images on the canvas, paper, and clay. Find her work at [olivostudio.com](http://olivostudio.com).

## FEATURED ARTISTS

A chronic illness led **MELISSA PANDINA** (artwork for "Charismatic, Enigmatic Cernunnos") to delve into animism. Her work centers on bringing folklore to life. She primarily works in oil, pen and ink, and watercolor. She is working on an Oracle Deck. Find her at [www.etsy.com/store/deshriaiillustration](http://www.etsy.com/store/deshriaiillustration).



A freelance illustrator based in Brooklyn, **SAGE COTIGNOLA** (artwork for "Walking on the Road of Sarn Helen") creates detailed, narrative drawings and paintings. Her work stems from her interest in storytelling

and in the mythologies that we use to construct our sense of self, our understanding of the universe, and our place in the world. Find her at [sagecotignola.com](http://sagecotignola.com).

**CLINTON MEISTER** (artwork for "A Liminal Practice") is a self-taught artist and outsider for life. He loves to create visual monsters with pen and ink and enjoys painting vultures, squid, and nature's creepy li'l creatures. Find him at [www.instagram.com/cmeisterartz](http://www.instagram.com/cmeisterartz).



The author of *Of Blood and Bones: Working with Shadow Magick and the Dark Moon*, (Llewellyn) **KATE FREULER** (artwork for "The (White) Elephant in the Room") owns and operates the online witchcraft shop [www.whitemoonwitchcraft.com](http://www.whitemoonwitchcraft.com).

## WRITERS & INTERVIEWERS



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A writer, transformational traveler, and fiber artist, **ELYN AVIVA** is fascinated by journeys of self-discovery, both exterior and interior, and by powerful places and sacred sites. Her articles are published on [www.YourLifeIsATrip.com](http://www.YourLifeIsATrip.com). Elyn and her husband Gary White co-author the series *Powerful Places Guidebooks* and enjoy life in Oviedo, Spain. See her page at [www.pilgrimsprocess.com](http://www.pilgrimsprocess.com).



**DANU FOREST** is a *Bean Feasa*, or traditional Celtic Wisewoman of Irish and British heritage, who has studied upon the Celtic path for over 30 years. She is noted for her many years' experience,

her gifts a natural seer, as well as her scholarly research. She lives in the wild marshes surrounding Glastonbury Tor and is the author of several books, including *Celtic tree magic: ogham lore and druid mysteries* (Llewellyn 2014) and *Wild Magic* (Llewellyn 2020). She holds an MA in Celtic Studies and wrote her thesis on Fairy lore. For more info, courses, readings and consultations go to [danuforest.co.uk](http://danuforest.co.uk)



**MORGAN DAIMLER** ("The (White) Elephant in the Room") has presented papers on the intersection of fairies and fiction for The Ohio State University's "Fairies and the Fantastic" conference and the "Ill Met By Moonlight" conference. Morgan is the author of many books including the urban fantasy/paranormal romance series *Between the Worlds*, and *Fairy Witchcraft*, *Fairies*, and *A New Dictionary of Fairies* (Moon Books.)

### DEBRA DEANGELO

(interviewer "Making Magic . . . in the Kitchen with Gwion Raven") is the author of *The Elements of Horse Spirit — The Magical Bond Between Humans and Horse* and *Pagan Curious — A Beginner's Guide to Nature, Magic & Spirituality*. She is a garden variety Pagan, living in northern California. Contact her at [debradeangelo.com](http://debradeangelo.com).



**HANNAH SPENCER** ("In the Footsteps of the Ancients") writes visionary, historical and paranormal fiction, and non-fiction while working on a dairy sheep farm. She finds that hours in the milking



parlor offer much scope for thinking up story ideas. She is the author of *The Story of Light*, *The Wolf of Allendale*, *Dreamweaver* and several short stories. Find her online at <http://hannah-spencer-author.weebly.com>, <http://light-onecandle.blogspot.com>, and <http://ouroboros-series.blogspot.com>.

## WELCOME OUR NEW COLUMNIST

**STEPHANIE ROSE BIRD** ("Under a Hoodoo Moon") is an author and visionary artist. She is also a Green Witch, Shaman and Hoodoo, living in the Chicago area with her husband, family, and critters. Her books on Hoodoo include *Sticks, Stones, Roots and Bones: Hoodoo, Mojo and Conjuring with Herbs* and *365 Days of Hoodoo: Daily Rootwork, Mojo & Conjuration*. Her eighth book, *Spirits in my Bones: Ancestral Magick for Heart & Soul* is soon-to-be-released by Llewellyn Worldwide. ♦



**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS.** We are currently accepting articles and poetry for the following issues: #40 "Paranormal Paganism," #41 "Solitary Spirituality," and #42 "Transformation & Restoration." Contact editor, Anne Newkirk Niven, [sagewitchniven@gmail.com](mailto:sagewitchniven@gmail.com) to submit your work.



**Keep on Swimming.** Reflections on the virtues of persistence, hope, and just plain cussedness in contemporary Paganism.

**A**s I write this, it's February, 2022, and Covid-19 is still with us, after two of the longest years of my life. The newest variant "Omicron" is rampant, so it's back to masking, as well as shutdowns, at least here in Oregon, with hospitalizations and deaths higher than even the Delta surge, or the original. But I'm not really here to write about the pandemic, 'cuz I am bone dead tired of all that, and I'm pretty sure that you, dear reader, are as well.

Instead, I'd like to reflect on why I continue this specific work.

I'll be honest: this issue is an entire year overdue. Our last issue, #38, came out in October of 2020, and then the entire year of 2021 got away from me. Not a day has gone by without one of our patient readers asking: "when will the next issue come out?" On the surface, my current answer to that question is a cheat, because I'm writing this knowing that the issue you are holding in your hands *is* the next issue. But the question now resets to: "when will issue #40 be out?" (My current answer is, "in the fall.")

More deeply, the answer of "when" is nested inside another question: "why?" This was once a profitable family business but that ended during the Great Recession, and is now a passion project which I pursue between multiple day jobs. So why keep going?

When folks ask me this question, I often respond, "Because I'm too stubborn to quit." But the real answer is less flippant, and closer to the bone: because, in the words of a certain pop culture Pagan, "destiny is all." Doing this, I believe, is why I'm still Pagan, still connected to the Goddess, and still alive and kicking.

Backing up a bit, let me begin by acknowledging one thing: I feel intensely grateful for the support of our readers, writers, artists, and advertisers over the last thirty years that I have been publishing Pagan magazines. I have worked with, quite literally, hundreds, if not thousands, of people in creating these magazines. Starting with *SageWoman* (in 1986) and continuing with *The Green Man*, *PanGaia*, *The Blessed Bee*, *newWitch* and now *Witches&Pagans*, my entire adult life has been interwoven with the literary side of Pagan community.

Ironically, I've only been a member of an active, in-real-life Pagan circle for about five of those years. The other quarter century, I've been a solitary, and a rather low-key one at that. Yes, I have an altar, and our family says a Pagan grace every night before dinner, but most of my Pagan thoughts, ideas, longings, desires, and devotions are poured directly into these magazines. My life purpose is to bring the work of others to fruition, gently nudging, crafting, editing, designing, and encouraging other Pagans to share their inspirations with our communities. It feeds my soul to midwife these amazing voices of our community into the world. And that's why I fight to keep *W&P* going.

Your cause may (and probably is) different than mine, but when you find your reason for living, I urge you: be stubborn! Stubbornness is so needed now. Today's challenges — especially the environmental damage to our ecosphere — may seem overwhelming. In the past, we papered over many of them, but the cost of pushing Earth to her limits is now becoming all too apparent. But it is not than than despair, it is time to dig in.

Hard times make for hard gods and I am witnessing accelerating changes in our many contemporary Pagan cultures. Old ways die, and new are born: I expect us to be called to work harder, and see further, rather than rest on our past accomplishments. Paganism has indeed been reborn in the 20th and 21st centuries, but now comes the time to mature beyond our (relatively) blissful childhoods.

A few decades ago, it was common for us to imagine a mythical golden age — often coded as Anglo-Saxon-Nordic-Celtic white — agrarianism as the source of all Pagan culture. Today, we increasingly realize that our paths must embrace a multi-cultural future, in which no single pantheon, race, or culture dominates Pagan discourse. To thrive in this rapidly evolving world, our challenge is to connect ever more deeply to the landforms and to the cultures in which we actually live today. We must venerate our ancestors, true — but think mostly of our descendants.

Fortunately, we Pagans are nothing if not inventive — and stubborn. After millennia of cultural domination by Power Over ideologies, we have rediscovered, reinvented, and created new faiths that honor all the living beings of Earth, and the Land itself. Surely we can keep finding new ways to grow, change, and persevere.

Never give up, never surrender, dear ones. May the gods, goddesses, and spirits bless us all. ♦

**ANNE NEWKIRK NIVEN** is the Editor of *SageWoman* and *Witches&Pagans* magazines, and the *PaganSquare.com* community blogosphere. She lives near Portland, Oregon.

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