

Reminder!

All material and artwork in TBP is copyrighted and belong to the author\artist or their publisher. You must contact them for permission to reprint. Sometimes I can help locate them, but TBP cannot grant reprint permission on Her own.

Please respect the authors and artists.



A Journal of Women's Mysteries

11506 NE 113th Pl. Kirkland, WA 98033



Issue 42 Beltane, 10,008th Year of the Goddess

The Beltane Papers exists to provide women with a safe place within which to explore and express the sacred in their lives, to educate, empower, encourage and entertain, to inspire, support and reinforce their perception of reality. Published 3 times annually. All rights revert. ISSN # 1074-3634.

Reincarnated Beltane, 10,008th year of the Goddess (2008)

TBP mailing address for submissions, editorial, business, subscriptions, advertising: 11506 NE 113th Pl. Kirkland, WA 98033 **Phone:** (425)827-7004 (Messages only) **General e-mail:** editor@thebeltanepapers.net
Website: <http://thebeltanepapers.net>

Guiding Lights: Helen Farias, Carolyn Hadley, Marione Thompson Helland, Shekhinah Mountainwater

Table of Contents

Subscriptions

<i>Entourage of Women</i> by Angela Hayden <i>Goddess at Her Chores</i> by Colleen Webster	Cover page 3
<i>Embracing the Feminine Consciousness; A Revolution of Thought</i> by Karen Tate	page 4
<i>Rainbow Frowns</i> by Stephanie Pflumm	page 7
<i>The Fifth Annual Wise Woman's Festival</i> by Flash Silvermoon	page 8
<i>Living the Dream: A Pagan Career</i> by EarthShod	page 11
<i>Motifs in Migration; from Siberia to Scandinavia</i> by Mary B. Kelly	page 12
<i>Magic Stitches</i> by Tammy Evans	page 13

US rates: Sample \$2.50	1 year/3 issues \$7.50
In Canada: Sample \$300	1 year/3 issues \$9.00US
Elsewhere: Sample \$350	year/3 issues \$12.00 US

Guiding Goddess: I thought at first She seemed to be the Muses, but She revealed Herself as Goddess of Community. She is the community just as the community is the Goddess. They are inseparable. She has no name yet is present where we gather, She has no face but our own, Her voice is the sound of ours in unison.

Disclaimer: The opinions and ideas of the contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of all the staff members.

The Beltane Papers

A Journal of Women's Mysteries

Beltane, 10,008th year of the Goddess

Issue 42 - \$2.50



"Encouragement of Women" by Angela Hayden

Goddess At Her Chores

by Colleen Webster

*Yesterday, doing laundry again,
she went through the pocketsof
the world and so found much that*



*would have
snaggedin
that circular
washer motion.
Carefully she
extracted*

*arm-size roots,
lace trimmed
with rootlet
filaments,
random bulbs,
spores, geologic wonders of igneous
and metaconglomerate chunks from
eras and eons ago.*

*The bones of long dead humans and
even longer extinct species jumbled
with seeds of echinacea, sage, elm,
shagnut hickory, and groundsel; the
salted scales of fish furtively played*

*in the mulchy mix, gases and waters
rising out of the depth until she
turned from her task and let it all
go, stopped her searching, sorting,
and starching. Someday she might*

*miss folding the laundry, but until
then, she spends her time gathering
acorns, snake skins, and box turtle
shellsto line her own pockets in case
she ever needs to start a world.*

About the Poet: Colleen Webster lives at the juncture of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay where she runs, bikes, kayaks, and walks with her dog. When she comes inside she writes and teaches at Harford Community College, waiting for her next outdoor foray. Her poetry and essays have been or will be published by the Maryland Poetry Review, ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature, Tacenda, Milkweed Editions, Poetry Midwest, and the DMQ Review. This poem was originally published online in Moondance; Celebrating Creative Women.

About this issue...

These past 6 months have been hard. I became very isolated from the Goddess and Women's spirituality communities. While I felt lonely sometimes, I also slowly began to feel more like myself too. The stresses of Marione dying and trying to continue the magazine as it was, was more than I could handle, it sent me into a spiraling depression.



Now the bills are paid, and I feel much better. I have talked to several people who came up with some great suggestions on keeping the magazine alive. The cost of printing 64 pages with a color cover at 2000 copies cost much more than the magazine was capable of bringing in. We printed that much so that we could fulfill wholesale distribution requests. However, sales are down, the payments we received got smaller and smaller, and the magazine was no longer able to cover its own costs.

To address these issues, I have moved to the format you have in your hands; a 16 page black and white newsletter like publication available through subscription. I gave it a lot of thought. This is how Helen Farias started in the first place some 24 years ago. This is only for a while, only as long as it needs to be. I hope I can add pages until TBP is back up to 64 pages with a color cover.

I have talked with most of the distributors and they are gladly willing to start distributing TBP again as soon as we can get back up to color and 64 pages. This gives us a good start up market when we need it.

For current subscribers, I will double the amount of issues you have coming to you while TBP is in this format. The price for the new issues will be \$2.50 per issue, \$7.50 for a subscription of one year (three issues). This will cover printing and shipping

...continued on page 14

About the cover

Angela Hayden's art is perceptually, subconsciously, and consciously aware of fantasy, symbols, symbolic relationships, abstract ideas, and choice of options as they relate to creative or innovative activities. Perception triggers ideas, a process that just happens - a process often called intuition. It is not a conscious effort to logically "come up with" creative ideas; instead, the process is best identified with the statement that "a thought struck me." She's developed her own distinct, contemporary style.

"Art is my refuge in this world. Art has transformed me from a former homeless, domestic violence victim into a professional artist and survivor."

She's authored, Dead Wrong - the truth about domestic violence, incest and child abuse. You can see her artwork and writings on www.AngelaHayden.Net

Embracing the Feminine Consciousness: *by Karen Tate* A Revolution of Thought *First printed online in The New Age Journal**

People turn to religion in times of chaos. No doubt when St. Paul was run out of Ephesus, lucky to be alive after he tried to turn the masses away from their beloved Goddess Artemis, he must have had his doubts if Christianity would ever stick. Likewise for St. Thomas in 72 CE when he saw an apparition of the Indian Goddess Kali in Calcutta, as he tried to convert the heathens. If you lived and worshiped in Pagan Rome, you probably never thought you would see the day the empire would be dominated by Christians. And if you were an early Christian, fearing for your life, you surely wondered what the future held. In the nineteenth century, it was debated if women had souls. The United States allowed slavery. Women fighting for the vote in America were threatened with institutionalization and arrest for their activism and desire for equality. And the thought of an African American or woman becoming President were unheard of.

One thing is certain - change is inevitable and it occurs when enough people will it, after a profound event, or when circumstances collide that usher in transitions or new beginnings. Some people say the concept of Goddess, whether that be a deity, archetype, or ideal for cultural and social change, is an idea whose time has come and gone. It is little more than a feminist fantasy and discredited spirituality. Millions would disagree and state mainstreaming Goddess Spirituality, or ideals of the Feminine Consciousness, spiritually, culturally, and politically, is an idea that is flowering and finding its way back within mainstream life across continents and cultures.

Why the Feminine Consciousness or Goddess Spirituality?

Goddess, by her many faces across continents and cultures is a role model for tolerance, inclusivity and diversity. She represents restoration of the sacred, oneness and life-affirming values. Whether deity, archetype, or ideal, the "feminine face of god" can become common ground - a broad and diverse umbrella under which many can gather and find safety from the storm of chaos. She makes no demands people worship no other god but her entitling select groups to feel they are the chosen people with the only keys to the kingdom - or with the right to convert the other heathens of the world. No fatwas, inquisitions, or crusades in the name of Goddess. No decimation of foreign cultures deemed "other." Nor does Goddess give humanity the right to dominate and exploit the natural resources of Earth, its people and creatures. Within Goddess Spirituality, we are stewards and caretakers of Earth

and its many peoples, not the masters.

Benefits of embracing Goddess could have some of the aforementioned external effects, but let us not forget the more personal benefits. Women become empowered when they realize the face of the Divine is also feminine. Recognizing the divine within themselves, they are no longer satisfied being relegated to a



rung on the spiritual, cultural and socio-economic ladder below men. They learn they are not meant to take abuse or denigration. However, with that realization comes an added responsibility to step up into their female power and contribute on levels they might not have previously.

Men become whole as they embrace Goddess and in doing so, embrace the so-called feminine aspects

within themselves. Perhaps they discover a new way of being, not just with women, but within the world, as they learn the value of being motivated by cooperation rather than competition, greed and power-over strategies. Qualities once misrepresented as weaknesses are now more accurately viewed as strengths. Gender roles blur within Goddess Spirituality. Along with generations of education and activism, no longer will those with pointed sticks, bombs, and bullets rule the day.

Both genders begin to see the wisdom of complementing each other and recognize the need for balance, harmony, and equality between peoples and the sexes. Humiliation and subjugation of women in all its forms may become taboo rather than the norm. Only when the feminine is known and embraced can both men and women find equilibrium on both the inner and outer planes, and then take the next step toward morphing those ideals into society at large.

And as Goddess Spirituality is reconstructed for the contemporary world, people are doing what they have always done. They cherry-pick the best ideas, they re-interpret, re-define, re-think and re-claim. They assign new and relevant meaning for a contemporary context that moves a movement forward providing benchmarks for living. Goddess becomes the antithesis of many of the world's woes.

Why a Resurgence of the Creative Feminine Consciousness Now?

Here is a short list of why the times are ripe for a change.

For most of us, things have probably never been worse in our lifetime than they are now. People are disgusted and disillusioned with not only our political leaders, but our spiritual leaders as well.

At home and abroad, fundamentalists and extremists, no matter what religion they belong to, have humanity by the throat as these tyrants call for the death of people with different beliefs than theirs. Much of Europe is already much more secular in their thought, having given up on patriarchal religion. People are also tired of the scandals and hypocrisy associated with the Church.

In America, Naomi Wolf, author of *The End of America: A Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot*, convincingly cites the 10 steps a would-be dictator must take to destroy constitutional freedoms and argues the George W. Bush Administration seems to be taking them all. More people are being awakened to the lies, misdeeds, and callousness of “public servants,” the exploitation of people, workers and the environment, and our civil rights slipping. We are tired of dissent or questioning being deemed unpatriotic. Of having to apologize for our government and our country having a black eye on the world scene. And while unanswered questions hint at more scandal to come, we don’t get all the facts because the media outlets have shrunk from dozens to a handful, limiting free speech and public dialogue as our media becomes more stifled and impotent. Instead of unbiased reports, they feed us bread and circuses.

People are tired of religion or economics being used as an excuse for unwarranted repression, discrimination, war that funds the pockets of the rich, and the military industrial complex, with little regard for the spilled blood of the middle class and poor, many of whom volunteered to have a job or get an education. Fear tactics, power mongering, bullying, presidential tantrums and manipulation are becoming not just tiresome but repulsive. Patriarchal domination, capitalist fascism or oppression, disaster exploitation and looming environmental disaster have people craving change making the time ripe for a new way of thinking and being in the world. People want to have hope and the way things are going, the way things have been done, are more clearly being seen as the wrong way. Most people, unless they are part of the problem, and benefitting from the current state of affairs, are ready for a revolution of thought.

And we see the glimmers of awareness as the Feminine Consciousness lifts her veil.

The dogma of human-made patriarchal religion, professing the only valid truth is revering a monotheistic male God, has attempted to dethrone Goddess from her place as Creatrix of the world for thousands of years. People resisted then and now. They changed the names of Goddess to Mary, Mary Magdalene, Guadalupe, and Kwan Yin. They built grand cathedrals in her name. Many who were once blind are starting to see and remember the roots and true origins of the Divine Feminine. She is not a fantasy. Evidence of her lives in museums, art, textiles, parables, myths, and archaeological sites, if we just seek her out. She is the missing piece of the puzzle that can lend harmony and guidance to issues of power, war, and politics. She sheds light on the meaning of love, life, and death. She brings us a mother’s unconditional love and inspires us with hope. To many She embodies the laws of polarity, reciprocity, and attraction. Right action and justice

are her credos.

Though change occurs slowly, after decades of work, Goddess is back in the psyches of many and the idea of the feminine face of god is blossoming. Once knowledge of Goddess might have been limited to discussion in college classrooms or among Academia. Few sources beyond Neo-Pagans suggested it as a viable spirituality in the West. Fortunately, this is no longer the case. No doubt the internet has helped open the floodgates and spread knowledge of Goddess and herstory.

Progressive politicians now publicly call upon the Goddess of Peace and acknowledging the importance of the Divine Feminine’s role in past cultures. To more people environmentalism and care of Mother Earth is as much a science as a religion.

Not long ago, scientists discovering a new star named it Sedna, after an Inuit Goddess, indigenous to the arctic waters of Newfoundland and Canada. Coincidentally or not, Sedna’s myths call for man’s wise use of natural resources lest they face destructive consequences. Women, inspired by Goddess, are mobilizing in innumerable grassroots efforts that will soon emerge as catalysts for positive change. In her *New York Times* bestselling novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd tells the fictional story of a woman finding hope by embracing Goddess. *Bees* has sold four million copies, has been translated into 23 languages, and Hollywood plans to bring the book to the big screen. Look at the millions whose curiosity was piqued and the dialogue that was sparked by *The DaVinci Code* book and movie which challenged traditional beliefs in spite of the inaccuracies. People are asking questions and challenging the status quo and their programming as they realize we are victims of nuanced history. Activism is up and the masses are questioning the “truthiness,” to coin a phrase of Stephen Colbert, of current affairs. Christian writers are writing about the Feminine Face of God.

The most recent American Religious Identification Survey by the City University of New York found one the fastest-growing religions in the United States, when all the many hybrids and traditions are added together, have in common they embrace Goddess. Another sign of change is Wiccans have recently won an important victory when the American Department of Veterans Affairs settled a lawsuit and agreed to add the pentacle to a list of approved religious symbols it will engrave on veterans’ headstones. Events that attract millions, like Burning Man, display altars to various Goddesses. Opportunities such as the Pasadena, CA Temple of the Goddess being given the chance to participate in Charter Cable’s Faith On Demand program so that Goddess Spirituality might define itself to the mainstream public alongside traditional faiths is unprecedented. The Vatican calling a special conference to address the rising interest among people in alternative religions is significant. Goddess advocates are being invited to be a part of the inter-religious dialogue at the prestigious Parliament for World Religions. Internet radio shows provide a platform for voices that speak for the values and herstory of the Sacred Feminine.

Goddess has become part of popular culture and less often mis-interpreted as the one-dimensional female characters of

Classical Greek mythology. The many varied aspects of the Sacred Feminine are being embraced everyday by more and more people as their primary spirituality or as a complement to their existing beliefs, alongside the Divine Masculine. Some wonder if the Divine Couple was ever really divorced or if that separation might be blamed on early patriarchs in their grab for power and control of the people and the female gender. With the resurgent interest in Mary Magdalene, women of more traditional faiths are beginning to awaken to the hidden history of the Church, its repression of female leadership, the bridge to Goddess from Mary, and they are saying we are mad as heck and we aren't going to take it anymore!

What does a World with Goddess at the Center Look Like?

By association with Goddess as life-giver, women once may have held a higher standing within prehistoric societies. That idea would be restored. Women, the backbone of society along with children, will be at the center of society, rather than on the fringe where they are the most vulnerable as females will be recognized as created in the image of Divinity. Sexuality will no longer be seen as taboo. Gender roles might fade. Women would certainly be able to be leaders within their chosen religions as Goddess is restored to her throne alongside God. We have all heard the expression, "the meek will inherit the Earth" - just who are the meek? Perhaps those who care enough to form a global coalition for humanity, with no strings attached for monetary gain, where people would serve their brother and sister because being in service is prized above being in power. In addition to what the aforementioned has already suggested, global issues such as poverty, injustice, hunger, violence, genocide, inequality, and war will no longer be talking points manipulated by political factions, but instead sincere concerns of humans everywhere working together to uplift and solve problems of our human family. Partnership, reciprocity, and right action would be politically correct and survival of the fittest tactics shunned. A responsibility toward others will once again have meaning rather than just paid lip service. Healthcare and education would be rights not privileges. Conscientious Capitalism would replace Predatory Capitalism - or a better methods altogether might be considered, such as a "gift economy" or "caring economics" proposed by Riane Eisler. The treasure from our taxes would go toward building schools and hospitals, not bullets and bombs if we truly want to win hearts and minds. And our great country would lead by example, not dominate with a big stick.

Goddess spirituality, as defined by many contemporary reconstructionists, represents striving for partnership, phasing out hierarchy and power over strategies exchanging them for methods that share leadership, level playing fields with competitors, seeking a win-win situations because it's spiritually and politically correct. Wasn't it Jesus who said a rich man had a better chance of passing through the eye of a needle than entering the kingdom of heaven? Goddess Spirituality could be a piece of the puzzle aiding political and social factors to usher in a revolution of thought where the needs of the many would really win out over the need of the few, the richest, the most powerful, or the most influential. Restoring Goddess to

the world stage might be one vehicle leading humankind toward the hope of peace, harmony, and balance.

Getting There From Here

But how do we get from here to there, speaking both spiritually, culturally and politically?

Like Constantine or not, he used Christianity as a glue to help solidify an empire. Why can't proponents of the Creative Feminine Consciousness do the same?

When one considers the vast time line of history, the last several decades are a blip on the screen and like so many others in the West, we have only just begun a serious process of rediscovering, reclaiming, redefining, rethinking, and remembering Goddess and embracing her spirituality in a contemporary world. One thing that is certain is there are many paths and no one way. We should never forget that - in fact we should embrace our diversity with pride and avoid One Book presuming to have all the rules. And we should remember She didn't disappear overnight and it may be our grandchildren or theirs who see her restored at center stage.

First and foremost, to accomplish this shift, we must stand together. Last year the Washington D.C. switchboard system was shut down with calls that altered an immigration bill. Politics aside, a few weeks ago, the New Hampshire Caucus was upset, pundits speculate, by an unexpected influx of women voters and people responding to Hillary's Clinton's humanity - which some have called an expression of the energy of the Sacred Feminine. We saw how people and nations came together after 9-11. Huge anti-war movements inside and outside the United States have had powerful effects. Even though that energy was squandered by our government, it was alive and could have moved mountains. We saw how several women activists, the Jersey Widows, helped bring about scrutiny of the events of 9-11. Putting her life of privilege aside, we saw how Lady Diana Spencer's life ushered in a more related way of being among society in England, and in her death, the British people's outcry altered the response of the monarchy. We the people are not as impotent as the powers that be would like us to believe.

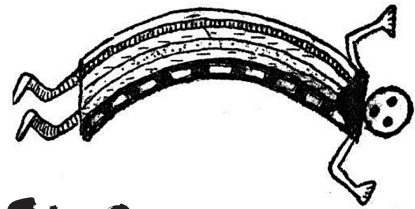
However, those with power are not going to roll over and play dead if they feel threatened they are losing their grip. So again, we must stand together; put aside our internal politics, our personal agendas, for the sake of The Big Picture. We cannot continue squabbling over the scraps at the bottom of the heap while those at the top call the shots and cash-in. The abolition and suffrage movements made progress when they were united. We must do the same again with the growing Creative Feminine Consciousness. And change seems to be happening organically with one example being the presidential campaign, or movement, inspired by Barrack Obama. People are responding to his ideas that reflect the needs of the many and not the few.

Educate, educate, educate. Dispel toxic propaganda and encourage a rethinking of the Divine; the Sacred Feminine alongside the Divine Masculine. Men come to understand embracing Goddess does not mean women want to take over

...continued on page 14

Woman Who Walks:

by Stephanie Pflumm
First printed online in
*The Pagan Activist**



The Rainbow's Frown

The Woman Who Walks was hiking along the dirt path she always took. Quietly greeting her rooted brothers and sisters, who were still dreaming their Winter dreams. Nodding to the Crows that followed and played among bare branches. It was a pleasant day for February and she was happy to be out sharing it with her relations.

Clouds were racing across Father Sky, causing the Woman to look up as they briefly blocked Grandfather Sun. The bare breath of warmth He provided evaporated and she shivered. In that moment of cold, Woman Who Walks saw the saddest sight. A Rainbow gracing the Sky, turned upside down.

"How odd", she thought, "the Rainbow appears to be wearing a frown". Perplexed and concerned, Woman Who Walks wanted to see if she could help the Rainbow turn around again.

"Rainbow, dear friend", she began, "something seems askance in your appearance. Are you well today?"

The Rainbow was silent. Perhaps he could not hear her. After all, the Rainbow was quite high that day, resting just above the Sun. She started to ask again, this time drawing in a large breath so that her question might reach him.

She heard a weary, muffled "Excuse me", as the Rainbow finally responded. "My apologies Woman, I did not appreciate that you were addressing me. What was your question?"

Though Woman Who Walks was glad to hear Rainbow responding, the tone of his voice disturbed her greatly. It carried the sound of resigned surrender. The voice of someone who was giving up hope.

"I am sorry if I am bothering you, sir but you seem different today. Are you feeling ok?"

"No". The abrupt reply was almost angry, if only it had not been so hopeless.

The Woman felt awkward in the silence that followed Rainbow's answer. Eventually she said "I am so sorry. What is wrong dear friend? Is there some way I may help?"

"I am afraid there is no more help. It is probably already too late, and soon I must leave."

His stunning words stole her voice.

"Humans have lost their vision of me. When the storm assaults their lives they cower in fear and pray they will be saved. When the winds calm, the sky clears instead of rejoicing at their salvation and honoring the hope of Rainbows they run in fear and pray they will be saved from the next storm they imagine. They choose one fearful storm after another to fill their lives. Even when their sky is clear!"

Woman Who Walks acknowledged the truth in Rainbow's statement. Many of her two legged relations lived hopeless lives. At times she thought they gained some grim pleasure from the chaos their lack created.

"Worse than that", Rainbow continued, "Humans no longer honor their Mother or their Father. Everyday you pour and bury poisons into your Mother without remorse. You fill your Father with chemical clouds that ultimately rain an acidic waste back onto your Mother. What Rainbow can bring hope after that kind of storm?" Rainbow raged on.

"You've lost all honorable connections with your relations. How many of your four legged and rooted brothers and sisters have you allowed to just disappear as your cancerous colonies spread across the planet?" Rainbow paused in his angry shower, then finished "Do Humans honor anything anymore?"

The bitter questions ran like scratchy nails across the Woman's heart and mind. So sad, how hopelessly true Rainbow's words sounded. But not completely.

"Yes." Woman Who Walks replied meekly. "Perhaps we are few, but there ones among the billions that honor, speak and fight for Mother and Father. There are ones among the billions that honor the color and light of hope. There are ones among the billions that are trying to share a path of honor and respect for all of our relations." Growing more confident, she asserted "but if you were to leave us, the few may become none."

Rainbow's countenance brightened subtly. But he remained firmly positioned as an opposite omen. On anyone else, it would seem a smile, but on the Rainbow it was a definite frown.

"Please give me some time to tell your story" Woman Who Walks begged the Rainbow. "Perhaps as we learn how much we are loosing, we can forge a more honorable path. I implore you not to take your promise from the ones who will use it"

Rainbow did not say any more words, however the Woman was sure she had seen him give the slightest nod. At least she hoped she had, because before she could finish a blink, Rainbow was gone from the Sky.

Woman Who Walks turned back down the dirt path she takes everyday and returned to her home. Where she shared with me the story of the Rainbow's Frown.

**Article first appeared in The Pagan Activist online at <http://www.thepaganactivist.com/womanwhowalks.htm>*

About the Author: *Stephanie Pflumm is the editor and publisher of the monthly ezine **ORE FEATURES**. Pflumm has been researching and writing for the publication for 9 years, it is currently received by 2500 subscribers via email. Pflumm's primary focus is the research and understanding of our crystal relations. She also composes short stories, fairy tales to highlight the plight of our four-legged relations and poetry. Pflumm has published one eBook, a printed booklet of short stories and one of poems. She also offers an extensive reference resource for gemstones and crystals at her website: <http://www.ozarkrockexchange.com>*

THE FIFTH ANNUAL WISE WOMAN'S FESTIVAL

by Flash Silvermoon

As always, the festival is full of beautiful moments, deep connections and healings. The rainy weather did complicate matters and keep some of the women away yet it is always a good time of sharing and creating Sacred Woman's Space

Friday however, was perfect and we had a gorgeous evening starting with the Opening Circle where we honored our friends on the other side. I welcomed the group and dedicated this Festival to the memory of founding mothers, Tara, Cherie, Cathleen and Brenda Henson, who passed this year. Andie Gibbs Henson of Camp Sister Spirit in MS spoke next and shared Katrina war stories and a memorial tribute to Brenda Henson, who was her mother.

Andie has been like a niece to me over the years and I was close with her moms too so it was great to have her there and know that we were helping to put her back together after the tragic loss of her mother. She had been suicidal herself a week or so before and I told her to bring her butt over to our festival and get some healing and she most certainly did. That is what these festivals are for and keeping them alive can keep woman alive too.

We are all going to have to both hunker down with our homies to survive these crazy times as well as stand like beacons of light creating sacred space where women can indeed Raise the Vibe for the Tribe and by that I mean the whole planet.

It's a lot of work for me personally to do this and mostly I love it. The Festival is in her 5th year and five is the number of change.

I do feel like the level of support must change for me to continue producing this Festival. Andie has offered to have the Wise Woman's Festival work under the Camp Sister Spirit umbrella which is a 501c3 which means it is a tax deductible institution*.

So, back to the festival, Alycin Hayes, who is an outstanding world percussionist and I drummed and sang the Funga which is the African/Yoruba chant that welcomes the group to the land. Alycin and her many drums also joined me to honor the Goddesses of the 5 races with a musical/percussion song or chant for each one.

Aurora Whitebird began the ceremony offering an Apache welcoming chant for her Native Ancestors..

I invoked Cerridwen and her mighty Cauldron of Transformation with the Celtic sounds of the tin whistle By

playing multi keyboard sounds and various drums I accompanied Alycin as we shifted to the Afro -Brazilian chants drums and rhythms honoring Ymoja the Great Ocean Mother feeling the sweep and sway of her breaking waves. The Muses led us to



Flash drumming with poet
Corky Culver in the background

photo by Lacey Nagy

India to invoke Lakshmi the Goddess of Prosperity as my Handsonic percussion magic module allowed me to play the Eastern sounds of the Tabla, Tamboura and other Indian tones as we danced with Lakshmi asking her to create Prosperity for all. We sounded gongs and various Asian percussion sounds to create the soundscape for Suzanne to invoke Kwan Yin, the Asian Goddess of Divine Compassion., We asked "She Who Hears the World Weeping" to bring her deep compassion to heal the world and help us all find that gentle place within to approach our world with more kindness. We finished this global musical journey with the sweet and rhythmic chant to Oshun, African River Goddess who brings sweetness to all and carries that sensual vibration that as they say "makes life worth living"

The children are our future so in keeping with that idea 8 yr. old Dev Amrit opened the poetry segment with

her poem about Dreaming and changing. This was her first performance and she was instantly adopted for the weekend by Third Eye Spoken who also shared their intense and inspiring Spoken Word Poetry that night and through the weekend.

Last year they were newcomers and this year they were actually part of the backbone for the festival which is so wonderful to see the young women picking up the torch of womanspirit as these younger women surely do.

Corky Culver and Portia Cornell also wowed the audience with their lesbianic verses and added a good balance of genre.

Friday night at the festival always offers the more "Spiritual Entertainment" and is always very participational. Three of us Delivered one of my Guided Journeys called Magical Mystery Tour to the Goddess. Anna Alvarez used her smooth as silk voice to weave the words around the wafting evocative sounds from my keyboard and Alycin's percussion. When we finished you could hear a pin drop as the mellowed participants returned to their bodies having had wonderful journeys from Stonehenge, to The Temple of Aphrodite at Lesbos, to Kali's Cave high in the Himalayas. There they had opportunities to further open their beings to the peaceful and healing energies that we were all co-creating.

At this point, those that wanted to go with Aurora Whitebird into her Lakota Sweatlodge had to leave and prepare and those who didn't could enjoy more poetry with Third Eye Spoken who also did some "freestylin" around my drumming and keyboard jams.

The moon had been in Pisces that night and we had been praying for a dry evening even though rain had been predicted. After all the events of the evening had passed several of us went outside to a crystal clear sky, congratulating ourselves for pushing away the rain.

Saturday, however, was another story regarding the rain as it would cloud up and cloud burst and brighten with sunshine all day. Workshops came and went during the day and all were able to choose classes like Finding Your Animal Spirit Ally, Wise Woman's Tarot, Trauma Release, Native American Healing Circle, Elemental Alchemy, Woman to Woman Tantra, Non Traditional Reiki and many more to heal, learn and open.

They tell me that it rained terribly hard most of Sat. night but as usual when I am playing my rockin music with my blues sister Omi Aladora Ajamu nothing else matters. Sista Flame opened the show on Sat night with some powerful spoken word poetry, very erotic, political tell it like it isical!

Alycin also joined us on some songs with her percussion as well as a few drummers in the audience too.

The hi energy created when two Priestesses play music together is a whole 'nother deal and lifts the vibration of the room up in a most magical way. Typically I like to have a set list but for this festival I always let the vibe of the evening dictate the music played.

For me, the music is always the high point of the weekend. This is the time to shake it all loose and get into our bodies and spirits and sort of lose our minds for a while.

I love trading vocal riffs with Omi who has a powerful and smooth voice and we blend perfectly energetically and musically too so this is a big lift for me and seems to effect the audience that way as well. We premiered a new tune that Omi had actually asked me to write called "Don't Mess With Mama." The song started off really bluesy and then busted into more jump and jive sounds and the group loved it. As always good rockin/funky dance tunes like Lady Marmalade or my, Dream the Dream of Freedom are off the chain and keep the dancers flying around the room.

Because of the rain, this was a smaller more intimate setting than usual so it was like being in a big living room with close friends, a good PA and lights.

The song that really was the most powerful and a musical ritual actually is one that will be on my next CD called N'Awlins on My Mind. It starts off with a mournful organ driven blues and then turns on a dime and becomes more of a rant mixed with African chant over African percussion rhythms. The song moves from addressing the issues and pain of Katrina to a gathering up of the lost souls who need the Orisha Damballah Aweido to take them home. Omi who is a Priest of Yemonja in the Yoruba tradition offers her chants to the ancestors and to Damballah while I sing a few bars of the old spiritual Wade in

the Water. The song is both evocative and chilling. It is always so intense to play and you can feel the healing that takes place in its aftermath.

When doing art in this time of terror, depression and fear, it is so important that when we deal with hard subjects that we not leave the audience in a sea of negativity, and hopelessness. As artists and healers, it's not enough to discharge our load of pain and let the energy go where it will because we are creating an atmosphere of trust so we must be trustworthy and not just feed our egos or use the group as our dumping ground. We can educate and elevate with our words and music.

Ideally even when we sing of Katrina, rape, racism, or just plain hard times we need to find a way to inspire especially in these intimate spaces that we carve out for ourselves to soften the blows of the mainstream culture

My hope is that in creating the Wise Woman's Festival each year, that we are creating an Oasis of Illumination, Hope and Healing for ourselves and the planet. I do feel like whenever we sincerely gather to raise planetary energy, we anchor the new vibration of the Fifth Dimension, the world where all is possible.

One thing that the Festival really reminded me of was how very much playing music heals me and the enormous blast of chi that comes through especially in a live performance. The physical effect on my body even though it is an intense workout feels truly life altering. When Omi Aladora Ajamu, Priestess of Yemonja, sings with me, I do believe that we two priestesses together create an energy and music that is nothing short of Shamanic Music.

My understanding and commitment as a performing artist has also come even clearer in terms of the fact that it is crucial for those of us to use our creativity not just as a way to blow off frustration and release, but to also

uplift and offer a positive direction. I knew this before but feel stronger on the subject as a performer and a producer.

We had some dynamic young poets who were so wonderful yet too much of some of their presentation was railing against the ills of life. I think this is powerful and good and a little of that can go a long way in an aware, very liberal evolved group like ours.

Don't misunderstand, sometimes there is nothing more freeing and positive than resisting the status quo however staying immersed in the wash of anger is a good way to stay stuck.

Because we come to these islands of intimacy and safety at these festivals, part of the point is to heal and recharge. We need to dive deep into the balm of sisterhood with creativity and learning that not only empowers and raises awareness, but also soothes and uplifts our patriarchy battered souls.

I have Pisces on the midheaven of my astrological chart as well as being a Pisces Sun and Moon so it is most natural for me to want to create a sacred, gentle world where our most idealistic, utopian values can prevail.

This is what drives me and keeps me putting out the hundreds of woman hours necessary to launch such a festival.

N'AWLINS ON MY MIND
Flash Silvermoon @ Goddessstunes 2005

[organ driven mournful blues sound]

I
The dead are walkin down the streets of
N'Awlins
And I feel their footsteps break night's
silent scream [2x]
No honkey tonk piano rings out on old
Bourbon Street
And the wind howls ghostly through the
trees

II
Seems like someone just forgot 'bout the
people of N'awlins
When the water comes up there's no
place to go [2x]
I feel the Spirits gatherin out on old
Congo Square
And Mamselle Marie Laveau she's a
standin there
[organ solo to afro rhythm drum break]

Blood mix with mud through the Bayou
flood 2x
Children in the streets with not enough
to eat
Gris gris gumboyaya Gris gris
gumboyaya [3x]
Sacred Jambalaya
[these words continue in background
under rap]

Children starving in the streets not
enough to eat
Not enough to drink Livin in dirt and
stink
No roof over their heads too many
needlessly dead
What could be in their heads to bring the
aid so slow
People got no where to go how could they
not know
What millions of us knew, but these
monied few
just had too much to do —oh wade in
the water
wade in the water children wade in the
water someone's in trouble in the waters
[2x]

Don't leave them all alone
Damballah take them home [2x]
Dancin' with the Snake...Until the levee
breaks
Damballah Damballah Damballah
Damballah Aweido [3x]
Don't leave them all alone
Damballah take them home

Just a note; Damballah Aweido is the Sacred Snake of the Yoruban
Ancestors whose blood runs in the streets of New Orleans....even now.
I play this song to help them find their way home these lost spirits and
each year on the Anniversary, I honor them especially.

I know that each year, and especially after 7 yrs of Bushinistas that our economy and lives in general are harder and that makes it harder for many to commit to anything that they deem as EXTRA. I would hope for the future that the concept of this kind of life affirming event start to be understood as not only important but crucial to our survival if for no other reason than we need to CO-create an alternative culture of peace and healing to model the changes we wish to see in the culture at large and also to help us continue to live in a world that is too harsh and cold for many of us.

We need to get beyond mere survival and embrace abundance, plenty for all on all levels as well as expand our beliefs and understanding in what is possible. If we don't have a model or vision for a better future it is hard to manifest one.

OK I am off my soap box having waxed philosophical.

By Sunday the rains had driven some of the campers home. This space is unique in that we have a large main building where all our entertainment, food bathrooms and showers, some vending and about 1/2 the classes can happen and a porch all around that can accommodate classes that need to get in from the rain. So almost everything that we had planned continued or happened in a damper atmosphere.

The closing circle which is the Multi-Traditional Circle for Peace Healing and Justice, in many ways is what we build up to for the entire weekend. Partly because of rain and more because of life challenges two of our main Priestesses could not be present for this circle. Because there are many wise women at this event with years of experience in guiding the circles in their communities we were able to ask for their support to fill those important spots. It is an honor to be asked to be one of the Priestesses and one also must be up to really holding the energy of that element for the group and even the planet. Michelle who is usually the fire keeper had to keep the fire, in this case, sage, cedar, and sweet grass in a huge abalone smudge bowl as she used my grouse-wing to clear each woman while another new woman, Lorie, cleared everyone with spritzers of gem elixirs that I had made the week before.

Amber who has moved through this festival from the beginning became the Priestess for the East calling us in to really start to love ourselves more and to start creating the intention that we want to manifest this year individually and collectively. She had us stare into her mirror at our own image and tell ourselves how much we love ourselves.

I was the Fire Priestess as I usually am and my part was more challenging this year because we had to do our circle indoors without a real main fire. My plan had been for each of us to tear apart a stick as we released our obstructions, resentments and any and all things that impede our growth and ability to move forward in perfect love and trust. When we had to come indoors I amended the process by asking us all to one by one speak and thereby release our blockages, fears, etc., into the fire created by red and white candles held inside a huge cauldron. Witches have got to be flexible!

Lana Williamson took over the Water Priestess duties this year and created a beautiful cleansing ritual for us as each of
...continued on page 14

LIVING THE DREAM: A PAGAN CAREER

by EarthShod

“We’re going out of business,” she confided in me ruefully over the counter.

I was paying a percentage of the money I’d made that day selling tarot readings out of her charming storefront. I made comforting noises and expressed my own genuine disappointment, feeling a little guilty that the fluidity of my own business model would have me working elsewhere with no trouble at all. “Are you interested in buying a dying Pagan business and magically bringing it back to life?” She asked it with a sort of desperate, half-joking laugh. “Gods, I never thought I’d make that offer.” She shook her head. I kept my mouth shut, a skill that I’ve been working on for some time with limited success. I’ve seen this business change hands already, and it wouldn’t surprise me to see it sold again. What would surprise me, indeed, is to see it not leave it’s next owner in financial ruin.

In my own leafy branch of Paganism, Traditional Wicca, there are no paid clergy, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. There is something both comforting and inspiring to me about having my religious peers and elders struggling with real-life career and financial issues right along beside me. Indeed, they are not immune from the very problem depicted above. I have had more than one good friend quit their day job, buy up wholesale Pagan supplies, and throw their whole lives into a store, despite having no experience in the retail field, only to be shocked at the resulting downfall. Moreover, I have made countless new friends who were just starting out at psychic fairs whom I never saw again at subsequent events. I could easily write an entire book about the high burnout rate in Pagan business, but in the narrow scope of this essay, I would like to address at least one of the issues that cause smart people to fail at doing something they love.

A financial adviser once told me that we are all living our own financial myths, and that we have to give voice to some of them in order to combat and dismiss them. One of his myths, he shared, was this: “I’m magical. What applies to others does not apply to me.” I think that many Pagans don’t suffer from this delusion; they revel in it, and with good cause! After all, many of us have been quite successful in manifesting our intent! Why doesn’t it work the same with starting a career in Pagan goods or services? Well, the short answer to this question is that, it does. The long answer often comes in the form of a spiritual clue-by-four or a very real and mundane bankruptcy. You see, sometimes we don’t know in what way the universe will begin to fulfill our desires, and that can cause us to ignore blessings or even fight back, in the annoying ways that control-freak entrepreneurs the world over tend to have.

Bear with me, because I would like to share with you a half-remembered version of a Christian parable that you may have seen floating around the Internet or heard related to you by starry-eyed grandparent types.

Once upon a time, there was a man trapped on a small island in a flood. He prayed to God for rescue and soon saw a boat heading his way. A coast guard threw him a rope but he refused to take it saying, “God will rescue me.” Next, a police officer in a helicopter hovered overhead and tossed down a ladder and he again refused. “God will rescue me.” Soon after, a woman in a hot air balloon landed on his island and bid him climb into her basket away from the rising waters. The man refused a third time saying, “God will rescue me.”

Finally, the flood rose up and claimed his life. He found himself in front of God in the afterlife, livid at having not been rescued.

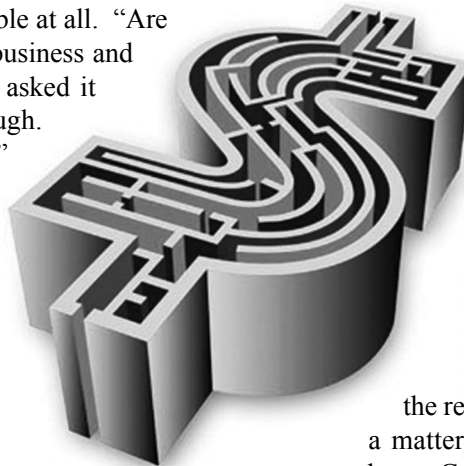
“Silly man,” God retorted, “you refused that boat, helicopter, and hot air balloon I sent you!”

To those of us who trust in the process, this is the reason trust is not always enough. It’s not simply a matter of being confident in the power of yourself and your Gods. There are complex issues in the world of a business in which one is just starting that, naturally, a newcomer will not yet understand! One has to be able to roll with the punches and jump at opportunities. That may mean that one will have to embrace some very real doubt, if only to look at what choices are available.

If you have been considering starting your own Pagan business, you have probably already envisioned your dreams. If you are a practitioner of magic, you may have already voiced your desires to the universe and are waiting for your vision to manifest. I challenge you to also give voice to your doubts and explore them as well. Though it may go against some schools of magical training, think about the ways that you might get there. Think six months into the future, a year into the future and plan your journey. Suffer through some banal research into your field of interest. Remember that all new business-people go through a process of trial and error. Some things work and some things do not.

Consider also the possibility of networking and collaborating with other local Pagan businesses. This will be trial and error as well, and you will have to develop some boundaries, but sometimes one can find a healthy strength in community, rather than feeling threatened by competition. Of course, like cold-calling customers, you might get a few frosty reactions to your contacts with other Pagan businesses. I’m always happy to welcome folks into my line of work. However, if in a few years time, you find yourself offering to sell your business, don’t be surprised if I keep my mouth shut. After all, it’s a skill I’ve been working on developing for some time!

About the Author: *EarthShod is a Priestess and a second generation divination professional who has been in business since 1999. She is a certified teacher and tarot reader, registered counsellor and Partylite Consultant living and knitting in Renton, WA.*



MOTIFS IN MIGRATION; SIBERIA TO SCANDINAVIA

by Mary B. Kelly

Symbols travel. Have you noticed, when buying a bath towel or browsing through a foreign market, how much the designs you see look the same? When people travel, their symbols go with them, embedded, as they have been for millennia in their daily rituals. When you travel, you still use the same toothpaste in Katmandu as you do at home. If you were forced to stay there, your habits, rituals and in some cases, your religious practice, would likely remain the same. Motifs on cloth were originally religious symbols on ritual textiles. Today, when we see a design that reminds us of a far-away place, it is probably because people carried it here long ago.



This article is the story of motifs that migrated west from Siberia to Scandinavia in pre-history. Moving with people who needed them for protection and to enhance fertility, the symbols were eventually adopted along the way by others. Thus, we can track their progress.

We will begin with a goddess symbol from the Altai Mountains of Siberia, and track it west to the Atlantic. Found in the ice graves of Pazyryk, (600-400 B.C.E.) on a huge felt hanging, the image is more than three feet tall. It shows a crowned, seated goddess holding a Tree of Life, the symbol of contact between the real and the spiritual worlds, of foreknowledge and fertility. One hand is raised to her mouth, as if she is prophesying; the other holds a large, blooming Tree of Life, which curls above her. It followed migrants as they moved across Asia and up the Volga, along the way, appearing on women's tiaras and embroideries in Central Asia, Russia, and Scandinavia.

We know that the huge Pazyryk barrows were constructed over a period of 50 years in a manner that would have insured their survival for centuries, yet, not long after, they were broken into and robbed. We know that the robbery was done at leisure over a period of time. This could only have meant that those who had erected these kurgans had been forced to move. These mountain people belonged to the loose federation that made up the Saka. At that time, it stretched across the flat prairies all the way to the Aral and Caspian Seas. Thus, the Pazyryk people must have looked to trade routes, such as the Silk Road, just below them to the south, for escape to the west where they could meet their confederates, the Saka/Scythians.

One of the first migrant groups to move west, they were already living near the Black Sea when Herodotus

in the 5th century B.C.E recorded some factual data about them. Their vast barrows contained gold jewelry and gold-adorned headdresses, bearing a motif now associated with Scythian art, the goddess holding up a large tree of life. Even in the first century C.E. A priestess/chieftain in this area was buried with a tiara, on which a gold Tree of Life with fluttering gold leaves rises up behind the head of a goddess. As the Iron Age dawned, groups moved further up the Volga as far as it extends northeast of Moscow and followed the lake and river systems up to the Baltic Sea.

Here, researchers studied northern images of the Mother Goddess, Trees of Life, horses, deer and birds. Of course, these motifs were not exclusively Russian/Finnish, but a mixture of symbolic designs drawn from the Slavs, Ugrians, and Scandinavians. However, we see clearly the goddess/tree combination we saw first at Pazyryk. While the distance between Central Asia and Finland is remote, we can chronicle that ritual traditions and their accompanying motifs traveled along the Silk Road beginning in 6th - 5th century B.C.E. Once the Volga was reached, archaeologists can confirm this path by the burial sites along the rivers identified by belt trimmings, which clearly derive from Central Asia.

The World Tree, or Tree of Life, called *Yggdrasill*, may have been a Viking concept learned from travels through the lands of the Finno-Ugric peoples. Ritual tapestries, created by women, hung in Scandinavian homes, recalling the stories of sagas. On the Overhogdal tapestry from Sweden (800-1100 C.E.), several large red Trees of Life represent *Yggdrasill*, since an eagle is shown at the top.

Norwegian tapestries found in a burial ship near Oslo, (850 C.E.) confirmed that the Overhogdal textiles were not unique. The Oseberg tapestry was preserved by the special clay soil and belonged to.

Norwegian woman of very high status. On this tapestry, Trees of Life are shown clearly in ritual scenes and in beautiful designs with birds and flowers on the branches, one of the true masterpieces of tapestry weaving.

In the tradition of Viking weavers, nineteenth century women from the Telemark area, near Oslo, wove large wall hangings, for the high-seat of their farm, where they hung during marriage and festive celebrations. On the textiles were large female deities, with upraised arms, and elaborate Trees of Life; dated from the 1700's - 1900's. A Telemark cloth, accessioned at Victoria and Albert Museum in London in 1884,



...continued on page 14

Magic Stitches

by Tammy Evans

*Blessed be your needles three
And blessed be your threading.
Blessed be your loving work
And bless the path your
threading.*

CROSS stitching is an ancient art dating back to early Egypt and is one of the oldest forms of embroidery. It is the principle needlecraft of the folk traditions in much of the Near East, Eastern Europe and Mesopotamia. Each tradition boasts a profusion of unique motifs ripe with social and symbolic significance.

Cross stitched pictures are made of stitches composed of little x's that are placed next to each other to create a pattern something like the mosaic of pixels on your computer using a colored thread called floss. The crossed stitches take advantage of the weave in specially designed fabrics to help regulate the size and shape of each stitch. This makes it easy to create neat and even work and is an appropriate and rewarding craft for beginners. But don't be deceived, cross stitch can be as complex as a painted picture using hundreds of colors or as simple and elegant as a repeated motif of 2 or 3 stitches.

There are several styles of working a cross stitch design. Modern Westerners practice a method called counted cross stitch on the special cotton or linen fabrics called, among other things, Evenweave or Aida. Counted cross stitch relies on charts or diagrams to instruct you as to what stitch to put where. This method is used to create both elaborate pictures or simpler designs and motifs.

These patterns can also be used with a product called waste canvass. Waste canvas enables you to do even cross-stitches on any type fabric. You simply place the waste canvas, which looks like a stiff netting, over your readymade garment or fabric and stitch. When the project is finished the waste canvas is moistened and pulled out from under your stitches leaving the design stitched directly onto your chosen cloth.

Traditional stitchers from the Near East and Eastern Europe follow a tradition of direct stitching that incorporates motifs they have been using for generations. These motifs often have specific meaning relating to the social status of the wearer and/or the purpose of the garment. Sometimes they retell well known stories or relate the history of the village, family, clan or tribe. They do not use predrawn patterns but pass down general designs from mother to daughter. Traditional stitchers respond directly to each project altering the patterns according to whim, personal tastes, project size, or available threads and colors.

Whereas modern stitchers tend to carefully work out the mathematics of their design beforehand making sure that motifs are repeated intact and at regular intervals, traditional stitchers tend to alter the motif slightly by stretching or shrinking the number of stitches, forcing it into the space available. This approach gives a lively look to the garment and the irregularities never appear too obvious or disruptive to the overall design.

All textile arts have a long history of magical association. The repetitive nature of cross stitch in particular lends itself to creating the trance states necessary to successful spell casting. Each element of a design becomes as much a ritual tool as an atheme or a candle. Just by working the pattern intent is clarified and the spell finds its way to the subconscious effortlessly.

Most magical systems use some visual protocol in order to place objects auspiciously and tap into the subtle workings of the universal psyche. In order to treat a cross-stitch project as a magical spell it is important that one use care in choosing their design and floss colors. Each aspect of the design must be relevant to the desired outcome of your spell and be carefully placed in relation to the other parts of the design. The colors too must correspond and be relevant to your goal. There are many correspondence charts in the abundant legacy of pagan literature that can help you choose and place your symbols.

A spell can be made of a single symbol or a group of symbols, pictures or words. Design your cross-stitch spell in the same way you would design an altar or caste a circle for a traditional spell. Instead of using objects like candles, incense and blades use pictures, symbols or words. You don't need to always place your design in a circle although you can if you wish. Your magic circle of influence can be drawn, implied, or imagined. To imply a circle use an embroidery hoop as a frame or draw swirls, arabesques or arcs at the perimeters of your design. Articulate the four directions and/or imagine a pentagram as a design guide.

Place appropriate items at these points. This is a good blueprint for any spellcasting whether your format is a clearing in the woods or a simple piece of cloth. Trace your design onto a piece of graph paper or purchase a premade chart or set of charted motifs and rearrange them according to your needs. Choose floss colors that support the goal of your spell. You can create two different spells using the same design by just changing the color scheme. For example, if you were to stitch the sigil of Venus in pink you would have a love spell but if you stitched it in green or gold you would have a money spell. It's that simple.

When you are ready to stitch, formally caste your circle over yourself and your working area the first time you begin stitching. From that point on you can reestablish your circle by simply calling it to mind before you begin stitching again or use a circular embroidery hoop to hold your design and keep the circle in your conscious by visual means. If you were careful to design a thoughtful spell you can proceed by simply stitching with faith. By this I mean you can, but don't have to be completely attentive to the stitching process at all points. Your familiarity with the design's intent and the relaxing, trance like state that stitching conjures are enough to plant the spell into your subconscious. Many of us who stitch or do other forms of needlecraft do so while chatting with our children, watching TV or simply being with our family and friends. This is a most subversive style of witchcraft whose charm and humor I find irresistible. To all the world you are just stitching

a pretty design on your collar but you know that the rowan leaf motif is protective and is analogous to carrying your wand with you everywhere you go!

When you are finished stitching your spell you can display it, give it away, or use it on your altar. I recommend that if you display it you change its position in the house with the seasons. I say this because when we see something everyday we tend to become blind to it after a while. Changing its position refreshes your intent and often gives you a new perspective on the issues involved as well as on the picture itself.

Many magical practitioners recommend completely forgetting about a spell after you have cast it. This is often good advice, as obsessing on any issue is obstructive and unhealthy. However certain types of spells require deep contemplation and time to work through the surface issues to come to a clear realization of the core issue that you are really interested in exploring. I recommend taking all the time you need with your spells. Allow them to evolve and change you on a fundamental level. Stitch spells are made for just that purpose. The changes you come to through these techniques are long lasting and fundamental to your growth in awareness. Let your collection of stitchwork to be like your book of shadows or a carefully cultivated garden, recording your progress as well as your path. The magic lives in the stitching and the stitchwork and in the space that lies between.

Tammy Evans is a new media artist living, working and studying in Atlanta Ga. Check out her website, StitchWitchCircle.com, for free samples, cross stitch instructions, and magical charts designed specifically for Pagan purposes.

...continued from page 3, *About This Issue*

costs per issue with \$0.50 to \$0.75 going toward the money needed to increase the page count.

As for back issues, I have made a big dent in the storage area and am getting a better idea of what TBP has. I will be putting the back issue page back up on the website in the summer.

I want to thank all the contributors who submitted material on such short notice. Due to the page count, not everything could be in this issue, but all submissions will be saved for consideration in other issues.

Finally, thank you subscribers and readers for hanging in there and having faith in TBP.

~Lisé Quinn

...continued from page 6, *Embracing the Feminine...*

the world. Both genders realize feminism is not a dirty word, but a vehicle for equality and it will not unravel societies if both wings of the bird are equal in strength. Imagine a world where these are no longer even talking points or wedge issues. Mother and Father together again feels pretty natural and right to most people when they take a moment to think and challenge the programming.

Of course, there are those who might say ancient cultures that embraced a feminine face of God were far from the utopia and they would be right. They might say these ideas are naive and idealistic. The people with the most bullets and biggest sticks always win.

Goddess Advocates say to both these charges, we can do better than our ancestors. We are not doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past. We have free will and if we are willing to work hard for change, it will come. We have the knowledge that this patriarchal dominator culture is failing the many. Moreover, we have the technology to enable us to create abundance for everyone on the planet, if used wisely. So they ask, would humanity rather strive for utopia and fall short, or strive for mediocrity and fall short?

People today are literally starving for the sacred. Traditional religion alone no longer works for the masses. Humanity needs to once again be held in the embrace of the Mother and know her love, strength, and acceptance. It is time for us to work together, be visible, and help set the agenda. It is time for our voices to be heard. It is time for us to make a difference in the world, and not just for our children, and ourselves but for our beloved Mother who has been patiently waiting for us to return to our sanity.

**Article first appeared online at <http://newagejournal.com/2007/goddess/embracing-the-feminine-consciousness-a-revolution-of-thought>*

About the Author: *Karen Tate is a prolific writer, independent scholar, sacred tour leader, and published author. The Joseph Campbell Foundation recently endorsed her first book, Sacred Places of Goddess: 108 Destinations. Her newest book, Walking An Ancient Path: Rebirthing Goddess on Planet Earth, a spiritual/socio/political guidebook to mainstream the Sacred Feminine comes out in 2008.*

...continued from page 10, *Wise Woman's Festival*

us moved past her and her sacred vessel.

Aurora Whitebird, Shaman, Medicinewoman and Priestess has been Priestessing this festival with me from the very beginning. As Priestess of the Earth, she gave us each a piece of blue corn to place in our pouches to seed our intention. We concluded our work passing by Amber in the East to affirm our intention.

When we came back to our places in the circle, we joined hands and created a golden sphere around the earth, to uplift, heal and create peace.

The Circle is Open and never Broken Merry Meet and Merry Part and Merry Meet Again! Until Next year May there be more support and better weather.

~Blessings Flash Silvermoon

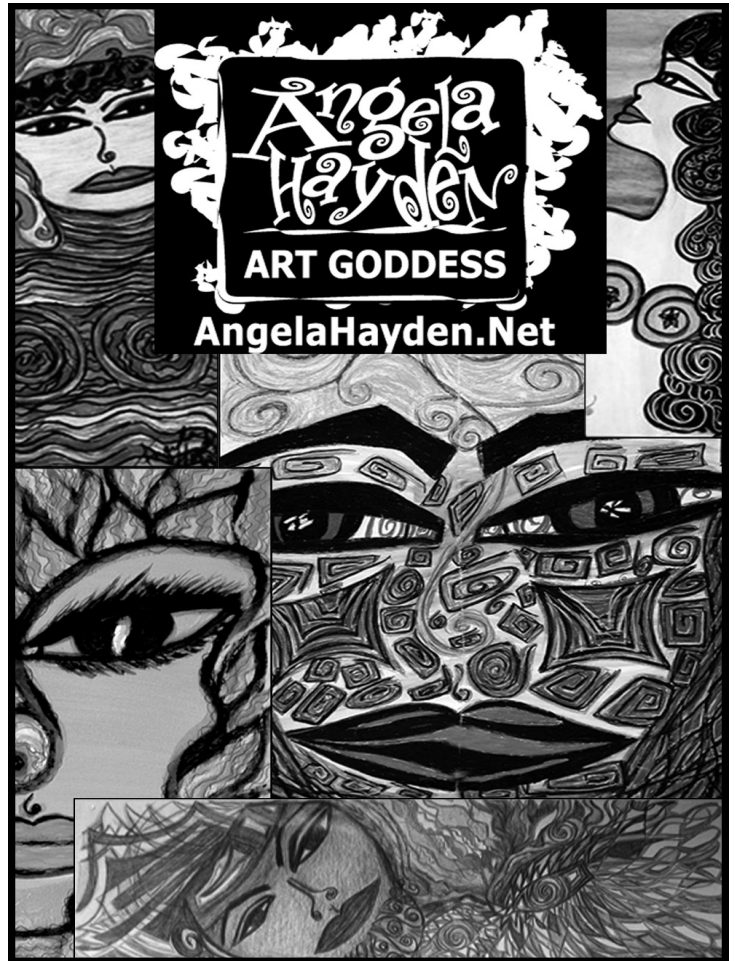
About the Author: *Flash Silvermoon is a nationally known psychic, astrologer, musician, teacher and author. She is an eclectic Dianic Priestess as well as being a vibrational healer, serving the community for 31 years as a psychic astrologer and healer. She specializes in the use of stones and crystals, working with them through layout on the body, grids, elixirs and her own unique combinations called "Power Tools." Flash has been a leader in her field since the early 70's and has recently turned her efforts towards multi-cultural women's gatherings. She offers classes and workshops, tarot readings and astrological readings and healings. For more information on Flash and her services visit her website at www.flashsilvermoon.com Her e-mail address is flashsilvermoon@aol.com or write to her at 7603 NE 221 Street Melrose, FL 32666*

...continued from page 12, *Motifs in Migration...*

(R4816-1884) shows two female figures at each side of a Tree of Life, holding trees in their hands, too

Tradition has a way of conserving patterns long after their meaning to the community has faded. Still, I find the concept that these cloths were used well into the 19th century extraordinary. They were large public wall hangings, shown in a place where the most prestigious sit, presiding over weddings and family gatherings. Indeed, the symbolism links them back in time and space to the textiles we first presented; the felt hangings from the Altai Mountains. That the symbol of a goddess holding a tree was retained on the Atlantic shores more than 2000 years later is significant. Only a record of determined conservation by the makers of textiles can explain it and the concept that motifs migrated with the families whose rituals formed a vital part of their beliefs.

About the Author: *Mary B. Kelly is author, artist, and professor of art. Her books Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe and Goddess Embroideries of the Balkan Lands and Greek Islands are now joined by Goddess Embroideries of the Northlands, (2007) to complete the trilogy. She is currently working as guest curator on an exhibition of Norwegian embroideries for the Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, IA, which will bring many examples of the ceremonial cloths from Norway to the United States. The show will open in September 2009 and will be accompanied by a conference (Sept 25 - 27) and other textile exhibitions. www.vesterheim.org*



Earthshod



Providing tarot, crystal ball and tea leaf readings to the greater Seattle area since 1999

Available for personal consultation on-line, in-person or by telephone. Can be booked for parties and corporate events!

www.earthshod.com



Karen Tate's Latest Book



"Walking an Ancient Path is a breakthrough in goddess-oriented books. This book is truly a milestone in bridging the gap between mainstream beliefs and the reawakening of the Goddess religion."

~Rev. Denise Dumars

"Walking an Ancient Path takes us on a spiritual journey by one of the foremost pathfinders of the Goddess movement"
~Rosemary Clark
author of *The Sacred Tradition in Ancient Egypt*

**ON SALE
JUNE 27th, 2008**

Published by O Books - John Hunt Publishing Ltd
Paperback 320 pages ISBN 1846941113

Power to Change!



Discover the power of gemstones and crystals to change your life at Ozark Rock Exchange
<http://www.ozarkrockexchange.com>



Mention "The Beltane Papers" and receive a FREE Garnet when you subscribe to ORE FEATURES (a free monthly ezine from Ozark Rock Exchange).

Discover the geological origins, history (both magical and practical) and healing traditions for a different gem in every issue.

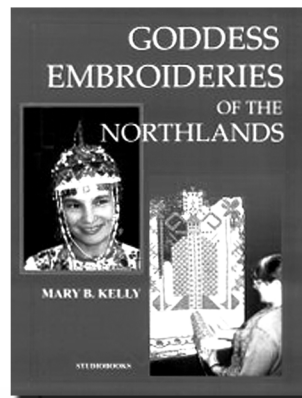
5414 E Holmes, Memphis, TN 38118
Phone: 901-496-2434

Free Garnet with ORE FEATURES subscription offer expires 6/30/2008

Mary B Kelly's New Book

"I am reading the Northlands book now, and I think it is your best, I am really enjoying it. Thank you again for your diligent research and for sharing it with the world through your books and the video. Your work has been my primary contemplative effort this holiday."

~Bonnie L. Grantham
reader MS 2007



The final volume in the trilogy "Goddess Embroideries" this book presents the story of change and migration in prehistory and our own era in countries bordering the Arctic Circle. In Siberia, along the Silk Road and up the rivers of Russia, migrants moved, carrying with them folk beliefs and symbols on ritual textiles to their new homes in the northlands of European Russia, the Baltics and Scandinavia.

ON SALE NOW

Published by Studiobooks
Paperback 360 pages ISBN 0966892941

SUPPORT THE WISE WOMAN'S FESTIVAL

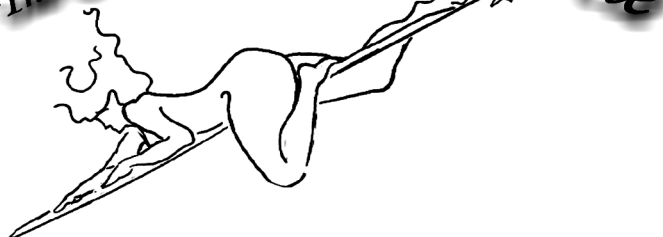
If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to keep this festival going, please make the checks payable to Sister Spirit, Inc., earmarked for "Brenda Henson's Memorial Wise Womans Festival"

PO Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464-0012

We will get every penny of your generous donation and Uncle Sammy doesn't. That's a sure fire win-win I'd say.
www.campsisterspirit.com
Andrea Gibbs-Henson, M. Ed.

For more information contact Flash Silvermoon
flashsilvermoon@aol.com
Flash Silvermoon
7603 NE 221 Street
Melrose, FL 32666
(352) 475-2432

Step into The Stitch Witch Circle



www.stitchwitchcircle.com

needlework patterns,
gift items and craft ideas
designed for the practicing
Pagan, Wiccan, Witch or Fairy Friend.

