



IN THIS ISSUE: GROWING A PAGAN CULTURE

INITIATION: MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

“Initiation” has become a buzzword and is more often used than understood. Learning the role initiation rites play in other cultures can clear up misconceptions, help ensure that our own initiations are effective, and avoid the “Empty Title” syndrome that plagues so many of our most over-inflated “Grand Poobahs.” As an initiate of Haitian Vodou, I have tried to present some of my own experiences as food for thought and for further discussion.

By Kevin Filan, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 17

BUMPS ALONG THE PAGAN PATH

Earth-based spirituality often brings together people who seem to have almost nothing else in common. This can pose quite a challenge to harmony, not to mention “perfect love and perfect trust.” But if we take the time, we may find that many “Pagan turn-offs” can be interpreted in ways that make our understanding of our own and others’ traditions richer, and lessen the discomfort we may feel among some of our spiritual siblings.

By Archer, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 22



LIGHTS, CAMERA – PRIESTESS?

I’m still not sure why I tried out for a part in Spring Mysteries. It may have been because I had several friends in the cast, all of whom encouraged me to try it “at least once” or because, while the ritual that is the festival’s centerpiece is beautiful and moving, I felt as an outside participant that I had not drawn all that I could from it. *Article by Genevieve Williams, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis... 29*

PAGAN MUSIC – BEYOND THE BARDIC CIRCLE

Pagan music has a lot of room to grow. If music can help express and share the experiences of Pagans, then isn’t it logical it should be as diverse as the Pagan experience itself? One way to move Pagan music forward is for Pagans to personally explore new musical traditions. While entire books could be written on sacred music of the world, I’d like to offer a few suggestions of ways to expand your musical horizons. *By Zak Kramer... 31*



CREATING A PAGAN BOOKSHELF III: PAGAN MUSIC

Pagan music may be the best-kept secret of our spiritual tradition. While books by well-known Pagans like Starhawk can sell in the hundreds of thousands, virtually all Pagan music is released by independent record labels (often owned by the artists themselves) and receives little if any support from the mainstream music industry. *Edited by Carl McColman, artwork by Christine Beetow... 34*

FOOTPRINTS OF THE GODDESS: DISCOVERING THE SACRED ART OF RANGOLI

Rangoli is an ancient art form that is integral to the everyday practice of the Hindu religion. Endangered by rapid modernization in its native country of India, it is beginning to be introduced to Pagan culture in North America.

By Barbara Fisher, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis, photos by Lisa Ertz... 37



TALES SELDOM TOLD: PAGAN FICTION COMES OF AGE

Pagan fiction is moving and changing, from a neglected category to a genre of its own. It is only natural that we tell stories about ourselves and each other, not only for our own entertainment and enjoyment, but hopefully for the understanding of others as well. *Article by Barbara Fisher, artwork by Zak Kramer ... 43*

FICTION LEGENDS REBORN

"We should never presume to dominate this planet and its resources the way the Ancestors did, but neither should we completely withdraw. That's what we're doing, and it's destroying us. Mankind is disappearing from this planet."

By Carol Hightshoe, artwork by Cynthia Rudzis ... 47

POETRY

Demeter at the Boston Public Library *by Kathryn Boundy ... 46*

Untitled *by Andrew Grossman ... 52*

Signal to Noise *by Patricia Dines ... 55*

Ocean Song *by Chele Bryant ... 68*

COLUMNS

IMPRESSIONS

By Elizabeth Barrette ... 3

UNDERWORLD

By R. J. Stewart ... 55

WORDS AND WHEELS

Guest Column by

Bronwynn Forrest Torgerson ... 57

TRAIL OF BEAUTY

By Christina Eisenberg ... 61

TAROT JOURNEY

By Joanna Powell Colbert ... 65

MIND AND MAGIC

By Judy Harrow ... 67

RENTAL GODDESS

By Donna Barr ... 74

CONNECTIONS

By Archer ... 80



DEPARTMENTS

FEEDBACK LOOP

Letters from Our Readers ... 5

NEWS AND NOTES

From the Publisher ... 9

POINT OF VIEW

Perspectives From Our Readers ... 11

TOE TO TOE

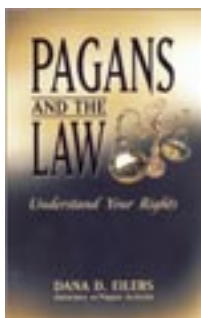
Debate and Controversy:
Do we need initiation? ... 13

INNER CIRCLE

PanGaia reviews ... 69

MARKETPLACE

Goods, Services and Ideas ... 79



ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Cynthia Rudzis is a visionary artist and illustrator creating from her studio on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Her works celebrating the magick of the everyday and the unseen are displayed in galleries, private collections, and in print. A collection of her works can be viewed on her website at www.cynrouxart.com.