



Samhain

Threshold Invocation for the Festival of Samhain

To be spoken at the front door of the house on the Eve of Samhain, 31st of October, at evening tide.

*Grandmother Wisdom, open the door,
Grandfather Counsel, come you in.
Let there be welcome to the ancient lore,
Let there be welcome to the Winter of the Year.
In cold and darkness, you are travelling,
Under crystal skies, you will arrive,
May the blessed time of Samhain
Clarify the souls of all beings,
Bringing joy and wisdom to revelation.
From the depths to the heights,
From the heights to the depths,
In the caves of every soul.*

An excerpt from Caitlín Matthews Celtic Devotional



November



- November 1st** Samhain/Celtic New Year /Dio de Los Muertos/Nos Calen Gaeaf/All Saints Day
- November 2nd** All Souls Day
- November 5th** Red Stick Farmer's Market B.R. Arts Market 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- November 8th** Beaver Full Moon and Blood Moon (Total Lunar Eclipse 5:02 a.m. CST) Page 2
- November 12th** HON Grove/Pagan Information Day Unitarian Church—Baton Rouge 3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Page 1
- November 24th** Thanksgiving Day
- November 25th** The "I Don't Give a Rat's *** What's on Sale-I'm Not Leaving The House" Day

Grove Happenings



This month, in lieu of our regular grove meeting, Highland Oak Nemeton will co-host the first Pagan Information Day at the Unitarian Church, located at 8470 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge from 3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. We will be joined by other pagan groups from around the Baton Rouge and New Orleans area. Representatives from some of the local Metaphysical shops will also have booths with more information about their products and services!

This informational day is the brainchild of Ryan Adams, a local high priest of a British Traditional Wicca Coven and long-standing friend of many members of Highland Oak Nemeton. He, along with many others, feel the time is right to inform and educate members of the Baton Rouge community on the many facets and truths about Paganism. For more information, visit <https://unitarianbr.org/events/baton-rouge-pagan-information-day-sanctuary-fellowship-hall/>



The Beaver Moon

Why the “Beaver” Moon? This is the time of year when beavers begin to take shelter in their lodges, having laid up sufficient stores of food for the long winter ahead. During the time of the fur trade in North America, it was also the season to trap beavers for their thick, winter-ready pelts.

Alternative November Moon Names

November’s Moon names highlight the actions of animals preparing for winter and the onset of the colder days ahead. Digging (or Scratching) Moon, a Tlingit name, evokes the image of animals foraging for fallen nuts and shoots of green foliage, and of bears digging their winter dens. The Dakota and Lakota term Deer Rutting Moon refers to the time when deer are seeking out mates and the Algonquin Whitefish Moon describes the spawning time for this fish.

In reference to the seasonal change of November, this Moon has been called the Frost Moon by the Cree and Assiniboine peoples and the Freezing Moon by the Anishinaabe—for good reason, as winter is right around the corner!

Excerpts taken from *The Farmer’s Almanac 2022 Edition*
<https://www.almanac.com/full-moon-november>

The Seven Gifts of Druidry



The fourth gift affirms our life as a Journey: with rites of passage: for the blessing and naming of children, for marriage, for death, and for other times of initiation, when it is helpful to ritually and symbolically mark our passage from one state to another.



Picture from <https://secretserendipity.com/>

The Beaver Full Moon

Tuesday, November 8, at 5:02 a.m. CST

November’s full Beaver Moon reaches peak illumination in the morning hours of Tuesday, November 8. In addition, the Beaver Moon will also be plunged into a total lunar eclipse!

The Beaver Moon reaches peak illumination in the morning hours of Tuesday, November 8, at 5:02 a.m. CST. Of course, it will be very close to full the night before, so plan to look for it starting on Monday, November 7, just after sunset!

A “Blood Moon” Total Lunar Eclipse

This year, November’s Beaver Moon is accompanied by a total lunar eclipse! During a lunar eclipse, the Moon, Sun, and Earth stand in a line with the Earth in the middle, causing our planet’s shadow to be cast onto the Moon. This gives the full Moon a reddish, coppery hue, as well as the nickname “Blood Moon.”

This total lunar eclipse will be visible for most of North America, reaching its maximum at approximately 5:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on Tuesday, November 8. Be sure to convert to your local time zone to find out when to look for the eclipse! In the Eastern U.S. and Canada, the Moon will be very close to setting at this time, so try to find a location with a clear view of the western horizon.

Glastonbury Summer Gathering 2022

~Part Three~

By Honora Buras

Stone of the Month—Topaz



Topaz is a stone that has been revered by humankind for millennia. It is a mellow, empathic crystal that soothes, heals, and recharges. Topaz promotes forgiveness and truth. It cuts through doubt and uncertainty, giving you the power to follow your dreams.

The name Topaz is derived from the Greek word *topazion*, which may have originated from the Sanskrit term *tapas*, meaning fire. It may also have come from the Egyptian island of Topazos in the Red Sea.

Most Topaz crystals are colorless, but the most abundant color range is a green and blue color. Topaz crystals that you can see being sold in jewelry stores are often red-pink, sherry brown, or yellow. Topaz crystals that are honey yellow, orange-brown, blue, pink, or clear are highly valued.

In more recent years, yellow, orange, and red varieties of Topaz have also become increasingly popular. These are some of the most popular colors of Topaz, but many people also like colorless Topaz.

Excerpt from <https://meanings.crystalsandjewelry.com/topaz/>



We had a little free time among the stones afterward for picture taking and continuing to feel the blessings of the moment before we had to head back to the bus. We had a little laugh when we saw the people in line waiting for the general public access taking our pictures as we came off the bus and walked past them! How I had wished I was also in a robe instead of a raincoat, but at least the rain had once again stayed away for us due to my lucky talisman/umbrella.

The rest of the morning, we had a talk by Philip and Dr. Rosalind Watts on “The Healing Powers of Mushrooms and Trees: Where Psychology Meets Druidry.” Sunday afternoon we split into groves by grade and I spent the afternoon with about 100 fellow





Bards and Kristoffer creating plant-themed incantations and a special brew.

Since I had left my umbrella behind for the first time in days, the deluge came just as we were wrapping up, but it did not matter by then! Sunday evening was the final Ceilidh with music and dancing again. Gail Nyoka and I finally had a chance to kick up our heels. It was sort of like square dancing and everybody was dancing with each other and laughing our heads off in great fun, clumsiness, and camaraderie. I didn't even notice that I was twisting my still-healing broken arm in new ways (physical therapy!), but I definitely felt it later.



Gail Nyoka, Eimear Burke and Honora Buras at the Ceilidh

Although the official Summer Gathering ended Sunday night, additional OBOD Fringe Festival events were scheduled for Monday and Tuesday in the Town Hall and other venues. Talks attended on Monday

were "Journey to the Cauldron" by Kristoffer, "The Quest for Imbas and Awen" by Kristoffer and Eimear, "What Does Pilgrimage Do for Us" by Guy Hayward (a substitute talk on the singing stones of Avebury by David Bramwell), "Territories of the Heart" by Gail, in addition to a wonderful "Enchanting the Void" sacred chanting session with J.J. Middleway. I noticed Eimear was carrying her supplies in her 2019 GCG bag!

Tuesday's sessions included a history of "Glastonbury and Avalon" by Penny; a "Druid's Author Panel" with Penny, Philip, Matt Baker, and Liz Williams; "The Way of the Mystic Wizard" with Matt Baker; and a final session on "Bee Lore and Breton Dancing." After one round of the intense dancing to Breton musicians, I had to sit out to rest my arm, still sore from last night. Gail, Floriana, Eimear, and a dozen others were still going strong!

Once the OBOD activities were over, Gail and I, along with her friend Tracy, headed off to visit the Chalice Well and Gardens. The gardens were in full glorious bloom and a charming setting for the well and several fountains and pools downstream where you could drink, wade, or fill a bottle to-go with the iron-rich healing waters of the Red Spring. In the final waterfall fountain I submerged my sore arm in a trough of the cold flowing water and all pain vanished. On Wednesday, I caught the bus to Bath, where I spent one night before taking the train to London for my final week in England. While there, I visited the excellent special exhibit on Stonehenge at the British Museum to see many of the artifacts from the site and vicinity.

This narrative only touches the surface of my week in Glastonbury—a delightful, magical place—and all the wonderful times spent with old and new friends celebrating together, and creating new stories to tell. Although it lacked the intimacy of our GCG, the size of the gathering and the vibe of the town amplified the sense of community. If there ever was any doubt that Druidry had chosen me, this experience vanquished all such foolish thoughts! I am so grateful to have been blessed with this wonderful worldwide connection to so many awesome people, and look forward to many more gatherings in the future.

Final Thoughts

While we reflect on personal milestones from seasons past, this one in particular is, at times, a bit hard to swallow. As we close the door on this year and prepare to welcome the New Year, it doesn't come without the pain and heartache of those we have lost; some losses more recent than others. But that pain is the reminder of what they meant to us.

When we take the time to honor those loved ones who left such an indelible mark on our hearts, minds and souls and by enriching our lives, we further honor them when we take to heart and mind their teachings, passing on to us the lessons that they learned from their ancestors and so on.

So, during this season of Samhain, remember them by doing; honor their memory by passing on wisdom shared. And may our Ancestors continue to walk with, guide and inspire us all.

Yours under Grandfather Oak,
Kate Kane Laborde /\



Arten by Peter Yankowski