



August Newsletter

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Important August Dates

(All times are CDT)

July 14, 9:16pm to August 8, 12:40 am - Mercury Retrograde

The purpose of Mercury retrograde is to review and revise our lives and our connections with reality. Mercury itself rules how we think; we will be adjusting everything related to thoughts, concepts, ideas, and communication, especially how technology and material elements play a part in the physical manifestation of ideas. When Mercury retrogrades, we find that many parts of our lives are being revised. Often these revisions can be a surprise or throw us back a step. However, the revisions which occur during a Mercury retrograde, are a "course correction" which provide a stop gap measure until we can review situations. During this time of revision, change is compounded and confusion is created by our reactions to the ever-changing situations. Thus, anything begun during this time will ultimately be taken back or even revised further, making for a high-frustration time. This will be especially true with changing our minds, reviewing new ideas and our communication being improved and honed so not to be misunderstood.

The best mode to be in during a Mercury retrograde is one of "non-reaction," and with earth signs being impacted, physical environments will be changing continually during a Mercury retrograde. Treat this time period as a time of gathering information, yet because the information will be constantly changing, having to re-do things is a possibility. Best to wait until the changes stop before attempting to make things orderly. Therefore, just let the winds of situations blow around you without reacting. Once

Mercury turns direct, take a look at the information that is still around at the time and go about putting everything in order, while maintaining the fine art of flexibility.

In the July/August Mercury retrograde, the fiery energy of Leo activates the winds of change created by Uranus in fiery Aries. These two fiery signs give us events and circumstances that blast us into many new directions. With the changes created this year, we will find that our lives have dramatically changed and Mercury retrograde in Leo creates the dynamic emphasis of change that this year is destined to provide.

August 1, 10:27 pm - Full Moon

The Dreaming Heron Moon

Like the heron, this Aquarius Full Moon brings the energies of both air and water. Birds of the betwixt and between, most herons hunt at dusk and dawn, along the edge of water and land. In parts of Africa, the heron was believed to communicate with the gods. The Greek goddess Athena used a heron as a divine messenger. This bird can lead us through the veil between worlds and allow us to commune with the Divine.

Before you go to bed, pour yourself a small glass of water. Consider a situation you need to resolve or a question you want answered. Clarify the question or situation as much as possible, then, take up the glass of water between both hands. Hold it up to your third eye and send the question or request for resolution into the water. Ask for insight and clarity during dreaming and tell yourself that you will remember any relevant dreams. See and feel this energy permeate the water. Then, drink it all. Immediately lie down, relax your body and mind, and go to sleep. Keep a pen and paper beside your bed and with you throughout the next day. Repeat the process if you need practice working with dreaming or need additional insight.

~ Kristin Madden in Llewellyn's 2012 Witches' Datebook

August 1 - Lughnasadh/Lammas (Crossquarter August 7)

Lughnasadh

Animals/Mythical Creatures – griffins, basilisks, roosters, calves, centaurs, phoenix

Gemstones – aventurine, citrine, peridot, sardonyx, yellow diamonds and citrine

Incense/Oil – wood aloe, rose, rose hips, rosemary, chamomile, eucalyptus, safflower, corn, passionflower, frankincense, sandalwood

Colors/Candles – red, orange, golden yellow, green, light brown, gold, bronze, gray

Tools/Symbols/Decorations – corn, cornucopias, red, yellow flowers, sheaves of grain (wheat, barley, oats), first fruits/vegetables of garden labor, corn dollies, baskets of bread, spear, cauldron, sickle, scythe, threshing tools, sacred loaf of bread, harvested herbs, bonfires, bilberries, God figures made of bread or cookie dough, phallic symbols

Goddesses – the Mother, Dana (Lugh's wife & queen), Tailtiu (Welsh-Scottish),

Demeter (Greek), Ceres (Roman grain goddess honored at Ceresalia), the Barley Mother, Seelu (Cherokee), Corn Mother, Isis (Her birthday is celebrated about this time), Luna (Roman Moon Goddess), other agricultural Goddesses, the waxing Goddess **Gods** – Lugh (Celtic, one of the Tuatha De Danaan), John Barleycorn, Arianrhod's golden haired son Lleu (Welsh God of the Sun & Corn where corn includes all grains, not just maize), Dagon (Phoenician Grain God), Tammuz/ Dummuzi (Sumerian), Dionysus, plus all sacrificial Gods who willingly shed blood/give their life that their people/lands may prosper, all vegetation Gods & Tanus (Gaulish Thunder God), Taranis, (Romano-Celtic Thunder God), Tina, (Etruscan-Thunder God), the waning God

Essence – fruitfulness, reaping, prosperity, reverence, purification, transformation, change, The Bread of Life, The Chalice of Plenty, The Ever-flowing Cup, the Groaning Board (Table of Plenty)

Dynamics/Meaning – Lugh's wedding to Mother Earth, Birth of Lugh; Death of Lugh, Celtic Grain Festival

Purpose – honoring the parent deities, first harvest festival, first fruits grains & drink to the Goddess in appreciation of Her bounty, offering loaves of sacred bread in the form of the God (this is where the Gingerbread Man originated!)

Rituals/Magick – astrology, prosperity, generosity, continued success, good fortune, abundance, magickal picnic, meditate & visualize yourself completing a project you've started

Customs – games, the traditional riding of poles/staves, country fairs, breaking bread with friends, making corn dollies, harvesting herbs for charms/rituals, Lughnasadh fire with sacred wood & dried herbs, feasting, competitions, Lammas towers (fire-building team competitions), spear tossing, gathering flowers for crowns, fencing/swordplay, games of skill, martial sports, chariot races, handfastings, trial marriages, dancing 'round a corn mother (doll)

Foods – loaves of homemade wheat, oat, & corn bread, barley cakes, corn, potatoes, summer squash, nuts, acorns, wild berries (any type), apples, rice, pears, berry pies, elderberry wine, crab apples, mead, crab, blackberries, meadowsweet tea, grapes, cider, beer

Herbs – grain, acacia, heather, ginseng, sloe, cornstalks, cyclamen, fenugreek, aloes, frankincense, sunflower, hollyhock, oak leaf, wheat, myrtle

Element/Gender – fire/female

Threshold – noon

To learn more about this and other Sabbats, get our Sabbats eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=129

August 17, 10:54 am - New Moon

A new moon occurs at 10:54 am CT at 25 degree 8 minutes of Leo. In Leo, we feel more dramatic, theatrical, and want everything to be on a grand scale. We're more generous, warm, and romantic. Take your sweetie out on a date and rekindle the flame. Spend some time with your kids. Let the kid at heart come out and play. Let yourself be goofy. This could be a good time for actors or politicians. This new moon sextiles both transit

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Mars and Saturn, so our energy is high, we're able to focus on what we need to do and get it done. It's all good with this Moon. Perfect timing since we'll be done with the Mercury retrograde just a few days before, which occurs in this sign, and we're going to need some positive energy to make everything alright again. And Leos, rejoice! If you're a Leo Sun, Moon, or late Leo rising, you may feel the effects of this moon most.

August 31, 8:58 am - Full Moon, Blue Moon

The Wise Blue Salmon Moon

In the Celtic tradition, Bradan, the salmon, is the oldest of all animals. Bradan feasted on the nuts of nine hazel trees growing around the well of wisdom, the Well of Segais. The tale of Fionn mac Cumhaill tells of a young boy given the task of watching over the cooking of the Salmon of Wisdom. A splash of hot juice from the pot caused the boy to stick his burning finger in his mouth, imparting all the knowledge and wisdom to the boy, who was renamed Fionn.

Seek wisdom and oneness on this Pisces Blue Moon. Fill a shallow bowl, with no inside markings, with pure water. Sprinkle a touch of ground hazelnut, hazelnut liquor or hazelnut flavoring on top. Pass your left hand, then your right hand over the water, attuning yourself to its energy. Still your mind and allow your experience of Self to expand to include everything in every reality. Continue to expand your awareness until your current identity is just one small part of who you are. Tell yourself that you encompass all things and that you will retain some of this wisdom when you return to your body. When you are ready, gradually return to normal awareness.

~ Kristin Madden in Llewellyn's 2012 Witches' Datebook

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Witch SuperCenter August Sale Items

Love Spell Kit - Regular Price \$11.99, Sale Price \$9.99
Handcrafted Wand w/Crystal Point - Regular Price - \$14.99, Sale Price - \$11.99
Deluxe Wicca Starter Kit w/Money Spell - Regular Price - \$81.99, Sale Price - \$74.99
Magick Potions eBook - Regular Price - \$4.99, Sale Price - \$3.99
Herbal Divination Tea - Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price - \$4.99

To see all of our sale items, visit

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=specials

Herb of the Month

Sage - Element - Earth, Planet - Jupiter, Gender - Masculine, Parts Used - Leaves, Magickal Properties - Healing, Purifying, Uses - Used in sachets and amulets for all healing wishes and also burned or placed near a personal object of the person for whom the healing wish is made, burned and the smoke is walked to the four corners of the room to repel and rid negative energies and influences, especially good when moving into a new home. Can be drunk as a tea to help promote a hasty healing, also used when meditating.

To learn more about this and other herbs, get our Magickal Herbs eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=120

Stone of the Month

Bloodstone - love confidence, strength, control over your life, luck (fire) Bloodstone is known as "the stone of the warrior." This stone enhances courage and brings understanding of the benefits behind each hard-won victory. It helps us to revitalize and open our hearts, tempering strength with compassion. It is a protective stone, and in ancient times was thought to slow bleeding. This stone is often used by athletes to give them both courage and physical vitality. It is also a prosperity stone, helping to manifest wealth.

Rune of the Month

𐌚 Wunjo (W or V: Joy.) – Joy, comfort, pleasure. Fellowship, harmony, prosperity. Ecstasy, glory, spiritual reward, but also the possibility of going "over the top." If restrained, the meaning is general success and recognition of worth. Wunjo Reversed or Merkstave: Stultification, sorrow, strife, alienation. Delirium, intoxication, possession by higher forces, impractical enthusiasm. Raging frenzy, berzerker

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at

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Tarot Card of the Month

Hermit

The Hermit is a solitary person, one who looks for answers within and away from others. He represents a time for solitude and peace. Positively associated with introspection, solitude, guidance, advice, and patience. Negatively associated with obstinacy, suspiciousness, fear, impatience, folly, and arrogance.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at

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Correspondence of the Month

Seasons

Summer – love, marriage, friendship, beauty, courage, fire magick, strength, protection, magickal and physical energy

Spring – healing, air magick, ecological rituals, fertility, finances

Autumn – money, employment, water magick

Winter – Earth magick, introspection, meditation, magickal exercises, banishing, seeking past lives

To learn more about this and other correspondences, get our Magickal Correspondences eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=118

Spell of the Month

To Banish a Negative Self-Image

To banish any negative self-images, place the Lovers card from your favorite tarot deck in front of a black candle. Light the candle and concentrate on it. Feel its energy, then, turn your attention to the card. Think about the way you look, and consider all your good points. Realize that they outweigh any bad ones you might have. Remind yourself that no one is perfect. Dwell on the good things as you draw on the candle's energy. Feel good about yourself. Repeat as often as needed.

To receive more spells, get our Wicca 101 and Beyond: A Witch's Grimoire eBook at

http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=108