



February Newsletter

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Important February Dates

(All times are CST)

February 2 - Imbolc (crossquarter February 4)

Imbolc

Animals/Mythical Creatures - firebird, dragon, groundhog, deer, burrowing animals, ewes, robin, sheep, lamb, other creatures waking from hibernation

Gemstones - amethyst, garnet, onyx, turquoise

Incense/Oil - jasmine, rosemary, frankincense, cinnamon, neroli, musk, olive, sweet pea, basil, myrrh, and wisteria, apricot, carnation

Colors/Candles - brown, pink, red, orange, white, lavender, pale yellow, silver

Tools/Symbols/Decorations - white flowers, marigolds, plum blossoms, daffodils, Brigid wheel, Brigid's cross, candles, grain/seed for blessing, red candle in a cauldron full of earth, doll, Bride's Bed; the Bride, broom, milk, birchwood, snowflakes, snow in a crystal container, evergreens, homemade besom of dried broom, orange candle anointed in oil (see above) can be used to symbolize the renewing energy of the Sun's rebirth.

Goddesses - Virgin Goddess, Venus, Diana, Februa, Maiden, Child Goddess, Aradia, Athena, Inanna, Vesta, Gaia, Brigid, Selene (Greek), Branwen (Manx-Welsh)

Gods - young Sun Gods, Pan, Cupid/Eros (Greco-Roman), Dumuzi (Sumerian)

Essence - conception, initiation, insight, inspiration, creativity, mirth, renewal, dedication, breath of life, life-path, wise counsel, plan, prepare

Dynamics/Meaning - first stirring of Mother Earth, lambing, growth of the Sun God, the middle of winter

Purpose - honoring the Virgin Goddess, festival of the Maiden/Light

Rituals/Magick - cleansing; purification, renewal, creative inspiration, purification, initiation, candle work, house & temple blessings, welcoming Brigid, feast of milk & bread

Customs - lighting candles, seeking omens of Spring, storytelling, cleaning house, bonfires, indoor planting, stone collecting, candle kept burning dusk till dawn; hearth re-lighting

Foods - dairy, spicy foods, raisins, pumpkin, sesame & sunflower seeds, poppyseed bread/cake, honey cake, pancakes, waffles, herbal tea

Herbs - angelica, basil, bay, benzoin, celandine, clover, heather, myrrh, all yellow flowers, willow

Element/Gender - earth/female

Threshold - midnight

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

February 13, 8:51 pm - New Moon

New Moon in Aquarius

The new moon signifies a start of a new personal cycle each month. It's a time to renew or revise our goals, reach for what we wish for most and renew ourselves. When setting goals or aspiring towards our dreams and desires it is important to keep a few things in mind. First of all, our wishes can only involve ourselves. We cannot try to change others, only our attitudes towards those people, in hopes that they will respond favorably to us. Another important aspect of this process is to meditate on the qualities of the sign that the new moon is occurring in. These astrological qualities will give us powerful hints on what to strive for, and how to approach or strategize towards what we want to accomplish. It is a good idea to set approximately 10 goals or wishes each month. You should not combine several wishes into one wish! Keep your thoughts clear and separate, and write them down each month. You might want to have a special notebook or journal exclusively used for this purpose.

Visualize Your Wishes

It is often best not to include a wish unless you can clearly visualize it coming into fruition within your imagination. If not, there may be preliminary steps you need to take first, so instead, try visualizing these. Trust your feelings and intuition in this process- you will know instinctively what feels right. Some wishes become realized soon after the new moon. Others are more resistant and can take many months. Keep repeating wishes each month until they begin coming true as long as you continue to believe that they are right for you. When things in your life such as people, events, and your own attitudes begin to "shift," welcome this new change as evidence that your life is changing as a result of your positive intentions.

Aquarius Helps us Detach Emotionally

On February 13, 2010 at 8:51 pm central standard time the new moon will be in the sign of Aquarius. Aquarius is the wonderfully inventive sign of objectivity and originality.

The sign of Aquarius is known for its quality of being detached and objective. Detachment can be a very valuable tool in our lives. Learning detachment, or emotional distance, can enable us learn that we have the choice of whether or not we react to situations emotionally or not. Sometimes, even in very personal situations, not taking things personally can have a healing effect on us and upon those around us. When we can separate ourselves emotionally from situations, we get the chance to reflect and take in more truth, more objectivity, more information from our surroundings. Ultimately, we can find a deeper and fuller self-expression as we learn to reflect on how we fit into the overall situation that we find ourselves in, and how best to operate within that context.

Seek Rational and Creative Approaches

Detachment can help us to catch our spiritual breath while sparing ourselves needless pain, frustration or even false hopes. This quality can empower us to adapt to whatever life throws at us. It is impossible to predict how others will treat us or what life will bring. What we can do is to objectively register (and not immediately judge)

what is going on around us. From this perspective we can more easily think clearly and become more creative about life and our interaction with it. When a situation arises that you would usually react strongly to, with a little objectivity and thought you might be able to see several rational or creative approaches that would have passed you by if you had been acting from a purely emotional level. Hang onto these new solutions! They could be the start of a new period of personal growth for you. Aquarius rules the intellect, or "higher mind" for this reason. In this way, the spirit of Aquarius helps us to break out of routines, or automatic and reactive ways of responding.

Seeing Life From A Greater Perspective

This Aquarian quality of detachment is really just a way to see things from a greater perspective. During the new moon in Capricorn we explored climbing the "mountain top" as we aspired to achieve definite goals in our lives. The spirit of Aquarius, being the next astrological sign, takes this one step further. From this mountain top, Aquarius takes in the larger view of everything beneath it. Aquarius is in the position to really see the Big Picture!" From this standpoint, it is easy to see how this sign rules groups, organizations and a sense of community. This larger perspective sees things beyond the individual's needs and looks at things in a more "global" way. This bigger perspective may seem aloof or perhaps "clinical" rather than personal, but think of it as larger and more encompassing.

A challenge then, this month, is to try to view the many personal events in your life from this broader Aquarian perspective. Think of a few things that perhaps are not going right. Step back now and try to view it in a more objective, detached way. When you are less emotional can you start to see more solutions? Try to expand your view and see if a bigger picture emerges. Perhaps there is a pattern that you've been repeating throughout your life. Under the spirit of Aquarius, this might be a time to increase your awareness of the patterns you create that no longer or never served your higher purpose. You need not become emotional or self-critical, but instead accept and take ownership of these patterns or habits, observe them and then think about one way that you could do something different. Like a domino effect, if you implement one truly positive change in your life other things in your life and in the people whose lives you touch will also start to change for the better. Be open to creative solutions, trusting your higher intuition. Taking a truly novel approach and breaking out of an established pattern may feel uncomfortable at first, but just wait until you see the results! The discomfort may be worth the reward.

We Are All Connected

Realize that Aquarius rules patterns and vibrations and that we are all one and connected to each other. If you see things from this very large perspective you will see that you are one person in a huge network of people and living creatures that are inextricably connected on this planet. If given a choice between doing something for yourself only, versus doing something for others, most people will choose doing something that will help themselves. This is because most do not realize that helping others ultimately raises up everyone on this planet. Everything you do, say, or think will in some way impact everyone else. We all have so much personal power to lift up this troubled world.

February 14 - St. Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day Lore

Valentine's Day has its origins in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia celebrated every year in mid-february in honour of Lupercus, the god of fertility and Juno, queen of the Roman gods and goddesses and patron of women and marriage. The festival was held in the Lupercal, where Romulus and Remus, the twin founders of Rome, were said to have been nurtured by Juno-Lupa, the she-wolf. The festival celebrated the coming of Spring in the Roman calendar and hopefully ensured the fertility of flocks, fields and people. At one

point in the festival... some say on the evening of February 14.. all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

As Christianity became prevalent, priests attempted to replace old Pagan practices, so to Christianize the ancient pagan celebration of the Feast of Lubercus, church officials changed the name. The most popular candidate for St. Valentine was a 3rd century Roman priest who practiced Christianity and performed secret marriages against direct orders from Emperor Claudius II, who believed single soldiers were more likely to join his army. Saint Valentine had been beheaded for helping young lovers marry against the wishes of the mad emperor Claudius. Legend also has it that before execution, Valentine himself had fallen in love with his jailer's daughter. He signed his final note to her, "From Your Valentine", a phrase that has lasted through the centuries. In recognition of his sacrifice for love... and to lure people away from celebrating the Pagan way... Lupercalia was renamed.

There is also speculation among linguistic scholars that the name 'Valentine' has Pagan origins. It was customary for French peasants of the Middle Ages to pronounce a 'g' as a 'v'. Consequently, the original term may have been the French 'galantine,' which yields the English word 'gallant'. The word originally refers to a dashing young man known for his 'affaires d'amour,' a true gallant. This seems a plausible explanation since Valentine's Day has always been associated with the secular pleasures of flirtation and courtly love.

As Valentine's Day falls within the Candlemas season, Wiccans honor this celebration as well. It has been recorded that ancient pagans recognized this loving event. If marked by love, they often wore a lover's knot on Valentine's Day. This symbol of two intersecting circles side by side can either be woven into clothing or fashioned with a ribbon or yarn and tied to a garment. Love and merriment are essential in our lives. The joy of giving and receiving special treats such as chocolate is sacred, as well as just plain fun.

February 15 - President's Day (observed)

If I were President...

*If I were president,
this is what I'd do:
I'd combine Lincoln's thinking
with all that Jefferson knew.*

*If I were president--
and this I know for sure--
I'd mix the courage of Roosevelt
with all the heart that Jimmy Carter felt.*

*Yes, if I had that job
I know I'd try to be
like all the caring presidents
in America's history!*

~ Helen H. Moore

February 16 - Fat Tuesday

Night's Mardi Gras

*Night is the true democracy. When day
Like some great monarch with his train has passed,
In regal pomp and splendor to the last,
The stars troop forth along the Milky Way,
A jostling crowd, in radiant disarray,
On heaven's broad boulevard in pageants vast,
And things of earth, the hunted and outcast,
Come from their haunts and hiding-places; yea,
Even from the nooks and crannies of the mind
Visions uncouth and vagrant fancies start,
And specters of dead joy, that shun the light,
And impotent regrets and terrors blind,
Each one, in form grotesque, playing its part
In the fantastic Mardi Gras of Night.*

~ Edward J. Wheeler

February 28, 10:38 am - Full Moon

Quickening Moon

To the Cherokee, February is the Bony Moon. In their southeastern territory, this historically marked the hungry time when people and animals grew lean. Similarly, the Choctaw call this the Little Famine Moon. to the Dakota Sioux, it is the Moon When Trees Pop. Out on the plains, it can get so cold that the moisture inside living wood freezes and the expanding ice causes tree trunks to burst.

Toward the end of winter, people and wildlife have used up much of their reserves, so be cautious and conservative if you find resources stretching thin. Conversely, if you have enough to share, look to help others. Donating to a food bank or cooking supper for a friend who's lost a job can soften the bite of this sharp Moon. Assist wildlife with rich foods, suet, corn and fresh water. Check forecasts of extreme cold and protect vulnerable plants if necessary. Trees are especially vulnerable if warm weather that makes the sap run if followed by severe cold.

Magickally, create abundance via giveaways and gratitude for what you have. Pray for people experiencing famine and hardships; contribute to charities that aid them. Work spells of protection for the land and wildlife.

~ Elizabeth Barrette

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Witch SuperCenter February Sale Items

Handcrafted Book of Shadows, Pentacle Design – Regular Price \$34.99, Sale Price \$29.99

Love Spell Kit – Regular Price \$11.99, Sale Price \$10.99

Book of Shadows eBook – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

Doublemint Herbal Tea – Regular Price - \$5.99, Sale Price \$4.99

Magickal Herbs Kit, 75 Herbs – Regular Price - 41.99, Sale Price \$36.99

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Herb of the Month

Burdock - Water/Venus, Gender - Feminine, Parts Used - Roots, Tops and Leaves, Magickal Properties - Protection, Purification, Uses - Carry as a protection sachet or burn for purification of the room. Rinse with a root decoction for ridding oneself of a gloomy feeling about yourself or others

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Stone of the Month

Moss Agate - Holding this gentle and nurturing stone makes me think of sunlight dappling through the leaves and the scents of loam and fresh moss. It balances the emotions, heals to the heart and brings a positive outlook. Moss agate can also be used to enhance plant growth and to grow prosperity, manifesting wealth and abundance into your life. It is dark green in color. The Greek Orpheus said that to wear moss agate was to receive divine favor. To it is attributed powers of eloquence and persuasion, fertility and eternal life. It is associated with Taurus and Venus, and also Gemini. Moss agate is one of the most powerful healing stones. It protects and enhances the aura and aids in opening the "third eye." It is useful for meditation, scrying, astral travel, and speaking with spirit guides. It is well-suited for spells of wealth, happiness, long life, and to find friends.

Rune of the Month

𐌆 **Ansuz** (A: The As, ancestral god, i.e. Odin.) - A revealing message or insight, communication. Signals, inspiration, enthusiasm, speech, true vision, power of words and naming. Blessings, the taking of advice. Good health, harmony, truth, wisdom. Ansuz Reversed or Merkstave: Misunderstanding, delusion, manipulation by others, boredom. Vanity and grandiloquence. (Odin is a mighty, but duplicitous god. He always has his own agenda.)

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http://witchsupercenter.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=9&products_id=124

Tarot Card of the Month

Queen of Cups - A woman who has more feeling and imagination than common sense. She is a good wife and loving mother. She is poetic and dreamy. A maternal female. A good mother and spouse. An emotionally secure situation. The Queen of Cups is an adored woman. She is admired for her fairness and honesty. She is warm-hearted and a good friend. She indicates that a woman may assist you in your situation.

Want the work you do to mean something or to have value for others and/or to enlist the aid of another. People might not get your concepts or see things the way you do, but you will not be left out in the cold. Someone will come to your aid, or you will have the opportunity to utilize some of your skills or talents. The Queen of Cups indicates a welling up of feelings that may have been hidden or unacknowledged for some time. On the other hand, this card may indicate an overflow of emotion and sentimentality that could be the source of trouble.

Empathy. You need to empathize with human frailty, yours included. Think with your heart, not your head. Learn how those in need cope with life's challenges and share your knowledge. Be aware of getting too close. Hug someone you care about.

The suit of Cups represents love and emotions. You will probably deal with issues concerning these matters in the near future. The Queen of Cups is a nurturing personality. She genuinely cares about the well-being of other people. She could be a mother, or a mother figure. The Queen gives freely to others. She is creative, and highly intuitive. You may be called upon to help, or care for, another. You will be glad to help, but make sure you take care of yourself as well. You should pay close attention to your inner voice. Trust your intuition. You might feel a burst of creativity, or become involved in a creative project.

Physical description - light brown hair, fair complexion, beautiful woman, expressive eyes, sensuous lips. Personality traits - warm, loving, sociable. Good-natured woman, devoted and honest. Sympathetic, sociable, artistically gifted. Very imaginative, honest, loyal. Caring, sensitive to the feelings of others, compassion, kind to animals and children, intuitive, emotional, heart on the sleeve, understanding, responds to the unconscious, spiritual, patience, unconditional love and acceptance, telepathic, reverence for life, mature love relationships, sincerity, has well developed 6th sense, gentle, motherly, good listener, empathy, good in matters of the heart, has an inner guide, psychic ability, oneness with all people, mysterious, devoted, helps those in need, tender-hearted, experiences life as sacred, other worldly, ethereal beauty, loves fantasy, easily influenced, passionate, loyal, self acceptance, ability to listen to feelings, perceptive, imaginative, gift of prophesy.

Love of art and poetry and music, nurturing and protective energy, inner visions and dreams, the muse who inspires, enchantress, mythology, power of the unconscious, divine inspiration, mother love, collective unconscious, depths of the psyche, mysterious feminine, seductive, pay attention to the anima, fragile and easily hurt, unfathomable, still waters run deep, open in showing feelings, sympathetic ear and a shoulder to cry on, keeps emotions under control, dislikes thoughtless and inappropriate behavior, strong moral sense, tranquil, compelling.

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Correspondence of the Month

Goddesses

Some Goddesses appropriate for invoking at the New Moon:

Hecate - for guidance in creating new goals

Artemis - for energy and guidance to bring new goals to fruition in the days ahead

Inanna or Persephone - for rebirth, life-changes, and new growth in the days ahead

Freya - for creativity and imagination

Brigid - for creativity, motivation and strength to begin work on new ideas and projects

Aradia - for beginning philanthropic projects to help your community, or beginning education with the goal of improving the conditions of your life

Some Goddesses appropriate for invoking during the Waxing Moon and at First Quarter:

Artemis, Inanna or Persephone - for their continued assistance for projects you called on them for at the New Moon

Aphrodite - for self-esteem, and the confidence to follow through on developing projects

Venus - for balance and resolution of problems in growing relationships)

Kwan Yin - for promotion of compassion, wisdom and healing within humankind and the Earth

Some Goddesses appropriate for invoking during the Full Moon:

Demeter - for assistance bringing projects to completion, or to bring comfort or healing to the bereaved

Anu - for assistance bringing goals to fruition

Isis - to invoke nurturance and protection of yourself, your loved ones, projects or goals that are dear, or of humankind of Mother Earth as a whole

Aradia - to invoke the blessings of learning, compassion, and a sense of community into yourself and humankind as a whole

Selene - to invoke the blessings of love and happiness into your life and relationships

Inanna - to invoke fertility with the goal of motherhood

Lakshmi - to invoke abundance and growth on all levels of being, material, emotional and spiritual

Some Goddesses appropriate for invoking during the Waning Moon and Last Quarter:

Maat - for assistance in determining the cause of troubles, and what in your life is worth furthering, and what would be best left behind

Themis - for the same assistance as can be provided by Maat, particularly with regard to relationships

Cerridwen - for assistance in gleaning wisdom from perceived mistakes and failures

Hecate - for assistance in removing unwanted obstacles from your life so that you can be free to begin anew in the days ahead

Inanna - for guidance pertaining to soul-searching, removal of the proverbial seven veils to reach the heart of your soul, in search for your own higher Truth, and for strength to cope with the grief that comes from letting go of old habits and ideas

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Spell of the Month

Love Charm Bag

As with any love magick, spells like this are best done on a Friday.

small pink charm bag, any material

1 pink candle

4 white candles

Cauldron or fire-proof pot

Catnip and jasmine herbs

Small piece of paper, and pen

Cast your circle in your usual manner. Place the 4 white candles in a circle around your altar, at the 4 directional points, with the cauldron and pink candle in the center. Light each of the white candles, and then the pink one. On the slip of paper, write down some of the important qualities you are looking for in a mate. Place the paper with the herbs in the cauldron, and light them. As they burn, focus on your intent and repeat the chant below three times.

By the power of flame and herb, bring me love
By the power of flame and words, bring me love
By the power of flame and candle, bring me love

Let the candles burn out, and put the herb/paper ashes in the pouch. Carry it with you.

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