



Contact: information suppressed.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANDS OF CHANGE COVEN HOSTS FORTH ANNUAL PAGAN PICNIC

PISCATAWAY—On Saturday, August 4, followers of Earth-based spirituality, or Pagans as they are sometimes called, will come together for a day of workshops, rituals, and networking in Grove 3 of Johnson Park. The Forth Annual New Jersey Pagan Picnic is sponsored by the Central New Jersey-based Hands of Change Coven, with the help of New Brunswick's Green Man Grove of the ADF, Church of Caduceus in Long Branch, the Mid-Atlantic Pagan Alliance of Tom's River, the band Music for the Goddess, Norse Heathenry Society Inc., and the Delaware Valley Pagan Network.

Starting bright and early at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m., the gathering will be filled with workshops on Astrology, Grounding and Meditation, the Norse religion, Pagan songs, creating Pagan community, ATC and Hands of Change full moon services, preparing for ritual and trancework, and dance for the rhythmically impaired. In the morning, an opening circle will orient attendees to the picnic. Later in the afternoon, the Druids will lead a ritual celebrating Lughnassad, a harvest festival, with a drumming circle led by Hands of Change following it.

Admission is free for all open-minded individuals. A contribution of food for the pot-luck lunch is requested. Attendees should bring something to sit on, plate, cup, utensils and a drum if they would like to participate in the drumming circle.

A federally recognized Wiccan church, Hands of Change Coven is a growing spiritual community based in Central New Jersey, dedicated to nurturing spiritual growth and healing the planet. They are a group of people that embrace the natural cycles of the earth and the universe and are committed to inclusion, gender neutrality, healing, community building, and empowerment.

The Church of Caduceus, a healing ministry, is a federally recognized interfaith church of Wicca, Earth Spirited Religions and Individuals. They are members of The Aquarian Tabernacle Church, a service oriented religious organization with over thirty churches worldwide. The Church of Caduceus provides healing service to individual members of the community on all levels: Physical, Emotional, Intellectual and Spiritual. They work for the community as a whole by teaching tolerance for and between religions, races, and sexual orientations. They enjoy eco-sensible practices, positive self-development, and the spirituality found in actively living what they teach.

Green Man Grove serves Druids and like-minded Pagans in the greater New York metropolitan area. The grove has held celebrations and rituals across the Northeastern United States. Their official start on Samhain (pronounced sow-en) 1990 (Halloween), took place at their first ritual—in Liberty State Park under the skirts of the Goddess of Liberty Enlightening the World. They are members of Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF), (Gaelic for “Our Own Druidry”). They are a group of experienced Pagans who believe that the best way to approach the Goddesses and Gods of an earth-centered religion is through practice, dedication, scholarship and fun.

The Mid-Atlantic Pagan Alliance (MPA) is an eclectic group of pagans building a stronger and happier pagan community. They hold holiday events and social mixers. MPA members perform public works, contributing a positive image for ALL Pagans (yes, those are MPA members picking up trash on

Route 37 in Toms River). Membership is free and open to those who follow a Pagan path and practice tolerance and responsibility.

Music for the Goddess performs original music inspired by the female aspect of Deity. This ensemble interweaves global rhythms, bardic traditions, ancient wisdom, and sonic energy into inspiring and energetic songs. Their debut CD, Goddess Mandala, is available online and at finer metaphysical shops. Their second CD is in the planning stages.

<http://www.handsofchange.org> — Hands of Change Coven
<http://www.greenmanadf.org> — Green Man Grove
<http://www.gemnaries.com/naturewise/caduceus> — Church of Caduceus
<http://angelfire.com/nj2/mapa/index.html> — Mid-Atlantic Pagan Alliance
<http://www.dvpn.org/~dvpn> — Delaware Valley Pagan Network
<http://www.musicforthegoddess.com> — Music for the Goddess

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