

# Blue Raven's News



August 2009

## Blue Raven Books and Gifts

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**Please note:  
The Store will be  
closed on  
Sunday,  
August 30th.  
We are sorry for  
any inconvenience  
this may cause.**

## What's New?

There are Great Things happening at Blue Raven. First we would like to welcome Rev. Bradley Moore - A Spiritualist Minister/Universal Progressive Metaphysician. Ordained at Camp Chesterfield in Chesterfield, Indiana in 1999. For the past 20 years he has worked in churches, fairs and events in the U.S. and Canada. Bradley is a Clairvoyant Medium, Chaldean Numerologist, Palmist, Reiki Teacher/Practitioner and Lecturer. Bradley will be available at Blue Raven on Thursdays from 12:00-5:00pm.



Secondly, we would like to welcome Paige Graham. Paige is a junior at Waverly High School. She is published and is currently working with the assistant director for the creative writing school at Michigan State University. Paige recently created Waverly High Schools Drama Club and she will be in "JB", a play at the Ledges Playhouse. Her passions include literature, genetics, drama and music. She plans to attend Michigan State University for her B.A. and her Master's Degree at either Boston College in Creative Writing or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Genetics. Paige will be doing Book Discussions Groups with Blue Raven.

Thirdly, we will be attending the 2nd Annual Lansing Pagan Pride Event to be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 10am-6pm at The Unitarian Universalist Church Grounds, 855 Grove Street, East Lansing. Please join us in supporting the event. If you are interested in being a volunteer or a vendor please contact Angela at Blue Raven.

*Back in Stock: Mortar & Pestles, Dragon's Blood Incense, Herbal Soaps, Wood Boxes, Pendulums, Book of Shadows*

*New at Blue Raven: Athames, Chalices, Altar Bells, Oak Runes*

## What is Lammas?

Although in the heat of a Mid-western summer it might be difficult to discern, the festival of Lammas (Aug 1st) marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall. The history of Lammas is as convoluted as all the rest of the old folk holidays. It is of course a cross-quarter day, one of the four High Holidays or Greater Sabbats of Witchcraft, occurring 1/4 of a year after Beltane. It's true astrological point is 15 degrees Leo, but tradition has set August 1st as the day Lammas is typically celebrated. The celebration proper would begin on sundown of the previous evening, our July 31st, since the Celts reckon their days from sundown to sundown. However, British Witches often refer to the astrological date of Aug 6th as Old Lammas, and folklorists call it Lammas O.S. ('Old Style'). This date has long been considered a 'power point' of the Zodiac, and is symbolized by the Lion, one of the 'tetramorph' figures found on the Tarot cards, the World and the Wheel of Fortune (the other three figures being the Bull, the Eagle, and the Spirit). Astrologers know these four figures as the symbols of the four 'fixed' signs of the Zodiac, and these naturally align with the four Great Sabbats of Witchcraft. Christians have adopted the same iconography to represent the four gospel-writers. 'Lammas' was the medieval Christian name for the holiday and it means 'loaf-mass', for this was the day on which loaves of bread were baked from the first grain harvest and laid on the church altars as offerings. It was a day representative of 'first fruits' and early harvest. In Irish Gaelic, the feast was referred to as 'Lughnasadh', a feast to commemorate the funeral games of the Irish sun-god Lugh. However, there is some confusion on this point. Although at first glance, it may seem that we are celebrating the death of Lugh, the god of light does not really die (mythically) until the autumnal equinox. And indeed, if we read the Irish myths closer, we discover that it is not Lugh's death that is being celebrated, but the funeral games which Lugh hosted to commemorate the death of his foster-mother, Tailte. That is why the Lughnasadh celebrations in Ireland are often called the 'Tailtean Games'. Lammas was also the traditional time of year for craft festivals. The medieval guilds would create elaborate displays of their wares, decorating their shops and themselves in bright colors and ribbons, marching in parades, and performing strange, ceremonial plays and dances for the entranced onlookers. The atmosphere must have been quite similar to our modern-day Renaissance Festivals. Although the Roman Church moved St. Catherine's feast day all around the calendar with bewildering frequency, it's most popular date was Lammas. (They also kept trying to expel this much-loved saint from the ranks of the blessed because she was mythical rather than historical, and because her worship gave rise to the heretical sect known as the Cathari.) At any rate, a large wagon wheel was taken to the top of a near-by hill, covered with tar, set aflame, and ceremoniously rolled down the hill. Some mythologists see in this ritual the remnants of a Pagan rite symbolizing the end of summer, the flaming disk representing the sun-god in his decline. And just as the sun king has now reached the autumn of his years, his rival or dark self has just reached puberty. Many commentators have bewailed the fact that traditional Gardnerian and Alexandrian Books of Shadows say very little about the holiday of Lammas, stating only that poles should be ridden and a circle dance performed. This seems strange, for Lammas is a holiday of rich mythic and cultural associations, providing endless resources for liturgical celebration.



### Irish Buttermilk Bannock

4 cups All Purpose/Bread Flour  
 3 tsp Baking Powder  
 1 tsp Salt to taste  
 ¾ tsp Baking Soda  
 1 cup Raisins  
 2 Eggs  
 1 ½ cups Buttermilk

Stir flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda and raisins together. Separately, fork-blend eggs and buttermilk, then add to dry ingredients. Stir until sticky batter is formed. Scrape batter onto well floured surface and knead lightly. Shape batter into ball, then place in round non-stick casserole that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Mark a cross in the center, using a sharp knife. Bake uncovered in preheated 350 degree oven for about 1 ¼ hours. Wait 10-15 minutes before attempting to remove bread from casserole, then cool on wire rack.

## Leo About Your Sign...

The Leo type is the most dominant, spontaneously creative and extrovert of all the zodiacal characters. In grandeur of manner, splendor of bearing and magnanimity of personality, they are the monarch's among humans as the lion is king of beasts. They are ambitious, courageous, dominant, strong willed, positive, independent, self-confident there is no such a word as doubt in their vocabularies, and they are self-controlled. Born leaders, either in support of, or in revolt against, the *status quo*. They are at their most effective when in a position of command, their personal magnetism and innate courtesy of mind bringing out the best of loyalty from subordinates. They are uncomplicated, knowing exactly what they want and using all their energies, creativeness and resolution to get it, as well as being certain that they will get whatever they are after. Their followers know where they are with Leonians. Leonians think and act bigger than others would normally dare; the ambitiousness of their schemes and idealism sometimes daunt their followers, their practical hardheadedness and ability to go straight to the heart of any problem reassures those who depend on them. If Leonians meet with setbacks they thrive on the adversity. On the whole they are powers for good, for they are strongly idealistic, humane, and beneficent. They have powerful intelligence and are of a broad philosophical, sometimes religious, turn of mind. Those who are devout may become very obstinate in upholding traditional beliefs and will cling tenaciously, but with complete sincerity, to practices and doctrines which liberal thinkers regard as absurdly out-of-date. These will be found as the 'lions' of industries, and in the forefront of the cutting edge of technologies. Their faults can be as large in scale as their virtues, and an excessively negative Leonian can be one of the most unpleasant human beings imaginable, displaying extreme arrogance, autocratic pride, haughtiness, and excessive hastiness of temper. If jealously suspicious of rivals, they will not hesitate to use cunning, lies and trickery to discredit them. Self-centeredness, greed for flattery, boastfulness, and bombast, pomposity, snobbish superiority, and overbearing, and intolerant disdain of underlings; to whom they will nevertheless delegate the carrying out of minor details in their grandiose schemes, and from whom they are not above borrowing immoderately if an occasion necessitates it. Any of these can be characteristic of Leo. Add to them a passion for luxury, a lust for power, unlimited sexual lust, and emotional indulgence, and a character emerges that no one would want to know either in public life or private. But their pride may go before a fall, as uncontrolled impetuosity is likely to bring them low. Fortunately it is rare that a Leo is so undisciplined as to give way thoroughly to this list of vices, and their tendencies to them are usually balanced by an innate wisdom. Those who are afflicted with them also have the intelligence it takes to consciously and actively overcome them. In professional life they do well at any vocation at which there is room at the top. As politicians they are content with nothing less than a powerful position in government. In business they may be the chairman of their company's board, or at least directors or managers. They are excellent organizers and overseers, often laying the groundwork for new projects. If from the artisan ranks of society they will aspire to become the boss, partly because they are ambitious by nature, partly because they dislike manual labor, preferring to take charge of others doing it. If artistic, Leos can become stars of stage or screen (their bent is serious rather than light drama), maestros as musicians where they will gravitate toward the grand instruments or activities, such as the organ or conducting of orchestras and as painters; anything grand in conception and scale appeals to them. Leo women make exceptionally good welfare workers. In his or her relations with others the Leo type is open, sincere, genuine and trusting.

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## Books and Gifts

### Store Hours

Monday thru Saturday

10:00am to 10:00pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Phone: 517-507-5051

Email:

[Store@blueravenimports.com](mailto:Store@blueravenimports.com)

Website:

[www.Blueravenimports.com](http://www.Blueravenimports.com)

## Leo About Your Sign...

Outgoing, spontaneously warm hearted and plain spoken, though never lacking in kindness, Leos are more disillusioned than the average if let down by those they trust. They are not good judges of character and are inclined to favoritism and an exaggerated faith in their followers which too often ends in disappointment. They have a strong sex drive and are so attracted to the opposite sex that they find it hard to be constant; they can be so intensely sexual as to become dissolute. They may have numerous love affairs for their love of pleasure and beauty is liable to drive them from one attractive partner to another. They are very much inclined to deceive. Their marriages may fail for the same reason, yet they are sincere and generous to their lovers while love lasts, and will remain attached to their homes so long as it is run for their benefit. They demand service but are incapable of giving it.

Possible Health Concerns.....Physiologically, Leo governs the upper back, forearms, wrist, spine and heart. Its natives are subject to a number of ailments: pain in the back and lungs, spinal complaints, diseases of the heart and blood, sickness in ribs and sides, convulsions, pleasantries, violent burning fevers including, in former days, when they were prevalent, plague, pestilence, jaundice, and some afflictions of the eyes.

Your Ruling Planet is the Sun


The color of choice for Leo is the color Gold

Your starstone is the Ruby



### Special Bonus: Herblore

**Ash Bark:** A very druid sacred tree, the Ash is part of the sacred trio "by Oak, by Ash and by Thorn" of ancient British legend. This powerful tree is used for protection and to attract prosperity and love.

Traditional Uses: Place is a white pouch inscribed with this symbol:  and wear as protection from the negativity of others.

Place is the four corners of the house for protection.

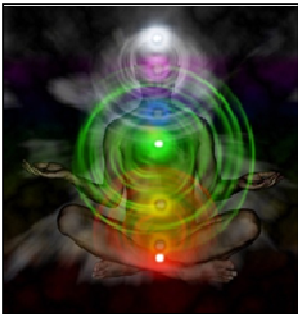
Burn at Yule to attract prosperity in the coming year.



## CURRENT CLASS OFFERINGS



**Sunday, August 2, 2009 - Moon Ceremony - 2:30-4:30pm - \$Love Donation-** Each person has a moon sign, learn how yours is effected by the different phases of the moon. What energies are coming in to work with you, what is the history of this time and how do you relate? This astrologically based information is brought into user friendly format with prayers, thanksgiving and manifestation tools with the new and full moons. Bring in the new into your life during the new moon and let go of the old with the full moon. If you have your chart bring it with you and learn how the Moon effects it.



**Tuesday, August 4, 2009 - Chakra Healing - 6:30-9:00pm - \$250.00-** Healing begins with you! In this soothing, calming, and deeply healing course you will learn about the seven most-prime chakras, how they function, and how thought processes – both yours and those of others – dis-ease and heal them. You will discover each chakras two primary archetypes, each chakras influence on the physical body, and how to access each chakras power. You will discover how to awaken, decode, and utilize each of these power centers for aid in manifesting mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health, including the use of specific essential oils and stones that benefit each individual energy center. Additionally, you will learn the basics of safely, effectively, and lovingly dis-cording yourself from others and others from you. This is an active hands-on course full of practical and easy-to-use techniques designed to create deep personal healing on all levels. - 10 Week Class



**Thursday, August 13, 2009 - Harry Potter Discussion Group - 4:30-5:30pm. - \$3.00/session - Meets every 2 weeks -** Are you a Harry Potter fanatic who would love to re-read the Harry Potter books and discuss them with other Harry Potter enthusiasts? Or, have you heard a lot about the Harry Potter book series, but you have not quite gotten around to reading them yet? If you answered yes to either question, then please join Paige Graham in looking at and rethinking specific situations in the books, analyzing and deconstructing characters and events, and relating the books to other books and historical events. This group is open to all age groups, and please bring a copy of your book.



**Sunday, August 16, 2009 - Moon Ceremony - 2:30-4:30pm - \$Love Donation-** Each person has a moon sign, learn how yours is effected by the different phases of the moon. What energies are coming in to work with you, what is the history of this time and how do you relate? This astrologically based information is brought into user friendly format with prayers, thanksgiving and manifestation tools with the new and full moons. Bring in the new into your life during the new moon and let go of the old with the full moon. If you have your chart bring it with you and learn how the Moon effects it.

**Astrology, Chaldean Numerology and Palm Reading Classes to be offered soon. Please check our website often for an updated class listing.**