



# The Moonlight Post

VOL. 12

**Inside:**  
*Gerald Gardner  
Selena Fox  
Scott Cunningham  
Sybil Leek  
Margot Adler  
Raven Grimassi  
Pete Pathfinder  
Isaac Bonewit  
Stewart Farrar*

# FAMOUS WICCANS



# FOREWORD

There are many, many people who had a hand in making Wicca what it is today. There was a time when you could only practice witchcraft in secret, and persecution then was very, very different from the snide comments you get now. But thanks to the people who went against the grain and fought for the freedom to practice Wicca and as witchcraft as a religion. Here are only a few of the notable Wiccans who stood up for Wicca and its practitioners by giving lectures, classes, and interviews; making splashes in print media and broadcast media; actively engaging in community issues and helping out their local government units, to dispel myths about Wicca, fight for worldwide recognition and legalization, and ultimately, religious freedom.



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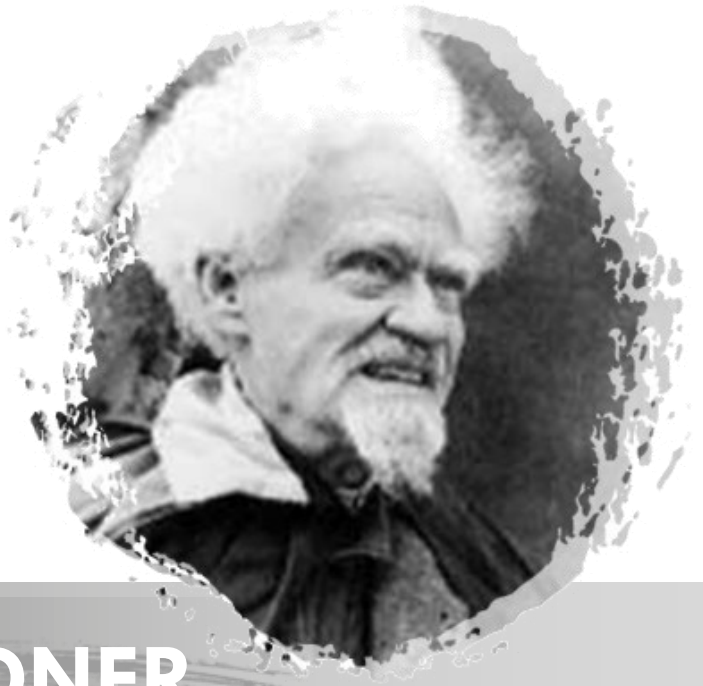
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3

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*"The Witches are firm believers of reincarnation, and they say that once a witch, always a witch."*

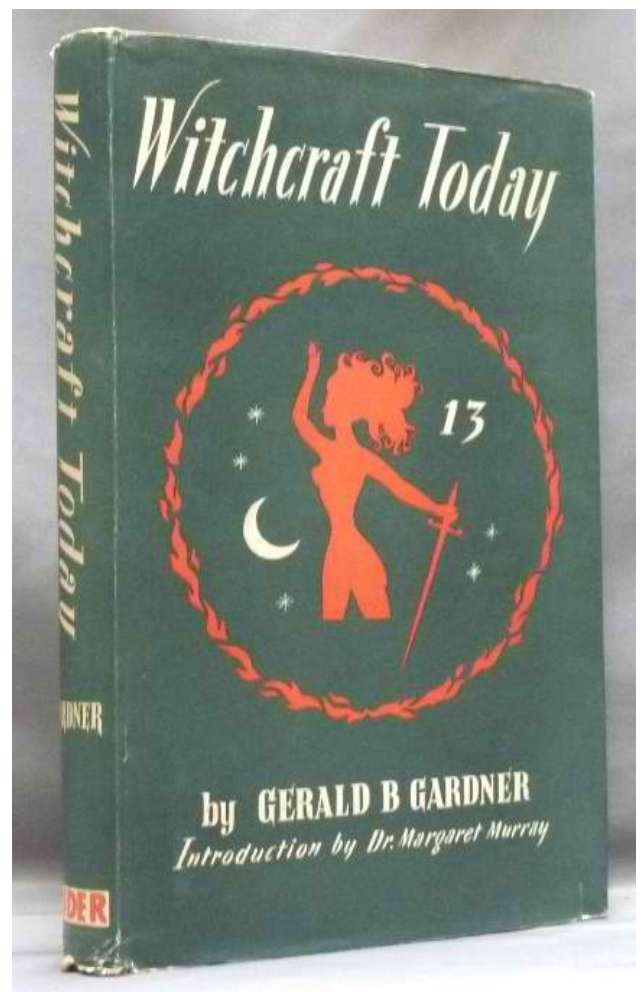


## GERALD GARDNER

1884 - 1964

**Gerald Gardner** is one of the best known figures in modern witchcraft. This Englishman is the founder of modern Wicca. He has contributed so much to Wicca and anyone, from the beginner to a veteran knows one thing or another about Gerald Gardner or have read a book by Gerald Gardner. He wrote the books: *Witchcraft Today* and *The Meaning of Witchcraft*, and both led to the growth and development of the different traditions in modern Wicca throughout the world.

Gerald Gardner was a man who had a vision. He went against the grain and was not afraid to try out anything, even those things deemed crazy by other people.





## Early Life

From early on in England, Gerald Gardner had an avid interest in history and archaeology. He was fascinated with the local culture and the religious and magical beliefs that are a part of it. He also developed a keen interest in all things occult and had taken a liking to ritual knives and daggers, particularly the Malayan dagger. After 20 years of research and study, he wrote his first book on the history and folklore of the Malay called "Keris and other Malay Weapons," which was very well-received in academic circles and became the world's authority on Malaya's indigenous people and their weapons.

Gardner worked as a civil servant for the British government until 1936, first as a rubber plantation inspector, then as a customs official. The amount of money he made in his dealings with rubber allowed him to indulge in his hobbies and interests, most especially archaeology.

## Road To Wicca

In 1947, Arnold Crowther introduced Gardner to Aleister Crowley, who was believed to be a member of one of Old George Pickingill's original **Nine Covens** in the New Forest. Gardner was initiated into Crowley's **Ordo Templi Orientis**. Gardner eventually became well-versed in matters of Folklore, Witchcraft, and Magic. He also collected artifacts and materials on magical procedures and ceremonial magic. He wanted to write about his learnings and pass on the knowledge, but at that time Witchcraft was still against the law in England. He was advised to maintain secrecy and avoid writing anything about Witchcraft and Magic.

But Gardner eventually wrote about

his learnings in the form of fiction in 1949, a novel called ***"High Magic's Aid."*** The book details the basic ideas for what would become ***"Gardnerian Wicca"***.

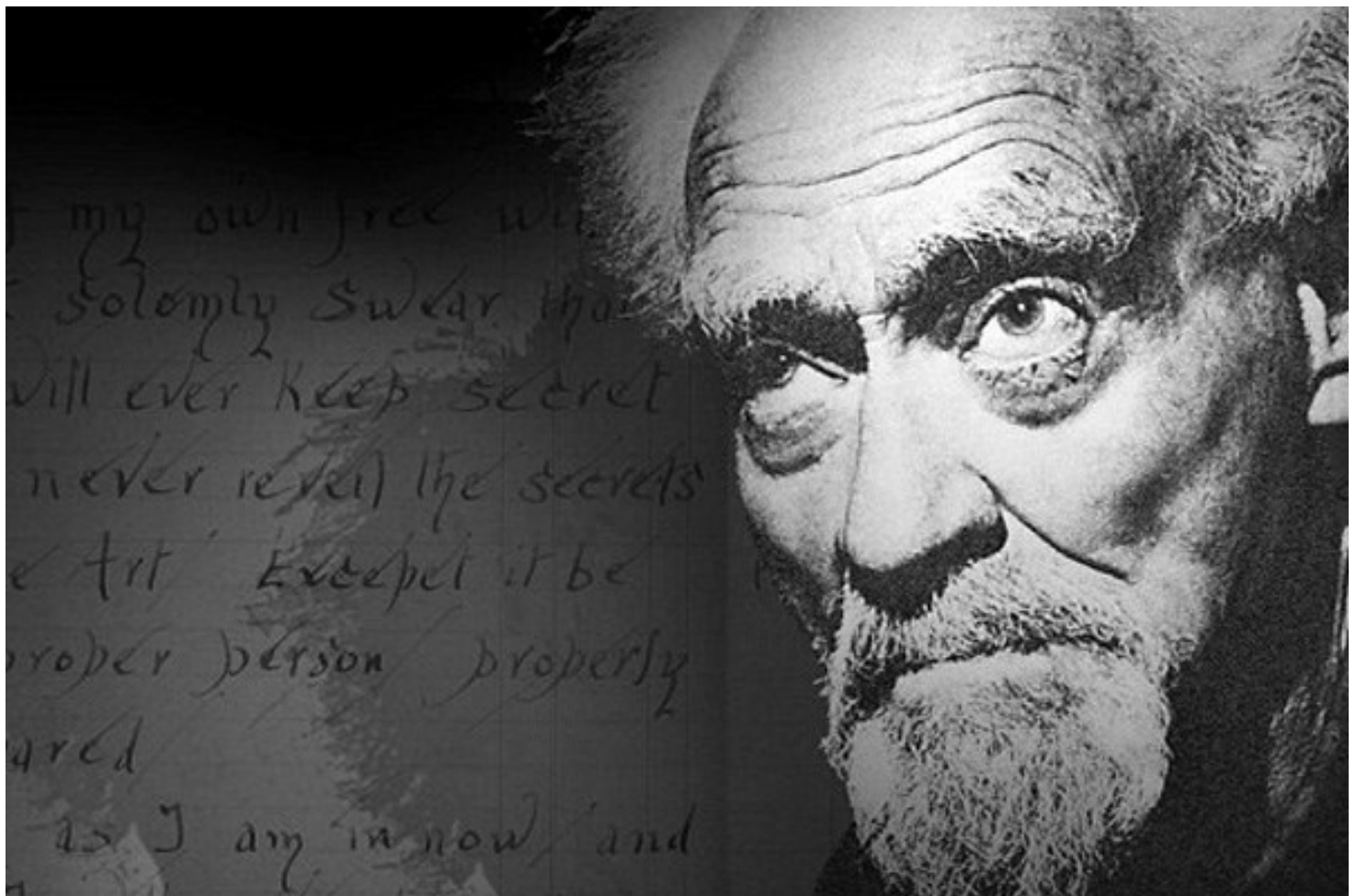
### **Gardnerian Wicca**

In 1951, the public began showing new interest in the Old Religion. A repeal of the very last antiquated witchcraft laws was being enforced in England. Gardner felt that he was finally free to go public and break away from the New Forest coven. Gardner began establishing his own Wiccan path. This repeal in the law also led Cecil H. Williamson to open the ***"Museum of Magic and Witchcraft"*** at Castletown in the Isle of Man. This is the very same museum where Gardner would serve as the museum's director, giving him the name the "Resident Witch."

### **Negative Reception**

There were and still are many people who took Gerald Gardner for a deceitful and manipulative con man who had a penchant for ritual nudity. Many witchcraft practitioners found it wrong for Gardner to make public what should have been a secret. Many also shunned publicity thinking it will harm the craft. His egotism and publicity-seeking tried the patience of his own coven members and this resulted in them breaking off ties with Gardner.

However you may choose to see it, you cannot deny Gerald Gardner's contributions to the modern Pagan religion that is Wicca. Not a lot of notable Wiccans have an illustrious a past as Gerald Gardner. And he still is one of the most respected and most appreciated Wiccans in the world of Wicca.



*“All human beings have magic in them, the secret is to know how to use this magic...”*



# SYBIL LEEK

# 1917 - 1982

**Sybil Leek** was an English Witch, born with a witch's mark. A gifted Psychic and Astrologer who authored more than 60 books on Astrology, Numerology and Reincarnation. She was a character who wore a cape, loose gowns and had a pet jackdaw (Mr. Hotfoot Jackson) perched on her shoulders. H.G. Wells, Lawrence of Arabia and Aleister Crowley were constant visitors in her home. Sybil's mother's ancestry can be traced back to the witches of southern Ireland in 1134, and her father's ancestry can be traced back to occultists in czarist Russia.



## Molly Leigh

Sybil's most notable ancestor was Molly Leigh from Burslem near Stoke-on-Trent. Sybil took special pride in being descended from Molly Leigh. Having a pet jackdaw perched on her shoulder was also the same custom that old Molly had.

## New Forest Area

Sybil was born on February 22, 1917 to a rich family. She lived and grew up in the New Forest area of Hampshire. In their New Forest home her mother and her friends would regularly meet for tea. They called their group the Pentagram Club.

The New Forest is one of the oldest forests in England is deeply associated with witchcraft. If this sounds familiar, this is the very same area where Gerald B.



Gardner first joined Old Dorothy Clutterbuck's coven (a coven descended from one of Old George Pickingill's famous Nine Covens).

## Aleister Crowley

When Sybil was just 16 years old, Aleister Crowley became a frequent visitor to her home. She spent time with him climbing the mountainsides and wandering through the New Forest. Aleister talked to her about witchcraft and instructed her on how to use magickal words. He ultimately encouraged her to write her own book on witchcraft.

## Post-War Era

After the war, Sybil was already in her twenties and her family's wealth has dwindled. She returned to Hampshire and lived in a small village in the heart of the New Forest. There she lived among the Gypsies. The head of a gypsy coven accepted Sybil as one of their own on account of her ancestral roots. From them, Sybil learned about herbal potions and elixirs.

While walking in the woods one day, Sybil had a vision. And this vision made her realize that her purpose in life was to promote the craft and the Old Religion. Since then, she dedicated her life to doing just that. By the 1950's, her reputation as a Psychic, Astrologer and Witch, began to attract attention.

The revival of the Modern Witchcraft movement in the late 1950's early 60's, brought the names Gerald B. Gardner, Alex Sanders, and Arnold Crowther to the light. Sybil accepted an invitation to visit the United States where witchcraft was still in its infancy and ended up living in Los Angeles. In her later years, Sybil continued



to promote the craft and the Old Religion as an author and a media celebrity. She dispelled myths and educated the public. She maintained such a credible reputation that she frequently held lectures throughout the United States and kept making trips to Europe.

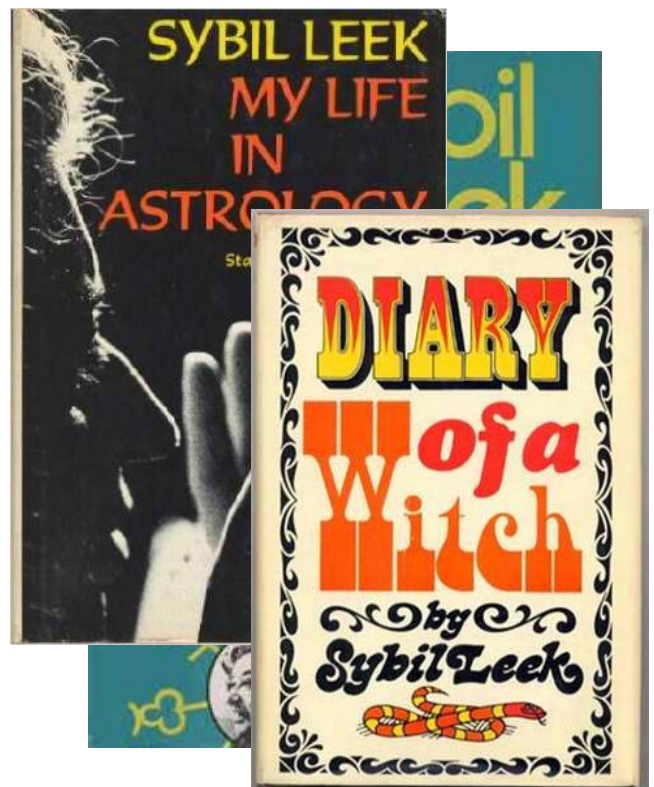
### Beliefs

Sybil was very strong in her beliefs and she sometimes quarreled with other witches. She wrote and spoke a great deal about reincarnation, disapproved of nudity in rituals, and was strongly against the use of drugs and curses. She's also one of the first witches to take up environmental causes.

### Death

Sybil died on the 26th October 1982. A train derailed near her Melbourne home and dosed her with a toxic gas. She will be remembered as a remarkable woman of

many accomplishments: a gifted psychic, an astrologer and a prolific writer who dedicated her life to the revival of the modern witchcraft movement. Some of the many books she wrote are *Diary of a Witch* and *My Life in Astrology*.



*"We can connect with the wisdom within us by attuning to the divine through one or more forms of spiritual practice, including meditation, ritual, music and prayer..."*



## SELENA FOX

1949 - present

**Selena Fox** is a Wiccan High Priestess, Psychotherapist, Author, and Lecturer on Paganism and Wicca. She is the founder and co-director of **Circle Sanctuary**, a Wiccan Church and Nature Preserve in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. She is also one of the founding members of the **Pagan Spirit Gathering**, one of the oldest neo-pagan festivals in the United States held during Litha.





## Childhood

Selena was born on the October 20, 1949 in Arlington, Virginia. She is part Native American, descended from the Cherokee people and was raised in a Southern Baptist family.

As a child Selena, had always been close to nature, which explains her deep respect for all aspects of nature. She would often play alone in the woods near her home, and was slowly able to identify many of the plants and creatures she found.

When she reached her early teens, she began to explore psychic phenomena and parapsychology, and learned how to read Tarot cards. She was also introduced to the study of ancient Greek and Roman religions, and began comparing it to her own Baptist upbringing. The patriarchal nature of the Christian Church and its

prejudice toward other religions turned her off the traditional path. She stopped attending the Baptist Church and concentrated on her spirituality and spent much of her time outdoors where she felt she could be at one with nature.

## Post Graduation

After graduating with a degree in Psychology, Selena moved on to Rutgers University in New Jersey and met a practicing hereditary Witch named Marianne. It was Marianne who introduced her to the practice of Witchcraft as a religion, a practice that closely resembled her own nature-based spirituality. She was also initiated into a number of Wiccan traditions, eventually becoming a High Priestess.

## Circle Wicca

Selena eventually married a man named Jim; they were handfasted and after that they started their own coven called **Circle Wicca**. In 1975, they moved to a rented farmland in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin where they began to expand and develop **Circle Wicca**. In 1978, Selena had **Circle Wicca** incorporated as an official non-profit Wiccan Church in the State of Wisconsin. Since then **Circle Wicca** became known as the **Church of Circle Wicca**. From just having a High Priestess and Priest, they started running it as a corporate organisation complete with a Board of Directors and Ordained Ministers.

They began publishing **Circle Network News**, which was initially published as a newspaper then changed into a magazine format renaming it **Circle Magazine**. Today, it is a glossy 72-page magazine published quarterly, and one of the leading Neo-Pagan publications in the United States.

## Controversy

Although you might be tempted to go to this place, the Circle Sanctuary is not freely open to use by the Pagan community. Which shouldn't be since the funds to purchase it came from donations. Plus there's the statement in my Circle Magazine that funds once purchased, the land will be used as the place for the **Pagan Spirit Gathering**. However, the

PSG has never been held there. Those who gave donations and provided labor have been denied access.

The Circle Sanctuary remains a privately owned property with restricted access. Only working volunteers may enter the site on a regular basis, while others can only enter by prior appointment or to attend



**GET PENTACLE OF THE BLACK ONYX  
NECKLACE 100% FREE OF CHARGE!**

see page 31



*"Read as much as you can, discarding negative or disturbing information. Learn by doing, and the Goddess and God will bless you with all that you truly need."*



## SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

1956 - 1993

**Scott Douglas Cunningham** is a very influential name in the world of Wicca. He authored over 30 books in his lifetime, mostly dealing with Modern Wicca and modern Paganism. Scott Cunningham was very instrumental in making a great deal of information available to the public, and for making it possible for Wicca to be solitary practice. Any newcomer to Wicca for sure has been influenced and helped by Scott Cunningham.



## Early Life

He was born in Michigan on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1956. Scott spent most of his life in San Diego due to his mother's health problems.

His first brush with the craft came through a book he read in 1971, *The Supernatural*, by Douglas Hill and Pat Williams, which belonged to his mother. Scott had always shown an interest in plants and other natural products, and the book just furthered his interest. But what particularly interested him were the diagrams of Italian hand gestures used to ward off the evil eye.

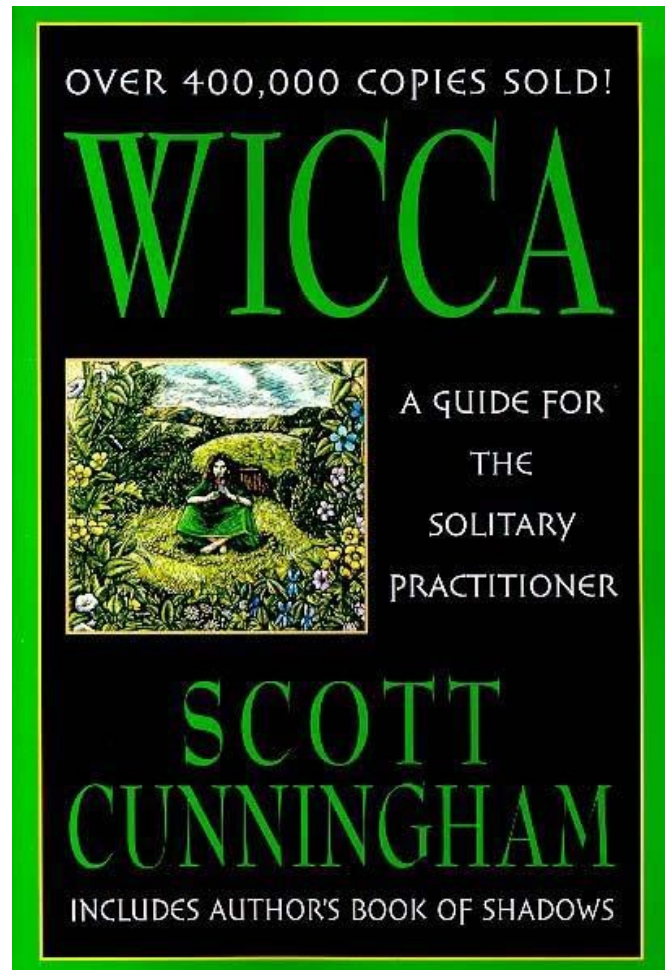
In high school, he used the hand gestures to attract the attention of a female classmate he knew to dabble in the occult and a part of a coven. She introduced Scott to Wicca, and this just intensified his interest in the powers of nature. Scott was initiated into an eclectic Wiccan coven as early as then and spent time with a group headed by the author Raven Grimassi. It was from his experiences with different covens and groups where Scott drew much of the information which he passed along in his books. If there was one thing that Scott really preferred, it was to practice solitarily.

In 1974, he studied creative writing in San Diego University upon the urging of his father. This was when he really began authoring books. He wrote more than those who were in academe and decided to drop out of the university.

## Modern Wicca

Cunningham often came under fire from lineaged Wiccans, who point out the fact that Cunningham wrote about Modern Wicca and address those who practice solitary not those who practice traditional

Wicca. Even more so, what the lineaged Wiccans do not agree with is the fact that Cunningham treated Wicca as a personal thing without right or wrong.



It was Scott Cunningham's goal to have people look at Wicca in a different way; to stop it from being a secretive and mysterious religion. His idea of Modern Wicca is that people who are interested in practicing should be welcomed with open arms.

Scott Cunningham's style is very distinct and was often imitated but never replicated. He was able to take his knowledge of natural magick and translate it into language that was non-intimidating and something that beginners could easily understand. He shared with anyone interested his belief of the Divine and of symbolism. It was not a matter of dumbing

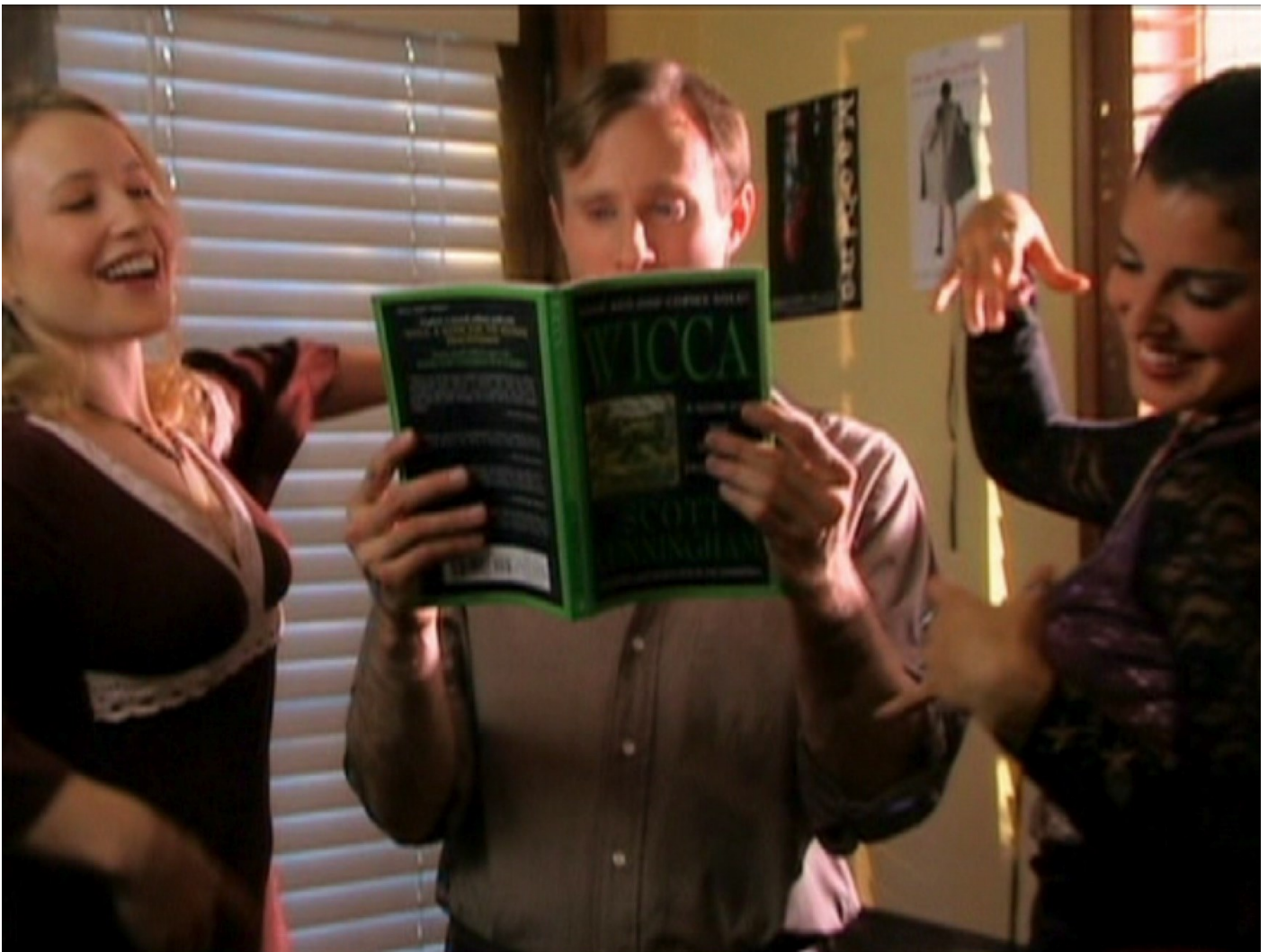
it down, it was a matter of taking complex information and explaining it in a way that someone who has no prior understanding of Wicca could understand and be receptive to. His teachings encouraged people to use whatever works for them in their religious, spiritual, and magickal endeavours. It was this skill that made him one of modern Paganism's most popular writers.

## Death

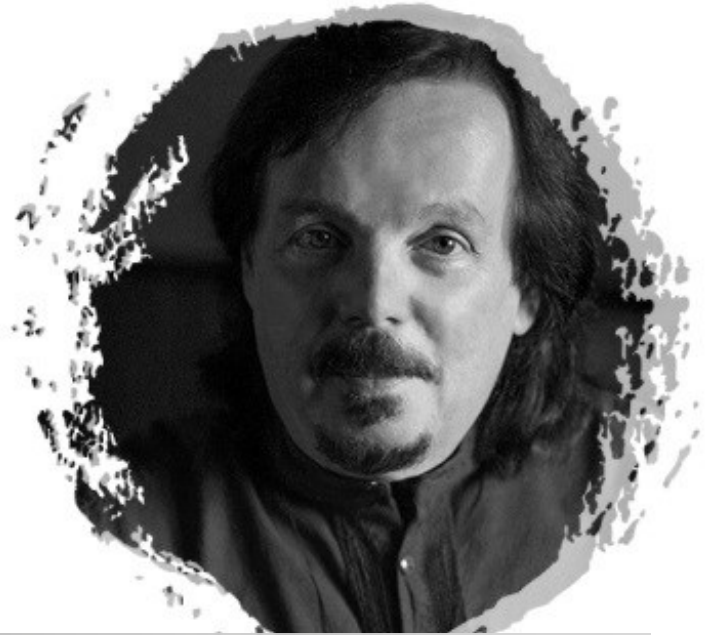
Scott traveled around the country giving lectures and making media appearances on behalf of the craft of Wicca. His health issues began to affect his

public appearances and writing. In 1983, Scott was diagnosed with lymphoma. For a decade since that diagnosis, he suffered from other illnesses like meningitis, before succumbing to them in 1993. He died at an early age of 36.

His books on Wicca led to a steady rise in the religion's popularity. He is one of the best-read Wiccan authors of his time. Sales of his most popular book *Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner* (Llewellyn, 1988), reached over 400,000 copies by the year 2000. Following his death, much of his material was repackaged by publishers and re-released posthumously, and his books continue to sell in bookstores around the world.



*"I view Witchcraft as a religion that has evolved over the centuries. I do not consider Witchcraft to be a modern invention. Instead I deal with my writings as a Mystery Tradition with long roots to the past. It has always been my position that we don't need an ancient tradition in order to be validated. We just happen to have one."*



## RAVEN GRIMASSI

1951 - present



**Raven Grimassi** is one very famous name in the world of Wicca. He authored many books on Witchcraft, Wicca, and Inner Mystery Traditions. He brings to the table 45 years of personal experience in rituals, magick, spell-casting, and occult mysticism. He is the author of seventeen books on Wicca and Witchcraft, including well-known Wiccan Mysteries.

## Early Life

Raven was born in 1951. His mother was an Italian immigrant who came to the United States as a War Bride just after the Second World War. At a very early age, he started studying the folklore and Witchcraft in Italy and the Old Religion of Italy. He was particularly interested in the archaic elements of Italian folk magic, folk customs, and peasant Witchcraft.

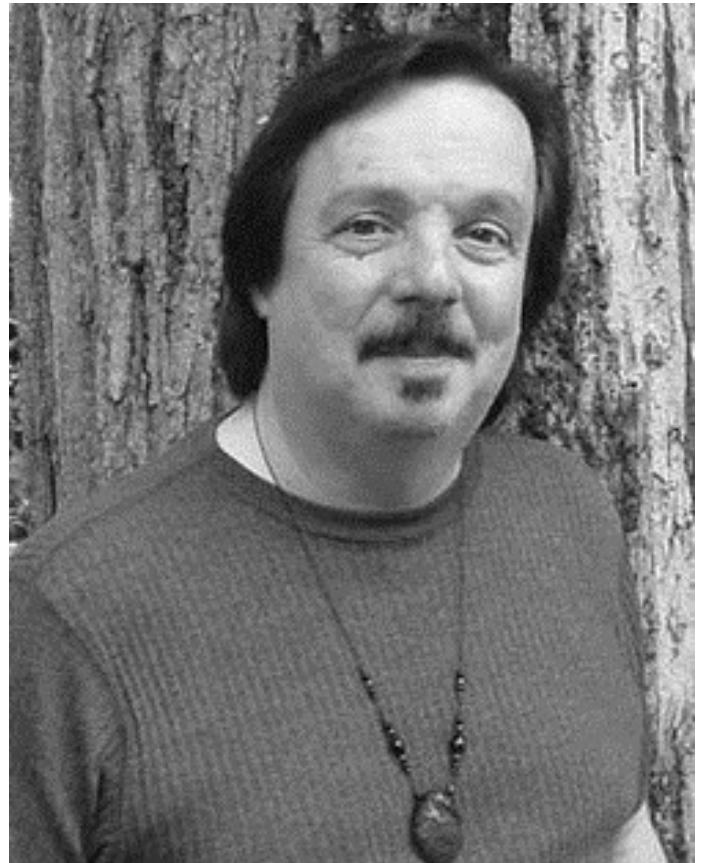
## Road To Wicca

When he turned 18, Raven's deepened his study of the Old Religion in an attempt to unlock its innermost secrets. In 1969, Raven discovered Wicca and was become even more interested in it due to its similarities with the Italian Craft. Raven began to seek out like-minded his age. It was then when Raven met a young woman manager of an herb shop in Old Town San Diego. This very same woman introduced Raven to Lady Heather, a woman who fashioned herself to be a Gardnerian High Priestess. She initiated Raven into Wicca. Raven eventually discovered that Lady Heather's claims to Gardnerian Wicca were unfounded. Despite this, Raven still kept with the known and accepted elements of traditional Wicca that she shared with him.

In 1974, Raven studied Wicca under Lady Sara Cunningham, for the traditional "year and a day". He then started formulating his own system of practice: a blend of Lady Heather's and Lady Sara's teachings plus the elements of Italian witchcraft. He formed a small group known as the Coven of Sothis, operating in the San Diego area.

In 1975, Raven became a member of the First Temple of Tiphareth and began a serious study of the Kabbalah. He met Donald Michael Kraig, the author of **Modern Magick and Modern Sex Magick**. Raven

met a High Priest and High Priestess who then initiated him into the tradition of Brittish Wicca, a blend of Basque Witchcraft and English Wicca, with elements of traditional Witchcraft along with folkloric elements.



## Raven and Scott Cunningham

By 1979, Raven felt that he had explored Wicca enough and returned to practice solely Italian witchcraft. He soon started teaching the Italian Craft at Ye Olde Enchantment Shoppe in San Diego. One of the people in attendance was Scott Cunningham. They became instant friends. And in 1980, Scott was initiated into the Aridian Tradition of Italian witchcraft, a system founded by Raven. Scott remained a first degree initiate for three years before they both agreed that Scott should be released. Cunningham moved favored the self-styled practice of modern Wicca.

A close-up portrait of Raven Grimassi, a man with dark, wavy hair and a mustache, wearing a red shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Magazine Editor and Writer

In 1981, Raven was a writer and editor for *The Shadow's Edge* and later became a contributing writer and editor for two other magazines, *Moon Shadow* and *Raven's Call*. Raven also wrote booklets like *The Book of the Holy Strega*, and the *Book of Ways*. These books came to be referred to as "the blue books" because of their blue covers. These books have been passed around the practitioners for many years.

## Ash, Birch and Willow Tradition

Raven is the Co-Directing Elder of the Ash, Birch and Willow Tradition and the

co-director of the Fellowship of the Pentacle. The Ash, Birch, and Willow system is based upon the Thorn Path of Witchery, the Old World practice of Witchcraft, a non-cultural system rooted in the primal perspectives of our human ancestors. Raven began focusing on this system in 2004 when he was introduced to its ways.

Raven Grimassi is devoted to preserving and teaching the Mystery Tradition of pre-Christian Europe. He was born on the festival day of the goddess Ceres, the Patron of the Mysteries, that's why Raven maintains a shrine in her honor.

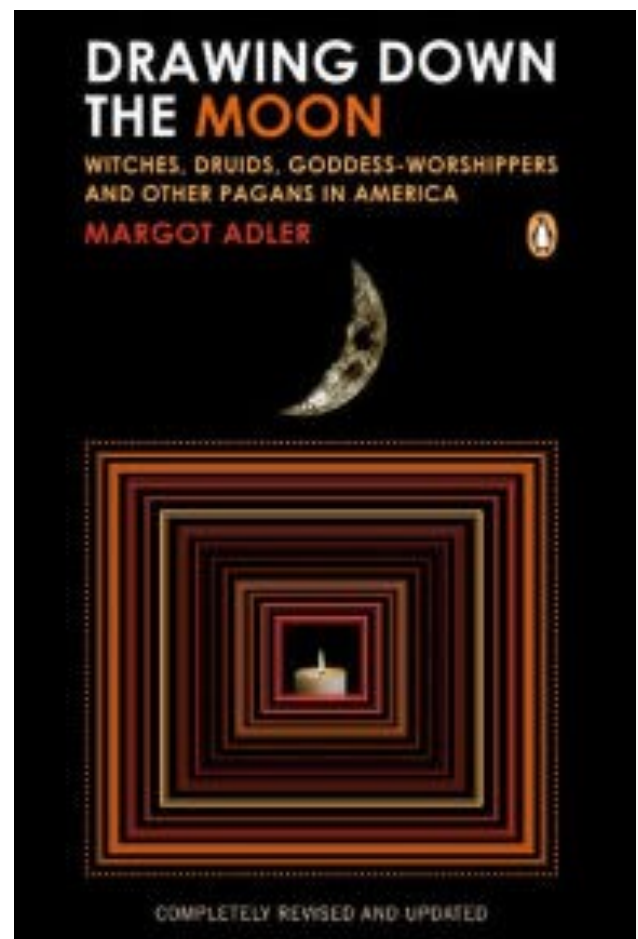
*"The first time I  
called myself a  
'witch' was the most  
magical moment of  
my life."*



## MARGOT ADLERR

1946 — 2014

**Margot Adler** is a very influential American author, journalist, lecturer and Wiccan priestess. She authored a study of contemporary nature religions, "Drawing Down the Moon," which became a seminal book on Modern Witchcraft and Neopaganism. Before her passing, she was one of the most visible and available leaders of the Pagan community in North America, educating people about Wicca, witchcraft, and Paganism by traveling to give lectures, workshops and performing rituals.





## Early Life

Margot Susanna Adler was born on 16 April 1946, in Little Rock, Arkansas to a non-religious family. Her father, Dr. Kurt Alfred Adler was a self-professed atheist and her mother, Freyda Nacque Adler, was a Jewish agnostic. Her family moved to New York and was educated in Greenwich Village. This was where she developed a fascination with Greek mythology and rituals like the traditional Maypole dances to the rituals of the Catholic Church. She also explored different religions and was fascinated with the Quakers.

## University

In 1964, she studied at the University of California, Berkeley, where she led a politically active life and graduated in 1968 with a B.A. degree in Political Science before earning a Master's degree from the

Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. She worked for Pacifica Radio as a radio journalist and talked about cutting-edge topics about science, psychology, feminism, ecology, parapsychology, religion and spirituality. In 1979, she joined National Public Radio (NPR) as a general assignments reporter where she often covered controversial issues.

## Visit To England

In the early 1970's, Adler visited England, and studied the history of the Druids. This was where she discovered the different witchcraft and Pagan organizations. One was led by a fellow American called Joseph B. Wilson, the founder of the "Waxing Moon" publication, the first witchcraft magazine in America.

When she went back to the USA, she subscribed to the "Waxing Moon" magazine. She became involved with a study group led





by a coven of Welsh Traditional Witches. She eventually left the study group to practice Gardnerian Wicca and became part of a coven called Iarga Lon. In 1976, she was elevated to High Priestess status. She ran a Pagan Way grove in Manhattan, and conducted Sabbat rituals at her own home.

### Margot The Author

Margot was persuaded by a literary agent to write a book on witchcraft. After three years of writing, travelling, interviewing, researching, and practicing, she finished writing the ***"Drawing Down the Moon: Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers and Other Pagans in America Today"*** and it was published in 1979. This book was considered the only introductory work about the American Neopagan communities. After several updates and reissues, it just got better over the years and reached the status of a classic best seller.

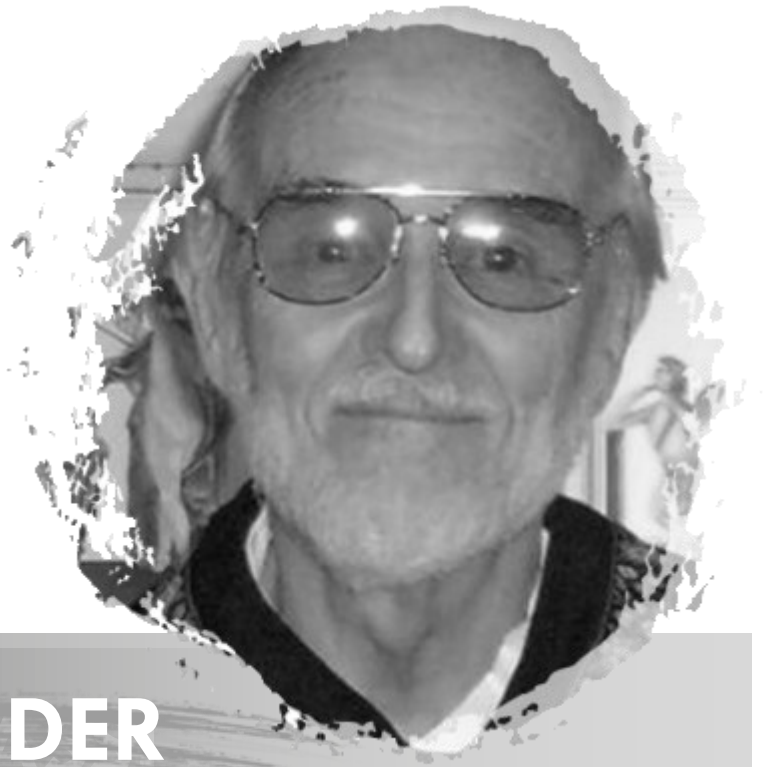
In 1982, Margot took a year off from her coven practice and practiced solitarily. She later joined the Church of All Souls and for ten years acted as an adviser on the board of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. In 1988, she married her long-time companion in a handfasting ceremony in Martha's Vineyard.

### Death

In early 2011, Adler was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. It metastasized for over three years, and she finally succumbed on July 28, 2014 at the age of 68.

Until her death, Margot Adler was one of the most visible and available leaders of the Pagan community in North America. She dedicated her life to educating people about Wicca, witchcraft, and Paganism through her lectures and workshops, many of which involved ecstatic singing, chanting and seasonal celebrations.

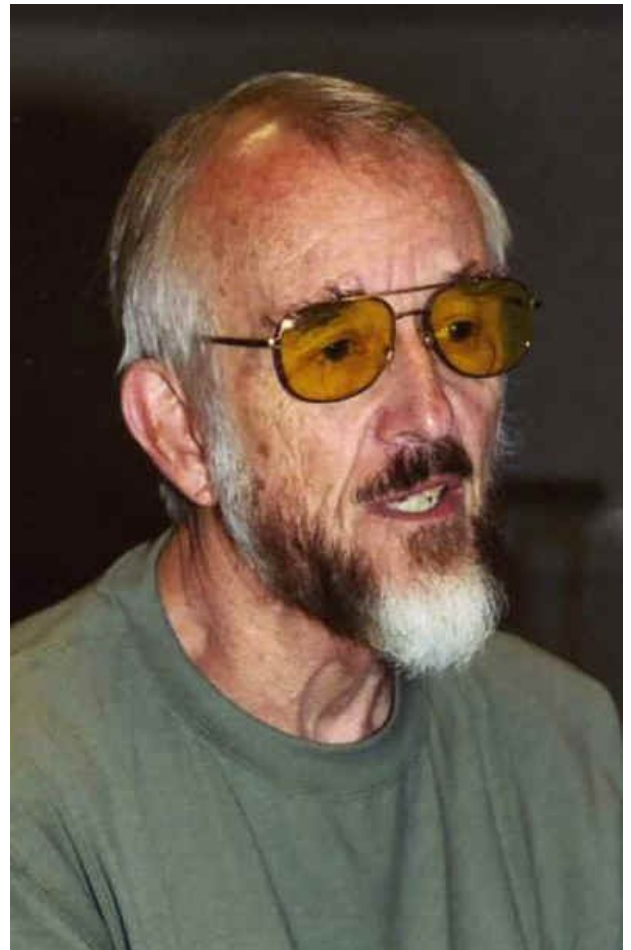
*"Only those who can see the invisible can accomplish the impossible, so go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Do what you can, where you are, with what you have, right now!"*



## PETE PATHFINDER

1937-2014

Pierre Claveloux Davis better known as **Pete Pathfinder** was a visionary in the world of Wicca. His quests focused away from himself and on building and strengthening a sense of community for the Wiccans. He was very involved in the community and the betterment of it. Davis advocated for Wicca and Paganism as an expert witness. He was one of the people who successfully petitioned for the pentacle to be available as a symbol used on the U.S. Veteran's headstones.



## Early Life

His father was Catholic and his mother was Pagan. You might think this makes him an instant Pagan, being under his mother's influence. However, he became a Pagan later in life, at age 37. At that time, he himself fully became a Wiccan initiate.

## Reaching Legal-Status

The ATC began to grow along with Pete's dreams. At that point, Pete wanted to establish a Wiccan church that was legally recognized. To achieve this, Pete worked tirelessly to legitimize and formalize the Aquarian Tabernacle Church. The ATC



## Aquarian Tabernacle Church

He was born in New Jersey in 1937. In 1976, Pete moved to Index, Washington. Here he desired to create an oasis for local Pagans. In 1979, on Samhain, Pete established the Aquarian Tabernacle Church (ATC). In 1983, he initiated into the New Wiccan Church of the Kingstone tradition. In the winter of 1984, the ATC members performed a ritual dedicating their newly built MoonStone ritual circle, which was located on Pete's property.

eventually received tax-exempt status and, later on, a special designation as an umbrella organization with affiliates. By the mid 1990s, ATC's expansion and influence crossed over state and national boundaries. Today, the Aquarian Tabernacle Church is a Wiccan religious organization legally-recognized in 5 countries, and with affiliate organizations in several more.

## Religious Equality

As the ATC kept growing and growing, Pete dedicated himself to public

outreach. His quest was for achieving religious equality. Locally, Pete would work with the law enforcement and in the courts as an expert in cases involving the occult. The relationship he built with both led to the ATC facilitating the establishment of a worship ring of stones at the Washington Twin Rivers Correctional Center. He participated in the Washington State Interfaith Council and was its President for two terms.

During his two year term, he met the Dalai Lama, which was one of the highlights of his life. Pete was directly involved with the Pentacle Quest.

### Community Involvement

But Pete's missions don't end there. Another thing he believed in is the importance of an internally strengthened community. In 1998, he founded the **Woolston-Steen Wiccan Theological Seminary**, or the Wiccan Seminary, authorized by the Washington State Department of Higher Education to issue academic degrees. He also established a scouting program with the ATC for Pagan children in the Seattle-area, which had a very positive response from the community. By 2001, the scouting program has expanded nationally, eventually becoming its own organization called the **Spiral Scouts**.

### Death

From the moment of his initiation to his death, Pete dedicated his life to raising awareness, educating the public, and helping bring legitimacy to Wicca and to the community of its followers. In an interview in 2014, the ATC's current Arch Priestess BellaDonna Leveau said, *"He's no-nonsense when it comes to protecting our faith and making it safe for us to worship Goddess."* She remarked on Pete's failing health, *"This world will sorely miss him when he makes his final assay to the summerlands."*



*“Understanding  
brings control.”*



## ISAAC BONEWITS

1949 - 2010

**Isaac Bonewits** was a well-respected and influential leader of the Pagan movement in America. Isaac was a prolific writer of books, articles, and essays on Druidry, Magic and Paganism. He was a pagan first and foremost, then a priest, author, scholar, bard and activist.

In 1983, he co-founded A Druid Fellowship, also known as ADF, one of the largest druid organizations in America. The ADF has members around the world and groves in every state.



## Early Life

Philip Emmons Isaac Bonewits was born on October 1, 1949, in Michigan. His mother was a devout Roman Catholic, and it was from his mother whom he acquired a deep appreciation for religion. His father converted from Presbyterianism to Catholicism, and instilled in his son a healthy dose of skepticism. In 1961, the family settled in San Clemente, California.

It was in California where Isaac was first exposed to magic and mysticism. He met a young woman from New Orleans who practiced Voodoo and she showed him some of her magic spells. He was so impressed by the accuracy of her magic that it sent him on a lifelong journey of studying magic and parapsychology. In his teens, he read extensively books of science fiction and those with strong magical and psychic themes.

## New Reformed Druids of North America

Isaac graduated a year early and enrolled in the University of California in Berkeley. During this time, he intensely studied the structure of rituals through books and observed rituals performed in churches. The culmination of which led to Isaac's practice of magic and the creation of his own rituals.

Isaac's roommate at Berkeley was a Druid named Robert Larsen: an alumni of Carleton College where the Reformed Druids of North America (RDNA) was founded in 1963. Robert introduced Isaac to Druidism and later on, Isaac was initiated into the RDNA. Together, Robert and Isaac established a grove in Berkeley, but unlike other RDNA who operated under the order of philosophy, their brand of RDNA was a contemporary neo-Pagan religion. Isaac was eventually ordained as a Druid priest. Their grove flourished and inspired other neo-

Pagan groves, and together they became a new branch of Druidry called the **New Reformed Druids of North America** (NRDNA).

## Bachelor of Arts degree in Magic and Thaumaturgy

At Berkeley, Isaac signed up for the individual group-study program, where one could create his own degree study course. He graduated in 1970 and was, and still is, the only person to ever graduate from a Western University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Magic and Thaumaturgy. When the news of such broke out, so much publicity surrounded it that it embarrassed the University's administrators. Magic, Witchcraft and Sorcery since then had been banned from future individual group-study programs.

A year later, Isaac wrote and published his first book: **"Real Magic."** It was an immediate success.

## The Druid Fellowship

While in New York, Isaac met up with Shennain Bell, a neo-pagan. They discussed the possibility of setting up a new Druid organization that has no ties to the ancient Druids or the RDNA. They called it the "Àr nDraiocht Féin", which means "Our Own Druidism." Later on, it became known as **The Druid Fellowship** or ADF. Isaac was the Archdruid and Bell the Vice-Archdruid. Together, they made it into the largest and most successful neoPagan Druid organization in North America.

Isaac also ran a Pagan group in New York called "Pagan Way" with Deborah, a Gardnerian Wiccan High Priestess. Isaac married Deborah in 1988 and were blessed with a son, Arthur Shaffrey Lipp-Bonewits.

In 1990, **The Druid Fellowship** was incorporated in the state of Delaware as a tax-exempt non-profit organization.



## Failing Health

Soon enough, Isaac began showing the debilitating symptoms of Eosinophilia Myalgia Syndrome, which was believed to have been caused by contaminated L-tryptophan tablets. In 1996, he was forced to resign from his post as Archdruid of the ADF, and became Archdruid Emeritus.

His relationship with his family had also started to deteriorate. The long periods of recuperation put a lot of strain on his marriage, which eventually ended in 1998.

Isaac eventually returned to writing and lecturing. In one of his lectures, he met Phaedra Heyman, a ceremonial magician, Wiccan Priestess, and a former vice-president of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). They were handfasted on July 23, Together, they wrote:

*Real Energy: Systems, Spirits, and Substances to Heal, Change, and Grow.*

## Death

Isaac never really got back in the pink of health. He was diagnosed with a rare form of colon cancer of October 25, 2009. He finally succumbed to the disease on August 12, 2010. He passed away peacefully in his sleep with his loved ones by his side.

He was well-aware of his failing health. That's why Isaac had arranged for all his scholarly papers to be donated to the American Religions Collection, which is held by the Santa Barbara library at the University of California. This means that all his notes and personal papers are properly preserved and available for researchers and scholars now.





*“Witches are practical people; philosophy to them is not just an intellectual exercise—they have to put it into practice in their everyday lives, and in their working, if philosophy is to have any meaning.”*



## STEWART FARRAR

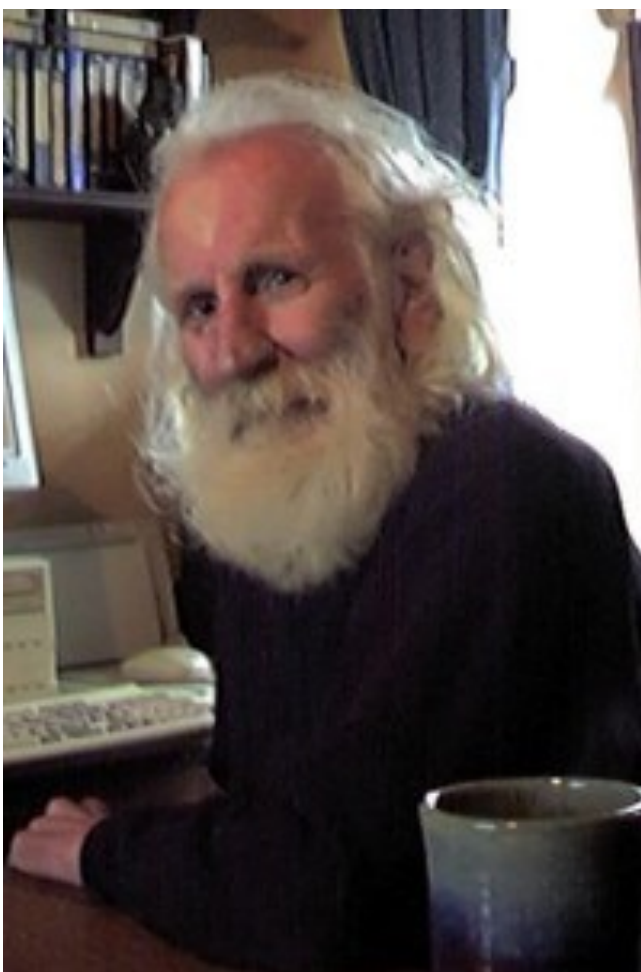
1916 - 2000

**Stewart Farrar** was a journalist and prolific author of many books and articles about Witchcraft. In his books, Farrar explained the workings of modern witchcraft to those who are curious. He was initiated into the craft in 1970 and later on became the UK's leading voice and expert on matters pertaining to Witchcraft.



## Early life

Stewart Farrar was born on the June 28, 1916 in London. He turned agnostic by the time he was 20. At the outset of World War II in 1939, Farrar voluntarily enlisted in the Army. He was discharged with the rank of Major and remained in Germany for long. His experiences and all that he saw in post-war Germany greatly influenced his personal and political beliefs.



## What Witches Do

When he returned to England in 1947, he ended up working out of London's Reuters office and did freelance work for others like BBC. In 1969, while working as a reporter for Reville, he was sent to review a film called "Legend of the Witches" and write an article about Alex Sanders (the "King of

the Witches"), who was gaining notoriety at that time, and his wife Maxine. Farrar was able to successfully interview Alex Sanders and from there wrote a two-part feature.

The feature became a success, which prompted Sanders to invite Farrar to write a new book which would compliment his already published biography the "King of the Witches." The new book's theme was to be about modern witches: what they do, what they believe in, and why they believe in them.

Farrar got so deep into writing *What Witches Do*, that he felt he had to become a witch himself to be able to write a true account of what it is that witches really do. Alex's wife, Maxine Sanders, was a High priestess, initiated Stewart into their craft tradition on February 20, 1970. As an initiate Farrar met another initiate named Janet Owen; she later became his wife. According to his wife, they were both elevated to the second degree on the October 17, 1970, and received their third degree on April 24 1971.

The book was published in 1971 and became Farrar's most famous book. In the book, Farrar's voice was clearly promoting Wicca.

## Controversy

There was a lot of controversy regarding Janet's statements about being elevated to the second and third degrees. Controversy also hounded the book, with many claiming Sanders fabricated many things about himself. But the most resistance came from Farrar claiming Sanders as ranking high above Gerald B. Gardner and alongside Aleister Crowley and Eliphas Levi in terms of magical achievement. Farrar later retracted his statement but refused to disparage Sanders, adding that in his own way he had made a significant contribution



to Contemporary Witchcraft.

Stewart and Janet decided to leave the Sanders' coven and set up on their own under the Sanders' supervision. They founded their own coven in 1970 and in April 1971 became fully independent from Sanders' coven. Stewart and Janet both worked to develop and structure their own rituals and training methods to be used within their own covens. Stewart and Janet handfasted in 1972. They eventually got tired of London and moved to Ireland for the peace and quiet of the fields and mountains. In Ireland they continued to set up and expand their covens. The structure and method of their covens had by this time developed and change. Today, 75 percent of Wiccans coming from the Republic and Northern Ireland, can trace their roots back to Farrar's influence.

### Writings and Lectures

Stewart and Janet collaborated in writing some of the most influential books on modern witchcraft like **Eight Sabbats for**

**Witches and The Witches Way, The Witches' Goddess, The Witches' God, and Spells and How They Work.** They also went around the United States and Europe to give lectures on modern Paganism.

### Later Years

Stewart and Janet later on entered into a polyamorous relationship with Gavin Bone. When Stewart Farrar suffered a stroke, it was Gavin (a trained nurse and healer) who helped nurse him back to good health. Stewart Farrar finally passed into the next world on the February 20, 2000.

The three of them co-authored two books '**The Healing Craft**' and '**The Pagan Path**'. In 1999, they were ordained as third-level clergy in the Aquarian Tabernacle Church. Despite all their achievements, the Farrar's preferred liked to be known as simply "Wiccans." working on the Pagan Path. They believed Wicca should be accessible to all who are interested.



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