



# The Moonlight Post

## *Wiccan Traditions*

### INSIDE:

*Alexandrian Wicca  
British Traditional  
Blue Star Witchcraft  
Celtic Wicca  
Circle Sanctuary  
Corellian Nativist  
Dianic Wicca  
Eclectic Wicca  
Gardnerian Wicca  
Georgian Wicca*





# *Foreword*

There are many different types of Wiccan traditions, mostly sprouting from the New Forest Covens or British Traditional Wicca, with the Gardnerian Tradition and the Alexandrian tradition being the most well-known. But there are really many more traditions that you should know about. When you read about each tradition, you will find out and decide which one is right for you.

What we will feature here are just a few of the many traditions of Wicca. What we have written about are those that have had the most impact on the Craft today. Do not let the few items here limit you, use it as a jumping-off point to get deeper into your learning of the Wiccan traditions.

The more you read about the different Wiccan traditions, the more unified your idea of Wicca and Wiccans will be. And you will see clearly how interconnected everything is from the origins to the core beliefs, and to the rituals.



The  
Moonlight Post





1960s

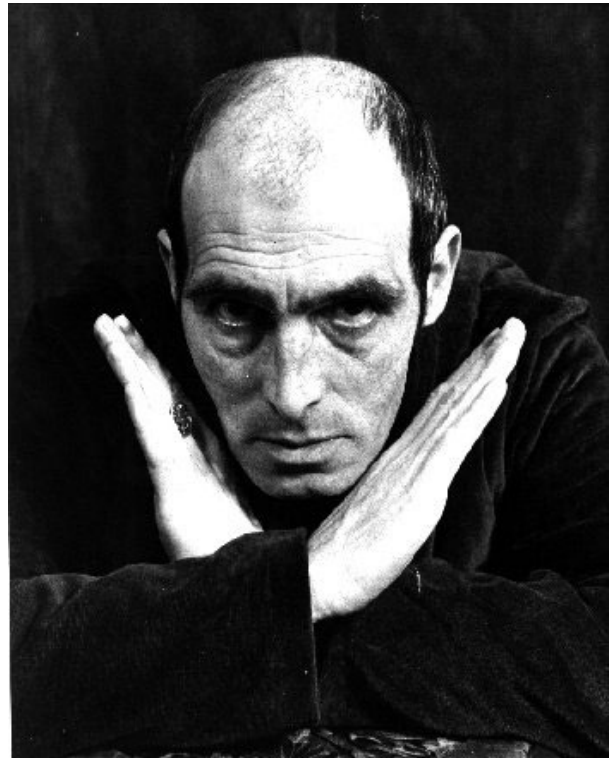
# ALEXANDRIAN WICCA

*Alexandrian Wicca* is another one of the British Traditional Witchcraft Traditions borne out of the New Forest Region in England. Gardnerian Wicca and Alexandrian Wicca share a common initiatory history.





## ALEX SANDERS



Alexandrian Wicca was started by Alex Sanders and his wife Maxine. According to Sanders, he was initiated into witchcraft in the early 1930s by his grandmother.

He further developed his knowledge of the Kabbalah and Egyptian Lore. He was also a past member of a Gardnerian coven before breaking off to start his own tradition. The Alexandrian line has grown from its beginnings in the 1960s, and all those within the line has a direct initiatory lineage to Alex Saunders and his covens.

## THE TRADITION

Alexandrian Wicca has heavy Gardnerian influences with ceremonial magic and Hermetic Kabbalah thrown in.

You might think that the Alexandrian Tradition takes its name from Alex Saunders himself. That is not the case.

The name is actually taken from the legendary Library of Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great to collect, share and advance all knowledge. It was destroyed by religious bigots in the 2nd Century, rebuilt, and now houses the Akashic records, on the 30th path of the Tree of Life.

By naming the Tradition after the Alexander the Great's Library, Saunders hoped that his Craft could be a medium by which ideals of furthering knowledge and understanding could be continued.





## RITUALS AND DIETIES

Alexandrians are very similar to Gardnerians since its founder did come from a Gardnerian coven. Most of the Book of Shadows and other materials, are nearly identical for both Gardnerians and Alexandrians. The marked difference lies in the Alexandrian tradition having an additional emphasis on ritual and ceremonial magick, even high magick.

Alexandrian Wicca also focuses on the polarity between the genders. The rites and ceremonies give equal time and attention to the God and the Goddess. The gods are not jealous, and Alexandrian initiates can work with other deities on a personal or group basis as well.

Alexandrian Wicca celebrate the eight Sabbats of the wheel of the year. They also meet for Esbats on the full moon for feasts, celebrations, healing work, psychic training and other coven activities.

Similar to the Gardnerian tradition, Alexandrian covens initiate members into a degree system. Some begin training at a neophyte level, and then move on to the First Degree. There are other covens that give a new initiate the title of First Degree, as a priest or priestess of the tradition. Initiations are performed in a cross-gender system where a female priestess must initiate a male priest, and a male priest must initiate a female priestess.



# BRITISH TRADITIONAL WICCA (BTW)



Only a few Wiccan traditions fall under the classification of BTW or British Traditional Wicca. This is the term used when referring to the traditions that sprouted from The New Forest region of England such as the **Gardnerian Wicca** and **Alexandrian Wicca**. From the name and origin itself, you might think BTW can only be found in England, but no, there are British Traditional Wicca covens in the United States and other countries.

One can say he or she is a part of British Traditional Wicca if the following checks out:

*You are formally initiated by a lineaged member into a group that falls under the British Traditional Wicca heading.*

*If you practice and train according to the British Traditional Wicca methods and standards.*

So it is not as easy as saying that you follow the British Traditional Wicca, there is a whole matter of doing like practice, training, and initiation. The BTW is built on a strong cooperation of and respect for

Lineage,  
Teachings,  
and Practice.



Those who follow the BTW path do not mandate belief, they mandate practice. Placing emphasis on a practice that creates belief. Initiates must have similar experiences with the rites, even though their conclusions may differ. Whatever it is that you learn, you pass on the rites as how they were taught to you.

## TRADITIONAL WITCHCRAFT

The BTW that predates Gardnerian Wicca and the Alexandrian tradition is often confused with The Traditional Witchcraft, which is a spiritual practice that dates back to the beginning of man. Traditional witches practiced witchcraft, folk magic, and they honored gods, local or land spirits and ancestors. Traditional Witchcraft had no known creator and those who practiced it were illiterate and could only pass on information through word of mouth.

Then there are the modern Wiccans. Wicca began in 1954 and it took some things from witchcraft and also spawned different traditions. One thing is definite, those who practice the British Traditional Witchcraft of the Gardnerian Wicca and Alexandrian Wicca are Wiccans.





500 BCE/CE

# CELTIC WICCA

*Celtic Wicca* is the Wicca tradition that values and honors the pagan practices of the Celtic people. The practitioners study the life, times and the mythology of the ancient Celts. They strive understand how the Celts lived and worshiped, and their Sabbat names are either Celtic or Gaelic in origin. Their belief is that the Celtic pathway, is the origin of many of the beliefs and reasons for the Wicca faith.

Celtic Wicca centers on Celtic traditions and ancient Celtic beliefs and combine them with modern practices.



For many people, the term “Celtic” applies to cultural groups located in the British Isles and Ireland. However, the term “Celtic” is actually fairly complex, and does not just mean people of Irish or English background, but is actually a term used to define a specific set of language groups that originate from both in the British Isles and in the mainland of Europe.

Today, the remains of early Celtic culture can be found in England and Scotland, Wales, Ireland, some areas of France and Germany, and even parts of the Iberian Peninsula.

## GODS AND GODDESSES

This Celtic tradition is mostly focused on the male aspect of the Divine but does not totally ignore the importance of the goddess aspect of the Divine as well. The Celtic Wicca practitioners honor the gods and goddesses of ancient Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, with a clear emphasis on the balance between the god and goddess. Celtic Wicca is a polytheistic tradition where the practitioners can believe in their personal Celtic god and goddess.



## NATURE

Celtic Paganism is Earth-based and the people wanted to be close to Nature. They have beliefs in the Elemental Spirits, the Earth Elements, and the Spirits. They seek out a connection with the ancestors and land spirits. Ancient Celts also had a vast knowledge of the magickal properties of herbs and roots and used them in their healing and magickal practices through the use of herbalism, divination, and poetry in magick.



It is through these methods that the Celtic Wicca Practitioner works magick into his or her daily life. Herbs and roots can be used to cleanse space and jewelry, cook, and decorate homes.

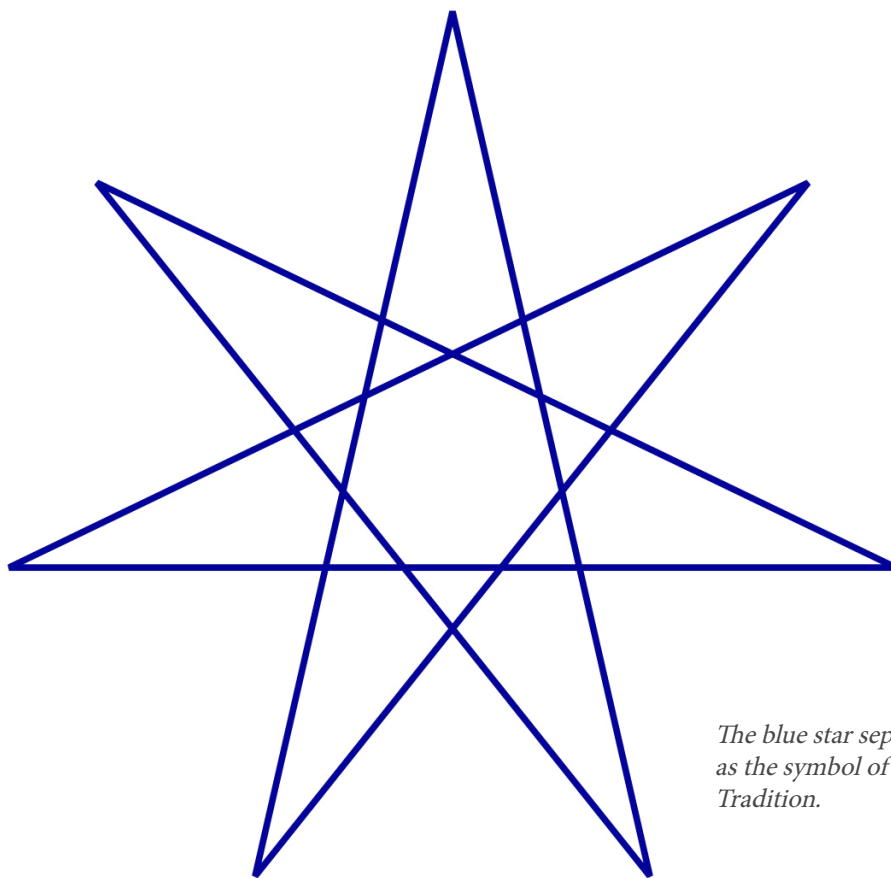
## MEDITATION

The Celtic Wicca tradition has a strong focus on meditation and combines it with the use of herbalism. It uses three concentric circles of salt, sulphur, and other herbs.

In modern Pagan religions, the term “Celtic” is generally used to apply to the mythology and legends found in the British Isles. When we discuss Celtic gods and goddesses here at About Pagan/Wiccan, we’re referring to the deities found in the pantheons of what are now Wales, Ireland, England and Scotland. Likewise, modern Celtic Reconstructionist paths, including but not limited to Druid groups, honor the deities of the British Isles.



## THE SOLAR CROSS OF ESSENCE



*The blue star septagram is used  
as the symbol of the Blue Star  
Tradition.*

1976



## BLUE STAR WITCHCRAFT



*Blue Star Witchcraft* is one of many traditions formed in the United States that is modelled after the Gardnerian tradition. It is initiatory just like Gardnerian Wicca, but has a five-level-degree initiatory system, where it takes 2-3 years of rigorous training years before getting initiated.

All material in Blue Star Witchcraft is oathbound. Their early rituals were based on Gardnerian, Alexandrian, and Greco-Roman traditions. Originally established as a single coven in Pennsylvania, Blue Star Witchcraft evolved into more than a dozen covens spread out in the United States in just two decades.

Blue Star members do not like to use the term “Wicca” and refer to themselves as witches. The best way to find out more about Blue Star Witchcraft is to seek out and talk to a Blue Star Witchcraft practitioner in your area.



# HISTORY

Blue Star Witchcraft was founded in 1976 Norristown, Pennsylvania, by Frank Dufner and Tzipora Katz.

They later moved to Manhattan, and there, they trained and initiated a number of people. Frank and Tzipora's divorced in the early 1980's, and made Kenny Klein the high priest of Blue Star Witchcraft. Under his leadership, and together with Tzipora as his partner (they were later married), Kenny steered the Tradition towards a more traditional British form. He let go of Alexandrian and ceremonial rituals and replaced them with British Isles folkloric Craft practices, which include the 8 Paths of Power, the 7 Tenets of Faith, and the Drawing Down of the Moon and Sun.

Kenny and Tzipora would have the most influence on the development Blue Star Witchcraft. They both toured the country from 1983-1992 as folk musicians, performing music and teaching Blue Star Witchcraft. They established many Blue Star study groups all over the country. They initiated many people, founded many covens, and recorded and distributed lessons using cassette tapes, mail correspondence, and through phone calls.

Today, in the age of technology and the large number of trained Blue Star initiates who live scattered across the country makes long-distance learning a thing of the past.

Kenny and Tzipora eventually left the tradition. But the Blue Star students and covens they helped create continue to grow across the US landscape. There are heavily populated Blue Star strongholds include Minneapolis, New Jersey and the Boston metro area.



## THE PENTACLE OF THE WITCH



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Blue Star Witchcraft is a hierarchical, mystery-based tradition with roots in Alexandrian Craft. Most covens operate on a Groove system, where the uninitiated members and the students comprise an Outer Court, and Initiates make up an Inner Court (the Neophytes and Dedicants), and presided over by a Third Degree High Priest and High Priestess. While this is ideal, the tradition of Blue Star covens can vary greatly from group to group and also depends on the size of the coven. No two Blue Star groups are the same.

The Core Beliefs of the Blue Star Witchcraft Tradition are as follows:

We celebrate the 8 Wiccan Sabbats and the 26  
Esbats of the year

We acknowledge a number of Paths of Power  
according to the Wheel of the Year

We tend to emphasize worship of the Gods  
over magick

We acknowledge and respect the entirety of  
the Wiccan Rede

We acknowledge and respect Tenets of Faith

We acknowledge some gender specificity

We believe the Goddess and God to be equal  
and balanced





1980

# CIRCLE SANCTUARY WICCA



The *Circle Sanctuary Wicca* is a Wiccan Tradition that was co-founded by Selena Fox. It is a recognized organization whose members believe in honoring the Divine and understanding It as transcendent, as well as an interconnected whole. The practitioners also live life with consideration of others as well as oneself, and being of service and doing no harm. Being close to Nature and communing with her are central to the spiritual philosophy and practice of the Circle Sanctuary Wicca.

The predominant ritual and social space form of this tradition is the circle, as it represents many concepts like wholeness, balance, the cycle of Nature, continuity, and interconnectedness.

# ORIGIN

Selena Fox was handfasted to a man named Jim. And together with him, 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 their coven. 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.



SELENA FOX

# CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS

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.

In 1980, the Church of Circle Wicca finally received federal recognition as a Church from the US Government.





## PRESENT-DAY CSW

Selena still runs various training programs, workshops, and courses for different groups and traditions, providing counseling services and intensive training for ministers. In their farm, they also hold monthly rituals and sponsor festivals. They had an annual Litha gathering, which became known as the Pagan Spirit Gathering (PSG). Today the PSG continues to be one of the largest annual Neo-Pagan gatherings in the USA.

By 1983 supported by donations from the Pagan community and various other fundraisers, Selena purchased a 200 hundred-acre piece of land near Mt. Horeb in Wisconsin, which they called Circle Sanctuary. It's the very first land purchase project in the United States to be used solely as a Pagan Spiritual Retreat and Nature Preserve. At Yule of that same year, a permanent stone circle complete with an altar and fire ring was erected on the Ritual Mound.





1990s

## ✧ CORRELLIAN NATIVIST WICCA ✧

The *Correllian Nativist Tradition*, also known as Correllian Wicca, is a Wiccan tradition that began in the early 20th century, which was created by Orpheis Caroline High, a psychic, spiritual healer, and herbalist.

This type of tradition is family-based type of witchcraft and their lineage cannot be traced back to the New Forest covens of British Traditional Wicca.





# HISTORY

Orpheis was descended from an interracial relationship between Cherokee and Scottish parents, with the Scottish side being of traditional witches. She was heavily influenced by Aradian witchcraft and the Spiritualist Church. The descendants eventually founded their own tradition in the 1980s, what is now known as the Correll Mother Temple in Danville, Illinois. The family opened up their tradition to members of the public, and Orpheis would head the church until her death in 1940.

It was initially not a Wiccan tradition until the 1990s. Orpheis initially called it a “Nativist” tradition and was its primary designation until it became called as “Correllian Nativist.” The tradition would become affiliated with the Wiccan trend in the 1970s under its priestess, LaVeda High-Correll. It increasingly leaned towards eclecticism and universalism, which is characteristic of most Wiccan traditions.

The Correllium is the symbol of the Correllian Tradition, which shows the vault of heaven with a double line representing Air and Light (Fire), the cross of the Four Directions representing Earth, and a wave representing Water. Which as a whole represents the Unity of Existence.



# TRADITION

In creating Correllian Nativist Wicca, Orpheis drew upon her Native American heritage. She also took from European Witchcraft, Spiritualism, and Hermetic thought.

The leading bodies of the Correllian Tradition are The Witan Council, which is made up of all Temple Heads, Elders, and Officers of the Tradition, The Correllian Council of Elders, which includes the most respected members and Heads and Officers of the Tradition.

Back then, the Correllian Tradition followed a very formal, matriarchal and matrilineal structure with its roots in Cherokee custom. Today, the Correllian Tradition has two heads designated by the Chancellor as the First Priestess and the First Priest. This form is based on the traditional Cherokee clan structure which was used by the High-Correll family. True to the Cherokee tradition with a Matriarchal Head and a Fraternal Head.

The Matriarchal Head of the Tradition is usually the oldest woman while the Fraternal Head is that same woman's brother or son.

# THE CORE BELIEFS

Correllianism puts a strong emphasis on the philosophical and spiritual aspects of Wicca. And here are some of their convictions:

The Correllian Tradition is intensely dedicated to the advancement of the Pagan people

The practitioners believe strongly in communication and cooperation between Pagans from all traditions

The Correllian Tradition stresses the importance of the Pagan Clergy having a strong public presence as teachers and facilitators

The Correllian Tradition emphasizes celebratory as well as initiatory Wicca

The Correllian Tradition is strongly committed to having accessible public rituals



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*The wheel of the year pendant is the perfect reminder of your  
connection with nature and the seasons.*

  
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The Correllian Nativist Tradition South Africa is a Religious Organisation designated by the Department of Home Affairs to nominate and appoint clergy as legal marriage officers under the Civil Union Act (Act 17 of 2006).

The CNT (SA) is run by one elected Executive Officer (Registrar), chosen at the discretion of the Chancellor to handle all administrative functions in South Africa. All Correllian Temples in South Africa hold legal status through the CNT (SA) and operate independently under the leadership of the Temple Head.





1920s



## DIANIC WICCA



The *Dianic Wiccan* tradition has its roots in Western Europe. It goes as far back to year 1921. The Dianic tradition is the feminist movement of the Craft that takes from many traditions but focuses on the Goddess.

## OLD DIANIC WICCA

The Dianic tradition has two distinct branches. The first, which is called the Old Dianic Wicca, was founded in Texas by Morgan McFarland and Mark Roberts. It gives primacy to the Goddess but still honors the Horned God as Her Beloved Consort. Its covens welcome the men along with the women.

# FEMINIST DIANIC WICCA

The second branch is the very feminist Dianic tradition that focuses exclusively on the Goddess and consists of women-only covens. Dianic Wicca was founded by Zsuzsanna Budapest. She says specifically, “We always recognize, when we say “Goddess,” that She is the *Life-giver, the Life-sustainer. She is Mother Nature. There are only two kinds of people in the world: mothers and their children. Mothers can give life to each other as well as to men, who are not able to do the same for themselves. This constitutes a dependency upon the Female Life Force for life renewed, and was accepted naturally in ancient times by our ancient forebearers as a sacred gift of the Goddess. In patriarchal times this sacred gift was turned against women, and used to force them to give up roles of independence and power.*”

Those who follow the Feminist Dianic tradition celebrate the eight Sabbats, just like the other traditions. And they also use the same altar tools as the other Wiccan traditions. But mostly, Dianic Wiccans do not engage in much ritual practice, they just identify themselves as Wiccans who follow a Goddess-based and feminine-focused spiritual path.



## ZSUZSANNA BUDAPEST

# MISCONCEPTIONS

While most Dianic Wiccan covens are strictly for females-only, with only a very few (the Old Dianic Wicca covens) who welcome men into their group. People began associating Dianic Wicca with lesbianism. When people hear Dianic Wicca, they also hear lesbian witch. But of course, that's just ignorance talking. Many covens that follow the Dianic tradition has a plethora of women in them whether they are straight, gay, or transvestites.



# CURSES AND HEXES

Many Wiccan traditions discourage hexing, cursing or dabbling in black magic, while Dianic Wicca does not restrict this especially in cases where a woman is being harmed or a woman is in grave danger and you have to do something about it.

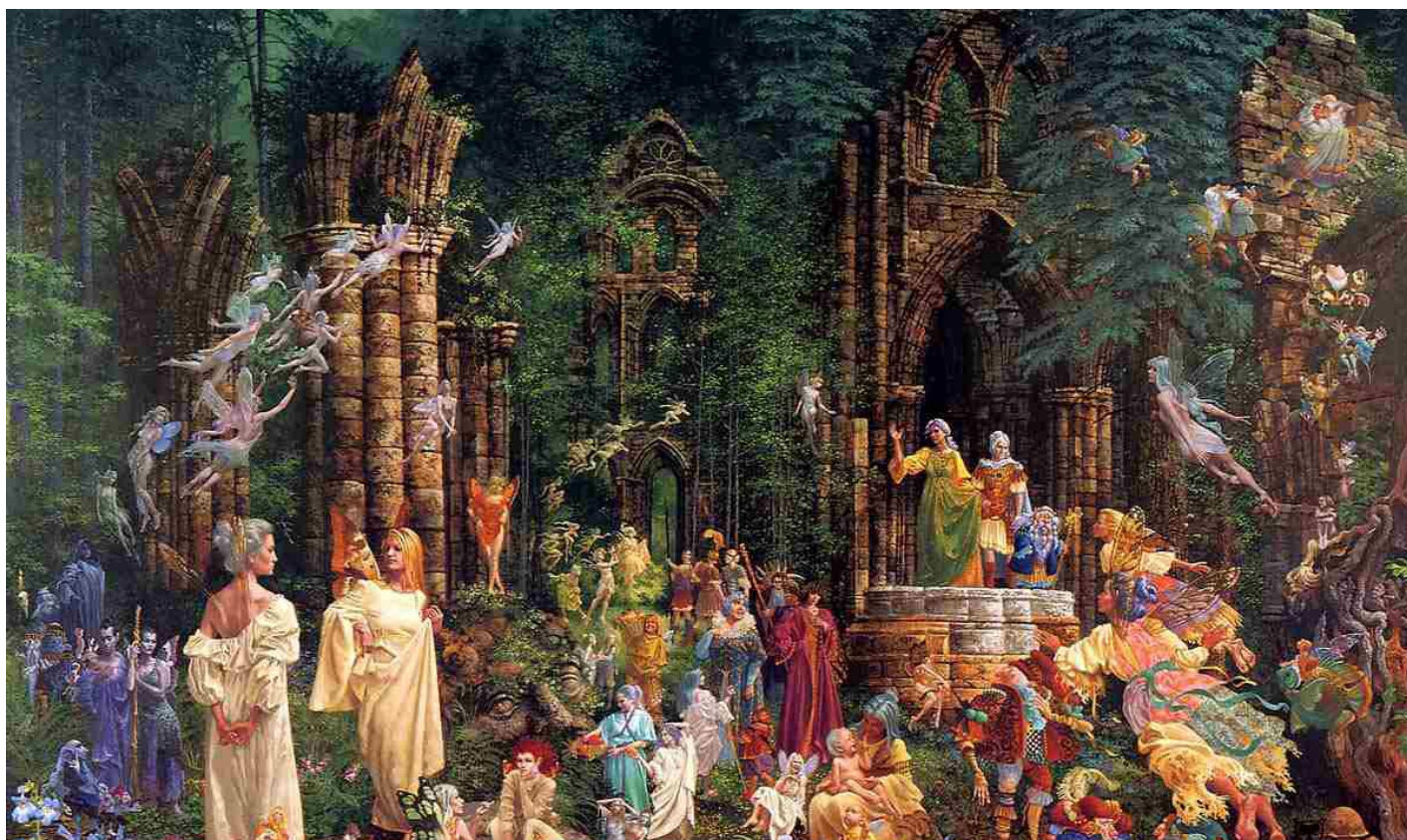
# CONTROVERSY

The founder of the Feminist Dianic Wicca has been the subject of controversy in the past, owing to the fact that they did not allow a transgender woman to join them in their ritual at a 2011 PantheaCon.

According to Budapest: "These individuals never think about the following: if women allow men to be incorporated into Dianic Mysteries, What will women own on their own?" She believes the transgenders who want to follow the Dianic tradition will just take from women as a whole. And she stresses the importance of women having their own culture, own resourcing and traditions. She adds: "You can tell these are men, they don't care if women lose the only tradition reclaimed after much research and practice, the Dianic Tradition. Men simply want in. Its their will. How dare us women not let them in and give away the ONLY spiritual home we have!"

Despite the controversy, Budapest did not waver from her beliefs. Her group website only allows membership to women only. Due to this, a number of covens who follow the Dianic tradition distanced themselves from Budapest and her coven.





1920s

## ECLECTIC WICCA

*Eclectic Wicca* is the practice of adopting whatever works for a Wicca practitioner and making it his or her own. The word, “eclectic,” means to select from a variety of sources. Eclectic Wicca is an all-purpose term applied to Neo Wiccan traditions that don’t fit into any specific category.



# PRACTITIONER

The Eclectic Wicca practitioner affirms personal responsibility and communion with nature but does not ascribe to a strict and structured Wicca tradition. He or she knows studies something, find out if it works for him or her, and sees how he or she can use it for his or her benefit. The Eclectic Wicca practitioner takes from any of the Wiccan traditions and then incorporates it into his or her practice. He or she may take practices and adopt rituals from several Paths such as Irish, Welsh, and Scottish, and also the Wiccan traditions like Dianic Wicca, Gardnerian Wicca, Alexandrian Wicca, and etc and combine them together and use it in his or her spiritual path.

## SOLITARY ECLECTIC PRACTITIONER

Many solitary practitioners tend to follow an eclectic path. Since being a solitary practitioner allows you to study different traditions and take something from them that you agree with or resonates with you. For example, a Solitary Wicca Practitioner who practices what he or she has learned from publicly available sources on Wicca, like websites and some books, but not be using oath-bound, initiatory material. This makes the solitary practitioner an Eclectic Wicca Practitioner.



## COVENS

Being Eclectic is not exclusive to solitary practitioners. Many covens consider themselves as eclectic too especially when they use a beliefs and practices taken from several different pantheons and traditions. Or, if the group is an offshoot of an established tradition of Wicca like, say for example Gardnerian Wicca, and they modified some established practices, that makes them an Eclectic Coven.



# THE UNIVERSAL ECLECTIC WICCA

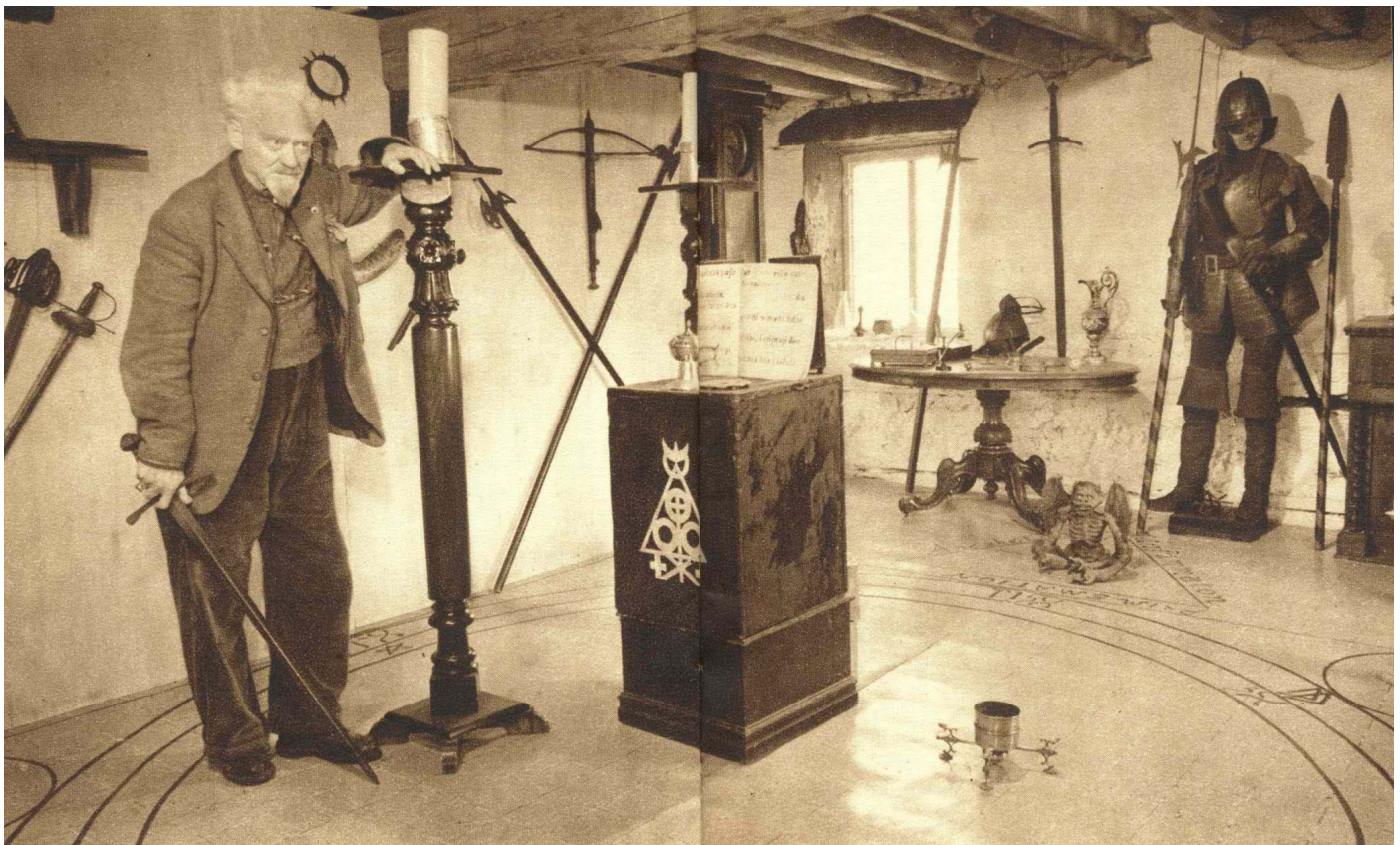
The Universal Eclectic Wicca was borne out of the Silver Chalice Wicca Land Trust, a community based in Westchester, New York in the 1960s. Silver Chalice had a diverse membership that took from Dianic and British Traditional Backgrounds. Many Wicca practitioners were clamoring for a change in Wicca, so the High Priestess, Jayne Thomas responded to this need by creating a body of liturgy for Silver Chalice Wicca as a Wicca tradition. This body of liturgy moved away from the traditional Gardnerian Laws like being “skyclad” and whipping. This body of liturgy became known as the “Fifteen Creeds of Silver Chalice Wicca,” where they emphasized modernism, democracy, historical integrity, intellectual integrity, personal integrity, racial equality, gender equality, self-determination, and engagement with society.

In 1986, the land held by the Silver Chalice Wicca Land trust was sold. All the covens that originated from this became known as the Universal Eclectic Wicca, where the Wicca practice is taken from many different source, and is universal and can be used by all.

In 1997, the Universal Eclectic Wicca chartered the Coven of the Far Flung Net (CFFN) and began the first online teaching coven, which since then, has sprouted two other online teaching groups: the Coven of Non-Fluffy Wicca and Vircle, for Third Circle Studies.







1960s

## GARDNERIAN WICCA

*Gardnerian Wicca* is a Wiccan tradition named after the famous Gerald Gardner. It began shortly after World War II, following the repeal of England's Witchcraft Laws. Many Neo-Pagans believe Gardnerian Wicca to be the very first Wicca tradition. The Gardnerian tradition was brought into the USA by Raymond and Rosemary Buckland in the 1960s, thereby establishing the first Wiccan coven, which was the "Long Island Coven."

Gardnerian Wicca is one tradition that is specifically centred on worship of the Goddess and her different incarnations: the Maiden, Mother, and Crone, and the Horned God of Hunting, Death, and Magic. The followers of this tradition strongly believe in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, and they also worship Nature and celebrate the eight Sabbats just like the rest of practitioners of different traditions. Gardnerian Wiccans stand by this moral code: "Do what you will, so long as it harms none." Yes, that's the Wiccan Rede.

# COVENS

The covens that follow the Gardnerian tradition are autonomous and are run by High Priests and High Priestesses. The High Priestess can consult the Elders and High Priests, but the last final decision still rests on the High Priestess. As for anything that goes on inside the coven, members are oathbound to not share details with anyone.

# SPECIAL RITES

Since the followers of this tradition worship the Goddess and the Horned God, their rites and rituals usually involve a ceremonial act of placing an Athame (a symbol of the Horned God) into a chalice or a bowl of wine (a symbol of the Goddess) and pass it around for everyone to drink from.

Another distinct feature is the Gardnerian purification ritual of light whipping, as a sign of suffering that leads to purification.

Another controversial distinctive feature of the Gardnerian tradition is the practice of performing group rituals “skyclad” or completely nude. This is due to the belief that being naked brings you closer together and makes you one with nature. Today, there are covens that have forgone this practice and just wear special ritual clothing.

# DEGREES OF INITIATION

In Gardnerian tradition, the initiation is a turning point in a life of the initiated, and this act forever changes the life of the initiate. There are three degrees of initiation into this tradition that are conducted by the Gardner’s “Book of Shadows.” The period between one initiation and the next is usually a year and a day. But this is depending on the covens you are a part of, because many covens require studies of special techniques, taking much longer to get to the next rank. Self-initiation is rarely practiced in Gardnerian Wicca.





Gardnerians use a standard Book of Shadows that contains the belief, rituals, spells, and magickal workings of the coven. And from there, it gets supplemented with comments and new rituals, which are usually signed and dated by the authors. It is then handed down from generation to generation.

A collection of books from The Moonlight Shop. The books are fanned out, showing their covers. From left to right: 'Candle Magic For Beginners' by Richard, featuring a lit candle; 'Divination For Beginners' by Scott Cunningham, featuring a full moon and a dragon; 'The Moonlight Shop' by Scott Cunningham, featuring a large, ornate, dark cover with a central emblem; 'The Encyclopedia of Magical Herbs' by Scott Cunningham, featuring a green cover with a garden scene; and 'The Further Guide for the Solitary Practitioner' by Scott Cunningham, featuring a blue cover with a white tree. The books are arranged in a row, with the central book being the largest and most prominent.

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# BOOKS and JOURNALS



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1970s

# GEORGIAN WICCA

*Georgian Wicca* is actually similar to Gardnerian and Alexandrian Wicca. Its rituals are very much alike with both traditions because its founder did take from them and many other traditions, making it eclectic but still maintaining its traditional side.



# HISTORY

The Georgian Tradition was founded in 1970 by George Patterson (Pat), Zanoni Silverknife and Tanith. It started out as a small coven in George Patterson's home in Bakersfield, California.

Pat was taught by members of a Celtic coven in the Boston area. After enlisting in the Armed Forces during World War II, he returned to Boston only to find out that his family had destroyed his Book of Shadows and other ritual items. He also could not find the members of the Celtic coven who taught him whom he considered his family. In 1970, at the ripe age of 52, Zanoni and Tanith found him and helped him form the Georgian Wicca tradition.

Pat gathered information from many helpful sources like the New England Covens of Traditionalist Witches, the Gardnerian Wicca tradition, Etruscan lore and practices, the Alexandrian tradition, and the New York Covens of Traditionalist Witches to mention a few. The Georgian tradition is based on Gardnerian and Alexandrian practices.

Not long after forming the group, Pat applied to the State of California for legal status as an incorporated church. Through the Universal Life Church, it obtained a charter and ministerial credentials for himself and Zanoni.

In 1976, Pat began editing the Georgian Newsletter, which helped build and bridge the Georgian community. Pat passed away in 1984, leaving behind a thriving Georgian community. Today, there are Georgian covens in British Columbia, California, Florida, Oregon, Colorado, Maryland, Michigan, Washington and Oklahoma.



# THE TRADITIONAL SIDE

The Georgian Wicca tradition is also eclectic in several ways that it draws from many other traditions including Gardnerian, Alexandrian, and Celtic Wicca. It also does not carry a lineage to any of England's British Traditional Wicca covens. This is why the Georgian Wicca tradition is often considered as derived from the British Traditional Wicca. One particular characteristic of the Georgian tradition is that it greatly values the creativity and originality of its initiates.

The core beliefs of the Georgian Wicca Practitioners are as follows:

Honor the Gods of the Old Religion

Help members progress and improve themselves mentally, physically and spiritually

Work magick for the benefit of members and for others who may seek out help for the right purposes

Help others who want to learn the Craft for the proper reasons

To combat the untruths and to spread the truth about the Craft to those outside the Craft

To work for peace, harmony, and unity among the various branches of the Craft

To work for a better understanding of and a better relationship between man and nature





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**3**

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