

MICHELLE: So how many people do you usually get at these pagan-- pagan nights out?

HEATHER: They've been known to be 12. There's been known to be like-- if it's like Yule, there could be a couple of hundred people, depending on where it is, and how many people know, and what plans they have. It just depends. Our grove has open gatherings. So, you know, sometimes, we have just a few people. Sometimes, we don't have a lot of people.

GIGI: We did want to kind of give a little taste of paganism tonight, OK. And one of the things we planned on doing was having kind of a pseudo pagan ritual for our listeners on the air to kind of recognize-- it's a recognition of the winter solstice. And Michelle, why don't you start?

MICHELLE: OK, we're just going to read a little bit-- we're going to read this ritual just to try to give you a little example of what pagan ritual can be like. OK. This is the season of the White Goddess. This is the festival of Yule. The nights of green long and the Moon Goddess shines her blessings.

GIGI: The birth of the sun and is upon us. On the night of the winter solstice, we burn a fire in the hearth so that the sun may be reborn and the daylight be returned.

HEATHER: For the cold of winter is upon us, it is the time for fire. It is the time for rebirth.

MICHELLE: This is the time for the queer people to join together and celebrate the changing of the season.

GIGI: All of those change, as the new year replaces the old and the wheel of the seasons go on. Here's the great Goddess, my sister, and grant us favor of love, peace, and unity.

HEATHER: We are the fairy people. I've heard the calling of the winds, of the tree spirits. My spirit hears the Mother Goddess, Earth, calling to her people.

MICHELLE: Thursday the 22nd, the longest night of the year shall sing. I rejoiced in the semi darkness of shining stars and moonlight, fairy rings and dancing by the campfire. The firelight calling for the dawn, calling for the sun to be reborn, and to grow stronger day by day.

GIGI: I sing praise to the Sun God, the Earth Goddess, and the Moon Goddess. I am your androgynous priestess. I respond nature spirits and celebrate the winter dance.

HEATHER: Great. Can I talk a little bit about ritual? Now, people who are usually solitary do, unless it is a high holy day, or something special they want to do, usually we'll get in front of their altar at home. And, you know, do a little meditation and do their personal thing home. That's what we do. And I've converted a closet into an altar room. But for-- if you-- the proper way of doing ritual, usually, everybody, or if you're by yourself-- I'll assume that people are doing by themselves-- you call in the four directions.

GIGI: Yeah.

HEATHER: You call in the four elements. For protection, you invoke them. You do not evoke them. And there is a big difference. Evoking is going, hey, north, come in, come on. And that is-- and if you believe in this, it is it's very-- it's not a good thing to do. You invoke, you petition. You say, please come to us, come join us, come laugh with us, come celebrate with us. You petition for the goddess and the god, or just the goddess, if that's what you so believe.

You not only call in the four directions, you call in spirit also. We usually call spirits of past, present, and future. That way we have created a protection, a spear of power. And it is a spear that is around, above, and below, so that nothing can harm you. Because if you are drawing up energy, and even if you're just celebrating something like this, there are-- you are drawing up energy. You are drawing up magic within yourself. And sometimes, when you are so open, there are things that, you know, you just want to have that protection to keep the bad things out.

GIGI: Yeah, can you tell me a little bit about what the different directions mean?

HEATHER: Yes, north is the direction of earth. Earth, the mother, earth all the things that give us life, ground, and the trees. East is the air. Air is the intellect. Air is the mind and the soul. South is fire. Fire is energy, sex, and love, and passion. And west is water. Water is emotion, and tenderness, and tender love, and all things feeling.

GIGI: It sounds quite different from what the media puts out, that what is paganism.

HEATHER: Oh, yes. Oh, I forgot the most important one of all and that's the sender. The five points of a pentagram is north, south, east, west, and acacia, which is spirit. And the spirit is the most important one of all. It is what you believe in your spirit, in your soul, which helps you bring up the energies, and help you concentrate, and center.

GIGI: Do you have any more questions?

MICHELLE: Another common stereotype that I that I've seen of paganism was that, you know, it's just a bunch of people, you know, they all dress up in these black robes and kind of-- I don't know-- is that to be polite and to dress up a lot for these kind of things, or is that is that a valid stereotype?

HEATHER: Some wear black robes. Black is an absence of color, or all colors together for all protection, different colors, different protections. Black is a protection color. A lot of groups go sky clad, which is nude. They feel like that they cannot feel all the energies in the forces without being nude. Of course, if they want to do like in a public, or a festival gathering, there are there are pagan festivals. And you want to make it as interesting as possible as a festival or a parade would be. And of course, you dress up, and you have things, and you do the flash powder, which, you know--

And another big, big misconception is the pentagram. The pentagram has been around for 2, 000 years. The pentagram is not associated with Satan. That is the gotten up by rock bands, and the media, and the movie. And you know, it is-- it can be done up as with the point up as a person with his arms stretched-- arms and legs stretched wide stretching him or herself to the goddess or the god, or it can be the five points of the four directions and acacia.

So you know, it has been around for 2, 000 years. It has been used as the seal of Solomon. It has been used in many, many pagan traditions. And it is not an evil form. It is not evil. I even have a pentagram reef on my front door. And no one has bothered it, you know. And it hasn't zapped anyone yet. And--

GIGI: To kind of get a better feel, who would you say were the first pagans? Or how ancient a religion is this?

HEATHER: Neolithic men. Hathor is a goddess, a popular goddess that is seen a very simple female form with her arms curled and stretched, a very basic female form. I think she's over 200, 000 years old. Basically, paganism, it started simply as oh my god, it's raining, where did that come from. They didn't know it was from cumulus clouds, how would they know that. You know, the sun rises and sets, how did this happen? It's raining, how did this happen? The moon is shining, it's changing, how did this happen? These are great things that we know nothing about they must be sacred to us, you know.

GIGI: You know, one of the things I've always kind of understood about paganism is the connection to nature, and to the earth, and to the elements, to the forces of nature. And it's, you know, a celebration and a recognition that just like in nature, humans move in cycles.

HEATHER: Right, and people move in cycles. It's just like the triple goddess, the virgin, the mother, and then the crone. Everything comes into a cycle. The year comes into the cycle. The sabbaths come into a cycle. People continually go through cycles. Women go through cycles with their menstruation. Everything comes full circle in everything that you do.

And people, today, make their lives so complicated. And they try to control everything. There are people that are trying to get machinery to control the weather. They're trying to control the way the land is. They're not trying to appreciate the land. They don't try to appreciate the land, and the animals, and the forces. And nobody goes outside and just looks at the moon and goes, god, what a beautiful thing, and there's nothing that I can do to control that. Just something to be in awe of and respectful of.

GIGI: One thing I kind of recognize with paganism is that it is much needed today because we've gotten so out of touch with the earth. We're fouling it. We're destroying it. We're putting holes in the ozone layer. We're just out of tune with our heritage.

HEATHER: We are also out of tune with the female side. And I'm not a male basher. But the predominant religions, for the past few thousands years, that have squelched the mother religions and there are-- there's a wonderful book by Merlin Stone, *When God Was a Woman*. And it's just-- it's just such an enlightening book about women. Women gave birth. Women gave birth. Women were the most awesome worshipped creatures in the world. They perpetuated. They didn't know that men inseminated them.

Women were the most wonderful creatures in the world. And many of the patriarchal religions do not revere the sanctity of nature and the fact that not everyone is heterosexual. And the fact that, you know, people love in their own way is the way that they are, not that, you know, that god will punish you because you love a certain person a certain way. I mean, you know, how can that be a good and wonderful religion? How can that be nurturing?

GIGI: One thing I've seen too is that, you know, if you look at ancient civilizations, our whole idea of the modern day family did not evolve until Queen Victoria's time. When you look even further back, you know, the first deities were female. The first deities were very nurturing. And there's a lot of connection between women, earth, and the tribe.

HEATHER: Right.

GIGI: Instead of just this closed nuclear family with the head of the household being man. Usually, the head of the tribe was a female. And a lot of ancient civilizations, and I think rightfully so, chose the female to pass down from generation to generation instead of the male because no one could dispute who the mother was.

HEATHER: All right.

GIGI: There could always be a dispute on who the father was.

MICHELLE: Correct. Correct.

HEATHER: Oh yes, because up until the last 2, 000 years, there was very little evidence of marriage and monogamy, very, very little evidence of monogamy.

GIGI: And even ancient Greece, and before that, bisexuality was practiced, or homosexuality.

HEATHER: Oh yes, there was-- there was nothing wrong with that, and especially, in women, if they, you know, didn't want to get pregnant.

GIGI: Well, Heather, I want to thank you for coming tonight.

HEATHER: And I was very happy to be here, very happy to enlightened some people.

JIMMY: Well, I know you enlightened me. I have a piece of music I want to play. It's-- I've been searching through everything I have trying to find something that isn't a Christmas Carol. And the best I can come up with, forgive me if I made a faux pas, but it sounded really good to me. It's Kate bush and she's doing "December will be Magic Again".

MICHELLE: All right.

HEATHER: All right.

GIGI: And this is Gigi.

MICHELLE: And this is Michelle.

JIMMY: And you're listening to--

MICHELLE: KPFT.

GIGI: *After hours.*

JIMMY: KPFT Houston.

GIGI: And--

MICHELLE: 90.1.

JIMMY: There you go.

GIGI: I do you want to remind everyone about BiNet Houston.

JIMMY: Yes.

GIGI: We meet every Wednesday night at the--

MICHELLE: At the MCCR church on 1919 Decatur.

GIGI: And everyone's welcome to come in and check us out.

JIMMY: We'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

Oh yes, that was Richard Ord with the East Pacific Symphony which is, of course, Richard Ord because it's electronic music. He's openly . Gay and he has a Christmas album called a "New Light". That was "Troika" by Prokofiev. And of course, before that we had Kate Bush "December will be Magic Again." That was to top off that really great interview on paganism. Gigi?

GIGI: Yes.

JIMMY: You're right here.

GIGI: This is Gigi.

MICHELLE: Yeah, Gigi and Michelle are still with us.

GIGI: I did get a correct on a date.

JIMMY: Oh OK.

GIGI: Yes, the winter solstice in England is on the 22nd. The winter solstice here, in Houston, is on the 21st.

JIMMY: Oh, no kidding.

GIGI: Yes.

JIMMY: Wow.

GIGI: So I was looking at an English calendar printed in England, I guess.

JIMMY: Oh OK.

GIGI: So I was corrected on that.

JIMMY: So this is the 21st here.

GIGI: Yes.

JIMMY: Oh, cool, OK.

GIGI: So that's going to be the--

JIMMY: That was a very interesting little thing that you wrote up, the little ritual.

GIGI: Yeah. I kind of--

JIMMY: How do you go about doing that?

GIGI: I've followed my own form of paganism. And that's a wonderful thing about paganism. I've never been a member of any sect of paganism. It's just something--

JIMMY: Is that what she was talking about being singular or individual?

GIGI: Right, or you can be in groups. I've never kind of followed any formal pagan beliefs. I've just kind of follow my own spirit and my own soul.

JIMMY: You're a natural pagan.

GIGI: Been in touch with the elements, and nature, and the woods, and animals, and feel the cycles. And I've always kind of had this feeling of celebration for that. And to me, that's, you know, once I learned the word pagan and I thought, oh, that's what I've been doing all this time.

JIMMY: Yes. Michelle, are you into this or is this new to you too?

MICHELLE: I've been-- I've been kind of just like looking at religions right now because I've been-- I was never really raised with a religious tradition. And I was kind of-- I kind of feel like I'm missing out on something, I guess. Because I've seen all the rewards that can be gained from having some sort of faith.

And you know, I was I was looking at some of the Western traditions and I didn't feel comfortable with them. Because, you know, I just felt they were like very patriarchal and very, very male centered. So I was kind of looking for-- you know, paganism sounds like something closer to what I'm looking for, but I'm still looking at some Eastern traditions too.

JIMMY: Oh, OK.

GIGI: I did want to say that the pseudo ritual I wrote tonight was just something that kind of flowed from my heart partly and partly from some of the literature I've had read. And it's mostly just observing the changing in the season. I know that there's been nights I've gone out deep into the woods and just on a moonlit night, just observing the winds, and the moon, and feeling this charge of energy just from being a part of nature. And I think to me that's really the essence.

JIMMY: We certainly are a part of nature. And this--

GIGI: Very much.

JIMMY: This kind of gets you back to your roots.

GIGI: And it gets-- it's also very entwined with my bisexuality. I feel the--

JIMMY: Yeah, I was interested--

GIGI: --the male and female parts of myself. And in some ways, the pagan god and goddesses kind of interrelate with that female and male energy.

JIMMY: It was interesting that she said that all the pagans she knew were either gay or bisexual.

GIGI: Yeah.

JIMMY: And maybe-- maybe that's it. Maybe it's because when you have become a pagan, you have discovered the otherness that may be deep inside most of us.

GIGI: And I think it's that kind of rhythm of knowing that there's differences, and knowing that there's cycles and movements of things that science can't explain, that are quote "religions of the world" can't quite explain. But that are, you know, kind of moving in and through us. It's kind of like, you know, fairies in the past have been really associated with paganism.

And you know, I've gone out many times in the woods and seen, you know, mushrooms growing in a circle.

JIMMY: Oh, yes.

GIGI: That's called a fairy circle.

JIMMY: And sometimes, these circles can be huge.

GIGI: Oh, yes, very large. And just feeling the energy, you know, it's like-- you know, I think I must have a little fairy blood in my system. Because, you know, I feel this movement in me. And it's like, sometimes, it invokes the female side of me and sometimes, the more masculine side, and both of them interplay.

JIMMY: It's just-- it's just the-- yeah, go on, Michelle.

MICHELLE: Yeah, I was just saying, if you could just see what Gigi is wearing tonight, you'd see this mix of--

JIMMY: Oh, yeah.

MICHELLE: --male and female energy.

JIMMY: Absolutely. Absolutely.

MICHELLE: It's really quite interesting. If you'd like to describe it for us.

GIGI: Oh, yes. I've got black beats.

JIMMY: Combat type boots.

GIGI: Combat type and shave legs, a black dress.

JIMMY: Oh, you did? They are shaved, aren't they?

GIGI: Yes. Yes. And leather jacket, and I'm not wearing falsies tonight.

JIMMY: Right, OK. And that's a black lace dress with kind of a chiffon skirt.

GIGI: Yeah.

JIMMY: OK. OK, and beautiful jewelry.

GIGI: Mm-hmm, even have my little fairy on tonight.

JIMMY: But it's just this month, the Kate Bush song "December will be Magic Again", a lot of people get caught up in the Christmas type celebrations. And then end up feeling depressed all the time, and they don't know why. Because of the undue pressure put on to buy Christmas presents for people, and to do certain things, and go see certain people.

And you know do all of these expected things for the month of December. But when we sit back and say, well, maybe, I'm not going to buy into that and I'm going to look into the nature of things, where I came from, what's happening to my earth around me, and celebrate in that manner, there may be a whole lot less pressure, and blues, and depression.

GIGI: And what's really nice is that I've discovered is that, you know, once I can open my eyes and see the wonder again, it brings that childlike nature out.

JIMMY: Yeah.

GIGI: And allows me to play again, and to play with lovers.

JIMMY: Yes.

GIGI: With friends and frolic and just be alive, instead of being caught up in this commercialism, or who's wearing what, and this, and that.

JIMMY: Oh, I know. Oh, absolutely. Yes.

GIGI: You know, it allows a sense of freedom to celebrate again.

JIMMY: Yeah, that's nice. OK, coming up at 1:30 is going to be the *Love Connection*, Scott Lewis is in the house. And we will be taking those calls for those of you who want to be connected. And until then we're going to do a little musical interlude, some seasonal music. And I want to start it off with the Seattle Gay Men's Chorus. Actually, it's the Seattle Men's Chorus but they certainly are openly gay. And they do a version of something we've been talking about, "Christmas Comes Anew" Seattle Men's Chorus.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

Hold it. Hold it. Oh, wait a minute here. We can't have this. What is this? I saw daddy fondle Santa Claus. I can't have stuff like that. No, no, no. No. No, no. I don't care for this Kip Addotta. No, no, no. We're going to get-- get back to-- only because I don't want you to hear the rest of it. Anyway, that's from Dr. Demento's The Greatest Christmas Novelty Cd Of All Time. Kip Addotta, "I saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus".

Let's get back to something a little bit more melodic from Richard Ord and the East Pacific Symphony "A New light Christmas Carol of the Bells".

[BELL RINGING]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SCOTT LEWIS: Surprise, surprise, look who's here in the studio. Sliding in surprising people.

HOWARD BIG Guess what? We have a little early Christmas present for you, Houston.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I tell you we do.

HOWARD BIG We're here.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: We're queer.

HOWARD BIG Well, we know you are.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Well, you know it's the hair. It's the hair.

HOWARD BIG It's the-- it's the color of the month.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I tell you, do you like it? It's a new color it's called torrid cinnamon.

HOWARD BIG It looks like something I put in cappuccino.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Oh my god, I tell you. They dragged us down here for a little special edition of the *Love Connection*. I think we're going to start doing this more often.

HOWARD BIG Well, hell, I'd rather be at the rip cord getting me a love connection.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I tell you especially since you've got them all kind where you don't have to pay cover anymore.

HOWARD BIG Well, you know how I get in.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Hey, listen, we're only here for half an hour so give--

HOWARD BIG Half an hour.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: So give them the phone number quick.

HOWARD BIG What is the phone number? Mine?

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: No, not you-- nobody wants your phone number. 526-573-8526 KPFT, it's the *Love Connection*. Hey, we're going to have to get people on the phone. They're already ringing.

HOWARD BIG I know, we got to tell them who's here.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Hey, it's--

HOWARD BIG Like they don't know.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Like, well, of course, they know, it's-- oh, they hung up. Oh, Scott Lewis and Howard Big Daddy Mikhail live on the airwaves coming to you--

HOWARD BIG Hello, Houston.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: --the crime free Montrose tonight.

HOWARD BIG I tell you. Crime free because we're in here. Why nothing's going on?

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I tell you what do you do. Hey, we need to hook some people up with some husbands and wives just briefly, especially, ourselves.

HOWARD BIG Straight or gay.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Straight or gay.

HOWARD BIG Hey.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Hey, we don't care.

HOWARD BIG Tell about our show coming up in the first weekend of December, what we've got cooking.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Hey, introductions, gay video dating service, kind of like what's that? Great expectations, boring.

HOWARD BIG Oh, no, wait a minute.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: This is the way to do it. This is the way to do it. This is gay video dating, Introductions, new to Houston. Its many \$100 value.

HOWARD BIG You on top is new to Houston.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Hey, please I'm not on top. I don't play top. That's not going to happen.

HOWARD BIG I hope not, gee.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I'm a bottom just for your future information, in half an hour.

HOWARD BIG Like, like we couldn't tell.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Back off. So-- oh, that reminds me of a story. Remember Cafe Adobe Monday night. You know, things are rough when I'm trying to-- I'm reaching over my date to Howard's handing in my phone number at cafe Adobe Monday night, remember?

HOWARD BIG Well, I picked up the busboy.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I told him. I told Howard's date, I said, look at, whenever you want to ride a big white woman, you give me a call, here's my number.

HOWARD BIG He can go to Seaworld, what you mean ride a white thing?

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Back off. Back off. And then Howard kept trying-- Howard would try to talk to his own date and I would tell him back off, he's mine now, back off.

HOWARD BIG I wasn't too upset, you know.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I know. You know, oh, he was so cute though, goatee, Hispanic.

HOWARD BIG Well, I know you don't have a date too often, so what the hell.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Oh, you know.

HOWARD BIG Might as well steal mine.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Well, seeing as though you don't have hair too often.

HOWARD BIG Listen, I keep mine the right color, that god gave me.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Back off. So anyway we're at 526-573-8526 KPFT. And we will take your phone calls. We have a couple of listeners right here looking at us here in the studio tonight. It is--

HOWARD BIG Now, brief little history about these two gentlemen in the studio with us.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Well, it's old chuck and Dale.

HOWARD BIG Mm-hmm. Two studies from where?

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Texas city.

HOWARD BIG Well, I thought it was Galveston.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Well, kind of, they're right there.

HOWARD BIG They said they had a beachfront.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: They're trying to lure us down there to spend the night in a big old beachfront condo, or something. And then we find out they live in Texas city where it probably smells from oil, or something.

HOWARD BIG No, I ain't going down there.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I'm not going to Texas.

HOWARD BIG I'm going to Galveston.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: I tell you. We'll stay at the Galvez and we'll send you the bill. That's what's going to happen. What mikes are they one? Seven and eight, maybe.

HOWARD BIG Six and seven.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Six and seven.

HOWARD BIG Hey, why is he wearing that Italian tablecloth on his wrist.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Oh, he's-- have you been out nightclubbing?

DALE: Of course.

SCOTT LEWIS: Now, Dale of course, is the straight one.

DALE: Yes.

SCOTT LEWIS: For another half hour anyway. You called in one night, Dale, and we made Chuck look at your butt so you can find out if it had hair or not. Do you remember that?

DALE: Yes, I remember very vividly.

SCOTT LEWIS: Oh, well I'm going to find out for a fact tonight, you know, because I don't know chuck that well. So I can't trust him.

HOWARD BIG Bring your toothpicks.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Oh, I hate it when you get hair in your teeth, oh, the worst.

HOWARD BIG Damn, dental floss. [? I hate the hair on ?] your forehead.

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Well, that's not a problem for you seeing as how your eyebrows have even fallen out.

HOWARD BIG I keep combing my eyebrows back, what do you mean?

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

SCOTT LEWIS: Yeah, so you look like you have a full head of hair.

HOWARD BIG Hey, you know what you forgot to tell me about we're trying to get a second--

DADDY

MIKHAIL:

[AUDIO OUT]