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paganism, beltane, ritual, sexuality, bisexual, druids, grove, wiccans, druidic, groups, holidays, religion, magic, representing, books, women, wicca, sexual preference, cauldron, great

SPEAKERS

Michelle, Speaker 3, Gigi, Speaker 1



Gigi 00:03

By coming up. Okay. Gigi with Binet,



Michelle 00:09

And as Michelle with Binet



Gigi 00:11

And we have some guests with us tonight, but before we get to our guests, I did get a call from Bozo. I mean not-.



00:26

-rainbow didn't hear that.



Gigi 00:29

He called he wanted everybody to remember about the Bar Hop tomorrow. It's the East annual Easter bonnet high, he'll run and they're gonna have contests with free prizes. And the whole thing's free. Registration is tomorrow, Sunday 1230 to 115 at the venture and you can read more about it in the voice. And tonight we've got some guest I want to introduce them. We have get name so bad.



Speaker 1 01:05

This is Tommv Simone dragon

This is Tommy Simone dragon.

G

Gigi 01:10

And tell us a little bit about who you are. And you know what? The pagan thing you know, you're interested the druid branch of paganism might take first.

S

Speaker 1 01:28

Well, basically we are druids, which is an earth based religion and it was the religion that was predominant in the British Isles before the reign of Christianity. They they've also been, you know, misinterpreted as worshipping trees, but basically they were animist and believed in all spirits and everything, including rocks and trees and plant life.

G

Gigi 02:01

What kinds of holidays Do you observe?

M

Michelle 02:06

We, we observe for holidays, we, first of which is sellin second which is Imbolc Beltane and Lunasol.

G

Gigi 02:20

And we've got a big festival coming up pretty soon, right?

M

Michelle 02:23

Yeah, but it's coming up. It's a big fire festival. And everybody pray for rain so we can have the good a good fire festival since there's a fire ban on in the state.

G

Gigi 02:35

That kind of puts a damper on things, doesn't it? Large damper. I know that a lot of pagans are bisexual. How do you all identify and-?

M

Michelle 02:50

How to be interested in hearing like how does your paganism relate to your bisexuality if in any way it does?

S

Speaker 1 03:00

Well, for one thing, paganism generally views all forms of sexuality as sacred. It is often said in many Wiccan and Druidic faiths that all acts of love and pleasure are her rituals, which are the Goddess which is the Goddess. So bisexuality, heterosexuality or homosexuality doesn't really matter. Since it is a fertility based religion, sacred sexuality is always accepted, no matter how you look at it.

G

Gigi 03:29

And with this ritual coming up the bell Tang, tell me a little bit more about Beltane. What all is going to be occurring? And because, you know, I know there's a lot of myths, paganism is devil worship. We all know that's not true, you know, that. And there's all these myths that you're getting together to do all this black magic are horrible things to people and, and I'd like to kind of clarify that and just kind of go into what actually does occur at one of these festivals.

M

Michelle 04:07

At one of the festivals, there's definitely no devil worship involved, or satanic worship, because we simply don't believe in Satan. Because we're not Christian, and the Wiccans and the Druids, which are two different faiths, and we also share our holiday time with some shamanic paths. And we all get together and we celebrate the season. Everybody has a different title for this holiday. And they worship in separate ways, but we get together and we raise energy and pray to the Lord and Lady. And what this holiday represents is the sacred marriage between the God and Goddess and their first coupling which will bring about the rebirth of the God in the coming year. Maybe if I may, if you could, it might help us out if you could explain to us a little bit about, like, What drew you to paganism and more specifically Druidism. What brought you into it? Well, for me, it was very easily. I was told not to ask questions when I went to church and they said, You can't be a priestess. And I said, I want more than that I want femininity and the God I don't believe the God is going to tell you what to do and make you miserable. I think life should be rejoiced in in be honored and sought out in beauty and love and kindness. And that's not what I was getting. And I found my beliefs and I found my beliefs had a home. It took me a little while to realize that I was had a huge family of friends and relations that I just had to open up to and and open up to me it's very closeted faith, because we are a minority and a persecuted minority.

G

Gigi 06:05

What that Chief tell he is.

S

Speaker 1 06:07

Well, what brought me to paganism. So it was kind of interesting. I was raised in a very devout Christian background, United Pentecostal Be precise. And I had went to I was a Methodist at the time. And my minister says, Well, if you're going to be going into seminary, you need to study

all the world religions. So he handed me a bunch of books on world religions that were actually by the people of those particular face. And I started to think, Wait a minute, I believe in this, you know, this is really interesting that this is something that I actually can hold true. And I turned to an agnostic, you know, which is a person that seeks the Divinity but I didn't know what name to call it by. And I was led to Druidism by a very old man that knew me before I knew him. His name was Tommy McMoRan. So he's already passed on to the Summerlin, but I still render his teachings very valid and very important in my life.

G

Gigi 07:07

He had mentioned a little bit about the Beltane celebration coming up and that you're planning wickerman? And that, that's kind of fallen through at this point, because of the fire problems, and some other problems. But what ways? does all this relate to sexual orientation? what ways does it relate to this society? In how things are now? I mean, you know, I know that paganism is a very ancient religion, do you think there's more of a need for it now, or-.

M

Michelle 07:55

I think it's especially vital right now, because the sexuality is, instead of hiding our sexuality, and being afraid of it, and not exploring it, and not embracing it, sexuality has such power and energy, which can be used positively in magic, if done correctly, with enough training, and it is not easy to do. But it can also be used to embrace every part of life. I mean, everything in the world is sexual in a way. And if you love everyone in all their different forms and fashions, whether just be hugging, you know, anybody, it doesn't matter what their orientation is, or being absolutely physically sexual with them. It's absolutely acceptable. And it's, like shit, like palliation said, that it's all acts of love and pleasure, the goddess is ritual. And that's very important. You know, you're always honoring the goddess when you're being intimate with someone. I mean, we don't just live in the church or in the grove as it is. Every day is a ritual, we get up and we greet the sun, when we go to bed. Or when the moon rises, we greet the moon. I mean, everything sexuality-.

G

Gigi 09:13

And know that for me, one of the things that you know, identified much earlier as bisexual and then later was kind of drawn to paganism as a more harmonious and a lot of balance. Just because with the Christian God, I mean, my father was a minister of all things. And it was like, you know, I had this stuff crammed down my throat and I found this kind of patriarchal religion, a little stifling. And once I kind of learn more about my own sexuality and about paganism, I discovered that it was really kind of cool because you It was much more imbalanced, much more intense. I felt like all of a sudden, I found my niche in the world.

S

Speaker 1 10:11

Where you had mentioned earlier about what is fire and stuff do with we deal with the sexuality of Beltane the fire represents the passions of the soul. And a lot of people express these passions through sexuality. You as you would also mentioned, you know that your father was a

minister and stuff like that over half my family's ministers and there's only one of my family that actually knows of my sexual preference. And he says, well, as long as you don't bother me, I'm okay with it. And I'm like, you know, my family wouldn't bother you in the first place. But you were, you know, back about the about the fire and the festivals. And so, the four holidays that are mentioned, the dreaded holidays are fire festivals, and they are all dealing with some form of sexuality. Like within Balkan, for instance, it is the lactation of the US, which are the, you know, female sheep, which they start feeding their babies. It's also the first spring of or the first spring up of plants. Sow when is the last harvest and Lunasol is the first harvest. All of these have to do with some form of agriculture and some form of fertility and crop in crop generation. Some someone has also our Celtic New Year, which we celebrate, we celebrate new year in October. He wants to say-.

M

Michelle 11:40

Yeah, I was gonna say that. All of this relates in the goddess aspect as she's going through her maturing and her first rites of womanhood, and she is getting to know the young god and marrying, and conceiving and going through childbirth and growing old with him, and he dies off and then she bursts the God again in the new year.

G

Gigi 12:12

And one thing you mentioned wicker earlier, yes. And the taller more on the druidic brand, what's the difference between the two? For someone that's kind of never been exposed to paganism, but thinks they might be so inclined, what would be kind of way to steer them in the right direction, so to speak.

M

Michelle 12:40

The difference between big difference between Druidism and Wicca is, number one, we're monotheistic. We believe in aspects of one deity rather than multiple deities. And for a lot of people that I that are just now coming into paganism, I'm finding that they have a lot easier time dealing with the conversion from like a Christian or Jew day background to a remaining monotheistic and Wicca also has five elements, which you can see on the pentacle. And we have three. And we also have for holidays, they have ate just a number of things.

S

Speaker 1 13:27

There's also another thing to consider as well is that wicker is more family oriented, in old times, and old. In old times, it was the old times it was basically it was more of a household where they worship during the solstices and the equinoxes. And for grid ism, it was more of a large group where all the actual homesteads came together and celebrated under one priest or priestess. That is one of the major differences is that we are more major group oriented and the Wiccans are more close knit more family oriented, where it deals with everyone is brothers and sisters. You know, we're not literally but you know, the close knit type atmosphere.

M

Michelle 14:13

With it is a lot of Wiccans in their various denominations tend to be a lot more closeted and secretive about their personal beliefs and the beliefs of their circle and a lot of the druid groves are very open to the public, and not all but a lot and the traditions are more open. Sometimes craft members are just very craft being members of the Wiccan denominations is very much a closed mouth society they have very much traditions and secrets that they want guarded and you know only to their-.

G

Gigi 15:01

Okay, we've got a caller with a question. I'm gonna kind of turn it over to ya. Hello, Darren. He's not.

S

Speaker 1 15:10

No he's not. Okay. Okay. We have. Okay. Well, Darren, from Katie, I tell you what you're from relay grove. I'm very much familiar with Relay grove. It's from keralite chapter and I believe your senior droid is Rob, right. Hello, Darrin. Hello. Hey, Darren. Oh, yeah. Yeah, I'm very familiar with ADF.

U

15:34

Actually. Yeah. Ben inactive for a little while due to car problems. And?

S

Speaker 1 15:42

Well, I, the group that we were associated with is to 19th August, June, which is the land of holly and oak. Okay. Yeah, we were very new grove. manufactuer associated with the order of the sacred cauldron. Okay. I'm very familiar with ADF. Have you heard any word on Isaac, on his illness?

U

16:03

Well, Isaac has is he's quit as archdruid. I know, I think skin voting going on right now. I mean, now they're getting all that stuff together. And illness is slowing him down a bit. But with with taking the burden of being archdruid off of his shoulders, you'll be able to proceed on and, you know, not have to fight on two different fronts there.

S

Speaker 1 16:33

The I notice that you ask what Grover associated with. We are not associated with Obama, a lot of people have confused as with obod, which is the order of the ovates. Bards and raids. Right.



16:45

I'm familiar with him. And I knew you weren't associated with ADF. That didn't leave many other national or international groups.



Speaker 1 16:54

We're pretty local. I tell you.



16:56

Yeah. Well, okay. I was just wondering, I didn't hear the very first part of that thing, or even if you mentioned, Tiara mattina, I guess Yeah. Okay. Great. Maybe we can get together and do a cross Grove thing sometime.



Speaker 1 17:15

That's possibility. Okay. Okay. Good evening.



Michelle 17:19

I'm curious. I'm question for you guys. Why would you say that? paganism relates to the modern world, I mean, in terms of like, the urbanization and rise of technology and things like that, I mean, with a very nature based religion, I'm just curious, My, my favorite. Well, paganism has moved into urban America real well, because books like The urban pagan have come out. And you've seen new uses for Modern uses for new tools, like the microwave and vacuum cleaner, we have the old tradition of the broom being the symbol of cleaning and magical purification, well now use vacuum cleaners for such things, very simple changes from old ways to new ways. And it's just moving back to recognizing that the earth is important, and you can't take technology to the extremely move totally away from the Mother Earth. And if you ignore nature, it will come to harm you. I mean, you can see that in all endangered species dying, you can see that in the environmental problems we're having, the more we realized that we are connected to it, even in the heart of the city, and there are a lot of pagans in the city. Lots and lots of pagans in the city. It can we come to realize that we can come together as a community to within our own groups and with other religious communities. We have some various pagan members that work outside the community with some Christian groups that are very successful and environmental movements and they're helping the earth and it's very, very important to stay aware that not that we're all environmentalists, I can't say that everybody's we try to be more aware and more conscious.



Gigi 19:17

You kind of touched a little bit on something that's ice helped me a lot. That is, you know, I think with a lot of people in the city, they've lost touch with nature. And for me, paganism was a good way to kind of bring me back not only on a physical level with nature, but on a more

spiritual level. Has this occurred with y'all?

S

Speaker 1 19:45

Well, her her and I both live in a city it's out for you know, a way from Houston but it's still in Houston part Sterling city. I have found that going out to parks or going out to Nature Reserve errs, you know, are finding a patch of grass that I can go sit on, you know, and try to you know, try to get back with nature. You know, when I get all stressed out when my head is fixed, you know, do 360s on my neck and then roll off onto the street. I usually go up the street to bury a park and go hug an oak tree and give all my negative energy to the trees i Okay, great. Use it manipulators and grow with it. And with my interest, that's how I deal with you know, with the urbanization of, of the modern world.

G

Gigi 20:36

Okay, we've got another question from a caller. They don't think they're still on the phone, but they're interested in where they can get information on Druidism.

M

Michelle 20:52

There are a few good books, and I do mean a few. Because you have to be very careful. Still, you should go to the history books. That's truly the best place to go. What about groups groups? They can come to us. There are some other groups and clear light that we can point them to there are some national and international druidic organizations that can be joined. One of the very best books is The Book of Celtic myth and magic McCoy, by Eden McCoy. And it's not specifically druidic, but it is Celtic shamanism and Druidism combined. There is kind of Wicca in there. Another good book is 21 lessons of Merlin, but it is very biased towards men. They are very much against women in Judaism in that book. It is a good book, you can learn from it, but it does take time. All basics of magic can be learned from is which is not all magic is not necessarily genetic. But all good magic. book references I can say Scott Cunningham, he's Wiccan but he knows his crystal magic and his herbology there's another book called druid, druids herbal which is very good.

G

Gigi 22:24

Sir number where people can call to get in touch with a group or place where they can get information about groups that meet in the eastern area.

S

Speaker 1 22:34

Well, we are trying to get started a networking system right now. Of course lady Phoenix is doing all the work it is her babies so she gets to work with it. The number they can call it right now we're just working off of my voicemail, which is 6183791 Area code 713.



22:57

Pager is going to explode.



Speaker 1 22:59

Probably. She had also. Oh, do it again. Okay, the number again is 713-618-3791. Don't be freaked out when you hear a message from Crescent Clothiers. There is also she had mentioned several books on on the different things that you can also learn. You can learn extremely a lot about particular Vihaan laws or druids from any of the books by Morgan Llewellyn. She's a very good author. She's fiction, but some very good very good historical references.



Gigi 23:34

Please fix at any bookstore, bookstore.



Speaker 1 23:38

Book stop carries a large number of these books and if you if you want to go to Half Price Books, they generally carry a lot of them as well.



Speaker 3 23:45

Look stop Walden books.



Gigi 23:48

What about other shops? Is there any shops that kind of cater to-.



23:52

There are definitely shops that cater to paganism that if you're going to get your pen and pencil ready, this is the time where she is garden is very, very good. Another one is magic cauldron. And then there is another one called the totem post which just opened up. It's more shamanic though. There's another one called Moon circles. That is on the north side of town. There's another one called gateways which is in Clear Lake. And there is an herb shop if you're into herbal magic, which is called wild herbs which is down in the Montrose area. And there is another place called astrology excetera, which is out on the west side of town. They're very, very helpful, but they are very wicked oriented and if you need druidic stuff I would recommend coming into Lucci is which is more in the Kirby area.



23:52



Gigi 24:43

Y'all had mentioned earlier that there's a lot of sexuality mixed in with paganism. Is there any rituals that involves sexual?



Speaker 1 24:56

Well, as you were falling over your words here In the wicked and in druidic paths, there is what we call the Great right. Sometimes it's mostly done symbolically on every ritual like with the Wiccans they use an a thumb A, which is a ritual knife. And a chalice of wine representing the child is representing the womb of the mother and the athma, which is the knife representing the male aspect. The Druids do it symbology parmi symbolically by honoring the pole and cauldron by sticking a staff in a kettle or a cauldron, a cast arms pot, important wine and water over the staff to represent the bodily fluids. But the great rate can also be reenacted by a couple. Generally, it's done by priest and priestess. And it is the actual sexual act done during particular times of year. Beltane is when it's mostly done, because it's usually the the actual symbolic act, but the actual act to show the God and Goddess you know, during their during their meeting/



26:05

But during the Great rise not just as simple as just having sexual intercourse during a ritual it is it takes a lot of training, that's tantric magic. It's sexual magic. And it's focusing the energy that was raised during the climax that happens during sex for a purpose. It goes towards healing, it goes toward whatever the purpose is for the ritual for that time, or that, that misconstrued.



Gigi 26:32

This is kind of something I've been kind of curious about. And that is, is there any specific rights or or, or ceremonies that are kind of geared towards bisexuality? Or any kind of part of paganism that's really celebrates the bisexual?



Speaker 1 26:55

Well, it's not really what we mean by okay. We don't really have anything in particular that pretend that actually goes with bisexual or with a homosexual, but any of the rituals can be modified to fit your sexual preference. I have no I mean, I've known some Irish Fe which is 95% gay men that have done the great write in ritual. And it worked out just as well as if a man and a woman had done it. With some pagans being polyamorous having how polyamorous relationships, you know, more than one husband or more than one wife-.



Gigi 27:38

Can that language.

S

Speaker 1 27:41

They work as working partners, you know, you can have a grove that has two priestesses and a priest or two priests and a priestess. And they would probably reenact the great right in some form or fashion to fit their personal needs. Actually, it does not specify which sexual preference does you know any type of sexual magic. You were talking in specific sexual magic. There's even a great right for solitaires for people that practice by themselves and that is done through masturbation. And I mean as long as the energy is raised through the building up the climax, and then it's released at the climax towards a particular goal, then that's how it works. It does not matter how it works, I mean, which right which way you do.

G

Gigi 28:30

But I guess what I'm kind of gearing towards is that you know now that bisexuality and paganism that kind of through the centuries been almost seen in hand with a lot of followers is there anything that's kind of brought in kind of brought into the religion that's kind of geared more towards them or towards opening it up with people.

i

29:02

Towards opening up towards I would have to say in the religion is already open there is no I guess if you come from another faith are another background it would be opening up for that that person, but it's not specifically opening it up for the religion the religion has always been open towards homosexuals, bisexuals, you know.

G


Gigi 29:27

No, no. And a lot of primitive cultures, like a lot of the shaman were actually very effeminate men that were bisexual. And sometimes there's women that were bisexual in kind of almost crossed the gendered that held reserved spots and tribes from ages pass and They're having a conference here.

S

Speaker 1 30:08

Well, there's one thing about in history, it has been shown that a lot of the religious leaders, male or female, has, you know, they basically most of the cultures were bisexual and they were only they were bisexual because they only made it with women sometimes for procreation purposes only. The Celts were that way it was that it shows in their society because it was an ability based society instead of a matriarchy or patriarchy. If you could do the job you did it doesn't matter if you were male or female. They had women chieftains, they had women warriors. They had women druids, you know, it was an ability base if you do it, do it which makes a lot of sense. You know, you look at your look at your ancient Greeks with the Spartans and you know, where are you get the lambda symbol for the hammer homosexual community today okay.



 Gigi 31:13

And we're gonna go ahead and finish but after that, we're going to take a short break for some music because they have some music they want to play, but gotten finished question