



LOWCOUNTRY C.A.S.T.

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Newsletter for 2nd Quarter, 2010

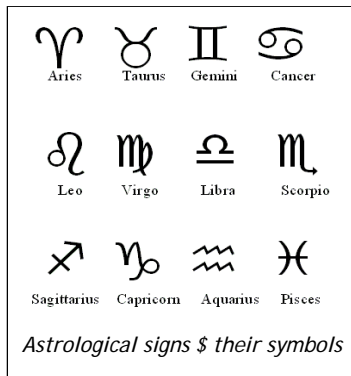
What are your signs? By Tina McDuffie

The answer to the ages old question, "What's your sign?" isn't really that helpful when you want to know more about someone, including yourself, though the question may still work as a pick-up line. A better question is, "What're your signs?" Emphasis on the "s."

A plain old Sun Sign will paint only a tiny picture of a person's character. However, when combined with a person's Moon Sign and Rising Sign (also called the "Ascendant"), the picture really begins to come into focus. In your natal chart, the Sun represents your conscious self, your will and individuality of spirit, while the Moon describes your subconscious self, including your feelings and receptivity, as well as, habit patterns of the past. Your Rising, the sign on the horizon at your birth, indicates how others see you. It's the face you present to the world and the window through which you see the world – your outlook on life.

Where your Sun is placed by House is where your ability to make a significant contribution to life lies. Where your Moon is placed by House is where your emotions have full sway. Your Rising will always be on the First House in your natal chart. The First House influences what you look like, your destiny in the making, your personality, disposition and manner.

How do you find out what Signs your Sun, Moon and Rising are in? First, you need to know when you were born (the month, day, year and time) and where you were born. Then with an Internet connection, a visit to one of the many web sites that offer free natal charts, and a few minutes to enter the data, you can view your birth chart in all its glory. Your birth time and birthplace are essential to calculating your Rising. While the Sun changes sign only every 30 days or so and the Moon every 2 days, a new sign rises on the horizon every 2 hours. That's why two people born on the same day, but at different times, can have markedly different temperaments, dispositions, physical appearance, and personality.



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2nd Quarter Dates

	<i>New / Full Moons</i>	
Ostara – March 20		
Pagans In The Park - April 11		3/29
Pagan Yard Sale – April 24	4/14	4/28
Beltane – May 1	5/13	5/27
Beltane In The Pines – May 7 –9	6/12	6/26
Litha – June 21		

Imbolc By Angel Knight

No matter what part of the globe you hail from or what culture you participate in, there is a holiday to celebrate the season. Some seasons are cut and dried; winter is heralded at Yule and Christmas, while spring dances its way in at Ostara and Easter. But, February is caught in the middle of these two seasons, being not really one or the other. February second is when the ground hog determines whether our winter will progress for six more weeks. In Europe, it is celebrated as Candlemas, where candles are lit to herald in the end of winter. In the Pagan wheel, we have landed on Imbolc, the halfway spoke between the earth asleep and the earth starting to wake. Here in South Carolina, this halfway mark is the time that robins and blue birds return, and usually, if we are lucky enough, we get snow.

I saw a pair of blue birds outside my office one week before our snowstorm this year. How we go from the cold of a 22 degree night to the warmth of an almost 60 degree day is what being between the seasons is like in the Lowcountry. The great snow of 2010 was beautiful by the candle light of my living room. I figured that the snow would still be on the cars by mid-day. However, I was wrong. As quickly as we had three inches of snow on the ground that night, the sun had melted all but the shadiest of spots of snow by mid-morning.

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IMBOLC, continued from page 1

Through this month we can watch nature in its glory with the seasons fighting out their eternal play on the wheel. Other spokes of the wheel refer to harvests, but there is nothing growing yet to harvest at this spoke. This is the time to plough, to ready the land for spring. It is *also* time for the herd to multiply, which is why sheep figure prominently at Easter and Passover. The lambs, and other baby animals, are generally born at Imbolc. This is why this celebration is considered a milk holiday. We can see nature reflected in mythology in the life cycle of the god. He, like the baby animals, is old enough to still be suckling on milk.

Imbolc is a holiday without clear definition of dates. Different pagan groups pin Imbolc to different dates on the calendar, which is why I talk so much about February itself. I have seen books place Imbolc on the same days as Candlemas and Groundhog's Day. I know of another group that finds the midpoints between the fixed solstices and equinoxes on the calendar, thus making the dates for Imbolc and other Esbats float.

Just remember that at the heart of this celebration is nature striving to make a decision. This is the holiday for blue birds in the snow; when candles light the way for a dark night but morning quickly melts the frost.

Angel is an eclectic pagan and local filmmaker in the area.

The frugal corner by Siri

Local thrift stores

Children's Cancer Society Thrift Store 843-766-8303
M-F 9:30 AM - 6:30 PM Sat 9:30 AM - 6PM
835 Savannah Highway

Community Thrift Store 843-554-3733
M-Sa 9AM-7PM Su 12Pm-6PM
5300 Rivers Ave (Rivers & 526)
Community Thrift Store 843-871-0320
10050 Dorchester Rd (Dorchester Rd & Trolley Rd)

Goodwill Stores
6603 Rivers Ave 843-574-9009
207 St James Ave Goose Creek 843-329-0193
1220 Ben Sawyer Blvd. Mt. P 843-216-0888
1141 Six Mile Rd Mt. P 843-375-0189
936 Folly Rd. 843-377-1482

Habitat For Humanity Restore
731 Meeting St Charleston
487 Hwy 174, Suite D Edisto Island
1 Belknap Rd. Goose Creek (Redbank Rd. & Hwy 52)

3304 Maybank Hwy John's Island
Salvation Army - 4248 Dorchester Rd. Chas. Hgts.

The following is my absolute favorite find. It is run by a series of LOVABLE but cantankerous old ladies who if they were Pagan would make great Crones. LOL! Prices are very reasonable.

Castaways Thrift Store 843-764-7136
Tue - Thur - Sat 10 AM - 2 PM
Naval Weapons Station Goose Creek next to the Housing Office on Fletcher St. All proceeds go to the Navy Relief.

Community Outreach

A division of Seacoast Church:

Dream Center Food & Clothing (Tue & Thu 9-11 AM) You need ID and proof of income & residence Serves these areas East of Rivers- South of Otranto-North of McMillian
Dream Center Medical Clinic 225-1115 (Tue & Thu 9-11 AM or 6-8 PM) serves all of N. Chas & Hanahan

ECCO (East Cooper Community Outreach) est. in the wake of Hurricane Hugo
<http://www.eccocharleston.org>
10 am-4 pm 843-849-9220
1145 Six Mile Rd.
Mt Pleasant, SC 29466

ECCO provides emergency assistance for food, clothing, household furnishings, and financial needs. As well as, ongoing services including medical, dental, prescription drug assistance, education and counseling.

www.mysisterssmile.org

This is a referral only restorative dental clinic for women. You can get more info from the website.

Helping Hands of Goose Creek M-F 9-11:30 am
104-B Commerce Place
Goose Creek, SC 29445
Phone: 843 553-7132
Fax: 843 553-7198
<http://www.helpinghandsofgoosecreek.net/>

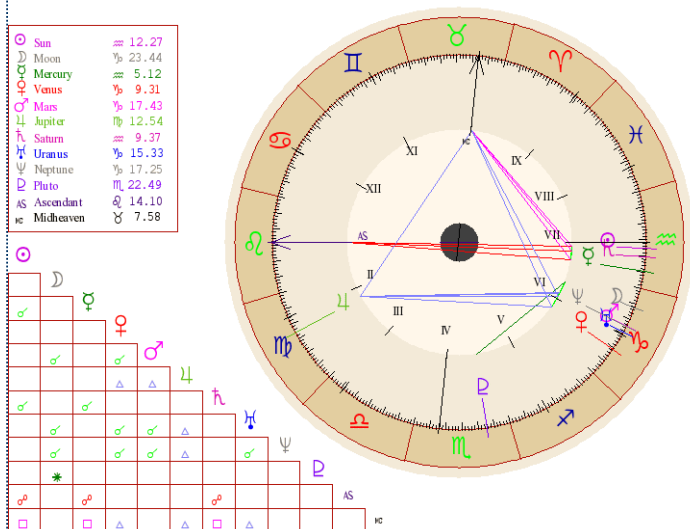
Pagan Unity Day 2010

Festival Times: Saturday, October 16, 2010
10 AM - 6 PM

Are you interested in being a vendor, or do you know somebody who is? Please leave a message for us at 843.225.4283. We will get back to you with more information.

Signs, continued from page 1

Look for the positions of the following symbols in your chart to determine placement by sign and house of your Sun (☉) and Moon (☾). Your Rising will be the sign showing along the left-most side of the horizon line. It may also be denoted by \uparrow or AS in the planet listing, if the chart includes one. The sample natal chart shown at right depicts the Sun at 12° 27' Aquarius (12 degrees, 27 minutes), the Moon at 22° 44' Capricorn and the Rising at 14° 10' Leo.



Sample Natal Chart depicting Sun in Aquarius, Moon in Capricorn and a Leo Rising

Most online astrology sites that provide free natal charts also include a short reading. I like the detailed charts from Café Astrology (www.cafeastrology.com) because they provide a list of planetary aspects in addition to each planet's sign and house placement. But watch out: I've noticed that their software sometimes gets the Rising wrong. You may have to adjust your birth time by an hour in either direction to get the correct Rising. (I think it's a glitch with their Daylight Savings Time calculations.) Astrolabe seems to get the Rising right (www.alabe.com) consistently, but doesn't provide information on aspects and other important details in their free report. Still it's a good place to make sure you get the correct Rising. Chaos Astrology (www.chaosastrology.net) provides a nice synopsis of the meaning of each planet before interpreting its sign and house placement in your natal chart.

There are plenty of great books on Astrology that provide much more detailed interpretations than what you can find online. If you're serious about learning Astrology, books are the way to go. Don't rely on just one book, though. It's good to get several different viewpoints. One of my personal favorites is Astrology: A Cosmic Science by Isabel M. Hickey. Unfortunately, it's out of print. Two books published by Llewellyn that look promising are Astrology:

Understanding the Birth Chart by Kevin Burk and Llewellyn's Complete Book of Astrology: The Easy Way to Learn Astrology by Kris Riske.

If at first you find all the information in a chart confusing, don't worry about it. Just focus on the three big ones: sun, moon and rising. They'll paint a pretty good picture all by themselves. Enough so the next time you want to get to know someone better, you'll ask "What're your signs?"

Tina McDuffie has been studying Astrology and other esoteric sciences off and on for 30 years. She and her husband own and run Here Be Books & Games, a used-book and new-game store at 4650 Ladson Road, Summerville (www.herebebooks.com). Their store carries over 40,000 books, and hundreds of board games as well as tarot cards, playing cards, dice and roleplaying games. They're currently expanding their metaphysics section to include new books, as well as used books. Phone: (843) 695-1498. Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday, 10am to 6pm.

Personal Truth vs. Truth

by Sarah Colgan

I think when it comes to gaining and sharing knowledge, some in the Pagan community have their hearts in the right place, but are a little misguided.

In today's world, we have instant, unlimited access to just about any piece of information we desire. Sadly, that doesn't mean that everything that is in print is a truthful, well researched, and reliable piece of information, and we need to always remember this. I'll be the first to admit this it's very hard to shuffle through the mire, especially when you're starting with a completely new topic that you have no previous information about. A lot of people (especially those new to Paganism) have trouble finding a good place to begin.

It's also no secret that most Pagans have a fascination with the past, and the more natural, Earth driven rhythms that generally entailed. And it's also true that "those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it", We need to understand and be okay with the fact that there are some aspects of history we can never know the truth of - the famous "9 Million women" killed in the "Burning Times" is a good example of this, as we can never validate this claim. Yet some still constantly use it. If you have a deep respect for the men, women, and children killed during this time, that's admirable, and they deserve it, but don't misquote information about it. It does nothing for you, them, or the person you're talking with. We also need to realize that our ancestor's world was "modern" to them at the time, and they acted accordingly. There's no shame in us doing the

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The C.A.S.T. newsletter will be published quarterly throughout the year. Article contributions should be sent to Chair.CAST@gmail.com. MJ Dellucci, Editor. The C.A.S.T. board is completely responsible for the content of this newsletter. Any comments, gripes, suggestions, or input should be reasoned and well thought out.

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same as Modern Pagans. The use of Woad is another example, as I have seen sources that claim it was used by Celts before going into battle, and others saying just the opposite. And while I like the idea of it, and may incorporate it into my own private practice, I'm not going to state it as fact until I have had time to find out more. This is what I mean by a "Personal Truth". It resonates and holds importance with myself, but not my neighbor, and that's okay.

Making sure we have truthful, well researched, and reliable research is especially important if we are involved in the training of young or new Pagans, and to not let our own personal truths (for example, using Woad in private practice), misinformation, and bias get in the way of another's learning. Critical Thinking skills need to be firmly in place, and we need to learn to ask more questions. I remember when I was starting out, I didn't ask a lot of questions, and I should have. I took both written and spoken word as law, probably because we are trained to be obedient from birth, especially young girls and women. When someone told me that the group they worked with didn't mix Pantheons, I just nodded, and smiled, and accepted it. I didn't ask why. Now, a few years down the path, I probably ask too many questions, but it's to get to the heart and truth of the matter. And you should too.

Sarah is an eclectic Pagan, and has been on the path for over five years. She especially enjoys studying both Celtic and Japanese history and mythology. She has lived in both Maryland and Minnesota, and now resides on a small hobby farm outside of Charleston. She also operates a small, home-based business selling charms, potions, poppets, and other witchy items.



Saturday, April 24, 2010- 8 AM until 1 PM

1125 North Blvd.
North Charleston, SC 29405

Are your closets bursting with unused things? Is your garage full of unwanted belongs? Come join in as we move it all out!

Bring your table or blanket and set up your spot. You keep everything you sell! This is a simple fundraiser for C.A.S.T., and a chance for you to get rid of some of that stuff that's been gathering dust. All we are asking is a (minimum) donation of \$5.00 to C.A.S.T.

Natural Egg Dyes for Ostara

Coloring Eggs for Ostara

Eggs are one of the predominant symbols of Ostara (aka Spring Equinox), because they represent the life and rebirth that occurs in the Spring. A traditional past-time for Ostara is to color eggs, a craft seen these days around the Christian version of the holiday.

But don't insult Mother Earth by dousing your eggs in chemicals and synthetic dyes, and you don't have to be a master herbologist either. You can use everyday items from your kitchen to create a whole rainbow of colors to decorate with.

The Technique

You create your natural dye with a mix of water, vinegar and foods or spices that give a strong color. To make **4 cups of dye**, you'll need **4 cups of water, 2 tbs of white vinegar, and your dye material**. Most spices only require a tablespoon or so, but if you are using chopped fruit or vegetable matter, you'll need a few cups. Experimentation is the key!

Bring everything to a boil, then simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Cool, then strain. Dip your hard-boiled eggs into the dye for at least 15 minutes. Longer dying = darker color.

The Colors

Pink - beet juice, cranberries, raspberries, red cabbage

Orange - onion skins, paprika

Dark Yellow - tumeric

Light Yellow - lemon peel, carrot shavings, cumin

Light Green - spinach

Blue - blueberries, grape juice

Light Brown - coffee, tea

Dark Brown - chili powder

Get creative with mixing dyes, or using rubber bands to 'tie-dye' your eggs. Use them to decorate your altar or have an old-fashioned egg hunt.

Pagan Yard Sale!

We will have dogs, chips, soda and water for sale. You are more than welcome to bring baked goods for sale. Baked goods are wonderful.

We will take care of getting the info out, and putting out the signs. Setup will commence at 6 AM! Just let us know if you will be joining in by calling **843.225.4283** and leaving a message with your name and phone number. All you have to do then is show up and set up your spot.

If you don't want to sell, come on out a see what treasures you can find!