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# Pagan Census Project

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## Pagan Census Project

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### Introduction

(Please read the following paragraphs carefully before filling out the form)

#### What Is the Pagan Census Project?

The Pagan Census Project is an attempt to document the size and diversity of the contemporary Pagan movement as accurately as possible. Over the past thirty years, Paganism has experienced a considerable growth in membership, but, given such factors as the lack of centralized organization within the Pagan movement and the relative anonymity sought by many of its adherents, it is very difficult to estimate how many of us there are. Several attempts have been made over the past fifteen years to survey contemporary Pagans. These attempts, however, have either been very limited in the size of the sampling or have targeted a very specific and therefore limited population within the Pagan movement. The Pagan Census Project seeks to survey a larger and more diverse sampling of Pagans.

#### Why Is It needed?

There are several reasons why such a project is important. If we can document our numbers in some tangible way, we will be in a stronger position to attain more credibility as a religion and as a community. Greater credibility would enable us to better address issues of religious discrimination and social prejudice (the Helms Bill, or movies such as *The Craft*, for instance); would give us more weight in addressing anti-Pagan stereotypes (for example, we might finally be able to convince the publishers of encyclopedias and dictionaries to include more contemporary definitions of the terms Witch and Pagan); and it would give us greater access to influential forums (such as academia, interfaith councils, etc.) from which Pagans have mostly been excluded.

#### Who Is organizing the Census?

The Census form has been compiled by Andras Corban Arthen and Helen Berger, Ph.D. Andras is a founder and director of the EarthSpirit Community, one of the largest Pagan networks in the country. He has been a practicing Witch since the late 1960's and has given lectures and workshops on Witchcraft and Paganism for many years. Helen is a professor of sociology at West Chester State University in Pennsylvania. She has been a member of the EarthSpirit Community for many years and is very interested in this project because of the statistical significance of the survey for her work in documenting the modern Pagan movement.

In addition, the following Pagan leaders have reviewed the census form, offered valuable suggestions and endorsed this project (organizations of affiliation are named for purposes of identification only; endorsement by these individuals does not imply endorsement by the organization itself): Margot Adler, author; Susun Weed of the Wise Woman Institute; M. Macha NightMare & Starhawk of Reclaiming Collective; Otter G'Zell, Diane Darling, Morning Glory Zell and Anodea Judith of Church of All Worlds; Selena Fox & Dennis Carpenter of Circle Sanctuary; Phyllis Curott, Judy Harrow, Russell Williams, Rowan Fairgrove & Michael Thorn of Covenant of the Goddess; Lynn Stone of Circle in the Greenwood; Isaac Bonewits and Colleen Dómf O'Brien of Ár nDraíocht Féin; Ellen Evert Hopman of Keltria; Deborah Ann Light, hedgewitch; Rhiannon Bennett of Heartland Spiritual Alliance; John Brightshadow Yohalem of *Enchanté*; Jade & Lynn Levy of *Of A Like Mind*; Kyril Oakwind of *Converging Paths*; Gavin & Yvonne Frost of Church & School of Wicca.

#### How Is the Census structured?

The Census form is divided into five sections: the first four sections ask for basic demographic data, socio-political views, spiritual beliefs, and specifically Pagan-related information. Some of the questions included throughout this form are taken verbatim from a University of Chicago public opinion poll that has been ongoing since the 1950's, as a way to compare Pagan views to those of the mainstream society. Although the language and assumptions found in those particular questions leave a lot to be desired from a Pagan perspective, we cannot make any changes in them if we wish to preserve statistical comparability; we ask for your indulgence in this matter. Section 5 is an open-ended request for any other information or opinions that you would like to share with us, including your impressions on the Census itself---please feel free to use additional sheets as necessary.

Although the Census is set up to insure complete anonymity for all respondents, you have the option of returning to us the Census Update form found at the bottom of the last page if you would like to be informed of census results as they become available. If you fill out the Census Update form, *please be sure to mail it to us separate from the Census form itself* in order to maintain anonymity.

#### How will the information be used?

Census results will be shared with other Pagan networking organizations and publications at their request. They will also be made available to statistical bureaus, academic researchers, interfaith organizations and other institutions and individuals interested in documenting the growth of contemporary Paganism. Under no circumstances will the names or addresses of individuals returning Census Update forms be shared with anyone.

#### How is the census funded?

Initial funding for the Pagan Census Project has been provided by monies allocated by The EarthSpirit Community and West Chester State University for this purpose, as well as by a donation from Covenant of the Goddess. We anticipate that this project will cost several thousand dollars more in printing, postage, and computer time. We are currently investigating possible grant sources, and greatly welcome any suggestions or leads in this regard. Other financial contributions of any size are also much needed and appreciated; if you would like to make such a contribution, please make out your check to "The EarthSpirit Community---PCP" and send it to the address above.

**Many thanks for your participation in the Pagan Census Project!**

## I - General Demographic Information

- A. 1. Sex N 2. Date of birth 13 June 1951
- B. Marital status (please check all that apply):
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Never married                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Live with lover(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Separated              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Married legally     | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Divorced           | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Group marriage         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Married ritually (not legally) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Widow/er           | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Other (please specify) |
- C. Sexual orientation:
- |   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Heterosexual | <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Gay      | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Lesbian                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Bisexual |  |
- D. Highest level of education completed so far:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Less than high school diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Professional or technical school  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. High school diploma           | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Post-graduate work  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Some college                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Post-graduate degree/s (please specify) <u>M.A. Religion Studies</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. College degree                | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Other (please specify)  |
- E. 1. What is your race? white  
2. What is your ethnic background? Anglo-Irish + German
- F. What religion(s)/religious denomination(s) were you raised in? Episcopal
- G. Which most closely describes your current home neighborhood?
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Secluded rural               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Rural community | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Small town        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Large town                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Suburb                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Metropolitan area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Other (please explain) _____ |  |   |
- H. 1. If you live in the U.S., in which state do you presently reside? Colorado  
2. If you live outside of the U.S., where do you reside? \_\_\_\_\_
- I. 1. What is your main or principal occupational title? freelance writer  
2. In what type of industry or business do you work? \_\_\_\_\_
- J. What was the combined income before taxes of all members of your family/household for the past year?
- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Less than \$10,000             | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. \$30,001 - \$40,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. \$60,001 - \$70,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. \$10,000 - \$20,000            | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. \$40,001 - \$50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. \$70,001 - \$100,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. \$20,001 - \$30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. \$50,001 - \$60,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Above \$100,000      |
- K. 1. Do you have children (biological or adopted)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   
2. Grandchildren? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Please list the age and sex of each of your children: \_\_\_\_\_
- L. 1. If you are a single parent, do you have primary custody of your child/ren? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Joint custody? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- M. What type of school does/did your child/ren predominantly attend? If you have more than one child, please note what type of school each of them goes/went to by indicating the number of children who attend/ed that type of school:
- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Public school    | <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Home educated                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Parochial school | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Private, non-parochial school |  |
- N. Do/did you encourage your child/ren to be involved in your spiritual path? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## II - Political Information

- A. Are you a registered voter? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_
- B. 1. If yes, are you registered as:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. Democrat          | <input type="checkbox"/> a. national elections? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Republican                   | <input type="checkbox"/> b. state elections?    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Independent/unenrolled       | <input type="checkbox"/> c. local elections?    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Other (please specify) _____ |   |
2. Did you vote in the last \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Do you participate, for any reason, in any of the following political activities?
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Do not participate in any activities.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Participate in special events (e.g., marches, rallies) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Write or telephone legislators in Washington.  | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Public spokesperson for causes of personal concern.    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Write or telephone state legislators.          | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Active lobbyist.                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Write or telephone local government            | <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Active in campaigning.                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Participate in grassroots local organizing.    | <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Hold/have held public office.                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Participate in town meetings, hearings, forums |  |

D. We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. Listed below are some of these problems. For each one, please indicate whether you think we are spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount.

1. Too much.      2. The right amount.      3. Too little.      4. Don't know.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <u>4</u> 1. Space exploration program.                    | <u>4</u> 10. Welfare.              |
| <u>3</u> 2. Improving and protecting the environment.     | <u>4</u> 11. Highways and bridges. |
| <u>4</u> 3. Improving and protecting the nation's health. | <u>4</u> 12. Social Security.      |
| <u>4</u> 4. Solving the problems of the big cities.       | <u>4</u> 13. Mass transportation.  |
| <u>4</u> 5. Halting the rising crime rate.                | <u>4</u> 14. Parks and recreation. |
| <u>1</u> 6. Dealing with drug addiction.                  | <u>4</u> 15. The arts.             |
| <u>4</u> 7. Improving the conditions of Blacks.           | <u>4</u> 16. AIDS research.        |
| <u>4</u> 8. The military, armaments, and defense.         | <u>4</u> 17. The homeless.         |
| <u>4</u> 9. Foreign aid.                                  | <u>3</u> 18. Education.            |

E. Listed below are some institutions in this country. Some people have complete confidence *in the people running* these institutions. Suppose these people are at the end of the scale at point number 1. Other people have no confidence at all *in the people running* these institutions. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. And, of course, other people have opinions somewhere in between at point 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

Complete confidence    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    No confidence at all

- |  |                      |   |
|--|----------------------|---|
| <u>    </u> 1. Banks and financial institutions.           | <i>get serious /</i> | <u>    </u> 8. Medicine.                            |
| <u>    </u> 2. Major companies.                            |                      | <u>    </u> 9. Television.                          |
| <u>    </u> 3. Organized religion.                         |                      | <u>    </u> 10. U.S. Supreme Court.                 |
| <u>    </u> 4. Education.                                  |                      | <u>    </u> 11. Scientific community.               |
| <u>    </u> 5. Executive branch of the federal government. |                      | <u>    </u> 12. U.S. Congress.                      |
| <u>    </u> 6. Organized labor.                            |                      | <u>    </u> 13. Your state government.              |
| <u>    </u> 7. The press.                                  |                      | <u>    </u> 14. Your local (city, town) government. |

F. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for a person convicted of murder? Favor X Oppose X

G. 1. Do you believe there should be legal access to abortion? Yes X No       
 2. If so, should there be any restrictions regarding age of the woman, length of the pregnancy, or other circumstances? Please specify: for some

H. Please indicate your opinion on the following social issues using the scale below:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 6 - Very strong agreement with statement. | 2 - Qualified disagreement with statement.   |
| 5 - Agreement with statement.             | 1 - Disagreement with statement.             |
| 4 - Qualified agreement with statement.   | 0 - Very strong disagreement with statement. |
| 3 - No opinion about statement.           |  |

- |   |
|---|
| <u>5</u> 1. There should be an Equal Rights Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.  |
| <u>3</u> 2. Women should not be included in a military draft.   |
| <u>3</u> 3. Same-sex marriages should be legal.   |
| <u>3</u> 4. To redress previous discrimination, there should be preferential hiring of women at all levels of employment. |
| <u>2</u> 5. Women in the military forces should be included in combat positions.  |
| <u>4</u> 6. Non-discrimination on the basis of sexual preference should be part of any civil rights legislation.          |
| <u>2</u> 7. The right to religious freedom should not include human sacrifice.  |
| <u>3</u> 8. Marihuana should be legally available on the same basis as alcohol or tobacco.                                |
| <u>3</u> 9. Homosexuals should be excluded from the military.   |
| <u>4</u> 10. Polygamy should be legal in the U. S.  |

### III - Religious/Spiritual Beliefs.

A. 1. Do you believe there is a life after death? Yes X No      Not sure       
 2. Do you believe in reincarnation? Yes X No      Not sure     

B. Of course no one knows exactly what life after death would be like, but here are some ideas people have had. How likely do you feel each possibility is? For the next ten questions, please use the following scale:

1. Very likely.      2. Somewhat likely.      3. No too likely.      4. Not at all likely.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <u>2</u> 1. A life of peace and tranquillity.        | <u>2</u> 6. A spiritual life, involving our mind but not our body.             |
| <u>2</u> 2. A life of intense action.                | <u>2</u> 7. A life like the one here on Earth, only better.                    |
| <u>2</u> 3. A paradise of pleasures and delights.    | <u>2</u> 8. A place of loving intellectual communion.                          |
| <u>2</u> 4. Reunion with loved ones.                 | <u>2</u> 9. Union with God (or Gods and Goddesses).                            |
| <u>2</u> 5. A pale shadowy life, hardly life at all. | <u>2</u> 10. A life without many things which make our present life enjoyable. |

C. How often have you had any of the following experiences? Please use the following scale:

- 1. Never in my life.
- 2. Once or twice.
- 3. Several times.
- 4. Often.

- 3 1. Thought you were somewhere you had been before, but knew that it was impossible.
- 3 2. Felt as though you were in touch with someone when they were far away from you.
- 1 3. Saw events that happened at great distance as they were happening.
- 2 4. Felt as though you were really in touch with someone who had died.
- 4 5. Felt as though you were very close to a powerful, spiritual force that seemed to lift you out of yourself.

- D. 1. Approximately how much money did you contribute to your religion during the past twelve months? n/a
- 2. How much time or other resources do you contribute annually to your religion? n/a
- 3. Are you paid clergy? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, are you: Full time? \_\_\_\_\_ Part time? \_\_\_\_\_

### IV - Pagan Related Information.

A. Do you primarily consider yourself to be: (if you list more than one, indicate which is most important, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Agnostic            | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Jewish        | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Shaman                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Atheist             | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Magic-worker. | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Spiritual, but dislike labels |
| <u>3</u> 3. Buddhist                            | <u>2</u> 10. Neo-Pagan                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Thelemite                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Ceremonial magician | <input type="checkbox"/> 11. New Age      | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Unitarian-Universalist        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Christian           | <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Odinist      | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Witch (non-Wiccan)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Druid               | <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Pagan        | <u>1</u> 20. Witch (Wiccan)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Goddess worshipper  | <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Satanist     | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Other (please specify) _____  |

B. What is the primary manner in which you work/worship?

- 1. In a group.
- 2. With a magical/spiritual partner (including apprenticeships).
- 3. As a solitary.

C. What is/are your tradition/s or orientation/s (e.g., Eclectic, Gardnerian, Dianic, Keltrian, etc.)? If more than one, please prioritize if possible: Eclectic American

D. If you have a mate or spouse, how does he/she relate to your spiritual orientation?

- 1. Share your orientation.
- 2. Does not share, but is tolerant/indifferent.
- 3. Does not share, but is sympathetic.
- 4. Does not share and is antagonistic to your orientation.
- 5. Does not know about your orientation.

*If more than one mate or spouse, please indicate this information for each individually.*

E. During the last year, how many Pagan festivals or gatherings lasting more than one day, if any, have you attended? 1 Please list, giving festival name, date, and place: \_\_\_\_\_

United Earth Assembly, Fall Equinox 1993, Amarillo, Texas

F. If you did not attend any festival during the last year, why didn't you? \_\_\_\_\_

G. Since what year have you been an active member of the Pagan/Witch community (i.e., participated in a coven, took part in a Pagan ritual, attended a festival, joined a Pagan organization, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

H. Please indicate with a check mark (✓) which Pagan publications you read regularly:

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Circle Network News | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Enchanté  | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Of A Like Mind         | <input type="checkbox"/> 13. SageWoman        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. C.O.G. Newsletter              | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. FireHeart            | <input type="checkbox"/> 10. PSA Newsletter        | <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Survival         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Druid's Progress               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Green Egg | <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Panegyria             | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Thesmophoria     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. EarthSpirit Newsletter         | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Keltria              | <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Reclaiming Newsletter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16. Tides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Other (please specify) _____  |  |  |   |

I. Of the publications you indicated, which are your favorites, and why? Enchante for its urbanity and humor. Green Egg for its longevity and willingness to "push the envelope" of possibilities.

J. If you have ever let a subscription to a Pagan publication lapse, what qualities of the publication caused you to drop it? Boredom, the same old stuff as every other little Pagan magazine

K. Briefly, how did you become involved in Paganism/Witchcraft? Around 1972 I read THE WHITE GODDESS and said, "Wow, a religion for poets!" It went on from there.

L. What Pagan-oriented books or teachers have been specially influential for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Gwydion Pendderwen, the Frosts, the Farrars, and some people you've never heard of.

M. The following are community issues that have arisen in Pagan publications and at gatherings over the past few years. Please indicate your own personal reaction to the statements below based on the following scale:

6 - Very strong agreement with statement.  
5 - Agreement with statement.  
4 - Qualified agreement with statement.  
3 - No opinion on statement.

2 - Qualified disagreement with statement.  
1 - Disagreement with statement.  
0 - Very strong disagreement with statement.

- 2 1. People who are under the age of 18 whose parents are not Pagan/Witches should not be trained in the Craft.  
4 2. The use of mind-altering chemicals is a valid magical practice.  
5 3. The words "Witch" and "Pagan" have and should retain significantly different meanings.  
1 4. The term "Witch" is inappropriate today and should not be used.  
4 5. Satanism can be a valid form of Paganism.  
4 6. "Public Witches" should dress conservatively when giving interviews to the media.  
5 7. Correspondence courses are an acceptable way to learn the Craft.  
4 8. Hierarchy can be an organic, non-oppressive organizational structure.  
2 9. Full-time Pagan clergy should be financially supported by their community.  
3 10. A Witch should not accept money for teaching the Craft.  
3 11. Sex between a spiritual teacher and a student is unethical.  
3 12. It is important that Witches have high standards of training.  
2 13. The popularization of Witchcraft has diluted its standards and identity.  
2 14. Witches and Pagans should actively seek connections with the "New Age" community.  
2 15. Homophobia is as prevalent in the Pagan movement as anywhere else in society.  
2 16. Compulsory military service is incompatible with Pagan religious beliefs.

### V - Other Information

A. Is there any additional information, perspective, or opinion relevant to your participation in the Pagan movement that you would like to share with us? Please use the space below or attach additional sheets as necessary. Thanks again for your participation in this survey.

This survey has little to do with Wicca as practiced and experienced, but I suppose that is the materialistic and reductionist bias of sociology. Categories, power, income, etc. ultimately are all distractions. (I refer in particular to section III-D; those are meaningless questions in a ~~WICCA~~ Craft context.)

To receive information on census results & other Pagan-related projects, please detach the form below and mail separately.