Mother Earth Ministries’ mission is to provide accurate information about Wicca and other Neo-Pagan religions to interested inmates and prison staff, and to facilitate Pagan prisoners’ study and practice of their religion.

HOW DO WE PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT WICCA AND OTHER NEO-PAGAN RELIGIONS?

We offer two brochures about Wicca: An Introduction to Wicca and The Wheel of the Year. We also offer introductory brochures about Ásatrú and Druidry. In addition, we have a single-page flyer of the current year’s Sabbats and Ebsats, and a variety of other flyers and brochures about various aspects of Neo-Paganism. These are available free to any inmate or prison official who requests them.

Enchantment Encumbered: the Study and Practice of Wicca in Restricted Environments, written by two of MEM’s priestesses, is available online through Amazon.com, and through our website (www.MotherEarthMinistries.org). It’s also available for $20 from Mother Earth Ministries. (The $20 includes postage, and we will accept checks, money orders, or stamps as payment. Orders won’t be filled till the check clears, though.) A discount is available to chaplains and other prison ministers who can order online; contact us for the code.

Our writing priestess – not a pen-pal – Lady Freyja Wright, answers questions and discusses various aspects of Wicca in greater depth than our brochures.

HOW DO WE FACILITATE PAGAN PRISONERS’ STUDY AND PRACTICE OF THEIR RELIGIONS?

Our brochures start inmates on their studies. Our visiting priestess (currently available only to some Tucson units of Arizona’s state prisons and some local federal facilities) can answer many questions in person. Our writing priestess is not a pen-pal, but she can go into considerable depth on a variety of subjects.

We help inmates modify conventional rites to accommodate prison rules. We help inmates hear and revere their goddesses and gods right through the prison walls, and in spite of any ignorance, prejudice and/or discrimination they may encounter.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lady Garr founded MEM in the year 2000, and is our President; she visits Tucson units of Arizona state prisons as requested. Lady O’Gaea (pronounce it oh-je-uh) is our Board Secretary and senior Writing Priestess. Lord Campion is our Treasurer.

All of our Board members are fully ordained Wiccan clergy, and all have been active in Tucson’s Neo-Pagan community for many years. Lady O’Gaea is the author of several books about Wicca; she and Lady Garr wrote Enchantment Encumbered. Lord Campion is a Third Degree (ordained) eclectic Wiccan. In addition to volunteering as the Treasurer for MEM, he is the High Priest of a local coven, and serves on the Board of Directors for TAWN.

Mother Earth Ministries-ATC
Post Office Box 35906
Tucson, Arizona 85740-5906
Scribe@MotherEarthMinistries.org
O.Gaea4MEM@Comcast.net

The maze-like box at the right is our QR code. A Smartphone with the right app will take you to our website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Tradition of Wicca does MEM teach?

The exercises, spells, and rituals that appear in MEM literature are eclectic and designed to work in restricted environments. They do not represent a specific Tradition, but are compatible with most. MEM’s volunteers follow a variety of Neo-Pagan paths.

How can inmates join MEM?

They can’t! MEM is not a coven or Tradition, and offers no gatherings on the street.

Does MEM . . .

influence DOC policy? No! Lady Garr is a member of Arizona’s DOC’s Religious Advisory Committee, but neither the RAC nor any of us are policy-makers.

have a catalog? No. MEM does not sell or provide religious items or books (other than Enchantment Encumbered).

have a newsletter? We used to, but we don’t now.

advocate for inmates? No; we are not allowed to do so. We don’t do Internet or other research for inmates, or contact third parties for inmates, either.

offer a correspondence course? No. We don’t have the time or staff for it. We don’t know enough about other groups’ courses to vouch for them, either.

match inmates with pen-pals? No. Our writing priestess is not a pen-pal, nor do we have any volunteers who are.

have info about all Pagan religions? Unfortunately, no. We offer information about Ásatrú, Druidry, and – mainly – Wicca.

offer spiritual counseling? Yes: in person in some Tucson facilities and by mail across the country.
CURRENT BROCHURES and FLYERS

An Introduction to Wicca glosses the faith: ethics, theology, basic energy skills, the liturgical calendar, casting a Circle, altar gear, and correspondences.

The Wheel of the Year begins to explore the meaning of each Wiccan Sabbat

An Introduction to Druidry takes a quick look at Druidry’s history, ethics, deities, and relationship to Wicca.

An Introduction to Ásatrú does likewise for Heathenism.

These overviews are also available:

- Are Wiccans Vegetarian/Vegan?
- Witchcraft and Violence
- Wiccan Traditions and Covens
- The Wiccan Priest/esshood
- The Left-hand Path
- The Charge of the Goddess
- Wicca’s History Revisited
- Tarot at a Glance
- MEM Sheds Light on Neo-Paganism
- Yule Songs
- Magical Alphabets
- What Do You Mean, You Don’t Believe in the Devil?
- Chakras and Auras
- Elemental Meditations
- A Little Bit About the Pentagram
- A Little Bit About Enchantment Encumbered
- Self-Dedication and Initiation
- Choosing a Magical Name
- A Wiccan Altar Behind Bars
- A Glossary of Wiccan Tools
- The Text of the RLUIPA
- Some Common Wiccan Phrases and Symbols
- Requiem
- MEM’s Introduction to Spellcraft
- MEM Takes a Look at the Versions of the Rede
- A Look at Some Wiccan Rites of Passage

We’re happy to send one or two pamphlets at a time to inmates. We don’t charge for our literature, but appreciate return envelopes and/or stamps when they can be included.

Chaplains may request full sets of our literature if they’ll make copies – without changes, additions or deletions – for individual inmates upon request.

Mother Earth Ministries’ mission is to provide accurate information about Wicca and some other Neo-Pagan faiths to interested inmates and prison staff, and to facilitate Pagans’ study and practice of their religions. Affiliated with the internationally recognized and respected Aquarian Tabernacle Church, MEM is very much a local group, based in Tucson, Arizona.

WICCA? PAGANISM?

Paganism is an umbrella term that covers a lot of religions, all of which are polytheistic, but not all of which identify as “Neo-Pagan.” Wicca is one - and probably the best-known - modern form of ancient religious tradition of stone age European cultures.

Heavily-armed monotheism conquered Europe’s formal Pagan religions - but after suppression for about 600 years, the old perspectives came back, rearticulated in the 18th and 19th centuries by the Romantic Movement. The Craft was re/created and Wicca’s modern structure developed in the middle of the 20th century. It has continued to grow since then.

Wicca is joyous and life-affirming. Our Goddess is all that is eternal and generative; that which is mortal, dying and reborn, we call God. The Goddess and God are partners, not opponents - so Wicca doesn’t see the world as full of opposites, either. We see life as deeply interconnected and complementary, not adversarial.

Wicca is one of several Neo-Pagan religions. These include (but aren’t limited to) Afro-Caribbean faiths, Norse Paganism, Native North and South American religions, and Polynesian traditions.

All Earth-reverencing religions are growing now; like many other people, prisoners are getting interested too. For many who can’t accept mainstream beliefs, Nature-based spirituality is appealing and MEM helps make some of it accessible behind bars.