At times, Wiccans avoid Working with magic with Halloween. A relatively common practice today, in which Halloween is one of the ‘Holydays’ in Wicca, also referred to as the Wiccans, is a time when Wiccans close the gap between the living and the dead. A common misconception people have is that Wiccans and witches are hell-bound on working with the Devil. But Dr. Lucy Busier debunks the myths and stereotypes that sometimes arise with the Wiccan belief.

Busier, a Ph.D. of rhetoric at Parkland, discusses some aspects of the Wiccan belief. “There is no cult of inclusiveness,” Busier states. “Wicca is sometimes just what everyone says it is.” Busier explains that there are universal truths that underlie Wicca, however these truths do not exactly define the belief. Some of these beliefs include the worship of a female deity, a strong connection to nature and a belief that practitioners Working with magic can influence the natural world. “Wiccans believe they can’t act on the universe; it is very much about connecting with the divine or Christians’ joy.” Busier says. And at Parkland, Wicca is a religion just like any other religion.

PARKLAND WICCANS

1. Cat Shark
This is actually fun funny because we chose it for our play cat’s name. Tuna. Sharks eat tuna. Cat. If this is somehow my favorite thing to do with Halloween costumes, because what’s cooler than a cat that we will hear 100 times before the right end? Nothing. This costume cost around $12 at Walmart last year.

2. Bumble Bee
This is also chosen to play off of her name. Bees. Bumble Bees Mystically, though, we chose it because she’s our very own super cat! My chubby little Nobby loving being a Halloweenie and looking absolutely darling doing it. This costume cost around $10 at Walmart.

3. Dog Shark
Shark pets are just the best kind of pets, ok? This Wiccan therapy dog brought going to Carl to last year to celebrate Halloween with costumes to support and are meant to be cuddled, petted, and talked to Klein said. “The shooting of Parkland in Florida-- when the students came back here we had 100 times before the right end? Nothing. This costume cost around $12 at Walmart last year.

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5. Pirate
There’s no better way to shine the world who

6. Fire
This could be a little terrifying for some viewers. Scare all the kids in the neighborhood with this visibly fierce costume! Look festive with your pet this year and make sure you keep your pet safe.

PARKLAND TEMPORARILY BANS THERAPY DOGS

Therapy dogs on the other hand, are mainly used for emotional comfort and support and are meant to be cuddled, petted, and talked to Klein said. “The shooting of Parkland in Florida-- when the students came back here we had 100 times before the right end? Nothing. This costume cost around $12 at Walmart last year.

Some of these dogs have even been flying around the country trying to comfort people-- especially children-- and nursing homes is another big thing. For the short time that Taylor and Brinkley were at Parkland they made a large impact. “When we walked through the halls, the number of students who wanted to interact with Taylor and the other dog Brickley were about a ton of them and everyone were all grumpy and just kind of dealing with their time and this therapy dogs were waiting for. Sometimes they go to hospital and you could tell that just a little bit

Taylor will soon be officially certified. Taylor will soon be going to class with his trainer at the breastIALIZED health facility. "The first thing he had to pass was his AKC (American Canine Club Certified Obedience) exam and he passed that. So today is the Advanced Behavioral/CDC Certification, once he passes that he will be in actual therapy dog class. Our trainer has some connection with The Pavilions so he will be going to therapy groups at The Pavilion and learning how to comfort those patients they said.” Klein.

"Although it seems Taylor has a long way to go until he gets to Therapy Dog certified, Klein is hopeful that he will be able to make a return to Parkland to assist students in the near future. "He can provide a lot of stress relief for students especially during midterms and finals. He could be available in Student Life and the Counseling Center.”

This semester, Parkland students will patiently await the return of their furry friend Taylor.
Keeping Tradition Alive: Urbana Folk & Roots Festival

The 10th annual Champaign-Urbana Folk & Roots Festival took place in Urbana, IL last weekend from the 18th to the 20th of October.

A three day-long event to celebrate the rich tradition of folk art in the Champaign-Urbana community, the Folk & Roots Festival brings together a wide variety of folk music and dance genres that have developed in America with influences from International culture.

An ongoing tradition for the Champaign-Urbana community, the Folk & Roots Festival is run by volunteers and occurred in different venues all over downtown Urbana, including the CIA Community Center for the Arts, Sipyard, the Cohen Building, Urbana Free Library, Urbana First United Methodist Church, the Rose Bowl, and the Iron Post.

"Folk music festival wakes up your spirit," said Sue Jones, Parkland Math Faculty & Roots Festival volunteer of 3 years.

Consisting of a number of events, the festival sported a variety of musical opportunities, from performances by local and traveling artists to dance workshops and sing-circles.

"I always like encouraging people to try new things, " said John Hanson, a returning Folk & Roots Festival volunteer. "There are all kinds of dance in this town," said John Hanson, a returning Folk & Roots Festival Volunteer of 8 years and active member of the local dance scene. "It's about discovering different types of dance by cross-dancing. There are sub-dance communities all over town."

While the folk scene in Champaign is alive and well, Hanson and Jones are concerned about a cultural movement in America away from our folk roots.

"Music brings people together to rise up for good and get folks community spirit to start happening," said John Hanson. "As a cultural movement in America away from our folk roots, there is a need for better floors," Hanson said. "The need for better floors is one of the hardest things the Folk and Roots Festival has to deal with."

While the drawbacks to American folk culture with ever-increasing technological advancement, the folk-loving people of Champaign continue to sing, dance and laugh together, and hope more people will join them.

"Folk & Roots is marvelous," Hanson said. "We need people to come out and enjoy the performances. It's a missed opportunity for so much of the community." Information about American Contra dances and English Country dances in Champaign-Urbana can be found at urbana-contra.org, and a weekly newsletter with music events around town can be subscribed for at maden.us9.list-manage.com. Information about the CU Folk & Roots Festival and the artists who performed there can be found at folkroots.org.

"Folk music has such a rich history; it's a music for the people written by the people. I think there's something very democratic about it. " said first-time festival goer Harrison Lindholm. "Everyone here is volunteering, but still getting to participate from generation to generation in a way that the internet just can't convey."

To Hanson, keeping traditional dance alive is just as important.

"There used to be more dancing years ago; I think over the decades it keeps tapering off. People need to get away from their screens and onto the dance floors," Hanson said. "The need for better floors is one of the hardest things the Folk and Roots Festival has to deal with."

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Jeff and Rob: Cajun musicians at the 10th annual Folk & Roots Festival

Photo source: Ayla McDonald

Presentation on the history of American folk music were given, instrument-making occurred, murder-ballads were discussed and analyzed, sea-shanties and 60's ballads were sung around open fires, bluegrass and Irish sing-circles filled buildings with music and put smiles on the faces of both musicians and listeners.

These and many other memorable moments occurred, creating warm memories for festival goers to think fondly of for years to come.

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people may practice. It is a religion that is known for female empowerment, as it tends to focus around female deities and potential.

Busker practiced Wicca for twelve years. She chose the religion because, at that time, it really seemed like the right fit for her. Busker mentions that, “There was a time in my life when I needed feminine empowerment. I was always a feminist, but this was really my feminist awakening.” She recounts that a student was the one who steered her towards Wicca, and that it was a practice that really worked for her and a practice that works for a lot of people.

According to History.com, Wicca is a contemporary, nature-based religion that went public in the 1950s. Two men named Aleister Crowley and Gerald Gardner are said to be the two who introduced Wicca as a religion. Although Wicca roots are rumored to have been around for ages, Wicca was technically conceived during the 20th century in Great Britain. Wicca is categorized as a form of Paganism. Some Wiccans are polytheistic, and others are monotheistic. Busker was primarily a monotheistic Wiccan.

This religion has literature like other religions, but not just one book. “Wicca doesn’t have a single book,” Busker explains. “Wicca has many different spell books.” When casting a spell, Wiccans refer to the Wiccan Rede. The Wicca Rede reads “An ye harm none, do what ye will.” To Wiccans, this just means that any spell can be casted that does not hurt anyone. Spell-casting is a real thing in the Wicca religion and is quite sacred to them. Along with spell-casting, there are different types of magic and witchcraft that Wiccans practice. Busker says that, “There are different approaches to it [magic and witchcraft] that affect the universe differently.” She describes a couple of different takes on the Wicca belt: Busker describes that some Wiccans believe Wicca literally, meaning that the spells have a physical and visible influence in nature. On the other hand, some Wiccans believe in Wicca like other religions believe in prayer. “I believed the latter [Wicca as prayer],” Busker explains. “For me, it was a ritual that gave me focus in what I wanted.”

Wiccans often use some form of divination. According to Busker, divination is anything divine that people can use to figure out what will happen in the future. “Nearly every culture has some type of divination.” Busker states. Some forms of divination include reading tarot cards, reading tea leaves, runes, pendulums or numerology. Busker used tarot cards, and in some instances still uses them. “Wicca made me more aware that most things in religions are human made,” Busker mentions. “God manifests itself in ways best suited for the time and place, and Wicca gave me a time and place.” Contrary to common belief, Wiccans and Witches do exist. And for some, these practices provide people with a better sense of self.
In 2017, the International Energy Agency predicted CO2 emissions would increase again in 2018, and sure enough they did. We know about greenhouse gases and how they changing climate since the mid-1900’s. Since 1997, we’ve found specific water vapor in the Earth’s atmosphere and it is affecting the balance of radiation in our atmosphere. The cutting of CO2 emissions and only worrying about 1.5 degree global increase. It is now impossible for us to stay below 1.5 degree change, and we must find hope for a 1.5 degree warming. While these temperature increases are scary, they are referring to a global temperature. When the entire globe heats up, even by minor amounts, catastrophic events are possible. According to many sources including the recent 2018 IPCC special report, the 4.5 degree Celsius climate change on a local level. So, what does this mean for us? We're already seeing increases in the need for cooling and heating. With 2,000 climate scientists and I can count on the fingers of one hand those that remain skeptical that humans are the primary cause. And even these few rarely acknowledge that the climate warming, says said Climatologist Jim Angel. To many, climate change “is a big unstoppable issue, and we still have no idea how to deal with it.” The problem is most of us haven't thought about the climate change in our lifetime. According to Angel “in Illinois, the winter’s have gotten drier, and the summers have gotten wetter. You can imagine how this will impact agriculture. On the other hand, warmer winters and shorter summers may mean that agriculture will have to worry about turning crops. And now we have to worry about the balance of radiation in our atmosphere.

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