

CHRONOLOGY

- 1838 Phineas Parkhurst Quimby encounters mesmerist Charles Poyen in Belfast, Maine and begins his spiritual healing career.
- 1848 Spiritualism begins when the Fox sisters of Hydesville, New York report hearing mysterious rappings in their house.
- 1875 Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott form the Theosophical Society in New York City.
- 1888 The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn begins meeting in England.
- 1893 The World's Parliament of Religions is held in Chicago, introducing American citizens to Asian religions and cultures.
- 1910 Aleister Crowley joins the Ordo Templi Orientis (Oriental Templar Order or OTO), which he heads from 1922 to 1947; he incorporates many of his own teachings into its systems of initiation. The OTO continues to be an influential branch of Neopaganism.
- 1915 AMORC (Ancient and Mystical Order of the Rosae Crucis), an early Rosicrucian group, is founded in New York City.
- 1931 The Association for Research and Enlightenment (ARE) is founded to disseminate the teachings of psychic Edgar Cayce.
- 1947 Kenneth Arnold, a U.S. Forest Service employee sent to look for a downed plane in Washington State, reports seeing nine brightly lit, spherically shaped flying objects near Mount Rainier and sets off decades of speculation about UFOs.
- 1949 Gerald Gardner's *High Magic's Aid*, a fictionalized account of a witch coven, is published.

- 1952 Norman Vincent Peale publishes *The Power of Positive Thinking* and ushers in the human potential movement.
- 1954 Gerald Gardner's *Witchcraft Today*, a pseudo-anthropological study, is published and eventually becomes one of the founding documents of contemporary Paganism.
Aldous Huxley's *The Doors of Perception* is published and becomes popular for its account of psychedelic experiences.
- 1955 *The Urantia Book*, a channeled document that provides evidence for other inhabited worlds, is published.
- 1956 George King, an Englishman influenced by Theosophy, founds the first UFO religion, the Aetherius Society, in London.
- 1959 Jack Kerouac publishes *The Dharma Bums*, a fictionalized account of the lives of the Beat poets.
- 1961 Robert Heinlein's science fiction classic *Stranger in a Strange Land* is published.
Black Elk Speaks, an account of the life of a Lakota medicine man, is reissued in paperback.
- 1962 Esalen Institute is founded in Big Sur, California and becomes an important New Age center offering various psychological therapies as well as bodywork and spiritual teachings.
- 1963 Peter Caddy, his wife Eileen, and their friend Dorothy Maclean start a garden on a barren, sandy peninsula in northeast Scotland that eventually becomes the New Age community of Findhorn.
Timothy Leary and his family move to Millbrook, New York, one of the first communes, to further his experiments with psychedelics.
- 1965 The Immigration and Nationality Act is passed, ending a quota system that effectively barred Asian immigration. The influx of Asian religious teachers results in the growing popularity of meditation and other Asian religious practices as well as the spread of images of Asian deities and Asian religious ideas like karma and reincarnation.
The U.S. paperback edition of J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* is published.
- 1966 Robert Graves's *The White Goddess* is published and becomes an inspiration for Neopagans seeking new forms of deity.
- 1967 The Church of All Worlds and Feraferia, two important Neopagan groups, are founded.
- 1968 Timothy Leary publishes *The Politics of Ecstasy*, his treatise on psychedelic drugs and spiritual experience.

- 1970 *East West*, one of the most influential New Age magazines, begins publication.
- 1972 The first Seth book, *Seth Speaks*, is published by medium Jane Roberts.
- 1973 The Institute of Noetic Sciences is founded to promote the study of consciousness.
- 1974 Circle, a Neopagan organization, is founded to promote education, counseling, research, and spiritual healing.
- 1975 The Covenant of the Goddess is organized to bring together all types of practitioners of Witchcraft.
- 1976 *A Course in Miracles*, the text of messages channeled through medium Helen Schucman, is published.
- 1977 The Omega Institute for Holistic Studies is founded in Rhinebeck, New York to educate people about holistic healing and spiritual traditions from around the world.
- 1979 Starhawk publishes *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess*, which contributes to the growth and popularity of Neopaganism by making ritual techniques available to anyone.
- 1981 The first Starwood festival takes place, blending New Age and Neopagan interests.
- 1982 Theosophist and channeler David Spangler returns to the United States from Findhorn to form a New Age community in Wisconsin.
- 1983 Shirley MacLaine's autobiographical account of her experiences with channeling and other New Age practices, *Out on a Limb*, is published.
- 1985 Circle Sanctuary's Lady Liberty League is started to support Neopagans involved with struggles for religious freedom.
- 1987 The Harmonic Convergence, predicted by Jose Arguelles to be the beginning of a new age of consciousness, occurs.
- 1989 The Bay Area Pagan Assemblies (BAPA) is formed.
- 1993 James Redfield's *The Celestine Prophecy* is published, describing the mysterious disappearance of a Peruvian manuscript and the author's spiritual journey to find it.
- 1993 Neopagans take part in the World's Parliament of Religions.
The Pagan Educational Network (PEN) is founded to educate the public about Neopaganism and to advocate for religious freedom in cases involving Neopagans.

- 1996 The Witches' Voice, a Neopagan news and networking site, first becomes available on the Internet.
- 1998 The first annual Pagan Pride Day takes place on September 19 in cities across the United States.
- 2000 Jose Arguelles establishes the Foundation for the Law of Time to work toward making a thirteen-month, twenty-eight-day calendar a world standard to "replace the time of war with the time of peace."