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Braucherei & the Ritual of Everyday Life



Patrick J. Donmoyer

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This lavishly illustrated work introduces Pennsylvania's tradition of ritual healing, known as powwow (or *Braucherei* in Pennsylvania Dutch), combining a diverse array of prayers, gestures, and the use of everyday objects, these rituals are used for healing the body, protection from physical and spiritual harm, and ensuring good outcomes in everyday affairs.

Although methods and procedures have varied considerably over three centuries of ritual practice within the Pennsylvania Dutch community, the outcomes and experiences surrounding this tradition have woven a rich tapestry of cultural narratives that highlight the integration of ritual into all aspects of life, as well as provide insight into the challenges, conflicts, growth, and development of a distinct Pennsylvania Dutch folk culture.

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By Patrick J. Donmoyer

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