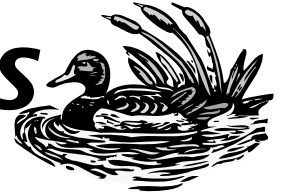




# Shining Lakes News



A Newsletter for Shining Lakes Grove, A.D.F.

Spring Equinox 2009

Vol. 16, No. 2

## The Many Signs of Spring

**A**fter what seems like an even harsher-than-usual winter, the signs of spring are well and truly here. Birds are singing, buds are bursting forth from the trees, the sun is rising an hour later . . . well, that last one is more of a human-made sign of spring, but those count for something, too. Even St. Patrick's Day, the closest thing to an anti-pagan Celtic holiday that exists, still tells us that sun and warmth and new life are right around the corner. And that it's time to get a Shamrock Shake from McDonald's.

Over the years, our Grove has developed many of our own traditions as part of our High Day celebrations. Since the various Celtic peoples didn't consider the first day of spring to be a big holiday, we've looked to other cultures for inspiration, such as our egg hunt based on old Ukrainian pagan practices. We've also added practices based on our own local workings, such as making Spring Equinox Ana's holiday after we first contacted her, or adding the tool blessing to the ritual at the suggestion of Kami Landy.

Beltaine is coming up next, and with it, another set of traditions inspired by what the ancient Celts did (the Bel fire as a method of purification and blessing), what other ancient Indo-European peoples did (our dawn rite at Big Lake, based on a Gaulish healing ritual, and the Maypole Dance, a lovely Germanic tradition that was never done by anyone on the British Isles until the Germans brought it there), and our own personal inspiration (dancing the Hokey Pokey as a form of both acknowledging and transgressing boundaries).

While we in SLG and ADF always look to the Ancients as a source of inspiration, the needs and insights of our modern members also count for

something. In general, unless it's an actual violation of what few rules we have for our rituals and practices, I'm in favor of trying things out and seeing how they work. If it doesn't work ("cow puzzle" anyone?) then we've still learned something valuable about how to build a modern neo-Pagan tradition.

Meanwhile, in the spirit of the new beginning of spring, we have two special events coming up between the equinox and Beltaine. The first is the return of Game Night, a chance for Grove members and other interested folks to get together to socialize and be mildly competitive all at the same time. This used to be one of our best-attended events, and now that we once again have a suitable location for it, I hope it will become so again.

The other is a new offering of my Modern Druidry class, designed as an introduction to our Grove's history and practices, for folks who think they need to know something about how Druidry works in order to join us. (Which I really think they don't, as we try very hard to make our rituals accessible to people with no knowledge of paganism.) Experienced Grove members probably wouldn't learn anything they don't already know, but new folks will find out more about us and whether we suit their religious and spiritual needs. Of course, those experienced Grove members would be welcome, too, to make the discussions even more interesting. Check the calendar section of this newsletter for details.

In the meantime, enjoy the spring, enjoy the return of the sun, and enjoy the company of the Nature Spirits!

Yours in service to the Kindreds and the Grove,  
Rev. Rob Henderson,  
Senior Druid



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## Hard Times

By Jude Howison

Back in the 1980s the Pittsburgh area was hard hit by the recession, similar to what we are experiencing in Michigan today. Back then my dear hubby and I were discussing why it seemed so different from what we had heard about the Great Depression.

It's ironic that at a time when the world seems to be shrinking and you are likely to have a close relationship with someone half a world away, you are less likely to know the person next door. Today the unemployed and folks who are in need of help go to food banks, Goodwill, the Salvation Army, and other similar organizations. Don't get me wrong, those are very good and helpful organizations. They are staffed by hard-working, caring people. But there is something missing, something that is vital to the survival of all humans. It is the human spiritual bond. It is nearly impossible to make a strong, meaningful connection to someone you only see for a few minutes a month.

My parents and grandparents told me stories of how during the Great Depression (funny how I always think of it with capital letters) neighbors would get together to share what resources they had. There was a family in my mother's neighborhood that was relatively well off. They would host a Sunday spaghetti dinner for all of the neighborhood children. This sort of thing was not an isolated occurrence. Neighbors and extended families banded together to offer material and most importantly moral support.

It is this sort of thing I would like to encourage all of you to do. Be there for each other. If you have something like kids' clothes to pass along, or have some furniture in good shape that needs a new home, or if you fix small appliances in your spare time, let us all know. If you are in need of something, ask. I think we under-use our e-mail list. Sometimes just getting a problem off your chest helps, so remember we are here for all of our members and friends.

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## Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Just as with national politics, it seems that as soon as you finish one election it's time to start the next. We need volunteers to serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee is responsible for putting out the Call for Nominations, creating and mailing the election ballots, and counting the results. If you're interested, contact the Grove via [robh@shininglakes.org](mailto:robh@shininglakes.org) or (734) 262-1052. (It's easy! Really!)

### Congratulations to Sean Keller and Family!

Sean's daughter Sasha gave birth to Carleigh Elizabeth Keller on Saturday, March 14. Grandpa says Carleigh is beautiful (of course!) and was 6 lb., 10 oz at birth and 19 in. long. Mother and baby are doing well, but Sasha's had a few complications, so we should all keep her in our thoughts.

At this year's Imbolc ritual we collected 24 pounds of food for Food Gatherers!

### SLG Leadership Council

#### Senior Druid

Rob Henderson [robh@cyberspace.org](mailto:robh@cyberspace.org)

#### Assistant Senior Druid

Rodney Cox [uberrod@comcast.net](mailto:uberrod@comcast.net)

#### Administrator

Jude Howison [uputat@yahoo.com](mailto:uputat@yahoo.com)

#### Scribe

Jude Howison [uputat@yahoo.com](mailto:uputat@yahoo.com)

#### Pursewarden

Rodney Cox [uberrod@comcast.net](mailto:uberrod@comcast.net)

#### Chronicler

Genevieve Stoyak [gstoyak@hotmail.com](mailto:gstoyak@hotmail.com)

#### Public Relations Coordinator

Charles Howison [pherrixx@hotmail.com](mailto:pherrixx@hotmail.com)

#### Youth Activities Coordinator

Sean Keller [seankeller@gmail.com](mailto:seankeller@gmail.com)

### SLG Guild Leaders

#### Magicians' Guild

Rodney Cox [uberrod@comcast.net](mailto:uberrod@comcast.net)

#### Warriors' Guild

Rodney Cox [uberrod@comcast.net](mailto:uberrod@comcast.net)

#### Healers' Guild

Rodney Cox [uberrod@comcast.net](mailto:uberrod@comcast.net)

#### Producers' Guild (unofficial)

Genevieve Stoyak [gstoyak@hotmail.com](mailto:gstoyak@hotmail.com)

No e-mail access? Contact our officers at our snail-mail address or phone number.

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# Grove Calendar: Spring Equinox to Summer Solstice

## Rituals

**An Bruane:** Rituals and advanced spiritual exploration for those who wish to go beyond the standard High Day rites. Members only, please. *3/31, 5/19, 6/23, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

**Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning:** Help us plan our Beltaine and Summer Solstice rituals. All welcome. *4/21, 4/28, 6/2, 6/16, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

**Fire Watch:** We follow the traditions of our ancestors and keep the hearth fire burning the night before ritual. *5/1, 6/19, Dusk at Botsford*

**Dawn Beltaine Rite:** Join us on our annual journey to the source of the Huron River to greet the sun and bless our water for the coming year. *5/2, 4:30 am, meet at Botsford*

**Beltaine Rite:** Join us as we honor Aren, our god of love and freedom. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *5/2, 2-5 pm at Botsford (rain date: 5/3)*

**Summer Solstice Rite:** Join us as we honor Bel and Danu, our primal father and mother deities. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *6/20, 2-5 pm at Botsford (rain date: 6/21)*

**Spring Hunt:** Our semi-annual trek through the wilderness of western Washtenaw County. Contact the Grove at (734) 262-1052 or robh@shininglakes.org if you'd like to join us. *4/24-4/26*

## Social Events

**Coffee Hour:** Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. *3/27, 4/24, 5/29, 6/26, 7-9 pm at Borders*

**Game Night:** It's back! Board games, card games, and more! *4/11, 5/16, 6/13, 7-10 pm at WRAP*

## Classes and Study Groups

**Modern Druidry:** (*see below for details*) *4/26, 1-4 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens*

## Meetings

**SLG Business Meeting:** Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. *4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 7-9 at Borders*

## Helping the Huron

**River Roundup:** Collect water and insect samples from streams in the rivershed. Sponsored by the Huron River Watershed Council. (You must register in advance for this! jmartin@hrwc.org or 734-769-5971) *4/25, 9 am-2pm or 11 am-4pm, meet at NEW Center*

**Bug ID Day:** Count the insect samples we collected from streams in the rivershed. Sponsored by the Huron River Watershed Council. (You must register in advance for this! jmartin@hrwc.org or 734-769-5971) *5/17, 12-3 pm or 2-5 pm, meet at NEW Center*

## Festivals

**Trillium:** The first ADF festival of the season! *4/16—4/19, The Log Cabin Campground, Cross Junction, Virginia (www.trilliumgathering.org)*

**Wellspring:** Join ADF members from all over the continent for ritual, workshops, and the ADF annual meeting. *5/21-5/25, Brushwood Folklore Center, Sherman, New York (www.stonecreed.org/wellspring.htm)*

## Modern Druidry

Living the Ancient Ways in Today's World

A three-hour class on the practices and traditions of Shining Lakes Grove and Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF), led by SLG Senior Druid Rob Henderson. Find out how we recreate the traditions of the ancient Indo-European cultures in a modern context. The class will be held at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor) from 1 to 4 PM. The class is free, but pre-registration is required; contact us at 734-262-1052 or robh@shininglakes.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 22	23	24	25	26	27 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	28
29	30	31 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	April 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 7-10 Game Night WRAP
12 <b>EASTER</b>	13	14 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	15	16 <b>TRILLIUM</b>	17 <b>TRILLIUM</b>	18 <b>TRILLIUM</b>
19 <b>TRILLIUM</b>	20	21 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	22 <b>EARTH DAY</b>	23	24 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	25 9-3 or 11-5 River Roundup NEW Center
26 1-4 Modern Druidry Matthaei <b>SPRING HUNT</b>	27	28 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	29	30	May 1 Fire Watch Botsford	2 4:30 AM Dawn Rite 2-5 <b>Beltaine</b> Rite Botsford
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	11	12 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	13	14	15	16 7-10 Game Night WRAP
17 12-3 or 2-5 Bug ID Day NEW Center	18	19 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	20	21 <b>WELLSPRING</b>	22 <b>WELLSPRING</b>	23 <b>WELLSPRING</b>
24 <b>WELLSPRING</b>	25 <b>WELLSPRING</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	26	27	28	29 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	30
31	June 1	2 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	10	11	12	13 7-10 Game Night WRAP
14 <b>FLAG DAY</b>	15	16 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	17	18	19 Fire Watch Botsford	20 2-5 <b>Summer</b> <b>Solstice Rite</b> Botsford
21 <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> <b>SUMMER BEGINS</b>	22	23 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	24	25	26 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	27

### Addresses:

Borders Books and Music: 3527 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor  
 Botsford Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd., Ann Arbor  
 Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro, Ann Arbor

NEW Center: 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor  
 Rod and Liz's: 263 Larkspur, Ann Arbor, (734) 998-1029  
 WRAP Resource Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor