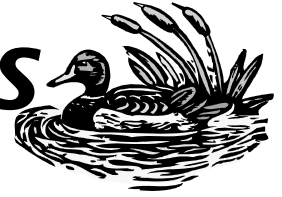




Shining Lakes News



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

Summer Solstice 2007

Vol. 14, No. 3

New Myths for an Old Religion



I am certainly not the first person to write about the role of myth in ancient or modern society, and even if I thought I was as good as writer as everyone else who had covered the topic, I certainly couldn't do it justice in the space of a newsletter article. For now I'll say that myths and legends use great untruths to teach us greater truths, and leave it to you whether to agree.

I always find it amusing to discuss myth with others (usually non-Pagans) who act as though myth is something that hasn't been in common usage for centuries. Even before I self-identified as a neo-Pagan at all, I could see the similarities between ancient heroes and comic book superheroes, as role models and sources of inspiration. And I would argue that James Bond has the same role in modern society, though maybe he's not the ideal role model for how men should deal with women. (Then again, neither was Herakles.)

What isn't as apparent to me, though, is the relationship between myth and ritual. Or the relationship is just too complicated for me to figure out on my own. Sometimes the ancient stories give us a good idea of what the ancients actually practiced—the spirit summoning that Odysseus performs at the entrance to the Underworld, for instance—but often the myths leave huge gaps in the record. Sticking with my Hellenic gods, Hestia was always honored first at every rite in ancient Greece, and every home had an altar to her in the form of the hearth fire. Now check your texts on Greek

myth and tell me how many stories there are about her. Not many, huh? And I'd have thought that a deity of fire would have some potentially exciting stories to tell, or at least a few stories warning against the misuse of fire, but Prometheus and Demeter seem to have gotten the starring roles in those tales.

But of course I'm rambling about Greek gods, and I really should be talking about our Grove's own deities, Senior Druid that I am. So here's my thought for the summer: Do our Grove gods need us to tell new stories about them? Our river goddess Ana has graced us with her tale, of course, and our tribal gods from Ireland have their old tales. But in the tradition of ADF, we should be asking ourselves. do our gods have new tales to tell us? Is there some brand new story that the ancients would never have understood, but in which we can see that great truth? Or is there some variation of an old story that might make more sense to us, put some aspect of modern life into a new perspective? Maybe a tale of our Grove's deities and their "adventures" in this part of the world? Or maybe a brand new story of Aren, for whom we don't yet have any grand tales?

Ponder this for a month or so, and we can discuss it at Lughnasadh!

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

SLG Leadership Council

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Warriors' Guild Rodney Cox uberrod@comcast.net

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

It's time to think about elections for new Grove officers. Please consider your nominations carefully, the person you nominate (and this could be you) should be willing and able to devote the time necessary to fulfill the duties of the office. Nominees must also be full current members of both Shining Lakes Grove and ADF when they take office at Samhain.

The names of those nominated must be received in writing by the Election Committee on or before August 15, 2007.

Election Committee: c/o Rob Henderson
1274 Ridge Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
734-262-1052
robh@cyberspace.org

Nominations may also be sent to: Shining Lakes Grove
PO Box 3901
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Following is a description of the offices that are up for election this year.

Grove Administrator - The Grove Administrator (GA) shall be responsible for leading and supervising the business activities of the Grove. S/he shall run the business meetings, have the right to be a member of any committee of the Leadership Council. S/he shall be responsible for maintaining a reasonable level of service (including but not limited to making sure there are high day rites, grove newsletters, and regular business meetings) to the membership of Shining Lakes Grove by the Leadership Council, or for delegating that service in the absence of elected officers. S/he shall have the fiduciary and fundraising responsibility for the Grove, subject to guidance of the Leadership Council. The Grove Administrator shall be responsible for compiling a quarterly Grove report to be sent to the Senior Druid for the ADF Archdruid and Scribe and is responsible for collecting, reviewing, and forwarding to the SD all other officer's quarterly reports. The Grove Administrator is answerable to the Leadership Council. The term of the office of Grove Administrator shall be one year.

Pursewarden/Registrar - Shall sign all checks, drafts, and other instruments for the Grove; shall have custody of all monies of the Grove received or disbursed; shall deposit all monies and valuables in the name of and to the credit of Shining Lakes Grove, ADF in such banks or other financial institutions as designated. Shall be responsible for keeping the Grove's financial records according to generally accepted accounting principles for nonprofit organizations. Shall provide written financial and membership reports to the leadership Council at each Grove business meeting. Shall keep all membership records, members' voting tallies and subscription records; shall maintain strict confidentiality of the membership list as deemed by each member. Candidates to the office of Pursewarden/Registrar shall have accounting, computing and record keeping skills necessary for the functions of this office. The Pursewarden/Registrar is responsible for compiling a quarterly report of financial transactions, fund-raising activities and membership levels to be sent to the Mother Grove after review by the Senior Druid. The Pursewarden/Registrar is also required to compile an annual report. The term of the office of Pursewarden/Registrar shall be two years.

Scribe - Shall record minutes of all general and Leadership Council meetings and keep records of the proceedings of all committees (to be submitted by each committee head); and may perform other duties that would otherwise be performed by a Corporate Secretary. Candidates for the office of the Scribe shall have the ability to take minutes and have computing skills. The Scribe is responsible for compiling a quarterly report of grove events to be sent to the Mother Grove after being reviewed by the Grove Administrator and Senior Druid. The term of the office of Scribe shall be one year.

Chronicler - Shall be responsible for the production of all Grove literature including, but not limited to, grove announcements and the grove newsletter. All publications will be subject to the approval of the Leadership Council. Candidates for the office of Chronicler shall have demonstrated skills in writing and desktop publishing and access to the necessary equipment to complete the requirements of this office. The term of the office of Chronicler shall be one year.

Public Relations Coordinator - Shall be responsible for communication of grove activities through publication and advertising in non-grove publications and other media. The Public Relations Coordinator shall also be responsible for performance or delegation of customs and traditions of hospitality observed by the grove. The Public Relations Coordinator shall be responsible for general member services and respond to all membership inquiries and complaints as necessary. The term of the office of Public Relations Coordinator shall be one year.

Youth Activities Coordinator - Shall be responsible for the youth religious education program. Program materials will focus on daily practice as well as celebration of the High Day Rituals. The materials will be reviewed by the Liturgists to ensure that they are appropriate for the ritual as well as to coordinate the appropriate time(s) for children to participate in the High Day celebration. Program materials will also be reviewed by the Leadership Council. The YAC will ensure that materials are provided to all families with children to help them integrate religious practice into their daily lives as well as to celebrate our eight High Days. The YAC is not responsible for providing child-care services. The term of office for the Youth Activities Coordinator shall be one year.

Grove Calendar: Summer Solstice to Fall Equinox

Rituals

An Bruane: Rituals and advanced spiritual exploration for those who wish to go beyond the standard High Day rites. Members only, please. *6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning: Help us plan our Lughnasadh and Fall Equinox rituals. All welcome. *7/17, 7/31, 9/4, 9/18, 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. *9/21, Dusk at Botsford*

Fall Equinox Rite: Join us as we honor the Stag God and perform the Stag Dance. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *9/22, 2-5 pm at Botsford (rain date: 9/23)*

Lughnasadh Festival: Our annual tradition! (*see below*)

Classes and Study Groups

Dedicant Program Study Group: Join us as we work toward completing the ADF Dedicant Program. *7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 3-5 pm at Ypsi Library*

Social Events

Coffee Hour: Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. *6/29, 7/27, 8/24, 9/28, 7-9 pm at Borders*

Druidic Mini-Golf: No, it's not historically accurate, but it's fun!. *7/15, 2 pm at Putterz*

Meetings

SLG Business Meeting: Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. *7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 7-9 at Borders*

Lughnasadh 2007

Botsford Recreational Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd., Ann Arbor
8 pm, August 3 - 11 am, August 5, 2007

A three-day festival and *Ár nDraíocht Féin* Lughnasadh ritual combined. From opening to closing we will be celebrating and honoring our Gods in the sacred space of the festival with our Games, our Talents, and our Wits!

Just outside the city limits of Ann Arbor, Botsford Recreational Preserve is a small section of old growth forest with treehouses, walking trails, and the permanent nemeton of Shining Lakes Grove.

How much will it cost to attend? It's **free!** We will have a raffle to help cover our site rental costs, and of course donations are welcome.

We need volunteers! If you would like to lead a class, workshop, or ritual, or help organize the festival, please contact us. Past workshops have included:

Flowers of the Gods / Henna Tattooing / Guided Meditation / The ADF Dedicant Program / Mead Tasting
Understanding the Runes / Finding Your Local River Goddess / Bardic Circle / Making Ancestor Dolls

*(734) 262-1052 * robh@cyberspace.org * www.shininglakes.org*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 24	25	26 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	27	28	29 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	30
July 1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7
8	9	10 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	11	12	13	14 3-5 DP Study Group Ypsilanti Library
15 2 PM Druidic Min-Golf Putterz	16	17 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	25	26	27 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	28
29	30	31 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	August 1	2	3 Lughnasadh Botsford	4 Lughnasadh Botsford
5 Lughnasadh Botsford	6	7	8	9	10	11 3-5 DP Study Group Ypsilanti Library
12	13	14 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	25
26	27	28 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	29	30	31	September 1
2	3 LABOR DAY	4 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	5	6	7	8 3-5 DP Study Group Ypsilanti Library
9	10	11 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	19	20	21 Fire Watch Botsford	22 2-5 Summer Solstice Rite Botsford
23 AUTUMN BEGINS	24	25 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	26	27	28 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	29

Addresses:

Borders Books and Music: 3527 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor
 Botsford Recreational Preserve, 301 Miller, Ann Arbor
 Putterz, 2675 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti
 Rod and Liz's: 263 Larkspur, Ann Arbor, (734) 998-1029
 Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whitaker Rd., Ypsilanti