



# Shining Lakes News

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



Summer Solstice 2013

Vol. 20, No. 3

## Margot and Me

**L**ike most people who became interested in Paganism during the pre-Internet era, I got my start by reading books. Starhawk's *The Spiral Dance* was a good instructional book (at least before I realized that I really wasn't a Wiccan, no matter how much I thought I should be) and T.J. Luhrmann's *Persuasions of the Witch's Craft* was an interesting study on people and cultures that believe in magic (my love of the the academic tone foreshadowing my interest in joining ADF?), but the one that really made an impact on me was Margot Adler's *Drawing Down the Moon*.

Even after attending rituals with my Pagan friends, *Drawing Down the Moon* was the book that made me realize that this was a big movement, many other people had been doing this for years, and if I chose to stay with it, I could be part of something big and world-changing. It was also the first place I ever saw Ár nDraíocht Féin referenced, and it sounded like a good group, so you can partially blame that book for me joining.

So I was pleasantly surprised last winter to see that Margot Adler was one of the guests at this year's Michigan Pagan Fest. Even though MPF is the closest festival to my home (even closer than ConVocation), I had never had the opportunity to go. But her presence there was a definite enticement, and when they asked us to perform the opening ritual (and enough Grovemates volunteered to help me run it), I made the commitment to be there this year.

Planning a ritual for a festival is a lot different than planning a High Day, for many reasons. The biggest one is not having any idea how many people will be there. 10? 100? Keeping things simple, especially with the offerings and the return flow, is the key here. Obviously I couldn't plan anything involving individual praise offerings, for fear that our hour-long ritual would get ninety minutes longer. But passing cups and pouring drinks can also get pretty unwieldy at that size. So even though we seldom do aspurging with the Waters of Life at our Grove rites, this was what I went with. It scales well.

The day before the ritual, I stopped by Rod and Liz's home to get the ritual supplies we'd need. (I never

appreciate exactly how much work Rodney has to do to bring them to our rites until I have to do it myself!) I somehow got the porta-bilé into my car, along with everything else. I was tempted to leave the Kindred altars out of the rite, since they're not required by the Core Order and I didn't know how long we'd have to set up or how many of us would actually be there, but decided to bring them. They do look impressive.

Friday morning I went to Kestrel's house and we moved everything to her station wagon, then headed to the Wayne County Fairgrounds, where I spent many an

August night of my childhood during fair week. We managed to get everything set up 20 minutes ahead of time. It was hot and sunny, but not too much for me to handle, even in my robes.

The appointed hour arrived, and we were going to start the ritual at 1pm, *right on time*. (I'm liking this festival already!) And somehow, in my head, I just assumed that Margot Adler wasn't going to arrive until later, after I'd

gone home, or that she'd be busy somewhere else at the site, even though there were no other events scheduled. So I wasn't quite sure why one of the attendees who I didn't recognize was walking directly toward me. Well, hey, people want to meet other people at festivals all the time, right? But when she said, "Hi, I'm Margot" in a voice I recognized from NPR, I was floored. Not only was she going to be at my ritual, but *she* was the one who came up to *me*? She even wore a shawl with Celtic knotwork because she knew it was going to be a Druidic rite! She cared! We couldn't talk much right before the ritual, but one of the festival staffers was nice enough to get a photo of us together.

The ritual itself went pretty well, given that there were 62 people there and only two of us to handle the roles (thanks, Kestrel!). I made sure to use nice wordy segues so everyone would have some clue as to what we were doing and why. There wasn't a lot of joining in on the songs, but apparently I managed to make them sound pretty good. (Margot asked me after the ritual where she could buy a CD of ADF chants!) (And yes, apparently someone besides me still buys CDs.)



We honored Lugh and his founding of the funeral games of his foster mother Tailtiu, which ties into the tradition of Lughnasadh, which ties into the modern tradition of summer fairs, just like the county fairs that have been held at the festival site for decades. Folks didn't seem bothered by the focus on offerings instead of energy work, as far as I could tell. And once the festival organizer got some announcements done, she lit the official festival fire, which was to be kept burning for the entire weekend. (I'm glad she had less trouble with the wind than I did. We ended up relying on the electric tealight I decided to bring at the last minute!)

## Flame On

Those of you who have attended Fire Watch in the past already know at least a little about our Grove's sacred flame tradition. Fox, our founding Senior Druid, began this tradition in the early days of the Grove.

At the Fire Watch before each Beltaine and Samhain—the beginning of the light half and the dark half of the year respectively—we kindle a new flame and bless it. The Senior Druid takes the flame home and tends it for that six-month period, keeping it burning perpetually with seven-day candles. For each of the other rituals, the flame is brought back to the ritual site. We get the fire started before sunset and keep it going through the night, to act as a connection between the previous day's light and the light of the ritual day.

Now that he's become active in ADF again, Fox has been sharing the findings of his extensive research into the fire-tending traditions of the ancient Indo-European cultures, and the common practices that they share. He has developed a household practice based on his findings, and is encouraging others to try using it in their own homes and groups. You can find out more about it at his Web site: <http://renewedflame.org/>

For the time being, we'll be continuing to handle our Grove flame as we've been doing for the past 20 years. Fox's research has definitely shown some interesting insights into how the Ancients related to their flame, but the lengthy time we've spent practicing our own tradition is important too. But everyone is certainly encouraged to consider tending a flame in their homes. Rob has said that the perpetual presence of that sacred connection to the Deities has definitely influenced how he interacts with them in his home and in the rest of his life, and other Grove members who have taken the flame home have reported a similar spiritual effect. It's worth experimenting with it yourself to see if it does the same for you!

## Paleo-Diet-Friendly Recipe: Baked Avocado and Egg

1 avocado, halved, with pit removed  
1 egg  
salt, pepper, or your favorite seasoning

Preheat oven to 425°F. Flip each avocado side over, and slice off enough of the rounded skin so it can sit flat when the fleshy side is up. Place the avocados, fleshy side up, in a baking pan. Whisk the egg in a bowl and divide it between the two avocado halves. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, or your favorite seasoning. Bake for 16-18 minutes, until the egg has firmly set. Eat with a spoon. Enjoy!

—Contributed by Lisbet K.

After the ritual, we packed everything up and headed home. Sadly, I couldn't afford to take any more days off to attend the festival, or even get a day pass to stay there for the rest of Friday. But I'm certainly glad that I went, and that I got to meet someone who wrote one of the most influential books I've ever read. Hopefully we'll be able to attend the festival in greater numbers next year, and we'll be able to share the ADF way of doing things with more of our local Pagan community!

Yours in service to the Kindreds and the Grove,

Rev. Rob Henderson, Senior Druid



## SLG Leadership Council

### Senior Druid

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## SLG Guild Leaders

### Magicians' Guild

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### Warriors' Guild

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### Healers' Guild

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### Bardic Guild

Valerie Hartzer [vhartzer@yahoo.com](mailto:vhartzer@yahoo.com)

### Producers' Guild (unofficial)

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

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# 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. *7/23, 9/17, 7-9 pm at Rob's*

**Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning:** Help us plan our Lughnasadh and Fall Equinox rituals. All welcome. *7/16, 9/3, 7-9 pm at Rob's*

**Nemeton Work Day:** Our project to build a new nemeton in the woods continues. Details on how long we'll be there and what we'll be doing will be posted closer to the date. All welcome. *7/13, 8/10, 1 pm at Cavallo Equestrian Centre*

**Fire Watch:** We follow the traditions of our ancestors and keep the hearth fire burning the night before ritual. *8/3, 9/21, Dusk at Cavallo*

**Lughnasadh Rite:** Come join us as we honor Lugh, our tribal patron god. There will be a raffle and potluck following the ritual. All welcome. *8/4, 2-5 pm at Cavallo*

**Fall Equinox Rite:** Join us as we honor our river mother Ana and perform the Stag Dance. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *9/22, 2-5 pm at Cavallo*

## Fundraising

**Olga's Kitchen Fundraiser:** Eat for the Grove! Present a flyer (the link to the flyer is on any of our online calendars) and Olga's will donate a percentage of your bill to Shining Lakes Grove. *6/28, all day at Olga's*

## Meetings

**SLG Business Meeting:** Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. *7/9, 8/13, 9/10, 7-9 at Sweetwaters*

## Festivals

**Detroit Pagan Pride Day:** Pagan Pride Detroit is the Greater Detroit chapter of the Pagan Pride Project, a global non-profit dedicated to the elimination of prejudice and religious discrimination. Our primary mission is to foster pride in Greater Detroit's Pagan identity through education, activism, charity and community. *8/10, 11 am- 7pm, Green Acres Park, 899 W. Mapledale Ave., Hazel Park*

**Summerland Festival:** An ADF Unity Festival and Pagan Spiritual Retreat *8/15-18, Camp Clifton, Yellow Springs, Ohio (<http://www.6thnight.org/summerland.html>)*

**Midnight Flame Festival:** Come join us at ADF's only festival in the region! At The Midnight Flame Festival you will enjoy camping at a site that allows for tent, RV, or even cabin camping, lectures and workshops, shopping, as well as opportunities to vend, rituals, fellowship, and fun! *9/5-8, Chain O Lakes Campground, Bellaire, Michigan (<http://www.groovemidnightsun.org/midnightflame.html>)*

## Social Events

**Coffee Hour:** Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. *6/28, 7/26, 8/23, 9/27, 8-11 pm at Sweetwaters*

## 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! [jfrenzel@hrwc.org](mailto:jfrenzel@hrwc.org) or 734-769-5123) *10/12, 9 am-3pm or 11 am-5pm, meet at NEW Center, 1100 N. Main St., Ann Arbor*

**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! [jfrenzel@hrwc.org](mailto:jfrenzel@hrwc.org) or 734-769-5123) *10/20, 12-3 pm or 2-5 pm, NEW Center, 1100 N. Main St., Ann Arbor*



## Huron River Day

Sunday, July 14, 12pm to 4 pm / Gallup Park, Ann Arbor

Thirty two years ago the Huron River Day Celebration began as a way to encourage partnerships among government, private, and non-profit organizations and to educate citizens about the importance of water quality and Huron River preservation. Each year, this event draws approximately 2,500 people from the Ann Arbor community to celebrate the Huron River. Activities include:

- \$5 Canoe & Kayak rentals
- Children's Activity Tent with art and science fun
- Live animal program
- Butterfly House
- Fun river exhibits
- Photo booth with canoes and kids
- Kids Envirochallenge
- Stand Up Paddleboard demos
- Classic Small Boat Show
- Fishing fun
- Live music from Joe Reilly, Gemini, and Wire in the Wood
- Food vendors: Pilar's Tamales, Dad's Dogs, and Mity Nice shaved ice

For more information about Huron River Day, please call (734) 794-6240.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 23	24	25	26	27	28 8-11 Coffee Hour <u>Sweetwaters</u> Olga's Fundraiser	29
30	July 1	2	3	4 <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>	5	6
7	8	9 7-9 Business Mtg. Panera	10	11	12	13 Nemeton Work Day Cavallo
14 Huron River Day Gallup Park	15	16 7-9 Liturgist RT Sweetwaters	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 7-9 An Bruane Rob's	24	25	26 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	27
28	29	30	31	August 1	2	3 Fire Watch Cavallo
4 2-5 Lughnasadh Rite Cavallo	5	6	7	8	9	10 Nemeton Work Day Cavallo Detroit Pagan Pride Day
11	12	13 7-9 Business Mtg. Panera	14	15	16	17
18 <b>SUMMERLANDS</b>	19	20	21	22 <b>SUMMERLANDS</b>	23 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters <b>SUMMERLANDS</b>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September 1	2 <b>LABOR DAY</b>	3 7-9 Liturgist RT Sweetwaters	4	5 <b>MIDNIGHT FLAME</b>	6 <b>MIDNIGHT FLAME</b>	7 <b>MIDNIGHT FLAME</b>
8 <b>MIDNIGHT FLAME</b>	9	10 7-9 Business Mtg. Panera	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 7-9 An Bruane Rob's	18	19	20	21 Fire Watch Cavallo
22 2-5 Fall Equinox Rite Cavallo <b>AUTUMN BEGINS</b>	23	24	25	26	27 8-11 Coffee Hour Sweetwaters	28

**Addresses:**

Cavallo Farms, 2185 N. Harris Rd., Ypsilanti  
Panera Bread, 1773 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor

Rob's, 11623 Lisa Lori Ln., South Lyon, (734) 277-1897  
Sweetwaters, 3393 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor