

FALL EQUINOX 2020

KINDRED CONNECTIONS

Official Newsletter of Columbia Grove, ADF

A welcoming pagan community to all persons regardless of their race, nationality, gender or sexual orientation

Under the Oaks - Letters From the Senior Druid

By Arin D'Wulf

Greetings friends and family,
Welcome to the new Columbia Grove Kindred Connections. It's been close to two years since we've had a regular publication, and Spider and I are excited to get back to it. Since this is a new publication, let's see if I can sum up a bit about me, and the Grove, for folks who might be finding us for the first time. Columbia Grove is a wonderful sampling of spirituality. The one thing that brings us together is our belief in something more, but that's about it. We've got folks of all walks and lifestyles. And that's because

Columbia Grove is an open, inclusive, safe space for all who seek a home here. We might have our specific practices for ritual, focused on honoring a polytheist path, but that doesn't mean to us that everyone has to follow the same practices. All we ask is that if you join our ritual you do so respectfully, that if you join our community you do so respectfully. If you follow that, then we welcome you. We host rituals for each of the 8 high days, that everyone is welcome to, with meet and greets before each one so you can decide if we're the right fit for you. And we have special interest groups that involve deepening your studies, honoring the earth, and worship, with plenty of space for more groups.

And we've got a thriving community, even in the midst of the pandemic, that come together online to talk about our interests, our questions, and sometimes to just talk about things like the games we're playing. (Cont on page 2.)

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I'm the Senior Druid of the Grove. That means I do a lot of the public outreach type things, and my name's on some paperwork. I'm Arin H "D'Wulf", and my pronouns are They/Them or He/His. I converted from fundamentalist Christian to Pagan in 2007, and though it took some wandering for a brief period to find my path with Druidry specifically, I've been a tree-hugging, polytheist ever since that fateful day in '07. I moved to Oregon in 2013, joined ADF in 2014, and became a member of

Columbia Grove around Imbolc 2015, exactly one year after its inception. I was voted in as Senior Druid in January 2017. A lot of my personal growth has happened since I found Columbia Grove. Before that I was a wandering eclectic, seeking faith wherever I could find it, usually in the dirt and on the wind. Once I settled in with the Grove though I found myself a spirituality that constantly excited me, a home that I could be comfortable with, and a community I could call family. I now find myself with a daily practice that brings me joy. I'm really looking forward to these first steps of our new Kindred Connections, and seeing what the future has in store for us. I hope you are too! May we all have bright blessings for the future!

Grove Ritual Calendar for 2020

Irish Celtic Imbolc February 2nd 3:30 pm

CANCELED: Slavic Spring Equinox March 15th 3:30 pm

Welsh Beltane May 3rd 3:30 pm

Irish Celtic Summer Solstice June 27th 3:30 pm

Lughnasadh August 2nd 3:30 pm

Hellenic (Greek) Fall Equinox September 20th 3:30 pm

Irish Celtic Samhain November 7th 6:30 pm

Scottish Celtic Winter Solstice December 12th 6:30 pm

"I am at home
among the
trees"

-J.R.R. TOLKIEN



**Would you like to get
involved with
Columbia Grove, ADF?**

If you answered, YES! We
would LOVE to have you join
us!

Columbia Grove, ADF is always
welcoming excited people with
new ideas to help us grow and
strengthen our community!

More
info can be found on our
website at:

www.columbiaadf.org

Or you can email us at
ColumbiaADF@gmail.com



Salutations from the Chief Druid

By Amber Araneae

Hello there and welcome to our revived newsletter!

I am the current elected Chief Druid and Scribe of Columbia Grove for 2020 and it has been a great honor to be part of such a thriving community of folx!

It's been a very difficult year for all of us and we have had to adapt to the best of our abilities. As such, we are always thinking of new ways to connect with each other and the broader pagan community and we think that bringing new life into the newsletter is an excellent way to do it! I get the esteemed honor of constructing our quarterly newsletter (meaning I am responsible for the errors! Eek! Please be gentle with me haha).

As the Chief Druid and Scribe of the Grove I handle a lot of the internal workings such as membership connection, being the contact person for special interest groups, taking monthly meeting notes, and overall group internal harmony.

I have been a pagan for about 15 years now and the elected Chief Druid of Columbia Grove for 2 years. My first ritual with Columbia Grove was Lughnasadh 2014 and I became a member in 2015. I lead our monthly ADF Druidry Dedicant study group where we discuss a year long personal journey into ADF Druid spirituality through essays, meditations, physical activities and book reviews. I also lead our Nature Awareness Guild which (pre-pandemic) focused on volunteer activities each month with local organizations including tree plantings, invasive plant removal, plant ID walks, beach clean ups etc. During this time, we do virtual meetings about nature topics. Additionally, I join one of our other members in performing Druid rituals for the women at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

I am an extrovert and very excited for this opportunity to connect with you all!

**"O Dionysos,
To thy holy temple
come,
To Elis with thy
Graces,
Rushing with thy
bull-foot,
come,
Noble Bull,
Noble Bull"**

— Plutarch



Columbia Grove's aim is to help fulfill the physical, spiritual, and intellectual needs of the Columbia-Willamette Pagan community.

We hope to positively represent an Indo-European Polytheist religion through both public and private rituals, as well as through specific workshops and community projects. Our intent is to serve the greater good of the public and society as a whole through an adherence to meaningful social action. All pagans and pagan-friendly peoples are welcomed to join our rituals and they are Family Friendly as well. During our rituals we welcome the varied Gods and Goddesses of all our guests, their unique ancestors, and abundant spirits of nature.



Fall Equinox Ritual 2020: Review

On September 20, 2020 at 4 PM, around 32 attendees came together online to celebrate the Autumn Equinox together, and honor the marriage of Dionysus and Ariadne. This was the fifth virtual ritual that Columbia Grove has produced together, and we had people joining us from all over the continent. How blessed we are in these days to be able to still come together during the pandemic, and even have folks from out of state attending who would not otherwise be able to!

The deities honored for this ritual were: Hestia the Hearth Keeper, Gaea as the Earth, Columbia our sovereign deity, Athena as the warrior, Apollo for inspiration, and Hekate to show us the paths between the worlds.



The Grove has been experimenting with new and different ways of "opening the gates" and this time we asked folks to join their energy with ours as we tried asking Hekate to shine her lanterns on the paths instead. We are also taking advantage of the format of the virtual rites to try mixing things up a little bit from our norm, which usually is set in a way to accommodate accessibility when it comes to all the movement typically associated with an in person rite.

If you were able to attend our virtual rite, and you noticed things done in different ways, let us know if you liked it or disliked it, or how you would like to see things possibly shifted in the future! You can send your feedback to ColumbiaADF@gmail.com.

Afterwards we gathered together and opened up the mics so folks could ask questions about the ritual, ADF, or related items on their mind. We had very fruitful discussions about the Godden, our reoccurring Beyond the Gates camping event, and the practice of veiling in various pagan cultures. Our thanks for this ritual goes out to Rook for leading the ritual and writing much of it, and Arin for co-leading and filling in the rest. Zabet played the lute for us while folks gathered and conversed in the chat, and Spider handled the tech. And also big thanks to Claire, Andrea, Stacey, Forest, and David for taking roles in the ritual.

All told, it was subjectively a beautiful rite, and though we look forward to meeting in person once more, we also appreciate and love the virtual aspect and appreciate everyone who logged in and loaned us their energy. Ghost:*

Omens from Fall Equinox

During our Fall Equinox rite Rook took the omen from the Greek alphabet oracle by using a set of dice and correlating the numbers to the oracle. Below is the write up of the omens and their interpretation that Rook provided.

The Ancestors gave us Lambda (19) "The one passing on the left {Laios} bodes well for everything." Passing: going through; bodes: shows, indicates, gives a sign, signifies, declares; well: rightly, happily, fortunately. Since the left is traditionally the sinister side, the oracle may mean that an apparently sinister thing or event may be a blessing in disguise. The left is also associated with the unconscious, lunar mind, and so unconscious processes or intuition may signal a favorable outcome. A promising sign comes from an unpromising quarter.

The Nature Spirits gave us Xi (16) "There is no fruit to take from a withered {Xêros} shoot." Fruit: produce, return, profit, result; withered: lean, harsh. There is no good to be gained from an angry young man or woman. The frayed end of a good line. Harshness and stinginess will achieve nothing. You can't get blood from a turnip; you can't get water from a stone. Don't polish a turd.

The Goddex gave us Zeta (24) "Flee the very great storm {Zalê}, lest you be disabled in some way" Storm: surge, distress; disabled: hindered. Don't make a sea-voyage in bad weather. It is futile to fight the force of the ocean; likewise, bucking the inevitable will weaken you and hinder your progress. Avoid raging storms of any kind; save your energy for when it can be effective. Sometimes flight is wiser than fight.



The Chant of Êlis

M. Isidora Forrest

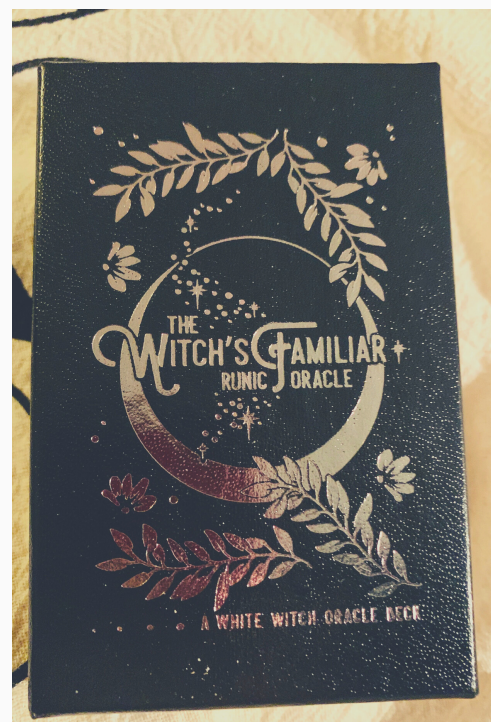
**Come on Thy bull's foot,
Come on Thy panther's
paw,
Come on Thy snake's
belly,
Dionysos, come!
Come, Dithyrambos,
Come to us, Bakcheios,
Come to us, Lysios,
Dionysos, come!**

Review: The Witch's Familiar Runic Oracle

By Alis Kells

The Witch's Familiar Runic Oracle, by Athene, "The White Witch Oracle", is a new small-format oracle deck originally funded through Kickstarter in April 2020. Athene previously released the Crystal Ball Pocket Oracle and the Luna Botanica Altar Cards, both visually arresting and very accessible to any cartomancer.

What sets the Witch's Familiar deck apart is that it features each of the runes of the Elder Futhark on each of its 24 cards alongside an animal "familiar" aligned with the artist's interpretation of each run. The cards are further illustrated with crystals, flowers, and other accessories that come together to create a harmonious, lively impression of each of the Elder Futhark rune meanings.



These cards are beautifully printed, on high quality card stock with gorgeous colours that do Athene's artwork justice. The backs of the cards are illustrated with a full moon, circled by the 24 runes of the deck.

The Runic Oracle is a very effective deck in practice. For folks new to runic divination, or those who don't have a working relationship with the runes, these cards provide a little bit of a buffer between the intensity of working with runic divination. This oracle is definitely pulling its weight as a runic divination tool, but these cards are a little more friendly, and a little easier to work with.

Small enough to fit into your pocket, the Witch's Familiar Runic Oracle is a lovely size for tucking into a bag for a quick card pull on the go. Available from TheWhiteWitchOracle.com and Etsy for £23.50/\$30.81 USD, though shipping from the United Kingdom will take some time. It's well worth purchasing this oracle -- you won't be disappointed!

What is Samhain? A Super Basic Introduction!

By Stacey Wilkins

Samhain is a Celtic high day that occurs at the end of October and is often cited as the precursor to our modern Halloween. There is evidence that Celts in Ireland have celebrated Samhain since ancient times, and medieval manuscripts make reference to feasts held for three days before and after the holiday. Samhain marked the new year for the Celts and is generally regarded as a time to honor our ancestors. Many pagans feel that Samhain is a great time for ancestor work and divination because it is believed that the "veil" between our world and the otherworld is thin during this time, making communication with the spirits easier.

Modern pagans often choose to celebrate this day with devotions to their ancestors or underworld deities. For example, pagan author Kristoffer Hughes holds a three-day celebration, holding a dumb supper on day one, a formal Samhain ritual on day two, and honoring animal companions and those slain in battle or as "collateral damage" on day three. Instead of--or in addition to--working with the dead, some pagans move their attention to "what we have reaped throughout the year," since Samhain is the final of three harvest festivals in the Wheel of the Year.

Resources

Butler, Jenny, PhD Candidate. "Halloween's Celtic Roots." Interview. Archaeology. October 27, 2006. Accessed October 13, 2018.
<https://archive.archaeology.org/online/interviews/butler.html>.

Kristoffer, Hughes, and Aaron Lawrence. "Days of the Dead." In Llewellyns 2018 Sabbats Almanac: Samhain 2017 to Mabon 2018, 14-19. Woodbury, MN: Llewellyn Worldwide, 2017.

"Autumn has arrived. I hear it in the whispering of leaves."

- Anujj Elviis





Emissaries of Nehalennia

Description and Art by Claire Stevenson

Nehalennia is a goddess of uncertain origin -- possibly Continental Celtic or Germanic -- whose worship centered around Zeeland in the modern-day Netherlands. She was popular among fishers, merchants, tradespeople, and many other individuals, as attested by numerous votive offerings dating from the times of the Roman Empire. A lovely temple to Nehalennia was reconstructed in the Netherlands in the last century, and that is what this temple in this image is based off. Torqs are a type of necklace common to many historical peoples in the region, and in this image, I included one being carried by a dolphin, one of Her sacred animals.

