

Letters



from Mom Youth

is a lovely bloom,
of course.

Yet that flower is not the roots,
nor the medicine,
nor the fruit.

And you'll find the deepest beauty

Imbolc - February 2
Spring Equinox - March 21

amidst the silver-green
leaves

that breathe in and out,
dancing with spirit,
long after the petals
have dropped

~Tulsi



Scout's Honor!

Angela Pippinger

A question that I most often hear is "What alternative to the Boy/Girl Scouts is there for my family?" Well I am pleased to share with you the [SpiralScouts!](#) SpiralScouts is extremely pagan friendly, but is not strictly for pagan families. Like any of the other scouting programs, SpiralScouts has levels that grow with a child. From 3-8 they are FireFlies, 9-13 are SpiralScouts, and 14-18 are PathFinders. The children in SpiralScouts learn all the same things that a child in Boy/Girl Scouts learns. Camping, hiking, safety procedures, sustainable living, and care of the earth are all very important topics that are covered. Depending on the parents involved in the groups, your child may be exposed to art/music history or any other talent that a parent can offer. And just like any other scouting group, there are uniforms and badges to earn. One of the most important things to note about SpiralScouts is that there is no gender bias. SpiralScouts accepts all children and blends them together instead of separating them.

To join, you can either start your own Hearth or find a local Circle. Starting your own Hearth is great for the families in isolated areas and do not have a community that they can join. Most often Hearths are linked to Circles but are not required to meet with the Circle on a regular basis (some meet once a year or keep in touch via email/phone). Circles and Hearths then become a part of a Clan (for instance your state is a Clan). From there you are involved in a Tribe (such as the US or England).

Recently I spoke with Michele Clausen, CFO of SpiralScouts International, and she let me know that they are looking for volunteers. They need people to head committees, take over being Treasurer, and become a Tribal Coordinator. One of the most important things we can do as a pagan community is show some support for this wonderful organization. Please consider taking some time and helping them out! Even if you don't

think you can do the job, talk to them. You might be surprised at how much support you get from them if you are willing to put some time in taking care of a few tasks a month. If you would like more information on finding a Circle in your area, please email Michelle Clausen at michelec@spiralscouts.org.

Book Drive 2012

An In the Arms of the Goddess program

In conjunction with CERES, Mother Grove is collecting books for Western North Carolina area prisons. Some of our community members are in these prisons and do not have earth religion reading material available to them. Some of the prisoners are seeking spirituality but are unable to explore all of the possibilities that are available. And others already have a desire to learn more but cannot because of the lack of books. We are encouraging our local community to dust off those bookshelves and go through the wealth of information and donate an item or two (or three!)

Items needed:

Composition Notebooks (to start a Book of Shadows)

Earth Religion 101 or similar

Gently used tarot decks

Tapes & Cd's

(pagan music or meditative are the most appreciated!)

Old magazines

You can bring these items to the Imbolc or Ostara rituals. You can also drop them off any Sunday before or after Devotional /Meditation. If you are unable to bring items during these times, please email Angela (angela@mothergroveavl.org) or call 828-230-5069.

Please, let's show our community the love of the Goddess with passing on a few items that we rarely use!

Featured Goddess- Freya



Freya knows what she's doing. This Norse fertility goddess abandons the earth during the cold months, but returns in the spring to restore nature's beauty. Freya was the sister of the god Freyr, and was one of the Norse deities of earth and water that lived in Asgard. Venerated by women, heroes and rulers alike, she was the Scandinavian goddess of fertility and abundance. Freya could be called upon for assistance in childbirth and

conception, to aid with marital problems, or to bestow fruitfulness upon the land and sea. We're glad you are back, Freya!

Other Goddesses of this coming Spring

Artio (Swiss) The bear Goddess hibernates during the Winter and returns to herald the beginning of Spring. Bears are associated with shamanism, as the hibernation period in winter symbolizes the journey into darkness. With the emergence of Spring, she saunters outside with her new cubs bearing the wisdom gained on the journey.

Maia (Greek) This Goddess of Spring represents the forces of growth and the return of the warm rays of the sun. She was the eldest daughter of Atlas, the most beautiful of her seven sisters, all of whom we can see in the night skies in the "Pleiades" constellation.

Ostara (Germanic) is the Maiden Goddess, full of potential, representing the opportunity of growth and rebirth after the dark frost of winter. She is the East, dawn and morning light - the returning warmth of the sun's rays and the lengthening days. Her name lives on as it is the root of the English words for both Easter and oestrogen.

Vesna (Slavic) is the messenger of Spring and the protector of her people, especially the women. She returns from the Underworld at the Vernal Equinox carrying messages from the elders.

We are upon the season of fertility and growth, the balance between light and dark. Whether you are feeling like a mama bear fresh from your hibernation, or ready to sprinkle matrimonial problem solving, take some time to celebrate the new life that surrounds you in nature. Go for a walk in a park, lay in the grass, dream of your new goal you will plant into the earth. Observe all the new things beginning around you -- plants, flowers, insects, birds. Celebrate the balance of light and dark as the sun begins to tip the scales, and the return of new growth is near.

The spiritual philosophy of the Mother Grove Temple is one of respect for, worship of, and communion with the Divine envisioned as Goddess. We believe that the form of energy we call Goddess encompasses the entirety of the Universe and includes the male principle, the female principle, and all other expressions of gender. We vision the Goddess as both a Divine unity and a multi-faceted expression of that unity, so that expressions of the Divine as Goddess can be both monotheistic and polytheistic.

Mother Grove Wish List

If you feel a desire to contribute but are a bit short on cash, we will joyfully welcome the following gifts when you arrive to enjoy a public ritual:

Copy paper
Printer ink
Office supplies
Children's craft supplies
Pantry donations
Altar decor
Ritual volunteers
Temple care volunteers

Places to go, things to do:

[Membership](#)

[Grow your own Herbs](#)

[Ostara](#)

[Donate](#)

[Equinox](#)

[Which Goddess are you?](#)



What's happening...



Morning Devotionals
every Sunday at the
Temple

Drumming at 10

Service begins at
10:30

All are welcome.

Devotional Schedule

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays
of each month we will be
there to offer space for a
quiet time of meditation.

The 2nd and 4th Sundays
of each month we will
hold a more structured
ritual service.

February 4, 2012
7pm
Tending the Flame
Parish Hall of the Cathedral of All Souls



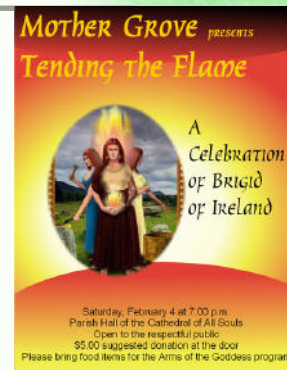
February 11, 2012
7pm at the Temple
Aphrodite's Night Out
Poetry and love foods in
celebration of the season.

March 17, 2012
Ostara



Various workshops and classes are held at the
Mother Grove. Visit the [Events](#) page on our
website for details.

We also post events, happenings and
invites on our [Facebook](#) page!
Join us!



Mother Grove Temple
PO Box 8031
Asheville, NC,US,28814
Call: 828 230-5069

Email: info@mothergroveavl.org

The Mother Grove is a federally approved 501(c)(3) non-profit
Church. All contributions to Mother Grove are tax deductible!