

ADF Northwest

July 2015

FROM THE REGIONAL DRUID

I would like to start out by thanking everyone who supported me during the past election and have the confidence to do the job. Regional druid is a position I've held several times in the past (2007-2008, 2010-2012), so I'm familiar with the functions of the office and looking forward to working for the region once again. I also want to take a moment and thank the previous regional druid, Caitlin, for working hard for the betterment of the region. As many already know I have appointed a deputy, Victoria Selnes (Leona Oigheag). She is working really hard to put wonderful things together for us, including this beautiful newsletter. Victoria is also in charge of keeping the NW website up to date. I am very grateful for her help.

One important event that has made a comeback is our annual Eight Winds Festival. The festival will be held at the amazing Blue Mountain Event Center (<http://www.bluemountainpresents.com/>). They've installed new showers and they continue to make this facility one of the premier pagan retreat centers on the west coast. The event is only \$30 per person, and there is food for purchase on a per meal basis. I'm very excited about our festival returning this year, and we are working on a plan to make it a sustainable event for the coming years.

We will once again host a hospitality room at Pantheacon next February. Stay tuned for more info on that.

Finally, I have reached out to each and every Proto-grove Organizer and Grove Senior Druid, and I will continue to do so. I am easy to get in contact with, and I try to reply as soon as it is possible. I look forward to working together with our regional leadership to continue our evolution and growth as a Neopagan Church in Isaac's vision. My contact info is seanthedruid@gmail.com and 916-288-5673.

Blessings,
Sean

FROM THE EDITOR

I'm thrilled to be your Deputy Regional Druid and editor for the Newsletter. Our previous Regional Druid, Caitlin, did a great job at starting the regional Newsletter, and we're happy to be able to continue the trend!. If you have any submissions, suggestions or feedback, please email me at leonaigheag@gmail.com.

Summer is here! With Summer comes warmth, growth, and celebrations in the park! Whatever Hearth you follow, take this time to connect with the energy of life and growth!

Blessings of the Sun be with you all!
Victoria S (Leona Oigheag)

BLESSINGS FROM GAIJA'S GARDENS!



For Summer Solstice, we rededicated our swimming pool with our annual Pool Blessing Ritual. The ritual included offerings and thanks to Poseidon and the Water Spirits. In addition, each year I include a personal craft made in honor of Poseidon to the space. Last year's craft was a banner made in his honor. This year's craft was a mural that I painted on an outdoor wall by the swimming pool. We also attached an outdoor altar shelf to that wall, which proved very helpful during the Blessing Ritual.

Happy summertime to all!

- Janet Furr-Kalpakoff

COLUMBIA'S HELLENIC SUMMER SOLSTICE

Visitors, Friends and Members of Columbia Protogrove, happy Summer Solstice to you all!

Columbia Protogrove, ADF held our Hellenic (Greek) Summer Solstice/Midsummer celebration to Helios on the afternoon of June 14th 2015 and our Grove was blessed with a glorious display of the Sunshine so fitting of this radiant High Day!

With an attendance of 30 wonderful guests and Grove members ranging from children to adults and including several new faces, our Celebration to Helios was an amazing representation of the beautifully diverse and spirited community of worship we have here in this area.

This marks the third ritual for Columbia Protogrove graced by our growing Bardic choral group and we continue to thank them endlessly for their contribution to each ritual.

This rite was lead by members Jonathan and David, however, members Mama Gaea, Arin, Amber, and Tigress also lead and wrote several parts of the ritual as well making this rite a wonderful Grove collaboration and a continued display of our Grove teamwork and dedication.

This Summer Solstice, we invited the Goddesses Gaea as our Earth Mother, Goddess Columbia as our Sovereign Goddess, Goddess Hestia of the hearth and hospitality, the Nine Muses for inspiration, Goddess Athena as our Warrior, God Hermes as our Gatekeeper, and Helios, the sun, as our deity of the occasion.

We toasted Helios in traditional Hellenic fashion, sang



Columbia Protogrove Summer Solstice 2015



Columbia Protogrove Altar

together, gave offerings and raised energy as the sun shone above us as the center component in our rite.

Our Seer for this ritual was Mama Gaea who drew from the Gaian Tarot deck.

Our Omen's from the Kindreds for this ritual were:

Ancestors

Lovers Reversed - We haven't been connecting to our Ancestors as much as they would like. They are here to help us, so we need to take the time to connect with them and listen to the messages they have to tell us. They want to help guide our lives. We just have to let them. Fostering that relationship takes time, but it is worth it.

Nature Spirits

Guardian of Water Reversed - Our connection to our deep well of emotions is blocked. There are parts of our emotional body that need to be broken free and released. If we bring that up to the surface and give it to the Ocean, She will take our pains away and transform them to heal us.

Gods and Goddess

Ace of Fire - This is the time to latch onto our Creativity; exactly what the main ritual was about in invoking the 9 Muses. The Summer Solstice is about Fire, and Fire is passion and creativity. So find that one creative outlet that gives you JOY. If you practice that which gives you the most joy, that is what you are meant to do, and don't allow anyone to take that joy away from you.

PROTOGROVE OF THE ETERNAL FLAME

We thank everyone who could join us and to all those who have supported us in our Hellenic Summer Solstice 2015 ritual!! If you missed it, we hope to see you at one of our future rituals! We invite everyone to join us for our Irish Lughnasadh on July 26th!

Thank you again to our wonderful community from the Members of Columbia Protogrove, ADF. Without you, we could not do what we do!

Blessed Solstice Everyone!

~ Amber McCarley

Protogrove of the Eternal Flame Omen Summer 2015



PG of the Eternal Flame held their Summer Solstice Rite at 5 Mile at Bidwell Park. Our Diety of the Occasion was Áine. We asked for Her blessings, but also her mercy.

We were so happy to have friends return to celebrate with us.

Blessings

Jessica Hunt
GO of Protogrove of the Eternal Flame
Chico, CA



Protogrove of the Eternal Flame Altar

Here in California, we continue to be plagued by drought. Please be mindful of our impact on our world and try to cut back on your water use.



Flowers in the Garden by Victoria Selnes

TLA REV KIRK THOMAS SUMMER SOLSTICE RITUAL

Several members and friends of Columbia Protogrove were able to attend Archdruid Rev. Kirk Thomas Summer Solstice Ritual at Trout Lake Abby Druid Sanctuary on June 21st 2015.

We are truly thankful for the amazing landscape of the Sanctuary and the spectacular ritual performed by our very own Arch Druid.

We invited and made sacrifices to the deities of the occasion, Taranis in hopes of rain and petition against excessive lightning and potential wildfires in our current drought state and Sulis the Goddess of the Sun at the time when the days are the longest and the nights are the shortest. We also burnt a Wicker Man full of things attendants wanted to "be rid of" and hopes for what they would like to bring in to their lives this Summer Solstice. The weather was perfect and we were graced by the most spectacular sunset as Sulis went to bed. All the while Mt Adams seemed to glow in the background and frogs made their presence very known!

Columbia Protogrove members and friends are thankful for the hospitality from Trout Lake Abby and we look forward to Lughnasadh in August!

For more info on Trout Lake Abby check out the website at: <http://www.tlabbey.com/>. Columbia Protogrove tries to have a presence at each of the High Days at Trout Lake Abby, follow our Facebook events if you would like to go up with us!

~ Amber McCarley



The Druids of the NorthWest Region
of Ár nDraíocht Féin Present



July 23-26
EIGHT WINDS FESTIVAL 2015
Blue Mountain Event Center
7250 Mitchell Mill Rd
Wilseyville, CA 95257

Learn with us at this intimate regional event!

Learn with
Workshops and Presentations
Shop our Vendors
Share our Bardic and
Drum Circles

For more information and to register check out
our website

[http://adfnorthwest.weebly.com/
eight-winds-2015.html](http://adfnorthwest.weebly.com/eight-winds-2015.html)

All are welcome!

Fees: \$30 for adults; \$20 for kids 10+

This event is a cash only event. Beer, Wine, Mead, Cider only.
Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash & please pick up after
them