



A newsletter of EarthLove Fellowship: a Grove of FoDLA



Reflections of the Rev – Our Pact with the Land

By Rev. Linda Costello

The time of Lughnasadh is the last of the summer festivals and the first of the harvest festivals. The god, Lugh, for which Lughnasadh is named, is honored with the first fruits of the harvest.

As a young man Lugh travels to Tara to join the court of king Nuada of the Tuatha Dé Danann. The doorkeeper will not let him in unless he has a skill with which to serve the king. He offers his services in turn as a wright, a smith, a champion, a swordsman, a harpist, a hero, a poet and historian, a sorcerer, and a craftsman, but each time is rejected as the Tuatha Dé Danann already have someone with that skill. But when Lugh asks if they have anyone with all those skills simultaneously, the doorkeeper has to admit defeat, and Lugh joins the court.

Lugh instituted a harvest fair during the festival of Lughnasadh in memory of his foster-mother, Tailtiu, held on 1 August at the town that bears her name (now Teltown, County Meath). Horse races and displays of martial arts were important activities at all three fairs.

However, Lughnasadh itself is a celebration of Lugh's triumph over the spirits of the Other World who had tried to keep the harvest for themselves during the Battle of Magh Tuireadh, where he defeats Balor and spares the life of Bres on the condition that he teach the Tuatha Dé how and when to plough, sow and reap.

At this time, we remember and renew our pact with the land as we reap the bounty so generously granted to us.

Grove News

EarthLove Fellowship continues to do public ritual for each high day. Our Summer Solstice ritual was a grand testament to Aine, and Lughnasadh put our hero-God Lugh in the spotlight.

We are seeing more and more new faces at our rituals, which is exciting. We love offering an opportunity for folks to celebrate the turning of the year.

In the Ancient Celtic Studies Discussion Group, we have finished Patrick Ford's translation of the Mabinogion and we are making progress with Ronald Hutton's new book, Blood and Mistletoe.

In late July, Avery and I attended the FoDLA annual conclave in southern California. We had some very inspiring panel discussions, which are serving to move us into the next phase of our growth.

As of Lughnasadh, EarthLove Fellowship now has a board of directors. It is comprised of Avery Goodman, Randy Pitcher and his wife, Cindi Pitcher, and myself.

Blessings of the harvest,

Rev. Linda

Schedule of Events for 2009:

High Day Rituals

*Held at El Dorado Park
77th St and McDowell Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251*

- Imbolc - 1/31 @ 5:00
- Spring Equinox - 3/21 @ 5:00
- Beltane - 5/2 @ 6:00
- Summer Solstice - 6/20 @ 7:00
- Lughnasadh - 8/1 @ 7:00
- Autumn Equinox - 9/19 @ 7:00
- Samhain - 10/31 @ 6:00
- Winter Solstice - 12/19 @ 5:00

Ancient Celtic Studies Discussion Group

8:00 PM
*Held at Comic Zone
5909 N Granite Reef Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85250*

- Jan 5, 19
- Feb 2
- Mar 2, 16
- Apr 6, 20
- May 4, 18
- June 1, 15
- July 6, 20
- Aug 3, 17
- Sep 7, 21
- Oct 5, 19
- Nov 2, 16
- Dec 7, 21

6th Night Blessing Rites

Blessing Rites will be held on the 6th night following the new moon. *Locations and times TBA*

- Jan 1
- Feb 1
- Mar 4
- Apr 1
- May 1
- May 30
- June 28
- July 28
- Aug 26
- Sep 23
- Oct 24
- Nov 22
- Dec 22

Please call for more information. 602-722-2562



ELF Seeds is a quarterly publication of EarthLove Fellowship: a Grove of FoDLA.

This issue was written and edited by the Reverend Linda Costello.

Future issues will include advertising. Please contact Rev. Linda at 602-722-2562 if you have any questions.

*EarthLove Fellowship:
a Grove of FoDLA
PO Box 10706,
Phoenix, AZ 85064*

Tips for more sustainable living

By Linda Costello

Five Ways to reduce energy consumption

1. Change all of your light bulbs to LEDs. LEDs (light emitting diodes) use only a fraction of the electricity of incandescent bulbs, and although they are more expensive, they last for over a decade. And unlike CFL bulbs, they contain no mercury. They also operate cooler, so that helps to decrease temperatures in summer months.
2. Insulate those drafty windows and gaps under the doors. This will significantly decrease both heating and cooling costs, sometimes by as much as 30%.
3. Buy new Energy Star appliances. I know from experience that an old coffee maker can consume power that is equivalent to the output from four solar panels. In fact, use a French press instead of a drip coffee maker.
4. Unplug unused electrical items. They draw energy even when not in use. These are called “vampire loads” and add significantly to your energy consumption. Use smart power strips to shut off items not in use.
5. Turn off lights when you leave a room.

Three Alternatives to Toxic Cleaning Products

1. Baking Soda
Baking Soda neutralizes odors and makes a great air freshener and carpet deodorizer. It can also be used as a non-abrasive cleanser on countertops, sinks, bathtubs, and even ovens. It is safe to use on fiberglass surfaces. When a cup of baking soda is added to a load of laundry, it will neutralize both perspiration odors and chemical smells.
2. White Vinegar and Lemon Juice
Both of these substances are acidic and will neutralize alkaline substances. They kill mold, germs, and bacteria. They will dissolve hard

water scales, gummy buildups, and will remove dirt from wood surfaces

3. Bio-Degradable Liquid Soaps and Detergents
Both can be used to cut grease, but detergent is designed not to react with hard water minerals. If you do not have hard water, then the more natural liquid soap is preferable.

IN THE NEWS

Clean Green Cheap Solar Power

I have recently heard about a new technology that should revolutionize solar energy.

An Australian scientist, Nicole Kuepper, PhD, has inadvertently stumbled upon a new type of solar cell that is cost effective and easy to manufacture. Ms Kuepper is a 23-year-old student at the University of New South Wales. She calls her new solar cell the iJET.

An iJET is made by taking a silicon solar cell and spraying on a lacquer similar to nail polish. A substance that is similar to nail polish remover is inkjet printed onto the surface in a set pattern that enables high-resolution patterns to be created at a really low cost. The pattern is then metalized with an aluminum spray and baked on at a temperature of 550 degrees Fahrenheit.

Currently, solar cells are manufactured by using high-tech, high cleanliness equipment, which inhibits developing countries from being able to make them. This new technology has far-reaching possibilities for revolutionizing energy consumption world-wide, even here in the United States.

I look forward to hearing more about this.

Source: <http://www.npr.org>

CLASSIFIED ADS



COMIC ZONE
Scottsdale's Best Comic Book Store

5909 N. Granite Reef Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
480-483-2685

<http://www.ComicZoneAZ.com>

GRAPHIC DESIGN
AND
ILLUSTRATION

ANDY COSTELLO
480.710.0423



EMAIL:ANDY@PSYCHOANDY.COM



QUALITY CHAINMAILLE
JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES

All items are created by
Randy Pitcher
480-636-8846

For more information, email:
randy@chainedbychoice.com

<http://www.chainedbychoice.com>



Wholistic Prosperity
Abundance in Mind, Body, and Spirit

Linda Costello, M.Ed.
602-722-2562
Linda@LCostello.com

Seminars, Classes, Life Coaching

Office: The SMART Center
4131 N. 24th St. #C210,
Phoenix, AZ 85016

<http://www.LCostello.com>