



A newsletter of EarthLove Fellowship: a Grove of FoDLA



Reflections of the Rev – The Thin Veil

By Rev. Linda Costello

Samhain is a special high day. Most pagans believe it marks the beginning of the new year. This makes sense when one looks at the fact that the ancient Celts measured a day from sunset to sunset. It would be logical to assume they marked the years in the same way – where the new year would start as we enter the dark time of the year.

First and foremost, Samhain marks the turning of the seasons from autumn to winter, and would correspond to the time of sunset if one placed the wheel of the year over the course of a day.

The ancient Celts also considered Samhain its own three-day long month. It's a time between time, a place between a place. It truly does mark the point where the veil between our ordinary reality and the Otherworlds is the thinnest.

Many cultures celebrate their ancestors at this time of year. In some cultures, the holiday is known as The Day of the Dead. Even Halloween got its start from the custom of marching through the

streets in costume to frighten away any of the lesser desired creatures of the dead that may be roaming on such a night. On the other hand, it was, and is, a joyous celebration of the reunion with our loved ones who have passed over.

It is very common to leave out a plate during the evening meal on the eve of Samhain, and the first parts of the meal are placed on the plate for the ancestors. It is a great blessing to welcome them into our homes at this time of year.

My own mother crossed in October 2003, so Samhain is especially poignant for me. I feel very connected to her at this time of year, and welcome our customs that allow me to honor her presence.

May your own Samhain be filled with warmth and blessings.

With bright autumn blessings,

Rev. Linda Costello

Grove News

EarthLove Fellowship continues to do public ritual for each high day. We are dedicated to serving the public by providing an opportunity to celebrate the turning of the year.

In the Ancient Celtic Studies Discussion Group, we have almost done with W.B. Yeats book, Irish Fairy and Folk tales. We have been enjoying it very much.

Blessings Rites have been held each month, just around the 6th night after the new moon (sometimes on the 1st quarter). Our blessing rites are usually held at Agua Linda Park. The theme is to be announced on our yahoo group list. Please join the group for announcements of all of our events.

EarthLove Fellowship had a booth at Pagan Pride Day in Phoenix, and I was fortunate enough to do an hour-long talk about Druidism. It was well attended and our mailing list is growing.

EarthLove Fellowship's board of directors include Avery Goodman, Randy and Cindi Pitcher, and myself.

Blessings of the crispness of autumn,

Rev. Linda



Schedule of Events for 2010*

High Day Rituals

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

- Imbolc - 1/30 @ 5:00
- Spring Equinox - 3/20 @ 6:00
- Beltane - 5/1 @ 6:00
- Summer Solstice - 6/19 @ 7:00
- Lughnasadh - 7/31 @ 7:00
- Autumn Equinox - 9/19 @ 6:00
- Samhain - 11/6 @ 5:00
- Winter Solstice - 12/18 @ 5:00

Ancient Celtic Studies Discussion Group

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
7:00 PM

Held at Comic Zone
5909 N Granite Reef Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

- Jan 5, 19
- Feb 2
- Mar 2, 16
- Apr 6, 27
- 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 are held at Agua Linda Park in Scottsdale, AZ on the 6th night following the new moon.

- Jan 23 @ 7:30 pm
- Feb 21 @ 5:00 pm
- Mar 23 @ 7:30 pm
- Apr 21 @ 7:30 pm
- May 19 @ 7:30 pm
- June 20 @ 5:00 pm
- July 17 @ 7:30 pm
- Aug 15 @ 5:00 pm
- Sep 15 @ 7:30 pm
- Oct 13 @ 7:30 pm
- Nov 13 @ 7:30 pm
- Dec 12 @ 5:00 pm

*Note: all times may be subject to change. Please check the EarthLove yahoo group for announcements of changes.



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

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

Please contact Rev. Linda at 602-722-2562 for information regarding advertisement in our publication.

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

Creating a Sustainable Living Community

By Linda Costello

It's been a dream of mine for over two decades to have a spiritual center. In the past ten years, it's been modified to be off-grid.

Here are the basic plans

- 10+ acres of land
- A dining hall
- A dormitory area
- Camping areas
- An organic garden
- Chickens
- Goats/Sheep – for milk, cheese, wool
- Ponds with tilapia
- A meditation chapel
- Outside ritual area
- A stage area in an enclosed space
- Separate off-grid homes for permanent residents
- A classroom area

The vision is that we will grow our own food as much as possible and that is what is served in the earthship dining hall.

The dorm area will be a large earthship with sleeping quarters for 20. The area will be able to be divided with cloth barriers for privacy, and which can be opened or closed to make larger or smaller spaces.

The camping area will be treed, and near the pond.

The livestock will be kept in a separate area, but we will be using permaculture as much as possible on the land, and chicken tractors will play into that.

We will also be using rainwater harvesting and have outdoor shower areas as well as outdoor composting toilet areas.

The meditation chapel will probably be straw bale or cobb.

The ritual area will include a stone circle and a central fire area.

The stage will be in a half-shell type of setup where tents can be put up for weather.

The classroom area will be a two story earthship with separate rooms where different sorts of classes can be taught indoors. There will also be designated classroom structures outside.

The permanent housing must be off-grid, and as sustainable as possible. They will be away from the main retreat center area, but close enough to interact. Each person who builds a permanent home will be responsible for all costs and upkeep associated with that home.

My goal is to have something that is a permanent residence to about 6 core families, and after that, people can come and go for a ritual, a performance, a class, a weekend, a week, a month, a season.

I'd like the place to offer performances to both participants and to the public in theater, dance, song, music, etc.

I'd like to see classes in how to live sustainably, in personal development, and in various aspects of spirituality.

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