

Stone Creed Grove A.D.F.

Stone Facts – The Stone Creed Grove Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2016 – Serving the Gods, the Land, and the Folk for over 25 years

Stone Creed Grove, ADF is a congregation of neo-pagan druids located in the Cleveland, OH metro area. As a chartered grove of *Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship*, an international organization for public neo-pagan druidry, we hold public rites regularly throughout the year to honor the religious rituals of our Indo-European ancestors. Our public rites are open to all regardless of background or current religious belief.

Upcoming Rite: Spring Equinox

Sunday, March 20, River Grove, North Chagrin Reservation

As the sun returns, the folk gather to prepare for the planting season, that our coming year will be fruitful! The equinox was a time when ancient peoples would come together to celebrate the first signs of new growth in the fields, and we as a grove honor that tradition by giving gifts and worship to the deities who make the land fruitful once again. May our blessings bring prosperity to all the folk of the grove in the coming year!

Folk of the grove have the opportunity to prepare colored hard-boiled eggs to be blessed in the rite, and may also bring seeds for a pre-planting blessing. After the rite, we will share in our customary pot-luck feast.



Upcoming Rite: Beltaine

Sunday, May 1, Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

In the beginning of May, the veil between our world and the Otherworld grows thin, and we gather to celebrate the newly fertile land! The Feast of Beltainne is our opportunity to honor Aine Glas, the Green Earth who brings renewed life, and Aengus Og, the Harper whose music awakens longing and fulfillment. We also pay special attention to the Sidhe-folk of the land, and the erotic urges that come with the season.

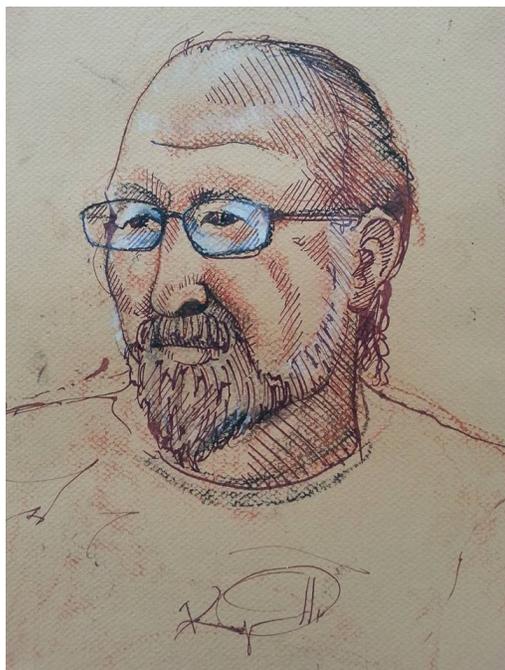
After the rite, we take the opportunity to dance around the Maypole, a symbol of the fertility of the season. We will also have our usual pot-luck feast following the rite.



Monthly Blessing Rites

Blessing rites are normally held on the first and second Friday of each month, at 8:30 PM. First Friday rites are held at Spirit Apothecary in Bedford, while second Friday rites are at Goddess Elite in North Olmsted. Blessing rites are an opportunity for members to engage in regular religious practice and work magic to improve their lives and the lives of others.

Remembering A.J. Gooch Feb 24, 1968 – Feb 28, 2016



Rev. AJ Gooch, age 48, of Eastlake, Ohio suddenly passed into The Summerland at 4:02 pm on February 28, 2016, at Euclid General Hospital from a suspected pulmonary embolism.

AJ was ordained as a priest of ADF in 2010, Senior Druid of Stone Creed for many years, current Seneschal of the Shire of East Watch in the SCA (former Seneschal of the Barony of the Clefthlands), an A.C.E. organizer for Starwood Festival, and principle leader of the North East Ohio Drum Jam. Despite physical handicaps, his energy and enthusiasm had a lasting impact on everyone he touched. His departure from the earthly plane has left a void in the hearts of the many who loved him.

AJ is survived by his wife, Stephanie; son, Madoc; daughter, Sydney; mother and stepfather, Jackie and John Szemenyei; stepmother, Denise; brother, Michael and sister, Andrea (Perry) Sundberg. He was preceded in death by his father, Tony.

His family has requested that first energies be put into his mutual passions to keep them alive, but monetary donations be made to the organizations that were part of his life, including: Tredara (tredara.org), Stone Creed Grove (stonecreed.org), ADF (adf.org), or the Starwood Festival (www.rosencomet.com/jeff.html). Please donate your energy & passions wherever makes sense to you in his honor.

The Wellspring Gathering 2016

Thursday, May 26 – Monday, May 30

New Location: Tredara Retreat Center, Madison OH

As you may have already heard, we are in 2016 moving the Wellspring Gathering from its former location at the Brushwood Folklore Center in Sherman NY to our very own Tredara Retreat Center in nearby Madison. We are proud and excited to for the first time provide our altars and our hospitality to ADF's leadership and membership from around the world!

All the usual Wellspring activities beloved by many will be continuing: The ADF Annual Meeting. The competitions for Artisans, Bards, Brewers, and Warriors. The activities of ADF interest groups, kins, orders and guilds.

There are also some truly special occasions planned. This year, we will be building an Ancestor Mound in the clearing near the pavilion, and installing the sixth Archdruid of ADF.

We strongly encourage Stone Creed Grove members and friends to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet members of our wider organization, and our chance to show our many visitors our quality hospitality.

Schedule of Events, Spring 2016

March

- **East Side Blessing Rite 3/4** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **Memorial for A.J. Gooch 3/5** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 3. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison.
- **West Side Blessing Rite 3/11** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 3/18** 8:00 PM.
- **Spring Equinox Celebration 3/20** Gather at 2 PM, workshop at 3, ritual at 4:30 PM. River Grove (near Squire's Castle), North Chagrin Reservation, Willoughby Hills.

April

- **East Side Blessing Rite 4/1** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 4/8** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 4/15** 8:00 PM.

May

- **Beltaine Celebration 5/1** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4:30 PM. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison
- **East Side Blessing Rite 5/6** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 5/13** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 5/20** 8:00 PM.
- **Wellspring Gathering 5/26-30** Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

June

- **East Side Blessing Rite 6/3** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 6/10** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 6/17** 8:00 PM. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison
- **Midsummer Celebration 6/19** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4:30 PM. Tredara Retreat Center, Madison

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