

# Stone Creed Grove A.D.F.

## Stone Facts – The Stone Creed Grove Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2015 – 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: Yule*

**Sunday, December 20, River Grove, North Chagrin Reservation**

In the darkest time of winter, we keep the Fire of Blessing lit and call for the Waters of Life! The Feast of Yule is the holy turning of the year established by Norse ancestors, and we keep this time to remember Yngvi Frey and his sister Freya, long-time patrons of our sacred Grove, as well as giving honor to all the Aesir who aid and guide us. We also take the opportunity to make personal oaths for the coming year.

We will have our usual pot-luck feast following the rite. At Yule, we encourage frith by a White Elephant gift exchange (under \$10 value, please), and the singing of songs from our Yule song collection. Drumming and dancing is especially encouraged.



### *Upcoming Rite: Imbolg*

**Sunday, January 31, River Grove, North Chagrin Reservation**

At the far edge of winter's deep, we light the Fire of Blessing and call for the Waters to flow! The Feast of Imbolc is the holy rite of the Goddess of Hearth and Skills - Brigid the High One, and also of her father Dagda, the Druid of the Gods. In this season we give thanks for the blessings we have received through the winter, and ask for the blessing of new strength, health and inspiration for the coming spring.

We will have our usual pot-luck feast following the rite. We will also once again renew our Grove Oath, and hear the oaths of those who might be beginning our training and practice.

### *Monthly Blessing Rites*

Blessing rites are normally held on the first and second Friday of each month. 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. **January's blessing rites will be held on the second and third Friday due to New Years Day.**

## ***Yule Time***

<i>When the Yule time approaches</i>	<i>For twelve days it will burn</i>	<i>We'll give silver and oils</i>
<i>As a people come we</i>	<i>And the season will turn.</i>	<i>And our finest mead</i>
<i>To light the Yule log</i>	<i>We will share celebration and mirth</i>	<i>So the Gods and spirits will aid us</i>
<i>From the Yule tree.</i>	<i>With Danu, Goddess Mother of Earth.</i>	<i>When it's time to sow seed.</i>
<i>We can gather "all heal" (mistletoe)</i>	<i>To the Gods we'll make offerings</i>	<i>A gift for a gift</i>
<i>From around the sacred oak</i>	<i>To help us ensure</i>	<i>A poem and a rhyme</i>
<i>And adorn our dwellings</i>	<i>That now the days will grow longer</i>	<i>Are a few ways we celebrate</i>
<i>While the fire we stoke.</i>	<i>Our gifts will be pure.</i>	<i>This blessed Yule time.</i>

**- Ray Liptak**

## **2015-6 Leadership Announced**

Stone Creed Grove is managed by an elected group of officers who are supported by many volunteers. There are several volunteer opportunities still open for those who wish to be more involved.

Without further ado, introducing our officers and volunteers for the 2015-6 year:

**Senior Druid:** Keith "Darius" Madden - Beginning his second year as Senior Druid, Keith has previously served as Pursewarden and Assistant Senior Druid. Within our parent organization ADF, he is active in the People of the Purple Feather, an LGBT focus group.

**Assistant Senior Druid:** A.J. Gooch – A.J. has been involved with Stone Creed Grove for decades, and has served in many offices including Senior Druid. A.J. manages much of the pastoral care and community outreach for Stone Creed, does much of the site improvement work at the Tredara Hearth Society, and is in demand as a musician.

**Pursewarden:** Rev. Sue "Liafal" Parker-Wyndham – Sue is an ADF priest and long-time leader in Stone Creed Grove. In our parent organization ADF, she has served on the board of directors among many other roles. She also is key to managing the Tredara Hearth Society, and an accomplished singer.

**Scribe:** David "Thexalon" Kleinschmidt – Dave is beginning his third year as Scribe, having previously volunteered as webmaster. In our parent organization ADF, he serves as secretary of the Bardic and Hellenic groups.

**Membership Coordinators:** Weasyl and Charlie Saratoga. They maintain the membership listing and collect dues.

**Hospitality Coordinators:** Ygraine Wilmott and Shannon Kovach. They manage potlucks and coffee.

**Firekeeper:** Brian Wilmott. He ensures that ritual and social fires are lit and safe.

**Webmaster:** Charlie Saratoga. She assists with running stonecreed.org.

**Associated Priest:** Ian Corrigan. As a Senior Priest of ADF, Ian provides religious ritual, counsel, and training.

**Open Volunteer Positions** – If you are interested in getting involved, we are looking for:

Newsletter Editor: Responsible for ensuring that an issue of the newsletter is ready to go every 3 months.

Keeper of the Grove: Responsible for managing the physical setup of our ritual space.

Children's Activities Coordinator: Leads efforts to provide educational and entertaining activities for our youth

# Schedule of Events, Winter 2015-6

## November

- **East Side Blessing Rite 11/6** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **Samhain Celebration 11/8** Gather at 2 PM, workshop at 3, ritual at 4:30 PM. River Grove (near Squire's Castle), North Chagrin Reservation, Willoughby Hills.
- **West Side Blessing Rite 11/13** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 11/20** 8:00 PM.

## December

- **East Side Blessing Rite 12/4** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 12/11** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 12/18** 8:00 PM.
- **Yule Celebration 12/20** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4:30 PM. River Grove (near Squire's Castle), North Chagrin Reservation, Willoughby Hills.

## January

- **East Side Blessing Rite 1/8** 8:30 PM. **(Second Friday, rather than First Friday)** Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 1/15** 8:30 PM. **(Third Friday)** Goddess Elite, North Olmsted
- **Monthly Business Meeting 1/22** 8:00 PM.
- **Fifth Friday 1/29.** Activity To Be Announced.
- **Imbolg Celebration 1/31** Gather at 2 PM, ritual at 4:30 PM. River Grove (near Squire's Castle), North Chagrin Reservation, Willoughby Hills.

## February

- **East Side Blessing Rite 2/5** 8:30 PM. Spirit Apothecary, Bedford
- **West Side Blessing Rite 2/12** 8:30 PM. Goddess Elite, North Olmsted

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