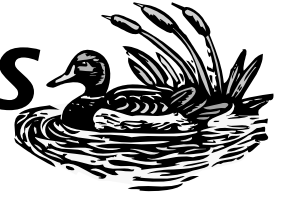




# Shining Lakes News

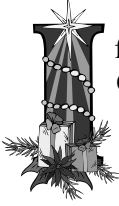
A Newsletter for Shining Lakes Grove, A.D.F.



Yule 2009

Vol. 17, No. 1

## And It Only Took Seven Years!



I finally managed to attend my first ADF Clergy Council Retreat this year. It was a great chance to spend time with my fellow clergy members from around the continent (and meet many of them for the first time), discuss important ADF issues, and to do ritual with them. I love our Grove's public rites dearly, of course, but there's definitely something special about a ritual where everyone is very experienced and knowledgeable about what we do in ritual, and why. I'm glad I got to go (thanks to Jessie Olsen for paying for my bus fare there) and I hope I can be at next year's as well!

One particular reason why that weekend was so special for me personally dates back to 2002, before the Clergy Council had ever held a retreat weekend. At Wellspring that year, I was initiated as an ADF Dedicant Priest, with full rights to marry and bury and all of that clergy stuff, with the understanding that I would need to finish the First Circle of the Clergy Training Program within three years of it being written . . . once it *was* written, of course. When it was approved by the Council of Lore, well, I admit it wasn't the top priority in my life, compared to stuff like looking for work or handling my Grove activities. Last October was the absolutely-must-have-it-done-or-you-can't-be-clergy-any-more date, and after a year of doing the work for two courses every two months, I somehow managed to get all of the written work done. The one thing I hadn't done was send in my college transcript to verify my study of an Indo-European language (Spanish in my case), and since it was only three days until the retreat, I chose to bring it and hand it personally to my advisor rather than risk snail-mailing it. So on Friday night of the retreat, as I handed in the transcript, I officially finished my First Circle work!

My reward for this accomplishment is that I now have three years to finish my Second Circle work, which is less writing but more practicum. Well, I knew going into it that ADF is all about emphasizing research and learning, and more so for its priests, so I can't act all surprised about it now. At least this

time I know to set deadlines to make sure I get it done!

For those of you curious, you don't need to be interested in joining ADF's clergy to take part in ADF's study program. Our Dedicant Path (which most people think sounds better than the old term "Dedicant Program" but I kinda prefer the latter) is open to any member of ADF, takes about a year (sometimes less if you already have experience with other Pagan groups), and covers basic concepts of household worship, meditation, and research. I often refer to it as a "Pagan GED," both because it covers these basics and because it's required before taking part in the other programs.

Once you've finished that, you can participate in any of the Study Programs that ADF's Guilds have created. The Bardic Guild and Liturgists Guild have had study programs for a long time, and it looks like the Healers' Guild will actually have one soon, after many years of working on it. The Scholars, Naturalists, and Artisans also have programs.

There's also the Clergy Training Program if you're called to that path as I am, and the Initiate Program, which covers much of the same material but from a perspective personal practice rather than group practice. If we can finally get ADF Vice ArchDruid Kirk Thomas to attend ConVocation, you can ask him about it then!

And as always, I will offer to hold Dedicant Path study group meetings if at least two of my Grovemates ask me to do so. I'm not interested in sitting alone for two hours a month waiting for people to decide they want to take part—yes, even I, the computer gamer, have enough of a life that I don't want to do that! But if I know that there's interest, then it's important to me to make sure our Grove continues ADF's mission of educating our members in ritual and study.

Yours in service to the Kindreds and the Grove,  
Rev. Rob Henderson,  
Senior Druid



# Io Saturnalia!

## The Ancient Roman Celebration

By Valerie Hartzler

One of the most famous, if not *the* most famous holiday celebrated by the ancient Romans was the Saturnalia. Originally Saturnalia was celebrated on December 17 as a one-day feast in honor of the God Saturnus, the God of winter sowing; his name was derived by the Romans from *seata*, “seed,” and he was associated with the legendary Golden Age of Man (Jones and Pennick, 39). Modernly, it seems that Saturn’s name may have had Etruscan origins and Saturn was associated in antiquity with purification festivals (Jones and Pennick, 39). The feast of Saturnalia was traditionally held from December 17 through December 23 and was extended by Caligula and Claudius to five days and eventually to seven days (Ramsey).



The festival began with a great religious ceremony at the temple of Saturn in Rome—which ended with the chant *Io Saturnalia!*—followed by a great public feast (Adkins and Adkins, 200). At this feast, togas were discarded for tunics or special dinner clothes, the *synthesis*, and “household slaves were waited on by their masters as though the Golden Age had returned when all men were free, but the Lord of Misrule appointed to preside over the feast as a kind of mock-king may have been a reminder that during the *Saturnalia* everything was turned upside down” (Cowell, 187).

During Saturnalia all businesses closed—including the courts and government offices—and people were allowed to gamble openly in public, which was banned otherwise (Adkins and Adkins, 200). In addition to wearing informal attire people also wore soft caps or *Pillei* (Adkins and Adkins, 200). Feasting, merriment, and gift-giving were the core activities for Saturnalia. Gifts included pickled fish, sausages, beans, olives, figs, prunes, nuts, cheap wine, wax tapers (called *cerei*, which were thought to be symbolic of eternal light) were common (Matthews and Matthews, 23 and Cowell, 187). Small clay animals called *Signillaria* were common gifts to give to children (Matthews and Matthews, 23). It was also common for wealthy patrons to give gifts of clothing and silverware to their clients (Cowell, 187).

Boughs of greenery, laurel trees, and lights, which were used to decorate the homes and streets during the Kalends of January (modern New Year), are thought to have been used during Saturnalia as well (Matthews and Matthews, 80). According to Matthews and Matthews the Romans moved the customs popular at the Kalends of January onto Saturnalia in addition to those already existing, and in the fourth century AD the festivities were moved by the church back to the Kalends of January (24). John and Caitlin Matthews also theorize that the use of pine may have been influenced by the cult of Cybele, an Anatolian (modern Syria) deity who became associated with the pine tree, under which, according to the mythology, her consort castrated himself (55).

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- Adkins, Leslie and Roy D. Adkins. *Dictionary of Roman Religion* Oxford University Press, 1996 .
- Cowell, F.R. *Life in Ancient Rome* Perigree Books, 1961.
- Jones, Prudence and Nigel Pennick. *A History of Pagan Europe* Routledge, 1995.
- Matthews, John and Caitlin Matthews, *The Winter Solstice: The Sacred Traditions of Christmas* Quest Books, 1998.
- Ramsey, William. “Saturnalia” *A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*, John Murray 1875. Page 1009. As seen on the website:  
[http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/secondary/SMIGRA\\*/Saturnalia.html](http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/secondary/SMIGRA*/Saturnalia.html)

Rob has a new  
phone number!  
(and so does the  
Grove!)

(734) 277-1897

## SLG Leadership Council

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No e-mail access? Contact our officers at our snail-mail address or phone number.

*Shining Lakes News* (©2009) is published by Shining Lakes Grove, ADF, PO Box 3901, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106, (734) 277-1897. For information about *SLN*, contact the Chronicler at gstoyak@hotmail.com or (734) 262-1462. For information about Shining Lakes Grove, please contact the Senior Druid at (734) 277-1897 or by e-mail at robh@shininglakes.org, or visit [www.shininglakes.org](http://www.shininglakes.org).

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# Grove Calendar: Yule to Spring Equinox

## Rituals

**An Bruane:** Rituals and advanced spiritual exploration for those who wish to go beyond the standard High Day rites. Members only, please. *1/27, 3/31, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

**Liturgists' Roundtable—Ritual Planning:** Help us plan our Imbolc and Spring Equinox rituals. All welcome. *1/20, 2/3, 3/3, 3/17, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

**Fire Lighting Ceremony:** We gather together to kindle the hearth fire and take it to our homes, to tend through the night and bring to the ritual. *2/5, 3/19, 7-9 pm at Rod/Liz's*

**Imbolc Rite:** Come join us as we honor Bríd, our Grove's goddess of community and the hearth. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. *2/6, 2-5 pm at Friends*

**Spring Equinox Rite:** Come join us as we honor Ana, our Grove's river mother. There will be a raffle and potluck after the rite. (And bring any seeds or gardening tools that you would like blessed!) *3/20, 2-5 pm at Friends*

## Social Events

**Coffee Hour:** Join us for our monthly discussion of interesting topics. *1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 7-10 pm at Borders*

## Meetings

**SLG Business Meeting:** Discussion of general business and setting of the calendar. *1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 7-9 at Borders*

## ConVocation 2010

"ConVocation is a convention of the many mystical spiritual paths and faiths who desire to teach each other and promote fellowship among all esoteric traditions. Since 1995, this 4-day event has brought together over 100 classes and rituals presented by local instructors, internationally renowned guest speakers and authors. Along with workshops, ConVocation offers over 40 tables of merchandise in our Merchant Room, an Art Show and the largest indoor Drum Circle in the Midwest. In our 16th annual event, our theme will focus on the Tower I Tarot card. Our theme is Surviving the Storm. Join us as we discover what gifts will emerge during emergencies and strengthen both our practical and magickal survival skills." (And don't forget to stop by the SLG Suite!) *2/18-2/21, Ramada Plaza, 5500 Crooks Rd., Troy*

## Helping the Huron

**Stonefly Search:** Join a team that searches for stoneflies in creeks to learn about stream conditions in the Huron River. (You must register in advance for this! [jmartin@hrwc.org](mailto:jmartin@hrwc.org) or 734-769-5971) *1/30, 9-3 pm or 10-4 pm, meet at NEW Center*

## Run for your lives—the Biddies are coming!

The Brídeog is our annual Imbolc tradition, in which the rowdy (maybe not too rowdy) Biddies travel from house to house with our Bríd dolly, demanding an offering of non-perishable food items (later donated to Food Gatherers) and bringing a Bríd Cross (made from the Grove's own wheat straw) and the goddess' blessings to our homes. This year's Brídeog will be on the evening of January 31st. If you're interested in being a Biddie, or having us visit your home, contact Rob at [robh@shininglakes.org](mailto:robh@shininglakes.org) or (734) 277-1897.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11	12	13 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	14	15	16
17	18  MLK DAY	19	20 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	21	22 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	23
24	25	26	27 7-9 An Bruane Rod/Liz's	28	29	30 <b>Brideog</b> 9-4 Stonefly Search NEW Center
31	February 1	2	3 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	4	5 7 PM Fire Lighting Rod/Liz's	6 2-5 <b>Imbolc</b> Friends
7	8	9 s	10 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	11	12	13
14  VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16  PACZKI DAY	17	18  CONVOCAATION	19  CONVOCAATION	20  CONVOCAATION
21  CONVOCAATION	22	23	24	25	26 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	27
28	March 1	2	3 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	4	5	6
7  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	8	9	10 7-9 Business Mtg. Borders	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 7-9 Liturgist RT Rod/Liz's	18	19 7 PM Fire Lighting Rod/Liz's	20 2-5 <b>Spring Equinox Rite</b> Friends  SPRING BEGINS
21	22	23	24	25	26 7-9 Coffee Hour Borders	27

**Addresses:**

Borders Books and Music: 3527 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor  
 Friends Meeting: 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor

NEW Center: 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor  
 Rod and Liz's: 263 Larkspur, Ann Arbor, 998-1029