

AUTUMN EQUINOX 2012

Three Cranes Grove

# Crane Chatter

A collection of works put together by the members of Three Cranes Grove, ADF



## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition!!!

Three Cranes Grove celebrated their 10th Anniversary this past Fall Equinox. The ritual was very moving as we again honored Teutates, God of the Tribe, and our Grove Patron. Garanus helped us to open the Gates, and our members reveled in putting on an excellent ritual full of allusions and gentle nods to our past 11 years.

### Save the Date!

#### Samhain

**October 28, 2012**

Sharon Woods  
Metro Park at the  
Spring Hollow  
Lodge at 3pm.

#### Yule

**December 16, 2012**

Battelle Darby  
Metro Park at the  
Cedar Ridge  
Shelter at noon.

#### Imbolc

**February 3, 2013**

Blacklick Woods  
Metro Park at the  
Beech Maple  
Lodge. Time TBD.

## From the Editor

Beloved Cranekin,

Another Anniversary come and gone, and this time our 10<sup>th</sup>! Wow! That is a huge accomplishment for any group, and especially a pagan group. Give yourselves a pat on the back. In addition to our usual collection of works, this issue also has some special "Anniversary Edition" treats.

Also, congratulations are in order for Missy Burchfield, becoming the first ADF member to be ranked within the Bardic Guild Study Program as an ADF Master Bard. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Many congratulations and thanks as well are in order for our newly re-elected Scribe and Pursewarden: Tiogar (aka Lisa Lea) and Paul Wasson.

Now, as the heat of summer is coming to an end, and the fresh crispness as fall breathes into the air, set some time aside in your schedule to see the work that your Grove mates have put together to offer you!

Brightest Blessings!

~Jan "Skylark" Avende

# Around the Fire with the Senior Druid

~ Tanrinia

## “A Decade of Doing it Differently”

As I write this, I am drinking my coffee and thinking about starting to get ready for the Grove's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration/11<sup>th</sup> Autumnal Equinox rite. What Mike and Joe started in the dark with no flashlights and a ritual script has truly blossomed into an organization that, we hope, allows pagans in Central Ohio to come and celebrate their faith publicly, to awake the gods and spirits of old, to forge new ties to our ancestors, and to renew the old bargains between people and spirits for a better world. Lofty goals? Maybe, but as our international organization says, “Why not excellence?” Of course, we don't always get it right, and we're still learning. We are still human after all. As we reflected on the last ten years we came up with a list of mistakes we had made....or were there?

Some of them bring laughter as we relive moments that are now hilarious, even if they weren't at the time. (Or were they?) Some raised eyebrows at first, but when we go to rituals with other groves and hear and see things we did first, despite skepticism... well, that IS its own reward. Therefore I bring to you, with the assistance of many, many others, “A Decade of Doing it Differently.”

1. Naming our grove “Three Cranes.”
2. Outdwellers playing Twister
3. “You're too young to write chants.”
4. Asking a nature spirit to open the gates
5. Allowing women to have a say in our rituals.
6. Being too serious. And not serious enough.
7. Out-publishing ADF publishing.
8. Advancing through study and piety.
9. Pushing bacon.
10. Swearing oaths on farm implements.

So there you are. Coming soon to a T-shirt near you. Want to know what they mean? Well, if you're coming to the *Universal Life Expo* at Vets Memorial in Columbus on October 13, the grove has reserved a room at the Spaghetti Warehouse, just down the street, for an informal meet and greet we've been calling “Coffee moots,” but in this case maybe it's more of a “Pasta moot.” Either way, come to the *ULE*, and then join us after the show closes that night for food and fellowship. Blessings of the harvest be upon you!



## Lessons from the Ancestors

~ Traci Auerbach

I have often found that when I lose my way, it takes a moment of reflection to hear the voice of the kindred in my life. Like most people, my days are filled with the sounds and thoughts of the day, even losing myself to the internal metronome of my inner voice running a tally of appointments and things to be done. By the end of the day, I want to unwind and emotionally offload the day, usually with television or video games. This constant stream of input fills nearly every minute of my life, keeping me distracted and often times, disconnected from the voice of the Kindred in my life.

As is often the case, being pulled from my routine and stilling the thoughts often running rampant in my head is a jolt to my system when personal piety starts to wane. I try to put off meditation when I feel life is too busy and make excuses for why I can't take ten minutes or less out of my day to center, still myself and listen to the wisdom in the world around and within. It seems to sometimes take a departure from my routine to put me back into the right space.

It is such a situation that I wanted to write about.

Usually for earth day, I try to find an activity that gets me outdoors and working with nature. This year though, I volunteered for a clean up day at the Ohio Historical Society's Ohio Village. I used to volunteer there years ago in high school and college as a living history "actor". I had fond memories of the place and when they closed down, I was crestfallen. So when I heard they were

opening again after ten years, and I had a chance to help spruce the place up on Earth Day, I jumped.

It was overcast and mostly chilly with a light misting that made everything perpetually damp. But the crew set to sanding the paint off of the playground and school building so they could be repainted for the new season. I've never been terribly handy around the house, but sanding was something I could do without much fear and see pretty immediate progress. I started with paper, and then moved to a sanding block. When the power tools were produced, I jumped at the chance to try them. The noise of the machine overpowered conversations of the other volunteers and I was quickly pulled into a state of hyper focus. The task at hand was both drawing all my attention and drawing me inward.

Not only was I away from my normal routine, but also I was doing a completely foreign task. I was able to concentrate both on the job before me and at the same time, allowed for a bit of introspection. I thought about how good it felt to break up my routine and really do something with my hands. I thought about my fond memories of the village and how I hoped my work would help create fond memories for others. And before long, my focus was drawn towards the actual work I was doing.

Having no experience with woodworking, I thought about my grandfather. A man who died when I was two, but I've been told had a great fondness for me. He was a carpenter

who had his own flooring company. He was incredibly handy and worked on the staircases of the Ohio Theatre. So as I worked, I prayed to him and envisioned him at my side, teaching me to use the tools in my hands. It wasn't long before the work became a moment shared with my grandfather, allowing his wisdom to come to me to learn a lesson.

I could imagine him telling me to hold the sander at a certain angle, I could practically hear him chuckling and saying "Away from your face, little girl...that dust will get in your eye."

An intense amount of emotion welled up in me, imagining him teaching me a bit of his life's



Wild Pan  
Design courtesy of Christina Marvel

work. I spent time with my grandfather with whom I was not able to share this moment while he lived. And so I sunk into the experience and spent time listening to the voice of the ancestors and was able to take a step out of my life and see how they manifest in my life.

Thinking about the symmetry of it let me see the events that put me in that moment. My father, the son of previously mentioned grandfather, took me there as a child and I had a great memories with him there. That drew me to volunteer there as a young adult. That same love brought me back as an adult to help bring happy memories to future families through the doors. And due to that desire, I was able to share a few hours woodworking, something I'd never have done before. And in doing so, was able to have a very special experience with my honored dead.

In my experience, it is the gentle hand of the ancestors that guides the living through our good and bad memories and bonds to gather us in small stretches of time. They work through the living using ties of blood and friendship to lead us to their lessons and wisdom. And when they do, I've found the instants so profound that I feel truly humbled and grateful.

In closing, I suggest that we allow ourselves time away from everyday life, to let the ancient wise guide us. And give us very real opportunities to hear their wisdom and share in their lessons.

(I love you grandpa!  
Love, Your little Nik)

# The Prayer Room

A collection of prayers, songs, and poems by  
Three Cranes members.

## Kindred Morning Prayer ~Traci Auerbach

Kindred three, I call to thee,  
As I begin my day.  
May virtue reign and wisdom gain,  
As good fire lights my way.

## Teutates

~Irisa MacKenzie

Beautiful Gardner!  
Vessel of the sun, moon and stars  
light illuminates light  
casting needed shadows for growth

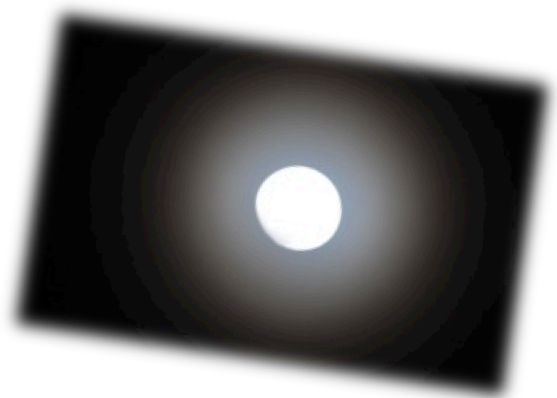
Reverence of the cycles  
turning of the moon  
tides of power  
tied to cycles of life

Gentle smiles caress my soul  
wisdom reflected in my eyes  
scented breezes caress my skin  
enlivening the senses

Cycles of the heart  
drive me toward your arms  
heights of emotion carry on the air  
releasing, refreshing, connecting

spinning magick under your light  
reflected in the illumination of my spirit  
the fire within shining as a star from the heavens

illuminated with wisdom from the heavens  
I turn my attention to the garden before me  
planting seeds of piety, visions of the realm  
between land, sea and sky



## Kindred Evening Prayer ~Traci Auerbach

Kindred three please come to me,  
As I lay down to sleep.  
May rested mind and peace I find,  
In guarded slumber deep.

perseverance the key to this bountiful garden  
Fertility comes to those who have the courage  
to walk the realms between  
knowledge found in following the natural  
cycles and rhythms,  
integrity guides my actions on whether to tend  
the garden or allow the garden to go fallow  
Hospitality granted to those who heed the call  
of Ghosti

Gentle Gardener, I heed your call  
By your example I tend the gardens of  
fellowship  
branches reaching toward the heavens  
roots deep into the earth  
touching the sacred waters below

Here I stand  
at my sacred center  
illuminated by the sun and moon  
nourished by the sacred waters below  
tended by Teutates

## Dagda Prayer

~Tanninia

Dagda Mor, Good God  
 Keeper of the Undry, the Cauldron of Plenty  
 Holder of the Club of Life and Death  
 Player of the sacred harp, Uaithne, the four angled-music.  
 I greet you this day.

Eochaidh Ollathair  
 May I be reminded of all the blessings I have.  
 May I live this day in the moment  
 May your song awaken my soul and my spirit.

Dagda Mor, Good God, Eochaidh Ollathair, I give thanks for the night  
 And I ask your blessings, protection, and wisdom for the day.

## Sweet Song of the Sea

~Jan "Skylark" Avende

The sea breathes in and out.  
 A tide of longing calls to me.  
 I swim out and sink into your depths  
 Breathing water as easy as air.  
 Flying through ocean's waves.

Poseidon: hold me, cradle me, drown me, save me.  
 Show me visions of truth and magic.  
 Teach me ways to flow and dance.  
 Your waters course over me, rush over me.  
 Purifying me and making me new.

The sea breathes in and out  
 Surging waves crash through the jetties in my mind.  
 A maelstrom of force and power overtakes me.  
 Standing in the turbulence of a raging waterspout.

Poseidon: hold me, cradle me, drown me, save me.  
 Be kind, be gentle: I hear your words.  
 Not just the crashing waves.  
 I hear you on the calm bay and the surging storm.  
 Fill not my eyes with salty tears.

The sea breathes in and out  
 Lapping gently on the shore.  
 Storms passed now; driftwood remains.  
 Bring me back to safety, swimming free,  
 Not washed up here as wreckage.



Poseidon: hold me, cradle me, drown me, save me.  
 I will speak for you, learn from you  
 As a creature of your seas.  
 Let me float on your surface,  
 Not be pulled under by your riptide.

The sea breathes in and out.  
 The sound so calming for some.  
 I lay in the sand and listen to your voice.  
 I sing your sweet song of the sea.  
 Of your magic, and vision, and emotion.  
 Sweet and Awful Poseidon:  
 Wavebringer. Earthshaker.

## A Coven's Call

~Irisa MacKenzie

Odin, master of Hugin and Munin  
years ago you answered a coven's call  
by the fire we stood hoping for a glimpse of your  
majesty

One child had never heard of you  
looming over her, you revealed in her fear  
a warrior's heart broke through her fear  
and she stepped into your presence

the smile that was initially grotesque became beautiful  
and from your eye the world was ablaze  
time passed without her recollection

the ritual ended, she returned to the mortal world  
changed in ways she could yet imagine  
ravens haunting her dreams and guiding her steps

years passed and the ravens were never far  
the sound of the corvus bringing joy to her heart and  
the tinge of magic to her touch

many dreams came and went  
often with her knocking on your door  
so she may once again fly with Hugin and Munin  
her favorite companions

years pass and she meets another raven  
his mistress a Celtic warrior  
yet together their ravens take flight and  
family is borne

too quickly their time passes and  
he is called home to Valhalla  
but from him she learned the way of the Viking  
and they name her the lucky ravyn

Lost without him she relies on the night flights  
on with those does she retain her sanity  
for a year and a day, she cares for all those he left behind  
her own world at a standstill

## A Prayer for Clear Vision

~Jan "Skylark" Avende

Apollo Mantikos, guide my hand.  
See with my eyes, Hear with my ears,  
Speak with my voice.  
Apollo Mantikos, what wisdom and blessings do  
the Kindreds offer?

transformed upon the year and a day  
she crosses the mist back to the land of the living  
forever changed by his absence

old ways no longer comfort  
new roads must be found  
the paths are hard for she can no longer deny the  
path of the raven

magic abounds and with magic is self realization  
and self knowledge  
the beauty of her soul shines forth, truth spilling  
from her lips  
her words enflame the souls around her  
the fires of illumination bring forth new kin and  
burn away the dross

around the fires of transformation she dances  
under the moon and sun she sings  
Hugin and Munin her guides  
forevermore



## Kore: Phoenix Maid

~Jan "Skylark" Avende

Picking flowers in the sun  
Heat so sweet it melts my heart.  
Such innocent love of nature,  
For the girlish peals of laughter  
As they ring out across the fields.

The desire to spend every moment outside  
In these fresh new days,  
In the sun I've missed so long.  
This desire leads me on, into the heat  
To be kidnapped by the summer.

A hand of oppressive warmth  
Clapped over my mouth  
Stifling me, dragging me down.  
Rippling waves of heat glow  
Over my body, across my mind.  
How these flames look so like waves,  
Like the wind sweeping over fresh meadow grass,  
And yet they burn, burn, burn.

Your passion is too much.  
You try to get so close to me  
Not realizing how it burns.  
Your touch wilts my flowers;  
My lovely, growing garden dies at your hand.

The closer you get to me  
The more of me you burn.  
Embers don't make good jewels.  
They cannot replace my sunflower eyes  
And silken, wheat hair.

So burn.  
Burn away my girlhood  
As you make me woman.  
No spring rains can put out this fire you bring.  
So I dampen my soul and hide it away  
So that it might survive  
And rise from the ashes into me anew.



## Teutates

~Melissa S Burchfield  
ADF Master Bard

Carefully, the gardener tends his trees  
One by one, inspecting all the leaves  
Removing all the parts outgrown  
Encouraging new life to grow  
Letting all the green parts see the light  
Teutates, gentle God of all the Tribe

Scattered seeds, he gathered us in his hand.  
Rooted deep, the seedlings now strongly stand.  
With love and care through all the years,  
In good and ill he perseveres,  
to see us grow 'til we are all crowned high.  
Teutates, steadfast Tender of the Tribe.

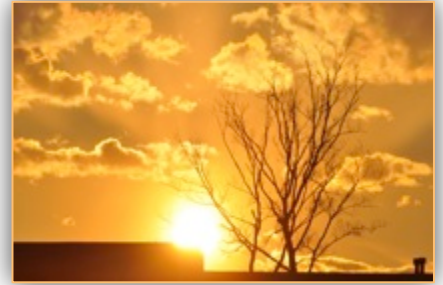
Known to each in his or her own way,  
Healing us, protecting us,  
Beside us day to day  
He guides us on the Elder path and  
makes our futures bright.  
Teutates, Mighty Keeper of the Tribe.

Teutates, Consecrate our humble Grove  
Illuminate us, stir our very soul  
Inspire us with strength and fire  
Infuse us to our heart's desire  
Drench us and suffuse us with your rains  
Teutates, Mighty Patron of the Cranes.

Known to each in his or her own way,  
Healing us, protecting us,  
Beside us day to day  
He guides us on the Elder path and  
makes our futures bright.  
Teutates, Mighty Keeper of the Tribe.  
Teutates, in your arms we're satisfied  
Teutates, Unifier of the tribe.

## Ushas, Shining Dawn

~Jan "Skylark" Avende



O, Daughter of the Sky, dancing in the light arising from darkness  
 I stand entranced by your beauty,  
 Your radiant form laying across my mind just as it drapes across the sky.  
 Rosy gold droplets stream down your freshly bathed limbs, bright and beautiful maid,  
 As you waken the pious spirits to sing your hymns.  
 Rekindling my heart just as you rekindle Agni each new day  
 Burning hot and strong in me, just as you do on earth.  
 I court you, O brilliant maiden, as you shower me with your riches,  
 Singing praises with my voice just as the sky itself sings colors for you.  
 Breath and life of all, awaken all to motion as you dance across the rim of the world.  
 Goddess of the ever-rising sun, glowing in radiant splendor,  
 Never far from my thoughts, never far from me.  
 Ushas, Bright greetings of the morning!



Three Cranes Grove 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 Design courtesy of Christina Marvel

# *Clutiā Trion Garanonon*

## “The Fame of Three Cranes”

It is a long-standing Three Cranes tradition to add a stanza to our Grove poem each year for our Autumnal Equinox anniversary rite. That stanza is added as the second-to-last stanza.

Rev. Jenni Hunt, our first ranked bard, started this tradition and it charts our history beautifully. We hope to continue this tradition for many, many years, and we hope that the bards of Three Cranes, as well as the bards of ADF, will keep this poem in their memories and will tell it to others.

This is the poem as repeated at the Three Cranes Grove, ADF, Autumnal Equinox ritual, 2012.

Once scattered kernels, random strewn,  
Unfertilized, asleep, unkissed,  
Lethargic, lurking, latent bloom  
Columbus craved a catalyst.

New generation, gumption aimed  
Its fertile minds and thirsting souls  
Have rooted grove, Three Cranes benamed.  
Its spate of growth this Bard extols.

By Kindred sown, a seedling stand  
The budding beauty sprouted, surged.  
Assisted by the gardener's hand,  
Its roots grew deep, its branches merged.

New fruit of labors just begun  
With common vision splices hearts;  
Enlightened minds may meld as one —  
The whole is greater than its parts.

With blood and sweat Cranes served with mirth;  
We honored Buffett, Saturn, Soul,  
Toys, canned goods, banners, growth in girth  
The Gods screamed, "Grow into your role!"

Three years' new rings; we're in a groove —  
A teenage tree with growing pains,  
Its awkwardness we need improve  
And root into pristine terrains.

Through angry waters and winds of change  
As one we light communion flames  
Our course is chartered; our branches reach  
Our bards and brewers are awarded fame

Our leaves stretch forth to shelter friends,  
Blessings abound: the omens good.  
One Priest called forth, one Priest called home,  
Strengthening *Ghosti*, as we should.

Each moon we meet `neath robur's crown  
And celebrate what members bring  
Through work and deed our voices sound  
We stand as one, our gardens sing

Our trunk grows strong, our numbers soared  
Through fifty rites we've served our folk  
Transforming ways we're moving toward  
Wrapped tightly in Crane-feathered cloak

Initiate, clergy ordained in the rain  
With unison call we guide the folk true  
Our Bard brings home the oaken crown  
The wise Founder's vision moves forward anew

Our harvest shared with kith and kin  
We serve the folk in referent mirth  
Hands are joined, new life does begin  
Fires draw the Children of Earth.

A siege of cranes a decade old  
As many-feathered flocks unite  
Blessings of three, visions of gold  
While Pagan Fires are burning bright.

Teutates, consecrate Three Cranes,  
Electrify us to the core  
With fire inspire; with nurturing rains  
Suffuse us, drench us one year more!

# The Greek Alphabet (Lymrian) Oracle

~Jan "Skylark" Avende

ΑΑ	ΒΒ	ΓΓ	ΔΔ	ΕΕ	ΖΖ	ΗΗ	ΘΘ
<b>Alpha</b>	<b>Beta</b>	<b>Gamma</b>	<b>Delta</b>	<b>Epsilon</b>	<b>Zeta</b>	<b>Eta</b>	<b>Theta</b>
30-30	29-28	28-27	27-26	26-25	24-24	23-23	22-22
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9
ΙΙ	ΚΚ	ΛΛ	ΜΜ	ΝΝ	ΞΞ	ΟΟ	ΠΠ
<b>Iota</b>	<b>Kappa</b>	<b>Lambda</b>	<b>Mu</b>	<b>Nu</b>	<b>Xi</b>	<b>Omicron</b>	<b>Pi</b>
21-21	20-20	19-19	18-18	17-17	16-16	15-15	14-14
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
ΡΡ	ΣΣ	ΤΤ	ΥΥ	ΦΦ	ΧΧ	ΨΨ	ΩΩ
<b>Rho</b>	<b>Sigma</b>	<b>Tau</b>	<b>Upsilon</b>	<b>Phi</b>	<b>Chi</b>	<b>Psi</b>	<b>Omega</b>
12-13	11-12	10-11	9-10	8-9	7-8	6-7	5-5
100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800

The system of divination that I use most often is the Greek Alphabet Oracle. There are three traditional ways of using this system.

The first way is through the drawing of lots. Traditionally this would have been done with pottery fragments, each inscribed with a letter. This is the method that I use, drawing inscribed wooden disks from an opaque bag. I found that pottery fragments were both too brittle, since I had no way to fire them, and the shapes weren't uniform enough, removing some measure of objectivity.

The second method is through the casting of five knucklebones, or *astrogaloi*. There are four "sides" of a knucklebone, and each is given a value (1, 3, 4, and 6). When those values are added together they correspond to a letter. There are 24 possible different sums, between 5 and 30, with 6 and 29 being impossible.

The third method is similar, except that it uses five six-sided die, rather than bone. The possible values are again between 5 and 30, with both 13 and 25 being uninterpretable from a reconstruction standpoint. Generally, the die will be recast, though some may choose to interpret 13 as having to do with sacrificed and resurrected Gods (i.e.: Dionysos) and 25 as having to do with perfection (being the square of 5) (Sophistes).

Each letter in the alphabet oracle correlates to a phrase containing a key word that starts with that letter. Below I've written the phrase that goes with the letter in italics, as well as the phrase I wrote to add some of my own insight while maintaining the structure that these omens were taken in. I had the phrases that I wrote begin with the same letter, or at least sound, so that as I was learning them it would be easier for me to remember.

Many thanks to Apollonius Sophistes for his research into the Oracle.  
 Sophistes, Apollonius. "A Greek Alphabet Oracle." *A Greek Alphabet Oracle*.  
 Biblioteca Arcana, 2005. Web. 23 July 2012.  
 <<http://web.eecs.utk.edu/~mclennan/BA/LAO.html>>.

## The Oracle

**Alpha:** *“The God [Apollo] says you will do everything {Hapanta} successfully.”*  
All you do is successful.

**Beta:** *“With the help of Tychê [Fortune], you will have an assistant {Boêthos}, the Pythian [Apollo].”*  
Because you asked for help.

**Gamma:** *“Gaia [the Earth] {Gê} will give you the ripe fruit of your labors.”*  
Gaia gave what you need. Harvest it.

**Delta:** *“In customs inopportune strength {Dunamis} is weak.”*  
Deciding how to act and when strength is necessary.

**Epsilon:** *“You desire {Eraô} to see the offspring of righteous marriages.”*  
Eager to see the results of union.

**Zeta:** *“Flee the very great storm {Zalê}, lest you be disabled in some way.”*  
Zeus causes the storm: flee before his anger.

**Eta:** *“Bright Helios [Sun] {Hêlios}, who watches everything, watches you.”*  
Every word you speak, Helios knows the truth.

**Theta:** *“You have the helping Gods {Theoi} of this path.”*  
Throughout your journey, you will have the gods help.

**Iota:** *“There is sweat {Hidrôs}; it excels more than everything.”*  
If you lose all else, your hard work remains.

**Kappa:** *“To fight with the waves {Kuma} is difficult; endure, friend.”*  
Keep on enduring the inevitable with courage.

**Lambda:** *“The one passing on the left {Laios} bodes well for everything.”*  
Learn that blessings come from the most unsuspecting places.

**Mu:** *“It is necessary to labor {Mokhtheô}, but the change will be admirable.”*  
Much good will come through labor and toil.

**Nu:** *“The strife-bearing {Neikêphoros} gift fulfills the oracle.”*

Notice when strife has come, for it is a sign.

**Xi:** *“There is no fruit to take from a withered {Xêros} shoot.”*

Expectations should be rational.

**Omicron:** *“There are no {Ou} crops to be reaped that were not sown.”*

Only what you plant will yield a harvest.

**Pi:** *“Completing many {Polus} contests, you will seize the crown.”*

Perseverance through adversity will win many battles.

**Rho:** *“You will go on more easily {Rhaion} if you wait a short time.”*

Remain a short while and you will proceed more easily.

**Sigma:** *“Phoibos [Apollo] speaks plainly {Saphôs}, ‘Stay, friend.’”*

Stay and hold your ground.

**Tau:** *“You will have a parting from the {Tôn} companions now around you.”*

Travelers must eventually part ways.

**Upsilon:** *“The affair holds a noble undertaking {Huposkthesis}.”*

Understand whether you should seek a noble quest, or whether your quest is being hindered.

**Phi:** *“Having done something carelessly {Phaulos}, you will thereafter blame the Gods.”*

Fate is yours alone – take responsibility for it and do not blame the Gods.

**Khi:** *“Succeeding, friend, you will fulfill a golden {Khruseos} oracle.”*

Completion of your goals is excellent.

**Psi:** *“You have this righteous judgment {Psêphos} from the Gods.”*

Suitable judgment has been passed down by the Gods.

**Omega:** *“You will have a difficult {Ômos} harvest season, not a useful one.”*

Onerous times await you.

# Toasting the Three Kindreds

~Tiogar aka Lisa Lea

There are some opportunities that come along that one simply does not pass up... Toasting the Kindreds over a horn longer than your arm (okay, maybe not **Your** arm, and certainly not **MJD's** arm – I saw it with my own eyes – but, longer than **My** arm...) in the most marvelous and historically accurate Mead Hall I've ever seen (okay, it's the only Mead Hall I've ever seen, but I've seen pictures...) is most assuredly one of those opportunities.

Where, oh where, you say, does one encounter this opportunity? Go to the Festival of the Midnight Flame hosted by the Grove of the Midnight Sun in Bellaire, Michigan. I can promise you, without reservation, it is one of those warm fuzzy experiences you carry with you for the rest of your life. And, the following is what I said (or meant to say) during a very spiffy part of mine... toasting the Three Kindreds during Sumble.

There was a fourth round as well, but I had run out of pretty words by then, except a for long, awkward string of syllables, the most coherent of which combined to say that my Cranes, and all of ADF, had become “that place that when you go there, they have to take you in... they had become Home.”

## Ancestors

I call to the Old Ones, our Ancestors,  
 To you of heart and hearth, of love and the land;  
 To you of kith and kin, of custom and culture;  
 To you of blood and battle, of life and liberty;  
 To you Mighty Heroes of service and sacrifice;  
 To you Ancient Wise of thought and memory;  
 To all you who have gone before,  
 And walked the path in your time,  
 That we may do so in ours.  
 Life flows from life, life flows from death,  
 Our lives flow from yours.  
 I call with deep gratitude for your love and  
 guidance,  
 And pray that those blessings continue in our lives.  
 Hail the Ancestors!  
**Nature Spirits**

I call out to the Land Wights, our Good  
 Neighbors,  
 You citizens and denizens of Nature,  
 You tribes of spirits with whom we share the  
 world.  
 You who dwell with us and beside us,  
 And teach us of your ways;  
 You creatures of all the realms,  
 You beings seen and unseen.  
 You of stone and soil, metal and crystal,  
 Of root and stem, fruit and flower,  
 Of fur and feather, scale and skin,  
 Life stands with life, kin beside kin,  
 Let us live in harmony with all the clans of the  
 land.  
 I call with gratitude for blessings received,  
 And in love of the All-Mother.  
 Hail the Nature Spirits!

## Patrons/Shining Ones

I call out to Brighde of the Bright Blessings,  
 Great Goddess of the Sacred Flame,  
 You Mistress of the Mantle,  
 You Poet, Smith, and Healer,  
 The sustaining flame of the hearth,  
 The inspiring flame of the poets,  
 The forging flame of the smiths,  
 The blessed flame of the healers.

And, I call out to Lugh Lamhfhada,  
 Long Arm, Long Hand;  
 Lugh Lonnbeimnech,  
 Fierce Striker, Sword Shouter;  
 Lugh Samildanach,  
 Master of All Skill and Art;  
 You Champion, Priest, and King,  
 You Poet, Smith, and Physician.

I call out to the Patrons of my heart and hearth,  
 With great gratitude for blessings received,  
 You guide me and protect me in all of life's trials,  
 You inspire me to courage and wisdom,  
 You inspire me to integrity and vision;  
 You inspire me to be more than I am...  
 Hail Lugh and Brighde!

## Seer for a Season

~Jan "Skylark" Avende

This past summer I had the privilege of being the Seer for our grove for all except one ritual. It happened by coincidence, but was an interesting experience that was both moving and eye opening. The role of Seer is very important in our practice as ADF Druids. The Seer is the person who communes directly with the Kindreds in ritual space, asking if offerings have been received and inquiring what blessings and advice are being given in return for these offerings.

With the assignment of Seer for each of these rituals for the past few months I've had the benefit of watching our omens morph and take shape from a very personal standpoint. There has been the benefit that I've used the same system (the Greek Alphabet Oracle) for every divination and that the bias for the omens has remained consistent for the past several months. (I point the latter out because I think that, while we can all agree that the Seer should not have bias and should not filter the omens through themselves, this element of Seeing can never be entirely removed.) I have been able to connect the omens from ritual to ritual together in a way that becomes more difficult if the same divination system is not used for each ritual, or if the Seer is a different person.

I have also had the benefit of the added insight that being Seer brings, because no matter how hard you try to capture all the messages that are flowing through you, there is only so much that words can convey. But with each successive ritual, and each successive omen, I still have all of that back knowledge to draw on, despite not being able to put it fully into words for others.

In addition, the benefit of using the same system for several rituals in a row is the ability to see what symbols were pulled multiple times, and how that repetition might imply a greater meaning. In this case the following were pulled only once: Omega, Khi, Rho, Gamma, Nu,

Mu, Delta, Iota, and Omicron. Sigma and Epsilon (stay friend and desire/fertility) were both pulled twice, and Phi (taking responsibility) was pulled three times.

From June through August in our Grove, we've had a similar theme in omens. Notably, for Summer Solstice we were cautioned to have patience for the coming months, knowing that what we desire will not be given to us immediately. Throughout the following months we were told multiple times, in many ways, to take responsibility for our actions, to strengthen our bonds with each other, and that it would take work and reflection to do both of those things.

We were also blessed with the guidance and protection of the Kindreds on this journey. I have found it telling that we were told first that our desire and fertility would win out, then to harvest the fruits of our labor. We were then offered protection and once again told that our desire and fertility would win out, but this time the message came mixed with caution regarding the strength of our ties to friends and family. We were then advised that only through hard work would we succeed, and that provided we put in the work, the outcome and the changes we all would undergo would be admirable, and it would be something we could all take pride in accomplishing. Further, if we failed, it would be our own doing.

And, as my mother always used to tell me "If at first you don't succeed: try, try again." We are growing and learning, ever guided by the Kindreds, and yet ever masters of our own fate.

Following, are the omens from Midsummer 2012 through Autumn Equinox 2012:

**3CG Summer Solstice @ Comfest: June 24, 2012 (Jan)**

Have our offerings been accepted?

Omega - No

At this point as I nodded to MJD, and he asked if anyone had forgotten to give an offering, or would like to make more, I noticed that some of the offerings we had set out on the altar were still sitting there. Jessie came up to offer those out, while a few others and I made additional offerings.

Have our offerings and their additions been accepted

Epsilon - Yes, the fertility of our gifts and our desire to continue giving rings out.

What blessing do the Kindreds offer the community?

Khi - They give us knowledge and wisdom to follow the right path. As they guide our steps to build a stronger community, we will succeed on our path.

What further needs do the Kindreds have of us?

Rho - We must have patience to know that we may not always get what we need or want immediately. Sometimes we must wait for the right moment and wait for the proper time and proper materials to best serve the Kindred, our own community, and ourselves.

Taken together: The Kindreds want us to come together and flourish as a community and walk the path of the Old Ways with the knowledge that what we need may not come to us immediately, but if we wait we will best serve them and succeed in coming together as a community.

**Equos Druid Moon: July 23, 2012 (Jan)**

Our Path: Phi - Careful steps.

Weigh the pros and cons to each decision to be sure the right choices are made. Look at your options.

Grove Focus: Sigma - Stay, Friend.

Think on what we can do to bind tighter our ties to each other and to the community as a whole. Hold each other close.

Individual Focus: Gamma - Gaia, the Earth and the Harvest.

You've sown the seeds, now is the time to reap your rewards. Take in all you've helped grow as it now reaches fruition.

Taken Overall: Consider all the seeds you've planted and look carefully at how they've grown. Use the harvest to bind us tighter as we reap our rewards.

**3CG DIF Lughnassdh, August 5, 2012 (Shawneen)**

From the Ancestors: Fern, The Alder: Guidance and shielding (protection)

From the Spirits of Nature: Huath, the Hawthorn: Protection and Cleansing

From the Shining Goddesses and Gods: Muin, the Vine: Inspiration

Taken together these might suggest: Protected, and purified by the kindred, we are guided by the lore of the ancients and inspired to vision by the Shining ones.



**Elembivios Druid Moon: August 22, 2012 (Jan)**

Have our offerings been accepted?

A wren called out in sweet, chirping song. We took this to be a good omen, that our offerings were accepted.

What is our path?

Nu: The Strife-Bearing Gift

We have been through a lot of rough times, struggling and fighting to make sense of things. We've experience a great deal of strife. Now it is time for us to look for the silver lining. What lessons have we learned from this? How can we use what we have learned to help others. Now is the time for us to look at our struggles as a gift that has not only made us stronger and taught us valuable lessons, but to also look into spreading that wisdom so that others need not experience the same strife as we have.

On what should the Grove focus for the next month?

Sigma: Stay, friend.

We are only as strong as the sum of all of us. The message is clear: we need to strengthen our bounds with each other. As families often do, they have a tendency to grow apart at times. We need to focus on building our ties between each other, support each other, and not give up on each other.

On what should each individual focus for the next month?

Epsilon: Desire Offspring of Righteous Union

There are things that we want to see. Now is the time to take our goals and dreams and begin making the steps towards making them a reality. This is the letter of fertility. Allow the forces of creation to bubble up in you, and flare in you, and allow you to make the changes you need to succeed at your goal.

Taken together, these omens suggest that we focus on combining our respective powers and gifts and lessons learned to maintain and strengthen our bonds as a folk so that we can unite to achieve our goals. "With our powers combined..."

**Hellenic Full Moon at Cranefest: August 31, 2012 (Jan)**

What wisdom and advice do the Kindreds offer?

Phi: "Having done something carelessly, you will thereafter blame the gods."

Take responsibility for your own actions. You can only control you and how you act and respond. Do not take responsibility for others actions, and do not blame others for your own actions.

What wisdom and advice do the Patrons of Magic offer?

Mu: "It is necessary to labor, but the change will be admirable."

It is hard work to make changes necessary for improvement, but it is something that needs to be done if anything is to get better. Intent alone is not enough to make change. Action is necessary.

What wisdom and advice do Asklepios and Epione offer?

Delta: "In customs inopportune strength is weak."

Sometimes the heavy-handed approach is not the best way to get things done. For things to heal, sometimes silence, patience, and waiting is the better option. If your true goal is to heal, then you may not want to try to force that healing, because it takes time.

Taken together the message is to accept the blame that is yours and release that which is not. The journey to change will be a lot of work, but worth it. Know when to stand up and speak and when to sit down and listen.

**Cranefest Hellenic Main Rite: September 2, 2012 (Jan)**

What wisdom and advice do the Kindreds offer?

Omicron: "There are no crops to be reaped that were not sown."

You must plant seeds first if you expect them to grow. And in planting them, you must also be willing to tend them and care for them.

What wisdom and advice does Zeus offer?

Phi: "Having done something carelessly, you will thereafter blame the gods."

Take responsibility for your own actions. You can only control you and how you act and respond. Do not take responsibility for others actions, and do not blame others for your own actions. Zeus is the bringer and enforcer of justice. Do not try to take his domain into your own hands. Control yourself, your actions, and your reactions without assigning blame to others for your situation.

What wisdom and advice does Hera offer?

Iota: "There is sweat; it excels more than everything."

To reach a place where relationships reach a balance, and a place of harmony, there is work that has to be done. It is hard work to grow and maintain a relationship, but if it something you love and care about, it should feel less like work because it is worth it. Hera helps create and defend healthy relationships, and reminds us that we can't simply rest and expect those types of relationship to fall into our laps. There is work that goes into creating them, and it is a labor of love.

Taken together the message is in building and sustaining relationships of all kinds remember to tend the seeds that you plant so that they might grow. There will be a lot of work to do, and all you can control are your own actions and reactions.

The path to peoples' hearts is a rocky slope that is hard to plant seeds of love on. But once planted, if tended with love and care (because doing what we love should not be work) they will grow to be beautiful flowers.

**3CG Fall Equinox 2012 @ Highbanks Mansion Shelter (Shawneen)**

What blessings do the Ancestors have for us?

Oir, the Spindle Tree: Blessings upon the individual hearths and homes of the folk

What blessings to the Spirits of Nature have for us?

Muin, the Vine: Inspiration for our continued work.

What blessings do the shining Goddesses and Gods have for us?

Onn, the Gorse: The shining ones give us all that we need to continue on our journeys.

Taken together these might signify the following:

"With or hearths truly blessed and deeply inspired to continue, the Kindred will aid us in obtaining that which we will need to continue on our journey forward to the next stage."

# How Prepared are you?

Assembled by Thorne

Remember being without power two years ago in the wintertime? What if we lived in Louisiana at the beginning of September? Would you be ready? I know that I would not be ready, not until I put several of the kits described in the attached article from *Lifehacker* by Thorin Klosowski.

How prepared are you? September is National Preparedness Month, with the following information you can begin to prepare and protect yourself, your friends and families and your community for the next emergency. Preparedness is a responsibility everyone shares in.

Empower yourself and help coordinate preparedness activities for your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers as well as those with whom you may study or worship. This year's theme is Pledge to Prepare, and you can prepare by joining the National Preparedness Coalition at <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, known as FEMA, has helpful websites that provide much helpful information regarding emergency preparedness at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and [www.ready.gov/be-informed](http://www.ready.gov/be-informed).

Other helpful web sites are the National Weather Service at [www.nws.noaa.gov/safety.php](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/safety.php), ReadyOhio at [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov) and Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

## Step 1: Be Informed

Your first step is to get informed. How much do you know about emergency preparedness? Do you know where to look? Do you have contact information? If you had to evacuate, do you know the approved routes?

Unfortunately, these are the type of questions that you might ask once an emergency occurs and it may be too late. Information is an important component to your preparedness.

Families may not be together when a disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance. How you will get to a safe place? How will you contact one another? How will you get back together?

Fire, flood and tornadoes are natural emergencies that could affect you and your family. Waiting until something happens is too late to make a plan. A plan can provide you a level of preparedness that just may save a life.

## Step 2: Make a Plan

FEMA has developed a helpful website that will guide you through the entire planning process: [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

Ready.gov has made it simple for anyone to make a family emergency plan. Download the Family Emergency Plan (FEP) and fill out the sections before printing it or emailing it to your family and friends. You should also inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: at work, daycare and school, faith organizations, sports events and commuting.

If no plans exist, consider volunteering to create one. Talk to community leaders, your colleagues,

neighbors and members of faith or civic organizations about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

### **Step 3: Build a Kit**

The FEMA website ([www.ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit)) tells you how to form a disaster supplies kit, which is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble a kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need, or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Remember to Be Informed, Make a Plan, and Build a Kit. National Preparedness Month is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

The above article came from my place of employment and the article below just showed up on *Lifehacker* the next day. I just put the two of them together – very valuable information here that could save someone's life, maybe yours or someone you love.

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Below is an article I found on Lifehacker that list nine situations that would be aided by a kit fully stocked and ready to go.

From *Lifehacker* – by Thorin Klosowski

## **9 Kits You Should Have in Your Home to Prepare You for Anything**

Thorin Klosowski

Disasters—whether in the form of natural disasters, tech emergencies, or a ripped seam in your only pair of dress pants—are all about preparedness. Here are eight kits you should keep in your home to prepare yourself for the most common emergency situations you might face.

Everyone has slightly different needs, and while a few of these (like emergency preparedness kits) are a good idea for everyone, some are more specialized depending on your needs. Still, variations on these kits should be useful for nearly everyone, so here they are, loosely ordered from least to most essential.

### **The Stain Removal Kit**

In [last week's open thread](#), reader [Ms Cass Lopez](#) suggests keeping a [stain removal kit](#) with the following items:

White vinegar  
 Baking powder  
 Nail polish remover  
 Liquid soap  
 Toothpaste  
 Goo Gone

Based on what [we've seen before](#), we'd also add lemon juice to the list, since it seems great for [a few different things](#). Photo by [Zach Klein](#).

### **The Office Survival Kit**

It sucks to spill coffee on yourself before a big meeting, or to suddenly split the seam of your pants on your lunch break. For this reason, [Simple Productivity](#) recommends you keep an office survival kit in your desk for emergencies. They recommend a few simple (and small) things:

[Sewing kit](#)

[Instant stain remover](#)

Basic medical supplies (painkillers, sinus tablets, stomach medicine, cough drops, etc)

A small toolkit (small pocket knife, a little screwdriver, nothing outrageous)

Depending on the type of work you do, you might also consider items like an extra tie, deodorant, mouthwash, or a lint roller.

### **The Sick Day Kit**

Getting sick stinks no matter what the situation is, but it's even worse when you suddenly realize you have no supplies. As we've mentioned before, this is all about stocking up on [cold medicine, and foods](#). Your exact choices for foods is going to vary (we'd recommend soups, teas, and other easy to cook, non-perishable items), but you'll also need a few different medicinal supplies:

Acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and aspirin

Dramamine

Benadryl

Imodium

Sudafed

Cold/Hot pack

With these supplies, you should be able to pull through any minor illness on your own so you don't have to call your mom for help. Photo by [Kelley Boone](#).

### **The Traditional Go Bag**

As the name implies, a traditional go bag is a single bag you can walk out of your house in case of an emergency. The bag should have survival supplies to keep you fed and with water for at least 72 hours. A few variations on the bag exist, including the [Bug-out bag](#) for hardcore survivalists, and the [Go Bag](#) aimed more at urban residents. Which type is better for you really depends on your [survival skills](#), and location. Regardless, here's what every go bag needs (and you can expand as needed):

Copies of important documents in waterproof container (photos IDs, insurance, etc)

Extra set of house and car keys

Bottled water (or water purification tablets) and non-perishable food

At least \$100 cash

Flashlight

First aid kit ([pocket-sized should do the trick](#))

After the above list you should pack in different items depending on your area and needs. The main goal is to make sure you have the supplies you need to survive in a single bag.

### **The Tech Go Bag**

While a basic survival style go bag is great for the majority of people, those of us who rely on technology to get things done need a different set of tools. We've walked you through [creating a tech go bag](#) before, but here are a few things that most of us can keep in our bags at all times:

Chargers (laptop, phone, tablets, etc)

Surge Protector (we like the [Belkin Mini Surge Protector](#))

USB Cables

Thumb drives (it's also a good idea to load up one with an operating system of your choice. You can [go anonymous with Tails](#), keep a [portable Mac](#), or load it up with [portable Windows apps](#).)

Obviously your tech go bag is going to vary depending on what you use, but the above should cover most people's needs.

### **The Household Oh Sh\*t Kit**

Whether you're owning or renting a house, things can go horribly wrong on a seconds notice. Perhaps a drainpipe explodes water everywhere, or a crack of thunder rattles a chandelier loose. While a basic toolkit is great (see above) in most situations, it's not always enough. Sometimes you need to patch things up to survive long enough for a real repair. Here's what you'll need:

All of your appliance manuals (including how/where to turn off gas and water)

[Duct Tape](#)

Tool kit (see above)

[Plumbers putty](#)

[WD-40](#)

Rags/Buckets

[Lockpicking Kit](#)

Your house (or apartment) is likely going to dictate a few other items to keep on hand depending on the situation. The point isn't that you can do a massive repair with these items. It's to get you through the night when Home Depot is closed or your maintenance guy is out of town.

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Visit Christina Marvel, one of our very talented Grove Artisans, at her website for more exceptional work:

[www.seemarvels.com](http://www.seemarvels.com)



# *Dikhomenia: A Hellenic Full Moon Ritual*

## ~Jan “Skylark” Avende

### Items Needed for Ritual:

- Offerings for Hestia, Muses, Land, Sea, Sky, Hekate, Theoi & Kindreds, DotO, Apollo Mantikos
- Barley, oil, water, incense
- Hallows (Fire, Well, Omphalos)
- Wine, water
- Tools/materials for magical and/or trance working

### I. Purification of the Sacred Space (Khernips)

- a. All those taking part in the ritual wash face and hands in fresh, clean water outside of ritual space. Left over water is carried in and used to purify the ritual space.
- b. Incense may also be included in the purification alongside a brief grounding and centering.

### II. Procession

### III. Ritual Lighting of Sacred Fire

- a. Light the Sacred fire with the flame of Hestia.
- b. If the fire has been pre-lit, add the flame of Hestia to the fire again after processing into the ritual space.

### IV. Tossing of Barley (*kanoun*)

- a. Barley is thrown into the fire, and scattered all about the ritual space for further purification of the space. Purification water is also sprinkled around the ritual space.

### V. Statement of Intent

*O, Makares, (Blessed Ones)  
 As the moon in its cycle is timeless,  
 Growing in power each month until it bursts with luminescence,  
 So we return each month at the time of the Full Moon  
 In the timeless act of worship  
 Echoing with our prayers and our offerings,  
 The moon's glowing promise of power and magic.  
 This night, beneath the bright and shining moon,  
 We gather to do as our Ancestors did before us,  
 To reforge the sacred \*ghosti bond in our worship,  
 And to mix our powers together to achieve great works.  
 Elthete (Come) Theoi (gods),  
 Bless us with your presence,  
 And partake of what we offer,  
 In reverence of you here in our Oikos (Household).*

## VI. Honoring Hestia

*For Hestia, I pour these first libations,  
First-Born, and Last-Born,  
Keeper of the Sacred Flame,  
Tender of the Hearth and Guardian of the Home.  
I sing your praises.*

*CHORUS:*

*Inspire me with your grace and song  
To honor all the Kindreds.  
Take my head, my hand, my heart.  
Muses Nine, sing through me.*

*Write a story and tell a tale;  
Eloquent and fair.  
Rhyme and meter will guide our voice.  
Kalliope, sing through me.*

*Sing to keep the world alive;  
Remember well the past.  
Guide the world with your memory.  
Kleio, sing through me.*

*Write to keep emotions strong;  
Awaken all the senses.  
The lovers' hearts will heed your call.  
Erato, sing through me.*

*CHORUS*

*My steps fall into your beat;  
Guide my footsteps wisely.  
All hearts beat in your dance.  
Terpsikhore, sing through me.*

*Sadness dwells within your eyes;  
Others understand you.  
Makes open hearts awake unbound.  
Melpomene, sing through me.*

*Smiling eyes and laughing soul;  
You make my spirit soar.  
Making all the world seem right.  
Thaleia, sing through me.*

*CHORUS*

*Speaking all the thoughts you hear;  
The verse maintains the mystery.  
Prophecy and love you know  
Euterpe, sing through me.*

*The stars are twinkling in your dance;  
A science you know best.  
Shine down your wisdom, bright.  
Ourania, sing through me.*

*Sing all your praise aloud;  
Raise your arms to the sky.  
The folk below call to the Gods.  
Polyhymnia, sing through me.*

*CHORUS x2*

*(acapella & rubato)  
Inspire me with your grace and song.*

## VII. Call to the Muses ("Muses Sing Through Me")

## VIII. Grounding and Centering with the Land, Sea, and Sky

## a. Land (Gaea)

*Gaea, Mother Earth, ground me in your soil.  
Hold me in your arms, let my roots sink down  
And be nourished by you.*



## b. Sea (Okeanos)

*Okeanos, Mighty Ocean, flood around me  
As I feel the ebb and flow of your waves.  
Pull me to the watery depths, let me bob on the surface and  
Let the tide lap around me as I come ashore.*

## c. Sky (Ouranos)

*Ouranos, Brilliant Sky, encircle me in your great dome  
Let your breezes whisk by me, and as I breathe in  
Fill me with endless infinity.*

## IX. Requesting the Aid of a Gatekeeper

## a. Hekate

*We call out now to Hekate guide us in walking between the worlds!*

*Hekate, at moonlit crossroads, you befriend the helpless.  
Keyholding Mistress of Earth, Sea, and Sky.  
Dark Mother Hekate,  
Ghosts and hounds follow you.  
You are the black puppy and the black she-lamb.  
Torchbearer, we praise you for the brightness of your power.  
We offer you eggs and wine.*

*Hekate of the Crossroads be our Guide!  
Guide us as you guided Demeter in her journey.  
Reveal to us the way to walk in safety.*

*Radiant Hekate of the Torches,  
Guiding Light, Keeper of the Keys,  
Join your hidden knowledge and power with ours  
and help us to open the Gates between the worlds.*

## X. Placing the Omphalos at Sacred Center &amp; Creation of Sacred Space

***\*sprinkle water around those gathered\****

*Let this area around me be purified sacred space where we go to meet the gods, and the gods descend down to meet with us.*

***\*waft incense smoke around those gathered, or pour oil on fire\****

*Let the smoke from our sacred fire carry our voices to the heavens to be heard by the gods.*

***\*place omphalos and anoint with oil\****

*I place this omphalos at the center of worlds, just as it marked the center of the ancient world. My hands, like two eagles, flying to meet in the middle and establish this as the sacred center of worlds.*

XI. Orphic Hymn Honoring the Gods  
 a. "Friend, Use it to Prosper" by RC

*Hear this song,  
 Know a scared way.*

*Thundering Zeus,  
 Father of Gods,  
 Mother Earth, shining sun,  
 Splendid moon and starry night,*

*Poseidon, king of the poignant sea,  
 Shadow haired Earth belter;  
 Demeter of the grain harvest,  
 Delicate Kore, Dawn in dark,  
 We honor you.*

*Arrow pouring Artemis;  
 Blazing Apollo, sun beam archer  
 Whose joy sings songs of prophecy at Delphi;  
 Intoxicating Dionysos,  
 We honor you.*

*Impulsive Ares,  
 Quick to spill blood;  
 Hephaistos, lord of artistic fire;  
 Great Aphrodite, risen from foam to light  
 And dark Hades, lord of shadows,  
 We honor you.*

*Hebe, giver of youth;  
 Virile Herakles, master of work;  
 Artemis protector of birth,  
 Opener of the gates to Earth,  
 We honor you.*

*Dike, mother of justice,  
 The noble God Piety,  
 Brilliant Nymphs,  
 And musical Pan, lord of all,  
 We honor you.*

*Sacred Hera, queen of Gods,  
 Beautiful Memory and pure Muses,  
 Golden Leto, gentle Dione of Dodona,  
 Clanging Kouretes, domestic Korybantess  
 And all children of Zeus,  
 We honor you.*

*Idaeon Gods, the sky angel,*

*Hermes, runner on winds,  
 Agathodaimon, poppy in hand,  
 Gentle spirit of good luck;  
 Themis of the prophetic eyes;  
 Primordial Day and Night.  
 Faith and Fortune forever entwined,  
 We honor you.*

*Kronos, eater of children;  
 Motherly Rhea; Thetis veiled  
 Deep blue,  
 We honor you.*

*Okeanos, nymphs of the brine,  
 Steady Atlas, shining Eternity  
 And endless Time, we honor you.*

*Splendid lake at the shore of death,  
 The Gods who rest beside it,  
 The Ancestors beyond,  
 Spirits good and bad,  
 Irresistible Fate, we honor you.*

*Spirits of light and of fire,  
 Of water, earth and shadow,  
 We honor you.*

*Leukothea, bright Dawn at sea,  
 Amorous Semele,  
 Mothers of great Dionysos,  
 We honor you.*

*Honey tongued Nike, drunk with success;  
 Asklepios, skillful hunter who raised the dead;  
 Dread Athene, master of war  
 Who leaped full grown and armored  
 From the head of father Zeus,  
 We honor you.*

*Thunders and winds caged in mighty columns,  
 Roaring in furious fight for release.  
 Attis, father of spring and immortal Adonis,  
 Beginning and End, we honor you.*

*We honor you all  
 And invite you  
 To this celebration of Dikhomenia.*

## b. Offerings to the Theoi as a whole

*I pour these libations now for all the Greek Gods,  
Those dwelling on Mt. Olympus,  
Those dwelling in the world of Men,  
And those dwelling in the deep Underworld.  
I pour out these libations to you as I sing your praises.*

## c. Offerings to the Patrons of the Folk gathered

*\*each person speaks of their Patron of magic as they feel called\**

*I pour these libations now for all the Kindreds here gathered,  
Those Shining Deities who share their power,  
Those Noble Guides who share their passion,  
Those Ancient Wise who share their knowledge,  
I pour out these libations to you as I sing your praises.*

## XII. Honoring the Deities of the Occasion

*We gather together tonight in honor of the Gods of Dikhomenia, of the Full Moon:*

*Selene, brilliant shining Titaness, your face, full in power and brightness, shines down with grace and an influx of magic and power. You who have bathed in the sacred waters of mighty Okeanos, you who shine, luminescent, driving your long-maned horses at full speed across the sky.*

*Selene, splendid Queen of the Night, your glowing amber orb makes this night like the noon of your all-seeing brother,  
I pour out these libations to you as I sing your praises.*

*Hekate Liparokredemnos, with your brilliant shining headband, calling unto you the many powers of magic and witchcraft. With your torches and many faces, you turn about with vigilance, protector and warder against harmful charms.*

*Night-wandering Hekate, goddess of magic and witchcraft, dwelling in the inner chamber of every house, having blessed Kirke and Medea with your mighty powers, pure and sacred rites, knowledge, and imbuing witches with the power to draw down the moon,  
I pour out these libations to you as I sing your praises.*

*To those Patrons of magic, whom we each work with to further our studies in these arts,  
with whom we've developed special relationships,  
You who walk alongside us and keep us safe as we walk the Elder Ways.  
I pour out these libations to you as I sing your praises.*

## XIII. Omen

*Having given offerings to the Kindreds, we now seek to know what blessings and advice they give us in return.*

*\*Seer makes offering of Oil and/or bay\**

*I ask now that Apollo Mantikos guide my hand.  
See with my eyes, Hear with my ears, and Speak with my voice.*

*Apollo Mantikos, what wisdom do the Kindreds offer?*

*Apollo Mantikos, what wisdom do the Gods of Dikhomenia offer?*

*Apollo Mantikos, what wisdom do the Patrons of Magic offer?*

#### XIV. Return Flow

*Haven given of ourselves, and received wisdom and blessings in return, we now seek to take of those blessings to enrich ourselves for the work that is to come. We seek to fill ourselves with these blessings so that we may be thusly embued with the sacred powers and apply ourselves to the magic ahead.*

***\*take vessel filled with wine, and vessel filled with water. Water is infused with the blessings and poured into the wine. Some water is set aside for the working\****

*Let the brightness of the full moon fill these waters with the omens we have received. Let their blessings grow in strength like the light of the moon, shining with the brilliant power akin to the noon-day sun. Their strength shall augment our strength as we approach the workings ahead.*

***\*drink watered wine\****

#### XV. Working

##### a. Magical Working

*Now filled with the strength, blessings, and wisdom of the Kindreds, we seek to use this influx of power to ...*

##### b. Trance Working

*Now filled with the strength, blessings, and wisdom of the Kindreds, we seek to use this influx of power to ...*

#### XVI. Thanking the Deities of the Occasion

*We have gathered together tonight in honor of the Gods of Dikhomenia, and now thank them for their presence tonight and each night.*

*Selene, we thank you joining us tonight.  
Stay if you will and go if you must.*

*Hekate, we thank you joining us tonight.  
Stay if you will and go if you must.*

*To our Patrons of Magic, we thank you joining us tonight.  
Stay if you will and go if you must.*

## XVII. Final Libations

*For all the Theoi I pour these final libations.  
 Those Shining Deities who share their power,  
 Those Noble Guides who share their passion,  
 Those Ancient Wise who share their knowledge,  
 Mighty Kindreds, we offer you many thanks for joining us today.  
 May the door always remain open,  
 The fire always burn,  
 And our voices always sing in harmony.*

## XVIII. Gatekeeper and Restoration of the Ordinary

*Hekate, I call to you once more, to join your magic with mine and aid me in traversing the realms. Help all those here gathered to find their way home again safely as we close the Gates between the worlds.*

*\*stir the Well\**

*Let this Well be but water, ever sacred in its own right, but no longer a Gate opening to the many paths.*

*\*focus on the Fire\**

*Let this Fire be but a flame, ever sacred in its own right, but no longer a Gate opening to the many ways.*

*\*remove omphalos from Center\**

*Let the omphalos no longer be the Center of the Worlds holding us at the Crossroads. Hekate, as we move away from the Crossroads and return to the center of our hearts and homes, stand ever vigilant as you always do, until we return again in need of your aid.*

## XIX. Grounding with the Land, Sea, and Sky

## a. Sky (Ouranos)

*Ouranos, Brilliant Sky, encircle me in your great dome  
 Let your breezes whisk by me, and as I breathe in  
 Fill me with endless infinity.*

## b. Sea (Okeanos)

*Okeanos, Mighty Ocean, flood around me  
 As I feel the ebb and flow of your waves.  
 Pull me to the watery depths, let me bob on the surface and  
 Let the tide lap around me as I come ashore.*

## c. Land (Gaea)

*Gaea, Mother Earth, ground me in your soil.  
 Hold me in your arms, let my roots sink down  
 And be nourished by you.*

## XX. Thanking the Muses

*Sweet voiced Muses Nine,  
you have sung with my voice, danced with my feet,  
enflamed my passion, and sweetened my words.  
For the fire you have filled me with  
And for letting it pour forth in harmony and wisdom  
I thank you.*

## XXI. Final Libation for Hestia

*For Hestia, I pour these last libations,  
First-Born, and Last-Born,  
Keeper of the Sacred Flame,  
Tender of the Hearth and Guardian of the Home.  
May you always keep my hearth-fire burning bright.*

## XXII. Recessional

# Cooking with Cranekin

## Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches

~ Krueger Family Recipe

## Ingredients:

½ cup soft butter  
¼ cup mustard  
¼ tsp. accent  
¼ cup chopped onion  
1 T poppy seeds  
6-8 buns  
sliced ham  
sliced swiss cheese

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix and spread first 5 ingredients on top and bottom of buns. Add ham and cheese and bake for 15 min in foil-covered pan. If refrigerated, bake 20-30 min.

## Candied Bacon

~Skarlett

1/2 pound room temperature sliced bacon 1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
1 teaspoon maple syrup spice 1/2 teaspoon apple pie spice

## Pumpkin Soup

~Duckie

2 large cans of pumpkin puree  
1 large box of stock (veggie for vegans, beef or chicken for others)  
1 can of mild chilies  
a few serrano chilies, minced  
1 cup grated carrots  
3 tsp cumin  
1/8 tsp allspice or nutmeg  
1 cup dried apple chips, crumbled  
salt and pepper to taste  
2 cups firm tofu cubes or chicken meat  
1/4 tsp mustard  
1 tsp horseradish

Combine all ingredients except meat or tofu in crockpot on low for 2 days. Stir every few hours and add water as needed. Add last ingredient for final 4-6 hours of cooking.

In a shallow bowl combine sugar, spice and syrup well. Cut each slice of bacon in half crosswise. Dredge each piece of bacon in the sugar mix and place in a twist on a 13"X9" baking pan covered in aluminum foil. Bake at 350 degrees F for 15-20 minutes or till bacon is crisp and bubbly. Carefully remove bacon from foil to another piece of foil placed on the counter so bacon can cool. Serve at room temperature. Makes 18-24 pieces.

# Brightest Blessings!

Once again, another edition of Crane Chatter behind us. To the readership, both Crane-kin and beyond, I hope you've enjoyed the works within. If you'd like to be included in the next edition, the deadline is December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Please send me an email at [skylark913@gmail.com](mailto:skylark913@gmail.com).

May the crisp autumn air renew your spirit!

*Three Cranes Grove, ADF*, is a fully chartered Grove of ADF. We are polytheistic, hold public rituals, and seek to better our world and ourselves.

Three Cranes Grove has been celebrating and serving the Gods and the community in central Ohio since 2002. Ten years of laughter, workshops, public rituals, and community service and involvement have helped us build and maintain some amazing relationships! They can only grow stronger!



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