



Letters from Mom


Happy Summer!

Midsummer is a time to celebrate both work and leisure in preparation for the harvest to come. We look internally at the seeds we've planted both into the earth and in our spirits. We appreciate the abundance and beauty of the Earth, and absorb the strong warming rays of the Sun. It is the ending of the waxing year and the beginning of the waning year. How will you celebrate? With China's ceremony to celebrate the earth, the feminine, and the yin forces? Or, with ancient Sweden? A Midsummer tree was set up and decorated in each town. The villagers danced

Summer Solstice - June 21

around it. Women and girls would customarily bathe in the local river. This was a magical ritual, intended to bring rain for the crops.

Have a wonderful summer celebration! Run outside in your bare feet, feel the soft, thick grass, breathe in the scent of honeysuckle, lift your arms up, and dance.



The spiritual philosophy of the Mother Grove Temple is one of respect for, worship of, and communion with the Divine envisioned as Goddess. We believe that the form of energy we call Goddess encompasses the entirety of the Universe and includes the male principle, the female principle, and all other expressions of gender. We vision the Goddess as both a Divine unity and a multi-faceted expression of that unity, so that expressions of the Divine as Goddess can be both monotheistic and polytheistic.

Wheel of the Year

Beltane 2011 - For the Love Of The Mother



Beltane was a huge success this year! We gathered at Common Light Meeting Place in beautiful Black Mountain, North Carolina. The weather was perfect -- a wonderful sunny day just waiting for some laughter and dancing. Children

frolicked with Barbara Gravelle in an impromptu march around the property. They also enjoyed some finger painting, hat decorating, and coloring. We gathered for some drumming and discussed the old traditions associated with the Holy Day. We danced joyously, and slightly confusedly, around the Maypole until we were dizzy with merriment. Then we feasted. Amidst good company, pleasant atmosphere, and yummy treats, we strengthened our communal bond.

Mother Grove Temple would like to thank everyone who came out to enjoy our Holy Day, Common Light Meeting Place for graciously letting us use the space, the volunteers who helped set up and take down, and Sabra & Angela for officiating over the rite. We look forward to seeing what happens at Midsummer!

Shakespeare's Tea for a Midsummer's Night

2 cups mint (peppermint or spearmint
or
1 cup each)
1/2 cup marjoram
1/3 cup whole savory leaves
1/4 cup lavender flowers
Mix thoroughly and store in tightly covered container. To use, steep one teaspoon per cup of briskly boiling water for 10 minutes or so to taste.

Peppermint-Lavender Lemonade

2 cups lavender and peppermint tea
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
1/2 cup honey
Peppermint sprigs for garnish
Lemon Slices for garnish

Mix first three ingredients well and chill.
Garnish as you see fit.

*[The Herbal Kitchen](#) by Kami McBride,
published by Conari Press*

Links for additional reading:

[From the Witch's Well](#)

[The Pagan Mom Blog](#)

[Pagan Parenting - Litha](#)

[Midsummer / Summer Solstice](#)

[Little Wiccan books](#)



Featured Goddess -

Danu (DAH-noo) is most commonly known as the Mother of the Celtic Gods, however her presence is also felt in Hindu mythology. She is the Goddess of rivers, giving her name to dozens of rivers such as the Danube and the Don. Even a mountain on the face of Venus has been named after this great Goddess.

In Irish, the name means "swift flowing." The root "dan" means "knowledge" in Gaelic. In Welsh "dan-" means "low ground" or "moist earth." The name Danu seems cognate with the Sanskrit, "Dana" which means "waters of heaven." In Hindu, Danu means "unknown."

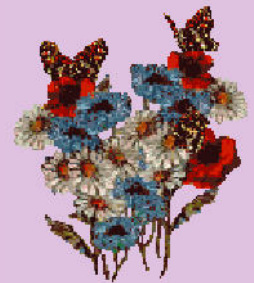
In each culture, Danu is the principle of birth and beginnings, of generation and fertility. Danu is the prime mover, she who came before everything else. As an aspect of the Great-Mother, she encompasses both light and dark, both giving and receiving. She is enfolding darkness and brilliant flashes of light. She is the coldness of the stones in a river, and warmth of the sun. She is every color, every smell, and every texture... at one time. She is distant and she is close. She is young and she is old. She shifts like the currents in a river.

Danu is a goddess both famous and obscure. Famous, because her name appears in so many place-names and texts. Obscure, because no image or narrative of her survives. This dichotomy suits the Goddess, who is both the known and the unknown.

Danu represents an ever-flowing stream of grace which purifies and fertilizes the earth. The earthy manifestation of Danu as a river thus represents only a partial disclosure of her being. Physical contact with her earthy manifestation, however, connects one with the awesome, heavenly, transcendent dimension of the goddess and of reality in general.

Jill Yarnall died on April 20th. She was a priestess at Mother Grove and was instrumental in bringing the Asheville area an annual cycle of public rituals for each holy day. Her husband JR wrote this about her--"Her deeply spiritual nature nurtured her through her life and inspired people wherever she went. She possessed a wisdom beyond her years." We at MG are grateful for her years of service, sad for her loss and extend our love and comfort to JR and to all Jill's friends and colleagues. A memorial tree planting is in the works and we'll release the details as soon as they are finalized.

Danu



*We remember
our sister
-April, 2011*



What's happening in

June and July



Various workshops and classes are held at the Mother Grove. Visit the [Events](#) page on our website for details.

June 11 - Multi-family yard sale from 8am to 2pm in the Mother Grove Parking Lot.

June 25 - French Broad River Park Summer Solstice Gathering and Ritual. Kids' fun starts at 1:30 with a ritual at 3pm and potluck to follow. Come and play with us!

Morning Devotionals every
Sunday at the Temple

Drumming at 10

Service begins at 10:30

All are welcome.

Devotional Schedule

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month we will be there to offer space for a quiet time of meditation.

The 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month we will hold a more structured ritual service.

[The Mother Grove seeks to entice you into a very special circle for Temple Supporters. If you'd like to be a part of the Thirteenth Circle, click here.](#)

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The Mother Grove is a federally approved 501(c)(3) non-profit Church. All contributions to Mother Grove are tax deductible!

