

Letters



from Mom

Labors of Love

by Star Bustamonte

Skies so blue, air that is crisp in the morning and warms to mellowness in the late afternoon, frequently carrying the faint scent of wood smoke; all of this tells me Autumn and the Harvest are right around the corner. And it makes my heart sing.

This time of year conjures up visions from my childhood of jewel-toned leaves that when sun shown through them made for a kaleidoscope experience. To this day, jumping into a large pile of leaves is still one of my favorite hobbies. A word of warning though, jumping in the pile of leaves your neighbor down the block just raked up, even if you intend to rake them back up after you are through, can see you end up in hot water. Though, I can promise you, your neighbors will never look at you quite the same!


The Autumnal Equinox/Mabon and Halloween/Samhain are my favorite times of the year. They offer opportunities to honor the bounty of the season and also the wealth of wisdom we have gained from those who have gone before us.

Samhain - October 31

It is so easy to take for granted all the things we have access to, all the things that make our lives better, easier and richer.

Anyone who has ever grown or tried to grow anything knows firsthand what a labor-intensive process it is. For most of the gardeners I know, it is truly a labor of love, and it is evident in the end result. Who knew it took so much to grow the food we so carelessly tossed in our grocery cart?

And then there are the people. Our lives are given more texture, more depth and greater understanding by not only the people who pass through it, but also by the giants whose shoulders we stand on today. Where would we be without the amazing women and men who made history by pushing the boundaries of society, science, literature and belief? And who would be without the influence of our ancestry? These are all great questions to ponder as we enter the final two Harvests of the year. And revel in the possibilities when it comes to the answers. Here's wishing you a rich and bounteous Harvest season. I hope you open the doors of your mind, heart and hearth to fully receive all that awaits you.



How To Build A Temple

by Angela Pippinger

It has come to our attention that although we have been talking about building a temple, we haven't been talking about *how* to build a temple. Well that's just not fair and it's time we rectified that situation!

Building the Temple will take more than a chosen few; we need every bit of help we can get. Please consider each of these steps carefully and then contact us when you see an area in which you can assist.

Land

To build a Temple we need space in which to place the Temple. Our criterion has been 3-5 acres within Asheville city limits. We envision plenty of parking space, gardens to supplement our food pantry, and gardens to soothe the soul, and the Temple itself. We also see plenty of green space for rituals, to frolic in, and for all to sink their feet into the soft, cool, blessed grass of Gaia. Perhaps you know someone with this land who is looking to donate? Perhaps *you* have this land and would like to donate?

Building Materials

Once land is acquired, then we look forward to creating our structure. We are looking at a gorgeous cob structure that we put together with our hands. Our Temple will signify our hard work and determination, promote green living, and promote getting back to the basics. We will need plenty of cob clay and tools to create such a structure. Contractors may be called to be sure we have a structurally sound building. Perhaps you have the skills and tools and willing to donate those as well as your time? Perhaps you know a contractor or someone with the skills and tools and are willing to donate?

Money

In some cases we will need funds to cover costs of materials, inspections, licenses, permits, and contractors. If you feel moved to, please feel

free to make a monetary donation to our construction fund!

Grant Writers

Our Temple functions on the hours our volunteers put in each day. As it stands, we know of grants that may be available to us, we just need some extra hands to take on the grant writing. If you have any grant writing experience, we would love to hear from you!

Members

A Temple is only as important as the people who fill her. Membership is as easy as filling out our form. All we ask is that members devote 13 hours of stewardship per year. That equals out to 1 hour and 15 minutes per month. This is easily accomplished by sitting in on a Circle of Council Meeting, helping with rituals, helping with day to day care of the ritual, or any of the steps needed to build our Temple. Members also attend an annual meeting in which they can voice praise, concerns, and vote on certain issues. If you love Mother Grove and would love to help her grow, please consider membership. We have applications available at our physical location as well as at all of our rituals.

If you have questions, suggestions, or a desire to assist us in our long-term plan of building a Sacred Temple, we want to hear your voice! Please email info@mothergrove.avl or call us at 828-230-5069.

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.

Featured Goddess— Hecate

Hecate, Queen of the Night, Autumn's Gate Keeper into the Dark
by Cat Shepard

She comes to me in the stillness of those long, sleepless nights, when the depths of my soul call out for guidance. Silently, from the dark, she steps into my awareness.

In my work with the Goddesses of the Dark, using the tools of ancient ritual body postures, I have searched for trance poses to help me connect with the ancient knowledge hidden within. I found this triple Goddess mentioned in many references, over time and across great distances. She is strongest for me at this particular time of year, the time of harvest on, into the depths of the winter to come. I find her presence guiding me at those critical times in my life when major decisions are being considered. In her tripled aspects, she has the ability to see the past, present and future, simultaneously. A great advantage when one needs a bigger picture.

I also find this tripled aspect to correspond to the three most prominent stages of a woman's life...the Maiden, the Mother and the Crone, or WiseWoman. There are more references to her as the Crone, or WiseWoman, than any other. To me, she is the ultimate WiseWoman. Experience ripening and deepening her power and authority over the passage of time. As Crone, she is the Keeper of the Gate to the Underworld and Guardian of the Crossroads, originally a Y-shaped intersection. A reminder of her triple aspect.

In the harvest season, women's baskets were very important tools used to gather their fare. Baskets are sacred to Hecate. She was known to carry them "on high". They link her to the power of the moon, the cultivation of crops through the practice of planting by the moon phases, and we come full circle to the season of Autumn. A time of choices. What is chosen in this time has consequences into the future. In ancient days it was a time of preparing for the darkest, longest nights to come. Used as a gateway to the immanence of Winter's arrival, this is a time of hard work. Preserving the harvest becomes crucial for surviving the cold and darkness ahead.

It is here that we find Hecate waiting, guiding us toward that very Darkness with strength and grace. She holds open the door to our unconscious, to our depths, so that we may come to know our hidden nature. She provides us with the tools, supplies and fortitude to be regenerated in the Dark.

In the meantime, she has much to teach. The only way to learn these lessons are on her terms, by going to meet her at her sacred places. So finding your own way in the Dark is not such a scary thought, after all. She waits for those who have the ears to hear the ancient whispers of the wisdom of living centered in the mysteries of women's Blood and the Earth. She will meet you in the silent stillness of your own heart.

Mother Grove Wish List

If you feel a desire to contribute but are a bit short on cash, we will joyfully welcome the following gifts when you arrive to enjoy a public ritual:

Copy paper
Printer ink
Office supplies
Children's craft supplies
Pantry donations
Altar decor
Ritual set up assistance
Ritual take down help
Ritual volunteers
Temple care volunteers



Places to go, things to do:

[Membership](#)

[Coloring Pages for Kids](#)

[Ancestor Altars](#)

[Halloween and The Crone](#)

[Pumpkin Recipes](#)

What's happening in *October*



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.

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

We also post events, happenings and invites on our [Facebook](#) page! Join us!

Goddess Veneration 101

Introduction to Goddess worship

Across the dear wild Earth, we are seeing the rise of Goddess-focused spirituality from indigenous tribal practice to feminist Wicca and Gaian eco-spiritualities. This workshop is an introductory overview of this important phenomenon. The curriculum covers the Paleolithic to the present in a lead-up to focusing your own veneration.

Join Mother Grove's Byron Ballard
to explore the questions--why Goddess?
How Goddess? Which Goddess?

10/22 from 1pm to 3pm
at the Mother Grove Temple

Ancestor Vigil - October 25 - 7pm
at All Soul's Parish Church in Biltmore Village

Samhain - October 31
Appalachian School of Holistic Herbs
In West Asheville

Check our [Facebook page](#) for more information!

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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!

