

Dispatches

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Beltane 2009

Officers of Avalon newsletter



photo copy right 2009
Kimberley Long-Ewing

Member Spotlight on : Kerr Cuhulain

Kerr Cuhulain has been a Wiccan for 40 years and has been involved in anti-defamation activism and hate crimes investigation for the Pagan community from 1986 to 2005. Kerr was awarded the Shield of Valor by the Witches League for Public Awareness. Kerr is the author of the Law Enforcement Guide to Wicca, Witch Hunts, Wiccan Warrior, Full Contact Magick and Magickal Self Defense. Kerr has a column with 182 articles on anti-defamation issues and hate crimes on The Witches' Voice web site called Witch Hunts.

Kerr is the former Preceptor General of Officers of Avalon, an organization representing Neo-Pagan professionals in the emergency services (police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians). Kerr retired from the Vancouver Police Department in November 2005 after serving 29 years with them. He was awarded the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal. Kerr's past job assignments within the VPD include the Emergency Response Team, Hostage Negotiator, Child Abuse Investigator, Gang Crime Unit, and the Mental Health Emergency Services Unit. Kerr is currently working as a police dispatcher and trainer for ECOMM for Southwestern BC

Kerr is the Grand Master and founder of a Wiccan order of Knighthood called the Order of Scáthach in Surrey, British Columbia in November 2007. The Order of Scáthach embraces the Warrior philosophies, precepts and code of chivalry outlined in Kerr's books. The Order of Scáthach is a study group for people interested in Wiccan magick, energy work and rituals related to the Warrior path, focusing on empowerment, personal development and creative expression.

The training focuses on the effective use of magickal energy and developing psychic skills. The Order of Scáthach is constantly developing new rituals, and magick and studying our Warrior philosophy. Our members are spread across the globe and connect through local preceptories and on line. All members are expected to participate and contribute. The Order of Scáthach is named for Scáthach nUanaind, the daughter of Ard-Greimne of Lethra. Scáthach ("shadow" – pronounced "skya"), also known as Scáthach Buanand ("victorious shadow") is the most famous of female Warriors in Celtic mythology. Living on the Isle of Skye (which is named for her), Scáthach ran a martial training academy at which all of the principal heroes of Celtic myth were trained. Her most famous pupil was Cúchulainn, who is the warrior hero that influenced Kerr Cuhulain's choice of magickal name.

*Would you like to be the next member we spotlight?
Contact Windwalker via the list.*



Officers of Avalon Conference

The Board of Directors has been hard at work organizing our first conference. We've secured a venue, found a speaker, and now have a registration process in place. Please share this newsletter with anyone who may be interested in attending!

Where : Westin North Shore, Wheeling, IL
(Greater Chicago Area)
When : Nov 27 - 29, 2009



Featuring *Angie Buchanan*

Angie Buchanan is a Family Tradition Pagan with a background in law enforcement and politics. She is a founder and the Director of Gaia's Womb, an interfaith spirituality organization that has been producing retreats for women for over 10 years. In 2002, Angie was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. She was the first Pagan to ever hold such a position. She currently serves on the Executive Board, holding the Office of Secretary.

We need you!

- contribute to the silent auction.

Avalon Cares is raising money to help send Angie to the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions gathering in Melbourne Australia.

The event will draw over 10,000 people and the topics being addressed are important to us as a Pagan community. We need a strong presence at this event and a voice that will represent us in the dialogs being facilitated there about global and social issues that affect all of us. Won't you help be a part of this historical event?
www.parliamentofreligions.org

- present a workshop.

All topics welcome; preference given to those geared to Pagan first responders or Pagan charity work. Send workshop proposals to
info@officersofavalon.com

Schedule :

Friday : 4 pm - 7 pm Meet and greet Reception
Cash bar available

Saturday : Morning session

9 am The Clown Society - A discussion led by Warren Urbik and friends.
Societies around the world have used humor to diffuse tense situations and maintain social order. Come learn more about these societies, share your knowledge on the topic, and explore ways we can use humor in our jobs, homes, and community.

11 am Annual Meeting

- Kimberley Long-Ewing

Get the latest on the activities of Officers of Avalon and Avalon Cares.

Noon - 1 pm : lunch is served
box lunch included in registration

Afternoon session

1:30 pm Various workshops
- make a proposal!

3:30 pm Pagans at Parliament
- Angie Buchanan

Since 1893, the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions has initiated dialogues and nurtured relationships among people of difference. In doing so the Council has provided a framework for expressing many visions of a just, peaceful and sustainable future. In the process, religious and spiritual communities have discovered a shared commitment to ethical principles. This shared commitment has opened the way for a new era of cooperative action among the world's religious and spiritual communities as well as civil and political societies. The well-being of the Earth and all life depends on this collaboration. In December of 2009, the Parliament will convene in Melbourne Australia with an expected draw of 8000 to 10,000 people from all over the world in attendance. The theme of this event is, Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth.

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Officers of Avalon Banquet, Silent Auction

Keynote Speaker - Angie Buchanan

Among the world issues being addressed are the environmental crisis and the plight of the Aboriginal Australians. As Pagans, we can take this opportunity to call upon the various religious representatives present at the Parliament to take active part in the environmentalism that is such an integral part of our spirituality, and in the preservation of indigenous traditions, including our own. We have the opportunity to say that preservation requires much more than just words or apologies: among other things it requires reparation, it requires autonomy, and it requires restitution.

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm Warrior Blessing Ritual - Kimberley Long-Ewing, John Ewing
 We gather to honor the Warrior within us all, those who have gone before us, and to ask the gods and goddesses for their blessings upon those who are in the line of fire each day.

Sunday : 9:00 am Breakfast Buffet

10:30 am - noon : Closing session

Tying it all together - Pagans

can and do make a difference in the world.

Discussion led by Kimberley Long-Ewing

Register Today!

NOTE : Join Officers of Avalon today and pay members rates!
 Members rates apply to both voting members and Friends of Avalon

Register by :	Member Rates :	Non-member Rates :
June 21st	\$80/adult \$30/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free	\$100/adult \$40/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free
August 31st	\$95/adult \$40/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free	\$115/adult \$50/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free
Oct 31st	\$120/adult \$50/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free	\$140/adult \$60/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free
Nov 16th	\$150/adult \$75/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free	\$170/adult \$85/child 6 - 12 children under 6 free

Memorial Fund

Officers of Avalon continues to raise funds for the four police officers who died in the line of duty in Oakland the week of March 21, 2009. We plan to donate the money to the memorial funds set up for each officer's family. We will continue to accept donations into the summer. You may donate using paypal at http://officersofavalon.com/store_donations.html and put a note in the comments field that the money is for the memorial fund. You may also send a check or money order to Officers of Avalon, PO Box 22, Baraboo, WI 53913.

The Board has decided to set up a permanent fund for memorials. You may donate anytime to that fund using the paypal account or by check to the mailing address. Funds will be used as situations are brought to our attention by our membership.



Officers of Avalon

Registration Form
Officers of Avalon Conference
Nov 27-29, 2009

Name : _____

Address : _____

Email : _____

Phone : _____

Names of additional people registering with you *:

1. _____ Relationship : _____

2. _____ Relationship : _____

3. _____ Relationship : _____

4. _____ Relationship : _____

The following meals are included in the registration fee.

Check which you plan on attending :

____ Saturday lunch ____ Banquet on Saturday night ____ Sun brunch

Preference : ____ Vegetarian ____ Omnivore

If you have specific food allergies or are Vegan, please plan to supplement with your own food.

If you are bringing children, do you require childcare for Saturday? ____ yes ____ no If so, age(s) of child(ren) _____

Note : all children participating in the children's programming must be registered for the event.

Registration fees due : _____

Additional Donation for Avalon Cares : _____

Membership Fee (if applicable) : _____

Total due : _____

Make checks payable to Officers of Avalon

Mail to : PO Box 22, Baraboo, WI 53913

You may also register online at www.officersofavalon.com

*Members may register spouses, domestic partners, and children at member rates