



SAMHAIN 2014



Weaving the Web (Martin Bridge)

Dear friends,

As we celebrate Samhain and move inward toward the winter, we write to you once again to ask for your financial support of EarthSpirit and the work it does to provide opportunities and services regionally, nationally and around the world. EarthSpirit holds and nourishes a community that supports families and individuals in truly living our spirituality, maintaining and passing along pagan culture and traditions in a world that does not always share our values. Generous donors, like you, enable us to provide financial support to community members who are

struggling, and offer the workshops, classes and gatherings that create meeting places where we can build and deepen meaningful face to face connections.

Our networking with pagans around the globe - in Spain and Latin America through Alma de Tierra, and across Europe through our connection with the European Congress of Ethnic Religions - supports groups there in developing strong community and in seeking legal recognition from their governments.

The EarthWays Initiative joins us specifically in support of indigenous peoples and practitioners in the US and around the world as well.

This year in the US, we hosted seasonal rituals and classes for our community - both in eastern and western

Massachusetts. We reached out to the public at Pagan Pride events, academic institutes, at Boston Pride and at other festivals and interfaith services. We made improvements to the ritual spaces at Glenwood, our sanctuary in western Massachusetts, which we open to the community on a monthly basis now including rituals for all of the seasonal holidays between Beltaine and Samhain. We taught workshops and classes around the country in 2014 as our spiritual director, Andras Corban Arthen, and other EarthSpirit members have traveled to Illinois, Florida, New York, Utah, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Michigan to teach and perform. We performed handfastings and funerals, and counseled members in need.



EarthSpirit at the Climate March (Moirra Ashleigh)

Andras Corban Arthen takes on the bulk of EarthSpirit's international and interfaith outreach. He continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions, where he chairs the Site Selection committee and is currently working with Salt Lake City, where the next Parliament will be held in October of 2015. He also serves actively on the Indigenous Task Force and on the Nominations Committee, which

recruits qualified people of diverse backgrounds to become active on the Board. **EarthSpirit will be bringing a delegation to the 2015 Parliament — please let us know if you would like to join us!** In April Andras, along with other members of the Parliament's board, received the honor of being inducted into the College of Ministers and Laity at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA for their leadership in interfaith work.



Andras in Lithuania at the ECER (Vytautas Daraskevicius)

As the elected President of the European Congress of Ethnic Religions, this year Andras traveled to Lithuania where he facilitated and offered presentations at that organization's annual conference in Vilnius, Lithuania. His talks included a press conference at the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) in support of the local indigenous pagan organization, Romuva, which is seeking legal religious status. Andras followed the conference with a research and networking journey to Galicia and other parts of Spain, where he strengthened existing EarthSpirit connections, and made new ones with pagans living there.

Our international interfaith and networking relationships enabled us to bring some very special guests to Rites of Spring this year — Kulgrinda the performance group from Romuva, practitioners of the indigenous religion of Lithuania, and Daniel Exposito, the Spanish coordinator for the Pagan Federation International. Sharing and building upon these kinds of connections with our members enriches the pagan communities on both continents.

As you might imagine, all of this work in so many areas, in addition to maintaining an office and online presence, requires a significant amount of money to sustain it. Despite the struggling economy over the past few years, our community has been very generous. We have consistently received contributions large and small — both through our annual appeal and at the auction at Rites of Spring. We appreciate every single one. **Please consider increasing your donation to EarthSpirit this year to help us continue to move forward with all of this good work.**



Inije Trinkuniene from Romuva, at Rites of Spring (Martin Bridge)

We count on all of you to be a part of the web that holds us together on so many levels.

While financial support is crucial, we also want to recognize that EarthSpirit could not continue without the help of our volunteers — from our office personnel, to the presenters, performers and teachers who offer their expertise to the community, to the technical experts who work to keep EarthSpirit's information systems operational and improving.

Thank you all for being part of and supporting the EarthSpirit Community!

Deirdre

Deirdre Pulgram Arthen, Executive Director

You can find more details of EarthSpirit's work in 2014 on our website: www.earthspirit.com

