



ELDERFLOWER WOMENSPIRIT FESTIVAL

A Congregation of AIWP
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December 2008

Hello Elderflower Sisters,

The time has come for you all to join us in getting ready to celebrate Elderflower's 20th Anniversary (our 21st Festival!). Imagine yourself leading a workshop, drumming and chanting in the Main Meadow, chowing down on that fresh catered food, and the suspense of bidding on your favorite item in the Silent Auction. To help you get ready for all this and more, we are sending you the necessary materials to get registered and ready to participate. You will find two color copies for you and a friend. We have also included one white copy to allow you to make more copies and post them at work, your favorite bookstores, coffee shops, and anywhere else you can think of. Don't forget to go back and keep them supplied. Take flyers to any event you attend. Help share the joy of Elderflower. If you would like to be a flyer angel, email us (info@elderflower.org) or give us a call (510-848-1460).

We have good news for you all regarding the festival cost. In spite of the rising costs (about \$20 more per camper), we have made the decision to keep the festival as affordable as possible by keeping the fees the same as 2008. The basic early bird rate is still \$260, with incremental increases in registration fees after March 21. The fees are offered on a sliding scale. As always, we greatly appreciate the generosity of our sisters who pay at the higher end of the scale. You may register with a deposit as low as \$50 and still receive the lowest fee if we receive your registration by March 21, 2009.

Elderflower is growing and changing! Naomi T., Stacey M., and Francesca T. have had the great honor of serving on Core to produce this festival for the past four years. We spent each year holding sacred space for the entire planning of the festival, and have been greatly rewarded at the culmination of each year's planning by witnessing the festivals that have taken place with the participation of our wonderful community. It is now time for us to step back, and let others in our community come forward and take a greater part of the festival planning. For Francesca, the choice to continue serving on core has been literally taken "out of her hands", as she is coping with the pain and frustration of nerve damage, and is unable to use her hands at this time. The three of us now consider ourselves the "outgoing core". We will take care of the bare minimum of putting on the festival (contracts, bookkeeping, monitoring email, paying bills etc.) We will also do our best to complete the Elderflower Festival Handbook, which will serve as a guide for future Core committees on planning the festival.

We are really counting on our community to step up and fill the gap in putting on a great festival. Please see the reverse side of this page for volunteer positions. This is a great year to give that workshop you've been contemplating for a while, so go to the website, download the workshop form and send it right along to us. Notice: You will not be able to take a workshop discount without submitting a workshop form!

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to the following community members who are already hard at work planning fabulous rituals.

- The 2009 Main Ritual Priestesses are Cynthia L., Donna L., Green, and Lisa G.: "Be the Change" An inclusive ritual where you will connect with your sisters, the elements, and become the Seeds of Change. Amazons, Crones, Mothers and Maidens will be honored and we encourage you to choose an element (Fire, Air, Water, Earth) that you feel called to and meditate on this element throughout the year in preparation for Elderflower.
- The Opening and Closing Ritual Priestess is Leslie R., and will honor Goddess Inanna. Inanna is known as the 'Queen of Heaven and Earth'. She is called the 'First Daughter of the Moon' and 'Evening Star'. She has dominion over human fertility, and the growth of plants and animals, and she holds sway over the powers and mysteries of death and rebirth due to her journey to the underworld. "She is a Goddess in all her aspects" (Diane Wolstein 1983). Inanna will be honored during opening and closing ritual in all her aspects and will remain with us during our marvelous Elderflower Festival. In preparation for your own journey with her at Elderflower, we suggest you take some time to learn about her and if so desired, communing with her prior to Elderflower.

PantheaCon 2009 is coming up soon! Feb. 13 – 16, 2009 in San Jose, CA. Elderflower will again be hosting a Con Suite for the weekend and have an open house party on Sat. Feb. 14. We look forward to seeing you there. Contact us if you are interested in assisting us in hosting. And whether or not you can make it ... we look forward to seeing you in August!

Solstice Greetings and Blessings for the new year,

Stacey, Francesca, and Naomi (The Outgoing Core Committee)

Mission Statement

To create a festival for women and girls with a focus on earth-based spirituality and honoring the feminine through the Goddess. We celebrate our spirituality by sharing knowledge, music, arts and ritual. Elderflower is committed to providing a welcoming and empowering environment for all women, including older women, women of all colors from all cultures, women of all sexual orientations, differently-abled women, women in recovery, and limited income women.