

# Dispatches

Officers of Avalon newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1      Imbolc, 2010

## Member News

One of members, Night Wolf of South Africa, was presented with the Golden Wand Award in September of 2009. The Correllian Tradition presents this award in recognition of acts of bravery or compassion in the service to others. Night Wolf was honored for his ongoing hard work as a police officer. The Correllians acknowledge the service of police officers everywhere who work hard to keep other safe, often at great risk and suffering to themselves. Congratulations, Night Wolf. Be safe.

**Newsflash :** *Avalon Cares has raised over \$600 thus far to assist with relief work in Haiti. Checks have been sent to Doctors without Borders, Haiti Community Support, and The Haiti Medical Mission of Wisconsin.*



Officers of Avalon

## Avalon Cares Update

Avalon Cares, the charitable branch of Officers of Avalon, is accepting donations for Earthquake Relief and rebuilding in Haiti. Our goal is to help communities recover as quickly as possible and to fill in needs not met by larger organizations. In the short term, we will make donations to Doctors without Borders on behalf of our membership and Pagan communities in general. We also plan to look into ways to support the first responders already there, particularly in the military, with care packages. It will take years to rebuild Haiti. In the long run, we plan to support like-minded groups going in to do direct relief work by providing supplies, volunteering, and assistance with shipping and travel. We will partner with one or more groups to help with rebuilding in the months to come.

There are many ways to help us help others. 100% of all direct cash donations earmarked for Haiti will be used exclusively for relief work. Consider doing a fundraiser for Avalon Cares. Set out a jar at a gathering and send us a check for the proceeds. Those quarters, dimes, and dollars add up quickly. Donate items for our upcoming charity auction. Finally, join us on Facebook (group name Officers of Avalon) or ask to subscribe to our announcement list ([info@officersofavalon.com](mailto:info@officersofavalon.com)) and watch for opportunities to volunteer your time.

Please donate \$5, \$10, \$25, or more via PayPal ([http://officersofavalon.com/avalon\\_cares.html](http://officersofavalon.com/avalon_cares.html)) or postal mail :

Officers of Avalon  
PO Box 22  
Baraboo, WI 53913

# Pagan Thanksgiving Convention

## Field Report

The Pagan Thanksgiving convention was held in Chicago, Illinois, USA on November 27 - 29, 2009. Our first Officers of Avalon convention was slow to take off but in the end we had a small but successful fundraising event for Avalon Cares. Over thirty people joined us throughout the weekend. The Board of Directors learned a lot about pulling together an event and have a better feel for what people are looking for. This information will be used to create an even more successful event for 2010.

We kicked off the weekend with a meet-n-greet on Friday evening.



*Vic entertained Tristan with laps around the room on her wheelchair. They were a fun blur for a good part of the weekend.*

Saturday was spent sharing crafting and lore through workshops. Scrapbooking, balefire making, and broom making were all popular activities. The children played games and enjoyed an impromptu paper airplane making session.



*Balefire example from workshop.*



*Amy and Garron enjoy their lunch on Saturday. Vic and Tristan are zipping by in the background.*



*A few items from Silent Auction. Shown here : Enchanted Castle book, altar cloths, balefires.*

Avalon Cares held a silent auction to raise money for Pagans traveling to the Parliament of World Religions. We raised \$640.



*Drake, Amy, and Jennifer hanging out at the registration table before dinner on Saturday.*



*Keynote speaker, Angela Buchanan, Member of the Board of Directors for the Parliament of World Religions and founder of Earth Traditions.*

Angie Buchanan was the keynote speaker for the banquet Saturday night. Angie is the founder of Earth Traditions and a member of the Board of Directors for the Parliament of World Religions. She spoke about the interfaith work being done by the Parliament, the Aboriginals and their invitation to Australia issued to the Parliament, and the role of Pagans at the event.



*Bo, Billy, and Lance lead a drum session.*

We wound up the evening with drumming and more visiting.



The weekend was topped off with Sunday brunch, more time spent with family and friends, then fond farewells.

Plans are now underway for 2010. We are renaming the event Pagan Relaxicon and will hold it in late November or early December in Madison, Wisconsin. The plan will be to provide a relaxed space to connect, hold crafting workshops, and a marketplace for shopping to support Pagan artists and vendors. We are also planning a fundraising event for Avalon Cares. Watch for more details.

*Written by Kimberley Long-Ewing*

*Photography by Warren Urbik*

### **2009 Annual Report**

Income :

Dues	720
Conference	1570
Avalon Cares	796
Interest	11
Memorials	100

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Total 3197

Expenses :

Operating	<532>
Avalon Cares	<1035>
Conference	<4278>
Paypal fees	<22>
Bank fees	<39>

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Total <5374>

Total Loss for 2009 : <2177>

End of year combined bank balances : \$982.00

***Renew your membership today!***

*Not a member yet? Join today. Application is on the next page.*

## Application for Membership

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Craft Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check next to your qualifications below.

- Voting Member (\$25):
- Current or retired law enforcement officers (including reserves, specials & auxiliaries)
  - Current or retired firefighters
  - Current or retired paramedics and EMTs
  - Current or retired dispatchers (police-fire-EMS)
  - Current or retired corrections officers
  - Current or retired military police officers or investigators
  - Current, former or retired military personnel
  - First Responders, that is, those who could be called upon to serve in a national emergency
  - Doctors, registered nurses, etc.
  - Security guards or law enforcement persons with limited or no arrest powers
  - Any former LEO, fireman, corrections officers, EMT or dispatcher
  - Any non-sworn police or fire department employee
  - Prosecuting Attorneys
  - Search and Rescue Personnel
  - Coroners
  - Park Rangers
  - Persons over the age of 21 who are in training or have received training as a Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter or EMT/Paramedic & who are actively seeking work in their respective field
  - Any spouse or partner of a full member

Friends of Avalon (\$15) : Anyone may join as a Friend.

### Voting Membership

Please include documentation\* Cost : \$25/yr Qty : \_\_\_\_\_ Total : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Voting Membership – 3 year plan

Please include documentation\* Cost : \$60/3 yr Qty : \_\_\_\_\_ Total : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of Avalon Cost \$15/yr Qty : \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation to Avalon Cares Total : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order payable to Officers of Avalon to PO Box 22, Baraboo, WI 53913

\*Applicant must submit documentation to verify they meet the membership requirements. An example would be a copy of applicant's employee work I.D.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date