

THE MAGIC TREE

2022

FLYER 19

WELCOME, FAQS, HISTORY

Season's Greetings through the Magic Tree! Hours are from dusk to midnight every night through January 6th. This year there are over 40,000 lights (all LED) that took about 50 hours to install on this ornamental cherry tree. This is the thirteenth year the Magic Tree has been at Cherry Hill and the 28th year since its inception in 1995 on a crabapple tree in our yard. Our tree became known as The Magic Tree when in 2004 the first annual, of now these 19, fliers was produced calling it the Magic Tree. In recent years the Magic Tree has caught on and become something of a phenomenon so that now there are many iterations bearing the name, some of them installed by me, Will Treelighter, and some installed independently by others. Our hope is that they all engender a spirit of cooperation and community across all boundaries. This Magic Tree is the legacy tree of the original and celebrates all people of good will regardless of their race, nationality, religion, orientation, politics, etc. The magic in the Magic Tree, as with all things, is a matter of what you bring to it. Be in the moment as a little child and muse deeply in the stillness that underlies whatever is happening at this particular juncture in time.

MUSINGS

Together they have a little garden plot. Each year they plant new seeds in fresh compost.

I sit in our cozy little nest looking out the window noticing the patterns made by the newly naked tree branches as they weave together their chaotic compositions. Their squiggles and gentle curves are reminiscent of the calligraphy of a foreign script. Indecipherable, but the beauty of their handiwork brings me to wondering if the Great Mother is trying to say something to *us*, her human children, that she nurtures in her great nest that we call Mother Earth. Her substantial mass, in perfect balance with the much more considerable bulk of the Sun, floats effortlessly as though weightless in endless circles around the fulcrum of the wondrous worlds that comprise our solar system. She gently turns on her axis to give just the right amount of warmth to the whole. As with eggs incubated by a mother hen sitting in her nest we humans experience her care as is evident in the way we refer to Planet Earth's location in relationship to the Sun, "The Goldilocks Zone", because it is just the right distance for liquid water to abound thus creating the "just right" conditions for life as we know it to thrive.

What has she to say to her family of offspring, humanity, through her writings in the trees and in all her handiwork evident in the other patterns of her nature's nurture that have grown her family to now 8 billion strong? We are part and parcel of her. Our bodies are made of her dust and clay, of her waters and air. Just as her trees are rooted in her soil and take up her minerals and her animals take refuge under their branches, and microbes in her soil, we are presumed to all work together for the overall health of her whole. What would she have us, her children, know at this point in our development for us to fulfill our role toward the whole? Perhaps it is no more than that we are loved and cared for, nursed and nurtured along by her.

What then shall be our response? Shall we not also, with one accord, strive to do the same for each other as we do within our own family units, but now cooperatively graduate to a world wide effort to see that all get enough of what they need to flourish? It is interesting that the Great Mother asks nothing in recompense from us for all Her bounty, though we, some of us, have taken too great a share while others have been left with too little. Can we not in some way emulate the way she gives forth all that is needed for us to thrive? Even our own bodies are like miniature versions of her's with a myriad of tiny lives working cooperatively to create a vehicle, a nest, to nurture into being the sense of self that each of us has. Can we not recognize the larger self that is humanity as a whole and see where we need to cooperate to heal our lopsided misshapen body that human kind currently has?

Now, where there is a mother with offspring, somewhere there is a father providing a seed. The nature of duality provides for the Law of Polarity which demands that there must be two sides for the whole to be manifest. Can a coin exist without both heads and tails? But the Great Father is hidden from view, beyond spirit. We can know he is there, however, like we know there is an invisible air that makes for wind to move the branches of the trees. We feel it on our face. We breath it in. We look up and see a blue sky that carries clouds floating by. We know the air is substantial, even though unseen, in part by intuition and thought experiment; the air is cold or warm on our face so there must be something there that is transferring that sensation. Our scientists have studied the signs and worked out the principles through trial and error so that we now take it for granted that air, though invisible, is a substance.

The Great Father is even more carefully hidden from view for if we were to witness him it would be too overwhelming to our psyches and destroy us. Think of how totally the Great Mother enfolds us in her embrace. Our bodies even, are made of her substance. The same is true of the Great Father. Our very I-ness is made of his substance, his presence, but like the super massive black hole at the center of our galaxy holding all in its massive gravitation, if the totality of his presence were to come too close to us we would be obliterated by It. The I we are is but a tiny reflection of the whole Being-ness that is the Father evidenced symbolically by the entire universe.

But why speak of such things? Do you not know that “speaking to you at all times” there is a seed of this Father, his Supreme Presence, that *is* you; that at this very moment is being nurtured by the Mother and growing *as* you? And that this is true of every human on Earth? If we practice this awareness, even study it in every instant, we find that all things work out well and for the good in the oneness of the whole. This everlasting Being-ness that *is* us and all around us everywhere present is constantly seeking to grow and become manifest as an ever more accurate expression of itself, removing the obstacles to this end.

The Magic Tree can be envisioned to symbolize This Hidden Presence in all things, revealed as colored light of every hue. It says we are one. We call this beautiful, and this beauty can be found anywhere you turn your studied gaze with eyes, and the I, to see. But, if you turn away and dwell in fear and hate, you can become like a cancer growth in the body human. If you find yourself in that state, begin to free yourself with but a tiny seed of faith and seek out the beauty that is everywhere present for those with their eyes (their I) open. This beauty is the signature of the Love of the Great Father hidden in every nook and cranny of our world. The Magic Tree, of course, falls far short of the endeavor to symbolically reveal the grand scope of what is hidden, but the hope is the rest will be done by the *one* that *you are* as you study this Sacred Presence in all things and so feel Its Wind upon your face, Its Breath within your lungs, Its Being as *your* very I-ness; the very same in all others. A Teacher comes who will make this more plain. Be ready with ears and eyes wide open.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the The Village of Cherry Hill Business Association for hosting the Magic Tree since 2010. Because the amount of traffic the Magic Tree attracts is too great for the neighborhood where we live Cherry Hill is graciously the keeper of the endeavor. The Village of Cherry Hill hosts the Magic Tree for the sole purpose of continuing the gift of holiday cheer that the annual lighting of the Magic Tree brings to the community. The opinions expressed in this flyer and on the official Magic Tree website (magic-tree.org) do not necessarily reflect those of The Village of Cherry Hill or any of its residents, businesses, or customers. Visit the Magic Tree Facebook page and please remember to express your thanks to the businesses and residents of Cherry Hill without whom the official Magic Tree would not have such an accommodating home.

Love's in everything, beauty is its signature and beauty is in the I's of the beholders,

Will Treelighter