



# Newsletter from the Open Grove

*forward thinking, interactive radio*

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**Welcome to the Open Grove!** So many significant and tragic events have happened in our lives and in the world that it feels almost selfish to turn our focus toward a more personal arena. Yet selfishness may indeed be self-care from which we draw the strength, hope and love we need to continue through uncertain times.

The month of October is a magical month. The seasons magically change in a spectacular display of color and light! Clint Eastwood has been quoted as saying that he will only make movies in the fall because the light is so magical. Magic is in the air - ordinary magic. We, at the Open Grove, marvel in at the changes in our grove. The apples are ready to be harvested, the leaves are changing colors and falling in some areas, and our pumpkin patch has once again produced green gourds which magically change into large orange pumpkins. Ordinary magic. What ordinary magic is happening in your grove?

What is ordinary magic? Ordinary magic is very simply the magic that we regularly ignore in our lives. It is the magic of love, the magic of healing, the magic of human connection, the magic of random kindness, the magic of peace and the magic of synchronicity. Magic surrounds us so often that we become completely immune to noticing it. For this month, I encourage you to spend some time noticing the magic around you. Send me ([claudia@opengrove.com](mailto:claudia@opengrove.com)) your stories of magic in your life and I will share them in our next newsletter.

**The magic of love:** The magic of love is the most overlooked magic in the world. Anyone who has experienced that first blush of romantic love knows that love is magical. Yet, there is so much love in the world. The gardener who tends his or her plants toward growth; we call this "nurturing". The waitress who remembers what you ordered last time; we call this "familiarity". The grandmother next door who always seems to have a kind, appropriate word to say; we call this "friendliness". The sales clerk who listens to your complaint with a sympathetic ear; we call this "empathy". Romantic love is only one type of love. Each of these words - nurturing, familiarity, friendliness, empathy and even compassion - are synonyms for love. Love literally surrounds us daily. This love endures, heals and generates growth and connection. The magic of love is literally the soil that your open grove grows in. I encourage you to notice the love that surrounds you and work to give some of it back to the world.

**The magic of human connection:** In moments of tragedy I am always struck by the magic of human compassion and connection. Magically, stranger to stranger people begin to cry together, protect each other, and work toward creating a new community. All of the usual rules of status, race differences and celebrity, were gone in a moment. The magic of human connection also spreads through the internet prompting people to act locally and openly display symbols of human connection. Nothing short of magic can bring about an immediate community which has spread nationally and internationally. I encourage you to notice the magical human connections in your life.

**The magic of synchronicity:** From the heart of New York City, Nancy Napier (an old friend of the Grove) wrote with this lovely story of synchronicity. "I always take a cab home from work once it is too dark in the evening to walk across Central Park. One night, I had the overwhelming urge to give the driver an extra \$5. I knew that I had to listen to the urge, and gave him the money. Once out of the cab, I did something uncharacteristic for my usual way of being with myself; I questioned why I did that, what a dumb thing to do, etc. throughout my ride up the elevator and to my floor. When I got off the elevator and arrived at my front door, on the carpet right there at my door was a \$5 bill. I felt that the magic of synchronicity was

