

THE MAGIC TREE  
2021  
FLYER 18

WELCOME, FAQs, HISTORY

Season's Greetings from the Magic Tree! Hours are from dusk to midnight every night through January 6th. This year there are approximately 40,000 lights that took about 60 hours to install on this ornamental cherry tree. It is good to be back to this tree after a heavy, wet snow fell on it in early 2019 while the lights were still on it and many of its branches broke under the weight. We pruned the tree back severely and in two years time it has recovered enough to serve as the Magic Tree once again. We're grateful to the two red maples that have served as the Magic Tree over the last two seasons. They make a spectacular display, but are tall and somewhat removed from the little people. This cherry tree is close to the ground where the little ones can enjoy it best. Remember to be in the moment like a little child to get the most out of being at the Magic Tree. This is the twelfth year the Magic Tree has been at Cherry Hill and the 27th year since its inception in 1995 on a crabapple in our yard. 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 by others. Our hope is that they all engender a spirit of cooperation and community across all boundaries.

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 I live the Magic Tree needed a new home and Cherry Hill obliged. 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 Magic Tree website ([magic-tree.org](http://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 of Cherry Hill without whom the official Magic Tree would not have such an accommodating home.

MUSINGS

The Magic Tree is something of an evolution. Not only does it change and morph, sometimes from one tree to another, over the years, but its color scheme changes even as I am putting the lights on it. I get started with one idea in mind and then almost immediately I'm thinking perhaps I could add this color over here and then follow it with this other color. Oh, and I could put these larger bulbs here and there and then make the center of the tree all blue. And so the creation goes as the lights are worked around each branch the color scheme emerges and evolves and takes the shape of the tree. It is always a surprise how it turns out. Every year the finished result is better than I expected, or feared, it would end up looking when complete.

This seems true of Life as well, that things just work out better than expected. At least, I believe it can, if we trust in Its goodness. Like the Magic Tree, Life is constantly changing and morphing into some new variation. But, if we let life's troubles keep us down, we tend to expect more of the same. Before we know it we've fallen into a continuous feedback loop of negativity with the emotions producing thoughts and the thoughts resulting in more bad feelings. Then, because of the resulting numbness to the beauty and goodness of Life this frame of mind produces, we often can't even see how our own way

of looking at things is effecting outcomes. We become insensitive to Life's goodness. There's a lack of trust. We are unaware of the role we play. Life seems fraught with trouble.

Of course, sad things do happen. Loved ones sometimes get sick or die. Millions starve to death around the globe. A pandemic sickens and kills millions - to name just a few of the really bad ones. But Life is always striving to find another way for its livingness to thrive. We are not separate from Life's effort. We are part and parcel of it. If we will put our confidence in the grandness of Life, its all encompassing Being, and recognize it as evident in everything, from the energy of the tiny atom to that unimaginable giganticness of a galaxy of stars, then we may begin to see how good outcomes can emerge from even difficult circumstances.

All we need is a little more sensitiveness. Not the emotional kind where we get our feelings hurt easily, but the kind that is more receptive to the goodness of Life. A good way to begin to become more keenly aware in this way is to look for the good and the beautiful. And when we've found beauty we have found love. And love is made of the goodness and goodwill of Life. Looking for and appreciating beauty brings us into the present moment where the fetters of negative emotions can be dissolved.

Let the Magic Tree remind us to search endlessly for goodness and to find ways to express it through exuding goodwill toward others. Who knows, such a mind set adopted by many may eventually lead to creative solutions for the thorniest of even global issues! All the while we may trust that the goodness of Life will see us through, whatever may come, so that never do we need to cling to certain outcomes, but enjoy a confidence that all will be well as long as we continue to be possessed by such a faith, that of a little child, and take up courageous and creative action to meet the need before us.

It comes down to a choice. Will I trust in the goodness of Life or give in to angry or despairing thoughts? We must take ourselves in hand and task the mind to hold itself steady in the light so that it feeds our feelings with the joy found in the goodness of Life. May you find such joy wherever you seek out beauty.

## PEACE

PART TWO  
(FOR PART ONE SEE LAST YEAR'S FLYER AT [MAGIC-TREE.ORG](http://MAGIC-TREE.ORG))

WAVES OF HEART BEAUTIFY YOUR SHORES  
SUNLIT MIND YOUR GUIDE FOREVERMORE  
AS THE CENTRAL ONE IN YOU INVOKED  
MAKES FAST THE DARE FOR GLORY HOPED

TEARS OF JOY FOR LIGHTED WAY FOUND  
TONGUES OF FLAME DANCE UPON YOUR CROWN  
LOST AND RENOUNCED ARE YOU WHERE YOU STAND  
BE THAT THAT YOU HOLD SO LIGHTLY IN HAND

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*Love's in everything,  
beauty's its signature and beauty is in the I of the beholder.*

*Will Treelighter*