

HALLOWED HOMECOMING : A SAMHAIN RETREAT



2023 PROGRAM

LETTER FROM THE STAFF

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Welcome to Hallowed Homecoming: A Samhain Retreat 2023!

We have mixed things up a bit this year, in order to provide a more holistic and impactful experience for our attendees.

Key items to note include the following:

1. All attendees receive stickers depending on their registration! These designs were created by Lauren G. Koch specifically for HHSR 2023. We hope you enjoy these stickers as an added bonus to attending. *keeperoftheoldways.com*
2. The Ritual Chapel returns! We have shifted the location to Cabin 55, as shown on the map, in order to provide a more centralized location for this space. Please feel free to use the chapel for meditation, small rituals, offerings, etc.
3. Our Pastoral Care Team is available for anyone who may require assistance post-ritual or during the week. You can identify these individuals by the purple bandana indicating they are on shift.
4. Everyone has “stoplight” stickers on their badges this year. This is to indicate the level of physical interaction/touch they are comfortable with:

Red  Please maintain social distancing

Yellow  Ask before you engage

Green  Accepting hugs and close contact

As always, if you have any questions, please grab a Staff member. All Staff member cabins are marked on the map later in this program, should you need assistance at night.

2023 SPECIAL GUEST

Enfys J. Book

Enfys J. Book (they/them) is an author, priestx, blogger, teacher, performer, singer, songwriter, and comedian.

They are the author of *Queer Qabala: Nonbinary, Genderfluid, Omnisexual Mysticism & Magick* (Llewellyn, June 2022) and co-author (with Ivo Dominguez, Jr.) of the forthcoming *Sagittarius Witch* (Llewellyn, 2024).

They are also a founding member of the “funny, filthy, feminist, fandom folk” band The Misbehavin’ Maidens, the creator of a website on queer magick called majorarqueerna.com, and the host of a podcast called “4 Quick Q’s: Book Talk with Enfys,” where they interview pagan authors using questions determined by a roll of the dice.

They have taught many classes on Tarot, Hermetic Qabala, and queering one’s magical practice at conferences and events around the United States. As a nonbinary, bisexual pagan and performer, Enfys employs a queer lens to break down limiting binaries in magickal practice, and advocates for bi-, trans-, non-binary/genderqueer-, queer-, and asexual-visibility and inclusion through their writing and music.

Enfys is the author of:

- *Queer Qabala: Nonbinary, Genderfluid, Omnisexual Mysticism & Magick*
- *2024 Sabbats Almanac* (contributor)
- *Sagittarius Witch* (co-authored with Ivo Dominguez, Jr.)



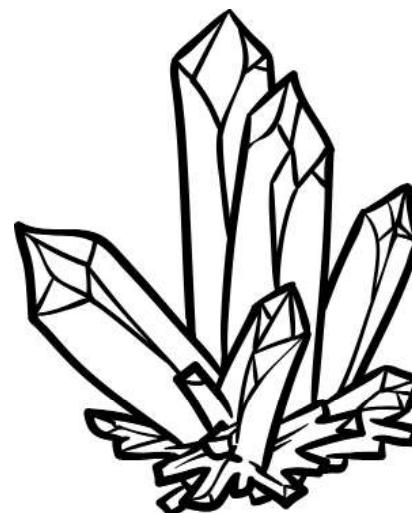
FEATURED WORKSHOPS

Friday, November 3 @ 12pm

Queering Your Magickal Practice: Breaking Out of the Binary

For LGBTQIAP2S+ people, certain “traditional” aspects of various magickal practices may feel somewhat alienating. When spiritual groups and texts lean on myth cycles and ritual aspects focused on fertility and virility and use heteronormative symbolism, it becomes difficult for us to see ourselves in the magick.

In this highly interactive and discussion-based workshop, explore how myth cycles, ritual structures, and traditional magickal practices can be adapted and viewed through a queer lens to be more all-inclusive and empower everyone, particularly people who are too often marginalized in our society.



Saturday, November 4 @ 9am

The Genderqueer Tree of Life

The Hermetic Qabala is often perceived as an old-fashioned, patriarchal magickal tool full of absolutes and gender binaries. However, a deeper look within reveals all kinds of complicated, multi-faceted, and fluid gender and magickal polarities.

This class will provide a brief introduction to Hermetic Qabala, including a pathworking where participants can experience the energy of each sphere on the tree, followed by an analysis on the use of gender and polarity in magick. We will then look at the use of gender and polarities on the Tree of Life and consider how this can relate to our magickal perspectives and practices. The class will conclude by offering a sample model for applying a queer lens to the Tree of Life, offering participants the tools necessary to develop their own.



Saturday, November 4 @ 3pm

Create Your Own Rite Of Passage Ritual

The dominant overculture celebrates a few notable rites of passage, most of them related to milestones of age, academics, relationships, and careers. These rites of passage are largely celebratory in nature, but ritualizing rites of passage in the context of our magickal practice can serve even deeper functions. They can move us forward, with courage and confidence, into something new; help us leave behind that which no longer serves our greatest good; affirm our identities; and deepen our spiritual connections with ourselves and the most important people in our lives.

In this interactive workshop, we will explore different types of rites of passage, the building blocks of a rite of passage ritual, ways to make your ritual unique and deeply meaningful within your own personal magickal context, and tips and tricks for collaborating with groups. Through guided meditation followed by journaling prompts, each participant will leave the workshop with an initial draft of a rite of passage ritual. Please bring paper and a writing utensil (or a laptop or tablet) to create your draft ritual.



2023 SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 2

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **REGISTRATION OPEN**

If Registration table is unattended, please proceed to the Feast Hall.

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM **DINNER**

Dining Hall

8:00 PM - 12:00 AM **BONFIRE CIRCLE**

Feast Hall

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

INTO SHADOW, INTO DARKNESS: AN INTRODUCTION TO SHADOW WORK
Feast Hall

Cat Yimet

AUGURY WITH RAVEN & WREN
Craft Cabin

Mo (Moine Michelle)

GETTING WITCHY WITH IT: SELF-CARE AND ADVOCACY FOR THE WITCHY WARRIOR
Feast Hall

Loren G. Koch

SACRED LISTENING & SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT
Craft Cabin

Mason

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

DINNER: FOGO DE HOWL
Dining Hall

Friday, November 3

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **BREAKFAST**

Morning announcements at 8:15 AM

9:00 AM **REGISTRATION OPEN**

If Registration table is unattended, please proceed to the Feast Hall.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM **ADJACENT?**

Feast Hall

Raven

A HOUSE OF ETERNITY
Craft Cabin

Adrienne Anderson

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **OPENING RITUAL: BEYOND THE VEIL**

Feast Hall

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM **QUEERING YOUR MAGICAL PRACTICE: BREAKING OUT OF THE BINARY**

Feast Hall

Enfys J. Book

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST

Morning announcements at 8:15 AM

8:00 AM

REGISTRATION OPEN

If Registration table is unattended, please proceed to the Feast Hall.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

THE GENDERQUEER TREE OF LIFE
Feast Hall

Enfys J. Book

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

THE DARK SIDE OF THE RUNES: SECONDARY MISSIVES IN RUNE DIVINATION & MAGIC
Feast Hall

Scott Mohnkern

SINGING TO THE BONES: AN INTRODUCTION TO CASTING BONES, CHARMS & CURIOS
Craft Cabin

Tava Baird

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH
Dining Hall

1:30 PM -
3:00 PM

**EVERYTHING & THE KITCHEN SINK: BACK TO THE
WITCHY BASICS**
Feast Hall

Lauren G. Koch

3:00 PM -
4:30 PM

WITCH-CRAFTING
Craft Cabin

Tabitha

CREATE YOUR OWN RITES OF PASSAGE
Feast Hall

Enfys J. Book

6:00 PM -
7:30 PM

DINNER
Dining Hall

8:00 PM -
10:00 PM

MAIN RITUAL: GATEWAYS TO THE UNDERWORLD
Feast Hall

10:00 PM -
12:00 AM

BONFIRE CIRCLE
Feast Hall

Sunday, November 5

8:30 AM -
10:00 AM

CLOSING RITUAL: WEAVING OF THE VEIL
Feast Hall

10:00 AM -
11:00 AM

BREAKFAST
Feast Hall

10:00 AM -
11:00 AM

RECLAIMING "THEOLOGY"
Feast Hall

Shige Sakurai

HEALING & BALANCING SOUND BATH
Ritual Chapel

Nikki

12:30 PM -
1:30 PM

LUNCH
Dining Hall

2:00 PM

DEPARTURES & POST-EVENT CLEAN UP

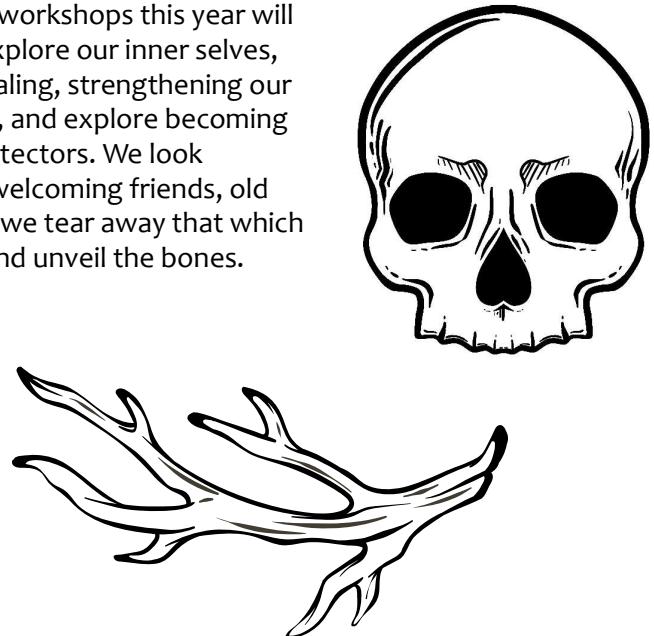
RITUAL ARC

As we descend into ourselves during the dark time of the year, we will shed that which no longer serves us. This year at Hallowed Homecoming: A Samhain Retreat, we will focus on finding our inner selves and strengthening the foundations upon which we build our identity, both spiritually and physically. To do so, we must challenge the preconceived notions we have of ourselves, as well as our external fears.

Join us Thursday evening, as we start to gather at our new site and relax with familiar and new faces. On Friday morning, we begin our work, opening the veil in order to receive messages to help us in facing our internal and external fears.

Saturday evening, we will say our final goodbyes to the parts of ourselves that we wish to shed, leaving them as an offering to the death deities. We will come out of our journey able to build on our foundation, our bones. Finally, on Sunday, we will sew the veil together during our closing ritual.

The offered workshops this year will help us to explore our inner selves, allow for healing, strengthening our spiritualities, and explore becoming our own protectors. We look forward to welcoming friends, old and new, as we tear away that which hinders us and unveil the bones.



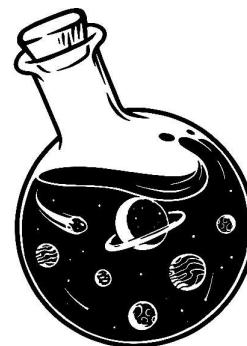
FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

Adjacent?

People are often more comfortable categorizing things, dividing them into definable groupings that make them easier to understand. Sometimes this even pertains to our spiritual life. Some may define themselves as Heathens, and confine their dedication to the Northern path, others follow the Irish deities, the Hellenic, the Egyptian.

When one enters into a relationship with a deity, sometimes it is like getting wed or adopted, in that their family and cultural traditions comes with them! But, what happens when you are called to the service of the Morrigan (Irish), Hera (Greek), Frigga and Odin(Nordic), Baron Samedi (Voudon), Sekhmet (Egyptian), etc.? Do you need to “pick a pantheon” and stick with it? What if you choose not to do so? What does it mean to be “-adjacent” as a spiritual path? I invite you to come explore the world of the space between with me, and to see what its like.

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Feast Hall



A House of Eternity

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Craft Cabin

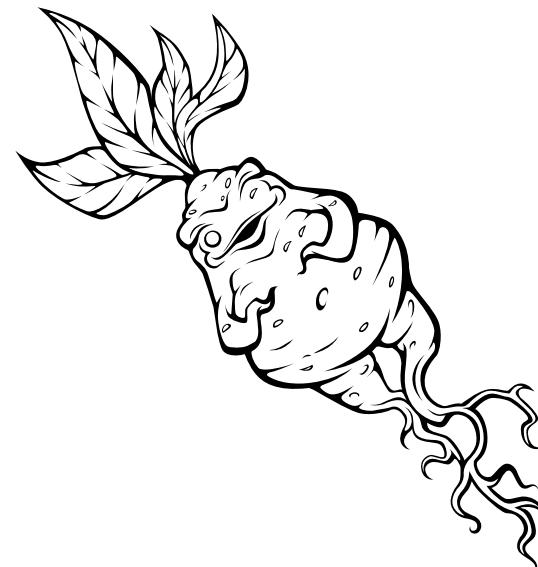
A conversation about how Egyptian tombs functioned magickally to protect the dead and facilitate a smooth afterlife.

Into Shadow, Into Darkness: An Introduction to Shadow Work

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Feast Hall

Shadow work has grown in popularity in recent years, but just what is it? A blend of psychology and personal spirituality, shadow work can take many forms, and is easily tailored to any practice.

In this workshop, we will rough out a definition of “shadow work” and discuss various methods to start a practice. Participants will learn the whys behind shadow work and the benefits to this practice. After an introductory lecture, participants will be led through a short meditation/journey to familiarize themselves with a common method of starting shadow work: finding the Pit.



Augury with Raven & Wren

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Craft Cabin

In Scotland, a ritual-form named the “frith” augered the condition and placement of things lost, the outcome of ventures, and acquired messages about people, animals, and the land. A “fitheachas” was specific ritual working of the frith, which called upon the knowledge of the raven or the wren to warn, guide, and inform a seeker. The old Irish scéal (stories, sagas) also tell us of three trance-informed poetic abilities cultivated by the Druids: Imbás forosnai (illuminating wisdom), Dichetal Do Chennaib (speaking from the head/ spontaneous incantation), and Teinm Laida (“cracking the marrow”—a form of spell song).

In this workshop, we will discuss these rituals, the sgéul/scéal that offer insights into these states and how these stories guide today’s mystics in opening to the wealth of messages of the unseen worlds, spirits of the land, gods and not gods. We will discuss what we may do to cultivate and explore these states safely and toward deeper wisdom. Using modern poetic techniques, we will then create a chant to shield and protect us before we call upon and journey with our Raven or Wren allies. What messages of the new campsite and its land spirits await us?



Getting Witchy with It: Self Care & Advocacy for the Witchy Warrior

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Feast Hall

Reconnecting to our core truths and caring for ourselves as magikal practitioners is often the last thing we take time for. However, caring for ourselves physically and energetically is one of the most vital parts of our practice, especially when we are being bombarded daily from external forces we have no control over.

Learn simple ways to regulate your nervous system so you have more resiliency when it’s time to do the hard work. In addition to discussing simple ways to protect your energy, loved ones, and property magically, all while becoming a stronger advocate for disenfranchised populations.

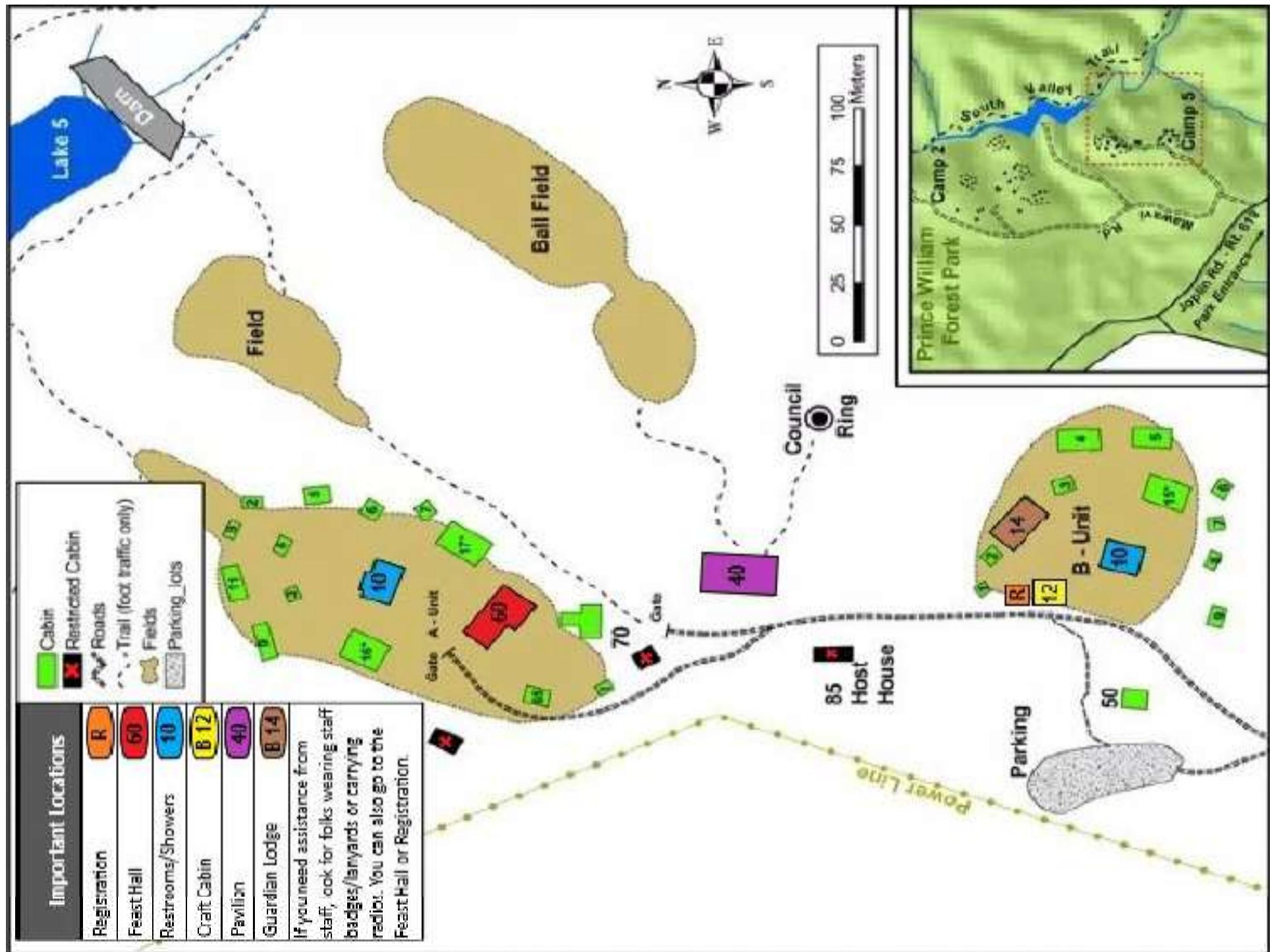


Sacred Listening & Spiritual Accompaniment

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Craft Cabin

Spiritual accompaniment, also called spiritual direction or spiritual companionship, is more well known outside of Pagan traditions, but it is an ancient art that creates space for seekers to be in deep conversation and relationship with whatever they hold sacred.

In this session, a short history of spiritual companionship will be shared, along with some practical applications for this practice in Pagan communities. The session will culminate in a taste of group spiritual direction for those gathered. Come prepared to learn, share (as desired), and listen for the voice or movement of the Sacred in your life.



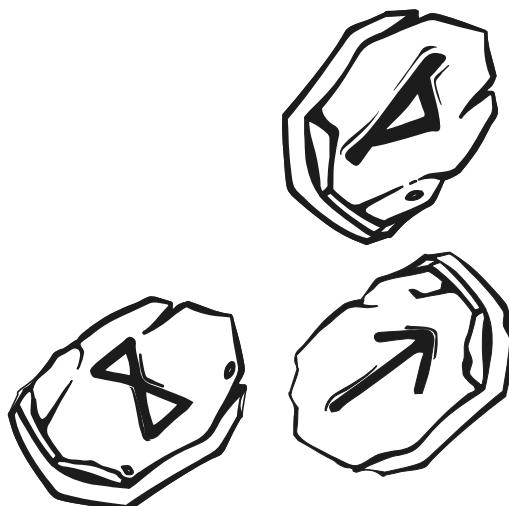
SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

The Dark Side of the Runes: Secondary Missives in Rune Divination & Magic

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Feast Hall

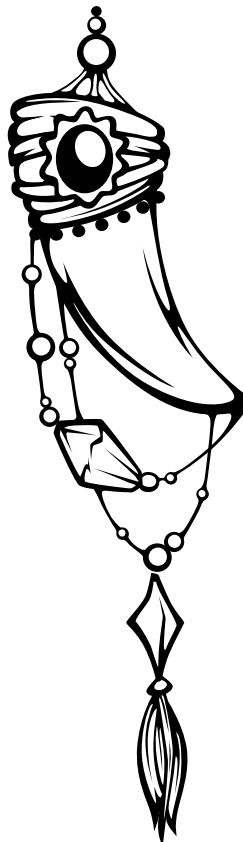
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Learn simple ways to regulate your nervous system so you have more resiliency when it's time to do the hard work. In addition to discussing simple ways to protect your energy, loved ones, and property magically, all while becoming a stronger advocate for disenfranchised populations.



Singing to the Bones: An Introduction to Casting Bones, Charms & Curios

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Craft Cabin



Singing to the Bones is an introductory course in the ancient, beautiful, and endangered art of osteomancy and its evolution into other divination practices today. This deeply personal form of divination is a dying art and this course is aimed at helping to preserve the practice of our ancestors while deepening our connection to the world of nature and our inner selves.

Topics include the history of divination using bones from various cultures around the world, how to build your personal kit, how to welcome your Bones, casting grounds and methods of casting, preparing to read, reading for others, and retiring Bones. Participants will receive a starter bone and curio casting kit, a casting cloth designed by the instructor, and a copy of the author's book, *Singing To The Bones*.

Everything & the Kitchen Sink: Back to the Witchy Basics

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Feast Hall

We all love a good ritual... and yes it is totally fine to have elaborate altars and a huge collection of books, crystals, and divination devices. But... what do you do when you are tired or limited on time?



It's time to forget all the fancy stuff and get back to the basics. Turn the mundane into something magikal just by repurposing things around the house or foraging in your yard. Powerful and meaningful magic can be done at your stove or while you are taking a shower.

Witch-Crafting

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Craft Cabin

This is a crafting class for you to make your own witch bottle. Herbs, wax, ribbon, bottles, stones, and bits of fabric will be supplied for making a witch bottle for your future spells. Bring your own additional supplies and prepare materials for your other spells in this hands on workshop.

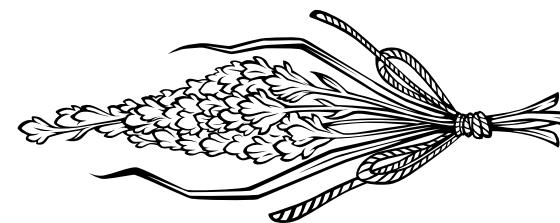


SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

Reclaiming "Theology"

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Feast Hall

What are the deepest principles, values, and ways of being that connect us and inform our abilities to live a life that is spiritually grounded and profoundly rooted in purpose and meaning? The term “theology” has so often been associated with Christian orthodoxies and doctrines, and even in Pagan spaces associated with surface-level thoughts about existences of or worship of certain deities in a spiritual cosmology. When we strip these ideas back to the bones, what is revealed? A well of resilience, a chance for rediscovery and reimagination of our communities, our humanness, and our connections to nature, to the universe itself. In this workshop, we will explore deeper ways we can conceptualize and reclaim “theology” and spend some time to reflect and share our thoughts with each other about how theologies can serve as underpinnings in our lives and spiritual undertakings.



Healing & Balancing Sound Bath

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Ritual Chapel

Come and relax as the sounds of crystal bowls, Tibetan bells, drums and more wash over you. This Sound healing and guided meditation session will create a space of acceptance and openness for participants to consider and integrate releasing and renewing energies.

LOCAL PRESENTERS

Adrienne Anderson

she/her

Adrienne Anderson has been a practicing Kemetic for over 23 years. She is currently living in Akron Ohio with her husband Scott and offspring Jack, as well as 3 oft photographed cats. Recognized as a Guardian in good standing in 2011 and ordained as clergy by the state of Ohio in 2013, Adrienne is part of the lead clergy for Crooked River Circle in Northeast Ohio, serving the populace as one of the largest public pagan groups in the area, as well as being the lead guardian at their events. She is active in Akron in the local community and neighborhood events to facilitate better communication between pagan and non pagan communities. Adrienne also is the first pagan clergy to have opened prayer for the Akron City Council in their over 100 year history.



Cat Yimet

xe/xem

Cat is a historically informed polytheist and Pagan, animist, and witch. Xyr path focuses on folklore and mythology, and xe is developing a path based on these old tales for the modern world. Cat also studies both hedge witchery and traditional witchcraft. Xe lives in Alexandria with xyr long-time partner and their two dogs.

Lauren G. Koch

she/her; they/them

Lauren G. Koch (she/them) is a creator, wanderer, alchemist, healer, teacher, and feeler that has been practicing herbalism, exploring self-expression, studying world religions and holistic wellness most of her life, all while working to further develop their intuition. As an interdisciplinary artist, musician, holistic wellness practitioner, and eclectic witch, their practice has been shaped by the music, lore, and folk/granny magic of the Southern Appalachians, where they grew up.

Now, Lauren calls Mid-Maryland home, tucked in a valley surrounded by their beloved mountains. When Lauren is not teaching, working with clients, or being creative, you can find them sipping tea or coffee with their cats or going for a hike to forage and sit for hours with their feet in a creek while art journaling.



Mason

he/him; they/them

Mason is a fellow seeker and aspiring mystic following a winding path of Druid wisdom and intuitive magic. Seminary taught him how to translate various faith ideas into sacred language he can understand. He possesses few answers but relishes every question, certain only that he is blessed as a queer and trans individual. When not in the forest or in his head, he can be found in the joyous company of his spouse and cats in a little home where the waters of the Anacostia and the Potomac rivers run together. Mason is a spiritual care worker serving individuals and groups through Seek Sincerely Spiritual Care and a Steward of Wilderness Between, a Druid-inspired, nature-revering collective in the DC area.

Mo (Moine Michelle)

she/her

Moine Michelle is a poet-seer, Druid, animist, and ancestor-worshiper. She can usually be found listening to the trees, rivers, mountains, and old ways of West Virginia—often in company of two mischievous four-leggeds and a variety of visiting spirits. In her day job she teaches writers to love every aspect of the writing process.



Nikki

she/her

As a Fredericksburg resident, Nikki has been working with the local community to bring healing and learning through reiki, sound healing, tarot and meditation. Establishing her business in 2016, Nikki has practiced reiki since 2012 and is a Master level teacher & practitioner. Sound healing certification in 2020 helped to broaden her offerings and furthers her goal of creating spaces where people can explore their own empowerment and expansion.

Raven

she/her

Raven is an eclectic pagan polytheist, singer, priestess, and self-identified wierdo, currently practicing trance-possession worship with the Universal Temple of Spirits (UToS). Raven is called to the guardian path, and has been for most of her pagan and mundane life. Initially trained in Gardnerian Wicca, Raven attained her third degree in Denver in 1994 - but then moved back to the Maryland suburbs where she grew up. Cut off from her Colorado practice in the days before the internet was what it is now, Raven practiced as a solitary for many years, and did a lot of exploring and inner work. In her travels she pulled her spouse Scott, The Modern Heathen, along with her, so she takes credit for that as well. She discovered there were a lot of strong tugs in a lot of directions, and those tugs pulled her onto the polytheist, poly-pantheonic pathway she walks now.



Scott Mohnkern

he/him

Scott Mohnkern has been a practicing heathen for over 25 years. He has written three books, including "A Year of Viking Ritual" and "Hanging from the Tree: Living with the Runes". He was a founding member of Journeys Rest, a heathen working group, and is a founding member of Potomac Seidr Guild Ondvegisulur, a Oracular Seidr group based out of Maryland. He has been coordinator for Free Spirit Gathering, a large pagan gathering in Darlington, MD since 2019.

Shige Sakurai

they/them

The Rev. Shige Sakurai is an ordained Druid Priest/ess/x, thought leader, social justice advocate, educator, and internationalist with experiences in over three dozen countries. They currently serve as a senior executive in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Shige authored the Pronouns.org website, which has reached over 13 million readers and has been archived by the Library of Congress. Shige is also the founder of International Pronouns Day. Shige's writings on Shinto, Druidry, and Unitarian Universalism have been published in various places, and they have been quoted across a wide variety of media, including USA Today, Washington Post, Associated Press, CNN, and Reuters. They have done speaking engagements at UCLA, Georgetown, Princeton, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and many other universities, as well as at numerous federal agencies, such as the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services. Shige has degrees from University of Illinois, American University, and IE University. They also have alumni status with Harvard Divinity School and certificates from Wesley Theological Seminary and University of Miami.

Tava Baird

she/her

Tava Baird has been an active mentor and researcher in the pagan community for over thirty-five years and holds a degree in archaeology from the University of Virginia. A playwright for the last fifteen years and a teacher for over twenty, she has published a book on bone-casting titled Singing to the Bones and one on the practice of utilizing puppets for healing called Of Clay and Cloth. Her next novel in her pagan fantasy series, the Spiral Pathways, is titled Bonewytch and will be out in the fall of 2023. An audiobook version of her first novel, Wyldwood, is currently in production. She is working on an oracle deck based on the Spiral Pathways series, a series of pagan children's books, an introductory book on potions, and a prequel series to The Spiral Pathways. She resides in the mountains of Virginia, where she teaches divination and history in her spare time, and crafts puppets and other magickal tools. Visit Tava online at tavabaird.com



Tabitha

she/her

Tabitha is a solitary Witch who studies a wide variety of pagan topics.

EVENT RULES

In order to ensure we have a safe gathering and also abide by the rules set by our host, the National Park Service we ask all to be aware of and follow these basic rules:

ALCOHOL	Alcohol is only permitted during ritual. Alcohol is not permitted elsewhere on park grounds.
WEAPONS	Weaponry is not permitted. Blades may be used during ritual by those with designated roles.
DRUGS	Illegal drugs are not permitted in compliance with national and Virginia laws.
CLOTHING	Clothing is required. Please wear comfortable, climate-appropriate clothing and/or ritual attire throughout the event.
SMOKING	Limit smoking to the designated area and dispose of butts in the designated cans.
PETS	Only registered service animals are permitted.
WILDLIFE	Please avoid the local wildlife. If you feel uncomfortable or in danger, please contact a member of staff.
VIOLENCE/ CONFLICT	Violent, rude, and inappropriate behavior will be addressed by staff as necessary. Especially heinous behavior will result in ejection from the event without a refund.
FIRES	Fires are only permitted in the Feast Hall, Craft Cabins and Fire Circle. Staff and designated fire tenders are responsible for lighting, maintaining, and extinguishing fires, for the safety of the participants and the park.

SACRED FIRES

Do not burn anything in the Feast Hall or Bonfire Circle without approval by the Fire Coordinator. NO TRASH.

KITCHEN

Please do not enter the kitchen without permission, unless it is your volunteer shift. This is for your safety and that of the kitchen witches.

VOLUNTEERS

Please arrive for your volunteer shift on time. If you will not be able to perform the duty you volunteered for, please check in with a staff member.

TRASH/ RECYCLING

Please ensure all trash is deposited in designated receptacles. When you depart, please ensure all trash is deposited in the dumpsters near the Feast Hall.

RADIOS

Non-staff should only use odd channels. Even channels are reserved for staff.

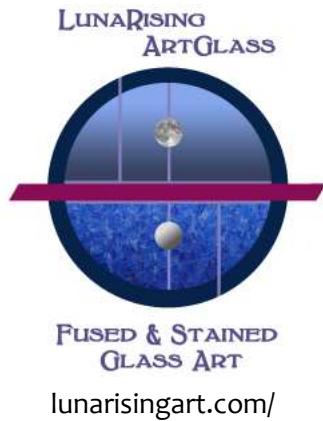
LANYARDS

Please have your lanyard on you and visible at all times. Staff can be identified by their lanyards and badges.

**Please see a member of
Staff or a Guardian
if you have any questions.**

2023 SPONSORS

The generous donations of our sponsors helps us cover logistics and administrative costs, which in turn translates to lower ticket prices for attendees.



Cherry Hill Seminary

The best in
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ministry training for
Pagan and Nature-
based spiritualities



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2023 EVENT SURVEY

Attendee feedback is critical to our ability to put on this event each year. The more feedback we receive, the more we can improve our event to better serve the community.

We have paper copies of this year's survey; however, please feel free to use the QR code below to be directed to the Google form.