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# Schedule

Thursday May 2

3:00PM – 7:00PM, <b>Feast Hall Front Porch:</b> Registration is Open
6:00PM – 7:00PM, <b>Feast Hall:</b> Evening Feast and Meet & Greet
7:15PM – 8:00PM, <b>Feast Hall:</b> A Beltane Tale
8:15PM – 9:00PM, <b>Feast Hall:</b> Eisteddfod
9:30PM – 10:30PM, <b>Feast Hall:</b> Warding Ritual
10:30PM– , <b>Bonfire Circle:</b> Bonfire and Bardic Circle

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## Friday May 3

7:00AM – 8:00AM, <b>Craft Lodge C</b>						
Morning Yoga						
7:30AM - 9:00AM, <b>Feast Hall</b>						
Breakfast						
9:00AM - 7:00PM, <b>Feast Hall Front Porch:</b>						
Registration is Open						
9:00AM - 11:45AM  Workshop Block A	<b>Craft A</b>  The Tapestry of your Life	<b>Craft B</b>  Spirituality, Philosophy, Religion: Weaving the Path	<b>Craft C</b>  Weaving with Your Inner Fire	<b>Craft D</b>  First Degree Reiki, Part 1	<b>Feast Hall</b>  Early Religion in Scandinavia	Family Craft 9 –10:30
						Weaving a Bright Future
						Family Craft 10:45- 11:45
						Manifest your Dreams
12:00PM - 1:00PM, <b>Feast Hall</b>						
Lunch						
1:15PM - 2:00PM, <b>Ritual Field</b>						
Wakening Ritual						
2:15PM - 5:15PM  Workshop Block B	<b>Craft A</b>  Introduction to Shamanism	<b>Craft B</b>  Introduction to Personal Energy Work	<b>Craft C</b>  Pagan Songs and Chants	<b>Craft D</b>  Fiber Magic	<b>Feast Hall</b>  2:15 – 3:15 <b>Maypole Decorating</b>	Feast Hall
						3:30 – 4:30 Helping Hands: Making Meatballs!
6:00PM - 7:15PM, <b>Feast Hall</b>						
Evening Feast						
Performances <b>Feast Hall</b>	7:30PM - 8:15PM Melanie Bresnan					
	8:30PM - 9:15PM MAHARAL					
10:00, <b>Bonfire Circle</b>						
Bonfire and Bardic Circle						

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Saturday May 4

7:00AM – 8:00AM, <b>Craft Lodge C</b> Morning Yoga						
7:30AM - 9:00AM, <b>Feast Hall</b> Breakfast						
9:00AM - 1:00PM, <b>Feast Hall Front Porch:</b> Registration is Open						
9:00AM – 12:00PM  Workshop Block A	Craft A	Craft B	Craft C	Craft D	Family Craft Cabin	
	Weaving Your Own Destiny	The Agony and the Ecstasy	Run Valdr - Part 1	First Degree Reiki, Part 2	9 –10:30 Weaving a Bright Future	Ritual Field 11:00 – 12:00 Children's Maypole Dance
12:15PM - 2:00PM, <b>The Commons</b> Cook-out Lunch						
2:00PM - 2:45PM, <b>Ritual Field</b> Warrior Blessing Ritual						
3:00PM - 5:15PM  Workshop Block B	Craft A	A Unit Field	Craft C	Craft D	Feast Hall	Family Craft Cabin
	Primal Shamanism: Introduction to Shaping	Experiential Elemental Energy Work	Run Valdr Part 2	Power. Freedom. Boundaries. Consent.	Smithcraft Lore	3:00 – 4:30  Exploring Colors
5:30 - 6:15PM, <b>Ritual Field</b> Wandering Ritual and Maypole Dance						
6:30PM - 7:45PM, <b>Feast Hall</b> Evening Feast						
Performance <b>Feast Hall</b>	8:00PM – 9:00PM Kindred Crow					
9:00PM – 10:00PM, <b>Starting at Feast Hall and proceeding to Bonfire Circle</b> Wilding Ritual						
10:00, <b>Bonfire Circle</b> Bonfire and Bardic Circle						

## Sunday May 5

7:00AM – 8:00AM, <b>Craft Lodge C</b> Morning Yoga
8:00AM - 9:30AM, <b>Feast Hall</b> Breakfast
11:00AM – 12:00PM, <b>Feast Hall:</b> Weaving Ritual
12:15PM – 1:30PM, <b>Feast Hall:</b> Lunch
2:00PM – 3:00PM, <b>Entire Site:</b> Community Cleanup
3:00PM Fertile Ground Gathering Closes

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## Inclusivity and Consent Policy

Fertile Ground Gathering is a place that has been and must remain safe for all of our guests. Any situation involving abuse or unwanted sexual advances or physical contact toward anyone, will be treated very seriously by our staff, may result in removal from the event if deemed necessary by our staff, and will be reported to law enforcement as appropriate.

We expect and require our guests to be mindful of the need for consent from others for situations including, but not limited to, sexual contact, platonic physical contact, and intrusion upon personal space.

At a Pagan festival, many people's inhibitions are lowered. But the word "No" must always be honored. If your interest in another attendee of the Gathering is not returned, that is where it ends. If, at any time, you feel as if someone is making unwanted advances toward you, please reach out immediately to our staff (those wearing neon green, red, or blue wristbands during the day, and green, red, or blue glowsticks at night).

We welcome people at Fertile Ground Gathering regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, skin color, ethnicity, age\*, or belief.

\* Minors must be accompanied at the event by a parent or legal guardian.

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## Rules

- No alcohol is allowed anywhere at Fertile Ground Gathering. This includes cabins. This is a park regulation.
- Illegal drugs will not be tolerated and will be grounds for removal from Fertile Ground Gathering.
- Weapons are prohibited at Fertile Ground Gathering in accordance with National Park Service regulations and Federal Law.
- Clothing is not optional. Please keep your clothes on at all times. This is a family event being held on federal property and nudity is not permitted.
- ID wristbands must be worn and visible at all times.
- Trash and recycling containers are provided throughout the site. Please use them!
- There will be designated smoking/vaping sections at all main areas of the campsite, and we ask that smokers and vapers please use them. Smoking and vaping are prohibited inside all buildings at Fertile Ground. This is a park rule.
- Smoking/vaping immediately outside the entrance to lodges and halls is prohibited, because it forces others to enter and leave through a cloud of smoke.
- Yes, incense and smudging count as smoke. So, although you are welcome to use these outdoors (as long as they remain attended) you may not smudge or burn incense inside your cabin or anywhere else indoors.
- Children are not to be left unattended at any time. While we make every effort to ensure that the environment of Fertile Ground Gathering is safe for all our guests, the reality is that we will be surrounded by acres of forest, and some of the terrain outside of marked pathways can be treacherous. In addition, there is the potential for children to disturb wildlife, which might hurt them in self-defense. If our staff find children wandering alone, we may, at our discretion, choose to warn the child's parent or guardian, or require that the parent or guardian leave the event with the child. If you have any

concerns about this policy, please contact us to address those concerns.

- Children age 12 and up may attend the general workshops without a parent or guardian as long as they are capable of behaving in a mature manner.
- The kitchen is off limits to everyone except kitchen staff and volunteers. No exceptions will be made.
- No swimming in the lake! We do not have a life guard on staff but the large population of snapping turtles guards the lake well and will not tolerate your presence in their home! (Plus, you really don't want that kind of injury.)
- No open flames are allowed, except as designated by Fertile Ground Staff. There are 5 designated fire areas within the camp ground. The Bonfire Circle and the grills at each of the craft cabin pavilions. No other open flame of any sort will be tolerated on site. This includes, but is not limited to, candles, torches and kerosene flames. (We know how pagans love their candles, but this rule is non-negotiable.)
- It is a park rule that lanterns are not to be attached or hung from trees or other vegetation in any manner.
- You are responsible for cleaning your cabin before you leave. Please be considerate and leave the area in the condition (or better than!) it was when you arrived. Each cabin must be swept and mopped. Brooms, mops and cleaner are available in each bathhouse.
- Noise Restrictions. Please be respectful of your neighbors. We all want to have fun but we need to be mindful of the noise we make. There is an official noise curfew of 12:00 midnight in and around the public areas of the camp site. So please don't sing, chant, yell or play any instruments after this time. The noise curfew for the cabin areas will be 10:00 p.m. Please remember that some folks like to go to sleep early; so be respectful and keep your noise level down in these areas.
- No pets. Sorry...no critters, pets, familiars and the like will be permitted into the camp site. Only certified service animals will be permitted. This is a National Park Service regulation.

- In order to ensure a safe and sacred space for all of our guests, we reserve the right to deny entry to anyone for any reason.

We reserve the right to revise these policies without notice.

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## Etiquette

- If there are small children nearby, you may wish to consider the language you use. Many parents would prefer that some types of language not be used around their young ones.
- If the majority of the folks in your cabin are ready to go to bed, please keep your voices down or move to one of the common areas. If you are the only one who is ready for sleep, don't expect everyone else to be quiet!
- If there is an altar in your cabin or cabin cluster, please respect it. Do not set empty drink cans or cups on the altar. Never touch others' magical tools (wands, amulets, chalices, etc.) without their permission.
- If you are invited to visit in a cabin, please do not assume this gives you license to go into their cooler or food supply.
- Don't enter a cabin without permission!
- Bring appropriate clothing/bedding for the weekend. Remember to bring cold and wet weather gear. Around here, the weather can be very unpredictable during this time of year.
- Children are very welcome at Fertile Ground, but please make sure they are cared for. Do not assume that other folks will be willing to watch your children. Explain to your children that they must be with you at all times. Make sure they are aware of the location of the Feast Hall in case of an emergency. There will almost always be someone there either on the porch at Registration, or in the kitchen.
- Staff members will be wearing special-colored wristbands during the day and glow sticks after dark (Red for medical staff, Blue for safety staff, and Green for all other staff members). In addition, all staff members will be wearing badges clearly indicating their status. If you need assistance or find someone who else who does, please locate one of us so that we can assist you or them as needed. All staff members will have radios, so they can contact other members of the team if necessary.
- Clean up after yourself after meals; please don't leave your dishes and so forth on the tables and expect someone else to

pick them up for you. Even if your mother is here, she probably doesn't want to have to clean up after you.

- Clean up after yourself at the showers and bathrooms, too. Please remember that others will be using these facilities, too and that courtesy goes a long way.
- Smokers must field-strip their cigarette butts if no designated ash-can is available. Throwing butts on the ground is not only a fire hazard; it's disrespectful to the park staff, as well as the Earth itself.
- Please pick up any stray trash you find lying on the ground. If you attend the Drum Circle, please do not leave your empty drink containers or trash behind. Pick them up and dispose of them properly when you leave the area each day.
- Please do not drink the water designated for extinguishing fire in the bon fire circle area.
- Treat each other and the park with respect, and likewise respect all those paths that have led people to the Gathering.
- Bring a positive attitude.
- Be responsible for the energy you bring into the space.

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## Services

See our service providers directly in order to arrange services

### Rune And Card Readings by Jane Sibley

Full Runestick Reading - \$20

A 20-minute Runestick Reading

Quick Runestick Reading - \$10

A 10-minute Runestick Reading

Swedish Card Reading - \$12

A 15 - 20 minute Swedish card reading

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### Astrological Readings by Christopher LaFond

What Makes You Tick - \$25

Astrological Mini-Reading

Do you know what really makes you tick? What your Primary Motivation is? What underlies all the major decisions you make? Knowing this can help you make much better decisions, whether important or small. Even if you've already had your chart read by a professional, I can guarantee you have not explored this aspect of your chart. I use techniques based on methods that were practiced for hundreds of years. This reading gets right to the point, identifying what's most important for you — whether you know it or not!

**Please note: You must know your birth time within a few minutes of accuracy for this reading.**

What About Me? - \$20

Astrological Mini-Reading

This is a mini reading for those who don't know what time of day they were born. We can still read some helpful information in the chart, though in a much more limited way than a full reading. If you don't know your birth time and want to try a short reading, this is for you! I

can give you suggestions about how to find your birth time at the time of the reading.

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## Sound Healing Sessions by Jenna Greene

Prices are suggested donations to help Jenna with travel costs from Boston and to help her keep touring. Please send the money to via PayPal to [greeneladymusic@gmail.com](mailto:greeneladymusic@gmail.com)

### Write Your Own Spellsong: \$30

Jenna will coach you through writing a chant, customized to shift stressful energies into healing energies that help you to move forward. She will give you tips and techniques for using your chant as part of a daily meditative practice. No singing or songwriting experience is required.

### Sound Healing - \$15, \$30

Jenna will tap into the soothing, transformative powers of Tibetan and crystal singing bowls, harp, vocals and affirmations to help you release stress and draw in energies to empower your journey. This healing includes vocal Reiki, Usui Reiki and aromatherapy.

Suggested donation varies with length of session.

### Write Your Own Spellsong PLUS Sound Healing - \$40

Jenna will coach you through writing a chant, customized to shift stressful energies into healing energies that help you to move forward. She will give you tips and techniques for using your chant as part of a daily meditative practice. No singing or songwriting experience is required.

Jenna will also tap into the soothing, transformative powers of Tibetan and crystal singing bowls, harp, vocals and affirmations to help you release stress and draw in energies to empower your journey. This healing includes vocal Reiki, Usui Reiki and aromatherapy.



Spellsong Serenades - \$15, \$30, \$40

Jenna will serenade you with uplifting and empowering songs on harp and vocals.

Suggested donation varies with length of session.

Spellsong Serenades and Sound Healing - \$30, \$40

Jenna will serenade you with uplifting and empowering songs on harp and vocals.

Jenna will also tap into the soothing, transformative powers of Tibetan and crystal singing bowls, harp, vocals and affirmations to help you release stress and draw in energies to empower your journey. This healing includes vocal Reiki, Usui Reiki and aromatherapy.

Suggested donation varies with length of session.

The Kitchen Sink - \$40, \$55

Jenna will combine all these offerings into a customized healing for you based on your goals and the stresses you are looking to release. She loves to help people come back to their center and find the Divine within.

Suggested donation varies with length of session

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## Workshops

Weaving with Your Inner Fire – Sophia Kelly Shultz

When I was younger, I had a recurring dream that there was a volcano in the basement of my parents' house. I could see it through cracks in the linoleum floor, but I was never afraid. Over time, I realized that the volcano was my "inner fire"--my creative spirit, the wellspring from which my inspiration and motivation to create flows. Each of us has this "inner fire" which drives us to do our creative best and to take creative risks. The inner fire challenges us by directing its flow into uncharted territory, but it doesn't guarantee that the new direction won't lead to a dead end. And sometimes, for various reasons, the inner fire goes dormant, but be assured that it is always there. We will start out

discussing our relationships with our "inner fire". Through meditation and chanting, we will access the "inner fire" and, as a group, we will each give it form from which we will weave into a single piece of art and fire and spirit.

### Pagan Songs and Chants – Irene Glasse

Looking for some new tunes for the fire circle? Trying to find a good chant for a ritual? Irene's been picking up chants from the Pagan community for around 20 years, and has a nice collection to share with you. Come sing, drum and raise some energy with sacred, celebratory sound. With Irene and other members of Kindred Crow. Please bring hand percussion if you would like to drum.

### Power. Freedom. Boundaries. Consent. – Rath

These are values most pagan folk hold near and dear to their hearts. This conversation will help us all come to a deeper understanding of how they overlap, as well how these values get expressed in our ritual work, and our group dynamics.

### Early Religion in Scandinavia – Jane Sibley

From the earliest finds, it was clear that the thunder god was primary in the pantheon. Frey/Freyja, Heimdall, and Tyr were also major deities; Odin, Frigg, and the Valkyries only came north much later. We will explore the earliest versions of the gods, and what was known of their worship.

### Smithcraft Lore – Jane Sibley

The smith tamed the fire and ruled the iron. He was not only a metal pounder; he was also a healer and mage. The smithy was his temple, and it was he who made the New Fire, forged magical items such as spear and arrow heads, and more. Thor was his patron, and *torevatn* (thor-water; rain gathered on a Thor's day from a thunderstorm) was used for quenching iron, making medicines, and even for cosmetics. We will also explore the role of dwarven smithcraft.

### Introduction to Shamanism – Jacob Hackney

This class is intended to give curious minds a glimpse of the possibilities that dwell within the vast umbrella of shamanic practices. It will include a brief history of the path, examine the similarities of shamanism

around the world, discuss the basic functions and philosophies of a shaman, and connect the past with the present by presenting ways shamanism has evolved into modern day practices. There will be some hands on activities to include learning the skill of Bare Awareness, which allows us to harness our intuition in a way that allows us to connect and receive information in a way that breaks down communication barriers between humans and nature, or even each other. Participants will also have an opportunity for a shamanic journey experience, giving them a chance to peek into the realm of spirit for what could be their first time.

**Please note:** This is the first of a two-part series. Participants interested in attending the Primal Shamanism: Introduction to Shapeshifting workshop are asked to attend this workshop first.

#### Primal Shamanism – Introduction to Shapeshifting – Jacob Hackney

In this class, participants will be introduced to the concept of Primal Shamanism. They will discuss the often forgotten connection between humans and nature and how, despite often being physically removed from it, we ARE nature. This will lead into the introduction of the concept of the Within Animal Totem. There will be a guided meditation designed to allow for students to meet and reconnect with that primal aspect of our spirit as well as discovering what their own Within is. Utilizing these concepts, participants will be taught exercises to begin bringing them in harmony with their primal nature, and ultimately attempt their first shapeshifting ritual.

**Please note:** This class is the second part of a two-part series. Participants who wish to attend this class must attend the Introduction to Shamanism class on Friday afternoon.

#### The Agony and the Ecstasy, or How to Stop Your Brain from Ruling (or Ruining) Your Life! – Thomas Capshew

Our brains are wonderful organs for navigating the world. Brains are a location for processing all sorts of “internal” and “external” information. As powerful as our brains are, there is an organ that generates an electromagnetic field 10 times greater than our brain: our heart. This workshop offers a quick overview of recent fMRI research that helps us to begin to understand the things our brains do well and the things our brains do not do well. The workshop covers current brain science on

thinking, emotions and beliefs and concludes with an exercise that connects us to our heart and takes us outside of ourselves into the collective unconscious – literally exstasis – standing outside ourselves.

### Spirituality, Philosophy, Religion: Weaving the Path – Cael

In this course, we will look at the difference between spirituality, personal philosophy, and religion; we will explore how the three relate to one another as part of our daily practices and our interactions with others. As part of this exploration, we will discuss some of the reasons why we see misunderstandings among individuals and groups who approach their paths from different perspectives, and discuss how a better understanding of the three aspects of the path can mitigate conflict so that we can walk our paths in support of one another.

### Introduction to Personal Energy Work – Cael

We exchange energy with our environment all the time; spiritual, emotional, and physical energy flow into and out of our minds and bodies, affecting every aspect of our lives. Learn to become more aware of these flows through simple meditative techniques. Participants in this workshop will learn the techniques of conscious energy breathing, finding their energetic center, grounding their energetic selves, and establishing a shield to protect them from undesired external influences.

This is the first in a two-part series focusing on elemental work. The second part, Experiencing Elemental Energy, will build upon the lessons covered in this workshop.

### Experiential Elemental Energy Work – Cael

The eternal patience of Earth. The fluid power of Water. The constant motion of Air. The transformative nature of Fire. We experience Alchemical elements of old every day, but most often we do not pay attention to the lessons they hold for us. In the first part of this workshop, we will make use of the natural environment of the park to truly experience each of the physical elements, and listen to what they have to tell us. This is an experiential workshop; we will be walking around outdoors, off the beaten path. You will get nature on you. Please dress accordingly, and come prepared to explore.

Once we have experienced the elements for ourselves, we will combine what we have gained from the experience with what we already know of personal energy work, in order to incorporate the elemental energies, and the varied attributes they offer, into our practice of personal energy work. The instructor recommends that those who wish to attend this workshop also plan to attend Introduction to Personal Energy Work, especially if they are new to personal energy manipulation. Participants in this workshop are expected to be familiar with the concept and practice of centering and grounding.

### Run Valdr – Tchipakkan

This is a system of symbol-triggered energy healing like Reiki, but it uses Runes and another set of symbols (given to Rodney Cox by Odin and Freya.) The workshop includes history, descriptions of the technique, and the attunement (inserting the symbols into your energy field). You will be able to use it immediately, to heal, to shield, to awaken, and transform, and for other magickal practices. You don't need to know Runes before you start, but you WILL need to learn them to use it. Works with both younger and elder futharc.

**Please note:** This workshop will take place over two sessions, and is limited to 15 students. Advanced sign up is highly recommended. Students who wish to participate in this workshop must attend both sessions

### First Degree Reiki – Mark Cogan

This workshop will take place over two sessions. The first session includes an introduction to Reiki, an explanation of what Reiki is (and what it isn't), and a discussion of energy work. Handouts will be provided. Students will learn the First Degree Reiki symbol.

The second session will include individual attunements and offer students the opportunity to practice. Certificates of completion will be provided upon completion of both classes.

**Please note:** This class is limited to 10 students, so advance sign up is highly encouraged. Students who wish to participate in this workshop must attend both sessions.

## Fiber Magic – Katie LaFond

Magic lives in the fibers that we wear, wrap our children in, and walk upon. We will discuss and learn the delicate balance (and magic) of spinning fiber into thread, and a basic knitting stitch that you can meditate with. Exploring how chant and lacework can support each other, and the language of cables and colorwork in our knitting, we will also talk about offerings we can make, surrounding those in need with items imbued with love and magic.

Bring the fiber tools and projects you have with you, and I will have some to share. Practitioners of all ability levels and interest are welcome to join our “Stitch and Witch.”

## The Tapestry of Your Life – Christopher LaFond

A birth chart may look like a bunch of random symbols in a circle. But a trained astrologer knows how to weave those symbols together and see the tapestry that is the road map of your life. In this workshop we will learn about each of the major strands of that tapestry and learn how to unravel your own chart and put it back together again so that the meaning starts to become clearer.

No previous astrological knowledge is necessary, but even experienced practitioners may learn a good deal from Chris's traditional approach.

## Weaving Your Own Destiny – Christopher LaFond

Both Fate and Free Will play important roles in astrological prediction. Like weaving or knitting, you start with whatever raw materials you have, but it's up to you to decide what to do with them. In this workshop, we'll examine your own raw materials (fate) and see what options you have (free will) for weaving the future you want.

No previous astrological knowledge is necessary, but even experienced practitioners may learn a good deal from Chris's traditional approach.

## Morning Yoga – Eclipse

Morning yoga is an opportunity to re-calibrate our whole selves as we transition from night to day. This gentle class will awaken our bodies, our minds, and our spirits with a bit of movement, breathwork, and meditation. Like the sunrise that transitions our days from darkness to light, the class will transition our minds, muscles, and joints from the

cold, stiff slumber of night and reawaken and warm them in preparation for the adventures that Fertile Ground Gathering offers. Bring your yoga mat and a strap or belt and join in taking your body from sleepy to energized and ready for the day. All levels welcome.

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## Presenters

Rath



Rath has been called a witch by witches, a heathen by heathens, and a druid by druids. Rath is the High Priest of the Coven of the Black Vulture and Ordained within the Church of the Knotted Ash. He has taught and led public rituals variously within the Northern Virginia pagan community for the past 8 years: Fertile Ground Gathering, Shenandoah Midsummer, Moonfire CUUPS, Sacred Circle Bookshop, Firefly Homecoming, Northern Virginia Pagan Pride Day, Northern Virginia Pagan Moot, and Hallowed Homecoming Samhain Retreat. He also continues to teach in small group settings.

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Irene Glasse



Irene Glasse is a Mystic Witch based in Western Maryland. She offers readings, healings, pastoral counseling services, magickal and ritual work, guided study and more both in person and remotely. You can learn more about Irene by visiting her website at <http://www.glassewitchcottage.com/>

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## Tchipakkan



Tchipakkan is an artist, writer, healer, soothsayer, pagan/ heathen/ rustic. I am openly pagan, have been for 50 years; few seem to mind. I have a small farm in southern NH, which I share with 3 adult children, and a dwindling assortment of animals (We've had sheep, goats, rabbits, chicken, ducks, geese, & peafowl, but milking twice a day goes badly with traveling to teach)... and cats of course. Jane Sibley and I started the conference Changing Times-Changing Worlds, and I hosted the radio show The New Normal. I have published Divine Cookies, and the Heathen Cookie cookbook, as well other booklets, and articles. I also paint portraits and bookcovers, and sculpt images for altars. I teach RuneValdr, Reiki, Huna healing, herbalism, and soothsaying with runes, palmistry, tarot, numerology, and study more. Forty plus years in the Society for Creative Anachronism has given many friends, historically oriented skills, and more knowledge of early Anglo-Saxon culture than is conceivably useful. I compulsively teach useful skills from cooking, sewing, and herb use, to divination, majick, folklore.

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Jane Sibley



Jane T. Sibley, Ph.D., is a traditional Norse practitioner and a specialist in Norse folklore and runes. She has taught at many Pagan events for decades, including at Rites of Spring, Feast of Lights, Twilight Covering, CWPN's Beltane, Ecumenicon... the list goes on... and also hosts MithraCon, which focuses on Mithraism and other cults in the Roman Empire.

Her books, "Norse Mythology...According to Uncle Einar", "The Hammer of the Smith", "The Divine Thunderbolt: Missile of the Gods", "A Different Dragon" and her newest one, "The Way of the Wise: Traditional Norwegian Folk and Magic Medicine" will be available for sale in the Feast Hall.

Jane will be offering a variety of Rune readings at the Gathering. Check out our Shop to learn more, and to schedule a reading with her!

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Jacob Hackney



I believe very strongly that we all live with some degree of pain. Whether that comes in the form of body pain, medical conditions, or the stress caused by our daily grind, everyone could use a moment. For some, it could be bodywork. For others, it may take subtle energy techniques like Reiki or Shamanic healing. Some yet may take a combination of things ranging from guided meditation to learning a new way of interfacing with their lives.

I am a registered massage practitioner (RMP) for the state of Maryland with over seven-hundred hours of education (and counting) in the field. Beyond that, I have seven years of experience in the holistic arts of energy and sound healing. Lastly, I have been walking the path of a Shaman for an equal amount of time and am at a place in my life where I feel it is time to share the things I have learned with others. I believe strongly in what I do and look forward to helping my clients find their moment as well.

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Jenna Greene



Jenna Greene is a singer-songwriter-harpist and healer, inspired by following her bliss, nature mythology and the magic hidden in plain sight. She is passionate about teaching people how to use faerie lore as a healing, empowering force. A life-long student of holistic studies, Jenna is a Reiki Master and Licensed Massage Therapist. She actively pursues the latest scientific findings on such subjects as Positive Psychology and Sound Healing. She is celebrating the release of her fifth album, *Wings*, a collection of songs about transformation and hope. She is currently working on a book entitled *Wild Faerie Soul*, which takes the reader on a journey through Faerie to inspire self-love, healing, creativity and positive action.

When Jenna is not performing, she teaches workshops on the healing powers of music and myth.

Jenna will be offering a variety of sound healing services at the Gathering. Check out our Shop to learn more, and to book a session with her!

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Mark Cogan



Mark Cogan is an energy healer, with over 20 years experience practicing Reiki, trained by Master Raven Alder (who was trained by Master Virginia Everland). Mark also uses crystals to augment healing practices. He recently co-authored and published “The Promethean Oracle” with Sophia Kelly-Shultz. He resides in Brandywine, Maryland with his cat, Cinderella. Mark is also a part time Twitch streamer at <https://www.twitch.tv/arcturussadiablo> .

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Sophia Kelly Schultz



Author of The Stone Circle Oracle and co-author of The Promethean Oracle, Sophia Kelly Shultz has been working as a freelance artist and writer for over 30 years. For the past 13 years she has been focusing on spiritual art, beginning with perhaps her best known painting, Hollie's Green Man.

Sophia has also been a ritual planner, prop constructor, and costumer, specializing in body masks. She lives in Pottsville PA with her husband, two aging and slightly neurotic English Springer Spaniels, and one very small, very bad cat.

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Thomas Capshew



Thomas Capshew, Ph.D. works in the field of human potential. He supports the growth and expansion of individual and collective human consciousness. Some of his primary tools include psychotherapy, meditation, energy work, hypnosis, science, shamanic practices and spiritual mentoring. This workshop is based on material from his upcoming second book, *Consciousness Rising*. For a free meditation download and more information, please visit <https://thomascapshew.com/free-choose-love-meditation/>

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## Cael Jacobs



Cael was born and raised in the Northern Virginia area. He took an interest in spiritual subjects early in high school, and his explorations led him from agnosticism, into evangelical Christianity, through an eventual crisis of faith, to where he is now: an animist, an elementalist, and an energy worker.

He is an author, a teacher, a storyteller, one of the co-founders of ShadowGrove, and Speaker for the ShadowGrove Tradition.

His illustrated collection of pagan origin myths and short stories, *Tales from the Wilder Forest*, was published in April 2014, and his book on meditative practice, *Living a Life In Balance*, was published in February 2015. His writings have also appeared in *Circle Magazine*, *Thought Notebook*, and *Corvus Review*.

He has been a teacher and ritual leader at Fertile Ground Gathering since its inception in May 2008.

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Katie LaFond



Katie LaFond follows an Earth-based spirituality. A fiber artist, “garbologist,” orchestral flutist, homesteader, Mommy, and astrologer, Katie is passionate about local food. Katie has led a variety of clans at EarthSpirit’s Twilight Covening, taught workshops in a variety of pagan disciplines across the U.S. and led ritual both public and private. She is a music teacher and member of MotherTongue, and lives in the hilltowns of Western MA with her family, bees, cat, dog, & way too much yarn.

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## Christopher LaFond



Christopher LaFond is a Master Astrologer in the Society of Astrologers, and works, teaches, and lectures throughout the Eastern USA. He has lectured at local, national and international astrology conventions. Chris specializes in classical and medieval astrological method of prediction and is available for private readings and for private or group classes at all levels. Chris is also a linguist, beekeeper, and musician who performs mainly on the Celtic Harp. In 2009 his group the Pilgrim Celtic Harp Trio released their latest CD "Garden Concert." <http://lafond.us>

Chris will be offering a variety of Astrological readings at the Gathering. Check out our Shop to learn more, and to schedule a reading with him!

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## Eclipse



Eclipse has been actively on the path for more than 15 years. Yoga, ritual, energy work, and meditation have been a part of her life almost from the beginning. Over that time, she has studied and taught on a variety of topics and paths including yoga, ritual, magic, Reiki, remote viewing, and the like. She maintains a daily practice to help her keep her energetic body clear of obstructions and maintain a centered life. More recently her focus has been in the physical aspects of yoga through 200-hour yoga teacher training with Cathy Valentine and Live Out Loud Yoga. She sees yoga as a method of helping others create balance in the mind, body, and spirit through a physical practice, which increases flexibility, stamina, mental focus, and strength.

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# Entertainment

## Kindred Crow



Kindred Crow is a Pagan Folk project featuring Irene Glasse (Cassandra Syndrome, Imbolc Fire, Revel Moon), Chris Kackley (Cassandra Syndrome, Imbolc Fire), percussionist Rachel Elizabeth, didgeridoo player Jake Hackney, singer songwriter Brandon Clark (Lucid Fool), and late band member singer songwriter Kat Gray (Kat Savery, Twelve Days Dry). Kindred Crow is an acoustic journey through mystery, magic, myth, and mirth: a little bit Celtic, a little bit Tribal, and a ton of fun. Like their namesake, the Crows offer a musical mix that strikes a balance of compelling beauty, resonant storytelling, and more than a little bit of mischief.

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## MAHARAL



MAHARAL's current reimagining brings you the sounds and essence of the Anatolian Wonderland: Turkey. From the smell of the Turkish tea on the crisp mornings of the back alleys of Istanbul, to the sounds of Turkish warrior's horses riding valiantly in central Turkey's impossibly beautiful Cappadocia, the sounds of Damion Bond's massive Turkish "Davul" drum will thunderously raise your energy. The sweet hauntingly beautiful sounds of violinist Helen Shiplett will reach into your heart bringing forth the passion of the Turks and Ottomans of Old. Brett's Baglama (saz/Turkish lute) reaches into the ancient parts of a person's memory, explaining why both the elderly and the young in Turkey are sometimes spontaneously brought to their feet with dance and singing celebration, hand in hand. We in the band look forward to raising ancient and new energy with everyone at Fertile Ground Gathering for what we believe will be a transformative and amazing Beltane!

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## Melanie Bresnan



Hailing from New England via Nashville, TN, singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Melanie Bresnan has spent the better part of her life studying and performing music. Her varied background in classical vocal technique, jazz, choral music, rock, and Irish traditional music carry into her songwriting which blends these influences with rock and pop to create songs that are catchy and singable but still rooted in traditional folk music. Melanie graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2014 with a focus in songwriting and audio acoustics and electronics.

When she's not working in the studio or on the stage, Melanie can be found feeding her coffee addiction, perfecting her banana bread recipe, and debating the true parentage of Jon Snow.

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## A Beltane Tale

Eight years ago, we visited the Village of Tallwyk, to learn of their Beltane traditions. Time has passed, but Tallwyk's story endures. Join us as we visit once again!

This is a performance of participatory theater; we will be asking for volunteers from the crowd to act out the story as we tell it. It is a tale of Beltane, so be prepared for innuendo and ribaldry, but if your children get the jokes, that's on you.

## Eisteddfod

Eisteddfod is a festival of the Bardic arts in the Welsh tradition, typically involving performances in music and literature. Often held as a competition, it dates back to at least the 12th century.

At Fertile Ground Gathering, we breathe life into this once dusty tradition by inviting you to participate in the FGG Eisteddfod on Thursday night! You need not be Taliesin to enter: Simply bring your best song, poem, story, artwork, or craft and sign up for the appropriate category when you arrive at the event. There are ten, 5-minute time slots available for songs, poems, and stories, and ten spots for artwork and crafts in the in the Feast Hall. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the bardic competition that evening.

Our guest judges will select the winner in both categories. The chosen performer and artist/craftsperson will win bragging rights for a full year, and will be invited to be the judge for the following-year's competition. Remember, the performances will be strictly limited to five (5) minutes!

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# Rituals

## The Warding

Join us in the Feast Hall on Thursday evening as we draw on the power of sacred word and sacred action, to define and protect the space that will be our spiritual home for the coming days.

The Warding has been our tradition for many years, and we invite you to come, and give what power you can, and take what protection you need, as we begin to weave the tapestry together.

## The Wakening

The space is open, the protections at the perimeters set, and the sun is risen on the first full day of the Gathering. But we \*ourselves\* are not yet fully ready for all that is to come. Join us at the Ritual Field in the early afternoon on Friday, so that we can begin the journey, within and without, and awaken our minds, bodies, and spirits in order to be receptive to what we are here to learn.

This ritual will involve movement, for those who wish to and can participate, and will also involve stillness and sitting for a time. We encourage you to bring chairs or cushions to sit upon if you would like to have them.

## The Wandering

Every year at Fertile Ground Gathering, we dance the Maypole. It is a symbol of different things to people from different traditions, but it is something we always return to year after year.

By the afternoon of Saturday, May 4, we will have set in place the protections for the event, and awakened ourselves to the working we are a part of.

Come join us at a familiar place: the Maypole that stands in ritual field, as we dance it and weave it...and then leave it behind in our minds and begin a journey out of what we think of as real; a journey into the liminal space between worlds that we will not complete until the next morning.

This ritual will offer movement for those who wish, and an opportunity to hold space for those who prefer. We encourage you to bring chairs or cushions to sit upon if you would like to have them.

### The Wilding

The wards have been set. Our minds are in the right space. We have set aside the everyday, danced to bring in the May, and stepped into liminal space, one and all.

But where do we go from here?

The moon is dark and we walk in shadow. Then...lights half-seen in the distance draw us forward; figures cloaked in shadow beckon, and we step farther from what we know, farther from the real, and dare to explore all that is possible in the realm without limits.

Join us on Saturday evening as a magical performance by Kindred Crow leads directly into ritual space as we walk together to the Bonfire Circle to connect to the Divine in sacred work.

### The Weaving

Over the course of days, we have journeyed together in safe and sacred space, each of us following his or her own path, because even though we often walk beside one another, and even though we often walk in the same direction, the thread of each person's existence is his or hers alone.

But we are not alone; the threads of each person's life intertwine to form the tapestry that is our community.

Join us in the Feast Hall on the morning of Sunday, May 5, as we weave together the tapestry that is us: the image of a community of people who come together year upon year to learn and share and grow among others like and unlike ourselves.

### The Warrior Blessing

Among us we have those who have chosen to serve in a way that requires courage and self-sacrifice at a level that many people never know.

Each year, Fertile Ground Gathering honors those who place themselves, their lives, their futures at risk for the benefit of us all.

Former Marine Irene Glasse will lead the Warrior Blessing Ritual on Saturday as a way to remember those who have served, recognize those who are serving, and honor those who will serve in the future. It is specifically intended for those who are former- or active-duty military and their families, as well as Emergency Services personnel.

Those who are not warriors or family themselves are also welcome to attend the ritual to hold space and offer honor and gratitude.

We, the Fertile Ground Gathering staff, thank you for your service.

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## Family Activities

### Exploring Colors with Kristina

Let's explore colors and create art! We'll talk about the colors we find around us, as well as what we've experienced before, to help inspire our creations. The first part of our time will be spent outside looking for inspiration. Then we'll go back inside to create something from what we've just experienced. We'll use simple supplies ... crayons, colored pencils, markers, and paper. I'll even have some glue if you want to include things you've found.

### Weaving a Bright Future with Kathryn

This no-pressure kids activity will teach basic weaving techniques on a 9x13 cardboard loom, allowing younger weavers to make their own tapestry to take home. Materials will be provided, and weavers are encouraged to bring their own threads, ribbons, and small found objects (feathers, pine needles, twigs...) to include in their piece, if desired. Activity is suitable for all ages, though children under 8 may need assistance.

### Manifest Your Dreams with Sarah

In this workshop families will build vision boards based on things they want to achieve now and in the future. We will use our creative side to help focus on building character and aspirations. The class will open with a discussion on fears, stresses and how to balance it throughout our day. The end of the workshop we will have a group meditation based on our vision boards and manifesting these visions into reality. Families with children of all ages are welcome, though the ability to cut with scissors and follow directions (like sitting quietly for a small amount of time) is helpful.

### Maypole Decorating

On Friday morning, families will have the opportunity to decorate the Kids' Maypole in the Feast Hall. With the direction of our Head Kitchen Witch, families will add ribbons and flowers to the maypole that will be set up for the Children's Maypole Dance on Saturday!

## Games in the Commons

During the Cook-Out on The Commons, there will be games available for all to enjoy! Play with the giant Jenga set, or a game of cornhole. Try out the hula hoops, frisbees, bubble wands, and even colorful parachutes! Bring your own lawn games to share. (But please nothing that needs to be set into the ground.)

## Arts and Crafts

During the workshop blocks, the Arts and Crafts Cabin will have plenty of artistic supplies available for families to enjoy together.

## Children's Maypole Dance

On Saturday morning during the first workshop block, kids will have the opportunity to participate in their own Maypole dance!

## Coloring and Other Activities

After the evening feasts, families are invited to enjoy the performances, and children should be able to sit quietly. If they prefer, to enjoy the performances while remaining active, children are invited to play quietly outside by the picnic tables during the performances, (but please be mindful that noise carries easily into the Feast Hall).

A bin with coloring pages and crayons will be available in the back of the Feast Hall for anyone interested.

## Helping Hands

Being part of a community like Fertile Ground Gathering gives even the youngest among us the opportunity to give back by helping where there's a need. Older children are encouraged to help incoming guests take their belongings to their cabins. Families are invited to help make meatballs in the Feast Hall on Friday\*. After meals, children are also encouraged to help out by wiping down the tables in preparation for the next meal.

\*This will be a Vegan friendly activity.

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