

Hallowed Homecoming:
A Samhain Retreat
Oct 26-28, 2018



Featured Presenter

H. Byron Ballard



H. Byron Ballard, BA, MFA, is a western NC native, teacher, folklorist, and writer. She has served as a featured speaker and teacher at Sacred Space Conference, Summerland Spirit Festival, Pagan Spirit Gathering, Southeast Wise Women's Herbal Conference, Glastonbury Goddess Conference, and more. She is senior priestess and co-founder of Mother Grove Goddess Temple in Asheville, NC.

Her essays are featured in several anthologies and she writes a regular column for *Witches and Pagans Magazine*.

She is the author of multiple books, including:

- *Staubs and Ditchwater*
- *Asfidity and Mad-Stones*
- *Embracing Willendorf: A Witch's Way of Loving Your Body to Health and Fitness*
- *Earth Works: Eight Ceremonies for a Changing Planet*

She is currently working on a new book: *Gnarled Talisman: Old Magics of the Motherland*

For more information about Byron, visit her web site at:

<http://www.myvillagewitch.com/>

Byron's Workshops:

Practical Ancestor Work

(Friday @ 3:30 pm in Dining Hall)

Do you dream you fly? Do you wake tired in the morning from a full night of active dreamwork? We'll work with the wild geese – the Gabble-ratchet – as we learn to travel the dreamscape and step out of ordinary time and into the realm of the ancient calendar, into the realm of the Ancestors.

The Spirit-Haunted Landscape: The Spirits of the Land and of Our Ancestors

(Saturday @ 2:30 pm in Dining Hall)

Is there a Faery at the bottom of your garden? A djinn in the chicken house? Does the time between the Autumn Equinox and Samhain see your home filled with discarnate spirits of your too-helpful Ancestors? Byron Ballard will review some techniques for working with these familiar spirits in the Appalachian tradition.

The People's Craft – Folk Magic and Its Peasant Roots

(Sunday @ 9:15 am in Dining Hall)

Folk magic is enjoying a revival, and as more people consider this very practical magic, it's good to review what it is, what it means, how it works, and where it came from. Should you? Shouldn't you? What is folk magic? And, what about **the Five Needs** (protection, healing, resources, clarity of purpose/divination, and justice) and ethical banework?

Schedule

Friday, October 26, 2018:

- 11:00am – 8:00pm: Registration Open
11:30am – 1:00pm: Lunch
1:30pm – 5:00pm: **Mask-making – Craft Cabin D**
1:30pm – 3:00pm: **Workshop: Craft Cabin C**
- Ancestral Altarpiece
3:30pm – 5:00pm: **Featured Workshop: Dining Hall (Byron Ballard)**
- Practical Ancestor Work
6:00pm – 6:30pm: **Ritual: Dining Hall** – Welcoming and Opening Ritual
7:00pm – 8:30pm: Dinner
9:00pm: **Legacy Workshop: Dining Hall**
The Final Word: Obituary Writing

Saturday, October 27, 2018:

- 7:30am – 1:00pm: Registration Open
7:30am – 10:00am: Breakfast Menu available in Dining Hall
9:30am – 10:30am: **Workshop: Craft Cabin D**
- Masks of Reflection (Open to walk-in anytime during the scheduled time)
Workshop: Dining Hall
- Braiding the Ritual Chord of Connection
10:45am – 12:15pm: **Workshop: Craft Cabin B**
- Flight of the Hedge Witch
Workshop: Craft Cabin C
- Ancestral Healing
12:30pm – 2:00pm: Lunch in Dining Hall
2:00pm – 2:30pm: Break
2:30pm – 4:00pm: **Featured Workshop: Dining Hall (Byron Ballard)**
- The Spirit-Haunted Landscape: The Spirits of the Land and of Our Ancestors
4:00pm – 6:00pm: Drinks & Snacks relocated outside Dining Hall for ritual prep.
4:15pm – 5:45pm: **Workshop: Craft Cabin B**
- Journey into New Orleans Voodoo
Workshop: Craft Cabin C
- Na Morrigna: Three Sisters
6:00pm – 7:30pm: Dinner in Dining Hall (Please gather in front of Dining Hall at 5:50 pm for attunement)
7:30pm – 8:30pm: Prepare for Ritual
8:30pm: **Main Ritual**
After Ritual: Snacks, warm drinks & socializing in Dining Hall
After Ritual: Social bonfire at fire circle

Schedule

Sunday, October 28, 2018:

7:30am – 9:00am: Breakfast in Dining Hall

9:15am – 10:45pm:

Featured Workshop: Dining Hall (Byron Ballard)

- The People's Craft – Folk Magic and Its Peasant Roots

11:45am – 1:15pm:

Lunch in Dining Hall

1:30pm – 2:00pm:

Ritual: Closing Ritual in Dining Hall

2:30pm:

Departures & Post-Event Clean-up

Special Activities:

Legacy Workshop – Obituary Writing Workshop

- **Zan (Friday @ 9:00pm in Dining Hall)**

It's a mission of self-discovery. Obituaries are most often written by family members after a death. How well does your family know you? How about your secret ambitions and desires? In this workshop we will endeavor to write our own obituaries. There is actually a lot to consider when writing the tale of our lives.

Masks of Reflection

- **Rath (Friday @ 1:30pm & Saturday @ 9:30am in D)**
- **Walk-in anytime during the scheduled workshop slot**

Step into the liminal, go within, see the face of your ancestors, and see what will live on without you, as you become the model for masks to be made. We will be making plaster cloth masks of all who enter the ritual space. They are not death masks, they are not life masks, they are the masks of the in-between. They will live on without you in the Halls of Hallowed Homecoming for years to come. They are Masks of Reflection.

This workshop requires participants to be able to stay still for up to half an hour, and not speak for the entirety.

Notes:

Dinner and Main Ritual

Our dinner is a more formal setting than normal meals at festivals/retreats.

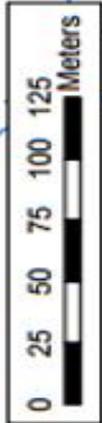
Please ensure you are outside the Dining Hall at 6:00 pm for pre-dinner brief and announcements.

Snacks & Drinks on Saturday Afternoon / Dining Hall Closed

Snacks & drinks will be relocated outside the Dining Hall allowing our staff time to prepare the Dining Hall for dinner and main ritual



- Cabin
- Restricted Cabin
- Roads
- Trail (foot traffic only)
- Fields
- Parking lot





Useful Information

Each cabin area has a unisex restroom with shower in buildings labelled as **10**.

Building **95** houses separate restrooms for men and women plus showers in each.

The large building in each cabin area is the "Craft Cabin" marked in blue on this map.

If you need assistance from Staff, look for somebody with a yellow "Staff" lanyard or radio. You can also find assistance in the Feast Hall either at the Registration table or ask one of the Kitchen Staff.

Important Locations

Feast Hall	Buildg. 60
Registration	Buildg. 60
Craft Cabins	Buildg. 12 in each area
Unisex Restrooms	Buildg. 10 in each area
Separate Restrooms	Buildg. 95
Restricted	Buildg. 65A, 65, R

Workshop Descriptions

Ancestral Altarpiece

- **Michelle & Suzanne (Friday @ 1:30 pm in C)**
- **Estimated \$10 for materials**

In this workshop, you will have some hand-on creative time. Using scrapbooking and collage techniques, you'll make a 8" x 10" framed piece to honor your Ancestors that you can place on your altar, hang on your wall, or add to a family album. Papers, trimmers/scissors, and adhesives will be provided by the instructor. Some embellishments will be available for use but please feel free to bring your own.

Items to bring include:

- 3 – 10 photos (copies) of various sizes that can be cropped to size;
 - Suggest 3 main images with the rest supporting pictures
 - **Bring copies** as they will be adhered to paper for the project. Copying will be available on-site.
- Any flat items you wish to include in your piece (poems, ticket stub, etc.)
- Embellishments such as stamps, ink, color pens, lettering stickers, etc. There will be some available as well.

Braiding the Ritual Cord of Connection

- **Rev. Tristan (Saturday @ 9:30 am in Dining Hall)**

In this workshop we will braid and decorate the handmade yarn into a cord that will be used in the Main Ritual.

Flight of the Hedge Witch

- **Kate S. (Saturday @ 10:45 am in B)**

If you have met one Hedge Witch, you have met one Hedge Witch. Hedge Witchcraft for our presenter is based in the deep roots of village wise women and men. They protected, healed, and sheltered our community using their intuition, guts, and training in the traditions of the community.

This workshop will focus on one Hedge Witch's journey into personal practice, provide a discussion on hedge riding, how to apply the transforming messages we receive when we cross the hedge, and a guided journey beyond the hedge to see what the coming year holds.

The dark time of the year provides us an opportunity to delve into the work that we have neglected during the heat of the year and to join hands with the ancestors to move ourselves and our communities forward in the coming dark.



Workshop Descriptions

Ancestral Healing

- **Angela Raincatcher (Saturday @ 10:45 am in C)**

Ancestral secrets, shadows, and trauma are wounds that fester over generations and affect our lives in the present. In this eclectic, shamanistic ritual, we will journey to relieve and heal some of the pains of the past and bring peace and understanding to our present with the guidance of our Blessed Ancestors and Spirit Allies/Divinities. Feel free to bring a sacred object for the altar to help call in the Ancestors.

Journey into New Orleans Voodoo

- **Darren Bucare (Saturday @ 4:15 pm in B)**

Spiritual Consultant and Spiritual Worker with 12 years' experience at Marie Lavaeu's House of Voodoo and over 20 years of intimate work with the Yoruba Diaspora. Darren will share his colorful and harrowing connections with the Loa and how to honor them in your life.

Na Morrigna: Three Sisters

- **Aleja Nic Bhe Chuille (Saturday @ 4:15 pm in C)**

This workshop focuses on the three Daughters of Ernmas who are most commonly referred to as Na Morrigna: Anann, Macha, and Badb. We will explore themes in their myths, and their relationships to others among the Tuatha De Danann, before covering ideas for modern devotion, and what some have been experiencing as a call to battle in these tumultuous times. The second part of the workshop is a pathworking that allows the participants to ask questions of each of the sisters in turn, and then to ask guidance of all three sisters, together, in order to find their own ways through the dark half of the year, to emerge in a brighter future. The Morrigna are goddesses of sovereignty, prophecy, and war, and are often associated with death and shadow work. Traditionally, the entourage of the Morrigan is said to emerge from the Cave of the Catsat Rathcroghan in Ireland on Samhain, and then travel the countryside in a manner similar to the Wild Hunt, which is also active at this time of year.

Presenters

Darren Bucare

Darren Bucare has over 22 years of professional experience reading and effecting dramatic positive change for people from Savannah, GA, New Orleans, the DC corridor, and is contacted regularly to visit NY and Los Angeles for consulting. Having made appearances on A&E, The Ellen Show, etc., Darren has a culturally expansive way of threading polytheism, monotheism, and personal introspection into a cohesive life path. After 13 years at Marie Laveau's on Bourbon St. Bucare is the Head Reader at Sticks and Stones in Fairfax and can also be found at Crystals Treasures in Herndon for consultations.

Aleja Nic Bhe Chuille

Aleja Nic Bhe Chuille is a multi-trad polytheist Pagan (Norse-Gaelic and Kemetic) and a modern urban cottage Witch. She has been a practicing Pagan and Witch for over a decade, though her path wandered through various traditions before settling down into its current form about five years ago. Aleja is a spiritworker who has close relationships with the Tuatha De Danann, the Vanir, and the Fair Folk of both traditions. A number of these allies assist her in her intuitive healing work with the other main focus of her craft being divination.

Angela Raincatcher

Angela Raincatcher is an Artist, Ritualist, Writer, and Priestess. She has been active in Paganism since 1987. She is an initiate of the Order of the Elemental Mysteries and the co-convenor of Connect DC, which hosts public rituals for the Sabbats and Full Moons in Washington, DC.

Rath

Rath has been called a Witch by Witches, a Heathen by Heathens, and a Druid by Druids. He is a coven leader based out of Alexandria, Virginia. www.knottedash.org/coven-of-the-black-vulture.

Kate S.

Kate has identified as a Witch for 20 years (or so) and has been an educator and activist in the Pagan community. She was taught many of her practices by the rural wise women and men who raised her.

Suzanne Schaubel

Suzanne is an experienced Archaeologist, Historian, and Stained Glass artisan with 20+ years' experience in genealogical research and scrapbooking. She loves to bring the two together to celebrate the memory of those that came before us and the impact they still have in our lives. We learn from our history, and family is a big part of that.

Presenters

Michelle Stormcatcher

Michelle has been a practicing solitary Pagan since the mid-1990's and has studied a wide variety of Pagan and spiritual topics over the years like Shamanism, Reiki, Crystal Healing, Druidry, and so much more. Her first Pagan retreat was back in 2000 and she's been attending various retreats at least annually since then to expand her knowledge and spiritual community.

Rev. Tristan

Reverend Tristan is a Circle Sanctuary Minister who has been a practicing Pagan for over 30 years. She teaches initiates, intermediates, and advanced practitioners. She also teaches divination using Tarot and many other methods.

Zan Krall

Zan has been a member of the Pagan community for almost 20 years. Through contacts at Circle Sanctuary, she became interested in all topics surrounding death and dying. Having participated in a Death Café in the past, she looks forward to facilitating similar discussions among our community

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 not permitted on park grounds.

Weapons: No weapons are permitted within the gathering. 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 feel free to wear comfortable, climate appropriate, and ritual attire throughout the event.

Smoking: Please only smoke in designated areas and use the sand-filled buckets provided to dispose of your smoking trash.

Pets: Only registered service animals are permitted.

Interaction with Wildlife: If you encounter any resident wildlife, please do your best to avoid as much contact as possible. If you feel uncomfortable or in danger, please contact a member of staff.

Violence/Conflict: Violent, rude, & inappropriate behavior will be addressed by staff as needed and may result in being asked to leave.

Fires: The only fires permitted are in the Feast Hall, Craft Cabins and Fire Circle. Only designated fire tenders can light, maintain & extinguish the fires for the safety of the participants and the park.

Sacred Fires: The Feast Hall and Fire Circle are designated as “Sacred Fires”. Please respect them appropriately by not throwing trash in them.

Kitchen: For your safety and the safety of the Kitchen Staff, please do not enter the kitchen without permission. The kitchen is full of Hot and Sharp items – unexpected people can be hazardous to all involved.

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 Registration or the coordinator of the area you are scheduled to help in.

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.

Communications: If you are using an FRS radio, please use the **odd channels** only.

Identification: Please ensure your participant lanyard is visible at all times.

Staff can be identified with “Staff” lanyards.

Please see any Staff if you have any questions.