

Hallowed Homecoming:  
A Samhain Retreat  
Oct 25-27, 2019



# Featured Presenter

## Amy Blackthorn



**Amy Blackthorn** has been described as an "arcane horticulturalist" for her lifelong work with magical plants. She incorporates her experiences in British Traditional Witchcraft with her horticulture studies. She is a clinical aromatherapist and is ordained. Amy's company, Blackthorn Hoodoo Blends, creates tea based on old hoodoo herbal formulas. She lives in Delaware.

She is the author of:

- **Blackthorn's Botanical Magic: The Green Witch's Guide to Essential Oils for Spellcraft, Ritual & Healing.**
- **Sacred Smoke: Clear Away Negative Energies and Purify Body, Mind, and Spirit.** (Available October 1, 2019)

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

<https://amyblackthorn.com>

# **Amy's Workshops:**

## **Aromatherapy for Religion and Ritual**

(Friday @ 3:30 pm in Dining Hall)

In this offering from arcane herbalist and clinical aromatherapist Rev. Amy Blackthorn, we explore the ritual and aromatic applications for essential oils in our religious practice. All faiths are welcome to explore the hidden potential for nurturing that inner spark. From scented rosaries to the tang of fresh Florida water to the lingering odor of frankincense, all scents explored will help the student delve into the hidden realms of scent in prayer, meditation, and rituals of all kinds. Also included in this course will be a practical demonstration on how to test the quality of essential oils using household items, to know you are getting your money's worth.

## **Making Magical Oils**

(Saturday @ 2:30 pm in Dining Hall)

With so many carrier oils available, how do you know which one works best for your intent? Creativity, purification, and protection, as well as ritual anointing oils, luxurious massage oils, oils with gemstones and more in this offering by Amy Blackthorn, author of 'Blackthorn's Botanical Magic,' and 'Sacred Smoke.'" She sets out to show how energies within each carrier oil lend themselves to creating your own magical oils and how each one can enhance the magical oil being created. Anyone of any faith can use these techniques to further their goals. Basics of essential oils are explained, no prior knowledge of herbs required.

## **Burnt Offerings: Magical Incense**

(Sunday @ 9:15 am in Dining Hall)

Which herbs smell the best when burned? Can I grow my own incense materials? How do I make my own sticks? Which herbs should I burn to honor my favorite deities? Can I create my own incense blends? Get these answers in more in this offering from Amy Blackthorn, author of 'Blackthorn's Botanical Magic,' and 'Sacred Smoke.'" Her accessible style means no previous experience with herbs and incense required.

# Schedule

## Friday, October 25, 2019:

11:00am – 8:00pm:	Registration Open
11:30am – 1:00pm:	Lunch
1:30pm – 5:00pm:	<b>Masks of Reflection: Craft Cabin D</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Masks of Reflection (Open to walk-in anytime during the scheduled time)</li></ul>
1:30pm – 3:00pm:	<b>Workshop: Craft Cabin C</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A House of Eternity</li></ul>
3:30pm – 5:00pm:	<b>Featured Workshop: Dining Hall (Amy Blackthorn)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Aromatherapy for Religion and Ritual</li></ul>
5:30pm – 6:30pm:	<b>Ritual: Dining Hall</b> – Welcoming and Opening Ritual
7:00pm – 8:30pm:	Dinner
9:00pm:	<b>Legacy Workshop: Dining Hall</b> HHSR 5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visioning and Celebration

## Saturday, October 26, 2019:

7:30am – 12:00pm:	Registration Open
7:30am – 10:00am:	Breakfast Menu available in Dining Hall
9:30am – 10:30am:	<b>Masks of Reflection: Craft Cabin D</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Masks of Reflection (Open to walk-in anytime during the scheduled time)</li></ul>
	<b>Workshop: Craft Cabin C</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Journeying with the Ancestors</li></ul>
	<b>Workshop: Craft Cabin B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Last Wishes</li></ul>
10:45am – 12:15pm:	<b>Workshop: Craft Cabin C</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fire as a Tool for Transformation</li></ul>
12:30pm – 2:00pm:	Lunch in Dining Hall
2:00pm – 2:30pm:	Break
2:30pm – 4:00pm:	<b>Featured Workshop: Dining Hall (Amy Blackthorn)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Making Magical Oils</li></ul>
4:00pm – 6:00pm:	Drinks & Snacks relocated outside Dining Hall for ritual prep.
4:15pm – 5:45pm:	<b>Workshop: Craft Cabin C</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduction to Auyurvedic Palmistry</li></ul>
	<b>Workshop: Craft Cabin D</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Witch's Sabbatical: Chosen &amp; Unchosen Fallow Times</li></ul>
6:00pm – 7:00pm:	Dinner in Dining Hall (Please gather in front of Dining Hall at 5:50 pm for attunement)
7:00pm – 8:00pm:	Prepare for Ritual
8:00pm:	<b>Main Ritual</b>
After Ritual:	Snacks, warm drinks & socializing in Dining Hall
After Ritual:	Social bonfire at fire circle (Weather permitting)

# Schedule

## Sunday, October 27, 2019:

7:30am – 9:00am:

Breakfast in Dining Hall

9:15am – 10:45pm:

**Featured Workshop: Dining Hall (Amy Blackthorn)**

- Burnt Offerings: Magical Incense

12:00pm – 12:30pm

**Ritual: Closing Ritual in Dining Hall**

1:00pm:

Departures & Post-Event Clean-up

## Special Activities:

### Legacy Workshop – HHSR 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visioning & Celebration

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

Join us as we celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Birthday?) of Hallowed Homecoming Samhain Retreat. Share stories of your experiences during these first 5 years with us. How has your life been impacted by attending our retreat? How would you like to see the retreat grow or adapt in the coming years? These questions and many more will be shared as we celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> year and do some visioning for the future.

And, **there's cake!**

### Masks of Reflection

- **Rath (Friday @ 1:30pm & Saturday @ 9:00am 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 5:50 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





### 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, 85, R

# Workshop Descriptions

## **A House of Eternity**

- **Adrienne Arrington ( Friday @ 1:30 pm in C)**

This is the personal development of a classical Egyptian tomb in 21<sup>st</sup> century America. From the research to the building and supplying of the burial goods, this discussion details the physical creation and Magickal preparations for a “House of Eternity” that will allow for ancestor worship after one’s demise. A brief history of the evolution of Egyptian tombs and some of the significant difficulties of creating a tomb in modern America will be discussed.

## **Fire as a Tool for Transformation**

- **Rev. RedWolf (Saturday @ 10:45 am in C)**

What is your earliest recollection of using fire in a ceremony? For many of us, our first memory of fire is making a wish and blowing out the candles on a birthday cake. Fire has been used by humans for hundreds of thousands of years. In the days of our early ancestors, fire was highly protective and critical for our survival. It kept wild animals and the dark at bay; it allowed us to survive long dark winters. In fact, many cultures across the globe, both ancient and contemporary, have incorporated the use of fire in numerous spiritual practices. How does fire transform? From a purely scientific perspective, fire literally transforms what it burns in the process of combustion. A solid substance such as gasoline, wood, paper, or a candle, is transformed into heat energy and volatile gases (smoke). From a magical perspective, this energy is a source of the spark that lives within us. It is the only element that is not found in its natural state (excluding magma), and it can only be created when it consumes another substance. Fire is animate, alive, and can be used to motivate us, give us courage, passion, protection, and willpower. It can also enhance our sexuality, virility, and creativity. The act of burning something also becomes a vehicle, a tool for sending messages to our Gods, Goddesses, and Ancestors. Fire can cleanse and purify, burning away that which does not serve us, and become a symbol of our rebirth and regeneration. In this class we will discuss the various methods for incorporating forms of fire into spellwork, rituals, divination and meditative practice. At the end of the workshop we will have a guided meditation to connect with the spirit of fire. Please bring a flame-proof votive or tealight candleholder if you have one, though it is not required.

## **Introduction to Auyurvedic Palmistry**

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

Darren Bucare will share his incomparable art of Vedic Palmistry. Starting with the basics and then exploring the most poignant aspects of our lives. Your whole life is on your hand. The relationships, professional acumen, and intellectual pursuits can all be seen clearly in your palmar lines. Even past lives and spiritual connectivity appear to give us a healthy awareness of self. Come and learn about yourself and others in this wildly informative class.

# Workshop Descriptions

## **Journeying with the Ancestors**

- **Doug Jenkins (Saturday @ 9:00 am in C)**

Join me on a shamanic journey to meet and work with the ancestors and the mighty dead. We will also discuss honoring our ancestors and why they can be some of our mightiest allies as we walk the spirit realms. Please take the introductory shamanic class or have prior journey experience.

## **Last Wishes**

- **Crystal RedBird Rising (Saturday @ 9:00 am in B)**

The time to make your last wishes known is well before you get to the end of your life! Who do you want to make decisions for you when you're unable to make them yourself? What kind of medical treatment do you want? What rituals or ceremonies do you want carried out in your name? These are the sort of things every person needs to think about and, more importantly, communicate to their loved ones. This interactive workshop will provide information and education about end of life decision-making, and give you the time and resources to begin writing down your last wishes. You will be provided with your own copy of the Five Wishes, a legally recognized advanced planning document created by the Aging with Dignity non-profit organization. The Five Wishes document meets the legal requirements for an advanced directive in Virginia and 41 other states, when fully signed, witnessed, and (depending on the state) notarized. Use the start to the dark time of the year to get your life - and death - in order!

## **The Witch's Sabbatical: Chosen and Unchosen Fallow Times**

- **Aleja Nic Bhe Chuille and Kate Schilling (Saturday @ 4:15 pm in D)**

We may all find times along our path where we feel less than magical. The voices of our ancestors, spirits, and/or deities grow dim, and our magical energy wanes. For some of us it is by choice, and for others it happens with no warning. This talk will discuss these situations, their significance in witchcraft and paganism, and the journey back to a magical path. Learn how two witches each turned their fallow times into reinvigorated practices, and share your own stories.



# Presenters

## **Adrienne Arrington**

Adrienne Arrington has been a practicing Egyptian for almost 20 years. Currently living in Akron Ohio with her companion and raising their daughter, she is a member of the Guardian council and licensed clergy for the Northeast Ohio Spirit of the Earth Circle. She is active in her hometown facilitating better communication between the pagan and non-Pagan communities.

## **Rev. Jeanet RedWolf**

RedWolf began her spiritual path as a Pagan in 1993. While her practice is somewhat eclectic, her focus is on Shamanic Witchcraft and American Folk Magic. She has been leading public rituals & teaching classes in the Northern Virginia area since 2002 and has been on planning teams for various regional festivals and events.

For Circle Sanctuary, she was ordained as a Circle Sanctuary Minister on Samhain 2011. She has been a member of the Circle Radio Team/Circle Sanctuary Network Podcast team since 2011, co-hosting the past Pagan Warrior Radio & Circle Talk podcasts. She currently hosts the bi-monthly Moon Magic podcast. Also, for Circle Sanctuary, she is a member of Circle's Military Ministry Team, co-coordinator for Operation Circle Care. She is also a founding director of the Northern Virginia Pagan Network.

## **Darren Bucare**

Darren Bucare has formally studied Jyotish Palmistry and has 23 years of professional experience working with Vedic method of Palm Reading. His work with relationship lines is exceptionally groundbreaking. Darren Bucare is a trained Medium, Spiritual Healer, and divination expert.

Former resident reader at Marie Laveau's House of Voodoo for 15 years Darren currently consulting at Sticks and Stones in Fairfax, and 2 others stores in the DC corridor. He has appeared on the Ellen show, CNN and many other shows detailing his skill for divination.

## **Doug Jenkins**

Doug Jenkins has been practicing Paganism for more than 20 years, with the last ten years dedicated to formal esoteric study. Doug graduated from the Gryphons Grove two-year shamanic training program and worked with the school as a senior teaching assistant. He has studied with many teachers, including Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicki, Ivo Domínguez, Jr., Christopher Penczak, and T. Thorn Coyle. He is Priest of Thoth and a devotee of Aesclepios, two allegiances that fit Doug's work as a computer specialist and a shamanic healer.

# Presenters

## **Crystal RedBird Rising**

Crystal RedBird Rising is a 16-year veteran of the greater NoVA Pagan community, as well as an End of Life Doula (EOLD). She has studied with teachers in both the NoVA area and nationally as part of her spiritual training, and was ordained as clergy through ShadowGrove Spiritual Ministries in 2010. Though no longer affiliated with ShadowGrove, Crystal continues her clergy work in the larger community and serves as chaplain for the Guardians of the Caomhnoiri Fian. It was as part of her clergy training that she first learned about End-of-Life Doula work, and she subsequently went on to complete formal EOLD training through the International Association of End of Life Doulas (INELDA). Through her business, Through the Threshold, Crystal provides EOLD services and education in the Northern Virginia area.

## **Aleja Nic Bhe Chuille and Kate Schilling**

Alexandra and Kate are good friends, pagan polytheists, hedgewitches, and co-organizers of both The Fellowship Beyond the Star, and the Fox & Fungi group at UUCR.

# 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.**