

# Rituals and Events

**Sweat Lodges** ~ Daily ~ The Lodge is a Sacred Ceremony where we come together to recreate, heal, and celebrate the remembering of ourselves as ONE. We honour each other through the Creator in the Womb of Mother Earth. In the Heart of Father Sky we allow the Grand Mothers and Grand Fathers to speak into us with vapor breath of Life, allowing the Creator to speak through the Elements of Creation within/without. Reuniting "All My/Our Relations" in memory of our Ancestral self. We honour the Sacredness of the lodge by honouring our true self through the Lodge of the People. 3 hours. All My Relations! Christin Dennis & Kelly

**Latcho Drom Rota Baksheesh** ~ Friday Evening's Community Ritual ~ We come from different faiths & lifestyles, live in different places, and have different "faces" which we travel with; but for a time, we gather and make Harvest Fest 2009 our meeting grounds, living space - our encampment & Kumpania! Let us celebrate this fact - together with a simple rite from the Wandering Nation. John Huculiak

**Voodoo Ceremony** ~Friday Night ~ 10pm  
The Cabana Swamp has become a sacred portal to the Loa and Orisha nation of spirits. Join us for a visually and spiritually uplifting ceremony. Niagara Voodoo Shrine with Prince Bamidele

**Drumming Ritual** ~ Saturday Afternoon ~ You will have the opportunity to first discuss the etiquette of a drum ritual, then have your drum blessed in ceremony before learning the parts you will play for ritual. Playing for an extended period afterwards to see there affects on the human mind. Please bring your drum and a chair if possible. David Turner

**Handfasting** ~ Public Ritual ~ Saturday at 2pm ~ It started 14 years ago with a year and a day, now they want to do it all over again... Please join Morgan and Baer (Carole & George Plaine) from the Kitchener branch of Fire Thorn Coven as they renew their Handfasting vows with their friends, family and the Harvest Fest community that they adore. No presents, just your presence is requested! Ceremony performed by Epona & Gawain (Amy Taylor & Franco Minatel) of Fire Thorn Coven

**Mask Making** ~ Saturday ~ Masks have been used for rituals, theatre, burials, deaths and festivals throughout time. The act of putting on a mask changes us and gives us a different way to perceive the world around us. Throughout the day, Catherine will guide people on a transformational personal journey to make their own mask. Once the base is completed, you will be able to decorate and create your mask.

**Mask Consecration Ritual** ~ Saturday at 5pm ~ After you have created a personal mask, there will be a special ritual to consecrate it for the work you choose to do with it. Please feel free to bring drums. Catherine Starr

**Egungun Parade** ~ Saturday Night ~ The Yoruba Egungun and North American Voodoo spirits will manifest and parade through the grounds of the festival market place and revel fire. As is the practice in both traditions, the ancestors will be alive once again, and bring blessings and prosperity, messages and foretelling to inspire and strengthen our connection to them and the elements in which they reside. Prince Bamidele and Niagara Voodoo Shrine

**THE KING** \*\*\*New this year, the King's head will be traveling the rituals and nightly fires of the festival so that he can truly celebrate with us before the main ritual bonfire. Bran the Blessed's head continued to talk and give wisdom and was feasted long after he fell in battle. In this spirit, we welcome you to get to know your Corn King! We will also be making a sacred cornucopia for you to fill with offerings in thanks for the plentiful harvest.

**Bless our King** ~ Sunday Afternoon ~ This is time to bring your offerings and help decorate the King in a special Ritual. Bring flowers, vegetables and fruit or charms of your own making (as long as they are natural and burnable) All are welcome. Andy Biggers

**Corn King Ritual** ~ Sunday Night ~The Corn King takes his final journey of the seasonal year, traveling to the Otherworld laden with our wishes and blessings. As is our fest tradition, we will be sending him forth with fire, song and celebration. Join us for the procession in your garb, masks encouraged, and be ready to dance and hail his passing.

## Workshops and demonstrations

**Baltic Deities** ~A look at the deities of the two remaining Baltic Cultures - Latvian and Lithuanian. *Marija Kuncaitis – Workshop Area C – 1 hour*

**Beekeeping 101** - Discussion with hive demonstration - *Braja – Market Area*

**Beer** ~ We thought that would get your attention. Water, malt, hops and yeast. These basic ingredients have enriched the human timeline by infusing it with their enticing nectar. Join the discussion, and bring your friends. Cheers! *Reynard – Dining Hall – 1 hour*

**Belly Basics** ~ Learn the beautiful art of Belly Dance! This workshop will cover the importance of correct Belly Dance posture and balance with basic core moves used in all styles of Belly Dance. Wear a hip scarf or coin belt if you have one, or just wear comfortable clothing you can shake or shimmy in! *Sheilah – Music Tent – 2 hours (presented with Dancing the Fire)*

**Beyond Basics** ~More Belly Dancing! In this workshop we will review Belly Dance posture and learn a few advanced Belly Dance moves. We will also practice putting a few simple moves together to dance in a sequence. Get ready to wiggle your hips and have fun! *Sheilah –Workshop Area A – 1 hour*

**Besom Making Demonstration** ~ We invite you to visit Helmut's Forge for a demonstration on how to make a besom. Festival goers are invited encouraged to bring dried herbs etc. to weave into their own besom if ordering one as it will be made on site. *Market Area @ Helmut's Forge*

**Bride Crosses** ~ This traditional Irish design is sacred to Brigid, the Goddess and Saint of Poetry, Smithcraft, Healing, Midwifery, Mourning, Vitality, and Well-being. Occasionally made among the various harvest plaiting patterns, these designs are most often associated with festival of Imbolc (Feb. 1) - the Festival of

Brigid (which is the day before Candlemas, a Catholic festival for Mary). Come see what makes the Celtic Bride Cross different from the Anglo-Saxon "God's-eye" pattern. Come learn how to make three-armed and four-armed Bride crosses. Come have a bit of fun and learn a bit about Celtic Religion along the way. *Brian Walsh (with Anne Marie Greymoon) – Porch – 2 hours*

**Chain Mail** ~ Want to learn how to knit chain mail? The Chain Mail Guy can show you how to knit the European 4-in-1 pattern and at the end of the workshop you'll come away with a bracelet you made yourself! You'll gain enough knowledge to make a shirt, skirt, mojo bag, pretty much any garment or accessory you can dream up. Bring two sets of pliers. Please note: there is only room for 10 people in this workshop. *Jerry, The Chain Mail Guy – Dining Hall – 2 hours*

**Clean Sweep: The History and Lore of Brooms and Broomsticks** ~ What is a Witch without a Broom? Yet, what do you really know about the history of the Broom? Brooms have been used for centuries to sweep clean everything from caves, to cabins to castles. They have been used to "beat the bounds" and depicted as the flying instrument of choice of many a witch. Find out more about the history, the folklore and the composition of a broom. *Bonnie Durtnall – Workshop Area C & Market Area – 1hour*

**Corn Dollies** ~ The spirit of the "corn" lives among the crop, and the harvest makes it effectively homeless. Join us for our traditional harvest custom of making corn dollies to allow the corn spirit to spend the winter in our homes. *Anne Marie Greymoon (with Brian Walsh)– Porch – 2 hours*

**Dancing the Fire** ~ The Fire Pit is a main attraction of pagan festivals, where you can let down your hair and boogie! In this workshop we will discuss Fire Pit etiquette and the relationships between drummer, dancer and the Fire. I will also be teaching you some traveling dance steps, often used in Belly Dance, to get you around the fire more quickly while looking marvelous! *Sheilah – Music Tent – 2 hours (presented with Belly Basics)*

**Drumming** ~ Bring your drums for this engaging workshop for those who would like to learn interesting and unusual drumming patterns.

A meeting will follow for those interested in getting involved with the 'Chorus of Minerva's Pipes'. An apprenticeship is available for those of you who are serious about learning how to play reed pipes.

*Mike Franklin – Music Tent – 1.5 hours*

**Death, Dying and Dark Rites** ~ “We are alive, therefore we will die”. This is the simplest, most obvious truth of our existence, and yet very few of us have really come to terms with it! Many mainstream religions have a “Last Rite”, or something close to it. In the moments before dying, a priest or pastor is called to the individual's side, and offers the blessings and prayers of that particular faith. Pagans often don't have such an option, for several reasons. First, we don't have standardized liturgy that we all follow. Secondly, most of us do not have a Priest or Priestess to administer such prayers, in fact, in many paths of Paganism, each person is their own Priest or Priestess, because we are all in touch with the divine. Let's just face it -- there isn't a lot of information out there about what to do when a Pagan is being called to the otherworld!

This workshop will give you some insight into death and dying, as well as helping to develop an awareness of our own mortality. We'll look at deities and rituals associated with death, prayers for the dying, funeral and memorial arrangements, burials, coping with grief and so on, with hope that the mastery of these topics will enable us to meet death with grace, clarity, and fearlessness. *Danielle King – Workshop Area B – 1 hour*

**Feeding the Tribe** ~ Since ancient days people have needed to plant, grow and preserve food for their various tribes. Today's supermarkets have brought us away from these traditions. Come out and see how the “local food” movement starts in

your backyard - learn canning, freezing and other preserving tips to feed your tribe. A donation toward supplies would be greatly appreciated. *Kate Russell – Kitchen/Dining Hall – 2 hours*

**Harvesting our Herbs (walk)** ~ We will look at medicinal and edible herbs as we walk toward the river down the main road (an easy walk until we get to the woods), to collect some offerings for the Corn King and herbs that can be processed in the Herbal Vinegars workshop later in the day.

*Laurie Benson - Meet at Porch - 2 hours*

**Herbal Vinegars** ~ One of the most delightful way of taking your herbal medicine is as a herbal vinegar. These are actually medicinal vinegar tinctures and the principles of tincturing and infusing will be discussed as we perform some medicinal magic with herbs and fruits collected onsite.

*Laurie Benson – Workshop Area B – 1-2 hours*

**In Perfect Love & Perfect Trust** ~ Pagan festivals and events are sacred space and should be so treated. Come and learn the etiquette of festivals, how not to step on others “spiritual toes” at fire circles and best ways to approach elders and others at open events. *Kate Russell – Workshop Area C – 1 hour*

**Incense** ~ Learn how to make incense using the herbs, gums and barks you have collected over the year for magical purposes.

*Castalia – Workshop Area A – 1 hour*

**LBRP** ~ A Banishing Ritual is the primary and most essential ritual to prelude and conclude all other ritual and ceremony. This workshop will illustrate and take you through a comprehensive understanding of the components and functions of such an important and essential ritual. *Rikki Lacoste – Workshop Area C – 1.5 hours*

**Morris Dancing** ~ Come join Bob and friends as we demonstrate this ancient Pagan folk dance and talk about the customs and traditions associated with it. If you're brave try a caper or learn a few steps!

*Bob Houghton – Music Tent – 1 hour*

**Mushroom Show & Tell** ~ Feast your eyes on fungus! Come get acquainted with what's growing in the forest by examining up close and personal some specimens obtained on-site. *Reynard – Meet at Porch – 1 hour*

**Magick in Nature; More Than Just Tree Hugging** ~ This workshop will open up our senses to the mystery, magick and power behind the plants, shrubs and trees around us. We will go into nature and find out how to see the landscape with magickally "rose tinted lenses". This workshop is taught with much interaction, visualizations, some meditation and weather permitting, hands-on experiences. *Amy Taylor – Workshop Area C – 1 hour*

**Nature and the 4 Elements** ~ Drawing on her love of Mother Earth, Internationally renowned Australian visionary songstress Wendy Rule presents "Nature and the 4 Elements", a workshop designed to deepen our connection with the Natural world, and open to the flow of Magic that surrounds us. For over 15 years Wendy has combined Music, Magic and Ritual, and has travelled extensively offering workshops that share her eclectic and free form shamanic approach to Witchcraft. With a lighthearted approach Wendy will guide you into a deep and powerful connection with your own inner Magic. **Wendy Rule** – *Workshop Area B – 1 hour*

**Pagan Parenting** ~ What makes it different from other styles? How do you handle curious friends, neighbors and teachers? Come share your questions, experiences and insights over your morning tea/coffee. *Lady Mari – Dining Hall – 1 hour*

**Patakin: Drum Tales from Around the World** ~ Patakín, pronounced pah-tah-KEEN, is an Afro-Cuban word meaning "story" or "legend." Ancient stories in which the drum plays a prominent role are more common than most people realize. Every culture has one. Bring your drums and other instruments and experience the myths and legends from cultures around the world, and learn and play the traditional rhythms from the

individual cultures from which the tales come. *Rikki Lacoste – Music Tent – 1 hour*

**Plant Collecting (for young people)** ~ The younger crowd is invited to join us for an herb walk and to gather offerings for the Corn King.

*Laurie Benson – meet at Porch – 1 hour*

**Poppets, Puppets & Sacred Props** ~ Add a little drama and continuity to your worship and rituals by creating sacred dolls, ritual tools to interact with crowds and other common implements to add to your sacred space. Learn the history and use of poppets and simple tricks to create inexpensive yet impactful additions to magick, rituals and worship. Please bring some of your own materials (beads, ribbons etc.) and/or a small donation for supplies. *Kate and Ron – Workshop Area A – 1 hour*

**Practice and Purpose: Why a spiritual and religious practice matters** ~ whether we consider ourselves to be "religious" or "just spiritual", many people have a hard time sustaining a daily, weekly, or monthly practice. Dogged determination and blind will power are usually not enough to sustain a practice for any length of time - especially if it is the wrong practice for you, or the goals of practice are not clear, or there are other challenges in the way. This workshop will explore why an informed spirituality matters, and the role of tradition, reflection, and practice in our spiritual growth, individually and collectively. *Brian Walsh – Workshop Area A – 1 hour*

**Pumpkin Carving** ~ Come carve the pumpkins that will light the way for our King. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *Starr – Dining Hall*

**Reiki – Level One** ~ In this time of change and crisis for people and the planet, healing is too desperately needed for it to be kept secret or exclusive any longer. With great respect for the sacredness of the information to follow, and for the Goddess's gift of Reiki, Beth Caines will be offering level 1 to those who would like to become attuned. "This magnificent healing system must be made available to everyone, regardless of whether

they can afford the cost of the teaching or not. I have asked my students to carry on my ethics as I was taught, of low prices and scholarships where needed, and to continue the demystification of a healing system that needs to be universal.”  
*Beth Caines – Meet at Admin/Registration Tent – 2 hours*

**Ritual Bread Making** ~ Bread is shaped by our hands, rising with the hidden chemistry of life. It's baked with love to nurture our tribe. Come back the sacred bread we will share at Sunday's rite. All ages welcome, but preschoolers need a minder. *Lady Mari – Kitchen/Dining Hall – 2 hours*

**Ritual Etiquette** ~Not sure what to expect or how to behave in a formal ritual? Let's make it easier. Come for this introduction and ask all those questions you've been saving for the right moment.  
*Lady Mari*

**Romuva 101: Introduction to Lithuanian Paganism** ~ An overview of the beliefs, guiding principles, major deities, major holidays and the customs & traditions. Time permitting there may be a joint song we could try together.  
*Marija Kuncaitis – Workshop Area A – 1-1.5 hours*

**Samhain: the Feast of Death and Beginning** (a Celtic perspective on a Celtic holiday) ~ The New Year! Trick or Treat! After the sun goes down, then what? Who's lighting whose fire? Who's sleeping with whom? Ghosts and monsters are not the only ones bumping in the night. Is orange the new red? Are pumpkins the new turnip? And what about the cows? Both playful and serious, this presentation is an exploration of the history and themes of the holiday Samhain, November 1st, and a discussion of how Samhain can be celebrated in the current context of our lives while still holding to its traditional spirit. Some popular assumptions will have their ancient roots explored while others will be questioned or flat-out debunked. *Brian Walsh*

**Sound Meditation** ~ The primal sound of reed instruments & drums played together has a deep resonance in European and Mediterranean pagan, festive, ritual, & shamanic traditions. For millennia these sounds have taken people through dance & trance to places of ecstasy, revelation, and healing. Join Michael Franklin for a journey of sound as our King is blessed for his final Rite. *Michael Franklin – Music Tent – 1 hour*

**Tasseomancy: Learn to see what's in Your Tea!** ~ Amy will be presenting a workshop about Tasseomancy or better known as Tea Leaf Reading. Learn the history of tea, tea reading, what teas are best for readings, and how to read the leaves! Handouts and actual readings are included. Sign up at Admin – Limit 20 people. *Amy Taylor – Workshop Area B – 2 hours*

**Tibetan Bowls** ~ Tibetan Bowls have been used for many centuries as a healing and meditative tool. Crystal bowls are a modern tool for healing as well as the computer industry. Learn and experience why these simple bowls are so powerful.  
*Michael Moon – Music Tent – 1 hour*

**Wanna get Leyed?** ~ In this workshop Franco is going explain what ley lines are, their workings and will allow you to experience some right in Mansfield. He explains them through his direct personal and monetary experience. Who knows? He may save you \$600 in auto repairs, too! *Franco – Workshop Area C – 1 hour*

**Wild Ferments** ~ This workshop will explore the expansive diversity of fermented foods and drinks. From the culturing of cheese to the brewing of sake, from kefir to sauerkraut, and from Aspergillus down to Saccharomyces. Let's get funky!  
*Reynard – Dining Hall – 1 hour*

**Velines: The Baltic "Samhain"** ~ Taking a look at traditions surrounding Velines, a time for the dead ancestors. *Marija – Dining Hall – 1 hour*

**“Up the hill” Walk** - The environment above the main site is very different from the lowlands - come and see what the

woodlands have to offer in terms of healing and ritual herbs.

*Laurie Benson - Meet at Porch - 2 hours*

**Yoruba Workshop** ~ Understanding and harnessing the ways and powers of the Orisha, and the original Yoruba traditions, practices and prayers.

*Prince Bamidele – Workshop Area B– 2 hours*