

DEEPEN, GROW, EVOLVE



Virtual DRAGONfest 2021

WELCOME TO DRAGONFEST 2021

DEEPEEN, GROW, EVOLVE

Dear Community,

Another year of trial and struggle has passed and thankfully an end is in sight. It is in these times we believe people must reflect on what is important in life, what times of struggle can teach us. Not only should the individual do this but Dragonfest as a whole. In this we ask all to Deepen, Grow and Evolve.

Our community has done a great deal of Deepening, Growing and Evolving in the last year that Vauder and I are very proud of. Our Diversity Advisory Committee created a Values Statement that allows us to focus on the values we hold as a community. We hosted multiple antiracism workshops and events to help our community grapple with the need as a predominantly white community for us to face our privilege and start to dismantle white supremacy. We also organized & presented the one-day event **Dragonfest Renewal** in February that granted our members the ability to touch base halfway through the year for an opportunity for growth and community!

This Retreat please join us on Sunday morning at the Community Meeting where we can share more information in better detail and present our Heart of the Dragon Awardee for 2021.

As our community grows and evolves, we remain inclusive as we welcome voices of members who are different from the norm. We invite all underserved members of our community to join us on staff and on the board. It is my hope as Ops that through our work of inclusion we will grow new leaders in our community. Please join us at a staff meeting, starting in January of 2022 for a wonderful Dragonfest in person. Come, help us make this community evolve as we return home.

In Community,

Vaude Lake and Rachel Stevenson
ops@dragonfest.org



FROM THE BOARD:

Welcome to the 2021 Dragonfest retreat! We absolutely wish that we could be seeing each and every one of you in person this year but, since that is not meant to be, we are excited for the opportunity to connect with you in this virtual format. Each year, Dragonfest happens because of the tireless work of our very own community members who volunteer their time and talents, in the spirit of giving back to the community. It's what makes a thing like Dragonfest work – community members sharing to Deepen each other's knowledge, working to Grow in our spirituality, as we Evolve our presence in the world around us.

We would like to thank our Directors of Operations, Vaude Lake and Rachel Stevenson, along with their hard-working staff of community volunteers for their incredible work and dedication in putting on this year's retreat. They have put together an excellent line-up of rituals, workshops, and community events that you can only find in a community like Dragonfest. They demonstrate that this is a community of committed and engaged participants. We hope you enjoy the fruits of their labors and become inspired by them to contribute to your own energy and talents to your Dragonfest community.

As we reflect on this past year, we wish to acknowledge the passing of our community member, Ken Verner. His presence will be missed.

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PLEASE NOTE: There might be some last-minute changes not listed in this program. Please check the website for the final schedule of workshops and rituals and their posted dates and times. If you have any questions, please see our Support Desk where someone should be able to get back to you right away during our Retreat.

Dragonfest Traditions

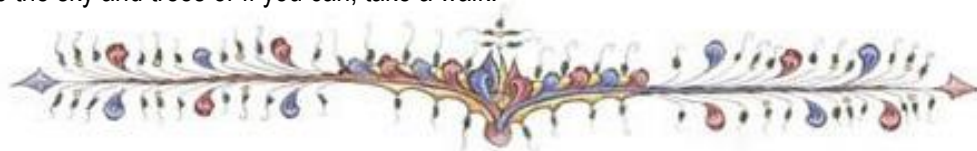
Dragonfest Standards

- We must walk lightly on Mother Earth.
- We respect the land, personal property, space and persons.
- We are considerate.
- We honor diversity in *all* its forms.
- We honor all commitments.
- We are responsible for our own actions. Parents are responsible for their children.
- We help and appreciate each other.
- We respect Sacred Space and those within.
- We acknowledge that it takes everyone working together to make this a community.



What you can do to make Virtual Dragonfest a magical community:

- ❖ Familiarize yourself and follow the Dragonfest Rules and Policies.
- ❖ Be respectful to our Elders and be kind to our children.
- ❖ Show RESPECT to all people. Inappropriate behavior seen online or in chat windows is unacceptable. Maligning or denigrating others is not appropriate, especially when they are not present.
- ❖ Include others in your activities and socializing, especially those who are new to Dragonfest. Avoid exclusionary behavior. Encourage people to get involved. Share.
- ❖ Parent(s) - be responsible for your child/children's behavior.
- ❖ Observe ritual etiquette. Officiates vary, it's respectful to follow their lead in what they wish participants to do. They will let you know what to do. Please be cautious when handling your own ritual tools.
- ❖ Respect our volunteer Staff and cooperate with them.
- ❖ Be considerate of fellow workshop and ritual attendees. Virtual space does not allow for everyone to talk at once so be mindful of the chat feature. See if your question has already been asked or answered there.
- ❖ Enjoy your natural surroundings as much as possible. Take a break between workshops and rituals and go outside if only to see the sky and trees or if you can, take a walk.



Rules, Policies & Important Things to Know

BASIC RULES, VIRTUAL ETTIQUETTE, & INFORMATION:

- Inappropriate behavior seen online or in chat windows is unacceptable.
- Be mindful that it might be hard to hear everyone in a virtual setting. Please keep background noises to a minimum especially when you are speaking or asking a question.
- Respect our Nudity Policy as seen below.
- Please mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- If you are going to say something during a workshop or ritual, please speak up so everyone can hear you.
- Stay present and engaged in the event.
- Make use of the chat feature to ask or answer questions to keep the workshop or ritual on track and focused on the presenter(s).
- Feel free to bring a drink but please save food for off-screen. It is fairly distracting to watch someone eating while someone else is talking.
- If you have issues with logging on or running into tech difficulties, please see our support desk here: Tech@dragonfest.org or call 720-805-9865.



NUDITY POLICY FOR VIRTUAL DRAGONFEST

Dragonfest will adhere to clothing required rules for all our virtual activities. This means anyone participating or watching our activities for 2021 should wear clothing that meets the “beachwear minimum” standard for Colorado. Zoom, the application we are using to host our virtual event has specific rules of propriety that we must maintain. We also need to be aware that at any time we might have a child viewing a workshop or ritual event incidentally since we cannot control everyone’s personal viewing experience. We are not responsible for personal fashion choices.

The Dragon’s Lair (Services)

SUPPORT DESK: If you have any questions or need help, please contact our staff at the support desk. We will do everything we can to get your questions answered or help with any tech issues.

VIRTUAL MERCHANT CIRCLE: We have gathered some like-minded vendors for some fantastic online shopping. Here is an opportunity to shop for a variety of wares from our merchants and artists from the comfort of your home while benefitting Dragonfest – best of all worlds, right?

MODERATORS: Our Moderators are here to help you. Moderators make sure attendees are mindful of our rules and being safe while making sure the workshop or ritual is running smoothly. Moderators make sure everyone is enjoying their experience and enforces any rules being broken.

THE VIRTUAL FIRE CIRCLE: Keep a look out for Virtual Fire Circles that will happen throughout the retreat. These special sessions are a social space for you to chat, share, dance, and connect with other attendees in real time. Because of Zoom’s audio delay, drumming and singing is best done individually or by taking turns. Enjoy the space respectfully with no unsolicited personal contact. All Virtual Fire Circles should be considered All Ages - there is no version of Freedom Fire Circle for the virtual retreat



Events, Rituals, and Workshops Schedule

Events

Friday

3-4:30pm

Get to know you through YouTube –

This will be a moderated space where participants will take turns sharing videos of 5 minutes or less that will give windows into themselves as people. You can share things you're passionate about, music videos, movie clips, imagery, the sky is the limit here!

8:30-midnight

Virtual Fire Circle – Come gather with old friends and make some new ones in a space designed for social interaction and fun conversation!

Story Time with Bruce: Bruce will read a book by campfire light right around the beginning of the Fire Circle. These books are all ages so get the children ready and snuggle in for a delightful story time. Bruce Kesler has read stories in Youthfest and over the radio at night as well as served as Ops in past years.



8:30-midnight

Divination and Oracle Time –

Community members with skill as intuitives and readers have volunteered their time to talk to Dragonfest attendees in private one-on-one space about their concerns and questions. Introductions from the Readers will be available in the room, for you to choose who you are feeling the most drawn to sitting with.

Saturday

8-9:30am

Breakfast and Coffee Hour in Community –

Let's wake up and eat together with other community members. We shall communally bow to the gods of the magical bean of enlightenment, who faithfully blesses us with an elixir of alertness day after day without fail.

5-6pm

Dinner Break –

8:30-midnight

Virtual Fire Circle

Story Time with Bruce: Bruce will read a book by campfire light right around the beginning of the Fire Circle. These books are all ages so get the children ready and snuggle in for a delightful story time. Bruce Kesler has read stories in Youthfest and over the radio at night as well as served as Ops in past years.



Sunday

8-9:30am

Annual Membership Meeting and Heart of the Dragon Award Presentation –

The Annual Membership meeting is a time to share space with members of the Board and Staff, to talk about the business of Dragonfest, to raise questions and concerns, and to have a part in making this community vital and inclusive of multiple voices. Part of the meeting is the presentation of the Heart of the Dragon Award, which each year goes to someone who has been an integral part of the community, and has contributed their talents, time, and resources to the organization.

5-6pm

Dinner Break –

Rituals

Friday

8-9:30am

Opening Circle - Deepen, Grow, Evolve

Presented by the Directors of Operations – Vaunder and Rachel

The Opening of Dragonfest is a time to be together in community as we connect and build our community for the duration of the Retreat. Please join Director of Ops Rachel and Vaunder as they welcome attendees into this year's Dragonfest.



5:30-7:30pm

Main Ritual – Libation for Hermes - Southern California Hellenic Polytheists Our group hosts a monthly offering for one of the Olympian deities. We pragmatically reconstruct our practice from ancient sources, which invite celebrants to cleanse with lustral water, burn incense, read hymns, and leave offerings of food and drink for the gods. By doing these things together we can feel closer to them and the love and appreciation we feel for all of life and the cosmos. This month we are celebrating Hermes and invite attendees of Dragonfest to join us virtually.

Southern California Hellenic Polytheists (formerly known as Thiasos Phoibos) is a Los Angeles based organization with a focus on the practice and study of the religious traditions of ancient Hellas in order to apply that wisdom to our modern lives.

Saturday

7-8pm

Sacred Beyond and Between Ritual - Lee Harrington

So many are drawn to the sacred feminine or sacred masculine, but what of those of us who hold the energy of both in our body, neither, or something else entirely? Let us turn to the sacred two-spirit, intersex, transgender, bigender, pangender, agender, androgynous, and internally complex experiences around energy, gender, and sex alike. After all, if divinities worldwide have danced beyond the binary, so can we. Attendees are invited to don the garb that best expresses their connection to these energies or manifests their authentic experience for this shared online ritual experience. Bring your delight, your curiosity, your passion, and perhaps some of your discomfort as well – after all, sacredness is a complex thing, especially for those of us beyond and between.

Individuals whose gender journeys have placed them in some way beyond and between culture's binary will be centered, but individuals with binary gender are welcome to attend.



Sunday

3-4:30pm

Lamentation of Grief and Loss- Heather Austin

With so much loss and so many people gone from this world in the past 2 years, we offer this sacred space to honor the dead and give voice to our grief.

7-8pm

Closing Ritual- Vaunder and Rachel

This weekend has been filled with growth and learning. As we prepare to leave this space and time we have built together, please join Ops as we say goodbye to 2021 Dragonfest.

Workshops

Friday

10-11:30am

Sacred Gender - Lillian Mardoll Delphyne

Modern Neo Pagan traditions often emphasize the sacred nature of the feminine and masculine, yet there are a growing number of transgender, nonbinary and otherwise gender-nonconforming people in Paganism and adjacent traditions who do not see their own nature reflected in the cosmologies or culture of these traditions. All people deserve the opportunity to connect to their own sacred nature and see themselves reflected in the divine. This presentation and workshop aims to open paths and ask questions that will help to build an understanding of sacred approaches to gender that are more holistic, inclusive, and affirming to all involved. Come with an open mind and heart and a willingness to challenge your assumptions about gender, spiritual practice, and yourself.

Lillian is a multi-traditional polytheist and animist priestess, diviner, and mystic. She is an Orpheotelest (tradition bearer) of the Starry Crown Bacchic Orphic lineage and a devotee of Kybele and other deities. She writes about polytheist and Pagan spirituality and their intersections with trans and queer identity and lineage on Facebook as Lillian Mardollsdottir and on the blog the Serpent and the Tree. Lillian lives on Duwamish territory with cats amid wet green shadows and coffee fumes.



Healing your Worries with a Worry Stone – Azurelris

Are you feeling worried, anxious, unsure of yourself, fearful, then look no further! Join me in this workshop and let me share how to use this elemental Earth gift. If you have a Worry Stone, have it with you in the workshop, and share your experiences. If you purchase one before the workshop, share why you chose your Worry Stone. If you do not have one, no worries, come and enjoy learning about using Worry Stones and how these gems help produce a force field of auric healing energy around you, helping you feel calm, clear headed and worry free.

Azurelris is a 2nd degree High Priestess from Circle of Light and Shadow coven and has worked with crystals for over 30 years.

1-2:30pm

Erotic Alchemy: An Introduction to Sex Magic - Lee Harrington

The world of sex magic is clouded in mystery, with images of shadowy covens and yogis who possess cults of scantily clad women filling the imagination. However, erotic energy working is simultaneously more complex –and much more accessible – than pop media might have us believe. Sexual contact and connection are powerful tools to use in our sacred, sensual, and spiritual lives. From the “Great Rite” to dedicated tools, the power of orgasm to the debates about polarity and resonance, we will examine a wide variety of topics surrounding the world



and applications of erotic alchemy. Join us as we examine and discuss raising sexual energy to create connection, manifest change in our lives, and affect the world at large.

Lee Harrington is an internationally known spiritual and erotic authenticity educator, gender explorer, eclectic artist and award-winning author and editor on erotic and sacred experience. He is a nice guy with a disarmingly down to earth approach to the fact that we are each beautifully complex ecosystems, and we deserve to examine the human experience from that lens.

The Science Behind the Magic – Astronomy of Astrology - Aeneas

Mercury is in retrograde. The Moon is in Capricorn. Jupiter is conjunct with Mars. We hear statements like this all the time, and most of us know what they mean for our lives. But why does Mercury seem to go retrograde so often? Where is Capricorn and how long will the moon stay in it? Where are Jupiter and Mars when they are “conjunct”? This workshop will discuss the astronomical movements of the Earth, Moon, and planets in space to help us understand how those movements create the astrological alignments that impact our lives.

Aeneas is a first-degree Wiccan priest from the Circle of Light and Shadow, and will draw upon his Bachelor’s degree in Astronomy to help us understand the science of astronomy that underlies the magic of astrology.

3-4:30pm

Clean That Up! Art of clearing space for ritual as well as mundane life - Wellyssa Spellson

It is especially important for sensitives and witches to keep their space energetically clean and clear. In this workshop Wellyssa will both demonstrate and discuss space clearing methods for ritual purposes as well as for our mundane lives – clearing and blessing for your car and home. There will be some hands-on exercises as well as discussion during this workshop.

Wellyssa is a 3rd Degree Wiccan High Priestess, leading Circle of Light and Shadow coven for over 10 years. She will share with you her expertise in space clearing, sensing and working with the energies in a space.



Saturday

10-11:30am

Dream Work for Pagans - Amy Ladebue

How Can Dreams Communicate Your Inner Work? This is an introductory workshop on giving attention to our dreams and honoring the symbolism and imagery therein. Dreams can provide the tools and messages to promote self-discovery, guide living authentically, and aid in our inner processes toward achieving our higher selves.

Amy is a mental health therapist serving children, adolescents, and adults from the Denver-Metro community since 2018. She received her Master’s in Mental Health Counseling with an emphasis in Jungian Psychotherapy and dream work. Amy has found dreams to be a profound part of her own metaphysical journey and pagan identity.

Post-Death Planning and the Modern Pagan - Vanth Angeles

Do you know what will be done with your body after you die? Do you know what will happen to your sacred tools, books, and accessories? As with many things, the cultural default funeral in the United States is geared toward Christian norms. If that’s not for you, this workshop will explore possibilities, go over important considerations, and provide resources to help you decide on preferences for your own funeral, as well as steps you can take to ensure your last wishes are seen through.

Vanth Angeles is a 1st Degree Wiccan priestess with the Circle of Light and Shadow, and a Certified Life Cycle Celebrant.

1-2:30pm

Druid Magic - Ellen Evert Hopman

The Druids were the “nemed” (sacred) class of Celtic society for one thousand years. Hereditary priests and intellectuals, they were the equivalent of Brahmins in Indian culture, part of the Indo-European continuum. This will be a talk on some of the ancient Druid magical techniques such as wind augury, ornithomancy, divination by Ogham, the Sword of Light, The Vessel of Plenty, the Silver Branch, Illumination between the Hands, and the three kids of harp



music. How did the highest grade of Druid, the Fili, achieve Imbas or Awen, a type of divine prophetic inspiration? What are the techniques known as Recital from the Ends of the Fingers, Crane Magic, the Bull Feast? What ancient Druidic tool can be used to attract the Good Neighbors, and how will we know when they appear? Magical Poetic Satire will be discussed; under which tree did the poets stand to compose a powerfully effective satire? And what were the consequences for a king? Which is the only recorded Druid ritual that we have and can still perform today? Did the Druids really burn animals or people in a Wicker Man? What are the mystical meanings of the sacred five directions and the Three Worlds and how do you set up a genuinely Celtic ritual space? What are the Celtic sacred animals associated with the directions and what are their magical powers and attributes?

Ellen Evert Hopman is the author of A Druid's Herbal of Sacred Tree Medicine and other books of Druidic lore. She has been a teacher of Herbalism since 1983 and of Druidism since 1990. She is a professional member of the American Herbalists Guild and has presented on Druidism, herbal lore, tree lore, Paganism and magic at events in Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and in the US.

Sing and Chant with William – William

Music has always been a way to bring people together, and maybe even over Zoom we can carry on the tradition. I will open my song book and lead some songs and chants. I have a nice variation. Hopefully you will get the chance to learn something new. I have been playing guitar for around 9 years and led a couple of chant workshops in the past.

3-4:30pm

Drumming in Community - Pat Cain and Co.

Experiential and Instructional, this workshop will give you tools you need to confidently and harmoniously be part of drum circles and use drumming for your personal spiritual practice.



Practicing Irish Polytheism in the Rocky Mountain Region - Paulie Rainbow

We will review how we combine authentic Irish pre-Christian deities and lore with connection to this landscape and its seasons.

Sunday

10-11:30am



To Keep Silent - Amythyst

To Keep Silent is one of the 4 sides of the Witches Pyramid – To Know, To Will, To Dare, and To Keep Silent. During this workshop we will explore the concept of keeping silent regarding our religious beliefs, mysteries, and secrets. What are the benefits of keeping silent? Are there any drawbacks? While this is a Wiccan principle, it is relevant to all faiths. This will be an open discussion, where all opinions are welcome.

Amythyst is a 2nd Degree Wiccan High Priestess with Circle of Light and Shadow. She brings her formidable experience and knowledge to bear.

Modern Minoan Paganism - Laura Perry

Ariadne, the Labyrinth, the Minotaur, the Snake Goddess, Dionysus. Most people have heard of these and other members of the Minoan pantheon from ancient Crete. But how can we incorporate them into modern Pagan practice? Do these gods and goddesses still speak to us and if so, what are they saying? As the founder and head facilitator of MMP, Laura Perry is delighted to share with you the growing tradition, its deities, practices, and sacred calendar. MMP is not a purely reconstructionist tradition, but a revivalist journey in relationship with the Minoan deities in the contemporary world. It is especially relevant in this time of change and evolution, with a focus on egalitarianism and the recognition of the sacred throughout our everyday lives.

Laura Perry is an artist, writer, and the founder of MMP. This has been a passion of hers since a fateful art history class introduced her to the colorful frescoes of ancient Knossos. In addition, she is a 3rd degree Wiccan priestess, a Reiki master, and a long-time herbalist and naturalist.



1-2:30pm

Crafters Circle - Ellen Valentine

This is a gathering for all kinds of crafters, fiber artists, jewelry crafters, sewers and anyone else who considers themselves a crafter. Come to discuss what it is that you do and how it may or may not cross over with your spiritual path as well as bring an example to share if you like.

Ellen Valentine is on the Dragonfest Board and assists with Registration, but more than that she is a crafter. She picked up a crochet hook nearly 2 years ago, and although she's no expert, she loves to crochet! She also enjoys making wire wrapped jewelry, some polymer clay work and sewing. She also loves to sit with others who are knitting crocheting, or doing other crafts and discuss what's frustrating, what's working, what's not. She has two weekly online groups that she meets with, which she finds to be really helpful whether in person or face to face.

Recap of My Grandmother's Hands: Discussion of Whiteness in Anti-Racism Work- Heather Austin

The past few months we've been doing anti-racism work through the book **My Grandmother's Hands** in a discussion group. This session will be a recap of what we've already covered. This includes white fragility, the trauma that our white ancestors endured that formed the nervous systems we carry today, and the bodily responses that trauma provokes that we may not be aware of.



Diverse Spirituality is Beautiful
LEARNING NEVER ENDS
Love is Love
All Genders are Valued
Science is Real
CONSENT is Essential
All Ages are Respected
Black Lives Matter

Dragonfest Staff, Board, & Corporate Officers 2021

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Operations		Board of Directors		
Vaunder Lake	Director of Ops 1	Dan	Finerty	President, Board of Directors
Rachel Stevenson	Director of Ops 2	Ellen	Valentine	Vice prez, Board of Directors
		Thor	Thomas	Board of Directors, Treasurer
		Allison	Hagood	Board of Directors, Secretary
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		Carmen	Consalvo	Board of Directors
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Ellen Valentine	Merchant Tech Support	Thor	Thomas	Publications Support
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Allison Hagood	Zoom Lead Moderator	GreyOwl	Steffes	Registration Support
Bruce Kesler	Zoom Moderator			
Ellen Valentine	Zoom Moderator	Other		
Heather Austin	Zoom Moderator	Mike	Ball	Site Preservation
Christine Childs	Zoom Moderator	Charlie	Brokaw	Site Preservation
Phil Catalano	Time Keeper	Merit	Brokaw	Site Preservation
GreyOwl Steffes	Zoom Tech Support	Morgan	Brokaw	Site Preservation
Lyn McKensie	Memory Book			





Merry Retreat Everyone!

