



Oak Spirit Sanctuary Samhain 2025:

# DANCING WITH THE DEAD

October 24th to October 26th

## Presenters and Workshops

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| <p><b>Melissa Holcomb (she/her)</b><br/>Melissa is a solitary practitioner inspired by the radical spiritual autonomy of neo-shamanism. Her path includes tarot, herbalism, Western Esoteric Tradition, and a fascination with the impact of the Neolithic Transition on the Western understanding of humanity's relationship with the more than human world. She draws on a professional background in health care to invite fellow travelers to de-stigmatize death as a healthy topic of conversation.</p> | <p><b>Ereshkigal's Death Cafe (1 hr) by Melissa Holcomb [Saturday 11:00 am]</b><br/>This workshop provides an opportunity to talk about death while sharing refreshments "Our objective is <i>'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'</i>. A Death Cafe is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session." - Deathcafe.com</p> |
| <p><b>Vivian Gould (she/her) and Amy Rhea (they/them)</b><br/>Vivian and Amy have been traditionally trained in Wicca and practice together as magickal partners. Together, they serve the land, the community, and the gods and give honor to the ancestors and other spirits of the dead who speak -- sometimes very loudly -- to them.</p>                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Guardian Poppets for Samhain (1 hour) by Vivian and Amy [Saturday 1:00pm]</b><br/>Join us as we discuss -- and make! -- Guardian Poppets, which will feature in Main Ritual and are intended to safely guide each person both into the underworld and back out again. These protective magickal partners can be used throughout the Samhain season and any time you are working with the spirits of the dead.</p>                                                                              |
| <p><b>Kerry Lynn (she/her)</b><br/>Over the past 25 years I have found spell crafting to be a constant joy, regardless of how my path evolved. I have done candle making, wand crafting, broom crafting, and more!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>Sacred Broom Crafting (90 mins) by Kerry Lynn [Saturday 2:30 pm]</b><br/>For this workshop we'll gather dried flora and fawn from our sacred land to craft our Brooms. We'll have supplies to decorate your broom and make it special to you. Please bring any crystals or other items specific to your path you'd like to use.</p>                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Tasha Lynne (she/her)</b><br/>Having been a pagan for 20+ years and a Norse Pagan for 10, I have worked to expand my understanding of the old Norse arts, runes, and spiritual and cultural traditions. I have spent a large amount of my time working with death and healing deities and have held many informal classes surrounding them from time to time.</p>                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>Death and All Their Friends (1 hr) by Tasha Lynne [Saturday 2:30 pm]</b><br/>This workshop provides an overview of death deities. What are their origins? How do we interact and work with them? Through this presentation, we can get a look into why they are viewed the way they are.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Sarah JoySparker (she/her)</b><br/>JoySparker has worked in animal care for over 20 years, has a degree in veterinary technology, and has been a credentialed veterinary technician since 2009. She has been a pagan since childhood. Her passions include helping people connect with animals and supporting the OSS community.</p>                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Pet loss and Grieving (1 hr) by Sarah JoySparker [Sunday 11:00 am]</b><br/>A discussion of different ways pagans experience the loss of pets and animals. This will be an opportunity for people to discuss their grief which is often censored or restricted. I will share advice and my own experience of being present at hundreds of animal euthanasia's and the resources I have from my professional training.</p>                                                                       |

## Activities

**Note about locations:** unless otherwise specified, all activities and workshops will take place in or around the retreat center

**Welcome Meet and Greet:** Join the open house style social hour with snacks and beverages. Please consider donating food or drinks to the snack potluck table.

**Costume Dance Party:** Wear your best costume, be prepared to dance and be merry, and enjoy the fabulous bonfire with good company and refreshments at our Samhain Party!

**Pumpkin Carving:** Pumpkins and tools will be supplied for this classic fall craft. Parents - please attend to and aid your children during this activity.

**Hay Ride:** Enjoy a short tour of the land and hear stories and history. Kids must ride with a guardian.

**Fashion, Costume, Pumpkin and Broom Show:** In this community variety showcase, show off your fabulous costume or outfit, your cute carved pumpkin, or your lovely handcrafted broom!

**Scary Story Karaoke:** Listen to and share your favorite spooky and scary stories around the bonfire!

**Shrine Tending:** Aid in communal cleaning and beautifying the Memorial Spirit Garden Shrine. *Note: this is a physical activity*

## Vending

**Barefoot Creations by Tessi:** Hand-made Cherokee beadwork, unique creations and gifts. Featuring designs for Deaf folks, ASL lovers, nerds and more!

## Schedule of Events

### Friday 24 October 2025

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3:00 pm</b> Gate and Event open.                                   |
| <b>5:00</b> Refreshments and social time hosted at the Retreat Center |
| <b>7:00</b> Opening Ritual <b>Location:</b> Main Ritual Circle        |
| <b>9:00</b> Costume Dance Party                                       |

### Saturday 25 October 2025

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10:00 am</b> Morning Meeting                                                       |
| <b>11:00</b> Ereshkigal's Death Cafe Workshop by Melissa Holcomb                      |
| <b>12:00 pm</b> Lunch on Own (*Ritual Crew Only: Conspiracy Luncheon with Kerry Lynn) |
| <b>1:00 - 3:00</b> Pumpkin Carving and Hay Ride                                       |
| <b>1:00</b> Guardian Poppets for Samhain by Vivian and Amy                            |
| <b>2:30</b> Death and All Their Friends Workshop by Tasha                             |
| <b>2:30</b> Sacred Broom Making with Kerry Lynn                                       |
| <b>4:00</b> Samhain Spook-tacular Fashion, Costume, Pumpkin and Broom Show            |
| <b>4:30</b> Community Potluck                                                         |
| <b>6:00</b> Ritual Conspiracy at Community Meadow                                     |
| <b>6:15</b> Deep Forest Journey to Main Ritual / Hayride Shuttle to Main Ritual       |
| <b>7:00</b> Main Ritual <b>Location:</b> Red Bud Circle                               |
| <b>8:00</b> Oak Spirit Ceremony at Bardic Fire                                        |
| <b>8:30</b> Scary Story Karaoke at Bardic Fire                                        |
| <b>9:00</b> Drumming at Bardic Fire                                                   |

### Sunday 26 October 2025

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10:00 am</b> Morning Meeting                                    |
| <b>10:30</b> Art Raffle following Morning Meeting                  |
| <b>11:00</b> Pet loss and Grieving Workshop by Sarah JoySparker    |
| <b>11:00</b> Shrine Tending of Memorial Spirit Garden              |
| <b>12:00 pm</b> Closing Ritual <b>Location:</b> Main Ritual Circle |

#### Upcoming Events at Oak Spirit Sanctuary

November 8: Work Weekend

November 22: Lunar Ritual

December 13: Work Day

December 20: Yule / Winter Solstice

#### Connect with Oak Spirit Sanctuary Online:

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[www.oakspiritsanctuary.org/](https://www.oakspiritsanctuary.org/)

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