

# You are cordially invited to attend the Billy Halloween Gathering Altar-native Magick

Saratoga Springs Retreat Center

October 30 - November 3, 2019



**Altar** *n.* an elevated place or structure, as a mound or platform, at which [spiritual] rites are performed or on which [gifts of gratitude] are offered to gods, ancestors, etc.

**Autumn has come to Saratoga Springs.** Days are still warm, but as the sun sets further and further south on the horizon, the nights become longer and colder. Deciduous leaves have turned hues of red, orange, amber, and brown, and they float gently to the ground on gentle breezes. Creatures of the land rush about seeking out food to fatten themselves up for a long, lazy winter, or to store for future meals. Just as seasons change like clockwork, so too do Billys once again gather together in heart-space to mark another dynamic year that will quickly be coming to a close. We look back upon the dreams and intentions we've sown and nurtured throughout the year, we gather the bounteous treasures gleaned from our efforts, and we celebrate a successful harvest! We give thanks for the land, our community, our lives, and as the veil between the here and hereafter thins, we welcome and give thanks to our Ancestors.

Please join us, your Co-Coordinator BearHug and Conduit, for what promises to be a truly enjoyable gathering! As the name of our gathering suggests, each day will allow time to create a new altar to celebrate everything that makes our lives full and rich. Also, it is our hope that each of you will bring your own magick, tradition, ritual, and celebration to share with our community to create an experience that is rewarding for all in mind, soul, and body! As usual, we will have delicious food to eat, heart circles, workshops, and various communal rituals. Our calendar of events is designed to have periods of fun and exciting activities, as well as provide space for calm and laid-back enjoyment. We look forward to seeing you!

## Preliminary Schedule (subject to change)



**Wednesday, October 30th**--Arrive, settle in, and join us for an evening Welcome Ritual which honors the land on which we gather! We'll be creating an Altar of Appreciation, so please bring nature-made items such as flowers, leaves, rocks, and water.

**Thursday, October 31st**--Let's celebrate Halloween with all our Billy fabulousness! We'll be creating an altar to celebrate the *Halloween Magick of Childhood*, so please bring appropriately sized Halloween decorations, battery votives, a picture of yourself in costume, treats, and whatever else represents Halloween for you. We'll enjoy Halloween-related ritual and workshops throughout the day, and end the evening with a spirited dance!

**Friday, November 1st**--We'll slow the pace down a little with a Celebration Of Our Billy Ancestors. We ask that everyone dress in as much white as possible on this day. We will be creating an Altar in celebrations of our Billy Family who are no longer here on this plane, so please bring photos, mementos, and battery votives! We hope the day will be filled with joyous reflection, and hope some of the workshop presentations will pass along the creativity and skill of our Billy Ancestors who had presented workshops. Our evening ritual will include a showing of Disney's *CoCo* to help transition us into Saturday.



**Saturday, November 2nd**--We'll pick the pace back up again for Dia de los Muertos. We will be creating an authentic Ofrenda, so please bring photos and mementos of your family's Ancestors, as well as battery votives. (We will send out additional information in a confirmation letter for those who register for the gathering!) In addition, we will be having a special Dia de los Muertos-appropriate meal, and end the night with our Everybody's Got Talent Show!

**Sunday, November 3rd**--We'll be closing down our gathering, and restoring the sight of Saratoga Springs to a condition better than when we arrived. We'll be dismantling our altars, and during our closing circle, we'll be building one more altar within our hearts!

### Creating A Community Magickal Memento

We'd like to create a Community Magickal Memento as a gift to all in celebration of this gathering. We're announcing this far in advance, as we know this may take some time to create! Should you feel so inclined, please share with us something magickal that originates from your family. You could write an experience, share a superstition, offer a photo, copy a recipe, describe an amulet, share a blessing, or send anything else that makes you think of Altar-native Magick. Please send your submissions to BearHug before Saturday, October 12th

at the email listed below.



### **Important Information**

Register online at <https://billyfoundation.regfox.com/halloween-2019> or download a paper registration form [HERE](#)

Scholarship Deadline--Wednesday, October 9th at Midnight

Registration Deadline--Sunday, October 20th at Midnight

Questions or Volunteer as a Sub-Coordinator--please contact:

\*Darrell "BearHug" Standing--(415) 734-0997, [darrell\\_standing@yahoo.com](mailto:darrell_standing@yahoo.com)

\*Ken "Conduit" Alexander--(510) 558-3497, [conduit.65@yahoo.com](mailto:conduit.65@yahoo.com)

**Register Now**

# Altar-native Magick – Billy Halloween Gathering

October 30 – November 3, 2019, Saratoga Springs, Upper Lake, CA

**Scholarship Deadline:** Wednesday, October 9, 2019

**Final Registration Deadline:** Sunday, October 20, 2019

Name:		Faerie name/AKA:
Address:		
Phone:		Email:

The information above will be included in the printed directory distributed at the gathering. Check the box next to any information you DO NOT wish to be included in the directory. Want to have your picture included as well? Please email a picture to [office@thebillys.org](mailto:office@thebillys.org)

How do you identify your race and/or ethnicity?		
Emergency contact:	Auto License#	Housing request:
I NEED a ride from:		Food allergy/restrictions:
I can OFFER a ride from:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I can help transport items TO the gathering	<input type="checkbox"/> I can help transport items FROM the gathering	

OVERNIGHT (\$110 - 140 sliding scale)	OR	DAY USE ONLY (\$65)	Registration Fee (Multiply the number of days or nights by what you can pay on our scale)	
		Wed 10/30		
		Thur 10/31	General Fund Donation	
		Fri 11/1	Richard Locke Scholarship Donation	
		Sat 11/2	Billy Emergency Support Fund Donation	
			Diversity Fund Donation	
			Listening System Donation	
We are departing Sunday 11/3/2019 by 2pm				
Mark the days OR nights you plan to attend. What time are you planning to arrive?			SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST amount <i>Please read the back page!</i>	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	

Pre-registration is required! Full payment is due by 10/29/19. **No free drop-ins.** Gathering starts at 2pm, Wednesday, October 30, 2019

*To provide a truly inclusive and healing environment, the Billy Foundation asks all participants to commit to supporting the safety of each other including supporting diversity, being substance free, following the policy on photos, and to bringing fragrance-free personal care products. Please read the statements on the back page to better understand what these important commitments mean. Failure to follow these agreements will result in consequences up to and including being removed from the Billy event and possible exclusion from future Billy events. By signing below, I agree to abide by these policies and release the Billy Foundation from all liabilities caused by my, others or the Billy Foundation's actions and/or inactions during the gathering.*

Signature

Date

Please sign your check and mail it with this completed form to: The Billy Foundation, PO Box 12205, Santa Rosa, CA 95406-2205

Phone: 707-545-1044

Email: [office@thebillys.org](mailto:office@thebillys.org)

Register and donate online: [www.thebillys.org](http://www.thebillys.org)

**Liability Release:** I am a responsible adult and will try not to harm myself, anyone else, or any property during the gathering. I understand there are no guarantees given or expressed to assure my safety, or the safety of my property at the gathering by the Billy Foundation, and I have read the policies on this page. Parking is at my own risk. Falling trees and other acts of nature are unlikely but possible. Be aware that neither the Billy Foundation nor the facility we rent will take responsibility for damage to your vehicle. By signing below, I therefore release the Billy Foundation from all liabilities caused by my, others or the Billy Foundation's actions and/or inactions during the gathering.

**Safety Policy:** Our shared values include speaking respectfully, avoiding language that others may experience as hurtful, racially charged, insensitive, or offensive. As Billys and Billy Kin, we strive to be kind and respectful towards each other. This includes people of different races, ethnicities, ages and health statuses, trans men, and those of varying life experiences. We listen, learn, and are open to adjusting our behavior when our words or actions cause someone else discomfort or harm. The Billys encourage safe and consensual sexual activity.

- I will be kind and respectful of the range of folks attending, including all races, ethnicities, genders, identities and expressions, pronouns, ages, abilities, and sexual orientations.
- I support physical intimacy that is mutually agreed upon and safe, be it sexual or otherwise. Participation in any activity must be by consent only. There should never be a situation in which I or others feel pressured to engage or continue beyond comfort levels
- It is my responsibility to communicate my boundaries clearly. When initiating or receiving contact, I will also respect the personal boundaries of others.
- If I feel pressured in any activity, I am encouraged to talk to an Emotional Support Volunteer, a Gathering Co-Coordinator or a Billy I trust

**Photo and Video Policy:** The full Billy Foundation Photography policy is available on the Billy website at <http://www.thebillys.org/documents/policies/PhotographyPolicy.pdf>

Please do not take or share photos or videos without the express permission of everyone in the image.

**Fragrance Free:** Fragrances in personal care products can cause allergic reactions, asthma attacks, headaches, nausea, fatigue, and other adverse health impacts in some people. In support of community, we ask that you bring fragrance-free products (shampoo, body wash, lotion, deodorant, hair products, etc.), and not wear aftershave, cologne, body spray, or other scented products.

**Housing:** All indoor housing is shared, with priority for those with special health needs. Please indicate in your housing request if you are requesting indoor housing, wish to share a room with someone special, use a CPAP, or have other concerns. Feel free to attach additional pages if the little tiny box does not meet your needs.

**Scholarship Policy:** Scholarships awarded from the Richard Locke Scholarship Fund are solely based on need as expressed by the applicant, and are not granted after the scholarship deadline. We strongly encourage you to pay a minimum of \$15 per day. Your scholarship request will be honored if we have the funds. In the event scholarship requests for a gathering are greater than available funds, a reduced scholarship may be offered. The full policy is available at <http://thebillys.org/documents/policies/Scholarship%20policy%2015-16.pdf>

**Late Registration Policy:** Any registration received after the regular registration deadline is considered late registration. Late registration is available at an increased minimum rate (\$110/night or \$65/day).

**Refund Policy:** Refunds must be requested within two weeks of the close of the gathering. Registration fees, minus a \$10 handling fee and any incurred costs, will be refunded. After two weeks, the registration fees will be considered a donation. Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case by case basis by the Board President and the Resource Coordinator.

**Billy Food and Drug Policy:** Those needing supplemental food for their special dietary needs should bring it with them. We will make every effort to provide space for storage and preparation. Billy Gatherings are alcohol/recreational drug free. Please continue to take your prescription medication if you need it to remain stable throughout the gathering.

**Your Tax-Deductible Donations:** *The Richard Locke Scholarship Fund* is used to help reduce financial barriers that make it difficult for some to attend our gatherings. *The Diversity Fund* supports the work of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. Donations to the *Listening System* help pay for our new system to support hearing impaired Billys. *The General Fund* supports all the activities of the Billy Foundation.

*The mission of the Billys is to foster community, intimacy and personal exploration among gay, bi and queer men through shared values and heart-centered brotherhood.*