5-2001

Bern Porter International: Volume 5 Number 9.2 (May 1, 2001)

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aggressive). Which is beside the point.

Humans whose infant glowcoats and heroes who personified their inner Hermes Trismegistus, Pallas Athena, capable of, if the infant glowcoat is eaten away took for the
leavings. Jason, Hercules, are examples of what is in the Flyer. Which is so
wise DE INFINITY, the shan
want Thud on the ground

Gail Edwards is a practicing herbalist, Reiki Master, and Founder of
Blessed Maine Herb Farm. She is the mother of four children, a certified
organic gardener, and passionate lover of the earth. Gail writes The
Herbalist column for the Kennebec Journal and Sunday Sentinel, teaches
and lectures nationally and is the author of Opening Our Wild Hearts to
the Healing Herbs.
Wildgathering! 2001 begins at Noon on Friday May 25 and ends at 5PM Sunday May 27

Admission $5
Weekend camping $10 per person

Special Events:
Campfire Circle & Music Friday and Saturday nights with Leah Wolfsong & Friends till 11PM

Women Frame Drummers Procession and Performance
12PM Friday, Saturday night & Sunday 5PM

Special for kids of all ages Saturday and Sunday 12 PM
Chuck’s Juggling Extravaganza
Juggling, unicycling, entertaining & FUN!

Campfire Circle Sat & Sun 7AM
Heartfelt songs and chants to greet the new day

45 minute talks and demonstrations are ongoing throughout the weekend and are FREE with admission including keynote address by Stephen Harrod Buhner. Workshops and intensives cost an additional fee.

All proceeds from Wildgathering! Support programs that teach children to be loving caretakers of our Mother Earth
ABOUT OUR WORKSHOP LEADERS

Stacy Cuppernell is a visual artist, writer, high school art teacher, and a student of the Goddess, Quabbala, Tarot, and the stockpile of wise people in Maine.

James Fangbone attended Kent University where he majored in art. He is a student of world, ethnic and sacred music, and hosts a radio show at Colby College called Sounds All Round The World. Fang is a well known and respected community artist making art for over thirty years.

Albie Barden studied for a year with Eliot Cowan, the leading practitioner of Plant Spirit Medicine and author of the book Plant Spirit Medicine. Albie's intent is to understand this ancient system of communicating with the spirit of plants and to deepen his own relationship with Spirit/Earth. It is his great joy to share this ancient wisdom.

Stacey Cuppernell - Sophia: The Goddess Waking Us to Consciousness Through Creativity - Sophia, the Goddess of Wisdom grows like the lily out of our intuition. Participants will be led by this fruitful source of wisdom to create sculptural Goddess forms. This creativity is a sacred act rooted in our collective consciousness. Materials (plaster, wire and paint) will be provided. You're encouraged to bring additional materials such as feathers, dried flowers, magazine clippings etc. $15 9-11AM SUNDAY

James Fangbone - Creating an Earth Shrine - Fang is a shrine creator extraordinaire! He honors the sacred through art and specifically by creating shrines to an amazing array of deities. In this workshop you'll explore a wide range of concepts related to shrine making. This is a hands on workshop during which participants will create a communal Earth Shrine using recycled and natural objects. You'll be inspired by the rich sacred, historic and artistic background information, learn how to bring a shrine alive, how to feed it and keep it active and happy. Bring some special objects to incorporate if you wish. $10 12-2PM SUNDAY

Albie Barden - Plant Spirit Medicine - Traditional cultures all over the world have always had a profound relationship to the plant world around them. What is little understood by our own pesticide happy and clear cutting culture, which is essentially at war with the plant world, is that this harmonious relationship with the plant world focuses on knowing the spirit of plants. Once a plant spirit is met and befriended it can be asked to intercede on behalf of humans in need. Since time immemorial medicine women and men have learned to enter the “dreams” of plants and learn how to communicate with them. In this workshop Albie will read from Eliot Cowan’s book Plant Spirit Medicine, teach around a sacred fire and introduce the concept of plant spirit medicine. He will teach participants how developing a simple ceremonial awareness is the key to restoring spiritual well being to our lives and all of our relationships. $10 6-8 SATURDAY
"OUR WILD HEARTS"

A Report on Wildgathering 2001

by Sheila Holtz

West Athens, Maine is beautiful and pristine country. As I drove there at twilight on Friday night from Belfast, a calmness and slowness began to suffuse my being. I was ready for an adventure, and an adventure it was.

Wildgathering is organized annually by Gail Edwards, proprietor of the Blessed Maine Herb Farm. In addition to her lovely booth with a wide selection of herbal tinctures offered for sale, Gail also did a workshop at the gathering, and her presence was warm and welcoming.

The three workshops in which I myself participated are summarized on page three of this issue: Sophia: the Goddess Waking Us to Consciousness Through Creativity, facilitated by Stacey Cuppernell; Creating an Earth Shrine, facilitated by James Fangbone; and Plant Spirit Medicine, facilitated by Albie Barden.

Stacey first read to us from a document defining the concept of SOPHIA, which is extolled in an often expurgated book of the the Bible, The Wisdom of Solomon. (It appears in the Oxford translation after The Song of Solomon.) Then, we were turned loose with the art materials she supplied: wire mesh, plaster cast gauze strips, plaster of paris, and clay. In the time allotted, we had a choice of creating a three dimensional sculptural form from the wire and strips, or a bas relief plaster cast plaque, first molded in clay. I chose the latter. We were to manifest any image which came to mind as an expression of the divine principle of feminine creativity. (Interestingly, all the workshop participants were female.)

My plaque took a while to dry after the pouring, and, unfortunately, broke in several pieces during the removal of the clay mold. But I am still working on it. I can rescue it (I think!) with a little Elmer's Glue, some acrylic paint and polyeurythane glaze. The process of creating my Goddess figure was very satisfying, and I do in fact believe, put me in touch with a source of untapped creativity within my psyche. The experience of learning a new medium was also very exciting. The possibilities of utilizing clay and plaster casting is somthing I intend to explore further, after completing my project.

James Fangbones's workshop, Creating an Earth Shrine, was also very gratifying. An accomplished artist, James began the workshop with a slide show featuring his work in creating personal shrines as art and artifact. Many of them incorporated traditional images from Catholicism, such as Christ figures and images of the Virgin Mary. Others utilized images of the Buddha and Quan Yin, the Buddhist figure of the compassionate goddess. Some incorporated images of Santeria, a synthesis of Christian and African archetypes. Again, the materials were of great interest to me. James explained his method for casting in concrete in order to imbed ceramic tile and glass shards into the surface. Most shrines also made use of found objects, such
as Mardi Gras beads, Christmas tree ornaments, and so on. In viewing these works I really did appreciate the way in which they embody a sense of sacredness, while at the same time, employ a kind of lighthearted kitsch esthetic.

The experiential part of the workshop unfolded as we created our own collective Earth Shrine, at the edge of the woods behind the campground. We cut living and dead branches and bundled them with twine. We gathered flowers (I focussed on dandelions, with which I created a garland, an esthetic I borrowed from my experience with the Hindu traditions), rocks and even some deletris from the surrounding woods. James had brought a mask as the focal point or resident deity of the shrine. Then we put it all together in a sort of little "house" (in a rounded shape, resembling an igloo or hogan) to shelter our deity, which we hung on twine, suspended in the center. The entire process was not only fun, but also, I feel, in some way personally healing. After we completed our offering, it began to rain, a sure sign (in the Hindu traditions) that the deities are pleased!

*Plant Spirit Medicine* with Albie Barden, was, for me, the workshop which held most promise for follow-through in the process of working on my own personal transformation. Albie began the evening workshop, held under a large tamarac tree, by reading from the book, *Plant Spirit Medicine*, by Eliot Cowan. Albie studied for a year with Eliot Cowan, who in turn spent considerable time under the tutelage of a Mexican Huichol shaman and herbalist. Albie impressed upon us the importance of approaching plants with reverence, for they are, in fact, intelligent beings, with spirit and consciousness. He explained the way in which we may make an offering of tobacco and prayers to the plant spirit, and if the plant spirit is pleased, it will appear to us in our dreams and offer us its teaching. Then we must thank the plant. He instructed us in the method he used, which involved making drawings of the plants, while making your intention known, to meet the spirit of the plant. We meet the plant spirit in Dream, not just while sleeping, but also in waking Dream, which can be facilitated by drumming, breathing and entering an altered state of consciousness.

In the second part of the workshop, Albie taught us how to make a sacred fire kindled by means of bow, string and block, and to make offerings of cedar, sage, tobacco, and chocolate. This is a serious endeavor and can be utilized as a means to receive inner answers to important questions relative to our life's journey. This resonated with me again, based on my familiarity with the Hindu tradition of *Yagna*, a sacred sacrificial fire ceremony which maintains the balance between man and nature. We depend on the natural world for our spiritual and physical sustenance, but the natural world also needs us. "Human intelligence is necessary," Albie said, "for the whole cosmic drama. Our proper participation as a bridge is essential."

In conclusion, *Wildgathering* was, for me, a most memorable, educational and edifying experience. In addition to knowledge gained in the workshops... the atmosphere of fellowship, the drum circles, the presence of benevolent plant (and human!) spirits were also really, really, really central to the entire thing. (I even encountered a few friendly and familiar faces from the Quebec/Jackman FTAA protests of early April!) (AND I acquired a DJERIDOO -- a [nearly] life long desire!!) Most certainly I will go again next year. Most certainly I HOPE I will follow through on the things I learned in the workshops and follow up on some of the personal connections I was blessed to have made there. BLESSED BE!!!
"spare the child and spoil the rod
I am not selling myself to God". Patti Smith

"If Jesus was around, if I was a groupie, I'd really get behind that
guy," she told Lisa Robinson. "That's why I think Mary Magdalene
was so cool—she was like the first groupie. I mean, she was
really into Jesus and following him around; it's too bad she
repented; she could've left a really great diary. All this stuff about Je-
sus, how wonderful he was, and how he was gonna save us. All I'd
like to know is if he was a good lay. That interests me."

"chrest gains admission to
Smith's eccentric pantheon of 'Rock n Roll Niggers,' beside Jack-
son Pollock, Jimi Hendrix, and unless my ears deceive me, Smith's
grandmother," wrote Ken Tucker somewhat sarcastically in the
Village Voice.
Greetings

I am currently working with Arista to prepare a selection of songs gleaned from our 8 albums. I thought that it would be more interesting if it reflected the ideas of the people who listen to our music. I am asking for your help in this matter. My hope is that you will send me a list of the songs you would most like to see on such a project. This list could include one or ten songs. I am interested to see what works, ranging from a popular song like "Because the Night" to the more obscure improvisations such as "Birdland" will surface as your favorite choices. I have always cherished the energy and input of the people in our live performances. It would mean a great deal to have your input and energy in this project. Looking forward to hearing from you.

With all good wishes,

Patti Smith

PHTP
Box 188
Mantua NJ 08051
"I'm like a chameleon. I'm not a phony. I'm like a chameleon. I can fall into the rhythm of almost any situation as it calls for me. If I'm supposed to be a motherfucker, I can be a motherfucker, if I'm supposed to be a sissy or a pansy, I'll be that too. I'll be a sexpot. I'll be a waif. It doesn't mean I'm phony, it just means I'm flexible. I can marry the moment.

Patti Smith Review

Patti Smith came to San Francisco on Sunday April 17, 2000. She is a brave and wonderful soul. She opened with some new songs off her recent release, Gung Ho. I was pleased when after a few newer songs she did "Ghost Dance" with all the passion of a seasoned poet. Her movements on stage are a joy to watch. The show fell on Palm Sunday and she spoke a little about what that means to her. It was an excellent show that will inspire her fans through her next time out. Gung Ho!

Alicia Wilkinson

I think that in our time, as we move into the future, future generations will be less prejudiced about gender, race, color, and things like that.