



ARTWORK BY @DRAPEAUDENIS

DANCING IN JOY & PAIN

**MAY 15
TO
MAY 18
2020**

**A VIRTUAL
GATHERING OPEN
TO RADICAL
FAERIES OF ALL
GENDERS**

This is a time like almost none of us has ever experienced. A time of uncertainty, fear and involuntary distance from each other. Many of us experience increased lack of community and loneliness, spending a lot of time alone or with a select few at home. Many of us also grapple with the memory of the beginnings of the AIDS crisis that disproportionately affected our community.

Yet despite all, the cycle of seasons still carries on outside. Springtime is in full swing. Plants are growing, showing us the beauty of their bloom and the first fruits. Animals wake out of their winter slumber, mating and nesting, bringing new life into the world. Butterflies are slipping out of their cocoons, spreading their wings and taking flight. It is a time of birth and rebirth, of newfound resilience after having endured the cold of winter. As we grapple with the deep running changes and challenges we are coming up against in the age of Covid 19, there is also hope and strength to be gained by creatively forming community. Like the phoenix from the ashes, we can rise again and come together as Radical Faeries.

The only thing certain is that gracefully transitioning through the life cycles requires courage and trust. Empower yourself. Have trust in who you are. You can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again. Move out of your comfort zone. You can only grow if you are willing to feel awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new. The world is full of suffering, but it is also full of overcoming it.

Nothing can replace the in-person community experience of the Lake Evans Spring Gathering (or any gathering). However, we are offering this first virtual gathering of the BC Radical Faeries in the hope of creating the spirit and community all of us Faeries want to experience in these trying times.

The gathering is May 15 - May 18 2020 and will happen online. The platforms that will be used will be **Zoom (zoom.us)** and **FaeNet (faenet.org)**. It's highly recommended that you set up accounts on both platforms in advance. Accessing the gathering from a computer will make some aspects of the gathering work more efficiently.

If you decide to attend the gathering, please do so in the spirit of commitment. **The gathering will be limited to 100 participants.** Every registered participant is receiving a physical package in the mail, so refunds (while theoretically possible) will be an additional labor to the organizing committee. We ask that if you sign up for the virtual gathering, you commit to attending it. If you feel you might not be able to participate, please don't sign up and give other Faeries the chance to reserve a spot.

Registration

The registration fee is **\$24** in Canadian funds. Register and pay here:

<https://forms.gle/28N1ZgUsRZR1vKBw6>

The registration deadline is **May 11, 2020**.

We recognize that disappointment over the cancelling of the Evans Lake gathering affects those the most who were planning to attend. Therefore we are opening the first round of sign-ups to those who had registered for the Evans Lake gathering.

After April 27, 2020, we will broaden the call to the BC Radical Faeries mailing list, as well as post the call on the Metro Vancouver Radical Faeries website.

Mobile Phones

In the spirit of truly and fully connecting with each other, we ask you to put your phones away or on silent during the time you are participating in a part of the gathering.

Nudity

Partial or full nudity is allowed during all parts of the gathering. Please restrict any sexual/self pleasuring activities to the Love Lounge/Self pleasuring Zoom room.

Waiting List

We have set the number of participants this year at 100. We will keep a first-come, first-served waitlist in the event we exceed that number. If we do have a waitlist, we encourage you to submit a registration application online but do not send in payment until you have been notified by the registrar that a spot has opened up.

Faerie Fee Funds

We have a limited Faerie Fee Fund (FFF). We will subsidize **up to 100%** of the cost to applicants on a low or fixed income on a first-come, first-served basis (subject to availability). Please request a subsidy only if you need it, and request only as much as you need. We encourage those who have the means to do so to sponsor someone who might be unable to attend for lack of funds. If you are able to donate to our fund, please do so as well.

A reminder that registrations are not complete until fully paid; so the registrant portion must be paid immediately in order for the requested FFF support to be released.

Fundraising

We are planning to host an online auction to raise money for our FFF (details to follow).

Safer Space Guidelines

Adapted from guidelines by The Coalition Against Trans Antagonism

- This event is a safer space. We recognize that oppression exists everywhere, and that we cannot guarantee safe spaces, only that we can make them safer by recognizing, understanding, challenging, and transforming oppressive ideas and behaviours.

- Participants are encouraged to give care to themselves and engage in this space in ways that works for them; no one expects folks to do anything they don't want to do.
- Please understand that Zoom is known for security risks; use discretion and caution when sharing personal information.
- This event is for all Faeries of all genders. All are welcome and celebrated in their uniqueness as Radical Faeries.
- Organizers are bound by the mission, vision & constitution of the BC Radical Faeries and reserve the right to remove anyone who is disruptive, breaches the safer space guidelines, and/or creates an unsafe environment.