

Taproot 2017 Workshop Descriptions

FRIDAY MORNING OPTIONS (10:00-11:30)

Main Lessons for Grades 1 & 2 with Barbara

In this workshop, we will experience the magic of grades one and two including fairy tales, fables and math stories, reading, math presentation, and how to make a main lesson book, along with the rhythm of the morning. *You are welcome to come either day, but to get the full experience of the two-day rhythm and all topics, you should plan to come both Friday and Saturday mornings.*

Main Lessons for Grades 5 – 8 with Jean & Alison

Come with a beginner's mind and see what it feels like to be a student in our Taproot homeschool. Together, we will immerse ourselves in main lesson time from opening to closing circle. We will spend our time participating in and co-creating a two-day rhythm for one or two main lesson topics such as history through biography, botany, or kitchen chemistry. *You are welcome to come either day, but to get the full experience of the two-day rhythm and all topics, you should plan to come both Friday and Saturday mornings.*

Holding Space for Ourselves: Inner Work with Sheila

Cultivating an inner work practice allows us to hold space for ourselves so we can hear the soft voice of our own soul: helping us to remember who we are and why we do what we do. Using the gentle medium of collage, we will shift our gaze inward and observe with curiosity where we find ourselves in this present moment.

Watercolor Painting with Royse

Learn to work with watercolor and to find form in wet-on-wet painting. We will also explore how to work with complimentary colors in our paintings. This session will offer an overview of painting through the curriculum and participants will create paintings from a few different grades' main lessons.

FRIDAY EARLY AFTERNOON OPTIONS (1:30-3:00)

Kindergarten with Barbara

In this workshop, Barbara will provide an overview of the philosophy behind the early childhood years in Waldorf education, with a tour of the toys and simply made playthings for young children. We will also explore how to arrange your home and create a rhythm that more fully engages the kindergarten child within the family.

Main Lessons for Grade 3 & 4 with Jean & Alison

Come with a beginner's mind and see what it feels like to be a student in our Taproot homeschool. Together, we will immerse ourselves in main lesson time from opening to closing circle. We will spend our time participating in and co-creating a two-day rhythm for one or two main lesson topics such as clothing and fiber,

houses and homes, or Norse Myths. *You are welcome to come either day, but to get the full experience of the two-day rhythm and all topics, you should plan to come both Friday and Saturday afternoons.*

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Home Music Making with Recorder with Jodie

Learn how to play a recorder instrument, bring music to your child in a naturally artistic way, understand the value of pentatonic music, and add instruments to your festival and seasonal celebrations. Please bring a soprano recorder, pennywhistle, or pentatonic flute along to the class if you have one; we will also have some to loan out.

FRIDAY LATE AFTERNOON OPTIONS (3:30-5:00)

Math Movement Games with Barbara

We will learn and practice the Waldorf math movement games which help the children memorize basic math facts in a fun and exciting way, by marching, passing bean bags, skipping, jumping rope, and playing with rhythm sticks. Get ready to MOVE!

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Creating a Puppet Play with Jean

In this workshop, we will explore a simple way of creating a puppet show from a fairy tale. (*Remember, drama is one of the lively arts!*) We will explore how to write a script, and then we will create a puppet theater and make simple rod puppets. This process is a great mixed-ages activity. We will perform the play for everyone on Saturday evening!

Crayon Drawing with Royse

Learn to work with beeswax crayons and different drawing techniques. We will explore shading, blending, and color. This session will offer an overview of drawing through the curriculum and participants will create drawings from a few different grades' main lessons.

SATURDAY MORNING OPTIONS (10:00-11:30)

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Handwork: Felting with Alisha

Wet felting is a centuries old craft used to make everything from tents to clothing. In our session, we will combine wool and water to make a finger puppet or two! Wet felting is a great activity for all ages and we will also incorporate some needle felting into our projects. Let's have some fun creating a finger puppet for you to use in lessons, circle time, or anytime.

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Handwork: Beginning Knitting with Alisha

What can you make from a knitted square? Beginning in first grade, the Waldorf handwork curriculum introduces knitting to the awakening child. In our Taproot session, the beginning knitter will learn the basics of knitting (the slipknot, casting on, knit stitch, and casting off) and make a small project from a knitted square: a bunny or a chicken.

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Conversations with Alison

During late afternoon tea time, Alison will be available to facilitate a discussion focused on taking the ideas and information you have been gathering during your workshops and applying them to YOUR family's homeschool. Some possible topics include: learning challenges, balancing everyone's needs, creating a multi-age, family-centered approach, and fostering community and social connections.

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