

PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL23-000066

File #: 23-004675

Application for: Public Event

Organization name: Friends of the Community Growing Center

Description: From May through Dec, the Center will offer a range of workshops, children's programming, seasonal community celebrations and cultural events for free. They range from workshops on gardening and cooking to book readings for kids, yoga classes, nature study and citizen science, harvest festivals, films, music and puppet theater in keeping with our mission.

Date(s): May- Dec 2023

Setup starts at (time): varies, typically one hour prior

Cleanup after the event ends at (time): typically one hour after

Entertainment: Some events include musical or theatrical performances

Attendees:

Max attendance at one time: 150

Maximum attendees accommodated: 250

Attendee fees or suggested donations: Events are free, though donations welcome

Social or cultural benefits:

The annual calendar for the Growing Center provides multiple opportunities for free cultural and/or educational events and participation for residents of all ages throughout the rest of 2023.

Event Contact: Lisa Brukilacchio

Event name: Somerville Community Growing Center 2023 Calendar

Location: The Somerville Community Growing Center is an 11,000 sq foot city owned public space that is managed by the Friends of the Community Growing Center as an educational and cultural gathering space for the community. In addition to demonstration and food production gardens, the space includes a stage area and room to offer free cultural and educational events.

Rain date(s): none

Event starts at (time): varies

Event ends at (time): varies, before 9:30pm at latest, typically earlier

Temporary Structures: Our own pop up canopies, with weighted legs, will be used if weather looks questionable.

Total people attending: 10-200 per event

Total Somerville residents attending: generally 75-90%

What is your budget for this event: ranges from \$0 to \$3K

Financial benefits:

Proximity to Union Square could help introduce visitors to the Center to nearby businesses for food and entertainment.

Event Contact Phone: 781-953-4826

Event Information	Yes/No	If yes, Describe
Open to the public?	Yes	Flyers around the City, social media, outreach through partners
Food served?	Yes	For the Festa Junina/Brazilian Harvest Festival on June 24th, the planning committee is hoping to work with a caterer to offer samples of traditional Brazilian snacks like baked goods.
Caterer used?	Yes	We are still working with potential caterer (TBD) for the June 24th event, knowing that we will need to work with them to apply for a Temporary Food License for the June 25th.
Alcohol served?	No	
Grill/open-flame device used?	No	
Streets blocked?	No	
Sidewalks blocked?	No	
Arrangements:		
Police Detail:	No	
Parking (for Attendees)?	No	
Restrooms?	Yes	Accessible porta-potty supported by Friends on site.

Liability Insurance?	Yes	We have \$1M liability insurance covering events, as part of our license with the City to manage the site.
Will any public parks be used?	Yes	Somerville Community Growing Center
Has the event occurred in the last two years?	Yes	2022 and 2021

Approval Conditions:

Approved By:

CS Mayor, Approved

Kevin Roche, Approved

Timothy Bakey, Approved

CS Traffic and Parking, Approved

Timothy Mitsakis, Approved

Eric Weisman, Approved

Kimberly M. Wells, Approved



Somerville Community Growing Center

2023 Calendar- updated April 12, 2023

Sponsored by the Friends of the Community Growing Center.

Located at 22 Vinal Avenue, Somerville (near Union Square)

To check for updates and cancellations:
visit www.thegrowingcenter.org and click on 'calendar'

All events are free unless a "suggested donation" is noted.

The site is accessible by wheelchair.

The City of Somerville has permit parking on all streets, including Vinal Avenue,
except for Sundays.

Volunteers and donations always welcomed to help support events and programs
offered at this city-owned site

The Somerville Community Growing Center is a place for people of all ages and
backgrounds to gather, learn and celebrate – to grow a healthy community. On our
quarter acre site you will find gardens and space for arts, performances, education and
community gatherings. This peaceful urban oasis was built by the community and
is maintained and run by a volunteer organization called
the Friends of the Community Growing Center.

To volunteer, contact Morgan Lindemayer-Finck at volunteer@thegrowingcenter.org.

To host a program or event, contact Lisa Brukilacchio at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org
or Maddie Morgan at maddie@thegrowingcenter.org .

To receive electronic notices of events and volunteer opportunities,
visit <http://www.thegrowingcenter.org/contact> or send a request to
volunteer@thegrowingcenter.org

All other inquiries, contact info@thegrowingcenter.org

An * after an event title indicates that the event is supported in part by a grant from the
Somerville Arts Council, a local commission supported by the City of Somerville and/or
the Mass Cultural Council.

The Center wants to especially thank the Mass Cultural Council for direct funding
support this year.



MAY:

Pub Sings

Tuesdays, May 2 and 16, 7-9pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Soil Health and crop planning herbs and vegetables, Virtual

Thursday, May 4, 6pm

Join us for a virtual workshop, with Michelle de Lima, of the Trustees Boston Community Gardens, on soil health and planning your edible plantings from early spring through the fall. We will focus on raised bed and container gardening. Register [here](#) to receive the link.

Contact: Paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Yoga with Jenn

Sunday, May 7, 9:30-10:30 am

An hour of mindful movement practice to turn off from obligations and connect to the body and mind. Offered by [Jenn Pici Falk](#), who also offers some online sessions [here](#).

Contact: Jen at jennpfalk@gmail.com

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Sunday, May 7, 11am-12pm

Our new *Community Read Aloud* in the garden starts with guest reader [Ron Grady](#), educator and children's book author! Program will be in English. All ages welcome. Program is focused on ages 1-8.

Contact: Paula at Paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Monday, May 8th, 4-5pm

Our *Community Read Aloud* in the garden continues with guest reader Valerie Williams. All ages welcome. Program is focused on ages 1-8.

Contact: Paula at Paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Nibbling on Native Plants in Your Back Yard and Beyond (VIRTUAL)

May 9, 7:30-9pm

Join the Growing Center and the Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathway for an evening talk with [Russ Cohen](#), expert forager and author of [Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten](#), will offer a slideshow featuring over two dozen species of native edible wild plants suitable for adding to your own landscape, or nibbling on as you encounter them in other locales. Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation method(s), along with guidelines for safe, ethical and environmentally responsible foraging. Russ will also include a few details regarding some native edible plants he has grown successfully from seed, and the partnerships he has made with conservation groups and others to add edible native plants to their landscapes. Join us for this special free evening with the "Johnny Appleseed of Edible Native Plants", as featured in the [Spring 2019 issue of the Wild Ones Journal](#). Link [here](#) to join; meeting ID 892 8205 8022, passcode 021913. Please pre-register at FaceBook event [here](#).

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, May 13, 2-3:30pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Also learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Natural History Hour

Saturday, May 13, 4-5pm

Explore and learn about local natural history at the Center in nearby neighborhoods with Claire from [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA). Topics may include trees, birds and more! (Will likely involve walking, perhaps including hilly streets).

Spring Garden Day

Sunday, May 14 12-2pm. Rain date Sunday, 21

Celebrate spring with the annual Morris Dancing and participatory Maypole dance. Take home native seeds harvested at the Center. Bring or take seeds from a Seed Exchange Table.

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

The Sun Rises in Somerville: Craft Ensemble*

Saturday, May 20, 3pm rain date Sunday May 21

The Craft Ensemble comprises a core string quartet of Colleen Brannen and Amy Sims on violin, violist Amelia Hollander Ames, and Velleda Miragias on cello. Come enjoy "chamber music among friends" in a garden setting. For more information, visit their [FaceBook](#) or [website](#).

Microgreens workshop with Ceilidh Peden-Spear

Tuesday, May 23, 7-8pm

Join Ceilidh Peden-Spear to learn how to grow microgreens at home! Limited supply of starting kits will be available.

Contact: Lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Sunday, May 27, 4-5pm

Our new *Community Read Aloud* in the garden continues with guest reader Mariana Oscar. Mariana will read in Spanish and English, *todos son bienvenidos*. All ages welcome. Program is focused on ages 1-8.

Contact: Paula at Paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Herb of the Month with Mo

Sunday, May 28, 4-5:30pm

Explore a different herb each month with herbalist Mo Katz-Christy as part of our Community Herb Project.

Contact: Paula at paula@thegrowingcenter.org

JUNE:

Mr Twister and the Tale of Tornado Alley*

June 3rd, 2pm puppet making workshop, 2:30 pm performance; rain location: Connexion, 149 Broadway in East Somerville

Mr. Twister and the Tale of Tornado Alley follows the title character and his grandson Bobby on a journey around the globe - from the chilly arctic to the sizzling warmth of the Gulf of Mexico. Through the power of his magic telescope, Mr. Twister can see just about everything - except the family reunion of the North and South winds that's about to create a cyclone in Tornado Alley!! Join us for an operatic adventure of global proportions; come early for puppet workshop to join the drama! Appropriate for ages 5+.

Contact: Lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Herb of the Month with Mo

Sunday, June 4, 4-5:30pm

Explore a different herb each month with herbalist Mo Katz-Christy as part of our Community Herb Project.

Contact: Paula at paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Red Fire Farm CSA distribution

Wednesday, weekly, June 7 to Oct 11, 3:30-6:30

Sign up [here](#) to order a weekly farm share to be picked up at the Center for 20 weeks.

Contact: Red Fire Farm at csa@redfirefarm.com

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Wednesday, weekly, June 7, 14, 21, 4-5pm

Our new *Community Read Aloud* in the garden continues with guest reader Valerie Williams. All ages welcome. Program is focused on ages 1-8.

Contact: Paula at Paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Pub Sings

Tuesdays, June 7 and 21, 7-9pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Sourdough Bread Making with Jan Kassay

Thursday, June 8, 8-9pm

Join volunteer Jan Kassay to explore the wonders and delights of creating your own sourdough bread at home. Learn tips and techniques from A-Z in this workshop. Share your stories—and some limited sourdough starter will be available.

Contact: Lisa at Lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Bouquet and Cyanotype

Saturday, June 10, 12-2pm, rain date June 17

Offered by Terra+Soma, in this event, we aim to bring together community members to engage in a fun workshop that incorporates nature and art. Attendees will be able to photograph and interact with the landscape around them by taking and developing cyanotype photos and assembling native plant bouquets. This event is geared towards adults of all ages but children are more than welcome.

Contact: Paula at paula@

Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, June 10, 2-3:30pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation

events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Also learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Natural History Hour

Saturday, June 10, 4-5pm

Explore and learn about local natural history at the Center in nearby neighborhoods with Claire from [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA). Topics may include trees, birds and more! (May involve walking, perhaps including hilly streets.)

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Yoga with Jenn

Sunday, June 11, 9:30-10:30am

An hour of mindful movement practice to turn off from obligations and connect to the body and mind. Offered by [Jenn Pici Falk](#), who also offers some online sessions [here](#).

Contact: Jen at jennpfalk@gmail.com

Pollinator Safari

Sunday, June 11, 1-2:30pm

Join members of the Tufts Pollinator Initiative for this all ages friendly exploration in the garden to learn about local biodiversity and relationships between native plants and insects and other pollinators. For all ages!

Contact: Nick Dorian at nicholas.dorian@tufts.edu

The Sun Rises in Somerville: Craft Ensemble*

June 11, 3pm, rain date June 18

The Craft Ensemble comprises a core string quartet of Colleen Brannen and Amy Sims on violin, violist Amelia Hollander Ames, and Velleda Miragias on cello. Come enjoy "chamber music among friends" in a garden setting. For more information, visit their [FaceBook](#) or [website](#).

Red Fire Farm CSA Distribution

Wednesdays, June 14- Oct 11, 3-6:30pm

The Center is a pickup site for a weekly pre-ordered farm share including veggies & herbs with the option of adding fruit and more. Sign up [here](#) to order a share to be picked up at the Center. The Center is open to the public during this time.

Fermented Dairy with Ceilidh Peden-Spear

Thursday, June 15, 7-8pm

Join Ceilidh Peden-Spear to learn about making yogurt, kefir and more at home. Some limited starter grains will be available.

Contact: Lisa at Lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Teddy Bear Picnic

Friday June 16, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, rain date

Bring a picnic and your teddy bears (or other cuddly toys) and join with local families and friends of all ages.

Contact: Courtney at cscooke@live.com

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Sunday, June 18, 11-12pm,

Community Read Aloud in the garden continues with guest reader Kathleen Flynn. All ages welcome. Program is focused on ages 1-8.

All ages welcome. Program is focused on ages 1-8.

Contact: Paula at Paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Kadanz Jazz: Standards with Caribbean/Latin Flavors*

Thursday, June 23, 7-8:30pm

Enjoy music in the garden, with local professional musicians sharing American Jazz Standards, with new twists integrating rhythms from Caribbean and Latin traditions. Led by Growing Center volunteer Mark Torgerson on guitar, who will be joined by keyboard, bass and percussion.

Contact: Mark at clavebeat@yahoo.com

Festa Junina/ Brazilian Harvest Festival*

June 24, 1-6 pm, rain date June 25

Festa Junina is a traditional harvest celebration in Brazil. This Growing Center event will include craft stations (root printing, lantern making, making dance accessories), participatory Quadilha dancing, traditional treats and music by Receita de Samba Duo. It will also feature numerous Kamishibai created and presented by Yumi Izuyama, interweaving her Japanese and Brazilian roots.

Contact: Yumi at yumiisu65@gmail.com

Open Hours for the Arts: Adult Read Alouds

Tuesday, June 27, 7-8pm

Come spend time in the garden with a variety of hosts for an hour of reading aloud from literature with relevance to the mission of the Center. Some possibilities might include: "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, "Seed Folk" by Paul Fleischman, "Animal, Vegetable, Junk" by Mark Bittman, "Black Earth Wisdom" by Leah Penniman, "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy—or others!

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Grow and Preserve Herb Class

June 29, 6-7pm

Join us in the Center's gardens for an evening workshop with Michelle de Lima, of the Trustees Boston Community Gardens, focused on growing herbs and how to preserve/use them through the season. Please RSVP to Paula@thegrowingcenter.org to plan for materials needed.

JULY:

Story-Acting Workshops*

Saturdays, July 1, August 5 & 26, 4-5pm

The Painted Playground is offering arts based playgroup sessions, inspired by the work of Vivian Paley. Children will enjoy free play time in the garden, then dictate or write down stories which will be acted out as a group. Focused on ages 1-12yrs.

Contact: Claire at cmnataro@gmail.com

Pub Sings

July 4 and 18, 7:00 - 9:00pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, July 8th, 2-3:30pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Also learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Open Hours for the Arts: Letter Writing

Saturday, July 8, 4-5pm

Come to the Center to join Delia Marshall for a special Open Hours, dedicated to the art of letter writing. Take a few minutes in a natural setting to connect with someone in your life through the written word. Materials available if needed for you to be able to send a letter. Read more about the history of letter writing [here](#).

Kadanz Jazz: Standards with Caribbean/Latin Flavors*

Thursday, July 13, 7-8:30pm

Enjoy music in the garden, with local professional musicians sharing American Jazz Standards, with new twists integrating rhythms from Caribbean and Latin traditions. Led by Growing Center volunteer Mark Torgerson on guitar, who will be joined by keyboard, bass and percussion.

Contact: Mark at clavebeat@yahoo.com

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Wednesday, July 19, 4-5pm

Community Read Aloud in the garden continues with guest reader Yumi Izuyuma. All ages welcome. Paula, paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Yoga with Jenn

July 23, 9:30-10:30am

An hour of mindful movement practice to turn off from obligations and connect to the body and mind. Offered by [Jenn Pici Falk](#), who also offers some online sessions [here](#).

Contact: Jen at jennpfalk@gmail.com

Herbal Tea Blending with Irischa Valentin

Sunday, July 23, 4-5pm; rain date July 30

Together in community, we will learn about the various perennial herbs that abundantly grow around us. We will learn about the medicinal qualities of the herbs -remembering our reciprocal relationship with our plant kin. We will make a delicious herbal tea blend with some of the plants growing in the garden. Part of our Community Herb Project.

Contact: Paula at Paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Open Hours for the Arts: Adult Read Alouds

Tuesday, July 25, 7-8pm

Come spend time in the garden with a variety of hosts for an hour of reading aloud from literature with relevance to the mission of the Center. Some possibilities might include: "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, "Seed Folk" by Paul Fleischman, "Animal, Vegetable, Junk" by Mark Bittman, "Black Earth Wisdom" by Leah Penniman, "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy—or others!

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

It's NatYOURS Films

Thursday, July 27, 8-9:30pm, rain dates Aug 10, or 24 or 31

An evening of film shorts created by **Spruce Tone Films** who are “a collective of passionate creators with the goal to tell timely and compelling stories. They develop, pitch and produce our own original films, as well as branded docs and commercials for socially and environmentally responsible companies and nonprofits.” Come enjoy short films and lively discussion in a garden setting.

Contact: Maddie at maddie@thegrowingcenter.org

Vegetable Fermentation Workshop: Simple Preservation You Can Do At Home

Saturday, July 29, 4-5pm

Flora Spivak will discuss and demonstrate simple techniques for making sauerkraut and pickles at home. Sample recipes provided. Come learn and/or share your own experience and knowledge of these traditional methods of preserving food.

Contact: Flora at sfspivak@gmail.com

AUGUST

Pub Sings

August 1 and 15, 7-9pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Turnaround Film Shorts

Thursday, August 3, 8-9:30pm, rain dates Aug 10, or 24 or 31

An evening of film shorts created by **TURNAROUND FILMS** whose goal is “to provide quality, accurate videos to educators, students, legislators, and activists who need to communicate with the public about climate change. These people are on the frontlines of addressing problems and organizing workable solutions.” Come enjoy short films and lively discussion in a garden setting.

Contact: Maddie at maddie@thegrowingcenter.org

Story-Acting Workshops*

Saturdays, August 5, 4-5pm

The Painted Playground is offering arts based playgroup sessions, inspired by the work of Vivian Paley. Children will enjoy free play time in the garden, then dictate or write down stories which will be acted out as a group. Focused on ages 1-12yrs.

Contact: Claire at cmnataro@gmail.com

Stuffed Animal Campout

August 6, 6-7:30pm

Drop off your stuffies for an overnight camping experience! We'll have a camping-themed Pajama Storytime for the kids prior to saying their good-byes, and then it's party time for just the animals, with garden exploration time, hide-and-seek, (pretend) s'mores making, singalongs, and more! Follow along in the fun on social media! Additional drop-off times and pick-up opportunities to be announced.

Contact: Betsy at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Wednesday, August 9th, 4-5pm

Community Read Aloud in the garden continues with guest reader Yumi Izuyama. All ages welcome. Paula, paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Yart Sale

Saturday, August 12, 12-6pm

It's the Somerville Arts Council's 3rd Annual Yart Sale—with the Growing Center offering space for a range of vendors for this event, like a Yard Sale, only for art. Expect to see a range of products and activities like live art, handmade objects, band merch, art supplies, collectible items or even plants!

Contact: Betsy at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org

Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, August 13th, 2-3:30pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Also learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Open Hours for the Arts: Poetry

Saturday, August 19, 4-5pm

Come to the Center to join poet Denise Provost-and maybe others- in a garden setting. Nurture your creative muse taking time to listen and write, or perhaps share poems of your own or others that inspire you. Be part of this experimental series of open hours with a special focus.

Contact: Denise Provost at denise.provost@verizon.net

Open Hours for the Arts: Music

Sunday, TBD, 4-5:30pm

Join Mark Sq'd (GC volunteers Mark Chenevert and Mark Torgerson) with your instrument for open music jam/exploration in a garden setting. (Part of a pilot to have open hours to explore a range of participatory cultural activities; watch for sessions for poetry, letter writing, and more!)

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Open Hours for the Arts: Adult Read Alouds

Tuesday, August 22, 7-8pm

Come spend time in the garden with a variety of hosts for an hour of reading aloud from literature with relevance to the mission of the Center. Some possibilities might include: "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, "Seed Folk" by Paul Fleischman, "Animal, Vegetable, Junk" by Mark Bittman, "Black Earth Wisdom" by Leah Penniman, "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy—or others!

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Wednesday, August 23, 4-5pm

Community Read Aloud in the garden continues with guest reader Yumi Izuyama. All ages welcome. Paula, paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Story-Acting Workshops*

Saturdays, August 26, 4-5pm

The Painted Playground is offering arts based playgroup sessions, inspired by the work of Vivian Paley. Children will enjoy free play time in the garden, then dictate or write down stories which will be acted out as a group. Focused on ages 1-12yrs.

Contact: Claire at cmnataro@gmail.com

Lacto Fermentation Workshop

Sunday, August 27, 4-5pm

Join volunteer Spencer Albin for a demonstration and exploration of the world of lacto fermentation, using sauerkraut making as an example. Come learn and/or share your own experience and knowledge of these traditional methods of preserving food.

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

SEPTEMBER:

Open Hours for the Arts: Letter Writing

Saturday, September 2, 4-5pm

Come to the Center to join Delia Marshall for a special Open Hours, dedicated to the art of letter writing. Take a few minutes in a natural setting to connect with someone in your life through the written word. Materials available if needed for you to be able to send a letter. Read more about the history of letter writing [here](#).

Pub Sings

September 5 and 19, 7-9pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, September 9, 2-3:30pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Also learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Open Hours for the Arts: Poetry

Saturday, September 9, 4-5pm

Come to the Center to join poet Denise Provost-and maybe others- in a garden setting. Nurture your creative muse taking time to listen and write, or perhaps share poems of your own or others that inspire you. Be part of this experimental series of open hours with a special focus.

Contact: Denise Provost at denise.provost@verizon.net

Taste the Molecular Rainbow: What Color and Flavor Tell Us About Chemistry

Sunday, September 10, 4-5:30pm

Why do all alliums have that strong garlicky smell? How do I know if the dried herbs you've had in my cabinet for five years are still good? In this class you will begin to practice using your senses to teach you about the chemical constituents in your foods and medicine. We will discuss the primary atoms that make up plant molecules, and some common forms that they take. You will get to see, smell, and taste different preparations of the same herbs to learn the

flavors and mouthfeel of specific molecules, and to learn which preparations extract which constituents. Bring your favorite mug and a pen and come join me where experiential and scientific knowledge meet! With herbalist Mo Katz-Christy as part of our Community Herb Project.

Contact: Paula at paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Monday, September 11, 4-5pm

Community Read Aloud in the garden continues with guest reader Yumi Izuyama. All ages welcome. Paula, paula@paulajordan@yahoo.com

A Gathering of Fairies: Celebrating Nature Spirits

Saturday, September 16, 2:00 - 5:00pm. (Rain date September 30).

Come learn about nature spirits from around the world—and our imaginations! Everyone is invited to come dressed up as their favorite magical being. Celebratory activities in the garden for fairies and their friends include storytelling, building a fairy house and creating a fairy wand. Donations are encouraged to support the Growing Center and Gathering of Fairies.

Contact: Betsy Larkin at blarkin@thegrowingcenter.org

Open Hours for the Arts: Adult Read Alouds

Tuesday, September 26, 7-8pm

Come spend time in the garden with a variety of hosts for an hour of reading aloud from literature with relevance to the mission of the Center. Some possibilities might include: "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, "Seed Folk" by Paul Fleischman, "Animal, Vegetable, Junk" by Mark Bittman, "Black Earth Wisdom" by Leah Penniman, "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy—or others!

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

OCTOBER:

Harvest Festival: Gathering in Gratitude*

Sunday, October 1, 2:00 - 4:00. (Rain date Sunday, October 15).

Harvest activities and games, pumpkin decorating and a celebration of the bounty nature shares with us throughout the year.

Contact: Lisa at 781-953-4826 or info@thegrowingcenter.org

Pub Sings

Tuesday, 3 and 17, 6:00 - 8:00pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, October 14, 2-3:30pm

Join Claire and Earthwise Aware (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Also learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Community Read Aloud and Growing Together

Monday, October 9, 4-5pm

Community Read Aloud in the garden continues with guest reader Yumi Izuyama. All ages welcome.

Contact: Paula, paula@thegrowingcenter.org

Seasonal Salvage Sale

Saturday, Oct 21, 12-4pm, rain date Oct 22

An innovative Yard Sale featuring seasonally-themed salvaged goods. Local makers and crafters are invited to share their goods and crafts.

Contact: Betsy Larkin at blarkin@thegrowingcenter.org

AntiMorris Dancing and Pumpkin Carols

Monday, October 31, 5:00 - 7:00pm, rain or shine

Pumpkin Carols followed by the AntiMorris at Sunset, danced by Recently Traditional Fictional Morris. The dancers shall fade silently into the night upon conclusion of the dance.

Contact: Jeremy Kessler at greenguy@peculiarity.net

NOVEMBER:

Pub Sings

Tuesday, 7 and 21, 6:00 - 8:00pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Plant and Wildlife Monitoring for Conservation with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, November 11, 2-3:30pm

Join Claire and Earthwise Aware (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Also learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

DECEMBER:

Pub Sings

Tuesdays, December 5, 6:00 - 8:00pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Celebrate the Solstice!*

Tuesday, December 19, 6-8pm

A mid-winter seasonal celebration during the longest nights of the year, looking forward to the coming spring even in the dark of the season. Enjoy the warmth of joining in community, sharing songs, stories, hope and cheer.

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org or Jeff at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Regular opportunities for active engagement

Open Garden Hours

The Growing Center strives to be open to the public and accessible to everyone in the community. To do this, our volunteers host multiple Open Hours sessions each week, which change across the seasons but typically include at minimum: Thursday, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm; Sunday, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. These are weather dependent, so plan accordingly. Please check our [calendar](#) and social media for updates and cancellations.

Insect and Plant Monitoring with Earthwise Aware

Tuesdays, 3-4:30pm, weather permitting

Once a week volunteers, with [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA), monitor the biodiversity (insects, amphibians, birds and plants) and phenology (flora and fauna) of their five study sites depending on the weather and time of day. On Tuesday afternoons, volunteers gather at the Growing Center and welcome guests to join them to learn about and participate in this ongoing citizen science Entomo-Phenology Fieldwork project.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org