

Gaea's Own

fall 2018



photo taken by Mike Stevens



UPCOMING EVENTS

Samhain, October 27-28

Cabin Sponsors Meeting,
October 28

ERI Board Meeting,
November 4

Earth Day Planning
Meeting (before December
board meeting at 11am)

ERI Board Meeting,
December 2

Yule Ritual, December 15

Rituals start
at 7pm, and
are followed
by a potluck
feast in the
dining hall.



Here are some LBLD stage progress photos that we thought you would like!



President's Letter

Another LBLD has come and gone. This year we successfully raised funds to help with the purchase of a new AC/Heating unit for the Main Hall. Thank you to all in attendance for making it another Fantastical festival! I sincerely hope everyone had an amazing weekend and made lasting memories.

And with LBLD now a month past, the active season of Gaea is beginning to draw to a close. There are only a few weekends left until the water is turned off in preparation for the winter season. As I write this it is a quiet weekend out at camp, I can hear the rain outside of N6 and stepping out of the cabin brings the earthy of Autumn that I love so. Honestly if you have never had the opportunity to witness

Gaea take off the finery of Summer to don the russet hued cloak of Autumn, I highly suggest visiting.

This season has brought with it several changes to the Board of Directors. We have had to say goodbye to 2 members, as life has taken them in different directions as happens with all of us at Gaea at times in our lives. Cat Andrews and Steve Dillion, thank you both so very much for your years of service to the Gaea Community. But we have also gained a new Board Member! Warm welcomes to Lorelei Tanner! I will let her tell of her journey to find a home here at Gaea with all of you :

"About ten years ago during Heartland. A friend brought me out. Thought I'd stumbled into Avalon; the second time I came back I was convinced it wouldn't be there - just knew it disappeared back into the fairy world. Came back sporadically for the first six years, then one day in March a few years ago, just decided... I don't not want to be here ever again. And that was when I started coming out every other weekend. Every other weekend turned into every weekend. And at some point, I just realized I wasn't going to camp - I was going home."

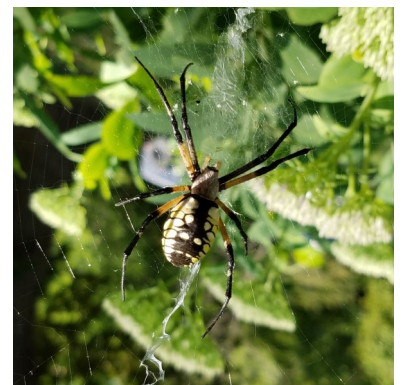


photo taken by Shane Harrison

L A I D B A C K



Treasurer's Report



Our rituals are open to the public and celebrate the pagan wheel of the year. Rituals at Gaea are opportunities to bond as a community and perhaps learn something in the process. We welcome all pagan traditions to officiate. If you would be interested in facilitating a ritual, please call Rhi at camp (913-796-2141) to discuss putting you on the schedule.

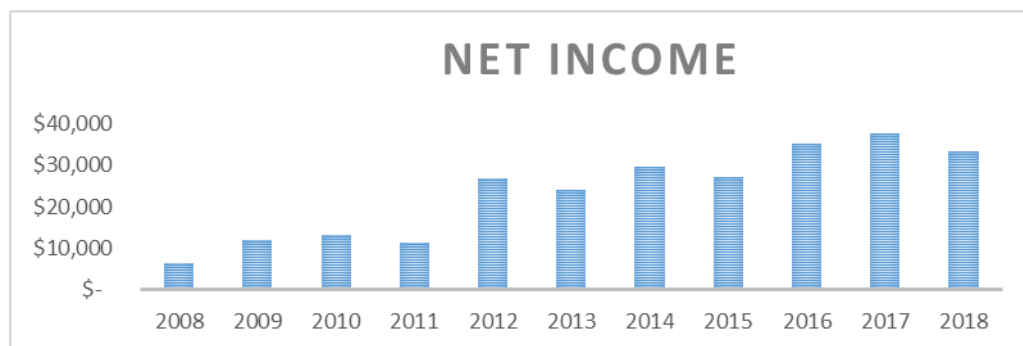


Hello Camp Family! Well, here we are, another amazing season! Laid Back was so awesome. Friends, you raised an astounding \$33,217 and there were 414 of you beautiful people out there during the festival. It was so great to meet some of you at the auction and registration!

funding and we are excited to start planning. And then!!!! We were blessed AGAIN by an anonymous donor after festival. Okay so, are you sitting down? You probably should... Really, at least lean on something...

We received an anonymous donation of \$10,000!!!

camp for your eligible purchases. Now how easy is that? Save this link to your browser for quick access. They even have a handy little button you can install in Google Chrome, if that's your sort of thing. At the beginning of October, the board will sit down to consider and prepare our winter budget.



Speaking of donations, did you know that when we announced our total Sunday, a knight in shining armor came to us and donated 10% of our total that night!!! Folks, that was over \$2,800 from this fine gentleman. SO Amazing! Goosebumps and all! So, here is our year to year comparison for LBLD. This was our third most successful overall. We were feeling great about these numbers as I am sure many of you heard of our need for a new HVAC unit in the Main Hall. There are many other projects still waiting for

I'm just beyond words. This is the time of year that we get a little antsy, worrying about the off-season, what projects we can accomplish with the donations received from the year and so on. I'm truly honored to be a part of a community that is self-supporting and dedicated to providing this space where we can all be our true selves. Looking for other ways to give? Earth Rising is on Amazon Smile. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1589203>. Each time you shop, Amazon will donate 0.5% to

We have several projects that we'll be reviewing for fall and early spring. As we prepare for the holidays, perhaps you might consider picking up a Home Depot card for Gaea? Even with our careful budgeting and project management, we always need small supplies to supplement these jobs and random repairs around camp. If you would like to send a holiday gift card to camp, please mail it directly to the caretakers at: P.O. Box 696, Tonganoxie, KS 66086.

In her service,
JD Besares



Samhain

Autumn breezes have begun to blow. We approach the end of the wheel of the year and Samhain is upon us!

Join us the weekend of October 27th for two days of celebration, family activities, a Halloween masquerade and of

course - ritual.

We will be carving pumpkins (BYOP,) having a cabin crawl and trick-or-treating for the children, and more!

If you would like to help or get involved, please contact Lorelie@gaearetreat.org,

As always, please bring a dish for feast (enough for you plus 4) - we will be having Autumn Hash for supper on Saturday and a community breakfast on Sunday, too!

Caretaker's Corner

Happy Autumn! There is much news at camp, so let's get started.

A large project has started in Memorial Grove. We are removing the cedars from the grove and the area 100 yards around it. They are promoting cedar apple rust, which is a fungus that causes a disease both in eastern red cedars and apple trees. The fungus begins on the cedars and then attacks the apple trees. We apologize for the shock of it (because it is shocking when you see it), but it is necessary to maintain the health of the memorial trees in the grove.

Speaking of the health of trees, there is another change that has manifested. Dragon Tree, one of the most magnificent of the older trees on property, has seen a sudden influx of visitors...and climbers. Dragon Tree is a living tree, and although hearty, will suffer if we continue to climb it. So, sorry to say, the Board of Directors has decided that climbing is not allowed in the

tree. There will be a sign posted at the beginning of the 2019 season, but we can care for her by stopping now.

It's been a busy festival season, and it's hard to believe it is at a close. Camp remains open throughout the fall and winter seasons for camping, day trips, and seasonal rituals. However, things change somewhat. Please remember:

- The water will be shut off October 31st. This means the shower house and dining hall are closed. There is potable water available near the stairs to Sunset Ridge. Portable toilets will be available near Main Hall, and on the north cabin road.
- The gate closes at dusk. If you will be arriving after the gate is closed, please contact a caretaker for instruction so you can easily access Gaea.
- Be mindful of the fire weather/burn ban sign located at the top of the hill in front of the

caretakers' cabin. Bans often happen in the winter, especially if precipitation is low.

- Cabin reservations are highly recommended. As it gets colder, only three cabins are available for stays, and they fill up fast.
- The land is starting to quiet and the wildlife is coming closer. Please be mindful of your foodstuffs and trash when enjoying the land. Pack it in, pack it out, and remember, their sense of smell is even more keen in winter, so maybe store your food in the car.

Lastly, we need to talk about PayPal. PayPal is used at camp for Earth Rising festivals only. We do not accept PayPal for normal camping fees. It causes confusion and additional work for our stretched volunteer staff. Thanks.

That sums up the happenings at camp. We hope you have a happy and renewing autumn and winter, and as always, we hope to see you soon!

At the fourth annual Tuck In, on October 13, we cleaned up and smudged several of the campsites, firepits and ritual sites at camp.



GLASS PACKAGING IS
100%
RECYCLABLE
 ENDLESSLY, WITH NO LOSS TO PURITY

Work weekends are a good opportunity to give back to Gaea, and earn some Gaea Bucks too! Check our [facebook page](#) for more information on projects as it becomes available.

Earth Rising has adopted a Code of Conduct. At the September directors meeting this policy was approved, and it further defines Earth Rising's expectations and the Agreement of Respect that has been in place since the beginning of Gaea's history. This policy applies to everyone present at Gaea, for any purpose. The mission of Earth Rising is, in part, to provide sanctuary. We want that sanctuary to be ensured, as much as is humanly possible. Please read this Code of Conduct and familiarize yourself with your rights, as well as your responsibilities when on the land.

Summary

We are committed to providing a positive and trouble-free experience for all, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, age, theological perspective, or relationship status (polyamory, monogamy, singleness). We do not tolerate unacceptable behavior in any form. Anyone violating these rules may be expelled as appropriate, at the discretion of the Earth Rising Board of Directors or Caretakers.

This document can be found at the Gaea Retreat Center website. It will be reviewed annually, by the members of the Board of Earth Rising, and we reserve the right to update it without warning when appropriate.

Scope

All individuals on property are expected to follow these rules at all times.

Full policy

This document covers unacceptable behavior whether within or outside the law.

Unacceptable behavior includes:

- * Verbal harassment, especially when it reinforces social structures of domination related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, theological perspective, relationship status (polyamory, monogamy, singleness).
- * Deliberate intimidation, bullying and or stalking, and any other behavior which is likely to cause alarm or distress to a reasonable person.
- * Photography or recording without written consent.
- * Sustained disruption of talks or other events (including through intoxication of alcohol and/or drugs).
- * Inappropriate or unwanted physical contact, this includes any form of physical touch. Always seek consent when initiating any physical contact with another person.
- * Unwelcome sexual or other personal attention.
- * Theft or extortion including by deception.
- * Advocating for, or encouraging, any of the above behavior.

Enforcement

If anyone is asked to cease unacceptable behavior it is expected that they will comply immediately.

Organizers will take any actions reasonably necessary to maintain a welcoming environment for all participants. This may include warning the person who is acting in breach of this policy and, in appropriate cases, requiring them to leave the venue without a refund or the imposition of stipulations for future attendance.

Activities, Talks And Workshops

Any activities, talks, workshops, or rituals will have adequate disclosure as to their content. It will also be made clear that people are not required to attend and may leave activities, talks, workshops, or rituals which make them uncomfortable at any time. No one should ever feel pressured into participating, attending or staying.

Incidents and Reporting

If you witness any infraction of this policy:

- * If you feel comfortable, consider informing the person or persons responsible that you would like them to stop. Always consider the safety of yourself and people around you. Aggressive confrontation is not endorsed.
- * If you do not feel comfortable, observe the people who are blatantly breaking the rules and contact safety, caretakers, organizers, or board members to address the issue.
- * You can contact the caretakers by going to their cabin or by using the radio that will be outside their door. You can let board members know what is going on if they are present at camp. At ERI festivals you can contact safety by going to the Safety Tent, or finding any Safety Volunteer.
- * When taking a personal report, efforts may be made to seek permission to involve other relevant staff from the event or organization to ensure the report is managed properly. Reports are handled as respectfully and discreetly as possible but may, under some circumstances, be required by law to be disclosed.
- * Please contact law enforcement if you feel it is necessary, or if requested, safety, caretakers, or organizers will assist with contacting the police or local support services where appropriate.

Violations of this code reduce the value of Gaea for everyone.

We want your experience of Gaea to be positive. We value participation in our events and appreciate all efforts to provide a safe and friendly space for all.



Call for Artists!

Winter is coming! This is a great opportunity to think back on your memories of camp. We're inviting all the artists and writers in our Gaea community to share!

Do you have stories, poems, photos (without people or with consent,) a painting or drawing of camp? Send them with a short explanation and maybe we can put it on the cover or in the next Newsletter.

Same for all the writers. If you have an article that you would like to contribute, a question you've always wanted answered? We would love to include them.

We want to have an artist page in every news letter. If you are interested, send up to 5 of your pieces and a short statement and we might feature you!

Send your work to newsletter@gaearetreat.org

We're on the web!
gaearetreat.com

The Mission of Earth Rising Inc.

is to provide a recreational retreat center in a natural setting for the purpose of cultural and spiritual education. This Mission will be met through the achievement of certain goals.

These goals are

to encourage the free exchange of ideas, views and experiences...
to promote greater understanding and respect between groups and individuals...
to support ecologically sound practices and land and wildlife conservation in the belief that the Earth and all life are interrelated and interdependent, and that respect for all life is a Universal Mandate...
and to provide sanctuary to people who have experienced oppression or discrimination due to their cultural or spiritual practices.

Earth Rising has partnered with Best Choice food brands to raise funds for camp. You give camp a Best Choice label and Best Choice buys it back from us for 3 cents. For every thousand we collect, camp raises \$30! Bring your labels to camp. instead of throwing those labels away. Recycle them for a good cause!



For More Details:

Our Website <https://gaearetreat.org/>
Calendar <http://gaearetreat.org/calendar>
Donations <http://gaearetreat.org/donations>
Contact Us <http://gaearetreat.org/contact>

