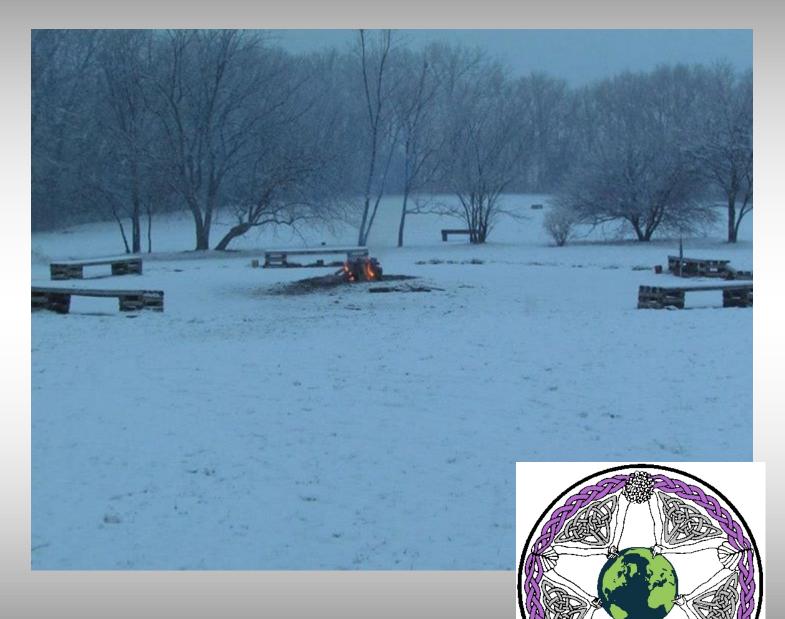
# GAEA'S OWN

# Winter 2015



# President's Letter

### Erin Marshall

If you follow our Facebook page you will have seen posts going up often about the Earth Day festival. We are working on getting registration open on the new site, we will make announcements as soon as we have that up and running. As always we will need people to do work exchange. You can send an email to <u>earthdayworkexchange@campgaea.org</u> to inquire about work exchange.

We are also looking for anyone that would like to do a workshop for the event. Workshops need to stay within the spectrum of Earth Day related ideas. Past workshops have included Solar Cooking, Plant Walks, build your own fire starter, Yoga, Worm Farming, to name a few. If you have ideas, there is a link on the "Schedule of Events" tab of the Earth Day event page.

We will be hosting two community potlucks this year. As per tradition, there will be vegetarian chili served Friday night, 6:00-7:30. Bring yourself and bring something that goes with chili: crackers, cheese, onions, you know, chili stuff, enough for four. Please bring these items to the kitchen when you arrive.

Saturday, there will be a baked potato bar, 6:00-7:30. Large potatoes will be provided, along with butter and sour cream. Also available will be unsweetened tea and water. The potluck part comes in here. Similar to Friday, bring something that goes with baked potatoes: cheese, bacon, or whatever you think goes best on a baked potato, enough for four. To participate, please bring your foodstuffs to the kitchen before 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

If you have questions, please contact Rhi at camp, <u>913-796-2141</u>, or <u>earthdaymeals@campgaea.org</u>. We look forward to seeing you there!

Also, don't forget the Reduce/Reuse/Recycle Rummage Sale! Leslie will be organizing all your donations on Friday as they come in to have ready bright and early Saturday morning. (9-ish is early by some people's standards! lol) So, clean out your closets and book shelves and magical items and donate them to the rummage sale. (yes it is almost spring cleaning time!) This year we will have a \$5 table, a \$2 table and a \$1 table. If you want to donate, please drop your items by the ERI/Rummage Sale tent before dark on Friday if possible! See you all there!

# CALL FOR ARTISTS !!!

Earth Day 2016 planning is underway and we need art submissions for this years t-shirt design. Below are some of the designs from the past few years. The only theme is Earth Day, so let your imagination take over. We do ask that you try to stay with at most 5 colors.

Digital artwork is best, or a really good quality scan.

Deadline is February 29th, 2016.

Please email all submissions or questions to: president@campgaea.org



Earth Day Community Art Project 12:00-5:00 Main Hall

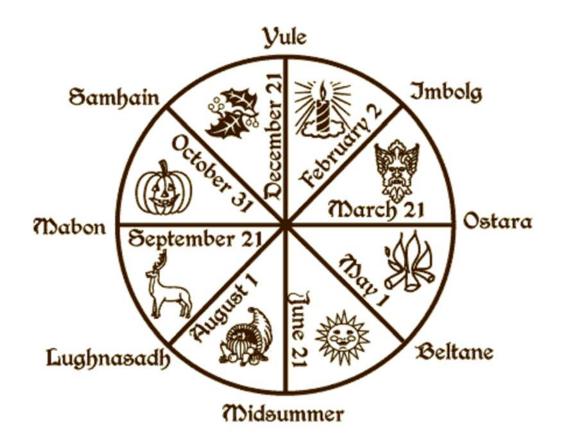
We will be doing an amazing sculpture this year. We will recycle pop cans and beer care. We will create a animal sculpture that will be on property for years to come! Bring one recycled can and bring them to camp with you!

> Earth Day ART SHOW 12:00-5:00

Show is open to all artists, all mediums, paintings, works on paper, sculpture, jewelry etc. Subjects to include but not limited to works celebrating The Earth, Camp Gaea, your world, your spirit your creativity! There will be works for sale with percentages to go to camp and works for just viewing. Come view the show from 12:00-8:00 All works to be dropped off at the main hall before

10:00 am Saturday at the main hall.

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



## **Upcoming Rituals**

Ostara - March 19th

**Beltane - April 30th** 

#### **RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT OTHERS RESPECT THE LAND**

Gaea Retreat Center is a beautiful place. It is a great place to enjoy nature, to hold a festival, or just to relax and enjoy interaction with a most unique and eclectic community of people. It was founded with the expressed intent that Camp Gaea be a "recreational retreat center in a natural setting for the purposes of cultural and spiritual education".

Among the goals put forward in our mission statement are the encouragement of free exchange of ideas and experiences, and promoting greater respect and understanding. Gaea has indeed become a place where a person can encounter a widely varied community of people, share thoughts and experiences, and find acceptance that may be difficult to come by in other places. Respect is key to achieving these goals.

Respect for the land is vital in the attempt to maintain "a natural setting". A great deal of thought has gone into the way that we treat the land. Rules like cleaning up campsites, not littering, walking as much a possible rather than driving all over camp, and parking only in designated areas may seem like an inconvenience at times. Nevertheless, these rules are in place to protect the land and keep it beautiful. Respect for the land is truly fundamental to preserving the beauty of this place.

Respect for others is also vital to the success of Camp Gaea, and the goals which were put forward in its mission statement. With such a varied group of people on the property, occasional disagreements and misunderstandings are inevitable. It is incumbent upon everyone involved to handle these situations in an adult and respectful manner. Further, it is explicitly stated in the Rules and Regulations, that harassment in any form is prohibited. Whether harassment is verbal or physical, and for whatever reason it may occur, it is unacceptable. Providing sanctuary, promoting understanding, and encouraging free exchange of ideas all become impossible to achieve unless respect is shown for others.

Respect for one's self is certainly difficult to define. The meaning of this part of the respect agreement may be quite different for each individual. However, one personally determines the meaning of self-respect, it seems clear that an appropriate respect for self is observable in the way that an individual treats others and the land.

It is the responsibility of the board of directors of Earth Rising to uphold the Mission Statement of our organization. The board must deal with the mundane details of operating the facility, and it must always strive to accomplish the stated purpose of Camp Gaea through the goals outlined within the Mission Statement.

Disciplinary actions are without a doubt the least favorite task that the board of directors must face. Where possible, it is always seen as preferable to encourage understanding between those who encounter a breach of the respect agreement. Where circumstances are such that this is not possible, or when an individual or group blatantly or consistently shows disregard for the land or for others, it is the responsibility of the board to intervene. The board may wait for an issue to brought to them, or it may choose to act on its own. When deemed necessary by the board, persons may be asked to leave for the day, for a period of time, or on a permanent basis.

Please read the Mission Statement, the Respect Agreement, and the Rules and Regulations of Camp Gaea before visiting. These are all available on the website at <u>www.gaearetreat.org</u>. If there is a question as to the meaning of any part of these, please speak with the caretakers, or any member of the board of directors. They will be happy to help.

Any violation of the Respect Agreement should be immediately reported to a caretaker of Camp Gaea, or any member of the board of directors of Earth Rising Inc.

The Board of Directors of Earth Rising Inc.

#### Caretaker's Corner Rhi & Clint Koetting

The first work weekend will be April 2nd and 3rd. This weekend we will be turning on the water, opening/cleaning the shower house & kitchen. There are also a few maintenance projects that require warmer temperatures.

Meet up in the dining hall Saturday and/or Sunday morning to go over work tasks. Bring your gloves and wear some work shoes. Join us in giving Gaea some springtime attention!

Spring is in the air



#### Earth Rising, Inc. Intern Program

The Earth Rising, Inc. board has decided to implement a program that is designed to encourage active participation in the running of Camp Gaea.

The Earth Rising, Inc. board is committed to providing a clear and concise list of expectations which will allow a person who is interested in the intern program to understand what is expected of them, and how they might have the opportunity to become a voting member.

Being part of the intern program is not a guarantee of board membership, however, any future board member will be expected to have been an intern for a period not less than 6 months, or to have previously served on the Earth Rising, Inc. Board of Directors for a term not less than 6 months.

An intern should be willing to commit themselves to:

- **Be a self-starter.** Take on a project and stay with it. Identify areas that need help and develop a plan to improve it. Either create a project, or work with the board to identify what needs to be done.
- Attend all meetings. While exceptions will occur, an intern needs to make ERI meetings a priority. Being part of the decision making process is one of the primary responsibilities associated with being a board member.
- Be the example and not the exception. Setting an example is one of the most effective ways to communicate with people who are camping at Gaea.
- Show good faith in resolving personal issues that might arise during the normal course of board business.
- **Take the time** to connect with other board members and stay abreast of the issues at hand. It will be the responsibility of an intern to stay in the loop.
- Show that consideration of the overall wellbeing of the camp is your first concern when new policies are being debated. Working with Earth Rising, Inc. is not the same as being an advocate for a special event or one of the Exclusive Rental groups.Exhibit objectivity when making decisions.

This outline is designed to assist an intern in their efforts to work with the board. It is not meant to discourage people from becoming involved if they aren't willing to donate as much time as would be required for an intern; rather it is meant to help a person understand the level of commitment that is required to sit on the board of Earth Rising.

After a period of 6 months as an intern, that individual may apply for a position on the board if an opening exists or they may continue on as an intern and apply when an opening becomes available if they so choose.



RESPECT OTHERS

**RESPECT THE LAND** 

#### Mission of Earth Rising Inc.

The Mission of Earth Rising 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.

To provide sanctuary to people who have experienced oppression or discrimination due to their cultural or spiritual practices.

#### For More Details:

Our Website – http://gaearetreat.org/

Calendar – <u>http://gaearetreat.org/calendar</u>

Donations – <u>http://gaearetreat.org/donations</u>

Contact Us – <u>http://gaearetreat.org/contact</u>

