

LIGHTNING ACROSS THE PLAINS

September 23-25, 2011

**Heathen Gathering
in the Heartland**

Heathenry is about community, gathering as a people, shaking a man or woman's hand, looking them in the eye, hearing their voice, telling stories, getting to know each other. Its letting your kids play together. Letting your spouses get to know each other. Its about laughing at dumb jokes, and telling stories from your life. Its about mingling Wyrd...and taking the measure of another person, and finding them of worth.

On September 23-25, 2011 heathens from across the Heartland and beyond will gather for 3 days and 2 nights camping at [Gaea Retreat](#), a campground 40 minutes outside of Kansas City.

- ◆ Dinners Provided on Friday & Saturday
- ◆ Symbols Friday and Saturday Night
- ◆ A Blot/Faining on Saturday Evening
- ◆ Asatru & Craft Workshops all Weekend
- ◆ Viking Games Saturday Afternoon
- ◆ Children's Games and Activities
- ◆ A Heathen Auction on Sunday Morning

REGISTRATION FEES & METHODS

Registration fees include all camping fees and dinner on Friday and Saturday night. We have kept the registration fees for LATP the same low amount these past three years, with a focus on keeping the gathering affordable for both individuals and families to attend. **Individual registration is \$40, while family registration is \$60.** Family registration includes a maximum of 2 adults and 3 children.



This year we are offering a "Day Early Option." Attendees can arrive a day early on September 22, 2011 for the cost of their camping fees. The Day Early Option is an additional \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families. We have several activities planned for the September 22, and those that choose the Day Early Option.

Participants can register on-line by going to <http://www.lightningacrosstheplains.com/> and clicking on the "Pay Now" button. Our PayPal registration accepts both PayPal account payments and all major credit cards. You can also register by filling out the registration form at the back of this packet, and sending it with the appropriate registration fees to Jotun's Bane Kindred, P.O. Box 618, Liberty, MO, 64069.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

No camping equipment is provided. So please bring everything that you will need to sleep overnight and prepare your breakfasts and lunches. Fires must be built in established fire-pits, but portable fire-pits are allowed. We'll have a central fire and shade-tent area where people gather, sit, talk, and even heat up their food. So building your own fire is really not a necessity. But a nice comfortable camping chair is a necessity. Gaea Retreat does not allow firearms, but knives, axes, and other traditional weapons are allowed.

If you don't have and can't acquire camping equipment, please contact me at mark@heathengods.com so that we can attempt to accommodate your camping needs.

FLYING INTO THE EVENT?

If you are coming from a long distance, and choose to take a plane to the event, you will want to fly into Kansas City International Airport. If you are flying in, please contact me at mark@heathengods.com so that we can arrange to get you from the airport to the event, and back again to the airport after the event. If you cannot bring camping equipment on the flight, you can arrange to stay in a cabin at Camp Gaea (see topic below) or when you contact us, we'll attempt to accommodate your camping needs.



TENTING OR CABINS?

The registration fees for Lightning Across the Plains cover the tent camping fees at Gaea Retreat for both nights of the gathering. There will be a large central fire area in the center of the tent camp at the gathering. This fire will be the center of activity between planned activities. When people are sitting, talking, crafting, drinking coffee, etc...this will be where most everyone will be. So, being in the tent camp, will put you near the center of activity.

But, there are also cabins available at Camp Gaea. While they are not extremely far away from the gathering, they are out of the center of things. But the cabins do feature beds, a roof over your head, windows, and a lockable door. The cabins are only \$5 per person, per night, more than tent camping. So, if you want to arrange to stay in a cabin for the gathering, there will be an additional cost of \$10 per person for the weekend. That will be payable directly to Gaea Retreat. The cabins sleep 8 people, in two separate rooms.

To arrange to stay in a cabin during LATP, reserve your spots in the cabins with the Caretakers at Gaea Retreat. Their email is caretaker@campgaea.org and their number is 913-796-2141.

FOOD AND DRINK

Dinner on Friday and Saturday is provided as part of your registration fee. There will be plenty of food for seconds and thirds. You are responsible for your breakfasts and lunches. Often, heathens at these gatherings share food with others, and eat in each others small camps. So you might consider planning a little extra food with each meal you bring.

Both dinners will include meat, so if you don't eat meat...you'll need to bring some extra food for both nights to keep from getting hungry.

The mead at Blot and Symbel will be provided. But, you should feel free to bring whatever soda, juices, or other drinks that you wish to have at the gathering. If you make mead or know of a mead that you are particularly fond of, feel free to bring it and show it off. Heathens can bring their mead to the Folk Symbel on Friday night, in order to share it.

Camp Gaea has bags of ice for sale at a reasonable price, so its fairly easy to keep your food and drinks cold in your cooler throughout the event.

WORKSHOPS

There will be a number of workshops presented at Lightning Across the Plains 2011, covering craft and heathen topics. The exact topics have not been set-in-stone yet. But thus far, we're considering the following...

- Worth, Wyrd, Gefrain, and Luck within a Tribe
- Proper sacrifices to our Gods, Ancestors, and the Vaettir
- Roles within a Tribe: Chieftain, Godhi, Thyle, etc.
- Making cord with a Lucet
- Viking Weave
- The Heathen Soul Complex
- How to Galdr, and its Uses

Reading over this list, if you have a preference or additional workshop ideas, please contact mark@heathengods.com. We're interested in providing workshops that heathens in attendance will find useful, so we'd enjoy your input.

We're excited to announce that Kari Tauring will be returning again this year, and will be teaching a Beginning Stav Class, a Volva Stav Master Class, and an old-time ring dance. To learn more about Kari Tauring, [click here](#).



RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Lightning Across the Plains is a heathen event, where heathens from across the Heartland come together to honor our gods, our ancestors, and the Vaettir. At LATP tribes, families, and heathens come together for this purpose as part of a larger regional community.

HOF - To the west of our main camping area, there will be a Hof established at Lightning Across the Plains 2011. It will include images and statues of Odin, Thor, and Frey...as well as areas within the Hof for honoring other gods and goddesses, our ancestors, and the Vaettir. If you have statues or objects you would like included in the Hof throughout the weekend, please bring them along. When you check-in, please provide us with those objects. We'll record your name so that we can make sure you get your items back at the end of the weekend. Sacrifices to the gods, our ancestors, and the Vaettir can be offered up at the Hof, and our Godhi Rod Landreth will ensure these items are properly sacrificed.



OPENING & CLOSING RITUAL - At the start of Lightning Across the Plains there will be an Opening Ritual, declaring grith and frith over the gathering. Tyr will be honored, and the perimeter of the gathering area will be walked in procession, with gifts given to the Vaettir of the land to ensure their goodwill and protection from baneful wights. The help of the children at the gathering will be enlisted, and they will have the honor of distributing gifts to the land wights.

VISITING THE VE - Jotun's Bane Kindred has established an outdoor Ve at Gaea Retreat. It is a cleared circle in the wood, at the roots of a large powerful Oak Tree named Forn Halr ("old man" in Old Norse). The Ve has a large stone harrow, a firepit, and benches around its perimeter. It is holy place, and where our kindred takes its kindred oaths. On Saturday morning we'll lead a walk over to the Ve for those that would like to visit it. And we will honor Forn Halr...and leave offerings for the land wights.



FOLK SYMBOL - Friday night after dark, we'll gather around a fire and have a Folk Symbol. A horn will be passed, and we will toast the gods and goddesses, our ancestors & heroes, and then boast of our accomplishments. As a gathered Folk, we'll put our good words and deeds into the Well. If you know a good poem or a song worth singing, please share it during Symbol.

SATURDAY NIGHT FAINING - After dinner on Saturday night, we'll gather as a Folk and celebrate our relationship with our Elder Kin with a large faining.

SATURDAY NIGHT HIGH SYMBEL - After the Faining, we will enter the Hall as Tribes, Families, and individual heathens and conduct a High Symbel. At 2010's Lightning Across the Plains, 110 adults sat in Symbel and spoke words over the horn. This is a formal event, and if you have garb to wear and are so inclined please wear it. But garb is not required. This is a night for bold and Tru words, gift-giving, and the forming of bonds among the Folk.



CHILDREN'S GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Heathenry is about family, and it's impossible to ignore that our children are the Future of Heathenry. Lightning Across the Plains is a child-friendly event. There is nothing more pleasing to see and hear, than a bunch of heathen children running around playing and having an amazing time. There were 70 children at LATP 2010...and we expect at least that many at the 2011 event. We will have children's activities scheduled throughout Lightning Across the Plains, designed to both entertain and educate our children:



1. At the time of every adult workshop, a supervised activity for your children has been planned. This will allow adults to attend and focus on the workshops they want to attend, while their kids are learning and being entertained elsewhere.

2. A short hike to some of the interesting places at Gaea Retreat.

3. One-on-one sword fighting lessons with foam-covered swords that we will provide and they'll get to keep. This has

been designed to work for all ages. If a returning child wants to bring his/her sword from last year...that's fine. But if it has worn out, we'll give him/her a new one.

4. A large foam-sword battle, complete with a Valkyrie that will remove "the fallen" from the field, and take them to either Vahalla or Freyja's Hall (complete with refreshments befitting brave (kid) warriors. We'll also play the very popular game, "Kill the Troll," which the kids just seem to absolutely love.

5. Storytelling, featuring stories from our Lore. And an interactive play that gets the kids involved in telling the story.



6. A basic class on the Runes, what they are, and what they mean.

7. Drawing and/or coloring the gods (depending on their age and skill), along with other craft projects.

Regardless of your child's age, there will be fun activities, plenty of other heathen kids to play with, and opportunities to learn more about our Folkway.

THE VIKING GAMES

There is nothing more fun than some friendly, but hard-fought, competition. At Lightning Across the Plains 2011 we'll spend several hours on Saturday afternoon competing in a variety of contests. All are welcome to participate, though many have a good time just watching the action, and cheering for their favorite participants in the games.



HAMMER-TOSS - Craig Winkler made an amazing hammer...an incredibly heavy hammer...for the Hammer-Toss at Lightning Across the Plains. We'll continue using that hammer at LATP 2011. Each participant gets two throws, and the longest throw is all that counts. Whoever gets the longest throw of the day, is the victor.

The farthest the hammer has ever been thrown is 47 feet and 3 inches. Perhaps you can beat this throw at Lightning Across the Plains 2011.



KINDRED TUG-OF-WAR - Each kindred in attendance may field one team of three kindred members. Everyone on a tug-of-war team has to be a "member" of that kindred. If you are an oathed kindred, then everyone on your team must be oathed. If you are not an oathed kindred, then everyone on the team must be considered a full-member of your kindred.

The ultimate winner of the Kindred Tug-of War gets to take home a large Thor's Hammer trophy. The Franks won a trophy at LATP 2009 and 2010. Will they be able to keep their streak running...or will your kindred take the hammer at LATP 2011? Time will tell.



STEAL THE WENCH - Its a simple enough game. There's a "house" area outlined by a rope, and a woman inside the house. A man starts outside the house, and must attempt to "steal the wench," get her out of the house, and across a finish line in the shortest time possible. Meanwhile, the woman attempts to drag the man into the "thrall room" of the house, and make him her thrall (slave) for the rest of the weekend.

While its a simple game, its an excellent test of strength and determination. At past LATP's, more than one man met his better and was dragged into the thrall room. And there were numerous matches that ended without victory for either.

So, at Lightning Across the Plains 2011, men and women who want a real challenge will find "Steal the Wench" well worth playing.



HEATHEN VENDORS AREA

Lightning Across the Plains 2011 will have a Vendor's Area designated. Those who wish to set up a table or a 10x10 booth can do so by requesting a vendors spot when they arrive at the event. We would strongly prefer that vendors sell something "heathen" in nature. For instance, traditional garb, card-woven belts, heathen-oriented jewelry, knives and other weapons, drinking horns, runes, etc. There is no fee this year for a spot in the Vendor's Area, but we would ask that each vendor donate something of interest from their booth to the heathen auction that will held on Sunday.

And, if you are not interested in having a vendor booth, but have some items to sell, feel free to let that be known. There will be plenty of time around the fire and conversing with people for you to make everyone aware of what you have for sale or trade.



HEATHEN AUCTION

Organizing an event like Lightning Across the Plains costs money. We have kept the 2011 Registration Fees the same as they were in 2009 and 2010, because we want to keep it affordable. So, in order to cover some of our cost-overages and to ensure we are able to continue this event in the years to come...we will hold a heathen auction on the Sunday morning of the event at 10 AM. We will be auctioning off donated objects, with all proceeds going to pay for the 2011 event and to help keep the event financially stable.



We are donating quite a few objects of our own for the auction, but we are asking each of you to bring one or more objects to include. We are looking for heathen books, statues, hammers, horns, woven or hand-made crafts, garb, posters or pictures, mugs, candles, knives, axes, or anything else that you feel someone might be interested in buying in the auction. So, if you have one or more objects that you can part with, please bring them and donate them to the auction.

And don't forget to set some money aside for participating in the auction. You never know what you might see that you just can't do without. At both LATP 2009 and 2010, there were amazing items in the auction...that you won't find anywhere else. Rare books, amber, bone, and antler jewelry, a boar spear, knives, axes, statues, viking toys, runes, hammers, hand-knitted hats, and much more.

TRIBES, FAMILIES, AND SOLID HEATHENS

Lightning Across the Plains 2010 was attended by 240 people...170 adults and 70 children. Volkshof Kindred, the Franks, Tyr's Helm Tribe, Hammer-Tree Hearth, Mjolnir Kindred, Fimbul Winter Kindred, Hridgar Kindred, Bifrost Way Kindred, Golden Shield Kindred, Sigruna Kindred, Bifrost Bridge Kindred, Frith Home, Wolf Tree Kindred, Wolves' Wod Kindred, Third Raven Kindred, Sacred Oak, and Jotun's Bane Kindred were some of the kindreds, hearths, and families represented there. There were heathens there from across the Heartland. Minnesota to Texas. Utah to Indiana.



Lightning Across the Plains 2011 will undoubtedly be attended by these tribes, hearths, and families...and there will be additional tribes represented. There is nothing like gathering face-to-face. Meeting and talking in person. Shaking and man or woman's hand. Meeting their family, watching your kids play, feasting together, and sharing a horn with them. It is in these face-to-face gatherings that heathenry prospers and grows.



If you are a long-time heathen, a new heathen, or someone curious about heathenry...you are welcome at Lightning Across the Plains. If you are part of a strong heathen tribe, or a small hearth, or you are a solitary heathen wanting more...you are welcome at Lightning Across the Plains. If you have been to dozens of gatherings, or never been to even one...you are welcome at Lightning Across the Plains. While this is a heathen gathering focused on the those living here in the Heartland, all heathens are welcome. Come and gather with your Folk. Honor our gods, our ancestors, and the Vaettir of the land with other tribes and other heathens of our region. We'll see you there on September 23th, 2011.

REGIONAL THING

At Lightning Across the Plains 2010, we held the first Regional Midwest Thing. Chieftains, Gothar, and Elders of 23 kindreds met and came to a consensus on how the Midwest Thing will work. Throughout the end of 2010 and 2011 these leaders and their kindreds will remain in communication with one another. They will visit each other at gatherings around the region. And they will return to Lightning Across the Plains for the Second Regional Midwest Thing.

We feel the growth of heathenry is something that must happen...can only happen...at the grassroots level. Heathens find each other in their local area. Kindreds form, and grow. Regionally, kindreds begin to gather together and face-to-face connections and relationships form. Trust develops.





Over time, the trust between tribes and tribal leaders becomes such...that a more formal structure of Thing is put in place. Those included in the Thing, all have connections and some level of trust between them. All the tribes represented are stable and of quality. The Thing is a meeting of equals. The Thing does not address matters that are internal to any tribe, those are matters left to that tribe. The Thing addresses external

matters, communication, coordination. and those issues that make heathenry in the region better...and stronger.

There is no "bureaucracy" or administration of the Thing. The strength of the thing is in the sovereignty and strength of the individual tribes involved. The Thing needs no website. The Thing needs no email address, P.O. Box, budget, staff, board, or anything else representing a modern organization. It is simply a way for strong Tru tribes to come together, communicate, coordinate, and address regional concerns.

For a more detailed description of how such a Thing would work and how it differs from a National Organization, [click here](#).

To visit the public Yahoo e-list for the Regional Midwest Thing, [click here](#).



200 of the 240 heathens who attended Lightning Across the Plains 2010

HOW TO GET TO GAEA RETREAT

Gaea Retreat is a pagan campground in a rural county of Kansas, just 40 minutes from Kansas City. We have exclusively reserved the Ridge and a large Pavilion for this gathering. To learn more about Gaea Retreat, follow [this link](#). For a Google Map to Gaea Retreat, follow [this link](#).

THE ORGANIZERS

This heathen gathering is organized by Jotun's Bane Kindred, a heathen Kindred in the Kansas City Area. But this is an event for all the heathens in our region, and beyond. We believe that Heathenry is something that happens face-to-face...not on-line.

For this reason, members of our Kindred regularly travel to heathen gatherings such as the Northern Folk Gathering in Minnesota, the Ostara Celebration in Oklahoha, and other regional gatherings throughout the Heartland. We have plans to visit heathens in Topeka, KS, St. Louis, MO, Manhattan, KS, Wichita, KS, Michigan, and other locations throughout late 2010 and 2011. So, we want to welcome all heathens in our region to Lightning Across the Plains 2011.

Jotun's Bane Kindred is an independent Kindred. To learn more about Jotun's Bane Kindred, please visit <http://www.heathengods.com>. Our website was built as a resource for all heathens, and includes an on-line Library, an Asatru artwork archive, many translations of the Voluspa and the Havamal, as well as other Lore, stories and articles, and an active message board. To read about the members of our Kindred, please follow this link: [Jotun's Bane Kindred](#).



RULES AT LIGHTNING ACROSS THE PLAINS

Lightning Across the Plains is a family-oriented heathen gathering. Many of the heathens in attendance will be meeting each other for the first time. Its important that grith is preserved, and that an environment is maintained that allows heathen families and tribes to get to know each other better, in an atmosphere of frith.

Breaking grith, or violating either LATP's or Gaea Retreat's rules will result in your immediate removal from the Lightning Across the Plains event. The organizers of Lightning Across the Plains reserve the right to remove those that they determine have broken grith, or those that by their actions seek to disrupt the tone and purpose of the event.

1. All the Rules and Guidelines set forth in Gaea Retreat's "Agreement of Respect" must be followed. The "Agreement of Respect" can be found on the next page of this document. Take special note of the "no firearms" rule, as well as the "fires can only be built in existing firepits" rule.
2. Gaea Retreat is a pagan campground. As such it is "clothing optional." Lightning Across the Plains is **NOT** a clothing optional event. The ridgetop and pavillion have been reserved specifically for our event...and all of the activies of our event will take place in our reserved area. If you decide to leave the area reserved for Lightning Across the Plains, and walk into other areas of Gaea Retreat, it is possible you will encounter people observing the clothing optional rule. They are not to be harrassed, confronted, or bothered in any way...as they are well within their rights. If you do not wish to encounter people that are "clothing optional," simply stay within the large confines of the area reserved for our event.



GAEA RETREAT CENTER

AGREEMENT OF RESPECT

In addition to abiding by any and all federal, state or local laws, it is expected that those who wish to enjoy the sanctuary of Gaea respect the basic policies of Earth Rising Inc. regarding personal behavior and responsibilities while at this facility. All we are truly asking is that you always:

RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT OTHERS RESPECT the LAND

- Firearms:** All firearms, including concealed weapons are strictly prohibited.
- Hunting:** Of any type, by any means is prohibited. Fishing is allowed.
- Registration:** Everyone must register upon arrival and pay appropriate fees. No one under 18 is permitted, unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Children:** Children under 11 must be accompanied at all times. Swimmers under age 14 must be accompanied by a Parent or guardian. Remember, swim at your own risk, no lifeguards are provided.
- Pets:** Pets of any kind should be under constant supervision or properly caged. Dogs must be kept on leashes, and owners are fully responsible for their actions and cleaning up after them.
- Vehicles:** The speed limit is 5 MPH - please observe it! Remain on the roads at all times. Parking is permitted in designated parking areas (see map) only. Please restrict driving – park, walk, exercise and enjoy the land.
- Harassment:** In any form based on, but not limited to, religion, spirituality, sexual preferences, race, gender, or age is prohibited.
- Littering:** Miscellaneous personal refuse, including cigarette butts, should be placed in receptacles. Everyone is required to clean up after themselves.
- Recycling:** Receptacles are located at the dining hall, ridge and beach.
(Additional recycling locations may be available during special events)
Non-meat food scraps may be composted (ask the caretaker for the location).
Paper and untreated cardboard only may be burned in established camp fires.
- Refuse:** Place all trash in dumpster by Phoenix Hall or remove with you upon departure.
- Camp Fires:** Use ONLY existing fire pits. Portable fireplaces & grills are permitted.
- Firewood:** Contact the caretaker for full information or bring your own wood. Use of existing wood stacks or pre-cut wood is prohibited.
- Sites:** Meditation/Ritual sites are situated throughout Gaea and it is expected that these spaces will be respected and offerings left at them should remain undisturbed.
- Sex:** Sex in public areas is strictly prohibited.
- Personal Items:** Become the property of GRC if left for over 7 days.

Infractions of any portion of this Agreement of Respect may result in expulsion and or permanent disbarment from the premises.



Lightning Across the Plains Tentative Schedule



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

(For Those that Choose the Day Early Option)

	Arrive and register when you wish. Set up camp.
1:00 PM	Group Visit to the Ve – Gifts to Forn Halr
3:00 PM	Kubb games and competition (including Jotun Kubb)
5:00 PM	Dinner (not provided)
6:00 PM	Heathen Workshop (Adults)
6:00 PM	Craft Workshop (Children)
7:00 PM	Crafting, tafl, and social time in the pavilion

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

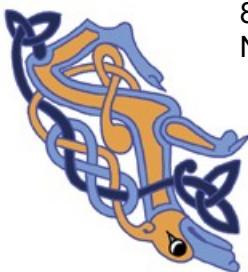
	Heathens arrive in the morning. Set up camp.
1:30 PM	Alvíss and Alvíss Jr. are Stuffed with Straw
2:30 PM	Opening Ritual
4:00 PM	Craft Workshop or Heathen Workshop (Adults)
4:00 PM	Storytelling from the Lore (Children)
5:00 PM	Dinner (provided)
6:30 PM	Singles Gathering or Heathen Workshop (Adults)
Night	Folk Symbol, around the fire
Night	Storytelling for the Children

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

	Wake up and eat breakfast in camps
8:30 AM	Midwest Thing – Chieftains, Gothar, and Elders Meeting
10:30 AM	Two Heathen Workshop Choices (Adults)
10:30 AM	Nature Hike to the Fairy Gate (Children)
11:30 AM	Midwest Thing – Public Meeting (bring your lunch)
1:00 PM	Children's Battlefield Games
2:00 PM	Viking Games
4:00 PM	Heathen Workshop (Adults)
4:00 PM	Interactive Storytelling (Children)
5:00 PM	Group Photos followed by Dinner (provided)
6:30 PM	Blot/Faining followed immediately by High Symbol

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

	Wake up and eat breakfast in camps
8:30 AM	Heathen Auction
Noonish	Closing Ritual





LIGHTNING ACROSS THE PLAINS

September 23-25, 2011

Heathen Gathering in the Heartland

Mail to Jotun's Bane Kindred, P.O. Box 618, Liberty, MO 64069 with Registration Fees

- Individual Registration (\$40) Individual - Day Early Option** (\$50)
 Family Registration* (\$60) Family Registration* – Day Early Option** (\$80)

Name _____

Kindred/Group _____

Significant Other _____

Child _____ Age _____

Child _____ Age _____

Child _____ Age _____

Contact Number _____ E-mail address: _____

Car Information: Make _____ Model _____ Year _____

Color _____ License Plate # _____

- Tent Cabin***

*A Family Registration includes a maximum of 2 adults and 3 children

***The Day Early Option allows attendees to arrive a day early on Sept. 22, 2011. The additional cost is equal to the additional camping fees we must pay to Gaea Retreat for the extra day.

**Instructions for reserving cabins are given in our Registration Pamphlet. These arrangements must be made seperately with the caretakers for Gaea Retreat prior to LATP, involve additional costs, and please keep in mind that cabin space is limited.

JBK Use Only

Paid: Cash Check Paypal Amount Paid _____

Signed in by _____ # of Wristbands Issued _____