

Canadian National Pagan Conference Gaia Gathering 2011

Preliminary Programme for Gaia Gathering 2011: **Language to Liturgy**

May 20th to 23rd, 2011
Concordia University – Hall Building
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, Quebec

Prepared by
Gaia Gathering Montreal Committee

Updated May 5, 2011

<http://www.gaiagathering.ca/>

<http://gaiagathering.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/Gaia.Gathering>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Gaia_Gathering/

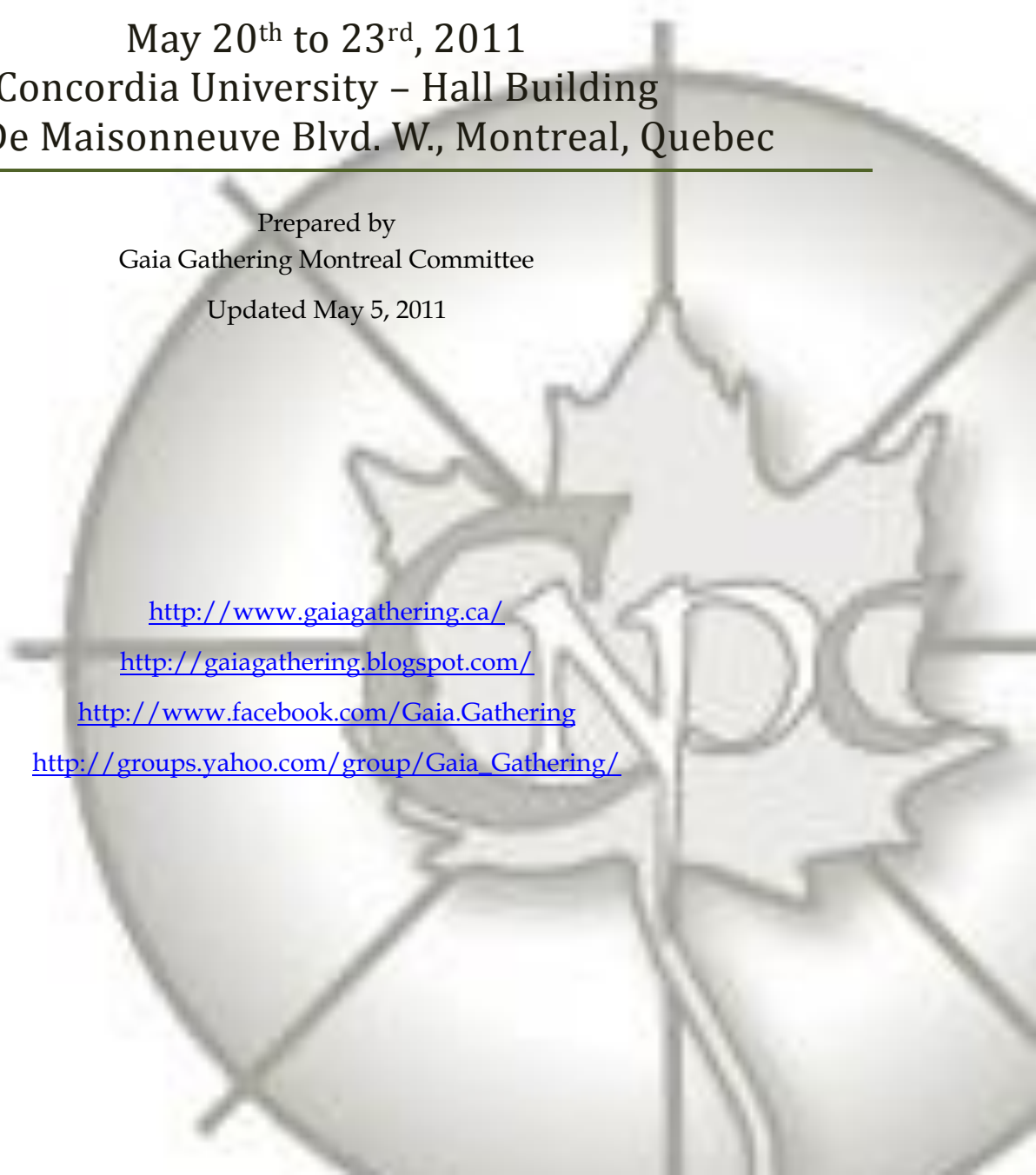


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Welcome to *La Belle Province*

First, we'll take Montreal, then we'll take Merlin...
(with apologies to Leonard Cohen)

Montreal is a city that lives and thrives on diversity. Even within the Two Solitudes of the Anglophone and Francophone communities, we can find a plethora of political, ethnic, religious, philosophical, and linguistic diversity that truly makes Montreal a unique place to live.

It is in this spirit of finding common ground in the midst all this diversity that we are proud to welcome the diverse traditions, philosophies, and realities that make up our Canadian pagan community. We look forward to celebrating what binds us to together, but also what distinguishes one from another. As the French say: *Vive la difference!*

This has been an exciting year full of growing edges for the Montreal host committee. When we put in our bid last April, we didn't really know exactly what we were getting into! But ever since, we have been eagerly working toward making this event a success and our community has really pulled together echoing our enthusiasm. We've held multiple fundraisers, including two bardics, a Witches Ball, a Yule Auction, a Divine-In, and multiple workshop days. Not only have the people in our communities shown incredible generosity with their support of this event, but it has also allowed our Francophone and Anglophone pagan communities to come together like never before. We sincerely hope this strong connection will continue long after this conference is over.

We also would like to thank our brother and sister pagan communities across the country that have held their own fundraisers over the past year to ensure that they could send people to attend Gaia Gathering in Montreal.

The conference is now only weeks away and our excitement is becoming difficult to contain. We look forward to seeing you and sharing your good company over the long weekend in May. If you have any questions, please email us at gaia Gathering@yahoo.ca.

*Amanda Strong
Scarlet Jory
Hobbes
Melanie Valiante
Hesser Garcia*



About Gaia Gathering

The Canadian National Pagan Conference (CNPC), Gaia Gathering, is a national conference held every year over the long Victoria Day weekend in May. Each year the conference is held in a different Canadian city, which is determined through a bid and vote process. The conference brings together Canadian Pagans, Pagan-curious, elders, community leaders, and interested others for three days for networking, discussion, workshops, and community. Legally, we are incorporated federally as a non-profit organization and operate with a national Board of Directors as well as a local host committee.

Gaia Gathering offers:

- ★ A great opportunity for Canadian Pagans, Pagan-friendly, and Pagan-curious to get to know each other, network, share information, and learn peer-to-peer from the wide experience available in Canada.
- ★ The possibility of meeting Pagans from paths and traditions that you may not normally be exposed to in your home community or geographic area. A chance for us to gather together to discuss issues affecting our identities as Canadian Pagans.
- ★ An opportunity to learn from our collective experiences with regards to legal, social, political, religious, and business issues as Pagans in Canada.
- ★ A venue to get to know communities in Canada separated geographically, to discuss community development, and expand the ideas of pagan community in theory and practice.
- ★ The opportunity for academics working in Pagan Studies or related disciplines to share their latest research and connect with other scholars in Canada.
- ★ The opportunity for community leaders in from Pagan communities across Canada to network with each other and share experiences.



What Typically Happens at Gaia Gathering?

Activities generally kick off late Friday afternoon with the opening of registration followed by an opening ritual, planned activities, and a meet and greet. Sometimes, the host community may plan pre-conference activities earlier in the day or on the evening before, so check the schedule or contact the local organizers.

Saturday and Sunday are totally devoted to panel discussions, roundtables, and workshops. Typically there are three streams of activities happening at once and close to 30 activities to choose from. Some of the panels and roundtables will be theoretical in nature, whereas others are more hands-on and workshop-like. We also typically have a music stream or song-sharing circle, and tradition meet-and-greets. As well, an academic stream on one of the two days allows Pagan scholars (academically-affiliated or not) to present their research.

Entertainment is arranged in the evenings. There is usually some sort of outing or social activity planned for the Saturday night. A closing banquet is held on the Sunday evening, complete with entertainment.

The main focus of Monday is our annual general meeting (AGM), which includes recapping the conference, choosing the conference venue for two years hence, and electing new officers onto the Board of Directors. Some local host committees may also plan workshops and other activities on this day. Check the schedule or contact the local organizers.

In addition to all the formal activities at the conferences, the highlight for many participants are the discussions and socializing that goes on in the hallways, in the common areas of the dorms, over lunch, and in between sessions. Friendships are forged and ideas are shared.

Conference Registration

Registration for the conference includes membership in the society for a year. Registration does not include accommodations.

- ★ Our registration fees are \$100 on or after March 23rd, 2011.
- ★ Sunday banquet \$35.00 per person (please indicate special food needs or allergies).

Travel fund donations are also accepted in any amount. (No mail in registrations after April 30, 2011.) Day rates are \$55.00/day at the door only, with no voting rights at the AGM. All full registrations include full membership in the conference society.

You can print the registration form (see [Registration Form](#) on page 25) and mail it to us (with your registration fee and/or payment for the Sunday Banquet) **before May 1st 2011**. You can download the registration form or you can register and pay online via paypal or credit card from our website:

www.gaiagathering.ca.



Accommodations in Montreal

A block of rooms has been reserved for us at the newly renovated YWCA Hotel and Auberge, just a few blocks from Concordia. When you book, tell them that you're with Gaia Gathering.

The entire YWCA was recently renovated, including the Auberge and Hotel. They are currently targeting their marketing to tourists and budget business travelers. When we visited the Y accommodations last spring, we found them to be cleaner and nicer than some of the budget hotels in the city. You can read some TripAdvisor reviews on our blog:

<http://gaiagathering.blogspot.com/2011/03/accomodation-at-montreal-ywca.html>

The hotel rooms have an en-suite bathroom equipped with a shower (no bath), free Wifi Internet, flat screen TV, small fridge, alarm clock, hot water, and fair trade coffee. The hotel rooms are on a separate floor than the Auberge.

The cheaper **Auberge rooms** have only a sink and an alarm clock, although some may have televisions and DSL (wired) Internet access. There are shared toilets and showers in the hallways.

The **Auberge also has a large, welcoming common area with a fully-equipped kitchen** (including fridges and cupboards to store your food), lots of tables, and free Wifi Internet access. There is also a small common lounge with a television and a separate computer room with Internet access. These common areas will be available to all Gaia Gathering guests staying at the YWCA, regardless of whether you choose Auberge or Hotel accommodation.



Here are some pictures we took of the YWCA accommodations when we visited last spring:



Triple Room at the Auberge



Double Room at the Hotel



Food Lockers and Part of Dining Area



Kitchen (Open Concept with Dining Area)



Getting to the Gaia Gathering Conference

Public Transit

- ★ The fastest public transit from the airport is the **747 shuttle bus** operated by the STM (*Société de Transport de Montreal*; Montreal's public transit commission). It costs \$7 to purchase a transit pass to ride from Trudeau airport to the **Berri-UQAM** station in the heart of downtown Montreal. This special transit pass also allows travelers to access the public bus and metro network for the next 24 hours. From **Berri-UQAM**, travelers can ride the Green line (direction Angrignon) and will get off at the **Guy** metro station.
<http://www.stm.info/English/info/a-747.htm>
- ★ A cheaper, but longer alternative is regular public transit for about \$3. To get into Montreal, travelers can catch the **#204-East** bus at the airport's Departures entrance on the ground level. Transfer to the **211-East** bus (confirm with the driver that it is heading toward downtown) at *Gare de Dorval* bus station. The bus will let the traveler off at **Lionel-Groulx** metro station. From there, travellers will take the Green line metro (direction Honoré-Beaugrand) and get off at **Guy** metro station.
- ★ Maps of the public transit system can be found on the STM website (www.stm.info).

Arrival by Train

- ★ VIA Rail Canada (www.viarail.ca) features the *Gare Centrale* in the heart of downtown Montreal. The *Gare Centrale* provides easy access to metro system. Take the Orange line metro towards Côte-Vertu and get off at **Lionel-Groulx** metro station. Transfer to the Green line metro (direction Honoré-Beaugrand) and get off at **Guy** metro station.

Taxis and Limos

- ★ Taxis charge a flat rate of \$39 from the airport to anywhere in the downtown area.
- ★ Limousines are also available, if travellers are in a fancier mood, for a fee of \$50 to anywhere downtown.

Car Rental Information

- ★ National Alamo: 1-800-462-5266
- ★ Avis: 1-800-TRY-AVIS
- ★ Budget: 1-800-472-3325
- ★ Dollar-Thrifty: 1-800-800-4000
- ★ Enterprise: 1-800-RENT-A-CAR
- ★ Hertz: 1-800-263-0600



Conference Guidelines

The following is a list of participant guidelines, to provide information and prevent difficult situations. Please respect these rules, for everyone's benefit. Thank you in advance.

- ★ You are responsible for your own safety and behaviour at all times, and the safety and behaviour of any minors in your charge.
- ★ Minors will only be admitted when registered by an attending adult.
- ★ Cameras are not permitted at conference proceedings.
- ★ Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the conference centre.
- ★ No alcohol (except wine at the banquet) or illegal substances permitted in the conference centre.
- ★ No animals - except service animals - permitted on site.
- ★ Any person not complying with the above guidelines and/or acting in such a manner as to affect the safety or enjoyment of the conference for others will, at the discretion of conference organizers, be asked to leave. No refund of fees will be provided.
- ★ Participants understand and agree that any statements made by panellists or other attendees are their own opinions only and are not to be attributed to the organizers or attendees in general.





Preliminary Programme for GG 2011

This is the basic layout of the days and evenings of Gaia Gathering. We are still receiving proposals and registrations from people across the country, but this is how our programme is shaping up so far. For a list of proposed workshops and panel discussions, please see:



- ★ [Workshops](#) on page 14
- ★ [Proposed Panel Discussions](#) on page 15

Friday May 20 th , 2011	
12pm – 4pm	Short opening ceremony
1pm – 2:30pm	Panel discussion
2:30pm – 4pm	Panel discussion
1pm – 4pm	<p>Magical Mercantile Tour</p> <p>Come visit some of the most frequently sought-out Pagan commercial and magical community spaces in Montreal. The Mélange Magique, located downtown, is a well-known magical and occult shop, and the host of the Montreal Pagan Resource Centre (MPRC) and Crescent Moon School (CMS). <i>Charme et sortilège</i> is located in the Plateau Mont-Royal district and is a well-known store among the growing Francophone Pagan community.</p>
4pm	Welcome and talk about multifaith by Concordia University Multifaith chaplaincy
5:30pm – 7:30pm	Supper break
8pm – 9pm	Welcoming multilingual ritual led by Mark Hughes
9pm +	Meet'n'Greet hosted by Avalon Centre
Saturday May 21 st , 2011	
All Day (9am – 5:30pm)	<p>Pagan Art Show – visit the art show room that features artwork from local pagans and Gaia Gathering attendees.</p> <p>Vendors Room</p> <p>Hospitality Room</p>
9am – 10:30am	Panel discussions and Academic stream panel



Saturday May 21st, 2011	
<p>10:30am – 11:30am</p>  <p>Arin Murphy-Hiscock Keynote speaker</p>	<p>Nature is My Prayerbook: The Problem of Liturgy in Modern Paganism by Arin Murphy-Hiscock</p> <p>The concept of liturgy, an established system or repertoire of rites and ideas designed for use in worship or religious observance, is a problematic one in modern alternative spiritual paths. Contemporary Paganism encourages self-expression and a continual evolution of the self and one's relationship with the Divine, and often a deep suspicion or outright rejection of anything that suggests prescribed canon or static law, which creates tension when contrasted with the traditional concept of a conventional, common liturgy.</p> <p>At the same time, it's human nature to surround oneself with reliable, recognizable structure for comfort, a sense of connection to others and/or the past, and for the ease with which one can reach a desired mindset for worship or practice. This dichotomy is part of what characterizes contemporary Pagan practice, and is the subject of this talk.</p>
11:30pm – 12pm	Book signing with Arin Murphy-Hiscock
12pm – 1pm	Lunch break
1pm – 5:30pm	Panel discussions and academic stream panel
1pm – 2:30pm	Workshop: Herbal Myth & Lore (Amy-Lou Taylor)
2:30pm – 5:30pm	Workshop: Voodoo Traditions
4pm – 5:30pm	Panel discussions
Evening (5:30pm – 7pm)	Supper break
<p>Night (7pm +)</p> 	<p>Pagan Rhythms: featuring <i>Dragon Ritual Drummers</i> with opening act: <i>Triskalia</i></p> <p>Karina's Lounge (18 yrs +) 1459 Crescent St Tickets: \$10 (free for Gaia Gathering weekend pass holders)</p>



Sunday May 22nd, 2011	
All Day (9am – 5:30pm)	<p>Pagan Art Show – visit the art show room that features artwork from local pagans and Gaia Gathering attendees.</p> <p>Vendors Room // Hospitality Room</p>
<p>9am – 10:30am</p>  <p>Lucie Dufresne Keynote speaker</p>	<p>Voicing our Faith - Living our Words - Building our Communities</p> <p>What if words actually mattered? What if they were not only descriptive but also performative? What if they created both the breadth and the limit of shared reality? How could this be?</p> <p>What if each language was its own pattern of reality, unique and ultimately untranslatable. What happens when a faith community is made up of native speakers of different languages? Is it necessary that all speak with the same words? the same voice? the same intent? At what level of linguistic 'sameness' is religious 'sameness' found? Is linguistic 'sameness' mandatory? For what and for whom?</p> <p>Some have argued that the language of the original text must be maintained. Others have argued for words from the heart, whatever the language spoken. This talk will explore the nature of language as a communicative code, of the politics of discourse, of textual and ritual codification and of the inherent dangers of any canonification, be they dogmatic, textual or ritual. Rather, degrees of commonality will be argued for, such that the context, intent and audience of the communicative act be the determining factors for language choice and use.</p>
10:30am – 12pm	Panel discussions and academic stream panel
12pm – 1pm	Lunch
1pm – 2:30pm	Workshop: Myth and Magic of the Spoken Word
1pm – 4pm	Panel discussions and academic stream panel
2:30pm – 5:30pm	Workshop: Eight Paths of Magic (Sable)
<p>Evening (7pm +)</p> 	<p>SteamPagan Banquet + Open Mic Performances</p> <p>What happens when you mix Steampunk with Pagan fashion? You get SteamPagan of course! How would pagans be attired in a steam-powered society? We leave it up to your creative genius to decide how you would present your SteamPagan side! However,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Dressing up in SteamPagan attire for the banquet is completely optional.</p> <p>We will also hold an open mic session and invite our Gaia Gathering</p>



	attendees to entertain us with their talents. Sing! Tell stories! Tell jokes! Perform magic before our very eyes!
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Monday May 23rd, 2011	
9:30am – 10:30am	Panel discussion
10:30am – 1pm	Annual General Meeting (over brunch/lunch)
1pm – 2:30pm	Panel discussion
3pm – 4pm	Closing ceremony



Workshops

Note: The exact date and times of these workshops are yet to be determined.

Voodoo Traditions	The Niagara Voodoo Shrine (Ontario)
<p>Probably the most misunderstood of spiritual paths, even by the pagans who enjoy and interact within it. What is voodoo, where does it come from, why is there Catholic iconography in it? All these questions plus many more will be answered. As well, accouterments of the practice will be on display and explained. The best way to understand something is to smell it, taste it, and feel it. This workshop will also have an interactive working within it, with drum calls and songs that are part of the way to call the spirits of the tradition.</p>	
Herbal Myths, Legends, and Magickal Lore	Amy-Lou Taylor (Ontario)
<p>Have you ever wondered why an herb has its particular name, why it is used in a certain way, and how it came to be used in magick? Well, every name has a story and so do a lot of the herbs. Herbs have been used in magick and medicine in every culture for centuries and often in different ways. This rich folklore and history is where the herbal myths, legends, and magickal lore come from. Join Amy for an insightful discussion and more than a few good stories about how herbs came to be the unsung heroes of our culture and are a part of our magick in everyday life. Handouts and possibly (time and weather permitting) an herb walk as well.</p>	
The Eight Paths of Power	Sable (British Columbia)
<p>Also known as the "Eightfold Way," the Eight Paths of Power are a series of 8 different techniques used in Wicca to perform magick. As detailed in Gerald Gardner's Book of Shadows, they are: Meditation or Concentration (Called, for short, "Intent"), Trance; Projection of the Astral; Rites, Chants, Spells, Runes, Charms, etc.; Incense, Drugs, Wine, etc. "Intoxicants"; The Dance and kindred practices; Blood Control (the Cords), Breath Control, and kindred practices; The Scourge; and The Great Rite.</p>	
Myth and Magic of the Spoken Word	Hobbes (Montreal)
<p>Join Hobbes, storyteller and bard, as he explores the role that story and myth plays in spiritual development. Are myths pure entertainment, or do they contain the unspeakable truths that can only be experienced through the fantastic? As practical, real-world people, how do we come to terms with building relationships with mythic creatures and deities that most people regard as fantasy and fictional? Is there a middle ground, and if so, how do we secure our foothold in it?</p> <p>Hobbes will explore the role that myth plays in our community, our identity, and how it helps us understand the mysteries of the Divine. He may even regale you with a tale or two!</p>	



Proposed Panel Discussions

The following list contains the PROPOSED panel discussions. We cannot include them all, so we need your feedback on which ones you would like to be included in Gaia Gathering 2011.

Also, we are seeking panelists to take part in these panel discussions, so if you see a panel that you like and that you would want to take part in, please contact us ASAP at gaiagathering@yahoo.ca. As the date of the conference draws nearer, we will be making our final selections for the panel discussions and be confirming which panelists will appear on them (**deadline: May 1st 2011**).

The Value of Personal Gnosis (UPG)	Ancient vs. Modern Mythology
How much value do we place on personal gnosis (knowledge acquired directly from deities and spirits), obtaining and sharing it, compared to the other pillars of Pagan spirituality? These being: lore, tradition, and modern inspiration (ecology, feminism, activism, and creativity).	Would you call upon Robin Hood as the God deity? Do you find more power in calling down the spirit of the Dagda, or could you call upon the power of Superman as an archetype? Can pagans still find power and relevance in published works from the last few centuries? How old does mythology need to be to be considered a valid mythology?
Pagan Evolution after Quebec's Quiet Revolution	Priestessing/Priesting our Craft
<p>In 2007, while completing fieldwork among Pagans in Montreal, it was observed that Anglophone and Francophone Pagans often differed in the ways they lived and practised their religion, and that these differences had roots that delved deep into Quebec's unique cultural and religious past.</p> <p>This panel explores the impact of salient events in Quebec's recent cultural history, and how the Quiet Revolution and the subsequent de-Christianisation of Quebec's Francophone population have impacted the way Francophone and Anglophone Pagans understand and live their faith.</p>	<p>This panel seeks to define the qualities a person needs to be able to take on a leadership role in the Pagan community. What does it mean to be a Priest/ess in our covens, groups and communities? What are the risks and challenges, and what skills do we need to cultivate? Do we have a need for a Pagan chaplaincy to make services available in our communities, and how can we support our leaders in that endeavour?</p>



<p>Transgender Pagans</p> <p>Recently, there was a public women’s pagan ritual where transgendered women were excluded because they were not female-born.</p> <p>How do cissexism/transphobia, body essentialism, exclusion, and anti-oppression work both in our community and in our liturgy?</p>	<p>Pagans in Interfaith Work</p> <p>What opportunities are there for pagans who want to reach out to other spiritual communities or support existing interfaith initiatives? What skills are required? Who is doing this in communities across Canada and what has been their experience?</p>
<p>Pagans in the Media</p> <p>A panel discussion on modern Paganism and Pagans in the media that ranges from mainstream identity and public relations to reaching out via alternative media and communities.</p>	<p>Circle Repair</p> <p>How do circles, covens, groves, and other group prevent potentially damaging situations or repair the broken trust and fractured dynamics after a fallout?</p>
<p>Impact of the Internet</p> <p>The Internet provides us with more access to people and information, but it also reduces in-person contact with real people. How can we use the Internet to our advantage and what is there about the Internet that should we avoid?</p>	<p>Pagans and Crime (Or Pagans in Jail)</p> <p>If a Pagan is charged with a crime and says that his religion is part of his motivation, the community has choices to make. Do we acknowledge the issue but not the person? Do we distance ourselves from the issue entirely?</p>
<p>Pagan Identity</p> <p>Do we have a shared Pagan identity? How do we feel when someone publically takes action or a stance, or performs a crime, “as a Pagan” or in the name of being Pagan?</p>	<p>Activism, Action, Protest, and Paganism</p> <p>What protest/activism supports Wiccan (or other trads) ethics (or codes)? What are the Pagan-encouraged forms of protest/action? Defining peaceful constructive protest and magickal activism.</p>
<p>Conflict and Resolution</p> <p>In managing conflicts between ideologically-separated groups, organizations, and people, how can we bring positive interventions and find enough common ground between them? What models exist?</p>	<p>Cultural Sensitivity</p> <p>When does influence turn into appropriation? Are there ways we can avoid being insensitive to other cultures and traditions other than our own within the Pagan umbrella?</p>



Canadian Pagan Authors	Pagan Canon
Why are most of the 'big name' pagan authors American (and to a lesser extent British)? Who are our Canadian authors and how can we help support them?	A canon is a collection of writings that a religious tradition considers sacred, divinely inspired, or foundational. What texts, poetry and writings do we consider sacred? Is there a Pagan canon or tradition-specific canons? Where do sacred texts overlap between traditions?
Pagan Broadcast Media	Impact of the Internet
This panel focuses on the popularity of Pagan blogs, podcasts, and other forms of media to broadcast ideas, discuss topics, and promote Paganism to a wider audience. Who is listening and what has the response been to this new media?	The Internet provides us with more access to people and information, but it also allows reduces in-person contact with real people. How can we use the Internet to our advantage and what is there about the Internet that should we avoid? How has the internet and social media changed Pagan communications? How has technology influenced our spiritual practice?
Pagan Community Statement on Sexual Abuse	Mental Health & the Pagan Community
This panel provides discusses what we as Pagans mean by the term sexual abuse, and whether it is possible to create a statement that a consensus would agree on. This discussion features a document that was written, discussed, and spear-headed by Dr. Brendan Myers and The Wild Hunt blog (thewildhunt.org).	How do we react to the presence of mental illness among us, and how can we help? What accommodations can be made and what resources are there to support our community? How can our leaders avoid burn-out, and how can the community support them in a way that prevents burn-out?
Event Organizing	Music Stream
This panel of organizers offers advice on everything from designing, fund-raising, managing volunteers, and publicizing your Pagan Event.	This stream is an opportunity to share songs and chants and other music from our communities across Canada.
Impact of secularism	Sacred space and sacred places
This panel explores the impact of the separation of Church and State and how it affects Pagan communities that live in that State. Do Pagans need State recognition to avoid discrimination or even persecution, or are we all better off without the State setting limits upon our spiritual practice?	What defines a sacred space or a sacred place? Many traditions have very different ideas on our relationship with the sacredness of an area. Is it possible to define a place to be sacred in a way that all traditions can recognize it?



<p>Pagan documentation</p>	<p>Power of words</p>
<p>Our communities are constantly evolving in terms of culture, population, and the response to crisis. How do we chronicle these events that make-up our modern history? We have discovered such wisdom in ancient texts, but what can we learn from the legacy of our modern-day elders? How do we preserve our recent history so that future generations can benefit?</p>	<p>As magical practitioners, many of us believe that we can shape our own reality through intent and/or alignment of magical will. How do the words that we choose to use (or not use) contribute to the worldview that we live in and the life we create? Do words chosen in ritual or a magical setting hold more power?</p>
<p>Celebrating in French</p>	<p>Translating English Sources into French</p>
<p>This panel discusses the challenges Francophone Pagans face within their own spiritual practice, but also when interacting with Pagans in their own community and beyond. What documentation is available for Francophone audiences? What direction is the Francophone Pagan community taking? Is there a common ground to be found with other linguistic cultures in terms of spiritual expression (panel presented in French with whisper translation to English)</p>	<p>With so many Pagan books published in English, is there a market for them to be translated to French? What are the challenges to translate these documents? This panel explores the challenges inherent in making the current Pagan documentation accessible to the Francophone population. (panel presented in French with whisper translation to English)</p>
<p>Rites, rights and laws</p>	<p>Environmental ethic</p>
<p>What happens to Pagans when their spiritual practice clashes with the laws of the land? Are Pagans at risk of being discriminated against if their spiritual identity is made public? What rights can Pagans expect in the workplace, at school, or in public? What recourse can Pagans follow if they become victims of discrimination, both legal and personal?</p>	<p>If Pagans are supposed to worship the earth and the natural world, how active should Pagans be in environmental movement? How can Pagans incorporate environmental ethics into their every day routine? This panel explores our roles as stewards of the Earth, but still living well in our modern societies.</p>



Aging, hospice and death	Pagan taboos
<p>As our Pagan population ages, are we ready to accommodate their needs as elders in our society? What services will they require to continue developing their spiritual identities? Are mainstream hospices prepared to respond to the needs of their Pagan clients? What is our role as a community to prepare them so that our aging population can be well-taken of? How can we ensure that our Pagan brothers and sisters can die with dignity and that their wishes will be respected after death? Are their Pagan cemeteries to receive our beloved death in a way that respects their traditions?</p> <p>This panel also explores the changes to a male's spiritual expression as he enters what many describe as male menopause.</p>	<p>This panel explores what topics, ideas, behaviours, attitudes, etc., that our Pagan community culture considers to be off-limits or not to be discussed. What makes an idea inconsiderable in Pagan culture and who decides that? What happens if you try to pursue an idea that is considered reprehensible to a community? Is it better to shine a light upon it, or should an idea be labelled as taboo, and therefore not explored.</p>



About Our Keynote Speakers and Musical Guests



Arin Murphy-Hiscock

Currently a resident of Montreal, Canada, Arin works as a freelance writer and editor. She is the author of *Power Spellcraft for Life: The Art of Crafting and Casting for Positive Change* (2005), *Solitary Wicca for Life: A Complete Guide to Mastering the Craft on Your Own* (2005), *The Way of the Green Witch* (2006), *The Way of the Hedge Witch* (2009), and *Pagan Pregnancy: The Journey From Maiden to Mother* (TBA). She is also the editor of the anthology *Out of the Broom Closet* (2009).

Arin is a third-degree Wiccan High Priestess in the Black Forest Clan, a tradition linked both by lineage and practice to several other branches of Wiccan thought and philosophy including the Caledonii Tradition, Druidism, Gardnerian practice, Seax-Wicca, general Celtic Wicca, and German witchcraft. She works as a priestess in her community performing rites of passage and giving occasional workshops, and leads a private coven. Her hobbies include playing the cello, hand-spinning, and weaving.



Lucie Dufresne

Lucie Marie-Mai DuFresne, PhD, has earned advanced degrees in both Anthropology and Religious Studies. As a fluently bilingual francophone, she teaches in both French and English in the Faculties of Arts (Religious Studies, Native Studies) and Social Sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, Women's Studies) at the University of Ottawa.

As head of the Canadian Centre for Research on Women and Religion, she has organized several international conferences (Divina et Femina I, II, III) and Gaia Gathering 2008. She is currently the interim director of the Intercultural Research and Training Center and is planning its second trip to Yunnan, China, to work with indigenous minorities. She is a founding member of PFPC (Pagan Federation / Fédération Païenne Canada) and has advocated for Canadian Pagan rights and freedoms with several levels of government, municipal social services (Police, Children's Aid, psychiatric hospital), and multifaith organisations.

Active in the Ottawa Pagan community since 1988, she has managed and owned occult bookstores, sponsored women's moon circles and taught Pagan and Magical Lore classes. She holds the record for the most different workshops taught at Kaleidoscope Gathering.



The Dragon Ritual Drummers will celebrate their 10 year anniversary as of 2010. Based out of the Niagara Region, they began their journey as favourites in the pagan festival circuit in Ontario, Canada. They have since moved on to play at pagan festivals and large mainstream events all over North America.

The troupe includes Utu, Flint, Adrian, Drago, Naresh, and Eion. All members play a variety of instruments including tribal drums, string



Dragon Ritual Drummers

instruments, as well as brass and archaic reed instruments heard in the ancient hills and valleys of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Their music and performances are creative, intense, and powerful. They bring the audience to their feet dancing as they are swept away in the intense beat of music inspired from around the world and through the ages.

Vendors

Gaia Gathering 2011 will be featuring a large vending room and arts show to expose local businesses, artisans, and artists to our guests from all across Canada. As of March 20th, 2011, our registered vendors for 2011 include:

- ★ [Andrea Ostiguay](#) (Reflexology and Crystal Bowls)
- ★ [Annika Diehl](#) (Artwork)
- ★ [August Joy Jewellery](#) (Jewelry)
- ★ [Bijoux Elizabeth](#) (Celtic-inspired Knotwork Jewellery in Leather and Wire)
- ★ [Josianne Blanchette](#) (Handmade Gothic and Pagan Jewelry)
- ★ [Elissa Baltzer](#) (Artwork and Magickal Tools)
- ★ [Prudence Priest](#) (Amber)
- ★ Stephanie Bayne
- ★ Silver Dragon Jewelry
- ★ [The Art of April Anna](#) (Artwork)
- ★ Author's Table

If you have a product or service that you think will be of interest to people of alternative spiritual paths, Gaia Gathering is a great place to show off your wares. This conference will be bringing in people from all across the country who will be looking to find that special something that perhaps they just can't find back home. This is a great place to show off your best products or hand-made crafts, as well as to expose your art.

Vending space is available for \$60/table. Set up is Friday afternoon and the space will need to be cleared Sunday evening. The vending room is in a high-traffic area right beside registration and the conference rooms. It also has place for sitting and chatting. We're hoping this space will become the social hub of the conference. On-site security is being provided to make sure your valuables are safe.

All vendors must also be registered as attendees of the conference. **To register as a participant and a vendor**, visit www.gaiagathering.ca and click *Registration*. You don't need to be register as a vendor and attendee at the same time; you can always register as a participant and decide to register as a vendor later.

As of April 6th, there are currently **six vending spots still available**. Don't wait until the last minute to sign on. Contact Melanie at melanievaliante@hotmail.com to reserve your spot!

The vending space will be open on Saturday and Sunday, and possibly on Friday. Vendors set-up is Friday and take-down is Sunday before the banquet. There will be no vending on Monday.



Gaia Gathering is being held in the Concordia conference facilities
on the 7th floor of the **Concordia University – Hall Building**
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West

Note: If you visit www.gaiagathering.ca, you will find links to all the sites mentioned in this document so that you can discover more about the services, attractions, and aspects of Montreal.

Restaurants Nearby

Gaia Gathering takes place in the heart of downtown Montreal, so there are many services within comfortable reach of the Concordia University Hall Building including:

- ★ Several bars and pubs
- ★ Cafes and tea shops
- ★ Ice cream shops
- ★ Asian restaurants/takeout
- ★ Middle Eastern restaurants/takeout
- ★ Sushi restaurants/takeout
- ★ Greasy spoons
- ★ Vegetarian fare
- ★ Soup restaurants/takeout
- ★ Convenience stores
- ★ Brazilian steakhouse
- ★ Mexican restaurants
- ★ Italian restaurants
- ★ North American restaurants/takeout

Please visit the following site to access a large restaurant listing with maps.

<http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/Cuisine/Restaurants>

Pagan Businesses

- ★ [The Magical Blend/Le Melange Magique](#): The Magical Blend offers a complete selection of products oriented towards the followers of all alternative spiritual paths, including Wicca, Paganism, Magick, Goddess Spirituality, Witchcraft, and Santeria.
- ★ [Charme & Sortilege](#): A boutique that specializes in white magic and traditional witchcraft. The shop features ritual tools, grimoires, and Books of Shadow, an apothecary, divination services, and medieval-themed clothing.
- ★ [Montreal Pagan Resource Centre](#): A volunteer-based drop-in centre where people (from any faith) can teach, share, and inform themselves on subjects related to alternative spirituality.

Nature Museums

- ★ [The Biodome](#). An oasis in the heart of the city, the Montreal Biodome recreates some of the most beautiful ecosystems of the Americas.
- ★ [The Botanical Gardens](#). With its collection of 22,000 plant species and cultivated exhibits, ten exhibition greenhouses, and thirty thematic gardens, the Montreal Botanical Gardens rank among the world's largest and most spectacular.



- ★ [Montréal Planetarium](#). Visit Montreal's own night sky simulator. See the night's stars the way they are, the way they were, and the way they will be.
- ★ [Mount Royal Park](#). The largest park in the city. Walk up to the cross at the top, or just hang out around Beaver Lake. Weather permitting, Mont Royal Park hosts the TamTam drumming event every Sunday!

Art and History Museums

- ★ [McCord Museum](#). Founded in 1921 by David Ross McCord, the McCord Museum is a public research and teaching museum dedicated to the preservation, study, diffusion, and appreciation of Canadian history.
- ★ [Pointe-à-Callière Museum](#). The Montreal museum of Archaeology and History features seasonal exhibits that explore and expand our knowledge of history.
- ★ [Montreal Museum of Fine Arts](#). Conserving art for all to share. The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts acquires and promotes the work of Canadian and international artists, attracting a broad and heterogeneous public, and providing access to our universal artistic heritage.
- ★ [The Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art](#). A major Canadian institution dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, the Musée offers a varied program ranging from its Permanent Collection to exhibitions of works by Quebec, Canadian, and international artists. The Permanent Collection comprises some 7,000 works, including the largest collection of art by Paul-Mile Borduas. Through its Education and Documentation Department, the museum presents a host of activities to connect the general public with contemporary art. The Musée also stages multimedia events, including performances, new dance, experimental theatre, contemporary music, video, and film.
- ★ [Stewart Museum](#). Situated at the fort on Île Sainte-Hélène near Montreal, the Stewart Museum tells the history of the discovery, exploration, and development of Canada, and of its relationship with the civilizations of Western Europe that gave it birth.

Other sites to visit

- ★ [The Canadian Center for Architecture](#). An international research center and museum.
- ★ [Montreal Science Center](#). The Montreal Science Center highlights recent innovations and inventions of our local industries.
- ★ [The Montreal tourism board](#). The Montreal tourism board web site is the Internet gateway to the city of Montreal. It includes links to hotels, events, and much more.
- ★ [The Canadian Tourism Commission](#). The Canadian Tourism Commission works to increase awareness of and generate interest in Canada as a premiere four-season tourism destination.



Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Path/ Affiliation (if any): _____ Name for badge: _____

Emergency Contact & Phone: _____

Please list the names of all minors (under 18 years) attending with you, under your supervision:

If you are not the legal guardian of the minor(s) in your care, you must attach a separate sheet with the name, address, phone, and signature of legal guardian granting permission for their child to attend. **NO CHILDCARE IS BEING PROVIDED.**

Conference REGISTRATION is on a per person basis. Payment in full is due at the time of registration. Food/lodging NOT included.

\$100.00 or at the door \$ _____

Vendor registration: \$60/table \$ _____

ADD Sunday Banquet: \$35/ person \$ _____

Vegetarian ___ Vegan _____ Food Allergy _____

ADD (optional) donation \$ _____

Travel Fund = ___ Other: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Travel scholarship/subsidy may be available. Also, if you are attending an academic institution, your faculty may be willing to offset conference or travel costs. Contact us for details. Day rates are \$55/day at the door, with no voting rights at the AGM. All full registrations are voting members of the association.

DECLARATION: I have read and understand the conference guidelines, and agree to abide by them while in attendance at GAIA GATHERING 2011. I understand that failure to do so may result in being asked to leave the conference, and forfeiture of all fees paid.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail registration, and cheque or money order payable to Gaia Gathering to:

**Gaia Gathering,
388 Douglas Street
Prince George, BC V2M 2M2**

No payment will be accepted by mail after May 1, 2011. You can also register online at www.gaiagathering.ca and click Registration.

Questions? E-mail info@gaiagathering.ca

