

Auriel's Light Festivals Summer Solstice

June 2023

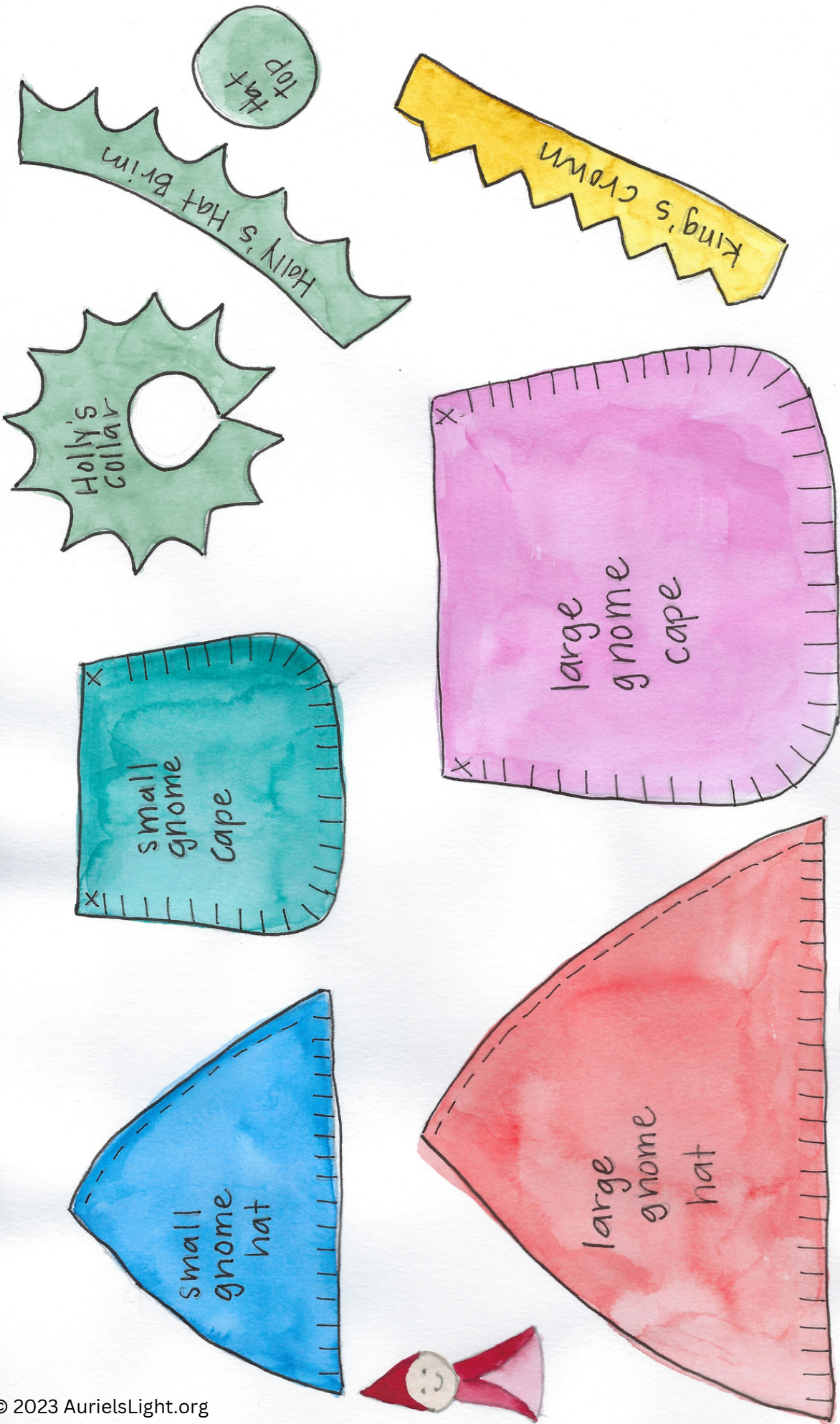
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Seasonal Gnomes

If you've known Me (Melisa) for five minutes then you know I'm all about gnomes. There is something about these cute little faces. I love gnome-like beings from all cultures. When children are young, making little gnome for the nature table and for play is so much fun. This month I've made some for the seasons. The capes have freeform seasonal designs on them. What will you come up with? These patterns are also perfect for gifts AND if you are a Waldorf parent, these are perfect for math gnomes. You'll want to adjust your patterns to the sizes of the pegs you have. These pegs are about 2.5".





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Friendship Rocks

These are so much fun. Don't go purchasing rocks, you may just find that there are plenty in your garden. Dig them up and give them a good wash.



Once they are washed, put paper or a plastic bag on your painting surface. I used inexpensive acrylic paint from the craft store and cheaper paint brushes.



Paint your rocks and decorate them in ways that make you happy. Give them to friends and family or hide them around your neighborhood for people to find.

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Summer Strawberry Cake & Frosting

Adapted from SallysBakingAddiction.com

Strawberry Puree

1 pound of fresh strawberries, rinsed and hulled. Then put in a blender, blend until smooth. Strain into a pan and reduce over medium low heat until most of the liquid is gone and you have a strawberry paste. This takes a good 30 min., be careful not to burn it. Set aside until room temperature.

Cake

2 1/2 cups cake flour	2 teas baking powder	1/2 teas baking soda
1 teas salt	3/4 cup butter	5 egg whites
1/3 sour cream	2 teas vanilla extract	1/2 cup whole milk
1/2 cup reduced strawberry puree	1 3/4 cup sugar	

Butter, egg whites, sour cream and milk should be at room temperature.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour two round 8" cake pans. Whisk the dry ingredients. With a mixer, cream the butter and sugar. Scrape down bowl as needed. Beat in the egg whites on high speed for about 2 minutes. Beat in the sour cream and the vanilla. Scrape down the sides. Slowly add the dry ingredients. Slowly pour in the milk just until combined. On a slow speed, add in the strawberry pure. Pour into the pans (otherwise you will end up eating this yummy cake batter!) Baking time will vary. Start at 25 minutes test it often. It could easily take 35 minutes but don't walk away, it will burn. Pull from the oven and cool.

Frosting

1 cup freeze dried strawberries	8 oz block of cream cheese
1/2 cup butter	3 cups powered sugar
1-2 TBL milk	1 teas vanilla extract
salt as needed	

Ensure the butter and cream cheese are room temperature.

Grind the freeze dried strawberries in a food processor until they are powder. Beat the butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add the powered sugar one cup at a time. Beat until smooth. Add the vanilla. Add the strawberry powder. Add milk as needed to smooth the consistency.

Frost cake and garnish with strawberries.



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Resources & Supplies

Summer Time Verses

With clang and clash in caverns cold
 We gather glittering, gleaming gold.
 With ding and dong in dark and deep
 We search where silver secrets sleep.
 With hey and ho in hundred homes
 We mine the mountains' magic stones.

Come, O come, ye little gnomes, let us leave our mountain homes, we'll free the Flower Queen and make her a throne in the meadow green. ~ A. Matthews

Summer showers, summer rain,
 Wash the flowers all clean again,
 wash the flowers all clean again.

Books that we love:

[Circle Round](#) - a Pagan festival book for families.

[The Sun Egg by Elsa Beskow](#) - a sweet story

[Summer by Wynstones Press](#)

Caterpillar wind about,
 Round and round and in and out.
 When you are fed,
 Come spin your bed,
 Go to sleep
 Deep deep
 As a caterpillar die,
 Waken as a butterfly.
 Then we will sing:
 Welcome, little butterfly
 We will love you as you fly.
 On your journey safely come
 With a message from the sun.

Little bees work very hard,
 Making golden honey,
 Taking nectar from the flowers,
 When the days are sunny ~ Wynstones Press,
 Summer

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Resources & Supplies

Gnome supplies all from [A Child's Dream](#)

Wool felt

Embroidery floss

Wooden peg people

Rock Painting

Rocks - go rock hunting!

[Acrylic paints](#)

Cheap paint brushes