

## TRAVELER OF THE QUARTER



## DIANE GRATOPP

### The Goddess Within!

Coming off a journey to Greece, having followed the footsteps of Paul and learned much concerning the rich history of the 12 gods of Olympus, it is evident that there is much more to discover as a sojourner. Experiencing the comparisons and contrasts between Paul's Christian faith and ancient Greek thought, it is safe to say, I learned a bit more than just history and how it impacts modern thought and faith. I'm guessing my fellow female adventurers could say the same.

Perhaps I'm partial to the Greek goddess Artemis due to my given name, Diane. Artemis was identified by the Romans as Diana. While the connection makes me smile, I think I'm drawn to her most out of the 12 gods because she was a female and was a protector of women. She was strong, beautiful, and independent.

Being bold and taking an adventure with other travelers takes some strength and a bit of independence as well. Perhaps Women of the Midwest sojourners carry some Artemis within them. We, Women of the Midwest travelers, are strong, adventurous, and BEAUTIFUL!

One of the great benefits of travel is what we learn about ourselves. We may learn ...

- We are stronger than we knew
- We are more courageous than we realized
- It's okay to try new foods, new phrases, and new types of thought
- We have areas in which we need to grow, and it's okay to be stretched
- The world is bigger than our circle of friends
- There is more to learn
- We have more adventures to take
- We may see the goddess within!

Sincerely,  
Diane Gratopp

