



Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community April 2006

Vote in the April Board Elections!

All full, current, active members of Gaia Community are eligible to vote in the annual elections, which will be held at the Ritual for Business on Saturday, April 8th from 9:30 to 11:30. Full active current members have taken the new member class, signed the book, made a pledge, and are current on their pledge.

The Board of Gaia Community serves as its official governing body. While Rituals for Business are open to all, and all full active members may vote on decisions, the Board is empowered to make decisions for the community whenever there is not time to gather the entire community. Further, business may not be transacted at a Ritual for Business unless a quorum of board members is present. A good board member attends ritual and other functions of Gaia on a regular basis, has served in various other capacities for the congregation, has demonstrated a long-term and broad-based commitment to the community, and will be available for most Rituals for Business. Officers are elected for one-year terms, and members-at-large are elected for two year terms.

The slate of nominations presented to the community is as follows:

President-Jeff Park: Other than being one voice among many... I tried to keep an eye on our overall direction as a community. Promoting Gaia Community at the Heartland Pagan Festival 2005 with the use of our Flaming Chalice Labyrinth. Being a part of the "Rites of Passage" team to bring legal marriage with in our church to our members and the pagan community at-large. I have been an advocate for long term goals, such as "Teen programming", drum culture for community building and grounding and this church's function within the UUA and it's cooperation between congregations and the community in which we live. I did promote the community at the 2005 General Assembly and through networking was able to further our contact with the CUUPS organization. As a result, we will be facilitating the main CUUPS ritual at GA 2006 in St. Louis. I would like to see the continued growth of the licentiate program, development of the teen programming and help create an efficient office system for easier transitions between administrations. I hope that the good winds of fortune smile upon Gaia and grant us our own home in the coming year.

Vice President-Liz Ticer: This past year I have been able to help ensure that Gaia Community's committee's are repressed to the board, and that members and friends of Gaia have a voice to the board whether or not they are able to attend. I am committed to helping Gaia Community through

this next year with my continued efforts in supporting the committee's and the needs and wants of our members and friends.

Secretary-Jennifer Gadd

Treasurer-John Carroll: I have been active in the community, and a board member at large for the last year and a half. I hope that I have helped guide our community in a positive way. I hope to help our finances grow thru limiting spending, and growing our income.

Members-at-Large-Yale Giffin: As a Member-at-Large serving on the Board of Gaia Community, I offer skills in organization, management and teamwork that I have used to great effect during both my military and professional careers. I also bring the personal responsibility and accountability learned through life's experiences that I feel this position demands. During my term, I intend to continue in my chosen role as an advocate for positive change and growth within the community. To that end, I will only support those decisions I feel will not only help build and strengthen our congregation, but are in keeping with our principles and covenants as well.

Devin Scrogum

In addition, this year the community will be electing a Committee on Ministry. The Committee on Ministry (COM) is described by the Unitarian Universalist Association as being "in touch with the soul of the congregation." In a congregation with a minister, the COM is the support for the minister. In the case of a lay-led congregation, it is the job of the COM to be aware of what is going on in the congregation and available for input and assistance if the religious services seem out of sync with the needs of the congregation. COM members may not be current members of Ritual Teams or the Board, and will be specifically charged with oversight of the Rites of Passage Ritual Team when this program is fully implemented.

Candidates for Committee on Ministry are: David Nelson and John Boyce.

Also to be elected are three members of a Nominating Committee, charged with assuring that a slate of officers is prepared for next year's election, and also assisting throughout the year with recruiting committee members and chairs.

Earth Healer has a new editor

Jeff has finally found a gullible soul to take on the daunting task of editing the Earth Healer: me, Jared P. While I look forward to serving the community by doing the best I can; any help, support, and energy towards settling in and taking the reigns would be greatly appreciated. There are some minor changes in this edition; the calendar will be back next month.

All Sunday activities take place at Shawnee Mission UU Church;

7725 W. 87th St., Overland Park, KS (near 87th and Metcalf) and begin at 4PM unless otherwise noted.

Sunday Schedule

Sacred Rythms at 3:30PM

Sunday, April 9:

Ritual- "The Investment"

We will have an experience of Sacred Theatre, retelling an old tale in a new way to celebrate the Past, Present, and Future of Gaia Community. We invite members and others to reflect on the many ways we all contribute in order to make the living entity called Gaia Community succeed and thrive.

Sunday, April 16:

Forum- "WWDD: What Would Deity Do?"

Are we merely puppets of the gods, empowered agents of change, or are we just doing this on our own? Will you come and make your voice heard or just sit back and wait to see what happens? We intend this forum to provoke both thought and action by presenting the opposing views of our chosen patron Lugh and his chaotic challenger Loki.

Sunday, April 23:

Ritual- "Gaia Community Presents Earth Day: An All-Planet Celebration!"

Join us for a party and ritual in honor of our mother Earth and all that walk, fly, crawl, creep, sit, flow, or shine upon her. We invite you to come dressed as your favorite animal, plant, mineral, or other natural phenomenon, and be ready to talk, sing, dance, and imagine with us. What would you say if you were a fish talking to a human? What if you were a rock meeting a river? The sun dancing with a redwood? Come and explore the possibilities with us in this intergenerational celebration.

Sunday, April 30:

Sabbat- Beltane in the Park!

Come celebrate the turning of the year with us. We'll be gathering in Theis Park (across from the Nelson-Atkins museum in midtown Kansas City, MO) to celebrate this Sabbat. What festivities are in store? Join us and find out! As with every Sabbat ritual, there will be a potluck. Please bring a dish to share (drinks and desserts are great, too). Please remember to label your ingredients, and for the earth's sake, keep disposable dishes to a minimum. Keep watch on the website and in the weekly announcements for more information, as well as directions to the park.

A look ahead at next month...

May 7- Ritual- "Ritual in Rhythm"

May 14- Ritual- "Gaia: The Musical!"

May 21- Class- "The Welcoming Congregation"

May 28- Sharing Our Spirits Ritual - Memorial Day

Ritualists:

Kitty Degler

Barbara Griggs

Devin Scrogum

Andrew Turner

Nicole Turner

Brian Butler

Linda Boyce

Cynthia Mathis

Kimberly

Liz Ticer

Via

David Reynolds

Debbie Giffin

Jeff Park

Eric Simpson

Yale Giffin

Gaia Community Board Members:

President: Jeff Park

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816-361-0465

Vice President: Liz Ticer

femainoregon@excite.com

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Treasurer: Devin Scrogum

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913-708-5667

Secretary: Debbie Giffin

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Members-at-Large:

Carey Reynolds

gaia-kat@kc.rr.com

816-941-7626

Jennifer Gadd

djrm@gadd-nelson.com

John Carrol (treasurer pro-tem)

IBRCandS792@yahoo.com

913-334-2834

Splinters from the Board

Secretary's report: A summary of the minutes from February were read. The minutes were approved with 1 correction to a typo. **Treasurer's report:** An update on the budget was handed out. There was an error in the budgeted amount for pledges. The value listed does not reflect the actual amount received on pledge cards. UUA dues are in question. While Devin remembers writing the check for them last year, the UUA states that we haven't paid. John is following up on this. We have enough in the checking account to pay out at the beginning of April, barely. Kimberly will check with Kris E on adult ed class donations. There should be some, but they are not showing as received in the budget. **Committees: Ritual Teams:** Ritual teams discussed the idea of Temple Talks again. They feel that we are not at a point where the congregation is ready to accept them. Instead they are going to work on integrating the offering more fully into the ritual theme of the day. There was also the suggestion of putting pledge status in both the announcements and the EH. **Membership:** The finance committee needs to meet with membership about certifying members. **Kidspace:** They report that they have some volunteers. More volunteers are always welcome. The curriculum for Kidspace is available to those who wish to see it; it will also be online soon. See examples attached to these minutes. They still need a volunteer to teach the 4 – 7 yr age group. They are going to put an advertisement out. It was suggested that we put a note in the announcements first to see if anyone currently in the congregation is interested. **Site:** Yale asked for a rental wish list from the Board. It was suggested that Yale schedule and announce a meeting to discuss this. He will do so when he gets back from his business trip. **Nom Comm:** Devin said that he would be willing to run for either a member-at-large position or a nom comm. position. He does not want to be on the executive board. **Adult Ed:** Classes are going well. Many thanks to the community in stepping up and volunteering there time for child care. The first dance class seemed to go well and I haven't heard any real negative feedback. The Trance/Meditation Series of classes will be held only twice or three times during the year as I am having a hard time getting ritualists to come and practice their meditations/trances. In place of some of these classes I will be inputting more of the kitchen witch series. Reminder to all the dance class starts at 7:30pm instead of 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month. **Old Business- bank/phone:** The check card is still not activated. John is working on this, and hopes to have the bank and phone issues resolved by April. **GA:** There was some discussion of attending GA. It was suggested that we should add a line item to the budget for the next fiscal year to pay registration and expenses for our delegates. It was noted that it was unfair to ask a delegate to pay for their own registration and expenses to represent the church. **New business- Hope House information:** We received a request for information from Hope House for their pagan clients.

They are looking for donations of books or miscellaneous materials. It was suggested that we put this in the announcements to see if anyone had information that they wished to donate. David and Carey will coordinate this project. **SMUUC** Jeff will respond to the current email from Gabriella about the damaged light globe after Yale emails the closing checklist to the Board. A copy of the checklist will be included in our response to Gabriella. We will let SMUUC know that the notebook is in the office, should they wish to see our completed checklists. Barbara is our liaison with SMUUC. All problems should be communicated to her so that she can contact them. These problems would include any problems noted on opening or any damage/problems incurred by us. The person who completes the checklist is responsible for contacting Barbara. **Kids' code of conduct:** The code of conduct that has been on the greeter's table was handed out and discussed. It was noted that his policy was a procedure to keep our kids safe and the building undamaged. There was some discussion of wording of the last item. There was a suggestion to add flower beds to places that the children should respect. The last item was changed to read, "Respect the Space – Stay out of flower beds; chains, when these are up mean Don't go past this!" There was a suggestion that the kids should make paper chains in Kidspace. These will be used by the ritualists to denote areas that the kids need to stay out of while they are cleaning up after ritual. It was decided that the chain on the staircase down to the ritual closet should stay up all of the time. It is too dangerous to have children going up and down those steps. The members consented to adopt the Kids' Code of Conduct as amended. **New Site:** Yale presented details from the visit to the Broadway ex-Baptist Church. See attachment to these minutes for details. The members consented to open negotiations with Broadway church. The committee doing the negotiations will be Yale G, Devin S, John C, and Jennifer G. **Member benefits:** Liz presented that there had been a question of whether there were any benefits to being a member other than having a vote at RfB. A long discussion ensued. It was suggested that we can ask the membership, at the forum already planned for feedback in June, whether we are meeting their needs. Liz volunteered to be an ombudsman and handle any problems or complaints. The members present consented to add these duties to the Vice-president's role. A statement will be added to the announcements that Liz or the Board are available to handle questions, complaints, or comments. **Fund raising:** Shaun noted that he had several ideas for fund raisers. He is willing to assume the head of the Stewardship committee once he becomes a member. Until that time, Suesanne R is willing to head the committee. They will co-chair after Shaun has joined to community. The members present consented on the changes to the Stewardship committee. Shaun and Suesanne will schedule a meeting to discuss fund-raising opportunities.



P.O. Box 45307

Kansas City, MO 64171-8303

Address Correction Requested

Gaia Events & Activities

Ritual Teams Meeting

Wednesday, April. 5 at 6:45 P.M.

Contact Liz T. for more information!

Voices of Gaia

Sundays at 2-3:30 P.M. AT SMUUCH-Franklin Room
Go figure...a Pagan Choir...we do alot more than
chants. New singers are always welcome. If you have
questions, or want more information, please contact
Kitty Degler, songbird@skunkmountain.com or 913-
469-8779.

Tuesday Night Adult Education

Tuesdays at 7 P.M. AT SMUUCH

4/4 - Pagan Parenting

4/11 - Dance Series: Burlesque

4/18 - Trance/Meditation

4/25 - Sabbat Series: Beltane

Car Wash and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 15, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

We'll be hosting a fundraising car wash at the Wal-
Mart Neighborhood Market parking lot, 9000 Metcalf
in Overland Park. Contact Shawn or Suesann to offer
your help!

Games Night

Friday, April 21, 7-10 P.M. at SMUUCH

Games Night is a chance for Gaians to get together for
fun and NO BUSINESS allowed! Bring a game, bring
a friend, or just bring yourself and a willingness to
play and visit.

Friday Night Supper Club

Friday, April 28, 7:00 P.M.

Friday Night Supper Club - Kick back and stuff
yourself silly! This month, FNSC will be at Sweet
Tomatoes buffet, located at 1309 Meadow Lake Pkwy
in KCMO (close to State Line and 75th St) .Hungry?
Contact Carey, David, or Kimberly to save a spot.

Contact Earth Healer

Send letters, articles, poetry or prose, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to:
earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org or by phone (number inside) no later than the 17th of each month. Please tell
us if you are receiving duplicate copies of *Earth Healer*, if we're getting your name/address wrong or if you
prefer to receive the newsletter by email. Let us hear from you before the next *Earth Healer*.