



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,
An Earth-Based, Pagan-Themed, Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Kansas City

Elections!

Gaia Community elects new Trustees to its Board (as well as General Assembly delegates, and the next Nominating Committee) every year at April's Ritual for Business. All officers are elected annually, and members-at-large are elected every two years. The Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of candidates for this year's election as follows:

- ✓ Lizzy Ticer – candidate for President, and for Delegate to General Assembly
- ✓ Terry Ross – candidate for Vice-President
- ✓ Nola Cavanaugh – candidate for Treasurer
- ✓ Jennifer Gadd – candidate for Secretary
- ✓ *Carey Oxler, Yale Giffin, and Devin Scrogum are continuing to serve two-year terms as members-at-large, and do not need to be re-elected.*
- ✓ Greta Erhardt – candidate for Delegate to General Assembly
- ✓ Daniel Ticer – candidate for Delegate to General Assembly
- ✓ Jeff Park, John Carroll, and Carey Oxler – candidates for Nominating Committee

You can find their candidate statements on page 5, just before the absentee ballot in this newsletter. The election itself will be held on 4/14 at 9:30 AM during the regular Ritual for Business; nominations will be taken from the floor as well, for any and all positions. Those members who cannot be present may mail their absentee ballot in to our PO Box, or hand it to one of us by the morning of April 14th.

You must be caught up on your minimum pledge to vote!

- David, Andrew, and Greta

All Sunday activities take place at Shawnee Mission UU Church; 7725 W. 87th St., Overland Park, KS (near 87th & Metcalf) and begin at 4 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

TeenSPACE for April

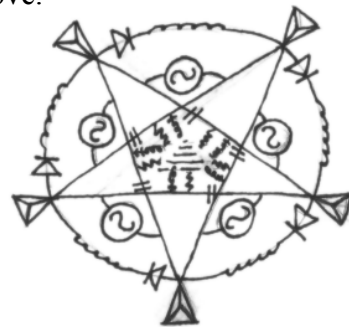
April 1 – Mediation, Trance, and Journeying (part 2) with Carey.

April 8 – More work with Chakras (Kitty) - they've already had the basics and theory explained in a previous class. This will be more direct experiential work.

April 15 – About Aspecting (Carey) - what aspecting is and what it isn't, the dangers, pitfalls, and safety concerns involved. Levels of aspecting, aspect-tending, other related issues. This is NOT a "how to aspect" or "practice aspecting" class, nor are those subjects on the curriculum. The teens had questions about the God Auction and how that "works", so this is our chance to explain it.

April 22 – No class. (Teens are upstairs in ritual - "Combing Sedna's Hair" will give them an opportunity to practice their meditation skills)

April 29 – Four Levels of Reality (Kitty) - introduction to the Four Levels of Reality from Diana's Grove.



- Carey & Kitty

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Gaia About Town

Ritual Teams Meeting (4/4, 6:45 PM): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Devin in person or at rte@gaiacommunity.org! As always, any member of the congregation may be invited to help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest, let someone know.

Tuesday Night Classes: The Adult Education classes for April will be a session on Stregheria on the 10th, and a Mythology Story Hour on the 24th. All classes start at 7 PM; childcare is available *on request* by contacting Kris Ennis in person or at adulsted@gaiacommunity.org by no later than the Sunday before each class.

Ritual for Business (4/14, 9:30 AM): This is our monthly "church business" meeting. Anyone, member or not, is welcome to come and provide input or ask questions, although only Full Active Members can participate in the consensus process. If you've ever had an official question or concern, this would be the place to bring it. Remember that April is our annual election; if you cannot be there, you can fill out the absentee ballot included in this Earth Healer or pick one up at the Greeter's Table, and turn it in to David, Andrew, or Greta by the 13th.
You must be current on your minimum pledge to vote!

Just a little reminder from your Community Ombudsperson: Remember that in our mission covenant, we state that we "care for the earth and each other because our lives depend on it." When we conduct our services and events on our beautiful rented property, we need to be respectful of the space, the people who own it, and of ourselves in the choices we make. Please keep this in mind and steward yourself accordingly, whether it is in the building, the parking lot, or the yard.

Games Night (4/20, 7 PM): Kick back and relax; NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS IS ALLOWED! Bring a game, bring a friend, bring some munchies, or just bring yourself! Usually held in either the Barn Chapel or downstairs in the Jefferson room, depending on weather/games available. We had some new board game players from the Kansas City area join us last month through <http://meetup.com>, so bring your new toys and your game face!

Earth Fest (4/21, 10 AM – 2 PM): Formerly Party for the Planet, the Earth Day celebration has moved to Shawnee Mission Park but is no less important or fun! Contact someone from KidSPACE if your kids to be able to participate this year! In addition, the Earth Fest Walk (a fundraiser for Bridging the Gap) starts at 9 AM; David, Kimberly, and Nicole are walking, so you might see them collecting donations before the 21st!

KidSPACE Committee Meeting (4/22, 2 PM): **Parents, volunteers, and anybody with ideas or an interest in our kids are welcome!** Meetings are held in the Childrens' Classroom section of SMUUCH before ritual on the 3rd Sunday of the month; contact Jennifer or Linda (the KidSPACE Co-Chairs), or Anissa (our Director of Religious Education) for more information. E-mail gaiakidspace@yahoo.com or catch them on Sundays!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (4/23, 7 PM): Andrew and Cynthia have rebuilt the Social Justice committee in response to some concerns and ideas raised among the community recently. If you're interested in helping out or have ideas for a charity to support, e-mail them at sj@gaiacommunity.org or by finding them in person!

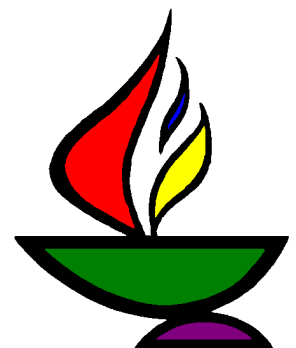
Friday Night Supper Club (4/27, 7 PM): The April Supper Club will be at Shogun Japanese Steakhouse, 12028 W. 95th Street in Lenexa, KS (just west of Quivera Road). Please RSVP to Kris Ennis at adulsted@gaiacommunity.org or in person to save your spot!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out to Katie Menges on April 12th, Eric Simpson on the 13th, Fiona Turner on the 16th, Maggie Gadd-Nelson on the 19th, Rowan Turner on the 20th, and Katherine Menges on the 29th.

Let us know if your day got missed!

If you or another member of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the Caring Committee by emailing us at caring@gaiacommunity.com, or leaving a message on the Gaia Community voicemail at 816-951-9900, or by contacting one of the Caring Committee members in person: Cynthia Mathis, Terry Ross, or Debbie Dozier.



Sunday Schedule *(held at 4pm unless otherwise noted)*

Voices of Gaia meets at 2:00 PM, Sacred Rhythm Group at 3:30 PM

Sunday, April 1st

Ritual — Fail Big! *(All Fools' Day)*

Ritualists: Eric, Debbie, Kris, Linda

"I have learned throughout my life as a composer chiefly through my mistakes and pursuits of false assumptions, not by my exposure to founts of wisdom and knowledge." – Igor Stravinsky

The more interesting your mistakes, the more interesting your life is. If your biggest mistakes are missing re-runs of a television show or buying the wrong lottery ticket you may not be challenging yourself enough to earn those more interesting mistakes. What do you do when you fail? A successful person knows how to handle failure; it's what they do next that makes the difference. Come explore how to maximize your mistakes and learn to Fail Big!

Sunday, April 8th

Class — Voluntary Simplicity

Facilitators: Carey and Andrew

Voluntary Simplicity emphasizes creative solutions to help you achieve abundance without clutter, green living without hassle, and frugality without austerity. This class will talk about Voluntary Simplicity - an introduction to the concept and core philosophy, and some hands-on exercises to see how it works in action. We'll present several simple, practical ways you can simplify your life, and the resources to learn more if you're interested.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

May 6th – Sabbat: Beltane

May. 13th – Ritual: The Empress *(Mother's Day)*

May. 20th – Pet Blessing

May 27th – Sharing Our Spirits Ritual *(Memorial Day)*

Current Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Carey Oxler
Eric Simpson	Kimberly
Kitty Degler	Kris Ennis
Linda Boyce	Yale Giffin
Devin Scrogum	Barbara
Lizzy Ticer	Cynthia Mathis
David Reynolds	Jeff Park
Debbie Dozier	Nicole Turner

Please see Devin, the current Ritual Teams Coordinator, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams.

Sunday, April 15th

Ritual — Rededication *(Pledge Sunday)*

Ritualists: Jeff, Lizzy, Linda

Just as the Ritual Teams rededicate themselves for another year of service to Gaia Community, we the members of Gaia Community will come together and rededicate our support for our community. This ritual will not only celebrate the 10th anniversary of the "Glass of Chablis" that sparked this community, but also be a personal sacred ceremony for your own rededication to this community. We will take a look at our past, present and future. Please feel free to wear clothing or items that you feel give you the power of your word and promise. Be prepared to fill out new pledge cards if you are pledging as a family unit or individual. We will come together in circle to stand as the grove that is his home, and be the stones of foundation that sit upon the earth that is her body. With open hearts and open minds to all, we will go forward to achieve the goals we set for this community in the coming years.

Sunday, April 22nd

Ritual — *Combing Sedna's Hair*

Ritualists: Kimberly, Yale, Eric, Kitty

In Inuit myth, Sedna the Seal Woman controlled the seas and the creatures of the sea. The people looked to Her for food, clothing, warmth, and tools; their entire way of life depended on Sedna's power and generosity. But, as powerful as Sedna was, there were some things that she could not do for herself, some things that the people did for her, to show their love and gratitude, and keep up their end of a sacred bargain. In this ritual, we will work with Sedna's story to discover what our gods of land and sea do for us, and what we can do for them in return.

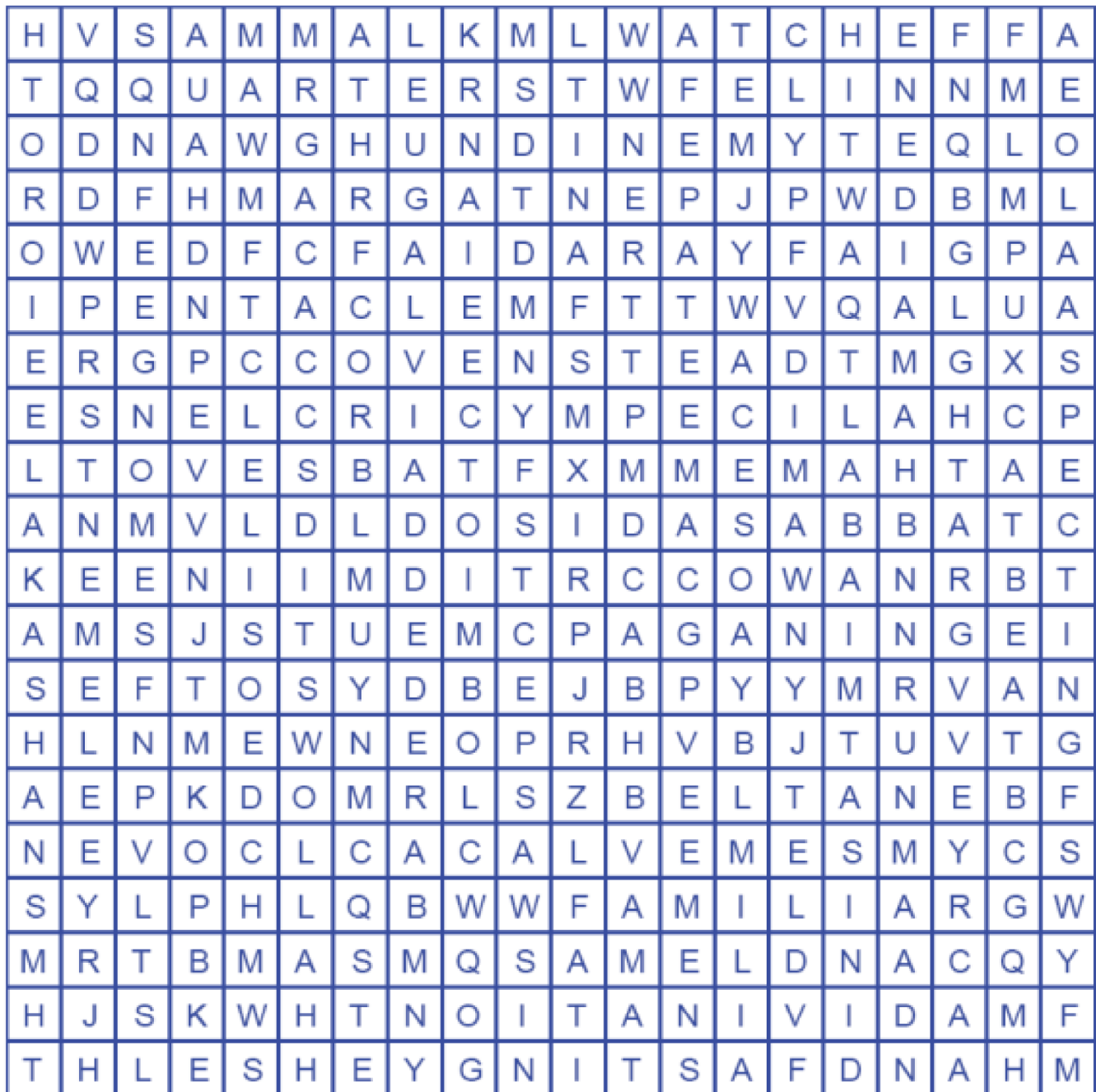
Sunday, April 29th

Forum — Love, Sex, & Intimacy in Religion

Facilitators: Devin and Kris

Sex, love, and religion are inextricably linked in our culture; every day we see examples of choices in one area affecting the others. How do you look upon the way these three things come together? Come join the discussion with us, but remember to be respectful of everyone's ideas.

- Ritual Teams

*Word Search Puzzle for All Ages!**(courtesy of paganlibrary.com)***WORD LIST:**

AKASHA
ARADIA
ASPECTING
ASPECTS
ATHAME
COVEN
CANDLEMAS

CIRCLE
COVENSTEAD
BELTANE
COWAN
CHALICE
DEOSIL
ELEMENTS
ESBAT
FAMILIAR

DIVINATION
GNOMES
HALLOWS
LAMMAS
MAIDEN
PENTACLE
HANDFASTING
PENTAGRAM
PAGANING

REDE
SABBAT
IMBOLC
QUARTERS
SYLPH
UNDINE
WAND
WATCH

Candidate Statements

We asked all of our board candidates two 'serious' questions about their proposed service to the community, and then some 'silly' ones to find out what they really think:

Lizzy Ticer, candidate for President

- **What is one thing you would like to accomplish?**
One thing I would like to facilitate/participate in is the development of a Strategic Plan for the future development and potential expansion of programs and services (Education, Ritual, etc) for current and future members, as well as facilitating growth of the community with new members.
- **What strengths do you bring to the Board?**
I feel that I bring a different perspective and experience to the board, with my educational/work background as well as my different spiritual path than most members. Also, I have come through the ranks of the Board, starting out as a Member-at-Large and continuing for the past two years as Vice-President, which gives me that much more experience and comfort in running for President of Gaia. If elected, I plan on dedicating even more of my energy as President as I will be moving to a part-time status on Ritual Teams.
- **If a chicken and a half can lay an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many pancakes does it take to shingle the doghouse?**
C= # of chickens
T= Time in this dimension
N= # Newtons (Fig or Strawberry) in one Pancake
P= # of Pancakes
$$(C * T) / N = P$$

P = 42 (and no, I'm not going to proof it out)
- **If you were in charge of writing Gaia's First Commandment, what would it be?**
If you don't like or play with fire often, you shouldn't be in charge of the alcohol fire.

Terry Ross, candidate for Vice-President

- **What is one thing you would like to accomplish?**
To see Gaia's congregation grow, and more of the community be involved.
- **What strengths do you bring to the Board?**
Diplomacy is my strong suit, that ability to communicate to different people on many different levels. The straightforwardness to call a spade a spade, while not being abrasive in presenting solutions to any given problem.

Terry Ross, continued

- **Is cleavage welcoming? Discuss.**
We are Pagans, we fear not our sensuality, nor our libido. Cleavage is welcome, as most expressions of self are welcome in Gaia Community. We have managed appropriateness in public very well over the years, being more daring, without scaring the Muggles too badly. We are after all under the UU umbrella, tolerance is a cornerstone of who we are.
- **What is the most embarrassing thing you've ever done in ritual?**
Tried to slip out after the seat ripped out of my slacks; I had to borrow Barbara's dragon coat!

Jennifer Gadd, candidate for Secretary

- **What is one thing you would like to accomplish?**
The one thing I would like see to happen at Gaia Community in the upcoming year isn't something I can accomplish on my own. I'd like to see more people become "producers" at Gaia instead of "consumers." I say this not because I fear some secret Trilateral Commission taking over or anything. It's just that when the same people seem to have no choice but to turn up and run everything, they get tired and bitter, and other people can start to resent their ubiquity. The only solution for everyone is everyone to do a little something, savvy?
- **What strengths do you bring to the Board?**
I am, as Terry R. will attest, a cutter-through of bullshit. I also have the advantage of being one of the few board members who is not also on Ritual Teams (see answer #1 above), bringing a somewhat different perspective on things at times. Also, mi speling iz sooper gud.
- **What is your silly pagan name?**
Tha i Beag-Naire (Scots Gaelic for *She Who Has No Shame*)
- **What is the one nonessential item Gaia's future home must have, in your personal opinion?**
An espresso bar/coffee shop. Really, this is a win-win situation. It would be a great fundraiser, and we could provide part-time employment for those in the community who need it. It would be fantastic publicity and would serve as a fellowship place for current and potential members. Plus, the Norse deities would be thrilled with the honor, and if we put in enough whiskey and double cream, the Celtic ones would be right chuffed, too. What's the downside?

(one more on next page)

Nola Cavanaugh, candidate for Treasurer

- **What is one thing you would like to accomplish?**
I would like to support the Gaia community with a good accounting system. Perhaps one that will generate reports and any other information needed. The one used at present is fine but I would like to tweak it a bit.
- **What strengths do you bring to the Board?**
The strength I bring is 2 years as a Business Office Manager and 9 years as an Executive Director of skilled nursing facilities. Both provided me with bookkeeping skills.

- **What is your silly pagan name?**
I do not have a silly pagan name. In fact, I have not felt compelled to have a pagan name at all!
- **What is the most embarrassing thing you've ever done in ritual?**
Sit next to my husband who announces to the congregation that he *IS* chocolate! (enough said)

Gaia Community Absentee Ballot - 2007 Election

Write-in candidacies should have the approval of the candidate first.

Officers

President (choose one): _____ Lizzy Ticer _____ *(write-in)*

Vice-President (choose one): _____ Terry Ross _____ *(write-in)*

Secretary (choose one): _____ Jennifer Gadd _____ *(write-in)*

Treasurer (choose one): _____ Nola Cavanaugh _____ *(write-in)*

Trustees

No trustees are scheduled for re-election this year.

_____ *(write-in)* _____ *(write-in)*

General Assembly

Delegates (choose two): _____ Lizzy Ticer _____ Daniel Ticer _____ Greta Erhardt
_____ *(write-in)* _____ *(write-in)*

Nominating Committee

Members (choose three to five): _____ Jeff Park _____ John Carroll _____ Carey Oxler
_____ *(write-in)* _____ *(write-in)*

SIGNED: _____

Please mail to P.O. Box 45307, Kansas City, MO 64171-8307 or deliver in person to Andrew, Greta, or David by 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 14th!

Mooings from the CoW (Committee of the Whole)

Summary of March's Ritual for Business (RfB)

- I. **Meeting called to order at 9:47.**
Attending: Jennifer, Jeff, John, David R., Carey, Andrew, Terry, Devin, Erin, Cynthia, Yale
- II. **Agenda**—agreed
- III. **Minutes**—agreed, with amendments
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Total figure for WB: \$1,172.38 profit. A few more expenses were paid. Member pledges at \$11,225. Friends of Gaia monies are at around \$300, Greening the Basket is at almost \$500. Checks for PSD and UUA are written. Income is about the same as Outgo. John got a nasty-gram from the IRS. They did not get the W-2's from last year.
Director of KidSpace seems to have been underpaid, so that needs to be corrected in the report. Anissa has been paid through February. KidSpace account has \$1,500.
- V. **Standing Committees**
 - A. **Communications**—Election in April, so get info to David R. soonest for EH because it needs to get out for election information to be timely. Put announcement in bulletins to this effect this week.
 - B. **Social Justice**—Our new charity for spring will be Wayside Waifs, including the Pet Blessing. We will also schedule a kid-friendly volunteer day.
 - Blue River Clean-up Mar. 31. (put in bulletin, too)
 - Party for the Planet will be coordinated with KidSpace.
 - Kansas City Food Expo trip March 14, for information-gathering expedition
 - Overland Park Clean Stream—will not be an official Gaia event, but will get information out to interested parties
 - C. **KidSPACE**—all systems go.
 - D. **Nom Com**—Candidates for all board positions. All members at large continue. Cynthia has agreed to serve as an 8th member to expand the board; however, if we can't find a 9th person to keep it odd, we will keep the board at 7. This facilitates establishing a quorum.
 - E. **Prairie Star District**—FYI, the newsletter will be on the greeter table. John Blevins was unanimously nominated and will run unopposed as UUA Trustee of PSD. Gaia was listed as a nominating congregation.

VI. Ongoing Business

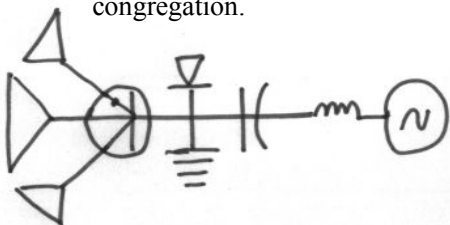
- A. **Southern Cluster**—Jill Jarvis is part-time organizer of the southern cluster of PSD. A Needs and Capabilities inventory of congregations across the cluster is being drawn up. Our reps, David and Kimberly listed Gaia's strengths are being education leaders, ritual leaders, world religions, leadership training, youth education, and technology. Our areas for growth were listed as Adult RE teachers, UU identity, hospitality/membership concerns, stewardship, space and accessibility concerns. Other items of interest were information exchanges between area congregations and a possible fall cluster retreat.
- B. **Emergency Preparedness**—Liz is preparing a system for the executive council's review before bringing it as a formal proposal to the board.
- C. **Choices**—Liz's statement (formerly "Adult Code of Conduct") agreed acceptable. Put in bulletin.
- D. **Directory**—Cynthia is working on the directory updates. She plans to use the inactive members list as a tool for contacts for the caring committee.
- E. **Covenant Groups**—tabled until April
- F. **Strategic Planning**—tabled until April

VII. New Business

- A. **General Assembly**—Early registration is due April 15. Lizzy has questions regarding reimbursement of her expenses from Gaia. Clarification was that Lizzy will submit the receipt after the purchase to the treasurer, and the treasurer will write the check.
- B. **Copier**—The Boyces want the copier to be removed from their garage. Offer to community for two weeks, then Freecycle until large item pick-up. Must pick up and need truck.
- C. **Greening the Basket**—Monies were donated to Lama Chuck Stanford and the Rime Center. Those running the ritual were of the understanding that the due process of treasurer's approval for designation of those funds had been followed. John did not have any recollection of this. Concerns for the treasurer's protection also arose.
The treasurer has discretion to exceed any single line item to the greater amount of 10% or \$50. This situation falls well under this amount.
Proposal: The treasurer will continue to administer funds for "unexpected expenses" or emergencies. For events with planned donations, ritual team leaders will get board or RfB approval, if possible.
Tabled until April so discussions can continue.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

- Jennifer, Secretary





P.O. Box 45307
 Kansas City, MO 64171-8303
 Address Correction Requested

CARING FOR
 THE EARTH AND
 EACH OTHER
 BECAUSE OUR
 LIVES DEPEND
 ON IT.

Contact Earth Healer

Send letters, articles, poetry
 or prose, borrowed wisdom,
 comments and suggestions to:
earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org
 or by phone (816-941-7626) no
 later than the 22nd of each
 month.

Please tell us if you are
 receiving duplicate copies of
Earth Healer, if we're getting
 your name or address wrong, or
 if you prefer to receive the
 newsletter by e-mail.

– David, Editor

APRIL 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>April Fool's Day</i> 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Fail Big!	2	3 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	4 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	5	6	7
8 <i>Easter</i> 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Class on Voluntary Simplicity	9	10 7 PM: Tues. Night Class on Stregheria 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	11	12	13	14 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business (Annual Election!)
15 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Rededication	16	17 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	18	19	20 7 PM: Games Night	21 10 AM-2 PM: EarthFest @ Shawnee Mission Park
22 <i>Earth Day</i> 2:00-3:00: KidSPACE Meeting 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Combing Sedna's Hair	23 7 PM: Social Justice Committee @ Andrew's	24 7 PM: Mythology Story Hour 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	25	26	27 7 PM: Friday Night Supper Club @ Shogun Japanese, 12028 W. 95th Street in Lenexa KS	28
29 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Forum: Love, Sex, and Intimacy in Religion	30	1 <i>Beltaine</i> 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class, final & ritual	2	3	4	5