



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

An Earth-Based, Pagan-Themed, Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Kansas City

Spring Bazaar on April 26th

With the success of the 2007 Winter Bazaar, many of our vendors asked if it would be possible for Gaia Community to host a spring event of a similar nature. The Bazaar Committee (now part of Stewardship) looked into it and has made arrangements to hold our **first Spring Bazaar on April 26th, 2008 from 10:30 AM to 7 PM!** The Bazaar will be at the Center High School, 8715 Holmes Road, just down the road from the WB's location in 2007.

The Spring Bazaar will feature a different variety of vendors, services, and crafts, as well as the famous Kitchen Witch tables full of baked goods, and a raffle table. Persons interested in vending are invited to download the printable form at <http://gaiacommunity.org/springbazaar.shtml> or register online at <http://gaiacommunity.org/vendors.shtml> – where they can also now pay for booth space and table rental via PayPal! Traditional payment methods are also still available, of course; get in touch with the bazaar committee (now Kimberly & Via, co-chairs of Stewardship) or e-mail bazaar@gaiacommunity.org if you have any questions. Deadline for vendor registration is April 16th.

Flyers for spreading the word about the event are also available at the Greeter's Table on Sundays, or downloadable from our website at the address linked above. Help announce this new event and make it as big a success as our winter shopping extravaganza! Volunteers are also badly needed for the event; please contact Via or Kimberly to help out, as John is no longer able to do so.

- Stewardship Committee

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Elections This Month

Gaia Community's annual elections will take place at this month's Ritual for Business, which starts at 9:30AM on April 12th. The Nominating Committee has presented a slate of candidates for the consideration of all full active members (you must have paid at least your minimum pledge). An absentee ballot is available: <http://gaiacommunity.org/2008ballot.pdf>

The slate of nominees so far is as follows:

Board Officers: (1-year terms)

- Liz Ticer — President (2nd term)
- Linda Boyce — Vice President
- David Reynolds — Secretary
- Nola Ross — Treasurer (2nd term)

Trustees-at-Large (2-year terms), 3 slots available

- Greta Erhardt (currently serving a partial term due to board vacancies)
- Via Baker (currently serving a partial term due to board vacancies)
- Erin Truitt
- Eric Simpson

General Assembly delegates, 2 slots available

- Liz Ticer
- Jeff Park

Nominating Committee, 3 slots available

- Devin Scrogum
- Kitty Degler
- Jacki Kelly

Statements from many of these candidates can be found on page 5. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during RfB (the nominee must be present or able to accept somehow, of course).

- Nominating Committee

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.

Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia (every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia, Gaia Community's choir, has started meeting again after a very long summer break. You'll find us in the Theater Room below Barn Chapel on Sundays at 2 p.m. New members are always welcome. We prefer that you have some experience singing, particularly with choirs, can match pitch and can follow a musical score. Our current incarnation is as a women's choir, but if you're a tenor or bass and really want to sing with us, contact Kitty in person or at songbird@kc.rr.com and we'll figure something out.

Ritual Teams Meeting (4/1, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Debbie in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (4/8, 7 PM, at Andrew's): This meeting will be at Andrew's apartment: 11132 W. 76th Terr. #34 in Overland Park; you can also e-mail him at sj@gaiacommunity.org or find him in person. The committee is working on the next few social justice projects to follow the environmental project when it ends later this month.

Ritual for Business (4/12, 9:30 AM, at SMUUCH): 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 formal consensus process. If you've ever had an official question or concern, this would be the place to bring it. Any questions or items for the agenda should be sent to the board, as shown to the right.

Men's Covenant Group (4/12, 6:30 PM, at Jeff's): The "Twigs-n-Berries" group had a very successful gathering in March; see page 5 for details on their future campout and meeting plans, or come to the meeting at Jeff's house, 7400 Paseo in KCMO.

Religions of Kansas City Study Group (4/15, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): A new study group has formed to explore and learn about the variety of religions present in Kansas City. If you are interested, e-mail Lizzy at rokcgaiacommunity.org, find her in person, or just join them!

Games Night (4/18, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): 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 the Barn Chapel or downstairs in the Jefferson room, depending on weather and/or what games are available.

EarthFest (4/19, 10 AM – 2 PM, Shawnee Mission Park): Earth Day is a big deal for our community; please help volunteer, or just show up, at the park (7900 Renner Rd.), where we will be sharing booth space and conducting a seed-planting activity in partnership with Heartland Spiritual Alliance. All ages are welcome! Linda Boyce is helping coordinate this event: linda@gaiacommunity.org.

Friday Night Supper Club (4/25, 7 PM): April's supper club location has not been decided; watch the weekly announcements or the website for more details. Contact Linda in person or at fnsc@gaiacommunity.org if you have a suggestion!

Board of Trustees 07-08

President — Lizzy Ticer

president@gaiacommunity.org

or 913-636-4924

Vice-President — Terry Ross

vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org

or 816-503-8156

Treasurer — Nola Cavanaugh

treasurer@gaiacommunity.org

or 816-503-8156

Secretary — Jennifer Gadd

secretary@gaiacommunity.org

or 913-299-4587

Members at Large —

Via Baker

viator753@hailmail.net

or 913-548-9463

Yale Giffin

niveustigris@hotmail.com

or 816-797-8032

Greta Erhardt

816-822-2070 or

greta@gaiacommunity.org

... or contact them all at

board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Celebrating birthdays this month are both members and friends, including Devin on the 10th, Kat Menges on the 12th, Eric on the 13th, Fiona on the 16th, Maggie on the 19th, Rowan on the 20th, and Katherine on the 29th. Let Caring Committee know of any others that we're missing, and congratulations and blessings to all those folks for another trip around the sun!

In addition, our thoughts go to all of those who are moving, changing jobs, or experiencing difficulties in health or well-being.

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



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

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

Sunday, April 6th

Truth (movie viewing)

Class — *Transgender Identity*

Facilitator: Kimberly

While this class had already taken place by the time this newsletter went to print, you can learn more from Donna Ross, our presenter, by visiting her blog at <http://chrysalismission.blogspot.com/> or through the work she does with <http://kcavp.org>, the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project.

Facilitator: Andrew

This week, we'll be viewing the award-winning 2006 documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, and discussing global climate change and related topics. Join us for a energetic, but hopefully not too 'heated', debate.

- *Ritual Teams*

Sunday, April 13th

Ritual — Going With The Flow (*Elements of Ecstasy series*)

Ritualists: Jacki, Lizzy, Yale, and Amanda

The first in an arc called "Elements of Ecstasy", this ritual will look at the idea of Life as a River. Do you know where you're going? Do you even want to know? What are your goals? Are you fighting the river, or letting it take you downstream?

Sunday, April 20th

Ritual — The Cauldron of Abundance

Ritualists: Barbara, Linda, and Kitty, w/Nola

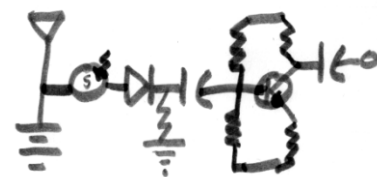
We will draw into ourselves the abundance of the Universe, enjoy the hospitality of the Irish hearth, and drink from the ever-full cauldron of The Dagda. We will open ourselves to abundance in health and energy, abundance in relationships and community, abundance in ideas and inspiration, and abundance of money, land, and material goods. Abundance flowing in, abundance flowing out. To help get the flow started, please bring a generous donation of non-perishable food items for Harvesters Food Bank.

Sunday, April 27th

Forum — *An Inconvenient*

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

- May 4th - SABBAT: Beltane!
- May 11th - Class: Alternative Families (*Mother's Day/Welc. Cong. series*)
- May 18th - Ritual: Blowing Your Mind (*Elements of Ecstasy series*)
- May 25th - Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (*Memorial Day weekend*)



Currently Active Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Amanda Pence
Barbara	David Reynolds
Devin Scrogum	Eric Simpson
Erin Truitt	Jacki Kelley
Jeff Park	Kimberly
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Via Baker
Yale Giffin	

Please see Debbie Dozier, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams, or a newly trained ritualist looking to join for the first time..

News from KidSpace

KidSpace just finished a study of UU principles and the Cornerstones used at Gaia Community. We also learned our closing blessing by heart. Now that the young people have an understanding of where we are coming from, we hope to give them an understanding of where other people are coming from.

Now we are studying Judaism for the next few weeks: April 13, we will celebrate/study Purim, April 27, we will be celebrating/studying Passover. May 4, we will look at Rosh Ha-Shanah. Each week the children will be learning other Jewish info/culture as well as the Holiday topic.

The Teens are also doing their studies. April 13, they will look at ritual structure at Gaia, and in other congregations and faiths. They will be upstairs with the adults to view "An Inconvenient Truth" and discuss global warming on April 27. The Teens will start their study of Judaism on May 4 with the creation tale, followed May 11 with an exploration of Jewish key stories and lore.

On April 20, all levels of KidSpace from Shoots to Trees will be creating candles for the Spring Bazaar, as well as simple bookmarks and other items. Please bring empty milk cartons, potato chip cannisters, and yogurt containers on this date to be used as candle molds.

April 19 is Earth Day at Shawnee Mission Park. We will be sharing a space with HSA and helping do a craft, painting and then filling planters made from egg cartons. We invite everybody to come visit and volunteer.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Linda Boyce (Acting KidSpace Coordinator) at 913-385-7743 or linda@gaiacommunity.org, or to Amanda, the KidSpace Committee Chair, at stregalunae@yahoo.com. We are looking for people who would like to help with our young people either teaching or providing a snack and juice, which we do because of the time that Gaia Community meets.

We are also looking for Cookie God(dess)es to provide cookies/baked goods for donations after ritual weekly. The donations help support all aspects of KidSpace.

- KidSpace Committee

...and what's hangin' with Twigs~n~Berries (the Men's Covenant Group)

The latest gathering was at Brian's on March 22, and was again a great time for those who attended. The subject matter for our evening's discussion centered on life thresholds and how we approach them, encounter them, and pass over them. These thoughts forked out to other side discussion of "leaps of faith" and "stepping over the edge of the cliff with no net". We also discussed what we, as a group, want to do and accomplish. . . still working on these, and items for discussion are on-line at our yahoo group page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twigsberries/>

A few moments from the gathering: "I've never seen flame shoot so high out of a chimenea"; "You know, to some, campfire smoke is an aphrodisiac."

We have set some dates for future gatherings and they are:

- April 12, 6:30 P.M. at Jeff's with the subject matter dealing with the upcoming holiday of Beltaine.
- May 10th will be our first official camp-out with a Vision Quest. We're hoping to be at Camp Gaea.
- June 21st our second camp-out with a Sweat Lodge ritual of purification,
- ...and July 19th as yet to be determined. Save the dates!

We are an open and diverse group and welcome all who seek to understand the world through the study of male mysteries within a nature-based spiritual context. If you've been thinking of joining our group, go to the yahoo page mentioned above and read the covenant. By requesting to join the group, you agree with the whole covenant and will abide by its terms. For those unable to use the internet, see me at Gaia and I'll get you a copy to peruse.

TTFN,

-Jeff Park

Twig organizer and Berry gatherer

Candidate Statements

April is our annual election of the Board of Trustees and other positions. Here are statements from some of the candidates, so you can get to know them a bit better, if you don't already.

For those of you who don't know, my name is Lizzy Ticer. I am the current President of Gaia Community.

I struggled about putting my name in the ring again. I have been president for this past year; the VP the year before. I have previously been a member at large and am about to step back for a bit from Ritual Teams after four years.

One of the main reasons I decided to run this year is that I wanted some continuity with the Board. We have some significant turnover this year and I did not want the Community to have too little experience on the Board.

I look for 08-09 to be a year of change. I hope to foster change for the better, not necessarily change for the sake of change.

Thank you all for your support in helping keep Gaia going and growing.

Peace.

Lizzy Ticer

My name is Lizzy Ticer and I approve this message.

Hello, my name is Linda Boyce.

I have been a member of Gaia Community since about 2001, when the Community was still at All Souls. I am currently a Ritualist and the Acting Kidspace Coordinator. I am excited to be asked to serve Gaia in an official capacity.

As Vice President, I believe I can do a good job as community ombudsman and have the organizational skills to lead the necessary meetings.

I welcome any questions regarding myself or the position, either through the e-group or at lboyce@mindspring.com.

I can be reached by phone at 913-385-7743.

Thank you,

Linda Lee Boyce

I'm running for Secretary for the coming year at Gaia Community; some of you may remember I was the Treasurer some years ago, so I have some experience with board proceedings. I'm also currently the Communications

Chairperson, Webmaster, and E-list Moderator, so it adds very few 'actual duties' to my workload, something I can appreciate.

Two of my primary goals, if elected to the board, are to get our Policies and Procedures, i.e. the "How We Get Things Done at Gaia" manual mentioned in our bylaws (Article XIV, <http://gaiacommunity.org/bylaws.html#14b>) actually written, and on a related note work on some of our institutional inefficiencies. Some things take much too long, partly because we lose knowledge every time someone drops an assignment or committee chairship.

I believe I can commit to being the Board Secretary for several years, having had a break from the board for a while.

David

Hello, all. I am running for Trustee-at-Large. As an active member in Gaia Community, I am always looking for ways to serve the members of our growing community. A duty of Trustees-at-Large is to "keep abreast of the business and programs of the Community" which is something I do without currently being a member of the Board. I frequently attend Rituals for Business, so I am confident I can fulfill my duties as a Trustee-At-Large.

-- Erin Truitt

Hi, all.

I've been a member of Gaia Community for about four years. I've also been a ritualist since the summer of 2004. Those of you who joined within the last year probably don't know me as well, because I was out of the country studying for the 2006-7 school year, but I maintained my membership in Gaia and my connection with the community through the wonder of the internet while I was away.

I am currently serving as a member of the board, fulfilling the last few months of the term of an at-large board member who needed to step down. I am also the co-chair of the stewardship committee, and have been particularly involved in the volunteer and logistics aspects of the Winter (and now Spring) Bazaar. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving GC as a member-at-large elected in my own right.

My name is Via, and I endorse this message (*well, of course I do -- I wrote it.*)

Hello, I'm Kitty Degler and I'm running for a spot on the Nominating Committee. Why am I running? To put it succinctly, Jeff Park asked me, and I thought I could find time to do a reasonable job. It has been a few years since I've served Gaia Community in an official capacity outside of being a ritualist, teaching the teens occasionally and leading Voices of Gaia. The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding people to fill or run for open spots on the Board of Directors, including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as next year's Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may also be asked to find people to serve as committee chairpersons. If elected I will work with the other members of the committee to choose wisely those people who wish to serve the community.

Kitty Degler

This is from Greta Erhardt/formerly Rowland:

I have been serving as a member at large having filled the position previously left open from Devin (I think). I am honored that you have already allowed me this position, and am willing to continue to serve in this capacity.

I have been attending Gaia Community since the third time it met, however only joined as a "Member" a few years ago. I have a difficult time with being a joiner, but have always been committed to Gaia Community, and most importantly with having a safe, nurturing place for people of all ages to grow spiritually.

I am frequently not upstairs, as I am active with the Kidspace Committee and often am downstairs instead.

My world has turned rather topsy turvy lately, so I have not been as active as I had hoped, but will once again offer to serve as much as my work schedule will allow to focus on inclusion issues, spiritual welcoming to those of all levels, and in general, to keep the "community" part of our name uppermost. . . .so to speak.

If there are any questions or complaints, please feel free to respond, my personal email address being greta@onebox.com



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 24th 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 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: We Could Be Heroes	31	1 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	2	3	4	5 9 AM: Blue River Rescue @ Lakeside Nature Center
6 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class on Transgender Identity (Welcoming Congregation)	7	8 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	9	10	11	12 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH 6:30 PM: Twigs-n-Berries @ Jeff's
13 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Going With The Flow (Elements of Ecstasy)	14	15 7 PM: Religions of Kansas City Study Group @ SMUUCH	16	17	18 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	19 10 AM – 2 PM: EarthFest @ Shawnee Mission Park
20 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: The Cauldron of Abundance	21	22	23	24	25 7 PM: Supper Club @ TBD	26 10:30 AM – 7 PM: SPRING BAZAAR @ Center High School
27 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Movie/Forum: An Inconvenient Truth	28 Beltaine	29	30	1 Beltaine	2	3 1 PM: Sacred Crafting Group @ Debbie's