



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

## Elections Around the Corner

The Nominating Committee has an exciting and vibrant ballot shaping up this year; while additional names may be added before the April 11<sup>th</sup> election, this is what we know so far:

- x President: Linda Boyce or Erin Truitt
- x Vice-President: Amanda Pence, Linda Boyce, or Erin Truitt
- x Secretary: David Reynolds
- x Treasurer: John Boyce
- x At-Large: Kit Peters or Kate Miller (*only needed if Erin becomes an officer, otherwise she will complete her two-year term*)
- x Nominating Committee (3): Jamie Peters, Lizzy Ticer, Amanda Pence (*if not elected as Vice-President*)
- x General Assembly delegates (2): Kit Peters, ?

Candidate statements and an absentee ballot are on page 4.

*- Nominating Committee*

## Pledge Drive Continues

Just a quick note; the Stewardship Committee has begun the annual pledge drive (or commitment drive, if you prefer) with last month's Cottage Meetings and is collecting pledge cards from people. Please see Via on Sundays or contact her (see page 2 for her information) to get a pledge card if you have not already; Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> is when they would like to have all pledges in. Pledge information from Members and Friends of Gaia is crucial for Stewardship & Finance in order to finalize the budget which will be proposed at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Ritual for Business.

*- Stewardship Committee*

## Penny Auction 2009

Nominees for the 2009 God Auction are now being narrowed down to the "final four" by the process we call our Penny Auction. Any denomination of American coin is acceptable, actually, but your bills and checks will have to be returned. Weekly results will be tallied at each Sunday ritual and online at <http://gaiacommunity.org/pennyauktion>, but the last week to make your preferences known will be our May 3<sup>rd</sup> Beltane ritual!

The God Auction will take place on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

*- Ritual Teams*

## Environmentalism in April

Earth Day is strangely late this year (well, the big EarthFest celebration here in KC is, anyway), but we're not letting that stop us! Gaia Community already has two events planned for the month, and may add more if we think of anything:

- ➔ Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 4 PM: Each year, Gaia Community adults and kids get into the muck, leaves, mud and detritus and help clean up the Blue River as part of Lakeside Nature Center's **Project Blue River Rescue**. Because of a delay in publication of this month's Earth Healer, this event has already taken place.
- ➔ Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, we're planning on initiating our own cleanup of a stream along Paseo, down the road from Greta's house at 1175 E. 65th Street. We'll start fairly early in the morning, around 9AM, and then go until either the stream looks finished (it's fairly short, between about 64<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup>) or we run out of fuel. If that happens, we may break for lunch and come back to finish the job! We're also hoping to get some of the neighbors involved. Wear your grubby clothes, of course, and remember sunblock and bug spray.

*- Social Justice Committee*

## Bylaws Change Proposed

At March's Ritual for Business (see page 7), a change of process was proposed for how we make decisions at Gaia Community. Via, Devin, Amanda, and Erin have worked up a proposal for a process that would start with consensus seeking and then move to a supermajority ballot if consensus appeared impossible. Because changing our decision-making process requires a bylaws change, 10% of the membership has requested that the April 11<sup>th</sup> Ritual for Business be a Special Ritual for Business for that purpose. Details of the proposal can be found on page 5 of this newsletter, on the GaiaUU mailing list, at the Greeter's Table on Sunday, and soon on the website as well.

*- David, Secretary*

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.

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## Gaia About Town

**Voices of Gaia** (almost every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia is Gaia Community's choir. We sing pagan chants and songs, usually with harmony parts, for rituals and other events. We meet Sundays from 2-3:30 p.m. downstairs at SMUUCH. We are once again welcoming singers of all voice parts, though the majority of our core group is currently female. Our primary requirement is that you can match pitch, though some familiarity with reading music is useful. If you have questions, please contact Kitty Degler at [voicesofgaia@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:voicesofgaia@gaiacommunity.org) or in person.

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (4/2, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Kimberly, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, in person or at [rtc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:rtc@gaiacommunity.org) if you have questions. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest let a ritualist (they have blue ribbons on their nametags) know!

**Craft Circle** (4/4, 1-5 PM, at Kimberly and David's house): There is a strong possibility that Craft Circle will be cancelled or rescheduled this month due to the Blue River Rescue event going on the same day and time. Please check the website or call ahead if you are interested.

**Ritual for Business** (4/11, 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 a board member, as shown to the right. This month is elections, as well as a Special Ritual for Business to consider changing our decision-making process.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (4/14, 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](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org) or find him in person. The committee will be working on the ongoing environmental activism project.

**Stewardship Committee:** Stewardship does not have a scheduled meeting for April. Get in touch with Via by email at [stewardship@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:stewardship@gaiacommunity.org) or in person if you'd like to be a part of this committee.

**Games Night** (4/17, 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.

**KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (4/20, 1 PM, at Dunn Brothers): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Rosemary (the Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) in person or at [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org) to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

**Friday Night Supper Club** (4/24, 7 PM): April's supper club will be at the Jazz, a Louisiana Cajun restaurant just east of State Line Road at 1823 W. 39<sup>th</sup> Street. Please let Linda know if you are coming this month, so she can reserve enough space for all. Vegetarian and kid-friendly items are available on their menu!

### Board of Trustees 08-09

**President** — Lizzy Ticer  
[president@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 913-636-4924

**Vice-President** — Linda Boyce  
[vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-419-9447

**Treasurer** — John Boyce  
[treasurer@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:treasurer@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-419-9448

**Secretary** — David Reynolds  
[secretary@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:secretary@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-508-9086

#### Members at Large —

Via Baker  
[viator753@hailmail.net](mailto:viator753@hailmail.net)  
or 913-548-9463

Erin Truitt  
[etisme@gmail.com](mailto:etisme@gmail.com)  
or 913-904-2459

Greta Erhardt  
816-822-2070 or  
[greta@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:greta@gaiacommunity.org)

... or contact them all at  
[board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org)!

## Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Devin on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Katie on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Eric on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Fiona on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Maggie on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Rowan and Justin on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Katherine on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Let the Caring Committee know of any others that we're missing, and congratulations and blessings to all those folks for another trip around the sun.

The Caring Committee is now chaired by Jacki Kelley; please let her know of concerns or blessings you wish to share with the community, or if you have ideas for how to make this committee a more vibrant part of our community. Leave a message on our answering machine at 816-931-9900 or by e-mail at [caring@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org).



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

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

### **Sunday, Apr. 5th**

#### **Ritual — The Fisher King**

*Ritualists: Kimberly, Kitty, David, Barbara, and the Excellence in Ritual interns*

In many versions of the Grail myth, the Fisher King has possession of the Grail but it is hidden from general view. This ritual will explore the implications of both the Fisher King's wound and Perceval's inability to recognize and complete his quest when presented with the opportunity. As with the March rituals, children will start the afternoon in ritual space but will shortly be sung out to the Kidspace program.

### **Sunday, Apr. 12th**

#### **Ritual — The Pentacles (*Tarot arc, Pledge Sunday*)**

*Ritualists: Jeff, Jacki, Kimberly, David*

Continuing our exploration of the Tarot's minor arcana, this ritual introduces the suit of Pentacles. The Pentacles are all about material things, and our relationship to wealth, prosperity, and the physical "stuff" of the world. In this ritual, we will have an opportunity to investigate our relationship to the earth energies of this suit, and transform that relationship if necessary. This ritual will also serve as Gaia's Pledge Sunday, the end of the annual pledge drive, so if you have not yet filled out a pledge card for 2009-2010, you will have an opportunity to do so.

### **Sunday, Apr. 19th**

#### **Class — Voluntary Simplicity**

*Facilitators: Linda, Eric and Cheryl*

Voluntary Simplicity is a way of making lifestyle choices that include not just physical, but spiritual and emotional options that can simplify your life and make your footprint on the Earth smaller. Take a look at what may be 'stuffocating' your life. We will discuss some of the available choices and ways to implement them. Voluntary Simplicity can be introduced into any lifestyle, at any point. Join us as we learn to "live simply that others may simply live."

### **Sunday, Apr. 26th**

#### **Ritual by the *Excellence in Ritual* student-interns**

*Ritualists: Aubry, James, Jamie, Kelley, and Mary*

Each year at the culmination of the *Excellence in Ritual* training course, the students put on one of our Sunday rituals with no outside assistance! This year's team is still preparing the ritual, so watch the announcements and website for more details as the date draws closer.

*- Ritual Teams*

#### ***A Look Ahead to Next Month...***

**May 3rd** - High Holiday: Beltane (*w/po tluck after*)

**May 10th** - Ritual: Sing to the Lady (*Mother's Day*)

**May 17th** - Class on Storytelling

**May 24th** - Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (*Memorial Day*)

**May 31st** - Ritual: The Castle Yesod

#### **Currently Active Ritualists**

Barbara	Cheryl Russell
David Reynolds	Devin S.
Eric Simpson	Erin Truitt
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kit Peters
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Paul Gorbass

*Please see Kimberly, 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.*

## 2009 Election Ballot

What follows is the official absentee ballot for our 2009 election for the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and General Assembly delegates. If you can be present at the April 11<sup>th</sup> Ritual for Business for the actual election, we strongly recommend doing so, as you may have noticed that the ballot is complex this year. Nominations from the floor will be accepted on the 11<sup>th</sup>, as always.

### President (choose one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Linda Boyce

\_\_\_\_\_ Erin Truitt

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vice-President (choose one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Linda Boyce

\_\_\_\_\_ Amanda Pence

\_\_\_\_\_ Erin Truitt

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Secretary (choose one)

\_\_\_\_\_ David Reynolds

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Treasurer (choose one)

\_\_\_\_\_ John Boyce

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Trustee-at-Large (choose one as an alternate to complete Erin Truitt's two-year term, if she is elected as an officer)

\_\_\_\_\_ Kate Miller

\_\_\_\_\_ Kit Peters

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominating Committee (choose three; if Amanda Pence is elected as an officer another nominee will have to be found)

\_\_\_\_\_ Amanda Pence

\_\_\_\_\_ Jamie Peters

\_\_\_\_\_ Lizzy Ticer

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

### General Assembly delegates (choose two)

\_\_\_\_\_ Kit Peters

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to a member of the Nominating Committee (Devin, Jacki, or Kitty) no later than the morning of the April 11<sup>th</sup> election; signed ballots can also be mailed to our P.O. Box.

## Candidate Statements

(these are arranged alphabetically by last name)

**John Boyce:** "I'm John Boyce and I've been a member since 2000. One of the things preventing Gaia Community from growing to its full potential is the financial foundation we have, and one of the reasons that has occurred is because of the rapid turnovers of Treasurers. I started in this position in December; December 29 to be exact. I have the Community caught up from five months of back deposits, pledge records are caught up, and tax letters went out.

Now my goal, should I be allowed to continue as Treasurer, is to establish a firm record keeping system that allows us to show a strong financial background, with supporting documentation so we can provide proof of financial responsibility to outside parties for such things as grants or building loans, when that time comes.

Thank you for your confidence."

**Linda Boyce:** "I am Linda Boyce and I have been a member of Gaia Community since about 2000. I would like to serve the Community as President in the coming year. I am currently serving as Vice President. I regularly attend/host Friday Night Supper Club--an excellent venue speaking to people regarding the Community in an informal setting. I am also currently a Ritualist and Kidspace Coordinator. I serve currently on the Site, Kidspace, and Finance committees.

We need, as a Community, I believe, to use the coming year as a year to lay strong foundations, financial, membership, and in programing. We have started on these foundations already. KidSpace has become a vital growing part of our community. Site Committee has been redefined and is creating a vision of a New Home, a home of our own, that we can strive for. Finance is gathering information and also keeping the Community informed about what the Community can/can not afford at the current time. We have been designated a Welcoming Congregation; now we need to be a truly welcoming group and help our guests become members and let the people outside our Community know we are here and available.

I am looking forward to being part of the dynamic process as the Community's President.

If the Community would prefer to have me continue to serve as Vice President, I will happily do so. I am currently serving in that capacity, as well as being KidSpace Coordinator and on two other committees, as well. I look forward to continuing to serve the Community in an official capacity."

**Amanda Pence:** "I've been a member of Gaia Community for a little over two years, and have been a member of many committees including KidSpace, Site, and others. I feel called to help the community in any way I can, whether as a ritualist, a concerned parent, or simply by being there. I weigh both sides of any issue, consider all view points, and help to create solutions that give the most to the most number of people and that hopefully all can live with. I'll make no promises but this, I will do my best. I would be greatly honored to be able to serve the community in this capacity."

**Erin Truitt:** "Hello, I am Erin Truitt and running for president of Gaia Community. Before I list my qualifications, I would like to say that I believe in Gaia Community. Believing in a community means believing in the people of the community. We have disagreements, and through our consensus process, we work through them. It is a beautiful sight to witness the consensus process when it works. It can also be a harrowing process and is flawed, but one beautiful thing about this community is our inability to flow with what doesn't work. A proposal to amend the consensus process is on the agenda for April's RfB.

I will attend the upcoming RfB, as I have attended the majority of them for the past three years. For the past year, I have been a Member-at-Large working to make voices and concerns of fellow members heard. Before being on the board, I was and continue to be a full active ritualist. I am pleased to serve the community in any capacity needed.

Past elections have often been without choice for candidates. By putting in my bid for President, I am pleased to provide variety for the elections this year. Leadership in our wonderful community should not be seen as a burden to shoulder, positions that people need to be begged into. The Board does nothing without the community anyway; those who show up truly rule the Gaia universe. If I am elected President, I look forward to working with all the people of the community."

## Decision-Making Process Change Proposed

As mentioned on the cover page, there is a proposal set forth to change the way Gaia Community makes its decisions. Currently the community makes decisions in its monthly Rituals for Business and most other committees by consensus, as mandated in our bylaws in Article V and described in detail at <http://gaiacommunity.org/consensus>. This proposal requires a two-stage change: an amendment to our bylaws, and a new process to be put in place.

1. The change to our bylaws is very brief: it would amend the first sentence of the second paragraph of Article V, Section A from “*Decisions of the Committee of the Whole shall be made by consensus, except where otherwise stated in these bylaws.*” to “*Decisions of the Committee of the Whole shall be made using a blended consensus/supermajority model, except where otherwise stated in these bylaws.*”

2. The procedural changes that accompany this are more complicated: what follows is the proposed process, as compared to the current process, with new material underlined and bolded, and removed material struck out.

1. At or before the beginning of the meeting, all roles should be assigned if they have not already. *Vibes Watcher in particular should face no objections from the group.*
2. Facilitator then posts a full agenda of all items for consideration, including any time constraints.
  - A. Ask if clarifications are needed on agenda or timeframe.
  - B. Call for consensus on agenda.
  - C. If there are concerns, collect them, address them, and call for consensus again. If one or a few people are confused or have questions of a clarifying nature (not objections), ask if they will go with the Doorkeeper to have it explained individually, without disrupting the timeline.
3. If it has not already been done, Facilitator or Recorder should provide the (first) proposal to the group in writing.
  - A. Ask if clarifications are needed. Recorder should document any clarifications that are not explicitly answered in the text.
  - B. Call for consensus on the proposal as it is now written publicly: "Are there any concerns or objections?"
  - C. Recorder documents all concerns and objections publicly (may need help). Now is not the time to try to offer solutions!
  - D. Facilitator will attempt to group similar or functionally overlapping problems, asking those who brought them up if this is acceptable.
  - E. Address the first problem/type of problem as a group.
    - a. Solutions may now be proposed, or clarifications offered.
    - b. One person speaks at a time, except (if needed) facilitator or vibes watcher.
    - c. The problem is now before the group, and does not belong to one person.
    - d. If solved to everyone's satisfaction, move on to next problem. Remember to record any agreed-upon changes to the proposal that were needed for resolution!
    - e. **If it cannot be solved to everyone's satisfaction, set aside and move on to the next problem/type of problem.**
  - F. If all objections have been addressed, call for consensus again as in 3B.
    - a. Some persons may wish to stand aside; record any outstanding concerns with the final accepted proposal.
    - b. **All proposals which have been consented upon must be published by the Secretary as soon as reasonable after a meeting**
      - i) **notification should be both electronic and in printed form available at Sunday programming.**
      - ii) **Any full active member who was not present at the meeting may stand aside or register a block of a proposal by notifying the Secretary**
        - 1 **The Secretary must be notified within one week from the date of publication of RFB minutes**
        - 2 **The Secretary must receive a written statement of the concern or objection which leads to a block**
- G. **If a member or members blocks, the blocking member(s) must either:**
  - a. **resolve their objections within the current meeting, or**
  - b. **stand aside, or**
  - c. **appeal to the CoW to refer the proposal back to a working group (including people who objected), or**
  - d. **undertake the following steps:**
    - i) **organize a series of meetings to think through the issues and mutually develop a new proposal that addresses the same problem**
      - 1 **the objector must attend every meeting**
      - 2 **the meetings must take place within one month**

- 3 **each meeting should have 2-4 members present in addition to the objector**
- 4 **in the course of these meetings the objector must meet with at least 20% of the full active membership**
- ii) **If the objector is able to develop a mutually agreed upon proposal, s/he presents it at the next Ritual for Business and it is then taken up by the COW as a new proposal**
- iii) **If the objector is not able to develop a mutually agreed upon proposal, then the proposal as it stood at the end of the last meeting is taken up for supermajority vote**
  - 1 **If 75% of the participating vote approves the proposal it passes**
    - a **Full active members may vote by:**
      - **private ballot at the RFB**
      - **absentee ballot to be counted with those collected at RFB**
        - **absentee ballots must be cast within one (1) week after the minutes of the RFB are posted by the Secretary**
        - **Ballots must be contained in a signed, sealed envelope to be delivered to the Secretary**
    - b **Only full active members may vote**
  - 2 **If 26% of the participating vote (as defined above) does not ratify the proposal, it fails**
- iv) **If the objector does not either attend, or appoint an advocate to attend in their stead, the following RFB or present a new proposal, then the proposal as it stood at the end of the last meeting is then considered consented upon and the objector is considered to have stood aside with their objections recorded**

- H. (was G) If there are unresolved objections and time/energy is flagging, three options exist:
- a. Meet again at a future date to try to resolve remaining problems.
  - b. Refer proposal back to a working group (including people who objected).
  - c. Address the nature of any blocks as a group.
    - i) This may be a good place to utilize the advocate, to help the blocker articulate themselves.
    - ~~ii) If it addresses the values/goals of the community and cannot be resolved, there is no consensus.~~
    - iii) If the group feels it is individually based or unrelated to the group's values/needs/goals, that person may be asked to stand aside. Consensus must record the remaining objection/concern.
    - iv) If more than one person remains as a blocker with independent concerns, use options A, B, **or G** instead.

Problems this proposal addresses:

- “tyranny of the minority”
- deterrent to frivolous blocking
- gives chance for the community to not be stymied by one or two members when the rest enthusiastically support a proposal
- rule of the default – only choice if you don't agree with status quo is to leave the community
  - keeps members who are frustrated with stagnation involved
- favors those who can attend Saturday morning meetings (those with work, etc can send thoughts, but can't participate in consensus)
  - Those with unavoidable Saturday conflicts can still block if they feel it is necessary
- blocker bears no responsibility for helping to create a consensus solution
  - blocker bears some responsibility for creating a solution to the problem with the proposal
- Premature Proposal Death (death of proposal from the mere mention that someone may block)
  - a block does not guarantee the death of a proposal

There are two meetings scheduled for discussing these changes: Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-4PM at SMUUCH before ritual, and Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 7PM at Via's place of residence, 1306 E. 118<sup>th</sup> Street in southern KCMO. The Special Ritual for Business to make these changes was requested by 10% of our membership at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Ritual for Business, and is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> during our normally scheduled Ritual for Business time. Per our bylaws, changes require two-thirds approval of those in attendance (this is one of those “except where otherwise stated” situations).

Any and all questions should be directed to Via, Devin, Erin, or Amanda, or brought to one of those meetings listed above.

## *KidSpace Updates*

During the month of March, our KidSpace youths above nursery age started their class time upstairs and then were sung out of the ritual space by the adults. This will continue in April as the community evaluates how this process is working; if you have thoughts, please communicate them to Linda or Rosemary. It will likely be re-evaluated at the April KidSpace meeting and possibly brought to the May Ritual for Business.

### *LYRICS FOR SINGING THE CHILDREN OUT:*

*Go Now In Peace,*

*Go Now In Peace,*

*May the Spirit of Love Surround You*

*Everywhere, Everywhere You May Go (repeats)*

Another class, the Shoots--our preschool and lower elementary ages, was created due to the growing size of the program. The Shoots started learning about the directions/elements. They will continue that through the months of April and May. They will also be introduced to basic KidSpace ritual format.

The Saplings, our older students up to preteen, will be continuing their Buddhist experiences. We are trying to get a local lama to come speak to them. They will continue to work with the skills they have learned so far. Due to weather, a trip to see Buddhist monks after ritual was canceled.

Our oldest class, the Trees, have started a unit on the Knights Templar. April 5<sup>th</sup> they will cover the basic history, both real and mythic, of the organization. On April 12<sup>th</sup> they will look at the rise and fall of the organization as it became enmeshed in religious and secular politics. April 19<sup>th</sup> will be a closer look at the charges laid against the Knights, Jacques deMolay, the Masons and the Rosslyn Chapel. Most history gets a bit dodgy when closely scrutinized, and this is dodginess at some of its best!

April 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Social Justice Sunday,

looking at the life and times of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Black Panther. Award-winning journalist. Radical. Champion of lost causes. Social revolutionary. Family man. Cop-killing murderer? On December 9, 1981, he was sentenced to die by lethal injection. Some say it was only because of a corrupt police force and a racist judge; others say he is a cold-blooded killer, and has to pay for his crimes. Regardless, the struggle over his life rages on. This Sunday we will review some of the man's life and the charges against him and his trial; we will discuss what different people think justice might truly demand, and why.

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**New Faces:** Thank you to Liz Ticer for being a Guest Teacher in March! Thank you to Erin Truitt for donating snacks to Kidspace!

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**Committee Meeting:** The Kidspace Committee met on March 15 at Dunn's Coffee. Linda and Rosemary were in attendance. The next meeting is April 19 at 1pm at Dunn's. Please address questions or concerns to Linda Boyce (the KidSpace Coordinator) or Rosemary Harris (the Committee Chair) either in person or through [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org).

– *KidSpace Committee*

## Ritual for Business Minutes for March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Started at 9:45 AM

In attendance: David R, Kimberly, John B, Devin, Erin, Amanda, Kit, Greta, Kate

- I. **Roles** - Lizzy will be facilitator, David as recordkeeper and parliamentarian, Amanda as Vibes Watcher, Kimberly as Advocate, Devin as Doorkeeper. Approved.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** – approved
- III. **Minutes** – approved, with the addition of Devin to those in attendance.
- IV. **Committee Reports**
  1. **Finance** – main account 7708 has \$13,827.46 on 2/28, deposits and payments out bring us to \$9,490.32. Account 6841 (KidSpace) was \$1894.03 on 2/28, now at \$1922.98. Account 1374 (New Home CD) was rolled into the New Home Savings Account; after that, it is now \$23,979.82.  
Pledge status: \$29,161 pledged (including members joined since the fiscal year began), approx. \$11,744 so far this year. Shortfall for this quarter is approximately \$10,126; we are technically getting into the fourth quarter now. He also sent out pledge letter updates and has been getting information/feedback back
  2. **Ritual Teams** – accepting nominations for the Penny Auction until the end of tomorrow; we have 12 nominees so far.
  3. **KidSpace** – report submitted in writing. They made a \$40 donation to the Maddie Rhodes Center on behalf of a guest speaker who came to ours. They have broken out into four classes again based on attendance and age-breaks previously set and expected.
  4. **Membership** – having a meeting tomorrow after ritual, partly to work on process.
    1. **Library** – Many books were found in the Closet Cleanup. The community now owns 113 titles itself, which has exceeded the storage capacity of the Librarian.
  5. **Communications** – EH went out on 2/27 (for March) this month; thank you to all those who made their submissions on time. Communications Committee will have a formal meeting soon after Spring Equinox, but the date is not firmed up yet.
  6. **Site/Lease** – SMUUCH is trying to get Lease negotiations started early this year, because their employee. The Site Committee has had two meetings since the last RFB; they addressed what it means to be a member of Site Committee, coming up with realistic expectations of a place to move to, etc. They have decided on a modified consensus process for the committee. They are going to continue to pursue new property acquisition. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>.
  7. **Welcoming** – continues to meet with the KC Coalition for Welcoming Ministries; our committee has not met lately, but the material has been incorporated into EIR.
  8. **Caring** – chair was not in attendance; no report.
  9. **Stewardship** – they are organizing our annual commitment drive

(the UUA doesn't want them to be called Pledge Drives any more). We will be doing Cottage Meetings again this year; Mary will be providing a signup sheet for those imminently. John wanted to know if the UUA is still going to be increasing their Fair Share Congregation numbers; David thought they were freezing that. They also are getting ready to run a Garage Sale; a date is set but it's not in here.

10. **NomCom** – they are pursuing candidates for the April elections. They were also reminded to bring food of some sort to encourage people to attend that meeting.

11. **Social Justice** – they are doing an environmental push for the next two months; many events are coming our way. They only have three members right now, so any new members are welcome.

V. **Old Business** – none

VI. **New Business**

1. **Direction of Space Usage for 2009-2010 Lease** – SMUUCH wants to nail down our dates of use, rather than use the floating days model we've had the last couple years. We will still have the 12 4-hour blocks, but not the fully floating calendar of 80+. The Women's Circle needs to organize as a Covenant Group if they are going to use our calendar. Group consensated to Lizzy's list of specific groups/dates/requirements.
2. **Potential Change to Consensus Process** – Via, Devin, Erin, and Amanda have brought up some information regarding a potential change to our consensus process, possibly to change our bylaws in April to use this modified process. The information comes largely from a group in Oregon. David received five signatures for a Special Ritual for Business to amend our bylaws; April 11<sup>th</sup> will be the date for that meeting.
3. **Officiant for Devin & Erin's wedding** – They want to have Lizzy to officiate their wedding, and to use some of Gaia Community's time to hold their reception here at SMUUCH. Community agreed to both (reception will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>).
4. **Coalition for Welcoming Ministries membership** – we have been a member for about a year, and their new cycle of membership started in January. Group consensated to renew our membership, and to do so every year going forward.
5. **Pride Parade** – Gaia Community used to march in the Gay Pride Parade, and Kimberly wanted to know if we could do it again (they are not actually doing a parade because of changes to the parade permits in KCMO; they will do a "march"). She is in the process of gathering more information.
6. **PSD Delegates** – we need to submit names for our delegates by the end of March. Lizzy believes that they will take absentee ballots. Group consensated to submit Kit and Amanda as our delegates' names, with the understanding that they will only be able to physically go if they can be reimbursed, otherwise they will file absentee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10AM.

– *David, Secretary*

### *Agenda for the April 11<sup>th</sup> Special Ritual for Business:*

- *Elections for Board of Trustees, Delegates to General Assembly, and other positions*
- *Vote on whether to amend our bylaws to utilize a hybrid consensus/supermajority decision-making process (see page 5).*
- *Updates from the Site Committee and Lease negotiations*
- *Association Sunday – do we wish to apply for the moneys collected by the UUA this year?*
- *Pagan Pride Day 2009 – we have been requested to participate this year by doing a workshop or similar involvement*
- *Regular business (committee reports, etc.)*



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*– David, Editor*

APRIL 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Class on Sacred Geometries	2	3	1	2 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	3	4 8AM-4PM Project Blue River Rescue @ Lakeside Nature Center, 4701 E. 71 <sup>st</sup> St. in Swope Park 6-8PM: Craft Circle at Greta's
5 2-4PM: Meeting on Decision-Making Process Change @ SMUUCH 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Ritual: The Fisher King	6	7 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	8 2-4PM: Meeting on Decision-Making Process Change @ Via's	9	10	11 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
12 1 PM: KidSpace Meeting 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Ritual: The Pentacles (Tarot arc)	13	14	15	16	17 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	18 9AM-1PM Paseo Stream Cleanup @ Greta's, 1175 E. 65 <sup>th</sup> Street in KCMO
19 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Class on Voluntary Simplicity	20	21	22	23	24 7 PM: Supper Club @ Jazz, 1823 W. 39 <sup>th</sup> St., KCMO	25
26 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Ritual by the Excellence in Ritual interns	27	28	29	30	1	2 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly & David's