



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

APRIL 2010

PAGE 1

## Elections This Month!

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the community will hold its annual elections during the Ritual for Business (which starts at 9:30AM). More information on the ballot and positions open for this year are on pages 5 and 6.

- *Nominating Committee*

## Membership & Commitment Drive Begins This Month

It's time once again for our annual membership and commitment drive, which focuses on our community finances and membership, and how we can best keep Gaia going into 2011 and beyond.

The first step this year are our cottage meetings. These informal potluck dinners give us a chance to talk in small groups about how we relate to the community, how we support the work, how the community earns and spends its money, and so on. If you choose to attend one of the meetings, you will be able to make a pledge of financial support to Gaia for 2010-2011 at that time. If dinner and meetings to talk about the community doesn't seem like your thing, you will also have a chance to pick up a financial commitment card and make a commitment at the Sunday rituals in April.

If you are not going to be at ritual on the 4<sup>th</sup>, you can also sign up for a cottage meeting by emailing Gerri Lynn ([dragoniden@earthlink.net](mailto:dragoniden@earthlink.net)) and letting her know which of the currently scheduled meetings you'd like to come to. At this time, we have the following meetings scheduled:

- Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, at Jamie and Kit's place in Midtown KCMO.
- Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, at Amanda's place in Over. Park.
- Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm (before ritual!) at SMUUC (this will be more of coffee-and-snacks than a dinner meeting)
- Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, at Barbara's house in NKC.

Also on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM please join us for our Pledge Sunday ritual. At the ritual, you will have a chance to (among other things) renew your membership commitment to the community, or make a new commitment as a Member or a Friend. For more information on becoming a Member of Gaia Community, and the benefits of membership, see <http://www.gaiacommunity.org/joining>

- *Stewardship Committee*

## Caring for the Earth and our Earth Walkers

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, several Gaians will join those concerned about the environment from across the metropolitan area in walking to raise money for Bridging the Gap, as has happened several times in the past. This year we'll have a formal team that you can join or support, though! Go to <http://www.firstgiving.com/earthwalkkc> and search for "Team Gaia", or you can donate in person to Amanda, Andrew, Kitty, David, Kimberly, or others who may be joining the team in the coming week! If you're interested in walking, see Amanda or join us on the 11<sup>th</sup> between 8 and 10:00 AM (which is when the walk starts).

- *Social Justice/Green Sanctuary*

## Welcoming Allies Group Will Continue to Meet

The 'Welcoming' Allies Discussion Group, which met in February and March, will meet again in April, this time at Jen and Julie's house. The discussion will be fairly freeform within the LGBTQIAA spectrum, but we'd also like to get some 'work' done in the form of writing letters in support of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell or other discriminatory legislation of your choice. Contact Jen or Julie for directions.

## Revised Revision to Mission Covenant Statement

After discussion in February, those in attendance at the Trans Allies Discussion Group proposed a change of language to our Mission Covenant, updating the line about "*honor(ing) the divine as both feminine and masculine*". Since this will be the first time Gaia Community ever modifies its Mission Covenant, we have no set process to do so. The Committee of the Whole at the March Ritual for Business felt that it should be brought to two consecutive meetings for consensus, and consensed on a small change to the original proposal. So on April 10<sup>th</sup> (see page 7) we'll be discussing whether or not to consense on updating that line to "honor the Divine in all forms, manifestations, and genders". If you have an opinion on the matter, please attend the April Ritual for Business or contact Amanda, the community's Ombudsperson, at [vp@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:vp@gaiacommunity.org).

- *Committee of the Whole*

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 and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus.*

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (4/5, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Kit, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, at [rte@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:rte@gaiacommunity.org) or in person if you have questions or wish to provide feedback about how a Sunday service went. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest, let any ritualist know (they have blue ribbons on their nametags)!

**Storytelling Group** (4/9, 7 PM, at Andrew's): The Storytelling Group will meet this month at Andrew's new apartment (see address below, under Social Justice). For more information about the meeting, or if you're interested in what they'll be practicing and working on, get in touch with Andrew (in person or at [andrew@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:andrew@gaiacommunity.org)) or Amanda.

**Ritual for Business** (4/10, 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 or elections. 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 (see pages 5, 6, and 7) should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (4/13, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We will meet this month at Andrew's new apartment: 8334 W. 108th, Apt. E, Overland Park, KS. If you have questions about this committee, you can e-mail us at [sj@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org).

**Games Night** (4/16, 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.

**New Member Class** (4/18, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The next iteration of the New Member Class will be this Sunday before ritual; this session will focus on the History of the UUA and Gaia Community. Prospective members must take all three parts of the class and sign a pledge card. If you have questions, please contact Jamie in person or at [membership@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:membership@gaiacommunity.org).

**KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (4/18, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend. Get in touch with Kelley (the new Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) at [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org) or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda.

**Welcoming Allies Discussion** (4/20, 7 PM, at Jen and Julie's): This will be an open discussion in a similar vein to the Trans/Genderqueer discussions of recent months, but probably with an added component of political activism in the form of letter-writing. Bring your questions, ideas, writing hand, or just a willing ear; get in touch with Jen or Julie for the address or directions, if needed.

**Friday Night Supper Club** (4/23, 7PM) will be at Old Chicago Pizza; however which location was not available at print time. Check the weekly announcements in April for more information on whether it will be at the Metcalf or Olathe location. If you are attending and wish to RSVP, please contact Amanda in person or at [supperclub@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:supperclub@gaiacommunity.org).

### Board of Trustees 09-10

**President** — Erin Scrogum  
[president@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 913-904-2459

**Vice-President** — Amanda Pence  
[vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-694-2585

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

**Secretary** — Rosemary Harris  
[secretary@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:secretary@gaiacommunity.org)

**Members at Large** —

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

Linda Boyce  
[lboyce@mindspring.com](mailto:lboyce@mindspring.com)  
or 816-419-9447

Cynthia Cole  
[cynthia@cynthiaweb.net](mailto:cynthia@cynthiaweb.net)  
or 913-433-8038

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

## Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Jen on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Devin on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Eric on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Fiona on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and Rowan on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We're pretty sure that's not all so please 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 has a new chair; contact Leo if you're interested in what the committee will do next. If you have concerns or blessings you wish to share with the community, they can be sent to [caring@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org) and will be passed on.



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

*Voices of Gaia is on hiatus; Sacred Rhythms meets at 3:30 PM*

**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

### Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits *(Easter Weekend)*

**Facilitators: Kitty and David**

Sharing Our Spirits, or SOS, rituals are designed to be co-created by the very people who show up that day! One or two members of our ritual teams will be there to help, but all ideas, songs, intentions, and ritual styles are on the table! Please bring any ideas or ritual tools you wish to help make this day exactly what the people there will be looking for.

**Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

### Ritual — Pledge Sunday *(New Member Sunday)*

**Ritualists: Amanda, David, and Eric**

Each year, Gaia Community conducts a “Pledge Drive” to renew and solicit contributions from the congregation (both formal members and steadfast visitors) to assist with meeting our annual budget and achieving our dreams. More on the pledge drive can be found on page 1; however know that you are welcome at this ritual whether this is your first time attending or your hundredth. In addition, we may be welcoming new members to our community this week.

**Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

### Ritual — Hebraic Goddesses

**Ritualists: Kitty, Linda, and Aubry**

Poetry, dance, music, song, story -- follow the echoes of the Hebrew Goddesses to find their place in our lives.

**Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

### Class — Hiking and Wilderness Survival

**Facilitators: Amanda and Cheryl**

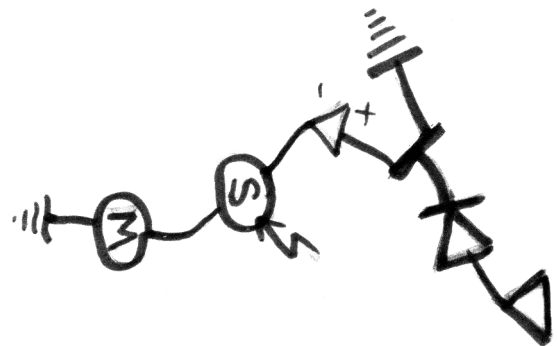
As part of our mission covenant's commitment to taking part in both urban and rural aspects of paganism, and to celebrate the healing power of nature, join us for a discussion and class on ways to improve your experiences of the wild. This interactive workshop will be fun for all those 12 and up! Whatever your experience or fitness level, we hope you'll join us and contribute both your ideas and your questions.

— *Ritual Teams*

#### Currently Active Ritualists

Amanda Pence	Aubry Gabbard
Barbara	Cheryl Stice
David Reynolds	Devin S.
Eric Simpson	Erin Scrogum
Jamie Peters	Jeff Park
Kit Peters	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	

*Please see Devin or Kit, the Ritual Teams Coordinators, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams, or a newly trained ritualist looking to join for the first time.*



#### *A Look Ahead...*

- May 2<sup>nd</sup> — High Holiday: Beltane *(w/potluck after)*
- May 9<sup>th</sup> — Workshop: Shamanic Soul Retrieval
- May 16<sup>th</sup> — Ritual on Gender Identity
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> — Forum on General Assembly Topics
- May 30<sup>th</sup> — Sharing Our Spirits Ritual  
*(Memorial Day)*

# KidSpace Information

We are pleased to announce we have a new Committee Head. We welcome Kelley Montford into her new position.

KidSpace, along with Gaia Community adults, participated in the Blue River Cleanup. Our students did a great job and a fine time was had by all. See the photos at the Greeter's Table!

A special thanks to Amanda for including the children in the Pysanky workshop. They enjoyed it so much.

All schedules, with the exception of trips, are subject to change. For example, I am trying to create an Earth Day special event and that may affect the schedule.

At one time there was a Gaia/KidSpace scrapbook. It was lost in the sands of time. A new one has been started. If you have photos of past events and would like to copy them and donate them that would be wonderful. There are some photos also in the office and they will gradually be added to said book. Linda ([lboyce@mindspring.com](mailto:lboyce@mindspring.com)) is currently working on this project so let her know if you have materials or photos to put in; the page size of the current album is 12 inches x 12 inches. Written comments that can be inserted are also welcome. The book is available for viewing at the Greeter's Table.

Thanks as always to our teachers and to those who volunteer their time and donations.

As always, please let the KidSpace Committee know of any needs or concerns. Kelley can be reached at [kelly\\_montford@hotmail.com](mailto:kelly_montford@hotmail.com) and Linda at [lboyce@mindspring.com](mailto:lboyce@mindspring.com).

## The KidSpace schedule for April:

- **April 4: Social Justice**--our students will be going across the street to South Lake park in order to continue our usual social justice project of cleaning up the park. Afterwards, time permitting, the students will get to do a special spring craft project involving seeds.
- **April 11: Fieldtrip to the Nelson Gallery.** EARLY LEAVING.\* In order for our students to be able to see the African gallery and return in time, we \*MUST \*leave at \*3:45PM.\* This is a free outing to see the African drums, masks and art we discussed and made versions of in our recent chapter. We are taking vans. Drivers of the vans will be reimbursed for the \$5 parking fee at the Nelson garage. We will return at about 5:30 and go downstairs for snacks and discussion. Children must have a permission signed if they are going. Permissions slips will be available that day.
- **April 18: Opening of the South American chapter.**
- **April 25: More about South America.**
- **May 2: Beltane--planned to be intergenerational**

## Trees schedule:

- **April 4 - Social Justice:** Trees class will be, weather permitting, aiding in the clean-up in the park across the way.
- **April 11 - Fieldtrip to the Nelson.**
- **April 18 - Yoga I:** We will begin our chapter on the yoga way, including an overview of the six arms of yoga, the eightfold path, and the six illusions of the body.
- **April 25 - Hiking and Wilderness Survival:** Trees class will be taking part in the class being taught upstairs, covering the art or science of hiking and surviving in the wild.
- **May 2 – Belthane:** Intergenerational potentialities for this rite are to be announced.

*- KidSpace Committee and Teachers*

## 2010 Election Information

Our annual election for the community will be on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM during the regularly scheduled Ritual for Business. All RfBs are held at SMUUCH, usually in the Jefferson/Franklin rooms downstairs (where KidSpace usually meets). Below you will find candidate statements from most of those standing for office or official positions with the community. If you have any questions about this process, please speak to Barbara, Jamie, or Lizzy.

### President:

*"We have had a rough fiscal year as have many churches in lieu of the economic downfall. We have seen our full-active member numbers lower, and yet, we have seen more and more new faces. I am confident our community will grow again, and I will help in any capacity I can.*

*It has been my pleasure to be Gaia Community's president this past year. I have been a member of Gaia Community for almost four years now, served on the Board for two years, and am on several committees including KidSpace, Ritual Teams, and Site. I will happily remain president for the next year."*

– Erin

### Treasurer:

*"Members of Gaia Community, I have been your treasurer for the past year, since being elected to fill the post. I hope I have done a good job by your estimation. I believe that I can continue to serve Gaia and its members with accuracy and discretion in this post, and I ask that you vote for me again this year. "*

– John Boyce

### Trustees-at-Large:

*"I would like to serve Gaia Community as a Board member. I feel the two years of experience I have on the Board during what has been an interesting time of change is an asset. I also believe my experience as a ritualist and my work with KidSpace allows me to view some things from a different perspective, especially in reference to intergenerational issues, which can also be helpful as a Board member. I hope the Community sees fit to allow me to continue to serve in this way."*

– Linda Boyce

*"I have been a member of Gaia Community since 2005, and I have served on Ritual Teams and in Voices of Gaia. I have previous experience serving on the board of two other nonprofit organizations. As many in the community expressed at the town hall meetings last fall, I would like to see us make better use of the resources available to us as a Unitarian-Universalist congregation. I have enjoyed participating in our community's decision-making process as a member, and I would be happy to serve the community as trustee-at-large if elected."*

– Cynthia Cole

*An absentee ballot can be found below. While we prefer people come and vote in person, we understand that not everyone is able to attend Saturday morning meetings so this is another way to participate in our electoral process (one of the few that does not operate by consensus).*

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**Gaia Community Elections**  
**April 10, 2010**

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**April 10, 2010**

**Board of Trustees**

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Executive Board (choose one per position)

Executive Board (choose one per position)

- President Erin Scrogum
- Vice-President Amanda Pence
- Treasurer John Boyce
- Secretary Rosemary Harris

- President Erin Scrogum
- Vice-President Amanda Pence
- Treasurer John Boyce
- Secretary Rosemary Harris

Trustees-at-Large (choose three)

Trustees-at-Large (choose three)

- Linda Boyce
- Cynthia Cole
- Cheryl Stice

- Linda Boyce
- Cynthia Cole
- Cheryl Stice

**Nominating Committee**

**Nominating Committee**

(choose three)

(choose three)

- Julie Black
- Jack Maney
- Eric Simpson

- Julie Black
- Jack Maney
- Eric Simpson

**General Assembly Delegates**

**General Assembly Delegates**

(choose two)

(choose two)

- Cynthia Cole
- Aubry Gabbard

- Cynthia Cole
- Aubry Gabbard

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

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

**Please return to a member of the Nominating Committee (Barbara, Jamie, or Lizzy) no later than the morning of the April 10th election; signed ballots can also be mailed to our P.O. Box.**

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**Ritual for Business Minutes  
for March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*In attendance:* Rosemary, Devin, Erin, Amanda, Kimberly,  
David, Kit, Cheryl, Jen, John, and Cynthia

*Started at 10:35 AM*

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved.
- II. **Roles** – Amanda as Devil's Advocate, Cynthia as Red Tape, Vibes Watcher as Jen, John as Non Sequitur
- III. **Minutes** – Approved w/corrections.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – Have finance committee operating rules. This month our New Home Fund is at 24,072.15 thanks to .18 of interest. Main fund is 9,968.49 and Kidspace is 2,266.77. Offerings/donations are a bit short of expectations for mid-fiscal year, though greening the basket is a bit ahead. There are lots more budget details available, which will be going up on the website for anyone interested.
- V. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. **KidSpace** – Has a new committee head, Kelley Montford. Thanks to Rosemary for serving, and welcome Kelley! April 14 will be our next field trip to the Nelson to view the African gallery for the chapter we just finished. All adults attending will be reminded to submit their pledge cards in advance since it is pledge Sunday. Kidspace will leave early—3:45 PM—so the ritualists of the day do not need to include an opening for the children. We are currently seeking a nursery attendant starting in May.
  - B. **Social Justice** – Sign up sheets for Blue River Cleanup and EarthWalk will be on Greeter's Table. As we go forward into spring, we are also going to try and do things about local food, putting out a list of farmers' markets and CSA stuff. Gaspar is great.
  - C. **Communications** – Put out EH, but was delayed this month. David's week was trying to eat him, but he survived, hooray! He has figured out how to delete spammers from the website, more hooray! Still working on fixing repeating events. Bad Drupal, no cookie.
  - D. **Membership** – Plugging along as always. GT coordinator position has been successfully filled by Devin. The committee is just a couple of e-mail replies away from having its 2010 budget request to Stewardship and having its P&Ps done.
    1. **Library** – It still exists! :)
  - E. **Site** – Nothing to report, move along.
  - F. **Welcoming** – Still participating in interfaith group, Via is going as our rep. Also started meeting as Queer Allies discussion group; is popular and may become a regular thing. Meeting at Leo's place to talk about genderqueer and genderfluid identities.
  - G. **Ritual Teams** – Kelley Montford has announced as of

March 15 she is resigning from RT. Several nominations have been gathered for penny auction thus far.

- H. **Caring** – We continue to care about Leo. RT and Caring have concocted a plan to create a new format for joys & concerns sorts of things at high holidays.
- I. **Nominating Committee** – Busy, busy. We have new business up at this RfB: putting Cynthia forward to fill Greta's empty Trustee at Large seat. We're also working to make sure April election ballot is ready to go.
- J. **Stewardship** – Getting ready to do pledge drive, and got ambitious to make the April 11th Pledge Sunday a finale wrap-up sort of thing. Also looking to add a new fundraiser in the Summer; to have a Longest Day party for Summer Solstice. Anyone interested in helping plan this should e-mail Kimberly.
- VI. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Drum Proposal** – Nobody has heard back from Jeff. Sacred Rhythms has been officially stopped until someone steps forward to do it.
  - B. **Policies and Procedures feedback** – While Amanda does not have printed copies from every committee, but she HAS heard from every committee that they are either done or almost done. NO BYLAWS CHANGE, YAY!
- VII. **New Business:**
  - A. **Mission Covenant Statement Revision** – A concern has been raised that “honoring the divine as both feminine and masculine” could be exclusionary to folks who are transgender/genderqueer etc or who experience the divine in this way. It has been proposed that the wording for the new statement be finalized and put into the slate for April elections. The wording is consensed to the wording: “honor the Divine in all forms, manifestations, and genders” to be entered onto the election docket.
  - B. **Prairie Star District Annual Conference** – April 23-25, “Roots and Wings Weaving Multi-Generational Dreams.” If anybody is interested is going, they really really really want you. Under-35-year-olds will get the best monetary deal. More information is on their website.
  - C. **General Assembly Business** – June 23-27<sup>th</sup>
    1. Delegates: We are still looking for these.
    2. Volunteers: We are also still looking for these.
  - D. **Cynthia** – Nom Com is putting Cynthia forward as Member At Large for the next month until the election in April. Voting passed, huzzah!

*No fish were harmed in the typing of these minutes.*

*– Rosemary, Secretary*

***Agenda for the April 10<sup>th</sup> Ritual for Business:***

- Elections!! (see page 1 and pages 5-6)
- Followup on Proposed Revision to our Mission Covenant Statement (see page 1)
- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



**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](mailto:earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org) or by  
 phone (816-508-9086) no later than the  
 24th of each month.

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 your name or address wrong, or  
 if you prefer to receive the  
 newsletter by e-mail.

– *David, Editor*

APRIL 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 4-6 PM: Workshop: Pysanky	○ 29	30	31	1	2	3 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Jamie's
4 4-6 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual	5 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	● 6 6:30 PM: Cottage Meeting @ Jamie and Kit's place	7	8 7PM: Cottage Meeting @ Amanda's place	9 7-9 PM: Storytelling Group @ Andrew's	10 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business & ELECTIONS @ SMUUCH
11 10 AM: EarthWalk @ Theis Park 2 PM: Cottage Meeting @ SMUUCH 4-6 PM: Ritual: Pledge Sunday (New Member Sunday)	12 7PM: Cottage Meeting @ Barbara's house	13 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	● 14	15	16 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	17
18 2-3:30 PM: New Member Class @ SMUUCH 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting 4-6 PM: Ritual: Hebraic Goddesses	19	20 7-9 PM: Welcoming Allies Group @ Jen & Julie's house	● 21	22	23 7-9 PM: FNCS @ Old Chicago Pizza (exact location to be determined)	24
25 4-6 PM: Class: Wilderness and Hiking Survival	26	27	○ 28	29	30	1 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's