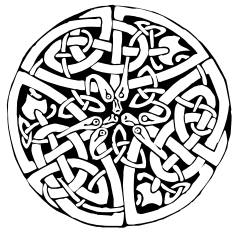
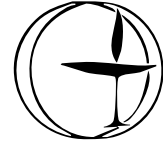




Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community August 2004

A STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

We are Gaia Community a Unitarian-Universalist congregation.

In keeping with our long-standing UU tradition of supporting and promoting social justice and civil rights in our community and the world, we take the following stand:

Gaia Community believes that a civil union of consenting adults is an inalienable right of the people that should not be legislated away by government on any level.

We feel the current arguments defining marriage "as a union between one man and one woman" are generally based in bigoted, misunderstood, and false sociological concepts. These same misconceptions have surfaced through out our country's history whenever social and religious change has come to the forefront of attention in our lives.

We of Gaia Community cannot stand silently by and see a people discriminated against because of their race, creed, religion, or sexual orientation. We view the banning of civil union or marriage of same sex couples as a constitutional amendment as a discriminatory act.

In our opinion, it infringes on the civil rights of a legitimate segment of

people in our nation. We stand together as a community and ask that those of you not bound by bigotry that have the courage to fight for justice for all come stand with us.

Write your city, state, and federal legislators and urge them to support the civil rights of civil union and same sex marriage. We strongly urge you, on August 3, 2004, to (as a crucial first step) vote "No" to the Missouri constitutional amendment defining marriage as a "union between one man and one woman," and to stand with us in voice and spirit in protest against any future attempts to remove or decrease the civil rights of a people based on ignorance and prejudice.

It is our belief that to deny the civil liberties of any legitimate segment of our diverse culture is laying apart of the foundation that will eventually deny all of us of civil rights and justice.

Respectfully Submitted

Terence E. Ross

Vice President Gaia Community Board of Trustees

(EH editor's note: *Both statement and editorial were collaborations from many within Gaia's membership. Terry gave grace to many points of view and stands as Gaia's voice. Both versions were sent to area news publications in hopes that either one would be accepted for print. We felt you had a right to know what your board is doing on your behalf.*)

Editorial Comment from Gaia:

Gaia Community is a Unitarian Universalist Congregation and a part of the world's community.

Gaia community believes that civil union of consenting adults is an inalienable right of the people that should not be legislated away by government on any level.

We feel the current arguments against gay and lesbian civil union or attempts to define marriage as only between one man and one woman are generally based in bigoted, misunderstood, and fear-based sociological misconceptions. These same misconceptions have surfaced through out our country's history whenever social and religious change has come to the forefront of attention in our lives.

For example, the same moral objections were presented as unquestionable facts in the 1950s and 60s as more people began to challenge the laws forbidding interracial marriage. Even earlier, the 21st Amendment to the Constitution giving women of this country the right to vote was first dismissed as a silly and ridiculous—a folly by what was then considered mainstream America. The women who were fighting for equality for all citizens were told to go home and take care of their children. The common belief was that women could not understand the complexities of politics and the nation's issues.

It was assumed that they should let men look out for their interests in this nation. As you know, the battle to give women in the United States this first taste of equality as citizens was a long and hard-fought struggle,

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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.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 1

Ritual (Sabbat)–Lughnassadh (*The Tailtean Games*)

Lugh Samildanach is the Celtic god who possesses many (some say all) talents. He won entry into the castle of the Tuatha de Danann by showing that he could perform all of the skills anyone else could, all by himself. When his foster mother Tailtiu died, legend has it that he inaugurated a fair to celebrate feats of skill, the Tailtean Games. This year, our own Lughnassadh celebration will involve a little bit of this thousand-year tradition, with our own members and guests being invited to present their skills, talents, and feats for the enjoyment of all!

As with all Sabbats, the ritual celebration will be followed by a potluck feast, so bring a dish large enough to feed eight hungry people (and remember to label your ingredients!) For the Earth's sake and in honor of our Green Sanctuary pledge, we ask that you bring reusable dishes and serving utensils, instead of disposable.

Sunday, August 8 facilitated by Carey Oxler

Class–“The Flaming Chalice”

The flaming chalice has been a beacon of hope and a symbol for Unitarian Universalism for decades. This class will explore some of the history and symbolism behind this emblem.

Sunday, August 15

Ritual–“Fire from the Gods”

Originally fire was stolen from the sky. Fire is a mixed blessing; it helps as well as harms. Fire helps us to transform ourselves, but unfortunately some times we may get burned. Join us to work through a transformation you've been needing to make but perhaps have been afraid to.

Sunday, August 22

Ritual–“Riding the Lion”

Could this ritual be about the “Strength” card of the tarot deck? Or, is it about taming your fears? Do you have the situation or does the situation have you? Come and explore whatever the ritual team has in store.

Sunday, August 29

Forum–“Out of the Broom Closet” - facilitated by Jeff Park

This Forum will discuss the issue of practicing our faith openly and behind closed doors. The social implications of stepping out of the closet and the feelings and fears that this brings up in our daily lives, in society and with family and friends. Come and express your opinion and open your mind to another's point of view.

Ritual Teams and Members:



Kitty Degler
Barbara Griggs
Brian Butler
Linda Boyce



Nicole Turner
Eric Simpson
Liz Ticer
Via Baker



Kimberly
Carey Oxler
David Reynolds
Daniel Ticer



Jacki Kelly
Collene Newby
Debbie Dozier
Jeff Park

MAY YOU NEVER HUNGER. MAY YOU NEVER THIRST.

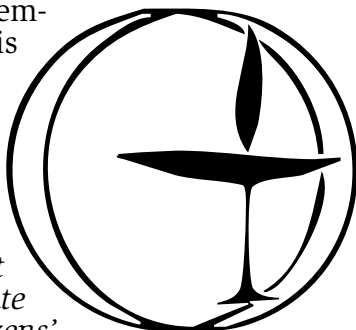
WEAVE AND SPIN

Splinters from the Board

From the Secretary

Here's the minutes summary

In the big news, the membership voted to adopt this stance against the gay marriage ban amendment: *We, the members of Gaia Community, take the stand that civil marriage is an inalienable civil right, and that the State has no legitimate interest in restricting citizens' access to that right based on sexual orientation.*



David is adding this statement and relevant links to the website, and Terry will head up the committee that implements and coordinates our efforts on this important issue.

The Treasurer's summary of the 2003-2004 fiscal year showed that we were nearly even in expenses and income.

The polls for games night showed that the current night and time was the highest voted, along with Saturday afternoons. Also there was interest in going out to movies as a group, so it was thought Saturday afternoons would be a good time for that activity. Debbie will try to arrange a movie outing for a Saturday afternoon.

The membership directory is complete and is ready to be printed. Be on the lookout for more on this soon.

Adult Education is changing its schedule in August to accommodate Barbara's new Building Your Own PolyTheology class. Check the website or the EH calendar for more details.

I will be chairing the meeting in August. Please let either myself or any board member know of any agenda items you would like addressed.

Debbie

Gaia Community Board Members

President—Barbara Griggs
bpmg@earthlink.net or
816-587-2350

VP—Terry Ross
teross49@yahoo.com or
816-520-8245

Treasurer—David Reynolds
naebli@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626

Secretary—Debbie Dozier
ddozier@everestkc.net or
913-894-8131

Members at Large

Carey Oxler
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626

Liz Ticer
femainoregon@excite.com or
913-636-4924

Jeff Park
jpark2@kc.rr.com or
816-361-0465

New Member Class

August 14th; 1–7 pm

See Barbara or Jeff
or Michael or Terry
at the Greeters Table for more info.

Seeking Director of Children's Programming.

Gaia Community of Kansas City is seeking a part-time Director of Children's Programming (DCP) responsible for directing and coordinating a holistic education program for children from nursery through 12th grade. Our current DCP will leave the position in December 2004.

The DCP position averages 15 hours a week. The hours would be divided among Sunday, evening meetings, occasional Saturday activities and hours spent in preparation and administrative activities. The primary requirements are a familiarity with and commitment to Earth-based spirituality and Unitarian Universalism and experience and training working with children. Desirable attributes include a four-year degree, strong listening, communication (both written and oral) and organizational skills, experience working with volunteers and participation in the UU Renaissance Program (or a comparable program). Word processing and basic computer experience is required.

To apply, send your resume (including three references) and a one page personal essay explaining your philosophy of working with children and your vision of an Earth-based UU children's program to DCP Search Committee, Gaia Community, PO Box 45307, Kansas City, MO 64171-8303. Resumes and essays may also be e-mailed to DCPsearch@gaiacommunity.org. Please specify "DCP Search" in the subject line. Application deadline: September 30, 2004. For more information, contact Kidspace chairperson, Linda Boyce at 913-385-7743 (evenings) or 816-419-9447 (days) or e-mail llboyce@mindspring.com.



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a struggle to achieve equality that persists in some quarters to this day.

The recurrent sounds of “they do not need this” are still echoed today. God and the Founding Fathers did not intend for women to vote are the revamped arguments being echoed today. The same choir, with just a slight change in verse, is singing the same song, clamoring that change will disrupt and cause the downfall of the nation.

The Gay and Lesbian communities are not asking to change or upset the mainstream world. They are not demanding acceptance in your church. They are simply asking the right to be who they are. They are asking not to be discriminated against because of their sexual preferences. They are asking for the right of expression of their feelings towards each other in loving and committed relationships between consenting adults. They are asking the right to benefit in every way from those commitments as do mainstream couples.

We of Gaia Community believe that it is sad that the rights of individuals based on ethnic, gender, social, and religious issues have had to be legislated before they are respected by mainstream America. It says a great deal about us as a nation of equality, that we embraced slavery then justified it as a biblical right, that we had to have a Presidential Decree, The Emancipation Proclamation, to right the wrong. After freeing a people from bondage, we had to further legislate their citizenship with the Citizenship Act of 1866. Then almost a hundred years later we had to reaffirm that these citizens should be given equal rights with the Civil Rights act of 1964.

From the famed 21st Amendment to the Fair Housing Act, we have as a nation had to legislate doing the right thing. With every issue from African-Americans being able to serve in the military to women and gay and lesbian citizens being able to fight and defend our nation, freedom, the same questions have been asked and answered. Women did do well and could understand the issues of our nation. It did not disrupt the country. African-American soldiers, both men and women, did serve their country with both honor and distinction. Women in the military have done the same by making the armed services stronger, not weaker. Just as importantly, interracial marriage did not result in the moral or economic downfall of America. Giving equal treatment to minorities in this land has unified us, NOT spiraled us into chaos, anarchy, or poverty.

Gay and lesbian citizens of the United States are simply asking for “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” that we all expect as Americans. We of Gaia Community proudly support and stand with Gay and Lesbian American citizens in their request and pursuit of these inalienable rights.

Respectfully Submitted

Terence E. Ross

*Build Your Own Theology
starts Tuesday,
August 3, 2004;
7–830 p.m.*

What the Site Committee Does and Needs

The site committee was originally formed to maintain the search for a suitable permanent home for the Gaia Community. The current committee members are Collene Newby (Chair) Greta Erhardt, Eric Simpson, Jacki Kelly, Terry Ross, Nola Cavanaugh and Brian Butler.

The current lease agreement with SMUUCH is due to expire July 2004. The plan is to renew the current lease with SMUUCH for one more year ending July 2005. It is predicted by that time our needs will exceed the current available space at SMUUCH.

Site Committee is charged with leading the search for a new space for Gaia Community to worship and meet. The search criteria had to meet certain basic needs of the community. Given our current level of available funds allotted for the new home fund, the most practical solution at this time would be to seek a leasable space, until our New Home Fund is sufficient to purchase property of our own. Our current budget will allow for a monthly lease payment of approximately \$800.00 per month, including utilities.

The current New Home Fund contains about \$1500.00 dollars. If in the future, we plan to put a down payment on an appropriately zoned property we will need quite a bit more. Most of the financing will have to come from the community. Lenders are not prone to loaning monies to religious organizations for the purpose of property or improvements. Therefore, we have to come up with a formula for finding properties. As well as keeping the communication with property managers and realtors streamlined and uniform. This is very important to make the process cost effective for the community.

We are asking the Gaia community at large to help us search for suitable sites. The sites should be accessible within a 30 to 45 minute window from any part of the greater metropolitan area to make it accessible to all members of the community. There should be sufficient parking available and separate spaces for ritual and kid space education. Ideally, it would also have space for feast preparation, as well as surrounding green space for out door rituals.

If you come across a space you deem suitable for the community, take down the contact information for the property, along with the site’s address and location in relation to surrounding major streets and highways. Give this information to the site committee members, via phone, email, or contact at Gaia. A member of the Site committee will then make contact and set up the first visit.

All of Gaia Community working together in the process will expand our search capabilities. Adhering to the herein suggested protocol will streamline a very difficult process as well.

We, the committee members, need you and thank you very much for helping us find choices for Gaia.

Blessings from the Goddess be bountiful for us all

Sincerely

Gaia Site Committee

GAIA AROUND TOWN—EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Voices of Gaia

Thursday, Aug. 12th, 7:00—8:30 P.M. FRANKLIN ROOM
Singer and chanters wanted. Bring chants you'd like to sing. New people are always welcome. There are no auditions. Just come if you like to sing. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, songbird@kc.rr.com or 913-469-8779.

KidSpace Committee Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 19th, 7:00 P.M.

The KidSpace Committee Meeting is a place for all parents, kids at heart, and KidSpace volunteers to come together and discuss the future of our children. Plans for future activities, volunteer opportunities, dinner, and the direction of the future of KidSpace could all be on the agenda.

Come to the meeting or contact Andrew Turner, our Director of KidSpace Programming, for more information at agmmn@kc.rr.com or (913) 706-9167.

Please note that the KidSpace meeting has been moved from the second Friday of the month to the third Thursday and meets at Greta's House.

If anybody would like to complete the survey for KidSpace (ideas, etc...) and has not had the chance to do so, they can do so by contacting Andrew or Linda. There are copies on Sundays on the Greeters table and downstairs in KidSpace.

Games Night

Friday, Aug. 20th, 7:00–10:00 P.M. at SMUCh

Games Night is a chance for gaians to get together for fun, frivolity, and food, and NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS allowed! (We're not kidding—the Games Guru has spoken on this.) Bring a game (or ten), bring a friend (or ten), or just bring yourself and a willingness to play and visit. Snacks are welcomed but not required, to help the gaming crowds keep up their strength!

Friday Night Supper Club

Friday, Aug. 27th, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! We are taking a count of hands as to where we will go...will it be: McBrides for Irish food and Karaoke or Hein Vong Vietnamese in the River Market? Let me know by email or tapping me on the back on Sundays. For more information contact Jeff Park at jpark2@kc.rr.com or 816-361-0465.

Caring Committee Connection Circle

We will meet every Sunday before Ritual. We will start at 2:30 P.M. This is a place to meet and talk. If you've had a bad week, and you need to talk about it, come on by. If you've had a good week, and need to shout it from the rooftops, come on by. If you just need to be with people, or whatever, come on by. We'll have coffee and tea, and if you'd like bring some food. Bring enough to share!

A look ahead at next month

Sept 5 SOS – “Labor Day” – Jacki

Sept 12 Ritual–“Gaia’s Garden” - 

Sept 19 Holiday – Autumn Equinox - 

Sept 26 Class – “A Pagan guide to Interfaith work”

Sacred Rhythms

Sundays at 3:00 P.M.

*Be a player in the rhythm of life
not just a spectator!*

COMMUNITY CARES

Joys and Concerns

Compiled with YOUR input.

Peace & strength to . . .

- Friends who are rolling with the punches of unemployment and job searches.
- Those struggling with substance abuse and addiction.
- Those in our community experiencing the pain of divorce or separation.



Happy Solar Return to people celebrating their birthday this month:

8-11: Kieran M.

8-24: Matthew M.

If we've missed you, clue us in again! Let Earth Healer know—earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org or 816-361-0465 or just sort of let the people at the greeter's table know.

And a special welcome to the folks who visited us for the first time recently!

Tuesday Night
Sacred Rhythms
Now the second Tuesday



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

Address Correction Requested

NEW MEMBER CLASS

For those who have signed up at the Greeters Table for the next new member class...well, here it is. Saturday, August 14th, from 1-7 p.m.

We will have a one day intensive for those who can attend and reschedule in the early Fall for those who are unable to make this date. The new member class is a prerequisite for becoming a pledging member of Gaia Community.

Bring a pencil or pen, a snack(s) and drink and as we get to know you better, you will learn what we are all about. For those ready and willing, there will be a formal New Member Ritual the next day during the 4 p.m. Ritual: Fire from the Gods.

Contact Earth Healer

Send letters, articles, poetry or prose, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to: earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org or by phone (number inside) no later than the 17th of each month.

Please tell us if you are receiving duplicate copies of *Earth Healer*, if we're getting your name/address wrong or if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email. Let us hear from you before the next *Earth Healer*.



August 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm 1 Ritual: Lughnassadh Potluck 4 pm	2	Adult RE 7 pm Build Your Own Theology 3	Site Committee Meeting 7-9 pm 4	Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm 5	6	7 Craft Circle 1-4 pm
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm 8 Class: The Flaming Chalice 4 pm	9	Adult RE 7 pm Sacred Rhythms 10	11	Voices of Gaia 7 pm 12	13	Ritual of Business 9:30 am New Member Class 1-7 pm 14
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm 15 Ritual: Fire from the Gods NMSunday 4 pm	16	Adult RE 7 pm Druid Study Group 17	18	KidSpace 7 pm 19	Games Night 7 pm 20	21
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm 22 Ritual: Riding the Lion 4 pm	23	Adult RE 7 pm Wicca 101 24	25	26	FNSC 7 pm 27	28
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm 29 Forum: Out of the Broom Closet 4 pm	30	Adult RE 7 pm Energy work in Crafts 31				