



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

AUGUST 2010

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God Auction 2010 is over!

The 8th annual God Auction is over, and the community has chosen Quetzalcoatl as its new patron. Grandmother Spider came in second, Cai-Shen a close third, and Artemis fourth. Donations and attendance were both up overall, which is good to see in our current economic situations. More than \$2600 was collected for Gaia Community's coffers, in fact!

A virtual "ziggurat" of food was collected for Harvesters Food Bank, which was promptly taken over to Price Chopper for collection. Notably, Price Chopper said that what we placed in, on, and around their collection barrels that afternoon was more than they usually get in two months!

A class on our new patron was held on August 15th, and on the 22nd our first ritual working with the new patron will take place. See page 3 for more details. For convenience, the original blurb from the God Auction is reproduced here as a refresher.

Quetzalcoatl is the Mesoamerican feathered serpent deity. In Aztec lore, which is the most documented, he was related to gods of the wind, of Venus, of the dawn, of merchants and of arts, crafts and knowledge (he invented books and the calendar and gave mankind maize). He was also the patron god of the Aztec priesthood. Some stories tell of how Quetzalcoatl was responsible for the creation of humankind in the current age – combining the bones of humans from previous ages and his own blood. Another story tells of how he was tricked into sleeping with a celibate priestess, and in his remorse, burned himself to death. His heart became the morning star.



- *Ritual Teams and the Stewardship Committee*

Clothing Exchange in Sept

An informal "clothing swap" is being planned for late September of this year. The tentative date is 9/21, with set-up beginning concurrently with the potluck after Fall Equinox, and the exchange itself beginning at 7PM. More information will be available next month, but for now if you are interested, let Linda Boyce know if you can offer help with logistics or clothing racks, and start looking through your closet for things you may want to trade out! She is informally in charge of the event.

Apologies for the Delay in Printing This Month

Information for articles and events was difficult to come by for your editor this month, which explains the extreme lateness of going to print with the newsletter.

- *David, Earth Healer Editor*

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** (8/2, 7:00 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Jamie, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, at rtc@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)!
- Craft Circle** (8/7, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house again this month, 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome! This is an excellent time to work on God Auction projects!
- Social Justice Committee Meeting** (8/10, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We will meet this month at Andrew's 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.
- Storytelling Group** (8/13, 7 PM, at Andrew's): The Storytelling Group will meet this month at Andrew's apartment (see address above, 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).
- Ritual for Business** (8/14, 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 have 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.
- Queer Allies Discussion** (8/17, 7 PM, at Jamie): This meeting does not have a specific topic at present; please come if you're interested in any part of the LGBTQIAA spectrum. Please contact Jamie at jamie@gaiacommunity.org for more information.
- Games Night** (8/20, 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 what games are available.
- Women's Sacred Moon Ritual** (8/21, 7:30 PM, at SMUUCH): Women have come together under the Full Moon for centuries to share their knowledge and celebrate the sister Moon and honor the Goddess in all their glory. Every month, we host a Full Moon ritual for women of all faiths and backgrounds to come together and embrace the Divine Feminine within us all. Although we love the men and children in our lives, Full Moon Rituals are for women only. Contact Kelley Montford or Kate Miller for more information.
- KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (8/22, 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 or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda.
- Friday Night Supper Club** (8/27, 7PM) will be at Blue Nile, an Ethiopian restaurant in the River Market, 20 E. 5th Street KCMO. If you are attending and wish to RSVP, please contact Amanda at supperclub@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Scrogum
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 Cynthia Cole
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 or 913-433-8038
 ... or contact them all at
board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Leo d'Entremont on the 12th, Kimberly on the 20th, Tony Dunsworth and Cynthia Cole on the 21st, Daniel Ticer and Judy Brenner on the 23rd, Rosemary Harris on the 24th, Teddi Castillo on the 26th, Geoffrey Johnson on the 27th, Janene Hols on the 28th, and Paul Gorbas on the 31st. 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 and will be passed on.

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

Voices of Gaia and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus.

Sunday, August 1st

High Holiday: Lammas

Ritualists: Devin, Jamie, Kit, and Kitty

Join us for Lammas, a celebration of the harvest. This time of the year, more and more of the seeds planted in the spring and grown in the summer are becoming ripe and ready to harvest. One of these plants is wheat and Lammas is often about bread. This Lammas we will explore how our lives mirror the process of making bread and we'll end the ritual with tasty fresh bread, too! Our ritual will be an ADF style ritual and there will be an opportunity to make praise offerings if you wish.

As always with our high holidays, there will be a potluck meal following the ritual. We also would like to gently remind you that while Lammas is traditionally about bread, our potluck will need main dishes and salads, too! Please bring a food, drink, or dessert item sufficient to feed 8 hungry people, and remember to label your ingredients! For the Earth's sake, we also ask that you not bring disposable dishes if possible.

Sunday, August 8th

Discussion: Post-General Assembly Debriefing

Facilitators: Cynthia and Aubry

General Assembly is the annual conference of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our delegates to the conference will share information and decisions they participated in this year, take questions, and guide discussion about what to do next with what they absorbed at GA.

Currently Active Ritualists

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

Please see Jamie, 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.

Sunday, August 15th

Class on the New Patron

Facilitators: Cheryl, Eric, and Gerry-Lynn

Having decided on a new patron, it's time to learn more about him! Our facilitators will have done their research and bring what they've learned, but if you have experiences or knowledge of Quetzalcoatl, please bring them to share as well.

Sunday, August 22nd

Ritual: Quetzalcoatl and the Aztec Creation Myth

Ritualists: Erin, Kit, and David

As most of us know, the Mayan calendar comes to a close in 2012. But before then, we have a chance to work closely with the feathered serpent god Quetzalcoatl, who was chosen as this year's patron in the God Auction in July. Much like the 52-year cycle of the Mayan calendar, we will be working with Quetzalcoatl for 52 weeks, and this week's ritual is the kick-off for that interaction. Come join us as we explore the Mayan creation myth as a way to understand our burgeoning relationship to this Meso-American deity.

Sunday, August 29th

Forum: Creating Gods

Facilitators: Aubry and Kit

This forum will center around the concept of 'new' gods and religions. How do they get started? Where does inspiration come? Is it new, or newly reimagined? Bring your ideas, your experiences, and your questions, but remember to be polite in sharing and listening.

- Ritual Teams

A Look Ahead...

Sept. 5th - Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (*Labor Day*)

Sept. 12th - Ritual: Fairy Tale Arc, Part I

Sept. 19th - High Holiday: Fall Equinox

Sept. 26th - Workshop: Courting Your Muse



P.O. Box 45307
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 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 (816-508-9086) 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

AUGUST 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4-7 PM: High Holiday: Lammas (w/potluck after)	2 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting at SMUUCH	3	4	5	6	7 2-6 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
8 4-6 PM: Post-General Assembly Presentation by Delegates	9	10 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	11	12	13 7-9 PM: Storytelling Group @ Andrew's	14 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
15 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting 4-6 PM: Class for the New Patron, Quetzalcoatl	16	17 7-9 PM: Queer Allies Meeting at Jamie's	18	19	20 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	21
22 4-6 PM: Ritual: The Age of Quetzalcoatl	23	24	25	26	27 7-9 PM: FNCS @ Blue Nile, 20 E. 5 th St, KCMO	28
29 4-6 PM: Forum: Creating Gods	30	31	1	2	3	4 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's