



# Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



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

## Winter Bazaar December 12th at 3:00 P.M.

### SITE COMMITTEE

For the past ten months site committee has investigated thirty different properties. Properties for lease and properties for sale. Land, agricultural, commercial, and residential properties have all been investigated. Three months ago, after compiling all of our information, site committee reached the conclusion that while it is important to continue our search for our new home that it is important to face reality. And what is it reality is saying?

First, chances of us finding another property within the immediate Kansas City area, with similar amenities, that will lease or rent to us for the amount that SMUUCH does is slim to none. Not only that, but our ability to pay more per month is not possible at this time.

The reason we were searching for a new place to lease is because originally it was only agreed that our lease would be renewable through 2005. However, we have since talked to SMUUCH and SMUUCH has agreed that they are willing to renew our lease through 2006.

So, what does this mean? Well, to the site committee this meant that

perhaps we should put some serious effort into increasing our new home fund so that we can focus on primarily looking for a permanent home for Gaia Community.

There was/is only one problem. If we are going to "get serious" about fund-raising then we would need help from the whole congregation. And by congregation, we are not talking about just the members. We mean everybody who attends Gaia Community. And when we say help, we do not mean only cash. While cash is very helpful, time can be just as helpful.

The reason we say this is because when we came to the realization that we should snatch this opportunity and attempt to find our permanent home stewardship committee had died away, so there was nobody to talk to about fund-raising. Communication committee was down to it's chair, who was looking for a new chair, and there was nobody to help with advertising, solicitations, etc.

So, site committee went out and talked with the UUA about their grant programs and their ability to help with fund-raising. We went to other congregations, UUA and non-UUA, small and large to ask them how they went about getting their permanent site. We talked to architects to figure out how much we were looking at to build. We spoke with banks, real estate agents, etc.

What this resulted in was a report to the board and community at large at a Ritual For Business. Which enabled us to get new chairs for Stewardship and Communication. Now, we just needed a committee.

So, since not many came to the Ritual For Business, site committee decided to present our information again along with a push for help during ritual time.

While the ritual was a success and we did get additional help, only 35 people came to the ritual- half of which are already active within the community.

So, site committee poses this question to you. Do you want a new permanent home for Gaia Community?

If you do, we need your help. Site committee and Stewardship have buddied up and are planning many fund-raisers. Fund-raisers that do not require us to empty our own pockets, but simply require us to make ourselves visible in our community. To help our community out. There are companies that pay non-profit organizations to come in and help do work.

Barnes and Noble on the plaza graciously squeezed us in for two nights in November for gift wrapping. Not only that, site committee and stewardship are also speaking with NASCAR, Chiefs and Royals Sports Complex, Renaissance Festival, and more about working to fundraise money for our new home.

So, please if you are available let Brian, committee chair for stewardship, or Collene, committee chair for site know.

*Thank you for all of your wonderful support!*

—Your dedicated Site committee

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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, December 5 facilitated by the Gaia Community's Youth Team

**Ritual—"Life is Sweet"**—*Please avoid calling this a Children's Ritual or Children's Dedication Ritual.*

In this ritual, presented by Gaia Community's youth team, we'll explore the possibilities and blessings that every new day brings...no matter how old or young we are. Inspired by the promise of serious magical study this year, these young men and women have worked hard to put together a strong ritual for the entire community. We're confident their level of maturity and preparation will make the day unlike any Children's Ritual you may have experienced at Gaia Community before. Maggie, Sami, Lynn, Rhiannon, Mari and Rowan will be backed up by Barbara, Brian, Linda, Kitty and Kimberly. The youngest children will have child care downstairs; all other KidSpace kids should plan to enjoy the ritual with their families. (Andrew will be upstairs for the ritual, but off duty for the day.)

### Sunday, December 12th...No ritual...it's just Bazaar!

**Winter Bazaar Fund Raising Event: Beginning at 3:00 p.m.**

### Sunday, December 19th



**Ritual—"Winter Solstice"**

Join us to celebrate what yule is all about...*coming together in community and enjoying each other company.* We will be "Decking the Hall"...so bring a **seasonal** decoration or ornament for the yule tree and be prepared to create new holiday traditions with a Gaia Community twist. (no Sacred Rhythms at 3:00 due to the Carol Sing, but bring your drums or whatever for the opening festivities)

*As with all Sabbats, we will be holding a potluck, so bring a dish for 8 hungry people and remember to label the ingredients! In order to care for the earth and each other, we ask that you refrain from using disposable containers or tableware if possible.*

### Sunday, December 26th

**Forum—"Jesus H. Christ, What else are you holding on too?"** facilitated by David

Many of us came to paganism from other faith traditions; even if we didn't, the culture around us has steeped us in the common 'curses' and methods of swearing, to such a degree that we may not even realize what we are saying when we stub our toe or get cut off in traffic. This forum will be all about those unconscious phrases and symbols that permeate our lives. Got a great pagan alternative to the traditional ones? Bring it! All viewpoints will be welcome, but please be respectful of others as well. Because of the potential for strong language in this ritual, we ask that our attendees consider carefully whether to bring their youth into this setting.

### Ritual Teams and Members:



Kitty Degler  
Barbara Griggs  
Brian Butler  
Linda Boyce



Nicole Turner  
Eric Simpson  
Liz Ticer  
Via Baker



Kimberly  
Carey Reynolds  
David Reynolds  
Daniel Ticer



Jacki Kelly  
Collene Newby  
Debbie Dozier  
Jeff Park

### Gaia Community Board Members

**President**—Barbara Griggs  
president@gaiacommunity.org or  
816-587-2350

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

**Treasurer**—David Reynolds  
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org or  
816-941-7626

**Secretary**—Debbie Dozier  
secretary@gaiacommunity.org or  
913-894-8131

#### Members at Large

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

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

John Carroll  
IBRCandS792@yahoo.com or  
913-334-2834

## COMMUNITY CARES Joys and Concerns

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:

12-10: Caroline B. 12-12: Judi Mc. 12-17: Kira T.

*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!**

## GAIA AROUND TOWN—EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Voices of Gaia

Thursday, Dec. 9th, 7:00 P.M. FRANKLIN ROOM.

In preparation for hosting Gaia Community's Winter Solstice Carol Sing, Voices of Gaia will be having some extra rehearsals in December. In addition to the 9th, we'll rehearse Monday evenings, December 6 and 13, also at 7 P.M. New singers are always welcome. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, [songbird@kc.rr.com](mailto:songbird@kc.rr.com) or 913-469-8779.

### KidSpace Committee Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 16th, 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 [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org) or (913) 706-9167.

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, Dec. 17th, 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

#### on a Saturday

Friday, Saturday Dec. 18th, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! Since the normal date would be the 24th, we will divert to another evening in the month. Watch the e-group and announcements for where we will be eating this month. For more information contact Jeff Park at [jpark2@kc.rr.com](mailto:jpark2@kc.rr.com) or 816-361-0465.

### A look ahead at next month

Jan 2 Ritual – “New Years”

Jan. 9 Ritual – “Walking the Labyrinth”

Jan. 16 Ritual – “Social Justice Sunday”

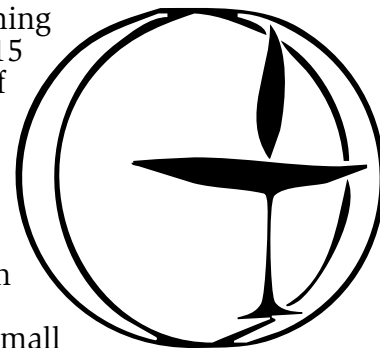
Jan. 23 Class – “Excellence in Participation”

## WEAVE AND SPIN Splinters from the Board *From the Secretary*

Here's the minutes summary

David reported that our income and expenses are starting to even out.

Winter Bazaar planning is in full swing with 15 confirmed vendors of goods and 4 of services. There's still volunteer opportunities available, not to mention volunteers to bring items for the Kitchen Witch table.



Adult Ed will have a small schedule change starting in January, with an Introduction to Paganism class on the 4th Tuesday of the month. See the adult ed page on the website for more info.

The Stewardship committee is looking for volunteers and ideas to help with fund raising. See Brian Butler to help.

David has volunteered to take over the Communications committee.

With the resignation of Terry from the board, Jeff was elected to fill the remainder of Terry's term. John Carroll was elected to fill the remainder of Jeff's member-at-large term. We'll miss you Terry!

The copier donated by Jeff's employer is still not ready for use, but Brian and Mike will help us get that up and running.

Debbie volunteered to host the Gaia Community Thanksgiving dinner at her home this month. Please contact her to RSVP and get directions.

Barbara will be chairing the meeting in December. Please contact her or any member of the board if you have an agenda item that needs to be addressed.

*Debbie*



