



# Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community December 2005

## Winter Bazaar-December 10th

**W**inter Bazaar-note location and hours! Get your shopping done early. The Winter Bazaar is an annual fundraiser for Gaia Community, but more importantly an excellent place to get gifts (for others, or for yourself!) for the Yule season. Dozens of vendors will be on hand at our new location (with expanded space and hours): the Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, 8640 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO; that's a little north of the Holmes exit on the south loop of I-435. A full list of vendors can be found on our website, but an impressive array of pagan ritual tools, clothing, crafts, foods, jewelry, and many other things can be found to tempt your pocketbook and fill up your shopping basket!

## Solstice Caroling on the Plaza

**C**elebrate the Winter Solstice with song! Join members of Voices of Gaia singing Solstice carols on the Plaza. Everyone is welcome. If you're able, join us for dinner at Eden Alley (in the basement of Unity Temple on the Plaza) at 5:45 p.m. (please let Kitty know how many so she can make a reservation). Otherwise, meet at 7 p.m. at Eden Alley and we'll leave from there to go caroling. We'll sing Solstice chants and songs, plus traditional carols with pagan words. If you have an instrument or drum that can help support our singing as we walk the Plaza, please bring it. Parking in the Seville Square parking garage at 47th & Jefferson is recommended.

After caroling, Voices of Gaia member Katje Sabin has invited us to warm up at her Brookside home with cookies and hot cider.

## WANTED: Babies for Blessing

**I**f you have a new baby less than one year old and would like the child recognized and blessed by members of Gaia Community, please contact a member of the Rites of Passage team—Kitty, [songbird@skunkmountain.com](mailto:songbird@skunkmountain.com) or 913-620-2386, Jeff, Barbara, Nicole, Carey or Cynthia. Gaia Community's traditional baby blessing will occur near the start of the December 11th Rites of Passage ritual.

## Just for Fun

*(please...no pulling out of your hair)*

Here's your pagan word problem, which comes from the class on Death & Dying:

If a shard of Cleopatra's soul leaves Alexandria upon her death, and travels along a "great circle" route at 3 Ptolemaic cubits a day, what year would you have to be born in San Francisco, CA to be able to claim legitimately that you were the reincarnation of the great queen?

## Adult Education in December

**P**lease note that Sacred Rhythms on December 13 and the Druidry Class on December 20 have been canceled for this month.

## The Earth Healer needs you

**G**aia Community is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to take over the production of the Earth Healer newsletter. The newsletter is under the guidance of the Communications Committee and any questions or inquiries should be directed to [communications@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:communications@gaiacommunity.org). David R. is Chairperson and has many ideas for the future of the publication.

Anyone taking the role of the newsletter editor and or production should have these at their disposal. 1.) a reliable computer and printer with the ability to create Adobe PDF format documents. 2.) Be a member with access to information on community events and a better grasp of the english language than I do. 3.) Time to devote each month to compile and nag people for information and articles. 4.) not a requirement, but if you have journalism or have worked on a newsletter in the past...this would be a plus.

*Jeff Park, Earth Healer curmudgeon*



### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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

*Sacred Rhythms at 3 p.m.*

## Sunday, December 4

### Ritual—"Tri-wizard" by KidSpace Kids and JEDI

Every year the children of our community plan and put on a ritual for our entire community. Please come and see what they have planned for us to experience this year. They have been working and planning the whole month of November and have come up with a ritual which will show what happens when you work together or what happens when you don't.

## Sunday, December 11

### Ritual—"Rites of Passage" by ROP Team

A rite of passage is something that recognizes that an individual has in some way changed his or her status. In this ritual, we will come together as a community to collectively honor the individual rites of passage of those attending. What passages have changed you? What change in your life would you like to honor? It might be visible—marriage, divorce, starting college, a new career, quitting smoking, etc. or less visible—an internal vow, resolving to think better of yourself, striving to be less fearful or more outgoing. What can you honor in your life which has made you who you are today? During this ritual we will also honor and bless the newest additions to our community. If you have a new baby or young child you wish recognized, please contact the Rites of Passage team—Kitty, Jeff, Nicole, Barbara or Cynthia.

## Sunday, December 18

### Sabbat—"Yule" by Bards of Chaos and VOG

Voices of Gaia and Bards of Kaos join together to bring you an intergenerational ritual of story, song, meditation and celebration which honors the dark time of the year and rejoices in the returning light. We ask each adult or child attending to bring a 1" or 2" votive or pillar candle to the ritual. There will be childcare for infants and toddlers.

As at all solar festivals, a potluck feast will follow the ritual. Please bring a dish to feed 8 hungry people and your own tableware (plates, cups, silverware, and for the Earth's sake no disposables). Please label the ingredients in your dish.

## Sunday, December 25

### Party—"Julbock (Yule Goat)" by Liz and ET3

A Party—Julbock (bring a potluck dish) Enjoy yourself! The Julbock (Yule Goat) is a Scandinavian legend about the magical beast who carries around the Yule Elf, giving presents and spreading joy on the eve of Yule. Our festivities this day will be mostly centered around this tradition, so bring some of your new presents, a favorite holiday dish to share, and we'll watch bad holiday movies and tell stories until we're tired of it.

## Sunday, January 1, 2006

### Ritual—"New Year's" by "We're All Individuals"

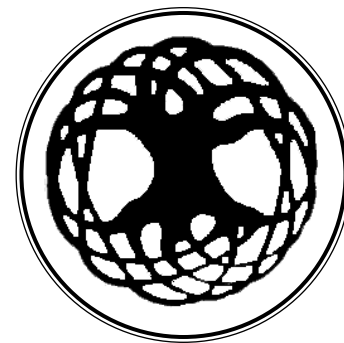
## A look ahead at next month

Jan. 8 Ritual – "Hibernation"

Jan. 15 Forum – "Check Your Baggage"

Jan. 22 Ritual – "Rave"

Jan. 29 Ritual – "Winter Blues"



### Gaia Community Board Members

**President**—Jeff Park  
president@gaiacommunity.org or  
816-361-0465

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


**Treasurer**—Devin Scrogum  
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org or  
913-708-5667

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

**Members at Large**  
Carey Reynolds  
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or  
816-941-7626  
Jennifer Gadd  
djrm@gadd-nelson.com  
John Carroll  
IBRCandS792@yahoo.com or  
913-334-2834

### Ritual Teams and Members:

  
Kitty Degler  
Barbara Griggs  
Devin Scrogum  
Andrew Turner

  
Kimberly  
Liz Ticer  
Via  
David Reynolds  
Pat Mathis

  
Nicole Turner  
Brian Butler  
Linda Boyce  
Cynthia Mathis

  
Debbie Giffin  
Jeff Park  
Eric Simpson  
Yale Giffin

## WEAVE AND SPIN

### Splinters from the Board

Summary of the RfB Minutes—November 12, 2005

The meeting was called to order at ~9:35 am by Jennifer Gadd. The agenda was approved.

I. Secretary's report: A summary of the minutes from October were read. The price for the Adult Ed special event had been decided on, but wasn't included in the minutes. It was added to the official copy. The minutes were approved as amended.

II. Treasurer's report: An update on the budget was handed out. A question was posed by the KidSpace committee about how the child care staff for the younger children were paid. Since we do not have the same person always available, they wanted to be sure that it was permissible to pay each week.

III. Committees: **Membership:** The UUA has been asking if the media campaign worked. Barbara reported that it didn't for our congregation. The members consensed that we could tell the UUA exactly what we had before and not require the Membership committee to run through additional data gathering. **Adult Ed:** May change the night it offers classes in 2006. **KidSpace:** There has been some instability in the child care person for the younger children. Greta asked for a definition of who needs a background check. It was decided by those present that only those persons paid to be primary caregivers of children need to have background checks done. There was a brief discussion of the OWLs program and the age ranges involved. There was a suggestion for a mentoring program for the older kids. There was discussion of the necessity for accountability (evaluations) of the hired staff in KidSpace. **Ritual Teams:** The schedule for the first half of 2006 has been prepared. **Winter Bazaar:** They are working on confirming vendors. There are 23 confirmed vendors, there is space for 3-5 more. Via is looking for volunteers still and they need to borrow tables. HSA is the only print publication we are advertising in this year. The fliers will be ready for people to take soon. **Caring:** Kris E and Barbara are investigating the need or desire for this from the community. **Stewardship:** Enchanted Gifts would like us to do gift wrapping again this year. We would need to bring our own supplies; we wrap for tips.

V. Old Business: Kris E has offered to host this year's Community Thanksgiving. Work weekend/lease issues: Jeff, David, and Carey showed up to help.

VI. New business: **Visionaries Docudrama series:** we have been contacted by the PR rep about doing interviews. The members present agreed to allow the Communications committee to communicate with them and get more information December RfB:

The December RfB is currently scheduled for December 10th, putting it in conflict with the Winter Bazaar. It was decided to move the **December RfB to December 17th.**

We did a check-in around the table to get everyone's opinions on these questions. Notes were not taken on personal opinions. We will revisit this next month. 1. What do we need to do to keep the community healthy? 2. What direction do we need to be leading? 3. We need a goal.

Kris E. is trying to get accepted into the devinity program in the UUA. She will need the backing of a supporting congregation. We will address this again as letters or recommendations are needed.

Jeff Park will chair the meeting next month, 12/17.

## GAIA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Ritual Teams Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 1 at 6:45 P.M.

All current ritual team members are urged to attend. Planning of and critiquing rituals are what we do. Comments from anyone in the general community about rituals are welcome as well; please communicate them to the Ritual Team Coordinator, currently Eric. Please contact the Coordinator to find out more about this month's meeting, or if you are a graduate of the Excellence in Ritual class and wish to start working with Ritual Teams again.

### Voices of Gaia

Mondays at 7 P.M. AT SMUUCH-FRANKLIN ROOM.

Yule is right around the corner and VOG and the Bards of Chaos will co-present the Yule ritual. New singers are always welcome. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, [songbird@skunkmountain.com](mailto:songbird@skunkmountain.com) or 913-469-8779. (note:VOG will not meet on Dec 26 and Jan 2)

### Games Night

Friday, December 16, 7:-10 P.M. at SMUUCH

Games Night is a chance for Gaiaans 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, (Always the fourth Friday), 7:00 P.M.

Friday Night Supper Club Dinner with Pagans! Join your fellow Gaiaans for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! December's Friday Night Supper Club will not be on December 23, but will be combined with the Julbock on Sunday the 25th. Questions? Contact Carey, David, or Kimberly at [e3@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:e3@gaiacommunity.org) or 816-941-7626.

### Tuesday Night Adult Education

Tuesday at 7 P.M. AT SMUUCH—SEE CALENDAR

### An event of interest

**K**itty Degler, our Voices of Gaia leader and ritualist, is performing with the Fine Arts Chorale and will be in concert on December 10th at 7:30 pm at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, 14th & Broadway in downtown Kansas City. The concert will include songs honoring the winter solstice as well as music for Christmas and Hanukkah.

Tickets cost \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors (over 60) and \$5.00 for students and are available through the Central Ticket Office, 816-235-6222 or at the door. For more information visit the Chorale's website at [www.fineartschoralekc.org](http://www.fineartschoralekc.org)



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

*Address Correction Requested*

# Winter Bazaar is Saturday, Dec. 10th 10 am-6 pm Shop 'til you drop!

## 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 (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*.

**MAY YOU  
 NEVER  
 HUNGER.  
 MAY YOU  
 NEVER  
 THIRST.**

December 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				● 1 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	2	3
SR 3pm 4 Ritual: KidSpace 4 pm	5 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	6 Adult RE 7 pm Everyday Spiritual Practice	7	☾ 8	9	10 Winter Bazaar 10 am-6 pm
SR 3pm 11 Ritual: Rites of Passage 4 pm	12 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	<del>13 Adult RE 7 pm Sacred Rhythms</del>	14	○ 15 KidSpace 7 pm	16 Games Night 7 pm	17 Ritual of Business 9:30 am
SR 3pm 18 Sabbat: Yule 4 pm Potluck following	19 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	<del>20 Adult RE 7 pm Druid Study Group</del>	21 Winter Solstice Caroling on the Plaza 5:45 pm Site Comm. 7-9 pm	22	☾ 23 <del>FNCS 7 pm</del>	24
SR 3pm 25 Party: Julbock (Yule Goat) 4 pm	<del>26 Voices of Gaia 7 pm</del>	27 Adult RE 7 pm Intro to Paganism	28	29	● 30	31 New Year's Eve