



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

DECEMBER 2006

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Winter Bazaar is Done!

By the time you read this, the 8th annual Winter Bazaar will be completed. Thanks to so many of you for volunteering to bake things, make things, haul things, or help out in some small or large way the day of the event. It could not have been a success without you!

Speaking of success, the event once again gained the community more than \$1000 as a fundraiser. Exact figures are not yet available, as donations from vendors are still coming in. The raffle was a big hit again this year, with the two biggest items being donated by community members: an ashiko drum from Ann and drum lessons from Larry, and a handmade knife crafted by Via and Yale. Many thanks to all our vendors though, who donated items large and small. A few items are still finding their way to their new owners, but most people were there to pick them up.

With this year's Bazaar over and done, we naturally turn to thoughts of next year's event. The Winter Bazaar Committee will be meeting soon to talk about how we did, what went well, what went wrong, and how to do better next year. We will also be discussing moving the Bazaar up by a few weeks, to avoid conflict with other events. If you are interested in joining the committee, so that you can have an impact on the 2007 event, please contact me at bazaar@gaiacommunity.org. Once again, thank you for all of your help!

— *Kimberly and the rest of the Winter Bazaar 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.

Hearth Hymn

Oil, warm and fragrant, swirls into the silver bowl,
and our prayers for home and hearth rise to the sky.
Hers shall ever be the first and last.

The glass refracts the sun's rays, and parchment ignites,
kindling wood aflame, until it glows in every heart:
we lay the fire sure and strong.

Gather round and eat your fill of fresh-baked bread.
Grasp her cup by both handles and drink deeply.
Feel how good it is to be back home.

— *Jennifer Gadd*

Volunteer Credit for God Auction?

A few months ago, it was brought up at a Ritual for Business that there may be a way to include volunteer service as a “currency” at the annual God Auction fundraiser. This would allow those without immediate funds, but who do work for the community in other ways through donations of time or skill, to contribute to the decision-making process in some way. The idea was referred to Ritual Teams, who came to a consensus that, in principle, this was a good idea. However working out the details of “how” and “how much” and other logistics will take some time. And here's where you come in.

A subcommittee of people interested in working out the details, to be presented as a proposal at some future Ritual for Business, is needed. Several members of Ritual Teams have already volunteered, but this process will largely not be an “in ritual” manner, and thus we invite anyone else who would like to help hash out the details to jump right in! We'll probably meet a few times in person and do most of the work by e-mail or phone, although that can be worked out later. Devin has volunteered to chair this subcommittee, so please contact him if you are interested in helping out! His contact info is on page 5.

— *Devin Scrogum*

Gaia About Town

Ritual Teams Meeting (12/6, 6:45 PM): At Barbara's house. Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists, if you are interested please contact Kitty in person or at rte@gaiacommunity.org! January's meeting will be at the Entropic Trinity's house.

Tuesday Night Classes: Adult Education classes for December will be the Pagan Parenting session on the 5th and the Yule class on the 19th. All classes start at 7 PM; childcare is available on request by contacting Kris Ennis in person or at adulsted@gaiacommunity.org by no later than the Sunday before each class.

Ritual for Business (12/9, 9:30 AM): 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 consensus process. If you've ever had an official question or concern, this would be the place to bring it.

If you don't feel comfortable bringing it up in public, our Vice-President, Liz Ticer, serves as the community's Ombudswoman for hearing discrete matters; her contact information is on page 5.

Games Night (12/15, 7 PM): 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 either the Barn Chapel or downstairs in the Jefferson room, depending on weather/games available.

KidSpace Meeting (12/17, 2 PM): Parents, volunteers, and anybody with ideas or an interest in our kids are welcome! Meetings are held in the Childrens' Classroom section of SMUUCH before ritual on the 3rd Sunday of the month; contact Jennifer or Linda (the KidSPACE Co-Chairs), or Anissa (our Director of Religious Education) for more information. E-mail gaiakidspace@yahoo.com or catch them on Sundays!

Please see the following page if you are interested in helping out with WeeSPACE for our youngest kids.

Friday Night Supper Club: Because of the holidays, there may not be a FNCS this month. Please watch the website, email group, and Sunday announcements for any sort of ideas that might be forthcoming for either the 22nd or 29th!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out to Caroline Baughman on the 10th of December, Kira Turner on the 17th, and John Carroll right after the new year on January 4th. Let us know if your day got missed!

Our condolences go toward those working through difficult changes in their lives, be it financial, interpersonal, or spiritual. Please know that we as a community are here to help or listen when we can, and that you can and will survive this trial. This too, shall pass.

If you or another member of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the newly reformed Caring Committee by emailing us at caring@gaiacommunity.com, or leaving a message on the Gaia Community voicemail at 816-931-9900, or by contacting one of the Caring Committee members in person: Cynthia Mathis, Terry Ross, or Debbie Dozier.



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

Voices of Gaia meets at 2:00 PM, Sacred Rhythm Group at 3:30 PM

Sunday, December 3rd

Ritual – Sharing Our Spirits Ritual — Simplicity

Ritualists: Linda and Barbara

In this season of busyness and excess in all things, today we will celebrate silence, stillness, and simplicity in a ritual crafted by all those present. Feel free to bring songs to teach, poems to recite, art to share--or just yourself, which is all that is ever really needed.

Sunday, December 10th

Ritual – KidSPACE/Baby Blessing

Ritualists: Linda, Barbara, Anissa and Greta

An intergenerational ritual planned by TeenSpace and facilitated by all the children, we will celebrate the growth and milestones passed by the children this year; this is also our annual Baby Blessing, so if you have a newborn or baby new to the community whom you would like formally welcomed, please contact Barbara at bpmg@earthlink.net to be sure the infant is included. Coming from the Teens, we will explore some mythology that may be unfamiliar to adults who do not have young adolescent children! Please come ready to participate with Younger Self! And at this time of the year, please also remember those less fortunate who may need assistance, with donations of food for Harvesters, and of comfort items for the women and children of Hope House.

Sunday, December 17th

Sabbat – Yule (with potluck afterward)

Ritualists: Kitty, Kimberly, Jeff, Liz

At the Winter Solstice, the days are at their shortest, and night at the peak of its power. As we turn the wheel of the year, we also turn the tides of dark and light, filling our souls with the promise of sunrise. Come join us as we celebrate the mystery of that promise in the dark heart of the year.

As with all our Sabbat celebrations, this ritual will be followed by a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share, and remember to care for the earth by bringing reusable containers and dishes, and to care for others by labeling your ingredients.

Also, please remember that we collect non-perishable food for Harvesters every week, and are collecting holiday gifts and other needed items for Hope House through the end of the year. If you are able to share, please bring a donation to help these groups serve the community.

Sunday, December 24th

Ritual— Vigil

Facilitators: Nicole and Andrew

Many world religions celebrate the return of the light around this time of year. In this meditative ritual, we'll spend some quiet and introspective time considering how we may open ourselves to the returning light. Our teenagers are welcome to participate; KidSpace will have an informal session downstairs.

Sunday, December 31st

Ritual— New Year's Eve

Ritualists: Debbie, Yale, Cynthia, Brian

Join us as we journey through the year. Looking back at the last year we will explore what worked and what didn't work so we can set more realistic goals for the coming year.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

- Jan. 7th – Ritual: Getting Past Perfect
- Jan. 14th – Class: Welcoming Congregation Program
- Jan. 21st – Ritual: Labyrinth
- Jan. 28th – Forum: Building a Religion
(Congregational Paganism)

Current Ritualists

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Devin Scrogum | Kimberly |
| Barbara Griggs | Liz Ticer |
| Eric Simpson | Cynthia Mathis |
| Kitty Degler | Carey Oxler |
| Yale Giffin | David Reynolds |
| Andrew Turner | Nicole Turner |
| Kris Ennis | Debbie Dozier |

Please see Kitty, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams.



KidSPACE News

It's been a busy time in KidSPACE... we are still looking at the Wheel of the Year and getting to know the elements better. We'll begin something new around Imbolc, so if anyone would like to share their thoughts about what you would like our kids to learn about, please feel free! Our numbers continue to grow. We usually have about 3 in the WeeSPACE room, 12 in KidSPACE (with the majority of them falling between the ages of 4 and 8), and 4 or 5 in TeenSPACE. As always, we welcome volunteers who would like to help out. Curriculum is planned, but extra hands are always a blessing, especially with the age ranges in the middle class.

We are also still looking for someone regular to fill the position in the WeeSPACE room. If you know someone who is consistent, committed, compassionate, open, active, and works well with mild chaos while maintaining at least a sliver of sanity, please have them contact Anissa at gaiakidspace@yahoo.com They will have to submit to a background check, so no criminals, please! :)

Yule is just around the corner, and we will be talking about traditions, and how, at this time of year especially, it seems the whole world celebrates. If your family has any special traditions, please talk to you child about them so they have something to share. If you have anything you do related to your ethnic or cultural background, that would be awesome!

We're on the lookout for snacks for the kids... non-perishable items like fruit snacks and granola bars are good, and we are especially needing juice boxes. 100% juice if you can!

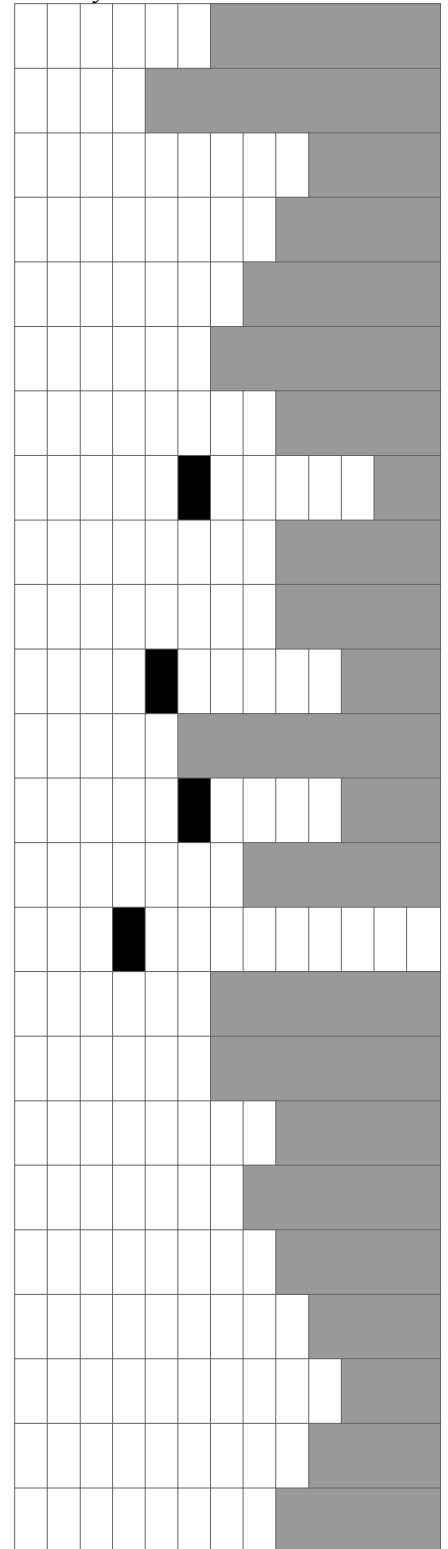
We're looking forward to presenting the Dec.10 ritual for the community!

— *Anissa*

Winter Word Jumble

Unscramble the words, each of which have something to do with the winter holidays!

- ❄️ **rtneiw**
- ❄️ **yuel**
- ❄️ **wklosnfea**
- ❄️ **oblswlna**
- ❄️ **annswom**
- ❄️ **irvhes**
- ❄️ **ilnragoc**
- ❄️ **csnluaas ta**
- ❄️ **eiredren**
- ❄️ **seafmurf**
- ❄️ **cnl wilhid**
- ❄️ **tsfro**
- ❄️ **h lngikloy**
- ❄️ **aaswils**
- ❄️ **ohhocoetat lc**
- ❄️ **thawer**
- ❄️ **ccilie**
- ❄️ **ctlsiseo**
- ❄️ **tinsmet**
- ❄️ **derbeecm**
- ❄️ **ererengve**
- ❄️ **atarulars**
- ❄️ **rbehinaet**
- ❄️ **ndgdsiel**



Mooings from the CoW (Committee of the Whole)

Summary of November's Ritual for Business (RfB)

- I. **Meeting called to order at 9:42.** Attending: Jennifer, Jeff, Lizzy, David N., Kris, Cynthia, Yale, John, David R., Carey, Kimberly.

Devotions inserted here, with special mention of Veteran's Day.

- II. **Agenda**—agreed

- III. **Minutes**—agreed, with amendments

- IV. **Treasurer's Report**—The report is still three weeks behind on income postings, so we have more income than the report shows. A new government tax adds one dollar to online phone bills per month. Pledges: new and returning members are filling out cards and joining. This is unbudgeted income. If things continue in this financial pattern after Winter Bazaar, John will pay a portion of PS and UUA pledges.

Rave Ritual CDs for donation might generate around \$120 in income. Report accepted.

- V. **Standing Committees**—

- A. **Winter Bazaar**—As of today, we have 22 vendors. We meet today with Bannister Mall to work out details regarding weaponry for sale and food items. A list of vendors is on the website. Please, no more jewelry or soap. We are clean and sparkly enough. We get all the open area of the mall. Vendors can start setting up at 8. Tables and chairs are an issue and might need to be rented.

- B. **Social Justice**—see report; Cynthia came to RfB with Hope House list mentioned in report.

- C. **KidSpace**—Per a concern that has arisen among the teens, Terry will do a sexual abuse awareness class, bringing information from MOCSA. This has been posted beforehand so parents are aware it will be discussed.

- D. **Communications**—The newsletter is out. David struggles with folks not getting stuff in by deadline. A poster has put on "moderation" on the Yahoo Group for one month, pending reevaluation by the moderator.

- E. **Site**—Site information is still coming in and the committee is dealing with it as it does. Nothing practical has been explored at this time.

- VI. **Unfinished Business**—

- A. **Broken Chair**—No progress reported. We will put this item on the agenda for next month.

- B. **Thanksgiving Potluck**—Sager House was not

available, but Nola C. has agreed to host on Thanksgiving Day and has plenty of space. (n.b.: Supper Club will be cancelled for November.)

- VII. **New Business** (n.b.: Needs to include big-ticket items for future RfBs for community info of agenda)

- A. **Caring Committee**—Cynthia is interested in reviving the committee along new lines of supporting inreach for the community. She wants to canvass the community for what the committee could be doing. She will also help Kimberly and Kris with the resource list. We agreed that Cynthia would be the head of the Caring Committee.

- B. **Website Upgrade**—Carey has ideas for updating the website that would make it interactive for committee heads and make issuing proposals and keeping the community informed much easier and immediate. The software currently supports this, but we might need to upgrade the hosting site, at a cost of \$5 a month.

Concerns: Will people without computer skills find it user-friendly? Carey says it should be, and if necessary, she is willing to tutor or hold a class. Perhaps passwords need to be secured with a third party in the unlikely event the webmaster(s) meet an untimely demise.

Carey would like authorization to do the following:

1. Request placement on a different server.
2. Upgrade account from Silver to Gold to increase options for functionality.

The CoW reached consensus to upgrade the website.

- VIII. **The meeting adjourned 11:05.**

— *Jennifer, Secretary*

Gaia Community Board of Directors 2006-2007

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... or contact them all at

board@gaiacommunity.org!



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Address Correction Requested

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THE EARTH AND
EACH OTHER
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LIVES DEPEND
ON IT.

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Send letters, articles, poetry or prose, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to: earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org or by phone (816-941-7626) no later than the 20th 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*

<i>DECEMBER 2006</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual:SOS	27	28 ☉	29	30	1	2 10 AM-6 PM: WINTER BAZAAR @ Bannister Mall
3 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits (Simplicity)	4	5 ☽	6 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	7	8	9 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
10 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: KidSpace/Baby Blessing	11	12 ☽	13	14	15 7 PM: Games Night	16
17 2:00-3:00: KidSpace Meeting 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Sabbat: Yule, w/potluck	18	19 7 PM: Tues. Night Classes, Sabbat Series: Yule	20 ☀	21	22 <i>No details at press time on Friday Night Supper Club this month</i>	23
24 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Vigil	25	26	27 ☽	28	29	30
31 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: New Year's Eve	1	2	3 ☽	4 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	5	6