



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

DECEMBER 2007

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Winter Bazaar 2007 is Coming!

Letters to vendors have gone out with registration information for the Winter Bazaar, Gaia Community's annual craft show and fund raiser. If you are a returning vendor and have not received your registration form, contact us *immediately* at bazaar@gaiacommunity.org or 816-931-9900. Registration is also available on our website at <http://gaiacommunity.org/vendors.shtml>.

This year's Bazaar will be at the **Boone Elementary School, located at 89th and Wornall in Kansas City, Missouri. The Bazaar's hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 15th, 2007.** Building access will start at 8:00 a.m. The space will be open for breakdown and cleanup until 8:00 p.m. Vendor's fees and setup options are outlined in the registration packets.

- *Winter Bazaar Committee*

W.B. Volunteers Needed!

Looking for a way to give back to Gaia Community this Solstice season? The Winter Bazaar is run entirely by volunteers just like you! The Bazaar committee is seeking friendly and outgoing Gaians to staff the Kitchen Witch, Welcome/Information, raffle, and Gaia Community tables. Prefer hands-on service? We need your help too! Parking, **set up**, tear down, and vendor assistance crews all need volunteers ready to roll up their sleeves and pull on their gloves. Youth volunteers and families wishing to volunteer together are welcome. Setup and before-noon shifts are still in need of several people. Want more info? See the fliers on the Greeter's Table or contact me at viator753@hailmail.net.

(cont. in next column)

Volunteers, continued

In addition, the November Ritual for Business authorized a pilot version of a God Auction "credit" system which will be available for Winter Bazaar volunteers: those who donate two or more hours of time to help run the Bazaar will earn 'credits' that they can use to make donations at the 2008 God Auction. Youth can earn credit with just one hour of assistance, and those who donate more than eight hours may be able to get even more. See me for more details, and let's make this the best Winter Bazaar ever!

- *Via, Volunteer Coordinator*

KidSPACE Universe re-forming

The KidSPACE task force has been working hard to re-organize, clarify, and simplify what is expected of our KidSPACE volunteers, employees, parents and youth. A draft proposal from that group can be found pages 3-6 of this document, or online at <http://gaiacommunity.org/kidspaceuniverse.pdf> if you prefer. They are looking for any and all comments in advance of bringing this to the Committee of the Whole at the December Ritual for Business (9:30 AM, 12/8) for final approval. Some interim concerns have already been addressed at the November meeting, but what follows is a much more comprehensive plan for the long-term sustainability of our youth education program.

Any questions, comments, or concerns should be given to Lizzy, Nola, Greta, and Linda in person, or by e-mail through president@gaiacommunity.org - caring for our children is one of the most important functions of our community, and one of the largest items in our budget, so please make your views known if you have any!

- *KidSPACE Task Force*

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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.

Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia (every week): Voices of Gaia, Gaia Community's choir, has started meeting again after a very long summer break. You'll find us in the Theater Room below Barn Chapel on Sundays at 2 pm. New members are always welcome. We prefer that you have some experience singing, particularly with choirs, can match pitch and can follow a musical score. Our current incarnation is as a women's choir, but if you're a tenor or bass and really want to sing with us, contact Kitty in person or at songbird@kc.rr.com and we'll figure something out. Voices of Gaia is also looking for singers who are available to provide choral entertainment during the Winter Bazaar, particularly if you already know our carols!

Ritual Teams Meeting (12/4, 6:45 PM, SMUUCH): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Debbie in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (12/5, 7 PM, Andrew's new apartment): December's meeting will largely consist of sorting, wrapping, and otherwise preparing the gifts that we have bought for kids in the Jackson County C.A.S.A. program; Andrew's new address is 11132 W. 76th Terr. #34 in Shawnee KS; you can also find him in person or e-mail him at sj@gaiacommunity.org!

Ritual for Business (12/8, 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 consensus process. If you've ever had an official question or concern, this would be the place to bring it. December's agenda will consist largely of last-minute Winter Bazaar news, and the KidSPACE proposal to be found later in this newsletter or at the greeter's table. Any questions or items for the agenda can be communicated to the board at board@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

Religions of Kansas City Study Group (12/18, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): A new study group has formed to explore and learn about the variety of religions present in Kansas City. If this is a subject that interests you, please email Lizzy at president@gaiacommunity.org, find her in person, or just join them on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM!

Games Night (12/21, 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/games available. We've gotten some new board game players from the Kansas City area to join us through <http://meetup.com>, so come join the fun!

Friday Night Supper Club: not meeting in December because of the holidays, and because Kris has had to step down as coordinator for this monthly event. If you have an interest in helping take over this event, please mention it at the December Ritual for Business or contact a Board Member to let them know.

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out this month to Caroline on the 10th, Judy McCannon on the 12th, and Kira on the 17th. Let Caring Committee know if there are others that we're missing.

In addition, our energies and thoughts go to John Carroll as he recovers from surgery, Andrew & Nicole and the Turner kids as they move to new digs. And our best wishes go to everyone else who is job hunting, house hunting, moving, and shopping in this marvelously chaotic time of year.

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

Board of Trustees 07-08

President — Lizzy Ticer
president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-636-4924

Vice-President — Terry Ross
vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-966-9186

Treasurer — Nola Cavanaugh
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-966-9186

Secretary — Jennifer Gadd
secretary@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-299-4587

Members at Large —

Carey Oxler
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com
or 816-401-1963

Yale Giffin
niveustigris@hotmail.com
or 816-797-8032

Greta Erhardt
816-822-2070 or
greta@gaiacommunity.org

... or contact them all at
board@gaiacommunity.org!

This is a draft proposal developed by the KidSpace Task Force. We are seeking any and all input from interested parties (members and non-members alike) regarding this proposal. Please provide all comments/concerns/objections with this proposal to a Task Force member (Linda Boyce, Greta Erhardt, Nola Ross, Lizzy Ticer) or email president@gaiacommunity.org or come in person to the Ritual for Business (RfB) on December 8 (9:30 am @ SMUUCH). All communication to the Task Force will be taken under consideration for the formal proposal at the December RfB on December 8.

KidSpace Universe

The basic expectation of all children in KidSpace will be that they are here for a religious education. If any child is unable/unwilling to participate and learn in our established environment and meet our listed expectations, parents are asked to be responsible for them at ritual or make other arrangements. Arrangements easily made for children with special needs.

Sprouts (Previously WeeSpace)

Birth – 4 years of age (A child may be asked into a different class based on their abilities for a temporary or permanent basis regardless of age.)

The designated person responsible for the Sprouts (Sprout Leader) will be a paid volunteer who must meet the following qualifications:

1. Have a clean background check from both the State of Missouri and the State of Kansas on file with the Board Secretary
2. Approval from the KidSpace Committee to serve in this capacity
3. A willingness to foster the expectations listed below
4. A working knowledge of lease restrictions for use of rooms and equipment

The expectations of Sprouts will be:

- Learning to share
- Learning to take your turn
- Cooperative play

Demonstration of knowledge of the following to an instructor will be used to gauge for moving a child to the next class (with the support of the instructor(s)):

- I. Correct classroom decorum (sitting still and listening)
- II. Toilet trained

Shoots (Previously KidSpace)

4 – 8 years of age (A child may be asked into a different class based on their abilities for a temporary or permanent basis regardless of age.)

The designated person responsible for the Shoots (Head Shoot) will be a paid volunteer who must meet the following qualifications:

1. Have a clean background check from both the State of Missouri and the State of Kansas on file with the Board Secretary
2. Approval from the KidSpace Committee to serve in this capacity
3. A willingness to foster the expectations listed below
4. A working knowledge of lease restrictions for use of rooms and equipment

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KidSpace Universe (cont.)

The expectations of the Shoots will be:

- A basic understanding of the 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism
- A basic understanding of the Cornerstones
- A basic concept of Pagan spirituality
- Basic understanding of diversity in religions
- Ability to conduct ones self appropriately in the classroom and Sacred Space

Demonstration of knowledge of the following to an instructor will be used to gauge for moving a child to the next class (with the support of the instructor(s)):

- I. Ritual format (Gaia standard format “bare bones of ritual”, their own family’s tradition, other Pagan tradition)
- II. Definition/recognition of Sacred Space
- III. Proper decorum in ritual and sacred space

Saplings (Pre-TeenSpace)

8 – 12 years of age (A child may be asked into a different class based on their abilities for a temporary or permanent basis regardless of age.)

The designated person responsible for the Saplings (Gardner) will be a paid volunteer who must meet the following qualifications:

1. Have a clean background check from both the State of Missouri and the State of Kansas on file with the Board Secretary
2. Approval from the KidSpace Committee to serve in this capacity
3. A willingness to foster the expectations listed below
4. A working knowledge of lease restrictions for use of rooms and equipment

The expectations of the Saplings will be:

- Creation of ritual/sacred space for themselves
- Application of Cornerstones
- Full understanding of each of the UU principles
- Basic understanding of world religions and traditions
- Advanced comprehension of major pagan paths/pantheons

Demonstration of the following to an instructor will be used to gauge for moving a child to the next class (with the support of the instructor(s)):

- I. Decorum during ritual and in sacred space
- II. Creation of ritual/sacred space for themselves with minimum oversight/instruction
- III. Knowledge of at least two pantheons
- IV. Successful completion of Rite of Passage (defined by curriculum)

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KidSpace Universe (cont.)

Trees (Previously TeenSpace)

12 – 16 years of age (A child may be asked into a different class based on their abilities for a temporary or permanent basis regardless of age.)

The designated person responsible for the Trees (Ent) will be a paid volunteer who must meet the following qualifications:

1. Have a clean background check from both the State of Missouri and the State of Kansas on file with the Board Secretary
2. Approval from the KidSpace Committee to serve in this capacity
3. A willingness to foster the expectations listed below
4. A working knowledge of lease restrictions for use of rooms and equipment

The expectations of the Trees will be:

- Knowledge of the history of the UUA
- Knowledge of the history of Gaia Community
- Having an organizational understanding of Gaia Community (Including board administration, operational processes and how we use consensus)
- Assist in mentoring younger children in a positive way
- Thorough understanding of world religions and traditions
- Thorough understanding of UU principles
- Thorough understanding of Cornerstones

Demonstration of knowledge of the following to an instructor will be used to gauge completion (with the support of the instructor(s)):

- I. Attendance and participation in at least one Adult Sunday service every calendar year (non-intergenerational)
- II. Attendance and participation in at least one RfB
- III. Development and implementation of full Sunday Service in conjunction with Ritual Teams (with minimal instruction/oversight)
- IV. Ability to express their theology/spirituality/belief system
- V. Completion of Rite of Passage

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KidSpace Universe (cont.)

KidSpace Committee Makeup and Responsibilities

KidSpace Committee Chair must:

1. Be a full active member
2. Serve as back up to the KidSpace Coordinator
3. Serve as direct supervisor of KidSpace Coordinator
4. Develop agenda and facilitate KidSpace Committee meetings monthly
5. A working knowledge of lease restrictions for use of rooms and equipment

KidSpace Committee is responsible for:

- Development of Curriculum
- Oversight of KidSpace Coordinator
- Providing input into development of monthly agenda for KidSpace meetings
- Providing guidance to Coordinator regarding issues with KidSpace
- Providing monthly communication to RfB (Committee report), Ritual Teams and the congregation at large regarding issues, activities, actions and events
- Being aware of the non-educational functions of the KidSpace Universe (teacher relations, issues and concerns of parents/instructors, behavior)
- Evaluation of instructors, the Coordinator, and the workings of the KidSpace Universe
- Selection and approval of KidSpace Coordinator
- Solicitation, approval and releasing of volunteer(s)
- Approval of the expenditure of KidSpace funds
- A working knowledge of lease restrictions for use of rooms and equipment
- To set the honorarium for the paid volunteer(s) and the KidSpace Coordinator

KidSpace Coordinator Makeup and Responsibilities

Paid volunteer who is responsible for:

1. Implementation of Curriculum
2. Ensuring instructors for every class
 1. Scheduling and notification of paid volunteers for instruction
3. Point of contact for issues with KidSpace
4. Obtaining/soliciting needed supplies and snacks
5. Inventory of KidSpace supplies
6. A working knowledge of lease restrictions for use of rooms and equipment

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

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

Sunday, December 2nd

Forum — Pagan Assumptions

Facilitators: Linda & Eric

This forum will cover some of those assumptions we make about "all pagans"; theology, politics, sexuality, and a variety of other topics could be covered, so bring your thoughts *and* your manners!

Sunday, December 9th

Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits

Ritualists: Andrew & Devin

Sharing Our Spirits, or SOS, rituals are designed to be co-created by the very people who show up that day! One or two members of our ritual teams will be there to help, but all ideas, songs, intentions, and ritual styles are on the table! Please bring any ideas or ritual tools you wish to help make this day exactly what the people there will be looking for.

Sunday, December 16th

Ritual — Lessons of the Seasons

(Intergenerational, w/ KidSPACE)

Ritualists: Linda, Kitty, Amanda

Join the community in celebrating the lessons of the changing seasons and honoring the changes in our lives. This is our annual intergenerational KidSpace and baby blessing ritual. If you have a new child in your life this past year and would like him or her welcomed and blessed by the community, please contact Linda Boyce at 816-419-9447 or llboyce@mindspring.com. Additionally you will have the chance to honor any changes or passages that have occurred in your personal life. Parents should also be prepared to recognize a positive change in your child over the past year. There will be no KidSPACE this

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Jan. 6th — Workshop: Banishing Personal Demons

Jan. 13th — Ritual: Oppression

Jan. 20th — Forum: Pagans & War

Jan. 27th — Ritual: The Peaceful Warrior

Sunday, as the children will be in the ritual. WeeSPACE will be available as needed.

Sunday, December 23rd

SABBAT — Yule (w/potluck after)

Ritualists: Linda, Yale, Jacki

Everyone has different traditions for this time of year. How do you celebrate? How does your neighbor celebrate? We will celebrate Yule this year by learning about different traditions and celebrations, and sharing with Community. For this ritual, please bring a Harvesters donation, and please have your kids bring a clean (large) sock. Along with your Harvesters donation, please bring trinkets (or cookies, or fruit, or stuff) for the children in our congregation; something to fill their socks.

As with every high holiday, there will be a potluck meal after the ritual; please bring a dish, dessert, or drink for eight hungry people, and remember to bring your own table setting, so we don't have to use disposable dishes! Remember to label your ingredients for those with dietary concern.

Sunday, December 30th

Ritual — New Year's Formal

Ritualists: Andrew, Eric, Lizzy, Jacki

Our New year's ritual this year will involve dancing, music, and other delights; stay tuned to the weekly announcements or website for more information.

- *Ritual Teams*

Currently Active Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Amanda Pence
Barbara	David Reynolds
Devin Scrogum	Eric Simpson
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	Lizzy Ticer
Via Baker	Yale Giffin

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



P.O. BOX 4550 /
 Kansas City, MO 64171-8303
 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 (816-941-7626) 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*

DECEMBER 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Thanksgiving	26	27	28	29	30	1 World AIDS Day
2 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Forum on Pagan Assumptions	3 1st Day of Disabled Persons	4 1st day of Hanukkah 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUC	5 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 Bodhi Day 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
9 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14	15 Bill of Rights Day WINTER BAZAAR!!
16 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Intergenerational KidSPACE ritual	17 Saturnalia	18 7 PM: Religions of Kansas City Study Group	19	20	21 7 PM: Games Night	22 Winter Solstice
23 Humanlight 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: SABBAT: Yule (w/potluck)	24	25 Christmas	26 First day of Kwanzaa	27	28	29
30 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: New Year's Formal	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5