



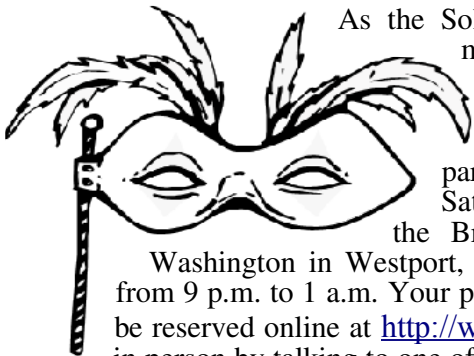
# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

## Longest Night Masquerade Ball

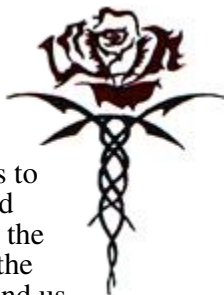


As the Solstice approaches, we're making final preparations for the Longest Night Masked Ball. We hope you'll join us for the party, to be held on Saturday, December 20 at the Broadway Church (3931

Washington in Westport, right next to Aquarius), from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Your place on the guest list can be reserved online at <http://www.longestnight.org> or in person by talking to one of the lovely people on the planning committee (Kimberly, Kate, Kit, Greta, or Mary). Admission is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Because this is a masked, costume ball, anyone in attendance who is not in costume will be charged an additional \$5; there will be some masks available for sale just outside the entrance!

Your \$20 gets you a fabulous evening of music (provided by local DJ Justin Bale, of the Internet Radio station <http://popfreeradio.com/>) and dancing, a chance to see a truly unique seasonal observance by our very own Caroline Baughman, and delicious treats for vegetarians and omnivores alike. You and your party will also have a chance to get photographed in all your finery by professional photographer Russ Matthews (check out his work at <http://www.russmattpphoto.com>), and to purchase delightful frippery from our lovely vendors. We will also hold a silent auction, at which you'll have a chance to pick up something even more special.

Thanks to everyone who has pitched in so far, hanging posters, handing out cards, volunteering their time, and making donations for the silent auction. We're still looking for volunteers to help with preparing food for the event, and people willing to put in an hour or two on the day of the party to set up, greet people at the door, sell drinks and serve food. Please send us an email at [stewardship@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:stewardship@gaiacommunity.org) if you're willing to help!



Thanks, and we'll see you at the Ball!

- Stewardship Committee

## 2009 Sunday Schedule

2009 promises to be another interesting year for Sunday rituals, classes, workshops and other events. Here's a sneak peak at what's coming your way in the first six months:

- 1/04 - Workshop: Ritual Consciousness & Altered States
- 1/11 - Ritual: The Swords (*Tarot arc*)
- 1/18 - Ritual: Mythic America (*Americana arc*)
- 1/25 - Forum: Everyday Divinity
- **2/01 - Ritual: Imbolc** (w/Wild Hare Grove)
- 2/08 - Ritual: The Cups (*Tarot arc*)
- 2/15 - Ritual: Patron Rite III (*New Member Sunday*)
- 2/22 - Workshop: Kirtan
- 3/01 - Forum: Magical Ethics
- 3/08 - Ritual: American Gods (*Americana arc*)
- 3/15 - Sharing Our Spirits (*All Snakes Day*)
- **3/22 - Ritual: Spring Equinox**
- 3/29 - Class/Workshop: Sacred Geometry
- 4/05 - Ritual: The Fisher King
- 4/12 - Ritual: The Pentacles
- 4/19 - Class: Voluntary Simplicity
- 4/26 - EIR Final
- **5/03 - Ritual: Beltane**
- 5/10 - Ritual: Sing to the Lady (*Mother's Day*)
- 5/17 - Class/Workshop - Storytelling
- 5/24 - SOS: Sharing Our Stories
- 5/31 - Ritual: The Castle Yesod
- 6/07 - Forum: Pagan Parenting
- 6/14 - Ritual: Manifesting Destiny (*Americana arc*)
- **6/21 - Ritual: The Wands** (*Tarot arc, Father's Day, Summer Solstice*)
- 6/28 - Class/Workshop: Mini Altars
- 7/05 - Sharing Our Spirits (*Independence Day*)
- 7/12 - GOD AUCTION

- Ritual Teams

### 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.

## Gaia About Town

**Voices of Gaia** (every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia is Gaia Community's choir. We sing pagan chants and songs, usually with harmony parts, for rituals and other events. We meet Sundays from 2-3:30 p.m. downstairs at SMUUCH. Since the piano has been moved to the newly remodeled High School/Teen room, we'll be moving rehearsals to there. Rehearsals for the rest of this calendar year will be much more regular. We'll meet Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, Dec. 7, 14 and Dec. 21, skipping only Nov. 30th when I am on the ritual team for that Sunday. We are once again welcoming singers of all voice parts, though our core group is primarily female. Our primary requirement is that you can match pitch, though some familiarity with reading music is useful. If you have questions, please contact Kitty Degler at [voices@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:voices@gaiacommunity.org) or in person and we'll figure something out.

**Stewardship Committee** (every Wednesday at 7 PM, at Jason's Deli): Stewardship continues to plan the Longest Night Ball; until that happens, they'll be at Jason's Deli, 8931 Metcalf the first three Wednesdays of December. Get in touch with Kimberly, Kate, Greta, Mary, or Kit in person or through email at [stewardship@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:stewardship@gaiacommunity.org) if you'd like to help, or just come to the meeting!

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (12/2, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Kimberly, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, in person or at [rtc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:rtc@gaiacommunity.org). As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest let a ritualist know!

**Craft Circle** (12/6, 1-5 PM, at Kimberly & David's house): Craft Circle's primary goal right now is to make masks for sale/use at the Longest Night Ball, but any projects are welcome to keep company! The address is 1306 E. 118<sup>th</sup> St; bring any/all materials you like!

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (12/9, 7 PM, at Andrew's): This meeting will be at Andrew's apartment: 11132 W. 76th Terr. #34 in Overland Park; you can also e-mail him at [sj@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org) or find him in person. The committee will be working on the ongoing social justice project with Salvation Army.

**Ritual for Business** (12/13, 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. If you've ever had 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.

**Games Night** (12/19, 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/or what games are available.

**KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (12/21, 1 PM, at Dunn Brothers): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Rosemary (the Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) at [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org) to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

**Friday Night Supper Club** (12/26, 7 PM): December's supper club will be at Accurso's Main Street Deli, an Italian restaurant in the Brookside area (5044 Main Street in KCMO). Please contact David or Kimberly to save a spot, as the place is relatively small.

## Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include: Caroline on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Judi and Stuart on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and Kira on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

In addition, our thoughts go to all of those who are moving, changing jobs, taking long trips, or experiencing difficulties in health or well-being. As the weather turns cold finally, we hope that everyone is staying healthy, warm, and content with their life in general.

The Caring Committee is now chaired by Jacki Kelley; please let her know of concerns or blessings you wish to share with the community, or if you have ideas for how to make this committee a more vibrant part of our community. Leave a message on our answering machine at 816-931-9900 or by e-mail at [caring@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org).

### Board of Trustees 08-09

**President** — Lizzy Ticer  
[president@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 913-636-4924

**Vice-President** — Linda Boyce  
[vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-419-9447

**Treasurer** — vacant

[treasurer@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:treasurer@gaiacommunity.org)  
**Secretary** — David Reynolds  
[secretary@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:secretary@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-508-9086

**Members at Large** —

Via Baker  
[viator753@hailmail.net](mailto:viator753@hailmail.net)  
or 913-548-9463

Erin Truitt  
[etisme@gmail.com](mailto:etisme@gmail.com)  
or 913-904-2459

Greta Erhardt  
816-822-2070 or  
[greta@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:greta@gaiacommunity.org)  
... or contact them all at  
[board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org)!



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

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

## Sunday, Dec. 7th

### Ritual — Patron Rite II *(New Member Sunday)*

*Ritualists: Erin, Jacki, and Kit*



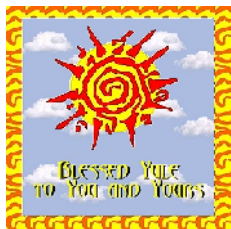
Ah, what a wonderful way to honor Gaia's patron this year! In observing the lesson of hospitality Thor provides in lore, we will greet our new members with a community story, games, contests, and, lest we not forget, a snack. Join us for a ritual of honor and welcoming!

## Sunday, Dec. 14th

### Forum — Holidays: Pagan? Secular? Prevailing Culture?

*Facilitators: Linda and Eric*

The 'holiday season' of late November into January is fraught with social and cultural landmines. What do you celebrate? When do you open presents? Who do you visit, and what happens there? This discussion will cover various aspects of how we deal with the holiday season in a consumer-driven, primarily Christian world.



#### *A Look Ahead to Next Month...*

**Jan. 4th - Workshop: Ritual Consciousness & Altered States**

**Jan. 11th - Ritual: The Swords (Tarot arc)**

**Jan. 18th - Ritual: Mythic America (Americana arc)**

**Jan. 25th - Forum: Everyday Divinity**

## Sunday, Dec. 21st

### Sabbat — Yule *(Brit. Trad.)*

*Ritualists: Kimberly, David, Jeff, and Jacki*

The wheel of the year turns ever on and on; as the days grow shorter and the weather gets colder, the Oak King and the Holly King prepare to do battle once more. Come help turn the Wheel of the Year; if you have familiarity or affinity for the British Traditional Wicca style of ritual, let Kimberly know, as there are some spaces for additional people to help out this week.



As with all high holidays, we will be holding a potluck meal afterward, so bring a dish, dessert, or drink 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, Dec. 28th

### Ritual — Milestones

*Ritualists: Linda, Greta, and Cheryl*

This ritual will recognize and celebrate many of those achievements, changes, and milestones that happened to both the community as a whole and its members/friends over the last year. Please let Linda know if you have a particular milestone you would like to have celebrated (although you can also bring them the day of ritual).



*- Ritual Teams*

#### Currently Active Ritualists

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Barbara       | David Reynolds |
| Devin Scrogum | Eric Simpson   |
| Erin Truitt   | Jacki Kelley   |
| Jeff Park     | Kimberly       |
| Kit Peters    | Kitty Degler   |
| Linda Boyce   |                |

*Please see Kimberly, 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.*

## KidSpace Notes

This is the KidSpace schedule through 1/11/2008. If you would like to be a teacher or assistant, please let me know. We need folks where I have ? marks. As always, things on this schedule are subject to change.

*Thank you,  
Linda Boyce*

[llboyce@mindspring.com](mailto:llboyce@mindspring.com)

816-419-9447

### Class Definitions:

- **Trees:** Teens and near-teens
- **Saplings:** Mid-range class (roughly 5-11)
- **Shoots:** Nursery-age, what we used to call WeeSpace

12/7:

- ➔ **Trees: Unitarian Universalism I (Bones)** - This class will cover, in brief, the early history of Unitarian Universalism. (Coyote)
- ➔ **Saplings: New Testament** (Linda + ?)
- ➔ **Shoots (?)**

12/14:

- ➔ **Trees: Unitarian Universalism II (Flesh)** - This class will cover, in brief, the more recent history of Unitarian Universalism. (Coyote)
- ➔ **Saplings: More New Testament** (Greta and Mary)
- ➔ **Shoots (?)**

12/21:

- ➔ **Trees: Yule!** – There will be no separate class downstairs during this high holiday and feast.
- ➔ **Saplings: Partially Intergenerational Yule Ritual** (Linda)
- ➔ **Shoots (?)**

12/28:

- ➔ **Trees:** There will be no separate class downstairs during this intergenerational ritual.
- ➔ **Saplings:** There will be no separate class downstairs during this intergenerational ritual.
- ➔ **Shoots:** There will be no separate nursery care downstairs during this intergenerational ritual.

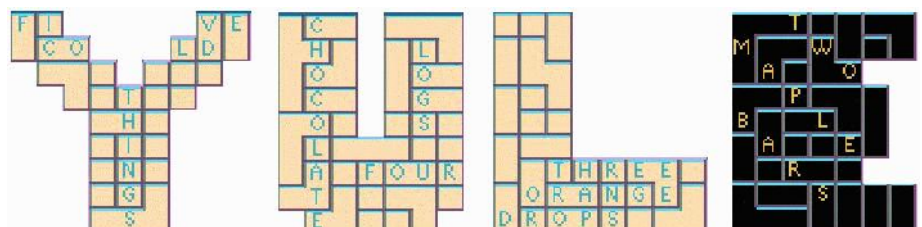
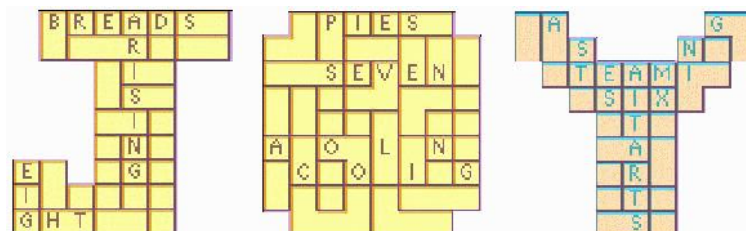
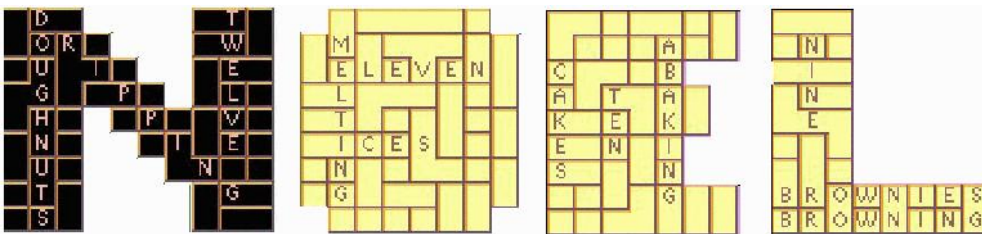
1/4/09:

- ➔ **Trees: Unitarian Universalism III (Heart)** – Here the class will cover the beliefs most commonly held by Unitarian Universalists. (Coyote)
- ➔ **Saplings: Wrap-Up Christianity** (Linda and ?)
- ➔ **Shoots (?)**

1/11/09:

- ➔ **Trees: Unitarian Universalism IV (Stones)** – This class will discuss the Cornerstones of Gaia Community. (Coyote)
- ➔ **Saplings: Introduction to Eastern Religions** (Linda and ?)
- ➔ **Shoots (?)**

– *KidSpace Committee*



## Ritual for Business Minutes for November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Started at 9:39 AM

In attendance: David, Via, Linda, Devin, Erin, Barbara, Kit, Kate

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – approved
- II. **Minutes** – approved
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – David has the paperwork and checkbook. Cannot sign checks, but Lizzy as President is on the bank account.
  1. Gaia Garage Sale - \$682.82 was the final total after expenses. However there were two more checks given to Nola directly afterward from members who hadn't paid at the time. She would like someone else to host next year (David and Kimberly are already planning to do one in the spring of 2009; Devin and Erin are also willing to host one in Lawrence). She would like to have more helpers on setup/teardown. Also utilize more free advertising. The popcorn seemed to go over well; soda did not sell as well this year due to the cooler weather. Leftover items were given to DAV; leftover giftbags will be available for other Gaia fundraisers. A troy silver ounce and some books were sold afterward for another \$21.
- IV. **Committee Reports** -
  1. NomCom – Nola had to resign as Treasurer. Three candidates were identified, but none turned out to be available at this time. Linda suggested talking to her husband John.
  2. Ritual Teams – rituals are assigned for the first half, Linda needs 1 more to help with End-of-year Ritual on Dec. 28th.
  3. KidSpace – Coyote is finishing up the Christianity chapter with the TeenSpace class. The younger group is finishing up the Old Testament and about to start the New Testament which will carry them through most of the rest of the year. They would like to have a field trip to go see the Tibetan exhibit at Aquarius on the 16th. They have chaperones and vehicles arranged already. KidSpace is trying to utilize both space and teachers efficiently; teachers will not be teaching one student alone, and an assistant may be used for the middle-age group, to help with “floating”.
  4. Membership – Added 3 new members at the last NMS; four of the seven candidates did not show up but there are some makeup classes.
  5. Communications – Earth Healer has not gone out yet due to the lack of information gotten to David. Due date is Sunday at noon, now! New website is almost ready, just lacking a completed navigation scheme and a few more details. David also feels that he's solved what was going on with Linda's email, and will check when he gets home.
  6. Site/Lease – deferred because neither Lizzy or Duane were at the meeting. They are cashing our checks though, and seem to be on good terms with us when we report problems with the building. Group consensed to liquidate the CD when it comes due, if it should do so in the time before we get our next official Treasurer.
  7. Welcoming – we have not gotten anything in the mail yet, but the UUA website reflects approval of our WC status. Hooray!

8. Caring – Jacki was not here; however we had some updates on John's status (see New Business).
9. Stewardship – Every member of the committee has changed their names to Stu, according to Kit. But seriously... plans for the Longest Night Ball proceed apace though. The check for rental of Broadway Church has been mailed to them; Kate will check with them next week. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$5 additional if you are not in costume. They will also be selling masks and jewelry. The event will be BYOB to avoid the hassle of a liquor license. Flyers are not ready yet but will be soon. The DJ has been obtained; a fellow who has popfreeradio.com will be doing it for free, so please patronize his Internet Radio station! They are also working on decorations, and will send a list of requests out to the e-list, EH, announcements, etc.
10. Social Justice – Llamas for Lammas project successfully obtained a llama (not certain whether or not we had enough left over a duck). The next project will be working with the Salvation Army.

### V. Old Business

1. Committee Procedures – collection of data continues ongoing.
2. SCORE retreat – Barbara, Kitty, and Devin went to the retreat and presented a ritual for the Southern Cluster. They will need to be reimbursed for conference expenses, but they were very well received. In fact, they want our assistance with drumming at Jill Jarvis' ordination at All Souls next Saturday; Barbara is trying to get more details, but this is an improvement over the usual “can you help in the kitchen?”.
3. Sex Offenders Issue – no further progress; they have not met recently, so it is tabled until they meet again and/or come to some conclusion regarding recommendations.
4. Internet Advertising – Kate is having good success reaching people with her Women's Circle and advertising it through Meetup.com. She got 12 people at her last event, and 20 are RSVPed for the next one this month. She said that Gaia Community has gotten one more attendee out of that (this was one of the people Devin has in Member Classes who didn't show up for NMS). She will have numbers for Friday's ritual soon, and the group consensed to allow Communications to utilize any available budgeted funds if they see fit.

### VI. New Business

1. Rites of Passage – 2/3 of Ritual Teams has endorsed the candidates who helped develop the program: Kitty, Jeff, David, and Barbara. There was some concern about due notice having been given that this was on this month's agenda (carried over from October). The group consensed to have the term for Rites Ritualists be set at 2 years. It also agreed to authorize those four people until the spring election.
2. Compassionate Memberships – The COW has previously agreed to moooooove this issue to Caring+Stewardship (and Stewardship subsequently deferred it entirely to Caring Committee's purview). Devin will check with them on that, as there is a person going through New Member class who will be unable to pay.

VII. *Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.*

### *Agenda for December 15<sup>th</sup>:*

- *Approval of Treasurer candidate, per the Nominating Committee.*
- *Ongoing Report regarding the Longest Night Ball.*
- *Other business as per usual (committee reports, etc.)*

- *David, Secretary*



P.O. Box 45307  
 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](mailto: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*

| DECEMBER 2008  |                                    |   |  |                                   |   |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Sunday   | Monday                             | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                          | Friday  | Saturday  |
| 30<br>2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u><br>3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythm</u><br>4 PM: <u>Ritual: Thanking the Nature Spirits (Urban Shamanism)</u>                          | 1<br><i>World AIDS Day</i>         | 2<br><b>7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH</b>                | 3<br>7 PM: <u>Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90<sup>th</sup> &amp; Metcalf</u>  | 4                                 | 5<br>☉  | 6<br><b>1-4PM: Craft Circle @ David &amp; Kimberly's</b>                          |
| 7<br><i>Pearl Harbor Day</i><br>2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u><br>3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythm</u><br>4 PM: <b>Patron Rite II (New Member Sunday)</b>                   | 8<br><i>Bodhi Day</i>              | 9<br><b>7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's</b> | 10<br><i>Human Rights Day</i><br>7 PM: <u>Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90<sup>th</sup> &amp; Metcalf</u>                              | 11                                | 12<br>○   | 13<br><b>9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH</b>                          |
| 14<br>2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u><br>3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythm</u><br>4 PM: <b>Forum on Holidays</b>  | 15                                 | 16  | 17<br><i>Int'l Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers</i><br>7 PM: <u>Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90<sup>th</sup> &amp; Metcalf</u> | 18<br><i>Roman Feast of Epona</i> | 19<br>☾   | 20<br><b>9 PM: Longest Night Masked Ball @ Broadway Church, 3931 Broadway St.</b> |
| 21<br><i>Yule</i><br>1 PM: <u>KidSpace Meeting</u><br>2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u><br>3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythm</u><br>4 PM: <b>SABBAT: Yule (w/potluck after)</b> | 22<br><i>First Day of Hanukkah</i> | 23<br><i>HumanLight</i>                                       | 24<br><i>Christmas Eve</i>   | 25<br><i>Christmas Day</i>        | 26<br><i>First Day of Kwanzaa</i><br><b>7 PM: Supper Club @ Accurso's, 5044 Main St, KCMO</b> | 27<br>●   |
| 28<br>2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u><br>3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythm</u><br>4 PM: <b>Ritual: Milestones</b>   | 29                                 | 30  | 31<br><i>New Year's Eve</i>  | 1<br><i>First Day of 2009</i>     | 2   | 3   |