



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

DECEMBER 2010

PAGE 1

The 3rd Annual Longest Night Ball Approaches!



Join us for a swingin' party to celebrate the Winter Solstice!

December 18, 2010

9PM-1AM

Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church

This year, we are inspired by the USO clubs of the 1940s as we present an evening honoring love and devotion. Enjoy music, dance, food and entertainment, as well as our midnight pageant celebrating the depth of Winter and the inevitable return of Spring.

Light refreshments, non-alcoholic drinks, and a tipsy punch will be available at our event this year for a donation. Alcohol may be brought and consumed in moderation by guests. Because of this and the lateness of the event's schedule, we must require that all guests at the ball be at least 18 years of age (and of course 21 to drink alcohol). We will gladly hold your keys for you at the

check-in table if you ask.

The inspiration for the Longest Night Ball is the Kushiel stories by Jacqueline Carey. In these books, the Winter Solstice inspires a masquerade which is THE social event to attend.

In the stories, costuming for an event like this would require weeks of preparation, a costume idea sure to be cleverer than anyone else's, and perhaps some friendly but fierce competition for the services of the best tailors and the purchase of the richest fabrics. While we don't expect our guests to go to quite those lengths, we do encourage dressing to impress. Formal or semi-formal attire with the addition of a mask or face paint would certainly be appropriate, as would historical or fantasy costuming, ritual attire, or whatever makes you feel most fabulous. This year, because of our 1940's-style setting, we also think that vintage attire would be pretty keen.

This year there will be a **raffle** for fabulous prizes. Tickets for the raffle will be sold at \$1 each or \$10 for 13. Winners will be announced at 11 PM.

At midnight, we will celebrate the season with a **pageant** featuring some guests from Kansas City's theater scene.

There will also be **event photography** by Larry Hols of TAFL Photography to capture your fabulousness, and **venting** featuring Gaia Community artisans as well as naughty delights from Passion Party consultant Mary.

Tickets for the event may be purchased in person at any Gaia event for \$15 or you may purchase them online for the same price plus a small processing fee at <http://longestnight.org>. If you prefer to purchase at the door, tickets will be \$20.

If you would like to help set up or tear down at the event, please contact jamie@gaiacommunity.org. You will be lauded and loved.

- Stewardship

What's Inside This Issue

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
KIDSPACE ACTIVITY PAGE.....	4
RITUAL FOR BUSINESS MINUTES.....	5
CALENDAR	6

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 and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus. If anyone is still interested in Storytelling, they should contact Andrew.

Craft Circle (12/4, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house. Their address is 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome!

Ritual Teams Meeting (12/6, 7:00 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Jamie, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, at rtc@gaiacommunity.org or in person if you have questions or wish to provide feedback about how a Sunday service went. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest, let any ritualist know (they have blue ribbons on their nametags)!

Ritual for Business (12/11 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 have an official question or concern, this would be the place to bring it. Any questions or items for the agenda (see page 5) should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (12/12, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend. Get in touch with Kelley (the new Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (12/14, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We will meet at Andrew's apartment: 8334 W. 108th, Apt. E, Overland Park, KS. If you have questions about this committee, you can e-mail us at sj@gaiacommunity.org.

New Member Class will not be held in December due to the holiday season and timing difficulties. Contact Devin or Jamie at membership@gaiacommunity.org for more information if you are interested in becoming a member.

Queer Allies Discussion (12/15, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): This meeting will be open for any and all; there is no set topic yet for this month. If you have one, bring it!

Games Night (12/17, 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 what games are available.

Women's Sacred Moon Ritual (12/17, 7:30 PM, location not available to the general public): Women have come together under the Full Moon for centuries to share their knowledge and celebrate the sister Moon and honor the Goddess in all their glory. Every month, we host a Full Moon ritual for women of all faiths and backgrounds to come together and embrace the Divine Feminine within us all. Although we love the men and children in our lives, Full Moon Rituals are for women only. Contact Kelley Montford or Kate Miller for more information.

Friday Night Supper Club will be on hiatus for December, due to the proximity to the major holiday season. See you next year!

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Scrogum
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Vice-President — Amanda Pence
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Cynthia Cole
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... or contact them all at
board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Caroline Oates on the 10th, Judi McCannon on the 12th, and Kira Turner on the 17th. There are probably others, so let Caring Committee know of any others that we're missing, and congratulations and blessings to all those folks for another trip around the sun. We also ask that you keep in mind those undergoing health care troubles or changes in lifestyle or employment at this time.



The Caring Committee chair (Leo) is interested in what you want to see from this reconstituted committee. If you have ideas, concerns or blessings you wish to share, they can be sent to caring@gaiacommunity.org.

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

Voices of Gaia and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus.

Sunday, December 5th

Rave: A Mindful Journey

(Personal Spirituality Arc)

Ritualists: Eric, Kit, Cheryl, Kimberly, Aubry

Join us for an exploration of ecstatic dance -- a chance to lose yourself and find yourself in music, motion, and meditation. Wear colors that make you feel in touch with yourself -- and ready to dance.

Sunday, December 12th

Workshop: Make Your Own Tarot Card

Facilitators: Kitty, Aubry, and Kit

Is there a card in your favorite Tarot deck that you think is just plain wrong, or maybe just not quite right? Or is there a card you'd like to explore in more detail? Here is your chance -- time in sacred space to create your own Tarot card. We'll supply white card stock, pencils, markers, watercolors and other drawing supplies. Perhaps some collage materials as well. You supply the insight and creativity. We'll also go over how to determine your Life card and your Growth card for the year, so you could personalize one of those cards for yourself. We encourage you to bring a card from any deck you're trying to match to use as a size template for the one you'll create. If you wish, you'll be able to laminate your new card when you're done. If you're new to Tarot, don't worry, we'll supply some basic information as well.

Currently Active Ritualists

Aubry Gabbard	Barbara
Cheryl Stice	David Reynolds
Devin S.	Eric Simpson
Erin Scrogum	Jamie Peters
Kit Peters	Kimberly
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce

Please see Jamie, 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.

Sunday, December 19th

High Holiday: Yule

(with potluck after)

Ritualists: Linda, Jamie, and Devin

Join us for our Yule celebration! We will gather together to prepare for the light and mark this shortest day. As we move from ritual to potluck, we will turn the wheel as we share companionship and food in the light of community. There will be song and dance and plenty of light! The Yule ritual will be fully intergenerational; all members of our community will be able to participate. Please plan to stay for potluck, as our celebration will not be complete until after we have shared a meal. For our potlucks, we ask that you bring a dish, drink, or dessert sufficient to feed eight people, and please remember to label your ingredients!

Finally, please remember that in this season, many families are struggling to have enough food even for everyday meals. If you can, please bring an item of two of non-perishable food to donate to Harvesters. Thank you.

Sunday, December 26th

Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits

Facilitators: David and Linda

Sharing Our Spirits Rituals are a way for everyone present to help co-create the ritual they want to have that day. It is not planned ahead of time, but instead compiled and put on by those in attendance, facilitated by a few ritualists. If you have a song, ritual scrap, magical tool, or other piece of ritual that you'd like to contribute, we encourage you to bring it.

- Ritual Teams

A Look Ahead..

Jan. 2nd - Class: Cornerstones

Jan. 9th - Kid's Ritual and Baby Blessing

Jan. 16th - Forum: Non-Violence

Jan. 23rd - Ritual: The Great Story

Jan. 30th - High Holiday: Imbolc (w/potluck after)

KidSpace Information

KidSpace had a meeting in November. **The next will be Dec. 12 at 2pm at SMUUCH.** It is moved off the regular schedule due to Yule, which is inter generational on Dec. 19.

Coyote, who has taught our teens (Trees) for several years, is leaving KidSpace in order to pursue other opportunities on Sunday afternoons. We will greatly miss his presence. **We are seeking another teacher.** If you have an interest or know somebody, please contact either Linda or Kelley.

We are currently composing the intergenerational ritual in January. We currently have 2 baby blessings requested and three other milestone acknowledgments within our community scheduled within the ritual. Please alert Linda, David, or Barbara if you want a milestone acknowledged within the ritual, which will be held on January 9th, 2011.

The mouse problem has returned. KidSpace needs some big metal tins to slow the critters down. If you receive popcorn as a holiday treat and would like to pass the tin along to be used to store the children's snacks and supplies, please let Linda know. In the mean time, KidSpace will be bringing in snacks on a weekly basis and removing same at the end of the session. If you would like to help with juice boxes and snacks, please let Linda know. Until we get some more storage containers, we can not leave any food items in the closet or on the cart.

Members of the OWLS committee will be meeting with parents of students to see what nights would be good for scheduling the OWLS program in 2011. Please contact Linda, Kelley, Barbara, or Coyote. It is our hope to get a program scheduled soon for our students.

Clothing exchange was a success. About 10 people came that evening. Safehome received a car trunk of women's business and casual business apparel for their program that helps displaced women get back in the workforce and on the way to financial independence. Another family was assisted with children's clothing after the event. There are still some garments left. The attendees almost all suggested having another event. So.....tentatively Feb. 15, 2011 will be the next Gaia clothing exchange. A proposal will be submitted to the RFB as to whether or not we want to expand our event outside our immediate community.

The students attended a field trip to the Nelson on Dec. 5 and got to see the Plaza Lights on the way home. The students also in November attended the inter-generational prayer beads workshop.

KidSpace is planning a movie night in the near future. Please watch the announcements, e-group and web site for more info.

KidSpace is planning a camp-out for spring 2011. Any suggestions are welcome. Please contact Linda or Kelley or visit a KidSpace meeting.

Students will be starting their next curriculum cycle after the holiday season. **We will be studying various pagan pantheons our students will see within Gaia and the outside community.** We will actually start with Gaia Community's own traditions and ritual style. If you would like to guest teach or could help with any particular path, please contact Linda. She will be approaching some people with requests as the curriculum progresses.

- *Linda, KidSpace Coordinator*

Ritual for Business Minutes for November 13th, 2010

In attendance: Jamie, Kit, Devin, Erin, Kimberly, David, Linda, Barbara, Gerri Lynn, Rosemary, Cheryl, Eric

I. Approval of Agenda – Approved

II. Roles – Barbara for Red Tape, Kimberly for Non Sequitur, David for Red Tape, Kit for Devil's Advocate

III. Minutes – Approved

IV. Treasurer's Report – New Home Fund \$24,116.73; Kidspace \$1,334.26; General \$10,323.39; account balances are as of November 8, though outstanding teacher checks will impact balance of General fund.

V. Committee Reports:

A. KidSpace – Next meeting tomorrow at 2PM; meeting has been moved just for this month. Will include agenda for field trips, OWLS, teachers. We may be losing Coyote and our nursery attendant. Social Justice has been doing litter control at the park. Clothing swap went very well & some materials helped those in real need. May be openable to more than just a Gaia event. Starting planning for January Kidspace ritual.

B. Social Justice – Met last month and this month. Doing a project on Tuesday to talk about bullying and issues related to LGBT youth in schools and communities for posting to the internet for the It Gets Better Project. Will be in the SMUUCH basement.

C. Communications – EH has gone out. If David does not get anything about your ritual, he will make it up, and you will then be honor-bound to make your ritual fit his blurb. Website has recovered from the October 31 bug; we're hoping for a new version soon. Any other weird things on the website you spot please pass on to David for fixing.

D. Membership – Exists! Student teaching is over, but holidays now loom, so Jamie will get directory committee together when it is feasible. New Member class hasn't been having many people, but we'll see how that plays out. Greeter's Table continues to plug along.

1. **Library** – is still here.

E. Site – *crickets*

F. Welcoming – Social Justice ate them this month. (Oh, and still looking for someone to attend Coalition of

Welcoming Ministries meetings.)

G. Ritual Teams – Met! OoooOOOOooooo! And almost everyone was there! Went through and did a schedule for 2011A, and most of the teams for Jan & Feb figured out. There is an article in the EH about how people can be involved in RT without being full ritualists. Looking at storage closets, and soon there shall be a closet-cleaning party. Everyone will be invited! Yay! Also, EIR starts in March.

H. Caring – Are not here, but still care. <insert Care Bear joke here>

I. Nominating Committee – Looking for someone to work on the CUUPS presentation for 2011 GA. More information will be coming to an RFB near you.

J. Stewardship – Heeeeelp! (For Longest Night.) Gerri Lynn has the plans, she needs the people to help her implement them. We need Kings for the vignette.

VI. Old Business: *none!*

VII. New Business:

A. Monies for Ritualist: Looking for a Greening the Basket to help with the supplies used to finish the Samhain Quilt. It is proposed that the COW reimburse Cheryl and Eric \$100 to cover the cost of the materials that were used to finish the quilt, to be taken out of the storage closet line item. Consented and passed.

B. Terracycle Proposal: That Gaia Community organize a task force to investigate Terracycle and determine which brigades we might feasibly be able to join, if any, and to determine whether we qualify as a charity under their rules. The findings would be presented to the January RfB, and a further proposal made from there. Consented and passed.

Contact Jamie if you wish to be part of the task force.

(As it turns out, Gaia is not a 501c3, so we are not sure at this point whether we would qualify as a charity under the Terracycle rules. This will need to be ascertained to know whether we could participate.)

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the December 11th Ritual for Business:

- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



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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 (816-508-9086) 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 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 4-7 PM: Ritual – Being the Candle or the Mirror	29	30	1 World AIDS Day	2	3	4 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
5 4-6 PM: Rave: A Mindful Journey	6 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10 Human Rights Day	11 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
12 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ SMUUCH 4-6 PM: Workshop – Make Your Own Tarot	13	14 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	15 Bill of Rights Day	16	17 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	18 9 PM – 1 AM: 3 rd Annual Longest Night Ball @ SMUUCH (see page 1)
19 4-6 PM: High Holiday – Yule (potluck after)	20	21 Winter Solstice 7-9 PM: Queer Allies meeting @ SMUUCH	22	23 HumanLight	24	25 Christmas
26 First day of Kwanzaa 4-6 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual	27 Boxing Day	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's