



Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community February 2006

KidSpace—Mentor Sign Up

Do you have a skill, or extensive background in a chosen tradition? Would you care to share? Be it knowing how to knit or a solid understanding of Greek myth—We are requesting mentors to impart their knowledge to your younger members. This is no age limit for mentors, nor those seeking a mentor—but we ask for a one year commitment.

Come March 1st, we will try to pair up one on one with as positive matches as can be attained. This is not the first call to action you'll be seeing, indeed if we at KidSpace know of talents out there to be tapped—we may personally request you share, especially if we have a youth interested in what you have to offer. Consider this your chance to become the fairy godmother within our community! There is a sign up sheet on the greeter's table, or just email at gaiakidspace@yahoo.com.

Fight the mice!

KidSpace is currently seeking used cleaned popcorn tins for storage purposes. Please bring them to Gaia on Sundays so they can be lovingly reused.

Greta and KidSpace Committee

Voices of Gaia

Voices of Gaia has moved rehearsals to Sundays from 2-3:00 pm in expectation that more singers will be able to regularly attend. Since the electric piano has moved, we're also now meeting in the Thoreau Room which is directly beneath Barn Chapel.

Voices will be leading the chant for the Feb. 5 Imbolc ritual, and has several songs/chants to sing in the February 12th New Member Sunday ritual.

Looking farther ahead, we'll probably be a part of the April 23rd Earth Day ritual. Our really big Sunday will be May 14th, when we help present "Gaia: The Musical." We've started to sing more 4-part harmony music to challenge ourselves.

New singers are always welcome. Please contact Kitty Degler, songbird@skunkmountain.com if you have questions.

Adult Education

The new session of Adult Education is beginning this month. One Tuesday will be dedicated to our Pagan Parenting Series. All input and viewpoints are welcome, so please come regardless of your "experience" level in this sort of thing.

The next Tuesday will be a Dance Series. Dance Instruction: Burlesque—our new series of dance instruction will be led by an outside facilitator. There will be a \$15 fee per session.

The other Tuesdays will be filled with a Meditation/Trance Series; Mythology Story time; Kitchen Witchery; Computer WorkShops; Sabbat series for all holidays and a Chakra Class. Childcare will be available for these classes but only on request; please see Kris Ennis on Sunday or e-mail her at adulthood@gaiacommunity.org.

Still looking...

The Earth Healer needs you

Gaia 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. 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

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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 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 5

Sabbat—Imbolc w/potluck “Spread the Light”

ritualists: David, Kimberly, Linda, Debbie

At Imbolc, the tiny circle of light cast by the vigil candle that we clung to against the darkness at Yule is growing. The Wheel of the Year turns, the days become longer, and we join together in community. Come and be a part of our circle of light as we expand to share our illumination with the world at large.

As at all high holidays, a potluck feast will follow the ritual. Please bring a dish/drink/dessert to feed 8 hungry people and your own tableware - plates, cups, silverware, and for the Earth's sake no disposables. Please remember to label the ingredients in your dish for those with dietary concerns!

Note for parents: Non-nursery-age children are welcome in this ritual, but remember that that makes them your responsibility, not KidSpace's!

Sunday, February 12

Ritual—“All U.U.—All The Time” NMS

ritualists: Barbara, Liz, Kitty, Andrew, Jeff

(New Member Sunday!) Celebrating our UUism. As we greet new members into our community, it may be an excellent time to look at the ways in which our particularly pagan community is also definitively part of the Unitarian Universalist Association of churches and congregations. It also begs the question—does form follow function or vice-verse-a?

Sunday, February 19

Class—“Excellence in Participation”

ritualists: Via, Eric

Participate Fully! Are you getting everything you can out of ritual when you attend? Or do you feel like you're missing some “secret knowledge”? It's not really a secret, but this week's class will help teach you some things you might have missed, and better squeeze all of the expe-

rience that Gaia Community has to offer each Sunday. All experience levels are welcome, of course; you might not know as much as you think you know!

Sunday, February 26

Ritual—“Sympathy Pains—The Pains of the Ulstermen”

ritualists: Kimberly, Linda, Nicole, Kitty

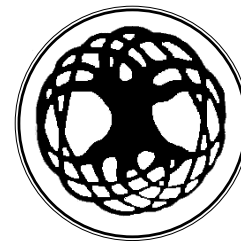
When Macha's husband bragged that she could beat a chariot in a foot race, she ran for her honor, though heavily pregnant. When she won, she cursed the Ulstermen with labour pains whenever their land was threatened by battle. Today's ritual will work with that myth as a framework for how to deal with events as they come to us, not as we would like them to be.

Sunday, March 5

Ritual—“Sacred Blarney”

ritualists: Andrew, Brian, David, Debbie

Spiritual beliefs are inherently unprovable, but that doesn't make them invalid. This ritual will look at the sacred relationship between bullshit, belief, and blarney, and how it relates to a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning”.



A look ahead at next month

Mar 12 Class – “Evolving Mythologies”

Mar 19 Sabbat – “St. Patrick's Spring Equinox”

Mar 26 Ritual – “Sharing Our Spirits”

Apr 2 Ritual – “All Fools Day”

Gaia Community Board Members

President—Jeff Park
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816-361-0465

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

Treasurer—Devin Scrogum
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Secretary—Debbie Giffin
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913-894-8131

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816-941-7626
Jennifer Gadd
djrm@gadd-nelson.com
John Carroll (treasurer-protem)
IBRCandS792@yahoo.com or
913-334-2834

Ritualists

Kitty Degler	Kimberly
Barbara Griggs	Liz Ticer
Devin Scrogum	Via
Andrew Turner	David Reynolds
Nicole Turner	Debbie Giffin
Brian Butler	Jeff Park
Linda Boyce	Eric Simpson
Cynthia Mathis	Yale Giffin

WEAVE AND SPIN Splinters from the Board

Summary of the RfB Minutes—January 14, 2005

Secretary's report: A summary of the minutes from December were read. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: The yearly bonuses for childcare was approved. The bonus will go to Karen, as she has done the majority of the baby care work. Pledges are up slightly, but they are still behind where we should be for the year. Jennifer suggested some sort of 'temple talk' or 'testimonials' given by community members in the months leading up to pledge Sunday. Liz will take this suggestion to the next ritual teams meeting. Cookie money is now being tracked.

Committees *Ritual Teams:* Liz Ticer is the new Ritual Team Coordinator for the next 6 months. The ritual teams meeting has been moved to the first Wednesday of the month from the first Thursday of the month due to some schedule conflicts. The laws in Overland Park were checked due to some questions surrounding the God Auction. They have discovered that we cannot have nudity in ritual if it is for fundraising. We should also check for age if there will be any nudity in the ritual; anything under 18 cannot be allowed. **KidSpace:** Note—there was no official report from KidSpace; there was a discussion in the Board of some issues as the KidSpace committee needs more volunteers. It is felt that we need a program for all age ranges; it is a vital program for our church. Some issues that the Board sees as problems: 1. communication 2. curriculum 3. manpower 4. Guidelines. There was a suggestion that this be referred back to the KidSpace committee to get solutions from them. It was pointed out that any such meetings needs to be open to the public. **Membership:** They report that they could use more members for their committee also. They have a new member class starting on 1/15/06. Membership needs to meet with the treasurer and secretary to get a master list of members to send to the UUA. We have to certify our numbers before 1/31/06. **Stewardship:** There has been no report from this committee for some time. Liz will contact Brian to see if he is willing to continue heading this committee. **Site:** No report this month. **Nom Comm:** They asked which of the current Board would be unwilling to run for their position again (Debbie is unwilling to run again for any position, Devin is willing to be an at-large but not an officer, John is willing to be Treasurer). **Adult Ed:** Kris E is the new head of Adult Ed. The dance teacher will currently be teaching one Tuesday a month. It may go to two Tuesdays a month if there is interest. Her first class will be Burlesque at \$15/person/ class, minimum of 5 people enrolled. A new schedule will be up soon.

Old Business *Treasurer:* Devin is overloaded. John has volunteered to help Devin in the interim. A motion was put forward for John to take over as Treasurer pro-tem. Consensus was reached on the motion. *KidSpace cookies* They report that they need volunteers. It was noted that there had not been a sign up sheet in some time. Linda will prepare a new sheet and have it at ritual again.

New business *Tax letters for Members—*Kimberly is currently working on letters for tax purposes. John will check with her to see what the status is on this. *Garage Sale* Those present felt that it had been a good fund raiser for the community. Debbie and Yale offered to host the garage sale this year. More details of when to come. *Harvesters*

They would like to make us a pickup point. We decided that more information was necessary before we approach SMUUCH to possibly partner in this. Linda offered to put the offering barrel in her garage and is home all day on Tuesday. Donations would be transported to her home after ritual. More information is needed before we can go further. *SMUUCH Issues* We have had several communications from SMUUCH about locking up/cleaning up the church appropriately after our use. We plan to put trash bags in the office for our use, since they are not always available in the kitchen. We will create a opening/closing checklist so that all areas are covered; Debbie volunteered Yale to do this as a part of Site's committee functions. This checklist would be required by all groups of Gaia that use the church (Adult Ed, KidSpace, Ritual teams, Voices, Games night, etc). There will be places for sign offs and a folder in the office to store them. *TV/DVD player* Kris E has acquired a TV and DVD player for us to use. There was some discussion as to where to store this. There isn't room in the ritual closet, and the office is too uncontrolled for comfort. It was decided that she would continue to store these. Any groups that wish to use these should contact her to make arrangements.

GAIA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Ritual Teams Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 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 Liz. 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

Sundays at 2-3:30 P.M. AT SMUUCH-FRANKLIN ROOM.

Go figure...a Pagan Choir...we do alot more than chants. New singers are always welcome. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, songbird@skunkmountain.com or 913-469-8779.

Games Night

Friday, February 17, 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! 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! February's Friday Night Supper Club will be at **Blue Koi**, a pan-Asian restaurant at 1803 W. 39th St, near UMKC. Questions? Contact Carey, David, or Kimberly at e3@gaiacommunity.org or 816-941-7626.

Tuesday Night Adult Education

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



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

Address Correction Requested

**Voices of
 Gaia now
 from 2-3:30
 and
 Sacred
 Rhythms at
 3:30 pm
 Sundays**

Contact Earth Healer

Send letters, articles, poetry or prose, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to: 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.**

February 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	2	3	4
VOG 2-3:30 SR 3:30pm 5 Ritual: Imbolc w/potluck 4 pm	6	7 Adult RE 7 pm Pagan Parenting Group	8	9	10	11 Ritual of Business 9:30 am
VOG 2-3:30 SR 3:30pm 12 Ritual: All U.U.-All the Time 4 pm	13	14 Adult RE 7 pm No class Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Games Night 7 pm	18
VOG 2-3:30 SR 3:30pm 19 Class: Excellence in Participation 4 pm	20	21 Adult RE 7 pm Dance Class: Burlesque \$15 fee	22	23	24 FNCS 7 pm	25 KidSpace 12 pm
VOG 2-3:30 SR 3:30pm 26 Ritual: Sympathy Pains 4 pm	27	28 Adult RE 7 pm Meditation/ Trance Workshop	Mar. 1 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	2	3	4