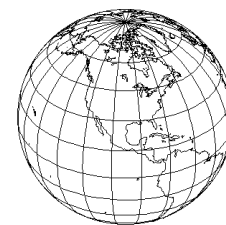




EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

FEBRUARY 2007

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*We apologize for the delay in this month's Earth Healer; not all information was available at our usual time to go to press.
— David, Editor*

Sunday, February 4th

Sabbat — Imbolc

Ritualists: Yale, Cynthia, Kitty, Eric

This ritual has already occurred.

Sunday, February 11th

Workshop — De-Arming Your Heart

Facilitators: Debbie, Kimberly

This workshop has already occurred.

Sunday, February 18th

Class/Workshop — Buddhist Meditation

Facilitators: Lizzy, Andrew

Lama Chuck Stanford, the spiritual Director of the Rime Center (www.rimecenter.org), has graciously agreed to be the presenter of our Buddhist Meditation Workshop this Sunday. He will cover what Buddhism is, as well as Buddhist meditation techniques. Remember to bring your Hope House and Harvesters donations. See you then!

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

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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, February 25th

Ritual — Shadow and Light Begin the Quest (New Member Sunday)

Ritualists: Kimberly, Kitty, Kris, Lizzy

Do you have what it takes to be a hero? This week's ritual offers you a chance to find out. We'll be doing some physical journeying as well as mental journeying in this work. We will also be honoring our New Members and welcoming them to the community. Kids and teens are welcome to participate with the adults in the main ritual, and WeeSpace will be available for the littlest ones.

Sunday, March 4th

Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits Ritual

Facilitators: Andrew, Devin

Sharing Our Spirits (SOS) rituals are co-created and co-designed by those in attendance that day, with the help of one or two trained ritualists. Everyone's ideas, skills, and offerings brought that day come together to create something that serves the needs of the group. Bring a song, an instrument, ritual idea or magical tool to help out! The theme for this ritual is "Spring Cleaning", in honor of the slowly warming weather.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

- Mar. 4th — Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits (Spring Cleaning)
- Mar. 11th — Ritual: Shed Your Skin
- Mar. 18th — Sabbat: Disting (Spring Equinox)
- Mar. 25th — Forum: Living in a Multi-Faith Household

Current Ritualists

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

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

Gaia About Town

Ritual Teams Meeting (2/7, 6:45 PM): At Debbie's new house. Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists, if you are interested please contact Devin in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org! March's meeting will be at Jeff's house, on 3/7/07.

Tuesday Night Classes: The only Adult Education class for February will be a Mythology Story Hour on the 28th. 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 (2/10, 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 discreet matters; her contact information is on page 5.

Social Justice Committee Meeting: Andrew and Cynthia are reconstituting the Social Justice committee in response to some concerns and ideas raised among the community recently. For the first quarter of the year, they have coordinated donations for Hope House, a program for victims of domestic abuse, but soon they will be looking for other organizations to partner with and support after Spring Equinox. If you're interested in helping out or have ideas for a charity to support, e-mail them at sj@gaiacommunity.org or by finding them in person! They have not set a firm date for their February meeting yet, but it may be on 2/26.

Games Night (2/16, 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. We have invited some new board game players from the Kansas City area through meetup.com, so bring your new toys and your game face!

KidSpace Committee Meeting (2/18, 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!

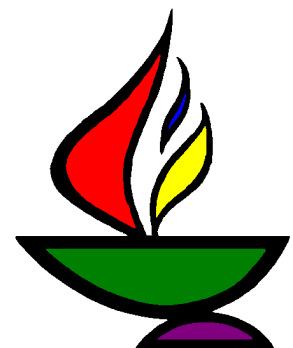
Friday Night Supper Club (2/23, 7 PM): There are a couple of options proposed for February's supper club, including Garozzo's and Jess & Jim's. Please watch the website, email group, and Sunday announcements, and let Kris Ennis know if you have any preferences! Whichever option does not get picked this month will probably be the dining place for March's Supper Club.

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out to Carey Oxler on the 5th of February and Mercedes M. on the 12th. Let us know if your celebration 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. The darkest part of the year is past, and light slowly creeps back into the world.

If you or another member of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the 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.



Mooings from the CoW (Committee of the Whole)

Summary of January's Ritual for Business (RfB)

- I. **Meeting called to order at 9:41.** Attending: Jennifer, Jeff, David N., John, David R., Carey, Kimberly, Andrew, Terry, Nicole, Yale
- II. **Agenda**—agreed, with amendments
- III. **Minutes**—agreed, with amendments
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** — We are still slightly ahead of expenses, but payment of PS dues will balance that out. Winter Bazaar stands at \$1,116.28 with checks still coming in. Agreed.
- V. **Standing Committees**—
 - A. **Rites of Passage**—Jonathon Lee Valentine, who attended and considered Gaia his home church, was shot and killed during a home invasion. RoP was asked to assist with the funeral because the family wanted his beliefs respected. Jim Ehler from All Souls and Gaia ritualists led the service, and the family felt very supported. The family feels comfortable enough with Gaia to call if they need additional help or support. At the request of the family, any donations or monetary gifts can be given to Gaia or All Souls.
 - B. **Nominating Committee**—The committee is meeting next week. Let them know if you do or do not wish to be nominated for a position for next year.
 - C. **Communications**—A recently moderated person on the list is now off moderation. Carey is working on the updated website. The new site has to be built in real time, so the site might be down during low-traffic times. Major changes will not be noticed until the new site is launched.
 - D. **Social Justice**—Five bags of donations were taken to Hope House. The committee is seeking suggestions for the next drive. They are also seeking to heighten public awareness of committee activity. They looked into Green Sanctuary certification and decided that the \$125 price tag wasn't worth the certificate. Gaia will, however, continue the practices anyway.
 - E. **Stewardship**—The committee has ideas for fundraisers. The first is a potluck-gift auction. People with birthdays would supply a gift for Gaia to auctioned off at the next potluck. There is some debate regarding whether the donors should even know what the gifts are to start with or whether there should be a price limit on donations. The committee is seeking approval to proceed and suggestions. Suggestions and concerns from the CoW: make it a regular auction, rather than silent; donor fatigue; cost of donations being worth more than what's raised; perhaps telling them one of the unknown gifts is a "white elephant" or somewhat risqué, but not telling them which one; secret Beltaine grab bag; Lammas or Mabon bread auction.

Gaia Community Board of Trustees 2006-2007

President — Jeff Park

president@gaiacommunity.org

or 816-361-0465

Vice-President — Liz Ticer

vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org

913-636-4924

Treasurer — John Carroll

treasurer@gaiacommunity.org

or 816-220-1804

Secretary — Jennifer Gadd

secretary@gaiacommunity.org

or 913-299-4587

Members at Large —

Carey Oxler

gaia-kat@kc.rr.com

or 816-941-7626

Yale Giffin

niveustigris@hotmail.com

or 816-797-8032

Devin Scrogum

dscrogum@gmail.com

or 913-708-5667

... or contact them all at

board@gaiacommunity.org!

- F. **Caring**—Email is up and running for people to contact committee members. The committee will provide any needed care for a member who is facing surgery soon. They also monitor the usual communication outlets for community needs.
- G. **EIR**—The next course will start in March. Notify the committee if you plan to participate.
- VI. **Unfinished Business**—
 - A. **Broken Chair**—We are still waiting on SMUUCH. We consider the matter closed unless we hear from them.
 - VII. **New Business** (n.b.: Needs to include big-ticket items for future RfBs for community info of agenda)
 - A. **Emergency Preparedness:** The State of Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas, are approaching religious organizations to bring their emergency preparedness message to the community. JoCo has general informational materials that can be inserted into newsletters and bulletin. Lizzy requests permission to distribute these at Gaia. Agreed. Another message deals with a "Business Continuity Plan." If there is a community-wide emergency and we are unable to meet for an extended period of time, this insurance, which might be already part of our current coverage, would cover lost income so that major expenses, such as rent and payroll can be paid. Andrew proposes that the Executive Committee develop a disaster plan that will codify our decision-making and communication processes. Deadline: before election. The executive committee will report next month. Agreed. certify our membership to the UUA. John says we will certify 40 current, full, active members. The deadline is January 31. Jeff will certify members and secure the information and passwords.
 - B. **Games Night:** Low attendance begs the question of whether it should continue. Kimberly proposes we open up the event to the public through Meet-Up. Concerns from the CoW were that two people be authorized to run it and to show up. Yale volunteered to be the back-up person, as needed. Agreed.
 - C. **Check:** As a thank-you for Voices of Gaia's presentation of Gaia: The Musical, Peter Griggs has contributed \$250 to Gaia.
 - D. **Member Certification:** We need average weekly attendance, budget information, adult education numbers, and KidSpace attendance before we can certify 35 members. Jeff will finish up this task.
 - E. **Tax Letters:** Kimberly is ready to distribute them before Jan 31.
 - F. **Ombudsperson Report:** Two issues were brought to Lizzy.
 - i. **Publicity:** A request has been made of the CoW to get our name out more to the larger community and to be more aggressive and intentional about publicity. It was noted that newsletters still go to Aquarius and that we have a listing on WitchVox. Another possibility mentioned is to contact colleges and universities about interfaith groups who might welcome presentations. Others mentioned a willingness to be more visible and less "in the broom closet." We also have a ten-year anniversary coming up that we should celebrate.
 - ii. **Adult "Code of Conduct."** Concerns have been brought up about codifying this. Specifically, the concerns are about illegal activities, not moral ones. Discussion included the need to empower people to address such activities, the need to uphold the community's reputation, and the need to protect our liability regarding both legal and tenancy issues. Lizzy proposes that she write an announcement to this effect to bring for board review.
- VIII. **The meeting adjourned 10:55.**

— Jennifer, 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@gaiiacommunity.org or by phone (816-941-7626) no later than the 22nd 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>FEBRUARY 2007</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Forum: Congregational Paganism	29	30	31	1 ☉	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3
4 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Imbolc (w/potluck)	5	6	7 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	8	9	10 ☾ 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
11 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Workshop: De-Armoring Your Heart	12	13 7 PM: Tues. Night Class on Kemetic Paganism	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 7 PM: Games Night	17 ●
18 2:00-3:00: KidSPACE Meeting 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Class: Buddhist Meditation	19 <i>President's Day</i>	20	21	22	23 7 PM: Friday Night Supper Club @ TBD (see page 2)	24 ☾
25 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Shadow and Light (Quest)	26 7 PM: Social Justice Committee	27 7 PM: Tues. Night Class – Mythology Story Hour	28	1	2	3 ☉