



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

A Home Of Our Own?

A lot of information has flown over the Internet and in person since the last issue of the Earth Healer, regarding the possibility of purchasing a former Masonic Hall at 1127 Belmont Ave. in the Old Northeast section of KCMO. Lizzy, our congregational president and temporary Site Chairperson, was made aware of the listing for the site by Jeff in early January and began looking into it, scheduling several tours of the building and holding an ad hoc Site Committee meeting to discuss initial findings. Some things under consideration, both positive and negative:

- ◆ The list price is extremely low: \$105,000.
- ◆ The building has extensive damage and will need to be remodeled/refinished in the basement. The main floor and second story are mostly in good condition.
- ◆ Parking is at a premium. The parking lot holds at most 12-16 cars, then we will be parking on the street.
- ◆ There is no adjoining green space; there are several parks a few blocks away.
- ◆ The kitchen is huge and was recently remodeled; almost all appliances are already present, except a dishwasher.
- ◆ There are concerns about the neighborhood, both with regards to crime & safety and the possibility of backlash against an openly pagan group taking over the building.

Much more information is available on our website at <http://gaiacommunity.org/1127Belmont> and will be presented at the February 14th Ritual for Business, or you can communicate with Lizzy directly at site@gaiacommunity.org. The archives of our Yahoo!Group since Jan. 10th will also be enlightening: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gaiauu/messages/20677>. Persons without internet access should of course contact Lizzy by other means, and everyone should continue the lively and hopefully polite discussion that has been going on both online and in person.

At this point, nothing is decided or committed to! The next official steps will be to decide at the February Ritual for Business the parameters of a *conditional* offer to the owners, contingent not only on a full inspection (both structural and for mold), but on us consenting to go forward with the purchase as per our bylaws: <http://gaiacommunity.org/articleVI#B> requires a Special Ritual for Business with *at least* four weeks advance notice to all Full Active Members. So that RfB, if it occurs, will be **no earlier** than mid-March.

- Site Committee

Got Candidates?

I know it seems like only six months ago, but... well, a little over six months ago Gaia Community held our most recent God Auction to determine an annual patron. That means that soon we'll begin the process all over again for 2009-2010. If you haven't been here before, that means:

- a nomination period for candidates; they cannot have won a God Auction in the past (Osiris, Arianrhod, Lugh, Hestia, Brigid, or Thor), nor can they have been a candidate the previous year (Artemis, the Green Man, or Persephone). This year, we are limiting the field for nominations to 20, or however many we reach the day we reach 20 (*if four nominations come in that day, we may have 22 or 23 total*). After ritual on February 15th, nomination forms will be available to fill out in person or on the website. You may also send nominations to Ritual Teams at rtc@gaiacommunity.org, but make sure to include all the information requested on the form! If we don't reach 20 candidates by March 15th, we'll go with however many we get.
- a Penny Auction that runs for six weeks, from Spring Equinox to Beltane. Any 'denomination' of (U.S.) coin is fine, but no cash will be accepted! We're going to increase the size of the jars this year to reflect the growth in interest in this winnowing stage; the top four coin-getters advance to the actual God Auction;
- on July 12th, 2009, the ritual for the day will be a fundraiser and competition between those "Final Four". Several rounds of questions will be given to the candidates, and each round will be followed by bidding in either cash/check or donations of food (*which will be given to Harvesters Food Bank*). In the end, one candidate will come out on top and take their place as Gaia Community's next annual patron!

A lot more information will be coming on this subject in the coming months, including profiles on the candidates, but for now, start thinking of who you might want to nominate to take part in the process this year!

- Ritual Teams

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.

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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. We are once again welcoming singers of all voice parts, though the majority of our core group is currently 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 or in person.

Ritual Teams Meeting (2/5, 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. 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 (2/7, 1-5 PM, at Kimberly and David's house): Craft Circle will be back at Kimberly and David's house in south KCMO again: 1306 E. 118th St if you have not been before. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome; contact Kit or Jamie for directions.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (2/10, 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 or find him in person. The committee will be working on the ongoing social justice project with Salvation Army.

Ritual for Business (2/14, 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.

Closet Cleanout: (2/14, in the afternoon): Several folks have volunteered to put on sword and shield and do battle with the chaos that is the inside of our storage closet at SMUUCH after the RfB this month. If you're interested in helping out, please contact David, as they may break for lunch before diving in.

Stewardship Committee: Stewardship will probably resume once-monthly meetings in February, but have not settled on a date yet. Get in touch with Kimberly or Via in person or by email at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org if you'd like to be a part of this group as they plan the Pledge Drive and other events for 2009!

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (2/15, 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 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.

Games Night (2/20, 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.

Friday Night Supper Club (2/27, 7 PM): February's supper club will be at Dos de Oros, a Mexican restaurant in south KCMO at 13029 Holmes Rd. Please let David or Kimberly know if you are coming this month, as they live right down the road. Vegetarian and kid-friendly items are available on the menu!

Board of Trustees 08-09

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

Vice-President — Linda Boyce
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Treasurer — John Boyce
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Members at Large —

Via Baker
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Erin Truitt
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Greta Erhardt
816-822-2070 or
greta@gaiacommunity.org

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

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Brandy Granados on the 1st, Carey Oxler on the 5th, Thayne on the 9th, Mercedes on the 12th, Leanne Penson on the 22nd, Travis Marshall on the 28th. 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 wishes and prayers follow John Carroll's spirit as he passed away last month after a lengthy illness took a turn for the worse. A memorial service will be forthcoming at some point.

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.



Sunday Schedule (held at 4pm unless otherwise noted)

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

Sunday, Feb. 1st

Ritual — Imbolc (w/Wild Hare Grove; potluck after)

Ritualists: Nicole, David, Jennifer, Via, and others

Your friendly neighborhood Druids from Wild Hare Grove will return to offer a High Holiday ritual. This is a time of year when many cultures celebrate a blessing of tools and prepare to resurrect life from the sleeping earth. We'll blend some traditions in a Druidic-style ritual (with a UU flavor) to gather blessings for the "work" ahead -- not just for literal planting in an agricultural sense, but for creating the changes we want to see in our own lives and the world at large.

Ritual will be inside this time, with 89% fewer cheese balls. We do not expect the ritual to be something children can't be present for, but it's likely not to be very interesting for younger folks.

As is typical for Druidic rituals, there will be a portion of the afternoon devoted to Praise Offerings, which will be your chance to connect with the gods, ancestors, kindred or Powers in the other worlds. Such offerings are not required, but you should plan not to get that item back after ritual.

We'll also have a potluck feast following the ritual, so please bring a dish to feed yourself, plus at least eight other hungry people. We're all about hospitality, folks, so do what you can to label your ingredients to alert folks who are careful about their food choices...and bring reuseable place settings.

Sunday, Feb. 8th

Ritual — The Cups (Tarot arc)

Facilitators: Kitty, Barbara, and Jeff



In this second ritual centered around the Tarot, we will dive into the watery depths of our emotional and relational lives and well-being, as we explore and deepen our experience the suit of Cups. If you have a favorite Tarot deck, please bring it along; but it is not necessary. We will be using the imagery of the Waite deck with some influences from the Thoth Deck in our work.

This ritual is the second in a four-part series that will examine the suits of the minor arcana. Come explore how the tarot may provide insight and direction in your daily life.

Sunday, Feb. 15th

Ritual — Thor III (patron rite, New Member Sunday)

Ritualists: Erin, Devin, and Jacki

Välkommen! Help us welcome new members to our community, embark on adventure (or choose not to), and honor Thor — again. **Beware! There be ice giants!**

Teens are welcome to come upstairs and join ritual if they do not wish to participate in the Trees class of KidSpace this week.



Sunday, Feb. 22nd

Workshop — Kirtan

Facilitators: Kit and Laura Knight

Kit and a special guest, his friend Laura who taught him Kirtan originally, will be present on this Sunday to explain and demonstrate this active meditation technique.

Kirtan is a form of ecstatic chanting from India, intended to promote connection with the Divine through song. There will be an opportunity for moving around some, and drumming may be useful.

Teens are welcome to come upstairs and join the class if they do not wish to go on the field trip to Broadway Church this Sunday (see page 4).

- Ritual Teams

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Mar. 1st - Forum: **Magical Ethics**

Mar. 8th - Ritual: **American Gods (Americana arc)**

Mar. 15th - Sharing Our Spirits: **Snakes' Day**

Mar. 22nd - Sabbat: **Spring Equinox (w/potluck)**

Mar. 29th - Class: **Sacred Geometry**

Currently Active Ritualists

Barbara	Cheryl Russell
David Reynolds	Devin Scrogum
Eric Simpson	Erin Truitt
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kit Peters
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Paul Gorbass

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 Calendar

As always, this schedule is subject to change.

SAPLINGS/SHOOTS class:

- Feb. 8th: **basic review of Christianity and its symbols.**
- Feb. 15th: **modern Christianity**, with guest speaker Marge Troeh. She will start promptly at 4:00!
- Feb. 22nd: field trip to Broadway Church's Faces of Jesus exhibit. The group will be leaving at 4:10 *sharp*, and permission slips are required to go on this trip! You can obtain them on Sundays from KidSpace, online at <http://gaiacommunity.org/permission-slip>, or see below. They are expected to return before the end of the Kirtan class.

SPROUTS:

- Nursery care will be available any and every Sunday this month, as usual (*including the 22nd*).

TREES class:

- Feb. 8th: **Open Discussion**, no set topic ahead of time.
- Feb. 15th: **Something Extremely Keen I.** Coyote hasn't figured out what this class will consist of yet, but it'll be the start of something new! Teens are also welcome to sit in on the guest speaker on Christianity, if that is what they prefer.
- Feb. 22nd: field trip to Broadway Church, as described to the left. Teens are also welcome to attend the Kirtan class upstairs this Sunday.

- *KidSpace Committee*

Permission for Gaia Community Kidspace Field Trip Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 to Broadway Baptist Church, Faces of Jesus Exhibit

My child, _____, has my permission to travel by private car to Broadway Baptist to view the Faces of Jesus exhibit there of religious artwork. After seeing the exhibit, the children will be transported back to SMUUCH by private vehicle again.

_____ (parent/legal guardian of above written child)

_____ (date)

_____ (emergency contact number)

*This form must be given to Linda or another person on duty as KidSpace teacher - not just any random G.C. member will do! Look for the **red ribbons** on their nametags!*

Ritual for Business Minutes for January 10th, 2009

Started at 9:45 AM

In attendance: David, Barbara, Jacki, Jamie, Kit, Linda, Kimberly, Gary, Erin, Devin, Lizzy, and Judy Brenner

I. Approval of Agenda – approved

II. Minutes – approved

III. Committee Reports

1. **NomCom** – No new business/requests for/from them.
2. **Ritual Teams** – Accepted Paul Gorbas and Cheryl Russell as ritualists. Linda asked for ritualists to send a warning/runner downstairs if ritual is going to be shorter than 5:30 PM. EIR starts next week; it'll either be Mondays or Thursdays. Dates will be gotten to Lizzy as soon as possible.
3. **KidSpace** – Report filed by Linda (see attached). She asked if her getting CPR/First Aid certifications will lower our insurance; the group thought probably not. She needs someone to cover Feb. 8th for the Saplings group, but will have a class written and prepared for whoever does so.
4. **Membership** – Jeff bought a church membership database to see what we can do to work on better retaining attendance, birthday, data, etc. It does reports, can be used to send postcards, etc. He would be willing to lend his old iMac to the process. Devin is starting a new member class on Jan. 25th and Feb. 8th, 2-4 PM.
5. **Library** – VLL has entered the new books from Debbie, but no one is using it at present.
6. **Communications** – New website is in place; it is already drawing new attention from outside viewers (requests have come in for our services), and it seems to have cut down on the spam already. New features like pictures and role-based permissions are coming soon.
7. **Site/Lease** – It's January; preparations for the next lease will start soon though, so Lizzy so can . Jeff sent information about a former Freemason hall in eastern KCMO that is for sale; the viewing is at 12:30PM today, at 1127 Belmont. Contact is Devin or Lizzy for going to the view; the realtor's name is Jan. The list price is \$105,000; it has an elevator, is about 50 years old, etc.
8. **Welcoming** – People came to the Longest Night Ball because of our listing in CAMP. The coalition has not met over the holidays.
9. **Caring** – Jacki said that John is being taken care of by Terry and Nola, along with Jacki and Mary. He is desperate for company, but keep in mind that he's a carrier for systemic staff infections.

10. Stewardship – They had a party; you might have heard of it.

The final calculations are not in yet, but the back-of-the-envelope number is a profit of about \$1500. About 60 people were in attendance overall; pre-sales went for about 50. Advertising was most successful through Facebook for its viral aspects, and Crescent Springs did an amazing job of promoting us. She ran out of posters several times and asked for more; she talked it up to everyone who came in the door; she herself was in attendance. They want to do it again next year; the next big event is the Pledge Drive. They do not want to have a Spring Bazaar, but Mary wants to help run a Fall Bazaar. Garage Sale will also come this summer.

- ### 11. Treasurer
- Report from John attached. We'll be writing SMUUCH a new check for October's rent, as it never got written in the changeover. David suggested that John step up to two-old-weeks+one-new-week to keep the indigestible lump of old deposits to a minimum, while processing it in a timely fashion. John, David, Kimberly, and Gary are all willing to help tackle that paperwork someday soon. Also need to catch up with PSD and the UUA, but that can wait another month or two.

12. Social Justice – no reported business.

IV. Old Business

1. **Compassionate Memberships** – Jacki will meet with Jeff and Barbara and Devin to craft a procedure/criterion.
2. **Internet Advertising** – Kate was not present again; tabled until further notice.
3. **Sex Offenders Tax Force** – Kit reported that as the co-chair is no longer involved in the community, and he has taken no action in some months, he recommended that the matter be tabled indefinitely, as there is no current threat or problem facing the community. Agreed.

V. New Business

1. **Closet** – Linda wants to have a work-day for the closet. David will head up a Closet Task Force; Barbara, Linda, Jamie, Judy, Devin, Kit, Erin are all interested in helping, as is probably Kate. Probably a Saturday in late January or early February.
2. **Labyrinth** – Jacki wants to approach HSA about bringing the labyrinth out again this year. Agreed by the group.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.

Agenda for February 14th:

- *Proposal to make a Conditional Offer and secure inspections of 1127 Belmont Ave.*
- *(contingent on above) Possible request for a Special Ritual for Business to purchase 1127 Belmont Ave.*
- *Update on information from the new Treasurer.*
- *Other business as per usual (committee reports, etc.)*

– *David, Secretary*



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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

FEBRUARY 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u> 3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythms</u> 4 PM: <u>Ritual: Imbolc w/Wild Hare</u> (w/potluck afterward)	2 ☾ <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	4	5 7PM: <u>Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH</u> 7PM: <u>Excellence in Ritual</u>	6 <i>Int'l Day against Female Genital Mutilation</i>	7 1-5PM: <u>Craft Circle @ Kimberly & David's</u>
8 <i>Nirvana Day</i> 2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u> 3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythms</u> 4 PM: <u>Ritual: The Cups</u> (Tarot series)	9 ○	10 7 PM: <u>Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's</u>	11 <i>National Inventors' Day</i>	12 <i>Darwin's Birthday</i> 7PM: <u>Excellence in Ritual</u>	13 <i>First Day of Lupercalia</i>	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 9:30-11:30 AM: <u>Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH</u> Afternoon: <u>Closet Cleanup Party!</u>
15 <i>Last Day of Lupercalia</i> 1 PM: <u>KidSpace Meeting</u> 2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u> 3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythms</u> 4 PM: <u>Ritual: Thor III</u> (New Member Sunday)	16 ☾ <i>Presidents' Day</i>	17	18	19 <i>Chaoflux</i> 7PM: <u>Excellence in Ritual</u>	20 7 PM: <u>Games Night @ SMUUCH</u>	21
22 2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u> 3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythms</u> 4 PM: <u>Workshop on Kirtan</u>	23	24 ●	25	26 7PM: <u>Excellence in Ritual</u>	27 7 PM: <u>Supper Club @ Dos de Oros, 13029 Holmes, KCMO</u>	28
1 <i>Roman New Year</i> 2-3:30: <u>Voices of Gaia</u> 3:30-4: <u>Sacred Rhythms</u> 4 PM: <u>Forum on Magical Ethics</u>	2 7PM: <u>Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH</u>	3	4 ☾	5 7PM: <u>Excellence in Ritual</u>	6	7 1-5PM: <u>Craft Circle @ Kimberly & David's</u>