



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

FEBRUARY 2010

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Standing on the Side of Love

This month, Gaia Community is supporting several Standing on the Side of Love initiatives, and you can get involved! First, we'll be participating in the international response to the tragic earthquake in Haiti by collecting items for care packages to be sent by Heart to Heart International. If you would like to participate, please bring some of the following items to ritual on or before February 14th:

- Toothbrushes
- Band-aids
- Travel size bottles of shampoo
- Wide-toothed combs
- Bars of soap
- Wash cloths
- Hand towels
- Plastic soap box
- Gallon size zip-lock bags

We have received a donation of 72 tubes of toothpaste, which challenges us to put together 70-80 care packages. Please help us reach our goal!

Also, we have re-scheduled the discussion group on Becoming Allies to the Transgender Community for Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m. Please join us as we address ways in which we might fulfill our mission as a Welcoming Congregation and support our transgender and gender-non-conforming members and friends.

Finally, our February 14 ritual will focus on the first Principle of the Unitarian Universalist Association: the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We will be joining other congregations across the United States in a Valentine's Day celebration focused on creating an understanding of love that is more than romance, hearts, and flowers, moving into the realm of transformation of our relationships to each other and to the world.

- *Social Justice*

Want to Be a Ritualist?

The Excellence in Ritual Course for 2010 will begin on Thursday, March 25th. Students in the EiR class will learn community history, ritual philosophy, and in general, how successful Gaia ritual is made. This class will run for eight weeks of Thursday evenings, followed by an internship period during which students will work with ritual teams, and a Sunday service designed and facilitated entirely by the class.

Successful completion of this class is a requirement for joining Ritual Teams, but you need not be an aspiring ritualist to take the class. The class fee is \$35 for Gaia members, \$50 for non-members, and is payable on the first day of class. For more information, talk to Kimberly at ritual or by email at eir@gaiacommunity.org.

- *Kimberly, for Ritual Teams*

Want to Help Outside of Ritual?

If you're not interested in performing ritual on a regular basis, there are always tasks that help the community in other ways. Some things that currently need doing are:

- **Staffing the Greeter's Table:** Jamie always appreciates having more people to help with this task, and is in fact looking to see if someone else wants to take over coordinating it. She has a spreadsheet for you!
- **Sacred Rhythms:** Jeff has been gone for a while due to his work schedule and we got out of the habit; drummers and rhythm workers are in short supply lately, and it's not as much fun to drum by yourself. Talk to Jeff if you have ideas on how to revitalize this activity.
- **Earth Healer:** David would like to pass on the mantle of editing the community newsletter to someone else. If you have an interest in this, get in touch with him.

There are of course other activities too numerous to mention. And if we don't do something you like, suggest it and see if anyone will help you get it going!

- *Various Committees*

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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 is on hiatus.

Ritual Teams Meeting (2/3, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Kit, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, at rte@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)!

Craft Circle (2/6, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house again this month, 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (2/9, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We will have our regular meeting this month at Andrew's new 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.

Storytelling Group (2/12, 7 PM, at Andrew's): The fledgling Storytelling Group will meet this month at Andrew's new apartment (see address above). For more information about the meeting, or if you're interested in what they'll be practicing and working on, get in touch with Andrew (in person or at andrew@gaiacommunity.org) or Amanda.

Ritual for Business (2/13, 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 (see page 5) should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

Trans Allies Discussion (2/16, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): This will be an open discussion, sponsored by the Social Justice and Welcoming Congregations committees, on how to be better allies to the trans community. Bring your questions, ideas, or just a willing ear.

Games Night (2/19, 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.

New Member Class (2/21, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The next iteration of the New Member Class will be this Sunday before ritual; this session will be All About Gaia Community. Prospective members must take all three parts of the class and sign a pledge card. If you have questions, please contact Jamie in person or at membership@gaiacommunity.org.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (2/21, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): 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 or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, now back at SMUUCH.

Friday Night Supper Club (2/26, 7PM) will be at Manny's Mexican Restaurant this month: 207 Southwest Blvd. If you are attending and wish to RSVP, please contact Amanda in person or at supperclub@gaiacommunity.org.

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Scrogum
president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-904-2459

Vice-President — Amanda Pence
vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
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Linda Boyce
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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 on the 1st, Carey on the 5th, Maria on the 6th, Thayne on the 9th, Mercedes on the 12th, Tommy on the 14th, Sibyl on the 15th, and Travis on the 28th. Please 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.

Lynn R. has fallen and appears to have a hairline fracture in her hip; she is craving company or phone calls.

The Caring Committee is acquiring a new chair; contact Leo if you're interested in what the committee will do next. If you have concerns or blessings you wish to share with the community, they can be sent to caring@gaiacommunity.org and will be passed on.



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

Voices of Gaia is on hiatus; Sacred Rhythms meets at 3:30 PM

Sunday, February 7th
Workshop — Candle Blessing

Facilitators: Barbara and Jamie

Join us for a workshop on candle blessing! Many people use candles to direct energy for various purposes. Perhaps you've heard someone say they'll light a candle for you? We will explore associations of colors for candles, sigils you can carve on candles, and oils that you can add to candles for various purposes, like healing or encouraging a new job.

We will have some essential oils and plenty of white candles. Please feel free to bring along a colored candle if you have a purpose in mind, or any other materials that work for you!

Sunday, February 14th
Ritual — Standing on the Side of Love

Ritualists: Barbara, Erin, and Eric

Gaia Community is participating in the Standing On The Side of Love campaign of the UUA; they believe that "no one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their identities." We seek to promote the First Principle of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Together with other UU congregations, we will re-imagine Valentine's Day to move beyond flowers and chocolate. For more information on SSL, see <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/>.

Sunday, February 21st
Sharing — Dining with the Divine

Ritualists: Kelley and Cheryl

Come and join Kelley and Cheryl as we discuss the intentional choices we make to access the Divine properties of food. Feel welcome to bring your favorite magical (edible) recipe.

Sunday, February 28th
Ritual — Loving the Skin You're In

Ritualists: Cheryl, Kitty, and Barbara

This ritual will encompass loving the size, shape and function of our bodies. However we may look on the outside, and however our particular incarnations may function, and however we may think about the relationship between the physical manifestation and the "divine spark" that animates it, this is an opportunity to explore that relationship, perform rites of loving self-care, and honor ourselves as extensions and manifestations of Spirit.

- **Ritual Teams**

Currently Active Ritualists

Amanda Pence	Aubry Gabbard
Barbara	Cheryl Stice
David Reynolds	Devin S.
Eric Simpson	Erin Scrogum
Jamie Peters	Jeff Park
Kelley Montford	Kit Peters
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce

Please see Devin or Kit, the Ritual Teams Coordinators, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams, or a newly trained ritualist looking to join for the first time.

A Look Ahead...

- March 7th - Ritual: Looking for the Fnrords
- March 14th - Workshop: Loving the Skin You're In
- March 21st - High Holiday: Spring Equinox
- March 28th - Workshop: Pysanky

KidSpace Calendar

- ◆ We are going to be picking a new committee head. We congratulate Rosemary on her happy tidings and will miss her while she needs time to plan. Thank you, Rosemary.
- ◆ The next committee meeting will be on February 21st; we will meet at SMUUCH, downstairs in the classrooms starting at 2:00 PM.; anyone is welcome, including kids if you want to bring them along (they can play across the hall).
- ◆ Starting the first week in February, we will begin covering African paganism, and then eventually moving on to indigenous South American faiths. We intend to touch on what happened to those beliefs, how they changed, once the population was attacked by slavery. How did the slaves deal with their old beliefs and the new ones they were exposed to. **If you would be interested in teaching any particular lesson(s)**, please let Linda know.
- ◆ Thanks to all the kids and their adults for a wonderful ritual Jan. 10th! The kids were also upstairs for the Dr. Seuss ritual the following week.
- ◆ We are trying to get some more field trips and maybe a camping trip this coming spring/summer, after the positive response from last year. We used to do a camping trip every year; if people are interested or want to be notified when planning begins, please let Linda know.
- ◆ SMUUCH has spoken to Kelley regarding sharing the OWLS program. Details will be passed on as they appear.
- ◆ The students will continue once a month to learn about Social Justice, what it is and how they can affect it.
- ◆ A personal thank you from the Kidspace Coordinator to all those who taught and helped with Kidspace during my contract at KCRF. Also thanks to those who volunteered out there. It is because of you that I was able to accept the contract out there and know our students were continuing to have a quality education even though I was not there physically. I have been offered a contract as Children's Realm Coordinator for the 2010 season. I am planning to accept the contract. I know I can look to the Kidspace Committee and the Community at large to continue its support of the programming for the younger members of Gaia.
- ◆ A closing note: if the upstairs ritual is done early, please be patient with us if we need a little time to finish up. The students regularly cast a circle and call upon "Spirit." They are learning to do this and likewise to close the circle, like we do in our adult rituals. They are also learning simple magic through creating with crafts. Thank you so much for your patience and allowing the students to finish their work.

- *Linda Lee Boyce*

Trees Schedule

Coyote continues to teach our teens. This schedule is a living entity and is subject to change.

- ◆ Feb. 7th: Hinduism IVb: Conclusion of Modern Hinduism
- ◆ Feb. 14th: Open Discussion: Most topics and all questions are welcome.
- ◆ Feb. 21st: Social Justice: Exact topics to be announced.

Ritual for Business Minutes for January 9th, 2009

In attendance: Rosemary, Erin, Devin, Via, Amanda, Jack, Gerry Lynn, Kimberly, David, Barbara, Lizzy, Leo, Linda

Started at 9:50:ish

I. Approval of Agenda – We likes it.

II. Roles – Kimberly as Non Sequitur, Via as Vibes Watcher, Barbara as Red Tape.

III. Minutes – Approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Have list of who we have pledge cards from and who is eligible for voting. Erin needs number of people & total amount pledged. Have received some acknowledgements from IRS; they say nothing useful.

V. Committee Reports

A. KidSpace – Will be permanently moving monthly meeting to SMUUCH at 2PM on the 3rd Sunday of every month. We have another tin donated to foil the evil mouse overlords. Kids loved the Seuss ritual. Will finish S.Am. & Africa after this week and will go into Pagan paths that kids are most likely to come into contact.

B. Social Justice – Will meet this month; transgender alliance forum will be in February. Policies & procedures are brief but complete.

C. Communications – EH went out on the 4th. Fighting with DRUPAL 'cause it doesn't want to update, so site may be up and down a bit in the near future.

D. Membership – We have submitted our P&Ps, continue to staff Greeter's Table. Membership directory has not been published in a very long time, so they are working on this.

1. **Library** – Insert standard library reminder here (it exists, you should use it).

E. Site – Will meet February 7 @ 2:00PM. Policies and Procedures are lurking on Amanda's laptop.

F. Welcoming – Via will start showing up to KC Coalition of Welcoming Ministries meetings. Will get P&P up and running today.

G. Ritual Teams – Have submitted Policies and Procedures. Voted Aubry onto Teams. Yay!

H. Caring – Leo wants a second (can be rotating), and this will be a Shit Hits The Fan Response Taskforce. Create a phone tree to cover emergencies in response to requests. Impromptu fundraisers, food collections, clothing drives, furniture collections, assistance teams, health & wellness teams, emergency child care, etc. Barbara has volunteered to help Leo write P&Ps to bring to the COW.

I. Nominating Committee – Leo is being held up to chair Caring committee. Elections are in April. Need to know who will re-run for their positions. ELECTIONS WILL BE IN APRIL. April, April, April! Starts with an A and ends with a *pril*. April 10 RFB!

J. Stewardship – We had a party, it was great. Wooooo. We didn't make as much this year as last year, but we had less expense. We've made between 1100-1200 after expenses. Jamie is poking Kit, and he has been calling to get deposits back. Now she is poking him to send certified letters. P&P are done. Next up is pledge drive in April (the month when elections are). Garage sale will happen in warmer times, looking for a place to have it.

VI. Old Business –

A. UUA Voting Items – Via proposed for us to allow UUA to put the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking onto the ballot. Consented to let 'em vote.

1. Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues: Selected five, leaving out Nuclear Disarmament as the least favored by the group.

B. Poking of Committees – Finance committee still needs poking. Proposed that giving Caring committee a one-month extension as they have JUST reformed. Consented. Amanda will poke them again next month.

VII. New Business – none this month, woot!

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the January 9th Ritual for Business:

- End-of-Year report from the Treasurer
- Possible new Caring Committee Chair
- 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.

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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 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 3:30-4PM: <u>Sacred Rhythms</u> 4-7 PM: High Holiday: Imbolc (w/potluck after)	1 <i>Imbolc</i>	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	4	5 ● <i>World Cancer Day</i>	6 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
7 2:00-3:45PM: Site Committee Meeting @ SMUUCH 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Workshop: Candle Blessings	8	9 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting at Andrew's	10	11	12 ● <i>National Freedom to Marry Day</i> 7-9 PM: Storytelling Group @ Andrew's	13 ● <i>First Day of Lupercalia</i> 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: Standing on the Side of Love	15 <i>Last Day of Lupercalia</i>	16 7-9 PM: Trans Allies Discussion @ SMUUCH	17	18	19 <i>Chaoflux</i> 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	20
21 ● 2-3:30 PM: New Member Class @ SMUUCH 2-3 PM: <u>KidSpace</u> Meeting 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Dining with the Divine	22	23 <i>Terminalia</i>	24	25	26 7-9 PM: FNSC @ Manny's Mexican, 207 Southwest Blvd.	27
28 ○ 3:30-4PM: <u>Sacred Rhythms</u> 4-6 PM: Ritual: Loving the Skin You're In	1	2	3	4 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	5	6 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's