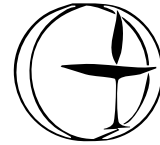




Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community January 2004

PROSPERITY ABOUNDED IN 2003—David Reynolds, Treasurer

As the calendar year draws to a close, it is with both pride and pleasure that I “get” to balance Gaia Community’s books and tally up the last tickets for the year. Last year at this time I had just taken over the Treasurer’s position from the formidable Heather Ventura, and was busily reading up on my new duties. I am glad to say that it has not been *nearly* as difficult as she said it would be, and despite the occasional ups and downs, we’re having a very good year.

When FY 2002–2003 wound down in June, we ended up ahead of the race, and were able to start the new fiscal year, finally, with no outstanding debt or dues to be paid off. Our former Minister’s pension fund is no longer lingering over the budget, and our Activity Dues to the Prairie Star District and the Unitarian Universalist Association were paid far enough ahead of schedule that when Carey and I went to General Assembly as Gaia Community’s official Delegates, our name badges had ribbons on them touting Gaia Community’s fiscal responsibility. Needless to say they were some of the first things we collected in Boston; not every congregation gets to boast that, large or small!

Then came July, and the now infamous “God Auction” (which promises to soon become the “infamous Annual God Auction”), which smashed all Summer Fund-raiser records by topping out at more than \$500 in “tribute” to the godden that were presented that day: Hathor, Thoth, Bastet, and Osiris. Hathor’s . . . considerable assets ended up no match for the God with power over life and death in people’s minds though, and Osiris was chosen as the patron for the chapter. Bastet and Thoth seemed nonplussed with the entire affair.

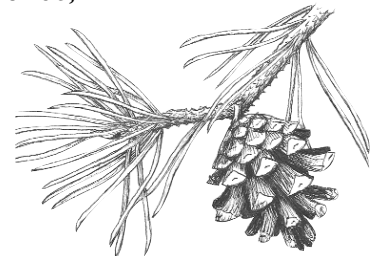
The rest of the year was fairly quiet, although juggling the multiple ‘hats’ of a Treasurer/Webmaster/Ritual Team Member/Board Member meant more than a few late nights. As the planning for the Winter Bazaar ramped up though, I was truly blessed with the aid of a cadre of dedicated minions, err assistants, who distributed the work easily. When the day finally came, there was so much help and volunteer spirit that, as one per-

son put it, “nobody had to get set on fire, and nobody died.” Heather will doubtless be nonplussed with the entire affair up til this point, but she can’t take issue with the result: more than \$1600 raised by the Winter Bazaar to finish out the year with a flourish, and that doesn’t include the \$250+ that KidSpace’s tiny table generated (with much thanks to their excellent hawkers). Well done all! You can see more details inside about the results of the Bazaar.

As 2004 opens and we look forward to a bright and prosperous year to come, I thank you all once more for everything you do to make my job(s) easy.

Prosperity abounds,

David



WEAVE AND SPIN



Splinters from the Board

From Nicole Turner, Secretary

The December board meeting was cancelled due to bad weather and lack of a quorum. Rituals for Business are not simply board meetings. They’re open to all members and friends—the more, the merrier. Although actual voting is restricted to active membership, everyone’s voice is important. Please join us at SMUUC, downstairs in the Franklin/Jefferson Room for our next meeting: 9:30–11:30 A.M., Saturday, January 10th. Nicole Turner will be facilitating, so get in touch (contact information on page 3) if you want to add an item to the agenda. Minutes from any Ritual for Business are available upon request.

WHAT’S INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
SUNDAY SCHEDULE	2
GAIA AROUND TOWN	
BOARD CONTACT	
COMMUNITY CARES	3
EARTH HEALER CONTACTS	
MONTHLY CALENDAR	4

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

Sunday, January 4th



Ritual—Into the Fairy Mound-trance

"Come away, O human child! To the waters and the wild With a faery, hand in hand, For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand."—W. B. Yeats

Heed the call of your heart's desire and come down into the mound, into the world of the faerie. We'll be taking a journey in trance, so please dress comfortably and feel free to bring something to sit or lie on if you'd like.

Sunday, January 11th facilitated by David Reynolds

Sharing Our Spirit—"The Big Rocks Go In First"

Sharing Our Spirits rituals are a chance for everyone to co-create a ritual together. Bring music, poetry, inspiration or a desire for something you'd like to see done and we'll see if it can be worked in.

Sunday, January 18th



Ritual—(In respect to Martin Luther King) Pagans, Do we discriminate?

To discriminate is to distinguish or differentiate based upon features. There are many ways to discriminate when it comes to human beings. Some of the more frequent discriminations we face as human beings are based on features such as race, religion, weight, hair color, etc. So, do you discriminate? Do Pagans on a whole discriminate? In this ritual we will be exploring our true selves to discover whether we ourselves discriminate and whether Pagans as a group discriminate.

Sunday, December 28th

Forum—"Urban Paganism" facilitated by Jeff Park

Forums are something new to Gaia Community's Sunday schedule; we tried a few of them in 2003 during the Hellenic Chapter and they seemed to go over well. This time, the topic will center around how to integrate an urban/suburban lifestyle with the pagan ideas of "getting back to nature".

Ritual Team Members:



Kitty Degler
Jacki Kelly
Collene Newby
Jeff Park



Caroline Baughman
Nicole Turner
Eric Simpson



Kimberly Gier
Carey Oxler
David Reynolds

MAY YOU NEVER HUNGER. MAY YOU NEVER THIRST.

Site Committee Meeting

Due to the late mailing of the newsletter the scheduled meeting on January 7, 2004 at 7 p.m., will be rescheduled. The meeting was to be at the Johnson County Libraries Main Branch; 9875 W 87th, OPKS 66212; in one of the study rooms. Collene Newby is the committee chair and is searching for interested people in looking for a future Gaia Community home. You can contact her via her cell phone (913) 221-3278 You need not be a member to assist on this committee.

GAIA AROUND TOWN—EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Voices of Gaia

Thursday, January 17th, 7:00 P.M.

We meet downstairs at SMUUCH in the classroom with the keyboard. We'll do a ritual in song and, in honor of Martin Luther King Day, sing chants and songs with an activist message. If you have some, please bring them! For more info, contact Kitty at (913)469-8779 or songbird@kc.rr.com for more information.

KidSpace Committee Meeting

Friday, January 9th, 7:00 P.M.

The KidSpace Committee Meeting is a place for all parents, kids at heart, and KidSpace volunteers to come together and discuss the future of our children. Plans for future activities, volunteer opportunities, dinner, and the direction of the future of KidSpace could all be on the agenda.

Come to the meeting or contact Andrew Turner, our Director of KidSpace Programming, for more information at agrmmn@kc.rr.com or (913) 706-9167.

Games Night

Friday, January 16th, 7:00–10:00 P.M. at SMUUCH

Games Night is a chance for gaians to get together for fun, frivolity, and food, and NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS allowed! (We're not kidding—the Games Guru has spoken on this.) 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, January 23th, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! January's FNCS will be stuffing ourselves at "Cinzetti's (Italian Buffet); 7201 W. 91st; Overland Park, KS; 913-642-0101. For more information contact Jeff Park at jpark2@kc.rr.com or 816-361-0465.

Caring Committee Connection Circle

We will meet every Sunday before Ritual. We will start at 2:30 P.M. This is a place to meet and talk. If you've had a bad week, and you need to talk about it, come on by. If you've had a good week, and need to shout it from the rooftops, come on by. If you just need to be with people, or whatever, come on by. We'll have coffee and tea, and if you'd like bring some food. Bring enough to share!

Tuesday Night Adult Education

Is on hiatus until further notice

Gaia Community Board Members

President—Barbara Griggs
bpmg@earthlink.net or
816-587-2350

VP—Caroline Baughman
carolineo@earthlink.net or
816-729-7112

Treasurer—David Reynolds
naebis@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626

Secretary—Nicole Turner
saffronhare@kc.rr.com or
913-706-9159

Members at Large

Collene Newby
oedipus_the_doomed@yahoo.com
or 913-221-3278

Jacki Kelley
opaljax@aol.com or
816-228-0018

Jeff Park
jpark2@kc.rr.com or
816-361-0465

BAZAAR TOTALS:

Craft Circle Table: \$230

Tarot: Nearly \$60

Kitchen Witch: \$250 + !!

Raffle: more than 425 tickets were sold, including 151 for Eric's beautiful Ashiko drum!

Vendors: \$700+ in vendor fees, including a donation of half of GEM Enterprises' proceeds!

Grant Total: More than \$1600 raised by the Winter Bazaar. But wait, there's more: This doesn't include the \$251.78 that the KidSpace kids raised at their tiny little table in the corner! Next year they're getting a BOOTH!

COMMUNITY CARES

Joys and Concerns

Compiled with YOUR input.



Heart felt wishes and healing to . . .

- Nick (beam boy) Holt; send him some positive energy.
- Positive energies to Jai, Katherine, and Maria.
- Good Luck to Vickie, who is taking a major step in her life.
- Colleen, who is recovering from surgery..

Peace & strength to . . .

- Friends who are rolling with the punches of unemployment and job searches.
- Those struggling with substance abuse and addiction.
- Those in our community experiencing the pain of divorce or separation.
- Hope that everyone gets plenty of rest and relaxation after the hectic "holidays."
- Toast to chosen Family.

Happy Solar Return to people celebrating their birthday this month: ♁

1-1: Phil Utton

1-7: Roger Baughman

1-11: Brian Butler

1-24: Sam Chapman

1-26: Christopher S.

Thanks Miki for providing birthdays. If we've missed you, clue us in again! Let Earth Healer know—earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org or 816-361-0465 or just sort of let the people at the greeter's table know.

And a special welcome to the folks who visited us for the first time recently:

Johannah White; Cindy Shubert; Dan Hollis; Genie Evans; Skye Nicholson; Winnie Weinrich; Kris Krishna; Carmen Mosley-Sims



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

Address Correction Requested

CONNECTION CIRCLE

Sundays 2:30 pm

Sponsored by the Caring Committee

Coffee, tea and a compassionate ear

SACRED RHYTHMS

Sundays 3 pm

Bring your drums; Bring your shakers

Bring your heart, your feet and your hands

No previous experience needed

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 15th 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 February *Earth Healer*.



January 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				New Years Day 1	2	3
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm Ritual Into the Fairy-mound 4 pm 4	5	6	☉ 7	8 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	9 KidSpace 7 pm	10 Ritual of Business 9:30 am
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm SOS The Big Rocks Go in First 4 pm 11	12 Deadline for EH submissions	13	14	☾ 15 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	16 Games Night 7 pm	17
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm Ritual (MLK) Pagans. Do We Discriminate? 4 pm 18	19 Martin Luther King Day	20	☀ 21	22	23 FNCS 7 pm	24
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm Forum Urban Paganism 4 pm 25	26	27	28	☾ 29	30	31