



Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community January 2005

May your New Year be filled with Love, Peace and Joy

VOICES OF GAIA GETS SERIOUS!

After our excellent work for Gaia Community's Winter Solstice Carol Sing and Planned Parenthood's Gathering of the Goddesses, the current active members of Voices of Gaia have decided the time has come to reach for greater things. To that end, Voices will begin to rehearse weekly on Monday evenings at 7 P.M. beginning January 10th. *(editor note: All this is contingent on SMUUCH approval of building use and augmenting our lease).* Our first goal will be to prepare for a Spring Concert tentatively planned for Sunday, March 27 (subject to Ritual Team approval). Other goals would be to make a recording, perform at Heartland Pagan Fest, and perhaps at other UU churches.

At our January 10th meeting, we'll take part of the rehearsal to discuss goals and structure for the group. Please bring your ideas.

Voices of Gaia is looking for additional singers willing to commit their time and talents to work toward choral excellence. We also are interested in instrumental musicians (including drummers). In addition, we are looking for choral arrangers and songwriters to create new pagan

music we might perform. If you're interested in Voices of Gaia, please contact Kitty Degler at songbird@kc.rr.com or 913-469-8779.



Build Your Own Theology Class Cancelled

Due to the holidays, the regularly scheduled Build Your Own Theology class for January 4, 2005 will not be held. Everyone have a safe and pleasant holiday season, and we will reconvene on the first Tuesday in February!

Love & Blessings,

Barbara



MEMBER RAMBLINGS

(editor's note: The following is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily express the view of the community)

Truth Brian Butler

It seems to me, and maybe you have noticed this too, more and more people are interested in learning the truth of who and what they are. People are being drawn into a deeper search for the Self, and an exploration of the meaning of Life.

Seekers search in different ways. Some go on long pilgrimages, some go into poverty, some use therapy, spiritual work, or meditation. We even see the media embracing this change—Dr. Phil, Oprah, and other such programs offer the entertainment of witnessing other peoples, search for their truth.

The truth is more important than the outcome of the relationship. When you put the truth ahead of the outcome, you are creating a new and exciting relationship with yourself. When you come to trust that what you think and feel is more important than pleasing other people, you have the chance to express your truth. When you recognize that what is true for you is! more important than how other people might react emotionally to that truth, you can begin to show up as "Your Self."

This idea of putting your truth ahead of the outcome of any relationship is a vital way of being in relationship with that Self. The search for the truth inside of you is the ultimate search for the Self. It happens moment by moment. Who else, or what else are we but that which lives in the truth of any moment?

The discovery of the Self happens ONLY when you are willing to acknowledge, respect, and be present in the truth of who you are Now. For this presence you need no guru, book, nor TV psychologist. You only need to listen, and honor YOU in this moment. The search for your Self begins and ends at the same beautiful place: Inside you



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
SUNDAY SCHEDULE	
COMMUNITY CARES	2
GAIA AROUND TOWN	
THINGS TO COME	
SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD . .	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 2

Ritual—"New Years"—Whips....Goats....Rollerskates. Dare we say more :-)

Sunday, January 9 facilitated by Debbie and Kitty

Ritual/Workshop—"Walking the Labyrinth"

The holidays are over, the new year has begun. Take this Sunday to pause for a moment of reflection and walk Gaia Community's Chalice Labyrinth. Labyrinths are an ancient tool for insight. The twists and turns can mirror the turns in our own lives as we walk its path. At this workshop/ritual you'll have a chance to learn a little more about labyrinths, walk Gaia Communities labyrinth, and have a chance to record your insights privately and/or share them with others.

Sunday, January 16

Ritual—"Working for Change" (Social Justice Sunday)

Join us in this working ritual to make real change within our UU community, our local communities and the world, towards tolerance, acceptance and respect.

Sunday, January 23 facilitated by Carey

Class—"Excellence in Participation"

This class is an off-shoot of the "Excellence in Ritual" class that all Gaia Community ritual team members must take in order to be eligible to join a ritual team. The class is to help those that are not familiar with Gaia Community traditional ritual style to better participate while attending ritual. The Why's and the whatfor's will be explained and if you have questions...ask...it's possible someone else has the same one.

Sunday, January 30

Ritual—"Hearthfires" Imbolc

Our celebration of the first stirrings of life from our Mother Earth. The mid-point between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox, were we help stir the seed within the earth back to life. Join us to turn the seasonal wheel and to feast and make merry these new beginnings.

As with all Sabbats, we will be holding a potluck, so bring a dish for 8 hungry people and remember to label the ingredients! In order to care for the earth and each other, we ask that you refrain from using disposable containers or tableware if possible.

Ritual Teams and Members:



Kitty Degler
Barbara Griggs
Brian Butler
Linda Boyce



Nicole Turner
Eric Simpson
Liz Ticer
Via Baker



Kimberly
Carey Reynolds
David Reynolds
Daniel Ticer



Jacki Kelly
Debbie Dozier
Jeff Park

Gaia Community Board Members

President—Barbara Griggs
president@gaiacommunity.org or
816-587-2350

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

Treasurer—David Reynolds
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org or
816-941-7626

Secretary—Debbie Dozier
secretary@gaiacommunity.org or
913-894-8131

Members at Large

Carey Reynolds
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626

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

John Carroll
IBRCandS792@yahoo.com or
913-334-2834

COMMUNITY CARES Joys and Concerns

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.



- Healing wishes to John's father; John C. and Phil U.

Happy Solar Return to people celebrating their birthday this month.

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!

GAIA AROUND TOWN—EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Voices of Gaia

Mondays at 7 P.M. FRANKLIN ROOM.

See article on page 1. New singers are always welcome. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, songbird@kc.rr.com or 913-469-8779.

KidSpace Committee Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 20th, 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 kidspace@gaiacommunity.org or (913) 706-9167.

If anybody would like to complete the survey for KidSpace (ideas, etc...) and has not had the chance to do so, they can do so by contacting Andrew or Linda. There are copies on Sundays on the Greeters table and downstairs in KidSpace.

Games Night

Friday, Jan. 21st, 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, Jan. 28th, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! We will be eating at the Mediterranean Cafe; 3613 Broadway St, Kansas City, MO 64111 Phone:(816) 753-5520 this month. For more information contact Jeff Park at jpark2@kc.rr.com or 816-361-0465.

A look ahead at next month

Feb 6 Class – “Arianrhod”

Feb. 13 Ritual – “EVOL^ove”

Feb. 20 Forum – “Pagan Clergy”

Feb. 27 Ritual – “Gesundheit!”



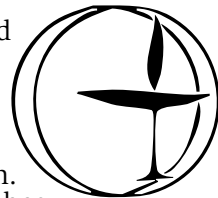
WEAVE AND SPIN

Splinters from the Board

Here's the minutes summary

The meeting was called to order at ~9:45 am by Barbara Griggs.

The minutes from November were read and approved. Treasurer reports our expenses are currently exceeding our income. The budget update was approved.



Various Committee reports were given. **Site Committee** chairperson, Collene has asked the chairs of other committees to announce their meetings. She is getting asked about when different committees meet and does not know what to tell people. Site committee also asked for guidance from the Board as to whether they should continue to search for places to buy or rent. Barbara will start lease negotiations with SMUUCH earlier this year. In addition, the board decided that it will be necessary for members of the community to re-dedicate themselves to being excellent tenants, following the terms of the lease, making sure to leave the facility as clean as (or cleaner than) we found it, restricting ourselves to the rooms and hours we have reserved, and communicating with Marjorie Rice if we want to change. **Ritual Teams meeting**, that body agreed to pay close attention to those parameters. Therefore those at the RfB agreed that the Site Committee should not need to re-adjust its current, longer-term focus.

KidSpace: Andrew was told about the contract position commencing in January.

Adult Ed: They will be asking for volunteers to teach the new Intro to Paganism class starting in January. There will be no BYOT class in Jan; The 5th Tuesday classes for next year will be outside speakers dealing with issues, practical living from a pagan viewpoint.

Stewardship: Brian proposed a new idea for a fundraiser. He would like to track the skills and knowledge of our members, have them teach to other members, then sell the proceeds of this; the students would donate the production that they make for the sales. After much discussion it was decided that more analysis was needed. We decided to try a poll to see what people would like to learn in craft circle, and we need to research what tools people buy on a routine basis.

Old Business

a. copier update: The copier is still not functional.

b. winter bazaar: It was decided to table the winter bazaar discussion to the luncheon after RfB.

New Business

Scheduling events: all Gaia-sponsored events must obtain approval from RfB before they can be scheduled. This will hopefully avoid any scheduling snafus in the future. Note: this doesn't include committee meetings, only Gaia-sponsored events that involved the whole membership.

Jeff Park will be chairing the meeting next month, 1/8

Agenda Items for January:

By-laws revision: All board members need to read through the by-laws before the next meeting. We will decide then if a revision of the by-laws in necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Debbie



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





Address Correction Requested

A big
 Thank You
 to all who
 helped with
 Winter Bazaar!

Contact Earth Healer

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

January 2005							1
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
SR 3pm 2 Ritual: New Year's 4 pm	 3	Adult RE 7 pm Build- Your Own Theology 4	5	6 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	7	8 Ritual of Business 9:30 am	
SR 3pm 9 Workshop: Walking the Labyrinth 4 pm	 10 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	11 Adult RE 7 pm Sacred Rhythms	12	13	14	15	
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm 16 Ritual: Working for Change 4 pm	 17 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	18 Adult RE 7 pm Druid Study Group	19 Site Committee Meeting 7-9 pm	20 KidSpace 7 pm	21 Games Night 7 pm	22	
SR 3pm 23 Class: Excellence in Participation 4 pm	24 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	 25 Adult RE 7 pm Wicca 101	26	27	28 FNCS 7 pm	29	
SR 3pm 30 Ritual: "Hearthfires" 4 pm Potluck	31 Voices of Gaia 7 pm						