



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

Winter Bazaar was a big hit!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, shopped, entertained, vended, or otherwise helped make the 2007 Winter Bazaar a successful event. Gaia Community made \$1475.14, after expenses, which is in line with previous years and ahead of our budgeted projections.

The vendors really liked the location and the entertainment, and would in fact like to see us do a spring event as well. The Bazaar Committee is considering such a proposal right now, and will have more information in the future. For now, consider it a job well done!

- *Winter Bazaar Committee*

Give a Sheep for Imbolc

For this season's Social Justice project, we're focusing on a cause that we think Brigid would approve of. We're partnering with Heifer International, a charitable organization that gives livestock to impoverished families around the world so that they can have milk, eggs, honey, and other products for food and trade. Recipients of a Heifer gift also get training in skills necessary to keep the animal(s) healthy and happy in a sustainable way, and make good use of the resources they produce. Gift recipients are *also* expected to share the offspring of their donated animal(s) with other people in need in their community, so that over time a single gift strengthens community bonds and benefits an entire area.

We'll be asking you to contribute towards a gift of livestock from now until Imbolc. Being the season that it is, we're aiming to sponsor as many sheep as we can -- a gift of a single sheep costs \$120. We'll be collecting money at ritual every Sunday; look for the Big Fluffy Sheep! If you'd like to donate but won't be at ritual, email sj@gaiacommunity.org for information about donating online.

- *Social Justice Committee*

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.

Santa visits C.A.S.A. Kids

A big THANK YOU to all the elves who contributed to the families we gifted for Yule. The first family of three girls and two boys got EVERYTHING on their lists! Each child had asked for one thing, and the mom wanted a winter coat for each. We ended up with the opportunity for the CASA volunteer to purchase the last coat, and he was pleased to do it. We even got to tell the social worker who tried to cobble something together at the last minute that he didn't need to. This way the kids actually got what they asked for, instead of leftovers from the Children's Division pile.

As for the family with seven boys, (whew) mom and dad both have jobs for the first time in a couple of years. Both have graduated from Drug Court and are really enjoying being a family. They recently had to move, however, as their grown son who had been living with them had been shot twice - right into the family home. (Gang related) So with the recent move, they were pretty strapped for money to do anything extra like Christmas presents. Now, each of these boys asked for about 10 things, so they didn't each get a iPod or some of the other top-end things, but each boy did get a huge bag full of clothes and toys. The volunteer had to make two trips to get everything delivered! She was thrilled to do it, though. You see, this family has done so well, that they are no longer a juvenile case, and wouldn't even have been eligible for Division's usual "red bags". We gave them a true gift, a little extra in this dark, cold season, so the progress they made can be enjoyed, and the kindness of strangers built them up. Yeah for family, and for miracles!

- *Greta & the rest of the S.J. Committee*

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Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia (every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia, Gaia Community's choir, has started meeting again after a very long summer break. You'll find us in the Theater Room below Barn Chapel on Sundays at 2 p.m. New members are always welcome. We prefer that you have some experience singing, particularly with choirs, can match pitch and can follow a musical score. Our current incarnation is as a women's choir, but if you're a tenor or bass and really want to sing with us, contact Kitty in person or at songbird@kc.rr.com and we'll figure something out.

Ritual Teams Meeting (1/2, 6:45 PM, at Lizzy's): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Debbie in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know! January's meeting will be at Lizzy's house in KCK.

Ritual for Business (1/12, 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 consensus process. If you've ever had an official question or concern, this would be the place to bring it. January's agenda (postponed from the canceled December meeting) will include the KidSPACE proposal put forward last month. Any questions or items for the agenda can be communicated to the board at board@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (1/14, 7 PM, at Andrew's): January's meeting will be at Andrew's new place: 11132 W. 76th Terr. #34 in Shawnee KS; you can also find him in person or e-mail him at sj@gaiacommunity.org! We're currently working on the Heifer International project mentioned on page 1.

Religions of Kansas City Study Group (1/15, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): A new study group has formed to explore and learn about the variety of religions present in Kansas City. If this is a subject that interests you, please email Lizzy at president@gaiacommunity.org, find her in person, or just join them on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM!

Games Night (1/18, 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. We've gotten some new local board game players to join us through <http://meetup.com>, so come join the fun!

Friday Night Supper Club (1/25, 7 PM): Because Kris Ennis had to step down as coordinator for this event, no location has been chosen yet for January. It might be good to go somewhere with good Scotch at the bar, as this will be Burns Night (*for Robbie Burns, national poet of Scotland*). If you have an interest in taking over this event or have an idea of where to go, please bring it up at the January Ritual for Business or let the Communications Committee know.

Board of Trustees 07-08

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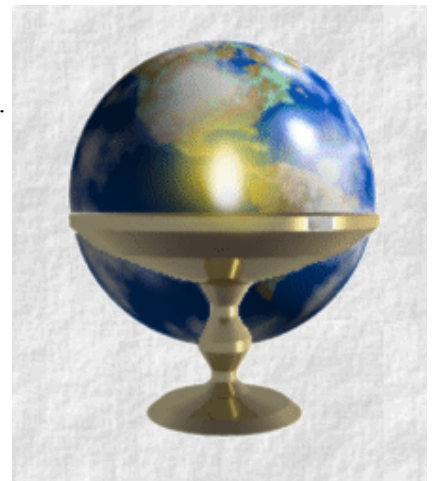
... or contact them all at
board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out this month to John Carroll on the 4th, Roger Baughman on the 7th, Brian Butler on the 11th, Jan Wilner on the 20th, and Sam Chapman on the 24th. Let Caring Committee know if there are others that we're missing!

In addition, our energies and thoughts go to all of those dealing with those nagging winter illnesses, unburying their homes from the Yuletide decorations, or otherwise distracted, occupied, and worn out.

If you or another attendee of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the Caring Committee by emailing us at caring@gaiacommunity.org, leaving a message on the Gaia Community voicemail at 816-931-9900, or by contacting one of the Committee members in person: Terry Ross, Debbie Dozier, or Cynthia Mathis.



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

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

Sunday, January 6th

Workshop — Banishing Personal Demons

Facilitators: Linda & David

Got those irritating 'imps' haunting your habits, thoughts, and actions? Would you like to get rid of them? This workshop will explore some of the ways in which we can get rid of those negative influences and make our thoughts, words, and deeds both easier and more productive.

Sunday, January 13th

Ritual — Oppression

Ritualists: Barbara, Via, & Jeff

Within human cultures and societies there is a tool which is used to keep those with power in power and those that do not with out. Explore with us a foundation of human society and its systems. By understanding the tool and making conscious choices of our own, we can use the power that we possess and effect change in the larger society. This ritual is part of our "Welcoming Congregation" series and will be dealing with issues of human behavior and group oppression in a safe and sacred way.

Sunday, January 20th

Forum — Pagans & War

Facilitator: Devin & Yale

Our forums are a place to discuss, in a safe and respectful manner, our varied opinions on a subject related to paganism or our community. This month, our topic will be that of conflict and war itself, so please give due consideration to that as you share how you feel.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Feb. 3rd — Imbolc (w/potluck afterward)

Feb. 10th — Class on Bisexuality/Biphobia

Feb. 17th — Ritual: Learning to See
(New Member Sunday)

Feb. 24th — Workshop on Reading the Tarot within the Four Levels of Reality

Sunday, January 27th

Ritual — The Peaceful Warrior

Ritualists: Devin, Lizzy & Yale

This ritual will build on the experience and opinions shared in the previous week's forum, working to reconcile the concepts of "peace" and "war", conflict and resolution, defense and offense.

Sunday, February 3rd

SABBAT — Imbolc (w/potluck)

Ritualists: Amanda, Kimberly, Via & Linda

Imbolc is often celebrated in conjunction with Brigid, and with her as our patron for this year, it will certainly be no different! One of Brigid's gifts is that of inspiration; not just the inspirational moment itself, but how to recognize it, utilize it, and carry it forward to inspire others as you move through the world.

As with every high holiday, there will be a potluck meal after the ritual; please bring a dish, dessert, or drink for eight hungry people, and remember to bring your own table setting, so we don't have to use disposable dishes! Remember to label your ingredients for those with dietary concerns.

- *Ritual Teams*

Currently Active Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Amanda Pence
Barbara	David Reynolds
Devin Scrogum	Eric Simpson
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	Lizzy Ticer
Via Baker	Yale Giffin

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



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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 (816-941-7626) 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*

JANUARY 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4-8 PM: New Year's Formal/Ritual	31 ☉ <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1 ☾ <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 ☽ 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ Lizzy's	3	4	5 <i>Monday</i>
6 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Workshop: Banishing Personal Demons	7	8 ● <i>Balloon Ascension Day</i>	9	10	11	12 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
13 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Oppression	14 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	15 ☾ 7 PM: Religions of Kansas City Study Group	16 ☽ <i>National Religious Freedom Day</i>	17	18 <i>Winnie the Pooh Day</i> 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUCh	19
20 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Forum: Pagans & War	21 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	22 ☉	23	24	25 <i>Burns Night</i> 7 PM: Supper Club @ TBA	26
27 <i>Int'l Holocaust Remembrance Day</i> 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: The Peaceful Warrior	28	29 ☾	30	31	1 <i>Imbolc</i>	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>