



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

JANUARY 2010

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UUA Voting Items

Each year, delegates to General Assembly, the Unitarian Universalist Association's annual meeting, vote on a variety of issues affecting the denomination. Often these issues include questions about where the UUA should focus its social justice efforts. At General Assembly, there are up to five possible projects on the ballot; these are called "study action items". Before GA, congregations can help shape the debate by letting the UUA know which issues they'd like to see on the ballot. In addition, the delegates may draft "Statements of Conscience", which, in order to be discussed further, must be supported by at least 25% of all congregations.

Gaia Community has a chance to participate in this process by sending in our votes by February 1st. To do this, we'll discuss and try to consense on the voting items at the January 9th Ritual for Business. We'll get to vote whether or not to approve a Statement of Conscience from 2009's GA, and also on which five (or fewer) topics should appear as potential study action items for GA in 2010.

There's a lot more detail on the decision items on our website at <http://gaiacommunity.org/beheard2010>, including links to the full text of the items to be voted on. We thought we'd give you the short versions here, beginning with the first part of the Draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking:

"We believe all people share a moral responsibility to create peace. Mindful of both our rich heritage and our past failures to prevent war, and enriched by our present diversity of experience and perspective, we commit ourselves to a radically inclusive and transformative approach to peace."

You can read the entire 5-page draft statement at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/>

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.

The second question is more straightforward: which potential study action items will be voted on at General Assembly and sent through the next 4-year Social Witness Cycle. No more than five items can be considered at each GA, and six have been proposed this year. So each congregation may support up to five items in this pre-GA process (much like a 'primary' in regular elections).

The six potential items are as follows; again, our website and the UUA website have much more information on each potential one.

- **Ending Slavery:** "More people are enslaved today than at any time in history, about 27 million worldwide. They are in communities throughout the U.S. and their stolen labor creates objects we consume every day. Yet ending slavery forever is within our grasp. We can finish the work begun by our abolitionist forebears."
- **Energy, Peace, and Justice:** "Nations fight with each other to control natural resources. Energy use is essential for human survival. How can Unitarian Universalists help all people, in all nations, to secure an adequate supply of energy that is safe, affordable, and sustainable? How can we prevent energy conflict while promoting energy justice?"
- **Immigration as a Moral Issue:** "Migration of people—driven by economic, social, political and environmental factors—is taking place around the world. Millions are currently in transit, in refugee camps, in detention centers, or living and working in places without full legal status and without access to social services or protection of civil rights."
- **National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative:** "The economic crisis and current political responses will continue to destabilize our communities and erode our democracy. We cannot return to "economics as usual" without deepening economic inequality, fragmenting community resilience, and exacerbating the ecological crisis. Most areas of injustice are connected to the nature of our current economic system."
- **Nuclear Disarmament:** "Should the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) work with other faith communities to advocate a drastic reduction in existing inventories of nuclear weapons, with the goal of seeking their ultimate elimination?"
- **Revitalizing American Democracy:** "Democracy requires an informed, engaged citizenry. Corporate and financial interests actively influence our government, but citizen participation and oversight have been insufficient to provide balance. Voting is important, but we must also keep informed, participate personally, discuss policy with others, observe all actions of government, and advocate for needed changes."

- Erin Scrogum, Congregation President
- David Reynolds, Communications Chair

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Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia is on hiatus.

Craft Circle (1/2, 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!

Ritual Teams Meeting (1/5, 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 rtc@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)!

Storytelling Group (1/8, 7 PM, at Amanda's): The fledgling Storytelling Group will meet this month at Amanda's new apartment in JoCo. 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 (1/9, 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.

New Member Class (1/10, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The next iteration of the New Member Class will be this Sunday before ritual; this session will cover the History of the UUA, and of 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.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (1/12, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We had to postpone the Trans Allies Discussion to February; this month we will have a regular meeting, at Andrew's new apartment. If you have questions about this event, or about anything else the committee does, you can e-mail us at sj@gaiacommunity.org.

Games Night (1/15, 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.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (1/17, 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 instead of Dunn Brothers.

Friday Night Supper Club (1/22, 7PM) will travel out to Lawrence for January; [Jade Mongolian Barbeque](#) at 1511 W. 23rd Street (between Iowa Street and Naismith) will be our hosts for this month. 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
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816-822-2070 or

greta@gaiacommunity.org

... or contact them all at

board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Brian Butler on the 11th, Jan Wilner and Jennifer Old-d'Entremont on the 20th, Sam Chapman on the 24th, Kit Peters on the 28th, and Michelle Solveij on the 31st! 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. And please keep Jennifer Gal. in your thoughts as well, as she is having surgery in early January.



The Caring Committee is in search of a new chairperson; please someone know if you are interested in taking over this valuable slot of service to our community. 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, January 3rd

Ritual — Communitat in the Hat

Ritualists: *Amanda, Erin, and Kit*

*Join the Gaians of SMUUCville for a lesson together
‘Bout community unity, despite the gross weather;
Shoots, Saplings, Trees -- upstairs if you please.
All bring Harvesters to help others’ needs;
As we shall learn, each one and all,
A Gaian’s a Gaian no matter how small.*

A ritual inspired by Dr. Seuss! Please try to bring at least one canned good for Harvesters donations per person in your family; more is certainly encouraged and welcome. Sprouts will be downstairs today.

Sunday, January 10th

Ritual — The Rainbow Connection *(Children’s Dedication)*

Ritualists: *Kelley, Linda, Barbara, and Kitty*

All children of the community will be upstairs for this ritual, which focuses on them and is our annual chance to acknowledge both the new arrivals (of any age) and the achievements of those that we already know well.

Sunday, January 17th

Ritual — Honoring Thoth and All Teachers

Ritualists: *Kit, Jamie, and Kitty*

This Sunday we will honor Thoth through honoring the teachers in our lives, as Thoth is a patron of teachers. Come to explore how you are both a teacher and a learner in life and how you can honor both yourself as a teacher and others who have taught you.

A Look Ahead...

- Feb. 7th - Workshop: Candle Blessing**
- Feb. 14th - Ritual: Standing on the Side of Love**
- Feb. 21st - Sharing: Dining with the Divine**
- Feb. 28th - Ritual: Loving the Skin You’re In**

Sunday, January 24th

Forum — How Shall We Honor the Divine?

Facilitators: *Kit and Barbara*

Our Mission Covenant contains the line, "To honor the Divine as both feminine and masculine", but what does that mean for you? We're aiming for a lively, but peaceful, discussion of the different ways this can be accomplished as individuals and as a community as a whole.

Sunday, January 31st

High Holiday — Imbolc *(w/potluck after)*

Ritualists: *Eric, Cheryl, David, and Devin*

Imbolc is often viewed as either the last of the winter holidays or the first of the spring holidays (depending on your views on winter and spring, probably). Our ritual this day will help to bridge the dichotomy here, integrating the changeover of the seasons into something that can be meaningful for all present.

As with all High Holidays, there will be a potluck meal following the ritual. Please bring a dish, drink, or dessert sufficient for feeding eight hungry people and remember to label your ingredients! In addition, for the Earth's sake we ask that everyone try to bring reusable plates and silverware, to minimize the use of disposables. If you come without dishes, we will find you some, don't worry!

- *Ritual Teams*

Currently Active Ritualists

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Amanda Pence | Barbara |
| Cheryl Stice | David Reynolds |
| Devin S. | Eric Simpson |
| Erin Scrogum | Jacki Kelley |
| Jamie Peters | Jeff Park |
| Kelley Montford | Kit Peters |
| Kitty Degler | Linda Boyce |
| Lizzy Ticer | |

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.

KidSpace Calendar

- ◆ Jan. 3rd will be an intergenerational ritual: *The Places You'll Go/Communitat in the Hat*, based on Dr. Seuss. Nursery will be provided for infants. Other students will be with their adults upstairs.
- ◆ Jan. 10th we will be doing an intergenerational ritual, *The Rainbow Connection, a celebration of Families and Community. * In preparation for this we are working with the students on 2 pieces of music and the Gaia closing. If you have time, please encourage the students to work on these items. If you are unsure of how these go, please feel free to ask Linda, Kate, Kelley, or Kitty. If you know your students will/will not be at Gaia please let Linda know so we can plan accordingly.

* **Elemental chant*** (the adults have used this in ritual before):
/Earth my body, Water my blood, Air my breath, and Fire my spirit/

The Color Song (old teaching song)
/Red and yellow and pink and green / Purple and orange and blue
I can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow too.
I can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow too.

/***The Gaia Standard Closing*** (the one we use most Sundays):
/By the Earth that is her body and the grove that is his home

By the air that is her breath and the music of his song
By the fire of her bright spirit and the heat of his passion
By the waters of her living womb & the dew that is his tears,
This circle is open but unbroken
May the peace of Goddess go in our hearts
And the dance of the Gods enliven our days
And may we care for the Earth and each other
Because our lives depend on it.
Merry meet, Merry part and Merry Meet again

- ◆ Plans for the coming year include finishing our tour of world religions and starting to examine closer the more common pantheons that our pagan children may come in contact with, especially those represented at Gaia. **If you would be interested in teaching any particular lesson(s)**, please let Linda know.
- ◆ 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. Again, if you are interested, 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 about 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 programing 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.

- ◆ Jan. 3rd: Oh The Places You'll Go -- intergenerational ritual, no class that day.
- ◆ **Jan. 10th: Children's Ritual--The Rainbow Connection**, a celebration of Families and Community-- Intergenerational -- Trees in Ritual. (please let Linda know if your student will/will not be there)
- ◆ Jan. 17th: Hinduism IIIa: Stories, Lore, and Traditions
- ◆ Jan. 24th: Hinduism IIIb: Conclusion of Stories and Lore
- ◆ Jan. 31st: Hinduism IVa: Modern Hinduism and Indian leaders
- ◆ 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 December 12th, 2009

*In attendance: Rosemary, Jamie, Gerry Lynn, Jack,
Devin, Erin, Amanda, Linda, John, Kimberly, David
Started at 9:45AM*

I. Approval of Agenda – Approved.

II. Roles - Jamie as non sequitur, Devin as red tape,
Jack as devil's advocate, Amanda as vibes watcher

III. Minutes – Approved w/minor corrections

IV. Treasurer's Report - We've had 44.45 for
Kidspace. 1180.00 into general fund, including 180
for LNB ticked purchases. The only issue is that
there are 2 outstanding deposits which have not been
refunded (Shawnee Mission Lodge & El Torreon).
Still a question of who has pledge cards to get to
new members, Kimberly will print out some interim
cards to last to the end of the year; must have
pledging member information to UUA by February
1, so we need information by Jan. 9 RfB.

V. Committee Reports

A. KidSpace - Will be moving Dec meeting to 2PM
at SMUUCH downstairs. Has been communicated
to community via e-group and request to put it into
the announcements has been made. Mice have
chomped into the snacks; problem has been
alleviated by putting snacks into a metal tin on the
cart; teachers are requested to use it. Year's arc of
world religion is winding down; South America
and Africa are to be finished, the Children's Ritual
will be on Jan. 10, and then the new arc starts of
Pagan Persuasions.

B. Social Justice – Did not meet this month in favor
of discussion group of becoming an ally to
transgender community; weather ate the meeting,
will retry next month. Request for questions and
answers has been made. Environmental projects
will resume in spring.

C. Communications – EH went out on time & under
budget. Website calendar should be back to
normal. Kimberly has been updating website front
page with Stuff Wot's Going On. This is awesome
and people are welcome to submit things for it.

D. Membership – Outline of classes scheduled; three

people have contacted Jamie with interest in taking
New Member Class. Greeter's Table continues to
be staffed.

1. **Library** – It exists. No, really. It's not a
figment of our imagination. Use it!

E. Site – Has not met.

F. Welcoming – Continuing to look at Standing on
the Side of Love actions available. Kimberly has
finished her term as secretary for KC Coalition of
Welcoming Ministries; more people are welcome
to get involved.

G. Ritual Teams – Went over in great detail fall
season procedures, comparing what was written
down years ago to what was actually performed.
Progress on updates is being made, coming soon to
a website near you!

H. Caring – Chair has stepped down.

I. Nominating Committee – Now NomCom has
something to do!

J. Stewardship – Have policies & procedures.
Currently focused on Longest Night; had to be
moved to SMUUCH. (El Torreon cannot have
alcohol in building; they did not tell us did, but the
bureaucrats did. We WILL be getting our deposit
back.) Looking for volunteers to staff auction and
craft tables. Tickets are \$15.

VI. Old Business –

A. Greeter's Table Box – Jamie will take care of
this, but finals have slowed down the awesome that
is she. Shall be out there by Yule.

VII. New Business

A. Voting Ballot– Next RfB, Erin would like a idea
of what the congregation likes out of the choices
for the UUA to look at more closely for the draft
statement of conscience; we must vote to get it
onto the ballot. Will be out on Greeter's Table so
members can vote; Jan RfB will consense on the
vote to vote on whether or not the UUA will allow
us to vote on it.

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the January 9th Ritual for Business:

- Decision on the UUA Voting Items (*see page 1*)
- Report on the Longest Night Ball
- Possible new Caring Committee Chair
- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



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 LIVES DEPEND
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 your name or address wrong, or
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– *David, Editor*

JANUARY 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Forum: Goal-Setting	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
3 Festival of Pax 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: Communitat in the Hat	4	5 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	6	7	8 7-9 PM: Storytelling Group @ Amanda's	9 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
10 2-3:30 PM: New Member Class @ SMUUCH 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: The Rainbow Connection (Children's Dedication)	11	12 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting at Andrew's	13	14	15 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	16 National Religious Freedom Day
17 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: Honoring Thoth and Teachers	18 Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22 7-9 PM: FNCS @ Jade Mongolian BBQ in Lawrence	23
24 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Forum: How Shall We Honor the Divine?	25	26	27 Int'l Holocaust Remembrance Day	28 Data Privacy Day	29	30
31 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: High Holiday: Imbolc (w/potluck after)	1	2	3	4	5	6 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's