Earth Healer

Gaia Community

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

All Hail Arianrhod *God Auction II: Success for Gaia Community*

Our first God Auction was during the Kemetic Tradition Section last year when, teaching how the ancient Egyptians would vote for their city's patron deity, we used the occasion to proffer our coffer and that of the local food bank. Last year, in keeping with the theme, all Gods were of Egyptian origin. This year, four deities were selected that represented four types of ritual: community/sharing (Quan Yin), study/skills (Athena), magic/introspection (Arianrhod), and celebration/ecstasy (Faunas). There were three official rounds of question/response and then tribute. Attendees were asked to bring money and/or food items. Each can or box of food equaled one dollar in tribute. After the Godden were introduced by MC Liz and each blessed the gathering, they all took their thrones behind their scribes. MC Liz then proceeded to ask one question to all the Godden. They responded in their way and then the attendees were asked to make tribute to their chosen Godden. The scribes were kept busy with peoples names and the amount each were contributing to their God. The Godden gave out tokens of appreciation to those who gave the most. In the end, when all the questions and been asked and each of the deities answered in kind and each voting round was complete. The Community of Gaians picked Arianrhod.

Arianrhod, Celtic Moon-Mother Goddess. Her name literally means "Silver Wheel." Arianrhod is the Mother aspect of the Triple Goddess. She is forever a Virgin. She can birth children but is by no means obligated to any man. She represents silver, wheels and a sheaf of wheat. She is the Goddess of Moon, Fertility and Fate. She is the Goddess of reincarnation and over sees the dead between their incarnations and protects us between as we leave this life and move into the next life. The ancient astrologers in Wales took their forecasting from the Moon's position and her relationship to the stars 'Arianrhod', as we know as the *"Milky Way."* Her spirit has an eternal quality, no beginning and no end. A lady of destiny. She symbolizes dreams and prophecy.

Arianrhod promised to help Gaia Community's magical intentions become manifestations in the mundane world. Total money tributes, to all Godden, raised was: **$851.00** Total tribute of food was: 736 items. The food is given to Harvesters and to the Native American Indian Center.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year event and we look forward to our Winter Bazaar...start saving now!

Question:

"Should Gaia Community Take a Stand On the Proposed Marriage Amendment?"

Gaia Community has been asked to add our name to those opposed to the proposed Missouri constitutional amendment defining marriage as being between one man and one woman (thus denying the benefits of legal matrimony to gay and lesbian couples). This amendment will be on the ballot in the August 3rd primary, the first public referendum on the issue in the nation. In order for Gaia Community to take such a stand officially, we need to discuss and consense to do so at our upcoming ritual on July 10th.

We encourage all members who have an opinion about this matter to come to discuss, debate, and be heard. Although Gaia Community usually officially stays out of politics, when a Human Rights issue calls out to be addressed, we should at least consider taking a firm stand for *"Caring for the Earth and Each Other Because Our Lives Depend on It."*

Signed,

Barbara Griggs

Jeff Park

Terry Ross

What's Inside This Issue

Sunday Schedule 2

Weave and Spin
Games Night Poll
Board contact 3

BYOT (new adult class)
Anglo-saxon Liturgical
Calendrics by Gary Stanfield . . . 4

Gaia Around Town
Community Cares
things to come 5

Earth Healer Contacts
Monthly Calendar 6

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, July 4

Gathering–Dancing on the Edge

Join us for a low key picnic in the park with friends. We'll be meeting at SMUUCH as usual before heading outside; more information to come soon!

Sunday, July 11 **facilitated by KidSpace**

Ritual–Gaia Communities Pet Blessings

The Kids of Gaia Community will be blessing pets of all types. We will have 5 Altars in separate areas and a labyrinth. Our Central Altar will be available for meditations on Animals and remembrances of lost pets. There will also be a Dog altar, Cat altar, Small Animal Altar (small mammals, birds), Miscellaneous Altar (anything that didn't fit one of the other altars).

You are invited to bring your animal to be blessed anytime between 4 and 5pm. Each pet will be blessed separately. We ask your consideration by making sure your animal is leashed or caged, and healthy. You are responsible for the conduct of your animal. If you cannot bring your pet for any reason feel free to bring a picture or totem representing your pet to be blessed. Donations will be accepted at all altars any money not specifically designated for Gaia will be donated to a local shelter to be named.

Sunday, July 18 **facilitated by Jeff Park**

Forum–Urban Paganism

This forum was resheduled from January when bad weather forced calcellation of that Sundays events. This Forum will ask questions like: "What relevance does a traditional rural theology have in today urban/suburban society?" and many other question that will come up along the way of our discussion. Come and express your opinion and open your mind to anothers point of view.

Sunday, July 25

Sharing Our Spirit—"Fires of Freedom" **- facilitated by Debbie Dozier**

Sharing Our Spirits rituals are designed to allow everyone a chance to help build the ritual of the day, with one or two ritual team members helping facilitate the process. You may bring music, art, invocations, poetry, or any other idea or craft that you think might help a ritual based around this month's theme, which is Freedom.

Ritual Teams and Members:

Kitty Degler
Barbara Griggs
Brian Butler
Linda Boyce

Nicole Turner
Eric Simpson
Liz Ticer
Via Baker

Kimberly
Carey Oxler
David Reynolds
Daniel Ticer

Jacki Kelly
Collene Newby
Debbie Dozier
Jeff Park

May you never hunger, May you never thirst.

weave and spin

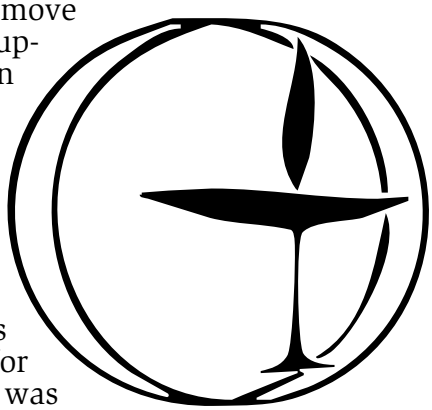
Splinters from the Board

From the Secretary

Here's a summary for this month:

Our last RfB met on June 12th. Topics of discussion:

David Reynolds reported that we are even on income and expenses for the current fiscal year. The board consensed to move the proceeds of the upcoming God Auction to the next fiscal year. Due to the scheduling of the God Auction in the current fiscal year, it would create an imbalance in the budget for this year. The budget for the next fiscal year was discussed in depth. Several revisions were made to the proposed budget, and it was accepted by the board as revised.



Debbie Dozier has taken over as Games Guru for Andrew. Since he has returned to full time work, he does not have the time to continue in this position. See elsewhere in the EH for a poll for Games Night activities/changes.

The directory is still under construction, but we hope to have a finished product for the membership soon.

David Reynolds will be chairing the July meeting, please send any topics for discussion to him or any other member of the board.

Debbie Dozier

Gaia Community Board Members

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

VP—Terry Ross
teross49@yahoo.com or
816-520-8245

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

Secretary—Debbie Dozier
ddozier@everestkc.net or
913-894-8131

Members at Large

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

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

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

New Member Class

Now Forming

See Barbara or Jeff or Michael or Terry at the Greeters Table

Games Night Poll

#1:

The date and/or time of Games Night may be changing, to better serve the community's needs. Which of the following options work well for you? You may also contact anyone on the Board to voice your opinion.

____ 3rd Fridays, 7-10pm (the current date/time)

____ 3rd Saturdays, in the afternoon

____ 3rd Saturdays, 7-10pm

____ 4th Mondays, 7-10pm

____ Some other date/time (make sure you let us know when is best!)

#2:

There was a suggestion put forward in the last poll and at the Ritual for Business, that Games Night be expanded in scope. Which of the following activities would you like to see added to Games Night?

____ DVD/Video viewing parties (will probably have to be hosted at someone's home)

____ Movie outings (at the drive-in or the theater)

____ Children's specific activities (better have a volunteer lined up for KidSpace)

____ Adults-only nights or activities (and what to do with the kids?)

____ Keep it just as it is

Clip and turn into the greeters table or contact a board member.

Coming Soon to a Tuesday Night Near You:

Build Your Own (Poly)Theology

Axiomatic within the Unitarian Universalist religious movement is the individual's right of conscience and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. This implies that each of us has the right, and indeed the obligation, to face for ourselves the Big Questions of the nature of and our relationship with the Divine, and our roles and responsibilities within the larger Universe. Ours is a church that does not try to provide answers, but we do covenant to encourage one another in spiritual growth.

Beginning in August, on the first Tuesday of each month, Gaia Community's Adult Education Program will include our adaptation of a classic model for structuring and sharing our individual exploration of what we believe. Although built on the proven structure of the mainstream course, Build Your Own (Poly) Theology will include readings from many theological (and a-theological) perspectives, and exercises that will support each participant to consider what each of us, individually, believes about a number of central religious themes. Do you believe in God(s)? Goddess(es)? Godden? Humanity as the ultimate end of evolution? The earth as a living entity? Is there life after death and if so, what is it like? What is the nature and role of prayer? Sacrifice? What happens during a religious service? Where do we go when we trance? While each of us will answer these questions, or not answer them, individually, we will consider the answers of other men and women from the past and present and share liberally with each other as we go. Because of our diversity, we will encourage participants to share readings from their own unique traditions as well.

The course is ten sessions long, and will build on itself, so we recommend that people plan to make a commitment to the whole course if possible; however, drop ins will be welcome, and there should be no problem with working along on your own if you have to miss some of the sessions. During the course, each participant will write and refine a personal credo, an "I believe..." statement that articulates his or her main beliefs at the time of writing. In the final session, participants will co-create a ritual that allows each person to present his or her credo in some form to the others.

Join us on this exciting journey of self- exploration!

Anglo-Saxon Liturgical Calendrics

Gary Stanfield

The calendar most Pagans (including most Asatruists) use is Irish or Wiccan. The Irish had a solar-year calendar with 4 high and 4 low holy days. Perhaps a few other Pagan peoples also used a strictly solar calendar. Most Asatruists follow a simplified version with only the 4 low holy days (celebrated as high holy days).

Most pre-Christian Teutonics and other Pagans would not likely have used the Julian calendar or other strictly solar calendar to schedule their holidays. Instead, they would have used a solar calendar with lunar months—a solunar calendar. Most of you have probably become acquainted with this idea in the Greek chapter last year. Unlike the Greeks, who start their year at about the Summer Solstice, the Teutonics started their year at or shortly after the Winter Solstice.

With a solunar calendar, some years are special in that they require 13 month-starts. Solar year 2003–2004 is such a special year. In the English system, the thirteenth month is inserted mid-year. This year the thirteenth month begins on 19 June of the Gregorian Calendar, and the full moon occurs on 2 July of the Gregorian calendar.

The English knew that the next year needed 13 months instead of the usual 12 months when the first month in the new year (Aeftera Geola) began on or before the 11th day after the Winter Solstice. There would have been similar rules for the Summer Solstice or the equinoxes, in case clouds made observation difficult on any given solstice or equinox.

I have on my web site four studies explaining the derivation of a modern Anglo-Saxon liturgical calendar plus a sample calendar that I put together (and follow). At this time, I am mostly guessing at what holiday would occur in any given month, and it might not be correct that the Pagan English celebrated a holiday every month.

My web site is at:
http://pages.prodigy.net/gary_s/toc.htm

The four studies are under "Other Liturgy": Toward an English Pagan Liturgical Calendar Liturgical Calendar Brief Study for Solar Year 2003–2004 Correlation with Month Lore in Grimnismal Ancient Global Awareness: Geola and Litha not Winter and Summer

The schedule is: Personal Religious Calendar for Solar Year 2003–2004

Changes for Tuesday Night Adult Education starting in August

First Tuesday: BYOT-Build Your Own Theology
Second Tuesday: Sacred Rhythms-
Third Tuesday: Druidry
Fourth Tuesday: Wicca

Gaia around town—events & activities

Voices of Gaia

Thursday, July 8th, 7:00—8:30 P.M. Franklin Room

Devin promises to bring us an arrangement of the song Pippin sang to Denothor while Faramir was riding off to battle in LOTR Return of the King. We'll also work on some songs/chants appropriate to Lughnasa coming up at the end of the month. Rumor has it the Lughnasa ritual will be a talent show. It'd be great if Voices was ready to present something. Bring chants you'd like to sing. New people are always welcome. There are no auditions. Just come if you like to sing. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, songbird@kc.rr.com or 913-469-8779.

KidSpace Committee Meeting

(*new date*)**Friday, July 15th, 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 agrnmn@kc.rr.com or (913) 706-9167.

Please note that the KidSpace meeting has been moved from the second Friday of the month to the third Thursday; please come if you are able!

Games Night

Friday, July 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, July 23, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! Check the e-groups or weekly announcements for where we will be eating. 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!

A look ahead at next month

Aug 1 Holiday – Lughnassadh –
Aug 8 Class–"The Flaming Chalice" - Carey
Aug 15 Ritual – NMS "Fire from the Gods" –
Aug 22 Ritual – "Riding the Lion" –
Aug 29 Forum – "Out of the Broom closet" – Jeff

Sacred Rhythms

Sundays at 3:00 P.M.

Be a player in the rhythm of life

no just a spectator!

Community cares

Joys and Concerns

Compiled with YOUR *input.*

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.

Happy Solar Return to people celebrating their birthday this month:

7-3: Jai R.

7-5: Linda B.

7-10: Jeff P.

7-13: Michael O.

7-21: Kris E.

7-23: Collene N.

7-28: Nola C.

*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!

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

Address Correction Requested

SUBSCRIPTION NEWS

Gaia Community pledging members and people known as "Friends of Gaia" receive the newsletter by snail mail and many elect to obtain the newsletter online (the online subscription is free to all), but due to the raising cost of printing and mailing the Earth Healer, we regrettably will be cutting the number of curtesy copies we mail out to new visitors and long standing friends down from our standard six months. You may obtain a full year snail mail subscription for $12 a year or hop on-line and get it for free...all you need is internet access and Adobe Acrobat reader.

Contact the Earth Healer Curmudgeon at the above address or email:earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org for information on your subscription.

2ND NOTICE

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 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.*

July 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	2	3
4 CCCC 2:30 no SR Gathering: Picnic in the Park 4 pm	5	6 Adult RE 7 pm Sacred Rhythms	7 Site Committee Meeting 7–9 pm	8 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	9	10 Ritual of Business 9:30 am
11 CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm Ritual: Pet Blessings 4 pm	12	13 Adult RE 7 pm Magical Workshop	14	15 KidSpace 7 pm	16 Games Night 7 pm	17
18 CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm Forum: Urban Paganism 4 pm	19	20 Adult RE 7 pm Druid Study Group	21	22	23 FNSC 7 pm	24
25 CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm SOS: Fires of Freedom 4 pm	26	27 Adult RE 7 pm Wicca 101	28	29	30	31