



Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



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

UUA General Assembly-some notes

First, as a pagan UU, I was totally lost in the worship service parts of the convention. I felt as if I was the only one not singing (I didn't now the tune or the words). As a "non-deist," I felt "God" speak was very prevalent. Though I found the way of ending prayers was when they could either be inclusive or exclusive to the community as a whole. Ending a prayer with only "Amen," I felt was exclusive to all but believers in the god of Abraham. Those who ended their prayers with "Blessed Be" followed by "Amen" or a host of ending words from other traditions were inclusive. I can say directly, I feel we Gaians are model UU's. We are actively practicing the principles of UUism. You can't get much more diverse in spiritual traditions than we are, and we do a great job of inclusion. If you don't feel the way I do...come up and talk to me about it.

After talking with several people from the "break through" congregations, we need a larger and active membership committee and greeters for our congregation. So this is a shout-out for anyone who can help us out. Talk with either myself or Barbara and find out how you can help our congregation grow.

We are a part of a strong "liberal religion" and our voice needs to be added to the fights and causes of the UUA. We need to stop watching from the sidelines and get in the trench with our fellow UU congregations.

We need to include our children and especially our teenage youth in our spiritual practices. Keeping them separate from us is killing the UUA. We must find a happy median between giving the loving space they need and the guidance for spiritual growth. Since our congregation is spiritual in nature, our problem is programs for our youth and especially our teenage youth.

Respectfully,

Jeff Park

President

Community Garage Sale

July 22 & 23; 8-4:30

The first annual Community Garage Sale will be held at the ET3 house at 1306 East 118th Street; Kansas City, MO 64131. All money collected from the two day sale will be used for the general operating fund for Gaia Community. Any items not sold will be given to Barbara's company sponsored Thrift store. If you'd

like to donate items, or any questions regarding the sale should be directed to Devin. His phone and email is on page two.

WISDOM FROM GARY

Nine Principles.

These are not laws, but a brief summary of guides based on thousands of year's experience. Decisions made on each of these principles will provide a basis for decisions on others. Comments on each principle are not intended to be exhaustive.

1. Set Goals: Know what you want to accomplish. Know what terminates effort. Make your own purpose in life-no being nor fate will give you a purpose. This helps you achieve self-control as opposed to drift. In assertiveness classes, people are taught to know what they want before they start an interaction. In progressive mysticism, there is no paradise heaven, nor other perfect state-the goal is continual improvement.

2. Concentrate Effort: Set aside time in at least adequate quantities. Direct your own emotion. Put you money where it counts most. Decide on a main emphasis or *schwerpunkt*. At the main point pile on plenty of resources, For example, I do this when I "mass time" by working for a week or two to clear away a block of 6-16 continuous hours for work on some project.

3. Economize effort: Do not waste emotion, time, money, nor physical exertion on the less important matters. Give the less important things you must do the minimum you need to just get by.

4. Achieve Intermediate Goals: Pick the low-hanging fruit. Maneuver into position to achieve the main goal. Attaining lesser objectives can give satisfaction and encouragement, and is especially important when the main goal is a long time in the future.

5. Exercise Initiative: Although sometimes you can accomplish things just by being passive or taking the defensive, usually aggressiveness and action are needed.

6. Create: Improvise, adapt. Produce value for others. Creating can be joyful in itself.

7. Avoid Actinic Surprises: Don't let excitement turn to distress. Study. Understand. Keep secrets. Do not overdo deception. Be realistic. Accept responsibility and anticipate consequences. (Adaptation helps keep pleasant surprises from turning into traps.)

8. Know Yourself: Listen to criticism from friends-praise and blame. Observe how you act think, emote.

9. Communicate Well: Do not offend, puzzle, or discourage. Be clear and concise.

Although the experiences behind these principles are vast, a single major source has provided the major basis. If you think you have recognized that source, and you want to test your guess, ask me!

-Gary Stanfield

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, July 3

Gathering—"Picnic in the Park" facilitated by Liz

For the 4th of July weekend, we'll once more be celebrating our religious liberties by holding a pagan-friendly picnic at South Lake Park, across 87th Street from SMUUCH. You can park at the church and walk over, or on the north side of the park. bring a dish suitable for outdoor dining, your own dishes and utensils, pets on leashes, outdoor games, songs or chants, and have a good time with us on the nation's birthday!

Sunday, July 10

Ritual—"God Auction" Ad-hoc team

God Auction Who's the Best? This will be the third year in a row that Gaia Community has used the Kemetic practice of a "God Auction" to choose a temporary patron for the community. Each year, in each town of Ancient Egypt, the temples would compete for donations from the townspeople; whichever God or Goddesses' temple got the most donations was said to have the honor of being the patron deity of the town for the following year (which frequently meant being responsible for redistributing those donations to the needy).

This year, we'll have four all new deities for your viewing and selection: the Norse All-Father Odin, the Roman love goddess Venus, the neo-Chaote goddess Eris, and the Celtic god of skill-craft, Lugh. Food donations will be given to Harvester's Food Bank, and monetary donations (cash or check) will help our community grow and thrive. Hope to see you there, and may the best deity win!!!

Sunday, June 26

Ritual—"EIR Class Final Exam"

It's their Big Day! This ritual will be put on by the Excellence in Ritual students, who have finished both their class and their internship, and will be running this Sunday entirely by themselves. Even though it is a 'test' for them, we have confidence in their ability to put on a great ritual for all in attendance; come out and

Sunday, July 24

Class—"Chakras" facilitated by Kitty

7 Centers of Life Energy Kitty will be teaching this class/workshop on the chakras, the seven centers of life energy professed by many to have the ability to help or hinder every aspect of your life. Come join us for an interesting and potentially life-changing learning experience

Sunday, June 19

Ritual—"Lughnassadh/Lammas"

Sabbat/Potluck

Lughnassadh/Lammas: one of the four celtic holidays we celebrate at Gaia Community. During the month of August the Perseid Meteor shower gives us, what the early celts called, "the Games of Lugh" Come join us as we, like the celts of old, celebrate the mid-point of summer in the company of our community and in honor of Lugh.

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
Andrew Turner
?



Nicole Turner
Brian Butler
Linda Boyce
?



Kimberly
Liz Ticer
Via
David Reynolds
?



Debbie Giffin
Jeff Park
Eric Simpson
?
?

Gaia Community Board Members

President—Jeff Park
president@gaiacommunity.org or
816-361-0465
VP—Liz Ticer
femainoregon@excite.com or
913-636-4924

Treasurer—Devin Scrogum
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913-708-5667
Secretary—Debbie Giffin
secretary@gaiacommunity.org or
913-894-8131

Members at Large
Carey Reynolds
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626
Jennifer Gadd
djrm@gadd-nelson.com

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

GAIA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Ritual Teams Meeting

Thursday, July 7th at 6:45 P.M.

All current ritual team members are welcome to come critique and plan rituals past, present, and future. Attendance at one meeting per quarter is required to stay active. Comments from anyone in the general community about rituals are welcome as well; please communicate them to the Ritual Team Coordinator, currently Jacki. Please contact the Coordinator to find out more about this month's meeting, or if you are a graduate of the Excellence in Ritual class and wish to start working with Ritual Teams again.

Voices of Gaia

Mondays at 7 P.M. AT KITTY'S HOME.

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, July 21st, 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, as well as getting a chance to meet Anissa, our new KidSpace Director as of July 1st!

Come to the meeting at SMUUCH or contact Greta (the new KidSpace Chairperson) for more information at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org.

Games Night

Friday, July 15th, 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 22th, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! July's Friday Night Supper Club will be at Cheeseburger in Paradise, a kid-friendly place owned by Jimmy Buffet and promising good food and good fun.

Please contact Carey, David, or Kimberly to save a spot! at gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or 816-941-7626.

A look ahead at next month

Aug 7 Class – “The Magical Household”

Aug 14 Ritual – “Dog Days”

Aug 21 Class – Patron TBA after July 10

Aug 28 Forum – “Pagan History, Fact or Fiction”

WEAVE AND SPIN

Splinters from the Board RfB minutes summary

Here's what happened at RfB on June 14th, 2005:

A summary of the minutes from May was read by Jeff. It was noted that both John Carroll and John Boyce were in attendance but were not noted as such in the minutes. The amended minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report: pledge update letters should be going out soon and David will call ADP and get our money back from their screw-up in January.

Old Business: a few more names need to be added to the directory; it was suggested that a revision date be added in the footer; John will print out copies as requested; we will ask Jennifer to add to the announcements that we need address updates and that copies are available to members upon request

Lease negotiations with SMUUCH: Marjorie has left her post of head of SMUUCH's building committee as of 6/1.; Barbara has had no contact from SMUUCH's president or their negotiation team; Barbara has sent a letter to Thom, but has not received a response yet.

Licentiate: Ritual teams asked for additional direction; Ritual teams has started forming a task force which will report to Ritual teams as a whole before reporting to the Board.

Heartland Pagan Festival: the labyrinth made a good impression; Jeff would like to take it out there again next year, perhaps asking them to mow in the area that we will use.

Garage sale: We settled on 7/22-7/23 as the dates for the community garage sale; The Trinity has agreed to host the sale at their home; Devin will coordinate if Stewardship is unable to

2005-2006 budget: It was noted that newsletter postage had no money budgeted. \$300 was budgeted for this line item and the new home fund was reduced by a similar amount. The 2005-2006 budget was approved as amended

Cell phone: the researched information on various cell phones was forwarded to the Communications committee. They will be meeting immediately after RfB.

New Business

GA issues: Jeff will definitely be attending as our representative this year. While Yale would like to attend also, his schedule made it impossible for him to attend.

Prairie Star and other Dues: PS district has been paid \$595; UUA general dues - \$1200 of \$1700 paid so far: the board agreed that the remainder will be paid as soon as possible in order to keep our 'fair share' congregation status

Food and mice in the ritual closet: Jeff noted that food has again been stored in the ritual closet. This is attracting the mice that live in the building. No food should be stored in the ritual closet or office area unless it is in a sealed container. The communications committee will put up signs as a reminder

Committee updates

Ritual teams: Eric Simpson is the new ritual team coordinator: the application and approval process is in final formulation; new applicants will be voted on in the August meeting

Devin Scrogum will be chairing the meeting next month, 7/9. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.



P.O. Box 45307
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Address Correction Requested

**Lammas is
 coming!
 Join us on
 July 31
 for a
 celebration
 and potluck**

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*.

**MAY YOU
 NEVER
 HUNGER.
 MAY YOU
 NEVER
 THIRST.**

July 2005					1	2
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SR 3pm 3 Gathering: Picnic in the Park 4 pm	4	Adult RE 5 7 pm Everyday Spiritual Practice	● 6	7 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	8	9 Ritual of Business 9:30 am
SR 3pm 10 Fundraiser: The God Auction 4 pm	11	Adult RE 7 pm Sacred Rhythms	13	☾ 14	15 Games Night 7 pm	16
SR 3pm 17 Ritual: EIR Class Final 4 pm	18 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	19 Adult RE 7 pm Druid Study Group	20 Site Committee Meeting 7-9 pm	☉ 21 KidSpace 7 pm	22 FNCS 7 pm	23 ← Garage Sale at ET3 →
SR 3pm 24 Class: Chakras 4 pm	25	26 Adult RE 7 pm Intro to Paganism	☾ 27	28	29	30
SR 3pm 31 Ritual: Lughnassadh /Lammas Potluck 4 pm	1 August	2 Adult RE 7 pm Everyday Spiritual Practice	3	4 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	5	6 ← Ritual Teams Retreat →