EARTH HEALER

The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

JULY 2006

God Auction on July 9th!

On July 9th, we'll hold our fourth annual God Auction. A practice brought in from the Kemetic traditions of ancient Egypt during our Wheel of Traditions in 2003, the God Auction is a time for us to pick an annual "patron deity" from among four *contestants* who will be present and answering questions and challenges that day! Donations of both food and money (1 item = $1) will be taken in a series of rounds, with the deities answering questions in between. Partial totals will also be given between rounds.

This year we'd like you to pay particular attention to Harvesters Food Bank's requested goods, if you're going to be contributing with food: these include canned vegetables, canned fruit, boxed meals (i.e. Hamburger Helper, Pasta Roni), canned meat/tuna, peanut butter, canned soup, and hot/cold breakfast cereals. Cash or check (or dollar coins!) are acceptable for monetary donations; no credit cards, sorry!

This year's contest will be a little different from years previous, in that we will be removing the barrier to some of our usual attendees; the deities and their attendants will be keeping it "PG-13" this year, so no 18-and-older limit this year. Please be aware that it may still be a little risqué or coarse at times as they vie for your attention and support, but it shouldn't be anything the older children (age 12 and older, or so) can't handle!

Here are some short statements by this year's four contestants, just so you have some idea what to look for.

See you there!

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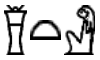
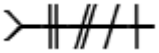
Ganesha गणेश

The immaculate son of Parvati, wife of Shiva. I am the Hindu God of education, knowledge, wisdom and wealth. I am the remover of obstacles, the lord of the hosts of Shiva. Within me, I hold all the possiblities of the Cosmos. And even though I'm short a tusk, I'm not that hard on the eyes. Plus, I ride a mouse!

Bast 

Known to most modern pagans as the "cat-headed goddess" Bast is one of the oldest deities in the Egyptian pantheon. She is the Perfumed Protectress, a divine warrior and defender of the innocent. She is a goddess of sensual pleasure, inspiring both ecstasy and playfulness. With a blade and a kiss fueling the transformation of strength into purpose and desire into fulfillment, Bast is an ancient goddess with modern sensibilities.

Oghma 

Oghma, champion of the Tuatha Dé Danann (the ancient Fey folk of Ireland) is known for many things. As a scholar, he is said to have created Ogham, the first written language of the Celts so that they could record their stories for all the ages. Also a great warrior, he fought in many legendary battles alongside his brother Lugh. He endured the hardships of slave labor under a cruel king, and knows well what being an outcast feels like.

Hestia `Εστια

Hestia is the Greek goddess of the hearth and home. Her flame was the vehicle of prayers, the heart of the family, and the center of every community. She dwells in all flame, and is the most gracious and gentle of the gods. Where there is anger, she cools it. Where there is strife, she ends it. She teaches the virtues of home and family life, the sweet rewards of labor, the joy of friendship, and the value of good food and good rest.

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 *(held at 4pm unless otherwise noted)*

Voices of Gaia at 2:00 PM most Sundays, Sacred Rhythm Group at 3:30 PM

Sunday, July 2nd

Picnic in the Park

Facilitator: Via

This is not a ritual *per se*, but a gathering at South Lake Park (across 87th Street from SMUUCH) for the holiday weekend, in celebration of our freedom to practice our faiths of choice in this country. Please bring any potluck-style picnic foods you wish (Via will supply charcoal for the park grills); outdoor games, pets and kids as well!

Sunday, July 9th

Fundraiser — "God Auction"

Ritualists: Debbie, Carey, Eric, Yale, Jennifer, Nicole, Kimberly, Devin, and Barbara

See page 1 for a summary of this annual event! Bring your money or food to pick a patron!

Sunday, July 16th

Ritual — "Farewell to Lugh"

Ritualists: EIR students Kris, Teresa, and Suzie, and David

Last year's God Auction selected Lugh *Samildánach* ("Many Skilled") as the patron for the year; this ritual will show off the many skills **we've** gained. Feel free to bring a sample, or just write or tell of a skill that you've gained or improved over the last twelve months. Brag a little bit; it's a Celtic tradition, after all!

Sunday, July 23rd

Workshop — "The Consensus Process"

Facilitators: David and Andrew

Consensus can be a tricky and confusing process, as many of us found out during our recent Special Ritual for Business. This Sunday workshop will cover how to do consensus well, and maybe even change a little bit of how we look at it!

Sunday, June 23rd

SABBAT — "Lammas" (w/potluck!)

Ritualists: Andrew, Brian, Cynthia, & EIR

"There were three men came out of the west
Their fortunes for to try;
And these three men made a solemn vow:
John Barleycorn must die."

At Lammas we celebrate the sacrifices and fruits of the first harvest. The Corn King is laid low so that the people will have bread to eat and beer to drink; the God gives his blood to the land, fulfilling ancient contracts and preparing the way for his rebirth. Please join us for this (partially) intergenerational service.

As with all high holidays, there will be a potluck meal afterward, so bring enough of a dish/drink/ dessert to feed eight hungry people, and your own tableware - plates, cups, silverware (for the Earth's sake, no disposables). Please remember to label the ingredients for those w/dietary concerns.

Gaia Community Board of Directors 2006-2007

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

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Aug 6 – Labyrinth Ritual
Aug 13 – Class on Sustainable Living
Aug 20 – Technopaganism Ritual
Aug 27 – "Waters of the World" Ritual; This ritual is based on a traditional ingathering, stemming from the days when many UU churches suspended services for the summer. Wherever you travel, or whatever you do to celebrate this summer, collect a little bit of water if possible from that experience. Not a lot; a pill bottle or a baby food jar will do. Maybe it is the beach where you spend lovely lazy days; or the pool at your complex where you swim after work. It could be water from the stream where you canoed, or the fountain in Florence you visited; the well on your grandmother's farm or a little of the bottled water you stuck to while in Mexico, or drained from a water balloon you **didn't** throw.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, there is likely to be water available. As you gather the water, let your mind focus on the day, the place, the people: encourage yourself to fully, deeply experience that moment. You may want to journal a little to deepen the experience. And then remember where you put it, so you can bring your water when this ritual rolls around!

Splinters from the Board

Summary of the June Ritual for Business (RfB)

Present: Jeff Park, Andrew Turner, Liz Ticer, Devin Scrogum, Barbara G., David Reynolds, Carey Oxler, Kimberly

I.Approval of Agenda: Kimberly moved, Liz seconded, and it was approved by consensus.

II.Secretary's Report: Minutes for April, May, and Special RfB of May 21st were presented. The minutes for May 13th were clarified by noting that additional people in attendance were Anna Ryan, Theresa Ryan, Andrew Turner and Nicole Turner. Andrew moved these be accepted as amended, Andrew seconded and it was approved by consensus. Minutes for April were previously approved, copies were made available for reference. Minutes of Special RfB were deferred until discussion of this item.

III.Treasurer's Report: Reviewed current budget to actual figures. David moved to approved the report, Andrew seconded, and this was approved by consensus.

IV.Committee Reports:

***Communications*:** David has taken responsibility for Earth Healer; July material is needed ASAP. Comment cards for Ritual feedback will be available on greeter table, and a box will be provided to collect completed cards.

Ritual Teams: Kitty Degler will be Ritual Teams Coordinator starting in July. Potlucks were scheduled for the full lease year.

Adult Education: We are sponsoring the Systematic Constellation Workshop. Unfortunately our ad on the KC Pagan list serve was subjected to a negative post suggesting Systematic Constellation Work was founded by a Nazi. It was decided that is was not useful to post a refutation.

V.Old Business

A.Special Ritual for Business—the minutes of the Special Ritual for Business were presented; after some discussion they were referred back to the secretary for some clarification, to be returned for approval at the next regular RfB. Briefly, the Special RfB was called in order to determine whether to move to Broadway Church or remain at SMUUCh. Three hours were allocated for the process, but full discussion had not been completed at the end of three hours, the question was called and the motion to move was blocked.

The process used at the Special RfB was formally critiqued. It was noted that "blocking", when it actually happened, had significant emotional impact on all parties, similar to the "win-lose" of simple voting. This was not seen as a good example of the process because we did not persist until consensus was actually reached. A written summary of the "stay" option was presented, and none was presented for the "move" option, which may have slowed the process down. An opinion was given that perhaps we have grown too large for consensus. Against that, was the opinion that perhaps we do not adequately train and practice consensus decision making on smaller routine decisions. It was noted that we should have expected to need more time and been prepared to stay longer, and that in future we should plan at least two meetings, at least one (more would be better) for the information to be presented, with a later meeting dedicated to the actual decision process. Other means of presenting the information, such as online and in the newsletter, could have been used better.

Following the discussion, it was noted that we do not actually have a written "procedure" for the consensus process, and Roberts Rules of Order do not always apply. David has had formal training in the consensus process. Those present agreed that an appropriate next step is to form a committee to draft a formalized consensus procedure to be used in all meetings. Liz, David and Andrew will serve on this committee.

***B.Lease Negotiations*:** Current state of the lease negotiations was reviewed. With the rent dropping to $750 per month, we give up the closet and use the former office as storage room, have the "teen room" regularly assigned for Adult RE with the "drama room" across the hall for the children; Voices of Gaia meets in the drama room from 2:00 to 3:30 on Sundays; first and third Sundays we meet in Fellowship Hall; we have Jefferson for games night and RfB, we retain three classrooms we are currently using for Kidspace, and we retain the option of reserving an additional room for 12, 3-hour blocks of time to be scheduled throughout the year. The exact situation regarding candles, incense, and open flame remains to be agreed upon. Kimberly moved that Barbara be empowered to complete the negotiations and sign the lease, Andrew seconded and this was approved by consensus.

VI.Budget:

Pledge cards are almost all in, with a few people to be contacted. Income increased from draft budget to reflect increased pledging and realistic expectation from garage sale. Because of this and decreased rent, several optional expense items have been placed back in. The budget is printed to that items that are absolutely necessary are printed in bold. This format will allow the community to respond appropriately to deviations from projected income, by reducing or expending in optional line items based on actual income. A correction to the item for Post Office Box was noted. Liz moved that the budget be approved as corrected, Devin seconded and it was approved by consensus.

VII.Retreat: Tabled until next month.

VIII.New Home Fund: It was noted that restrictions exist on the new home fund account. Any donation given that is specifically designated goes immediately into the New Home Fund. Funds planned to be moved from the general budget into the new home fund are not deposited into the restricted account until after the close of the fiscal year. We need to check on the specification of what happens to the fund if Gaia Community dissolves. Jeff will request that the Treasurer and Secretary look up the terms.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

– Barbara, for Jennifer

Other Events About Town

Tuesday Night Classes: There will not be a class on 7/4 due to the holiday; however there is a Kitchen Witchery class on 7/11, a session about toning with the 7 chakras on 7/18, and a class about Lammas on 7/25. All classes start at 7 PM; childcare is available by contacting Kris in person or at adulted@gaiacommunity.org.

Ritual Teams Meeting (7/5, 6:45 PM): At the Turner's house, reviewing recent rituals and looking forward to the second half of the year. Contact Kitty in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org to join/rejoin teams.

KidSpace Meeting (7/15, Noon): Parents, volunteers, and anybody with ideas or an interest in our kids are welcome! Meetings are held at Linda Boyce's, contact her, Greta, or Anissa for more information. Send email to kidspace@gaiacommunity.org or catch them on Sundays!

Games Night (7/21, 7 PM): Kick back and relax; NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS IS ALLOWED! Bring a game, bring a friend, bring some munchies, or just bring yourself!

Friday Night Supper Club (7/28, 7 PM): This month's supper club will be held at BD's Mongolian Barbeque, NE corner of 95th & Quivera; please RSVP to David, Carey, or Kimberly at E3@gaiacommunity.org or in person!

P.O. Box 45307
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Address Correction Requested

MAY YOU NEVER HUNGER. MAY YOU NEVER THIRST.

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 19th 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. Let us hear from you before the next *Earth Healer.*

– David, Editor

July 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms **4 PM: Summer Solstice Ritual w/Potluck**	27	28 **7 PM: Tuesday Night Classes, Trance/ Meditation**	29	30	31	1
2 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms **4 PM: Picnic in South Lake Park**	◐ 3	4 **Fourth of July!**	5 **6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ Turner's**	6	7	8 **9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business**
9 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms **4 PM: GOD AUCTION!**	○ 10	11 **7 PM: Tuesday Night Classes, Kitchen Witchery**	12	13	14	15 **Noon: KidSpace Meeting @ Linda's**
16 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR **4 PM: Ritual: Farewell to Lugh (EIR)**	◑ 17	18 **7 PM: Tuesday Night Classes, Toning the Chakras**	19	20	21 **7 PM: Games Night**	22
23 2-3:30: VOG **3:30-4: SR** **4PM:Workshop The Consensus Process**	24	● 25 **7 PM: Tuesday Night Classes, Lammas/ Lughnassadh**	26	27	28 **7 PM: Supper Club @ BD's Mongolian BBQ 95th & Quivera**	29
30 2-3:30: VOG **3:30-4: SR** **4 PM: Sabbat: Lammas (NMS) w/potluck after**	31	1 **7 PM: Tuesday Night Classes, Pagan Parenting**	2 **6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting**	3	4	5