EARTH HEALER

The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

JULY 2007

5th Annual God Auction this month!

The God Auction comes from the Kemetic (ancient Egyptian) practice of selecting a patron for each city by comparing donations to each temple; the temple with the greatest donations then became the official patron for the city for the coming year, and also bore responsibility for caring for the poor and needy during that year.

The motif for this year's God Auction is "Dancing with the Sacred". While *inspired* by a television show, it focuses on the very real themes of leading, following, and the harmonious blending of steps as we work with each community patron, and follow the sacred path of our own goals. Please wear your "pagan finery" and come ready to dance, listen, learn, and decide who our next community patron will be:

- **Apollo:**

  Apollo is the son of Zeus and Leto, and twin brother of Artemis. He shares his sister's love of the bow, but also is a god of music, medicine, oracular divination, and refinement. The Delphic Maxims "know thyself" and "nothing in excess" are already valued in our community.
  Apollo's aim as patron is to increase even further the skill and art shown in our rituals and everything we do. This community does so much already, and when it takes risks with care and preparation, the outcome has always been good, leading to ten years of ground-breaking communal modern paganism.
  Of note: In the spirit of the original Egyptian practice, Apollo's Temple will be matching the highest donor's gift in each round with a financial donation to the outside charity of their choice.

- **Brigid:**

  Daughter of the Dagda, the Celtic goddess Brigid is revered for many things. She is a three-fold goddess. She is celebrated with Imbolc (the returning of the sun), fire, the forge and metalworking. Hers is the knowledge of healing; hers is the will to teach it. Hers is the inspiration of poetry. Hers is the desire for peace and unity, the striving for community; hers are the tears and keening if unity fails. Brigid acknowledges all offerings and expects her gifts to be used and passed forward. Her worship, although she was rerobed and renamed as St. Brigit in Christianity, continues almost straight through the ages. Her perpetual flame is again lit and her well is again the site of worship. She is an ancient goddess who relates to the concerns of today's community.

- **the Flying Spaghetti Monster:**

  The Flying Spaghetti Monster or FSM, creator of the Universe and patron to all who believe in empirical evidence, is happy to lend his Noodly appendage for the 2007 God Auction fundraiser. Feel his Noodly appendage all around you; see the evidence of his touch in all things scientific, for Intelligent Design is as valid as any other explanation of life. For all who support balanced education in our schools, have a penchant for the environment and Pirates, and an ability to mock not only others but yourself in order to gain and provide a better understanding of humanity, show your support in full Pirate regalia, with monetary donations and your Ramen (or other food donations). Don't forget to celebrate that special holiday, Friday, every week with a good communion of Spaghetti and Meatballs. Don't forget to pass the sacred Eyepatch and speak of how you have been touched by his Noodly appendage. **Ramen.**

- **Freya:**

  Daughter of Njord of the Beautiful Feet and sister to fertility god Freyr, Freya rules over love, sex, and magic. She is known to sometimes ride a chariot pulled by cats, sometimes a boar named Hildisvini, and sometimes she takes flight in her cloak that makes any wearer into a falcon. For these reasons, these three animals remain sacred to Her. Wearer of the necklace Brisingamen, She bears her most prized possession as a symbol of Her gifts. She will be your community patron bringing pride to all members. Who better to lead you with pride than someone who has stood proud with every action She has ever taken? Those who live bravely, who act with pride receive the abundance of Her gifts – wealth, love, beauty, and even more pride! The community has gathered strong around the hearth, and She will continue encouraging fellowship as the community stands proud to be UUs, proud to be Pagan, proud to be Gaians!

How it works:

The God Auction consists of several rounds of questions or statements by the contenders, each followed by a round of donations at their respective altars. Donations can be made in cash, coin, check, or food (1 food item = $1). At the end, the donations are totaled and a winner is announced. While this year's God Auction will be appropriate for all ages, it may be tedious for our young ones, so KidSPACE will be in session. Additional information, including a picture of the Gift Basket, is at http://gaiacommunity.org/godauction.shtml.

- Nicole, God Auction emcee

What's Inside This Issue

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER 2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE 3
RITUAL FOR BUSINESS MINUTES, AGENDA, COMMITTEE REPORTS 4, 5
CALENDAR 6

Gaia About Town

Ritual Teams Meeting (7/12, 6:45 PM, Kris' place): These meetings allow ritualists to critique past rituals and plan for the future. Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Debbie (the new Ritual Teams Coordinator) at rtc@gaiacommunity.org or in person. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know! July's meeting will be at Kris Ennis' apartment.

Ritual for Business (7/14, 9:30 AM): 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. Carey will be facilitating this month's meeting; see the agenda and last month's minutes on pages 4-5.

KidSPACE Committee Meeting (7/15, 2 PM)**:** *Parents, volunteers, and anybody with ideas or an interest in our kids are welcome!* Meetings are held in the Childrens' Classroom section of SMUUCH before ritual on the 3rd Sunday of the month; contact Jennifer or Linda (the KidSPACE Co-Chairs), or Anissa (our Director of Religious Education) for more information. E-mail gaiakidspace@yahoo.com or catch them on Sundays!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (7/16, 7:30 PM): Andrew and Cynthia have rebuilt the Social Justice committee in response to some concerns and ideas raised among the community recently. If you're interested in helping out, e-mail them at sj@gaiacommunity.org or find them in person! Meetings are held at Andrew's.

Games Night (7/20, 7 PM): 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 either the Barn Chapel or downstairs in the Jefferson room, depending on weather/games available. We've invited some new board game players from the Kansas City area to join us through http://meetup.com, so come join the fun!

Friday Night Supper Club (7/27, 7 PM): The July Supper Club location has not been decided yet; please watch the announcements and the website for more details. Please RSVP to Kris at supperclub@gaiacommunity.org or in person to save your spot!

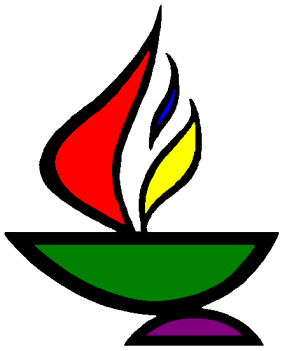
Tuesday Night Classes: Adult Education classes have gone on hiatus due to a general lack of interest/attendance ; anyone who is interested in carrying on study/practice of one of these topic areas should contact Kris Ennis person or at adulted@gaiacommunity.org to see about starting a Covenant Group for that topic.

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out this month to Stephan on July 2nd, Jai on the 3rd, Linda on the 5th, Jeff on the 10th, Mikey on the 13th, Yale on the 14th, Kris on the 21st, Mari on the 22nd, Colleen on the 23rd, and Nola on the 28th! If you are another July birthday, let us know so we can celebrate withyou next year!

In addition, we congratulate those who are changing jobs, moving, and otherwise evolving their lifestyle this summer! Heat is a great catalyst for change, at times...

If you or another attendee of Gaia Community are hospitalized or otherwise 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: Cynthia Mathis, Terry Ross, or Debbie Dozier.



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

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

Sunday, July 1st

Picnic in South Lake Park

Facilitator: Yale

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 the freedom to practice our faiths of choice in this country. Please bring any potluck-style picnic foods you wish, outdoor games, pets and kids as well! Drumming will happen beforehand as usual, at the park!
Note: You may wish to park at SMUUCH and walk over to the park, since one of the park's parking lots will be closed and several of the roads are torn up.

Sunday, July 8th

GOD AUCTION!

Ritualists: Nicole, David, Linda, Lizzy, Erin, Devin, Yale, Andrew, and Debbie

We can neither confirm nor deny rumors that somebody will dance the tango at this year's God Auction, which focuses on themes of leading, following, and the harmonious blending of steps along our congregation's shared path. This event, inspired by a tradition in ancient Egypt, allows the community members to select from four candidates a 'patron deity' for the community for the next twelve months. More information about the candidates and how this event works can be found on page 1.

Sunday, July 15th

Ritual — River Blessing @ Kaw Point

(10th Anniversary Ritual)

Ritualists: Kitty, Devin, Cynthia, and Carey

Ten years ago, Gaia Community held its first public ritual; a blessing of the rivers at Kaw Point in KCK. We will celebrate this anniversary and renew our dedication to healing the Earth by holding another river blessing ritual at the same site, which is now a beautiful park. Children are welcome to attend and participate in this event (no KidSPACE/child care). We encourage attendees to bring a non-breakable cup to share in a water communion (**no glass at the river**, please).

This is an outdoor ritual, so please prepare for Nature. Wear sturdy shoes, and you may want to bring: allergy medication, bug spray, sunblock, lawn chairs, and/or a hat. In the event of inclement weather, we will hold the ritual at SMUUCh and carry the blessed water and offerings to the river at a later time. Pre-ritual drumming will be at the ritual site at 3:30 as usual, and the ritual will begin promptly at 4PM!

To get to Kaw Point Riverfront Park (1 River City Dr, Kansas City, KS 66115), take your best route to I-70 towards downtown KCK (where it is called the Lewis & Clark Viaduct). Exit into the Fairfax district and take Fairfax Trafficway north. There will be large industrial buildings, and a sign that says "KAW POINT" that directs you right into a parking lot. Go into the parking lot, and continue all the way to the back of the lot, where you will see a wall painted with a mural of parakeets. Turn right and follow this wall, which has a small opening drive that leads into the Kaw Point Riverside Park. This will lead you to another parking area, and the ritual site. If you are in the southern areas of the metropolitan area, **it may be easier to meet at SMUUCh at 3PM and carpool with others** to save gas.

Sunday, July 22nd

Ritual — First Fruits of the Harvest

(EiR final)

Ritualists: Amanda, Erin, and Jennifer

Join us as we rejoice in the first fruits of our labors while we wait for the coming harvest. There is still much work to do as we prepare for winter, but even this early in the season, we already have much to celebrate. Our children are welcome to participate in our feast. **We ask that everyone bring a piece of consumable fruit to share.** Parents, we have sharp utensils available for use at this ritual, so please keep your eyes peeled for the little ones' safety.

Sunday, July 29th

Class — New Patron

Facilitators: Kimberly and Andrew

Obviously we can't tell you now who the new community patron will be after the God Auction on July 8th, but this class will be all about them, in even more depth than the June classes. Come and learn more about the new deity we'll be working with in the coming year!

- Ritual Teams

Current Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Carey Oxler
Eric Simpson	Kimberly
Kitty Degler	Kris Ennis
Linda Boyce	Yale Giffin
Devin Scrogum	Barbara
Lizzy Ticer	Cynthia Mathis
David Reynolds	Jeff Park
Debbie Dozier	Nicole Turner

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

Mooings from the CoW *(Committee of the Whole)*

Summary of June's Ritual for Business

I. **Meeting called to order at 9:42AM.** Attending: Terry, Nola, David, Jeff, Kris, Kat, Cynthia, Devin, Erin, Carey, Kimberly, and Lizzy. Terry facilitated the meeting.

II. **Agenda :** agreed, with the note that Kimberly thought it sucked.

III. **Secretary:** minutes agreed upon from the copy in the Earth Healer. David recorded minutes, since Jennifer was absent.

IV. **Treasurer:** Nola will be giving reports on a calendar-month basis, not an 'RfB to RfB' basis. This means that at the June RfB she presents information to the end of May, rather than to the date of the June RfB, and so on. She has changed the format of the budget to include a column for any income/expenditures for the reported month for each line item.

2007-2008 Budget: Budgeted figures for newsletter postage, newsletter printing, and brochure printing were adjusted to be a more accurate reflection of actual costs. This resulted in an increase of $34 in the New Home Fund line item. Otherwise, the budget was approved as proposed.

New Home Fund CD: The CoW approved rolling our current CD investment into a 10-month special rate CD. In order to do this, we will also move some of the money in the New Home Fund savings account to the CD fund (leaving at least the minimum account balance in the savings account rather than "moving the whole schmoo"). Carey will be making a designated gift to the New Home Fund, and that money will be included in the new CD as well.

V. **Standing Committees**

A. **Ritual Teams:** Erin will be portraying Freya in the God Auction, despite still being an Excellence in Ritual student. Debbie will be the Ritual Teams Coordinator for the second half of 2007.

B. **Rites of Passage:** The committee is working on developing some pre-marriage documents and continuing with its study program.

C. **Membership:** No new members since last report, but Amanda has taken the class and will sign the book at the next New Member Sunday. Cynthia reported that she knew of other people who wanted to take the class, and said that she would identify them to Devin.

D. **Social Justice:** Reported that they have been lax about getting the word out about donation needs for Wayside Waifs. Anything already collected for Wayside Waifs will be taken to the shelter by Carey, David, and Kimberly. Summer Solstice will mark the beginning of a new charity drive, but the committee has not yet met to determine what that charity will be. A Social Justice committee meeting is therefore imminent.

E. **Lease Negotiations Task Force:** Lizzy is working with SMUUCh, and trying to arrange a face-to-face meeting with their contact person. Lizzy reports that there will not be an increase in rent for this year, however, there will be a change in room use. Jefferson/Franklin, and possibly the nursery, may be off-limits for a time due to construction. The language of the lease will change to reflect this, allowing us a number of rooms to be chosen by us, as opposed to assigning rooms for our use.

F. **Communications:** Presented a written report; in summary:
The Earth Healer is generally being e-mailed by the 1st of each month. Printed copies are taken to the Sunday service closest to/before the 1st, then mailed to those who do not pick it up there, in order to save postage. We now spend about $31/month on printed newsletters (70 copies of a 6-pg. newsletter); postage is light, around $10/month since most people get it by e-mail. Printing at home is not an option due to the volume/time required compared to a professional copier's services. There is very little 'fat' on our mailing list, with the exception of some names that were grandfathered in before David's time. Most printed copies go to outreach, at the Greeter's Table or other venues. Need to work on a more timely system of getting EH to pagan-friendly shops and locales around the metro area.
Website revisions are taking longer than anticipated, because ADDR.com changed the configuration of their servers and the CMS program we expected to use is no longer able to run on their system. David and Carey are looking into other software solutions as time permits.
Nicole took over announcements from Jennifer; she was Communications Chair before David, so this should work smoothly with very little learning curve.
Brochures have not been printed in quite some time; if money allows in the upcoming budget, that should be remedied since they are a nice outreach tool. Business cards have also proven very popular; plenty of these still exist on request.

G. **Stewardship:** Seems to be non-functional at this time.

H. **Caring:** Work continues on the updated directory. Cynthia reports that it is difficult for the committee to find a meeting

time, and they may have to resort to communicating electronically.

I. **Adult Ed:** Except for the Contenders Class at the end of June, Adult Ed will be going on hiatus for the remainder of 2007 due to a lack of attendance. This problem continues from 2006; it may be that Tuesday nights are not convenient for people. This will leave the Tuesday night room reservation available for Convenant Groups.

VI. New Business

A. **Men's Covenant Group:** Covenant proposal brought by Jeff was approved, with a few amendments to clarify intent. The group does not have an official name yet.

B. **Winter Bazaar:** Yale and Terry will head the Bazaar this year. There will be a meeting of the Winter Bazaar committee soon, to get information about past Bazaars from Kimberly, and to choose a target date for the Bazaar. The committee is considering holding the Bazaar earlier in the year, perhaps the second or third weekend in November, to avoid conflict with other events.

C. **Walt Bodine / KCUR:** Terry wants to assemble a group of people to talk about paganism and Gaia Community on the Walt Bodine Show, and perhaps in other media outlets as well. The proposal was returned to the Communications Committee for further refinement, with the note that it would be more sensible for the proposal to cover criteria for being part of this panel rather than specific people who would be on the panel, and that should the CoW approve the eventual proposal to seek publicity on the Walt Bodine Show, the matter should return to RfB for evaluation before moving on to seek other media opportunities. Communications will present a more specific proposal at a future RfB.

Gaia Community Board of Trustees 2007-2008

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Devin Scrogum
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or 913-708-5667

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

VII. Unfinished Business

A. **Board Retreat:** The Board needs to pick a date for this.

B. **Union Bank:** Someone who is on the old bank account needs to go in to close this account. David will try to do this. Any money still in the Union Bank account will be given to Nola to be deposited in our current account.

C. **Garage Sale:** Happening next weekend; people wishing to volunteer should contact Linda. Nola has arranged for a truck to haul furniture and large items. Linda is running out of space, so there is an ample amount of stuff for the sale.

VIII. Non Sequitur time: several people announced that they were not strippers, in solidarity with Kat (yes, it's her real name).

IX. Meeting adjourned at 11:45AM by consensus.

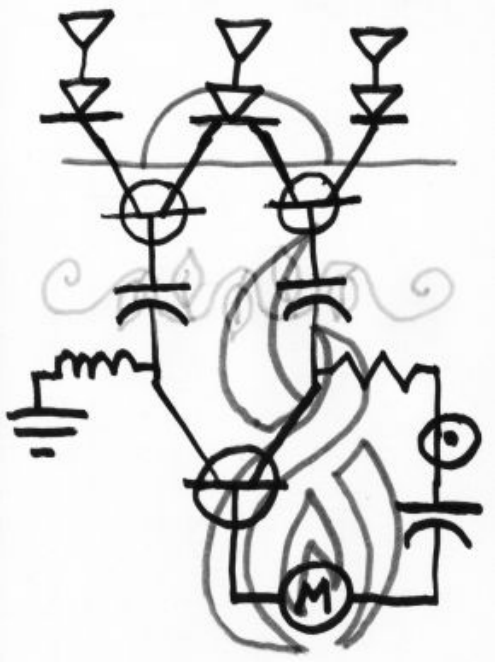
- David, for Jennifer

Agenda for July's Ritual for Business

In addition to the standard agenda items such as Committee Reports, the special item on the agenda for July is a report from Greta on her activities and experiences at General Assembly in Portland.

There may also be one or more covenant group proposals brought to the meeting for approval.

Any additions or changes to the agenda should be communicated to Carey Oxler, who will moderate July's business meeting.



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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 22nd 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

JULY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR **4 PM: Picnic at South Lake Park**	2	3	4 *Independence Day*	5 *X-Day*	6	◑ 7
8 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR **4 PM: GOD AUCTION!**	9	10	11 *World Population Day*	12 **6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ Kris' place**	13	● 14 *Bastille Day* **9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business**
15 *Confoflux* 2:00-3:00: KidSPACE Meeting 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR **4 PM: River Blessing at Kaw Point Park**	16 **7:30 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's**	17	18	19	20 **7 PM: Games Night**	21
◐ 22 *Pi Approximation Day* 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR **4 PM: Ritual: First Fruits of the Harvest**	23	24	25	26	27 **7 PM: Friday Night Supper Club @ *To Be Determined***	28
○ 29 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR **4 PM: Class on the New Patron**	30	31	1 **6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting**	2	3	4