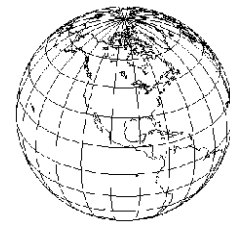




EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

JULY 2008

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God Auction This Month!

Gaia Community's largest annual fundraiser is approaching swiftly! On July 13th, anyone and everyone is welcome to attend the "Explorer's Club" version of the God Auction this year, as the four contenders vie to demonstrate how they will be the best patron for the community in the coming year:

The Green Man: Far older than legend turned to myth, The Green Man is humankind's attempt to understand their own connection to the world. Although the name Green Man was coined in the early 1900's, this ancient archetype has given rise to many of the world's nature deities. Drawing on this "Lord of the Forest", many diverse human cultures have paid homage to deities that bear striking resemblances to each other throughout Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East, and India. The Green Man is the counterpart to the female (Gaia). He is irrepressible life. He shows the unity that exists between humankind and vegetation, the secret governing laws of Nature, fertility, and the wild uncategorizable symmetry inherent in nature. He has many appearances, but in all of them, he is a symbol of renewal and continual rebirth - as is the prime function of nature. The return of the Green Man brings new hope and understanding of the true strengths of balanced masculine energy. For too long, men have been isolated from that part of themselves that honors the Sacred Mother, the divine in Nature, and the true divinity in themselves. Today the Green Man is re-emerging into our consciousness, along with the Goddess. His presence brings balance and energy to the reclaiming of our ancient heritage. It is through the Green Man that many men come to understand Nature's mysteries and connect with the Goddess. His magic is celebrated throughout the world, but he is most often associated with northern Europe and Celtic cultures. Jack of the Green, Cernunnos, Pan, Dionysus, the Green Knight, Robin Hood, the Oak and Holly Kings, all are representations of the wild spirit of nature. By studying the mysteries that the Green Man imbues, we can hope to reconnect to the natural world by helping those who wish to see through the illusion veil of human separation. Following the Green Man path will guide people to their own conclusion as to their relationship with other life and life forms on this earth, and show them their individual paths to being a greener and wiser human being.



For more details on the God Auction, see page 3.

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Artemis: Artemis is the Greek goddess of the wild places and wild peoples -- children, unmarried women, "barbarians" -- and all that was considered uncontrolled or uncontrollable by the mainstream of Greek society. As a child, she asked a favor from her father, Zeus, the king of gods and men: she begged that she be allowed to remain eternally unmarried and unbound to any god or man, and that she be given a group of young women to accompany her. With these nymphs she ranges the mountains, forests, and other wild places, and is associated with hunting and the moon.



Artemis presents the challenge of engaging with the Other in all of its forms, and requires her devotees to stand on their own two feet in the wider world. But she is also fierce in her defense of those she loves, especially children, and she brings the blessings of a deeper understanding -- and perhaps even a love for -- the world outside of the "walls" that we have constructed.

Persephone: Persephone is the Greek goddess who is Queen of the Underworld as well as being Kore, the maiden, the embodiment of all that is green and growing and the daughter of Demeter, goddess of the Earth's abundance. In later myths Persephone becomes the daughter of Zeus and the consort of Hades when he becomes the deity that governs the underworld. Persephone was worshipped alongside her mother in the Eleusinian Mysteries, the most sacred and revered of all the ritual celebrations of ancient Greece. The rites, ceremonies, and beliefs were kept secret, as initiation was believed to unite the worshipper with the gods and included promises of divine power and rewards in the afterlife.



Persephone is a deity who brings light and life to the darkest places. She has the ability to move between the dark and the light. Just as she takes the seeds into the earth with her in the fall, holding them until they're ready to blossom forth in the spring, with her support you can plumb the depths, find the riches within yourself, and bring them forth. She can help our community when we need to make difficult choices in the face of pressure, as she chose to eat six pomegranate seeds, thus splitting her time between her mother and her husband. She will encourage support of our youth as they come of age, to grow strong in their choices and independence.

Thor: Thor is the Norse God of Thunder and Strength, friend and protector, lover of stories and valor. His mighty Hammer Mjolnir could only be wielded by him and kept the giants at bay. His many adventures provide a rich source of inspiration and revelry when told.



- Lizzy "Indy" Ticer

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.

Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia (every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia, Gaia Community's choir, has started meeting again after a very long summer break. You'll find us in the Theater Room below Barn Chapel on Sundays at 2 p.m. New members are always welcome! We prefer that you have some experience singing (particularly with choirs), can match pitch, and can follow a musical score. Our current incarnation is mostly as a women's choir, but if you're a tenor or bass and want to sing with us, contact Kitty in person or at voices@gaiacommunity.org and we'll figure something out.

Ritual Teams Meeting (7/7, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Kimberly, the new Ritual Teams Coordinator, in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (7/8, 7 PM, at Andrew's): This meeting will be at Andrew's apartment: 11132 W. 76th Terr. #34 in Overland Park; you can also e-mail him at sj@gaiacommunity.org or find him in person. The committee will be working on the ongoing social justice project regarding ecologically-sound food-growing practices, as well as planning for the fall's next social justice project.

Ritual for Business (7/13, 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 should be sent to the new board members, as shown to the right.

Religions of Kansas City Study Group (7/15, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): This covenant group was formed to explore and learn about the variety of religions present in Kansas City. If you are interested, e-mail Lizzy at roke@gaiacommunity.org, find her in person, or just join them!

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (7/17, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): The KidSpace committee is meeting again! You do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Linda or Amanda through kidspace@gaiacommunity.org to find out more about what is on the agenda.

Games Night (7/18, 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.

Men's Covenant Group (7/21): The "Twigs-n-Berries" group is planning another campout this month, but details have not been finalized. For more information, contact Jeff or Brian, or visit the Yahoo!Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twigsberries>

Friday Night Supper Club (7/25, 7 PM): July's supper club will be at **Harper's on the Vine**, a new "organic soul food" restaurant in the 18th & Vine District of KCMO. Contact Linda Boyce in person or at fnsc@gaiacommunity.org to save a spot; the food is moderately priced, and there are some options for vegetarians and finicky eaters.

Board of Trustees 08-09

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

Caring Connections Corner

There's many birthdays this month: Stephen Bland and Aelbrech on the 2nd, Linda on the 5th, Jeff on the 10th, Yale on the 14th, Aaron on the 17th, Kris on the 21st, Mari on the 22nd, Colleen and Mary on the 23rd, and Nola on the 28th. Let Caring Committee know of any others that we're missing, and congratulations and blessings to all those folks for another trip around the sun.

In addition, our thoughts go to all of those who are moving, changing jobs, taking long trips, or experiencing difficulties in health or well-being. The hottest part of the summer is coming up, and there will be lots of energy around to spare!

The Caring Committee is currently in need of a new chairperson; please contact Devin or another member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in helping out with this friendly, easy task to help build and strengthen our community.



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

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

Sunday, July 6th

Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits (Independence Day)

Facilitators: David and Linda

Sharing Our Spirits (SOS) rituals are specifically designed, created, and executed by the people in attendance that day. While one or two trained ritualists will help facilitate the process, the bulk of the ideas, activities, and ritual materials will come from those who show up. Have an idea you've been kicking around? Bring it along! The theme for the day will have to do with the freedoms we celebrate on the Independence Day holiday, if that helps stir up ideas.

Sunday, July 13th

GOD AUCTION!

Ritualists: Lizzy, Jeff, Kitty, Via, Andrew, Erin, Amanda, Jacki, and Barbara

The God Auction is a major fundraiser for the community, as well as one of the largest rituals of the year; but most importantly, it allows us to choose an annual 'patron' deity or power to honor and seek guidance from (as a community – individuals are not required to take that patron on for themselves). This year, our selection of four candidates (Thor, the Green Man, Persephone and Artemis - see page one) will face off in Gaia Community's "Explorer's Club". Indiana Jones may or may not be present.

The God Auction works like this: bring either money (cash, coins, or checks) or food donations for Harvesters Community Food Network to contribute to the patron candidate of your choice. There will be a number of question-and-answer rounds for the candidates, and after each round there will be 'voting' with your donations: 1 food item will count the same as \$1. When choosing food items, remember that Harvesters has a 'wish list' of especially needed items during the summer months:

<http://www.harvesters.org/GiveFood/Index.asp?Reference=MostNeeded>

Good luck, and may the best patron(ess) win!

Sunday, July 20th

Ritual — Patroness Farewell

Ritualists: Linda, Via, and Kitty

Come Celebrate the Inspiration that Brigid has gifted our lives with over the past year while being the Patroness of Gaia Community. This will be an interactive celebration of song, art, and sharing. If possible, please come prepared to share either physically or symbolically something Brigid inspired you to create or do during this past year. Teens are welcome to join us in bidding our Patroness farewell.

Sunday, July 27th

Ritual — Blessing of the Fleet (EIR final)

Ritualists: Kit, Cheryl, Duane, Greta W, and Greta E.

In the maritime tradition of "blessing the fleet", join us for Gaia Community's Blessing of the Vehicles. Whether you drive, pedal, push, or walk, create a charm and share the blessing. This will be the 'Final Exam' for this year's Excellence in Ritual students.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Aug. 3rd – Sabbat: Lamas/Lughnasadh
(with Wild Hare Grove)

Aug. 10th – Class on the New Patron

Aug. 17th – Ritual: Where the Wild Things Are
(Shamanic Journeying series)

July 24th – Workshop: Spirit Bundles for
Modern Pagans

Aug. 31st – Sacred Work Forum

Currently Active Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Amanda Pence
Barbara	David Reynolds
Devin Scrogum	Eric Simpson
Erin Truitt	Jacki Kelley
Jeff Park	Kimberly
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Via Baker

Please see Kimberly, the new Ritual Teams Coordinator, 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 News

All Gaia kids are invited to join with like-minded students at Harry Potter Peace Camp July 7th-11th, 2008 at All Souls, 4501 Walnut, in the evenings. The theme this year will be based around the directions and the elements. Cost is \$25 for 1 child, \$50 for 2 or more children from a single family. For more information, contact Linda or Barbara or join All Souls' Harry Potter Yahoo!Group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allsouls_harrypotter/. Carpool, anyone?

KidSpace Schedule

Saplings & Shoots

- 6/29 – Patron Deities (Thor and Green Man)
- 7/6 – Patron Deities (Artemis and Persephone)
- 7/13 – Introduction to Islam
- 7/20 – To Be Determined
- 7/27 – To Be Determined
- 8/4 – Lammas/Lughnasadh ritual, probably intergenerational

Trees

- 6/29 – Patron Deities (Thor and Green Man)
- 7/6 – Patron Deities (Artemis and Persephone)
- 7/13 – Upstairs for God Auction
- 7/20 – Judaism III: Taboos and Manners
- 7/27 – Judaism IV: Discussion, with Guest Speaker
- 8/4 – Lammas/Lughnasadh ritual, probably intergenerational

All children are invited to make offerings to the deities at God Auction, at the beginning of the event. Teens are invited to stay for the entire event, if they so wish, as it will be intergenerational-friendly this year.

In addition, Amanda will be moving out of the metro area this summer, and KidSpace will need a new chair person. Please contact Devin or another member of the Nominating Committee in person or through nominations@gaiacommunity.org or contact Linda the KidSpace Coordinator if you are interested in helping out with this crucial committee.

- KidSpace Committee

Social Justice Project: Local Food

Our Social Justice project for this summer involves making known more resources for “local food”, including farmer's markets and businesses that sell or serve locally grown food as much as possible. What follows are some restaurants in the metropolitan area that emphasize the local nature of their menus:

- ◆ **The American Restaurant**, 200 E. 25th St, KCMO
- ◆ **Aixois**, 201 E. 55th St, KCMO
- ◆ **Blue Bird Bistro**, 1700 Summit, KCMO
- ◆ **Bluestem**, 900 Westport Rd, KCMO
- ◆ **Café des Amis**, 112 Main St, Parkville
- ◆ **Café Sebastienne** at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, 4420 Warwick Blvd, KCMO
- ◆ **The Carriage Club**, 5301 State Line Rd, KCMO
- ◆ **Cassis Bistro**, 4821 W. 117th St, Overland Park
- ◆ **City Tavern**, 101 W. 22nd St #200, KCMO
- ◆ **The Classic Cup Café**, 301 W. 47th St, KCMO
- ◆ **Eden Alley** under Unity Temple on the Plaza, 707 W. 47th St, KCMO
- ◆ **Harper's on the Vine**, 1601 E. 18th St, KCMO
- ◆ **The Kansas City Club**, 918 Baltimore Ave, KCMO
- ◆ **Lidia's**, 101 W. 22nd St, KCMO
- ◆ **Local Burger**, 714 Vermont St, Lawrence
- ◆ **Pangea Café & Market**, 900 W. 39th St, KCMO
- ◆ **Room 39**, 1719 W. 39th St, KCMO
- ◆ **Starker's**, 201 W. 47th St, KCMO

Please let us know if you discover more!

- Social Justice Committee

Ritual for Business Agenda

July's Ritual for Business (RfB) contains the following notable agenda items:

- ✓ the final version of the lease, and a report from the Site Task Force;
- ✓ an end-of-year report from the Treasurer;
- ✓ updates from the Nominating Committee on vacant committee chairships.

Any additional agenda items should be communicated to a member of the Board of Trustees in person or by email at board@gaiacommunity.org.

Ritual for Business Minutes

June 14th, 2008 – Mooings of the C.O.W.

I. Meeting called to order at 9:42 AM.

Attending: Nola, David R., Linda, Amanda, Lizzy, Via, Kimberly, Erin, and Devin.

II. Agenda—approved.

III. Minutes—approved, with amendments. A summary of the Executive Committee meeting was also read into the record.

IV. Treasurer's Report—Nola had no report, as she is compiling a year-end analysis. She did report that income continues to be sufficient to deal with expenses.

V. Committees

a) Executive Committee—Met on June 8th from 6-6:30pm. All four officers in attendance.

Lizzy met with the new Facilities Person at SMUUCH, and has started a dialogue with her regarding the lease agreement. The FP did not know anything about the rumors of a move to Gardner, but did confirm that they are putting the building up for sale and looking to move somewhere. She assured Lizzy that if they moved, they would either 'take us with them' or the new owner would have to honor the lease. David stressed that this be put directly into the 08-09 lease agreement.

SMUUCH's board did not instruct the FP to ask for more rent money; Lizzy may be asking for either a 'pay for use' approach based on actual hours utilized, or a reduction in rent based on real usage patterns.

Lizzy wants to do more regular Executive Committee meetings; they tried this with the last board but it did not happen often or well. Consented to try to meet on the last Sunday of the month, so as to get information to the Earth Healer on time. Lizzy also wants to try to restructure the agenda, taking a cue from Ritual Teams "Information Only" and "For Discussion" categories. Will try this in June.

Lizzy reported that the email redirects seem to be acting up; repeatedly she has gotten returned mail or people have not received her emails (for instance, only Erin gets the ones to board@...). Linda suggested an email listserv similar to what Ritual Teams and KidSpace use; David said this would be easy when the new website goes into effect, but will look into what is going on right now with ADDR.com's redirects.

Linda reported on behalf of KidSpace that more mice were being seen downstairs, and that food waste is being left by SMUUCH in the classroom trashbins. She has some recycling bins from Bridging the Gap that she will ask SMUUCH about bringing in for both congregations' use; it will also lower their dumpster bill.

Lizzy was concerned about the lack of responses regarding the Garage Sale, but admitted her email had been acting up lately. Everyone present was planning on bringing something and/or volunteering, so everything seems to be okay with that event.

b) Ritual Teams—nothing to report.

c) Stewardship—pledges or declarations of intent not to pledge have been collected from all but 4 members. Most of those four have not been seen in some time (Devin reported that Dan S. had started to donate directly through his bank). Pledges are up 33% overall compared to last year. We lost some large donors, but other people increased their pledges to cover this and then some. \$188.50 off from making the "Fantasy Budget" that was proposed last month. Also, after the pledge/budget cycle is done, the co-chairs will be seeking new members for the committee.

Everyone commended their efforts and work.

d) Communications—Earth Healer is still having problems getting articles/information; the committee may look into going to a different model (electronic for members, hardcopy for outreach). Website redirects are continuing to act up for no discernible reason – will migrate the website to the new hosting at JaguarPC to see if that helps.

e) Lease/Site Task Force—As reported, Lizzy met with Kim, the new Facilities Person for SMUUCH. She has since confirmed that the building at 7725 is up for sale, for \$1M. Via asked if they were selling all buildings as a single property or breaking them up; Lizzy said she believed it to be a single entity. Site Committee is looking to meet again on June 25th at Lizzy's house.

Lease Changes: Instead of pre-scheduled times we now have 67 four-hour blocks to use as needed. Games Night and all Rituals/Rituals for Business are already established separately. There was no rent increase!

f) KidSpace—They have organizing who is doing what on Sundays; they may be looking into doing some sort of Camp this summer, if possible. They are going to do classes on each of the God Auction candidates. They are looking to get t-shirts for when they go on outings. Linda found (via Greta) a vendor at Bannister Mall who will do shirts for \$3. Kimberly may also have a silkscreen press. Nola says the new system of stipends for teachers is working well.

Their next meeting will be on June 19th; they will need a new chairperson after Amanda leaves in July.

g) Membership—6-7 new members expected, from two separate class cycles. They will become members on June 22nd.

h) Nominating Committee—Will work on finding chairs for Caring Committee and KidSpace. Devin agreed to be the chairperson.

i) Social Justice—Already met in June. Information for local food options has already gotten onto the email list, but missed the EH through miscommunication. This project will be extended through the rest of the summer (August 1st), then it will be Llamas for Llammas. Andrew gets his turn at making any visual displays, this time around; let him know if you can help.

j) Welcoming—All classes are completed, just need to write up a report and submit it to the UUA. Gaians participated in the planning and execution of the Pride Day Interfaith Service; lots of good feedback came directly to us as a result. We also helped staff the Coalition for Welcoming Ministries booth at Gay Pride Day, and got many people who recognized G.C. specifically. We handed our brochures out, etc. Also, the Coalition is putting on the 2nd Annual Academy of Welcome on Nov. 8th; the keynote speaker for that will be Alvin Brooks.

k) Caring—no chairperson at present. John is back in the hospital again, and his arm is healing. He is on two weeks of IV treatments, partially due to an abscess. He is in room 3006 at Research, and does have internet access.

Two birthdays this last week, both in Lawrence (Erin and Amanda). Rites of Passage handfasted two young gentlemen. July's FNCS will be at Harper's in 18th & Vine, where they held their reception. June's FNCS will be at Buca di Beppo.

VI. Old Business:

a) Budget—Nola recommended "proceeding with caution" due to the uncertain state of the economy. She believes the budget is sound, but things could change, so don't frontload expenses. Kimberly recommended re-splitting Friends of Gaia out from Member Pledges for bookkeeping purposes. Budget approved as presented, with a slight surplus.

b) Garage Sale—Linda can no longer host it due to emergency situations that have arisen. New proposed dates are August 8-9th, with setup on the 7th. She can still host, if it is moved to then. There was some concern about draining \$400 from the current year's budget, but we should be okay due to the unexpected size of the Penny Auction. Approved to move the G.S. to August, and possibly do another one in the late spring of 2009.

VII. New Business: none

VIII. Information Only

1. **PSD Campout** – August 8th-9th, now the same dates as our Garage Sale.
2. **Wild Hare** – they are holding Harvesters service days in September and November. Gaians would be welcome to attend as well; contact Nicole for details.
3. **Twigs-n-Berries** – the campout for this month is probably going to be opened up to men+their families due to low attendance expectations. Contact Jeff if you're interested.
4. A lady in Manhattan, KS is looking for people who are doing Polynesian or Native American paganism in that area. Someone suggested trying KSU to see if they have a student association; Via will also touch base with her contacts there.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

– *David, Secretary*



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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 (816-508-9086) no later than the 24th 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 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 2-3:30: <i>Voices of Gaia</i> 3:30-4: <i>Sacred Rhythm</i> 4 PM: Class on QBLH	30	1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ E3HQ
6 2-3:30: <i>Voices of Gaia</i> 3:30-4: <i>Sacred Rhythm</i> 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (<i>Independence Day</i>)	7	8 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	9	10	11 <i>World Population Day</i>	12 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
13 4 PM: GOD AUCTION!	14 <i>Bastille Day</i>	15 7 PM: Religions of Kansas City Study Group @ SMUUCH	16	17 7 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ SMUUCH	18 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	19 Overnight: Twigs-n-Berries Campout @ TBD
20 2-3:30: <i>Voices of Gaia</i> 3:30-4: <i>Sacred Rhythm</i> 4 PM: Ritual: Patroness Farewell for Brigid	21	22 <i>Pi Approximation Day</i>	23	24	25 7 PM: Supper Club @ Harper's on the Vine, 18th & Vine	26
27 2-3:30: <i>Voices of Gaia</i> 3:30-4: <i>Sacred Rhythm</i> 4 PM: Blessing of the Fleet (<i>Excellence in Ritual students</i>)	28	29	30	31	1 <i>Lammas/ Lughnasadh</i>	2 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ TB