



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

JULY 2009

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Gaia's 2009 God Auction

The 7th annual God Auction is almost upon us. We will choose our patron for 2009-2010 on July 12th, between Eris, Hermes, Isis, and Thoth. The whole community chooses the new patron, voting with their donations of food, money, and time. Each year we collect monetary donations for Gaia Community and food donations for Harvesters at the God Auction, with one dollar or one food item counting as one point for the potential patron receiving it. This year, we will add pledges of time into the mix; a community member or friend can pledge up to 25 hours of service to one or more of Gaia's committees in return for an equal number of points to spend at the God Auction.

If you wish to make a pledge of time for the God Auction, please arrive a few minutes before 4PM on July 12th to pick up your point tokens. Each token will represent five hours of service (or five points for the auction) and will have a place for you to fill out your name and contact information, as well as the name of the committee you are pledging service to. After the God Auction, the tokens will be given to the committee heads, and if you have made a pledge of service to a committee, the head of that committee will contact you to talk about ways to fulfill your pledge. Gaia's committees include: Caring, Communications, Finance, KidSpace, Membership, Ritual Teams, Site, Social Justice, Stewardship, and Welcoming Congregations. To find out more about what these committees do, visit our website at <http://gaiacommunity.org/committees> or ask someone on Sundays. And now, a bit more about the four contestants:



Come see She What Done It All! Eris, Greek Goddess of Chaos, Confusion, Discord, and No Hot Dog Buns is one of the four contenders at this year's God Auction. See her throw golden apples left and right as lesser deities squabble foolishly over who is the prettiest (because after all, She is The Prettiest One). See her lambast the popular heresies of the day! See her poke fun at "serious" gods who wouldn't know a good joke if it bit them! And! By special limited engagement, for one day only, THE FABULOUS, ASTOUNDING, MYSTIFYING AND BREATHTAKING EGRESS!

Isis is a goddess of magic, nature, motherhood and fertility. She is a friend to slaves and the wealthy alike. Her temples were in the center of civilization, not separated from the people. She will go to great lengths to not only achieve her own goals, but show her people how to achieve their own. Isis is an advocate for the community, working together to achieve our goals, and make Gaia Community work for all of her children, and in turn work together for Gaia Community. Like all good mothers, Isis takes good care of her children, but also knows when to send them out into the world to learn for themselves. She will always be there when we return, to kiss our bruises, brush us off, and send us out again to experience more about life.



Thoth is the Egyptian deity associated with knowledge, recording of deeds, magic, and right action. He is the patron of libraries, education, science, and contracts, and the deity who receives appeals for the building of new temples. He brings forth truth always, falsehood is abomination to him. He is the special guardian of teachers, scientists, writers, bookkeepers and lawyers. Thoth calls upon those who honor him to act in harmony with the laws of the universe, to argue from logic (avoiding flame wars), to tell the truth, and to think well of others.



Hermes is the suave, smooth-talking son of the Greek god Zeus and the titaness Maia. He is a skilled negotiator, talking his way out of trouble almost as quickly as he gets into it. Because of his great memory and persuasiveness, he is also the personal herald of Zeus. He is clever and inventive, and since he is a master at creating and increasing wealth, herdsman, merchants, and thieves all look to him for help. He is also a protector of the youth and a mischievous trickster god who keeps his devotees from taking themselves -- or him -- too seriously.



- Ritual Teams and the Stewardship Committee

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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 (almost every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia is Gaia Community's choir. We sing pagan chants and songs, usually with harmony parts, for rituals and other events. We meet Sundays from 2-3:30 p.m. downstairs at SMUUCH. We are once again welcoming singers of all voice parts, though the majority of our core group is currently female. Our primary requirement is that you can match pitch, though some familiarity with reading music is useful. If you have questions, please contact Kitty Degler at voicesofgaia@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

Ritual Teams Meeting (7/2, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Eric, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org if you have questions. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest let a ritualist (they have blue ribbons on their nametags) know!

Craft Circle (7/4, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be at Greta's house this month. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome.

Ritual for Business (7/11, 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 a board member, as shown to the right. This month we must approve a 2009-2010 budget, before it takes effect July 1st. See pages 5 and 6 for the proposed budget.

Women's Sacred Moon Ritual (7/11, 7:30 PM, at SMUUCH): Kate's Women's Group is now a fully-fledged Covenant Group of Gaia Community! Their full moon rituals are open to everyone who identifies themselves as female and/or has had their first menses. For more information, please contact Kate Miller. They also hold social events from time to time that are not gender-restricted.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (7/14, 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 environmental activism project.

Stewardship Committee: Stewardship does not have a scheduled meeting for July; get in touch with Kimberly or Kit by email at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org or in person if you'd like to be a part of this committee.

Games Night (7/17, 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.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (7/19, 1 PM, at Dunn Brothers): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Rosemary (the Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) in person or at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

Friday Night Supper Club (7/24, 7 PM): July's supper club will be at India Palace, an Indian restaurant at 9918 W. 87th Street in downtown Overland Park, KS. Please R.S.V.P. to Amanda in person, or you may also RSVP on Meetup.com, Facebook, or by email through fnc@gaiacommunity.org.

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Truitt
president@gaiacommunity.org
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Vice-President — Amanda Pence
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 Greta Erhardt
 816-822-2070 or
greta@gaiacommunity.org
 ... or contact them all at
board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Stephen Bland and Aelbrecht 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, Mary on the 23rd, and Nola on the 28th! Please let the Caring Committee know of any others that we're missing, and congratulations and blessings to all those folks for another trip around the sun.

The Caring Committee is now chaired by Jacki Kelley; please let her know of concerns or blessings you wish to share with the community, or if you have ideas for how to make this committee a more vibrant part of our community. Leave a message on our answering machine at 816-931-9900 or by e-mail at caring@gaiacommunity.org.



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

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

Note: We have changed the pre-ritual expectations for our youth again. Now, the time from 4:00-4:15 (sometimes less) will be an interactive "Children's Church" where a story or activity related to what the adults will be doing will be presented, for the young and the young at heart. After that, we will start the Sunday service itself. We are trying this for the next two months (until the August RfB) to see if it flows better while still providing interaction between our KidSpace and adult programming. If you have questions/feedback, contact someone with a red ribbon on their wooden nametag.

Sunday, July 5th **Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits** *(Independence Day)*

Facilitators: *Barbara, Linda, and Cheryl*

Sharing Our Spirits rituals are a chance for everyone attending to create the ritual they want and need together. For this ritual, please feel free to bring a ritual activity, chant, invocation, magical tool, or whatever else will help you create the ritual experience you want. Our secular calendar is set for a celebration of Independence Day this weekend, and this ritual can focus on those themes, or not, as the people present choose. Our youth can attend if they like, but these services are usually oriented toward the adult participants.

Sunday, July 12th **Fundraiser — GOD AUCTION**

Ritualists: *Devin, Kit, Greta, Kimberly, Jacki, Via, Aubry, Jamie, Rosemary, and others*

This will be Gaia Community's seventh annual "God Auction", in which we solicit donations of money, food, and this year also service, to see who the community wishes to see be the next annual patron for our congregation. Much more information can be seen on the first page of this newsletter, or on our website at <http://gaiacommunity.org/godauction>.

Sunday, July 19th **Workshop — Energy Work**

Facilitators: *Kimberly and Eric*

In this workshop, we will explore and practice a variety of techniques and approaches to raising and directing magical energy, activities at the core of many pagan rituals. The workshop will include some movement and breath-work components, so please wear comfortable clothes to move and breathe in!

Youth are unlikely to find this workshop particularly interesting, but are welcome to attend if they like.

Sunday, July 26th **Ritual — Patron Farewell**

Ritualists: *Andrew, Barbara, Erin, and Kit*

Join us as we say farewell to our patron for this year, Thor. We have had a lot of story-telling this year in our rituals; let's celebrate the inspiration! Expect more story-telling and toasting! We ask that you think about anything in your life in the past year with which Thor's energy may have helped. Do you have thanks to give? A gift demands a gift, a thanks demands a thanks — does Thor have thanks to give us? Come prepared for a celebration!

Kids above nursery-age are welcome to attend with their parents, but the service will be geared toward the adults.

Ritual Teams

Currently Active Ritualists

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Amanda Pence | Barbara |
| Cheryl Russell | David Reynolds |
| Devin S. | Eric Simpson |
| Erin Scrogum | Jacki Kelley |
| Jamie Peters | Jeff Park |
| Kelley Montford | Kimberly |
| Kit Peters | Kitty Degler |
| Linda Boyce | Lizzy Ticer |
| Paul Gorbass | |

Please see Devin or Kit, the Ritual Teams Coordinators, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams, or a newly trained ritualist looking to join for the first time.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

August 2nd — High Holiday: The Tailteann Games
(Lammas/Lughnassadh)

August 9th — Class: Meet the New Patron

August 16th — Ritual: Patron Welcome

August 23rd — Ritual: Shadow Walk

August 30th — Workshop: Applied Urban Sustainability

Budget Proposal

Below is the approved budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, agreed to at the June Ritual for Business and taking effect July 1st. As you'll notice, it is smaller in many ways than the previous years' budget, so it is important that any members or friends who wish to make a pledge for the coming year, but have been unable to do so thus far, get in contact with John Boyce, the Treasurer.

2009-2010 Gaia Community Budget

INCOME

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Donations | |
| Member Pledges | \$15,574.00 |
| Friends of Gaia | \$0.00 |
| Greening the Basket | \$500.00 |
| Social Justice/Charity | \$200.00 |
| Total Donations | \$16,274.00 |
| Fundraisers | |
| God Auction | \$2,000.00 |
| Longest Night Ball | \$1,500.00 |
| Bazaar | \$1,000.00 |
| Garage Sale | \$750.00 |
| Goods (Bumper Stickers) | \$10.00 |
| Other | \$50.00 |
| Total Fundraisers | \$5,310.00 |
| Fees | |
| Excellence In Ritual Fees | \$140.00 |
| Total Fees | \$140.00 |
| Other Income | |
| Kidspace Cookie Money | \$200.00 |
| Total Income | \$21,924.00 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Staff | |
| Kidspace Coordinator | \$1,200.00 |
| Kidspace Teachers | \$3,680.00 |
| Non-Sunday Childcare | \$0.00 |
| Total Staff | \$4,880.00 |
| Religious Education | |
| Kidspace Supplies | \$300.00 |
| Kidspace Discretionary Money (Cookie Money) | \$200.00 |
| Total Religious Education | \$500.00 |
| Dues | |
| UUA Annual Fund | \$2,240.00 |
| Prairie Star District | \$900.00 |
| Total Dues | \$3,140.00 |
| Social Justice | |
| Charitable Giving | \$200.00 |
| Total Social Justice | \$200.00 |
| Communications | |
| Newsletter Print/Postage | \$604.00 |
| Brochures | \$50.00 |
| Advertising | \$0.00 |
| Website & Domain Name | \$120.00 |
| Telephone | \$250.00 |
| Postage (non-newsletter) | \$50.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Post Office Box | \$70.00 |
| Copying/Printing | \$200.00 |
| Total Communications | \$1,344.00 |
| Membership Committee | |
| Membership packets | \$0.00 |
| New Member Gifts | \$0.00 |
| Pledge Sunday Gifts | \$0.00 |
| Total Membership | \$0.00 |
| Site Committee | |
| Search Expenses | \$0.00 |
| Total Site | \$0.00 |
| Welcoming Congregations | |
| Membership in KCCWM | \$50.00 |
| Tabling other events | \$0.00 |
| Total Welcoming | \$50.00 |
| Ritual Teams | |
| Ritual Supplies | \$0.00 |
| Rental Fees for Retreat | \$0.00 |
| Total Ritual Teams | \$0.00 |
| Caring Committee | |
| Supplies | \$0.00 |
| Total Caring Committee | \$0.00 |
| Nominating Committee | |
| Supplies | \$0.00 |
| Total Nom Com | \$0.00 |
| Finance Committee | |
| Supplies | \$0.00 |
| Total Finance | \$0.00 |
| Stewardship Committee | |
| Harvest Bazaar | \$550.00 |
| Longest Night Ball | \$550.00 |
| UUA Consultant Fund | \$0.00 |
| T-Shirt Printing | \$0.00 |
| Total Stewardship | \$1,100.00 |
| Facilities | |
| Ritual Space | \$9,000.00 |
| New Home Fund | \$50.00 |
| Bazaar Rental | \$1,100.00 |
| Insurance | \$410.00 |
| Total Facilities | \$10,560.00 |
| Administration | |
| Conferences | \$0.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$50.00 |
| Bank Fees | \$25.00 |
| Incorporation Paperwork | \$75.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$0.00 |
| Total Administration | \$150.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$21,924.00 |

Ritual for Business Minutes for June 13th, 2009

Started at 9:50 AM

In attendance: David, Kimberly, John, Devin, Erin, Linda, Amanda, Barbara, Jacki, Jamie, Greta, Cynthia

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – approved with the addition of the question of who to support for UUA president.
- II. **Minutes** – The name of Kate's Covenant Group is not Sacred Grove, as that is the external group that the covenant group is associated with. Changed minutes to read “Gaia Women's Full Moon Covenant Group”.
- III. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **KidSpace** – meeting on a regular basis. They are talking about some field trips. Ongoing topic is World Religions (finishing Buddhism, going towards God Auction) for the Saplings and Elements and Basic Gaia Style.
 - B. **Social Justice** – they are trying a project for 'service tokens' for God Auction this year. On the day of GA, you will have a chance to get a chit worth 5 hours of pledged service to a committee. There is a maximum of 25 hours for any one person. Also, KidSpace is doing social justice again once a month.
 - C. **Communications** – EH went out on the 5th of the month. The website is in its next stage of evolution, so the front page of it will be evolving further and becoming more oriented toward new visitors as well as a news feed of upcoming events. Also, images!
 - D. **Membership** – they now have a roster of people staffing the greeter's table, and they now are sending out reminders. David suggested putting that up on the website, and will show Jamie how to add that this afternoon. Kimberly pointed out that that would also be something we could point new visitors to.
 1. **Library** – they have new books for children now, and Rosemary will keep those for simplicity. Greta has another several hundred books once she gets the Cue Cat.
 - E. **Finance** – John's real life snuck up on him and some May/June deposits have not been made. Those should be going in Monday. The New Home Fund received a donation of a teacher's honorarium. The IRS communicated via automated letter that the 2005 issue is being looked at and will be dealt with in a current time. They have also raised a concern about the 2007 payments to Anissa Pedram; if we chose not to contest it they want \$956.77. The reply-by date is July 10th, 2009. David and Kimberly proposed to help John sort that out, but she was not an independent contractor that year. Someone suggested sending them a letter saying we are looking at it; Greta pointed out that they will say “thank you very much” and ask for the money by July 10th regardless. On further evaluation of what we have available for records from the Year of Three Treasurers, Kimberly proposed to just pay the full amount and not waste our time trying to research nonexistent information.
 - F. **Site** – the committee has not met; there is a school in Independence that Linda looked at, but the cost was \$265k for a gutted building so she didn't take it to the committee.
 - G. **Welcoming** – we helped staff for Pride Weekend, but did not march in the parade. Kimberly is being a pain in the butt for the Pride Festival organizers. Linda asked about the radio show possibility that was mentioned some time ago; Kimberly said that KKFI is having organizational issues related to whether they can continue to exist as a radio station. Also, the Coalition for Welcoming Ministries is looking to put together a Speaker's Bureau, so anybody from our community

who has workshops or speeches they can give to other faith communities, let Kimberly know. Also, she's back on the KC GLBT Community Center mailing list, and has some items of interest to forward on to the community.

- H. **Ritual Teams** – voted Jamie onto Teams, and another person is being interviewed soon from EIR. They have set dates for all High Holidays for the coming fiscal year, and EIR dates. God Auction looms large. Also, Linda mentioned that the kids are loving the new format for the first 15 minutes of ritual. Greta suggested maybe adding noisemakers for the kids to go with the drumming; that will go to the committee for followup.
 - I. **Caring** – Jacki wants to get with Membership for some collaboration on new efforts for the Caring Committee.
 - J. **Nominating Committee** – they are working on candidates for Secretary; the first one did not work out.
 - K. **Stewardship** – the garage sale went well as mentioned above, the Bazaar will happen this fall. Nobody came to Kit's informational meeting; he is still looking at sites. Faire doesn't end until October 18th this year, which will affect our dates.
- IV. **Old Business**
- A. **Final Lease Negotiations** – Erin wrapped up lease negotiations on Monday of this past week; Pam has already stepped down but they don't know who will actually be signing the lease. Erin got the 30 days we already had assigned (Women's Group, EIR, etc). To avoid dealing with 'floating days', we got the first and third Tuesdays in the Franklin room (but we can use P.T. Barnum because they never schedule stuff there). Kelley Montford is Gaia's new liaison with SMUUCH, so tell Kelley if you want one of those Tuesday slots that is not already taken. July 7th is already reserved for a God Auction stumble-through.
 - B. **Budget 2009-2010** – attached budget is consensed as amended. Changes include restoring the matching line-items for Social Justice Giving (they cancel each other out), amending the UUA and PSD dues to reflect final numbers, removing the line item for tabling Welcoming Congregation events, and raising one household's pledge to cover the resulting \$130 shortfall.
- V. **New Business**
- A. **Community support for a UUA Presidential Candidate** – discussed both Peter Morales and Laurel Hallman. Most people we know outside the community are supporting Peter Morales. David read off the candidate statements from the UUA mailing; the community consensed to have our delegates vote for Peter Morales. No other positions on this year's ballot are contested by more candidates than there are positions to be filled.
 - B. **GA Delegates** – Kit can no longer go to General Assembly. Amanda is comfortable replacing Kit as one of our delegates, as is Kit with that replacement. Consensed to make that change. Also consensed to reimburse Amanda for her travel after she gets back, and write her a check for registration. Cynthia is not asking for reimbursement of her registration or travel expenses.
 - C. **FNSC** – Linda is willing to handle June's RSVPs and coordination, but would like to pass it on now that she is not Vice-president. Amanda is fine with taking over that responsibility starting in July.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55AM.

- David, Secretary

Agenda for the July 11th Ritual for Business:

- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



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Address Correction Requested

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 2009 | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---|-----------|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 28 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Workshop/Class on Mini Altars | 29 ☾ | 30 | 1 | 2 7 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH | 3 | 4 1 PM: Craft Circle @ Greta's house |
| 5 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (Ind. Day) | 6 | 7 ○ | 8 | 9 | 10 7 PM: Storytelling Group @ Andrew's | 11 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH 7:30PM: Women's Full Moon Goddess Ritual |
| 12 4 PM: GOD AUCTION! | 13 | 14 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's | 15 ☾ | 16 | 17 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH | 18 |
| 19 1 PM: KidSpace Meeting 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Workshop: Energy Work | 20 | 21 ● | 22 | 23 | 24 7 PM: Supper Club @ India Palace, 9918 W. 87 th St, OPKS | 25 |
| 26 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Ritual: Farewell to Thor (last patron rite) | 27 | 28 ☾ | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 1 PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's |