



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

Cottage Meetings and Budget

Gaia Community's annual budget continues to take shape, largely due to the input of many of our members and friends at various "cottage meetings" held around the metropolitan area. These meetings, held at members' houses and done as a potluck meal, allowed everyone the opportunity to have input on what they'd like to see in the community's budget priorities and vision for the coming year. Only after that meeting was held were pledge cards given to attendees, so that they could then match their pledge to what they wanted to see. If you were unable to attend but would like to fill out a pledge card (either as a Member of Gaia or a Friend of Gaia), please contact Kimberly or Via, the Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs, in person or at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org.

If you want to have further input on what the coming year's budget will be, contact one of them or Nola, the Treasurer. The full proposed budget was not available at the time of printing of this newsletter, but will be available to all at the June 14th Ritual for Business, where it must be approved in its final form before going into effect July 1st.

- Stewardship Committee

Garage Sale Coming Soon!

The Boyces are again hosting our community's annual Garage Sale on Friday, June 27th and Saturday, June 28th. Their house is located at 8303 West 80th Street in Overland Park (just west of Hemlock). If you need to drop things off early, please give us a call at 816-419-9447 (Linda's cell) so we can make arrangements! More hands always make the work lighter, especially during setup on Thursday night.

We are seeking the following:

- Stuff, Stuff, and more stuff...
- Volunteers, more volunteers... there will be a sign up sheet at rituals on Sundays, and it will be posted also to the GaiaUU e-mail list. We need people to unpack stuff on Thursday, as well as help sell stuff. We were unpacking at unholy hours last year.
- Did I mention stuff?...
- Buyers on those dates.....pass the word around. As we get closer to the date, there will be more info about any large items available and any special stuff. Last year we sold a dishwasher, a bed, 2 swords, and a car, as well as herds of stuff. A flyer will be available to post on bulletin boards and any free publicity by electronic means would also be great.
- Did I mention stuff?.....
- Do we want to do a bake sale along with the garage sale? Anybody game to bake up some treats? Chez Boyce, due to hosting the event, will not be able to also bake. What about doing cold sodas for sale?

I would like to use a pricing chart - all clothes & shoes, etc. are one price, all hardbound books are one price, etc. We did that last year with some items and it seemed to work well. Larger or special items are priced separately, of course.

- Linda Boyce

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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 (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 (6/5, 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 rte@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know!

Ritual for Business (6/14, 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. **This month we will be focusing on approving the new budget!** 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.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (6/10, 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 is working on the ongoing social justice project regarding ecologically-sound food-growing practices.

Religions of Kansas City Study Group (6/17, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): A study group has formed to explore and learn about the variety of religions present in Kansas City. If you are interested, e-mail Lizzy at rokc@gaiacommunity.org, find her in person, or just join them!

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (6/19, 7 PM, location to be determined): 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 or in person to find out where this meeting will be, or watch the Sunday announcements.

Games Night (6/20, 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 (6/21, at Camp Gaea): The "Twigs-n-Berries" group is planning a campout at Camp Gaea in Tonganoxie, KS, on evening of the 21st and into the 22nd. For more details, please see page 5, contact Jeff or Brian, or visit the group's Yahoo!Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twigsberries>

Friday Night Supper Club (6/27, 7 PM): June's supper club location has not been decided; watch the weekly announcements or the website for more details. Contact Linda Boyce in person or at fnscc@gaiacommunity.org if you have a suggestion!

Board of Trustees 08-09

President — Lizzy Ticer

president@gaiacommunity.org

or 913-636-4924

Vice-President — Linda Boyce

vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org

or 816-419-9447

Treasurer — Nola Cavanaugh

treasurer@gaiacommunity.org

or 816-503-8156

Secretary — David Reynolds

secretary@gaiacommunity.org

or 816-508-9086

Members at Large —

Via Baker

viator753@hailmail.net

or 913-548-9463

Erin Truitt

niveustigris@hotmail.com

or 913-904-2459

Greta Erhardt

816-822-2070 or

greta@gaiacommunity.org

... or contact them all at

board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Celebrating birthdays this month are Jennifer on the 3rd, Dani on the 4th, Matt on the 7th, Erin T. and James E. on the 9th, Barbara and Amanda on the 12th, little Elizabeth on the 20th, and Nicole on the 26th, and Tony on the 27th. 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, including John C. who is currently nursing a broken arm, and Heather Helm who is leaving the area.

If you or another attendee of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the Caring Committee at caring@gaiacommunity.org, through our voicemail at 816-931-9900, or by contacting Cynthia Mathis in person.



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

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

Sunday, June 1st

Ritual — Pet Blessing

Ritualists: Linda, Andrew, Lizzy, and the EIR Interns

Please join us for our annual Pet Blessing. It will be an indoor ritual, so please do not bring your live pets, but a representation or symbol for them is requested. We will charge these items so a collar, leash, bowl, ball, etc.. would be good.

We will, as always, be collecting for Harvesters Food Bank, but we are also seeking donations of materials for Animal Haven. Their website (<http://animalhavenkc.org>) has a list of items they are very low on such as clay cat litter, 55-gallon trashbags, and paper towels.

Sunday, June 8th

Class — HIV/AIDS

(Welcoming Congregation series)

Facilitators: Jeff and Jacki

This class builds upon our continuing work toward becoming an official Welcoming Congregation within the UUA. This class will examine homophobia and an overview of HIV/AIDS. We will look at the hysteria around the AIDS pandemic in regards to the GLBT community and try to understand what typical people living with HIV/AIDS must go through in their lives. This is not a high school health class nor is it designed to be a "safer sex" lecture, but those subjects may get discussed.

Sunday, June 15th

Class — Working with the Father Archetype

Facilitators: Devin and Amanda

For Father's Day, we'll be exploring some of the ways to work with the archetype of fathers and male authority figures. Do you find yourself struggling to work with male deities or patrons? Do you seek a deeper relationship? Come to this class and we will explore ways to operate within this paradigm more effectively.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

July 6th - Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits
(Independence Day)

July 13th - GOD AUCTION!

July 20th - Ritual: Patroness Farewell to Brigid

July 27th - Ritual: EIR Final

Sunday, June 22nd

Sabbat — Souls Aflame!

(Summer Solstice, Elements of Ecstasy)

Ritualists: EIR Interns and other ritualists

In the Epic of Gilgamesh, the King of Uruk is brought out of despondency and boredom by the appearance of Enkidu, who starts the tale as his adversary and becomes his good friend. We will be using the story encased in this myth to help those in attendance find that which "fires them up". Six days and seven nights of wrestling are not required, but please wear comfortable clothes that you can move around in easily, including going outside if the weather permits.

As with all High Holidays, we will be holding a potluck afterward, so bring a dish, drink, or dessert for eight hungry people, and remember to label the ingredients for those with dietary restriction or allergies! In order to care for the earth and each other, we ask that you refrain from using disposable containers/tableware if at all possible.

Sunday, June 22nd

Workshop — Introduction to QBLH

Facilitators: Kimberly and Andrew

The Kaballah (or Qabalah) (or Cabala) is a system of Jewish mysticism that has become one of the foundations of the Western Mystery Traditions. What is this amazingly complicated idea born of monotheism, and what is it doing in modern magic and paganism? What is it good for? Why can't anyone agree about how to spell it? These and many more questions of varying depth and importance will almost certainly be answered in this get-your-feet-wet introduction to Kaballah.

- Ritual Teams

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.

Twigs-n-Berries Campout

The Men's Covenant Group is going to hold another campout at Camp Gaea this month, this time focused around a "sweat lodge". Last month the weather made the gathering difficult, but the vision quest received high marks from those in attendance. The sweat lodge, scheduled right before the Summer Solstice

So far the scheduled attendees are a short list, but if you identify as male and are interested, please contact Jeff or Brian in person or through the group's Yahoo!Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twigsberries>. Knowing ahead of time who is coming will make planning to have enough materials on hand much simpler.

Also, if you have any other ideas for events you'd like to see the group hold, let them know. A covenant group is made up of the strength and abilities of its members.

- Twigs-n-Berries

Benefit Concert Series Continues

Continuing on the Saviano Brothers' Bone Marrow Transplant Summer Concert Series, we have some very excellent bands to perform, playing Saturday, June 14th at 9pm, at Korruption, 1717 W. 9th Street in KCMO.

Headlining: Lights and Siren, who have been highly rated in Pitch Weekly's Yearly Music Awards. They are playing a different show at Sandstone that day as well, but you can see them instead in the evening for \$7 dollars at Korruption, and your \$7 dollars will help Marc and Sam live long and healthy lives.

Also playing are The Sixteens, who are three awesome ladies brought together by expert musical skills. When a friend of mine first saw them, he said they were better than Metallica, which was interesting because they don't play music anything like Metallica, they have instead taken the same talents and reapplied them.

...and Nuthatch47 - not yet a famous Kansas City band, but the accordian player, Dave, is a musical genius. He is a previous roommate of mine and I noticed while living with him last year and previous years, he lived and breathed music. He also studied music at UMKC. The other members of his band share the same enthusiasm, and they will not disappoint.

- Greta Wilckens

Harry Potter Camp' News

Great things are afoot in the magical world this summer. This year's theme for the All Soul's Harry Potter camp is "A Time for Peace." Rumor has it that a brand new school for witchcraft and wizardry is opening in the Americas.

Camp is scheduled for the second week of July this year (7th-12th) and we could really use some extra magical hands. Please join All Souls' Harry Potter Yahoo!Group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allsouls_harrypotter/ or contact Prof. Sparkles (aka Hattie Williams, 816-665-1307, or dreamingsprite@yahoo.com) for more details if you would like to help out this year. OR simply join us on Sunday mornings at 10AM downstairs in the children's chapel at All Souls, 4501 Walnut in KCMO.

Thank you!

Professor Sparkles

The Dawn Before the Bombing Begins

For the safe return of Sgt. Chris Rowland and the safety of all peoples on both sides in the Gulf.

*My mind cowers against the dawn light.
It forces my eyes to water. My mind
barely thinks on itself. In the dark
I was everything. I was robes and drapes
and the puce edges of the universe.
I was salt swell and tinny talk,
the unbuckled belt, the falling pants
and the free reign I've so longed for.
I'm unequipped by the light.
I am a cotton swab dipped in iodine
spreading its amber ooze
over an immense would in the East.*

*Light you bleed into my world
screaming from battle.
My stomach churns in its acid anguish.
The poor have repopulated the earth,
as I slept. A sea of hands reach out to me
empty. I'm the shame of limousines
among the dung carts. I'm the corpse of my father
being eaten by dogs. I have plundered the poor.
I have infected the sick. O my God,
I have truly forsaken you.*

- Greta Erhardt

Ritual for Business Minutes

May 10th, 2008 - Mooings of the C.O.W.

I. **Meeting called to order at 9:43.** Attending: Nola, David R., Lizzy, Via, Barbara, Jennifer, Linda, Kimberly, Yale, Amanda, Kitty, Devin, Erin, Cynthia.

II. **Agenda**—agreed, with amendments

III. **Minutes**—agreed, with amendments

IV. **Treasurer's Report**—Nola had no report. God Auction's "Penny Auction" netted \$597.32. Nola negotiated a higher "rollover" rate for the CD, at 2.71%.

V. Standing Committees

- a) **Caring**—Note for new Nominating Committee: Caring will need a new chair, as Terry is stepping down.
- b) **Ritual Teams**—Kimberly is the new RTC, as of June. Rituals are assigned for the rest of the year. They are no longer calling members part-time or full-time. God Auction is mostly assigned.
- c) **Stewardship**—Cottage meetings progress apace. Those who could not attend will be followed up with individually. Commitments so far roughly amount to \$17,000. Cottage meetings are also informing people about ways they can participate in the community and gathering information for prioritizing community goals. Spring Bazaar was not able to generate enough vendors due to the poor economy, and was cancelled.
- d) **Lease**—Lizzy has not heard anything from SMUUCH, but she will call a meeting of interested parties to be proactive about possible lease negotiation points.
- e) **KidSpace**—The committee is working on Judaism, and adding two weeks to cover the deities in the GA. The next chapter will be on Islam. Linda is seeking help with this unit. After Islam, they will cover Christianity. Next meeting: Thursday, May 15, and they will discuss scheduling of teachers. Looking towards fall, Linda has started collecting craft supplies for the candle project. The committee is also seeking people for Sunday cookies.
- f) **Communications**—EH was better this month, but still late because people do not submit articles. The new website is still in process, but stalled for now. Gary Stanfield is the new bulletin coordinator.

- g) **Site**—A new property on Antioch is for sale and needs to be checked out. Yale is stepping down from the committee, so a new chair will have to be found.
- h) **Membership**—The new membership class is finished, and a new class might be starting. The next New Member Sunday is scheduled for June 22.
- i) **Social Justice**—Is meeting regularly. The new area of focus for this time period is "local food." Kimberly has information for the community she is compiling, and they are researching into local farms/growers/markets for service consumer opportunities.
- j) **Welcoming**—Gaia will be working with KC Welcoming Ministries Coalition to plan a service for next year's Gay Pride Parade. Our work for Welcoming is branching out into the community. Certification is almost complete.

VI. Unfinished Business: none

VII. New Business:

- a) **Site**—Via proposes that the Lease Task Force add to its responsibilities "figurin' out what the hell to do with the Site Committee". Agreed.
- b) **Budget**—Via presented the Fantasy Budget for initial review. The budget did not have hard figures for proposed pledges and offerings, which is roughly at \$17,000 as of this meeting. The expenses column included items we could budget if the money is available. The difference in estimated income (so far) and the "dream" budget is about \$10,000. Committees have been asked to prioritize their budget needs so that the finance committee can cut nonessentials in an informed manner. The budget will be submitted for approval at the June meeting.
- c) **Election**—Via nominated herself from the floor for the VP position.

Results:

President-Lizzy

VP-Linda

Secretary-David

Treasurer-Nola

Trustees-at-Large: Greta, Via, and Erin

Delegates to General Assembly: Lizzy and Jeff

Nominating Committee—Kitty, Devin, and Jacki

Meeting adjourned at 11:25.

- *Jennifer, outgoing Secretary*
- *David, incoming Secretary*



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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

JUNE 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Pet Blessing	2	● 3	4	5 <i>World Environment Day</i>	6	7 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ Debbie's
8 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class: HIV/AIDS (Welc. Cong. series)	9	● 10 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	11	12 <i>Loving Day</i>	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i> 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
15 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class: Working with the Father Archetype	16	17 7 PM: Religions of Kansas City Study Group @ SMUUCH	18 ○	19 <i>Juneteenth</i> 7 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ TBD	20 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	21 Overnight: Twigs-n-Berries Sweat Lodge @ Camp Gaea
22 <i>Summer Solstice</i> 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: SABBAT: "Souls Aflame" (Summer Solstice), part of the Elements of Ecstasy series)	23	24	25	26 ● Evening: Garage Sale Setup @ Boyces'	27 <i>Nat'l HIV Testing Day</i> 7 PM: Supper Club @ TBD Evening: Garage Sale @ Boyces'	28 All Day: Garage Sale @ Boyces'
29 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class on QBLH	30	1	● 2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ E3HQ