



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

## *Board Elections in April*

Gaia Community elects new Trustees to its Board every year at April's Ritual for Business. All officers are elected annually, and members-at-large are elected every two years. The Nominating Committee is working hard to prepare a slate of candidates for this year's election, so expect to see candidate statements and an absentee ballot in the mail with your April Earth Healer. Our current candidate list includes:

- ✓ Lizzy Ticer – candidate for President, and for Delegate to General Assembly
- ✓ Terry Ross – candidate for Vice-President
- ✓ Nola Cavanaugh – candidate for Treasurer
- ✓ Jennifer Gadd – candidate for Secretary
- ✓ Cynthia Mathis – candidate for member-at-large
- ✓ *Carey Oxler, Yale Giffin, and Devin Scrogum are continuing to serve two-year terms as current members-at-large.*

We would like to have one more candidate for a member-at-large position (and perhaps another General Assembly delegate), to bring the number up to nine in preparation for several experienced board members being term-limited next year. The election itself will be held on 4/14 at 9:30 AM during the regular Ritual for Business; nominations will be taken from the floor during that meeting as well. Those members who cannot be present may mail their absentee ballot in to our PO Box or hand it to one of us by April 14<sup>th</sup>.

*- David, Andrew, and Greta*

### *What's Inside This Issue*

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
KIDSPACE/TEENSPACE.....	4
CALENDAR .....	5

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.

## *Excellence in Ritual - starts 3/6!*

Excellence in Ritual, our training program for Gaia Community ritualists (fondly thought of as Public Ritual Boot Camp), will be held again this year beginning in March. If you are interested in learning public ritual skills either to become a ritualist at Gaia, or for your own purposes, this class may be for you.

Excellence in Ritual is an eight-week class, Tuesdays from March 6<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by a practical ritual internship until June 17<sup>th</sup> and a ritual presented entirely by the class on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. All classes will be held at SMUUCH on Tuesday evenings, sometimes concurrently with Tuesday Night Adult Education classes in a different part of the building.

There is a substantial amount of reading, research, in-class practice, out-of-class planning, and homework. It will require an investment of time comparable to a college course, or service on Gaia Community's ritual teams! The fee for the class is \$35 for members of Gaia Community, or \$50 for non-members. This fee covers class materials and must be paid on or before the first day of class.

The course is designed for people who already have some working knowledge of pagan religion and practice. It is not an introduction to being pagan, nor will it teach you how to do personal ritual in your living room. What it will teach you is how to plan and present excellent, effective, safe, and accessible public ritual within the context of Gaia Community's mission covenant statement and the Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes. The course is required for those who wish to serve as a Gaia Community ritualist.

If you are interested in taking the course, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements for you to get the class materials. We can be reached easily by email at [eir@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:eir@gaiacommunity.org) and can also be found at Gaia on any given Sunday.

*- Carey, Kitty, and Kimberly*

## Gaia About Town

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (3/5, 7 PM): Andrew and Cynthia are reconstituting the Social Justice committee in response to some concerns and ideas raised among the community recently. They are looking for another organization to partner with and support after Spring Equinox, as that will end our winter commitment to help Hope House. If you're interested in helping out or have ideas for a charity to support, e-mail them at [sj@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org) or by finding them in person! The March meeting will be on 3/5, at Andrew's house.

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (3/7, 6:45 PM): At Jeff's house. Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists, if you are interested please contact Devin in person or at [rtc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:rtc@gaiacommunity.org)!

**Tuesday Night Classes:** The Adult Education classes for March will be a session of Chaos Magic on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and a Kitchen Witchery session on Herbology on the 27<sup>th</sup>. All classes start at 7 PM; childcare is available *on request* by contacting Kris Ennis in person or at [adulted@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:adulted@gaiacommunity.org) by no later than the Sunday before each class.

**Ritual for Business** (3/10, 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. If you don't feel comfortable bringing it up in public, our Vice-President, Liz Ticer, serves as the community's Ombudswoman for hearing discreet matters; her contact information is on page 5. **Minutes for the February Ritual for Business were not available at the time Earth Healer went to press.**

**Games Night** (3/16, 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 have invited some new board game players from the Kansas City area through <http://meetup.com>, so bring your new toys and your game face!

**KidSPACE Committee Meeting (3/18, 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](mailto:gaiakidspace@yahoo.com) or catch them on Sundays!

**Friday Night Supper Club** (3/23, 7 PM): The March Supper Club will be at Garozzo's, a family-friendly Italian restaurant at 9950 College Blvd in Overland Park (between Antioch & Switzer). Please RSVP to Kris Ennis at [adulted@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:adulted@gaiacommunity.org) or in person to save your spot!

### Gaia Community Board of Trustees 2006-2007

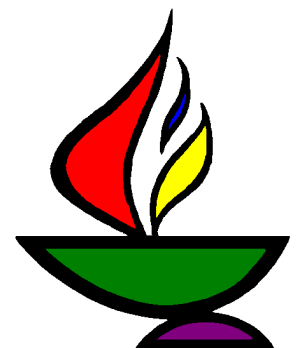
<b>President</b> — Jeff Park <a href="mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org">president@gaiacommunity.org</a> or 816-361-0465	<b>Members at Large</b> — Carey Oxler <a href="mailto:gaia-kat@kc.rr.com">gaia-kat@kc.rr.com</a> or 816-941-7626
<b>Vice-President</b> — Liz Ticer <a href="mailto:vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org">vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org</a> or 913-636-4924	Yale Giffin <a href="mailto:niveustigris@hotmail.com">niveustigris@hotmail.com</a> or 816-797-8032
<b>Treasurer</b> — John Carroll <a href="mailto:treasurer@gaiacommunity.org">treasurer@gaiacommunity.org</a> or 816-220-1804	Devin Scrogum <a href="mailto:dscrogum@gmail.com">dscrogum@gmail.com</a> or 913-708-5667
<b>Secretary</b> — Jennifer Gadd <a href="mailto:secretary@gaiacommunity.org">secretary@gaiacommunity.org</a> or 913-299-4587	... or contact them all at <a href="mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org">board@gaiacommunity.org</a> !

## Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out to Greta Erhardt on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, Debbie Dozier on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, John Boyce on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cory Dozier on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Turner on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Kitty Degler on the 17<sup>th</sup> and Rachel Gadd-Nelson on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Let us know if your day got missed!

Our condolences go toward those working through difficult changes in their lives, be it financial, interpersonal, or spiritual. Please remember that pain shared is pain lessened, just as joy shared is joy doubled, and your community is here for you.

*If you or another member of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the Caring Committee by emailing us at [caring@gaiacommunity.com](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.com), or leaving a message on the Gaia Community voicemail at 816-931-9900, or by contacting one of the Caring 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, March 4th

#### Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits Ritual

*Facilitators: Andrew, Devin*

Sharing Our Spirits (SOS) rituals are co-created and co-designed by those in attendance that day, with the help of one or two trained ritualists. Everyone's ideas, skills, and offerings brought that day come together to create something that serves the needs of the group. Bring a song, an instrument, ritual idea or magical tool to help out! The theme for this ritual is "Spring Cleaning", in honor of the slowly warming weather.

### Sunday, March 11th

#### Ritual — Shed Your Skin

*Ritualists: Yale, Lizzy, Eric, Linda*

*Persona* is defined as an identity that a person shows to the outside world. We wear many personas like skins as we move through our daily lives: student, employee, boss, parent, friend, and lover are just a few examples. These can be reflected in the clothes we choose to wear when playing a particular role. Wear one of **your** favorite outfits, and join us as we examine these personas, and explore the way others perceive them.

#### A Look Ahead to Next Month...

- Apr. 1st – Ritual: Fail Big! (All Fools' Day)
- Apr. 8th – Class: Voluntary Simplicity
- Apr. 15th – Ritual: Pledge Sunday
- Apr. 22nd – Ritual: Combing Sedna's Hair (Earth Day)
- Apr. 29th – Forum: Love, Sex, and Intimacy in Religion

#### Current Ritualists

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

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

### Sunday, March 18th

#### Ritual — Disting (Spring Equinox)

*Ritualists: Debbie, David, Devin, Barbara, Erin*

A *Disting* is a Norse tradition of "blessing the plow" before doing the planting. We are expanding the concept a bit to encompass the other tools we use in our lives. Please bring a tool or device (or representation of such) that falls into one of the following four categories: **Transportation, Ritual, Technological, or Creative.** Jewelry is also encouraged either for blessing or just wearing, as one of our patrons for the ritual will be Freya. The children from KidSPACE will be helping by creating items to help with the blessing process (see page 4) and will be present for most of the ritual. All TeenSPACE youth are invited to bring their own items.

As with all high holidays, there will be a potluck following ritual; however in this case we'll be following the Norse example of merging ritual and community so even if you are not staying to eat, please don't run off when we start rolling out the tables! The last part of ritual will be a boasting session about what you'll do with your newly blessed tool (those who are not staying to eat can go first). Remember to bring enough food for eight hungry people if you are staying for the meal, and label your ingredients for those with dietary restrictions. For the earth's sake, please do not bring disposable dishes.

### Sunday, March 25th

#### Forum — Living in a Multi-Faith Household

*Facilitators: Carey, Cynthia*

Most Pagan and UU households are a "mixed marriage" of sorts, with the members practicing very different traditions and spiritual practices under one roof. Come share your opinions and ideas about living in a multifaith household – our forums are a chance for the whole community to come together in a roundtable discussion.

*- Ritual Teams*

## *TeenSPACE for March*

Our TeenSPACE classes are a chance for the 12-and-ups to learn more about Paganism, UUism, spiritual practices, and to discuss philosophical issues in a way that encourages deeper exploration of the topics. These classes are based on the topics the teens themselves choose, and are engaging, practical, and challenging. TeenSPACE runs concurrently with the Sunday rituals and services at 4pm, so teens can choose whether to attend the regular service as an adult, or to join the TeenSPACE class with their peers.

Here are the classes coming up this month:

- 3/4 – **Prayer** – What is prayer? How do different people approach prayer? How are prayers answered?
- 3/11 – **Meditation, Trance, and Journeying** – Part 1, with an introduction to the topics, explanations, and exercises.
- 3/18 – *Teens are in the Spring Equinox ritual today!*
- 3/25 – **Ogham** – A Druidic approach to divination, and all about the ogham.
- 4/1 – **Meditation, Trance, and Journeying** – Part 2, with explanations, exercises, and a question-and-answer session.

## *KidSPACE for March*

KidSPACE grows ever closer to having a fulltime WeeSPACE caregiver again, so please say hello to Katherine Menges if you see her; just a few more procedural steps await her (and our) peace of mind! Her daughter Katie is also helping her out from time to time.

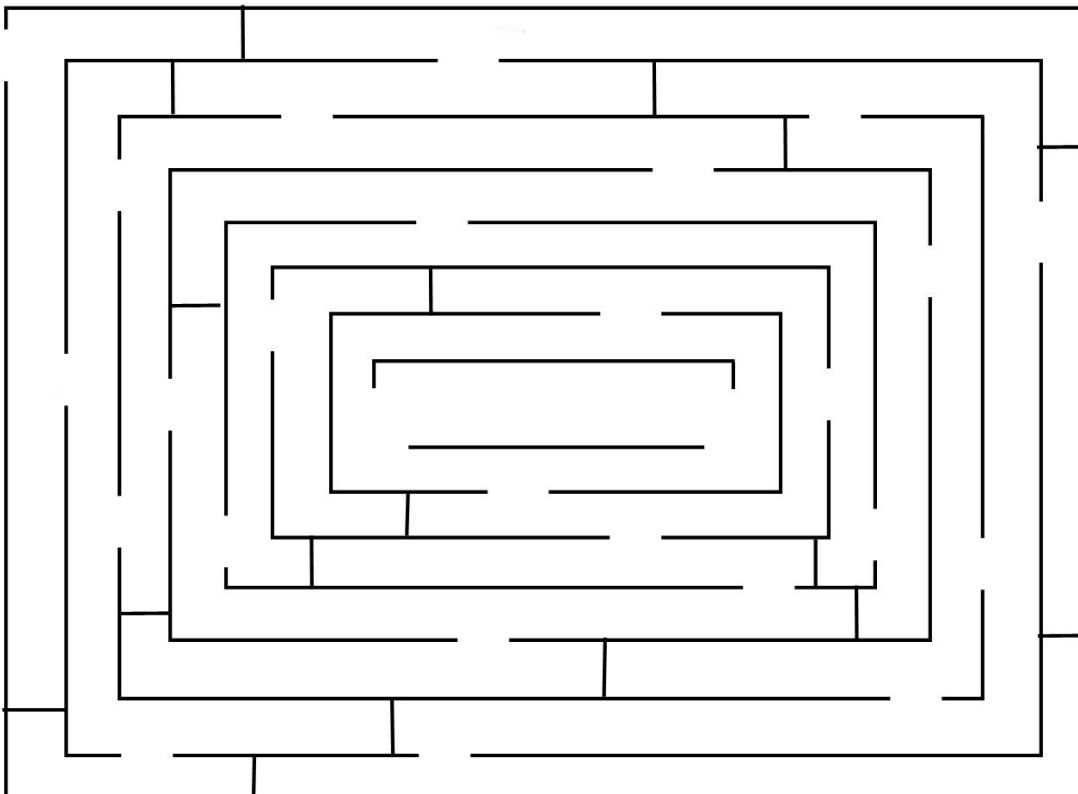
In addition, as saw on page 3 the youth will be playing an important part in the “blessing of the tools” on Spring Equinox. They will be making and preparing items in the coming weeks to bless the tools and devices brought by the adults that Sunday, so if you or they have any ideas of things to bring to help with that process, it would be greatly appreciated!

As always, any donations of non-perishable items for snack time, such as juice boxes or fruit snacks, would be most welcome! And we always welcome volunteers who wish to help with our ever growing, ever-multiplying great group of kids!

– *KidSPACE*

## A Springtime Maze!

Start



Finish

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

### Summary of February's Ritual for Business (RfB)

- I. **Meeting called to order at 9:50.** Attending: Jeff, David R., Kimberly, Devin, Lizzy, Barbara, Cynthia, Carey
- II. **Agenda**—agreed, with amendments
- III. **Minutes**—Jim Eller's name in the minutes is spelled incorrectly. Agreed, with amendment.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** John provided a copy to the board but could not attend. Finance consider a request to better track Gifts in Kind.
- V. **Standing Committees**
  - A. **Rites of Passage**—Carey requested an online consensus of the board requesting permission to marry Bill Oxler & Annie Fagan on Friday February 2, 2007. Request was approved by unanimous consensus from board.
  - B. **Membership**—Devin is now teaching new member classes. We have had two people attend and two yet to be taught.
  - C. **KidSpace**—Barbara reported that emergency fill in/covering of classes now has a better process. Katherine Menges is in the process of being hired for the WeeOne position pending background check.
  - D. **Communications**—Information for Earth Healer was not forthcoming for February's publication. Should be out by 2/11.
  - E. **Ritual Teams**—It is Gaia Community's policy that non-ritualists can assist Ritual Teams in facilitating Sunday services.
  - F. **Social Justice**—Cynthia sent an updated wish list for Hope House. Jackie has volunteered to transport HH donations to them. New charity will be chosen starting Spring Equinox. Join the committee blurb will be included in Feb's EH.
  - G. **Caring**—Cynthia reported that contact information and directory is in the process of being updated. Cards are being donated from Nine Fires Press.
  - H. **Nom Com**—has met. At least one candidate for every open position and possibly two for some. List of candidates will be published in March/April EH.

### VI. Old Business

- A. **Business Continuity Plan**—Lizzy sent out the

purposed cancellation process to the executive board. Executive board has not met to discuss.

- B. **Member Certification**—Has been completed. Notifications were sent to appropriate committees. Thirty-five (35) members were certified.
- C. **Tax Letters**—Tax Letters were sent on or before 1/30/07. If anyone has questions or concerns regarding their letters, they should contact Finance Committee.
- D. **Adult Code of Conduct**—Lizzy was going to write up something regarding this. She did not. She will write something and bring to the CoW for discussion in March.

### VII. New Business

- A. **Cluster Council Meeting**—Jeff got a notification email from Prairie Star District that the Cluster Council Meeting was cancelled. We were not aware of a CCM in the first place. The CCM has been postponed to 2/17 in Topeka. Kimberly and Devin have volunteered to look into going. If they are not able to attend, they will find replacements.
- B. **RFB facilitation & donuts**—March RfB facilitator will be Lizzy. Jeff will be facilitator in April. Donuts will be provided by Nom Com for the April elections. Suggested schedule for next board is as follows:
  - i. May-(New board) President
  - ii. June-Vice-President
  - iii. July-Treasurer
  - iv. Aug-At-Large 1
  - v. Sep-At-Large 2
  - vi. Oct-At-Large 3
  - vii. Nov-President
  - viii. Dec-Vice-President
  - ix. Etc...
- C. **Covenant Groups**—At a recent forum there was a strong interest in the creation of covenant groups for the deeper study of different spiritual paths. A volunteer task force has been formed to consider the possibility and ways to potentially implement/integrate this concept.
- D. **Strategic Planning**—Tabled until March.

- Lizzy, for Jennifer as Secretary



P.O. Box 45307

Kansas City, MO 64171-8303

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](mailto: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*

<b>MARCH 2007</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Shadow and Light (Quest)	26 7 PM: Tues. Night Class – Mythology Story Hour	27	28	1 <i>St. David's Day in Wales</i>	2	3
4 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits (Spring Cleaning)	5 7 PM: Social Justice Committee	6 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	7 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	8 <i>International Women's Day</i>	9	10 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
11 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Shed Your Skin	12	13 7 PM: Tues. Night Class on Chaos Magic 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	14	15	16 7 PM: Games Night	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
18 2:00-3:00: KidSPACE Meeting 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Sabbat: Disting (Spring Equinox)	19	20 <i>Spring Equinox</i> 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	21	22	23 7 PM: Friday Night Supper Club @ Garozzo's, 9950 E. College, Overland Park, KS	24
25 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Forum: Living in a Multi-Faith Household	26	27 7 PM: Tues. Night Class on Kitchen Witchery 7 PM: Excellence in Ritual class	28	29	30	31 9 AM: Blue River Rescue @ Lakeside Nature Ctr, 4701 Gregory Blvd, KCMO