



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

## Spring Bazaar on April 26th

With the success of the 2007 Winter Bazaar, many of our vendors asked if it would be possible for Gaia Community to host a spring event of a similar nature. The Bazaar Committee (now part of Stewardship) looked into it and has made arrangements to hold our **first Spring Bazaar on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 10:30 AM to 7 PM!** The Bazaar will be at the Center High School, 8715 Holmes Road, just down the road from the WB's location in 2007.

The Spring Bazaar will feature a different variety of vendors, services, and crafts, as well as the famous Kitchen Witch tables full of baked goods, and a raffle table. Persons interested in vending are invited to download the printable form at <http://gaiacommunity.org/springbazaar.shtml> or register online at <http://gaiacommunity.org/vendors.shtml> – where they can also now pay for booth space and table rental via PayPal! Traditional payment methods are also still available, of course; contact the committee at 816-931-9900 or e-mail them at [bazaar@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:bazaar@gaiacommunity.org) if you have any questions. Deadline for vendor registration is April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Flyers for spreading the word about the event are also available at the Greeter's Table on Sundays, or downloadable from our website. Help announce this new event and make it as big a success as our winter shopping extravaganza!

*- Stewardship Committee*

## Teachers Wanted

Gaia Community's newly revised KidSpace is seeking open-minded teachers for our pagan-themed curriculum in children's education. You need not be a member of the community to participate, so let your friends know! Call Linda at 913-385-7743 or find her or Amanda, the new KidSpace Committee Chairperson, for more information. Background checks will be performed, and all teachers are paid for their time.

If you know of anybody who might be interested, or of an appropriate place to put this notice, please do so! We are seeking teachers outside of the community (as well as in) so that we do not overburden those who have already stepped forward to accept this challenge.

More information about the changes coming to KidSpace are detailed on page 4.

*- KidSpace Committee*

## Announcement Maven Needed

Nicole is no longer running the weekly announcements, and while David can print these for the time being, we'd really like to have someone step up and help out with this easy task. It's easy to get most of the information off of the website or from this very newsletter, and is much simpler for a non-ritualist (since they won't be worrying about running ritual and remembering to print this on Saturday or Sunday). A template is available from what is being printed right now; access to e-mail is a *must* for handling any last-minute changes. Interested? Just catch David at some point in person, or by email at [communications@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:communications@gaiacommunity.org).

*- Communications Committee*

### What's Inside This Issue

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
KIDSPACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE INFORMATION.....	4
RITUAL FOR BUSINESS MINUTES.....	5
CALENDAR .....	6

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 as a women's choir, but if you're a tenor or bass and really want to sing with us, contact Kitty in person or at [songbird@kc.rr.com](mailto:songbird@kc.rr.com) and we'll figure something out.

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (3/3, 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 Debbie in person or at [rtc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto: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! March's meeting will be at SMUUCH.

**Ritual for Business** (3/8, 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 board, as shown to the right.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (3/11, 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](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org) or find him in person. The committee is currently working on ways to help people meet the Environmental Activism challenge described on page 5.

**Religions of Kansas City Study Group** (3/18, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): A new study group has formed to explore and learn about the variety of religions present in Kansas City. If this is a subject that interests you, please email Lizzy at [president@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org), find her in person, or just join them on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM!

**Games Night** (3/21, 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.

**Friday Night Supper Club** (3/28, 7 PM): March's supper club will probably be at a Korean restaurant to be decided; watch the weekly announcements or website for more details. Contact Terry in person or at [fnsc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:fnsc@gaiacommunity.org) if you have a suggestion, or to save a seat!

### Board of Trustees 07-08

**President** — Lizzy Ticer

[president@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org)

or 913-636-4924

**Vice-President** — Terry Ross

[vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org)

or 816-503-8156

**Treasurer** — Nola Cavanaugh

[treasurer@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:treasurer@gaiacommunity.org)

or 816-503-8156

**Secretary** — Jennifer Gadd

[secretary@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:secretary@gaiacommunity.org)

or 913-299-4587

**Members at Large** —

Via Baker

[viator753@hailmail.net](mailto:viator753@hailmail.net)

or 913-548-9463

Yale Giffin

[niveustigris@hotmail.com](mailto:niveustigris@hotmail.com)

or 816-797-8032

Greta Erhardt

816-822-2070 or

[greta@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:greta@gaiacommunity.org)

... or contact them all at

[board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org)!

## Caring Connections Corner

**Lots** of birthdays this month: Debbie on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scot on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Devin on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Katie on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Erin on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Andrew on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Fiona on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Kitty on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Maggie on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Rowan on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Katherine on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 energies and thoughts go to all of those who are moving (including Jacki and John), changing jobs (including Stuart), or just waiting ever-so-patiently for winter to be over with. Particularly our thoughts go to those who have been struck by or are working their way through the 'flu' sweeping over the metropolitan area. Get well soon! Also, Erin's father is on the mend from surgery.

*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](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org), or on our voicemail at 816-931-9900, or by contacting one of the Committee members in person: Terry Ross, Debbie Dozier, or Cynthia Mathis.*



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

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

**Sunday, March 2nd**

### Ritual — *Sharing Our Spirits*

*Ritualist Facilitators: Linda & Yale*

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!

**Sunday, March 9th**

### Ritual — *Queer Gods* (*New Member Sunday*)

*Ritualists: Via, Kimberly, Eric, & Barbara*

In this ritual we will explore our religious beliefs and what various traditions have to say about alternative gender and relationships. What are the foundations in our religious traditions for doing the work of Radical Hospitality, of extending our welcome to everyone, whoever they are and whomever they love? How do we relate to deity as individuals? Feel free to bring a small image or icon of a deity if you like, and if you have brightly colored magazines or catalogues for people to cut up to create our own images, please bring them to share.

*This ritual will also be the day we welcome our newest [members](#), delayed on Feb. 17th due to weather.*

**Sunday, March 16th**

### Class — *Totems*

*Facilitators: Yale & Linda*

Have you wondered why some people use a special symbol or the image of a creature to represent their magical self? Considered exploring your own connection to the many other living things that share our world? Thought that having

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

Apr. 6th — **Class: Transgender Identity**  
Apr. 13th — **Ritual: Going with the Flow**  
Apr. 20th — **Ritual: Pledge Sunday/Earth Day**  
Apr. 27th — **Forum: Global Warming**  
(*showing of An Inconvenient Truth*)

an animal spirit or an icon of power might increase your own magical abilities? Come and delve with us the depths of possibility, as we explore the meaning of having a Totem.

**Sunday, March 23rd**

### SABBAT — *Spring Equinox*

*Ritualists: Jeff, Via, David, & Amanda*

Spring Equinox may seem far off while ice still decorates the ground and the trees have yet to leaf out, but it will be here sooner than you think! In this ritual, we'll be looking at some of the smaller changes of spring, and how we can use those to motivate our own change and growth.

**Be prepared for an outdoor and intergenerational ritual, weather permitting.**

As with all high holy days, this ritual will be followed by a potluck meal. Please bring a dish, drink, or dessert to share among at least eight people, remembering to care for the earth by bringing reusable containers and dishes, and care for each other by labeling your dishes for those with dietary concerns.

**Sunday, March 30th**

### Ritual — *We Could Be Heroes*

*Ritualists: Devin, Kimberly, & Andrew*

Are you a hero? Can we be heroes? What gives birth to a hero? Do you have an arch-nemesis? These questions and more will be answered at Sacred CoW's School of Justice. Same Gaia time, same Gaia place.

— *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
Yale Giffin	

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

## Social Justice Challenge: What Would Gaians Do?

Our newest Social Justice project is about **doing** things, instead of **buying** things. Earth Day is coming up, and we want to collect data on all the good projects you do to benefit "the earth and each other". Doing the EarthFest Walk on April 19<sup>th</sup>? Bring your pledge sheet to ritual! Are your kids helping out at one of the area recycling centers? Write it down! Planting a garden or shopping for locally-grown food? Brag about it! Paper leaves will be available on Sundays to record what you've done, and a metal 'tree' will be put up by the Greeter's Table on Sundays to hang them on. We hope to have it fully 'in bloom' by Earth Day!

We'll also be posting at the Greeter's Table, in the announcements, and online about upcoming opportunities for volunteering on behalf of the environment, including:

- **Blue River Rescue at Lakeside Nature Center on April 5<sup>th</sup>; this is always popular with our kids!**
- **EarthFest at Shawnee Mission Park on April 19<sup>th</sup>.**
- **All of the community recycling centers appreciate volunteers; see <http://bridgingthegap.org> for info.**

*- Social Justice Committee*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Event/Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## KidSpace Universe Reborn!

There are new contacts for KidSpace! Please take concerns to either Linda, Acting KidSpace Coordinator, at [lboyce@mindspring.com](mailto:lboyce@mindspring.com) or (913-385-7743), or Amanda, the KidSpace Committee Chair, at [stregalunae@yahoo.com](mailto:stregalunae@yahoo.com). We want input, please! Let us know your concerns and ideas. Remember, our children are tomorrow's members.

The new KidSpace Committee has begun per the proposal consensed on at January's RFB. The Committee met Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008. An Acting Coordinator, and a Committee Chair were chosen. When the schedules are more set, the selection of a permanent Coordinator will be done. Teachers are being solicited. An ad was designed to be placed around the metropolitan area.

A curriculum schedule through July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 has been sketched out. Teachers are scheduled through March 30<sup>th</sup>. The curriculum during this time will be created by committee members. Curriculum blocks are being established to fulfill the educational goals outlined in the proposal. These blocks for the following months include UU principles and cornerstones, the introduction of world religions and pantheons, ritual form, creation, sacred space and decorum within same.

Ritual teams will be approached about having the children participate in 3 rituals during this time (Spring Equinox, the Global Warming Forum, and Pet Blessing).

The Teens have been invited to participate in the Totems class on March 16<sup>th</sup>. They will need to bring a notebook, pencil/pen, and be prepared to add to the discussion.

Three special events are planned at this time: Blue River Clean Up (April 5<sup>th</sup>), Earth Day (joint project with HSA, April 20<sup>th</sup>, Shawnee Mission Park), and Spring Bazaar (table of candles made by the kids; April 26<sup>th</sup>). Volunteer forms are being created for all three events and will be at the next ritual.

A contact sheet will be created and distributed to committee members. Announcements will be set up on an ongoing basis. Updated information will be submitted for the website. Earth Healer material, including upcoming events, will be submitted immediately and updated monthly.

The committee is encouraging everybody interested to please watch the web site and the announcements for the date and time of the next meeting. Interested parties are also encouraged to contact either Linda or Amanda with ideas or concerns.

*- KidSpace Committee*

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

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

#### I. Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM.

Attending: Jennifer, Nola, Terry, Via, Lizzy, Barbara, Linda, Yale, David, Kimberly

#### II. Agenda—agreed

#### III. Minutes—agreed

IV. **Treasurer's Report:** PSD and UUA dues paid in full. We still have a positive balance. Dec and Jan approved. Terry noted that we still have not been billed for the rental of Boone Elementary. We need an invoice before paying. The money has been allocated and set aside for when the invoice arrives. Monies for the Heifer Project has also been separated from the general budget figures.

#### V. Standing Committees —

1. **Caring:** Terry reported some joys from community members.
2. **Stewardship:** Via and Kimberly went to Iowa and received excellent information. Plans are afoot to revamp the pledge drive. Winter Bazaar will cease to be its own committee and will be under Stewardship. We have secured space at Center High School on April 26. 10:30-7:00 are the hours. Notification to vendors has been sent out. The website will be up and running soon. Stewardship has requested that the Treasurer send quarterly reminders of pledge status to members. Stewardship is requesting a projected budget for planning purposes of all committees for creating a "goal budget." They would like the information by March so next year's budget can be planned.
3. **Ritual Teams:** The last meeting dealt with ritualist burn-out, peer review, and ritual critiques.
4. **KidSpace:** Linda will create ads looking for teachers outside the community and for a coordinator. They are working on the curriculum for the rest of February and March. A wiki has been established for KidSpace, which so far contains the approved framework. They plan to publish lesson plans on the wiki. Linda has been giving David blurbs ahead of time to post on the Yahoo group and Earth Healer. Folks have been volunteering to work the kids and the teens, and background checks are underway. Feb 24 will be an all-day curriculum planning and writing session at Nola's house.
5. **UUA/PSD:** Lizzy has submitted our certification of members, for a total of 39 members. PSD also requested our pledge information.

6. **Social Justice:** At last reckoning, The Heifer International effort raised enough money to donate six sheep. The next project will involve donations of time and environmental activism, which connects with the season of Earth Day celebrations and Beltane.
7. **Communications:** David has purchased as a donation a six-month posting plan for website development. This keeps Gaia from having to take down the current site while the new site is being constructed. The committee has received anonymous complaints about the website's being old and that David is controlling the website and preventing the new website from moving forward. He requests that people who have comments about the website notify the webmaster. He also welcomes help from any qualified coders who might want to work on the new website.
8. **Winter Bazaar:** The committee felt the bazaar went well. Surveys indicate vendors support this year's changes and some proposed changes.

#### VI. New Business —

1. **Stewardship:** The committee proposes that for high holidays in the remainder of the current and next ritual cycles, Greening the Basket be split with designated charities. Social Justice would choose the charity and coordinate with Ritual Teams. Stewardship would review at the end of the current ritual cycle.  
*n.b.: This will not affect a ritual team's request for special offerings in conjunction with a specific ritual. That process will remain intact.*
2. **Lease Changes:** SMUUCH has another new facility coordinator, and she seems to respond promptly and thoroughly. We currently are paying for Tuesday night space that we are not using effectively. Lizzy requests authorization to negotiate use of the building for that time in a more flexible manner. The facility coordinator is amenable to this change. Lizzy would need three week's notice from anyone wishing to reserve the space. Agreed.
3. **Earth Day/HSA:** Linda proposes that Gaia Community will share a booth with HSA at the Earth Day event in Shawnee Mission Park. Gaia will do an activity involving planting seeds in egg cartons. Gaia will provide: egg cartons, dirt, seeds, paper bags, written instructions, and promotional materials. Gaia will also help staff the booth and run the activity. Total expenditures for the event will be less than \$100 for booth rental and supplies. Agreed.
4. **Welcoming Ministries:** Kimberly proposes that Gaia Community become a member of the Kansas City Coalition for Welcoming Ministries at a cost of an annual fee of \$50. Agreed.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.*



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 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

MARCH 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Workshop: Four Levels of Tarot	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Leap Day</i>	1 1 PM: Sacred Crafting Circle @ Debbie's 7 PM: Ritualist Rededication
2 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (Spring Cleaning)	3 <i>Nat'l Reading Day</i> 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Int'l Women's Day</i> 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
9 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Queer Gods (New Member Sunday, Welcoming Congregations)	10	11 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	12	13	14 <i>Pi Day</i>	15 <i>Ides of March</i>
16 <i>Start of Bacchanalia</i> 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class on Totems	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 <i>Biodiesel Day</i> 7 PM: Religions of Kansas City Study Group	19 <i>Quinquatria</i>	20 <i>Storytelling Day</i>	21 <i>Spring Equinox</i> 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	22 <i>World Water Day</i>
23 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: SABBAT: Imbolc (w/potluck)	24	25	26	27	28 7 PM: Supper Club @ TBD	29
30 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: We Could Be Heroes	31	1 <i>All Fool's Day</i>	2 <i>Int'l Children's Book Day</i>	3	4	5