



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

MARCH 2010

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Standing on the Side of Love Continues Helping Haiti

At our Standing on the Side of Love ritual in February, we put together almost 80 partial care packages that will be sent by Heart to Heart International to earthquake victims in Haiti (and elsewhere). 50 of the care packages are complete already, but we need a few more items to complete the last few:

- 30 wide-toothed combs;
- 21 hand towels;
- and another box of 100 band aids (preferably the standard size rather than assorted size).
- In addition, some amount of 'postage' is still needed to cover the cost of sending the care packages; in total we will need \$80 (\$1 for each package), but we have some already. Our treasurer will soon update us on how much is left to cover.

Please, please contact Barbara in person or by e-mail at barbara@gaiacommunity.org if you have purchased something during the week, as we'd hate to have 'too much' of one thing and not enough of another. We believe it is entirely possible to assemble the remaining items needed before Spring Equinox!

- *Social Justice*

Want to Be a Ritualist?

The Excellence in Ritual Course for 2010 will begin on Thursday, March 25th. Students in the EiR class will learn community history, ritual philosophy, and in general, how successful Gaia ritual is made. This class will run for eight weeks of Thursday evenings, followed by an internship period during which students will work with ritual teams, and a Sunday service in July that will be designed and facilitated entirely by the class.

Successful completion of this class is a requirement for joining Ritual Teams, but you need not be an aspiring ritualist to take the class. The class fee is \$35 for Gaia members, \$50 for non-members, and is payable on the first day of class. For more information, talk to Kimberly at ritual or by email at eir@gaiacommunity.org.

- *Kimberly, for Ritual Teams*

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.

Trans Allies Talk Yields Several Followup Items

Our Trans Allies Discussion on February 16th was well-attended and had several positive effects and items for follow-up that you may be interested in.

1. The group wanted to meet again on a related topic; but this time they wanted to talk about the 'genderqueer' concept of identity. If you'd like to share your experience of being genderqueer, ask questions in a safe environment about what it means to be genderqueer, or just listen and take part in a discussion on how to be a ally, please join us. This month's meeting will not be at SMUUCH, but rather at Leo's house in midtown. However as he doesn't want to give out his address publicly, please contact him in person or at faisons@gmail.com for the address. You can also get the address from the Sunday announcements for the weeks preceding the event.
2. After discussion of how Gaia Community's Mission Covenant Statement may alienate people who are transgender, genderqueer, or intersex, and how the things that people believe tend to influence their actions, those members and interested parties at the Trans Allies Discussion Group propose the following change: **Update "honor the divine as both feminine and masculine" to "honor the divine in all forms, manifestations, genders, and traditions"**. The intention is to bring this to the March 13th Ritual for Business and see if the Committee of the Whole agrees with altering the wording. As far as we're aware, this will be the first time our Mission Covenant will have been altered since the community's formation, and there is no set process. We expect that the community may wish to sit with the potential change for a month and make the decision in April, but if you have an opinion on the matter, please attend either or both meetings, or contact Amanda, the Ombudsman, at vp@gaiacommunity.org.

- *Various Committees*

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Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia is on hiatus.

Ritual Teams Meeting (3/4, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Kit, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, at rtc@gaiacommunity.org or in person if you have questions or wish to provide feedback about how a Sunday service went. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest, let any ritualist know (they have blue ribbons on their nametags)!

Craft Circle (3/6, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house again this month, 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (3/9, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We will meet this month at Andrew's new apartment: 8334 W. 108th, Apt. E, Overland Park, KS. If you have questions about this committee, you can e-mail us at sj@gaiacommunity.org.

Storytelling Group (3/12, 7 PM, at Andrew's): The fledgling Storytelling Group will meet this month at Andrew's new apartment (see address above). For more information about the meeting, or if you're interested in what they'll be practicing and working on, get in touch with Andrew (in person or at andrew@gaiacommunity.org) or Amanda.

Ritual for Business (3/13, 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 (see page 5) should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

Genderqueer Allies Discussion (3/16, 7 PM, at Leo's): This will be an open discussion, in the same vein of the Trans Allies discussion last month, but addressing the idea of being 'genderqueer' instead. Bring your questions, ideas, or just a willing ear; get in touch with Leo d'Entremont for an address or directions, or check the Sunday announcements.

Games Night (3/19, 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.

New Member Class (3/21, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The next iteration of the New Member Class will be this Sunday before ritual; this session will be a Mock Ritual for Business, explaining our process. Prospective members must take all three parts of the class and sign a pledge card. If you have questions, please contact Jamie in person or at membership@gaiacommunity.org.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (3/21, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): 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) at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, now back at SMUUCH.

Friday Night Supper Club (3/26, 7PM) will be at Garozzo's Italian Restaurant, 9950 College Blvd (between Antioch and Switzer). If you are attending and wish to RSVP, please contact Amanda in person or at supperclub@gaiacommunity.org.

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Scrogum
president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-904-2459

Vice-President — Amanda Pence
vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-694-2585

Treasurer — John Boyce
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-419-9448

Secretary — Rosemary Harris
secretary@gaiacommunity.org

Members at Large —

Via Baker
viator753@hailmail.net
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Linda Boyce
lboyce@mindspring.com
or 816-419-9447
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 Greta Erhardt on the 1st, Debbie Montgomery on the 2nd, John Boyce on the 3rd, Scot Banes on the 4th, Cory Dozier on the 10th, Andrew on the 15th, Kitty on the 17th, Jovevani on the 21st, Rachel Gadd-Nelson on the 22nd, and Aubry Gabbard on the 31st. 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 acquiring a new chair; contact Leo if you're interested in what the committee will do next. If you have concerns or blessings you wish to share with the community, they can be sent to caring@gaiacommunity.org and will be passed on.

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

Voices of Gaia is on hiatus; Sacred Rhythms meets at 3:30 PM

Note: We are taking names for the 2010 Penny Auction now! See the forms on the Greeter's Table, or go to <http://gaiacommunity.org/pennyauction> for more information. We'll collect names until March 21st or 30 names, whichever comes first.

Sunday, March 7th Ritual — Looking for the Fnords

Ritualists: Kit, Devin, and Erin

Oh come, all ye afflicted; oh come, all ye comfortable! Join us as we search for those most terrible, wonderful, and elusive entities -- the fnords. Be prepared for subtle yet exceptionally deep work.

Fnord!

Sunday, March 14th Workshop — Loving the Skin You're In

Facilitators: Cheryl, Kelley, and the Women's Group

Notions, Lotions and Potions!

When you feel good about yourself and your body you naturally take good care of yourself. Remembering the affirmation you wrote at the Loving the Skin You're In ritual, or writing a new one today, we will talk about ways to pamper yourself that will help support you, loving you. You deserve a little pampering, even if you have doubts. Each participant will get to make an intuitive lotion or oil to take home.

Currently Active Ritualists

Amanda Pence	Aubry Gabbard
Barbara	Cheryl Stice
David Reynolds	Devin S.
Eric Simpson	Erin Scrogum
Jamie Peters	Jeff Park
Kelley Montford	Kit Peters
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce

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.

Sunday, March 21st High Holiday — A Celebration of Spring *(w/ potluck after)*

Ritualists: Devin, Eric, and Cheryl

What does it mean to you to have survived the long, cold, rough winter? How do you celebrate that survival? This is a time to feel good and be happy! And it is also the time for the dreams and hopes you planted at Imbolc to begin their new growth. Our sources confirmed that there will be a hunt for Ostara eggs, and kids will be welcome throughout the ritual; with KidSpace being available for children under five.

As always with our high holidays, there will be a potluck meal following the ritual. Please bring a food, drink, or dessert item sufficient to feed 8 hungry people, and remember to label your ingredients! For the Earth's sake, we also ask that you not bring disposable dishes if at all possible.

Sunday, March 28th Workshop — Pysanky

Facilitators: Amanda and Barbara

Come join us for a hands-on workshop on the Ukrainian art of egg decorating known as Pysanky. We will discuss the history of the art, as well as how these beautiful gifts are created. Then, you can try! This workshop is appropriate for kids third grade and above, or younger with adult help - please remember there will be egg dye!

- *Ritual Teams*

A Look Ahead...

April 4th - Sharing Our Spirits: Easter

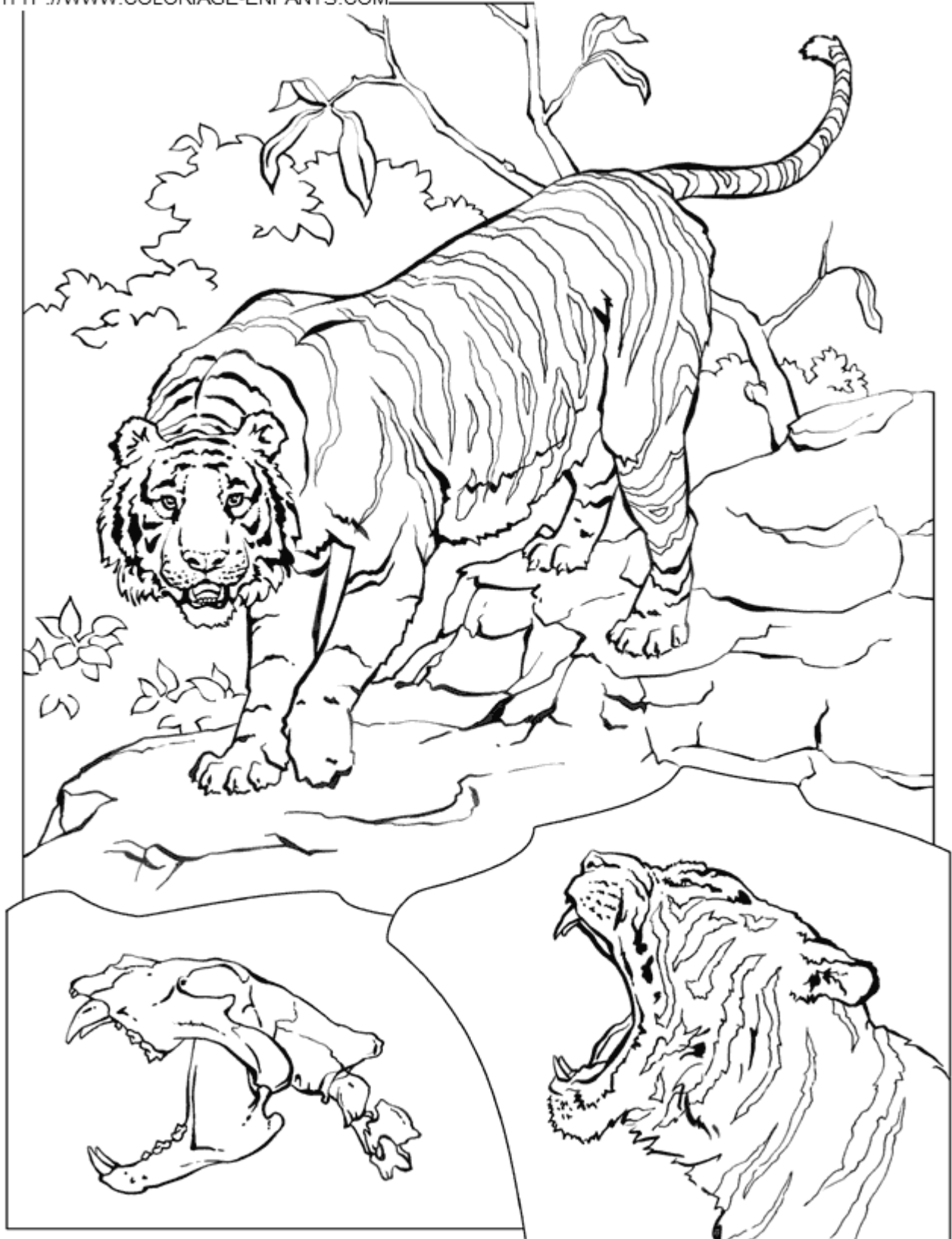
April 11th - Ritual: Pledge Sunday
(New Member Sunday)

April 18th - Ritual: Hebraic Goddesses

April 25th - Class: Hiking and Wilderness Survival

2010 is the 'Year of the Tiger' in the Chinese Zodiac; so here's a coloring page for you with different tigers on it. Check back next month for more information on KidSpace!

[HTTP://WWW.COLORIAGE-ENFANTS.COM](http://www.coloriage-enfants.com)



Ritual for Business Minutes for February 13th, 2009

*In attendance: Rosemary, John, Kit, Jamie, Linda, Jack,
Gerri Lynn, Leo, Erin, Devin, Amanda*

Started at 9:45 AM

I. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved.

II. **Roles** – Jamie for Non Sequitur, Linda for Red Tape, Leo for Vibes Watcher.

III. **Minutes** – Approved with corrections.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** – As of current month, we stand at just under \$11,000 in general fund, just over \$2,000 in Kidspace fund. Don't have end of year report put together, but has spreadsheet and must extract numbers. Should have that next month w/clear idea of where everyone stood as of December & a First Quarter "You Are Here" standings report. New Home Fund is at \$24,071.97; is still in savings because has not been rolled back into CD. Right now there is a miniscule difference between the two. We need addresses for any organizations with which we split the basket so that John knows where to send the split checks. John got out Contribution and Gift in Kind letters to everybody. On time. Rejoice and offer him accolades, for this was not an easy thing. IRS has told us verbally that we owe them nothing; we have yet to get this in writing. John also sent out ANYBODY who worked for Kidspace letters of 'Thank you for your time, you are responsible for figuring out your taxes'. This will hopefully prevent any other problems with the IRS. Jamie suggested that such a thing go into the Finance Committee's P&Ps.

V. **Committee Reports**

A. **KidSpace** – Kids are in African chapter right now and loving it. Meeting this month will include a new committee head, as the current head is needing time to plan a wedding.

B. **Social Justice** – Have some stuff planned: Blue River Cleanup on March 27th, EarthWalk on April 11th, looking into table and KidSpace planty things. Book Thing is being shelved at the moment.

C. **Communications** – EH went out on the 7th. Things proceed as normal.

D. **Membership** – 4 people attended New Member class in January. Next NM class is the 21st. Hoping to have 3 or 4 new members for April NM Sunday. Jamie might need pledge cards, will let John know. Greeters Table is staffed; hiccup in Jan due to snowboundness. Jamie is looking for someone to take the job of updating GT schedule and poking people. Devin will take it. Hooray!

1. **Library** – It exists, use it! Was used in ritual lately, yays!

E. **Site** – They met, they have a new co-chair, and are planning all kinds of things: survey of community to find out what people think we need, Three Year Plan. So it's back up and there will be noise through various pipelines.

F. **Welcoming** – Still welcoming people.

G. **Ritual Teams** – Met last week & talked about the fact that nobody has been showing up for Sacred Rhythms and discussed stopping the advertising for it. Jeff had a proposal, it will go under New Business. Emphasized at RT meetings that setup SHOULD always be done by 3:30. If you need help, ask. Ostara (fall equinox) will be Full Intergenerational.

H. **Caring** – Stuff is not done. Caring needs the caring right now, as Leo has Teh Ouchies. Can, though, use space for storing collected goods, etc.

I. **Nominating Committee** – NomCom is pleased w/committees who take care of their own chair changes. (NomCom also likes to talk in the third person.) Does NomCom need to find someone to fulfill a role for a two-month term? May have a volunteer, will consult with rest of the committee. Will have in announcements who's running for what.

J. **Stewardship** – They shall have a meeting sometime. Kit has called Old Mission Lodge once (never called back). Has called El Torreon many times, with increasing ire, and there shall be a Letter of Doom out soon. Pledge Drive is April 11.

VI. **Old Business** – None this week!

VII. **New Business** –

A. **Drum Proposal** – Most of the time when we get enough people to drum, the ritual team is still setting up or doing a run-through or there is sacred space established that is best left untouched. We will propose that the drum circle be more of a 30-min meditation type of thing on days that there is a forum, class, or workshop. That way there would be about two drum circles a month so that it is more of an exclusive activity and can add spiritual elements on days when that is not necessarily built into the program. Jeff was also thinking that one of the drum circles would be free-form and the other one would be more shamanic in nature, with either live drumming or canned for the sole purpose of journeying. We would like to adopt this as our proposal, IF and ONLY if Jeff or another individual is willing to act as facilitator and organizer. Consensed!

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the March 13th Ritual for Business:

- End-of-Year Report from Finance
- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)
- Mission Covenant Statement revision (see page 1)



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 or by
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if you prefer to receive the
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– *David, Editor*

MARCH 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
○ 28 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: <u>Ritual: Loving the Skin You're In</u>	1	2	3	4 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	5	6 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
● 7 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: <u>Ritual: Looking for the Fnords</u>	8	9 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting at Andrew's	10	11	12 7-9 PM: Storytelling Group @ Andrew's	13 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
14 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: <u>Workshop: Loving the Skin You're In</u>	● 15	16 7-9 PM: Genderqueer Allies Discussion @ Leo's house	17	18	19 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	20
21 2-3:30 PM: New Member Class @ SMUUCH 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: <u>High Holiday: A Celebration of Spring</u>	22	● 23	24	25	26 7-9 PM: FNCS @ Garozzo's Italian Restaurant, 9950 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS	27
28 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: <u>Workshop: Pysanky</u>	○ 29	30	31	1 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	2	3 1-5PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's