



Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community

May 2006

Systemic Constellation Workshop Comes to Gaia Community!

Every one of us is both unique and the same. We are unique in our genetic make-up and experiences of life, and the same in our humanness and desire for love. We are each wise about what is important to us, but sometimes this wisdom gets buried under layers of fear and doubt, and is lost to our everyday consciousness.

When we are out of contact with our own source of wisdom, we become entangled in the unconscious dynamics of our past, of our environment, or of our beliefs. Such entanglements can affect our personal and professional lives, resulting in psychological and physical illness and imbalance. When this happens, we experience pain and suffering in our lives, and we search for answers.

Whether your concern is with illness, a personal relationship, your family of origin, or an organizational setting - by being able to see these entanglements, emotional and physical suffering may be gently and compassionately transformed. By acknowledging and accepting what is, we become free to seek a new solution and re-establish the flow of love, transforming our lives so we can live to our fullest potential.

Systemic Constellation Work (SCW) is an experiential process involving the use of facilitation and gentle movements of the soul in a safe setting to bring to light and resolve entanglements that keep the flow of love from moving through the generations to reach us in the present.

I invite all of you to join us for this exciting and transformative event. Because of the profound nature of the work being performed, we are asking that all participants register in advance and plan to be present throughout the entire workshop so as not to disrupt the flow of the work. If you would like to attend, please email Kimberly as soon as possible. Workshop fees are \$35 for Gaia Community members, and \$50 for non-members. Childcare will be available upon request for an additional fee. There will be a break for lunch during the day.

Budget Planning

The first of May means Beltane celebrations, but at Gaia, it also means a more mundane sort of magic: the drafting of the annual budget. Each year, the finance committee presents the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year at the May Ritual for Business. If you've ever wanted to know where your pledge money goes, you can find out, and have input into the process, by joining us at the RfB.

For background information, Gaia's usual annual operating budget is between \$25,000 and \$28,000. This money comes primarily from the pledges and contributions of members and friends, and to a lesser degree from fundraising sources targeted outside the community, such as the Winter Bazaar, gift-wrapping and other volunteer events, and our garage sale. The money pays for rental expenses for our ritual space, wages for our KidSpace director and other child care

staff, our membership dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Prairie Star District, our phone line and website, printing and mailing expenses for the Earth Healer, and other assorted minor program, administrative and fundraising costs. Any remaining income after these things are paid for goes into our New Home Fund to keep alive our dream of one day owning our own space.

If you have been in the front hall at SMUUCH recently, and seen their target pledge numbers, you will know that our budget is very, very tiny for a UU congregation. Yet on that shoestring budget, Gaia provides more services than many much larger congregations, and generally maintains its status as a Fair Share Congregation (which means that we pay our UUA dues on time, and this doesn't happen as regularly in a lot of congregations who have a lot more money than we do!).

So, over the next few weeks, John, Devin and I will be collecting pledge cards, analyzing expenses, speculating about fundraisers, scheming to reduce expenses, and generally tearing our hair out to make our very small budget do as much as possible for the members and friends of Gaia Community. We recognize that all of us do a lot to keep our little community running strong, and I want to thank you all for what you do, especially those who have pledged their support to Gaia for another year!

-Kimberly

Broadway Church

Recently, one of our members discovered that Broadway Church in Westport (next to Aquarius) was looking for another like-minded congregation to share space with. Formerly a member of the Baptist Convention, Broadway recently broke ties with them by selecting a female pastor and becoming gay and lesbian welcoming. Some members of the Board and Site Committee have already toured their facility, attended their services and interacted with their congregation (all of which went very well). After some investigation and discussion, we realized that their spiritual interests are very similar to ours (they study energy work, herbal remedies, have their own drumming group, etc.) and that those common points might lead to a great cross-congregation relationship. Their congregation has already decided that they would like to share their space with us. They have agreed to open the church for all of Gaia Community to take a brief tour this coming Saturday, May 6th at 12 pm.

Since this is potentially a new home for the community, I would ask that all current and soon-to-be members plan to attend. I will be bringing a video camera and recording all of the rental spaces for those who are unable to be there. There is also a tentative second to walk-thru date of Wednesday, May 10th in the evening. Please let me know if you prefer to take the tour on that day.

For additional information and investigation:
<http://www.broadwaychurch-kc.org/index.php>

We will be discussing Broadway Church at the upcoming RfB on May 13th and holding a Special Ritual for Business on May 21st to decide if we would like to share space with them. Please join us!

All Sunday activities take place at Shawnee Mission UU Church;

7725 W. 87th St., Overland Park, KS (near 87th and Metcalf) and begin at 4PM unless otherwise noted.

Sunday Schedule

Sacred Rythms at 3:30PM

Sunday, May 7

Ritual- "Ritual In Rythm"

dum dum tek atek dum tek atek; teka dum dum teka tek dum teka tek. There! Without really trying, you just read or spoke a very popular drum circle rhythm. For our Ritual in Rhythm, bring your drums, shakers, buckets and sticks; your hands, your feet and your own heartbeat. Help create a joyful noise with an all-out communal sacred experience. Joining in is very easy -- just tap your foot and the rest will follow, we promise. If you don't have any instruments or noisemakers, just come anyway -- we'll have plenty to share!

Sunday, May 14:

Ritual- "Gaia: The Musical"

It's the off-off ... way-far-off Broadway premiere! It's the story of Her life (and ours) in song and dance and dialogue. With a cast of thousands (or how ever many of you show up at ritual) and leading performances by Voices of Gaia with Barbara, Kimberly, Linda, and other guest artists, you don't want to miss this once in a lifetime presentation!

Sunday, May 21:

Special RFB - Broadway Church

Special Ritual for Business to talk about the possible move to Broadway Church at 3931 Washington St in KCMO. Anyone is welcome, member or not, but if you get a chance to visit for the official "walk-through" on May 6th at noon, or view the video/talk to someone who did, that will help!

Sunday, May 28:

Sharing Our Spirits-Memorial Day Memories

At a Sharing Our Spirits ritual those present create the ritual based upon the needs and interests of the group, often focused around a theme. For many, Memorial Day has become a day to remember any family and friends who have died, not just those members of the armed services who died in war. Memorial comes from the Latin word for memory. As a starting point for this ritual, we suggest we focus on memory and share memories of our lives or loved ones that have had a particular impact upon us.

Ritualists:

Kitty Degler	Kimberly
Barbara Griggs	Liz Ticer
Devin Scrogum	Via
Andrew Turner	David Reynolds
Nicole Turner	Debbie Giffin
Brian Butler	Jeff Park
Linda Boyce	Eric Simpson
Cynthia Mathis	Yale Giffin

Board Members:

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Yale Giffin

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An Apology...

All of you got last month's issue... let's just say I hope you got last month's before you read this. This is due to much tribulation with handing over the reins to me as the new editor. Last month I was flying somewhat blind. Somewhere in this process we lost track of the current mailing list, which is why some of you who are used to getting it did not get the Earth Healer at all. For all of this mix up, I apologize and ask that you bear with me through the adjustment period till I figure this thing out. If you are one of the people that did not get last month's Earth Healer, or know someone who didn't and would like a copy, or have any other mailing list questions; please contact me. -Jared Presler
earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org.

Splinters from the Board

March minutes were submitted by Debbie and accepted with the correction of 3 typos. **Treasurer's report:** A budget update was handed out by John. We do not have enough money coming in to make our Fair Share contributions to the UUA or the Prairie Star District for the first time ever. There was a motion to prioritize our expenses to pay our rent and employees first, even though that means we will not have the honor of being a Fair Share congregation. The motion was seconded and carried by consensus. **Elections: General Assembly Delegates:** The GA assembly delegates were inadvertently left off of the ballot this year. There was considerable discussion of who was going, and whether those that were going would be willing to be delegates. A motion was made that we elect 2 delegates, along with an alternate. The motion was carried by consensus. The three persons nominated for these positions were Barbara Griggs and Linda Boyce; with Jeff Park nominated as an alternate. **3rd Member-at-large position:** The nominating committee misunderstood that Carey's member-at-large term was concluding this year. Therefore they did not have a candidate nominated for this position. Carey is willing to be nominated for this position again. She was asked where she stood in terms of years of consecutive service, since our by-laws only allow someone to serve for 4 consecutive years on the Board. She had taken a hiatus before her current term, so she will be able to finish this term.

Committee on Ministry: There was a question as to whether the Committee on Ministry was an elected position. A passage of the minutes from September were read where the Board originally discussed this. This passage showed that the Committee on Ministry was simply a committee to oversee the Rites of Passage team. Therefore these positions are not elected. A motion was made to remove the Committee on Ministry from the ballot. It was seconded and carried by consensus. **Nominations for the Nominating Committee:** The current nominating committee was unable to procure candidates for the ballot for the next nominating committee. There was one write-in candidate from the absentee ballots. Nominations were taken from the floor for the remaining positions. Andrew Turner and David Reynolds were nominated. The nominations were seconded, and they accepted the nominations. Nominations from the floor for all positions: Nominations were opened to the floor for all open positions. There were no nominations from the floor. Voting: Ballots were collected and counted. The winning candidates were:

Executive board:

President – Jeff Park, Vice-president – Liz Ticer, Secretary – Jennifer Gadd, Treasurer – John Carroll

Members at large (all beginning 2 year terms)

Carey Reynolds, Yale Giffin, Devin Scrogum

Nominating Committee

Andrew Turner, David Reynolds, Greta Erhardt

GA delegates

Barbara Griggs, Linda Boyce, Jeff Park - alternate

Ritual Teams: Carey Reynolds has been voted back onto ritual teams after her hiatus. The schedule for the next 6 months is set. **Vice-president:** No problems have been brought to her as ombudsman. **Communications:** Jared has taken over the Earth Healer. The learning curve is underway. The website has been updated through mid-May. Please let David know if you see anything that is incorrect. **Nominating Committee:** They report that they have selected David Nelson and John Boyce to be on the Committee on Ministry. They are seeking an additional committee member who was previously a ritual teams member, but who is not currently on the Board or Ritual Teams. **Adult Ed:** The Burlesque class may be going away due to lack of attendance. The teacher requires a minimum of 5 people to hold the class, and we have been having a hard time getting 5 people to confirm that they will be there. A decision will be made after this month's class. Several of the other programs are going well, especially the Kitchen Witch series. The Constellation class, an adult ed special event is scheduled for June 17th at SMUUCH, 8 am – 5 pm. This class will be presented by Dr. Kathy Schiern. The fees are \$50 for non-members, \$35 for members. The class will be cross-promoted in other venues to get sufficient enrollment. See Kimberly for more information. **Old Business:** Phone/Bank: John reports that the check card is working. He has also gotten the phone up and running. David will take over setting the messages each week. **Kids' Code of Conduct:** The kids' code of conduct is in place. There haven't been any significant issues so far.

New Business: Garage Sale: Debbie reports that they do not have a date set from their HOA for the garage sale. As soon as this is determined, the date will be published. It was suggested that an announcement about the upcoming sale be made so that people can be getting their items together to donate. **People showing up early for services:** There was an issue that people who showed up at 2 pm ended up at the Voices of Gaia rehearsals, possibly unintentionally. There was a long discussion of how to handle visitors that show up at 2 pm. Since the ritualists for that day are busy setting up, it was suggested that a large white board be used. This will show our schedule of events for the day. Those present were also encouraged to offer choir practice to those that were interested, or to suggest that visitors return at 3:30 pm when our public events begin. **Heartland Shares** Kris Ennis reported on the Heartland Shares program. This is a program that encourages community participation. Community service allows people to purchase groceries at a significantly discounted rate. Participation in events such as Ritual for Business counts for this program. More information is available at www.heartlandshares.com.

Gaia Events & Activities

Ritual Teams Meeting

Wednesday, May 3 at 6:45 P.M.

Contact Liz T. for more information!

Voices of Gaia

Sundays at 2-3:30 P.M. AT SMUUCH-Franklin Room

Go figure...a Pagan Choir...we do alot more than chants. New singers are always welcome. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, songbird@skunkmountain.com or 913-469-8779.

Tuesday Night Adult Education

Tuesdays at 7 P.M. AT SMUUCH

5/2/2006 - Pagan Parenting Group

5/9/2006 - Kitchen Witch

5/16/2006 - Computer Workshop

5/23/2006 - Mythology Story Hour

5/30/2006 - No Class, Heartland Pagan Festival

Donut Fundraiser!

Gaia Community is participating in a fundraiser with Krispy Kreme donuts. Order forms can be printed from www.krispykreme/certsellsheet.pdf. Please contact Suzie for order forms and information on when and where to take the order forms and any further details.

Games Night

Friday, May 19, 7-10 P.M. at SMUUCH

Games Night is a chance for Gaians to get together for fun and NO BUSINESS allowed! Bring a game, bring a friend, or just bring yourself and a willingness to play and visit.

Friday Night Supper Club

Friday, May 26, 7:00 P.M.

Friday Night Supper Club - Kick back and stuff yourself silly! This Month FNCS will be at Minsky's Pizza at 6921 Tomahawk Rd. Prarie Village KS. Hungry? Contact Carey, David, or Kimberly to save a spot.

Contact Earth Healer

Send letters, articles, poetry or prose, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to: earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org or by phone (number inside) no later than the 17th of each month. Please tell us if you are receiving duplicate copies of *Earth Healer*, if we're getting your name/address wrong or if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email. Let us hear from you before the next *Earth Healer*.



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Address Correction Requested