



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

Election Postponed to May

Gaia Community's annual elections usually take place in April; however the Committee of the Whole present at that meeting decided to delay the election a month. Instead, ballots will be taken up will take place at this month's Ritual for Business, which starts at 9:30AM on May 10th. The Nominating Committee has presented a slate of candidates for the voting consideration of all full active members (you must have paid at least your minimum pledge). An absentee ballot is available as well: <http://gaiacommunity.org/2008ballot.pdf> - it should be returned to one of the committee members (Jeff Park, Amanda Pence, or John Carroll) as soon as possible. Please note that any absentee ballots filled out for the April version of this election were destroyed unread by the Committee of the Whole there present.

The slate of nominees is as follows:

Board Officers: (1-year terms)

- Liz Ticer — President (*2nd term*)
- Linda Boyce — Vice President
- David Reynolds — Secretary
- Nola Ross — Treasurer (*2nd term*)

Trustees-at-Large (2-year terms), 3 slots available

- Greta Erhardt (*currently serving a partial term due to board vacancies*)
- Via Baker (*currently serving a partial term due to board vacancies*)
- Erin Truitt
- Eric Simpson

General Assembly delegates, 2 slots available

- Liz Ticer
- Jeff Park

Nominating Committee, 3 slots available

- Devin Scrogum
- Kitty Degler
- Jacki Kelly

Statements from many of these candidates can be found on page 5. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during RfB (the nominee must be present or able to accept somehow, of course).

- Nominating Committee

UUA News: Election Rules

In order to provide congregations with the best guidance possible, the UUA has released an updated edition of The Real Rules: Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections. The new version provides clear, up-to-date information on what congregations can and cannot do, drawing heavily on a binding decision issued by the IRS in June 2007. Most of the text comes straight from IRS publications, with sources clearly footnoted.

The version date on page 2 should be 2008-03-28. Please discard previous editions and use the new one! You can access The Real Rules and other key social justice resources at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/resources>

- John Blevins,

Trustee for the Prairie Star District

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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 (5/7, 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. 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 (5/10, 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.

Men's Covenant Group (5/10, at Camp Gaea): The "Twigs-n-Berries" group is planning a campout at Camp Gaea for the 10th & 11th (after Ritual for Business, of course). For more details, please contact Jeff or Brian, or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twigsberries>

Social Justice Committee Meeting (5/13, 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 upcoming social justice project regarding ecologically-sound food-growing practices.

Games Night (5/16, 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.

Religions of Kansas City Study Group (5/20, 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!

Friday Night Supper Club (5/23, 7 PM): May'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 fnsc@gaiacommunity.org if you have a suggestion!

Board of Trustees 07-08

President — Lizzy Ticer

president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-636-4924

Vice-President — Terry Ross

vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-503-8156

Treasurer — Nola Cavanaugh

treasurer@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-503-8156

Secretary — Jennifer Gadd

secretary@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-299-4587

Members at Large —

Via Baker

viator753@hailmail.net

or 913-548-9463

Yale Giffin

niveustigris@hotmail.com

or 816-797-8032

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 Drummel on the 13th, Victor on the 15th, Carol on the 18th, and of course Gaia Community itself had its Charter Sunday on May 2nd, 1999! 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, or experiencing difficulties in health or well-being, including John C. who is back in the hospital again fighting off infection.

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 816-951-9900, or by contacting Terry Ross or 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, May 4th

Ritual — Scaling the Peak

(Elements of Ecstasy series)

Ritualists: David, Eric, and Jeff

Beltane is one of the eight Sabbats of the year, the points at which the Wheel of the Year turns. But it's not just a waypoint on the path to "collect 'em all"; there's more to the journey than just the destination. This will be an outdoor and intergenerational (Shoots and above) ritual, so parents should be prepared to keep an eye on their own children. If the weather is poor, we will move the Maypole inside. Time permitting, there will be a second dance of the maypole "just for fun", so feel free to bring ribbons of at least 25' in length for that adventure if you wish. The ritual team of the day will be supplying specific ribbons for the main event.

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, May 11th

Class — Alternate Families

(Mother's Day, Welcoming Congregation series)

Facilitators: David and Amanda

Continuing the work of our Welcoming Congregation series, this class will cover some of the unusual and innovative ways in which people define the modern "family". Even (or especially) if you are familiar with or part of a non-traditional family, come with your questions, concerns, or ideas. No question is stupid, but the unasked one cannot be answered.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

June 1st - Ritual: Pet Blessing

June 8th - Class: HIV/AIDS

(Welcoming Congregations series)

June 15th - Class: Working with the Father Archetype (Father's Day)

June 22nd - Ritual: Souls Aflame (New Member Sunday, Elements of Ecstasy series)

June 29th - Class: Introduction to KBLH

Sunday, May 18th

Ritual — Blowing Your Mind

(Elements of Ecstasy series)

Ritualists: Barbara, Eric, and Jacki

What blows your mind? Is that a good thing or a bad thing when it happens? Come and find out more in this ritual, third in our series tying together the Four Elements and ecstatic thought, word, and deed.

Sunday, May 25th

Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits

(Memorial Day)

Facilitators: Barbara and Kitty

Sharing Our Spirits (SOS) rituals are specifically designed, created, and executed by the people in attendance that day. While one or two trained ritualists will help facilitate the process, the bulk of the ideas, activities, and ritual materials will come from those who show up. Have an idea you've been kicking around? Bring it along!

- *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 Debbie Dozier, the 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..

News from KidSpace

The **Trees** (Teens/Pre-Teens) class has an updated schedule, for those interested in these sessions:

- May 4th: **Beltane** – upstairs with the main ritual.
- May 11th: **Open Discussion** – There is no set format for this class.
- May 18th: **Introspection I** – In this class we will discuss and work on grounding, centering, and meditation.
- May 25th: **Introspection II** – Trees will continue to discuss and work on grounding, centering, and meditation. By necessity, this chapter of our lessons will be brief; however, we will touch upon these topics again.
- June 1st: **Open Discussion** – There is no set format for this class.
- June 8th: **Judaism I (Creation)** – In order to understand the view any culture has towards the universe and their place in it, one must know how they view its origins. To this end, we will be covering the creation tale of the Jewish people.
- June 15th: **Judaism II (Flesh & Bones)** – Our chapter on Judaism continues with a look at some of the key stories, history, and lore within Judaism.

Please see Coyote, the “Ent” in charge of this class, if you have any questions regarding these topics, or ideas for the future; coyote@gaiacommunity.org or 913-789-9065. He is also keeping an archive of class activities at <http://gaia-uu-trees.livejournal.com/>.

KidSpace continues to request Sexy Cookie Gods & Goddesses to help with the Sunday Cookie fundraiser. All proceeds from this mini-bakesale go to help our KidSpace program; the weeks of May 11th, 18th, and 25th were still available as of this writing. Contact Linda at 913-385-7743 or linda@gaiacommunity.org for more information, or see the yellow posterboard at Sunday rituals.

- KidSpace Committee

Inter-Congregational Work

All Souls UU Church, which gave Gaia Community our start and provided us with much support and assistance through our early years, is asking for a few volunteers from Gaia to help out with an upcoming ordination.

Mitra Rahmena is the latest intern to be ordained at All Souls. Members of Interweave, the GLBT alliance at All Souls, are providing the reception afterwards, as these issues have been of particular importance to Mitra during her time here. However, they would very much like to be able to attend the actual service. If a few volunteers would be willing to come in and serve as "catering staff" from 2 pm to 5 pm on May 10th, assisting with setup, circulating to refill platters and pitchers, and perhaps a little of the cleanup, it would be hugely appreciated. Members of Interweave have come to Gaia at different times, including several for the Queer Gods ritual.

Please contact me in person or through e-mail at barbara@gaiacommunity.org if you are able to help out! I know that is already a busy day for many people.

*Blessings,
Barbara*

Prairie Star District Conference Report

Briefly and unofficially, here's what our attendees accomplished at the 2008 Prairie Star District Conference:

- ✓ Ran a successful workshop on presenting public ritual for approximately 40 people, including demonstrating ritual style and working through much of the process we follow at Gaia in creating good public ritual, all in an hour!
- ✓ Attended many other workshop sessions, which will result in information coming to a Ritual for Business or committee meeting near you soon!
- ✓ Assisted the Teens in attendance with creating and putting on their evening service for more than 100 people.
- ✓ Delegates attended the Annual Meeting.

- David, Barbara, Kitty, & Kimberly

Candidate Statements

Here are statements from some of the candidates for the election mentioned on page 1, so you can get to know them a bit better, if you don't already.

For those of you who don't know, my name is Lizzy Ticer. I am the current President of Gaia Community.

I struggled about putting my name in the ring again. I have been president for this past year; the VP the year before. I have previously been a member at large and am about to step back for a bit from Ritual Teams after four years.

One of the main reasons I decided to run this year is that I wanted some continuity with the Board. We have some significant turnover this year and I did not want the Community to have too little experience on the Board.

I look for 08-09 to be a year of change. I hope to foster change for the better, not necessarily change for the sake of change.

Thank you all for your support in helping keep Gaia going and growing.

Peace.

Lizzy Ticer

My name is Lizzy Ticer and I approve this message.

Hello, my name is Linda Boyce.

I have been a member of Gaia Community since about 2001, when the Community was still at All Souls. I am currently a Ritualist and the Acting Kidspace Coordinator. I am excited to be asked to serve Gaia in an official capacity.

As Vice President, I believe I can do a good job as community ombudsman and have the organizational skills to lead the necessary meetings.

I welcome any questions regarding myself or the position, either through the e-group or at lboyce@mindspring.com.

I can be reached by phone at 913-385-7743.

Thank you,

Linda Lee Boyce

I'm running for Secretary for the coming year at Gaia Community; some of you may remember I was the Treasurer some years ago, so I have some experience with board proceedings. I'm also currently the Communications

Chairperson, Webmaster, and E-list Moderator, so it adds very few 'actual duties' to my workload, something I can appreciate.

Two of my primary goals, if elected to the board, are to get our Policies and Procedures, i.e. the "How We Get Things Done at Gaia" manual mentioned in our bylaws (Article XIV, <http://gaiacommunity.org/bylaws.html#14b>) actually re-written, and on a related note work on some of our institutional inefficiencies. Some things take much too long, partly because we lose knowledge every time someone drops an assignment or committee chairship.

I believe I can commit to being the Board Secretary for several years, having had a break from the board for a while.

David

Hello, all. I am running for Trustee-at-Large. As an active member in Gaia Community, I am always looking for ways to serve the members of our growing community. A duty of Trustees-at-Large is to "keep abreast of the business and programs of the Community" which is something I do without currently being a member of the Board. I frequently attend Rituals for Business, so I am confident I can fulfill my duties as a Trustee-At-Large.

-- Erin Truitt

Hi, all.

I've been a member of Gaia Community for about four years. I've also been a ritualist since the summer of 2004. Those of you who joined within the last year probably don't know me as well, because I was out of the country studying for the 2006-7 school year, but I maintained my membership in Gaia and my connection with the community through the wonder of the internet while I was away.

I am currently serving as a member of the board, fulfilling the last few months of the term of an at-large board member who needed to step down. I am also the co-chair of the stewardship committee, and have been particularly involved in the volunteer and logistics aspects of the Winter (and now Spring) Bazaar. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving GC as a member-at-large elected in my own right.

My name is Via, and I endorse this message (*well, of course I do -- I wrote it.*)

Hello, I'm Kitty Degler and I'm running for a spot on the Nominating Committee. Why am I running? To put it succinctly, Jeff Park asked me, and I thought I could find time to do a reasonable job. It has been a few years since I've served Gaia Community in an official capacity outside of being a ritualist, teaching the teens occasionally and leading Voices of Gaia. The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding people to fill or run for open spots on the Board of Directors, including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as next year's Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may also be asked to find people to serve as committee chairpersons. If elected I will work with the other members of the committee to choose wisely those people who wish to serve the community.

Kitty Degler

This is from Greta Erhardt/formerly Rowland:

I have been serving as a member at large having filled the position previously left open from Devin (I think). I am honored that you have already allowed me this position, and am willing to continue to serve in this capacity.

I have been attending Gaia Community since the third time it met, however only joined as a "Member" a few years ago. I have a difficult time with being a joiner, but have always been committed to Gaia Community, and most importantly with having a safe, nurturing place for people of all ages to grow spiritually.

I am frequently not upstairs, as I am active with the Kidspace Committee and often am downstairs instead.

My world has turned rather topsy turvy lately, so I have not been as active as I had hoped, but will once again offer to serve as much as my work schedule will allow to focus on inclusion issues, spiritual welcoming to those of all levels, and in general, to keep the "community" part of our name uppermost. . . .so to speak.

If there are any questions or complaints, please feel free to respond, my personal email address being greta@onebox.com



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 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*

MAY 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Movie/Forum: An Inconvenient Truth	☾ 28	29	30	1 <i>Beltaine</i>	2	☉ 3
4 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: SABBAT: "Scaling the Peak" (Beltane) , part of the Elements of Ecstasy series)	5	6	7	8	9	☉ 10 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH Overnight: Twigs-n-Berries Campout @ Camp Gaea
11 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class: Alternative Families	12	13 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	14	15	16 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	17
☉ 18 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Blowing Your Mind (Elements of Ecstasy)	19	20 7 PM: Religions of Kansas City Study Group @ SMUUCH	21	22	23 7 PM: Supper Club @ TBD	24
25 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (Memorial Day)	26	27	28	29	30	31