



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

MAY 2009

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Gaia's Garage Sale is Soon!

Got stuff you don't need? Need stuff you don't have? On June 5th and 6th, Gaia Community will have our annual garage sale, a great way to help out your household, other people's households, and the community all at the same time. The sale will be held at David, Kimberly, and Via's house, 1306 E 118th Street, Kansas City, MO 64131. If you have stuff that you would like to donate, contact one of the folks listed above. If you have stuff that you would like to donate, but that is large enough that you will need a truck to get it from your place to ours, talk to Lizzy or Daniel, who have graciously volunteered to help with the transportation of stuff.

We will also need people to help with the sale on both Friday and Saturday. We'll need help moving things out of the garage and onto the lawn in the mornings, to sit watch over the sale (which mostly involves sitting on the porch with a cool beverage and being friendly to shoppers), and also to help put things back away in the evenings. If you'd like to help, contact Kimberly at 816-914-3227 or featherynscale@gmail.com, or just show up.

Finally, of course, we'll need shoppers. So, come on by on the days of the sale and browse, and bring a friend or two! We also welcome any word-of-mouth or free advertising you can do on our behalf, to help make this a successful fundraiser for the community.

- Stewardship Committee

God Auction 2009

Nominees for the 2009 God Auction, to be held on July 12th, have been chosen! Over \$450 were raised in small coins (and each one was counted) over the course of seven weeks, and in the final standing on May 3rd, Eris, Hermes, Isis, and Thoth were chosen to be the 'final four'.

Next month you'll see more details and the candidates and how the God Auction works, if you haven't been to one before.

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.

EarthFest and Earth Walk

If you're available on May 9th, please consider helping Gaia Community and Heartland Spiritual Alliance at their table at the EarthFest, held this year at Theis Park, by the Nelson-Atkins Museum in midtown KCMO. The two groups have gone in together on a table, and we will be holding our customary "paint a planter and plant a seed" project, which utilizes paper egg cartons. If you have any of these cartons for their use, or want more details, please get in touch with Jacki at opaljax@gmail.com or in person!

Visitors, even if they're not interested in helping table the event, are of course welcome as well. The event will run from approximately 9AM to 4PM, with the EarthWalk starting before the 'festival' itself.

- KidSpace and Social Justice

Bylaws Changes Pass

As you'll see on page 5, those present at the April Ritual for Business voted to change our bylaws and decision-making process to allow for a 'supermajority' method of resolution when consensus is not possible to achieve. For more detail on that process, please contact Via, Devin, Erin, or Amanda, or check the website soon, as the final wording of the agreed-upon process was not available as of this writing.

- Social Justice Committee

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Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia (almost every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia is Gaia Community's choir. We sing pagan chants and songs, usually with harmony parts, for rituals and other events. We meet Sundays from 2-3:30 p.m. downstairs at SMUUCH. We are once again welcoming singers of all voice parts, though the majority of our core group is currently female. Our primary requirement is that you can match pitch, though some familiarity with reading music is useful. If you have questions, please contact Kitty Degler at voicesofgaia@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

Craft Circle (5/2, 1-5 PM, at Kimberly and David's house): Craft Circle will be at Kimberly and David's house in south KCMO this month: 1306 E. 118th Street if you have not been before. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome.

Ritual Teams Meeting (5/5, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Eric, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org if you have questions. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest let a ritualist (they have blue ribbons on their nametags) know!

Ritual for Business (5/9, 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 a board member, as shown to the right. This month we will see a draft of the 2009-2010 budget, to be decided on in June's meeting before it takes effect July 1st.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (5/12, 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 will be working on the ongoing environmental activism project.

Stewardship Committee: Stewardship does not have a scheduled meeting for May, but they are getting ready for the garage sale. Get in touch with Kimberly or Kit by email at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org or in person if you'd like to be a part of this committee.

Games Night (5/15, 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.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (5/17, 1 PM, at Dunn Brothers): 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) in person or at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

Friday Night Supper Club (5/22, 7 PM): May's supper club will be at the Rheinland Restaurant, a German restaurant at 208 North Main in Independence, MO. Please watch the announcements for who to RSVP to, as this may be changing after the May Ritual for Business; you may also RSVP on Meetup.com, Facebook, or by email to fnsc@gaiacommunity.org. The food is authentic German, so be aware that vegetarian items will be in relatively short supply this month.

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Truitt
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 — David Reynolds
secretary@gaiacommunity.org
 or 816-508-9086

Members at Large —
 Via Baker
viator753@hailmail.net
 or 913-548-9463

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 Drummel on the 13th, Victor on the 15th, Carol on the 18th, and Kim Bowie on the 30th. We bet there's more out there, so 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 now chaired by Jacki Kelley; please let her know of concerns or blessings you wish to share with the community, or if you have ideas for how to make this committee a more vibrant part of our community. Leave a message on our answering machine at 816-931-9900 or by e-mail at caring@gaiacommunity.org.



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

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

Sunday, May 3rd

Ritual — Valborgsmässoafton
(*May Day/Beltane*)

Ritualists: Erin, Jeff, Jacki, Linda

Every year, on April 30th, the Swedes celebrate the holiday Valborgsmässoafton. Our May Day celebration this year will be inspired by the modern practices performed for this celebration. The entire family is invited to learn some Swedish, dance the traditional pole, hear a not-so-traditional story, receive a blessing from the May Queen, and celebrate Spring in full glory before the hot months of summer. Dress appropriately for being outside, bring bug spray and sunscreen!

Sunday, May 10th

Ritual — Sing to the Lady
(*Mother's Day*)

Ritualists: Kitty, Kimberly, Kit, Lizzy

In recognition of Mother's Day we will have a ritual dedicated to honoring the feminine divine. The ritual will be one of song and meditation with much community singing in the style of kirtan and poems and stories honoring the many faces of the Goddess. Voices of Gaia will help support the singing. Participants will have the opportunity to build a shrine to the Lady, so bring your goddess images and other items that symbolize the divine feminine to you. There will also be an opportunity to make offerings at the shrine.

Sunday, May 17th

Class — Story Telling

Facilitators: Andrew and Eric

Story telling is the most ancient and honored way of passing on wisdom. So let's break it down and ruin it for you! Storytelling, The Art of.

Learn some basics of story telling with regards to plot, character and intention, from Andrew, a resident loudmouth. :)

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

June 7th — For um on PaganParenting

June 14th — Ritual: Manifesting Destiny (*Americana arc*)

June 21st — Ritual: The Wands (*Summer Solstice, Tarot arc*)

June 28th — Workshop: Mini Altars

Sunday, May 24th

Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits

Facilitators: Barbara and Linda

Join us for a Sharing Our Spirits ritual in which the participants create the ritual, on the spot, from the ground up! The theme, if you need one for ideas, can be centered around the Memorial Day holiday or anything decided upon by the group that day.

Sunday, May 31st

Ritual: Castle Yesod

Ritualists: Kimberly, Kitty, Kelley, David

In moving through the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, our first steps take us from Malkuth, the realm of Earth and physical things, to Yesod, the sphere of the Moon, the place of dreams, active imagination, and psychic experience. Yesod is called the Foundation, and these things can be the foundation of spiritual experience. In this ritual, we will work with the energies of Yesod to develop a strong foundation for our spiritual journeys.

— *Ritual Teams*

Currently Active Ritualists

Barbara	Cheryl Russell
David Reynolds	Devin S.
Eric Simpson	Erin Truitt
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kit Peters
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Paul Gorbas

Please see Kimberly, 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.

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Ritual for Business Minutes for April 11th, 2009

Started at 9:55 AM

In attendance: David, Kimberly, John, Devin, Erin, Lizzy, Kit, Barbara, Jamie, Kate, Mark, Judy, Rosemary, Cynthia, Aubry, Linda, Via, Kitty

- I. **Roles** - Lizzy will be facilitator, David the recordkeeper, Mark as Vibes Watcher, Kit as Advocate, Linda as Doorkeeper. Approved.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** – approved, with the inclusion of a break before elections/bylaws revisions
- III. **Minutes** – approved, with the addition of Lizzy to those in attendance.
- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Finance** – report submitted in writing.
John has spoken to a number of former members and expects that about \$8000 of promised pledges will not materialize. Overall we are under about \$16k on expectations, but we're also down on expenses this year so we should still break approximately even or a little to the positive side.
 - B. **Stewardship** – Via has stepped down as co-chair of Stewardship Committee; Kit has stepped up, in order to complete his set. Via is running the Pledge Drive still; tomorrow is Pledge Sunday and pledge cards should be in by then. Expectations right now are that there will be a shortfall for the "Dream Budget", but it's uncertain yet whether or not we will be short on Required Budget expectations, or whether or not we are in line with previous year's actual returns. The Garage Sale will be on the first Friday and Saturday of June. Lizzy has a truck, and David and Kimberly can accept some items. Mary has also stepped down from Stewardship and thus the Fall Bazaar will be run by a collaboration of other people, and may be later than September (perhaps nearer to the end of October).
 - C. **Site/Lease** – SMUUCH's liaison has stepped down already, so the idea of trying to get it done early is no longer valid. Someone from our community who used to work for/be a member of SMUUCH has volunteered to be our liaison going forward.
 - D. **Ritual Teams** – They identified titles for the last half of 2009. Kimberly stepped down as Coordinator, Kit and Devin are now co-RTCs. Amanda has re-applied to join teams. Also, the Penny Auction is ongoing until Beltane; Devin asked that anyone interested in helping out with being a scribe for a deity that is running ahead should contact him.
 - E. **KidSpace** – They are currently looking at whether or not to continue singing the kids out; parents and anyone with opinions on the matter should contact them. Lizzy donated her honorarium for speaking as a teacher to the New Home Fund. Student population has been holding pretty steady the last several months.
 - F. **Communications** – April's EH went out several days late because of last-minute changes and updates to the information to be published. Website is up to date as far as he knows; the last Sunday of April may not be published yet, but it's several weeks away. Meetup.com is up and running for advertising Gaia events; at least one person has come new (to Supper Club) and apparently didn't know that we were pagan; we're not sure why not, but she wasn't upset, just briefly confused. Several people have signed up and don't show up, but that's typical for the way Meetup.com works.
 - G. **Membership** – There are now a nice number of people rotating through being the Greeter's Table, about 10-11. That means nobody has to sit at the Greeter's Table every week, but more like every two weeks. They are also trying to start up a "Ritual Buddy" program and several people have volunteered but the duties of such a task is nebulous right now.
 1. **Library** – books are piled up in Jamie's house right now, as per last month's revelation of more books than she has space for. Linda may have some bookshelves for her; the real issue may be wall space on which to actually put the books.
 - H. **Caring** – chair was not in attendance; no report.

I. **Social Justice** – they are working on environmental projects this month. The Blue River Cleanup went well, they pulled up lots of trash and tires and such. In addition, on April 18th we will be starting a new cleanup at 65th & Paseo, near Greta's house.

J. **Welcoming** – they are working with the Coalition for Welcoming Ministries on doing 4-6 shows this year with the Tenth Voice radio show on KKKFI. They would like to have someone from Gaia Community speak from the non-Christian perspective, to help bolster their interfaith credentials. The show is on Saturday afternoons. Contact Kimberly if you are interested.

(break)

- V. **Elections** – Devin explained how the ballot is working this year. Kate had a concern about process being followed for the election (she thought it was in May), and was concerned about due notice being given with respect to the absentee ballots. David reiterated the difference between "may" and "shall" and "will" in bylaws language. Including absentee ballots, 22 ballots were received, which means only 10 people did not vote this year (32 members were eligible). In the first (officer) ballot, Erin was elected President, Amanda was elected Vice-President, David is Secretary, and John will continue to be Treasurer. On the second ballot, Linda was elected to complete Erin's term, NomCom was elected to be Barbara, Jamie, and Lizzy, and the General Assembly delegates will be Kit and Cynthia.

VI. Old Business

A. **Bylaws Change** - all requirements of notice were met; Via called everyone on Wednesday, before the 72-hour threshold. More than 40% of membership is in attendance; there are no absentee voting provisions for bylaws changes. Via clarified that they intend to use our current process to consense on the definition of the proposed process, then vote on the bylaws change. There was a great deal of confusion on what the order of events would be; clarified that we would agree on the definition of the proposed process, then consense on the process, and then finally vote on the bylaws change.

The proposal changes as little of the current process as possible. It explicates that more than one unanswered block or objection should be a trigger for looking at other options and not going forward with a proposal. Kit read off Nicole's and Cathy Combs' emails about their concerns, in his role as Advocate.

Barbara had a concern about the "private ballot" provision for supermajority voting; the group agreed to word it as "voting" and leave the open/closed ballot portion up to the group. Kitty had a concern about the "number of blockers" provision; that seems to be resolved by discussion, as this is only one option among many.

The group agreed to go around the room and allow everyone a couple of sentences to give their opinion, based on a sense from many people that we didn't know where everyone stood.

Voted: 18 cast, 13 yeas, 5 nos. 72% approved, so the change is effective.

VII. New Business

1. **Sacred Grove (Women's Group)** – tabled.
2. **Association Sunday** – tabled.
3. **Pagan Pride Day** – David has heard from AutumnWolf about the possibility of the helping out with PPD this year in a more substantive way, by doing a workshop or two perhaps. Details were not very firm yet, but it was brought to Ritual Teams last week and 3-4 people agreed to form a group to help out. Group consensed in theory, trusting those people (and any others who wish to help them) to say "no" if we are asked to do something ridiculous or onerous.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10PM.

Footnote: David resigned as Secretary and handed his resignation to Erin as President-Elect. It is not effective until a replacement is found.

– David, Secretary

Agenda for the May 9th Ritual for Business:

- First look at the proposed 2009-2010 budget
- Updates on our Lease negotiations
- Association Sunday – do we wish to apply for the moneys collected by the UUA this year?
- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



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 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: <i>Ritual by the Excellence in Ritual interns</i>	27	28	29	30	1 ☉	2 1-5PM: Craft Circle at Kimberly & David's
3 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Ritual: Valborgsmässoafton (May Day/Beltane)	4	5 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	6	7	8 ☊	9 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
10 1 PM: <i>KidSpace Meeting</i> 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Ritual: Sing to the Lady (Mother's Day)	11	12 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	13	14	15 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	16
17 ☉ 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Class on Storytelling	18	19	20	21	22 7 PM: Supper Club @ Rheinland, 208 North Main in Independence	23
24 ● 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (Mem. Day)	25	26	27	28	29	30 ☌
31 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4 PM: Ritual: The Castle Yesod	1	2	3	4	5 9AM-6PM: Gaia Garage Sale at David & Kimberly's	6 9AM-4PM: Gaia Garage Sale at David & Kimberly's