



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

NOVEMBER 2006

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8th Annual Winter Bazaar!

The date and space for this year's Winter Bazaar have been set! We will hold the Bazaar at the Bannister Mall, 5600 Bannister Road in Kansas City, Missouri on Saturday, December 2nd, 2006 from 10 AM to 6 PM (vendors may set up starting at 8 AM). If you would like to reserve space as a vendor, please register as soon as possible at <http://gaiacommunity.org/vendors.shtml>; space is limited! You can also mail us your information if the Internet is not available to you.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event please contact Devin (see page 3 for contact information). If you'd like to donate items to be sold on the Gaia Table or food for the Kitchen Witches' Bake Sale, please let someone from the organizing committee (Kimberly, Yale, Kris, and John Carroll) know in person or by email at bazaar@gaiacommunity.org so they can plan accordingly. Kimberly can also be reached by cell phone at 816-914-3227.

In addition to the usual needs of the event, we're going to need some extra help rounding up tables and chairs for this year's bazaar. If you are able to lend any assistance in the form of furniture or a vehicle to transport it with, please contact someone from the organizing committee.

Information, including currently confirmed vendors, will also be updated through the weekly announcements, <http://gaiacommunity.org/winterbazaar.shtml>, and the gaiauu mailing list.

— Kimberly

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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 Community's Thanksgiving Dinner Tradition Continues

Once again a member of Gaia Community has graciously offered to open her home to those who have no family to spend the holiday with, or would rather not be in the company of family that does not accept their lifestyle.

Please see page 2 for more details on how to get to Nola's house; some of you may not recognize her on sight, as she and Terry were until recently living in the wilds of Western Kansas. Feel free to ask someone to point her out to you, if need be.

Nola says her house is plenty big enough for everyone who might need to come, but please let her know you'll be coming and what you'll be bringing for the potluck meal, so that everyone gets the friends and food they're looking for. You'll have to ask extra nice to get the couch for the post-meal nap, though...

— Nola

Hestia's Challenge

The class on Hestia in October, and the subsequent Ritual for Business (see page 5) has led to the belief that our community is ready to reactivate some long-dormant committees. Challenges and concerns brought up in the class are up for discussion by the following groups:

- Andrew is reviving the Social Justice committee to address the questions of volunteering at a soup kitchen, cleaning up some area parks, working more closely with Hope House (the domestic violence shelter), and/or helping with a Habitat for Humanity house.
- Membership will be looking at the possibility of building more social connections and non-Sunday activities away from the church in more social settings. Barbara heads this committee on Sundays.
- 7-day Hestia candles will be sold at the Winter Bazaar; if you're interested in helping, please contact Carey who made the ones at the God Auction.
- Any and all committees can look at ways to help grow and strengthen OUR community in the coming year, in response to the warmth of Hestia's hearth.

— David, for the Committee of the Whole

Gaia About Town

Ritual Teams Meeting (11/1, 6:45 PM): At the Turners' house. Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists, if you are interested please contact Kitty in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org!

Tuesday Night Classes: Adult Education classes for November will be the Pagan Parenting session on the 7th and the Kitchen Witchery class on the 14th. All classes start at 7 PM; childcare is available on request by contacting Kris Ennis in person or at adulted@gaiacommunity.org by no later than the Sunday before each class.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (11/8, 7 PM): At the Turners' house. Andrew is reconstituting the Social Justice/Green Sanctuary committee in response to some concerns brought up at the Hestia class in October, and the October Ritual for Business (see page 5). If you are interested in helping with this important work and/or have ideas for where the committee should go forward, please contact him at 913-825-5202 or socialjustice@gaiacommunity.org, or just show up! Contact Andrew for directions if you need them.

Ritual for Business (11/11, 9:30 AM): 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 consensus process. If you've ever had an official question or concern, this would be the place to bring it.

If you don't feel comfortable bringing it up in public, our Vice-President, Liz Ticer, serves as the community's Ombudswoman for hearing discrete matters; her contact information is on page 3.

Games Night (11/17, 7 PM): 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 either the Barn Chapel or downstairs in the Jefferson room, depending on weather/games available.

Gaia the Musical: That same evening and time, Voices of Gaia will be putting on an encore presentation of Gaia the Musical for our sister congregation, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church at 4501 Walnut, KCMO. Anyone not interested in gaming is invited to come be in the audience, or even help put on the event! Contact Kitty for more info, at 913-469-8779 or songbird@kc.rr.com, or join Voices on Sundays at 2!

KidSpace Meeting (11/19, 2 PM): Parents, volunteers, and anybody with ideas or an interest in our kids are welcome! Meetings are held in the Childrens' Classroom section of SMUUCH before ritual on the 3rd Sunday of the month; contact Jennifer or Linda (the KidSPACE Co-Chairs), or Anissa (our Director of Religious Education) for more information. E-mail gaiakidspace@yahoo.com or catch them on Sundays!

Please see the following page if you are interested in helping out with WeeSPACE for our youngest kids.

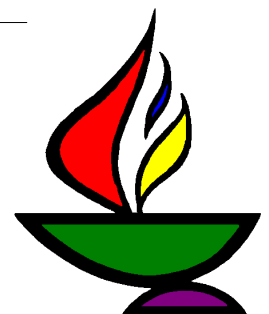
Thanksgiving Night Supper Club (11/23, 6 PM): There will be no FNCS this month. Instead, Nola Cavanaugh will be opening her home to anyone who has nowhere else to go for the Thanksgiving holiday. If your family is too far away to visit, or you cannot spend time with them because of religious/family differences, Nola will be happy to have you over! Details will be worked out and published in the weekly announcements, but a potluck meal where everyone brings something to share with the others. Nola's house is at 6202 E. 103rd St. in KCMO; she can be reached at 816-966-9186 or nola_cavanaugh@yahoo.com, or catch her on Sundays!

This does mean, as in past years, that we will not be having a Friday Night Supper Club on the following night, though; let Kris Ennis know if you have any ideas for December!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out this month to David Reynolds and Via Baker, our only November birthdays (both on the 29th). Well, that's probably *not* actually true, but we don't have any others on file, so let us know if you got missed!

Veteran's Day is November 11th. Our appreciation and best wishes go to all those who serve now, have served, or have loved ones in the military.



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



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

Sunday, November 5th

Ritual - Rave (New Member Sunday)

Ritualists: Kimberly, Carey, Devin, and Eric

Dancing! Loud Music! New Members! Unitarian Universalist Principles in Popular Culture! Join us for a rave ritual and New Member Sunday centered on the Ravers' Creed: Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect. We'll be connecting to and celebrating those values through music, dance and other activities. We'll also be welcoming new members to our congregation. Please come dressed to move – glowsticks are optional.

Sunday, November 12th

Workshop - The Iron and Pearl Pentacles

Facilitator: Carey

The Iron and Pearl Pentacles are Feri tools for personal growth. As we run energy through the Iron Pentacle, we reclaim our human birthright of Sex, Pride, Self, Power, and Passion. And by running energy through the Pearl Pentacle, we open ourselves up to the powers of Love, Law, Knowledge, Liberty, and Wisdom.

Sunday, November 19th

Ritual - Healing

Ritualists: Yale, Liz, Kris, and David

Healing takes many forms, but the concept of "Physician, Heal Thyself" is a large part of what we'll be working with in this ritual. It's very difficult to heal the world or care for others when your own heart and soul are wounded; we'll explore some ways in which to take care of yourself first, before trying to "do unto others".

If possible, please bring a cup, chalice, or goblet with you to ritual; if you have one that is transparent on the sides, even better.

Sunday, November 26nd

Sharing Our Spirits Ritual — Thanksgiving

Ritualists: Devin and Kitty

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 this ritual, we suggest a focus on the holiday of Thanksgiving and what it can mean to the group. Feel free to bring music, poetry, ritual tools or ideas to help make something unique!

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Dec. 2nd – Winter Bazaar (Saturday)
 Dec. 3rd – Sharing Our Spirits Ritual: Simplicity
 Dec. 10th – Ritual by KidSPACE
 Dec. 17th – **Sabbat: Yule**
 Dec. 24th – Vigil
 Dec. 31st – New Year's Eve

Current Ritualists

Devin Scrogum	Kimberly
Barbara Griggs	Liz Ticer
Eric Simpson	Cynthia Mathis
Kitty Degler	Carey Oxler
Yale Giffin	David Reynolds
Andrew Turner	Nicole Turner
Brian Butler	Kris Ennis

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

Gaia Community Board of Directors 2006-2007

President — Jeff Park

president@gaiacommunity.org
 or 816-361-0465

Vice-President — Liz Ticer

vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
 or 913-636-4924

Treasurer — John Carroll

treasurer@gaiacommunity.org
 or 913-334-2834

Secretary — Jennifer Gadd

secretary@gaiacommunity.org
 or 913-299-4587

Members at Large —

Carey Oxler
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com
 or 816-941-7626

Yale Giffin
niveustigris@hotmail.com
 or 816-797-8032

Devin Scrogum
dscrogum@gmail.com
 or 913-708-5667

... or contact them all at
board@gaiacommunity.org!

KidSPACE News & Puzzle

KidSPACE is still getting ready for the **KidSPACE ritual on December 9th**. Our **TeenSPACE** youth are learning all about the parts of ritual, so they will be doing a lot of the work that day! During this ritual, we will be marking several life transitions, so if you have any of these you'd like to celebrate, please contact Anissa or a member of the KidSPACE committee.

WeeSPACE is still looking for a regular care provider for the littlest Gaians (ages 0 to 3) from 3:30 to 6:00 each Sunday. We need someone over 18 who is responsible, somewhat experienced, comfortable around alternative and Earth-based spiritual paths, reliable, kind, compassionate, and plans to hang around for the long haul - our littlest ones really like seeing the same person each week! Please put the word out and have anyone who is interested contact Anissa at gaiakidspace@yahoo.com. Because these are our smallest community members who cannot defend themselves, we will have to require anyone who applies to allow us to conduct an official background check. All this will do is make sure you haven't been involved in any crimes related to children!

KidSPACE needs: non-perishable snacks, preferably without a lot of preservatives and sugar; juice boxes with 100% juice; and, as always, volunteers. Yes we're loud and messy, but we are always fun!

— *Anissa*

Autumnal Word Search

F A U T U M N O C O E H
 R E T E M E D C E N R S
 E P U R A I N O R K H A
 Y Z E N E N I R E P A U
 R S I K I M R N S I R Q
 E N O A O P S D P N V S
 P M R N M O E O P T E L
 E G T S N V C L R C S I
 N I K P M U P L E I T A
 B E G O N S N Y F T U S
 Y F I R S T F R U I T S
 L E O C T U R K E Y U A
 A C T A M M U Z O C N W

Words to Search for:

<i>autumn</i>	<i>Ceres</i>	<i>Cernunnos</i>
<i>corn dolly</i>	<i>cornucopia</i>	<i>crops</i>
<i>Demeter</i>	<i>first fruits</i>	<i>Freyr</i>
<i>Geb</i>	<i>grain</i>	<i>harvest</i>
<i>Kronia</i>	<i>maize</i>	<i>Neper</i>
<i>Peko</i>	<i>pumpkin</i>	<i>Rosmerta</i>
<i>Sif</i>	<i>squash</i>	<i>Tammuz</i>
<i>Telepinu</i>	<i>turkey</i>	<i>wassail</i>

Mooings from the CoW (Committee of the Whole)

Summary of October's Ritual for Business (RfB)

- I. **Meeting called to order at 9:42.** Attending: Jennifer, Jeff, Lizzy, David N., Kimberly, Carey, Erin, Devin, Andrew, David R., Teresa R., Anna R.
- II. **Agenda**—agreed
- III. **Minutes**—agreed, with amendments
Devotions inserted here: Omen: Cooperation
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** by Kimberly for John. We are still an NFP. Income is still ahead of expenses, with some pledges still outstanding that haven't been recorded. He has been in contact with the IRS regarding the filing issues. Accepted.
- V. **Standing Committees**
 - A. **Winter Bazaar**—We met. We have a site: Bannister Mall. Devin is Volunteer Coordinator. The bazaar will be Sat. Dec. 2, from 10-6, in a common area of the mall. We have 15 vendors lined up, but we seem to be competing against Holly Holly Days. This might need to be re-evaluated for future years since two big events have moved to 2-days on the first two weekends of December. We are seeking vendors. Kimberly is vetting regular vendors to arrange a new date for next year, say the Sat. after Thanksgiving. More seem interested in moving it earlier, rather than later in the year.
 - B. **Communications**—David has expanded newsletter, so this leaves space for features from others. All sorts of things are encouraged. He will also be revamping website to make it more up to date. Please contact him if you notice broken links that need his attention.
 - C. **Ritual Teams**—New schedule is set through July. RT changed two dates, confirming that KidSpace ritual is switching dates with the Winter Bazaar.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. **Consensus**—Andrew and David R. explained the proposals. There are no big changes from what has been publicized before. The biggest changes are the timeline for information and emphasizing that those who come to the meeting unprepared are responsible for their own lack of knowledge. They will not be allowed to slow up the process. If you don't have a concrete proposal, it will be sent back to committee. Ongoing training for board and interested parties will be available, especially on how to facilitate a meeting appropriately. This document will be added to Gaia procedures, not by-laws. It will also be made available for new members classes, the greeter table, etc. Consensus achieved.
Kimberly proposed we send the document to Dr. Christa Landon. Consensus achieved and proposal referred to committee.
- B. **Phone Requests:** Kimberly has begun to revise the FAQ for website. It will need to be approved. Kris and Kimberly will work on it after Winter Bazaar. We clarified that the VP/Ombudsperson is contact person for John.

VII. New Business

- A. **Broken chair:** A blue fellowship chair was broken on Sunday. The board agreed to offer to pay for it. We will also buy Allen wrenches to keep from having to climb to reach keys. We also discussed the possible need for a contingency fund for mishaps.
- B. **Hestia class:** Barbara & Lizzy had taken suggestions re how to instill Hestia-ness in the community. Abbreviations following each item indicate the committee to which it was referred for consideration.
 - i. Volunteer @ soup kitchen.--Social Justice (SJ)
 - ii. Sell Hestia candles @ Winter Bazaar.--WB
 - iii. Offer hospitality at Gaia.—social gatherings for groups, separate from church, *in members homes*, facilitate more possibilities, advertise the things we already do.—Membership
 - iv. Clean up Swope Park.--SJ
 - v. Do more with Hope House--SJ
 - vi. Help with a Habitat for Humanity house--SJ
 - vii. OUR community--SJ

David R. suggested an article in Earth Healer communicating these ideas and asking for more input and community interest in reforming new Social Justice and Caring committees.

The CoW was unclear as to what "OUR Community" meant. Andrew agreed to take on SJ, and that committee will take on that issue, which we interpreted to be a question regarding Hestia would prefer us to focus on inreach or outreach. We approved a proposal to refer to committees, as suggested above, to revive the SJ committee, to place an article in EH, and to put the subject on Old Business for next month to review.

- C. **Interfaith Council**—Nov. 14, Caroline wants Gaia to help with table (\$450, \$45 a piece) Deadline is before next RfB.
Proposal: put out on the user list. As a community, we can't officially do it.
- D. **Thanksgiving**—This has traditionally been a potluck in someone's home for those who can't be with families for whatever reason. It's not for people who have family. We've limited it because some people continue to take advantage of the hospitality as it has been offered. If there is a need to open it up to the community, we will need to rent space. Another option would be to have more hosts for smaller groups.
Proposal: We ask SMUUC about renting Sager House with one of our four-hour blocks, and open it to the community, regardless of need. The second option would be the Barn Chapel. If neither is available we will arrange multiple hosts for home hospitality. Consensus achieved. As Communications chair, David R. will recruit a facilitator and publicize this information.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 11:40.

— Jennifer, Secretary



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 (816-941-7626) no later than the 20th 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*

NOVEMBER 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Samhain	30	31	1 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	2	3	4
5 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Rave!	6	7 7 PM: Tues. Night Classes, Pagan Parenting	8 7 PM: Social Justice Committee @ Turners'	9	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
12 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Workshop on the Iron and Pearl Pentacles	13	14 7 PM: Tues. Night Classes, Kitchen Witchery	15 AMERICA RECYCLES DAY	16	17 7 PM: Games Night 7 PM: Gaia the Musical @ All Souls UU Church, 4501 Walnut, KCMO	18
19 2:00-3:00: KidSpace Meeting 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Healing	20	21	22	23 6 PM: Thanksgiving Meal @ Nola's house (see page 2)	24 No Friday Night Supper Club this month	25
26 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits (Thanksgiving)	27	28	29	30	1	2