



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

NOVEMBER 2008

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Board Vacancy: Treasurer

Our most recent Treasurer for the community has gotten a new job that takes up a great deal of her time, including Saturdays. While this obviously helps her financial situation and we wish her the best with it, it means that she is no longer able to serve as Treasurer of Gaia Community. The Nominating Committee is currently seeking people who are willing and qualified to serve in that position, at least until the spring election if not beyond (some candidates already approached are unable to take the job on now, but may later).

The Treasurer of Gaia Community, like all Board Officers, serves a one-year term. Duties are described in our bylaws as follows:

The Treasurer shall: receive, safely keep and account for all money and other property of the Community entrusted to her or his care, and shall disburse the same under the direction and to the satisfaction of the Committee of the Whole. S/he shall maintain:

1. A current roster of the Pledging Units and the Pledges;
2. A complete accounting of the financial records of the Community, which shall remain the property of the Community, and which shall be open for inspection by any active member;
3. The annual financial report of the Community, which shall be audited by a person, not a member of the Board, who is designated by the Committee of the Whole;
4. Render a current statement at each regular Ritual for Business of the Committee of the Whole;
5. Shall pay all bills and sign all checks as authorized by the Board of Trustees or the Committee of the Whole;
6. Ensure that all federal, state or local returns, reports or other items required by law are properly prepared and filed with the appropriate authorities in a timely manner;
7. Perform the duties of the President in the event of simultaneous absence or incapacity of both the President and Vice President;
8. and may be bonded at the expense of the Community.

For now, fiduciary tasks are being handled jointly by the President, Lizzy Ticer, and the Secretary, David Reynolds; please see them if you have a question about your pledge, offering, or other financial questions. It is true that not all checks written to the community from September and October have been cashed yet, but they are still safely in the community's possession and will be deposited soon! Don't overdraw yourselves, please.

- Nominating Committee

Ordination of Southern Cluster Coordinator Jill Jarvis

Jill Jarvis has served for several years as the coordinator of the Southern Cluster Outreach Extension, a gathering of UUA congregations in the southern portion of the Prairie Star District (of which we are a part). On Saturday, November 22nd 2008 at 3:00 PM, she will be ordained as a UU minister at All Souls Church, 4501 Walnut in KCMO. Because we are part of the Southern Cluster, they have asked if we might be able to provide drummers for that event. A reception will follow next door at Simpson House.

While details of exactly what sort of drumming they would like are not yet clear, if you are a drummer and think you will be available that day to help Jill celebrate this achievement, please let me know so I can relay it to the coordinators for the event.

- Barbara Griggs

Social Justice for the Holidays

Greta is coordinating efforts with the Salvation Army shelter (yes, *that* SA) to provide both toys/gifts for the youth staying there and also some hands-on assistance for their Christmas holiday events. The Salvation Army shelter is one of only a few in the Metro area that stay open through Christmas, which means the kids who have to stay there are able to stay throughout the holidays; the downside is that these are children who often don't have much family themselves. So we thought we might take on the task of getting some gifts for the kids; the shelter is also possibly looking for people who can help with staffing their Christmas party for the kids, or perhaps repaint a nursery or some other sort of non-religious assistance that our congregation can provide. If you're interested, see Greta in person or by email at socialjustice@gaiacommunity.org.

- Social Justice Committee

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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 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. Since the piano has been moved to the newly remodeled High School/Teen room, we'll be moving rehearsals to there. Rehearsals for the rest of this calendar year will be much more regular. We'll meet Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, Dec. 7, 14 and Dec. 21, skipping only Nov. 30th when I am on the ritual team for that Sunday. We are once again welcoming singers of all voice parts, though our core group is primarily 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 voices@gaiacommunity.org or in person and we'll figure something out.

Ritual Teams Meeting (11/3, 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 Kimberly, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest let a ritualist know!

Stewardship Committee (Wednesdays at 7 PM, at Jason's Deli): Stewardship continues to plan the Longest Night Ball; until that happens, they'll be at Jason's Deli, 8931 Metcalf every Wednesday. Get in touch with Kimberly, Kate, Greta, or Kit in person or through email at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org if you'd like to help, or just come to the meeting!

Ritual for Business (11/8, 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.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (11/11, 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 social justice project with Salvation Army.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (11/16, 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) at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee has gone back to meeting on the third Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

Games Night (11/21, 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.

Thanksgiving Meal (11/27, 2 PM): Gaia Community has often held a 'community meal' on Thanksgiving for members who are too far away from their families to travel home for the holiday, or are unwelcome at home for whatever reason. David and Kimberly will be hosting this potluck meal this year; see one of them to find out more details, but please RSVP so we know what size of turkey to cook!

Friday Night Supper Club (11/28, 7 PM): ...and now for something completely different! Tired of turkey already? November's supper club will be at Blue Nile, an Ethiopian restaurant in the City Market (20 E. 5th in KCMO) Vegetarian options are plentiful in Ethiopian cuisine, and Blue Nile's menu contains options that are only mildly spiced. Please contact David or Kimberly to save a spot!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include: Greta W. on the 2nd, Patrick Marshall on the 3rd, Liam on the 9th, Jamie Peters on the 19th, and Via, David, AND Larke on the 29th! 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.

In addition, our thoughts go to all of those who are moving, changing jobs, taking long trips, or experiencing difficulties in health or well-being. As the weather turns cold finally, we hope that everyone is staying healthy, warm, and content with their life in general.

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.

Board of Trustees 08-09

President — Lizzy Ticer
president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-636-4924

Vice-President — Linda Boyce
vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-419-9447

Treasurer — vacant
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org

Secretary — David Reynolds
secretary@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-508-9086

Members at Large —

Via Baker
viator753@hailmail.net
or 913-548-9463

Erin Truitt
etisme@gmail.com
or 913-904-2459

Greta Erhardt
816-822-2070 or
greta@gaiacommunity.org

... or contact them all at
board@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, Nov. 2nd

Forum — Security vs. Civil Liberties

Facilitators: David and Lizzy

In light of the upcoming election and our commitment to a democratic process, we're going to hold a forum on the sometimes contradictory ideas of security and civil liberties. As always, dialogue and discussion is the main point, not 'winning' debate points.

Sunday, Nov. 9th

Sharing Our Spirits Ritual — Post-Election Reactions

Facilitator: Erin and Linda

The elections are over; we hope you went out and voted! Whether your candidate won or not, whether you come in celebration and hope for the next election cycle, or you come with worry for the future of the United States, come join us for a Sharing Our Spirits ritual.

SOS rituals are created by the people who show up, so bring your sharing mind as we prepare ourselves after Election Day. Songs, ritual ideas, and other tools are welcome as well.

Sunday, Nov. 16th

Rave — Over the Rainbow (*Welcoming Congregations*)

Ritualists: Kimberly, Eric, David, Barbara, and Jacki

This ritual will be an up-and-moving event, continuing in the theme of our work achieving the Welcoming Congregation Certification from the UUA. We've finished the classwork and paperwork, now it's time to celebrate and keep pushing for the world we want to see! Dancing and music will be a large part of this rite, so dress comfortably; no ruby slippers required.

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Dec. 7th — Ritual: Patron Rite II
(*New Member Sunday*)

Dec. 14th — Forum: Holidays — Pagan?
Secular? Prevailing Culture?

Dec. 21st — SABBAT: Yule (w/potluck)

Dec. 28th — Ritual: Milestones

Sunday, Nov. 23rd

Class — Cord & Knot Magic

Facilitators: Linda and Kimberly

Knot That! Come join us for a class on the history and use of cords and knots in magical practice. From the use in binding rituals (handfastings, initiations) to the wise women's banning of knots in the labor room, cords and knots appear in a whole skein of spellwork. Although introductory information will be made available for those have not yet used this magical tool, experienced people are encouraged to come practice and share their knowledge with others at this class.

We will have the opportunity to put knowledge into practice during the class. Cords, yarns, scissors, and some magical supplies (oils, etc...) will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring other supplies they may want to use.

Sunday, Nov. 30th

Ritual — Thanking the Nature Spirits

(*Urban Shamanism series*)

Ritualists: Kitty, Jeff, and Devin

This will be the third in our series of Urban Shamanism rituals, designed to allow you to explore shamanic journeying in a modern, relevant context. This one, timed for the Thanksgiving holiday, will center around meeting and thanking the spirits of nature and the world around us. Remember, if you tend to get cold in the Sanctuary, bring a blanket or dress warmly so your experience will not be marred by chills!

— *Ritual Teams*

Currently Active Ritualists

Barbara	David Reynolds
Devin Scrogum	Eric Simpson
Erin Truitt	Jacki Kelley
Jeff Park	Kimberly
Kit Peters	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	

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.

KidSpace Schedule (Trees class)

This is the rough plan for the next few months in Trees (our older children, pre-teens and teens). The more it is projected into the future, the more it is subject to change. As always, this is a living document so please treat it right.

- ◆ 11/9: **Magick and the Game** – *a short class on some of the nature of magick and the social games and hysterias that can grow up around it. Some of the dangers of treating such matters as games will likely be discussed, as well as the strangeness that sometimes surrounds it. This will also help to put the next few classes in perspective. There may even be handouts.*
- ◆ 11/16: **Three Sovereigns for Sarah I** – *What became American UU developed in part as a reaction to the Puritans of New England. As we are approaching Thanksgiving, and our chapter on Uuism, this film on hysteria and the Salem Witch Trials seems appropriate. Be warned, however: it contains the horror that only real-life stupidity & politics can provide.*
- ◆ 11/23: **Three Sovereigns for Sarah II** – *conclusion of the film and discussion, both on the historical/ sociological significance of the trials, and the events that led up to them.*
- ◆ 11/30: **Social Justice** – *These activities are led by Greta, partially because she is brave enough to coordinate that many people at once.*
- ◆ 12/7: **Unitarian Universalism I (Bones)** - *This class will cover, in brief, the early history of Unitarian Universalism.*
- ◆ 12/14: **Unitarian Universalism II (Flesh)** - *This class will cover, in brief, the more recent history of Unitarian Universalism.*
- ◆ 12/21: **Yule!** - *There will be no separate class downstairs during this high holiday and feast.*
- ◆ 12/28: **Social Justice** – *These activities are led by Greta, partially because she is brave enough to coordinate that many people at once.*
- ◆ 1/4: **Unitarian Universalism III (Heart)** – *Here the class will cover the beliefs most commonly held by Unitarian Universalists.*
- ◆ 1/11: **Unitarian Universalism IV (Stones)** – *This class will discuss the Cornerstones of Gaia Community.*

- Coyote

KidSpace Note for Parents

It is great to be back. Firstly, I would like to organize taking the students to Aquarius to see the Tibetan exhibit on the 16th. We will be studying the Eastern religions later this year. Please watch your e-mail to help set this up. We will need at least one more driver and chaperone for this outing.

Secondly, I will be putting together schedules of teachers through the rest of the year. Again, if you are interested please be sure I know so we get you set up

Thirdly, right now we are covering Christianity. I know that this can be a weighted subject. I am treating the stories of the Bible as the same as any other set of myths or stories. We will not cover all the stories; I am concentrating on the ones that our students will most likely come across in modern culture. If you have any concerns regarding the subject matter, please contact me and let me know.

Lastly, I would like you to review with your students the Ten Commandments (which were covered in class today) and also the Gaia Standard Closing. The Commandments have both a traditional and kid-friendly version; either will be fine. The Closing is used most times when students are upstairs and that may happen during the holiday season. I would love to award a small prize to any student who memorizes them before we close out the Christianity chapter.

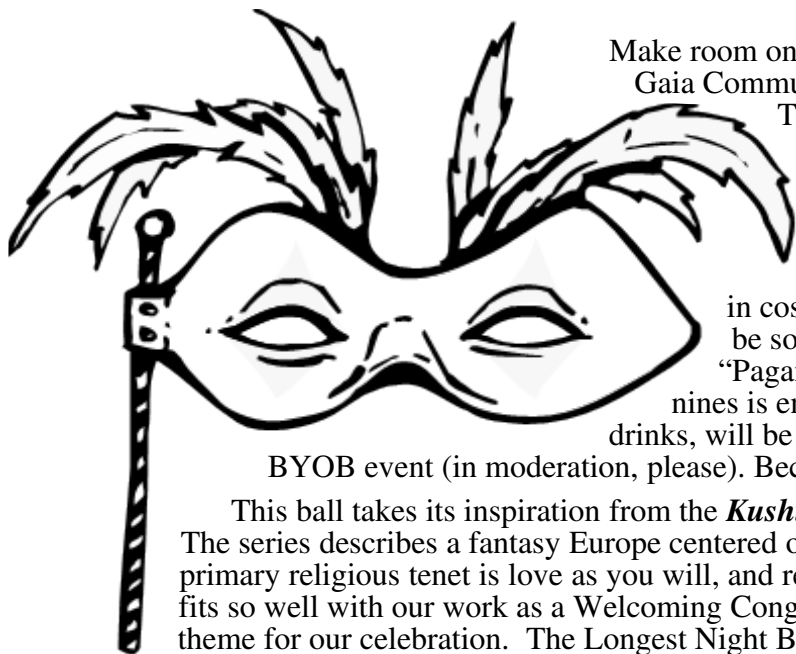
1. You shall have no gods before me (*Love God more than anything*)
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol (*Do not make a statue to worship*)
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God; You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. (*Always say God's name with love and respect*)
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy (*Honor the Lord by resting on the 7th day of the week*)
5. Honor thy mother and father (*Love and respect your mom and dad*)
6. You shall not murder (*Never hurt anyone*)
7. You shall not commit adultery (*Always be faithful to your husband or wife*)
8. You shall not steal (*Don't take anything that isn't yours*)
9. You shall not give false testimony (*Always tell the truth*)
10. You shall not covet (*Be happy with what you have. Don't wish for other people's things*)

*"By the Earth that is Her body,
And the grove that is His home,
By the Air that is Her breath,
And the music of His song,
By the Fire of Her bright spirit,
And the heat of His passion,
By the Waters of Her living womb,
And the dew that is His tears,
The Circle is open, but unbroken.
May the peace of the Goddess go in our hearts,
And the dance of the God enliven our days.
And may we care for the Earth and each other,
Because our lives depend on it.
Merry meet, and merry part, and merry meet again!"*

P.S. My GC email is still giving me trouble; the best ways to get ahold of me are at llboyce@mindspring.com, 816-419-9447, or 913-385-7743.

- Linda

The 'Longest Night' Masquerade Ball



Make room on your calendar to celebrate the Winter Solstice with Gaia Community and friends at our first-ever Longest Night Ball!

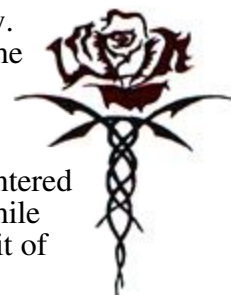
The party will start on Saturday, December 20th, 2008 at 9:00 PM, and go until 1:00AM at least! The location will be the downstairs portion of Broadway Church, 3931 Washington St. in Westport. Tickets for the ball are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Because this is a masked, costume ball, anyone in attendance who is not

in costume will be charged an additional \$5; there will also be some masks available for sale just outside the entrance! "Pagan finery" is the minimum dress code, but dressing to the nines is encouraged. Refreshments, including non-alcoholic drinks, will be provided. While there will be no open bar, this is a

BYOB event (in moderation, please). Because of that, attendees must be 18 or older.

This ball takes its inspiration from the *Kushiel* series of books by Jacqueline Carey. The series describes a fantasy Europe centered on the nation of Terre D'Ange, where the primary religious tenet is love as you will, and respect the loves of others. This notion fits so well with our work as a Welcoming Congregation that it seemed a natural theme for our celebration. The Longest Night Ball in the books is a decadent

masquerade with beautiful costumes, dazzling decor, and wonderful food and drink, centered on the dance of the Sun Prince with Winter, which marks and celebrates the seasonal change. While we want to provide *something* of that experience for attendees, we're also giving the concepts a bit of our own twist to make this a truly unique event.



Music at the ball will be provided courtesy of local DJ Justin Bale, of the Internet Radio station <http://popfreeradio.com/> (based right here in KC). While the station plays a wide variety of music that we think most of you will enjoy, at the ball it will of course center around the danceable side of things! There will also be a raffle and some vendors on site; please let us know if you have items for raffle or wish to vend at the event, as space is somewhat limited. There will also be a professional photographer on hand to record your fantastic costumes and masks!

Other entertainments are still being finalized for the event, but we know you'll want to stay around for midnight to see Caroline Baughman's passionate seasonal mystery dance to celebrate the turning point from darkness into the growing light.

This exciting new event will take the place of our usual Winter Bazaar as a fund-raiser for Gaia Community, so we'll need some help to make it a success. If you'd like to lend a hand with ideas, time, or donations, please join us for the next meeting of the Stewardship Committee. We will meet from now until the 20th on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at Jason's Deli, 8931 Metcalf Ave (near Half-Price Books). You can also contact members of the committee (Kimberly, Kit, Greta, or Kate) with ideas or offers to help in person on Sundays, or through email at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org.



Full-color flyers will be available soon, but we hope you'll all buy tickets to the event, invite your friends (or buy them tickets as gifts!), spread the word both in person and on the Internet, and help make our new fundraiser a stunning success!

- Stewardship Committee



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*

NOVEMBER 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sabbat: Samhain (w/potluck after)	27	28 ●	29 7 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90 th & Metcalf	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	1 <i>World Vegan Day</i> 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's
2 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Forum: Security vs. Civil Liberties	3 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	4 <i>Voing Day</i>	5 ● 7 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90 th & Metcalf	6	7	8 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
9 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: SOS Ritual: Post-Election Reactions	10	11 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	12 7 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90 th & Metcalf	13 ○	14	15
16 1 PM: KidSpace Meeting 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Rave: Over the Rainbow	17	18	19 ● 7 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90 th & Metcalf	20	21 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	22
23 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class: Cord and Knot Magic	24	25	26 7 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90 th & Metcalf	27 ● <i>Thanksgiving</i> 2PM: Thanksgiving at Kimberly & David's	28 7 PM: Supper Club @ Blue Nile in City Market	29
30 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Thanking the Nature Spirits (Urban Shamanism)	1 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	2	3 7 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Jason's Deli, 90 th & Metcalf	4	5 ●	6 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's

