



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

NOVEMBER 2009

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Orphans' Thanksgiving

Almost every year, Gaia Community hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for those who cannot be home with extended family, whether this is because they are too far away, too broke to travel, or because that family will no longer accept them at home. The reasons are not really important; the key here is that we come together as community and as chosen family to make sure everyone has somewhere to go and celebrate with friends. This year, Kimberly and David have offered to host this event at their house, 1306 E. 118th Street in southern KCMO. We'll gather during the afternoon and probably eat closer to 5 or 6 PM.

Expect a signup sheet at the Greeter's Table on Sundays, with potluck 'categories' of food to bring if you are coming. We don't need to know exactly the ingredients of what you're making, but it will be helpful if we know not to all bring sweet potato dishes, or desserts, or drinks. A turkey has already been reserved, although we will endeavor to have vegetarian entrées and side dishes available as well! If you're coming, please bring something you can eat, at the least! Enough to serve 6-8 people is probably a good bet, though you are certainly welcome to bring more to share. A summary of that potluck sheet will also be on our website at <http://gaiacommunity.org/thanksgiving> soon, so you can see what other folks are bringing. If you are planning to attend and you are vegan, or have other special dietary needs, please let us know.

Speaking of those who are coming, a request from the hosts: we don't want to exclude anyone, but the house simply isn't big enough to encompass the WHOLE community and everybody's extended family. Please let the hosts know if you have any questions about this event, and watch the announcements and website for more details as we get closer to the 26th.

- Kimberly & David

Longest Night is Coming!

The second annual Longest Night Ball is scheduled and we have a space! Mark your calendars for a late-night party on Friday, December 18th, 2009 at El Torreon Ballroom (3101 Gillham Plaza in midtown KCMO). We've not nailed down the exact starting and ending time yet, but we expect to open the doors around 9 PM and go until at least midnight. Tickets will go on sale very shortly at <http://longestnight.org> or you can contact longestnight@gaiacommunity.org for more details or to get on a mailing list for when final details are arranged.

There will be at least a couple of changes for this year's event. The space will be bigger, as you've probably already noticed, and there will be more separation between the dancing/ballroom and the vending and services area of the event. Masks will again be available at the event if you are unable to obtain one ahead of time, but we do encourage you to wear your finery and make an 'appearance'. We'll also have live entertainment from local band 7 Mysteries, which we're very excited about. You can learn more about them at <http://7mysteries.com/> and perhaps catch a performance before the ball! Food and drink will once again be offered, though it will not be BYOB this year.

Invite your family, tell your friends, and let the organizing committee (Kimberly, Gerri Lynn, Kit, and David, for now) know if you can help us make this event an even bigger success than the first year!

- Stewardship 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 is on hiatus until later in the year (probably in preparation for the Yule ritual).

- Ritual Teams Meeting** (11/4, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Kit, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, at rtc@gaiacommunity.org or in person if you have questions or wish to provide feedback about how a Sunday service went. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest, let any ritualist know (they have blue ribbons on their nametags)!
- Craft Circle** (11/7, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house again this month, 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome; we'll also probably be talking about the organizational structure for the covenant group that this activity could become.
- Stewardship Meeting** (11/8, 6:30 PM, at Kimberly's): There will be another meeting regarding Longest Night Ball and other Stewardship activities on the second Sunday of this month, following ritual, at Kimberly's house. Please let her know if you are coming so she can plan accordingly for accommodations; she can be reached at kimberly@gaiacommunity.org or in person.
- Social Justice Committee Meeting** (11/10, 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.
- Storytelling Group** (11/13, 7 PM, at Amanda's): The fledgling Storytelling Group will meet this month at Amanda's house in Liberty; contact her at vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org or in person for directions; if you're interested in what they'll be practicing and working on, get in touch with Andrew (andrew@gaiacommunity.org).
- Ritual for Business** (11/14, 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 (see page 5) should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.
- KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (11/15, 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 or in person 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.
- Movie Night** (11/17, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): Erin has a movie from the UUA about environmental action and renewal that she would like the congregation to see; come and join us if you can – there might even be popcorn! There is no charge for admission, and all ages are welcome.
- Games Night** (11/20, 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.
- Movie Matinée** (11/22, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): Repeat showing of the environmental film from the UUA.
- Friday Night Supper Club** will not meet in November or December of 2009 because of the way the winter holidays happen on the calendar. See you in January, when we'll probably take a special trip out to Lawrence!

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Scrogum
president@gaiacommunity.org
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board@gaiacommunity.org!

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Greta W. on the 2nd, Patrick M. on the 3rd, Liam B. on the 9th, Hattie on the 16th, Jamie on the 19th, Jack on the 26th, and then David, Via, and Larke all on the 29th! Please 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 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 with her at caring@gaiacommunity.org if you have information for the committee.



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

Voices of Gaia is on hiatus until winter; Sacred Rhythms meets at 3:30 PM

Sunday, November 1st High Holiday — A Quilt of Remembrance (*Samhain ritual*)

Ritualists: Barbara, Kitty, Eric, and Cheryl

As the days shorten, the weather turns cold, and the veil between the worlds thins, we remember those who have gone on before. Join us at the Samhain ritual as we create a quilt of remembrance, a permanent physical symbol of the uniting of our paths and histories into one community. We invite you to bring a 9” square of fabric representing a loved one — or even a pet—who has crossed over. If you like, you can embellish this beforehand (leave a 1” border for stitching). We will have some materials available to decorate your square during the ritual. (We will have extra fabric squares for those who forget, of course)

As always with our high holidays, there will be a potluck meal following the ritual. Please bring a food, drink, or dessert item sufficient to feed 8 hungry people, and remember to label your ingredients! For the Earth's sake, we also ask that you not bring disposable dishes if at all possible.

Sunday, November 8th Ritual — Something Wicked This Way Comes

Ritualists: Lizzy, Jacki, Jamie, and Greta

Why do we have Dark Goddesses in our pantheons? Do we need them? Why? Is it really true that in order to appreciate the light, we must be able to experience the darkness? We will answer these questions by working with the Morrigan, the Celtic Goddess of War, Strife and Prophecy. Children are welcome for the first part of today's ritual, but will most likely be more comfortable downstairs as this will be a very dark ritual, and participants will be expected to work hard, and will be pretty busy.

Currently Active Ritualists

Amanda Pence	Barbara
Cheryl Stice	David Reynolds
Devin S.	Eric Simpson
Erin Scrogum	Jacki Kelley
Jamie Peters	Jeff Park
Kelley Montford	Kimberly
Kit Peters	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	Lizzy Ticer

Please see Devin or Kit, the Ritual Teams Coordinators, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams, or a newly trained ritualist looking to join for the first time.

Sunday, November 15th Workshop — Devotional Dance

Facilitators: Lizzy and Greta

Dance can be used for a multitude of purposes; exercise, meditation, passion, competition, and transformation. On this Sunday, we'll be exploring the more spiritual and ecstatic side of dance; come prepared to get up out of your seat and move! Please dress appropriately for both the weather and your willingness to try dancing along the way. Teens and youth are welcome as well, though there will also be KidSpace classes going on downstairs.

Sunday, November 22nd Ritual — The 5-Fold Goddess

Ritualists: Cheryl, Jacki, Jeff, Eric, and Jamie

In Wicca the traditional view of Goddess is Maiden, Mother, Crone...but what of those who do not or cannot see the Goddess in themselves in those images? Come and explore the 5-fold Goddess; Maiden, Mother, Lover, Warrior, Crone; where do their paths diverge from the Triple Goddess and where do they align? Are you on any of these paths, or interested in learning more? Then come and join us Sunday Nov. 22nd.

Sunday, November 29th Class — Weatherization

Facilitators: Amanda and Devin

Continuing the efforts of a potential “Applied Urban Sustainability” covenant group, this class will cover some ways to lower your winter energy bills (and often those for summer as well). In keeping with that theme, most of these techniques will not require much in the way of money up front, but may require some specialized skill and will almost certainly require some effort on your part.

— *Ritual Teams*

A Look Ahead...

- Dec. 6th — Ritual: The Dark Side of the Elements
- Dec. 13th — Workshop: Herb Magic
- Dec. 20th — High Holiday: The Infinite Sun (*Yule*)
- Dec. 27th — Forum: Goal Setting

Thanksgiving Puzzles

With the seasons changing and Thanksgiving almost upon us, here's a few puzzles to keep kids of all ages occupied!



TURKEY
 STUFFING
 PUMPKIN PIE
 PILGRIMS
 PARADE
 MEAT
 MAYFLOWER
 HOLIDAY
 HARVEST
 GATHERING
 FRIENDS
 FEAST
 FAMILY
 CRANBERRY SAUCE
 CORNUCOPIA
 CELEBRATION
 CANDIED YAMS
 AUTUMN

From <http://www.puzzles.ca/wordsearch.html>

A Thanksgiving Logic Problem: Pilgrims' Progress

by Randall L. Whipkey

Ten years after celebrating the first Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims of Plymouth held the first progressive dinner party in the Americas. Each course of a five-course meal was served at a different colony home, one at Thrush Nook, by the couple living there; Hester and her husband hosted one of the courses. From the carte below, can you chart the Pilgrims' Progress through the dinner: the dish served as each course, the full names (one husband was Oliver) of the couple who hosted the course, and the name of the house in which that part of the meal was enjoyed?

- The five courses were served in traditional order: the salad of creamed endive was 1st, the maize bread was 2nd, the venison pate was 3rd, the main entrée of roast pheasant was 4th, and the mincemeat pie served as dessert was 5th and last.
- Priscilla, who isn't Mrs. Standish, complemented the hostess at Deer Lodge on the pine cone centerpiece she had made for the occasion.
- Charles and his wife didn't serve the maize bread or the venison pate.
- Mr. & Mrs. Standish enjoyed the course served at Oak House by their next-door neighbors.
- Immediately after enjoying one course at the home of James and his wife, the dinner party proceeded to Deer Lodge for the next serving; immediately after leaving Deer Lodge, the diners went to the Aldens' for another course.
- The progressive dinner party didn't start at Rose Cottage.
- Thomas's wife asked him to transcribe the recipe for her dish to give to Anne, who had liked it so much.
- The party left Philip and his wife's house and went to the Halls for the next dinner course.
- The Bradfords admired the dinnerware used by the couple who hosted at Maple Manse.
- The five couples in the first progressive dinner party in the Americas were the Cabots, Priscilla and her husband, the couple who lived in Rose Cottage, Charles and his wife, and the husband and wife who served mincemeat pie for dessert.
- Neither Anne nor Mrs. Hall had ever prepared roast pheasant, so they were glad when another wife agreed to serve the main entrée.
- Elisabeth and her husband and the couple who lived at Oak House, who didn't serve the maize bread, originated the idea for the progressive dinner party.
- Mrs. Alden, who didn't make the mincemeat pie, admired the rocking chair Mary's husband had fashioned for their parlor.
- James and his wife weren't the party couple who hosted the course served at Rose Cottage.
- Elisabeth, who wasn't Philip's spouse, didn't make the venison pate for the dinner.

From <http://www.crpuzzles.com/logic/>

Ritual for Business Minutes for October 10th, 2009

*In attendance: Rosemary, Jamie, Kit, Via, Amanda,
John, Lizzy, Amanda, Gerry Lynn, David*

I. Approval of Agenda – Approved.

II. Roles - John for Non Sequitur.

III. Minutes – Approved with minor corrections

IV. Committee Reports

A. Social Justice – Still social and just.

B. Finance – In last month, we have taken in \$1231.80 into general fund in pledges/donations. \$17.70 in cookie money. Paid rent & teachers. IRS has caught up to the fact that we sent them money, but they're not quite sure what to do with it yet. Only issue came about through study of mail & bank statements. Total of 4 checks by one member over one month that have bounced. John will contact member by e-mail.

C. KidSpace – We did not have a meeting last week due to Faire and other nonsense.

D. Communications – Not communicating well due to sore throat. Earth Healer went out. David spent some time looking at website statistics. 2nd most popular page is calendar, most popular is About page and FAQ. Most popular search terms to get to our site: "community, gaia community, gaia community kansas city, craft name generator, magical name generator, gaia name generator, sacred fool". Pages linking to us: UUA.org, Meetup.com, KURS rules page, CUUPS, DRUPAL wiki site, WitchVox, Aquarius, etc. Monday David will be upgrading the website.

E. Membership – Four new members! Yay! Greeters table is strange, but covered.

1. **Library** – no news

F. Site – Post-Thanksgiving, look for a committee meeting.

G. Welcoming – Doing a thing tomorrow. Coming Out on the Side of Love meeting at Nichols fountain at 10AM. Non-specific petition asking for full equality for gender-specific issues. Next Sunday is OutFest at Hyde Park.

H. Ritual Teams – We are "teaming ritually".

Schedule set for first half of 2010, though not entirely set in stone. Expect to have it finalized by next RT meeting and assigning teams. Procedures meeting will be held in December. We've had many great suggestions for rituals from congregation at large, and have implemented nearly all.

I. Caring – Still cares, and is trying to care for self and then will care for more.

J. Nominating Committee – omnomnom.

K. Stewardship – Still needs co-chair. Gerri Lynn is willing. Yay! Fall Bazaar will not be happening this year as we were not able to secure enough vendors in time.

V. Old Business

A. Grant Writing Task Force – Grant went out! 'Cause Kimberly rocks. Also, the UUA has confirmed receipt.

B. Covenant Group Review – Twigs 'n Berries: On hiatus. People are too busy to organize right now, and is dormant for a while.

C. Smoker's Policy – no change from last month.

VI. New Business

A. H1N1 Report – Proposal to institute a warning sheet based on recommendations coming out of Lizzie's office for both adults and kids. We request that adults be fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before attending ritual or other Gaia-sponsored activities. This is REQUIRED for children. Also, post this policy on website. Consented enthusiastically.

B. DVD Showing – 90 min. Renewal from the UUA; about how different faith groups have done different environmental things. Erin plans to have a showing on November 17. Suggested to also show it the following Sunday before ritual at 2:00. COW consented to movie time.

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the November 14th Ritual for Business:

- 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*

NOVEMBER 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: Samhain ritual: 'A Quilt of Remembrance' (w/ potluck after)	2 ○	3 Voting Day	4	5 Guy Fawkes Night 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	6	7 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's
8 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: 'Something Wicked This Way Comes' 6-8 PM: Stewardship Committee meeting @ Kimberly's	9 ●	10 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting @ Andrew's	11 Veterans Day	12	13 7-9PM: Storytelling Group @ Amanda's	14 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
15 1 PM: KidSpace Meeting 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: Workshop: Devotional Dance	16 ●	17 7-9 PM: Movie Night @ SMUUCH	18	19	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	21
22 2 PM: Movie Matinée 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: The Five-Fold Goddess	23	24 ●	25 Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26 Thanksgiving 6-10 PM: Thanksgiving Potluck @ David & Kimberly's	27	28
29 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: Workshop: Winterization	30	1	2 ○	3	4	5