



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

NOVEMBER 2010

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“It Gets Better” Project, and How to Make It So

Over the last few months, the news has been filled with accounts of teens and young adults who have taken their own lives after suffering constant bullying and harassment at school because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Gaia Community's Social Justice committee, in light of our ongoing commitment to being Welcoming, would like to invite any and all to participate in a taping of segments for the “It Gets Better” project on Tuesday, November 16th, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at SMUUCH, in the downstairs classrooms. This comes from Dan Savage's idea of GLBT adults (and allies) creating messages through YouTube for helping these youth understand that it will get better after the rarefied environment of primary and secondary school. You can visit <http://itgetsbetterproject.com/> to see some of these videos; we'd like to contribute our own. These are short videos, only a couple of minutes, about your own experiences and how things have changed since you graduated. No script is necessary, though you will have time to collect your thoughts before taping if you don't have time before that day.

And, since it can't always wait to be better, we'll also be providing information and stories about ongoing efforts in Kansas City area schools to help make it better now. GLSEN, EQUAL, and other area groups dedicated to strengthening and supporting LGBTQIAA youth will be brought up; share your own stories and experiences about these as well, if you like.

- *Social Justice and Welcoming*

A Note About Rituals

Welcome to Gaia Community! As a lay led UU congregation, we take pride in the fact that we have no minister. Every Sunday, you see some of the same faces leading rituals, workshops, classes, or forums. If you would like to be one of those faces and help lead a community of potential leaders, there are (at least) two ways to do so.

In every Earth Healer on page 3 you can find a box with the names of the current ritualists. All of these people have taken the Excellence in Ritual course to learn how we do what we do every Sunday. These people sign up to do different rituals throughout the year so that the same people are not leading every week. It takes a lot of time and planning to be a ritualist, but it is a rewarding job. EiR classes are offered once a year in the spring and are open to anyone. If you would like to become involved in the community as a ritualist, talk to Kimberly, the primary course instructor.

The second way you can help on Sundays is to volunteer to help with a particular service. Twice a year, the ritual schedule is planned for the year. Once titles are chosen, they appear on our website at <http://gaiacommunity.org/calendar>. If you see a topic that strikes your interest, talk to Jamie, the Ritual Teams Coordinator. She can direct you to the team in charge of the service for that day. Your help can range from playing a part in the ritual and joining in on ritual planning meetings, or simply offering your thoughts and choosing not to take part in leading on Sunday.

We know we have a community of talented and knowledgeable individuals. Your help would be very much appreciated if you so choose.

- *Erin, President and Ritualist*

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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 and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus. If anyone is still interested in Storytelling, they should contact Andrew.

Ritual Teams Meeting (11/4, 7:00 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Jamie, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, 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 (11/6, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house. Their address is 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (11/9, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We will meet this month at Andrew's apartment: 8334 W. 108th, Apt. E, Overland Park, KS. If you have questions about this committee, you can e-mail us at sj@gaiacommunity.org.

Ritual for Business (11/13 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 have 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.

New Member Class (11/14, 2-3:30 PM): If you wish to join Gaia Community formally, you must attend this series of three classes. This will be the second in the series, centered around our governance system and including a mock Ritual for Business. Contact Devin or Jamie at membership@gaiacommunity.org for more information.

Queer Allies Discussion (11/16, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): This meeting will be combined with the Social Justice project to gather videos for the It Gets Better project, as well as share information about GLSEN, EQUAL, and other resources for LGBT youth. Please contact Kimberly at kimberly@gaiacommunity.org for more information.

Games Night (11/19, 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 what games are available.

Women's Sacred Moon Ritual (11/20, 7:30 PM, at SMUUCH): Women have come together under the Full Moon for centuries to share their knowledge and celebrate the sister Moon and honor the Goddess in all their glory. Every month, we host a Full Moon ritual for women of all faiths and backgrounds to come together and embrace the Divine Feminine within us all. Although we love the men and children in our lives, Full Moon Rituals are for women only. Contact Kelley Montford or Kate Miller for more information.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (11/21, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend. Get in touch with Kelley (the new Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda.

Friday Night Supper Club (11/26, 7PM) will be at Sabor y Sol (formerly Sol Azteca), a Mexican restaurant at 542 Southwest Boulevard in KCMO. If you are attending and wish to RSVP, please contact Amanda at supperclub@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Greta Wilckens on the 2nd, Patrick Marshall on the 3rd, Liam Baughman on the 9th, our old friend Hattie Williams on the 16th, Jamie on the 19th, Jack on the 26th, David, Larke, and Via 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. We also ask that you keep in mind those undergoing health care troubles or changes in lifestyle or employment at this time.



The Caring Committee chair (Leo) is interested in what you want to see from this reconstituted committee. If you have ideas, concerns or blessings you wish to share, they can be sent to caring@gaiacommunity.org.

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Scrogum
president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-904-2459

Vice-President — Amanda Pence
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Linda Boyce
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or 816-419-9447

Cynthia Cole
cynthia@cynthiaweb.net
or 913-433-8038

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

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

Voices of Gaia and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus.

Sunday, November 7th

Class: Stadhagaldr (Runic Yoga)

Facilitators: Erin and Barbara

Stádthagaldr is a system of stances combined with voice used during Norse rune magick. In this workshop, you will learn the stances of the Elder Futhark and the sounds that go with them. You do not need to know how to use runes to attend. A brief explanation of rune magick meanings will also be taught. This does not require strenuous exercise; it is simply about standing in a meaningful manner.

Sunday, November 14th

Patron Ritual II

Ritualists: Kit, Eric, and Devin

This will be the second of our rituals specifically focused on this year's patron, Quetzalcoatl. Join us in working with the concept of sacrifice, including bringing something to give up, if you wish. The ritual will be outdoors if weather permits (meaning storming and not buried in snow), so dress appropriately. In addition, this ritual will be intergenerational, so parents should expect to have the care and custody of their kids today during the rite.

Sunday, November 21st

Workshop: Prayer Beads

Facilitators: Linda and Kimberly

Prayer beads are a concept that transcends individual religious paths to provide a touchstone and point of commonality to the faithful. In this workshop, we will look at some of the world's currently existing versions, and you may have an idea for coming up with a set that is particularly meaningful to you.

Sunday, November 28th

Ritual: Being the Light or the Mirror

(Personal Spirituality Arc)

Ritualists: Erin, Kitty, and Cheryl

Edith Wharton wrote in a poem, "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or the be the mirror that reflects it." Be prepared for some intense personal work in this ritual, and please bring a journal for self-reflection, if you have one.

- Ritual Teams

Currently Active Ritualists

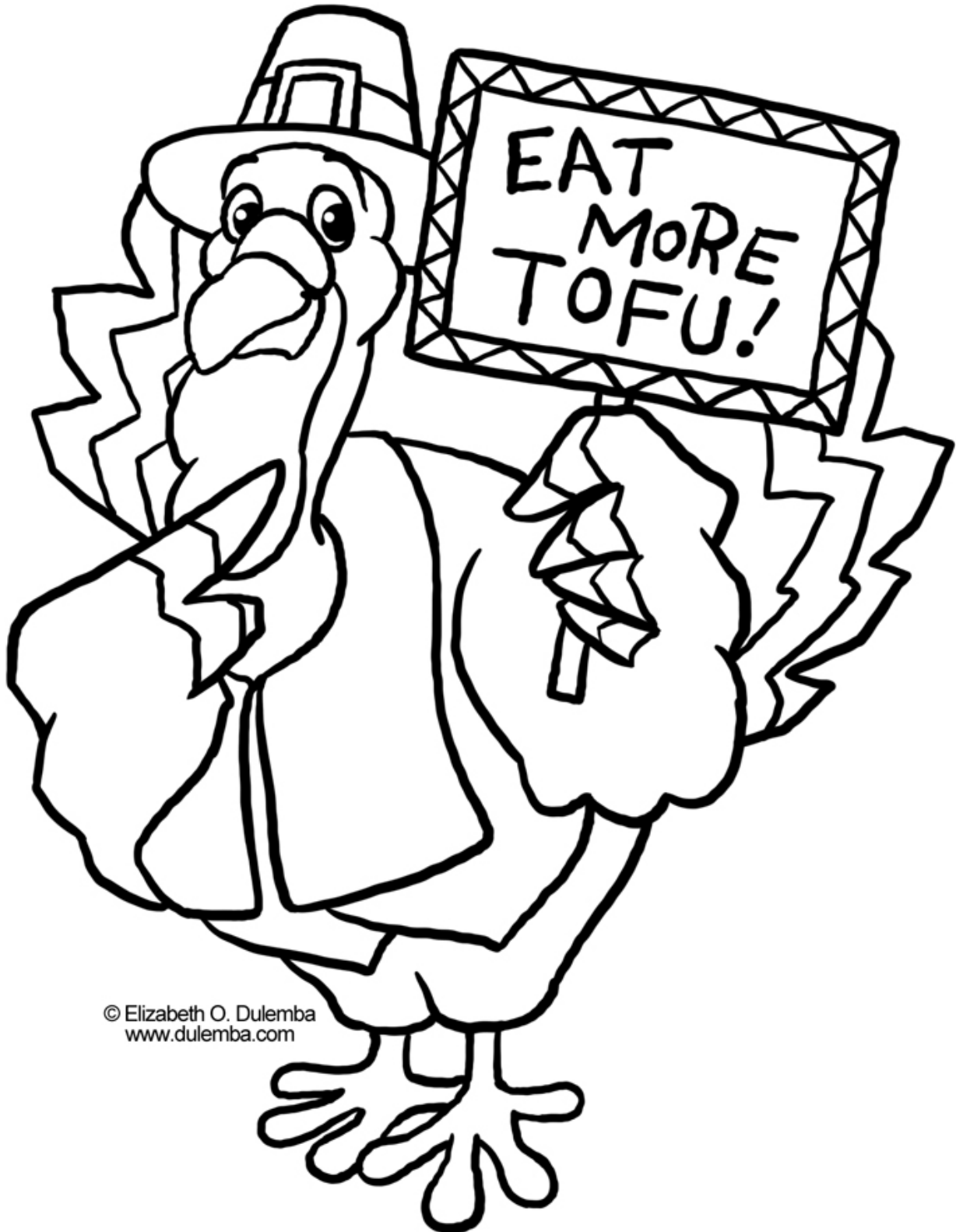
Aubry Gabbard	Barbara
Cheryl Stice	David Reynolds
Devin S.	Eric Simpson
Erin Scrogum	Jamie Peters
Kit Peters	Kitty Degler

Please see Jamie, 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.

A Look Ahead...

- Dec. 5th - Rave *(New Member Sunday)*
- Dec. 12th - Class: Make Your Own Tarot Card
- Dec. 19th - High Holiday: Yule
- Dec. 26th - Sharing Our Spirits Ritual
- Jan. 2nd - Dance Class

In Honor Of Our Members and Friends Who Don't Eat Turkey and Ham on Thanksgiving, a Different Sort of Coloring Page...



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Ritual for Business Minutes for October 9th, 2010

In attendance: Erin, Jamie, Amanda, Cynthia, Rosemary

Started at 9:50 AM

I. Approval of Agenda – Approved

II. Roles – The Committee of the Whole moves to use them as necessary; also, “moo”.

III. Minutes – August's minutes were approved with minor corrections. September's approved with more corrections.

IV. Treasurer's Report – none

V. Committee Reports:

A. KidSpace – Meeting as scheduled did not happen; damage to the space-time continuum suspected.

B. Social Justice – Continuing to be social and just, whether or not they had a meeting.

C. Communications – EH went out on time; continues to be difficult to get all information needed to fill it. October 31 does not exist on the website; rest assured it does still exist in the real world.

D. Membership – Had a meeting in Sept; Jeff passed on a large amount of stuff to Jamie. Talked about feasibility of having a directory accessible yet also information secure.

1. **Library** – It is full of booky goodness.

E. Site – Will get together and figure it out. They proooooomiiiiiiiise.

F. Welcoming – Should come back to life after Jamie is done student teaching. This month is a bad time for getting people together, due to insane scheduling.

G. Ritual Teams – Will not meet this month because too many people couldn't be there. They have been communicating online in the interim. November's meeting will include everybody Jamie can physically drag there. Also, they are looking for a 10x10 storage closet.

H. Caring – Have been through surgery and on crutches. They are healing and will be back online soon.

I. Nominating Committee – omnomnom.

J. Stewardship – There's some planning in place for Longest Night Ball. Anyone who wants to help should contact Gerri Lynn.

VI. Old Business: *none!*

VII. New Business: *none either!*

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the November 13th Ritual for Business:

- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



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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 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 4-7 PM: High Holiday - Samhain (potluck after)	1	2	3	4 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	5 ●	6 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
7 4-6 PM: Workshop – Stadhagaldr (Runic Yoga)	8	9 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	10	11	12 7-10 PM: Storytelling Group @ Andrew's	13 ● 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
14 2-3:30 PM: New Member Class @ SMUUCH 4-6 PM: Ritual – Patron Rite II for Quetzalcoatl	15	16 7-9 PM: Queer Allies' "It Gets Better" taping @ SMUUCH (see page 1)	17	18	19 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	20
21 ○ 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ SMUUCH 4-6 PM: Workshop – Prayer Beads	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 7-9 PM: FNCS @ Asian Pearl, 18138 W. 119th Street, Olathe, KS	27
28 ● 4-6 PM: Ritual – Being the Candle or the Mirror	29	30	1	2	3	4 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's