Earth Healer

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community October 2004

What the Site Committee Does...

And Needs from Gaia Community

The site committee was reestablished to maintain the search for both future and eventually a permanent home for the Gaia Community.

The current committee members are Collene Newby (Chair) Greta Erhardt, Eric Simpson, Jacki Kelly, Terry Ross, Nola Cavanaugh and Brian Butler.

The current lease agreement with SMUUCH is through July 2005 and has the potential to renew for one or maybe even two more years.

Site Committee has been charged with leading the search for a new space for Gaia Community to worship and meet. The search criteria had to meet certain basic needs of the community.

Given our current level of funds allotted for the new home fund, the most practical solution at this time would be to seek a space for lease, until our New Home Fund is sufficient to purchase property of our own. Our current budget will allow for a monthly lease payment of approximately $800.00 per month, including utilities.

The current New Home Fund contains about $6000.00 dollars. If in the future, we plan to put a down payment on an appropriately zoned property we will need quite a bit more. Rough estimates from our research indicate a minimum of $50,000 with overall cost for purchasing and developing an appropriate space would calculate out to between 800,000.00 and $1,000,000.00 as a total cost estimate. These estimates are based on searches of available web sites and consultations with other congregations from a variety of denominations that have successfully completed construction of new home projects.

Most of the financing imitative and fund raising proposals as well as a large commitment of volunteer effort and time will have to come from Gaia Community. Lenders are not prone to loaning monies to religious organizations for the purpose of property or improvements. Our research has shown there are resources available i.e, some mortgage firms and the UUA grant programs. Yet they are limited in scope and nature. At present the UUA grant program would (if we qualify) grant us an additional $5,000–6,000.00. Therefore, we have to come up with a formula for finding properties. As well as developing new ideas for fund-raising for this project. Also while keeping the communication with property managers, realtors, particular funding sources, and Gaia Community informed. This is very important to make the process cost effective and productive for the community.

We are asking Gaia Community at large to help us search for suitable sites. The sites should be accessible within a 30 to 45 minute window from any part of the greater metropolitan area to make it accessible to all members of the community. There should be sufficient parking available and separate spaces for ritual and kid space education. Ideally, it would also have space for feast preparation and dining, as well as surrounding green space for out door rituals.

If you come across a space you deem suitable for the community, take down the contact information for the property, along with the site,s address and location in relation to surrounding major streets and highways. Give this information to the site committee members, via phone, email, or contact at Gaia. A member of the Site committee will then make contact and set up the first visit. Examples of contact information for the site committee:

oedipus_the_doomed@yahoo.com (Collene)
teross49@yahoo.com (Terry Ross)
opaljax@sbcglobal.net (Jacki Kelly)

All of Gaia Community working together in the process will expand our search capabilities. Adhering to the herein suggested protocol will streamline a very difficult process as well. In the future we will be needing volunteers from the community to step up for various fundraisers and projects and committee work. Gaians getting involved cannot be stressed enough. It is crucial to the success of getting our new home and maintaining it.

We the committee members need you and thank you very much for helping us find and develop choices for Gaia.

Blessings from the Goddess be bountiful for us all

Sincerely
Gaia Site 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.

Sunday Schedule

Sunday, October 3

Ritual–"Dionysia"

(18+ only, please) Hellenic ritual wasn't all tragedy and mystery; there were also rituals of revelry and games! The Dionysia is a festival in honor of Dionysios, the Greek god of wine along with his wild women, the Maenads. We will be engaging in some good "clean" adult-oriented fun, so we ask that you not expect to be able to bring your children into ritual this day. Expect to have fun and live it up a little

Sunday, October 10 **facilitated by Kitty**

Share Our Spirit (SOS)–"Creativity"

Sharing Our Spirits rituals are designed to allow everyone a chance to help build the ritual of the day, with one or two ritual team members helping facilitate the process. Our theme today is Creativity. We'll invoke those divine powers we look to for inspiration and then have the opportunity to create. I'll provide materials for two different creative activities—Painting from the Source—using paint to tap into and express out your inner self, and Making Soul Cards—using magazine and other images to create a paper collage that expresses the essential you. (If you have special images you want to use in your collage or magazines to share please bring them. Also extra scissors.) You are welcome to bring your own creative projects to work on and share with each other during this time of sacred creativity.

Sunday, October 17 **facilitated by Ritual Team Leaders**

Ritual—"Huna Healing Circle"

Huna is practiced mainly throughout the Hawaiian Islands and other Polynesian societies and in small groups in the mainland USA. Come and experience a way of connecting with the living energies around you and express a prayer for healing through this practice. One portion of the ritual will be dedicated to sending energy and prayers out to loved ones, our yourself for physical and/or spiritual healing.

Sunday, October 24

Forum—"Across the River Styx: Pagans and the Afterlife" **facilitated by Liz**

This forum will discuss the afterlife. What do pagans believe? Come and join your voice and thoughts with others of like and unlike minds. You may learn a new perpective and you may teach one as well.

Sunday, October 31

Ritual (Sabbat)–Samhain *(Halloween)*

Samhain—a time for reflection. Come celebrate the lives of those that have pasted.

As with all Sabbats, the ritual celebration will be followed by a potluck feast, so bring a dish large enough to feed eight hungry people (and remember to label your ingredients!) For the Earth's sake and in honor of our Green Sanctuary pledge, we ask that you bring reusable dishes and serving utensils, instead of disposable.

Ritual Teams and Members:

Kitty Degler
Barbara Griggs
Brian Butler
Linda Boyce

Nicole Turner
Eric Simpson
Liz Ticer
Via Baker

Kimberly
Carey Reynolds
David Reynolds
Daniel Ticer

Jacki Kelly
Collene Newby
Debbie Dozier
Jeff Park

Gaia Community Board Members

President—Barbara Griggs
bpmg@earthlink.net or
816-587-2350

VP—Terry Ross
teross49@yahoo.com or
816-520-8245

Treasurer—David Reynolds
naeblis@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626

Secretary—Debbie Dozier
ddozier@everestkc.net or
913-894-8131

Members at Large
Carey Reynolds
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626

Liz Ticer
femainoregon@excite.com or
913-636-4924

Jeff Park
jpark2@kc.rr.com or
816-361-0465

Gaia around town—events & activities

Voices of Gaia

Thursday, Oct. 28th, 7:00 P.M. Franklin Room. Voices of Gaia is busy preparing for our performance at the October 8th Planned Parenthood "Gathering of the Goddesses" benefit. It's a big step for us and we've been working hard. Our program of chants and songs starts with the idea that "We All Come from the Goddess," then moves to honor the Goddess in some of her many names—Ancient Mother, Brighid, Yemayah, Kali, the Weaver, and others. We close with the idea that the Goddess lives within each of us—"I am the Goddess, and the Goddess is Me!"

Our dress rehearsal for the Planned Parenthood program is Wednesday, October 6th, 7 P.M. at SMUUCH. We'll then take a couple weeks off, but get back together on Thursday, Oct. 28th, 7 P.M. to sing some songs for Samhain and start practicing for Winter Solstice. Our November rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 11th. We always welcome new singers. Please come join us! If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, songbird@kc.rr.com or 913-469-8779.

Games Night

Friday, Oct. 15th, 7:00–10:00 P.M. at SMUUch

Games Night is a chance for gaians to get together for fun, frivolity, and food, and NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS allowed! (We're not kidding—the Games Guru has spoken on this.) Bring a game (or ten), bring a friend (or ten), or just bring yourself and a willingness to play and visit. Snacks are welcomed but not required, to help the gaming crowds keep up their strength!

KidSpace Committee Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 21th, 7:00 P.M.

The Kidspace Committee Meeting is a place for all parents, kids at heart, and KidSpace volunteers to come together and discuss the future of our children. Plans for future activities, volunteer opportunities, dinner, and the direction of the future of KidSpace could all be on the agenda.

Come to the meeting or contact Andrew Turner, our Director of KidSpace Programming, for more information at agrnmn@kc.rr.com or (913) 706-9167.

If anybody would like to complete the survey for Kidspace (ideas, etc...) and has not had the chance to do so, they can do so by contacting Andrew or Linda. There are copies on Sundays on the Greeters table and downstairs in Kidspace.

Friday Night Supper Club

Friday, Oct. 22th, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! Watch the e-group and anouncements for where we will be eating this month. For more information contact Jeff Park at jpark2@kc.rr.com or 816-361-0465.

A look ahead at next month

Nov 7 Ritual – "Witches Brew"
Nov 14 Class–"Scrying" - Kimberly
Nov 21 Ritual – "Rivendell" –
Nov 28 SOS – "Giving Thanks" - Brian

Sacred Rhythms

Sundays at 3:00 P.M.

Be a player in the rhythm of life

not just a spectator!

Community cares

Joys and Concerns

Compiled with YOUR *input.*

Peace & strength to . . .

- Friends who are rolling with the punches of unemployment and job searches.
- Those struggling with substance abuse and addiction.
- Those in our community experiencing the pain of divorce or separation.

Happy Solar Return to people celebrating their birthday this month:

10-01: Liz T.	10-07: Jacki K.
10-09: Debi B.	10-12: Sami D.
10-16: Bryce M.	10-28: David N.

*If we've missed you, clue us in again! Let Earth Healer know—*earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org *or 816-361-0465 or just sort of let the people at the greeter's table know.*

And a special welcome to the folks who visited us for the first time recently!

Caring Committee Connection Circle
Third Sunday of the month
2:30–4:00 p.m.
A place to meet and talk
with a cup of tea or coffee

P.O. Box 45307
Kansas City, MO 64171-8303

Address Correction Requested

> May you never hunger, May you never thirst.

Contact Earth Healer

Send letters, articles, poetry or prose, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to: earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org or by phone (number inside) no later than the 17th of each month.

Please tell us if you are receiving duplicate copies of *Earth Healer,* if we're getting your name/address wrong or if you prefer to receive the newsletter by email. Let us hear from you before the next *Earth Healer.*

October 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Ritual: Dionysia (+18 only) 4 pm	4	5 Adult RE 7 pm Build Your Own Theology	◐ 6	7 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	8	9 Ritual of Business 9:30 am
SR 3pm 10 SOS: Creativity 4 pm	11	12 Adult RE 7 pm Sacred Rhythms	13	● 14	15 Games Night 7 pm	16
SR 3pm 17 Ritual: Huna Healing Circle 4 pm	18	19 Adult RE 7 pm Druid Study Group	◐ 20 Site Committee Meeting 7–9 pm	21 KidSpace 7 pm	22 FNSC 7 pm	23
CCCC 2:30 SR 3pm 24 Forum: "Across the River Styx 4 pm	25	26 Adult RE 7 pm Wicca 101	27	○ 28 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	29	30
SR 3pm 31 Ritual Samhain 4 pm Potluck Daylight Savings						

Weave and Spin

Splinters from the Board

From the Secretary

September RFB minutes summary:

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 on September 11th. The minutes from August were accepted. The treasurer's report shows that we are tracking on our budget as expected.

In old business:

1. Jeff is still working on getting the printer donated to Gaia by his employer moved.
2. Barbara is still working on lease negotiations with SMUUCh.
3. The membership directory needs some reformatting done to make it more easy to read. Barbara and Terry will work on this.

In new business:

1. Gaia was approached by Planned Parenthood to assist with a fundraiser they have on October 8th. Carey is going to head up an ad hoc ritual team to present the requested rituals, and Voices of Gaia is going to present a 20 minute program.
2. Kimberly volunteered to coordinate the Winter Bazaar this year.

Committee reports:

Caring:

1. Several new people have joined Caring committee.
2. Caring Circle will continue to meet once per month; this will be reevaluated in January.
3. A men's group is going to be developed to complement the crone's group starting in November.

Adult Education:

1. Kimberly would like to step aside as chair of this committee, but she will continue to assist with the program.
2. A new program needs to be developed for next year to replace the Druid and Wicca 101 courses that complete in December.
3. Wicca 101 will not meet in September due to Kimberly being out of town.

Site:

1. Site committee is still investigating what resources and aid we can get from the national level of UU. They will be putting a report together to be printed in the Earth Healer.

Jeff Park will be chairing the next meeting on 10/9. Please contact either Jeff or any member of the board if you have something that you would like to add to the meeting agenda.

The meeting adjoured at 12:30 P.M.

Debbie

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