



# Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community October 2005



Dear Friends,  
We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Gaia Campus. Please find enclosed a list of all necessary equipment.

Term begins on October 30, at 4:00 p.m.  
We await your presence.  
Students and faculty may benefit from possession of:

1. One set of work robes (clean)
2. One pointed hat, or other headgear (if desired)
3. One wand (yours)
4. One glass, chalice, or crystal phial (also clean)
5. Divination tools (of choice)
6. Feast gear (suitable for potluck)
7. Potluck dish (to serve 8, ingredients labeled)
8. House Elf, if available (for washing up)

**PARENTS ARE REMINDED  
THAT ALL AGES  
ARE WELCOME.**

## A MATTER OF MONEY

It is worth noting that we have never in our history had so many pledging members. Our good Treasurer has sent out pledge updates to our members and I strongly urge you to consider catching up to your pledge at this time. We are running 50% behind our needed income for the year. We allow several ways you can pay your pledge but I must be frank about the subject of paying ahead and not in arrears. To keep our community solvent and sound, we must have the continued and timely support of our members. Your generous support is needed now so our future can begin to grow with a strong foundation. Remember: With membership comes responsibility for the continued health of Gaia Community. Secondly—membership gives you not only a voice, but a counted vote in the direction this community grows. If you want to see you pledge in action...come to a Ritual of Business and participate in the guidance of this community. Join a committee of your choice and help with a donation of your time.

Respectfully,  
Jeff Park  
President, Gaia Community

## Things you should know

These following items are not in any order of importance, but they are events happening within our community that everyone should be aware of.

1. One new ritualist have been voted onto ritual teams...we welcome Andrew Turner to the Bards of Chaos.
2. Gaia Community will perform its first legal marriage this month when Brian and Judy take that long walk to the grove. Congrats to you both.
3. A reminder to all participants in Gaia Community Sunday activities...KidSpace is for infant care and children's education under the direction of KidSpace committee and our DRE. If you would like to volunteer some of your time with KidSpace...YOU MUST SEE GRETA or ANISSA. For the children's safety, the board passed, as policy, those working in KidSpace be approved by the DRE and Committee Head and submit to a background check. If you have not been through the process you should not be in the KidSpace area except to drop off or pick up children.

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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

*Sacred Rhythms at 3 p.m.*

## Sunday, October 2

### Ritual—"R.E.S.P.E.C.T."

Treating life and living beings with disregard is so ingrained into our society and everyday living that we rarely take a moment to consider certain aspects of our way of living. During this ritual, we hope to give you a different perspective when viewing the world around you and our role in it. There will be ethic questions raised and alternatives to existing societal norms for you to consider.

## Sunday, October 9

### Forum—"Crone and Sage" facilitated by Barbara & Jeff

The crone, and the sage, signify the elder years of our lifespan: the collection of wisdom and experience, along with the changing of our bodies for the final transformation. What does it mean to grow older in modern society? How do we change, and how do we stay the same? All ideas are welcome, but bring a healthy dose of courtesy, and a willingness to listen to others, as well.


## Sunday, October 16

### Ritual—"Search for the Grail (new member)"

New Member Sunday, and a Search for Secret Knowledge Seek, and you will find, adventurer... the grail mythos is one of the most potent and well-known in Western antiquity. This ritual will drink deep from the well of mythic reality, and come up with some new members as well, possibly! Join us if you can

### Ritual Teams and Members:

  
Kitty Degler  
Barbara Griggs  
Devin Scrogum  
Andrew Turner

  
Kimberly  
Liz Ticer  
Via  
David Reynolds  
Pat Mathis

  
Nicole Turner  
Brian Butler  
Linda Boyce  
Cynthia Mathis?

  
Debbie Giffin  
Jeff Park  
Eric Simpson  
Yale Giffin?

### Gaia Community Board Members

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>President</b> —Jeff Park<br>president@gaiacommunity.org or<br>816-361-0465     | <b>Members at Large</b><br>Carey Reynolds<br>gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or<br>816-941-7626 |
| <b>VP</b> —Liz Ticer<br>femainoregon@excite.com or<br>913-636-4924                | Jennifer Gadd<br>djrm@gadd-nelson.com  |
| <b>Treasurer</b> —Devin Scrogum<br>treasurer@gaiacommunity.org or<br>913-708-5667 | John Carroll<br>IBRCandS792@yahoo.com or<br>913-334-2834                           |
| <b>Secretary</b> —Debbie Giffin<br>secretary@gaiacommunity.org or<br>913-894-8131 |  |

## Sunday, October 23

### Workshop—"The Four Levels of Reality" facilitated by Barbara and team

Do you know what REAL is? What is "real"? Are we really able to tell, with our senses or otherwise? This workshop will explore how there may be more than one valid 'reality', each suitable - and unsuitable - for particular purposes.

## Sunday, October 30

### Sabbat—"Samhain."

Brought to you by team  
Hufflepuff.  
For ritual content,  
please refer to page 1.



*As with all Sabbats, we will be holding a potluck, so bring a dish for 8 hungry people and remember to label the ingredients! In order to care for the earth and each other, we ask that you refrain from using disposable containers or tableware if possible.*

## A look ahead at next month

Nov. 6 Forum - "Speak Out"  
Nov. 13 Ritual - "The Wild Hunt"  
Nov. 20 Ritual - "Patron Deity"  
Nov. 27 SOS - "Thanksgiving"

## KIDSPACE CORNER

We've been having loads of fun celebrating Harvest kinds of things. We made corn-bread mix to take home, honored our WILD THINGS, and decorated gourds. Now we're shifting gear to move into the Dark time of the year. I love this time of the year, but used to be terrified of the dark when I was a kid, so we'll be exploring some stories about gods, goddesses, and magical creatures who are often described as "dark," just to shed a little light on the subject.

As always, we need volunteers. Extra hands during craft time are always good, and I know there are many interesting and talented individuals out there who have much to share with our TeenSpace gang. Also, we are on the lookout for someone who can permanently take over the infant/toddler room. If you know anyone who may be interested, reliable, and great with an awesome group of high-energy kids, have them contact Anissa at [gaiakidspace@yahoo.com](mailto:gaiakidspace@yahoo.com). Likewise, if YOU are interested in contributing ideas, time, or just listening in to see what's happening, the Kid-Space committee meets every third Thursday at 7:00. Contact Greta for more info.

## WEAVE AND SPIN Splinters from the Board

Summary of the RfB Minutes—10September05

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Carey R. **Secretary's report:** A summary of the minutes from the August meeting were read. The minutes were approved as is.

**Treasurer's report:** A budget update was presented. We are down on pledges currently, but many feel that is due to lighter attendance during the summer months and the start of the renaissance festival keeping many of our members busy. Pledge update letters will be going out soon. There was another question as to whether we are current on paying all of our bills since our pledge money is down. Devin reported that all bills that he has received have been paid. There was a suggestion during the Labor Day SOS to send the Greening the Basket money to Hurricane relief. All present felt that this was an appropriate use of our budgeted charitable donations.

**Old Business: Bank Account/phone:** Devin reported that USBank requires a form showing approval and the minutes from the Board meeting where the approval happened (both on Letterhead) to open a new account. Motion that we start both a checking and a savings account at USBank. The motion was seconded and carried by consensus. Motion to change the approved signatories on the current Kidspace discretionary account was seconded and carried by consensus. **Garage Sale leftovers:** Ozanam picked up the remaining items from the garage sale and took them to the Sherwood Center. If you had loaned a table for the garage sale, you can pick them up from the Trinity. The remaining books were taken to Half-Price books. We received \$45 for them.

**New Business: Winter Bazaar update:** The winter bazaar will be held on December 10th, 10 am–6 pm, at the Ivanhoe Masonic Temple. Kimberly would appreciate borrowing more tables. We will need more volunteers to help. Via has stepped up as volunteer coordinator. There will be no ads in major press this year. There will be more fliers. She is also going to work on press releases and PSAs for advertisement. **Rites of Passage:** Motioned that a Committee on Ministry be created to be staffed by the Nominating Committee by October 15th, 2005. The motion was seconded and carried by consensus./ Resolved: That Gaia Community shall license and empower certain members to perform legal and public Rites of Passage for the members of the congregation and for members of the community at large, who seek specifically pagan, non-traditional UU, or interfaith services; members so empowered must be recommended by a two-thirds majority of the then-current Ritual Team Members, shall serve at the pleasure of the community for a term of three years, and shall be overseen by the Committee on Ministry. The motion was seconded and carried by consensus./ Resolved: That Gaia Community shall license and empower Jeff Park to perform legal Rites of Passage for Brian Butler and Judi McCannon in October 2005. It was noted that Ritual Teams has already empowered Jeff to serve in this capacity at their meeting earlier this month. The motion was seconded and carried by consensus. **Adult Ed special event:** Kimberly gave an explanation of Constellation work She will put together a proposal for the October meeting, as she hadn't received the email after the August meeting giving her approval to go forward with fact finding.

**Committee Reports: Kidspace:** It was noted that a policy had been established in the past to do criminal checks for all regular child care providers. All present agreed that this was a good policy and feel it should continue as a standard procedure. There was considerable discussion about concerns where the Kidspace program was concerned. Some of these centered around the lack of volunteers and help, lack of child care for the younger children which required the DRE to do child care, need for separate classrooms for the teens, and concerns with curriculum. **Site:** Yale reported that he is considering volunteering as the head of Site committee since Collene has stepped down. However, he is having difficulty getting information that had been collected previously. He has also sent a request to our district UUA liaison but has not received any response to date. Barbara suggested that it is easier to reach him by phone and agreed to get his phone number to Yale. **Adult Ed:** Kimberly announced that she is stepping down as head of Adult Ed after December. The 5th Tuesday class in November will be given by Ann Allegre on death and dying issues.

## GAIA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Ritual Teams Meeting

Thursday, October 6th at 6:45 P.M.

All current ritual team members are urged to attend. Planning of and critiquing rituals are what we do. Comments from anyone in the general community about rituals are welcome as well; please communicate them to the Ritual Team Coordinator, currently Eric. Please contact the Coordinator to find out more about this month's meeting, or if you are a graduate of the Excellence in Ritual class and wish to start working with Ritual Teams again.

### Voices of Gaia

Mondays at 7 P.M. AT SMUUCH-FRANKLIN ROOM.

New singers are always welcome. If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Kitty Degler, [songbird@kc.rr.com](mailto:songbird@kc.rr.com) or 913-469-8779.

### Games Night

Friday, October 21, 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!

### Friday Night Supper Club

Friday, October 28, 7:00 P.M.

Friday Night Supper Club Dinner with Pagans! Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! September's Friday Night Supper Club has not been announced. Please check the weekly announcements.

Please contact Carey, David, or Kimberly to save a spot! at [gaia-kat@kc.rr.com](mailto:gaia-kat@kc.rr.com) or 816-941-7626.

### Tuesday Night Adult Education

Tuesday at 7 P.M. AT SMUUCH—SEE CALENDAR



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

*Address Correction Requested*

**The  
 Samhain  
 Ritual  
 is  
 Oct. 30  
 with  
 potluck  
 following**

**Contact Earth Healer**

Send letters, articles, poetry or prose, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to: earthhealer@gaiiacommunity.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*.

**MAY YOU  
 NEVER  
 HUNGER.  
 MAY YOU  
 NEVER  
 THIRST.**

| October 2005   |  |   |  |  |                              |   | 1 |
|--|--|---|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                    | Thursday                                   | Friday                       | Saturday  |   |
| SR 3pm 2<br>Ritual:<br>RESPECT<br>4 pm                             | ● 3  | Adult RE 4 7<br>pm<br>Everyday<br>Spiritual<br>Practice           | 5  | 6<br>Ritual<br>Teams<br>Meeting<br>6:45 pm | 7                            | 8<br>Ritual<br>of Business<br>9:30 am           |   |
| SR 3pm 9<br>Forum:<br>Crone &<br>Sage<br>4 pm                      | ◐ 10<br>Voices<br>of Gaia<br>7 pm                  | 11<br>Adult RE<br>7 pm<br>Sacred<br>Rhythms                       | 12   | 13   | 14                           | 15<br>Happy<br>Day                              |   |
| SR 3pm 16<br>Ritual:<br>Search for<br>the Grail<br>4 pm            | ○ 17<br>Voices<br>of Gaia<br>7 pm                  | 18<br>Adult<br>RE 7 pm<br>Druid Study<br>Group                    | 19<br>Site<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br>7-9 pm | 20<br>KidSpace<br>7 pm                     | 21<br>Games<br>Night<br>7 pm | 22<br>SMUuch<br>Workday<br>volunteers<br>needed |   |
| SR 3pm 23<br>Workshop:<br>The Four<br>Levels of<br>Reality<br>4 pm | ◐ 24<br>Voices<br>of Gaia<br>7 pm                  | 25<br>Adult<br>RE<br>7 pm<br>Intro to<br>Paganism                 | 26   | 27<br>Fall<br>Equinox                      | 28<br>FNCS<br>7 pm           | 29  |   |
| SR 3pm 30<br>Ritual:<br>Sabbat:<br>Samhain<br>4 pm<br>Potluck      | 31<br>Voices<br>of Gaia?<br>7 pm<br><b>Samhain</b> | Nov. ● 1<br>Adult<br>RE 7 pm<br>Everyday<br>Spiritual<br>Practice | 2  | 3<br>Ritual<br>Teams<br>Meeting<br>6:45 pm | 4                            | 5   |   |