



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

OCTOBER 2007

PAGE 1

Winter Bazaar Date and Location Set!

Letters to vendors went out this past week with registration information for the Winter Bazaar, Gaia Community's annual craft show and fund raiser. If you are a returning vendor and do not receive a registration form by October 10th, please contact us immediately at bazaar@gaiacommunity.org or call 816-931-9900. Also, new vendors may wish to have us send you registration information on the event.

This year's Bazaar will be at the **Boone Elementary School, located at 89th and Wornall in Kansas City, Missouri. The Bazaar's hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 15th, 2007.** Building access will start at 8:00 a.m. The space will be open for breakdown and cleanup until 8:00 p.m. Vendor's fees and setup options will be outlined in the registration packets.

We are looking forward to all of our friends returning with their displays, and want to welcome new vendors to our event. This year we have a great location in Kansas City, that is very accessible with great off-street parking as well. We will be expanding our marketing to include all of the metro area's colleges and universities, with hopes of increasing our visibility to a customer base that will be interested in all the products found at the Winter Bazaar.

Gaia Community looks forward to seeing all of our vendor friends and welcoming all new vendors to this annual event. This year, we will add to the festival atmosphere with live music!

- Winter Bazaar Committee

What's Inside This Issue	
GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
ACTIVITY: LOGIC PUZZLE.....	4
RITUAL FOR BUSINESS MINUTES.....	5
CALENDAR	6

Nominating Committee Needs You!

It is an unfortunate feature of small volunteer-run organizations that they have a tendency to use up available volunteers until they are burnt out. At other times, those who are helping operate the community simply have life-changes occur that make their previous level of service untenable. Whatever the reason, the Nominating Committee of Gaia Community would like to make you aware of the openings that have recently become available:

- ★ Devin Scrogum has had to resign from the Board due to his class schedule and workload. This means that we are currently under our minimum number of board members, as outlined in our bylaws. If you are able to help out with this shortfall, please let us know before the October Ritual for Business, on 10/13/07!
- ★ Our KidSPACE Committee needs to be rebuilt with individuals (parents or not!) who are able to take a pro-active interest in the welfare of our children's education programming. This committee is responsible for providing oversight for both of our community's paid employees, and helping craft policy and standards for the program.
- ★ Somewhat more light-heartedly but no less valued, Kris' schedule will no longer permit her to coordinate the Friday Night Supper Club. Whoever replaces her should be available on the fourth Friday of most months, and have access to e-mail (and preferably a cell phone) so that people can let them know how many people will be coming. A good familiarity with the locally-owned restaurants of the metro area will help!

Whether this would extend your current commitments or provide a new way for you to help our community live and grow, we appreciate everything you all do.

- Carey, Jeff, & John
nomcom@gaiacommunity.org

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

Ritual Teams Meeting (10/4, 6:45 PM, Debbie's house): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Debbie in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know!

Ritual for Business (10/13, 9:30 AM): 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 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 can be communicated to the board at board@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (10/15, 7PM): Andrew and Cynthia have rebuilt the Social Justice committee in response to some concerns and ideas raised among the community recently. If you're interested in helping out with the upcoming effort to provide gifts this winter holiday season to kids in the Jackson County C.A.S.A. program, find one of them or e-mail them at sj@gaiacommunity.org!

Games Night (10/19, 7 PM): 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 either the Barn Chapel or downstairs in the Jefferson room, depending on weather/games available. We've gotten some new board game players from the Kansas City area to join us through <http://meetup.com>, so come join the fun! Remember we're only trying out the continuation of this event, so if people don't show up, we won't do it!

Friday Night Supper Club (10/26, 7 PM): The October Supper Club will be at Hien Vuong Vietnamese Restaurant, located at 417 Main Street in the River Market. Please be on time as the restaurant is small and fills up fast! In addition, Kris is looking for someone else with more time to take over running Supper Club in the future.

Board of Trustees 07-08

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

Vice-President — Terry Ross
vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-966-9186

Treasurer — Nola Cavanaugh
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-966-9186

Secretary — Jennifer Gadd
secretary@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-299-4587

Members at Large —

Carey Oxler
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com
or 816-401-1963

Yale Giffin
niveustigris@hotmail.com
or 816-797-8032

Vacant

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

Agenda for October's Ritual for Business

In addition to the usual items, the agenda for this month include the Winter Bazaar and KidSPACE. Any additions or changes to the agenda should be communicated to the board in person (they have the purple ribbons on their nametags), by calling 816-931-9900, or by e-mail at board@gaiacommunity.org.

Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out this month to Lizzy on the 1st, Jacki on the 7th, Debi on the 9th, Sami on the 12th, Bryce on the 16th, and David Nelson on the 28th. If there are other people around with October birthdays, we may not know who you are!

In addition, our condolences and best wishes go out to the family and friends of Mikey ("Angus") O'Reilly, who passed into his next adventure on the afternoon of October 1st. And our thoughts are with John Carroll as he recovers in the hospital, hopefully in preparation for much-needed surgery.

If you or another attendee of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the Caring Committee by emailing us at caring@gaiacommunity.org, leaving a message on the Gaia Community voicemail at 816-931-9900, or by contacting one of the Caring Committee members in person: Cynthia Mathis, Terry Ross, or Debbie Dozier.



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

Voices of Gaia meets at 2:00 PM, Sacred Rhythms at 3:30 PM

Sunday, October 7th

Ritual: The Elements

Ritualists: Lizzy, Kitty, Barbara, Eric

Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Iron, Copper, Gold and Tin. Journey with us Sunday, see what you have within.

Sunday, October 14th

Workshop — Soul Tattoos

(creating and using personal sigils)

Facilitators: Carey, Nicole

Sigils are one of the most flexible and personal magical tools. In this class, we'll walk through several creation methods, and a multitude of ways to use them in magical and spiritual practice. No drawing skill or experience is required for this kind of art!

Sunday, October 21st

Ritual — Shamanic Dumpster Diving

Ritualists: Kimberly, Yale, Jacki

One of the roles of the shaman is to help us collect lost fragments of our souls, and put them back where they belong. Have you felt like you're missing part of yourself lately? Did you give of yourself to someone, only to have them later discard what you offered? This ritual will work with methods of spiritual "dumpster diving" to defragment ourselves, making us whole and hale once more.

Current Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Amanda Pence
Barbara	Carey Oxler
David Reynolds	Devin Scrogum
Eric Simpson	Jacki Kelley
Jeff Park	Kimberly
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Nicole Turner
Via	Yale Giffin

Please see Debbie Dozier, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, if you have are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams.

Sunday, October 28th

SABBAT — Samhain

Ritualists: Nicole, Andrew, David, Jennifer, Debbie

As in some previous years, we'll be celebrating Samhain in a Druidic style this year – particularly by partnering with the members of Kansas City's own ADF protogrove, many of whom are also Gaia Community ritualists.

Druidic ritual seeks to make the place of doing the work a 'focal point' for all the various realms and axes of the cosmos. Samhain is the time when the barriers between those realms is thinnest, so you may wish to plan for extraordinary communications with your beloved dead, divination work, or engaging with an old or new patron deity.

As with all our Sabbat celebrations, this ritual will be followed by a potluck meal. Please bring a dish, drink or dessert to share among eight people; remember to care for the earth by bringing reusable containers and dishes, and to care for others by labeling your ingredients for those with dietary requirements.

- Ritual Teams

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Nov. 4th – Ritual: TeenSPACE

Nov. 11th – Ritual: Healing

Nov. 18th – Class: Our UU Identity

(with Rev. Thom Belote)

Nov. 25th – Ritual: Thanksgiving

A note: Ritual Teams are always looking for input on rituals, classes, and workshops that you've attended and liked, attended and didn't like, heard about but missed, or would like to see us present at Gaia Community. If you have any feedback, let someone with a blue ribbon on their nametag know, or you can email us at rituals@gaiacommunity.org to provide written ideas or links.

Activity: Logic Puzzle

(not just for kids)

For Samhain this year, the five families who live on Robinson Street (101, 103, 105, 107, and 109) plan to greet neighborhood trick-or-treaters by each person dressing up as favorite characters and each house giving out a different kind of candy.

Given the hints below, there's a ghost of a chance that you can unmask which couple lives in each house, what each person plans to masquerade as, and what kind of treats they are giving out.

1. Alice and her husband aren't the couple giving away the Snicker's bars.
2. The man going as the Tin Man from *The Wizard of Oz* and his wife aren't treating the kids to Twizzler's licorice.
3. The couple who have chosen Snicker's bars as their treat live next door to John and his wife and to the couple whose wife is dressing up as Cinderella.
4. The couple giving out M & M's live next door to Mr. & Mrs. Myers, who isn't Alice.
5. The woman masquerading as Florence Nightingale and her spouse live next door to the man going as Count Dracula and his wife.
6. The woman who will be begowned as Cinderella and her husband aren't the ones who live at 101 or 109 Robinson St.
7. Tina and her husband have the house between and next door to those of Keith and his wife and Karen and her husband--who isn't the one who will be Frankenstein's Monster for Samhain.
8. The couple giving out the Twizzler's live next door to Alice and her mate and to Mr. & Mrs. Voorhees.
9. Both Keith and the man who will don the Capt. Kirk costume have carved intricate jack-o'-lanterns to light up the festivities.
10. Mary and her spouse don't live at 109 Robinson.
11. The woman who plans to masquerade as Raggedy Ann isn't the one whose husband is dressing as Frankenstein's Monster.
12. The house where one couple will give out Whopper's malted milk balls is immediately flanked by those of the Lechters and the couple whose husband is wearing the Tin Man gear.
13. Alice, who isn't going as Cinderella, and Keith's wife traditionally serve their spouses and friends oatmeal cookies and hot mulled cider during the trick or treating.
14. The Kruegers live next door to the man going as Capt. Kirk and his wife, who isn't wearing the Florence Nightingale getup.
15. John and the man dressing as Count Dracula are renting costumes from Evil Ed's Eerie Emporium.
16. Mr. Bates, who isn't the one who will be Darth Vader on October 31, isn't the man whose wife will be Wonder Woman for an evening.
17. David, who isn't Mr. Krueger, and Tina's husband both play weird sounds on tape recorders to heighten the scary effect.
18. Pamela isn't the wife who decided to go the conventional route as a witch this year.
19. Mr. Myers, who isn't John, and his wife aren't the couple who have chosen Twizzler's as their treat.
20. Bob and his wife aren't the pair who will dole out Milky Way bars on Thursday night.
21. Ray's wife isn't the one masquerading as Raggedy Ann.
22. The man going as Capt. Kirk, who isn't John, and his wife aren't giving out Milky Ways.

Good Luck!

Mooings from the CoW (Committee of the Whole)

Summary of the September Ritual for Business

- I. **Meeting called to order at 9:45 AM.** Attending: Jennifer, Via, Nola, Terry, Carey, David R., Devin, Erin, Amanda, Yale, Brian
- II. **Agenda** – agreed, with amendments
- III. **Minutes** – agreed
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - We show a -\$12.12 deficit for the month of August. All paperwork was updated with the bank. The \$20.26 was refunded. Phone bill has gone up \$.10. The lost deposit was found and deposited. We are out of general budget money for KidSpace for the year due to curriculum purchases.
- V. **Standing Committees**
 - A. **Caring** - We continue to have a large amount of activity for the committee within the community.
 - B. **Ritual Teams** - Per Debbie's email:
We did a burn out check with all present to ensure that no ritualists are getting too stressed by their commitment to the community.
We have received 1 application from Via Baker to rejoin Teams. A group was assigned to interview her. We checked composition of the teams for the reporting/administrative process and made a few minor changes. We approved the proposal to start doing continuing education at several meetings each year.
We approved the proposal to change the meeting day on a rolling basis each month so that all members can meet the requirement of one meeting per quarter. Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, October 4th. We hope to be able to use SMUUCH facilities this time, but have Kris lined up as a backup meeting place if that falls through.
 - C. **KidSPACE** - Terry as Ombudsperson has received numerous comments about KS regarding staffing and scheduling. Concerns about salary, contracts, and communication were lifted up.
 - D. **NomCom** - Devin has resigned from the board due to a busy schedule. The Nominating Committee is mobilizing in response.
 - E. **Communications** - Earth Healer was a little late because of missed submission deadlines.
 - F. **SMUUCH Liaison** - Lizzy reports that it can be difficult to arrange things with the new liaison. She attempted to schedule RT meetings for a month and got no response. She will need more notice if you need the building for something, and she cannot guarantee a response from the liaison. The CoW recommends contacting the SMUUCH board about these difficulties.
 - G. **Social Justice** - We're working on putting care packages together. The difficulty is in finding names/addresses of soldiers to send them to. GLTB concerns are being considered for the next "charity."
 - H. **Publicity Task Force** - The new producer has scheduled the show for Sept. 10, from 10-11 a.m. It will be called "Paganism: Facts and Myths. Caroline will represent Gaia Community. She will be on the show

with a member of the Inter-Faith Council.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. **Winter Bazaar** - Winter Bazaar—The committee researched the Boone School at 89th and Wornall. It will be \$50 for first three hours, \$25/hr. afterwards, and \$15/hr for personnel, for a little over \$560. Amanda mentioned the Douglas County Fairground as a possibility. It looks promising, but if it doesn't pan out, the CoW needs to authorize the expenditure to rent Boone School so the bazaar can be planned in a timely manner.
Proposal: *If Douglas County is available for less than \$300 for a comparable facility, the committee is authorized to rent that facility. If Douglas County does not meet our needs, the committee is authorized to rent Boone School from the Center School District.* Agreed.
- B. **Games Night** - The "last" Game Night in July wound up being heavily attended. The August meeting was also well attended. Those in charge plan to continue running it as long as it seems viable. The CoW confirms authorization to continue Games Night.
- C. **Board Retreat** - The retreat was scheduled and no one planned it, which turned out to be a good thing because no one showed up. The new and improved board retreat will be the first weekend in November, Saturday, for an all-day event.
- D. **Website** - Terry's concerns are about the spam that seems to get through. Carey reports that spammers are using our public emails and text captures to generate spam that makes hits. There's no way to stop it without stopping Gaia's searchability and online access. The website has not been compromised. David will check about some email glitches that seem to be occurring. The Earth Healer link to the August newsletter has been fixed.

VII. New Business

- A. **KidSPACE** - The KidSpace Committee is looking to restructure its program and is planning a strategy session.
Via proposes *that the Board, at its strategic planning session, create goals and purposes for the KidSpace program.* Agreed.
David proposes *that Nom Com constitute a functioning KS committee, including a chairperson, by the November RfB. Terry will notify Nom Com.* Agreed.
Carey proposes *that the reactivated KS committee produce policies, procedures, and employee contracts that incorporate the goals and purposes set forth by the Board.* Tabled.
Other KS concerns: Erin wonders where kids are supposed to be after church and reports children have been downstairs unsupervised after a recent potluck. Jennifer proposes *our KS Code of Conduct be re-published in the newsletter and bulletins for the next month, in the Yahoo! Group every six months, and in every September newsletter thereafter.* Agreed.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM.

- Jennifer, Secretary



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 (816-941-7626) 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*

OCTOBER 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class on Welcoming Congregations	1	2	3 ☉	4 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting	5	6
7 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: The Elements	8	9	10	11 ●	12	13 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
14 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Workshop: Soul Tattoos	15 7 PM: Social Justice Comm. Meeting	16	17	18	19 ☾	20 7 PM: Games Night
21 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Shamanic Dumpster Diving	22	23	24	25 ☉	26 7 PM: Friday Night Supper Club @ Hien Vuong, in the River Market	27
28 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: SABBAT: Druidic Samhain	29	30	31 Samhain	1 ☾	2	3