



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

OCTOBER 2008 PAGE 1

## Longest Night Ball is Coming!

Make room on your calendar to celebrate the Winter Solstice with Gaia Community and friends at our first-ever Longest Night Ball! The party is on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Broadway Church, 3931 Washington St. in Westport. We'll have music, dancing, a theatrical celebration of the change of seasons, and more at this fabulous masquerade ball. Current plans are to start at 9 PM and go until 1 AM or later. Cost of admission is still being determined.

This ball takes its inspiration from the *Kushiel* series of books by Jacqueline Carey. The series describes a fantasy Europe centered on the nation of Terre D'Ange, where the primary religious tenet is to love as you will, and respect the loves of others. This notion fits so well with our work as a Welcoming Congregation that it seemed a natural theme for our celebration. The Longest Night Ball in the books is a decadent masquerade with beautiful costumes, dazzling decor, and wonderful food and drink, centered on the dance of the Sun Prince with Winter, which marks and celebrates the seasonal change. While we want to provide *something* of that experience for attendees, we're also giving the concepts a bit of our own twist to make this a truly unique event.



This exciting new event will take the place of our usual Winter Bazaar as a fund-raiser, and we'll need some help to make it a success. We're still working out some of the details, so if you'd like to lend a hand with ideas, time, or donations, please join us for the next meeting of the Stewardship Committee. We will meet on Wednesday, October 8th, from 7 - 8 PM at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop, 8975 Metcalf (near Half-Price Books). You can also contact members of the committee (Kimberly, Via, Greta, or Kate) with ideas or offers to help in person on Sundays, or through email at [stewardship@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:stewardship@gaiacommunity.org).

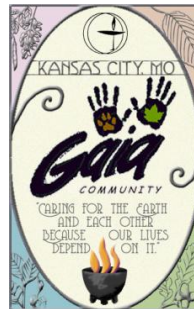
- Stewardship Committee

## ...And Yet, Vendors!?

Although we won't be holding the Winter Bazaar this year, we would still like to provide an opportunity for Gaia's artists and crafters to display their wares, and for the rest of us to get some of the holiday shopping done with people we know. Every Sunday, from November 9 to December 21, a table or two will be available before and after ritual for folks to show off their stuff for sale. We hope to have one or two vendors each week during this time. If you are interested in selling your stuff at Gaia, please contact the Stewardship Committee ([stewardship@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:stewardship@gaiacommunity.org)) to reserve a spot. There is no fee to offer your wares, but we do ask that if you take advantage of the opportunity to sell, that you donate some portion of your proceeds back to the community. Please reserve your space by October 26, so that we can get the schedule of vendors out in the next Earth Healer. Thanks, and happy commerce!

- Stewardship Committee

## Website Updates Ongoing!



After some months of technical difficulties, our new and improved website is finally headed your way! Over the first part of October, you may at times experience brief outages of service or unexpected changes of format as things are changed over to the new server. Check back in a couple of hours or the next day and things should be working again. This will be our first major overhaul of the website in more than half a decade, so

while we'll try to keep old page names as redirects to the new site's pages, you may want to start fresh at <http://gaiacommunity.org> and explore the new features!

As always, if you notice dead links, erroneous information, or typos typos, let me know through [webmaster@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:webmaster@gaiacommunity.org) or in person. I don't regularly visit every page on the site (and soon, if all goes according to plan, I won't even be writing them all), so a lot of my feedback about when something goes haywire comes from the site's visitors and users.

- David and the  
Communications Committee

### What's Inside This Issue

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
KIDSPACE INFO & COLORING PAGE..	4
RITUAL FOR BUSINESS MINUTES.....	5
CALENDAR .....	6

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** (every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia, Gaia Community's choir, now meets in the Theater Room below Barn Chapel on Sundays at 2 PM, so long as Kitty is not leading ritual. New members are always welcome! We prefer that you have some experience singing (especially with choirs), can match pitch, and can follow a musical score. Our current incarnation is mostly as a women's choir, but if you're a tenor or bass and want to sing with us, contact Kitty in person or at [voices@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:voices@gaiacommunity.org) and we'll figure something out.

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (10/2, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Kimberly, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, in person or at [rtc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:rtc@gaiacommunity.org). As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest let a ritualist know!

**Stewardship Committee** (10/8, 7 PM, at Dunn Brothers): The Stewardship Committee continues to meet and plan the Winter Fundraiser, as detailed on page one. Please join them at Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf, get in touch with someone in person, or through email at [stewardship@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:stewardship@gaiacommunity.org), if you'd like to help.

**Ritual for Business** (10/11, 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 should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

**KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (10/12, 1 PM, at Dunn Brothers): The KidSpace committee is meeting again! You do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Rosemary, the new Committee Chair, at [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org) to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee currently meets on the second Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (10/14, 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](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org) or find him in person. The committee will be working on the ongoing "Llamas for Lammass" social justice project.

**Games Night** (10/17, 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.

**Friday Night Supper Club** (10/24, 7 PM): October's supper club will be at New Café Tandoor, an Indian restaurant in midtown. The restaurant is located at 3623 Broadway in KCMO, with parking around back or across the street. Please contact Linda to save a spot!

### Board of Trustees 08-09

**President** — Lizzy Ticer  
[president@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 913-636-4924

**Vice-President** — Linda Boyce  
[vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-419-9447

**Treasurer** — Nola Cavanaugh  
[treasurer@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:treasurer@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-503-8156

**Secretary** — David Reynolds  
[secretary@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:secretary@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-508-9086

#### Members at Large —

Via Baker  
[viator753@hailmail.net](mailto:viator753@hailmail.net)  
or 913-548-9463  
Erin Truitt  
[etisme@gmail.com](mailto:etisme@gmail.com)  
or 913-904-2459  
Greta Erhardt  
816-822-2070 or  
[greta@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:greta@gaiacommunity.org)  
... or contact them all at  
[board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org)!

## Caring Connections Corner

Several of our kids' birthdays are this month: Lizzy on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Jacki on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Debi on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Sami on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Raven Spirit on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Bryce on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and David Nelson on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

In addition, our thoughts go to all of those who are moving, changing jobs, taking long trips, or experiencing difficulties in health or well-being. John Carroll, in particular, has a diagnosis of a form of bone cancer which is contributing to his multiple injuries over the last year, so keep him in your thoughts and lend him what energy you can. And Brandy is moving once again, as are some other community members.

The Caring Committee is now 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 on our answering machine at 816-931-9900 or by e-mail at [caring@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org).



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

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

### Sunday, Oct. 5th

#### Workshop — Meditation for Non-Meditators

*Facilitators: Andrew and Lizzy*

Why meditate? What is meditation? What are different ways to meditate? What's with all the questions? If you've ever encountered difficulty in getting your "monkey mind" to quiet down, or want to learn some additional techniques to assist your meditative experiences, this workshop should be of use to you. **Wear something comfortable!**

### Sunday, Oct. 12th

#### Class — "Pagan" Doesn't Have To Mean "Poor"

*Facilitator: David*

It's a stereotype and a myth that being neopagan means that you either don't have a job, or spend all your money on books, or can't balance your checkbook without summoning ritual to garner aid. This class will work on dispelling some of those myths and providing practical skills for overcoming deficiencies you may feel you have in your monetary dealings.

### Sunday, Oct. 19th

#### Ritual — Shamanic Journeying with the Ancestors

*Ritualists: Devin, Eric, Kimberly, and Barbara*

Join us for the second in our series of modern shamanic journeying rituals. In the first ritual, we sought the counsel of totem animal spirits. In this work, we will travel to the City of the Dead in search of wisdom from ancestor spirits and the mighty heroes of our past. Please come ready to ride the rhythms of past and present, going deep within for transformation. Personal comfort can be an issue and distraction in these rituals; feel free to bring a blanket if you often find yourself cold in the sanctuary.

### Sunday, Oct. 26th

#### SABBAT — Samhain (w/potluck after)

*Ritualists: Jacki, Jeff, Kitty, and Kit*

Join us as we call to our beloved dead to accompany us on a perilous journey in search of advice for the coming year. **Youth 12 and older are welcome upstairs**; this ritual will likely not be a good match for our younger children.

As with all High Holidays, we will be holding a potluck meal afterward, so bring a dish, drink, or dessert for eight hungry people, and remember to label the ingredients for those with dietary restriction or allergies! In order to care for the earth and each other, we ask that you refrain from using disposable containers/tableware if at all possible.

— *Ritual Teams*

#### Currently Active Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Barbara
David Reynolds	Devin Scrogum
Eric Simpson	Erin Truitt
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kit Peters
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Via Baker

*Please see Kimberly, the new 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 to Next Month...

Nov. 2nd — Forum: Security vs. Civil Liberties

Nov. 9th — Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits  
(*post-election wrap-up*)

Nov. 16th — Ritual: Over the Rainbow

Nov. 23rd — Class: Cord and Knot Magic

Nov. 30th — Ritual: Thanking the Nature  
Spirits (*Shamanic Journeying,  
Thanksgiving*)

## *KidSpace Schedule (Trees class)*

The Trees are our older children, teenagers and near-teenagers. Their class schedule for October is as follows (subject to change, void where prohibited, etc).

- ◆ 10/05: **Christianity IV: Q&A w/ Guest Speaker**  
*There will be a guest speaker who is himself a member of the Christian faith.*
- ◆ 10/12: **Christianity V: Film: The Life of Brian**  
*Acclaimed by many as their single best film ever, The Life of Brian is a film made by Monty Python, a group of British comedic writer/actors who are themselves largely Christian. They were immediately denounced by high-ranking church officials and the film itself was banned in many parts of Britain. During this class we will watch this most excellent satire, and then discuss what its makers might have been trying to say.*
- ◆ 10/19: **Finish viewing / discussing LoB if needed.**  
*Otherwise, Open Discussion / Park Clean-up with Greta (Social Justice).*
- ◆ 10/26: **High Holiday: Samhain**  
*There will be no separate KidSpace downstairs for Trees during this high holiday.*

From there I will most likely do another segment of Unitarian Universalism, much as I did before. I have students now that I did not have then, and Unitarian Universalism sprang, historically, from Christendom. As part of covering UU, I again intend to cover Gaia Community in particular, and its Cornerstones.

I also intend to have a class on HIV/AIDS with the folks who did the adult class as guest speakers; stay tuned for more information on that.

- Coyote



Coloring Images for the Kids!

<http://www.squiglyplayhouse.com>

## *Sexy Cookie Gods and Goddesses Needed!*

No, we're not asking you to do anything weird in front of the kids. But almost every non-High-Holiday Sunday, you've probably noticed the tasty baked goods for sale after ritual. 100% of those are donated by members and friends of the community, and 100% of the proceeds from their "sale" (whatever you think they're worth, really) goes toward the expenses and projects of KidSpace.

But lately, the schedule of people willing to bring in the sexy cookies has looked a little bare (no pun intended). So if you've got a floured thumb or just want to stop by the grocery on your way in sometime, please sign up after ritual at the same place where you pick up your cookie/ brownie/ shortbread – the kids thank you, as do all of the hungry adults!

- Rosemary and the  
KidSpace Committee



Halloween



©Kidsfront.com

## Ritual for Business Minutes – 9/13/2008

Started at 9:45 AM

*Attendees: David R., Via, Kimberly, Jamie, Rosemary, Erin, Devin, Kate, Lizzy, Greta E.*

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – approved
- II. **Minutes** – approved, with the correction of “Internet” to “Internets”.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – not possible due to absence of Treasurer.
- IV. **Committee Reports**
  1. **NomCom** – Rosemary is now KidSpace Chairperson. No other open positions that they need to fill at this time.
  2. **Ritual Teams** – Added Kit Peters to teams.
  3. **KidSpace** – Moved September's meeting to Sundays to accommodate Rosemary's schedule. Lizzy will reclaim those hours on the calendar.
  4. **Membership** – by the 21st Devin will have four people who have completed the Membership class. Kimberly stressed that the team doing the NMS ritual for Autumn Equinox need their names/number ASAP, so they can buy gifts and make name tags.
  5. **Communications** – EH is still slow to get information. Website domain change has not been finalized yet. Also, Jamie discovered a Google Calendar that is for Gaia Community, but has not been updated since about 2006. David will look into it; Carey may have made it.
  6. **Site/Lease** – Lizzy's contact at the mortgage company no longer does commercial lending, but gave her the names of some other people. Her site person warned her that one of the front windows in front of Fellowship was badly deteriorated. It has been recaulked now, but if you see plaster/frame damage over there, that's why. Via and Kimberly noticed a leak on a window closer to Barn Chapel this morning.
  7. **Welcoming** – has not met, but will meet again soon. Will be writing up their records of what they did and submitting it to the UUA. In addition, they are continuing to work with the Coalition of Welcoming Congregations and the Academy of Welcome in November. Greta will be one of the presenters at that event. Also, we asked to use the popcorn popper for the Friday night movie showing. The CoW consented to that request, since it was not being used at that time.
  8. **Caring** – The chair is very busy with Renn Faire, so she will not be doing much until that is done. David will send her the birthdays, and a new directory will be made available after the New Member Sunday.
  9. **Stewardship** – Kimberly and Via met last month, but no one else attended. They are looking at a different sort of fundraiser for the fall, as interest in the Winter Bazaar seems to be waning. Greta has been recruited as a member for the committee, and she has been scouting for space for an event.
  10. **Social Justice** – Llamas for Lammas will extend through Samhain due to some logistical issues; Andrew swears he will bring a llama pinata to this Sunday, and for every dollar you put in, you get to

put a piece of candy in. Then it will be broken open by the kids at Samhain. After that point, they will be looking at doing something with kids for the holiday season. Possibly toys for kids in homeless shelters?

### V. Old Business

1. **Sex Offenders Issue** – tabled as there has not been a meeting since the last RFB.
2. **Gaia Garage Sale** – waiting on final figures from Nola or Linda, but they are not present.
3. **Virtual Lending Library** – About four people have made their material involved. Jamie wants to have more people submit their items, but she's going to open it up for checkout anyway, to stir up interest. A few more webpages need to go up before that can happen.

### VI. New Business

1. **Committee Procedures** – There was a communication mixup on using our space from someone who is not a member yet. All committees will be encouraged to codify and record their standing rules/bylaws; Jamie and Greta will help Communications with this.
2. **Full Moon Ritual Group** – Kate wants to start a “Women's Full Moon Goddess Ritual” group that will meet on the evening of the full moon. We will give Kate the procedures for making a covenant, and bringing it back to RFB. Via (as part of Welcoming Congregation committee) asked her to look at how Twigs-n-Berries worded their covenant with respect to gender identity.
3. **Internet Advertising** – Kate suggested that we utilize <http://meetup.com> to promote Gaia Community. They now charge \$72/six months, or \$144/year, for maintainers of groups. It is free to be a member or attend groups. If one person joined Gaia Community and became a pledging member at more than the minimum, it will pay for itself. Tabled for now so that Communications and Kate can do additional research on both what Meetup offers for their fee, as well as what free sites are out there, such as Facebook, Witchvox, etc.
4. **Southern Cluster Leadership Retreat** – they are having a retreat Oct. 10-12, and have invited Gaia Community members to come. It is \$20-30 for the conference, and \$50/night for cabin camping. Also, they would like Gaia Community folks to present their Saturday night “Vespers” ritual. Consented to allocate up to \$225 for conference attendees, with the understanding that they may utilize some of that for non-ritualists, gas money, etc.
5. **Librarian** – Jamie recommended that the position be placed under the Membership Committee. That way if she leaves or someone has a grievance, they have somewhere to go to. The group consented on this.

### VII. Non Sequitur Time

- Kimberly asked that people bring items for Harvesters for the Autumn Equinox ritual. The offering Greening the Basket portion of the offering will be split with Heifer International, continuing the feeding people/SJ project.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.**

– *David, 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](mailto: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

OCTOBER 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Patron Rite for Thor	● 29	30	1 <i>World Vegetarian Day</i>	2 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	3	4 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's
5 <i>Int'l World Teachers' Day</i> 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Workshop: Meditation for Non-Meditators	6	☾ 7	8 7 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Dunn Brothers, 90 <sup>th</sup> & Metcalf	9 <i>Leif Erikson Day</i>	10 <i>Southern Cluster Retreat at Council Grove, KS</i>	11 <i>National Coming Out Day</i> <i>Southern Cluster Retreat at Council Grove, KS</i> 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
12 <i>Freethought Day</i> <i>Southern Cluster Retreat at Council Grove, KS</i> 1 PM: KidSpace Meeting 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class: "Pagan" doesn't mean "Poor"	13 <i>Columbus Day</i>	☉ 14 <i>World Standards Day</i> 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	15 <i>White Cane Safety Day</i>	16 <i>Boss' Day</i>	17 <i>Int'l Day for the Eradication of Poverty</i> 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	18
19 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Shamanic Journeying with the Ancestors	20	☾ 21 <i>Apple Day</i>	22	23 <i>Mole Day (6.022x10<sup>23</sup>)</i>	24 <i>United Nations Day</i> 7 PM: Supper Club @ New Café Tandoor, 3623 Broadway, KCMO	25
26 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sabbat: Samhain (w/potluck after)	27	● 28	29	30	31 <i>Samhain</i>	1 <i>World Vegan Day</i> 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's