



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

OCTOBER 2009

PAGE 1

No Fall Bazaar This Year

With the economy and other factors going on right now, insufficient vendors signed up for the Fall bazaar to make it a good investment of the community's time and energy. Therefore it has been cancelled, clearing up your October 24th. Check back next year for more information, but we are planning on doing it again! It's an excellent venue for helping get the word out about pagans and pagan-friendly folks who make and sell things locally, but the circumstances this year made it unfavorable. Anyone who reserved space will receive their money back soon.

- *Stewardship Committee*

Third Town Hall Meeting

Due to some concerns and ideas brought up at the July Ritual for Business, we have been holding a series of open "town hall" meetings over the last several months, on Tuesday evenings. Anyone is welcome to attend, listen, and provide input, regardless of whether or not they are a currently active member of Gaia Community.

- **October 20th:** The final town hall meeting will be looking at what our next steps will be. What do we need to do better? What do we need less of? Are we still living up to our mission and vision – and are they still serving us well? All of these questions and more will be on the agenda for this 'final' meeting (although as a community, we never really stop asking how to move forward).

- *Committee of the Whole*

National Coming Out Day

Sunday, October 11th is National Coming Out Day, and members of Gaia Community are going to help give it a more visible presence in KC this year! At least two activities will be coming, though more details will be available in the announcements on Oct. 4th and online. If you are interested, please make sure to let Kimberly know at kimberly@gaiacommunity.org or 816-914-3227 so she can communicate any last-minute information.

Firstly, we're going to be collecting signatures for the Petition for Full Equality, which can be read in full at <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/>. Right now, the plan is to cover streetcorners on the Plaza and perhaps Brookside if we have enough people. This will start whenever people are available Sunday morning (probably no earlier than 9), and go until noon. Feel free to break for lunch, because in the early afternoon we would like to visit UMKC's Coming Out Day event! They've got a great deal planned, which is described in more detail at <http://web2.umkc.edu/lgbt/>. Then at 4 PM we have Gaia!

One last thing: if you're not available that weekend, you might want to stop by Hyde Park (Gillham and 36th-38th Street, in midtown KCMO) the following Sunday (10/18) from 11 AM – 5 PM for OutFest, the successor to the "Out in Westport" festival. Lots of LGBT-friendly vendors, companies, and organizations will be there for you to network with. It's an outdoor event in a 'pocket park', so make sure to wear comfortable shoes and bugspray. More on that at <http://www.lgcc-kc.org/>.

- *Welcoming Congregations*

What's Inside This Issue

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
KIDSPACE MAZE.....	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 is on hiatus until later in the year (probably in preparation for the Yule ritual).

Craft Circle (10/3, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house again this month, 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome; we'll also be talking about the organizational structure for the covenant group that this activity could become.

Women's Sacred Moon Ritual (10/3, 7:30 PM, at SMUUCH): Kate's Women's Group are open to everyone who identifies themselves as female and/or has had their first menses. For more information, please visit their scheduling page at <http://www.meetup.com/The-Sacred-Grove/> or contact Kate Miller. They also hold social events from time to time that are not gender-restricted.

Ritual Teams Meeting (10/7, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Kit, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, 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)!

Storytelling Group (10/9, 7 PM): The fledgling Storytelling Group will meet again this month; if you're interested in what they'll be practicing and working on, get in touch with Andrew or Greta. Where the meeting would be held was not available at print time.

Ritual for Business (10/10, 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 (see page 5) should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (10/13, 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 or find him in person.

Games Night (10/16, 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.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (10/18, 1 PM, at Dunn Brothers): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Rosemary (the Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) in person or at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

Town Hall Meeting (10/20, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): The final of our three town-hall style meetings will be held this month, on the topic moving forward with both the knowledge and ideas gained so far. See page 1 for more information. This meeting will be held in the Jefferson/Franklin part of the building, downstairs.

Friday Night Supper Club (10/23, 7 PM): October's supper club will be held at Pizza Fusion, a new organic pizza joint at 4000 W. 135th Street in western Leawood, KS. Please R.S.V.P. to Amanda in person or by email through supperclub@gaiacommunity.org if you're interested; you may also RSVP on [Facebook](#).

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Lizzy on the 1st, Jacki on the 7th, Debi Butler on the 9th, Bryce MacDonald on the 16th, David Nelson on the 28th. 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.

Also, October 1st is the two-year anniversary of Mikey O'Reilly's passing.

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.

Board of Trustees 09-10

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



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

Voices of Gaia is on hiatus until winter; Sacred Rhythms meets at 3:30 PM

Sunday, October 4th

Ritual — We Are Gaians

(New Member Sunday)

Ritualists: Barbara, Erin, Amanda, and Jeff

We are the flame, we are the droplets in the rain, we are the stones against the sea, we are the currents in the breeze, and so much more. Join us to hold hands and share hearts as we welcome new members and celebrate and explore our traditions and heritage as Gaians. *“Maana endor ni ist ve gaia...”*

Sunday, October 11th

Forum — Magical Stones

Facilitators: Cheryl and Kelley

Do you have rocks in your head? In your windows? Your plants? On your altar or shrine? Perhaps you have wanted to but weren't sure which stone to use.

If you have an interest in the magical and spiritual properties of rocks, gem stones and minerals, then please join us October 11th for lively discussion, demonstration and hand-on experience. We invite you to bring your favorites to the forum, and share your knowledge of their properties and uses. (You will take them home after the forum.)

Currently Active Ritualists

Amanda Pence	Barbara
Cheryl Russell	David Reynolds
Devin S.	Eric Simpson
Erin Scrogum	Jacki Kelley
Jamie Peters	Jeff Park
Kelley Montford	Kimberly
Kit Peters	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	Lizzy Ticer

Please see Devin or Kit, the Ritual Teams Coordinators, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams, or a newly trained ritualist looking to join for the first time.

Sunday, October 18th

Ritual — In The Library of Thoth

Ritualists: Kimberly, Jamie, and David

Thoth, our patron for this year, is known as the ibis-headed Lord of Time, Writing, and Wisdom, the Lord of Books, He who understands all that is hidden under the heavenly vault. In this ritual, our second rite in Thoth's honor, we will undertake a journey in meditation, bringing honor to and seeking wisdom from the Lord of Books. The ritual will include an opportunity to make an offering to Thoth as part of the rite, so please feel free to bring an offering if you feel so moved. This ritual will likely not interest our youth much, as it will be highly introspective and meditative.

Sunday, October 25th

Class — Legal Issues of Death and Dying Pagan

Facilitators: Kelley and Linda

With Samhain just a week away, mortality often rises to the mind. We'll be speaking in this class of some of the conflicts that arise from being a pagan who may wish a simple, natural, or environmentally responsible way to die in a society that often restricts such efforts. We are hoping to have an expert speaker assist with this, but bring your information and your questions regardless! All ages are welcome if they are interested in this topic, but KidSpace will also be going on downstairs.

— Ritual Teams

A Look Ahead...

Nov. 1st — High Holiday: Samhain

Nov. 8th — Ritual: Something Wicked This Way Comes

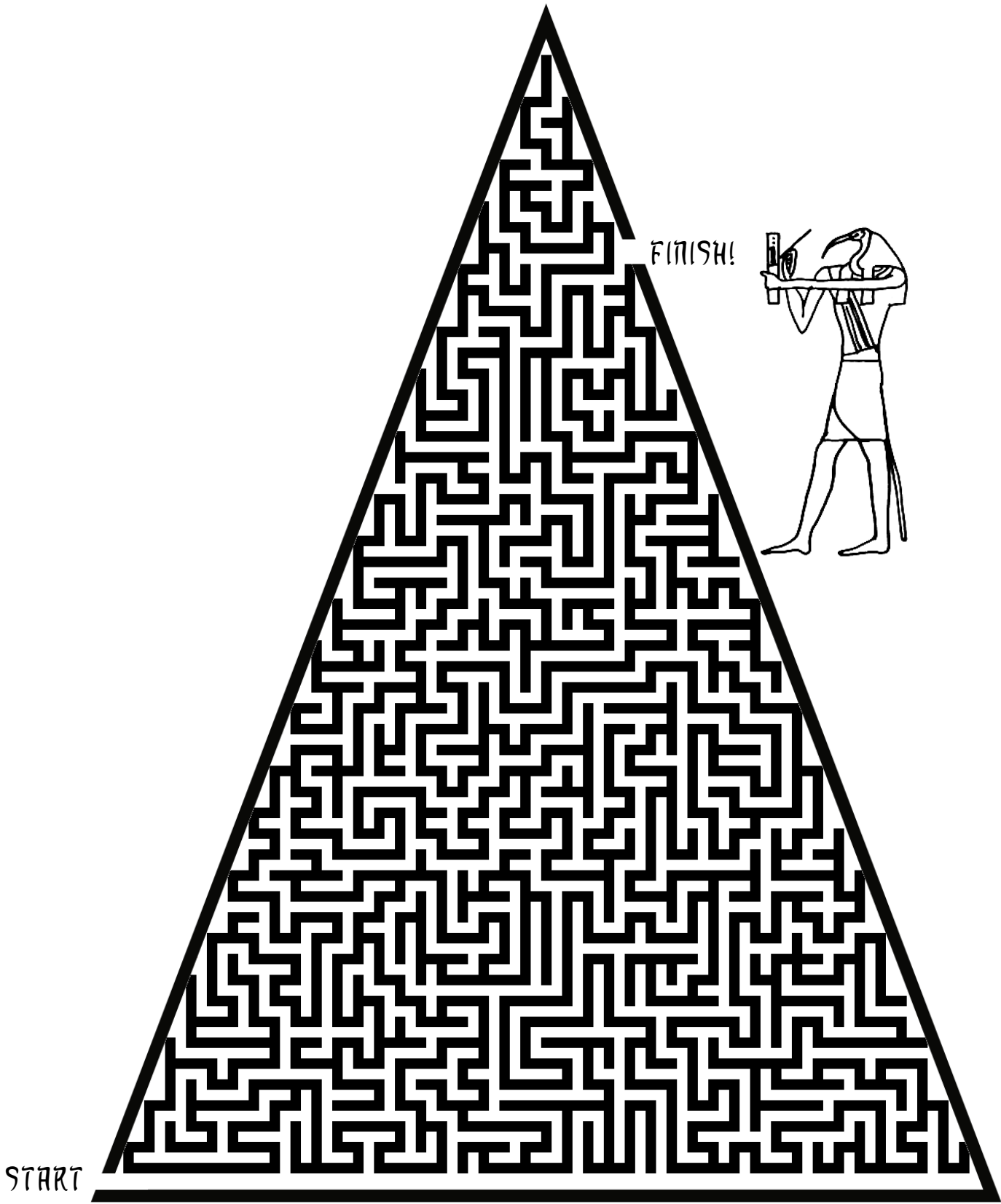
Nov. 15th — Workshop: Devotional Dance

Nov. 22nd — Ritual: The Five-Fold Goddess

Nov. 29th — Workshop: Winterization

KidSpace Maze

In honor of our patron Thoth, can you find your way through the pyramid and out the top?



Ritual for Business Minutes for September 12th, 2009

Started at 9:42 AM

In attendance: Erin, Amanda, Rosemary, Jamie, Kit, Cynthia, John, Barbara, Jack, Via

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – approved
- II. **Roles** - Jamie for Non Sequitur, Barbara for Red Tape, Amanda for Vibes Watcher, Kit for Devil's Advocate
- III. **Minutes** – Approved with minor adjustments
- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **KidSpace** – The Kidspace Committee met as usual in August. The most exciting thing in August was a fieldtrip. This is our second fieldtrip of the year. The first was to Broadway Baptist. Another one had been planned to see the Tibetan monks, but had to be canceled due to bad weather. The Fieldtrip to Gasper Farm to see sustainable organic farming happened August 29. 8 students and 8 adults attended. Regular lesson plans continue with all three classes.
 - B. **Social Justice** – There was a meeting, but nobody here was there, so we don't know what happened.
 - C. **Communications** – Earth Healer went out on time again (two months in a row, woot!). Kimberly fixed up the website a little bit. Model now with a thingie on the front page featuring activities for the month. “Who do I talk to if I have a problem with something at Gaia?” has been added to the FAQ (as well as Frequently Unasked Questions). Jamie has added stuff to ongoing Announcements.
 - D. **Membership** – Held two of three New Member classes. Established members came to some for teaching of consensus. Greeters Table continues to be staffed.
 1. **Library** – It's still there. Indeed, its existence is not at all in question. People should use it.
 - E. **Finance** – August: God Auction brought in \$2485.00 (thanks even to the person who slipped in the one Drachma piece). The IRS has remained characteristically silent. US Bank will waive fee for coin counting. September: People are paid, looking like on track for this fiscal year.
 - F. **Site** – Nothing to see here, move along.
 - G. **Welcoming** – Started getting Standing on the Side of Love e-mails. Still doing KC Coalition. “OutFest” event happening on October 18, 11AM-5PM in Hyde Park, related to National Coming Out day. Looking for photographs of Gaians doing interesting stuff. Lawrence is working on an amendment to anti-discrimination laws to protect Transgender folks.
 - H. **Ritual Teams** – We have them. The structure was discussed at the August Town Hall meeting. Will be having a meeting to review policies and procedures to examine them and see if anything needs to be changed to reflect current practices. Via requested that the meeting be open to former and inactive RT members. It will be brought up at next regular RT meeting.
 - I. **Caring** – Jackie still cares, even buried in RenFaire.

- J. **Nominating Committee** – Nothing to do right now. Need current list of members. Oh, wait, no, there is something to do, getting a new NomCom co-chair.
- K. **Stewardship** – We are having a Fall Bazaar on Oct 24. Still looking for Longest Night space. A band wants to play, and other cool stuff wants to happen there.
- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **Smoker's Proposal** – We have come up with a revised proposal: We recognize that smoking is a personal choice and want to create an environment in which smokers and non-smokers feel welcomed in our community. According to local ordinance, smoking is not permitted inside of Overland Park buildings. We also ask that smokers make use of the smoking area outside the Barn Chapel doors. SMUUCH has provided a bench and an ash-can at that location. Smokers are asked to please be sure the outside doors of SMUUCH are closed when they use the area, in order to minimize the smoke coming into the building. (Codicil: IF SMUUCH agrees, there will also be a sheltered area for smoking on Saeger House's front porch and/or under the tree closest to the circle drive/gravel parking lot, with another ash-can.)
 - B. **Interfaith Questions** – From Kit: “Aside from KCCWM, what are our interfaith activities, if any, and is there interest in expanding them?” Answer: The World Religions covenant group has, alas, gone the way of the Monty Python Parrot. Kidspace kids are learning about world religions as a matter of course. Primary interfaith work is our representative on the Kansas City Interfaith Council. When events happen with them, it often comes to RfB.
 - C. **Report on Grant Writing** – Met about writing up a grant proposal for pagan curriculum (needs congregational support).
 1. Update & upgrade EIR curriculum to be taken to other UU congregations who are pagan-leaning or interested in adding pagan activities or are just curious; expand on what it means to be pagan, how to run a pagan ritual, how to adapt concepts into regular UU life without going completely pagan. Could answer UU questions on how to retain youth.
 2. In partnership with CUUPS put on a national pagan conference. Allegedly approximately 20% has Earth-based spirituality as primary or close to primary focus of worship, and there is not a lot of support for this yet. There will be numbers next month.
- VI. **New Business**
 - A. **Review of Covenant Reports** –
 1. Twigs N' Berries – We know not. David will ask Jeff.
 2. World Religions – Pining for the fjords. Mark it extinct.
 - B. **Fall Bazaar** – Scheduled to happen on Oct 24 at the Old Mission Masonic Lodge 153. We sign contract by October 1, we MUST have 25 non-member vendors, or 30 member vendors. Kit has flyers to distribute to potential vendors.

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the October 10th Ritual for Business:

- Report from Grant Application task force
- Review of Twigs-n-Berries Covenant Group
- Smoker's Policy
- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



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Address Correction Requested

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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

OCTOBER 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Missouri Stream Team Class	28	29	30	1 <i>World Vegetarian Day</i>	2	3 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's 7:30PM: Women's Full Moon Goddess Ritual
4 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: 'We Are Gaians' ritual (New Member Sunday)	5	6	7 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	8	9 <i>Leif Erikson Day</i>	10 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
11 <i>National Coming Out Day</i> 10AM- 1PM: Petition Drive @ the Plaza (see pg. 1) 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: Forum on Magical Stones	12 <i>Columbus Day</i>	13 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting @ Andrew's	14	15 <i>White Cane Safety Day</i>	16 7-9PM: Storytelling Group @ TBD	17
18 11AM-5PM: OutFest at Hyde Park (36 th & Gillham) 1 PM: KidSpace Meeting 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: In the Library of Thoth	19	20 7 PM: Town Hall Meeting on Next Steps	21	22	23 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	24 <i>United Nations Day</i>
25 3:30-4PM: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: Class on Death and Dying as a Pagan	26	27	28	29	30 7 PM: Supper Club @ Pizza Fusion, 4000 W. 135 th St, Leawood	31 <i>Samhain / Halloween</i>