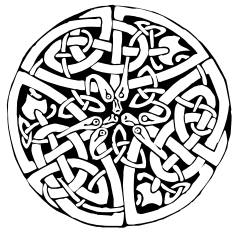
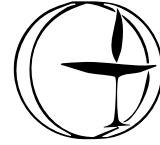




# Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



The Official Newsletter of the friends and members of Gaia Community September 2003

## THORN COYLE IS COMING TO GAIA COMMUNITY HOLD THIS DATE! Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Nationally-known Reclaiming and Feri priestess and recording artist T. Thorn Coyle will be doing a workshop in Kansas City, Wednesday, October 15th at 7 P.M. at SMUUCH. Gaia Community is sponsoring the workshop. The workshop is called *Discovering Your Triple Soul*.

Here is Thorn's description: "This evening is an introduction into your deep nature, human and divine. Gather your life force and meet the Sticky One—your playful, sexual and intuitive soul. Learn how to contact your Shining Body, the one who speaks—your aura and first line of communication with the world. Feed the Sacred Dove—the one who listens, ancestor and personal God. Together, we will celebrate the divinity that lives within each one of us, known by the ancient Greeks, the Hawaiian priests, and the Jewish mystics. Come; learn how to align your Triple Soul. Walk toward evolution."

Thorn has been a Witch for more than 20 years. A Feri Tradition initiate, she was fortunate to study with the founder of Feri, Victor Anderson, in the years before his death. A Reclaiming Tradition priestess, Thorn has taught within that vital tradition for over 10 years. She is an activist committed to social justice, conflict resolution and creative non-violence.

While Thorn finds the work of Reclaiming Tradition to be revolutionary, she finds the work of Feri to be evolutionary. It is this process of evolution that she seeks to pass on to her students. Thorn believes we have the

ability to become more human and that the Feri tools are keys to that process.

She stresses the work of compassion, commitment and self-examination in her workshops and long-term training programs. She teaches to a national audience and lives in San Francisco with her partner and cat.

If you'd like to know more about the workshop or are interested in helping publicize it please contact Kitty Degler at [songbird@kc.rr.com](mailto:songbird@kc.rr.com) or 913-469-8779

### BRANCHING OUT: Committees in Community David Reynolds

Someone told me at General Assembly that it was "probably heretical" to pose the idea that a small UU congregation could get by without committees. I'm not going to try to argue for or against that particular idea today, but I do know that Gaia Community does function on the basis of several standing committees, and several others form essential elements of who we are. Without a Caring committee, I wouldn't have a silly card sitting on my mantle regarding my engagement; without a Membership committee, I don't know that we would be growing like we are this year.

These sort of branches only sprout because someone pushes them to, however; the new Adult Education classes are the direct result of hard work on the part of two members in particular; likewise, our Green Sanctuary

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#### PAGAN TRADITIONS OF THE WORLD: A JOURNEY OF AUTHENTICITY—HELLENIC PAGANISM

*Ritual Chapters to come:*

- Sunday, August 10th–Sunday, September 21st (Fall Equinox)—Hellenic Chapter.
- Sunday, September 28th–November 2nd (Samhain)—Druid Chapter
- Sunday, November 9th–December 21st (Winter Solstice)—Gaia Traditional

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

With the new year, we'll be trying something new at Gaia Community—in the weeks leading up to each Sabbat, we'll be examining and learning from different pagan traditions. All of the classes and rituals in the “Chapter” leading up to that Sabbat will relate to that tradition. In this way, we hope to make your ritual experiences more meaningful every week, and especially on the High Holidays.

### Sunday, September 7th

#### Sharing Our Spirits—The Meaning of Sacrifice

'Sacrifice' is a term with a lot of modern baggage—but what did it mean in Hellenic rituals? How and why was it done? What are our reactions to the idea? How can we reclaim this 'rite of making the ordinary sacred through dedication to the Gods'? As with all SOS rituals, the ritual itself will be designed and performed by those in attendance, so bring any ideas you might have (but no live animals).

### Sunday, September 14th

#### Ritual—Apollo Epikourios and the Delphic Maxims

From Sannion: 'Apollo's blessings are beauty, healing, justice, strength, artistic and athletic skill, as well as prophecy. He helps people to find ways to become better than they are. He heals all ailments—spiritual as well as physical. He punishes unjust acts, yet helps those who have committed them to find redemption and purification. He inspires the best work by poets and sculptors, athletes and scientists. He communicates to man the will of his father, Zeus, making known what was hidden. Above all he preaches the Hellenic ideal of moderation and nothing to excess.'

The Delphic Maxims—Nothing in Excess, Know Thyself, and Give surety, gain ruin—which could be taken now to mean 'Give everything, and it will be taken from you.'

### Sunday, September 21st

#### Autumnal Equinox—The Eleusinian Mysteries

The cycles of the seasons and the cycles of our lives, the journeys of the gods and the journeys of our souls. Almost nothing is known about the secret rites at Demeter's temple at Eleusis, even though at one point nearly everyone in the Greek world had been initiated. What could be so powerful, so compelling, so transformative? Join us as we explore the possibilities, based on the surviving evidence. . .

*As with all sabbats, there will be a potluck meal after the ritual; remember to label your ingredients and bring enough for eight people. Culturally-appropriate meals are always welcomed!*

### Sunday, September 28th

#### Introduction to Druidism—class

Why do Druids have three elements instead of four (or five?) What do they do to protect themselves if they don't cast a circle? Were there female druids? And why on earth would you want a bile (pronounced 'bee-lay', not 'buy!') in your ritual space? All of these questions and more will be answered at the first class on Druidism. We will also be covering the elements of ritual so that you are (hopefully) not caught off guard in the coming weeks.

MAY YOU NEVER HUNGER,  
MAY YOU NEVER THIRST.

Gaelic Lesson

CÒ AN CAORA SIN CÒMHLA RIUT A  
CHUNNAIC MI AN-RAOIR?

(Kaw uhn KEU-ra shin KAW-la root uh CHOO-nik mee uhn-royer?)

CHA BE SIN CAORA, SE SIN MO CHÈILE A BHA INNTE!  
(Chah beh shin KEU-ra, sheh shin moe CHYEH-luh uh vah EEN-tchuh!)

*translation on page 5*

## WEAVE AND SPIN



As Fall approaches, so does the time to harvest what we have sown over the growing season. And we have grown in many ways as a community this year. Spiritually, with the chapters dedicated to the different traditions; physically, with two classes (so far!) of new members; and financially, by growing out of our old debt and being able to give something back in addition to just breaking even.

Gaia Community made two contributions to other causes this summer: first, by making a challenge grant to the Pagan community of Kansas City to assist the Interfaith Council in the work they do on the behalf of people of all religious beliefs, minority or majority. I was caught speechless when our own Caroline, the pagan representative to the Council, informed me that we had more than met the \$250 matching grant on that first day, raising more than \$700 in total from concerned pagans who did not want to see this resource extinguished.

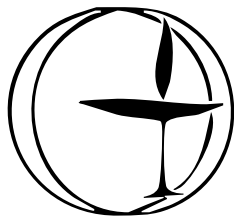
The other worthy cause that I am proud to say that Gaians participated in was the fundraiser at Pagan Pride Day; Solace House, this year's designated recipient, is a center for grieving families and children of any faith; Gaia Community's contribution topped \$230, nearly a tenth of the total monetary contributions made that day.

While it is impossible for us (yet) to make this kind of contribution to every charity and needy resource that comes into our circle, it is a sign of health and vitality that we are able to make these sorts of efforts without damaging our own ability to thrive in any way; what we do truly does come back to us.

*Blessings,*

*David Reynolds*

"Three things without which there can be nothing good: truth, valor, and generosity."



## CHILD CARE POSITION:

We are looking for someone who likes kids. Quiet kids, rowdy kids all types of kids up to 4-years-old to provide childcare every Sunday and some Tuesdays evenings and Saturday Mornings as needed and as you are available. Experience with infants and toddlers is highly desired, as is infant/toddler CPR. A background check will be made. The pay is \$10/hr. contact Andrew Turner at [agnmn@kc.rr.com](mailto:agnmn@kc.rr.com) or 913-7069167.

## Splinters from the Board

*From Nicole Turner, Secretary*

Highlights from our Ritual for Business on August 9th included:

- All Souls is hosting the Prairie Start District annual conference in late April of 2004. It's a great chance to show other congregations what makes Kansas City great, so we're putting together some volunteers to help with planning the conference. If you'd like to be involved—or simply want to help during the conference itself—get in touch with Barbara Griggs or Jeff Park (contact information below). Stay tuned for more details!
- Caroline Baughman brought to our attention a serious financial crisis at the Center for Religious Experience and Study (CRES) and the Interfaith Council, where she serves as Kansas City's pagan representative. In support of this organization, which has done so much to shine a positive light on paganism—and spread a message of religious understanding—the Committee of the Whole consensed to offer a \$250 "challenge" from Gaia Community. In essence, we offered to match every dollar contributed from the pagan community to CRES through Saturday, August 16th. And it's working! As of this month's newsletter deadline, the pagan community's total contribution (including our funds) have reached nearly \$800. If you'd like more information about CRES and the Interfaith Council, get in touch with Caroline (contact information below).

Our next Ritual for Business is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 9:30–11:30 A.M. at Shawnee Mission UU Church (in the Jefferson/Franklin room, downstairs). Get in touch with Jacki Kelley (contact information below) no later than Wednesday, September 10th if you'd like to add an item to the agenda.

*Rituals for Business are open meetings, so all members and friends are welcome. Every voice and opinion matters . . . even if only members may be active in the consensus process. Minutes are available upon request—please get in touch with Nicole at 913-706-9159 or [saffronhare@kc.rr.com](mailto:saffronhare@kc.rr.com) with questions.*



### Gaia Community Board Members

President—Barbara Griggs  
[bpmg@earthlink.net](mailto:bpmg@earthlink.net) or  
816-587-2350

VP—Caroline Baughman  
[carolineo@earthlink.net](mailto:carolineo@earthlink.net) or  
816-729-7112

Treasurer—David Reynolds  
[naebli@kc.rr.com](mailto:naebli@kc.rr.com) or  
816-941-7626

Secretary—Nicole Turner  
[saffronhare@kc.rr.com](mailto:saffronhare@kc.rr.com) or  
913-706-9159

#### Members at Large

Collene Newby  
[oedipus\\_the\\_doomed@yahoo.com](mailto:oedipus_the_doomed@yahoo.com)  
or 913-221-3278

Jacki Kelley  
[opaljax@aol.com](mailto:opaljax@aol.com) or  
816-228-0018

Jeff Park  
[jpark2@kc.rr.com](mailto:jpark2@kc.rr.com) or  
816-361-0465

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effort got off to a terrific start due to the diligence of our last Social Justice Chair.

What is it that you like about the community? What sort of things make you stretch and expand your realm of possibilities? If you like something that happens at Gaia Community, make yourself a part of its living growth. If there's a new direction you'd like to see things go, the only real way to ensure that happens is to take part in it yourself and draw like-minded people to you!

Take a look at the list of Committees and Chairs below; if you see something you'd like to participate in, please contact the appropriate person. If you don't see your area of interest below, you might bring it up at the next Ritual for Business and see what happens. Remember that Committee work doesn't have to be arduous, exhausting, or dull; these are the same people you get together with to eat dinner, play games, and celebrate ritual with.

*Communications:* Kitty

*Membership:* Barbara

*KidSpace:* Andrew

*Finance:* David

*Stewardship:* Heather

*Adult Ed:* Caroline (trances)/Kimberly (classes)

*Caring:* Jacki

*New Home:* Kitty (exploratory)

*Social Justice/Green Sanctuary:* Andrew

## GAIA PROFILES

JoLynne Martinez

### Member Profile: Nola

**N**ola has belonged to Gaia Community since last spring, and she found us on the World Wide Web.

A nursing home administrator, she says she tells all her new hires they need to be strongly grounded spiritually in order to work comfortably with people in the last stages of their lives. "Yours may be the last face they see on Earth," she says.

Despite the fact that her father—an atheist—did not encourage discussion of religion and spirituality when she was growing up, Nola credits her mother with finding ways to teach about concepts such as reincarnation. And after Nola's mother passed away, she appeared to her daughter in a dream, saying, "Why aren't you paying attention? Remember the things we talked about."

One of the things Nola finds most appealing about Gaia is that we are a community, despite the fact that as individuals we have many different beliefs.

If you haven't this new community member yet, look for a woman in her late 40s with short red hair and the big, deep laugh. That's Nola.

### Member Profile: Robin

**R**obin Martinez joined the pagan community in Kansas City back in the '80s, when he moved here to attend law school. For many years, he was active with the Heartland Spiritual Alliance, and assisted with the purchase of Camp Gaea.

One of the few pagan attorneys around, Robin is a bond lawyer and practices primarily business (including health care) law.

A ritual magician, Robin is an initiate of the Egregora Sancta Stella Gnostica. He explains that high magick is not a religion but a set of tools. However, his training has led him to be invited to serve as a priest in Wiccan and Pagan circles. And he is currently active in establishing a new heathen kindred in Kansas City.

Robin and his wife, JoLynne, joined Gaia Community and the Unitarian Universalist Church in order to take advantage of the fantastic KidSpace program for their daughter, Isabella. An added bonus, he discovered, was that the KidSpace director also happens to run one of the best Dungeons & Dragons games in town.

If you haven't met Robin yet, look for the guy who favors tie-dye T-shirts and wears a Thor's hammer.



## COMMUNITY CARES

### Joys and Concerns

Compiled with YOUR input.

Congratulations to . . .

- Debbie Dozier
- Liz Ticer
- Daniel Ticer

Our newest pledging members!



Heart felt wishes and healing to . . .

- Linda Boyce and her healing arm.
- May all the prayers and intentions from the "Pagan Pride Day" ritual materialize this month.

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: ♀ & ♂

9-19: Vicki Guhr

9-27: Brian Nebeker

*Thanks Miki for providing birthdays. 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:

Janet Stamper; Eric Errand; Mary C. Young; Karen Honse; Siham Ali; Janet Schreiner; Devin Schreiner; Via Baker; Tabales Family; Carol Dunz; Ethan & Cortney Erantz; Justin J. Reis

editors comment: Sorry if I've mis-spelled your name or got it completely wrong—let me know and I'll fix it proper.

## GAIA AROUND TOWN—EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Family Support Night

Wednesday, September 3rd, 6:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.

A Safe Space: Friends Family Support Group is for anyone who is experiencing conflict within or because of their past or present family situation, or just to enjoy the company and friendship. Dinner is generally provided by the person(s) doing the hosting, and donations to defray meal costs are welcome but not required. Contact Jacki at opaljax@aol.com or Greta at (816)822-2070 for more information about this month's (or any month's) gathering.

[editor's note: Family Support Group may be evolving into a differently structured format...stay tuned for updates in weekly announcements and the yahoo e-list.]

### Voices of Gaia (Starts back up in October)

Voices of Gaia is Gaia Community's choral group. Male and female voices are welcome and encouraged to join us in exploring vocal harmony, rounds, chants and pagan songs for our Yule carol sing. Contact Kitty Degler at (913)469-8779 or songbird@kc.rr.com for more information.

### KidSpace Committee Meeting

Friday, September 12th, 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 agrmn@kc.rr.com or (913) 706-9167.

### Games Night/Sacred Dance

Friday, September 19th, 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!

Games Night now alternates with Sacred Dance on the 3rd Friday of the month. Sacred Dance is generally held downstairs and/or in the Barn Chapel, weather and activities permitting.

This month we'll be dancing the hula. Nicole and Greta will be teaching the dance performed at the Summer Solstice luau. So if you didn't get the chance to learn the dance then. . . or if you'd like to brush up on it. . . this will be an excellent opportunity.

Invocation of the divine in a ritual setting is an invitation to the god/ess to come dance with us. And incarnation in physical form is a call to dance with the god/ess. We dance to create sacred space, to build community, to embody the gods, to quiet the monkey mind, to begin healing the divide between body and spirit.

### Friday Night Supper Club

Friday, September 26th, 7:00 P.M.

Join your fellow Gaians for food, friendship, and frivolity. Kick back and stuff yourself silly! September's Friday

Night Supper Club will be at O'Dowd's Little Dublin; 4742 Pennsylvania Ave., KC, MO (816) 561-700. We will be starting the Druidic chapter and thought something of the isle was appropriate. For more information contact Jeff Park at jpark2@kc.rr.com or 816-361-0465.

### Tuesday Night Adult Education

Join us this month on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 for classes and trances! Our schedule for the month is:

**Sep. 2**—(Trance) Finding Your Runes—Journey to find "the writing on the wall", your own messages and symbols of power.

**Sep 9**—(Class) Magic of Writing and Symbols—Magical alphabets, secret codes, and mysterious sigils—we'll be examining the history and use of various systems of magical writing and how to develop your own written symbol system for magical work.

**Sep. 16**—(Trance) Setting it in Stone—A trance experience based on the story of Freya and the necklace Brisingamen. Facilitated by Kitty.

**Sep. 23**—(Class) Mabon—A look at traditions, customs, and stories involving the autumn equinox.

**Sep. 30**—(Trance) The Descent of Inanna—A trance journey to the underworld, a meeting with Death, and a chance to discover who you are underneath it all.

Please RSVP to Caroline or Kimberly (adulted@gaiacommunity.com) if you are planning on attending any of these sessions—There is a requested fee of \$5 per week for non-members, \$3 for members to cover supplies and handouts.

Child care is available with advance notice—the fee for childcare is \$3 per child.



### KIDSPACE

New School Year! Sort of. . . Lots of UU churches see attendance drop like a rock in the summer. Some even go so far as to close down the RE program over the summer. We don't get that. Our kids have been there just as much as always and we have even added a few over the summer. None the less we will be celebrating the new school year with an Open House. After ritual September 7th come one, come all got kids no problem, don't got kids no problem. We'll give an overview of what the heck goes on in KidSpace, TeenSpace and our Childcare too. There'll be treats even. So, all are invited and we hope to see you there.

*Raucous and Joyful Blessings*

*Andrew*

“Who was that sheep I saw you with last night?”  
“That was no sheep, that was my spouse!”



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

*Address Correction Requested*

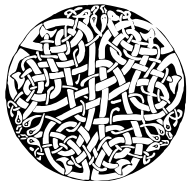
**SACRED Rhythms**  
 Sundays 3 pm  
 Bring your drums  
 Bring your shakers  
 Bring your heart, your feet and your hands  
 No previous experience needed

**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 15th of each month.

**Save the Snails**

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 October *Earth Healer*.



September 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Labor Day</b>	2 <b>Trance— 7-8:30 p.m.</b>	☾ 3 <b>Family Support Group 6 pm</b>	4	5	6
7 <b>Sacred Rhythms 3 pm SOS-4 pm</b>	8	9 <b>Adult RE— 7-8:30</b>	☉ 10	11	12 <b>KidSpace 7 pm</b>	13 <b>Ritual of Business 9:30 am</b>
14 <b>Sacred Rhythms 3 pm Apollo-4 pm</b>	15 <b>Deadline for EH submissions</b>	16 <b>Trance— 7-8:30 p.m.</b>	17 <b>Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm</b>	☾ 18	19 <b>Sacred Dance/ Games Night 7 pm</b>	20
21 <b>Sacred Rhythms 3 pm Eleusinian Mysteries- 4 pm</b>	22	23 <b>Adult RE— 7-8:30 Fall Equinox</b>	24	25	● 26 <b>FNSC 7 pm</b>	27
28 <b>Sacred Rhythms 3 pm Intro to Druidism - 4 pm</b>	29	30 <b>Trance— 7-8:30 p.m.</b>	31			