



Earth Healer



A Unitarian Universalist Congregation



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

EQUINOX

It starts with the notice of darkness when the alarm goes off in the morning. It's lightly cooler when you go out to your car to go to work. The days seem just as hot and humid, and the cicada's are singing heavily in the evening. The multitude of insects are at their height and appear to be in a frenzy of activity toward the twilight hours. Change is coming. We approach the equinox with sadness and anticipation. Sad for the shortening of day and light and possibly summer vacation. The anticipation of transformation of our surroundings with the sights and smells of Autumn keeping us ever mindful of the cycle.

Take the few moments to stop and become aware of the change around you. In November when you realize that the tree outside your window has lost its leaves, and you can't remember seeing it change its color...you've lost an opportunity for self-awareness. Keeping our heads buried in the mundane will only lead to the monotone of drudgery.

I offer up this poem by George Orwell—1918 under the pin of Eric Blair

The Pagan

SO HERE are you, and here am I,
Where we may thank our gods to be;
Above the earth, beneath the sky,
Naked souls alive and free.
The autumn wind goes rustling by
And stirs the stubble at our feet;
Out of the west it whispering blows,
Stops to caress and onward goes,
Bringing its earthy odours sweet.
See with what pride the the setting sun
Kinglike in gold and purple dies,
And like a robe of rainbow spun
Tinges the earth with shades divine.
That mystic light is in your eyes
And ever in your heart will shine.

VOICES OF GAIA

Sept. 12, 19, 26

Thanks to the stalwart singers—Cynthia, Pat, Jan, Liz, Victor, John, Olivia and Kitty, who braved the pouring rain and came to sing at Pagan Pride Day on August 13th! We had an appreciative audience and have been told we sounded quite good, even without a sound system (not used due to the rain).

Beginning September 12th, Voices of Gaia will return to meeting at SMUUCH. (No rehearsal on Labor Day, Sept. 5.) We'll meet weekly from 7–8:30 p.m. downstairs in the Jefferson Room, unless it is reserved for another activity. We're working on preparing some fun and interesting pieces to sing at Samhain—either as part of the ritual or during the potluck. If you have ideas of music to do that day, please let me know. We'll also begin preparing for the Yule ritual we're helping to lead. New singers are always welcome to Voices of Gaia. For more information or directions, contact Kitty at songbird@skunkmountain.com or 816-931-9900.

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. Four new ritualist have been voted onto ritual teams from the latest EIR class. They are Pat Mathis, Cynthia Mathis, Devon Scrogum and Yale Giffin. Welcome and good luck!

2. A "Rites of Passage" task force has been created and are creating a course of study and practice in formal "Rites of Passage". These include marriage, hand-fastings, funerals, Crossing Over rituals down to private life passages. The first group will create and train themselves and will be confirmed by a Ritual of Business at a future date to be the official "licentiates" of Gaia Community and will perform rites to members and the pagan public as representatives of this church.

3. Yale Giffin has volunteered to become the Site Committee Chairperson.

4. Kimberly has reserved the Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge for our Winter Bazaar on **Saturday December 10**. We hope that this creates a bigger and better Bazaar. More on this next month.

5. Kimberly has given notice to set-down from the Adult Education coordinator position. We are looking for someone to fill that role. If you have interest...see Kimberly or a Board representative.

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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, September 4

SOS—“Sharing Our Spirit” facilitated by Barbara

This modern, secular, and invented holiday nonetheless calls to something ingrained in us since childhood. It's the end of the freedom of summer, the return to the discipline of school. Never mind that most of us were working all summer and aren't starting up any new classes—we still have that feeling: new have a box of brand-new crayons, and crisp, fresh notebooks, and a dozen sharpened number two pencils in a new back pack. “This is the year I won't doodle all over my notebooks....read comic books inside my history text...tip my chair back and listen to the teacher's I-told-you-so when I crack my skull.” Let's generate that fresh-start feeling for ourselves.

This is a Sharing Our Spirits ritual. Please come prepared to share ideas for how to purify, ground, call elements; what deities to invoke; what activities to do during the body of the ritual. If you like, bring items related to the theme for the altars, or a chant, song, poem, etc., that you work like to work into the spontaneous ritual we will create.

Sunday, September 11

Ritual—“Walking the Labyrinth” 

Ancient labyrinths have been found in many parts of the world. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path. You can not get lost. Come walk Gaia Community's flaming chalice labyrinth and let its twists and turns lead you to greater insight and perhaps an answer to a question you carry in your heart.

Ritual Teams and Members:


Kitty Degler
Barbara Griggs
Devin Scrogum
?


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

President—Jeff Park
president@gaiacommunity.org or
816-361-0465

VP—Liz Ticer
femainoregon@excite.com or
913-636-4924

Treasurer—Devin Scrogum
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913-708-5667

Secretary—Debbie Giffin
secretary@gaiacommunity.org or
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Members at Large
Carey Reynolds
gaia-kat@kc.rr.com or
816-941-7626
Jennifer Gadd
djrm@gadd-nelson.com
John Carroll
IBRCandS792@yahoo.com or
913-334-2834

Sunday, September 18

Ritual—“Fall Equinox” 

At the Sabbat — Fall Equinox (w/potluck to follow) Turning to the Dark Half of the Year Fall Equinox is a high-holiday; more information will be forthcoming, but remember to bring a dish to serve 8 hungry people for after ritual, and please try not to bring disposable containers or dishes, out of respect for the Earth.

Sunday, September 25

Town Hall Meeting—“Site: Our future”
facilitated by Yale & Devin

Discussion on the New Site Proposal Site Committee Meeting. There have been several site visits, and now we'll hear more data in order to be able to make an informed decision on the possible site at 6500 Troost Ave. Please come whether you're a member or just a visitor, as all opinions are important in this matter! It affects our future as a community; if you cannot be there, you are welcome to send comments to the Board or the Site Committee.

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.

KIDSPACE CORNER

School is back in session and fall is just around the corner—and with the changing season we are doing the same in KidSpace. You all should have seen the registration form in this month's Earth Healer, and everyone is welcome to fill one out, and come to the monthly meetings—still every third Thursday at Greta's house—if you'd like to help steer KidSpace.

Our kids need you! Every adult with a child in KidSpace should fill out the registration—and please note any special needs your child has, but also note the bottom of the form which is designed for you. We hope to have three people every Sunday with our next generation. This means lots more participation from parents and other Gaians alike. Volunteers or questioners can contact Anissa or Greta for more details. KidSpace parents—know that we will be contacting you. Together we can continue to provide the best pagan curriculum possible!

WEAVE AND SPIN

Splinters from the Board

Summary of the RfB Minutes—13Aug04

The meeting was called to order at ~9:40 am

Secretary's report: A summary of the minutes from July were read. The minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: An update on the budget was handed out. A few typographical changes were noted, and a few suggestions on presentation were made. The minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business *Lease:* Jeff has signed the lease. We are waiting for SMUUCH's president to sign the lease before it will go into effect. *Phone:* Kitty has had her land line turned back on temporarily. Devin reported that we could switch to Vonage for \$15/month. However, we can only pay by debit or credit card. This would require the use of a cable modem. Both Liz and Debbie volunteered the use of their cable modem service. Devin would like to get approval to get a debit card assuming there are no fees. The board approved Devin applying for a debit card with our current bank, assuming there were no fees associated with it. The board also approved changing the phone service to Vonage.

Garage sale: The garage sale made \$800. We are still working on donating the remainder of the donations to a worthy cause. The remaining books have not been taken to half-price books yet.

New Business *Adult Ed* Kimberly sent an email suggesting a special event for adult ed. This class would be put on by Kathy Schiern, PhD, on constellation work. This email was read aloud by Debbie (see copy with minutes). The board had some questions as to the minimum and maximum numbers of participants and whether they would need to pay in advance. It was consensed to ask Kimberly to ask Dr. Schiern to do the constellation class for us.

Site committee report on potential new space: Devin and Eric presented a report on the potential new space at 6500 Troost. (Eric's report and the building diagram are filed with the official minutes. Opinions stated by those present are also filed with the minutes.) Another site visit was scheduled for 8/20 at 1 pm. This will be put in the printed announcements as well as on the elist. A special RfB was scheduled in place of the class scheduled for 9/25, pending Ritual Teams approval.

Committee updates: *Stewardship:* the garage sale was a big success Barbara and Nicole had offered to work on a case statement previously. Both reiterated their agreement to work on this, time permitting. *KidSpace:* The KidSpace campout is scheduled for the last weekend in August. They need more members on the committee. Karen has told the committee that she cannot commit to watching the younger children anymore; a new person needs to be hired. The teens will now have their own curriculum, but will be in the classroom with the other children for supervision issues. Greta will get Anissa's information to the Secretary of the Board and will verify how much of her contact information she would like to have published. KidSpace will have registration forms out in September. *Membership:* There is a new member class scheduled for the 8/14 and 8/21. New member Sunday is in October. They now have 4 active members on the committee. *Communications:* No report this month

Site: The committee needs a chair; all of the current members feel unable to commit to the time requirement. The committee also needs more help. The next meeting is 8/17 at Greta's. **(update: Yale has volunteered to become Site Chair)** *Ritual teams:* They have recently elected 4 new ritualists. They have 1 application in hand that will be interviewed the next day. The committee has hammered out a process for the application and election process for new ritualists. It was noted that this was in response to a standing mandate from the Board.

Carey Reynolds will be chairing the meeting next month, 9/10.

The meeting adjourned at ~12:30 pm.

GAIA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Ritual Teams Meeting

Thursday, September 1th 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 or 913-469-8779.

Games Night

Friday, September 16th, 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, September 23rd, 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 will be at Thailand Cafe, on Metcalf Avenue a little south of SMUUCH.

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

Tuesday Night Adult Education

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

A look ahead at next month

- Oct. 2 *Ritual* – “R.E.S.P.E.C.T.”
- Oct. 9 *Forum* – “The Crone and Sage”
- Oct. 16 *Ritual* – “Search for the Grail”
- Oct. 23 *Workshop* – “4 Level of Reality”
- Oct. 30 *High Holiday* – “Samhain”-potluck



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

Address Correction Requested

**The
 Mabon
 Ritual
 is
 Sept. 18
 with
 potluck
 following**

Contact Earth Healer

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

September 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Ritual Teams Meeting 6:45 pm	2	● 3
SR 3pm 4 Ritual: Sharing Our Spirits 4 pm	5 Voices of Gaia 7 pm no practice	6 Adult RE 7 pm Everyday Spiritual Practice	7 Rites of Passage task force	8	9	10 Ritual of Business 9:30 am
SR 3pm 11 ☾ Ritual: Walking the Labyrinth 4 pm	12 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	13 Adult RE 7 pm Sacred Rhythms	14 Site Committee Meeting 7-9 pm	15 KidSpace 7 pm	16 Games Night 7 pm	○ 17
SR 3pm 18 Ritual: Sabbat: Mabon 4 pm Potluck	19 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	20 Adult RE 7 pm Druid Study Group	21 Rites of Passage task force	22 Fall Equinox	23 FNSC 7 pm	24
SR 3pm 25 ☾ Town Hall Meeting: Site: Our Future 4 pm	26 Voices of Gaia 7 pm	27 Adult RE 7 pm Intro to Paganism	28	29	30	