



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

SEPTEMBER 2006

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KidSpace Needs Your Help!

The KidSpace program has undergone some changes lately; Greta has stepped down from being the Chair of the committee to focus her talents and time on the actual work of the program, and Jennifer and Linda have stepped up to Co-chair KidSpace itself.

BabySpace

Karen is taking a break from watching the littlest ones right now, so lots of volunteer help is needed down there, if you have the time and inclination to assist with the babies and toddlers!

KidSpace

Anissa has been looking into expanding the available curricula for the kids, so expect to see some new things from her classroom as well! Remember that the number of kids our community has that are actively interested in showing up and learning on Sundays can sometimes overwhelm Anissa's ability to run class by herself, so if you're not interested in ritual that day (or just more interested in working with the kids), you might want to go downstairs and see if she needs your help! One of the benefits Hestia mentioned during the God Auction was the possibility of a greater focus on integrating the children into our rituals, so you may expect to see them upstairs for part or all of more rituals in the future.

TeenSpace:

You may have noticed that our teenagers (and almost-teenagers) have split off into a separate study and learning session downstairs of late. Sometimes they're working on a project by themselves, but more and more often they're working with members of the community who can help teach them new skills as they grow and learn within our pagan traditions. They're going to be truly formidable when they get old enough to join Ritual Teams!

A look ahead toward the Sept. classes for TeenSpace:

Sept. 3rd: Soul Painting. Kitty assisted those who showed up on the Labor Day weekend with tapping into their inner spirits and putting it down on paper.

Sept. 10th: Books of Shadows. Working toward those Books of Shadows that were started by some of the youth in years past. Binders and collage work will be available, and some youth may already have the wooden covers made in the past. This session will also include a trance and some journaling.

Sept. 17th: The Bare Bones of Ritual. Kitty and Carey will help answer the questions: What do you need to call what you're doing a ritual? How do you think and practice outside the box? Bring your Book of Shadows!

Sept. 24th: Fall Equinox. Teens will be attending ritual this day. What can you observe about the ritual that fits what you learned about the "Bare Bones" last week? A post-ritual discussion table will be available at the potluck afterward. Bring your Book of Shadows or a notebook to record what you've learned.

– *KidSpace Committee*

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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 *(held at 4pm unless otherwise noted)*

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

Sunday, September 3rd

Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits (Labor Day)

Ritualists: Barbara & Brian

Sharing Our Spirits (SOS) rituals are co-created and co-designed by those in attendance that day, with the help of one or two trained ritualists. Everyone's ideas, skills, and offerings brought that day come together to create something that serves the needs of the group. Bring a song, an instrument, ritual idea or magical tool to help out!

Sunday, September 10th

Ritual — "Prosperity"

Ritualists: Debbie, Yale, Carey, Kimberly

How do you find prosperity? Is it a treasure to be found in a foreign land or something to be dug up in your backyard? Are there monsters that hinder you? Do you know which way to go? Will you find help along the way? Come join us as we undertake this Quest!

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Oct. 1st – Class on Hestia (New Patron)
 Oct. 8th – Ritual: Big Tent Pagan Revival
 Oct. 15th – Class on Pagan Virtues
 Oct. 22nd – Ritual: Godless Heathens
 Oct. 29th – Sabbat: Samhain (w/ Potluck!)

Current Ritualists

Devin Scrogum	Jeff Park
Barbara Griggs	Liz Ticer
Eric Simpson	Cynthia Mathis
Kitty Degler	Carey Oxler
Yale Giffin	Debbie Giffin
Andrew Turner	Nicole Turner
Kimberly	David Reynolds
Brian Butler	Via

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

Sunday, September 17th

Forum — "Education"

Facilitators: Barbara, Jeff

This Sunday's forum is about education, not just of ourselves but of others. How do you go about learning and growing as a pagan, exercising that "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" as a Unitarian Universalist? How do you educate others about misinformation or misconceptions they may have? Forums are discussions, so bring your input and be prepared to listen to others as well - just not at the same time, please!

Sunday, September 24th

Sabbat Ritual — Fall Equinox

Ritualists: Andrew, Nicole, Cynthia, Jeff

The universe demands balance, but the stability of a moment is a snapshot of the constant interplay of oppositions. Join us for the Fall equinox celebration with potluck afterwards; bring enough of a dish/ drink/ dessert to feed eight hungry people, and your own tableware - plates, cups, silverware, and for the Earth's sake, no disposables. Please remember to label the ingredients for those with dietary concerns.

Gaia Community Board of Directors 2006-2007

President — Jeff Park

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Vice-President — Liz Ticer

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Devin Scrogum
dscrogum@gmail.com
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... or contact them all at
board@gaiacommunity.org!

Mooings from the CoW (Committee of the Whole) Summary of the August Ritual for Business (RfB)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:45. Attending: Jeff, Carey, John, Kimberly, Cynthia, Via, David N., Jennifer, Yale
- II. Agenda—approved by consensus
- III. Minutes—approved by consensus
- IV. Treasurer’s Report: John reports that the current budget looks worse than it is. Member pledges are at 16%, which is 50% DOWN, but it’s only been one month. The shown report does not reflect pledges from 8/6. Quarterly taxes were paid. Rent was paid, including the security deposit and late fee. Insurance was paid for the year. Incorporation in Kansas will be complicated—MO paperwork has to come in, KS fee is a high \$115, but cheaper than regular fees as an NPO. \$500 was put into the new home fund, which is right at \$7000. Board authorized a CD to be bought—a 9 month CD at 5%, already okayed by board, so John will do this. Anissa’s email regarding the KidSpace account was read. There are no guidelines as to what acct can be spent for. John has been covering receipts for supplies and snacks. At KidSpace meeting, it was said the money should be used exclusively for the use of the children. At a later meeting, Anissa was empowered to use for supplies because the congregation was so cash-strapped (nb: \$500 line item is cookie money; \$60 budgeted from general fund for curriculum.) Any checks and balances employed are for Anissa’s protection. It was noted that the Booze and Hooker Fund is depleted and the board agreed that those receipts will no longer be reimbursed.
- V. Standing Committees—
 Winter Bazaar Committee—work has begun. Kimberly will head up. Yale volunteered to help. Prosperity Ritual will solicit bazaar items. Kimberly is already soliciting volunteers/vendors/space.
- VI. Unfinished Business
 Consensus—The process was laid out by Andrew and David and taught to community, and the community needs to consider officially adopting the guidelines. Publicity via the usegroup and available hard copy was discussed. The board will use the current guidelines while the details are hammered out. The board agreed that the process outline be considered a separate document from the more lengthy procedures guidelines, which some find objectionable and unnecessary. The board further agreed that the second document would

be considered suggested guidelines rather than official policy.

Carey proposed that only the process document be distributed by Communications to community, then a vote will be held in two months. September’s RfB will include further discussion and the ratification vote will be at the October RfB, unless changes are made to the document at the September meeting. People will be encouraged to contact a board member if they have something to say. The board reached consensus on this issue and tabled the second guidelines document. The guidelines will be distributed to board members.

Marriage Laws—What we have planned will make us legal to do marriages in both KS and MO, dependent on corporation status.

VII. New Business
 Pagan Institute Report—Christa Landon has asked to write an article about our consensus process. Via proposes that we tell her, “Now is not a good time.”

--discussion points: the Board can request that she not use the logo; individuals may or may not respond on the public website, but we need an official email to her; we might propose an alternative article about the community itself, rather than just the consensus process; Gaia’s survival is about more than the consensus process; her request needs official response so we don’t look stupid; perhaps it should be public because her request was public

It was agreed that Carey will make an official response on the usegroup, on behalf of Communications, but that others could also reply.

KidSpace Issues—
 Anissa communicated some concerns she has regarding KidSpace: staffing issues for three classes, the need for a new committee chair, account questions, and some curriculum needs. Other information that came to light during discussion answered these questions. Jennifer and Linda will co-chair the committee, and Jennifer is helping with the organization of the TeenSpace schedule. John had answered her financial questions prior to the meeting and mentioned that monies have been allocated for child care. The board okayed the purchase of \$100 worth of curriculum. Anissa also reports that the curriculum is available electronically for those who wish to see it.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at noon at by mob consensus.

– *Jennifer, Secretary*

Other Events About Town

Ritual Teams Meeting (9/6, 6:45 PM): At Via's apartment. Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to former ritualists, if you are interested contact Kitty in person or at rtc@gaiacommunity.org!

Tuesday Night Classes: Adult Education classes will be reduced in number somewhat in coming months; for September, look for the Pagan Parenting session on the 5th and a class on the consensus process on 9/19. All classes start at 7 PM; childcare is available by contacting Kris E. in person or at adulthood@gaiacommunity.org.

Games Night (9/15, 7 PM): Kick back and relax, NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS IS ALLOWED! Bring a game, bring a friend, bring some munchies, or just bring yourself!

Friday Night Supper Club (9/22, 7 PM): This month's supper club will probably be at the Macaroni Grill on Metcalf; please check with Kris Ennis, or see the Sunday announcements/e-mail list for more information!

KidSpace Meeting (9/24, 2 PM): Parents, volunteers, and anybody with ideas or an interest in our kids are welcome! Meetings are now held in the KidSpace section of SMUUCH before ritual on the 4th Sunday of the month; contact Jennifer, Linda, or Anissa for more information. Send email to gaiakidspace@yahoo.com or catch them on Sundays!

Caring Connections Corner

Welcome back to town for **Terry and Nola**, members who moved west into Luray, Kansas but have now come back to KC! Also, don't tell anybody but it's Terry's birthday on the 23rd...

Best wishes and our thoughts go out to everyone dealing with health, family, and financial difficulties right now. Make sure to let the community know if there's anything we can do to help.



P.O. Box 45307
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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 (number inside) no later than the 19th 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. Let us hear from you before the next *Earth Healer*.

– *David, Editor*

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Waters of the World Ritual	28	29 7 PM: Tues. Night Classes, Mythology Story Hour	30 ☾	31	1	2
3 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (Labor Day)	4	5 7 PM: Tues. Night Classes, Pagan Parenting	6 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ Via's	7 ☉	8	9 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
10 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Prosperity Ritual	11	12	13	14 ☾	15 7 PM: Games Night	16
17 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Forum on Education	18	19 7 PM: Tues. Night Classes, The Consensus Process	20	21	22 ☀	23 7 PM: Supper Club @ Macaroni Grill?
24 2:00-3:00: KidSpace Meeting 2-3:30: VOG 3:30-4: SR 4 PM: Fall Equinox (SABBAT, w/potluck)	25	26	27	28	29	30 ☾