



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

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## Social Justice Work:

### *Pagan Military Care Packages*

Our Social Justice Committee continues to work on behalf of a new charitable organization each quarter of the year, and this time around it's pagan members of the U.S. Military, specifically those serving away from home and overseas. We've been working to collect names of soldiers who wish to receive packages, which has surprisingly been the hardest part! Many organizations that have performed this service in the past have either gone defunct or no longer have a current list, so if you know of any military personnel that would like a package from us, contact Andrew, Devin, Cynthia, Greta, David, or Kimberly. We currently have enough goods for several more personnel than we have names **and addresses** for! However, we are still collecting items; see Andrew's display at the Greeter's Table on Sundays for what is requested by these folks, and what we already have.

Another step of this process will be to assemble the care packages for delivery, and mail them. To that end, we're planning a "work day" for the last weekend of September (which will be right after this collection drive ends) to collect, assemble, decorate, and mail these packages. Anyone who wants to help out should contact Andrew or Cynthia, and anyone willing to help defray the costs of mailing would be greatly appreciated as well.

Our next charity is still not firmly decided, but if you have ideas, let us know at [sj@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org) or come to the Social Justice Committee Meeting on 9/17!

- *Social Justice Committee*

## Covenant Groups Update

- Our first approved covenant group, the **Men's Spirituality** group, is still working on finalizing a clever name ("Twigs and Berries" has been thrown around, so if you have a better idea, let them know!) and setting up a structure for meetings and areas of interest. If you haven't been in touch with them yet, get in touch with Jeff Park for more information.
- The proposed **Religions of Kansas City** covenant group is still meeting on a preliminary basis to decide exactly what to propose as their covenant. If you have ideas or wish to learn more about this group, get in touch with Lizzy Ticer.
- As far as we're aware, the **Pagan Parenting** group is still looking at the idea, so if you're interested, get in touch with Devin, Erin, or one of the Boyces.

- *Communications Committee*

## *Caroline to speak on the Walt Bodine Show*

Caroline Baughman, the pagan representative to the Kansas City Interfaith Council and a long-standing Gaia Community member, has agreed to be a guest on the Walt Bodine Show on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> between 10-11AM. The official topic is "*Paganism, Facts & Myths*". If you get a chance, please tune in to KCUR (89.3 FM) and listen (you may also be able to listen online at <http://kcur.org/waltbodine.html>).

This is a call-in show during the second half-hour, so you may be able to ask questions as well by calling 816-235-2888 or e-mailing [waltbodineshow@kcur.org](mailto:waltbodineshow@kcur.org).

- *Terry Ross, Vice-President*

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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.

## Gaia About Town

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (9/5, 6:45 PM, Debbie's house): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Debbie in person or at [rtc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:rtc@gaiacommunity.org). As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know!

**Ritual for Business** (9/8, 9:30 AM): 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 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 can be communicated to the board at [board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org) or in person (they have the purple ribbons on their nametags).

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (9/17, 7PM): Andrew and Cynthia have rebuilt the Social Justice committee in response to some concerns and ideas raised among the community recently. If you're interested in helping out with the upcoming effort to provide care packages to pagan military personnel, find one of them or e-mail them at [sj@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org)!

**Games Night** (9/21, 7 PM): 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 either the Barn Chapel or downstairs in the Jefferson room, depending on weather/games available. We've gotten some new board game players from the Kansas City area to join us through <http://meetup.com>, so come join the fun! Remember we're only trying out the continuation of this event, so if people don't show up, we won't do it!

**Friday Night Supper Club** (9/28, 7 PM): The September Supper Club will be at BD's Mongolian Barbeque, 95<sup>th</sup> & Quivera. Please RSVP to Kris in person or at [supperclub@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:supperclub@gaiacommunity.org) to save your spot!

### Board of Trustees 07-08

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

**Vice-President** — Terry Ross  
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or 816-966-9186

**Treasurer** — Nola Cavanaugh  
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or 816-966-9186

**Secretary** — Jennifer Gadd  
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or 913-299-4587

### Members at Large —

Carey Oxler  
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or 816-401-1963

Yale Giffin  
[niveustigris@hotmail.com](mailto:niveustigris@hotmail.com)  
or 816-797-8032

Devin Scrogum  
[dscrogum@gmail.com](mailto:dscrogum@gmail.com)  
or 913-708-5667

... or contact them all at  
[board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org)!

## Agenda for September's Ritual for Business

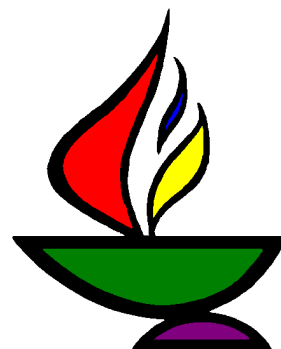
In addition to the usual reports, items on the agenda for this month include the structure of KidSPACE, the Winter Bazaar, the Social Justice Committee, the Caring Committee, and "When can kids be where?" Any additions or changes to the agenda should be communicated to the board, either in person (they have the purple ribbons on their nametags), calling 816-931-9900, or by e-mailing [board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org).

## Caring Connections Corner

Birthday blessings go out this month to Kria on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Christopher on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Vicki Guhr on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Terry on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. If there are other people around with September birthdays, we may not know who you are! In addition, our thoughts go out to all of those dealing with health issues, especially Mike O'Reilly as he undergoes treatment for a growth found on his lungs, and Anissa's son Colton who is dealing with complications following surgery. Also, Devin's grandfather passed away in mid-August, surrounded by family and loved ones. Everyone dealing with the sometimes violent change that accompanies the balance point of the Equinox has our best wishes and thoughts for future success.

And welcome home Via, who has spent most of the last year studying abroad!

*If you or another attendee of Gaia Community are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please contact the Caring Committee by emailing us at [caring@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org), leaving a message on the Gaia Community voicemail at 816-931-9900, or by contacting one of the Caring Committee members in person: Cynthia Mathis, Terry Ross, or Debbie Dozier.*



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

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

## Sunday, September 2nd

### Sharing Our Spirits Ritual *(Labor Day)*

*Facilitators: Kitty and Kris*

Sharing Our Spirits, or SOS, rituals are designed to be co-created by the very people who show up that day! One or two members of our ritual teams will be there to help, but all ideas, songs, intentions, and ritual styles are on the table! Please bring any ideas or ritual tools you wish to help make this day exactly what the people there will be looking for.

## Sunday, September 9th

### Ritual — Brigid's Forge

*(New Member Sunday)*

*Ritualists: Kitty, Carey, Eric, David*

Brigid, the new community's new patron for the year, is among other things a master blacksmith. This ritual will explore ways in which we can utilize the heat of her forge to temper ourselves and make ourselves stronger and more useful. This will also be a ritual in which we welcome new members to the congregation. Please dress comfortably, as ritual may be warmer than usual - and if you received a notebook at the Magician ritual in August, you may wish to bring that as well.

#### A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Oct 7th – Ritual: The Elements

Oct 14th – Workshop on Soul Tattoos

Oct 21st – Ritual: Shamanic Dumpster Diving

Oct 28th – SABBAT: Druidic Samhain

#### Current Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Barbara
Carey Oxler	David Reynolds
Devin Scrogum	Eric Simpson
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kitty Degler
Kris Ennis	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Nicole Turner
Via	Yale Giffin

*Please see Debbie Dozier, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, if you have feedback or ideas regarding rituals, or are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams.*

## Sunday, September 16th

### Workshop — Sacred Bundles

*Facilitators: Lizzy and Kris*

Native Americans have long and varied traditions. Almost all are culturally or contextually based in the way they lived. Whether they lived in established buildings on the coasts or if they were nomadic on the plains. Join us on Sunday for a class on Sacred Bundles. What are they? Why and how do you make one? How could this Native American tradition be incorporated into my family practice? Participants are asked to bring one item, the size of a quarter or smaller that is significant to them and be prepared to talk about it.

## Sunday, September 23rd

### SABBAT — Autumn Equinox

*Ritualists: Barbara, Nicole, Via*

The Autumnal Equinox is the balance point, when summer tips toward winter and the days cease their lengthening and begin shortening. Paradoxically, it is also the start of the "Indian Summer" when some of the hottest days can still be yet to come.

As with all our Sabbat celebrations, this ritual will be followed by a potluck meal. Please bring a dish, drink or dessert to share among eight people; remember to care for the earth by bringing reusable containers and dishes, and to care for others by labeling your ingredients for those with dietary requirements.

## Sunday, September 30th

### Class — Welcoming Congregation

*Facilitators: Jeff and Kimberly*

This will be a continuation of the process begun with our January class on the Welcoming Congregation program of the UUA, which is a formal and voluntary way of recognizing and welcoming gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons. Concrete steps for moving forward with this process will be discussed, and questions about more specific details can be brought if you have them.

*- Ritual Teams*



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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](mailto:earthhealer@gaiacommunity.org) or by phone (816-941-7626) 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*

<b>SEPTEMBER 2007</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: The Magician	28	29	30	31	31	1
2 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual	3 <i>Labor Day</i>	4	5 6:45 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ Debbie's	6	7	8 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business
9 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Brigid's Forge	10	11 <i>9/11/2001 attacks</i>	12	13	14	15
16 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Workshop: Sacred Bundles	17 <i>Declaration of Emperor Norton 1859</i>	18	19 <i>International Talk Like a Pirate Day</i>	20	21 <i>International Day of Peace</i>	22 <i>Last people hanged for witchcraft in USA. 1692</i>
23 <i>Celebrate Bisexuality Day</i> <b>Autumn Equinox</b> 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: SABBAT: Autumn Equinox	24	25	26 <i>Birthday of Johnny Appleseed</i>	27	28 <i>Birthday of Confucius</i>	29
30 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class on Welcoming Congregations	1	2	3	4	5	6