



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

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Fall Fundraiser Thoughts

The new Stewardship committee had its first meeting in August, which was attended by nobody except the co-chairs (Via and Kimberly). We discussed the possibility of dropping the Winter Bazaar from our schedule of fund-raisers, and adding in its place a Solstice Ball. We sought comment from the membership via the e-mail list and in private conversation, and found that this idea generated some enthusiasm, but we are still gathering data. If you have a strong opinion about the merits of a bazaar vs. a party, and particularly if you would be interested in taking a leadership or support role in making one of those two events happen, please contact Via or Kimberly as soon as possible. Neither of the chairs is in a position to spearhead a large fall/winter fundraiser right now, so new blood is necessary to make anything we do a success!



Also, the Stewardship committee is still seeking members beyond the co-chairs; if you would like to be a part of the planning for future fund-raisers, the annual pledge drive, and other development efforts, please contact Via or Kimberly through stewardship@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

- Stewardship Committee

Ritual for Business Agenda

September's Ritual for Business (RfB), to be held at 9:30 AM on the 13th, contains the following notable agenda items:

- ✓ final tallies from the Garage Sale;
- ✓ an update on the changeover to the new webhost;
- ✓ updates from the Nominating Committee on new committee chairships.

Any additional agenda items should be communicated to a member of the Board of Trustees in person or by email at board@gaiacommunity.org.

- David, Board Secretary

Gaia Garage Sale a Success!

Despite the weather, the garage sale accomplished two major objectives that it set out to do: many people got to send away things that had been cluttering up their living spaces, and a good chunk of money was made for the community! Two-day totals are not available yet, but the first day brought in nearly enough to make the projected goal of \$750. Even with the weather taking a turn for the worse on Saturday, it was another good fundraiser. Where do you people keep finding all of this *stuff*?

Thanks to all of the volunteers who made light work of what could have been a grueling task!

- Linda and the Stewardship Committee

Wild Hare Grove & Harvesters

The folks involved with the Wild Hare Grove of ADF in Kansas City wanted to let Gaia Community know that they will be doing a volunteer session at Harvesters Food Network, sorting and packaging non-perishable goods, on Saturday, Sept. 13th from 1-3 PM or so. If anyone wants to come along and join them after the Ritual for Business that day, they would be more than welcome!

Harvesters is located at 3801 Topping Avenue, in eastern KCMO. Teenagers are welcome to join the group, but those 15 or younger must be accompanied by an adult.

- David (in both groups)

Relief Fund for Tennessee UUs

Just a reminder that the UUA has established a Knoxville Relief Fund to assist those most directly affected by the July shooting at the Tennessee Valley UU Church. Donations to the Fund will be given to the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA, to be used as needed by both TVUUC and the nearby Westside Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. For more information or to donate online, please visit <http://www.uua.org/giving/donatenow/117168.shtml> or e-mail giftinfo@uua.org. Or you can donate by mail:

Knoxville Relief Fund", c/o Tom Klein
Unitarian Universalist Association
Stewardship and Development, 6th Floor
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

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.

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Gaia About Town

Voices of Gaia (every week before ritual, at SMUUCH): Voices of Gaia, Gaia Community's choir, has started meeting again in the Theater Room below Barn Chapel on Sundays at 2 p.m. New members are always welcome! We prefer that you have some experience singing (especially with choirs), can match pitch, and can follow a musical score. Our current incarnation is mostly as a women's choir, but if you're a tenor or bass and want to sing with us, contact Kitty in person or at voices@gaiacommunity.org and we'll figure something out.

Ritual Teams Meeting (9/3, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): Part-time slots to help with Sunday rituals are now available to formerly active ritualists; if you are interested, please contact Kimberly, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, in person or at rte@gaiacommunity.org. As always, any member of the congregation may help with a particular ritual, so if you have an interest let someone know!

Social Justice Committee Meeting (9/9, 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. The committee will be working on the ongoing "Llamas for Lammas" social justice project.

Ritual for Business (9/13, 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 should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

Men's Covenant Group (9/13, 7 PM, at Jeff's house): The "Twigs-n-Berries" group is holding a Men's Poker Night at Jeff's (7400 Paseo in KCMO), under Andrew's careful green-visored eye. \$5 buy-in for chips, one re-buy allowed, and please bring a drink/food item for a mini-potluck. Jeff will have his grill going if the weather allows. For more information visit the Yahoo!Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twigsberries> or contact Jeff or Andrew in person.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (9/14, 1 PM, at Dunn Bros): The KidSpace committee is meeting again! You do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Rosemary at kidspace@gaiacommunity.org to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee usually meets on the third Thursday of the month, but has moved to Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop (8975 Metcalf) on a Sunday for this month to accommodate busy schedules.

Games Night (9/19, 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.

Friday Night Supper Club (9/26, 7 PM): September's supper club will be at Local Burger, a small Lawrence restaurant that specializes in providing only meat and (when possible) other ingredients that can be sourced locally and are raised ethically and responsibly. Their menu varies seasonally because of this, but it includes both vegetarian and kid-friendly items. The restaurant is located at the southwest corner of 7th & Vermont in Lawrence, KS, one block west of Massachusetts Avenue. Please contact David, Kimberly, Devin or Erin to save a spot. We suggest carpooling for those coming from far east in the metro!

Board of Trustees 08-09

President — Lizzy Ticer
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Vice-President — Linda Boyce
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816-822-2070 or
greta@gaiacommunity.org

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

Caring Connections Corner

Several of our kids' birthdays are this month: Andres on the 1st, Kria on the 4th, and Christopher on the 5th. In addition, Larry Hols has a birthday on the 6th, Vicki Guhr on the 19th, and Terry Ross on the 23rd. Let Caring Committee know of any others that we're missing, and congratulations and blessings to all those folks for another trip around the sun.

In addition, our thoughts go to all of those who are moving, changing jobs, taking long trips, or experiencing difficulties in health or well-being. John Carroll, in particular, has a diagnosis of a form of bone cancer which is contributing to his multiple injuries over the last year, so keep him in your thoughts and lend him what energy you can. As of this writing, he is transitioning from Research Medical Center to Woodbine Healthcare and Rehabilitation, 2900 NE Kendallwood in Gladstone, MO as a long-term solution. He appreciates visitors greatly, and should have his internet connection up again soon.

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.



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

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

Sunday, Sept. 7th

Ritual — Demon Beat~n~ Greet

Ritualists: Barbara, Kitty, Kit

This ritual will continue the work begun in our January Workshop, **Banishing Personal Demons**. The work is intended to help people with both mundane and magical tools to eradicate negative habits, thoughtforms, and influences.

Sunday, Sept. 14th

Class — Sustainable Living in an Urban Context

Facilitators: Devin and Eric

To "model and to teach sustainable living in both an urban and rural context" is part of the mission of our community; as such we will be providing mostly pragmatic information on how to do this, such as where most of the local farmers markets are, how to make your own cleaning products, how to build, name and maintain a compost heap, and much more. If you want an electronic copy of our information, please contact Devin and it can be e-mailed to you about 48 hours prior to the class. We will have a few copies of the info packets, but we would like to use fewer trees so come prepared to write stuff down!

Currently Active Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Barbara
David Reynolds	Devin Scrogum
Eric Simpson	Erin Truitt
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	Kit Peters
Kitty Degler	Linda Boyce
Lizzy Ticer	Via Baker

Please see Kimberly, the new Ritual Teams Coordinator, 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, Sept. 21st

SABBAT — Autumn Equinox *(New Member Sunday, w/potluck after)*

Ritualists: Kitty, Kimberly, Andrew, and Kit

The autumnal equinox is a time of balance and minute changes; can you stay present and aware of everything around you? This ritual will focus on some of the small changes and things going on, that you may be too busy to notice in your everyday life. In addition, we will be harvesting a new "crop" of Members, which add a little more change to our community's future. **Weather permitting, this ritual will be partly outdoors.**

As with all High Holidays, we will be holding a potluck meal afterward, so bring a dish, drink, or dessert for eight hungry people, and remember to label the ingredients for those with dietary restriction or allergies! In order to care for the earth and each other, we ask that you refrain from using disposable containers/tableware if at all possible.

Sunday, Sept. 28th

Ritual — Thor's First Patron Rite

Ritualists: Erin, Barbara, and others

Thor asked for storytelling and feasting! He also told us we would be working hard, not just having fun and games. We honor Thor, Gaia Community's new annual patron, as he asked; storytelling and feasting are in store. But be prepared to use your brains for the work of the day! **Bring a drinking vessel.**

- Ritual Teams

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Oct. 5th — Workshop: Meditation for Non-Meditators

Oct. 12th — Class: "Pagan" Doesn't Have to Mean "Poor"

Oct. 19th — Ritual: Shamanic Journeying with the Ancestors

Oct. 26th — Sabbat: Samhain

KidSpace Schedule (Trees class)

The Trees are our older children, teenagers and near-teenagers. Their class schedule for the next few months is as follows (subject to change, void where prohibited, etc).

- ◆ **9/07: Christianity I: Basic Overview** (Video and Discussion)
During this class there will be a short film on the miracles of Jesus and the basic precepts of the religion that followed him.
- ◆ **9/14: Open Discussion / Park Clean-up with Greta** (Social Justice)
There is no set format for this class; students may engage in beautifying the nearby park, or stay for a discussion of whatever comes our way.
- ◆ **9/21: Christianity II: The Life and Times of Jesus**
Here we will discuss what little history has survived regarding Jesus' life, and the social conditions in which he lived.
- ◆ **9/28: Christianity III: The Crucifixion and Resurrection**
During this class special attention will be paid to the meaning of the Crucifixion, the three days during which Jesus was dead, and the Resurrection. We will also cover some of the traditions that have sprang up from these events, and the last supper's relation to the holy communion of modern Catholicism and Orthodoxy.

- ◆ **10/05: Christianity IV: Q&A w/ Guest Speaker**
There will be a guest speaker who is himself a member of the Christian faith.
- ◆ **10/12: Christianity V: Film: The Life of Brian**
Acclaimed by many as their single best film ever, The Life of Brian is a film made by Monty Python, a group of British comedic writer/actors who are themselves largely Christian. They were immediately denounced by high-ranking church officials and the film itself was banned in many parts of Britain. During this class we will watch this most excellent satire, and then discuss what its makers might have been trying to say.
- ◆ **10/19: Finish viewing / discussing LoB if needed.**
Otherwise, Open Discussion / Park Clean-up with Greta (Social Justice).
- ◆ **10/26: High Holiday: Samhain**
There will be no separate KidSpace downstairs for Trees during this high holiday.

From there I will most likely do another segment of Unitarian Universalism, much as I did before. I have students now I did not then, and Unitarian Universalism sprang, historically, from Christendom. As part of covering UU, I again intend to cover Gaia Community in particular, and its Cornerstones.

I also intend to have a class on HIV/AIDS with the folks who did the adult class as guest speakers.





P.O. Box 45307
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Address Correction Requested

CARING FOR
THE EARTH AND
EACH OTHER
BECAUSE OUR
LIVES DEPEND
ON IT.

- *Coyote*

Ritual for Business Minutes - 8/9/2008

Started at 9:39 AM

Attendees: David, Kimberly, Duane, Nola, Via, Linda, Devin, Erin, Lizzy, ?

I. **Approval of Agenda** – approved

II. **Minutes** – approved

III. **Treasurer's Report**

1. Year End Report: \$24,545.16 income, \$20,016.77 expenses, one more final check. Member pledges were down from an expectation of 21k to 18k, but fundraising brought in much more than expected, and expenses were controlled.
2. U.S. Bank gave us an analysis surcharge of \$30. The bank doesn't even know what it is exactly; maybe from putting a lot of change in? Nola will go and complain to them. Rhinos and elephants may be involved.

IV. **Committee Reports**

1. **NomCom** – currently vetting one candidate for KidSpace Chairperson.
2. **Ritual Teams** – Excellence in Ritual students graduated, at least two should be applying for Teams. They are looking for a new God Box, so if anyone has anything big enough to contain Thor's junk stuff, let them know!
3. **KidSpace** – Linda will go on RennFest hiatus soon; Nola will assume the position, but only if Duane doesn't do it first. They are delaying the Islam section in order to not be disrupted by the intergenerational rituals coming soon.
4. **Membership** – new member class soon. Probably 5 members?
5. **Communications** – EH went out, but getting information is still slow. With the new website, committee heads/members will be able to update their own events.
6. **Site/Lease** – has not met since the last RFB. However SMUUCH has requested not having exterior doors propped open due to the humidity/mold issue. KidSpace and Ritual Teams are on the calendar already, but other meetings need to announce to Lizzy if they are going to meet at SMUUCH or change dates.
7. **Welcoming** – has not met since the last RFB. Continuing to work with the KC Coalition for Welcoming Congregations. David didn't even curse in the last month's meeting, woo!
8. **Caring** – has not met. Duane will assume the position of additional committee member. Jacki will get together with Terry to figure out what to do next. John Carroll is still in the hospital, he has acquired another infection so did not get out this week as expected. Terry and Nola are watching his cat. There is no reason to believe

that he is going to be institutionalized permanently, he's just bouncing in and out of the hospital for the last year. Devin asked about John's long-term care plans; his Medical DPOA is taken care of. Via asked if Finance, Stewardship, and Caring could get together and support some of his expenses (Internet, etc) if he does go into an institutional facility. Kimberly pointed out that we have in the past avoided using G.C.'s budget when we help people financially; there was an agreement to look into this. David pointed out that we already have Compassionate Memberships.

9. **Stewardship** – meeting on Wednesday at Fractal's house. The Garage Sale almost made its expected budget on Friday; Saturday got some sales before the rain started, so anything additional should be gravy.
10. **Social Justice** – no one at RFB went to the last meeting, but they will be talking about the Llamas for Lammas project on Sunday.

V. **Old Business**

1. **Sex Offenders Issue** – this group met at the end of last month, decided what further research needs to be done. They will meet once or twice more and try to come up with a proposal for September.

VI. **New Business**

1. **Virtual Lending Library** – Jamie wants to use the power of the Internet to create a lending library among Gaia Community members. It will have set periods of loan, reimbursement for lost books, and a neutral 'librarian' who will be responsible for enforcing these. It is not just for pagan/magic books; you can put kids' books, fantasy, non-fiction, etc. Late fees will go to Gaia, not the lender. Replacement of books goes back to the lender, however. A Reference Tag will be added for books that are too valuable to leave the lender's house. G.C.'s actual library (books the community's own) will live at Jamie's house until we get a permanent home.

Agreed to the proposal. Jamie also has a CueCat that will make scanning books into the library. She would really like to get the books scanned in during the next week, so the T&C will be finalized by Monday. David (as Secretary) and Jamie (now as Librarian) will work up the final copy of the T&C; anyone can make input based on the draft made available today, of course.

VII. **Non Sequiturs**

1. Linda has a project at Renn Fest that will need 'stuff' ribbons, fabric, beads, sequins, etc.
2. Via is sorry about the rain. She was building another fence.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 A.M.

– David, Secretary

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*

SEPTEMBER 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Forum on Sacred Work	1 <i>Labor Day</i>	2	3 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	4	5	6
7 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Demon Beat-n-Greet	8	9 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	10	11	12	13 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH 7 - 10PM: Poker Night @ Jeff's (Twigs-n-Berries, men only)
14 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class on Sustainable Living	15 ○	16	17	18 7 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ SMUUCH	19 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	20
21 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sabbat: Autumn Equinox (w/potluck after)	22 ●	23	24	25	26 7 PM: Supper Club @ Local Burger in Lawrence	27
28 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Patron Rite for Thor	29 ●	30	1	2 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	3	4 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ TBD