



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

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## Fall Bazaar - October 24<sup>th</sup>

The Fall Bazaar has a location and date, so mark your calendars, and tell your friends! The Bazaar will happen from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Old Mission Masonic Lodge, 5201 West 75<sup>th</sup> Street, in Prairie Village, KS. As with the Bazaars of old, the Fall Bazaar will feature local pagan and pagan-friendly merchants offering fabulous handmade art, craft, and useful wonderful stuff! Going forward, much more information will be available on Sundays and at <http://gaiacommunity.org/bazaar>.

If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Kit at [bazaar@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:bazaar@gaiacommunity.org). He will need to know your name, contact information (including phone and email), what kind of things you will be offering for sale, and what kind of space you are interested in. We will offer table and booth space: table space can be rented for \$25 for members, or \$45 for non-members, or a 10x10 booth space can be rented for \$45 for members, or \$85 for non-members. Booth space will be limited, and is available on a first-come first-served basis.

Also, as with the Bazaars of old, we will need a lot of help to make the event happen. We will need volunteers to plan and coordinate the Bazaar, to help promote it, and to help out on the day of the event. We will also be asking for donations of items to be sold at Gaia's craft table or offered for raffle, and of baked goods to sell at the Kitchen Witch table. Finally, we will be looking for people or groups to entertain at the Bazaar.

An initial organizing meeting for the Bazaar will happen on Wednesday, September 9, at 7 p.m. at Kit's house, 3228 Campbell in KCMO. If you would like to help plan and coordinate the event, please attend. You do not have to attend in order to volunteer on the day of the Bazaar. Thanks, and hope to see you there!

- Stewardship Committee

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## Second Town Hall Meeting

Due to some concerns and ideas brought up at the July Ritual for Business, we will be holding a series of open "town hall" meetings over the next several months, on Tuesday evenings. Anyone is welcome to attend, listen, and provide input, regardless of whether or not they are a currently active member of Gaia Community.

- **September 15<sup>th</sup>:** The second town hall meeting will be looking at our status as a congregation within the Unitarian Universalist Association. Two of our members recently went to General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting of the UUA, and came back with both information and questions. We don't utilize the benefits of our membership within the UUA very often at present, although we did more often when we were a younger congregation. Should we be tapping into the local Prairie Star District's resources more? Should we be "just a pagan group" and not worry so much about our denominational affiliation, and the concomitant annual dues to the denomination?

- Committee of the Whole

## Covenant Groups Review

At the September Ritual for Business, we will be reviewing the covenants and health of several long-standing covenant groups; those that are still forming or have been around for less than a year are not required to go through review this time around.

If you are a member or (more importantly) the organizer of the Twigs-n-Berries men's group or the Religions of Kansas City group, please attend the RfB on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> or send in any information/comments about your group to a member of the board, as found on page 2.

- Committee of the Whole

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

*Voices of Gaia is on hiatus until later in the year (probably in preparation for the Yule ritual).*

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (9/1, 6:45 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Devin or Kit, the joint Ritual Teams Coordinators, at [rtc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:rtc@gaiacommunity.org) or in person if you have questions or wish to provide feedback about how a Sunday service went. As always, any member of the congregation may help with any particular ritual, so if you have an interest, let any ritualist know (they have blue ribbons on their nametags)!

**Women's Sacred Moon Ritual** (9/5, 7:30 PM, at SMUUCH): Kate's Women's Group are open to everyone who identifies themselves as female and/or has had their first menses. For more information, please visit their scheduling page at <http://www.meetup.com/The-Sacred-Grove/> or contact Kate Miller. They also hold social events from time to time that are not gender-restricted.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (9/8, 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](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org) or find him in person. They will be working on the school supply project.

**Stewardship Committee** (9/9, 7 PM, at Kit's): Stewardship is working on the Fall Bazaar (see page 1) for the next several meetings; this one will be held at Kit's house, 3328 Campbell in KCMO. Get in touch with Kit or Kimberly in person or by e-mail at [stewardship@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:stewardship@gaiacommunity.org) if you'd like to be a part of this committee or the Fall Bazaar crew, or just show up!

**Storytelling Group** (9/11, 7 PM): The third meeting of the fledgling Storytelling Group will meet again this month; if you're interested in what they'll be practicing and working on, get in touch with Andrew or Greta. Where the meeting would be held was not available at print time.

**Ritual for Business** (9/12, 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 (see page 5) should be sent to a board member, as shown to the right.

**Craft Circle** (9/12, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be a week later than usual because of the Labor Day holiday. It will be held at David and Kimberly's house this month, 1306 E. 118<sup>th</sup> St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome; we'll also be talking about the organizational structure for the covenant group that this activity could become.

**Town Hall Meeting** (9/15, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): The second of our three town-hall style meetings will be held this month, on the topic of being a Unitarian Universalist congregation. After going to General Assembly, Cynthia wanted to find out more about how the community felt with regards to the activities, energy, and funds we put into our association with the UUA. This meeting will be held in the Jefferson/Franklin part of the building, downstairs.

**Games Night** (9/18, 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.

**KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (9/20, 1 PM, at Dunn Brothers): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Rosemary (the Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) in person or at [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org) to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee meets on the third Sunday of each month, at the Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop near Half-Price Books on Metcalf.

**Friday Night Supper Club** (9/25, 7 PM): September's supper club will be held at Jerusalem Cafe, a Mediterranean restaurant at 431 Westport Rd. Please R.S.V.P. to Amanda in person or by email through [fnsc@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:fnsc@gaiacommunity.org) if you're interested; you may also RSVP on [Facebook](#).

### Board of Trustees 09-10

**President** — Erin Scrogum  
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**Secretary** — Rosemary Harris  
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or 816-419-9447  
Greta Erhardt  
816-822-2070 or  
[greta@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:greta@gaiacommunity.org)  
... or contact them all at  
[board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org)!

## Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Andres Granados and Mark Brenner on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Christopher Boyce on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Larry Hols on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Vicki Guhr on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Terry Ross on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please let the Caring Committee know of any others that we're missing, and congratulations and blessings to all those folks for another trip around the sun.

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. Leave a message on our answering machine at 816-931-9900 or by e-mail at [caring@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org).



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

*Voices of Gaia is on hiatus until winter; Sacred Rhythms meets at 3:30 PM*

**Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Ritual — Sharing Our Spirits**  
*(Labor Day)*

*Facilitators: Kitty and Barbara*

Sharing Our Spirits rituals are designed to allow everyone a chance to help build the ritual of the day, with one or two ritual team members helping facilitate the process. You may bring music, art, invocations, poetry, or any other idea or craft that you think might help a ritual based around this month's theme, which is Labor. Be prepared to work hard for the result!

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ritual — Poking Your Eye Out**

*Ritualists: Erin, Devin, and Amanda*

The phrase usually means doing something that is long and arduous without much positive result. That will not be today's ritual topic. Poking your eye out here refers to the tale of the Norse god Odin, who sacrificed a vital organ for wisdom. We won't be expecting you to poke your eye out -- literally. But what would you sacrifice for wisdom?

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**High Holiday — Autumn Equinox**  
*(w/ potluck following)*

*Ritualists: Kitty, Kimberly, and David*

The equinoxes are a time of balance between light and dark, positive and negative, introspection and action. This week, we'll be looking at ways to utilize that balance of energies to both increase the positive and decrease the negative in our own lives, that of our community, and the world at large.

Weather permitting, this ritual will be outside, so please dress appropriately! Following ritual, there will be a potluck meal, so bring a dish, drink, or dessert for 8 people, and place settings for yourself. Remember to label your ingredients for those with dietary restrictions.

**Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Class — Missouri Stream Team**  
*Facilitators: Kit and Vicki Richmond*

The Missouri Stream Team helps coordinate events across the state like the Blue River Rescue, which Gaia Community helps with each year. The Social Justice Committee has invited Vicki Richmond to come and speak about the Stream Team's activities and how to get involved, in case we want to adopt a river/stream (such as the one behind Greta's that we cleaned up earlier this year), or otherwise get involved with their environmental work as part of our Green Sanctuary progress. Even if you live on the Kansas side, please come as much of the information is transferable!

*- Ritual Teams*

### Currently Active Ritualists

Amanda Pence	Barbara
Cheryl Russell	David Reynolds
Devin S.	Eric Simpson
Erin Scrogum	Jacki Kelley
Jamie Peters	Jeff Park
Kelley Montford	Kimberly
Kit Peters	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	Lizzy Ticer

*Please see Devin or Kit, the Ritual Teams Coordinators, if you are a former ritualist who would like to rejoin teams, or a newly trained ritualist looking to join for the first time.*

### A Look Ahead...

- Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> - Ritual: We Are Gaians (*New Member Sunday*)
- Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> - Forum on Magical Stones
- Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> - Ritual: Patron Rite II
- Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - Class: Legal Issues of Death and Dying Pagan
- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - High Holiday: Samhain

## *KidSpace Information*

Just a short note from KidSpace this month.

Please keep our students in mind when you are shopping. Snacks are an ongoing need. If you submit your receipts, our Treasurer can issue you a gift-in-kind receipt for tax purposes.

As we head into the Renaissance Faire season, KidSpace will experience a greater-than-usual shortage of teachers. Anyone who is interested in helping out downstairs should contact Rosemary or Linda as soon as possible, so they can make sure everything is covered.

- *KidSpace Committee*

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## Gaia Community Wordsearch

K	S	D	Y	O	V	I	Z	W	I	G	E	S	E	E	R	T	J	M	G
E	N	K	R	R	E	H	H	B	N	Z	C	N	R	Z	Y	T	U	U	A
E	L	B	A	N	I	A	T	S	U	S	I	C	B	G	J	S	Z	K	B
I	D	J	L	O	K	X	A	R	B	C	T	C	V	U	U	I	P	N	X
T	Z	Z	C	U	H	G	E	I	S	A	S	B	G	H	M	L	J	U	W
K	Q	V	H	R	M	N	U	T	N	V	U	W	S	Q	Y	A	S	W	Y
C	G	N	I	M	O	C	L	E	W	G	J	S	U	Y	A	S	H	F	I
E	O	Q	S	K	P	U	N	I	T	A	R	I	A	N	D	R	O	D	Z
Q	W	N	K	G	D	A	S	G	K	P	J	E	J	O	I	E	O	L	H
U	I	Y	S	T	N	P	G	I	R	I	Q	Y	F	V	L	V	T	U	V
I	M	C	W	E	R	I	D	A	S	E	I	F	R	G	O	I	S	Y	H
N	Z	W	V	O	N	S	L	T	N	T	E	V	D	J	H	N	U	X	D
O	T	P	U	X	P	S	I	P	I	F	N	N	K	U	V	U	I	P	B
X	Q	T	B	A	T	R	U	N	A	Z	L	E	E	C	I	L	A	H	C
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X	M	E	A	P	A	I	A	G	M	W	Y	W	M	E	S	J	I	W	Z
C	Q	X	S	O	M	G	C	G	Y	U	E	C	F	T	L	G	T	F	C
O	R	V	A	T	G	Q	W	P	X	O	Z	U	Y	O	O	E	U	N	O
U	H	R	S	E	L	P	I	C	N	I	R	P	N	X	A	J	A	Z	X
Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	E	C	I	T	S	L	O	S	L	Y	V

CHALICE	COMMUNITY	CONSENSUS	ELEMENTS
EQUINOX	GAIA	GREEN	HOLIDAY
JUSTICE	KIDSPACE	PAGAN	PRINCIPLES
RITUAL	SAPLINGS	SHOOTS	SOLSTICE
SPIRIT	SPROUTS	SUSTAINABLE	TREES
UNITARIAN	UNIVERSALIST	WELCOMING	

## Ritual for Business Minutes for August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*Started at 9:52 AM*

*In attendance: Rosemary, Kimberly, David, Kit, Jamie, Devin, Amanda, Erin, Via, Cheryl, Barbara, Cynthia*

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – approved
- II. **Roles** - Barbara is Vibes Watcher, Via as Non Sequitur, David for da Red Tape of Doom, Amanda as Door Person
- III. **Minutes** – Approved as amended (Cynthia's statement about SMUUCH's president not willing to say where potential property was amended to state he wasn't to the stage of announcing it to his congregation yet). Also, Cynthia had a concern that the phrasing of "just a pagan group" could be interpreted as perjorative, which was absolutely not how it was meant.

IV. **Committee Reports**

**A. KidSpace** – The Kidspace Committee had their regular meeting in July. The students participated in God Auction and enjoyed it. The issue of smoking and the exposure of the students to same was brought to the committee. Kelly completed some research with SMUUCH about the same. A proposal will be presented to the Community later in this RFB.

The issue of security of students and pick up of same was also brought to the committee. The Committee confirmed that parents need to come down and pick up their students. Students will not be released to friends or siblings.

The Committee requested that a note regarding the same be placed in the Earthhealer and in the announcements.

The question of Ritual Teams, High Holidays, and intergenerational issues was brought to the committee. Erin researched it and the idea of High Holidays being intergenerational if possible was a request/suggestion. It was a Ritual Teams decision to do this, not a mandate issued by the CoW. A possible change in classes for January/February 2010 was suggested.

Following the Jan.10 Children's ritual/dedication, some classes along the lines the adults' "Welcoming Congregation" series (maybe something along the idea of "Standing on the side of Love") would end in a Valentine's dance. This may be a joint venture between Kidspace and Social Justice. This is being researched.

Concerns of adult language and behavior was brought to the committee. It was noted that concept of family friendly is actually in Gaia's mission statement. Linda volunteered to put a reminder in the Earthhealer. This has come up before.

Scheduling is being done for autumn. It was a busy month.

**B. Social Justice** – They are doing a short project collecting school supplies for KCK schools until the end of August. With Thoth as patron, there will be a lot of work about education and law, though they have not abandoned traditional projects like Blue River Cleanup. They are still Social and Just.

**C. Communications** – They are doing a short project collecting school supplies for KCK schools until the end of August. With Thoth as patron, there will be a lot of work about education and law, though they have not abandoned traditional projects like Blue River Cleanup. They are still Social and Just.

**D. Membership** – Having New Member classes shortly; Aug 23, Sept 6 & 27. (Jamie rocks the revising.) Four or five people are interested in taking it. 2010 New Member schedule is on the website.

- 1. **Library** – Has been moved out of Jamie's back room and into boxes that will be labeled due to lack of shelf space. The Cue Cat is still in limbo.

**E. Finance** – No report this month, as John was not in attendance.

**F. Site** – the committee has not met since the last RfB.

**G. Welcoming** – Continue to go to KC Coalition of Welcoming Ministries. In Oct is an informational thingie near Westport. Kimberly will get us more information. One thing trying to accomplish is to put together a directory of welcoming religious organizations and a newsletter/calendar of welcoming events. Conference on healthy living last month continues to reperuss, and David is working on his statement of "thhpbpt" toward the Annoying Minister.

**H. Ritual Teams** – We still have rituals!

**I. Caring** – We still care!

**J. Nominating Committee** – Caught up with duties.

**K. Stewardship** – Fall Bazaar will happen on Oct 24th if we can find space within the next week. Looking for space for Longest Night. All Souls might do it if they get a note from Barbara. After Fall Bazaar Kit will be stepping down as co-chair.

V. **Old Business**

**A. Association Sunday** – Oct 18? Kit suggests that someone contact All Souls and/or SMUUCH about getting together for AS. Kimberly suggests we discuss this at the town hall meeting about being UUA. Subject is tabled until next month so we can figure out exactly when it is and discuss potential town hall outcomes.

**B. Action Items from GA** – Standing on the Side of Love missives should be forwarded to Welcoming and Social Justice.

UU-UNO will be tabled until Amanda can get things gathered  
Sex Offender policy- working on getting that policy and discussing implementation

2010 – schedule a forum for after that year's GA to disseminate information to the congregation

**C. Report on Grant Writing** – Met about writing up a grant proposal for pagan curriculum (needs congregational support).

- 1. Update & upgrade EIR curriculum to be taken to other UU congregations who are pagan-leaning or interested in adding pagan activities or are just curious; expand on what it means to be pagan, how to run a pagan ritual, how to adapt concepts into regular UU life without going completely pagan. Could answer UU questions on how to retain youth.
- 2. In partnership with CUUPS put on a national pagan conference. Allegedly approximately 20% has Earth-based spirituality as primary or close to primary focus of worship, and there is not a lot of support for this yet. There will be numbers next month.

**D. Follow-up on Committee Written Rules** – COW charged each committee to come up with written rules of what they do and how they do it. Ritual Teams and Kidspace have these rules, but we have nothing from others yet. It has been proposed that the COW set a proposal to have these in by March, and the Veep will poke the committees about what is needed. IF this is not done by March (committees not done by February will be published), then we must have a special RfB to change the Bylaws. Consensed.

**E. Proposals – temp change for Covenant Reports** – Groups who have existed for more than a year should come forward with these reports by September (as March reports were not made), or at least report whether they are active for website information. Kimberly suggested Communications go to these groups unofficially to check on their status. Agreed.

**F. Six-Month Review of Meet-up Dot Com** – We've had one new member from this site, and people rarely RSVP. David does not believe that the site is cost-effective and that we should put it out of its misery. Consensed.

VI. **New Business**

**A. Smoker Proposal** – The Kidspace Committee would like to propose a smoking policy for Gaia Community. We recognize that smoking is a personal choice and want to create an environment in which both smokers and nonsmokers are comfortable. We ask that smokers smoke outside the building. We also ask that smokers make use of the "smoking area" outside the Barn Chapel doors. SMUUCH has provided a bench and an ashecan at that location. Smokers are asked to please be sure the outside doors in front of Barn Chapel are closed when they do use the area in order to minimize the smoke coming into the building and to try and keep the entryway in front of the center doors clear of smoke.

This proposal was brought up to the COW, however as no smokers were present, we will instead be publishing the proposal for feedback and brought back to next month's RfB.

**B. Interfaith Questions** – tabled until next month.

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

### *Agenda for the September 12<sup>th</sup> Ritual for Business:*

- Final report from God Auction fundraiser
- Review of Covenant Groups which have existed for more than a year
- Smoker's Policy
- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



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 LIVES DEPEND  
 ON IT.

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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 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 4-6 PM: Workshop on Applied Urban Sustainability	31	1 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	2	3	4 ○	5 7:30PM: Women's Full Moon Goddess Ritual
6 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual (Labor Day)	7	8 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee meeting @ Andrew's	9 7-9 PM: Stewardship Committee meeting @ Kit's	10	11 ● 7-9PM: Storytelling Group	12 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's
13 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Ritual: Poking Your Eye Out	14	15 7 PM: Town Hall Meeting on Being a UU Congregation	16	17	18 ● 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	19
20 1 PM: KidSpace Meeting 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4-7 PM: High Holiday: Autumn Equinox (w/ potluck after)	21	22	23	24	25 ● 7 PM: Supper Club @ Jersusalem Cafe in Westport	26
27 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythms 4-6 PM: Missouri Stream Team Class	28	29	30	1	2	3 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ David & Kimberly's 7:30PM: Women's Full Moon Goddess Ritual