



# EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

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## Clothing Exchange in Sept

An informal “clothing swap” is being planned for September 21<sup>st</sup>, with set-up beginning at 6 PM and the exchange itself beginning at 7 PM. This idea came out of the Voluntary Simplicity workshop from last fall, and is a way to reduce your impact upon the earth (and your budget!) by trading clothing items for yourself or your children with other members and Friends of Gaia. No money need be changed hands, though be prepared for your items that are not “swapped” to show up in next spring's Garage Sale! You can of course take them back yourself if you were ambivalent about giving them up, and no one else was interested. **You do not have to bring the same amount of items that you leave with!**

If you can offer help with logistics or clothing racks, let Kelley Montford or Linda Boyce know, and start looking through your closet for things you may want to trade out!

## New Member Classes

After their summer hiatus, our membership classes will resume this month, on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wanting to formally join the community must take all three classes, though they can be done in any order and over any reasonable span of time. This first session is on our history, both of Gaia Community and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

If you would like to take the new member class, please contact Devin or Jamie (or anyone with a yellow ribbon on their nametag) on Sundays, or email them at [membership@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:membership@gaiacommunity.org),!

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.

## Editor's Note

Information for articles and events was difficult to come by for your editor this month, which explains the lateness of going to print with the newsletter. Apologies for those of you who may have missed notice on some early-month activities.

In addition, I find myself in the 'market' for a new newsletter editor again. I've been putting the Earth Healer together for several years now and would like to move on/give others the opportunity to assist. If you are involved with the community and have the desire to help with something that takes time (but little-to-no meetings!) please get in touch with me and I will explain more of what it takes to run and publish our newsletter. Since I also wear the hat of the Communications Chair (over the website, newsletter, and email list) I certainly won't be bowing out or disappearing on the new editor entirely, and am perfectly content to keep doing it for some time in the future, should no one be interested.

- David, Earth Healer Editor

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## Gaia About Town

*Voices of Gaia and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus.*

**Ritual Teams Meeting** (9/7, 7:00 PM, at SMUUCH): All active ritualists must attend at least one meeting a quarter; please contact Jamie, the Ritual Teams Coordinator, 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)!

**Storytelling Group** (9/10, 7 PM, at Andrew's): The Storytelling Group will meet this month at Andrew's apartment (see address below, under Social Justice). For more information about the meeting, or if you're interested in what they'll be practicing and working on, get in touch with Andrew (in person or at [andrew@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:andrew@gaiacommunity.org)).

**Ritual for Business** (9/11, 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 have 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.

**Social Justice Committee Meeting** (9/14, 7 PM, at Andrew's): We will meet this month at Andrew's apartment: 8334 W. 108th, Apt. E, Overland Park, KS. If you have questions about this committee, you can e-mail us at [sj@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:sj@gaiacommunity.org). We'll be planning a fall project.

**Games Night** (9/17, 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 what games are available.

**KidSpace Coordinating Committee** (9/19, 2 PM, at SMUUCH): The KidSpace committee is for everyone; you do not have to be a parent to attend. Get in touch with Kelley (the new Committee Chair) or Linda (the KidSpace Coordinator) at [kidspace@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:kidspace@gaiacommunity.org) or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda.

**Queer Allies Discussion** (9/21, 7 PM, at Jamie): This meeting does not have a specific topic at present; please come if you're interested in any part of the LGBTQIAA spectrum. Please contact Jamie at [jamie@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:jamie@gaiacommunity.org) for more information.

**Friday Night Supper Club** (9/24, 7PM) will be at Choga, a Korean restaurant at 6920 W. 105<sup>th</sup> Street in Overland Park. If you are attending and wish to RSVP, please contact Amanda at [supperclub@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:supperclub@gaiacommunity.org) or in person.

**Women's Sacred Moon Ritual** (9/25, 7:30 PM, at SMUUCH): Women have come together under the Full Moon for centuries to share their knowledge and celebrate the sister Moon and honor the Goddess in all their glory. Every month, we host a Full Moon ritual for women of all faiths and backgrounds to come together and embrace the Divine Feminine within us all. Although we love the men and children in our lives, Full Moon Rituals are for women only. Contact Kelley Montford or Kate Miller for more information.

**New Member Class** (9/26, 2-3:30 PM): After its summer hiatus, our New Member classes return. If you wish to join Gaia Community formally, you must attend this series of three classes. This will be the first in the series, centered around our history. Contact Devin or Jamie at [membership@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:membership@gaiacommunity.org) for more information.

**Craft Circle** (10/3, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house in October, not September, due to the Labor Day holiday. Their address is 1306 E. 118th St. in KCMO. Any project you have or craft you'd like to share with the group is welcome!

## Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Christopher Boyce on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Larry Hols on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Vicki Newman (formerly Guhr) on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Joe Helm on the 20<sup>th</sup>, Duane Peters on the 21<sup>st</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. In addition, October 1<sup>st</sup> would have been Isaac Bonewits' sixtieth birthday, had he not died of cancer last month.



**The Caring Committee chair (Leo) is interested in what you want to see from this reconstituted committee. If you have ideas, concerns or blessings you wish to share, they can be sent to [caring@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:caring@gaiacommunity.org).**

### Board of Trustees 09-10

**President** — Erin Scrogum  
[president@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:president@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 913-904-2459

**Vice-President** — Amanda Pence  
[vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org)  
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**Treasurer** — John Boyce  
[treasurer@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:treasurer@gaiacommunity.org)  
or 816-419-9448

**Secretary** — Rosemary Harris  
[secretary@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:secretary@gaiacommunity.org)

#### Members at Large —

Cheryl Stice  
[phoenixrose0707@yahoo.com](mailto:phoenixrose0707@yahoo.com)  
or 913-530-9976

Linda Boyce  
[lboyce@mindspring.com](mailto:lboyce@mindspring.com)  
or 816-419-9447

Cynthia Cole  
[cynthia@cynthiaweb.net](mailto:cynthia@cynthiaweb.net)

or 913-433-8038

... or contact them all at

[board@gaiacommunity.org](mailto:board@gaiacommunity.org)!

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

*Voices of Gaia and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus.*

### **Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** **Sharing Our Spirits Ritual**

*(Labor Day)*

**Facilitators:** Erin and Jamie

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 12<sup>th</sup>** **Ritual: Little Red and the Wolf** *(Fairy Tale Arc I)*

**Ritualists:** Aubry, Kitty, and Barbara

"Oh, Grandmother! What great big teeth you have!" "The better to eat you with my dear." Oh, dear! What was Little Red Riding Hood thinking to tell the Wolf she was going to Grandmother's house? Who is the wolf? Who is grandmother? Fairy tales often are more than what they seem. Come join us for the first ritual in Gaia Community's mini fairy tale arc as we explore the many possibilities of "Little Red Riding Hood".

### **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** **High Holiday: Germination**

*(Fall Equinox, w/potluck after)*

**Ritualists:** Barbara, David, Kimberly and Devin

Quetzalcoatl challenged us to change and grow, and so we shall! For many of us, the autumnal season is a time of harvest and reflection. But for some plants, like bulbed flowering ones, it's a time to start getting ready for spring already! We'll use that metaphor to help you strive toward a goal of the "person you wish to be more like". You do NOT have to come with a goal in mind, though you are welcome to.

As always with our high holidays, there will be a potluck meal following the ritual. Please bring a food, drink, or dessert item sufficient to feed 8 hungry people, and remember to label your ingredients! For the Earth's sake, we also ask that you not use disposable dishes, if possible. We have extras if you forget yours.

### **Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** **Workshop: Courting Your Muse**

**Facilitators:** Aubry and Devin

Do you have a muse? Would you like to have one? Have you lost touch with yours? This workshop will explore, in both theoretical and practical terms, ways to get in touch with your creative power and encourage that influence to come into your life more in the future. You may wish to bring some of your work, if you have something you're stalled on.

*- Ritual Teams*

#### **Currently Active Ritualists**

Aubry Gabbard	Barbara
Cheryl Stice	David Reynolds
Devin S.	Eric Simpson
Erin Scrogum	Jamie Peters
Kit Peters	Kitty Degler
Linda Boyce	

*Please see Jamie, the 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.*

#### **A Look Ahead...**

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ritual: Fairy Tale Arc, Part II  
 Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - Class on Mythological Thinking  
 Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> - Forum: Earth-Based?  
 Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> - Ritual: Fairy Tale Arc, Part III  
 Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - High Holiday: Samhain

# For Fall, a Fairy Bringing the First Falling Leaves



## Ritual for Business Minutes for August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*In attendance:* Erin, Devin, Rosemary, John, Jamie, Jenn,  
Julie, Cheryl, Cynthia, Jack, Gerry Lynn, David, Kit

*Started at 9:42 AM*

- I. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved.
- II. **Roles** – Jenn for Vibes Watcher, Jamie for Non Sequitur, Jack for Red Tape, Gerry Lynn for Red Tape
- III. **Minutes** – July's minutes are currently MIA. A rescue operation will be launched.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – General fund @ \$7708.82, Kidspace down a bit from OWLS but rebuilding, New Home @ \$24,000+. God Auction brought in about \$38 more than we thought we had, yay!
- V. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. **KidSpace** – Plunking along, working on getting covering teachers for RenFaire season. Should have a Native American arc running during this time.
  - B. **Social Justice** – They are social and just.
  - C. **Communications** – There was a wobble in the PO Box, but it's fixed now. If you see anything on the website that needs correcting/updating, let David or Jamie know. Also a section is starting of concerns, announcements, etc. This can be submitted to the Caring committee or to David.
  - D. **Membership** – Last 3 New Member classes of 2010 have dates set; they are on the calendar and the New Member section of the website. Member Directory has been floating in limbo, but is still in the works. We got two new members at New Member Sunday in July! Other stuff is flying about, so there needs to be a meeting soon.
    1. **Library** – It is there. It has books. We like books.
  - E. **Site** – Haven't met, but are going to do so real soon-like.
  - F. **Welcoming** – There was a Town Hall meeting in July. There will be a meeting this Tuesday at 7:00 at Jamie's.
  - G. **Ritual Teams** – There was a meeting! It was productive. Looked at yearly evaluations, caught up on critiques. Storage space will be discussed in next month's meeting. Please note for future reference that circular tables now live in Barn Chapel.
  - H. **Caring** – Luuuurves us allllll.
  - I. **Nominating Committee** – Nobody needs to be nommed, so the nomming is in a holding pattern.
  - J. **Stewardship** – Longest Night Ball planning will start after Dragon\*Con. Longest Day Picnic is in the works to begin next summer.
- VI. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Restroom Proposal** – The original proposal was brought forward at the June RfB. Changes have been made based on concerns presented at the July Town Hall Meeting to make it

a statement of intent. The new proposal is that Gaia Community adopt the following statement of intent which makes explicit the implicit agreement in our congregation that people should use the restroom that is right for them: *“At Gaia Community, we support the right of all people to use the restroom in which they feel the most comfortable, regardless of other people's perception of their gender. Members, friends, and visitors have the right to make their own determination of which restroom to use. Attempts to harass, threaten, or embarrass another person in the restroom for any reason will not be tolerated.”*

Concerns Addressed:

- Will downstairs be included? – There should not be any segregation involved in this; it is, in fact, a statement of intent rather than a full change of policy. This is really the way things are already done, we are merely making it known.
- Where will this be posted? – Greeters' Table, Website, and bathroom doors (probably upstairs, but it will apply to downstairs as well; the general consensus is that the upstairs posting is sufficient to get the information disseminated.)
- What sort of education will be implemented? – This needs to go to the Kidspace committee, but the COW requests that it be included in the curriculum somehow. This should also be added to the New Member Class.
- To whom should transgressions be reported? – This line will be added: *“If you do encounter harassment or embarrassment in the restroom, please tell any member; they wear wooden name tags.”*

**The proposal was consensed upon with the above added line and clarifications.**

### VII. New Business:

- A. **Compassionate Memberships** – Some questions were raised about membership dues and how compassionate memberships work. Some bylaw issues were clarified. Minimum to be a Full Active Member = \$10/month, regardless of the member's actual pledge. In the past, this has been applied to people who are involved in the community but not able to financially keep up, or were hospital-bound. They came forward and made a request, and individual members stepped forward to sponsor them by covering their minimum pledge. They were not actually supported by the COW. The way it has been done needs to be written down and codified into actual procedure for the community. Cynthia will present at the September RfB, and is asking for input.

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the September 11th Ritual for Business:

- Regular business (committee reports, etc.)



P.O. Box 45307

Kansas City, MO 64171-8303

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 (816-508-9086) 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 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 4-6 PM: Forum - Creating Gods	30	31	1 ☉	2	3	4
5 4-6 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual ( <i>Labor Day</i> )	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting at SMUCh	8 <i>Int'l Literacy Day</i> ☉	9	10	11 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUCh
12 4-6 PM: Ritual – Little Red and the Wolf ( <i>Fairy Tales Arc, Part I</i> )	13	14 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	15 <i>Int'l Day of Democracy</i>	16	17 <i>POW/MIA Recognition Day</i> 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUCh	18
19 <i>Talk Like a Pirate Day</i> 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting 4-7 PM: High Holiday - Germination ( <i>potluck after</i> )	20	21 7-9 PM: Queer Allies Meeting at Jamie's 7-8 PM: Clothing Swap ( <i>see page 1</i> )	22 <i>Fall Equinox</i>	23 ☉ <i>Celebrate Bisexuality Day</i>	24 7-9 PM: FNCS @ Choga, 6920 W. 105 <sup>th</sup> St, OP, KS	25
26 2-3:30 PM: New Member Class 4-6 PM: Workshop - Courting Your Muse	27	28	29	30 ☉	1 <i>Isaac Bonewits' birthday</i>	2 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's