



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

We Have a Winner!

Gaia Community's God Auction has once again chosen a new patron for the next twelve months: after five rounds of fervent bidding and several changes on the leaderboard, **Thor!** The entire event was a huge success, with a great mountain of non-perishable food and goods collected for the Harvesters Food Network, and several thousand dollars raised for the community!

Thor is the Norse God of Thunder and Strength, friend and protector, lover of stories and valor. His mighty Hammer Mjolnir could only be wielded by him and kept the giants at bay. His many adventures provide a rich source of inspiration and revelry when told.



- *Ritual Teams*

Shooting at UU Church

On the morning of July 27th, a man walked into the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee and opened fire upon the congregation gathered there. Several people were injured, but the gunman was captured and detained by those in attendance and the police arrived minutes later. Two people died from their wounds, including an usher, Greg McKendry, who stepped in front of a shotgun blast to protect others. Survivors from that congregation wish everyone to know that Greg, a longtime member of TVUUC, is a hero to them.

The UUA has established a Knoxville Relief Fund to assist those most directly affected by the shooting. 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 donate by mail:

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

Many thanks to our own Kit and Jamie for opening up their house on short notice for a local vigil held in the days immediately after the shooting.

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 Garage Sale, take 2!

After some delays, the annual garage sale is back on track at Linda Boyce's house, 8303 West 80th Street in Overland Park! Starting bright and early on the morning of Friday the 8th (and hopefully some Thursday night as well), Linda will need a **lot** of helpers both days to set out items, price them, and assist shoppers with making and ringing up selections. Non day-of assistance includes pricing items already donated, spreading word of the event to your friends and family, and coming to purchase items for yourself!

Please contact Linda or Nola if you have items for donation, can help run the garage sale, or can assist in any other ways! Many hands make light work; if you want to contact Linda directly on her cell phone, she is at 816-419-9447. Her e-mail is lboyce@mindspring.com. Nola can be reached at treasurer@gaiacommunity.org or her phone number as listed on page 2.

- *Stewardship Committee*

Ritual for Business Agenda

August's Ritual for Business (RfB), also to be held August 9th, contains the following notable agenda items:

- ✓ an end-of-year report from the Treasurer;
- ✓ a proposal to create a 'virtual lending library' on LibraryThing.com for Gaia Community members to share books (spiritual or otherwise);
- ✓ updates from the Nominating Committee on vacant 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*

What's Inside This Issue

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING	
CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
CALENDAR	6

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.

Men's Covenant Group: The "Twigs-n-Berries" group is regrouping and planning for its fall events. For more information visit the Yahoo!Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twigsberries> or contact Jeff or Brian in person.

Ritual Teams Meeting (8/5, 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 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!

Gaia Garage Sale (8/8-8/9, 7:00 AM, at Linda's): For those who are not interested in going to the business meeting, Linda will need assistance at her house (8303 W. 80th St, OPKS) with both days of our annual garage sale! Some setup will also be done Thursday night if possible, but **lots** of volunteers are needed to help make this fundraiser go off smoothly. See page 1 for Linda's contact information, and more on what she will need from the rest of us!

Ritual for Business (8/9, 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.

Social Justice Committee Meeting (8/12, 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.

Games Night (8/13, 7 PM, at Kimberly's): The Stewardship Committee will meet at 1306 E 118th Street in KCMO. We'll be talking about plans for the Harvest Bazaar and other possible fundraisers, volunteer development, and other Stewardship topics, so if you'd like to take part in the work of helping the community grow and care for its resources, you are welcome to attend. For directions, contact Via or Kimberly or person or at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org.

Games Night (8/15, 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 (8/21, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): The KidSpace committee is meeting again! You do not have to be a parent to attend; get in touch with Linda through kidspace@gaiacommunity.org to find out more about what is on the agenda; this committee now meets regularly on the third Thursday of each month.

Friday Night Supper Club (8/22, 7 PM): August's supper club has not been decided yet. Contact Linda Boyce in person or at fnsc@gaiacommunity.org to make a suggestion for a restaurant or to save a spot. Locally owned and places with vegetarian/kid-friendly options are always best!

Board of Trustees 08-09

President — Lizzy Ticer
president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-636-4924

Vice-President — Linda Boyce
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Greta Erhardt
816-822-2070 or
greta@gaiacommunity.org

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

Caring Connections Corner

There's several birthdays this month: Dan Symes on the 4th, Kieran on the 11th, Kimberly on the 20th, Cynthia on the 21st, Dan Ticer on the 23rd, Matthew MacDonald, Gary, and Rosemary on the 24th, Janene on the 27th, Jenny on the 28th, and Ann Allegre on the 29th. 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. The hottest part of the summer is upon us, but soon it will be fall and the harvest can begin.

The Caring Committee is currently in need of a new chairperson; please contact Devin or another member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in helping out with this friendly, easy task to help build and strengthen 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, Aug. 3rd

SABBAT — Thingstide (*in conjunction w/Wild Hare*) Ritualists: Nicole, Jennifer, David, and Via

Wild Hare Grove, ADF, is happy to have been invited to offer a Druidic high holiday celebration of Thingstide (which is a Nordic version of the holiday often known as Lammas or Lughnassadh). Despite the theme, the weather is expected to be hot and we will be outdoors, so dress with that in mind (horned hats and fur cloaks are totally optional). Sunscreen and bugspray are recommended; rough humor is virtually guaranteed. Live steel forbidden.

This ritual will be inter-generational; all youth above the Sprouts class (5 and older) will be joining us for the activities and games outdoors. As with all high holidays, there will be a potluck meal following the ritual; this one will take place within sacred space, at least at first, so please keep that in mind and listen to instructions as they are given. Potluck will be held indoors; for the earth's sake, please refrain from bringing disposable dishes and containers if possible, and use the recycling/compost bins provided.

Sunday, Aug. 10th

Class — Thor (new patron) Facilitators: Erin and others

Gaia Community chose the friend of humanity, the mighty thunderer, the Miðgarðr (Earth) protector to be this year's patron; learn more than just names and praises of Thor at this class. Come learn about the mythology, stories, and practices of who we picked. Or be prepared to share, if you already know him.

Sunday, Aug. 17th

Ritual — Where the Wild Things Are (*Urban Shamnism series*)

Ritualists: Barbara, Jeff, and Erin

The first in a new series of linked rituals and workshops, this Sunday's ritual will start to explore how to reconcile the 'urban' context in which we live with the ever-present world of nature, spirits, and other 'uncivilized' forces. This type of work is not always static and mental, though, so come along for the journey whatever your feelings about "trances".

Sunday, Aug. 24th

Workshop — Spirit Bundles for Modern Pagans Facilitators: Kimberly and Barbara

In this workshop, we will be taking a modern, artistic approach to the tradition of creating power objects by adding a collection of small items of spiritual significance to a container. Each participant will be able to create a Spirit Bundle: a conscious assemblage of small items & paper collected and/or selected deliberately to represent elements or aspects of one's faith, practice, belief system, life, quest, or goal. We will have some materials available, but as the Spirit Bundle is supposed to be significant to the individual, we ask that you bring with you a selection of small items that relate to your personal work to go into the bundle.

Sunday, Aug. 31st

Forum — Sacred Work Facilitators: Devin and Andrew

For the Labor Day weekend, come discuss and debate the implications of 'sacred' work: is it only that done in a religious ceremony? Does it include actions in the mundane world that are dedicated to the Gods or powers of the Universe? Share your opinions and learn from others.

- Ritual Teams

A Look Ahead to Next Month...

Sept. 7th — Ritual: Demon Beat 'n' Greet

Sept. 14th — Class on Sustainable Living in an Urban Context

Sept. 21st — Sabbat: Fall Equinox
(*New Member Sunday*)

Sept. 28th — Ritual: Patron Rite for Thor

Currently Active Ritualists

Andrew Turner	Barbara
David Reynolds	Devin Scrogum
Eric Simpson	Erin Truitt
Jacki Kelley	Jeff Park
Kimberly	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.



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 (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*

AUGUST 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Blessing of the Fleet Ritual	28	29	30	31	1 ● Lammas/ Lughnasadh	2 12-6PM: Pagan Pride Day at City Park, KCK
3 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Sabbat: Thingstide (w/ potluck after)	4	5 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	6	7	8 ● 7AM-5PM: Gaia Garage Sale!	9 7AM-5PM: Gaia Garage Sale! 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
10 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Class on Thor (new patron)	11	12 Int'l Youth Day 7 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	13 7PM: Stewardship Meeting @ Kimberly's	14	15 7 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	16 ○
17 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Ritual: Where the Wild Things Are (Urban Shamanism)	18	19	20	21 7 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ SMUUCH	22 7 PM: Supper Club @ TBD	23 ●
24 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Workshop on Spirit Bundles	25	26	27	28	29 ● Kemetic New Year	30 ●
31 2-3:30: Voices of Gaia 3:30-4: Sacred Rhythm 4 PM: Forum on Sacred Work	1 Labor Day	2	3 7PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	4	5	6 1-4PM: Craft Circle @ TBD