



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

JANUARY 2011

PAGE 1

Elections Are Coming!

In April of each year, our congregation holds elections for the Board members, Officers, delegates to the General Assembly conference of the UUA, and other positions as needed. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact someone from the Nominating Committee (Eric, Julie, or Jack) in person or at nomcom@gaiacommunity.org. They are contacting people they think may be interested as well, but if you can save them the trouble, it sure makes their job easier!

More details on our election process can be found on our website at

<http://gaiacommunity.org/elections> if you are curious.

- *Communications, for NomCom*

Prairie Star District Online Workshop

“Research tells us that only 2% of congregations in the US are growing by 5% or more a year, which means the vast majority of congregations are either barely growing, treading water, or actively declining. Do you know where your congregation fits in? This workshop will cover the five signs of congregational decline and offer some strategies on how to address them.”

Gaia Community is interested in having anyone, member or not, interested in this topic sit in on a viewing of this workshop on January 18th, presented through the local district of the UUA. Rev. Phillip Lund, Director of Faith Development and Congregational Growth for Prairie Star District, will lead the workshop. The workshop will start promptly at 6:45 PM and run for 75 minutes, with the first portion being a presentation by Rev. Lund, and the latter portion being a question-and-answer session conducted by phone. There is no limit on the number of people who can attend, but only one computer will be connected (if possible, we will set up a projector to make the screen more visible).

Anyone who is interested in attending should let me know in person or by email (president@gaiacommunity.org), though you can also show up on the day of the workshop. We do not know at this time exactly what room we will be doing the presentation from, but will put up a sign. Likely, it will be either in Barn Chapel or downstairs in one of the main Religious Education rooms.

- *Erin Scrogum, President*

What's Inside This Issue

GAIA AROUND TOWN, CARING CONNECTIONS CORNER.....	2
SUNDAY RITUAL SCHEDULE.....	3
KIDSPACE INFORMATION	4
RITUAL FOR BUSINESS MINUTES.....	5
CALENDAR	6

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 and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus. If anyone is still interested in Storytelling, they should contact Andrew.

Craft Circle (1/1, 1-5 PM): Craft Circle will be held at David and Kimberly's house. 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!

Ritual Teams Meeting (1/4, 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 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)!

Ritual for Business (1/8 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.

New Member Class will be offered by request for the near future. Please contact Devin or Jamie at membership@gaiacommunity.org or in person for more information.

Social Justice Committee Meeting is taking a break for the month of January. If you have an idea for a social justice or environmental project you'd like to see the community take on, contact Andrew, David, or Kimberly.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (1/16, 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 or in person to find out more about what is on the agenda.

Queer Allies Discussion will be on hiatus for January, to make time for the PSDUUA workshop being presented on the 18th (see page 1).

Games Night (1/21, 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.

Women's Sacred Moon Ritual (1/22, 7:30 PM, location not available to the general public): 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.

Friday Night Supper Club (1/28, 6:30 PM) The location for January had not been decided as of print time; please check the weekly announcements, e-mail listserv, and website for more information as time draws closer! You can also contact Amanda at FNSC@gaiacommunity.org for more information, or if you have an idea of where to go.

Board of Trustees 09-10

President — Erin Scrogum
president@gaiacommunity.org
or 913-904-2459

Vice-President — Amanda Pence
vicepresident@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-694-2585

Treasurer — John Boyce
treasurer@gaiacommunity.org
or 816-419-9448

Secretary — Rosemary Harris
secretary@gaiacommunity.org

Members at Large —

Cheryl Stice
phoenixrose0707@yahoo.com
or 913-530-9976

Linda Boyce
lboyce@mindspring.com
or 816-419-9447

Cynthia Cole
cynthia@cynthiaweb.net
or 913-433-8038

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

Caring Connections Corner

Birthdays for this month include Brian Butler on the 11th, Judi McCannon on the 12th, Jennifer Old-d'Entremont and Jan Wilner on the 20th, Sam Chapman on the 24th, Kit Peters on the 28th, and James Mayfield Smith on the 31st. There are probably others, so 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. We also ask that you keep in mind those handling health care concerns or changes in lifestyle or employment at this time.



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.

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

Voices of Gaia and Sacred Rhythms are on hiatus.

Sunday, January 2nd

Class: Cornerstones

Facilitators: Jamie and Aubry

Join us for a class about the six Cornerstones we use at Gaia Community to help our community work. While basic information will be supplied at the beginning of the class, there will be many levels of participation. You are encouraged to bring a journal if you keep one.

Sunday, January 9th

Annual Children's Ritual

Ritualists: Barbara, Linda, David, and the kids

Every year, each of us gets older, but for children it can often seem that more is happening in that same amount of time. This ritual will serve several purposes; to honor the changes and growth of our youngest attendees, to bless some new arrivals, and to reconnect everyone together in one interwoven web. Please feel free to attend regardless of whether or not you personally have children.

Finally, please remember that in this season, many families are struggling to have enough food even for everyday meals. If you can, please bring an item of two of non-perishable food to donate to Harvesters. Thank you.

Sunday, January 16th

Forum: Non-Violence

Facilitators: Kit, Devin, and Aubry

Martin Luther King wrote, "The aftermath of nonviolence is reconciliation and the creation of a beloved community." In honor of Dr. King, please join us as we discuss nonviolence in our daily lives and the world around us.

A Look Ahead...
 Feb. 6th - Class on Liturgy
 Feb. 13th - Ritual: Gaia Standard Ritual
 Feb. 20th - Forum: To Liturge or Not to Liturge?
 Feb. 27th - Ritual: Sacred Theater

Sunday, January 23rd

Ritual: The Great Story

Ritualists: Kimberly, Barbara, and Kitty

Almost every world culture has a creation story; some of them are prosaic, others are fantastic and intricate.

In this ritual, we will explore a creation story for a modern culture: a story with a scientific heart expressed with poetry and art. In this work, we hope to experience our connection to the interdependent web of all being from an elemental perspective.

Sunday, January 30th

High Holiday: Imbolc *(with potluck after)*

Ritualists: Jamie, David, and Erin

Join us for our Imbolc celebration! We will gather to celebrate the (imminent, if not incipient) re-arrival of spring, honor Brigid, and warm ourselves and others!

For the potluck meal that follows each of our high holidays, we ask that you bring a dish, drink, or dessert sufficient to feed eight people, and please remember to label your ingredients! Dishes can be borrowed that day if you do not have reusable ones to eat off of that are safe to travel.

- Ritual Teams

Currently Active Ritualists

Aubry Gabbard	Barbara
Cheryl Stice	David Reynolds
Devin S.	Eric Simpson
Erin Scrogum	Jamie Peters
Kit Peters	Kimberly
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.

KidSpace Information

KidSpace had a meeting in December. The next will be Jan. 16 at 2pm at SMUUCH. It is back on the regular schedule.

Our teachers have changed. With the loss of Coyote, Kelley will be working with our teens and tweens. Linda will be working with our younger students. Dani will be doing Nursery. If you have an interest or know somebody who has an interest in teaching our students, please contact either Linda or Kelley.

Our Milestones inter-generational ritual is January 9. We currently have a Baby Blessing, a Sibling Acknowledgment, and a Chalice Medal presentation scheduled. Harvesters is the community outreach for that ritual. Please give generously. Our students will be doing parts of the ritual, with guidance.

The mouse problem has returned. KidSpace still needs some big metal tins to slow the critters down. If you receive popcorn as a holiday treat and would like to pass the tin along to be used to store the children's snacks and supplies, please let Linda know. In the mean time, KidSpace will be bringing in snacks on a weekly basis and removing same at the end of the session. If you would like to help with juice boxes and snacks, please let Linda know. Until we get some more storage containers, we can not leave any food items in the closet or on the cart.

Members of the OWLS committee will be meeting with students' parents to see what nights would be good for scheduling the OWLS program in 2011. Please contact Linda, Kelley, Barbara, or Coyote. It is our hope to get a program scheduled soon for our students.

Clothing exchange was a success. Another is planned for a Monday in March 2011. As seasons turn, consider setting your extra clothes aside for exchange. We plan to expand the event to include SMUUCH.

Boxing/bagging by size helps make set up quick and easy. "Bring what you want and take what you need" worked well last time so we will most likely do that again. A proposal will be submitted to the RFB when we have a definite date scheduled

In December, KidSpace participated in Yule as an intergenerational ritual and 2 of our Trees attended the Cornerstones workshop.

KidSpace is planning a movie night in the near future. Please watch the announcements, e-group and web site for more info.

KidSpace is planning a camp out this spring. Any suggestions are welcome. Please contact Linda or Kelley or visit a KidSpace meeting.

Students will be starting their next curriculum cycle after the holiday season. We will be studying various pagan pantheons our students will see within Gaia and the outside community. We will actually start with Gaia Community. If you would like to guest teach or could help with any particular path, please contact Linda. She will be approaching some people with requests as the curriculum progresses.

- *Linda, KidSpace Coordinator*

Ritual for Business Minutes for November 13th, 2010

In attendance: Rosemary, Via, Leo, John, Linda, Erin, Jamie,
Devin, David, Cheryl, Eric

I. Approval of Agenda – Approved!

II. Roles – Via for Non Sequitur, Linda for Red Tape, Leo for Vibes Watcher, Devin for Devil's Advocate

III. Minutes – Approved

IV. Treasurer's Report – NH Fund at \$24,116.92, Kidspace at \$1347.44, General fund at \$11,050.14. John is looking to send out some e-mail notifications of pledge status. Thanks to Kit, El Torreone's representative has started paying us back our deposit in installments. W00t!

V. Committee Reports:

A. KidSpace – Had a Nov meeting. Next meeting is tomorrow at 2PM, off-schedule because of Yule. We have lost Coyote, and are seeking a new teens teacher. We are currently composing intergen ritual for January. If anyone has a milestone they'd like to celebrate, please inform Linda. And the annual Plague of Mice has descended upon the storage area, and we need metal containers that are mouse-proof to store Kidspace snacks. OWLS committee met and are looking at scheduling for 2011; will be contacting parents to determine a good night. Another clothing exchange is tentatively set for February 15, are waiting for confirmation by SMUUCH. Kids took a trip to the Neslon-Atkins, and we're looking at setting up a movie night. Planning a campout this spring, and looking for location suggestions. Contact Linda or Kelley or come to a Kidspace meeting.

B. Social Justice – Did the «It Gets Better» project and it was brilliant. The videos have gone to YouTube, and they've been well-received. Committee is meeting again Tuesday.

C. Communications – EH is going out today. At some point early next year there will be a meeting. David would like to pass on doing the Earth Healer, as he has been doing it for 9 years now. It's built in OpenOffice, which plays well with itself (as opposed to Word, which just plays with itself).

D. Membership – There might be some new member classes in 2011, though Jamie is looking for someone else to do it, as she is juggling too many plates. Greeters Table continues, and Jamie is looking to recreate the brochure as it's Retro Fashion Crisis out of date. Membership directory is still not

done, as school is still acting like a zombie and trying to eat Jamie's brain. The little things that go on the bathroom doors are missing, so either SMUUCH took them down and put them somewhere «safe» or the mice ate them.

1. Library – Ooo, look, books!

E. Site – Anyone? Anyone? Bueller?

F. Welcoming – QA meeting will be on the 21st here at SMUUCH. Ideas? Topics? Bring them!

G. Ritual Teams – Had another productive meeting. We ARE getting a storage closet! We have a location & cost and will be signing paperwork after the first of the year. So there will be a closet cleaning and inventory coming up SOON. Kimberly official has rejoined RT, and there was much rejoicing. A few intrepid folks will go to All Soul's on January 2nd and do their 11:15 morning service. Talked about schedule, and rituals are filled through March 13, and have open slots after that.

H. Caring – is heeeeeeeeeeeere! And has plans. Eeeexcellent plans. Looking for donations of stuff to help people, maybe start something freecycle-ish for the community.

I. Nominating Committee – Had a nomination for GA delegate, and are looking for others. Suggestions should go to Eric.

J. Stewardship – We're planning this party, see? And it's next weekend! It will happen, and there will be people there. We need a new chair, badly. Also need some “sales/people” persons on the committee.

VI. Old Business: *none!*

VII. New Business:

A. PSD Online Class - Free! You need a phone line & teh internets. Includes many congregational things. But they have this class, and it's called “Five Signs of Congregational Decline and What to Do About Them.” January 13 or 18, 6:45 – 8:00 PM Would we like to do this? It is an issue important to us.

We shall do this. Bwah.

– *Rosemary, Secretary*

Agenda for the January 8th 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 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*

JANUARY 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 4-7 PM: Sharing Our Spirits Ritual	☾ 27	28	29	30	31	1 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
2 4-6 PM: Class: Cornerstones	3	● 4 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	5	6	7	8 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
9 4-5:30 PM: Annual Children's Ritual	10	11	☾ 12	13	14	15
16 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ SMUUCH 4-6 PM: Forum on Nonviolence	17	18 6:45-8 PM: PSD Online Workshop (see page 1)	☉ 19	20	21 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	22 7:30 PM: Women's Full Moon Ritual
23 4-6 PM: Ritual: The Great Story	24	25	☾ 26	27	28 6:30-9 PM: Friday Night Supper Club @ TBD	29
30 4-7 PM: High Holiday – Imbolc (potluck after)	31	1	● 2 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	3	4	5 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's