



EARTH HEALER



The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community,

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

OCTOBER 2010

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Standing on the Side of Love for LGBT Youth

Over the last month, the news has been filled with accounts of teens and young adults who have taken their own lives after suffering constant bullying and harassment at school because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. The six young men who died in September are not the only ones who have ever encountered homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools; according to the 2009 National School Climate Survey published by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 9 out of 10 LGBT high-schoolers experience this kind of bullying.

As Unitarian Universalists who are committed to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, how are we to respond? As a congregation we continue to work to create a welcoming place for all, including our kids and teens. Over the next year, we will be offering the Our Whole Lives (OWLS) sex education program for teens, which can give our teens facts and tools to help them to be more informed and less vulnerable to some of the pressures of high school.

However, we can also turn our gaze outwards, to the wider community. The Social Justice Committee works to link our congregation with other groups, so that we can be more educated about the causes we involve ourselves with, and so that we can combine our efforts with those of other organizations. In the coming month, Social Justice asks that you consider attending the following events:

- Kate Bornstein, transgender author and activist, speaks at KU's Hash Theater in Lawrence, October 5th from 7:00-8:30 pm.
- OutFest, Kansas City's annual celebration of National Coming Out Day, takes place in the UMKC Student Union in KCMO on Sunday, October 10th, from 1pm – 8 pm.
- Spirit Day, October 20th, is a grassroots memorial for the victims of the recent LGBT bullying suicides. Supporters of LGBT youth are asked to wear purple on this day to remember the deceased and show support for those affected by anti-LGBT bullying.

Longest Night Ball

This December, Gaia Community will hold its third annual Longest Night Masked Ball to celebrate the Winter Solstice. The Ball this year will be held at Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church. If you'd like to help put on the party this year, please contact Gerri Lynn at stewardship@gaiacommunity.org to volunteer.

Got Something to Share with Gaia Community?

The Earth Healer can use your help. If you have an essay, a poem, a note about what your committee or covenant group is doing, or anything else you'd like to see in the newsletter, please send it to eh@gaiacommunity.org by the 24th of the month.

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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.

Craft Circle (10/3, 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 (10/6, 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)!

Storytelling Group (10/8, 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).

Ritual for Business (10/9, 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 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 (10/12, 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. We'll be planning a fall project.

Games Night (10/15, 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 what games are available.

KidSpace Coordinating Committee (10/17, 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 (10/19, 7 PM, at SMUUCH): 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 for more information.

Friday Night Supper Club (10/22, 7PM) will be at Sabor y Sol (formerly Sol Azteca), a Mexican restaurant at 542 Southwest Boulevard in KCMO. If you are attending and wish to RSVP, please contact Amanda at supperclub@gaiacommunity.org or in person.

New Member Class (10/24, 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 for more information.

Women's Sacred Moon Ritual (10/29, 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.

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 Lizzy Ticer on the 1st, Alley Ryan on the 3rd, Jacki Kelley on the 7th, Debi Butler on the 9th. 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. We also ask that you keep in mind those undergoing health care troubles 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, October 3rd

Ritual: Fairy Tale Arc II

Ritualists: Barbara, Cheryl, and Eric

This is the second in our exploration of Fairy Tales: are they just simple stories that amused us as children? Did they have a deeper meaning when originally told? Are they always simple morality fables designed to teach children how to behave? What do the old tales mean to *you*?

Sunday, October 10th

Class: Introduction to Mythological Thinking

Facilitators: Aubry and Kit

What's in a name? In a story? What is it with all of these repeating characters? Why do we relate to knights, jedi and wizards so well? What truth can we find in fiction? Join us in sharing, embracing and exploring story as we consider ways to use mythic structure to enrich our own lives. Bringing a journal and a "long-term goal" are encouraged.

Sunday, October 17th

Forum: Earth-Based?

Facilitators: Jamie and Erin

Every week, we say we are a pagan, earth-based, Unitarian Universalist congregation. Just what does earth-based mean? How do each of us identify with the term (or not)? Do we as a congregation go beyond it? Join us for a forum to explore these questions and more!

Sunday, October 24th

Ritual: Tam Lin

(Fairy Tale Arc, Part III)

Ritualists: Barbara, Kitty, and Kit

A young man who's trapped in Faerie. A feisty young woman who wants her inheritance of the wild -- they say haunted -- Cartershay. They meet and fall in love. Or is he just using her to escape the Fey? Or is she using him to escape her bordered life? Halloween is approaching and death awaits. Time is running out. Is their love strong enough to pull him through? Is she brave enough to face down the arts of the Fairy Queen? Can she get everything she wants or must she choose? The Scottish ballad of Tamlin is a tale of Faerie for adults, rich in questions and wisdom. Come to ritual and see what learnings it may have for you.

Sunday, October 31st

High Holiday: Samhain

(Fall Equinox, w/potluck after)

Ritualists: Cheryl, Devin, and Eric

Join us for our annual Samhain ritual, as the veils grow thin and anything is possible.

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.

- 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..

Nov. 7th - Class: Stadhagaldur [Runic Yoga Stances] (*Personal Spirituality Arc*)

Nov. 14th - Patron Ritual II

Nov. 21st - Workshop: Prayer Beads

Nov. 28th - Ritual: Light or Mirror (*Personal Spirituality Arc*)



Help spider find his way home!

Ritual for Business Minutes for September 11th, 2010

In attendance: Erin, Cynthia, Jamie, Kit, Barbara, David, Kimberly, Amanda, and John

Started at 9:42 AM

I. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved without objections

II. **Roles** – Approved without objections

III. **Minutes** – July's minutes were read in a nuanced and interpretive fashion. There was much rejoicing, also applause. The minutes were approved pending being typed up.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** – John now has a lovely bundle of pledge cards which he will use to determine how Gaia is doing w/r/t the budget and suchlike. New home fund at \$24,116.32. Kidspace account at \$1299.15. General fund (salute!): \$12,663.91. We'll be shelling out \$900 to the UUA real soon now. John's bag is well-traveled and recently straightened. There was much rejoicing.

V. Committee Reports:

A. **KidSpace** – The Kidspace director is at Faire and apologizes for not being at RFB. Plan for this Sunday is not fully-formed to the knowledge of our correspondent. Last week was the human footprint with Q&A time to follow. The director has been well-supplied with chopsticks and vinegar.

B. **Social Justice** – There is supposed to be a meeting this coming Tuesday. The first Quetzalcoatl-focused project will be discussed, and will likely last Equinox to Yule.

C. **Communications** – Earth Healer is still collecting information, but will be out by Sunday. Information threshold is getting critical - the Earth Healer needs content.

D. **Nominating Committee** – no-one present from that committee.

E. **Welcoming** – Is welcoming. It has still not been decided whether Queer Allies (*nee* Steve) can be merged with Welcoming, seeing as how Welcoming and Queer Allies (*nee* Steve) have similar aims.

F. **Membership** – Is reorganizing. They are planning on a meeting which may or may not happen this Monday, and trying to get a member directory together. Kimberly sent Jamie a set of contact information gleaned from pledge cards - it was suggested that this information be used to help create said directory.

1. **Library** – Is up and running again. The Cue Cat is missing but the search is on. The Librarian noted that those with smartphones can use said phones to scan barcodes sans Cue Cat.

G. **Ritual Teams** – Ritual Teams did not meet this month. Evaluations are due in October.

H. **Stewardship** – No report.

I. **Caring** – Still needs to reschedule their meeting.

J. **Site** – A meeting will be held after RFB to schedule a meeting to appoint a committee to determine the time and place of a meeting to determine when Site Committee should meet.

VI. Old Business:

A. **Compassionate Memberships** – If anyone wishes to be involved with the drafting of a proposal to cover Compassionate Memberships they should contact Cynthia. It was asked why we need Compassionate Memberships. An example given was members who had volunteered to serve as officers but were unable to pay the minimum pledge. Another reason given for having a process was so that we did not appear cliquish. It was also mentioned that the bylaws state that only full active members may "contribute" to the consensus process; it was suggested that perhaps that wording should be changed to better reflect our current process, viz. only a full active member may block consensus. Support for a sponsorship process by which a member's minimum pledge could be paid by one or more other members was expressed; it was suggested that this sponsorship process be anonymous in nature.

VII. New Business:

A. **Restrooms Concern** – The Kidspace director was told by a couple whose child attends Kidspace that they would be unwilling to attend Gaia with their child due to our new restroom policy being posted on our website. The couple's concern was that the restroom policy could be used against them in an ongoing custody issue; they said that they would be working with Kelley Montford to come up with a workable alternative. A proposal may be brought to a future RFB regarding this matter.

– *Kit, for the Secretary*

Agenda for the October 9th 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*

OCTOBER 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 4-6 PM: Workshop - Courting Your Muse	27	28	29	☾ 30	1	2 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's
3 4-6 PM: Ritual - Fairy Tale Arc II	4	5 7-8:30 PM: Kate Bornstein @ KU (see page 1)	6 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	7 ●	8	9 9:30-11:30 AM: Ritual for Business @ SMUUCH
10 1-8 PM: OutFest @ UMKC (see page 1) 4-6 PM: Class - Introduction to Mythological Thinking	11	12 7-8 PM: Social Justice Committee Meeting @ Andrew's	13	14 ☾	15 7-9 PM: Games Night @ SMUUCH	16
17 2-3 PM: KidSpace Meeting @ SMUUCH 4-6 PM: Forum - Earth-Based?	18	19 7-9 PM: Queer Allies Meeting @ SMUUCH	20 Spirit Day (see page 1)	21	22 ○ 7-9 PM: FNCS @ Sabor y Sol, 542 Southwest Blvd, KCMO	23
24 2-3:30 PM: New Member Class @ SMUUCH 4-6 PM: Ritual - Tamlin (Fairy Tale Arc, Part III)	25	26	27	28	29 7:30 PM: Full Moon Goddess Ritual @ SMUUCH	30 ☾
31 4-7 PM: High Holiday - Samhain (potluck after)	1	2	3	4 7-9 PM: Ritual Teams Meeting @ SMUUCH	5 ●	6 1-5 PM: Craft Circle @ Kimberly's