



EARTH HEALER

The Official Newsletter of Gaia Community

*An Earth-Based, Pagan, Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Kansas City
Caring for the earth and each other because our lives depend on it*



Join us Sundays at Gaia!

4 PM at Shawnee Mission UU Church
7725 W. 87th St. Overland Park

December 18: Yule

We wait in the darkness for the rebirth of the sun king. Dreaming and remembering. With his birth, innocence, delight and joy return. Come, anticipate and celebrate with us.

Since this is a high holiday, we will be having potluck after ritual, so please bring a dish, drink, or dessert to share that can serve 8 hungry celebrants. To maintain our commitment to care for the earth, please bring reusable plates, cups, and utensils.

December 25: Sharing Our Spirits

Sharing Our Spirits Rituals are a way for everyone present to help co-create the ritual they want to have that day. It is not planned ahead of time, but instead compiled and put on by those in attendance, facilitated by a few ritualists. If you have a song, ritual scrap, magical tool, or other piece of ritual that you'd like to contribute, we encourage you to bring it.

January 1: Beginnings & Banishings

The origin of the word January is the Roman god Janus, who looked both forward and backward along the path, and to whom the Romans made sacrifice at the beginning of the year. We will call on Janus to witness our banishing of the troubles of the old year and to bless the beginning of our new year.

January 8: Being Excellent to Each Other

Join us for a forum for sharing the directions in which we wish the community to move in

connection with social justice issues, with an aim of being excellent to each other.

January 15: Ritual to Athena

In this ritual, we will thank and celebrate our patron of the year, Athena, with a modern twist on ancient tradition. Around this time of year, in Attica in the 4th century BCE, devotees of the Olympian gods would hold a sacrificial feast for Athena. We will be marking the occasion by making our own offerings and asking for Athena's blessings of wisdom and vision. If you are able to make the sacrifice of a few dollars, we ask that you bring a bit of cash to go towards the donation of a sheep through the Heifer project.

January 22: Being Political without Being Partisan

Our patron this year, Athena, is a goddess of the polis (the city) and she has charged us with involving ourselves in protecting democracy. As a church, we need to remain non-partisan. How can we be political without being partisan? This class will include discussion about this issue and also provide us with information about possible actions we can take or organizations we can support.

January 29: Imbolc

This Sunday we celebrate Imbolc, and anticipate the return of the light. More details on our website as the date approaches.

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LONGEST NIGHT MASKED BALL



Gaia Community cordially invites you to attend the fourth annual **Longest Night Ball**, a masked ball and exhibition in celebration of the Winter Solstice, on Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 PM until 1:00 AM. Please join us at: **Shawnee Mission UU Church 7725 W. 87th St. Overland Park, KS 66212**

This year, we are inspired by the fantastic visions of the steampunk movement as we present an evening honoring the delightful rituals of love and affection. Enjoy music, dance, food and entertainment, as well as our midnight pageant celebrating the depth of Winter and the promised return of Spring. This year's ball will also feature a costume contest, with prizes for the best steampunk or Victorian-inspired costume as well as for the best non-Victorian ensemble.

[HTTP://WWW.GAIACOMMUNITY.ORG/LONGESTNIGHT/](http://www.gaiacommunity.org/longestnight/) for more info and tickets

MORE EVENTS AT GAIA

December 23 & January 27: Friday Night Supper Club

6:30 PM; locations TBD

(see website for locations & addresses)

January 7: Craft Circle

1-5 PM at Kimberly's House (1306 E. 118th St. KCMO)

January 7: Women's Full Moon Ritual

7:30 PM at SMUUCH

January 20: Games Night

7 PM at SMUUCH

January 3: Ritual Teams

7 PM at SMUUCH

January 5: Site Committee

7 PM at Johnson County Library on 87th St.

January 10: Social Justice Committee

7 PM at Erin's place

(see website for address)

January 14: Ritual for Business

9:30 AM at SMUUCH

January 15: KidSpace Committee

2 PM at SMUUCH



At January's Ritual for Business, on January 14, the Committee of the Whole will hear a report from Site Committee regarding the possibility of the congregation buying property in midtown Kansas City, in the Emerald City, Kansas City, project (more about the project here: <http://emeraldcitykc.com/content.php>). If you are interested in this process (including touring the building or researching details), please keep an eye out on the Gaia Yahoo!Groups mailing list (gaiaaau@yahoo.com) for tons more information over the coming weeks.

During our Sunday services, we hold **KidSpace**, our children's Religious Education program. While many of our Sunday rituals and events are intergenerational to one degree or another, most weeks we provide separate and age-appropriate education on a variety of topics in our downstairs classrooms.

CONTACT EARTH HEALER

Send letters, articles, poetry, borrowed wisdom, comments and suggestions to:
eh@gaiacommunity.org no later than January 15, 2011.

-- *JAMIE. EDITOR*

BE SURE TO CHECK US OUT AT GAIACOMMUNITY.ORG AND ON FACEBOOK!