

## EARTH SPIRIT KANSAS

*"Bringing humanity into harmony with Spirit and Earth to create/effect a sustainable legacy."*

November 15, 2007, Inter-Faith Ministries Gallery

General Meeting

Welcome: Rev. Connie Pace-Adair, Coordinator

Sixteen in attendance, including three new attendees: Nicholas Wagner (Grandma's Farm), Tom Kneil (Sierra Club), Stuart Bolt (Sierra Club)

Absent: Jan Adair, Kaivalya and Randy Rupe, Marydel Grayum, BJ Mosley, Joanne Grandstaff, Saras Cee, others who did not communicate beforehand.

Gone Inactive: Lonetta Lollar, Norma Smith

Thoughts and prayers to Randy Rupe, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery, and to Dorrance Lemonds, Jan Adair's stepfather, hip surgery, and to BJ Mosley, absent due to illness.

I. Cindy Siebler, Grandma's Farm, read "Prayer for Our Earth" by Marianne Williamson.

II. Connie Pace-Adair summarized remarks from Marydel Grayum, who was without transportation, and lacked her cell phone directory which would have enabled her to call for a ride to this meeting.

Marydel reported that 3,900 lbs. of recyclable materials were collected Saturday, Nov. 10th at the Recycling Round-Up. She noted that this quantity was more than half the semi donated by Weyerhaeuser. Marydel also said that if we had more people coming to drop off materials, we might have seemed ineffective and/or disorganized. As it was, everyone seemed to feel it was a good productive event.

Some people spoke up and related they had seen people dropping glass items into the Stutzman 'roll offs' through the week-end, since they weren't picked up until Monday, the 12th. Comments were entertained and made by those who had attended the Round-Up. Positives reported were: networking opportunities, 49 signatures collected for the recycling petition, with more added later at other locations, good information from the KSU Extension staff (tours and demonstrations as well as tables for crafts and other information), sales of items by Great Plains Earth Institute (GPEI) and Sierra Club.

Appreciation was expressed to all those who worked any part(s) or all of the day: Jay Hatfield, John Avett, Ed Langston (solar/wind power table), Diane Page, Roots & Shoots Wichita, Rita Robl, Cindy White, Mary Schoenecker, GPEI, Susan Schocket, Kim Clark, Priscilla Taggart, Sue Eddy, IGO, Marydel Grayum, KCAE/Solid Waste Recycling Coalition, Connie Pace-Adair, Earth Spirit Kansas Petitions, Rob Simon, vocals, Bob Neier and KSU Extension Staff members, Master Gardeners and Master Composters, Elizabeth Bishop, Stuart Bolt, Sierra Club.

General concensus was that this was a good beginning effort.

Connie Pace-Adair reported that during part of the morning, she had attended the Sedgwick County Association of Cities (SCAC) meeting at the Belleair Fire Department Building at City Council Member Jim Skelton's invitation. (Mr. Skelton is president of SCAC.) She reported specifically mentioning to the mayors and council members of the surrounding towns the petition for recycling, pay as you throw trash disposal, and franchising areas of Wichita for specific independent trash haulers. Jim Skelton is a strong proponent of franchising, and wants citizen support before the Wichita City Council in the near future. Connie Pace-Adair will be in contact with him; members will be kept advised of the upcoming date.

III. Lois Seiwert then outlined the history of the World Instant of Cooperation, dating from 1986. Lois and Pamela Wright have basically coordinated the entire event since its inception, and an organized support and framework are needed at this time. Discussion was had as to possibilities for promotion (special populations at college campuses, restaurants, coffee houses, churches and other organizations), flyers/invitations which include time, date, place, contact numbers and the world instant website are needed for distribution. John Avett suggested a "ticket" stating something like, "You are invited to join everyone on earth in a global event that bring world healing and cooperation." Mary Harren volunteered to prepare a flyer for email distribution, and print outs for physical distribution. Coordination will be initiated by Connie Pace-Adair with Lois Seiwert, and others will join the effort.

IV. Names of committees and members signed up for each one were read out, and a break-out session took place. As a closing, committee members came together and discussed ideas for a "Renewal and Recovery from Holidays" to take place in January, 2008. There was much general enthusiasm; more will come on this topic.

V. This portion was waived; Connie Pace-Adair will act at connection for communication with committee members who will email each other as a way to discuss Steering Committee designates and committee responsibilities.

Committees and members are:

1. Education/Outreach/Coalition Building:

Kaivalya Rupe	Cindy White
Randy Rupe	Joanne Grandstaff
Dinne Waltner	Marydel Grayum
BJ Mosley	

2. Logistics

Jan Adair  
Kim Card

3. Culture

Kaivalya Rupe	Connie Volkman
Randy Rupe	Dick Volkman
Lois Seiwert	Nancy Wilhite

4. Publicity

John Avett  
Jay Hatfield  
Connie Pace-Adair  
Mary Harren

5. Events/Gathering

Jan Adair  
John Avett  
Kim Card  
Jay Hatfield  
Marydel Grayum

6. Fundraising

Connie Pace-Adair

VI. Connie Pace-Adair stated that the Google Group is up, she has posted several messages, including meetings summaries. Jay Hatfield stated that designating "Google Group" as a bookmark or a favorite will allow the computer user to reach Earth Spirit Kansas. Sign in is with a chosen password. Members are encouraged to contact Connie with any problems.

Connie also stated that a website may be our best next step. Two approaches may be used: finding a web designer/intern through Butler County Community College (BCCC), or seeking funding for capacity building through a foundation or corporation. Such funding currently is available through grants from Compassion Kansas, formerly the Self Help Network, WSU. Connie will attend a mandatory workshop Dec. 6 which will culminate in a draft for the proposal, due in January, 2008, and awarded shortly after that.

VII. Next meeting was discussed and set for Dec. 13th, Inter-Faith Ministries Gallery, 7 PM.

VIII. Meeting adjourned; Chapette Hitas led a Native American drumming ceremony to close the evening.

## EARTH SPIRIT KANSAS

“Bringing humanity into harmony with Spirit and Earth to create/effect a sustainable legacy.”

Potluck and Regular Meeting

OCTOBER 13, 2007

Group came to order at 7:00 PM with 26 in attendance. Refer to the agenda of this date to correlate agenda items with actions taken.

(I) Connie Pace-Adair read from an Andrew Harvey anthology on Sufism, *Perfume of the Desert*, as a beginning commentary on spiritual seeking and the balance between the seeking and practical works especially in chaotic times such as the present one.

The group welcomed special guests: Emily Woodall of the Roots & Shoots Council (Asheville, N.C.); Sue Tarr, Turtle Barn Organic Picking Farm (Oklahoma City, OK); Elizabeth Muller, Dances of Universal Peace (Oklahoma City, OK); Gina Gouchenour (Wichita); Kathy Hull (Elizabeth Muller's student and leader of the Dances... in Wichita); Crystal and Sharron Gingas, Wichita. Special thanks to Joanne Grandstaff, who was ill, but brought a delicious pot of soup for the potluck. Also, special thanks to membership who contributed \$59 toward utilities cost at Riverview Retreat Center, and to those who stayed to work and leave the space clean and well-ordered.

(II). Diane Page, Roots & Shoots Wichita Coordinator, led a reflection of the Dr. Jane Goodall events at the Sedgwick County Zoo, and the WSU Metroplex. Many positive comments about Dr. Goodall's remarks offered insight to members who could not attend. Emily Woodall shared comments about her work with college students in the effort to expand into that age group. At present, Roots & Shoots Wichita has about 2,000 youth from preschool through middle school ages. It is expected that groups will form up to include older students with current projects and newly received funding, per Diane. It was observed that Dr. Goodall's message coupled with her work(s) brings hope to many who are hungry for that possibility.

(III). Marydel Grayum reported on her progress with the Recycling Round-up. Her meetings with KSU Extension Services, Weyerhaeuser, Stutzman Recycling (Hutchinson) and many others has yielded a variety of activities and booths in addition to the two recycling companies. Seven members signed up to help at the Round-up: Jan Adair, Connie Pace-Adair, John Avett, Marydel Grayum, Jay Hatfield, Ed Langston, Kaivalya Rupe.

Connie Pace-Adair will begin working for sponsors both for the Round-Up and for ESK generally the first of next week. She also reported to the members that Sancta Sophia Seminary has accepted her work with Earth Spirit Kansas to be her doctoral project in Ministry.

Lois Seiwert interjected the request that Earth Spirit Kansas cooperate with her to conduct the World Instant of Cooperation at year's end at Inter-Faith Ministries. Membership voted to do so. This event will be the December ESK planned event.

(IV-VII). Discussion time and planning details for the Goodall segment and the Recycling Round-up did not permit these agenda items. Steering Committee designates and work of the individual committees will take place next time. Connie Pace-Adair will act as information liaison for the membership until the Steering Committee is formed and the vehicle for communication is completed.

(VIII). As a close to the session, Elizabeth Muller and Kathy Hull led group members in three earth-centered Dances of Universal Peace: one specific to Wichita and our two rivers. Deepest thanks to them for their skillful and light-hearted leadership.

See attachment for update(s) on committee meetings and a listing of booths committed to and sponsorships received to the date of this report (October 25, 2007).

Recorder: Connie Pace-Adair, Coordinator

## EARTH SPIRIT KANSAS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

Group came to order at 7:00 PM with 21 in attendance. Refer to the agenda of this date to correlate agenda items with actions taken.

(I) Mary McDonough Harren read from Wendell Berry's book and St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun" as we began.

Rev. Connie Pace-Adair, ICMC, Partners of Sacred Activism, led the group discussion of how this coalition will move forward.

(II) By consensus, the mission statement was adopted as follows: "Bringing humanity into harmony with Spirit and Earth to create/effect a sustainable legacy." This is a working mission statement: if changes or additions are needed, the group will approve them at the proper time. Jan Adair stated the goal would be something like, "What the average person can do to help the environment." Group members agreed. Also agreed is the working group name, "Earth Spirit Kansas."

(III) Saras Cee, River Retreat Center, spoke about the Google Group that she established just after the previous organizational meeting. Rev. Pace-Adair noted that all in attendance were invited to join the Google Group as of yesterday, September 12. Those not receiving an invitation should phone her (409.2495). A website is in the works, more information on that will be available by the next meeting.

(IV, V) Discussion was had as to the Steering Committee members. Group agreed that each committee will designate one person to be liaison and to function with the Steering Committee. That will be completed during our next meeting. Committees and group members choosing to work on each committee are as follows:

1. Education/Outreach/Coalition Building:

Kaivalya Rupe	Cindy White
Dianne Waltner	Joanne Grandstaff
Randy Rupe	Marydel Grayum
B.J. Mosley	

2. Logistics/Venue/Meals & Refreshments/Discard Mgmt.

Jan Adair	Kim Card
Lonetta Lollar	Norma Smith

3. Culture

Kaivalya Rupe	Connie Volkmann - Art Education
Lois Seiwert	Dick Volkmann
Randy Rupe	Nancy Wilhite

4. Public Relations/Publicity

John Avett	Jay Hatfield
Connie Adair	Mary Harren

5. Events & Gatherings

John Avett	Jay Hatfield
Kim Card	Marydel Grayum
Lonetta Lollar	

6. Fundraising

Connie Pace-Adair

Issues to be addressed by this coalition are:

1. Discard Management - recycling
2. Renewable Energy
3. Green Products & Construction
4. Trees, Planting & Foods
5. Water Quality

6. Transportation, Fuels & Alternative Energy
7. Passive Energy Design

(VI) Courtesy of Diane Page, Co-Coordinator, Roots & Shoots, Wichita, The first event this coalition will be part of is the Dr. Jane Goodall visit to Wichita. Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Goodall will be at Sedgwick County Zoo. An attachment lists all times. This is a special event; the general public isn't being invited. Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Goodall will speak at the WSU Metroplex, 5150 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street No. at 2 PM. Tickets are \$17.50 and \$15.00; this is a fundraiser for Dr. Goodall's institute. THE COALITION MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND EITHER EVENT, OR BOTH. See (VIII) below for discussion of the connection between these events and the next meeting of Earth Spirit Kansas.

(VII) By group agreement and courtesy of Marydel Grayum, a "Recycling Round-Up" November 10<sup>th</sup> at KSU Extension Services, 21<sup>st</sup> & Ridge Road will be a coalition event. Planning is ongoing: at the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, committee members will discuss, and take assignments to accomplish this event.

(VIII) Group members agreed that a potluck meeting Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM will be held at Riverview Retreat Center. Breakout sessions of committees will be done, with a general session following to include impressions of the Goodall events. Please bring a dish to share, and a plate/mug/cloth napkin for each person attending. Mary Harren suggested carpooling from Inter-Faith Ministries building. Phone Mary at 942.6630 to compile a carpool list. Phone Rev. Connie Pace-Adair, 409.2495 with any other questions.

After discussion, and impromptu nomination, Connie Pace-Adair was selected without opposition to be overall coordinator.

*As the Autumnal Equinox approaches, remember that this is a time of unlimited possibilities. Take that as your intention, and hold Earth Spirit Kansas in the light as we move forward together. Amen, Ashay, As Salaam Alaikum, Shalom, and Blessed Be.*

Recorder: Connie Pace-Adair, ICMC, Partners of Sacred Activism

#### PSA/GPEI ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AUGUST 23, 2007

Group came to order at 7:00 PM with 33 in attendance. Mary McDonough Harren read from *Earth Prayers* as we began. Rev. Bill Crowell, from Tulsa, led the open discussion of what this event will do. We need a vision/mission statement to encapsulate the vision and the process for a sacred activism environmental event in October, 2008. We need to begin with a budget and set the time frame.

The group agreed that special guests/special events leading up to October, '08 are essential. Jay Hatfield suggested one each month. The group at large would act as the umbrella, but separate committees would handle details based on their interest. We need to capture a visibility niche, and add to it as we go along. Planting trees is one idea, as Denver did, or as Tulsa is doing, a recycling event, which Marydel Grayum is working on around November 15<sup>th</sup>, "America Recycles" would be good starters. Marydel suggested having the event at the KSU Extension Building for recycling, alternative energies, and any environmental or socially active groups. Bob Neier, Coordinator for Master Gardeners Program, is very supportive and would be our contact. Marydel is working to write a proclamation for City/County that the month of November is recognized as recycling month. She would appreciate any help with writing the proclamations.

Another possibility to explore is that Diane Page, a member of Roots and Shoots, a youth involvement program, reported on Jane Goodall's appearance in Wichita October 11-13, with a public meeting the 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at WSU Metroplex. Recommended other special guests include: Wes Jackson, Land Institute, Tony Burroughs, Intenders of the Highest Good, Bob Edgar, National Common Cause, Ark River Coalition, Jane Goodall, Roots and Shoots, Religious Community, Habitat for Humanity, Schools & Kids, Youth, Jim Skelton, City Council, Gwen Welshimer and Kelly Parks, Sedgwick County Commission, Todd Tiaht, Representative for 4<sup>th</sup> District. Kansans to invite: Bill Curtis, Kirstie Alley, Martina McBride, Joe Walsh. Celebrities involved in humanitarian projects right now: Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt. Include 4-H, HeadStart, Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, Junior Achievement, In-Town Verticulture. Hispanic Business Association and Visioneering Wichita should be included. Good centers in Wichita to include: The water center on McLean, Vista Print (?). Corporate Sponsor possibilities: LSI, Green Team, Cargill, Westar. We must be careful about who sponsors...must fit with our mission. All events must be inclusive and spirituality overlays everything. Prairie Festival 2007, September 28-30 in Salina is a well-known event that we should try to attend. The Kansas Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Conference '07 takes place in Topeka September 25-26. Some of us will attend that as well.

Seven categories are:

1. Food/Drink: Means food from growing seeds to the table, to compost, to soil, and back again.
2. Housing: Includes all green, sustainable, and available buildings to all. This could include even AECH.
3. Transportation: Includes everything from fuel to mass transit.
4. Alternative Energy: Solar, wind, etc.
5. Discard Management: Includes recycling, reducing, reusing.
6. Nature Management: Forestry, tree planting, native plants, alternative grasses, natural pesticides, natural herbicides, companion planting, soil augmentation and conservation, water quality.
7. Waterways: rivers, lakes, streams, aquifers, wetlands.

Kim Card and others noted that we must get a website up with links to show our viability, and Myspace would also be good for youth involvement. There is so much electronic communication now, this is essential. Cindy White is a website builder, and said we can use Constant Contact for our email management. Base Camp is a web tool that Tulsa used for the Sacred Activism Conference May 10-12 this year. That will be used, we think. These two e-tools will involve financial commitment.

Saras noted to the group at large, that "\$PIRIT and U\$" must be remembered. That as businesses and others realize this paradigm shift and the active move to the gentler, sustainable model will remain profitable for them, the resistance will silence.

Diana Hartmetz wants to work on the art environment for the October event. She suggested two others to work with her. Commitments aren't made at this point.

Next meeting is set for September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at IFM.

Bill Crowell noted he was really impressed with the number of people who came for this meeting, and the enthusiastic discussion. He recommended a Steering Committee be established right away, a mission statement be decided upon, and our website be up and workable ASAP.

Recorder: Connie Pace Adair, Partners of Sacred Activism