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**CONVO IS COMING**



**CUUPS 13<sup>th</sup> Continental Convocation**  
*~ March 19 - 21, 2004 ~*  
**Ostara (Spring Equinox)**  
**The Mountain UU Retreat Center, Highlands, North Carolina**  
**Re-Visioning Our Connection With the Sacred**  
**Re-Visioning CUUPS, Inc.**

**Come be a part of the New Vision for CUUPS**

*See details Inside Story Page 4*

## President's Column

*By Mary Gelfand*

*Dear Friends,*

"What does CUUPS, Inc. do for me?" "CUUPS, Inc. has outlived its usefulness." "My host church doesn't care if I'm a member of CUUPS, Inc. or not. We can still meet at the church and use their facilities." These are a few comments that have come up periodically on the CUUPS chat board ([cuups-cafe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cuups-cafe@yahoogroups.com)) and in various discussions among the general membership and board of CUUPS. My answers to the question "Why should I be a member of CUUPS, Inc.?" would be legion. But, I will try and give you a few.

**When CUUPS, Inc. was founded**, over 15 years ago, paganism was virtually unknown, and often unwelcome, within the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). CUUPS served the very necessary role of educating Unitarian Universalists about paganism and providing a safe space for UU Pagans to gather.

**Through hard work and many long hours**, we were recognized as an official affiliate of the UUA in 1987. The UUA Sixth Source campaign (on which many of our members worked hard and long) culminated in 1993 with the adoption of earth-based spiritual traditions as one of the sources of our living tradition. Revised by-laws were adopted by the membership in 1998 (an original set were written by Shava Nerad in 1986 as a prerequisite for becoming an affiliate organization of UUA).

**Over the past 15 years**, board members and members have worked hard to overcome social and financial obstacles, obtaining 501(c)3 status (meaning your donations and dues are tax deductible). We publish a quarterly newsletter and scholarly magazine (*Sacred Cosmos*), and continue to educate UUs about the spiritual path of Paganism. Now, in the year 2003, Paganism is more accepted within the Unitarian Universalist Association. Many churches regularly celebrate major pagan holidays and welcome pagan ritual services without too much congregational opposition. Paganism has become an acknowledged part of our collection of spiritual diversity.

**We have come far in the last 15 years.** However, our work is not done. CUUPS, Inc. has a vital role to play as churches and individuals throughout the UUA struggle to meet the challenge of developing a vocabulary of reverence (as posed by UUA president, Rev. William Sinkford - *UU World*, March 2003).  
*(continued page 2)*

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN** (from page 1)

I feel that CUUPS, along with the UU Christian Fellowship, the UU Buddhist Fellowship and UUs for Jewish Awareness, has a vital role to play in helping UUs reconnect with the spirituality that they are seeking. How can we do this vital job of outreach? Only with the support of our membership (both financially and by volunteering) can we accomplish this task. Our board of volunteers is working on a long-range plan for CUUPS for the next 10 years.

**We are Re-Visioning CUUPS** for the future. We have ideas about where WE want to take CUUPS, but what we see for the future may not meet with what YOU as members see. We want and need our members to play a vital part in this "Re-Visioning" process. We want to make sure that our energies are focused on what you as members need from the CUUPS organization. *Should our focus be on professionally written religious education? More publications? Leadership training? Regional networking and workshops? Paid staff to run the organization? What do you think?* You can share your thoughts with us in four ways. You can complete the Member's Questionnaire, which was mailed with your ballot in August and is currently available on the website or from your chapter coordinator. You can assist your chapter in completing the chapter questionnaires which were just mailed out. You can share your thoughts with the board by regular or e-mail. You can come to CUUPS Convo 2004 to meet with the board and other CUUPS people from around the denomination."

**By becoming involved** with the "Re-Visioning" of CUUPS, by letting us hear your voice, we become a stronger part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Get involved with your local chapter, your host congregation, volunteer to help with our revisioning, learn something, teach something, push your growing edges, pay your dues. Together we can reach beyond today and prepare for tomorrow.

*Blessings always,*  
**Mary**  
**Mary Gelfand**  
**President, CUUPS, Inc.**

**New Pagan RE Education Materials**  
**Now Available From CUUPS, Inc.**

CUUPS, Inc. was pleased to introduce two new adult education programs at General Assembly 2003. The first program, *Exploring Paganism*, is designed for use with adults who are interested in knowing more about Paganism, but would not necessarily identify themselves as Pagan at this point in their lives. Working with the popular Llewellyn book, *Paganism: An Introduction to Earth-Centered Religions*, by Joyce & River Higginbotham, this eight-week course focuses on beliefs and belief systems, with chapters addressing general information on Paganism, Pagan concepts of Deity (including Satan), quantum physics, the mechanics of magick, and ethics and personal responsibility. The book can be purchased commercially. The Higginbothams have written a Teacher's Guide which provides step-by-step instruction for teaching a course with their text. This guide was written for use in Unitarian Universalist churches and includes specific references to the Principles and Sources of the UUA and their connections to Paganism. Weekly lessons include discussions, guided meditations and other activities to engage both the mind and the heart. CUUPS board president Mary Gelfand taught *Exploring Paganism* in her home church last spring and feels the course is excellent. "My group became deeply involved in both the discussions and the meditations. We all learned a lot about each other, and ourselves," she reports. The Teacher's Guide is available on the CUUPS web site and will be for sale at Convo and GA 2004.

*Exploring Paganism* will help someone who is not sure if this is his or her spiritual path to make that decision. For someone who has decided to pursue this path, *Paganism 101: A Unitarian Exploration of the New Paganism* is the next step. Written by Louise Bunn, a lifelong Unitarian, this is a nine-week introduction to various aspects of Paganism. It is formatted similar to *Rise Up and Call Her Name*, including a variety of activities each session and seeking to appeal to the head as well as the heart. Different sessions address basics such as grounding and casting, relating to the elements, and working with deity images. An extensive bibliography is included as well as a cassette tape and chants are taught with each session. Louise has been a UU since age 6 and writes this course from a UU perspective. *Paganism 101* can be ordered directly from Louise Bunn ([loge@axion.net](mailto:loge@axion.net)). The cost is \$40.00 US and \$55.00 CAN (shipping included). If CUUPS is mentioned when the order is placed, we will receive 10% of sales.

## **SACRED COSMOS CALL FOR PAPERS**

**SACRED COSMOS: The CUUPS Journal of Liberal Religious Paganism** is looking for articles (3000-9000 words, or 12-36 pages of 250 words each) that provide insight, dialogue and resources for those who are dealing with or presenting Earth-centered and Pagan spirituality and practices, broadly defined.

**We are looking for** articles that are readable and pertinent, but also contain substantive information, intellectual processing or a compelling perspective. Articles that have relevance to Earth-centered spirituality as it is (or could be) practiced in a Unitarian Universalist context are particularly encouraged.

**Sacred Cosmos** will consider a range of article styles - sermons, literary pieces as well as researched and factual pieces. Our editorial board will review all submissions. Although we aren't a "scholarly" journal, we do endeavor to maintain a high level of quality, and we expect authors to use proper citations when drawing on other sources. If the article focuses on research or factual investigation, the style of your text and footnotes should conform to the APA Stylebook.

**We prefer articles on diskette** if at all possible, preferably in any version of Microsoft Word for either Macintosh or Windows, or ASCII text. It is a good idea to enclose hard copies with disks. Articles may also be submitted as e-mail attachments, in the above formats, to [cuups@uua.org](mailto:cuups@uua.org).

**Typed manuscripts** should be double-spaced with generous margins. Your name, address, and phone number should appear in the top left-hand corner of the first page. All other pages should include your name and a page number. **DO NOT** send your only copy. Neat (i.e., scannable) photocopies are acceptable. Manuscripts and disks will not be returned.

**Please notify us** upon submission if you are submitting to more than one publisher. If your article has been previously published, please tell us where and when it has previously appeared.

**We accept articles** for one-time serial rights; i.e., publication rights to accepted articles revert to authors after publication. Authors will receive one complimentary copy of the Journal. We reserve the right to copy-edit for style, grammar, and clarity. If we think that major rewriting is necessary, we will contact you before proceeding. The Journal strongly encourages the use of gender-inclusive language. Please include a two or three-sentence biography to be included with your article or review. Please submit under your legal name; we will use your Craft name in the by-line if you wish.

**To be included** in the third issue of the Journal, articles should be submitted to *CUUPS, 8190-A Beechmont Ave. #335, Cincinnati OH 45255* or sent via email to [cuups@uua.org](mailto:cuups@uua.org) by May 1, 2004.

Please include your e-mail address as well as a regular mail address and phone number.

**We look forward** to your explorations of issues that affect Earth-centered spirituality and its status as a viable and sustaining force in our lives and in the world.

**If you have questions**, please contact Dr. Mary Gelfand at [MaryCUUPS@aol.com](mailto:MaryCUUPS@aol.com).



# **CUUPS**

13<sup>th</sup> Continental Convocation

March 19 - 21, 2004 ~~~~~Spring Equinox

The Mountain UU Retreat Center, Highlands, North Carolina

**Re-Visioning Our Connection With the Sacred**  
**Re-Visioning CUUPS**

## **WHAT IS CONVOCAATION?**

Convo is a gathering of CUUPS people from around the continent. Welcome!

## **Our Program**

There are 3 main parts to our program:

~~panel discussion and workshops,

~~re-visioning the future of CUUPS,

~~shared worship/ritual.

## **Our Presenters**

**Isaac Bonewits**, one of the most colorful figures of the pagan movement, best known for his leadership in modern Druidism; a priest, magician, scholar, bard, and author of *Real Magic*, and the newly published *Rites of Worship*.

**Carole Eagleheart**, an active UU musician and troubadour, and a certified teacher of the Seneca Indian Wolf Clan Teaching Lodge.

**Rev. Joan VanBecelaere**, UU minister, former CUUPS president, and Dean of Students at Illif School of Theology.

**Joyce & River Higginbotham**, authors of one the new CUUPS education programs; founders of Council for Alternative Spiritual Traditions (CAST).

**Carey Oxler**, charter member and lay priestess at Gaia Community, the UUA's first Pagan congregation; a practicing Hellenic Polytheist and an artist.

**David Reynolds**, a member, lay priest, and Treasurer of Gaia Community in Kansas City; a practicing Druid and member of ADF.

**Rev. Melanie Morel Sullivan**, UU minister, CUUPS board member, and a student of Voudon.

**Phaedra Oorbeck**, former vice president of CUUPS, with initiations into several Traditions of Magick/ Witchcraft.

**Shari Storm**, vice president of CUUPS board, co-leader of Boulder CUUPS chapter, and mother of three.

**Dr. Mary Gelfand**, president of CUUPS board, educator, writer and artist.

## **Opening Panel Discussion**

Saturday morning will feature a panel discussion on **Re-Visioning Our Connection to the Sacred**.

Panel members include: Issac Bonewits, Carole Eagleheart, Joan Van Becelaere, River Higginbotham, and Carey Oxler. Mary Gelfand will serve as moderator.

## Re-Visioning CUUPS

Throughout the weekend there will be opportunities for participants to meet with board members, in large and small groups, to discuss the future of CUUPS. Ideas already collected from member and chapter questionnaires will be presented and massaged during the weekend. The ideas and structures collected at Convo will be added to those and compiled into a final 10 year plan, to be presented to the membership next summer at General Assembly and via the newsletter. Come armed with your best ideas about our shared future!

## Workshops

- *Rites of Worship, Isaac Bonewits*
- *Singing With the Goddess, Carole Eagleheart*
- *Transcendentalists: The 1<sup>st</sup> Earth-Centered Unitarians, Rev. Joan VanBecelaere*
- *Voudon as a Spiritual Practice, Rev. Melanie Sullivan*
- *Exploring Paganism: A Teacher's Guide, River and Joyce Higginbotham*
- *Spiritual Development & Paganism, Joyce Higginbotham*
- *Building Healthy Pagan Communities, River Higginbotham*
- *A Druid's Connection to the Sacred, David Reynolds and Isaac Bonewits*
- *Gaia Community: Past, Present and Future, Carey Oxler & David Reynolds*
- *How to Start a CUUPS Chapter, Mary Gelfand*
- *What's New in Religious Education for CUUPS, Shari Storm*
- *Internal Tarot, Phaedra Oorbeck*
- *Participating in Ritual, Phaedra Oorbeck*

## Rituals & Worship

### Friday Night

*Healing the Body, Healing the Spirit*, led by Rev. Melanie Sullivan and Carole Eagleheart.

### Saturday Night

*Re-birthing Ourselves, Re-birthing CUUPS*, led by Isaac Bonewits and Phaedra Oorbeck.

### Sunday Morning

*Covenanting as a UU Pagan*, by Rev. Joan VanBecelaere.

## The Location

The Mountain UU Retreat and Learning Center, Highlands, North Carolina. This beautiful site will house us for all of Convo. Registrants will stay in cabins on The Mountain and all meals will be provided by The Mountain staff. All ritual/worship, large and small group meetings will take place on-site.

The Mountain is located 2-3 hours northeast of Atlanta. Shuttle service from the airport to The Mountain is available with advance notice. Information on this service is included with this packet.

## Registration

Registration will be handled by The Mountain and registration forms are enclosed. Please note that in setting the rates, CUUPS, Inc. is giving special bargain rates to early registrants. It is very helpful in our financial planning to have as many early registrants as possible, so we are making that option attractive!

**Please note that your registration includes two nights accommodation in a multiple occupancy cabin and all meals from Friday evening through Sunday lunch.**

<p><b>Bargain Rate!!</b></p> <p>REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BY:  <b>DEC. 31, 2003</b>  <b>ADULTS: \$140</b>  <b>YOUTH ( 12-17): \$84</b>  <b>CHILDREN (4-11): \$64</b></p>	<p><b>Early Bird Rate</b></p> <p><i>From Jan 1 to Feb 20, 2004:</i>  Adults: \$160  Youth (12-17): \$104  Children (4-11): \$84</p>
<p><b>Regular Rate</b></p> <p><i>Registrations received after Feb. 20, 2004, and on-site:</i>  Adults: \$200  Youth (12-17): \$144  Children (4-11): \$124</p>	<p><i>Please mail your completed Registration Form to:</i></p> <p><b>CUUPS Convocation</b>  <b>The Mountain Retreat Center</b>  <b>P. O. Box 1299</b>  <b>Highlands, NC 28741-1299</b></p>

## Childcare

Childcare will be available during program hours if needed. Parents are responsible for their children during meals and ritual/worship.

## Sacred Shopping

There will be plenty of opportunities for sacred shopping at Convocation. Triad CUUPS is coordinating vending at this event. If you would like to sell your wares, please contact Liz Grimes at [lgrimes@triad.rr.com](mailto:lgrimes@triad.rr.com).

There is limited space for vending at The Mountain and spaces are available on a first come, first serve basis. All vendors will pay a set fee of \$30 and will be expected to donate an item for sale at the CUUPS Auction.

## Volunteers and Scholarships

We are in need of volunteers to assist with registration and other on-site tasks. If you are interested in helping, please contact: [MaryCUUPS@aol.com](mailto:MaryCUUPS@aol.com).

There are a limited number of work exchange positions available for those wishing to come who cannot afford to do so otherwise. Work exchange will reduce, but not eliminate, your registration fees. Please contact [MaryCUUPS@aol.com](mailto:MaryCUUPS@aol.com) for more information.

## CUUPS Membership Form

[CUUPS@uua.org](mailto:CUUPS@uua.org)

- **I want to become/remain an active member of CUUPS, Inc.** I understand as a active member of CUUPS, Inc., I will receive a membership card, a one-year subscription to the CUUPS member newsletter, and mailings regarding upcoming events for CUUPS, Inc. New  Renewing
- **Basic Active Membership \$35**  
 **Basic Active Family Membership \$50** (*any two adults or children at one address*)  
 **Full time Student/Financial Hardship \$20**
  - I would like to make an additional contribution to CUUPS of: \$25 \$40 \$75  
\$100 \$200 Other (*please specify amount*) \$\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_
  - I would like to make an additional contribution to the CUUPS Endowment fund of \$25  
\$40 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other (*please specify amount*) \$\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_
  - I would like to order **Sacred Cosmos**, a journal of liberal Pagan and Earth Centered thea/ology
    - Volume II (2003)  \$10.00
  - Add \$5.00 postage charge for Canadian and Central or South American Membership/Subscription fees  
 Add \$16.00 postage charge to Memberships/Subscriptions fees outside of the United States, Canada, and Central/South America.
- **\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed** *In US funds only -- please do not send cash!*

I am a  member  friend of the following UU congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Covenant of Confidentiality:** CUUPS will never sell or promote the use of the membership or subscriber lists for commercial purposes. Membership and subscriber lists are for member purposes and CUUPS-related business only.

- I require a confidentiality level of:
  - Level 1** *Your personal identification information will be available only to the CUUPS Board of Trustees, and their authorized agents.*
  - Level 2** *Your personal identification information will be available only to the CUUPS Board of Trustees, Standing Committee Chairs, and Chapter Coordinators in your area.*
  - Level 3** *Your personal identification information is available to anyone interested in UU Paganism!*

**Name**

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**Address**

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**City, State/Province**

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**Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

Attach check or money order and send to:

**CUUPS, Inc.**  
8190 Beechmont Ave  
Ste A PMB 335  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255-6117

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