

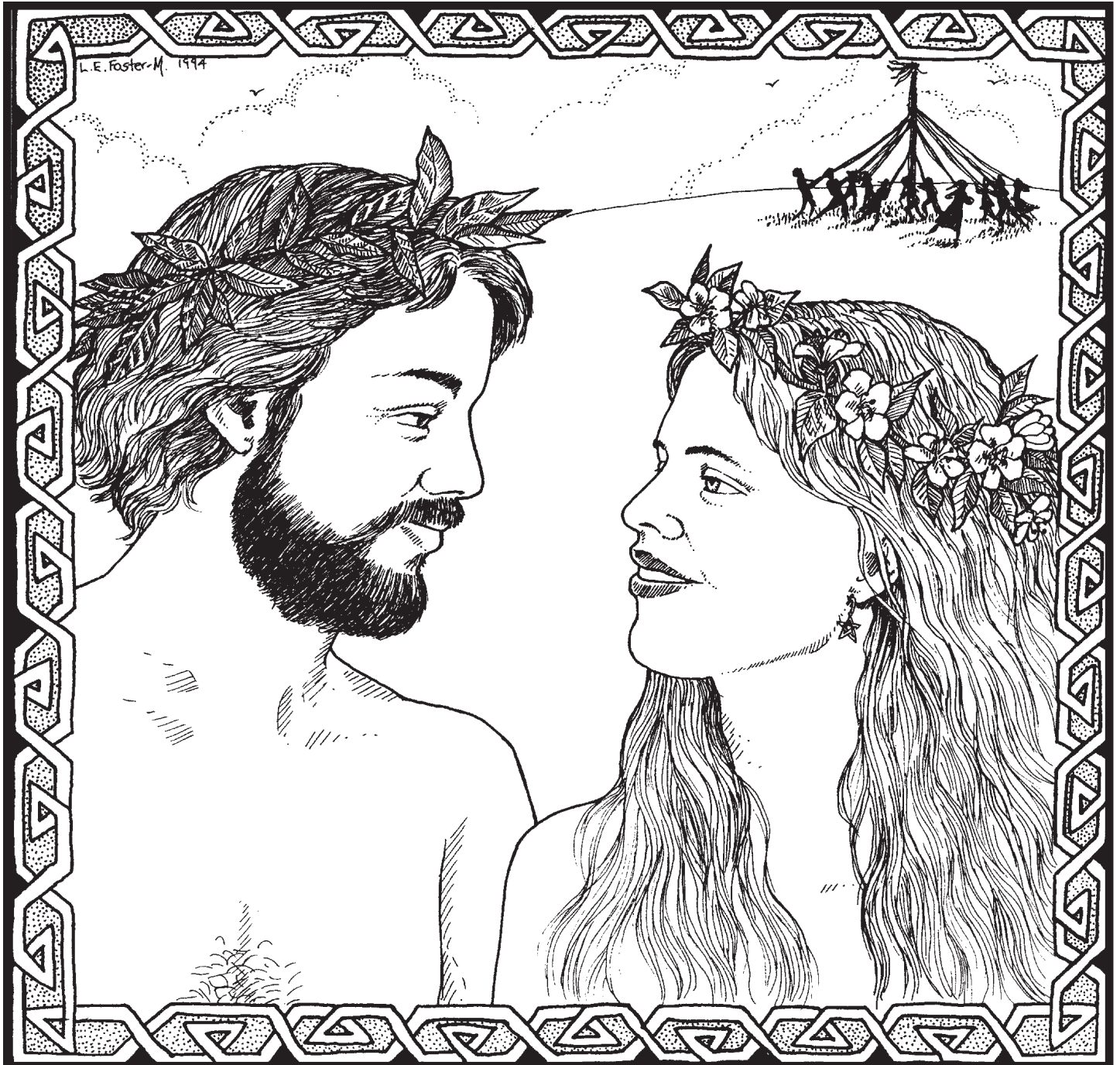


THE CUUPS NEWSLETTER

Late Spring/Early Summer 1998

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Messages from Our Officers ♦ EarthMan
Statements from Candidates for the Board
Many Oceans ♦ GA Events ♦ Convo Info
lots of poetry ♦ ...and so much more!



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takes into their work to show it to be the
work of humans. While we will work to
make our publications as perfect as possible
...we will always be human!*

There You Are...

Someone recently suggested that I come up with a snappy name for this column. Simply calling it the President's Letter, I'm told, lacks style and "sex appeal." Suggestions were many: Presidential Ponderings (sounds like the title for a Pinky and the Brain cartoon); The Prez Says (eek!); As I See It (nothing like a little megalomania to start the day); and The Dirt from Denver (my home town would never live it down). Finally, I decided to call it "There You Are" from my favorite Zen saying, "No matter where you go, there you are." (Also make famous by the movie "Buckaroo Bonzai in the 8th Dimension.")

I was very excited to see that one of the proposed Study/Action Questions at GA Rochester is entitled: "Nature, Spirit and Social Justice: A New Dialogue." Let me share with you a few quotes from the proposal:

"An increasing number of Unitarian Universalists find spiritual meaning from earth-centered spirituality, creation spirituality, process theology and other religious paths grounded in a relationship with nature... A new vision of our religious movement might emerge from a conversation that balances our commitment to social justice with our direct experience of the sacred in nature"

- How do Unitarian Universalists connect their spiritual relationship with nature that began with nineteenth century Transcendentalism with our historical concern for human rights and social justice?
- How might such a coalition form within the ranks of Unitarian Universalists to express both the spiritual and ethical concerns that confront us all, such as environmental pollution, global warming, endangered species

and habitats, and the ethical treatment of animals?

I look forward to enthusiastically participating in the debate in support of this Study/Action proposal at GA Rochester.

On the practical side of matters, I am pleased to report that interest in CUUPS is growing, judging from the number of proto-chapters or chapters in formation and the increased recent demand for chapter start up packets.

Relations between chapters and their congregations seems to also be improving, as evidence by the reduced number of time I have been asked to intervene in conflicts in the past couple of months. I still continue to receive calls from UU ministers and congregational presidents with general questions about CUUPS and what can be expected from the formation of a CUUPS chapter in their congregations. I have been able to use the new CUUPS brochures very effectively in this educational and relation building task. I am also pleased to report that our relations with the UUA continue to flow smoothly and we anticipate no problems with our upcoming Independent Affiliate renewal application. (Due at the end of April 1998.)

We have initiated a major fund raising event at GA in Rochester this year: a benefit concert featuring some of the best UU and UU Pagan talent, assembled at one time and one place. We plan to advertise this heavily prior to GA through the internet, in our newsletter, at GA with flyers and a full-page ad in the GA program directory, at First Universalist-Rochester where the event will be hosted, and with posters spread throughout the Rochester community. (please see GA Committee Report) Two smaller fund raising mailings

have also helped us make ends meet in recent months.

It is a fact of life that as the newsletter gets bigger and better, brochures are mailed to congregations throughout North America, and increasing numbers of folk request information organizational expenses go up. And since we don't want to raise the price of membership, we must raise funds some other way.

I hope our members in the Northeast will make a special effort to attend GA this year, particularly on Saturday June 27. We would love to have a great turn out for Isaac Bonewits, the Annual Meeting, and our wonderful Benefit Concert.

Blessings,

Joan VanBecelaere
CUUPS President

From the Vice President of Communications...

Greetings everyone! It has been quite a month working to get the newsletter produced. In early April my trusty ole' Mac died. It just could not take it any more. So I had to buy a new machine and with it the headaches of not backing up my email for about three months, my email addresses and other assorted stuff. Only my client files and business stuff was totally backed up.

So, many articles sent to me via email are gone. I am working to rebuild my address book and other things. Needless to say all of the software needed to be reloaded and upgrades bought!

However the result is now a better system to conduct business in the regular world and the world of CUUPS sitting in front of me! I would like to thank the CUUPS board for

their support and patience. I would also like to thank my family for the countless hours of patience.

This is the pre-GA issue of the newsletter. You will find important information relevant to what will be discussed at the annual meeting at GA and the events we are having.

For those of you attending gatherings in the Pagan communities this summer a team of us are developing a seminar you can lead at your local gatherings on "What is UU Paganism?". This is to begin to create a better understanding of who we are among the general Pagan community. If you are interested in the outline please write me. Susan Shaw and Cindy Glaze are helping in its development by co-leading it with me at Rites of Spring '98 in Western MA this Spring.

Minor edits are beginning to the website. Our web team has been incredibly busy lately in their regular jobs so we are a little slow. Please be patient. I am adding the software the site was developed in for CUUPSters who live near by to come and work on the site in my office too.

I am in search for those of you have volunteered these past few months with the newsletter, website, etc via email. Since losing your addresses, I am finding out just how lonely one is! Please contact me so I can pass some stuff on. If you have not contacted me and are open to volunteering a short amount of time every quarter then contact me too.

I look forward to seeing many of you at GA and until then, may you be blest with many wishes come true!

Jerrie Hildebrand
VP of Communications

From the Secretary...

As of the end of March, there were 643 active CUUPS members, 128 inactive members and 279 non-members receiving copies of our newsletter. In April, the address database reached 2350 people with about 40 more being added every month.

A few weeks ago active CUUPS members were mailed a packet containing a proposed restatement of our Articles of Incorporation and Regulations. This will (hopefully) be the culmination of a process of bylaw review that began in the summer of 1995, and will serve to form the basis as to how CUUPS, the Continental Organization, now a religious non-profit corporation will function for many years to come. I would like to thank those who have consistently worked with the bylaws, then regulations from the very beginning: Stephen Estes, Susan Shaw, Paul Connelly and Dick Merritt. I would also like to thank the Rev. Leslie Phillips who, while not formally on the committee until recently, consulted with those involved in this process from the 1995 Convo in Rowe - onward. It is because of the vision of these women and men (and many others, who just didn't happen to have two and a half years to discuss bylaws) that formed the document that you recently received. If you happen to see them at General Assembly (and I believe just about all of them will be there) be sure to tell them 'thanks'!

All this goes to say *please* be sure to vote on these Articles and Regulations. We need to receive approximately 130 votes for the postal ballot to be binding. If you have misplaced or accidentally thrown away the reply postcard, don't worry just mail

OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Covenant of UU Pagans, Inc. will be held on Saturday, June 27, 1998 at 3:30-5:00 pm at the First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester

The election of new Board members is on the agenda. Rev. Patrick Price, CUUPS Treasurer, will also speak about CUUPS, covenanting and community.

your reply (ie your vote for or against the Articles and Regulations) to the CUUPS address.

Provided that you're a voting member and you haven't already sent in your reply card, it will be counted as your vote.

David Pollard
CUUPS Secretary

From the Treasurer...

As of April 30, 1998 we have \$ 1, 981.38 in our bank account. We currently have some \$ 1,140 in accounts to be paid out in May, not counting final newsletter costs. Also, unpaid reimbursements to our Secretary David Pollard currently amount to \$664.30 for supplies and transactions of the organization's office business. We have been meeting our debts generally on time, but we are paying some of our larger debts, such as legal fees and back reimbursements, in agreed upon installments. The President and the Executive Committee are providing direction for priority of payments when needed. Now that we have 501(c) 3 non profit status we will be applying for an interest bearing checking account with our bank. If you have any questions please contact me.

Patrick Price
CUUPS Treasurer

Welcoming New Chapters

We would like to welcome these new chapters to CUUPS:

Mystical Earth CUUPS which is affiliated with Pleasant Valley UU Church in Garland, TX.

Castle Crossing Circle of Pagans which is affiliated with the UU Church of Washington Crossing in Titusville, NJ.

Magnolia Grove CUUPS which is affiliated with Jackson UU Church of Jackson, MS.

The day before we went to press we were told that applications for new chapters in Denver, CO and Charleston, SC are in the mail.

Membership Committee Needs Volunteers

CUUPS is in great need for volunteers for the Membership Committee. The number of start-up chapters is growing and they need help. This important committee is involved in assisting and nurturing these new chapters. We need people willing to help guide others through the process of forming a group and finding a niche in their congregations. The committee provides support and advice and may, if requested, help facilitate communication between the new group and its congregation. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please send an email to CUUPS@aol.com.

CUUPS INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

1/1/97 THROUGH 12/31/97

| Subcategory | Total |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| INCOME | |
| 1.100 DONATIONS | \$ 2,350.00 |
| 1.200 EVENTS | 4,015.00 |
| 1.300 MEMBERSHIP | 16,282.00 |
| 1.400 MERCHANDISE | 3,169.00 |
| 1.500 PUBLICATIONS | 997.00 |
| 1.999 MISCELLANEOUS | 374.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$27,187.00 |
| EXPENSES | |
| 2.100 ADVERTISING/PROMOTION | \$ 375.00 |
| 2.200 BOARD EXPENSES | 550.42 |
| 2.300 EVENTS | 4,162.00 |
| 2.400 LEGAL | 985.95 |
| 2.500 MERCHANDISE COST | 1,556.57 |
| 2.600 OFFICE | 4,713.32 |
| 2.700 PUBLICATIONS | 6,070.60 |
| 2.901 Z-Debt Ret.-Loans | |
| 2.901.A - Margo Adler | 184.57 |
| 2.901.B - Michael Boblett | 341.00 |
| 2.901.C - David Burwasser | 236.40 |
| 2.901.D - Paul Connolly | 240.00 |
| 2.901.E - Rod Debs | 240.00 |
| 2.901.F - Brydie Palmore | 127.30 |
| 2.901.I - David Pollard | 1,211.59 |
| 2.901.J - Susan Shaw | 92.07 |
| Total 2.901 Z-Debt Ret.-Loans | 2,672.93 |
| 2.902 Z-Debt Ret.-Stipend | |
| 2.902.A - Linda Pinti | 2,965.00 |
| 2.902.B - Lesley Phillips | 2,965.00 |
| Total 2.902 Z-Debt Ret.-Stipend | 5,930.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$27,016.79 |
| INCOME LESS EXPENSES | \$ 170.21 |

PRESENTING THE CANDIDATES FOR THE CUUPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES 1998 - 2000

Our organization, like all other UU organizations stand on the principles of the democratic process. To honor that process we are presenting to you statements of the candidates for our Board of Trustees for the 1998 - 2000 term. We feel these candidates bring the experience and expertise needed to move our organization into the next millenium.

Due to space restrictions of the newsletter we have edited their statements as little as possible and consolidated their credentials. However the spirit of each individual is present for you to connect with. We look forward to you the members participation in voting for these candidates.

Candidacy statement of David Pollard

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My vision of CUUPS beyond being UU and Pagan, is as a voluntary association of members. With the passage of the 6th Source to the UU Principles and Purposes, we have entered a new phase of a dialogue that will significantly affect where UUism goes in the early decades of the 21st century. An important role of CUUPS is to empower its members to more effectively participate in the dialogues of both the UU and larger Neo-Pagan Communities.

CUUPS exists in a number of unique circumstances that could be better used to our benefit: it is the only Pagan affiliate of a denomination that has close ties to mainstream seminaries. We need to be better about letting the non-UU Neo-Pagan world know about this. I think that it would be great if the best educated of the next generation of Pagan religious leaders were UU trained. As an affiliate in a non-creedal association, CUUPS is in a unique position to initiate inter-faith discussions between Neo-Pagans and other religious traditions and denominations.

As the affiliate representing the rapidly growing Earth-centered Spirituality segment of Unitarian Universalism, we need to be producing a wider variety programs and services. As long as these programs are kept modular and largely self-funding, there is little need now for centralized administration in CUUPS.

Our most valuable asset and what makes us unique among Pagan organizations is our Affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is the Board's responsibility to maintain this relationship. Before it initiates any program, or adopts any position; we need to ask, "How is this relevant to

Unitarian Universalism?" If there is no clear, concise answer then it would be best to leave the action to another group.

I would like to see more functions taken over by individual board members and/or by committees. Eventually with continued growth, some functions may have to be taken on by paid staff, but it is reasonable for the Board to delay this as long as prudently possible.

The Board as a whole should provide oversight on the various administrative functions and programs that CUUPS operates. Functions need to be reassigned periodically to prevent volunteer burn-out.

We need to create organizational assets that make membership more meaningful/valuable. In conversations with UUs across the continent, by far the largest reason of why people don't join CUUPS (or drop out) is that for most members, (people who can't go to GA or Convo) CUUPS provides little more than a subscription to the newsletter. A high priority for the next CUUPS Board should be the creation of organizational assets that not only provide additional Earth-Centered resources to our membership, but also provides positive exposure for CUUPS in the larger UU world. Two simple examples of this would be A CUUPS Liturgy Collection and an Annual UU-Pagan Sermon Contest. RE specifically carrying the CUUPS imprint is also vital to our continued growth. And in the longer term, to keep new projects starting, we need a UU-Pagan Endowment fund.

We need to give people the opportunity to tell us what talents they are willing to share with CUUPS. This can be done through rewriting the CUUPS membership form and adjusting our membership database. We also need to actively promote participation in activities like the District Leadership Schools, that would not only help them be better functioning leaders in CUUPS, but also their home congregations and districts.

The board has been aware of most of these opportunities for the past few years, but was unable to do much about it due to the difficult financial situation. This is about to change, if we continue paying as we have for the last year - by the end of 1998 all our old debts will have been retired - and we can start applying our funds towards these exciting, new projects.

About me personally, I am married with one 4 yr. old child and lived in Texas since 1970. My past involvement in Paganism and CUUPS includes: go back to 1986 with POWSIG (Mensa's Pagan SIG), started two CUUPS chapters (Richardson & Fort Worth, TX), have spoken at almost a dozen UU societies on UU-Pagan topics, led workshops at district conferences, spoke on floor in support of 6th source at the Calgary GA - was in line to at Spokane (but the clock ran out) served as "online liaison" for about a year prior to coming on the CUUPS Board in September 1995, proposer and listowner of CUUPS-L mailing

list on uua.org, and was founding editor of the CUUPS Chapter Update. Currently, I am the Secretary for the CUUPS

Board and serve the board in the following capacities: Chair of GA Display Cmte; member of Finance Cmte; operate the "CUUPS Office" and am Acting Chair, 1998 Convocation.

My involvement in Unitarian-Universalism (other than CUUPS) is as a member of Richardson Unitarian Church from 1988-94, one year as Board President (1991-1992) and membership on several committees there and as newsletter editor for three years. Since 1994 my family has been at First Jefferson in Fort Worth. At First Jefferson I was Adult RE chair for a couple years, and am now co-teaching the high school group. District-wise, I was on the SW District Extension Cmte for four years (1992-96), the last as its chair, and am currently on the Steering Committee for the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (of which I'm a 1991 graduate.) Currently, I'm Programming co-chair for the upcoming Spring SW District Conference. A regular GA-junkie since 1990, only missing '91 and '93. Co-led a workshop UU Online Resource at the 1994 GA.

Candidacy statement of Stephen Estes:

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CUUPS is over ten years old now. The introspection, transition, and transformation of the past three years were necessary, but not sufficient, conditions for the energetic furtherance of CUUPS' purposes. We've been through a metamorphosis. For a while, such grace as we show in our new form will take conscious coordination. After a while, our new structures, regulations, policies, and procedures will become natural.

The strength of CUUPS now, as always, is in its members. Our continental organization should create synergy, foster cooperation, and build fellowship, so that all our efforts contribute to the open development and enjoyment of Pagan and Earth-centered spirituality, within the UU context and beyond.

CUUPS is uniquely situated at the intersection of many spiritual paths. The opportunities here for research, dialog, cooperation, evolution, and celebration are abundant. Not least among these is the opportunity to inform the development of Pagan and Earth-centered spirituality with the kind of care and honesty that have brought vast credit to Unitarian Universalism.

To move forward from where we are, we need a better understanding of what our members want and can provide. We need to build relationships between the grass roots and the board, between chapters, and between individual members. We need to develop programs that further our purposes clearly and excite support.

About me: Pagan for fifteen years, UU for twenty-five, and a CUUPS member for ten. Within the continental CUUPS

organization, I presently chair the Regulations Committee and serve on the Finance Committee; previously served on the 1996 Convo Committee. Married, live in Santa Clara, California, and have one child, aged six. In my day job I'm a senior systems analyst at Santa Clara University. As a volunteer, I'm treasurer and secretary of the nonprofit Third Street Community Center in San Jose. Member of Hanuman (yoga) Fellowship, and former manager of their metaphysical bookstore in Santa Cruz. Member of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose; have served as a GA delegate and on a variety of church committees, including nominating and ministerial search. Member of Wyrdwyn, a coven that produces large scale rituals in affiliation with South Bay Circles.

Candidacy statement of Cindy Glaze:

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I have been a solitary Pagan since 1985 and a festival Pagan (active at festivals as well as solitary) since 1987. I have been a member of closed circles and open networking circles. As co-founder of S'BAT CUUPs (the Rochester, NY chapter) I have been involved as a Pagan in my UU church and part of a deliberately generic Pagan circle. Other relevant experience in Paganism is: Free Spirit Festival Site Registration Coordinator (1989-94), member Hylas Circle (1993), one year Cella (priestess training) with the Re-Formed Congregation of the Goddess (1993). Basically I am a solitary practitioner with a broad background. I read voraciously and attend workshops on different fields of study relating to the occult and religion.

First Unitarian Church, Rochester has been my religious home since 1990. There I have served as Denominational Affairs chair and Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Concerns Task Force co-chair. I have been a delegate from my church to GA in 1994, 1996 and 1997. Currently I am Summer Committee chair and the Accessibility co-chair. Also at this time I am in seminary with a goal of becoming a UU Pagan minister and prison chaplain.

As a member of CUUPS, my experience includes: attending the 1994, 1996 & 1997 annual meeting at GA; Co-signing the July 1995 S'BAT CUUPs Open Letter to the Board, attending convocations and supporting the promotion of CUUPS by working at the GA table.

I see CUUPs as being in a recovery stage. Its continued health depends on strong, caring leadership. Several things are required to keep CUUPs going into the twenty first century. First, it is imperative that our financial house is in order. All past debts need to be paid in full within the next five years. A complete audit of accounts must be completed and reported.

The second issue confronting CUUPs in the upcoming

years is the question of output. Specifically publications. The current board has been excellent in having newsletters come out looking good. Problems with errors and deadlines need time to work out. This is one area I believe needs constant consideration. Further publications, either of a religious education curriculum or the long-awaited ritual or liturgy project, would greatly enhance our position in the UUA and the Pagan community.

The third issue I see confronting CUUPs is that of reputation. Our reputation within the UUA needs attention. Our reputation in the Pagan community is also problematic. I believe that regard to the first two issues here will go a long way towards answering this need.

The board's primary role, as I see it, is in oversight and direction. With proper funding and care, a secretary or a professional can be hired to deal with the day to day duties of this continent wide organization. The board could be involved but should not have to answer every routine piece of mail personally.

I see the board as visionaries leading us through and past this new Millennium. CUUPs is an organization which is needed in both the UUA and the Pagan community. A strong CUUPs is a sign of a strong spirituality in Unitarian Universalism. A caring CUUPs is a vision of acceptance in the world to the un-churched Pagan community.

Candidacy statement of Alana Hommel:

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The main issues for CUUPS that I see are education, education and education. Educating the UU community to the various forms the Pagan Path may take.

One of our greatest challenges will be to fully integrate CUUPS into the UUA. Educating youth will take much of our resources, but a Pagan curriculum is a must. Educating our own membership. By tapes, newsletters and gatherings the spiritual growth of membership will be our focus.

I have years of experience as a political activist in Boston and Washington D.C. For three years I ran support groups, facilitating discussions, planning meetings, handling finances and communications with the National org. and other groups in our area. I am currently founder and director of *Stand Our Ground*. We currently have 1500+ volunteers in nine states. My involvement in this will run until early June. I am currently serving on CUUPS Regulations Committee.

I am not a UU or a Pagan. I am Roman Catholic. While I am active in our local UU parish, I am not a member. I see myself contributing to the growing understanding between the Pagan and Christian communities. As I envision a day when

CUUPS stands along side all other independent associations working together for the common good, understanding each other and trusting each other. This will require skilled negotiation and tolerance. I want to be a part of making this happen.

The board's function is to serve the needs of the membership. Open board meetings, full fiscal disclosure, and open communication are vital to this function. I believe in a full participatory democracy. I know this will mean change. Change can be difficult. CUUPS is going to represent both the Paganism and UUism to the world at large. We must do so from a secure foundation. We must get our fiscal house in order and keep it that way. To do this we need a strong Finance Committee. Regular audits will be needed.

We must have ongoing fund raising spread evenly so no one group of people is solely responsible for the economic health of the organization. We must have a three year business plan, so we know where we are going, how we are to get there and how we can pay for it. It will be the board's responsibility to enhance communication with the whole membership.

We have a bright future in CUUPS. I thank you for considering me to be a part of that future.

Candidate Statement of Joan Van Becelaere

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The main issues for CUUPS in the next year will be: managing growth effectively; development of education materials; congregational and ministerial relations; and relations with districts and the UUA.

We must help new CUUPS chapters become strong, lasting, welcome assets to their congregations. We must network and develop programming at the district level, especially in regions where UU congregations are sparse.

There may be no more important task ahead than meeting the strong, growing demand for earth-centered religious education materials. CUUPS harbors talented, creative religious educators capable of first quality work. CUUPS must foster this with organizational effort, marketing, and finances.

As CUUPS becomes more visible, relations with local ministers, congregations, districts and the UUA are crucial. We are no longer marginal. CUUPS presents a viable, lively theological and philosophical alternative to the dominant Western paradigm. We should seek to be perceived as the warming sun that works to revive the "corpse cold" soul of modern American religion (paraphrasing R.W. Emerson). Our effectiveness as an organization depends on perceptions shaped largely by our relations with others in the UUA: ministers, congregations, districts, the Association. We must be an integral part of the life of the UUA and an effective agent of UU principles and purposes.

I am completing my first year as President of the CUUPS Board while pursuing ordination in UU Community Ministry. I work as the Coordinator of Academic Administration at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver. I have a Master of Divinity degree from Iliff, a Master of Public Administration from CU-Denver, and extensive doctoral coursework in the area of ethics and public policy.

At First Unitarian of Denver, I serve on the Facilities Expansion Committee, the Internship Oversight Committee, the Social Action Committee, and our congregational theatrical group. I served the past two years as a delegate to GA and teach adult education. At the continental level, I am involved in the UUA review of candidacy procedures for UU ministerial students.

I have been a Pagan since 1982 and served two years on the CUUPS board. I maintain very healthy ties to the Denver Pagan community and was recently named Secretary of Colorado Dragonfest. I have been called on to explain both CUUPS and Paganism to audiences at various Protestant churches in the area as well as at UU congregations in the Mountain Desert District. I have delivered public lectures at youth leadership and corporate diversity training workshops.

The most important role for the CUUPS Board is to provide leadership for the membership and the greater UUA in the establishment of a solid theological and organizational base for an earth-centered/Pagan religious orientation within Unitarian Universalism. The Board should present a model of collaborative leadership based on the organizational ethics that derive from an immanent, earth-centered, Pagan spirituality. We are in the midst of a religious paradigm shift and our leadership styles and techniques need to reflect the new, developing paradigm.

Blessings,
Joan Van Becelaere

Candidacy statement of Rev. Patrick Price

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Serving as the CUUPS Treasurer since July 1998, I have been primarily responsible for the establishment of our new checking account, in state paper work, depositing funds and the timely paying bills and debts, as well as other board duties, such as attending board meetings, etcetera. As treasurer in the next year I would expect to continue these duties, with the basic intent of stabilizing CUUPS financial reliability, both actual and perceived.

To this end I desire to be involved in the longer processes

of helping CUUPS to continue to evolve as a financially responsible and secure organization. This will require working with the Finance Committee, the Board and other committed volunteers to examine our financial processes and their implications for our future. At the minimum this will involve developing a process for creating an annual operating budget. Hopefully this will facilitate greater regularity and predictability in our annual financial and programming processes and capabilities. As the minister of a growing and transitional sized congregation I understand the necessity for accountability, consistency and predictability in helping an organization to be stable enough to move to higher planes of function where they can better realize their potentials and make manifest the vision of their members.

My hope is that my service to CUUPS this next year will, at least in part, help this to happen. In this next year it is my intent to attend Board and general meetings at GA and Convo, as well as be involved in other Board and Executive Committee decision processes. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

I am an ordained UU minister in preliminary fellowship with the UUA; a 1995 M.Div. graduate of Meadville/ Lombard Theological School, UU, and (I have) been serving the UU Fellowship of Columbia, SC, since August 1995. From 1990 through 1992 I founded and facilitated the Dayton, Ohio CUUPS chapter as well as being a founding officer of the Pagan Community Council of Ohio (PCCO). I served as an orthopedic brace technician in the U.S. Air Force and am a past member of the Pagan Military Network and the Pagan Alliance of Central Texas. I have a BA in Political Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia and was raised in Fort Worth, Texas.

Candidacy statement of Jerrie Hildebrand

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This is a time of development for CUUPS. We are working with a more professional outlook and need to develop the structures to fulfill our mission and goals for the future. Three areas to focus that I see are:

Membership/Chapter Development. Communications have grown over the past two years through a more frequent newsletter, the website and email lists. It is now time to go the next level and look for ways to develop the members freely bringing information back to the organization about their needs and desires. How do we reach the solitaries out there and how do they wish to participate?

Our untapped strength are our chapters. These are the folks doing the work of the organization at the grass roots. We need to develop ways for them to have better means of communications with us. Regional chapter meetings, chapter materials, contact people to handle problems are only a few solutions. It is time to open the lid of communications to being a two way street.

Volunteer Development. As we develop our organization within the UUA and general Pagan communities, we have an opportunity to bring first class programming and religious education curriculums into existence. We have the opportunity to develop our committee structures and create the opportunity for our members to participate. Committed volunteerism with an ability to develop projects coming to fruition, and engaging members in owning their organization.

Financial Development. We need to develop sound financial structures so that the organization is running itself. We need to budget, plan, develop the how to use future endowed monies, look for grants to underwrite projects, and move ourselves into a more stable place. We have done a great job retiring our debt. Most Pagan organizations never move beyond this. Now we can lead through example here and continue that lead by putting solid, practical structures to develop ourselves in place.

The board is here to guide the organization; to develop it; to care for it; and carry its vision into the next century. We are the will of the members.

Currently, I serve the CUUPS board developing the communications, publications and public relations for the organization. I have concentrated on developing a team of highly committed individuals to participate in the creation of marketing collateral, print and electronic media for CUUPS. We now have public relations developed with the UU and general Earth religious communities. To support this work, I have participated in interviews about CUUPS for UU, Pagan and secular printed media in the US and France; pulpit exchanges; networked with Pagan leadership nationwide with the UU Pagan perspective; led seminars at Pagan gatherings about UU Paganism; and answered literally hundreds of email and phone inquiries about CUUPS, Paganism and earth religions.

As a UU, I have been a member of CUUPS and the First Universalist Society of Salem, MA since 1991. I have served in the past on the Welcoming Congregation, Religious Education, and Community Outreach Committees and as Membership Committee Chairperson. I have also participated as a delegate for my congregation at the 1993, 1996, & 1997 GA's. Currently, I serve on the Deacons, Music Committee, and Lay Worship Leaders group. In 1991, I co-created and currently facilitate the NSCUUPS chapter of CUUPS. In the fall, I will begin taking classes at Andover-Newton Theological School to begin an inquiry into the ministry. I have an interest in community ministries in the arts.

My involvement with Paganism goes back to 1984 and includes: active membership in The EarthSpirit Community; staff member, ritualist and presenter at Rites of Spring and Twilight Covening for the past five years; past regional coordinator for the WLPAs and WIN; illustrator of a children's book "*Walking with Mother Earth*" by Deirdre Pulgram Arthen. I enjoy drumming and the ritual arts!

I bring over 25 years of professional graphic design and print production; public relations; marketing and advertising experience; and 40 years of volunteer experience in a variety of civic, religious and business organizations. I currently own two businesses: a graphic design/production studio and a creative children's arts center, currently under development. I have been married for eleven years and have one wonderful child.

Brightest of blessings to each of you!
Jerrie "Keisha" Hildebrand

Candidacy Statement from John Pearce

3652 Interlake Ave. N. #12
Seattle, WA 98103
206-547-8093
Email Address: <jpearce@efn.org>

I'm John Beowulf Pearce. I'm on the present Board of CUUPS, and I hope you will vote for me in the upcoming election. I found Paganism almost ten years ago when my mother, a UUWF activist, brought me to a CUUPS Yule. This group and this faith have been a taproot and a blossom for me ever since.

The main issues I see facing CUUPS currently are:

- To involve and empower our members in our expanding activities -- from creating educational materials to governing the organization
- To educate and connect with the UUA and our congregations, and with other Pagan groups
- Worship and ritual -- our faith is what brought us here, after all I served on the Boards of two Pagan groups before my stint with CUUPS Continental, and have helped organize numerous events in the Seattle Pagan community.

My years of experience as list manager for the cuups-usa and cuups-pnw mailing lists have connected me with hundreds of members of the CUUPS community, and let me use my technical skills for their benefit.

I have served my own chapter as newsletter editor (1993-97) and Publicity chair, and as liaison to the church's Worship and Arts Council. I have led and helped with workshops on facilitation and guardianship skills. And I have served as a primary contact, answering calls from the curious and welcoming new people to CUUPS and Paganism.

I have served my church in many roles in my eight years of membership, from lay leadership and service planning as a

member of the worship committee, to acting as a delegate to GA in Phoenix (and hopefully again in Rochester). I have led several Sunday services in the form of CUUPS rituals, in my home church and elsewhere by request.

As well as helping plan our own workshops, and events such as the Cascadian Pagan Leadership Conference, I have supported the rituals and events of other groups through my work with Crossroads Learning Center. I have organized and supported countless public rituals, large and small, for CUUPS, seeking always to foster community and empower the participants (see my website, <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~jpearce/cuups.html> for examples of how).

The Board exists at the center of the web of CUUPS activity, and so is well-suited to making valuable connections. Guiding new chapters and referring new members, counseling UU districts and congregations in Pagan matters, providing speakers and contacts and pamphlets to the curious, we can weave together a vibrant and lively community. We are here as a Board to help provide a ray of light and a fertile place for our friends and members to flourish in all those things that make us CUUPS.

Thank you and blessed be,
John Beowulf Pearce

Candidacy Statement for Phaedra Oorbeck

47-B Woodbine St
Kernersville NC 27284
336-992-1231
Email address: <PhaedraHPS@aol.com>

What an exciting time for CUUPS! The sleeping giant of the UUA has shaken off the dust of complacency and, reinvigorated, is reinventing itself, its relationship to its members, and its relationship to Unitarian Universalism.

Leadership takes a critical role at this period of an organization's life. For me, true leadership does not function by forcing its will or opinion upon an organization; rather, the governing body of an organization such as CUUPS must determine where the membership is already heading, then get out in front and make it happen.

Carrying out this mandate – determining what its members want from CUUPS and moving towards those goals while maintaining proper stewardship and remaining within the stated purposes of the organization – is the greatest challenge facing the Board today.

But that's not the only challenge. This Board, nay, all Boards, need to seek the fundamental core of who and what we are. What is the living, breathing CUUPS? Who are our members? What do we offer them? What does it mean to be a member of a Chapter? What do we offer to the Solitary? To the UUA?

I believe I have skills and talents that are useful to this organization. I can contribute a generalist's knowledge of the NeoPagan, Wiccan and Occult communities, as well as a network of contacts in those communities coast to coast. As a writer, I've already contributed to our CUUPS brochures. As a teacher and a ritualist, I've shared my knowledge and created living liturgies both within the UUA and the larger NeoPagan community. As an out Pagan, I have strong media skills. As a current, active member of a UU congregation, and past member of two more, I understand the culture of the UUA as well as that of contemporary Paganism.

Lastly, and most importantly to me, I care. I care what happens to CUUPS. I care what happens to the Pagan spirit within the UUA. I care for the UUA itself, and for all the wonderful people, Pagan or not, that I have been privileged to meet through its auspices over the years.

I would consider it a great honor if CUUPS' membership would allow me to be a part of CUUPS' transition into the 21st Century, a move which I hope will be made with all the grace, dignity and integrity its membership has the right to expect.

For a little about myself: I am a charter member of All Souls Welcoming Congregation, Kernersville, NC; a founding member, Panthea UU Fellowship, Chicago IL; a former member, Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria IL; founding High Priestess of the Cornfield Tradition; current High Priestess, Aradianic Faerie Tradition; and an initiate of Hermetic Magick

Blessed be,
Phaedra Oorbeck

Candidacy Statement from Chris Wagner

P.O. Box 14923
Columbus, Ohio 43214-0923
Email: <khryso@infinet.com>

The task of CUUPS has always been threefold: to represent the UU community to the Pagan community at large; to represent the Pagan community at large to the UU community; and to help UU Pagans integrate two aspects of their identity (that are not yet familiar to each other in their greater worlds.)

My Pagan spirituality is not tied to any one tradition, yet I know that I belong in the Pagan community because of the importance of the Earth and Earth-centered symbols in my spiritual practice.

My involvement with Pagans has mostly been with CUUPS both locally and continentally, with the Radical Faeries on the Radical Faerie listserv and at Short Mountain Sanctuary in Tennessee, and with the Pagan Community Council of Ohio (PCCO), for whom I have performed at events both for pay and gratis. I have sat on and consulted for occasional project committees for PCCO as well.

My views of the Pagan community at large have been formed by reading some of today's more visible Pagan writers and by attending Summerset (a PCCO-sponsored festival) and Starwood XIII.

I have been a professional worship leader in UU churches since August 1993. I have been a signed-in-the-book UU since February 1995. In the past five years I have presented music or been the main worship leader in some two dozen UU churches from Michigan to Georgia. I have been a workshop presenter at two SUUSIs and at GA, and this year I am scheduled to lead more workshops for the Ohio Meadville District; for CUUPS and the UUMN at GA; and at the annual UUMN conference. I keep current with issues affecting UU worship leaders and, by extension, congregants, via UUMA, UUMN, and regional listservs. I probably know hundreds of UUs. I plan to attend seminary within the next few years with an eye toward community ministry.

I have served on the board of the Columbus Folk Music Society, a tax-exempt non-profit, as Member Activities chair, Vice President, President, and now Publications chair, for four or five years. I worked as a professional volunteer coordinator and Program Development Director for a tax-exempt non-profit for 19 months before becoming self-employed as a folklorist, musician, and writer in August of 1992. Though I prefer not to, I have proven myself able to stand alone for my principles and to suffer fools when the occasion dictates, though I have also been known to candidly tell troublemakers and busybodies what I think of them. Though I do not pick fights, nor do I run from battles that are important to me.

My experience as a board member and a staffer of a volunteer-board-driven organization have persuaded me that a board's task is to represent the interests of the membership on matters on which it is not expedient to consult the entire membership. Board members are not called Directors and Trustees for nothing.

Chris Wagner, a.k.a. Khryso

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

We invite you to send articles and art you would like to share with other CUUPS members. As we grow, the newsletter is our primary source to get to know one another. Sermons, poetry, stories or informational articles on subjects you are knowledgeable in are welcomed. Please send articles or art to: Jerrie Hildebrand, CUUPS Newsletter Editor, at the CUUPS office.

CUUPS AT GA ROCHESTER

This year's CUUPS programming at General Assembly in Rochester, NY, includes a full day of CUUPS related activities on Saturday, June 27 as well as workshops on Friday, June 26 and Monday, June 29. Saturday's events begin with a lecture by Isaac Bonewits, followed by the CUUPS Annual Meeting, our Summer Solstice Celebration, and a very exciting evening concert. We hope that members, non-members, UUs, folk from the Pagan community and others will come and join us.

Friday, June 26

8:45 pm

An Introduction to Shamanism

Rev. Dr. Crow Swimsaway and
Rev. Bekki Shining Bearheart
Church of Earth Healing

This workshop will present a basic introduction to "core" shamanic practices from a global perspective, and its relevance to modern society as a healing modality and a spiritual practice.

The Rev. Dr. Crow Swimsaway, Ph.D. (anthropology) the Rev. Bekki Shining Bearheart and have been shamanic teachers and practitioners since 1982. Crow's doctoral work included two years of field research among the Atayal, a mountain people in central Taiwan. He has traveled extensively in the U.S., Mexico, the U.K., Europe and the Far East. Bekki has been guided by her relationship with Mother Earth from a very early age. Her college career at Ohio University yielded both a B.F.A. in Ceramics and a Teaching

Certificate. She continues a lifelong interest in music and the arts in her shamanic practice and teaching.

They have shared their knowledge at many venues, including colleges, universities, book stores, teaching and healing centers and festivals throughout North America. They have appeared at Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in Dayton, Rochester and Columbia. They serve the Church of Earth Healing in Ohio.

CUUPS Day at GA, Saturday, June 27

If you only have one day to attend GA, this is the day!

1:30-2:45 pm

Fellow Travelers: UU Pagans and Other Earth Religionists in the Coming Decades

Isaac Bonewits

Isaac Bonewits is North America's leading expert on Druidism, Witchcraft and the rapidly growing Earth Religions movement. He will address the future of Paganism in North America, its impact on Unitarian Universalism, and his current book which deals with the polytheology and litur-

gics of NeoPagan worship.

A practicing NeoPagan priest, scholar, teacher, bard and polytheologist for over twenty-five years, Mr. Bonewits has coined much of the vocabulary and articulated many of the issues that have shaped the quarter-million strong NeoPagan community in the United States and Canada.

As an author (of *Real Magic*, *Authentic Thaumaturgy*, and numerous articles, reviews and essays), a singer-songwriter (with three albums to his credit), and a "spellbinding" speaker, he has educated, enlightened and entertained two generations of modern Goddess worshippers, nature mystics, and followers of other minority belief systems, and has explained these movements to journalists, law enforcement officers, college students, and academic researchers. He is the founder and Archdruid Emeritus of *Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship*, the best known NeoPagan Druid organization in North America.

3:30-5:00 pm

CUUPS Annual Meeting

First Universalist Church
150 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester

The election of new Board members is on the agenda. Rev. Patrick Price, CUUPS Treasurer, will also speak about CUUPS, covenanting and community.

5:30-6:30 pm

CUUPS Open Summer Solstice Ritual

Located at the Peace Bridge Park downstream (north) of Mainstreet, crossing the Genessee River, between the Sheraton 4 Points and the Rochester Plaza. It is shown on the map in the GA registration packet. Please note that the bridge itself is not wheelchair accessible.

7:30 - 8:15 pm

A Worship Service with Margot Adler

Margot will lead the worship at this time focusing on a theme of "Saving the Earth, Savoring the Earth".

8:30-10:30 pm

Singing the Promise: A CUUPS Benefit Concert

First Universalist Church
150 S. Clinton Ave, Rochester

A concert to raise funds for CUUPS programming initiatives, religious education efforts and chapter support. Ticket cost is only \$10.

Musicians include: Carole Eagleheart
Rev. John Gilmore
Rev. Mary Grigolia
Nancy Vedder-Shults
Chris Wagner (Khryso)

Monday, June 29 pm

1:30 pm

Mystical Chant in Congregational Singing

Rev. Mary Grigolia, Rev. John Gilmore, Chris Wagner (Khryso)

As "direct experience of mystery and wonder" is "affirmed in all cultures," so the use of chant is universal. The Rev. Mary Grigolia, the Rev. John Gilmore, and Chris Wagner show ways to use chanting/rhythm in worship to bring about "renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life."

John Gilmore is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester, NH and a graduate of Meadville/Lombard. He has become fascinated with using the

drum for accompaniment and introducing its use in his congregation's worship services.

Mary Grigolia is a singer-songwriter and an ordained UU minister serving the Oberlin UU Fellowship and Urban Hope UU Congregation in Cleveland. She has a long-standing reputation as a "nature mystic" and has a visible profile in the women's, ministerial, and UU music communities.

Chris Wagner (Khryso) founded and, for three years, directed the music program and the choir at Dublin UU in Columbus, Ohio. A folklorist, composer, singer, instrumentalist, and Radical Faerie, he is the publisher of the audiocassette album, *I'll Have My Chants This Time A Round* and is the author of *A UU Pagan Hymn Sourcebook*.

The Muse's Corner...

MOTHER OF MY MOTHER

S. ALTHOF

mother of my mother
flesh of my flesh
is now dying
returning to the
mother of us all

her nurturing is gone
her tender touch
sageful advice
a memory now

her caring arms
crossed in a box
to the earth she returns
to the mother of us all

gentle kisses
bade me to slumber
her kind eyes now closed
for eternal sleep
to rest in the arms
of the mother of us all

I am now a keepsake
a palimpsest of her
evidence of her mothering
her nurturing
may I never fail
may I never forget
mother of my mother.

PAN

S. ALTHOF

Pan Pan
the dancing
goat man
run leaps
musically reaps
the love of
life

horns on head
hooves on feet
his hands
cleverly play
the secret
songs
of
sacred life

divine breath
flows through
hallowed reeds
teaches his students
of primal need

Pan Pan
the dancing
goat man
jumps bucks
carnally instructs
the cadence
of tongue and kiss.



Singing the Promise: A CUUPS Benefit Concert

Carole Eagleheart



Rev. Mary Grigolia



Rev. John Gilmore



Nancy Vedder-



**Chris Wagner
(Khryso)**



Join us June 27, 1998, 8:30 pm at...

First Universalist Church

150 S. Clinton Ave, Rochester, New York

Singing the Promise is a concert to raise funds for CUUPS programming initiatives, religious education efforts and chapter support.

Musicians include:

Carole Eagleheart has toured for over two decades as a singer, songwriter performing for universities, national demonstrations, women's prisons and UU congregations. She has won international awards in radio and film. Carole is a certified teacher of the Seneca Wolf Clan Teaching Lodge and works to share Native teachings.

Mary Grigolia is a singer-songwriter and an ordained UU minister serving the Oberlin UU Fellowship and Urban Hope UU Congregation in Cleveland. She has a long-standing reputation as a "nature mystic" and has a visible profile in the women's, ministerial, and UU music communities.

John Gilmore is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester, NH and a graduate of Meadville/Lombard. He has become fascinated with using the drum for accompaniment and introducing its use in his congregation's worship services.

Nancy Vedder-Schults is a singer, storyteller, educator, facilitator and ritualist. Her work is rooted in ritual, story and song as well as in feminist theology and scholarship. She is the creator of the popular *Chants for the Queen of Heaven*. Her efforts recently received recognition in the form of a Feminist Theology Award from the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation. Nancy lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

Chris Wagner (Khryso), a folklorist, composer, singer, instrumentalist, experienced professional church musician, and Radical Faerie, is the publisher of the audio cassette album, *I'll Have My Chants This Time A Round* and the author of *A UU Pagan Hymn Sourcebook*.

COVENANT
OF THE
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
PAGANS



Ticket Cost

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 Children over 5 yrs old

**Tickets available at the door or at the
CUUPS information table.**

For more information about CUUPS contact us at:

CUUPS, 8190A Beechmont Ave., #335

Cincinnati, Ohio 45255-3154

Phone: (817)557-3949

Email: CUUPS@aol.com Website: <http://www.cuups.org>



EARTHMAN

DOUG MUDER

The Male Muses

They're long forgotten, really.
They didn't have their sisters' press agents.
The Greeks, who named the gods like Adam
named the animals,
Forgot about them. A great injustice.
But what do you expect from a bunch of men,
And Sappho?

Their sisters, the famous Muses, the ones with names
Were great teasers. Still are.
A hint of laughter from across the bay,
A flash of thighs vanishing beneath the water,
A shade of nipple under diaphanous cloth,
And some unfortunate man's heart would enflame itself
And demand to be poured out in poetry, in song,
in painting.

Longing-that's what they're all about.
The haunting emptiness. The promise.
The burning that maybe someday, somehow,
could be relieved.
For a little while.
And so the poets, the artists, the would-be lovers
Parade their arts like peacocks.
"Look at me. Look at me. I am so talented.
Look at what I will do to win you."

And the girls, the Muses, do they even like poetry?
Who knows? I'm sure they find it amusing.

But the male Muses are quite different.
They like their anonymity, I suppose.
It gives them room to work their magic.
Solitary creatures, attractive, comfortable-not stunning
They like to hang out in beautiful places,
Canyons, mountaintops, waterfalls-that sort of thing,
On days when the weather is perfect.
They want you looking at the scenery.
They're waiting for you there.

They don't do longing. They don't do emptiness.
They come to you at those moments when the
colors are just too bright,
When the crashing water is so loud you can't
hear your own laughter.

They come to you when all your words, all your gestures,
All the things that you do, that people like you do,
Are not enough.
To smile, to say, "Hey, that's good"
Would be a desecration.

The male Muses are about fullness.
You'll know they have come
When you are about to explode from your fullness.
When you have to sing, you have to dance,
You have to do something that you (or people like you)
Couldn't possibly do.
Then you'll know them.

The Art inspired by the male Muses
Comes after the magic moment, not before.
It is not the wooing, it is the Child.
And who can blame the mothers
If they lose themselves in their children?
Who can blame them if the Muse, the man,
Vanishes from memory like the morning mist
In the strength of the summer Sun?

MUSIC REVIEW

JERRIE HILDEBRAND

On the Spring Equinox, I had the delightful opportunity to attend a concert for the world release of "*Goddess Chant: Sacred Pleasure*" by artist and song writer Shawna Carol. It was a snowy New England evening and well worth the hour or so drive to the concert. I find little goddess oriented choral music available that is well done. Shawna has created a brilliant piece of work that as Margot Adler says, "sweeps you away."

While all of the music is thought provoking and engaging, two pieces really stuck out in my mind. The song "*Sacred Pleasure*" was very uplifting and powerfully moving. It brings the Charge of the Star Goddess together with the sensual sounds of music. "*Praise Her*" rocked me, and got the room on their feet dancing, and was sung by Julie Woods. I love good ole' gospel and this song brings home the gospel sound praising women and the goddess. Julie's voice is riveting and as she got going there was no stopping her. At the end folks wanted more and she was gracious to accommodate.

Ms. Carol combined richly intense ritual elements to her concert through the use dancers and ritual theatre. It made for a well rounded event.

You can buy *Goddess Chant: Sacred Pleasure* through Ladyslipper Records, PO Box 3124, Durham, NC 27715 or call 1-800-634-6044 or email at info@ladyslipper.org.

MANY STREAMS, ONE OCEAN: SANTERÍA SUNDAYS

JUDY CRAFT

Mary Ann Clark, a UU graduate student in Religious Studies at Rice University and a Santería initiate, is giving a series of talks about Santería during the EARTH CUUPS chapter's Sunday morning discussion group meetings at First UU Church, Houston, Texas. Three Santería Sundays have been scheduled so far, on January 18, February 15, and March 22. An April talk is being scheduled, and Mary Ann has agreed to lead talks as long as the group is interested.

In the first talk, "Gods in Pots: Santería, an African Religion in the New World," Mary Ann discussed the Yoruban and Nigerian origins of Santería as it is practiced in Cuba; and introduced us to the Orisha, the pantheon of this syncretistic Caribbean religion. The slaves kept their beliefs alive by equating the Orisha, gods and goddesses, with Catholic Saints; and that the church in Cuba encouraged this deliberate syncretism. (This talk helped prepare me for CNN's coverage of the Pope's visit to Cuba.) St. Anthony represents the goddess Eleggua, St. Barbara the god Shango; the practitioners obviously considered gender to be an insignificant attribute. And no, Mary Ann didn't downplay the sacrifice of chickens as food for the Orishas.

I'm looking forward to the February talk, "*Lying on the Altar: Religious Displays as Theological Statements*," because I suspect it will give me new ideas and inspirations for my sacred spaces. When I asked her to do these talks, I hoped that Mary Ann would not only help us expand our study of Earth-based religion, but also might explain to us why she dressed only in

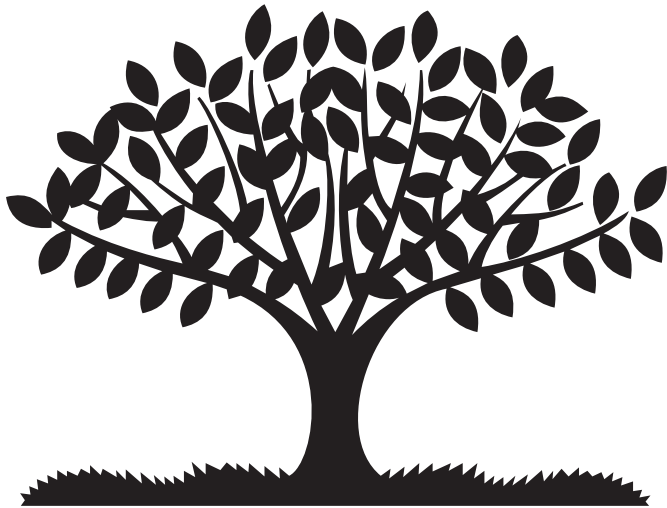
white for an entire year. The March 22nd talk, "*Making Saints: Initiation, Discipline and the Remaking of the Self*" should meet both goals.

When I posted the announcement of Santería Sundays online, I got email from CUUPS member in north Florida asking "How did you get 'Santería Sunday' past the UU?" I was puzzled, as were other EARTH chapter members. I discussed these talks with chapter members and Mary Ann, no one else. Neither our discussion groups nor our rituals are screened by our congregation. Many EARTH members are vegetarians, yet they didn't object to talking about a religion that sacrifices chickens. I agree with my Florida correspondent, that I am much more concerned about the chickens that wind up in the garbage at KFC, killed to be wasted, than I am about chickens sacrificed and then eaten by practitioners of Santería.

The Santería Sunday talks were inspired by a discussion on the cuups-l email list in December, 1997, about whether CUUPS was only eclectic Wicca. Mary Ann developed the series while expanding our exploration of non-Wiccan Earth-based spirituality. Now if only we can find some others to talk about non-European Earth-based spirituality, it would be a lot easier to come up with 52 different discussion topics this year.

Mary Ann's web page, <<http://www.owlnet.rice.edu/~maryc>>, includes "*Cyber Altars, a post-modern Pilgrimage*." I recommend reading "*Santería, La Regla Lucimi and Macumba*," an overview of the Yoruban derived religions of the Western Hemisphere" by the Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance <<http://www.religioustolerance.org/santeri.htm>> for an even-handed approach to Santería.

ad for PanGaia/SageWoman
Magazines



**The Tenth Annual
Covenant of
Unitarian Universalist
Pagans Continental
Festival & Gathering**

**Friday, Sept. 18 to
Sunday, Sept. 20, 1998**

Camp Fontainebleau, LA
(near New Orleans)

**Weaving
an
Institution**

What is Convocation ?

Convocation, or "Convo" as it's often called, is the annual continent-wide gathering for CUUPS. Usually, it has been held near the East or West Coast. This is the first time it has come to either the Mid-South or Southwest Districts of the UUA. There will be rituals, wonderful New Orleans food, workshops, a theme speaker, a few vendors and some free time to make new friends or catch up with some old ones.

Eating & Sleeping?

There will be five meals (dinner Friday to breakfast Sunday) provided by members of First UU Church of New Orleans. Crystal Crescent CUUPS Chapter coordinator JB Gautreaux is coordinating these efforts. On request vegetarian options will be available.

Camp Fontainebleau provides dorm-style sleeping arrangements with air conditioning. You need to provide your own bed linens and pillows.

Our Theme Speaker

This year our theme topic is going to be an unusual one for a Pagan gathering: Institutionalism. What effect is it having on Paganism and UU-Pagans? We'll have an expert on the topic, Dr. Helen Berger, tell us. She is a sociologist and an associate professor with West Chester University in Pennsylvania, and has made a major part of her career studying Pagans. In September 1998, the Univ. of South Carolina Press will be releasing a book she wrote on Wicca & Institutionalism.

Our Workshops

Institutions are not just big brick buildings that people worship in. Our legal system is also an institution. How we relate to it, as members of a minority religion, will be part of a talk given by Jaye Jacobson, Executive Director of the Texas state chapter of the ACLU. (American Civil Liberties Union.)

One of the newest institutions is the Internet. From the start, it has been a hotbed of Pagan activity. Two longtime participants in this are CUUPS Boardmember Stacey Greenstein (aka Uther) who has been editor/compiler of Pagan Digest since 1989 and Donal (aka Bill Smith) who helped create the soc.religion.paganism Usenet newsgroup and also operates Brewich BBS, the largest Pagan-oriented BBS in the South.

New Orleans Voodoo led by The Rev. Melanie Morel Sullivan. Learn about the background of the African-Caribbean-Catholic spirituality that is New Orleans Voodoo, led by the contributor of the section on vodoun in the UUA curricula, *Rise Up e' Call Her Name*. Participants will make voodoo grisgris bags, hear some modern interpretations of New Orleans voodoo chants, and, transportation permitting, travel to visit the tomb of 19th Century voodoo priestess Marie Laveau, where we will perform a ritual.

How CUUPS chapters relate to UU congregations is another institutional concern. Rev. Patrick Price describes the process of covenanting, which UU societies and CUUPS Chapters mutually define their relationship with each other.

Creating Interfaith Dialogue Among Ourselves and Our Communities is an inter-institutional topic that will be covered in a workshop given by CUUPS Newsletter Editor and Board officer Jerrie Hildebrand.

Other workshops are in the works. A final list will come out around Lammas (Aug. 2) and will be distributed to early registrants, so that they can have first choice of any that are limited in number of participants. If you would like to facilitate a workshop please contact the CUUPS Office before July 1st.

So What Are The Kids Doing?

We are planning to provide childcare for children ages 4-15 during the programming periods. Individuals with references who would like to help with childcare can qualify for up to a 50% registration discount. For more information please contact the CUUPS Office.

CUUPS Board Meeting

The CUUPS Board traditionally meets on Friday morning and early afternoon. Our meetings are open to CUUPS members. If you'd like to attend, please contact the CUUPS Office.

CUUPS Raffle

Participants at CUUPS Convo are encouraged to bring one or more items to contribute to a raffle being held to raise money for CUUPS programming. Please also come prepared to buy chances on the nifty items which will be on display.

Rituals

Like most years, there are three main rituals at Convocation. They help provide a balancing counterpoint to all the "intellectual stuff" that goes on in the workshops. Our Opening Ritual will be on Friday after dinner has been cleared. It will include a water sharing ceremony in it, so please bring a small vial of water with you to Convo. This ritual will be conducted by members of the CUUPS Board.

The Main Ritual will be Saturday night and will be conducted in large part by our host chapter, Crystal Crescent CUUPS of New Orleans.

Our closing ritual will occur shortly after Noon on Sunday. The WaterOak Chapter from Spindletop UU Church in Beaumont, TX will us bring closure to the weekend.

Around Camp Fontainebleau

From the time you turn into Fontainebleau's main entrance and begin to drive through dense stands of oak, sweet gum, magnolia, hickory and pine, you'll realize that this park is something special.

The 2700-acre park is located on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. The park's nature trail is a favorite. Signs along the trail will help you to identify many of the common trees and shrubs. Over 400 different species live in and around Fontainebleau. A great variety of habitats is the main reason for this large diversity of animal and plant life.

Prices for CUUPS Member

General Public add \$10/person those lodging offsite may lower their payment by \$10/person

| Reg.before | Adult | Child 4-15 |
|------------|-------|------------|
| May 31 | \$ 99 | \$69 |
| July 31 | \$109 | \$75 |
| Sept 11 | \$119 | \$79 |
| Walk-in | \$139 | \$99 |

Prices include Programming, Food (5 meals) and two nights lodging. Camp Fontainebleau provides dorm-style housing, individuals wishing to camp at the site or lodge offsite can deduct \$10 from their registration.

Convo Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

Email*: _____

UU Church*: _____

2nd Name: _____

3rd Names: _____

4th Names: _____

Ages of children (if present): _____

Special Needs:

Vegetarian food. First floor lodging.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
(US Funds only)

Make checks payable to CUUPS and send to:

CUUPS Convo
8190-A Beechmont #335
Cincinnati, OH 45255-3154

* optional information



8190A Beechmont Avenue #335
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45255-3154
 Phone: 817.557.3949
 Email: CUUPS@aol.com

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FORM

I want to become/remain an active member in CUUPS, Inc. I understand as a active member of CUUPS, Inc., I will receive a minimum of four newsletters per year, a membership packet membership card and mailings regarding upcoming events for CUUPS, Inc.

Please find enclosed my membership fee as checked below. This is in US funds. Canadian or British denominated money orders and paper currency. All personal checks must be in US funds only.

At no time does CUUPS sell or promote the use of the members or subscribers lists for commercial purposes. The use of these lists are for member purposes only and CUUPS related business. To ensure this we are offering three levels of confidentiality, at this time. Please check one.

Level 1

Your name, address and phone number will be available only to the current members of the CUUPS Coordinating Committee, Administrator and their agents.

Level 2

Your name, address and phone number will be available only to the current members of the CUUPS Coordinating Committee, Standing Committee Chairs and Chapter Coordinators in your area.

Level 3

Your name, address and phone number is available to anyone interested in UU Paganism!

_____ Basic Active Membership \$30 (\$C45/21BP)

_____ Basic Active Family membership \$45 (\$C68/31BP)
(Family means any two adults and/ or children at one address)

_____ Full time Student/Financial Hardship \$15 (\$C23/11BP)

_____ Non-member subscriber to the CUUPS Newsletter \$12
 (\$C20/10BP) (\$14 outside US)

_____ New _____ Renewal

I would like to make an additional contribution to CUUPS of:

\$25 \$40 \$75 \$100 \$200 \$ _____

I wish this contribution to be used toward the payment of CUUPS debt.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Email _____



PRODUCT & SUPPLY ORDER FORM

All prices are in US Funds and are postage paid to North American addresses.

8190A Beechmont Avenue #335
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255-3154
Phone: 817.557.3949
Email: CUUPS@aol.com

CUUPS Resources:

- The Well Grounded CUUPS Chapter* - \$5 A short (16pg) booklet on CUUPS Chapters and UU-Paganism based on the experience and opinions of CUUPS Board Emeritus David Burwasser.
- Gift Subscription to CUUPS Newsletter* - \$12 (2 for \$20)

Back issues of Newsletters: (While supply lasts)

- The CUUPS Newsletter -\$2
 - Winter 1996/7
 - Spring 97
 - Late Winter 98
- Pagan NUUS - \$1.00
 - Spring/Summer 1996
 - 9.1 Fall/Winter 1995
 - 8.1 Fall 1994
 - 7.2 Winter/Spring 1994
 - 5.1
 - 4.2
- Summer 97
- Fall 97
- Spring/Beltane 1996
- 8.2 Winter/Spring 1995
- 7.3 Spring/Summer 1994
- 7.1 Fall 1993
- 4.3
- 4.1

T-shirts: Coffee \$15 for med., large & X-large. \$18 for XX-Large

Goddess Cards: Packages of 8 for \$12

Tapes Chants For Celebrating the Earth \$12/\$10

Brochures

- All About CUUPS Chapters*
- Women and Paganism*
- Men and Paganism*
- What is Paganism?*
- Ancient Roots with Modern Branches*
- What is CUUPS?*
- Become an Active Member of CUUPS*
- Celebrating Paganism with Children*
- The Wheel of the Year*

Minimum postal order is \$1. All prices listed here include shipping costs.

- Deluxe Pkg - 100 of all 9 for \$59
- Large Pkg - 50 of all 9 for \$34
- Chapter Pkg - 25 of all 9 for \$19
- Fellowship Pkg - 10 of all 9 for \$9
- Individual panels - \$.10 each (on all quantities of individual pamphlets)

Books

- UU-Pagan Hymnal Sourcebook \$2
- Earth Poems \$12
- Writing the Circle \$12
- Origins of the Sacred \$12
- Walking With Mother Earth \$10
- Gaia and God/ Reuther \$10
- Metamorphosis of Baubo \$12

Bottom for Office use only. Tear-off shipping Label

Order from:

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Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Postal Code _____

Country _____

Number of Items ordered _____

Amount of Order \$ _____

Ohio Residents Add Ohio Sales Tax \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please include fee and mail to the
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8190A Beechmont Avenue #335
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255-3154
Phone: 817.557.3949
Email: CUUPS@aol.com

Ship to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Postal Code _____



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NOTE!

Check out our
website at
www.cuups.org

