



THE CUUPS NEWSLETTER

Spring/Early Summer 99

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*Ancient cultures purposely added mistakes
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!*

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

There You Are...

My father has a strange sense
of humor. When I was growing
up, he used to sing this song
every spring:

"Spring is sprung
And the grass is riz.
I wonder where all
The little birdies is?"

I had no idea what that darned
song meant. It was obvious to
me where the birdies were.
They were out in the yard
pulling up worms in the newly
risen grass. But my father sang
the song anyway. It was a ritual
of spring.

CUUPS seems to be in the
middle of its own spring grow-
ing season. It seems that every
weekend and quite a few
nights I'm on the phone with
someone, somewhere starting a
new chapter. Now, I know that
not all of these proto-chapters
are going to succeed. Not all of
them will even make it to the
stage of being formally recog-
nized by the CUUPS Board.
But it's real nice to know that
folks are out there, truly trying
to understand and deal with
their commitment to earth-cen-
tered spirituality and to
Unitarian Universalism.

The one question that keeps
coming up over and over in
these discussions is how to help
the home congregation under-
stand that the CUUPS folks do
not see themselves as separate
from the congregation, but
want to be an integral part of
the community's common reli-
gious life. The answer to this
question most of the time
(though not always) is educa-
tion: adult RE classes, Sunday
forums, evening workshops,
women's retreats, YRUU
meetings, children's RE, etc.,
etc. If members of the congre-
gation don't understand
Paganism and earth-centered
spirituality, or why it's become
a major part of Unitarian
Universalism, it's very often
because they haven't had any-
one present them with a learn-

ing opportunity.

Most CUUPS chapters come
together so that members can
support one another in their
journey into Paganism and
earth-centered spirituality.
This is a major reason why
chapters exist. But there
should also be a congregation-
focused element in a chapter's
mission. Chapters want to con-
tribute to the common life of
the congregation that nurtures
and supports them. One way
to make that contribution is
through teaching and educa-
tion programs. This means that
CUUPS Continental has the
task of supporting its chapters
and members in their educa-
tional work. In our recent
membership survey, we found
that religious education and
curriculum development for
children and adults was ranked
highest among members' priori-
ties. CUUPS wants to honor
this statement by our members
and is planning to focus many
of its energies on educational
issues, curriculum creation,
and resource development in
the months to come. Our RE
Committee is currently work-
ing with a couple of curricula
in development. At GA, we
will be offering a tape and tran-
script guide called "A Very Brief
Introduction to UU Paganism"
that can be used in adult dis-
cussion groups. We have just
extended a call for papers for a
new CUUPS journal entitled
Sacred Cosmos that will provide
a forum for debate on the
theo/allogical questions posed
by Paganism and earth-cen-
tered spirituality. This edition
of the Newsletter is another
example of how we can help
members learn about the
resources that are available to
them. All of these activities are
centered around the core con-
cept of education and educa-
tional resource development.

With all of the new growth and
development that CUUPS is
experiencing I believe I have a
new song to sing this spring:

"Spring is sprung
And the grass is riz.
Now's the time
For CUUPS teaching biz!"

Blessings!

Joan VanBecelaere
CUUPS President

CUUPS Vice President Report

I've found that Vice President
is not an office that has many
specific responsibilities tied to
it, so I have been busying
myself with various projects.
I'd like to touch on three of
them today.

1. Survey - The last issue of the
newsletter included a survey at
its center. At least 167 of you
filled it out and mailed it in.
Later in this newsletter there
will be an article discussing
some of the results. The actual
totals are available on the www
at [http://members.home.net/
davidpollard/Survey.htm](http://members.home.net/davidpollard/Survey.htm)

2. CUUPS Journal - The
CUUPS Journal now has a
name *Sacred Cosmos: The
CUUPS Journal of Liberal
Religious Paganism*, and a *Call
For Papers* (also in later in this
newsletter). The invitations
have been sent to a group of
potential editors. The summer
issue of the newsletter should
include a listing of who those
editors are.

3. Planned Giving - One key
element in CUUPS longterm
financial stability is to have a
program of Planned Giving, so
that individuals can more easily
make bequests to the organiza-
tion in their wills. If this is
something that you'd like to
help with, either in putting
together the material - or by
actually making CUUPS one
of your beneficiaries, please
drop me a line via the CUUPS
Office.

Blessings!

David Pollard
CUUPS Vice President

Treasurer Report

As of April 26, CUUPS has just over \$4,700 in our checking account, with another \$1,000 in the mail, for a total of approximately \$5,700 in cash assets. Cash flow has been steady and reliable over the last two years, thanks to new members and timely renewals by members and chapters, as well as sales of merchandise and literature. In the last year we became free of any major long-term debts. Hence, we are now able to apply more of our assets to providing better membership services, including our newsletter and new journal and hiring office staff. While our resources are not unlimited, we are in good financial health and in an enviable position relative to most UU affiliates and other Pagan organizations.

After this General Assembly I will be stepping down as your treasurer after two years, but I will remain on the CUUPS Board as a trustee-at-large. It has been a privilege to serve you and a reasonable burden, buoyed by the incomparable team work of our Board Secretaries, David Pollard (past) and Stephen Estes (current), and the financial clerical work of Jerry Wagenman.

My special thanks to our President, Joan Van Beceleare, whose patience, resourcefulness, creativity, and leadership have inspired me in my own ministries and are in great part what has helped CUUPS to be as healthy as it is. Thank you again, and blessed be.

Rev. Patrick Price

Treasurer

From the PR Front...

I have been very busy. First, the survey has shown many of you want to see the website expanded. So in an effort to have this work more effectively, the Executive Committee named Christian Day its

WebTeam Leader. Christian will work with the web team and myself developing and expanding the use of the website. Professionally, his experience with the world of the internet will enable us to keep the professional look and feel in our site along with the experience of the entire team.

Some of the exciting things we will be adding are: a booklist of recommended reading linked directly to Amazon.com; webrings for chapters to link their sites through and possibly one for UU Pagans of all kinds; and a CUUPS chat center.

The arrangement with Amazon offers the opportunity to receive a commission on books sold from our website. This will be an ongoing fundraiser. Thanks to team member Phaedra Oorbeck for all of her dedicated work on the collection of book titles from all of you. She has created the beginnings of a great place to add more books. Phaedra will be our contact person with Amazon. Please feel free to keep sending your book suggestions in.

Thanks to Sonja Coble of the Athens, OH chapter for the suggestion of creating a webring and being our newest WebTeam member. Sonja will be working with us in creating the webring and maintaining it. The webrings will be a special asset to chapters and folks trying to find one near them.

Last, but not least is the accessibility of the site for the blind. We are tagging all visuals and creating the site to be accessible for those without sight.

Besides those additions, we are playing with the look of the site and expanding the navigation to be more user friendly. The entire site has been transferred into programs that will enable editing by the team to be a more shared responsibility. We also welcomed David Pollard to the team. David will

be updating the chapter information more frequently.

Now for the world of advertising...GA advertising has been send out to the program committee and convocation ads have been send to many Pagan publications in exchange for ads about them. We have also returned to the UU *World* with advertising. Our ads will appear in *The World* for the next several issues. We are very excited about this happening. After September, various Pagan publications will continue advertising about CUUPS in a secondary ad they have received.

We have shifted some things with our newsletter also. Chris "Khryss" Wagner has been named the Lead Editor. Khryss's job will be to go over the articles you all send for copyediting, formatting, and review. This will enable the designers and layout folks ease in importing the text to the final format. It also gives another eye on articles selected for publishing in particular issues.

I have also been very busy networking with other Pagan organizations. The gathering and festival season is upon us and several board members will be seen "spreading the word" about UU Paganism. Some of us will also be speaking on topics near and dear to us. I hope to gather a list of those speaking across the country and let you all know in the next newsletter or online. I will be speaking on Earth Religious PR at Rites of Spring in May in western MA. Personally, I find it very exciting that our board is out at gatherings networking and creating dialogue about Unitarian Universalism in the larger Pagan community.

In my networking I have discovered a large number of chapters needing assistance or looking for assistance with public relations in their communi-

ties. Please feel free to contact me via email at kishhilde@earthlink.net. We have lots of resources to support you.

The next newsletter's theme is about *Teaching Earth Religious Ways*. I invite you to get your articles in to me by July 30, 1999. This is a great opportunity for those of you in RE to share your wisdom with us. The topic by the way is not limited to teaching children. Many of us are active in adult curriculums in our congregations too. I invite you to share those tidbits too!

I look forward to seeing many of you at General Assembly!

Brightest Springtime to you!

Jennie Hildebrand

Director of Communications

GA Committee Report...

Salt Lake City is the site of General Assembly this year. We have scheduled the CUUPS Annual Meeting and luncheon address, our ever-popular annual Solstice Celebration, and two wonderful lectures/panel discussions.

CUUPS ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
Friday, June 25, 12:15 p.m.

See CUUPS GA table for location and luncheon cost.

Luncheon Address: Magick & Covenant: A Pagan Perspective On Communitarianism

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Christa Heiden Landon

Magick is usually understood as an individualistic enterprise, focused on self-actualization and independence, like Emerson's "rugged individualist." Yet Pagan cultures both ancient and modern value most community with neighbors and Nature. Covenant is the alchemy harmonizing individualism with institutional life.

Rev. Christa Heiden Landon, D.Min., a Pagan since 1970, came to UUism in 1984 to explore models of community and leadership. A co-founder of CUUPS, she has served on its board. Dr. Landon earned her Master's degree in Comparative Religions at the University of Chicago and her doctorate at Meadville/Lombard, writing the dissertation, *Sacred Cosmos: The Implications of Ancient Pagan Traditions for Modern Liberal Theology*. Since that time, she has done community ministry and served UU congregations as a consultant and an interim minister.

EARTH ETHICS

Speaker: Thandeka
Saturday, June 26 11:00 a.m.
Marriott, Grand Ballroom A

"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" is the most radical principle of our faith. It is also the most sacred. To find out why, we have to talk about Earth Ethics and why it is so hard to practice what we preach.

Thandeka is an Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Meadville/Lombard Theological School. Her new book, *Learning to be White: Money, Race and God in America*, was recently published by Continuum. She is also the author of *The Embodied Self: Friedrich Schleiermacher's Solution to Kant's Problem of the Empirical Self* (1995). A Unitarian Universalist minister and theologian, Thandeka was given her name in 1984 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The name is Xhosa and means "one who is loved by God."

CUUPS SOLSTICE RITUAL

Saturday, June 26, 6:15-7:15 p.m. See CUUPS GA Table for location

CUUPS offers its annual celebration of the mysteries of Life and the ever-renewing turning of the wheel of the year. All are invited to participate in this very experiential worship event.

PAGANISM AND HUMANISM: CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?

Monday, June 28 11:00 a.m.
Salt Palace, Room 250B
Speakers:

Rev. Kendyl Gibbons
Rev. Patrick Price
Rev. Stefan Jonasson
Joan Van Becelaere
Phaedra Oorbeck
(moderator)

Among the various theological perspectives found in the UU family, it is often thought that Humanism and Earth-Centered Spirituality or Paganism have the least in common. This panel will explore the perceptions surrounding this issue.

The Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons is a lifelong UU, and a 1980 graduate of Meadville/Lombard Theological School. After 15 years at the DuPage UU Church in Naperville, Illinois, she is now serving as the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Meadville/Lombard, where she teaches Worship and Liturgical Arts.

Since graduating from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in 1995, the Rev. Patrick Price has been the settled minister of the theologically diverse UU Fellowship of Columbia, SC, where he is involved in community inter/multi-faith efforts. Currently serving as Treasurer for the continental CUUPS, Rev. Price has been involved with contemporary

Paganism since 1986, helping to start several organizations, including the Pagan Community Council of Ohio, and the Dayton, OH CUUPS chapter.

The Rev. Stefan M. Jonasson has been the UUA District Executive for Western Canada since 1991. Since March 1999 he has also been the UUA Coordinator of Services to Large Congregations. He is also the Secretary for the Friends of Religious Humanism, a graduate of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Winnipeg, and recipient of the Governor-General of Canada's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence.

Joan Van Becelaere is President of CUUPS, a candidate for UU community ministry, and the Coordinator of Academic Administration at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. She has an M.Div. from Iliff (1982) and a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) from the University of Colorado-Denver (1994). She is currently a doctoral student at Iliff in the area of Religion and Social Change. She has spent nine years in international education, including teaching experience in mainland China, and thirteen years in higher education administration.

Phaedra Oorbeck, teacher, writer and ritualist, is active in Unitarian Universalist and Neo-Pagan communities locally, regionally and nationally. Currently a member of CUUPS' Board of Trustees, from 1986-1990 Phaedra was instrumental in the formation of Panthea UU Fellowship, the first Pagan congregation to join the UUA. Today she is a member of All Souls

Welcoming Congregation, an intentionally-welcoming UU community in Kernersville, NC. Phaedra is an initiate of several Western Esoteric traditions and is pursuing graduate work in Religious Studies.

Convo 99 in Historic Salem, MA...

The location of Convocation has changed. After reviewing Star Island's conditions of satisfaction and contract, the board of CUUPS voted to not have it there. After much discussion on what to do next someone jokingly said...why not Salem! After catching my breath and composure I thought...well okay!

They decided a fun thing to do might be to try a urban conference. So we decided that bringing the conference to Salem, MA with a theme of "Celebrating Interfaith Diversity" was an appropriate venue.

An urban conference in the Northeast where many of you reside allows us to open convo up to more people. We can keep it more economical for those who can commute to the conference daily and utilize the churches in the area for meeting space. Salem is also steeped in history about the Witch Trials of 1692. This offers us some unique opportunities to learn lessons of honoring diversity and tolerance.

Our keynote presenters currently are:

Andras Corban Arthen has represented Pagan traditions at the United Nations and was one of the major presenters at the second centennial Parliament of the World's Religions. Andras has been featured in a variety of books and in the award-winning television program *Smithsonian World*.

Deirdre Pulgram Arthen is co-director of the EarthSpirit Community and will attend

Parliament of World Religions in South Africa this year. She has been a witch, priestess, and counselor for many years. She loves music, children, dancing and walking in the woods.

Phyllis Currott is president emerita of Covenant of the Goddess and was recently voted one of the top ten gutsiest women in the US by Hillary Clinton for *Jane Magazine*. She is also a Minoan priestess, practicing attorney, and author of the newly released book called, *Book of Shadows*.

Mz. Imani Buchanan is a drummer, songwriter, and teacher from Maryland. She is a member of *Circle, Skin and Bones*, which will be performing at Convo.

Lord Orion Foxwood is founder of the Foxwood Temple in Maryland, and teacher of Faery Seership and the Old Religion.

Ellen Evert Hopman is a Master Herbalist and lay Homeopath with an M.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling. She was vice president of The Henge Of Keltria, a Druid fellowship, for nine years, and is a professional member of the American Herbalist's Guild.

M. Macha NightMare, editor and co-author of *The Pagan Book of Living and Dying*, is a Pagan organizer, Priestess and Witch, and writer. A member of the Reclaiming Collective for 17 years, she is the National First Officer for the Covenant of the Goddess.

See our registration information and form in this issue of the newsletter for more information. Register Early! Hotel rooms within city limits are limited. Home hospitality for the weekend - please let us know if you can help. See you at Convo 99.

Regards,

Jennie Hildebrand

Convo 99 Chair

Late Summer/Early Fall Announcements...

If your congregation or chapter is planning earth religious programming open to the public let us know by the next newsletter deadline. We would love to publish them but need advance notice.

Access Committee Report

The Access Committee has identified the following areas:

- vision impaired
- hearing impaired
- mobility impaired (slow-walker or wheelchair user)
- dietary restricted

as issues that need to be addressed to insure a welcoming atmosphere at CUUPS events and gatherings.

For the next two to three years, we wish to work quietly at integrating an awareness of access issues into all CUUPS functions, the "big ticket" items being GA programming and Convo. Our goal is to discover how to provide access service and to be ready with full support services if we are given advance notice, but to avoid wasting money on access support that ends up not being needed.

In addition, the Accessibility Committee is developing a resource pamphlet for conference and ritual organizers on how to make rituals and CUUPS gatherings in general more welcoming to those with accessibility issues.

Anecdotal stories say that many of the "big festival" events are not access-friendly. Within three years, we should have the infrastructure, the knowledge, and the standing to make a major push within the wider Pagan community, saying that our Convo's are among the most access-friendly around. Spending money on advertising specifically target-

ed toward disabled individuals, combined with a three-year track record proving that we know what we're doing, should draw in new members not only for Convo, but for CUUPS itself.

Benjamin Craft-Rendon
Notelrac Starchasm

Accessibility Committee

Nominating Committee Report

Margot Adler resigned from the nominating committee on March 22, 1999 and was replaced by Rev. Eva Ceskava on April 5, 1999.

Six candidates have volunteered to run for the three three-year term positions opened this year:

Benjamin Craft-Rendon
5800 Hollister #2004
Houston, TX 77040
(713) 895-8713
aiglos@yahoo.com

Rev. John Gilmore
669 Union St.
Manchester, NH 03104-4238
(603) 635-6854
ljwgil@bit-net.com

Carl Hommel (Notelrac Starchasm)
PO Box 872
Townsend, MA 01469
(978) 597-6148
notelrac@notelrac.com

David Huffman
1509 Fairview
Houston, TX 77006
(713) 522-2309
odorless@earthlink.net

Phaedra Oorbeck
47-B Woodbine St.
Kernersville, NC 27284-2909
(336) 992-1231
POCUUPS@aol.com

Chris Wagner (Khryssos)
PO Box 12185
Berkeley, CA 94712-3185
(510) 236-5071
khryssos@lmi.net

Nominations are still open until closed by vote of the membership at the annual

meeting. A candidate must be over 21 years old and a member in good standing six months prior to the election. Candidates may be nominated by the nominating committee, two thirds of the board, or any 13 members, from the floor or by petition. The election will be by mail ballot due as determined by the annual meeting, and a voter guide will accompany the ballot.

The nominating committee is also soliciting candidates for the next nominating committee and for the next polling committee. Suggestions for these committees may be sent to Judy Kay Craft, 1922 Shadow Bend, Houston, TX 77043, (713) 647-8210, <craft-works@worldnet.att.net>.

Judy Kay Craft,

Chair, Nominating Committee

Upcoming Newsletter Themes & Deadlines...

The following are deadlines for the 1999 series of newsletters for CUUPS.

September 1999 - Deadline July 30/Basic Theme: *Teaching Earth Religious Ways*

December 1999 - Deadline October 30/Basic Theme: *Rituals in Everyday Living*

February 2000 - Deadline December 31, 1999/Theme: *Earth Religious Freedom Activism & Social Action*

Please send articles via email to kishhilde@earthlink.net or by postal mail on disk to me at First Universalist Society, 211 Bridge Street, Salem, MA 01970. If you cannot put them on a disk please type them double spaced, so we can scan them more accurately.

Brightest blessings to you all!

Jennie Hildebrand

The CUUPS Newsletter Publisher

In This Newsletter Issue...

This newsletter issue contains many book and music reviews. These reviews were contributed by many members around the country.

I would like to thank you to these people who took the time out to send us a review. Their participation has made producing this issue a pleasure to work on.

Jennie Hildebrand

The CUUPS Newsletter Publisher

New Pagan Family Newsletter

The first issue of *The Blessed Bee*, a new hard-copy-only, pay-for newsletter by the publisher of SageWoman and PanGaia magazines, is scheduled for distribution in May 1999.

The quarterly magazine's editor, CUUPS member Lauren Foster-MacLeod, says that its aim is "to provide the information Pagan families want and need while providing a networking forum."

Content will include letters from readers, activities, crafts and rituals to do, EarthMother stories with a coloring page, herbcraft, eco-responsibility and nature, magical parenting, a kids' guest column, poetry, chants, songs and dances, and reviews on books, recordings, films, tools, and web sites.

Foster-MacLeod is soliciting submissions of all of the above kinds of articles. Inquiries and contributions should be directed to Lauren Foster-MacLeod by e-mail at <dz031@freenet.carleton.ca>, by phone at (613) 728-1916, or by post at 236 Clare St./Ottawa, Ontario/K1Z 7C9 CANADA.

The price of a one-year subscription (four issues) is \$13.00 (US).

For a free sample issue or for subscription information, e-mail <sample@blessedbee.com>, call (707) 882-2052, or write to The Blessed Bee/P.O. Box 641/Point Arena, CA 95468.

CLAIMING OUR VOICE

BY ELIZABETH FISHER

At Samhain, as I was moving in a spiral dance of 1400 people led by the famous witch Starhawk, her ceremonial staff extended above her to guide us, I realized that neo-Paganism in all its manifestations is coming into broader visible form. When Starhawk first saw all those attending, she told us she wasn't sure a spiral dance of so many could happen in physical time or space. She warned us that we might have to settle for a sacred visualization.

Yet it happened. We all managed to move gracefully among one another, looking into each other's eyes one by one, individuals linked in a communal flow of energy. Following the dance, Starhawk told us her personal lesson for the new year: we can manifest what seems impossible. This lesson was not lost on me, especially as it relates to our efforts within Unitarian Universalism to deeply covenant through our Unitarian Universalist Principles with others of varying thea/ological perspectives in a community of shared values.

The first phase of the *Fulfilling the Promise* process was a denomination-wide survey designed to glean what we prefer as individual UU's. In response to the question "*which (label) best describes your theological perspective,*" Earth/nature centered scored the second highest with 19%. Mystic was also a category, scoring 6%. (Humanist was the highest with 46%; Theist, 13%; Christian, 9.5%; Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu and Moslem together for a total of 5.4%; and Other 13%.) The second phase of the process, to begin this fall, suggests a series of conversations and activities in local churches, fellowships and societies focused on exploring ways to transform our institutional life into what we most want from a religious organization.

The word "*covenant*" is prominent in this UU thea/ological conversation. Covenanting is commonly defined as the making of a promise. It implies a coming together in love and mutual respect. At the annual General Assembly in June, Rev. Rebecca Parker, President of Starr King School, gave a major address on covenant. Rev. Clark Olsen, a member of the Fulfilling the Promise Committee, also mentioned the importance of covenanting in his review of the survey.

Rebecca's talk is available from Starr King School of the Ministry in Berkeley, California. I recommend requesting a copy and reading it. Clark's talk is included in the *Fulfilling the Promise* booklet available from the UUA Bookstore in Boston. This booklet includes the results of the survey, information about the process, and an address by Robert Bellah exploring the interrelationship between individualism and institutionalism, also worthwhile reading. (See below for ordering information.)

This organization of UU Pagans embraces the word "*covenant*," featuring it in our name. "*Covenant*" also sounds a lot like "*coven*" to me. The discussion of whether the support and bonding we experience in covens, which are intimate and personal communities, can be extended to larger groups like churches, associations and civic communities is one we have recently taken up in CUUPS chats, both on-line and off. We are asking, plainly, "*Can the larger UU community covenant?*"

I would suggest that being in a coven is a frame of mind more than participation in a closed, small group. As Pagans, we value both individuality and community in profound ways. Because of this commitment and understanding, we can add much to this conversation in the larger UU context. I sense that our ways of conceptualizing our deepest spiritual yearnings as well as our practices can serve as examples to others who come to UU churches seeking just what we hold dear.

My contact with others within our midst who prefer forms of liturgy and expression different from my own choices tells me that when we communicate about why we prefer

certain symbols and forms, we uncover shared values that can form the basis of authentic covenant. Though we may not be moved by certain practices and constructs, we may come to appreciate exposure to a diversity of thea/ological expressions, without sacrificing that which most inspires us. In other words, by sharing, we expand rather than diminish.

If we can begin to speak to one another about what motivates us to act, this experiment of coming together within a diverse thea/ological framework could really take off . . . for both our benefit and that of the denomination. Among our best tools are education through personal sharing, study and reflection; practice of our values in service to others; and facilitation of meaningful forms of worship that communicate the most important of our values and emotions. We should make full use of these.

Recently I participated in a district panel on thea/ological diversity within our movement. Four speakers, all lay people, representing earth-based (me), Humanist, Christian, and Theist perspectives addressed how our religious perspectives inform our lives and actions in the world. The overlap among us was instructive. The affinity we all felt for one another's perspectives was revealing. The response from those attending was encouraging. I personally learned a lot.

While many noted the tension and even hostility sometimes felt in congregations around theological diversity, communication about varying perspectives showed itself to be an important step in finding ways to genuinely covenant together. Many agreed that local presentations and panels would be the most effective ways to begin the sharing. These district panel presentations, which can provide inspiration and a model for others, have been published by the Pacific Central District and are available from the district office in Oakland, Ca. (See below for ordering information.)

The denominational survey shows, then, that we Pagans are in the mainstream of UUism, not on the fringe. The history of both Unitarianism and Universalism supports strong ties to earth-centered spiritual perspectives. There is hope that we who often feel persecuted, not only historically but also in the contemporary rhetoric of religious revivals and talk shows, will be able to find others of like mind, though perhaps of varied personal practice, within our UU churches. As UU Pagans we are entitled—and, more importantly, called—to be part of these local *Fulfilling the Promise* conversations. Whenever possible, we should do just that. This is an excellent opportunity to make ourselves known by engaging with others in our churches who may have no knowledge of what we actually believe, how we practice, and what rich resources for satisfying spiritual journeying we have to offer.

*Elizabeth Fisher, a member of CUUPS since its founding and a UU for 16 years, is author of the widely used earth-based curriculum, **Rise Up and Call Her Name: a Woman-honoring Journey into Global Earth-based Spiritualities**, which was published by the UU Women's Federation and is available from Liz. To order by mail, write to her at 557 Mount Street/Richmond, California, 94805; e-mail: <lizfisher@igc.org>; or call 510-548-1619.*

*For the **Panel on Theological Diversity** booklet, mail \$5.00 (US) to: UUA Pacific Central District/6556 Telegraph Ave., Suite C-102/Oakland, California 94609; e-mail: uuapcd@aol.com; or call 510-601-1457.*

For Rebecca Parker's GA sermon, call Starr King School for the Ministry at 510-845-6252.

*For the **Fulfilling the Promise** booklet, call the UUA Bookstore at 617-742-2100, x102.*



Artwork © 1999 Lauren Foster MacLeod

PRIESTESS.

If you are called to be a priestess, do not rejoice. You must first undertake a long and arduous training. Some of it will be very painful. You will probably never see your greatest teachers. You will be alone when you most need help. You must learn to be strong in your times of greatest weakness. You must always feel the pain to reach the understanding and the acceptance. And in the end you will have gained knowledge which you can never pass on. You will be alone at your time of greatest power, and no one will ever know. The lessons never end, even when life ends. Do not choose this Path lightly. You must turn and look at it, and know what is to come, and you must accept it because, for you, there is no other way. But if you are called, and choose knowingly, then every lesson will be within your grasp. You will never face hardship you cannot overcome. There will always be help when you need it. You will find strength when you are weak. And pain, you will come to find, is the terrible gift from the great teacher. If you can still laugh at yourself, and rejoice, then life goes on as it should.

By: Rainbow Jo (Jo Waterworth) from Priestess, Unique Publications, Glastonbury, 1987.

TWO OLDIES-BUT-GOODIES

BOTH REVIEWED BY LAUREN FOSTER-MACLEOD

Wheel of the Year: Living the Magical Life (Llewellyn, 1989, \$13.00 US)

Ancient Ways: Reclaiming Pagan Traditions (Llewellyn, 1992, \$15.00 US)

both written by Pauline Campanelli and illustrated by Dan Campanelli

Even if I hadn't told you, you would know to look at their well-worn spines that these books have been most helpful to me over the years.

Written by the same author, Pauline Campanelli, these charming and fact-filled books complement each other and leave my shelf repeatedly: when I am researching a topic, planning a ritual, or just wanting an enjoyable read.

Wheel of the Year, published in 1989, is set up month by month, starting with December. Each chapter (month) runs about ten to 15 pages (large pages—the books are each 10" by 7"), the highlights being listed in the Table of Contents at the front of the book. There is a delightful mix of lore and interesting background to the wealth of information, such as seasonal foods, symbols, ritual, magical crafts and myths.

Dan Campanelli's beautiful illustrations, charts and photos add visual emphasis to such activities as How to Make a Magical Yule Log, making Pysanky eggs, bringing in the Corn Mother, and Ritual Masking.

Pauline and Dan have practiced the Craft for over thirty years, and live on an 18th-century homestead, called "Flying Witch Farm," in western New Jersey. They share their love of collecting old cauldrons and vintage Halloween decorations and gathering magical woods in March to use in the Beltane fire. They truly live a magical life and are in tune with the passing seasons.

Ancient Ways was published in 1992 and has the same look and layout as *Wheel of the Year*, but each of the eight chapters is named for one of the eight sabbats. There is an overlap with material found in the first book, but also a lot of different information as well—I wouldn't want to part with either book and usually use them together.

The first chapter, "Imbolc", is 25 pages long and contains detailed information on seasonal household activities. Some of these are preparing herbs, dyeing yarn, the special power of magic involving balance and power, uniting opposites, charging a charm or amulet with the energies of the Sun and the Moon and making a pouch to keep it in, weaving corn dollies, and making Bride's Bed.

Pauline includes lore and stories appropriate to the season, and the recipes she includes all tie into tradition and magic that is best done at particular times of the year.

Although neither book has an alphabetical index at the back, which I always like, the Contents page at the front of each book is fairly thorough, and leafing through the pages of either book is always a joy.



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Lauren Foster MacLeod

SONGBOOKS FOR PAGANS

BY SUSAN M. SHAW

Many years ago I began collecting the words to songs and chants. I wrote to composers and got permission to reprint the collection for use by the Susan B. Anthony Transcendentalists (SBAT) chapter of CUUPS. I thought about expanding the project, looking for the actual music, and publishing the collection, but it was much more work than I wanted to undertake at the time. Luckily, Pagan singers didn't have to wait for my efforts to enjoy collections of songs appropriate for rituals and celebrations.

Circle of Song: Songs, Chants, and Dances For Ritual and Celebration, compiled by Kate Marks, was published in 1993, ISBN 0-9637489-0-4, \$17.95*. Circle of Song contains over 300 songs and chants from many traditions around the world and instructions for 40 dances. It also has rituals and meditations plus guidelines for individuals or groups interested in creating their own.

Songs for Earthlings: A Green Spirituality Songbook, compiled by Julie Forest Middleton, was published in 1998, ISBN 0-9663715-2-6, \$27.00. *Songs for Earthlings* has 430 songs, chants and rounds. It includes Julie's "How to Read Music in Nine Concentrated Lessons" plus poetry, art, quotes, and mandalas to color. If you plan to get only one songbook, invest in this one.

Fire Within and **A Circle is Cast** are two companion songbooks for Libana's recordings. In addition to the music and lyrics for the songs, translations are given when the words are not in English. Many songs also have brief notations about the composers and the origins of the songs. Both songbooks can be ordered through Ladyslipper, Inc. at PO Box 3124, Durham, NC 27715 or at www.ladyslipper.org.

There are also songbooks devoted to the works of individual composers. Here are just a few to spur you on to find more:

Children of the Earth: A God and Goddess Song Celebration for Pagan Families was written and illustrated by Laura Northwood, published in 1997, \$12.00. This collection of 50 songs is such a delight I can't begin to cover all of it. Laura has a companion cassette, \$10.00, that features 20 of the songs from the songbook. I hope a sample of just one lyric from one of the songs will entice you to treat yourself, and any children you know, to the joys of Pagan family songs. From "*The Goddess Loves Me Dirty*": (Parents' verse): "*Your body is a temple where sacred spirits dwell; so get yourself into that tub and scrub the temple well.*" (Child's chorus): "*You said the Earth is sacred, and that's what's on my skin. The Goddess loves me dirty, so I'm not gettin' in!*" Make checks payable to Laura Northwood and mail with \$1.50 for shipping to 138 Russell Road, W. Newton, MA 02165-1113 or send e-mail inquiries to DanceWitch@juno.com.

A Bard's Book of Pagan Songs includes stories and music from the Celtic world by Hugin the Bard, published in 1996, ISBN 1-56718-603-3, \$14.95. This book has over 50 songs, most of them original works. Included are songs inspired by the Mabinogion, The Wheel of the Year, and life in general. One of the songs that displays this bard's talent to entertain as well as instruct is "*The Walrus and the Lizard*." The namesakes of the song fall in love and wish to wed but are turned away by a Weasel Preacher with the message "*It is sinful that the two of you should bed.*" Woodland Hare directs the pair to Robin, a Priestly Bird who performs the wedding. From highly reverent to mirth-filled lyrics, all hand-lettered by Hugin the Bard, this book is worth finding and adding to your repertoire.

Speak to the Earth is a collection of songs by Carole (Etzler) Eagleheart and Bren Chambers, published in 1991, \$4.95. The eight songs in this book include "*Speak to the Earth*," "*Cup of the Moon*," and "*Chant for Mother Earth*." Carole and Bren, who no longer collaborate, have at least one other songbook together, *Take Up the Song*, with another eight songs, four of which would be especially lovely for women's spirituality groups. For more information, you can contact Carole at 1180 VT Route 22A, Bridport, VT 05734 or at ceagle4@aol.com.

*All dollar amounts are US currency.



THE EXISTENTIAL PAGAN: ON FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

BY REL DAVIS

REVIEWED BY JOAN VANBECELAERE

It is very rare that I can say, with all honesty, that I have been impressed by a book on Paganism. Let's be real. There are an awful lot of volumes out there devoted to "Buffy Wicca." But in the case of *The Existential Pagan*, I was truly taken by the breadth and the genuine thoughtfulness that went into this collection of essays and sermons written from a Unitarian Universalist Pagan point of view. There were relatively few places where my internal bull**** alarm sounded. (As one who hangs around the academic world, I have had to develop a rather sophisticated bull**** alarm. It's a matter of survival.) Yes, there are a few "ouchy" places and other times when he seems to credit the Wiccan foundational myths with a lot more credulity than may be logically warranted. But there aren't as many of these instances as I usually find when reading Pagan literature. (I still cringe at the memory of one author, who shall remain nameless, who wrote rapturously about the ancient Celtic/Irish potato goddess.)

The author, Rel Davis, spent a number of years in local pastoral leadership at the Unitarian Fellowship of Hollywood, FL. He is a former newspaper editor and has a background in writing science fiction short stories. He is also editor of a quarterly newsletter known as *Old Time Religion*. His commercial writing background shows in this collection of essays which, for the most part, are quite well written.

Many of the essays are great discussion starters even if one doesn't buy everything said in a particular argument. There is an essay on assumptions that had some questionable historical bits but overall is a wonderful reminder that we sometimes have to let go of our preconceived ideas about the Divine in order to truly find the Divine. (Or, as Howard Thurman would say, we have to let go of God to find God.)

The essay on the Burning Times presents an interesting perspective on the topic. He relates the lessons of the Burning Times to the fact that there are people all over the world dying because of their beliefs and their religious commitments. He asks us also to remember the Inquisitor, the intolerant one, found at some level inside all of us. The lesson of the Burning Times is that we must also root out our own anti-pluralistic and intolerant attitudes.

At the same time, he includes the rather discredited concept that the folk killed in the Burning Times were actually old remnants of a Europe-wide Pagan religion—the old religion à la Margaret Murray's theory of the witch cult in Europe. He further adds that these old European folk maintained a whole set of modern Pagan and Wiccan beliefs, such as the Wiccan Rede, Rule of Three, etc.

Most scholarship doubts that the women murdered in the Inquisition actually held recognizable Pagan beliefs as we would know them. For the most part, they considered themselves good Christian women with just a few folk medicine practices. It's more likely that they were killed as part of the ongoing consolidation of patriarchy's control over women. But still, the article is a great conversation starter no matter what your position on this argument.

The articles on deep ecology and biological cooperation are easy to grasp, and the essay on overpopulation would be a great group discussion starter for adult Religious Education. There is an essay on Hecate that has a few points where I would question his reading of mythology. (It might also have been a question of editing.) But overall, the essay has a great lesson. I also loved his paean for the White Lady—except for the part where he mentions the Seven Riders of the Apocalypse. (There are only four in the Bible.)



Lady Letter

The Voice of Ardantane

Lady Letter is a journal for Wiccan priestesses and priests, published quarterly. It is filled with thought-provoking articles, useful tools for coven leadership, seasonal resources, ritual helps, humor and more. Also featured are updates on the project to create Ardantane Wiccan seminary. Subscriptions are \$13 per year: make your check payable to Our Lady of the Woods, POB 1107, Los Alamos NM 87544.

AN TRÍBHÍS mhÓR

A Quarterly Journal
of Celtic Spirituality



One Year Subscription: \$16
(made payable to IMBAS)

An Tríbhís Mhór
1412 SW 102nd St #139
Seattle WA USA
98146-3770

The second half of the book is devoted to essays that exhibit a blending of existentialism, science, and the Pagan world view. For the most part, I found it very interesting. I'd love to sit down and argue existentialism with the author on some snowy winter's eve. I've always found Sartre and science an interesting duo. Add in the Paganism and you've got several nights' worth of discussion.

Unfortunately, there are some points where the science just doesn't quite make the grade. In one essay, he cites a study in which inmates of a Texas state-run mental health facility had an abnormally low rate of cancer-caused deaths. His conclusion is that mentally deficient folk didn't get cancer because they couldn't understand the concept of the disease.

But statistics show that cancer mortality is heavily weighted toward the elderly. It is more than likely that the inmates had low cancer mortality because folk in mental health facilities tend to have multiple chronic health problems and rarely live long enough to develop cancer. But I won't hold this against the book too much because the essay still presented a great jumping-off point for discussion about the nature of the mind/body connection.

Overall, I found that the book contains some good essays and some excellent essays that would work very well in introducing adults to the Pagan perspective, especially UU adults. Those looking for introductory material for adult Religious Education classes would find this a good resource that is well worth the modest price.

The Existential Pagan by Rel Davis, \$18.95 US (postage paid), 2-6 copies \$15.95 US each (postage paid) Old Time Religion, Inc., P.O. Box 221241, Hollywood, FL 33022-1241

GODDESS MEDITATIONS

REVIEWED BY CHARLENE POLONSKI

Goddess Meditations by Barbara Ardinger, Ph.D., \$17.95 US
Llewlynn Publications, St. Paul, MN 555164-0383

For those who might be just starting out on a path connecting with Goddess energies, there now exists a book titled *Goddess Meditations*. Those already doing this work and could use a little jump-start in the visualization department, will find this book chock full of creativity.

It explains the basics of various types of meditations and visualizations bringing together ritual, and setting up deity-specific altars for meditation work. These can be transformational, whether used alone or within a group. They are certain to provoke a certain amount of musing in the work that one does personally or together with others. Each meditation is informative and has the ability to teach us how to become more aware of who each of us is; who each of us wants to be; and where we want to go in our lives.

I recommend having a friend or loved one read these to you or tape record each one to listen to if you work alone. In a group, an individual can read it to the participants. Either way, an understanding of various aspects of feminine spirituality will surface.

The meditations touch on working with the chakra systems and goddesses as a way to get more in touch with our inner knowings and feelings. For those who do not work with male deity, the author has changed the traditional Kabbalistic middle pillar meditation to tone the names of goddesses instead of gods.

The book will stir curiosity and a thirst for knowledge introducing many diverse traditions and pantheons. It gives us historical information about the use of the goddesses, as well as psychological and magical connections.

There are many references to other authors and books to read if you are interested in more in-depth information. Captured within the pages I found much wisdom, creativity, and even a bit of unconventional and unexpected information. With insight and humor this book contains a wealth of information, suggestions and inspirations to give you an experience of Her first hand.

Peace Between Us 'Til We Meet Again

©1997 Patti Nelson
air: GOD BE WITH YOU
(Protestant hymn) by William G. Tomer, 1880 (public domain)

Peace between us 'til we meet again,
May the Lady's light enfold you.
May the Horned One uphold you.
Peace between us 'til we meet again.

(Chorus)
Merry Meet, Merry Meet,
'Til the Circle once more is complete.
Merry Meet, Merry Meet,
Peace between us 'til we meet again.

Peace between us 'til we meet again,
Take the seeds of joy and laughter,
Sweet the harvest that comes after.
Peace between us 'til we meet again.
(Chorus)

Peace between us 'til we meet again.
Magick shared is magick stronger.
A torch is passed and it burns longer.
Peace between us 'til we meet again.
(Chorus)

A Prayer

© Keisha 1998

Gracious Spirit, We come to you as a
Mother, as a Father, as a Friend.
Each of us are blessed in so many
ways. We forget to acknowledge this.
We often forget or take for granted
that which we are blessed with.

We forget to tell those we care for
that we love them. We have walked
past the beggar in the street offering
not even a hello. We have scoffed at
those different from us. We ask that
you remind us that we are not alone
in the world.

May we care for those who are sick
and need to know they are loved
among us. May we embrace the
many differences we share that
weave us into the colorful tapestry of
humanity. May we support those
fighting to hold onto simple human
dignity. Gracious Spirit, remind us of
the abundance of our lives.

Remind us when we hear the child's
laughter, Remind us when we look in
the elder person's face. Remind us of
the beauty of the day. Remind us,
Spirit. Remind us. And now in the
silence listen for the reminders and
the power to heal and transform
within. So mote it be...Amen.

Welcome to Ferry Beach!

Ferry Beach Park Association (FBPA) is a UU Conference Center on Saco Bay in Saco, Maine. Its buildings face the Atlantic ocean and its campground, just across the street, nestles in a forest of tall pines.

FBPA welcome all comers to its conferences and as vacationers. The conference description below is one example of the 28 conferences that FBPA offers between June 25 and Labor Day.

For additional information on this or other FB conferences and to see what FB looks like, visit their website at <www.ferrybeach.org> or e-mail them at <ferrybeach@ferrybeach.org>. Their postal address is FBPA/5 Morris Avenue/Saco, ME 04072/ (207) 282-4489.

July 17 to 23

Women of the Circle: Roots & Rebirth (enrollment limited to 24 women)

This conference is offered to women wishing to explore and deepen their spiritual connections to the divine feminine, while honoring many earth-based spiritual paths. In the past, this conference included many pagan traditions and more recently focused exclusively on the Shamanic and Wiccan paths.

Our intent this year is to return to our roots (both our own and those of this ongoing circle) in a way that is inclusive, welcoming, and engaging for all who choose to participate in an exploration of earth-based spiritualities and pagan ways. Our plan is to engage in an intentional process of cleansing, healing, and rebirth. We will explore old and new sacred paths and introduce experiences which enrich and deepen our spiritual understanding. We will rebirth and re-root ourselves in what we treasure from the past and what we wish to create now.

We will continue the tradition of ritual, magic and creative expression through song, art, music and movement. We will meet together each morning after chapel for facilitator-guided sessions. Afternoons are a time to relax and enjoy the many amenities of Ferry Beach, and our evenings will have various group

WITH HEAD AND HEART: THE WRITINGS OF A NEARLY FORGOTTEN MYSTIC AND PROPHET

REVIEWED BY JOAN VANBECELAERE

I have fallen helplessly and deeply in love these past few months. No, my dear spouse of 10 years has nothing to worry about. The object of my affection, or rather, my new conversation partner in my ongoing exploration of life, has been dead for over 18 years.

This long-departed but recently discovered partner was a creation-centered poet, a ritualist, a panentheistic theologian, a caring pastor, a lover of life in all its forms, a mystic, and a social prophet. He wrote things like:

“Look well to the growing edge. All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor . . . The birth of the child—life’s most dramatic answer to death—this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!”

While one has to overlook his unfortunately sexist language (most of his work was written in the 1940s-1960s), his deep experience of the divinity pervading all creation sounds beautifully familiar to the modern UU Pagan ear.

“As a child, the boundaries of my life of my life spilled over in to the mystery of the ocean and the wonder of the dark nights and the wooing of the wind until the breath of Nature and my own breath seemed to be one—it was resonant to the tonality of God. This was part of my cosmic religious experience as I grew up.”

“The ocean at night gave me a sense of timelessness, of existing beyond the reach of the ebb and flow of circumstances. Death would be a minor thing, I felt, in the sweep of that natural embrace . . . I felt rooted in life, in nature, in existence.”

“Man cannot long separate himself from nature without withering as a cut rose in a vase. One of the deceptive aspects of mind in man is to give him the illusion of being distinct from and over against but not a part of nature. It is but a single leap thus to regard nature as being so completely other than himself that he may exploit it, plunder it, and rape it with impunity.”

The name of this mystic poet and prophet was Howard Thurman, founding pastor of the Church of the Fellowship of All Peoples (1941) in San Francisco, Dean of the Chapel at Howard University and, later, at Boston University. I met him this winter while reading his books *Meditations of the Heart*, *The Search for Common Ground*, and *With Head and Heart*.

Thurman drew inspiration from a variety of scriptures and religious traditions, believing that “*what is true in any religion is in the religion because it is true; it is not true because it is in the religion.*” In the 1940’s, the Church of the Fellowship of All Peoples was home to a collection of liberal Christians, Jews, Buddhists and more than a few Unitarians and Universalists. It was also a truly inter-racial and inter-cultural congregation. Thurman himself was an African American and the grandson of former slaves.

As a worship leader and ritualist, Thurman creatively experimented with silence and symbols, meditation and music, dance and works of visual art. Believing that all people have the ability to directly experience the Divine, he used the aesthetic to create a spiritual experience which affirmed the unity and community of a diverse congregation. He believed that “*religious experience [had] the potential to transcend and diminish the meaning of all that separates.*” Most remarkably, he began these experiments in worship in segregated America in the midst of World War II!

Thurman was also a prophet of social action and wrote extensively on the problems

of racism and classism. According to Thurman, social ethics are not simply built on intellectual assent to a set of propositions. Nor are ethics based solely on feelings or emotions. The first is too shallow to maintain long-term commitment; the second is too volatile and without full understanding of the life context in which ethical decisions are made. Rather, the foundation of moral concern for Thurman rises from the dynamic tension between the intellect and feelings, the head and heart, which is found in situations of deep religious experience. Effective social ethics are the product of the trans-rational (as opposed to rational or irrational) experience of the Divine.

He wrote in his autobiography: *"My testimony is that life is against all dualism. Life is One. Therefore, a way of life that is worth living must be a way worthy of life itself. Nothing less than that can abide. Always, against all that fragments and shatters and against all things that separate and divide within and without, life labors to meld together into a single harmony."*

As Unitarians Universalists and Pagans, I believe we need to listen with fresh ears to Howard Thurman. As UUs, we tend to think that any theologian who wrote prior to 1960 must be hopelessly mired in Christian orthodoxy. As Pagans, we tend to think that there was nothing spiritually worthwhile happening from the end of the Roman Empire to the time of Gerald Gardner. Thus, we overlook the man who has been called the Ralph Waldo Emerson of the 20th Century. Perhaps we will pay more attention to this remarkable earth-centered mystic prophet in the 21st Century. At the very least, we should take a look at some of his writings. These three books are a great place to start.

"Magic all Around Us" by Howard Thurman

I seek new levels of awareness of the meaning of the commonplace.

It is easy for me to take things for granted and to deal with them without sensitivity. When have you noticed the color in the sky? When have you looked at the shape and place of a tree? What about the light in the eyes of your friend when he smiles? The gracious manner that your child has in meeting people at the door? The moving insight and the power of the words of a hymn, the music of which you enjoy? The renewal of mind and body after a night of restful sleep? The way the cut in your finger healed, leaving scarcely a trace of the opening? The spontaneous response which overcomes you when you are face to face with some poignant human need? The times when deep within your heart you whisper a thank you to life, to God or, as you may say, to the Fates!

There's magic all around us. In the rocks and trees, and in the minds of men, Deep hidden springs of magic. He who strikes the rock aright may find them where he will.

I seek new levels of awareness of the meaning of the commonplace.

Quotations are taken from the following books:

Thurman, Howard. 1953, 1996. *Meditations of the Heart*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press.

_____. 1971. *The Search for Common Ground*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press.

_____. 1979. *With Head and Heart*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace & Company.

activities as planned by conference attendees. The evening activities on the agenda include the ritual of the sweat lodge and our traditional ritual honoring and celebrating women who have become Wise Crones (women 56 and older) and recognizing those women in preparation (between 50 and 55).

Please Note: This is not a therapy group. It is highly experiential and deeply personal. Each woman is asked to explore how ready she is to open herself to deep spiritual experiences. This exploration is crucial to a successful conference.

Coordinators:

Anne Bewley is a Wiccan priestess and veteran leader of this circle. She is a psychologist and educator by trade, and brings her extensive knowledge and experience to the circle.

Wen Murphy, a previous conference attendee and a member of the Feminist Spiritual Community, has been a practicing Wiccan for 18 years. She has been a facilitator and coordinator for the NED Women & Religion Hersey Retreats (1994 - 1997).

Conference Fee: \$85. Lodging and other fees on request.

Read the New
Green Egg
A Journal of the Awakening Earth
Bi-monthly — \$28/yr bulk
\$42/yr 1st class & Canada
\$63/yr Outside USA Sample issue \$5
Green Egg Magazine
212 So. Main St. #22B, Willits, CA 95490
707-456-0332
<http://www.greenegg.org>



CUUPS ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON ANNOUNCEMENT

The CUUPS Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Friday, June 25 at 12:15 at the restaurant "Absolute!" The restaurant is at 52 West 200 South, about a half block away from the conference center.

There will be three offerings for lunch, ranging in price from \$8 to approximately \$10. An exact menu is still under discussion, but we plan on one vegetarian offering, one Swedish lunch special, and one sandwich offering. The exact menu will be posted on our website and on cuups-l as soon as it is determined.

Since the meeting is on Friday, we must have luncheon reservations in by Thursday evening. If you plan to have lunch at the annual meeting, please contact Joan at jvanbecelaere@iliff.edu or 303-295-0515 or check the CUUPS website.

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Lauren Foster MacLeod

TO LIGHT A SACRED FLAME

REVIEWED BY CHARLENE POLONSKI

To Light a Sacred Flame: Witchcraft for the Millenium, Silver RavenWolf, \$14.95 US, Llewlyn Publications, St. Paul, MN 555164-0383

This book is written by Silver RavenWolf and is her latest of six books relating to the practice of magick. It is also her fourth book directly relating to Wicca.

This book begins with a candle spell and moves on to an introduction about the practical and spiritual laws of Wicca. If you are a practitioner of Wicca, your tradition may or may not include all of these. It does give us the opportunity to look at our own personal ethics and evaluate, where necessary. We might even reconsider our view of the world.

The author then takes us through the mysteries of self empowerment. In this section there are some really good, thought provoking ideas, advice and exercises. This can help with our awareness of who we are, what we're seeking and where we are going.

Ms. RavenWolf explains the psychology and mechanics of suggestion, fascination, trance and self hypnosis. She then shows how to incorporate them into your spell work and rituals, thus making these more powerful and effective.

She also takes us into a comparative study of various ritual structures practiced in different traditions. This allows us (in the privacy of our own space) to determine our own individual style preferences for ourselves.

I also found interesting ways to physically cleanse and attune your environment to a vibration that is most pleasing to you in this book. This book contains a cornucopia of information on candle magick and spell working, and contains correspondences and a whole lot more. It shows us a very workable way to connect with divinity.

I like the humor that Ms. RavenWolf blends in with the various facets of craft teaching. She also makes us see that it is not just all fun and games, but in order for our magick to be effective it takes commitment, a lot of personal work, study and practice.

This book reminds us that, when something is happening we don't have to just sit there and accept it. We can actively do something, at some level, to effect change in a positive manner. We are not just the audience, but the actors in the playing out of our lives!

MUSIC REVIEWS

BY JERRIE HILDEBRAND

Book of Shadows - Coven 13 is a band whose music is produced by Akashic Records. The musicians bring the tension between one's spiritual life and our more contemporary world to light. It brings out a romantic sense of how spirituality exists for some people. My favorite song was "Ophelia's Lament." I found it intoxicating and alluring. It felt like the Moon sending an enchantment through the voices of the musicians. The music speaks of the light and dark sides of life. The temptations and the rewards. This CD can be ordered via Akashic Records, 203 Washington Street, Suite 143, Salem, MA 01970 or online at Coven13@aol.com.

Tales of Witchcraft - John Loughman was in Salem one day and one of the local business people called me to see if I knew to whom he should talk. In his hand were carried several CD's hoping Americans would listen. We sat for hours discussing his vision for the project. His hope was for people to understand that what happened in Salem in 1692 was not unique and continues today. It is a musical play based on fictional characters living in

that time. His hope was his music would inspire people not to let something like that happen again in our world. The music is haunting. As I sit in my studio in Salem's historic district, I am acutely aware of the history here. Music brings it closer. The twisted fears. The accusations. The cries.

My only criticism is that historically he failed in doing some research. Witches in Salem were not burned. Only in Europe did this happen. Otherwise this musical will carry your emotions from the beginnings to the end of the darkest days in this city's history.

Tales of Witchcraft is produced by Sir James Music in Australia. Unfortunately there is no address for ordering direct from them at this time. All I had available for ordering information was a website which is not operational at the time of this publication's printing.

For the following three reviews, I would like to thank the artists, and Macha Nightmare for the opportunity to review these next recordings. They add a fresh new texture to my music collection.

Rime of the Ancient Matriarch - This CD has some of my favorite kinds of music on it...a little bit of country, folk, 50's oldies, and traditional Pagan sounds. I laughed through *Victim of Them*. Set to an oldies tune, there is a need to point fingers at someone else to blame. The title song, *Rime of the Ancient Matriarch*, reminds me of the journey and rebirth the Goddesses have taken. *Humbolt Wassail* is a cute alternative use of traditional wassail music for the harvest season.

Once again Holly Tannen and friends have given us some of the best in original music to tap our toes. This CD can be ordered from Holly directly at PO Box 1136, Mendocino, CA 95460 or via her e-mail address htannen@mcn.org.

Through the Darkness: Chants from the Reclaiming Community - These chants are performed by Beverly Frederick of the Reclaiming Community. Some are familiar, some are not. My favorite is *Round the Tree of Life We Go*. Each of them are simple enough to use with children in classrooms or to use as rounds in congregational settings. The setup of the music is like being in circle. This recording can be ordered via Veladanza Arts, PO Box 298, Monte Rio, Ca 95462, or call 415-339-8313.

Face of a New Day - Thorn Coyle sings passionately from the activists point of view. Her name is appropriately given. After listening I am pulled to act. In her song *After Amergin*, she speaks the words to music that sounds like a stirring pot. Hers are freedom songs. Freedom from the bondage of religion. Profits from this CD go to several non-profits organizations dedicated to freedom and educational issues.

To order this recording write to - TC 009, A Soup House Production; 225 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94103 or email to Thorn_Coyle@sfbg.com.



Artwork © 1999 Lauren Foster MacLeod

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If you are interested in more information about CUUPS visit our website at www.cuups.org. Here you will find information on chapters in your area and more. Coming soon...the CUUPS Chat line.

AOL: CUUPS

Visit the folder about CUUPS in two places on AOL. One is under Paganism/Pagan Groups. The second is under Humanism/Unitarianism. here are lively discussion on UU Paganism.

Welcoming New Chapters!

At our board meeting today, the following new chapters were formally recognized:

Gaia's Rainbow on the Neshaminy
Buxmont UU Fellowship
P.O. Box 188
Warrington, PA 18976
Contact: John Hook

Neighborhood CUUPS
Neighborhood Church of Pasadena
301 N. Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91103
Contact: Bob Atwood

Free Spirit
All Souls Unitarian Church
730 N. Tejon
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Contact: Wayne King

Earthcircle
All Souls UU Church
236 Roma Drive
Shreveport, LA 71105
Contact: Karyn & Greg Guerin

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1306 Crestview Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

WHAT'S A RADICAL FAERIE?

POSTED TO THE CUUPS-L E-MAIL LISTSERV BY KHRYSSO

Someone asked in response to my earlier introduction what a Radical Faerie is, and I thought that it was an important question since others probably have it as well. The person asked if it just means "*activist homosexual*," which is a good hypothesis, and to which the answer is "*not exactly*."

Though many Radical Faeries are activists, we are a tribe, of sorts, who were first called together by that name in 1979 by Harry Hay and several close companions of his who wanted to explore faggot spirituality and develop ongoing community. So the "*Radical*" is more about radical spirituality than about radical politics, though many of us are politically radical as well. The "*Faerie*" part has nothing to do with the Faery tradition of Wicca.

Though this idea of creating a network for exploring faggot spirituality might seem unnecessary now, it is important to remember that not even UUism was terribly open, institutionally, to G/L/B/T issues back in '79. Many of the denomination's most important stances on queer issues were made after 1979. Nor were other liberal religious movements such as the UCC, the Quakers, and the like as open about welcoming queer folk in those days, and we had few places to turn for spiritual nurturance. (Even MCC was very young at that point, and not all spiritually-oriented gay men were Christian.) Those who have come to CUUPS through the Pagan community rather than from the UU community, as I have, will doubtless vouch for the proposition that there is still much lingering homophobia even in the Pagan community. So a spiritual gathering such as the first one for "*Radical Fairies*" (as it was first spelled) was quite an important event. It took place way off the beaten track in Arizona.

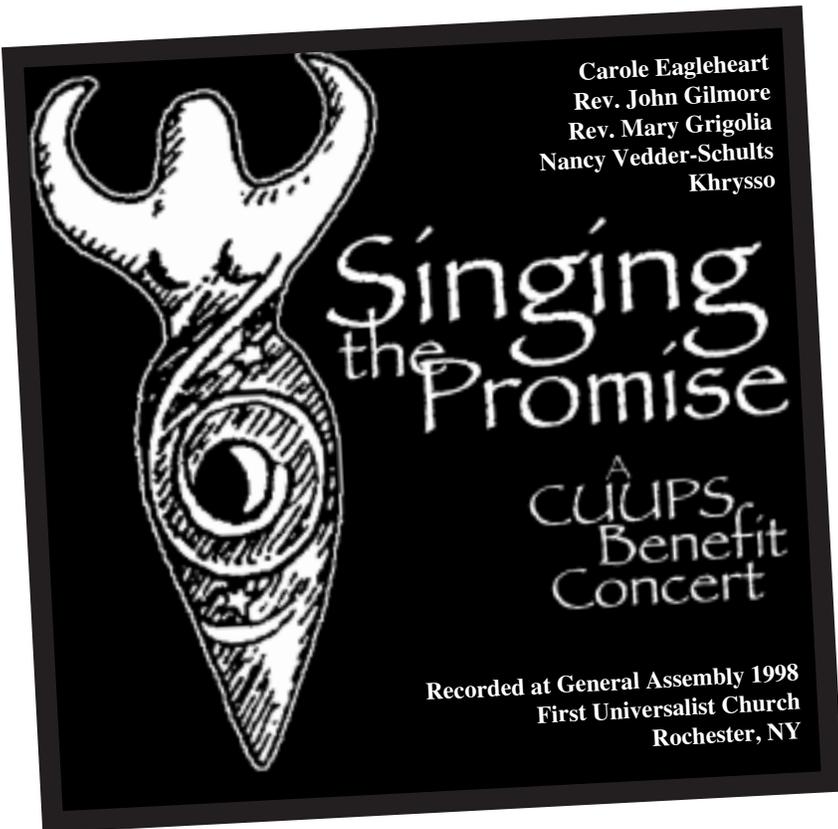
Harry Hay (whose book *Radically Gay* was published by Beacon last year) has said in writings and interviews that he never conceived of the RFs as a movement per se, and it's not a religion, though it does have some of the qualities of a religion in my life. For me it's kinda like, UUism is my religion, Pagan is my spiritual path, and CUUPS and the RFs are my social contexts for working out my spiritual path . . . those and, of course, music.

Radical Faeries continue to gather from time to time all over the world, and there are some collectives (co-ops) where people live full time that are gathering sites. Short Mountain Sanctuary in central Tennessee is one (that's the one I've been to the most), and Nomenus at Wolf Creek in southern Oregon is another—I think it's been established longer than SMS, but SMS is better known because it's home to RFD magazine. There are others in Vermont, Minnesota, New Mexico, and numerous other places. Many of them welcome womyn and str8 folk, at least during non-gathering time, and sometimes during gatherings as well. Queer parents are welcome to bring their kids to some gatherings, and the children are nurtured and, really, treated like royalty, giving lie to the notion that homosexual men prey on children. What a stupid idea!

RFD means "*Rural Free Delivery*," as it does in common parlance, and is first and foremost for rural queer folk, though its audience has, over the years, become much broader, and it concerns itself a lot with the doings of Radical Faeries, which is why a lot of folks think it means Radical Faerie Digest.

Several Radical Faeries have gone to UU seminaries and have been rather out there. Search engines will yield many RF sites. Willow Fey's is a particularly good one. Dadiva Vago's is good, too, and he's a UU Pagan who is just finishing seminary.

©1998. Khryssso, a.k.a. Chris Wagner, is a roving professional UU musician, last sighted in Berkeley, CA.



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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*.

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