

COVENANT OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PAGANS

Special Membership Issue

August 1996

CUUPS ... STEPS INTO THE FUTURE!

The annual meeting of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans was held on June 24, 1996 at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Two of the co-founders and the former coordinators of the organization, Linda Pinti and Rev. Lesley Phillips, stepped down after ten years of service to the organization.

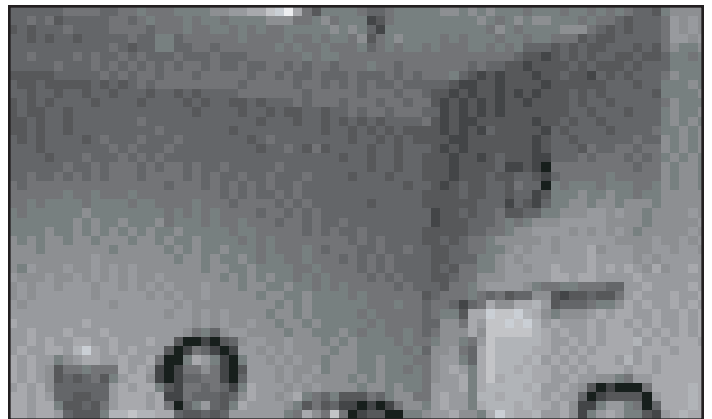
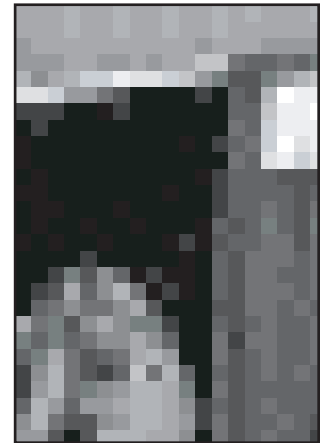
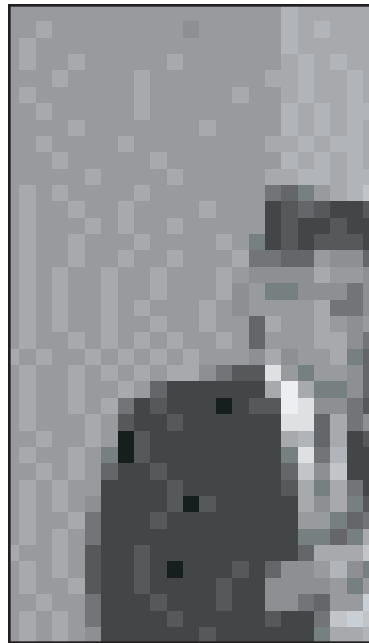
New Coordinating and Executive Committees were elected. They are: Brydie Palmore, Chair; Joan Van Becelaere, Vice-Chair; David Pollard, Secretary; Patrick Sileo, Treasurer; Jerrie Hildebrand, Communications Editor; Stacey Greenstein, Tom Dixon; Margot Adler; Carolyn Taylor; Rev. Melanie Morel Sullivan; Wendy Moscow; and Paul Connelly. The Rev. Shirley Ranck has been hired as Administrator .

We invite those wishing to renew their memberships; become members; get information on our 1996 Web Weaving Convocation in Santa Clara; volunteer for committees; or general information please contact the new CUUPS office address below. We also welcome receiving information about your groups, both CUUPS groups and the wider Pagan communities to add to our resource files for future press releases.

The new official CUUPS business phone number and address are:

CUUPS
PO Box 422
Boyes Hot Springs, CA 95416
(707)939-7559

All e-mail inquiries regarding CUUPS may be directed to CUUPS@aol.com.



Top Right Photo: Stacey Greenstein, Susan Shaw on booth duty

Top Left Photo: Margot Adler and Judge Gordon Martin

Middle Photo: Paul Connelly, Dave Pollard, Brydie Palmore, Joan Van Becelaere, Rev. Melanie Morel-Sullivan, Carolyn Taylor, Stacey Greenstein, Margot Adler, Tom Dixon, Wendy Moscow, Patrick Sileo, Jerrie Hildebrand

Bottom Photo: Starting from the back; Maggie Joseph, Dave Pollard, Mary from CT, Steven Estes, Peter Glaze, Row 2; Cindy Glaze, Jerrie Hildebrand, Susan Shaw, Cynthia Alvarez, Joan Van Becelaere, Sitting; Tom Landon, Tom Dixon, Stacey, Greenstein, Rev. Dr. Christa Landon

**Covenant of Unitarian
Universalist Pagans
Coordinating Committee**

Brydie Palmore
*Coordinator
Convo 97 Chair*

Joan Van becelaere
*Vice Chair
GA 97 Programming Chair
RE Committee Chair*

David Pollard
*Secretary
Convo 98 Chair
Membership Committee*

Patrick Sileo
*Treasurer
Finance Committee Chair*

Jerrie Hildebrand
*Communications Editor
Publications Committee Chair*

Margot Adler
Ethics Committee

Paul Connelly
Bylaws Committee Liaison

R. Tom Dixon

Stacey Greenstein
*Online Liaison
Membership Committee Chair*

Wendy Moscow

Rev. Melanie Morel Sullivan
*UU Ministerial Liaison
Ethics Committee*

Carolyn Taylor
*Convo 96 Committee Chair
Ethics Committee*

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writers in this publication do not
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From the Chair...

IMAGINE!

Since I live in the Southeast, I go to SUUSI, our five day UU retreat in Virginia. This year the theme is Imagine! Imagine what? Well that is the whole point isn't it? What can you, what would you want to Imagine? Of course, I began to Imagine CUUPS. I have already Imagined a great network which I call Community.

I hear questions about the new CUUPS "board." We have either been very busy getting the organization stable and taking our summer vacations. As a result of all that we have been somewhat out of touch with each other.

Those at hand and permanently attached by modem have been agenda building, mainly because there are lots of ideas that we don't want to lose.

We have been talking about incorporation and 501C3ing. That sounds simple and it turns out, is not simple.

Patrick Sileo continues to work on gathering information to see how we can get 501c3 status. I think all we can do is wait it out. He has moved our account to a new bank with much tighter security.

Given our financial situation, all calls, and travel will be paid for by board members themselves and Pat will keep a careful record of expenses.

Jerrie Hildebrand has created and sent a press releases which by now

have been sent all over the world. She and the web team are working on the creating a web site. Newly designed letterhead and business cards, newsletter policies and much more are getting completed to provide our organizational image for our publications that are professional looking and move us into the year 2000.

The Convo Committee is doing a media blitz, to CUUPS members and other Pagan groups for participation.

Joan Van becelaere is investigating insurance for board members.

Bylaws Committee is looking at ongoing bylaws changes that are desperately needed.

We are energized by the possibilities before us. Our task is to establish a firm foundation upon which we will build castles.

What else would I *Imagine* for CUUPS? Peace, harmony, trust, trustworthiness. A Board with every member on the team and dedicated to serving the membership. A membership dedicated to seeing CUUPS reach it's full potential.

I've heard some other folks *Imagine*....the ideas are almost endless!

What would you *Imagine* for CUUPS? I invite you to *Imagine!* Share your Imaginings with your us. Send them to the CUUPS office. We look forward to hearing from you!

Brydie Palmore

CUUPS Coordinator/ Chair

From the Treasurer...

First, the numbers:

Outstanding Liabilities:	\$21,505.69
Assets	1,192.58
Net Equity	(-20,313.11)

The outstanding liabilities includes \$5186 for Weaving the Web/ Convo96, which is expected to be covered by Convo receipts. All other monies are owed to either past or present Board members.

Work is under way to secure a non-profit corporate identity. Once completed, the incorporated organization will file for 501(c)(3) tax status, bringing CUUPS into accord with UUA requirements for Independent Affiliates.

Patrick Sileo

CUUPS Treasurer

Newsletter Articles...

The deadline for articles, letters, art, and photography for the next newsletter is *October 10, 1996*. *Holidays of Light* is the theme.. Send contributions to CUUPS offices or email them to us.

With our electronic publishing capabilities send your articles or art on disk, email or typed articles. For electronic files use Microsoft Word, or Wordperfect for either IBM or MAC. Send a printout and a 3.25" disk. If you do not have these tools available, please send the article typewritten and someone will put it on disk.

WHO IS THE NEW CUUPS COORDINATING COMMITTEE?

Margot Adler is a reporter for National Public Radio, author of *Drawing Down the Moon*, and a renowned ritual leader/teacher. Although a speaker and leader at UU sponsored events for many years, she first joined a UU church in 1992 (All Souls in NYC). She is a founding member of CUUPS. She thinks the main issues for CUUPS in the next few years involve getting over the current battles and becoming a Pagan-UU organization that disseminates good information, outreach, and promotes Paganism and UUism connections. She believes that CUUPS has to become more democratic and have better communication and healthier interactions between local CUUPS groups and continental CUUPS. CUUPS needs to put on good programs at GA, provide education, resources, and be a true place where UU's who want to connect with earth centered traditions can come. She describes herself as fair-minded with an understanding of her own biases, having a good sense of humor, and being easy to get along with; she also describes herself as not an expert in bylaws or money matters.

R. Tom Dixon III does technical support in the computer industry. He diagnoses and solves communications problems, a skill that is directly transferable to serving on the CUUPS Coordinating Committee. He has several years of experience in CUUPS as a co-founder and President of Gaia's Children (the Little Rock, Arkansas chapter and co-founder of Chalice of Ceres (the Columbia, Missouri chapter) and am the current Secretary. Tom has served as co-editor of the CUUPS Chapter Update. His UU experience includes District Leadership Training, serving on Membership and Ministerial Relations Committee, chief cook for the Annual Membership Dinner, writing and delivering sermons from the pulpit, and Publicity Committee Chairperson. In his spare time he does graphic arts, design jewelry and ritual items, drum, cook, and bush hog (he lives on 200+ acres).

Paul Connelly says his goals for CUUPS are to develop stronger organizational and financial footing, increase participation of CUUPS members, and expand the organization's outreach to UUs, to other Pagan groups, and to the wider community of those engaged in an open-minded and non-dogmatic exploration of religion and philosophy. These are strategic goals that, if kept in mind, can guide us

through some of the day-to-day issues and disagreements that might otherwise bog us down. He has been an "out" Pagan since 1987, a member of CUUPS since 1991, and a member of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship since last year. In addition to CUUPS, he is also a member of the Center for Process Studies and Circle's Pagan Academic Network. His article on "*Postmodern Paganism*" was printed in Circle Network News in 1992 and he has published a book of Pagan poetry called "*God's Dare*" in 1994.

Jerrie Hildebrand has been a member of CUUPS and the First Universalist Society of Salem, MA since 1991. She serves the Welcoming Congregation Committee, RE Committee, Deacons and leads Sunday worship regularly. She created in 1991 and currently facilitates the NSCUUPS chapter of CUUPS. Jerrie has been nationally interviewed in many newspapers in the US and is featured in the book "*People of the Earth*" representing UU Paganism as a tradition. She has been involved with Paganism and affiliated with national Pagan organizations since 1986. Currently, Jerrie sings with the ritual group, *MotherTongue*. She illustrated the children's book "*Walking with Mother Earth*" and brings over 20 years of experience in public relations and communications design to the board. She currently owns a graphic design and communications company. Jerrie's vision for CUUPS is for a healthy, democratic and participatory organization.

Stacey Greenstein is a member of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY since December 1994. He is a past member of the summer services committee; co-leader and current mailing list maintainer of the CUUPS chapter; and the owner of the *Pagan Digest*, a large Pagan e-mail list. The issues he sees CUUPS bridging in the near future is to establish contact with a number of the larger organizations across the country and work on finding a niche within the Pagan community. Computers have a very magical quality about them; they do remarkable things and use exotic languages. Computers network well, and Pagans always seem in need of networking. He believes that with the sixth source's passage, we should provide material about Earth-centered spirituality. This includes Adult RE, Sunday Sermons, and weekend seminars."

Wendy N. Moscow became an active UU and a practicing pagan about the same time in 1981/82. She has taken her UU Paganism 101 Sunday Service to several UU churches in the NYC area, has led "*Cakes to the Queen of Heaven*" and "*Rise Up and Call Her*

Name" and large public rituals. She has demonstrated leadership on steering committees and boards in both UU and non-UU organizations, including: UU Women's Association (Metro District), Queens Coalition for Political Awareness, and the Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. She sees four equally important roles for the Board: helping folks to create and sustain local chapters; keeping the channels of communication open between CUUPS and other UU groups; fundraising; and facilitating the development of new program materials.

Brydie Palmore has been a Pagan all her life, a UU for 33 years, and a church administrator until retirement. Now she works for the Worship Committee, as Secretary on the Council, and on the UUA Board of Review. She is active in Celebrate the Circle CUUPS chapter, and has been on the CUUPS Coordinating Committee since 1994. Brydie enjoys playing African drums, trail riding, leading workshops on the Wisdom Wheel (a version of a Medicine Wheel), and playing with her 18 month old grandson. Her hopes for CUUPS are for a strong organization serving the membership. She envisions CUUPS to be a strong network of people who know each other, sharing a commitment to each other and the Pagan community. To Brydie it is all about community. She is; an advocate for Community.

Patrick Sileo believes one central role of the Board to be the promotion of healthy relationships between CUUPS chapters, members, CUUPS Continental, and the wider UU community. Patrick is currently a member of the Negotiations and Managerial Decision Making group at the Harvard Business School. Organizational change is at the forefront of his professional life. As been a practicing Pagan for 16 years, Patrick joined First Church of Pittsburgh in 1993 after first being actively involved in the Three Rivers CUUPS group. Now a resident of the Boston area, he currently attends First Church of Jamaica Plain.

David Pollard has been involved in Paganism for about a decade and a UU since 1988. He became active in CUUPS in 1990 when he was a founding member of the Richardson, TX chapter of CUUPS. He and his wife have spoken at a dozen different congregations in North and Central Texas on UU Paganism. In late 1994 the CUUPS board appointed him Online Liaison to the Internet and he is list manager for the CUUPS E-mail Listserv on the UUA's internet site. Last August, he started the *CUUPS Chapter Update*, was appointed to the CUUPS Continental Board in September 1995 as Secretary,

and has compiled the first *CUUPS Net/Web-Working Directory* which is being sent out to chapters this month. He is active in UUism at large and has just completed a term as SW District Extension Committee chair. David served as board President at Richardson, and has just finished a two-year stint as Adult RE Chair at Fort Worth. He lives in Arlington, Texas with his wife Julie and Jason, their son.

Rev. Melanie Morel Sullivan has served as minister at the UU Church of Chattanooga, TN, for the past 3 years. By birth, she is a 5th-generation New Orleanian. She is a co-founder of the CUUPS chapter at First UU Church New Orleans, in 1988. Over the years, she has led "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" many times -- but only once with an all-woman group. Melanie was a tester of the "Rise Up & Call Her Name" curricula and contributed the section on Voodoo. She describes herself theo(a)logically as a pagan - Zen Buddhist - liberal christian - humanist; she is glad that she has found a religious home where such a combination is possible. Melanie views her role as a bridge to other UU ministers, a resource for chapters in conflict situations, and an advocate for multicultural issues within the UU pagan community.

Carolyn Taylor is excited to work at the continental level with a group dedicated to earth and nature-centered spirituality within the UU movement. For her the priorities for CUUPS are: to strengthen the connection between local CUUPS chapters and continental UU organizations, to encourage more grassroots participation, and to improve communication with the membership. Her qualifications include over thirty years of UU involvement, experience as Religious Education Coordinator and as UU Service Committee Coordinator for the Mid-South District, service as program chair and program presenter for many UU churches, for CUUPS Convo, and for many district groups. She is currently serving on the Continental Board of the UUWF and as Chair of their Financial Development Committee. She is an active member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco. She leads workshops on ritual, drumming and dance, and healing. She is 56 years old, mother of 3 daughters, married to Todd Taylor, a retired UU minister.

Joan Van Becelaere is Missourian by birth, Belgae by heritage, short, a little too round, but with a good sense of humor. Her education provides her with a B.A. in Communications, Masters of Divinity, Masters in Public Administration, and she is working

on her doctoral dissertation on ethics in public decision making. Her favorite soapbox topics are participatory democracy, organizational communications, networking, ethical decision structures, and the ongoing struggle for public policies that reflect an ethic of immanence. Joan's religious affiliations are an active member of the First Unitarian Society of Denver, member of the Facilities Planning Committee, First Unitarian Players (First UP!), and Wiccan. Her professional experience includes: ministry internship, business management, higher education administration, and occasional teaching jobs. Her other talents are: acting, costume design, and singing second alto. Her vision for CUUPS is a growing and evolving organization that serves its membership well, provides education concerning Paganism to the UUA and others, and strives to become a model of ethical organizational operation.



UU PAGAN RE CURRICULUM WORKING GROUP FORMED

Recent lively discussion on the internet lists, cuups-l and cuups-usa, has resulted in the formation of an ad hoc working group and new internet list focused on UU Pagan religious education needs. The new discussion list, Unitarian Universalist Pagan Religion Education (uupaganre), is intended to facilitate communication among UU Pagans, especially members of CUUPS, who are interested in developing a Pagan-oriented curriculum for use in UU religious education. The group is currently discussing adult education needs, but future plans may include children and youth as well.

There are currently about a dozen CUUPS participants on the new list. The members of the working group want to extend a special invitation to participate to people with professional education and religious training and/or experience in UU Religious Education and curriculum development.

If you would like to participate, please send an e-mail to majordomo@pbat.com with the following line as the body of the message: *subscribe uupaganre*. You will be notified of your subscription shortly thereafter. If you don't have e-mail access but would like to submit some curriculum suggestions or just get more information, you may write: Joan Van Becelaere, 460 22nd Street, Denver, CO 80205



A PERSONAL NOTE ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

BY STEPHEN ESTES
SESTES@SCUACC.SCU.EDU



The 1996 CUUPS annual meeting came to order, with Margot Adler as chair, at 1:30 p.m. Indianapolis time. Margot found a quorum (66) present, appealed for goodwill, hoped for consensus, and announced that in the absence of consensus we would follow Robert's Rules. She then introduced Jerry Davidoff, partner of Denny Davidoff, UUA Moderator, and Judge Gordon Martin, parliamentarian to Moderator Davidoff at the General Assembly.

Rev. Lesley Philips rose to introduce the current UUA Financial Advisor, and Rev. Donald Mayle, former Secretary of the UUA Board. The meeting proper began with a ten-minute report by Linda Pinti and Rev. Philips. The report was positive in tone and substance. Maggi Joseph then gave the report of the Nominating Committee, recommending eleven candidates. Margot indicated, with reluctance, that nominations from the floor would be in order, preferably accompanied by statements from the candidates similar to those the Nominating Committee had received -- vision for CUUPS' future, personal qualifications, UU and Pagan biography, and why nominated from the floor. In accordance with the By-laws it was established that as many as 12 members of the Coordinating Committee could be elected for the upcoming term. Rev. Melanie Sullivan, pastor of the Chattanooga, TN congregation was nominated and accepted. She rose and spoke convincingly of her commitment to UU Paganism, etc., as requested. Lesley nominated Rev. Patrick Price, who declined. Lesley then nominated Charles Archibald, who was not present. Margot asked for a motion regarding nominations of persons not present. Stephen Estes offered one in the affirmative, but it failed to garner the required 3/4's vote. No other nominations coming from the floor, Margot suggested and received a motion to elect all twelve nominees.

This passed with only one nay vote. Stephen then gave the report of the Bylaws Committee, commenting on the need for an extensive rewrite, and on the four present petitions to amend the By-laws.

Rev. Shirley Ranck moved that the amendments of the Bylaws Committee be approved entire, and that the other proposed amendments be referred to the Bylaws Committee for possible incorporation into the larger revision. Lesley challenged this motion, but it was ruled in order. Two amendments

to this motion were approved, both relevant to the Membership article. One specifically mentions "physical disability" in the non-discrimination language. The other adds "sympathetic with the Principles and Purposes of the UUA" as a criterion for membership. Shirley's motion passed as amended. Stephen offered a motion that the members authorize the board to incorporate CUUPS and apply for federal tax exemption under section 501(c)(3). This motion passed. David Burwasser offered a motion to make Linda and Lesley emeritus members of the board. After brief discussion, Linda rose to indicate that she and Lesley would prefer to defer such an honor during the upcoming year of leadership transition. The meeting adjourned about 3:30 p.m.



CAROLINA SPIRIT QUEST

BY MOON

This is just to let everyone know that the time and location have been confirmed for Carolina Spirit Quest '97.

It will be at Shelterneck again next Spring on April 18-20, 1997. Shelterneck is a Unitarian Universalist Retreat Center located off of I-40 about an hour west of Wilmington, NC.

Carolina Spirit Quest is an annual event to bring together the Pagan community for learning, networking, sharing and just generally having a great time. Sponsored by Celebrate The Circle (the Durham, NC branch of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) in 1996 (it's first year), we hope to see it become more of a community event as it grows and evolves.



CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

BY SUSAN SHAW

The deadline for the July/August issue of CUUPS Chapter Updates (CCU) is past. Chapter contacts will soon have the latest issue in their hands.

The next deadline is August 15th. Submissions from now to then will be considered for the September/ October issue. I'm writing this now so folks can have time to submit materials for the Autumnal Equinox and Samhain seasons. This seems to be one of the more popular times of the Pagan year so the issue will probably be a full one. How good it will depend on submissions from you!

What are we looking for? Whatever interests chapters! Book reviews, songs, rituals, sermons, theological briefs, artwork, music reviews, sources for fund raising, topics of concern, reasons to celebrate, in short -- if you find it interesting and it addresses chapters in some way we'll consider it for publication. If you'd like to discuss an idea for a submission in more detail contact Walking Stick (Tom) and/or Susan MoonShadow. We'll be happy to talk about more specific requirements or to help determine if a topic idea is of interest. E-mailed submissions are much appreciated, send them to: Tom@socketis.net and Susan_M_Shaw@wb.xerox.com. For hard copy submissions, or submissions on disk: Susan M. Shaw, 33 Enterprise St., Rochester, NY 14619-2050 and/or R. Tom Dixon III, PO Box 1997, Columbia, MO 65205-1997 If anyone would like to receive a sample copy of the CCU please write to Susan M. Shaw. A legal size self addressed and stamped (\$0.55 please) envelope will be a help but is not required. The Update will be temporarily discontinued after this issue in a cost counting measure. Chapters are invited to send news and articles to Susan for inclusion in the newsletter.



CUUPS ON THE INTERNET

BY STACEY GREENSTEIN
CUUPS ONLINE LIAISON



In the Spring/Beltaine Issue of Pagan NUUS, Dave Pollard introduced to you a number of CUUPS related Internet mailing lists and web sites. Since then some of the information has changed. Here is an update on the lists and sites, as well as subscription information:

cuups-usa@efn.org Paul Cass (aka Liath Mactire), a member of the Eugene, Oregon CUUPS Chapter, started this Internet e-mail list in October 1994. Bringing together over 125 CUUPSters and friends from across the US and Canada, cuups-usa serves as a place to discuss ritual construction, single-/multi-gender celebration, Coming of Age ceremonies, "community," and everything between. Liath has stepped down as moderator and has handed over the job to John Pearce (aka Beowulf).
subscription address: majordomo@efn.org
subscription text: subscribe cuups-usa <your name>
Beowulf's e-mail address: jpearce@u.washington.edu

cuups-l@uaa.org A year ago the UUA installed an Internet server at 25 Beacon Street. Affiliates from all over the Association started setting up mail lists at the new site. CUUPS-L, our own official e-mail list, was launched in September of last year, drawing its membership largely from the "unofficial" list at efn.org. About 150 people subscribe, including several members of the CUUPS Board. Many of the topics covered on cuups-usa are discussed here as well, but also valid topics are theology/thealogy, sermons, and local group development issues. This list is moderated by David Pollard, CUUPS Board Secretary.

subscription address: listproc@uaa.org
subscription text: subscribe cuups-l <your name >
David Pollard's e-mail address: CUUPS@aol.com

uther+cuups@drycas.club.cc.cmu.edu

After the passage of the Sixth Source amendment to the Principles and Purposes of the UUA, a great deal of political discussion started to occur on cuups-usa. Not wanting to annoy those who did not wish to discuss political matters, Stacey Greenstein (aka Uther Locksley) created this e-mail list for the purposes of discussing the politics and polities of the continental organization. As of this month this list will be discontinued. We thank Stacey for the service he gave CUUPS.

Unofficial Web Site There is currently an "unofficial" CUUPS web page maintained by Carl Hommel (aka Notelrac Starshine). Many articles, pictures and links of interest can be found here. URL: <http://world.std.com/~notelrac/cuups.dir/>

Official Web Site CUUPS Editor Jerrie Hildebrand and the Publications Committee are working on preparing an official web page for CUUPS. Look for it soon! Expected URL: <http://www.uaa.org/cuups>.

Contact the CUUPS Coordinating Committee Online!

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Rev. Melanie Morel Sullivan
MelanieSul@aol.com

Joan Van Becelaere
jvanbece@carbon.cudenver.edu

Soon to be online!
Carolyn Taylor & Wendy Moscow



NEVER AGAIN THE BURNING

BY MOONDANCE

Many of our sisters and brothers have had their sacred sites desecrated by fire in recent months. No, I am not talking about outdoor circles, standing stones or even home altars. I am speaking about the rash of church burnings, most of which were African American or interracial. At the recent Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, a Resolution of Immediate Witness in Support of Black Churches was passed and immediately faxed to the White House. The only passage of this document which was considered for debate reads "*WHEREAS the cultural climate in the United States condones acts of racial injustice and neo-fascism contrary to our principles of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all people and religious freedom and tolerance...*" However, those questioning this phrase soon acquiesced that, while the UUA does not support this sort of behavior, the environment of the US does indeed condone such racist acts. How can this be in a country that was supposedly founded on religious freedom and where all are considered

to be created equal? So many of us, as Pagans and as Unitarian Universalists, understand all too well how it feels to be persecuted for our differences.

It is time to show our feelings regarding the reprehensible nature of this behavior. It is time to take a stand and work toward a new world-wide religious community, where respect for each other is the norm rather than the exception. It is time to show our support of those who come from other backgrounds, those who choose other ways of life and those who take other paths to the divine, so that we may all be safe in our beliefs and in our sacred spaces.

The resolution "expresses outrage at the desecration and destruction of churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship and sacred sites" and asks us to speak out against acts of desecration and destruction. It urges political leaders to further investigate these burnings, encourages the White House to hold a summit on race relations and requests that we to offer our professional and other services in support of the efforts. It also asks us to participate in funding and volunteering toward the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in rebuilding these sacred spaces.

Building on an online suggestion by "Charlayne D", I am inviting all CUUPS chapters, as well as other UU organizations and other Pagan groups, to consider taking up a donation at their celebrations or other events held in late July and early August. It is highly appropriate at the time of the first harvest that we share some of that which we have with those who have lost. Send your donations to the UU Service Committee at 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-1845 with a note that they are to be earmarked for the burnt churches.

An interdenominational fund has also been set up by three Christian ministers for the victims of the church burnings. If you or your organization would prefer to contribute directly to this fund, send your check to: *Church Burning Relief Fund, Prime Bank, PO Box 21129, Houston, TX 77226-1129*. I have personally contacted the bank officer in charge of the account and verified its authenticity. When making a donation to either fund, I also urge you to identify yourself or your group as Pagan and/or Unitarian Universalist, and to express the fact that this donation is being made out of a wish for religious respect and unity, in hopes that some day we may all be safe in our places of worship. Anonymous donations are also welcome. Whatever you do, do something.



CUUPS CELEBRATES 7TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL & GATHERING

The 7th annual Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans Festival & Convocation will be held on Friday, October 4 to Sunday October 6, 1996 at Camp Harmon in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Boulder Creek, California.

The theme to this year's convocation is "*Ritual Arts*". There will be workshops on dance, poetry, and arts & crafts as applied to the Sacred. The gathering will feature presenter: Ray Price, an international teacher of Sacred Circle Dancing in the Celtic traditions of Wales, Brittany, and Languedoc.

Fun, fellowship, and the art of ritual will be our focus the year. We'll come together to share and deepen our earth-centered spirituality, meet fellow members of CUUPS and the larger Pagan communities, dance, sing, circle, and worship together. The 1996 Convocation will be family-friendly, with organized activities for children, and fun for all ages.

Camp Harmon is fully wheelchair accessible, excellent food, heated, dorm-style cabins. It is nestled in the redwoods near Boulder Creek, Camp Harmon offers a secluded mountain location with easy access to the San Jose Airport and major highways. The oceanside resort town of Santa Cruz, and other attractions, are nearby, if some of your family wish to take an outing.

Registration, room, and board this year will cost less than last year, with reduced rates for children. Registration rates begin at \$150 for advance registration, including room and board. Camp Harmon requires us to finalize our registration in advance.

All registrations must be RECEIVED and paid by September 21. There will be NO registrations at the door. See the enclosed registration form, write: CUUPS Convocation 1996
P.O. Box 70203,
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
or e-mail
abaldwin@scuacc.scu.edu



BYLAWS OF THE COVENANT OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PAGANS

Preamble

In accord with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association as expressed in Article II of the Bylaws of the UUA, we, as interested and concerned members of UUA societies and fellowships, join together in association to advance a free and responsible exploration of our religious and spiritual values and to promote understanding of those values within the UUA and among the broader religious community.

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagan ("CUUPS").

Article II - Purpose

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is formed for the purposes of enabling networking among Pagan-Identified UUs; providing outreach of Unitarian Universalism to the broader Pagan community; providing educational materials on Paganism for Unitarian Universalist congregations and the general public; promoting Pagan/Judaeo-Christian dialogue; encouraging the development of theo/ological and liturgical materials based on earth and nature centered religious and spiritual perspectives; encouraging greater use of music, dance, visual arts, poetry, story, and creative ritual in Unitarian Universalist worship and celebration; providing support for

Pagan-identified UU religious professionals and ministerial students; and fostering healing relationships with our mother the Earth and all her children.

CUUPS shall propose itself for admission to the UUA as an independent affiliate organization, pledged to support the purposes and principles of the UUA as expressed in Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

Article III - Membership

Membership in the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans shall be open to individual persons sympathetic with the Principles and Purposes of the UUA, without regard to race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, national origin, social condition or physical disability. Membership application and renewal shall be by written request, submitted to the Secretary of the Coordinating Committee, affirming the purposes of CUUPS as stated in these By-laws.

Members of CUUPS shall be of two classes: Associate members and Active members. An Associate member shall have submitted membership application or renewal within the past twelve months, or shall have been an Active member within the past thirteen months. An Active member shall have been a member for at least thirty days, and shall have submitted membership application or renewal within the past twelve months, and shall have paid dues within the past twelve months or had such dues waived by the Coordinating Committee.

The rights to vote and to propose matters for voting

shall be reserved to Active members.

Article IV - Coordinating Committee

A Coordinating Committee, elected biennially in even-numbered years by the voting members of CUUPS present at the annual meeting, shall have the principal responsibility for direction of CUUPS programs and activities, and for carrying out the will of the members.

Members of the Coordinating Committee shall have been voting members of CUUPS for at least a year and a day prior to election.

The number of individuals to be elected to the Coordinating Committee for the ensuing biennium shall be determined at the annual meeting, but shall be no less than 75% nor more than 133% of the membership of the Coordinating Committee during the previous year. Elections shall be held by written ballot. Voters shall indicate on the ballot as many or as few of the candidates as they find acceptable. The candidates who receive the most such votes shall be elected. Last place tie votes in an election by mail ballot shall be resolved by the outgoing Coordinating Committee. Vacancies between elections shall be filled by the Coordinating Committee.

A quorum of the Coordinating Committee shall consist of two-thirds of its members, except that action may be taken on behalf of the Coordinating Committee between its meetings by its Executive Committee.

Meetings of the Coordinating Committee may be called by its pre-

siding officer or by a majority of its quorum. Reasonable notice of each such meeting shall be sent to all members of the Coordinating Committee.

The Coordinating Committee derives its authority from the will of the voting members as expressed in the most recent election. The Coordinating Committee may establish its own rules, policies, and procedures, independent of those of any antecedent Coordinating Committee.

Any member of the Coordinating Committee may inspect any of the records of CUUPS for reasonable oversight purposes.

No one shall be remunerated for services rendered to CUUPS while serving as a member of the Coordinating Committee, except that reasonable expenses incurred in such service may be reimbursed upon approval by the Coordinating Committee.

Article V - Officers

The officers of CUUPS shall be appointed biennially by the Coordinating Committee, and shall include a Coordinator, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and any such other officers as shall be deemed necessary by the Coordinating Committee or by the voting members of CUUPS. The offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and Coordinator shall be held by different members of the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinator, Treasurer, Secretary, and one additional Coordinating Committee member shall constitute the Executive Committee.

The Coordinator shall be the principal spokesperson

of CUUPS, and shall ordinarily preside at its Annual Meeting and at meetings of its Coordinating Committee. At meetings of CUUPS or its Coordinating Committee, the presiding officer shall maintain impartiality, and shall relinquish the chair if wishing to partake in debate or to vote other than by written ballot.

The Treasurer shall have executive responsibility for all receipts, disbursements, and properties of CUUPS, and for financial accounting. CUUPS financial statements shall be made available, upon request, to any voting member.

The Secretary shall have primary custody of the CUUPS membership database, minutes of meetings of members, minutes of meetings of the Coordinating Committee, and the official documents of the organization.

The Secretary shall prepare membership lists of record for quorum and balloting purposes. The Secretary shall attest to official acts and instruments of CUUPS, and shall perform such other duties as are delegated by the Coordinating Committee. Minutes of meetings shall be made available, upon request, to any voting member of CUUPS.

The Officers and the Executive Committee derive their authority from and serve at the discretion of the Coordinating Committee.

Article VI - Newsletter

There shall be a newsletter, published at least quarterly. The editor(s) of the newsletter shall be appointed by the Coordinating Committee and

shall work within general guidelines established at the time of appointment. The editor(s) shall serve as member(s) of the Coordinating Committee.

Article VII - Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of CUUPS shall be held concurrently with the General Assembly of the UUA at the principal location of such Assembly.

Notice of the annual meeting shall be sent to all members at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. Business at the annual meeting shall be transacted by a vote of two-thirds of those present. A quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting shall be 10% of the total voting members as defined in Article III.

Any action that may be taken by voting members at an Annual Meeting

may be taken by a mail ballot vote open to all voting members, upon recommendation by two-thirds of the Coordinating Committee. Such a vote shall be valid when the number of ballots returned is not less than twice the quorum required at the last Annual Meeting.

Approval of an action by referendum shall be by the same majority as would be required at an Annual Meeting. The Coordinating Committee shall appoint an independent Election Committee to prepare, send, receive, and count mail ballots. Mail ballots shall be sent to all voting members by first class mail, and shall be counted 60 days after being sent. The Secretary shall inspect and

announce the results of the election.

Article VIII - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of CUUPS shall be January 1 to December 31.

Article XI - Local Chapters

Members of CUUPS are encouraged to form local chapters of CUUPS, organized within the framework of existing UUA congregations or geographically proximate groups of congregations. Prospective local chapters whose membership includes at least three voting members of CUUPS may be authorized as CUUPS Chapters by the Coordinating Committee upon payment of an annual registration fee and meeting such other requirements as shall from time to time be set by the Coordinating Committee.

Article X - Corporate Assets

Upon wind-up or dissolution of CUUPS, all assets remaining after payment of all debts and liabilities shall become the property of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. 02108.

Article XI - Exclusions

CUUPS shall not participate in political activity, nor will it endorse candidates for public office. CUUPS will not seek to influence legislation, except as might pertain to religious freedom. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, CUUPS shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on

(A) by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law) or (B) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (C) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any future Internal Revenue Law).

Article XII - Adoption and Amendment

The By-laws of CUUPS, and any amendments to them, shall become effective upon the submission of written ballots by at least twenty percent of the voting members of CUUPS, with two-thirds of those ballots being votes for approval. Such balloting shall take place in accordance with Article VII. The Coordinating Committee may propose

By-laws amendments and balloting at any time. By-laws amendments shall be proposed for expeditious balloting upon petition to the Coordinating Committee by at least five percent of the voting members of CUUPS..

These are the bylaws with the new changes accepted and voted on at the Annual Meeting of CUUPS in Indianapolis, June 24, 1996.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS...



Celebrate the Circle of Hillsboro, NC will observe Mabon on Sunday evening, September 22, 1996 at the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Anyone desiring to be part of the planning for this ritual or to have a part in putting it on should contact me as soon as possible. We want to start planning meetings the week of 11 August. Let us know which days of the week suit you best. We will schedule the first meeting based on your input. Dick Merritt, Celebrate the Circle CUUPS Chapter, 3232 Seven Springs Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Chalice of Ceres CUUPS of Columbia, MO will sponsor a church-wide Spaghetti lunch following the Water Service on August 18. Price will be \$3.50 adult and \$2.00 child for all you can eat. 75% of the net profit will be given to the church and earmarked for UUA dues.

They will also sponsor a Pancake breakfast on September 7 for the participants of the Building Expansion Committee. Price will be \$3.50 adult and \$2.00 child.

From John Hook at **BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** in Pennsylvania... Well, we're not a chapter yet, but we have a merry band of 6 people planning our first ritual and interested in some of the positive things happening on line and with CUUPS-C. Our mailing list of interested people is about 16, and we hope many of those will come to the the first ritual July 30.

We're using the theme that the First Harvest of Lammas is related to our first ritual — the first fruits of our groups efforts. A bit inward focused, but I was very happy to see others come up with a theme during our first two meetings — means I won't be stuck being the "leader" — we can share! So, if you want more info on the first stirrings of a potential chapter... let me know.

We've decided to wait a while before deciding on a permanent name, for now we're calling ourselves the church's "Earth Centered Spirituality Group" as several of our six do not consider themselves Pagan and we've not had time to talk all that good stuff through.

North Shore CUUPS of First Universalist Society in Salem, MA is having their Fall Equinox Circle on Sunday, September 22, 1996. People are invited to bring fruits and vegetables of the harvest for the altar and a dish to share for a potluck after the circle. We also invite folks to bring non-perishable foods for the Pantry, a local food Pantry feeding over 150 families locally.

There will also be a meeting afterwards during our potluck time to discuss circle plans for Samhain.



PUBLISHING YOUR WORK IN THE CUUPS NEWSLETTER ...

We would love to hear what your chapter and local CUUPS folks are doing. You may send your articles to the CUUPS office with the envelope marked to Jerrie Hildebrand, Communications Editor. Please refer to the request on how to send submissions to the newsletter on page 2 of this edition. Try to keep the number of words between 150 to 500. If you would like to write a ritual or main article please contact Jerrie Hildebrand ahead of time. Her mailing address is: First Universalist Society, 211 Bridge Street, Salem, MA 01970 or you may email her at kishhilde@kishgraphics.com.

The next newsletter deadline is October 10 for articles about *Holidays of Light*. This will be a multicultural edition looking at a variety of light holidays honored and celebrated in many tribal and pagan traditions. Future issue's theme's will concentrate on February/ Herbals and planting seasons and May Issue/ GA information; Pagan Summertime fun; Pagan festival and gatherings

We invite you to send poetry, chants, stories, artwork etc. for this issue. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope for returning artwork or disks in. If we do not receive this then your work will not be returned.

While we hope to publish most of what we receive and we cannot make any guarantees. If your articles are not time sensitive they may be held for later publications. All authors and artists maintain the copyright of their articles. All permissions to reprint them must be gotten from the original author. CUUPS will publish some articles in the newsletter on its World Wide Web site in the future.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...



"So What Do I Get Out of It?"

It is a familiar refrain and I've said it myself. What do I get out of being a member of CUUPS? Over the past year I've gotten more learning experiences than I ever wanted from CUUPS. Yet the most important lesson I've learned is that I get out of CUUPS what I put into it.

If I want new ideas for rituals it helps when I share the rituals done by my chapter. In doing so others open up and share their chapters and their individual rituals with me and with all of you. If I want networking I openly share my name, address, phone number and e-mail and people contact me! It is a magic we can all understand.

Many people have wonderful ideas for what they want to see CUUPS do and I love the enthusiasm and creativity expressed. The key lesson is that CUUPS is not some entity foreign from ourselves. We are CUUPS, each and every member. So asking what CUUPS gives us is easily answered by responding with what we are willing to commit to doing in CUUPS. Do you want to see more articles about theology? Write some articles on the topic. Is theology not your area of expertise? Write an article about the need for Pagan Theologians to publish their work. The energy we put into CUUPS will be answered with others responding until all of our cups will be overflowing. It's magic!

So what do you want to see CUUPS doing? What do you want to get from CUUPS? Share your ideas and your willingness to work on a project of your own heart's desire. Others are certain to join you and well all benefit from your participation.

Brightest Blessings,
Susan M. Shaw, Chair of Susan B. Anthony Transcendentalists
Rochester, NY Chapter

From the Beaumont Texas CUUPS Chapter

Hi ya'll. Here's what's been going on down here...

The Reverend Dennis Rozell of Highland Baptist Church in Beaumont, TX invited the public to attend his seminar on the occult to be held in the church sanctuary on Thursday, July 18th at 7:00 PM.

The invitation was delivered via a local television news broadcast complete with Hollywood footage from a demon film. The coverage focused on Reverend Rozell's crusade against Spindletop Unitarian Church and the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) that worshipped there. The broadcast included hidden video surveillance of our ceremonial activity and unauthorized photographs of our altar. With concerns about possible animal sacrifice, the field reporter signed off standing in front of our church.

Spindletop CUUPS first came to Reverend Rozell's attention in the spring of '96 when a group of children from a

nearby ballpark wandered onto our property while a few of our members were doing yard work. The parents of some of the kids say that their children reported the encounter as scary and negative; however, I am certain that our members were gentle and positive. Let this be a lesson to all who are persecuted for their religious beliefs. We are vilified by our opposition. We must be cautious in all things at all times.

By late spring, Spindletop Unitarian Church had been visited by Reverend Rozell, the representatives of the ballpark, the Beaumont Police Department, and the local daily newspaper. Everyone had agreed that there was no story.

All remained quiet through mid-summer until Reverend Rozell's seminar. We knew that we would be the target of his jihad. Because of this a group of Spindletop members, including our minister the Reverend Mike Thompson and six of the seven CUUPS members attended.

At the beginning of the seminar, we were told that we were expected to remain quiet and that any breach of silence would be quelled by the many law enforcement officials present. Next Reverend Rozell launched into his attack against us with lies and half truths. When Reverend Thompson objected Reverend Rozell gave the signal and Reverend Thompson was ordered to leave the public meeting. When Reverend Thompson refused to abandon his congregation to such slanderous persecution, he was arrested and carried away bodily to an awaiting patrol car. Three Spindletop members followed to ensure his safety but were threatened with arrest if they did not return to their seats or go home. The rest of us sat mortified and frozen by our fear. The Baptist congregation sang an impromptu hymn to mask the disturbance.

The first guest speaker was Detective Frank Coffin from the Beaumont Police Department. The next speaker claimed to have training of some sort in psychology but spent most of his time quoting passages about the spirit world which ended with the warning that we were not dealing with flesh but with principalities.

But it was the last speaker who would be the one to rekindle the flames of religious persecution, and he was in a position to do it. He was Jefferson County Sheriff's deputy, Tom McCauley. To the thunderous amens and hallelujahs of the Highland congregation, deputy McCauley claimed himself to be "a Christian policeman" and stated that he was not going to tolerate pagan religious practices. He was briefly interrupted by his two way police radio strapped across his torso and connected to his ammo belt. "I can see you smiling," he said, pointing at some of us, "but you won't be." We weren't smiling; we were terrified.

A cry went up in the congregation, It wasn't the inquisition and it wasn't the holocaust, but it was the scariest moment most of us have ever experienced. It was very un-American and, because McCauley threatened to use his authority to persecute us, it violated our constitutional rights.

Tuesday, July 30th, 1996, Spindletop CUUPS performed

our full moon ritual at the sacred circle on the church's property. Two members were afraid the renegade deputy might try something and were unwilling to attend. The ceremony was performed before a gallery of distinguished visitors. These invitations are open ended and we always look forward to having them visit.

Spindletop CUUPs would like to thank the following people and organizations for their support of our religious freedom:

- Reverend Mike Thompson, minister of Spindletop Unitarian Church for putting himself on the line for our congregation and for religious freedom everywhere. We are sorry it led to his arrest.
- Reverend Christa Landon, Unitarian Universalist Minister in Ohio for organizing a fund for our security. It was on her advice that we invited the A. C. L. U., local clergy, and the sheriff's and police departments. We believe that following her advice made our full moon ceremony the non-confrontational exercise in religious freedom that it was.
- CUUPs Executive Committee for their support, especially David Pollard for his articulate defense of our church and chapter on the various computer chat groups and Jerrie Hildebrand for her guidance and 24 hour "hot line".
- Dr. Stuart Wright, Lamar University sociology department, media representative for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, for his unbiased study of new religious movements and his many years of confronting anti-cult hysteria and paranoia.
- Jennifer Hudson, Spindletop Unitarian and longtime champion of the oppressed, for the crash course on how to handle a hostile media.
- Bobby Cowart, Spindletop Unitarian and longtime political activist for her inexhaustible enthusiasm.
- Members and friends of Spindletop Unitarian Church, for their support of religious freedom.
- John Staggs and Jeff Wiggians of Pathfinder Security for their professional service at an unbelievably low price. Also, for the extra check-ups of our church throughout the week at no additional cost.
- Special thanks to Reverend Harlan Merriam of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church; Reverend Bruce Booher of Bethlehem Lutheran Church; and Rabbi Peter Hyman of Temple Emanuel for standing beside Reverend Thompson and speaking out against religious intolerance. Their bold stance not only calms the fears and prejudices that some Christians and Jews may have for Pagans, but it also calms the fears and prejudices that some Pagans may have for Jews and Christians.

Spindletop CUUPs may only be eight members strong, but we are part of a larger community. We are honored to serve and celebrate with you.

Blessed Be,
Richard A. Jones, Co-founder, President, Bard
Spindletop CUUPs

Pagans Euphemized Under as Nature-Based Religion.

On a recent visit to the Family Chapel room upstairs, I noticed that someone had quite ornately inscribed on the blackboard the words "Nature-Based Religion." As a very happily Pagan Unitarian, I am very pleased to see that the RE curriculum on world religions includes a segment on my chosen religious path. However, the choice of words on the blackboard prompted a nagging question in my mind about what is being taught about my religion.

I couldn't help wondering why the RE program can call Hindus Hindus, Buddhists Buddhists, and Muslims Muslims, yet we Pagans have to be euphemized under the heading "Nature-Based Religion." Over the past several years I have encountered a fair number of Druids, Witches, Thelemites, Discordians, Shamans, and others, virtually all of whom identified themselves as Pagans. No one has yet introduced themselves to me as "Nature-Based Religionist."

A friend on the RE Committee suggested that "Pagan" might have some unpleasant connotations for some people. Is it the mission of our RE program then, to protect our children from unpleasant connotations? "Muslim" carries some unpleasant connotations for some of us, and so even does "Christian." Shall we start calling all our Christian members "Monotheistic Salvationists?"

Let us, and our children, be clear about what "Pagan" means. Pagans are people who, to varying degrees and in varying ways, seek to preserve or restore some aspects of the pre-Christian nature religions of indigenous peoples. In medieval Europe, Christians, who had gained their first footholds amongst the power elites of the cities, called the indigenous worshippers "pagans," a word drawn from a Latin root meaning "country folk." Eventually, of course, Christian chauvinist propagandists turned "pagan" into a condemnatory term in an effort to stamp out all non-Christian and heretical movements.

One of the great contributions Paganism has to offer Unitarianism is a special emotional intensity about living and pursuing personal spiritual growth. I'd hate to see that intensity muted by euphemism and an over concern for propriety. Negative connotations need to be faced and dealt with, not obscured. After all, to many conservative Christians, all we Unitarians (along with the Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus) are "pagans."

Sincerely,
Harlan White

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONDS TO BEAUMONT SITUATION

We, the Executive Committee, of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) would like to voice our concerns about the recent actions to inhibit the right to worship freely in the town of Beaumont, Texas.

Under the purposes and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we the members of CUUPS believe in:

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- * Free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- * Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life
- * Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love
- * Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- * Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- * Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- * Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

CUUPS operates as part of an interfaith community within the Unitarian Universalist Association. This gives us the freedom and privilege to worship with people actively striving to create a world of peace and a place where all human beings are free to worship and follow their own particular spiritual calling. Together we find in our community the com-

mon threads of all human thinking that bonds us together in love, dignity and respect.

Common misconceptions in language and misinterpretations of ancient words and texts have created the impression among some that the ancient spiritual traditions of the world are somehow evil or the wrong way to think. We should not forget that many of our modern holidays, celebrations and rites of passage ceremonies are steeped in traditions much older than any of the contemporary world religions. The celebratory acts of the folk people were the very tools incorporated to convert Pagans and heathens into accepting these new ways. Those who condemn these old ways fail to acknowledge this.

Recent articles make use of several words which if followed back to the actual interpretations mean nothing like what our modern day society has made them be. Words such as: Pagan (Latin "paganus" for country person), Witch (Anglo-Saxon "wicche/ wiccha" for wise person), occult (Latin "occultus" for hidden) and several others could be used in any description of the practice of many religions around the world including western monotheistic traditions.

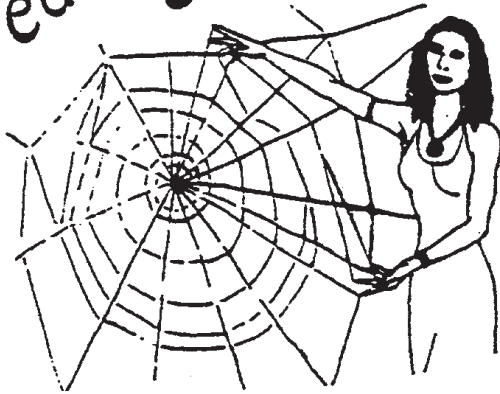
Our organization is concerned by the possibility that in our country today, religious freedom could be so easily threatened. We must guard against any chance of the witch hunts of the 1600's lifting their heads again. If one groups freedom to worship is shut down or challenged, who will be next?

Let not those of popular modern religions forget that they once fought to worship as they do today.

We, the Executive Committee of CUUPS, stand by the Spindletop Unitarian Church and the CUUPS chapter of that church in their right to worship freely in this country. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe strongly in the right of every person to practice their religion as their conscience dictates. This is a right granted to each of us by our maker, whether it be god, goddess or by any other name. We encourage everyone to do their own research, find their own truth and love and respect the creatures of our planet Earth.

Regards,
Brydie Palmore, Chair
Joan Van becelaere, Co-Chair
David Pollard, Secretary
Patrick Sileo, Treasurer
Jerrie Hildebrand, Communications Editor

Weaving the Web VIII



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

**Friday, October 4 to
Sunday, October 6, 1996**

at Camp Harmon in the beautiful redwood forests
of the Santa Cruz mountains near Boulder Creek, California

Theme for this year's family-oriented Convo

Ritual Arts

Workshops will focus on song, music, dance, drama, ritual planning, art,
and stagecraft as applied to Sacred Celebration.

Activities for children ages 3-15 include arts and crafts, mummers plays,
pony rides, storytelling, swimming and row-boating.

Our special guest teachers are

Ray Price

Welsh musician and international teacher of Sacred Circle Dancing in the
Celtic traditions of Wales, Brittany and Languedoc

Holly Tannen

Reclaiming Priestess, folklorist, and
nationally known singer and dulcimer player.

See registration form for details

AVAILABLE FROM CUUPS:

All prices indicated are postage paid.

CUUPS Resources:

1996 Web/Networking Directory - \$10

(Available ONLY to members of CUUPS) This Directory is based off of this past Spring's confidentiality survey in which over 200 CUUPS members indicated that they were "public". This is a resource meant for people who are starting chapters or planning UU-Pagan events, or for CUUPS members who are travelling - no "comercial" use of this will be allowed.

Gift Subscription to CUUPS Newsletter - \$8 (2 for \$15)
Let your friends know what is happening in CUUPS.

T-Shirts

"Four Directions" A colorful depiction of the medicine wheel. Available in Medium, Large and X-Large. \$15
"The Girls Are Back In Town" Goddesses of many different cultures adorn this shirt. Available in Medium and Large. \$15
"God is an abbreviation for Goddess" says this shirt. Available in Medium and Large. \$19

Books

Gaea & God - Rosemary Radford Ruether 310pp hardback HarperSanFrancisco \$12
"I read this book while the much-touted Earth Summit in Rio was crumbling and I saw again how crucial the inspired theological reconstruction Ruether does in this book is. This is theology that really matters." - Harvey Cox

Women Healing Earth - Rosemary Radford Ruether editor 186pp trade paperback Orbis \$17

In, *Women Healing Earth*, noted theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether brings together illuminating writings of fourteen Latin American, Asian and African women on the meaning of eco-theological issues in their contexts- and the implications they have for women in the first world. Ruether has spent the last several years exploring the environmental crisis, the roles of religion and feminists, and what third-world women have to say.

Walking With Mother Earth - Story by Deirdre Pulgram Arhen, Illustrated by Jerrie Hildebrand 36pp paperback DJJ Publications \$10

A delightful story for children of all ages! A poetic walk with the goddess as she teaches of the elements, death, birth and rebirth. Beautifully illustrated!



CUUPS

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NOTE!

New Continental
Mailing Address &
Phone Number