

Let's Welcome Summer!

It's hard to believe that it's already June. Time seems to just be flowing rapidly like a river whose course is very difficult to change. Truth is, however, that its course needs to be changed. We find ourselves in a state of conflict in many parts of the world and worse yet, also in a place where many people are trying to take advantage of the destabilization that conflict causes to push for their own ends and to drag us back into the past by centuries.

During times like this it is important for all of us to, as Nancy Wood said, to "hold on to what is good." And as the alchemists said, whatever a system throws out is what can usually change it, or correct it. Today's world system seems to have thrown out kindness, love, caring, plurality, and many of the characteristics leading to a more healthy, robust world. These are the things that I would categorize as good, and the things we should hold onto and cultivate to change a system that seems to lack them more and more as time passes.

We human beings have the power to come together and create groups that can serve as healing circles. We can do this through deep listening, speaking truth, and being willing to talk with each other, and even by being willing to feel uncomfortable since much change comes out of discomfort. Preconceived notions or false understandings of each other hinder cooperation and personal growth. Solidified egos cause lack of flexibility and personal growth. We can get beyond all of that if we decide to do so.

As we celebrate the beauty and wonder of nature and as we allow ourselves to feel the energy of all of our living brothers and sisters, all of our relatives, let us remember that we are not separate from everything else. We are not on the top of a pyramid looking down at every other thing. We are one with the beauty that surrounds us and if we choose to be, we are like the life-giving sun that will rise to its full power during the solstice. We can bring life to everything we touch, we can chase away the darkness of ignorance, and we can shine with the beauty of the Divinity of which we are all part.

We, the CUUPS Board, look forward to working with you in the coming year, to help create an atmosphere of loving kindness to promote growth, to enhance loving kindness, and most of all —To Have Fun.

Let's celebrate together in this dance called life.

Namaste,
Rev. Dr. Om Prakash (John Gilmore)
Co-Chair CUUPS & Right Relations Liaison



Come See Us at the UUA General Assembly '23 Pittsburgh!

This year CUUPS Board members will be supporting the CUUPS Table in the Exhibit hall and be onsite to meet and greet you and work on our virtual presence. We will have two programs, one on the GA programming list and one not on the programming list.

Summer Solstice Celebration (1-2:30 pm, Convention Center Room 315-316) - Join the CUUPS Board and members to welcome the Summer season.

A Concert to Celebrate Our Resilient Planet - (Online Program #601) - An online concert featuring SJ Tucker and Celia Farran (in the image above) celebrating the hope, resilience, and courage we create together as UU's honoring the planet and all of its creatures through activism and practice at home and in our communities. Gather your friends and congregations together for this delightful event. All are welcome.

CUUPS in the Exhibit Hall - Stop by the CUUPS booth and say hello! We are booth 512 in front of the InSpirit Bookstore!

We are look forward to connecting with Pittsburgh area chapters.

Remembering Rev. Shirley Ranck

It is with sadness CUUPS remembers Reverend Shirley Ranck in its Ancestral ranks. Shirley served on the CUUPS board and was a huge supporter of the organization. It was a joy to have her join us at Convocation in Salem, Massachusetts in 2015.

President Emeritus of CUUPS, Jerrie Hildebrand worked with Shirley on the book *Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism*. Jerrie and Shirley spent two and a half years working with essayists, editing, writing the extra material requested by the publisher, writing their own pieces, and learning a lot from one another.

Rev. Shirley Ann Ranck of Niles Michigan, passed away peacefully Sunday, May 14, 2023. She was born in Jersey City, NJ on October 22, 1930 to Gilbert Holmes and Ann West Bush. She grew up in a number of New Jersey suburbs of New York City.

Shirley received her BA degree from Montclair State University in 1953 followed by a Masters of Religious Education from Drew University in 1958, an MA in Clinical Psychology from City University of New York in 1964, a PhD in Urban School Psychology from Fordham University in 1976, and a Master of Divinity from the Thomas Starr King School for the Ministry in 1978. Shirley worked for many years as a school psychologist in the Livingston, NJ public schools. After receiving her PhD, she decided on a career change and became a Unitarian Universalist minister. Most of her career was spent as an interim minister for various Unitarian Universalist congregations around the United States and Canada.

Shirley is the author of the *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: A Ten Session Course in Feminist Theology*, published by the Unitarian Universalist Association. She is also author of the books *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* and *The Grandmother Galaxy*, and a number of articles for various publications. Her last published work was as co-editor and co-author of *Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism*.

Shirley is survived by her sons, Scott Page (Joy Chase) and James Page (Carole Briggs), both of Madison, WI and her daughters, Christina Ranck (Edward) Bell of Sonoma, California and Laura (Donald) Van Lue of Niles, Michigan;



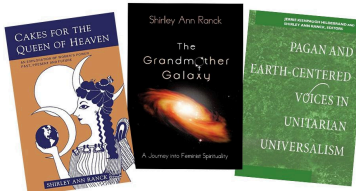
Reverend Shirley Ranck



The book ideas began at Patheacon 2014 in a meeting with Selena Fox of Circle Sanctuary; Shirley; Margot Adler, author of *Drawing Down the Moon*; Jerrie; and Starhawk of the Reclaiming Community..



Shirley with Jerrie Hildebrand after leading the Sunday Service at Convocation 2015.



Books by Shirley Ranck

Now she is everywhere.
Now she is everywhere.
What is remembered lives.

grandchildren, Kevin Helliwell of Niles, MI, Jackie (Matthew) Yelland of Stoughton, WI, Michael Cervantez (Megan Heuer) of San Francisco, Sarah Bell (Pio Valenzuela) of Sonoma, CA, and Camilla (Brian) Carlyon of Madison, WI; and many great grandchildren and a large extended family.

Hail to the traveler!



News from the Chapter Coordinator

As the new Chapter Coordinator for CUUPS since January 1, I am happy to welcome three new chapters that have been approved during my tenure: Path of the Labyrinth in Rockledge, FL; First Parish CUUPS in Billerica, MA; and Ontario Shores Circle in Rochester, NY. Several other chapter applications are in process.

One of the most common questions I get as Chapter Coordinator is about chapter renewals. Since we don't have automated reminders for dates when annual renewals are due, we are asking that all chapters renew annually on

January 1 of each year. Annual dues are \$30 but are waived if there are five dues-paying members verified by CUUPS.

CUUPS has a new policy for chapter email addresses. We are requesting that each chapter develop a chapter email address tied to the congregation's email or, if that is not tenable, a Gmail address specific to the chapter rather than a personal email address. Doing so will help promote continuity in chapter communications and prevent email bounces when chapter contacts using their personal email addresses move on.

If you are part of a pagan group that is meeting at a UU congregation but has not yet become a chapter, we encourage you and your fellow pagans to consider becoming a chapter. The benefits are many: access to right-relations consulting for issues impacting relationships within the group as well as with the congregation; networking with other chapters and members throughout the world; participation in the larger UU and pagan communities; mutual benefit for chapters and congregations in sharing resources and providing support for each other's goals and projects; and many more!

I will be at the UU General Assembly in June and invite any of you who will also be attending to stop by the CUUPS booth to ask questions or just schmooze. We will have a new Chapter Handbook available for chapter coordinators free at the booth. It provides all the information you will need to start a chapter and deal with the many vicissitudes that may arise while operating as a chapter. If you're interested in forming a chapter, please let us know so that we may assist you.

If you're not attending GA, please feel free to email me at chapters.membership@cuups.org. I'd love to hear how things are going for you and your chapter and answer any questions you may have. The CUUPS Board is always available for support; we're all in this together! As a Board, we wish you an enjoyable summer season and a very merry summer solstice.

Blessings,
Susan Foster
CUUPS Chapter Coordinator



From the CUUPS Treasurer and Co-Chair

Litha is just around the corner and Summer has arrived! This means it is Pagan Festival season, somewhere near you. I encourage you to try to attend and support these events. I have noticed that some of the summer festivals are moving indoors to hotel conference centers here in the Midwest and Midsouth. This may help accommodate many of you who find primitive camping a challenge.

A Note to Retirees

Are you a retiree looking to donate to CUUPS tax free? You can use your IRA retirement account to make that donation by way of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are reaching an older senior status and are required to make yearly withdrawals from your IRA, your distribution, or a portion of it may be sent to the CUUPS Organization directly, as a donation, and will not cause a taxable increase in your income. Send me a note at treasurer@CUUPS.org for more information.

There are also volunteer opportunities available for those who want to help this organization provide a welcoming place for those who practice various forms of Paganism and Earth Based Spiritualities. Please reach out to us and let us know how your talents can serve the UU Pagan community.

Best Wishes,
Ron Zorn
Treasurer and Co-Chair

Invitation to Volunteer!

Curriculum Team



The curriculum team is gathering resources to add to the website of courses featuring earth-centered and Pagan theo/alogies, thinking and philosophies.

Communications Team

the position supports people writing CUUPS with essential FAQ items and forwards emails to the appropriate person in the CUUPS organization. Three times a week, you pick the days. Depending on the volume of emails and the season,

this post is 1-3 hours a week.

Participate on the CUUPS, Inc. Board

- Gmail, Google Drive, and Zoom skills are required.
- Strongly identify as UU Pagan
- A current paid member of CUUPS at the national level
- In right relations with your own congregation & chapter
- Has great follow through and team spirit
- Experience serving on a "working board."
- Has references to support their work
- A willingness to work in a team environment
- Young Adults welcome

Nominating Committee

- All of the exact requirements as board members
- An awareness of UU Pagans and Earth-Centered Spirituality to discuss participating on the board.
- Good Networker

Contact info@cuups.org with information about yourself for us! We also welcome volunteers in other areas! Please let us know if you're interested.



More News & Happenings!

Chapter Manual is Complete!

Susan Foster and Jerrie Hildebrand have created a chapter manual to support congregations and chapters in creating healthy and open

groups. There will be some copies at General Assembly.

Yeah!!! New Brochures are in from the Printers

We have a new brochure finally! Many thanks to Jerrie Hildebrand for crafting this and getting it printed. There will be copies at General Assembly. We are currently figuring out how to market these online from the CUUPS Website. They are full color and beautiful.

The Website Refresh!

Currently, the website is going through some refreshing. All chapters that have been vetted by their congregations will be online and are being vetted now to make sure we have not missed anyone current. We are adding new images, freshing resources, and adjusting links to pdfs, and more.

Got Ideas? Wanna Help

If you have ideas for the board and want to help develop let us know at info@cuups.org.

Many Thanks!

We wish to thank all of those who volunteer with CUUPS.

Chapter Coordinators - You are the network that brings the honoring of the sacred to our congregations.

Board Members - Many thanks to those who have served on the board. Most recently we would like to thank Taryn Nelson Seawright for her service and time with us. Taryn has stepped off the board to tend to personal projects. We are grateful for the vision she gave us for some future projects to consider.

The Art of Dancing

The wind blows hard
when you are standing all alone
in the cold, pouring rain
with nothing to keep you company
but a broken umbrella
cast off by someone with hopes,
dreams, circumstances
and means that better shelter them
from the hurt and pain that you find
in the frigid world of men,
and women.
But then the Beloved appears
with the moon in her hair,
in worn out clothing,
a beat up raincoat that quit
it's bright, white
coloring long, long ago.
Homeless,

A Prayer

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

joyous,
tap dancing to Metro Goldwyn Mayor:
*I'm singing in the rain,
I'm singing in the rain,
what a glorious feeling,
I'm happy again.*
As you are drawn
into her dance, singing,
whirling your skeleton umbrella,
kissing the rain,
spilling out sunshine and mirth with
every step;
you are the warmth of glowing sunlight,
the dancer,
the singer with the mighty voice that set
the stars ablaze
with the dance that unwound the
universe
giving life to every star and planet,
and creating love and life,
joy and hope out of the pain and
suffering.
Cast off your old umbrella.
Open your heart to the rain
so the seed of the Beloved
deeply planted at the core of your being
will burst forth like a desert flower
on a rare, rainy desert afternoon,
multiply,
and teach every creature
with an old umbrella in its hand
the art of the dance.

Om Prakash Gilmore
© November 2, 2012

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.

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Newsletter Submissions Deadline for Fall

The CUUPS newsletter works to
publish four to six times in 2023.
Please email your submissions
to info@cuups.org for consideration
by the next deadline of August 31,
2023 for the Beltaine/Mid-Spring
Issue.

Submissions can be news, art,
photos, poems, readings, from
individual CUUPS members
or CUUPS chapters.

Quick Links

- [CUUPS, Inc. FB Page](#)
- [CUUPS Facebook Discussion](#)
- [CUUPS "Nature's Sacred Journey" Patheos Blog](#)
- [CUUPS Podcasts Archive](#)
- [CUUPS Main Website](#)
- [CUUPS Membership Form](#)
- [CUUPS Chapter Application](#)
- [UUA Website](#)

Membership Renewal

Members keep us growing...Join or renew with Covenant of Unitarian Universalist
Pagans National!

- 1 yr Membership - \$25.00 (USD)
- 3 yr Membership - \$60.00 (USD)
- Life Member - \$400.00 (USD)

Go to www.cuups.org and click the blue button in the top right corner. Enter the
email you registered with and your password. You will go to your account. If you
have trouble, write us at info@cuups.org for support!

Become a Member Click Here!

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