



INTRODUCING:

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Docent

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Santa Rosa, California.

<http://www.schulzmuseum.org/>

I GREW UP WITH THE PEANUTS CARTOONS.

It was part of my morning ritual to see what Charlie Brown and his friends were doing, before I left for school. Then the Christmas Special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, became part of our family Christmas rituals. This television special was a breakthrough for Charles Schulz. It launched the Peanuts cartoons into the most widely read cartoon strip in the world, and prepared the way for two dozen more specials and feature films.

DID *THE GOSPEL OF PEANUTS* GET IT RIGHT?

In my seminary days, the new book, *The Gospel of Peanuts* found contemporary religious themes in the cartoons. It was widely read and discussed with among theology students and staff. Later, however, in talking about this book with Jeannie Schulz, I asked her if the book was really the “gospel of Peanuts,” or the theology of the author. While its author did well with this career launching book and his own theology, this book could not have been farther from the widely-inclusive theological views of the creator of the cartoons strips, films, and peanuts characters.

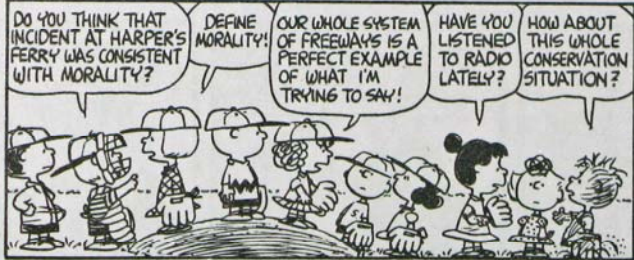
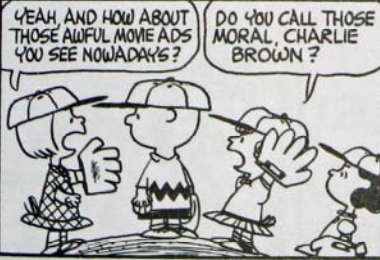
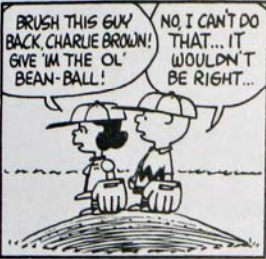
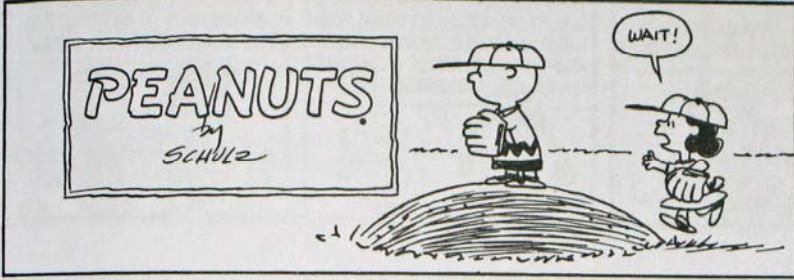
MEETING JEANNIE

Now, Senior Pastor of the Church of the Roses in Santa Rosa, California, I discovered that I live just two miles from the Charles M. Schulz Museum home to rotating displays of the original cartoons, a research center, seminars for cartoonists, and collections of his work in every imaginable language. When I wrote, “Charlie Brown at Christmas”, accompanied by the Vince Guaraldi music, I asked Jeannie Schulz to be in our audience, and to place the single bulb on our Charlie Brown Christmas tree. After being a Peanuts fan for decades, that’s how I finally met someone who truly knows the Charlie Brown, and Charlie Schulz story.



INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Now a docent at the Charles M. Schulz Museum, I meet with groups who are particularly interested in the theological content of his cartoons that still appear in 2,000 newspapers world wide. These cartoons have been adapted by Jewish authors, and translated into Japanese and other languages to serve as reading primers. I have collected a growing portfolio of lectures, video programs, interviews, and Power Point programs that I present to groups who share my interest in the Peanuts Cartoons, and the Schulz legacy. I would be happy to meet with your group too. –jhc



Religious and Spiritual Themes In the work of Charles Schulz

Collection by Rev. John H. Cushman

PowerPoint

- ***Quotations of Everyman interview***
 - (Everyman interview, one hour. PowerPoint with handouts of selected quotations, 30 min. Schulz discusses theology is British interviewer.)
- ***Religious Themes (selected cartoons 1963 – 1966)***
 - (PowerPoint with handouts, one hour)
- ***Baseball as Social Allegory***
 - (PowerPoint with handouts, selected cartoons from Schulz Museum exhibit, one hour)
- ***Schulz's Youth***
 - (PowerPoint with handouts, selected cartoons from the book, *Schulz's Youth*, one hour)
- ***Charles Schulz, 1923-2000***
 - PowerPoint with handout, selected biography from the *Press Democrat*, obituary, February 23, 2000, 30 minutes)

Handouts for Discussion

- ***Young Pillars, Youth, Gospel According to Peanuts.*** (Notes and handouts from *Sparky U*, August 21, 2008, Schulz Museum)
- ***Political Wisdom in "Peanuts"*** (*Press Democrat*, August, 2008, by Guy Kovner)
- ***Interview by Jonah Raskin*** (Interview with Jean Schulz: Talking about "Sparky," Lucy and Charlie Brown, 2006)
- ***Peanuts and Me*** (Research for *Sparky U*, August 21, 2008. Topics: Robert Short, Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski, "Charlie Brown in my Church," by Cushman, "Snoopy and Bailey")
- ***Ode to Joy***, (Sermon at Church of the Roses, including biblical references to Joy, and secular references to Baseball as Allegory exhibit.)

- *Sparky's Gospel*, Roseclippings, September, 2008
- *Peanuts TV Show Checklist*, compiled by Scott McGuire
- *Peanuts Reprint Books*, Complete collections, by Derrick Bang

In progress

The Beatitudes of Peanuts (PowerPoint with cartoons illustrating the Eight Beatitudes of Spiritual Blessing, Matthew 5.)

Video

- *BBC Everyman*, (includes religious themes) featuring Charles M. Schulz, 1977
- *Good Ol' Charles Schulz*, Lumiere Productions
- “*Why, Charlie Brown, Why?*” Schulz cartoon video (One of the children discovers she has cancer)
- “*What Have We Learned?*” (Schulz cartoon video regarding Normandy Invasion, WWII)

Audio

- “*Charlie Brown at Christmas*” Worship service at Church of the Roses, December, 2007, with Dr. John Cushman