

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

Sunday Services 10:15 am Religious Education 10:00 am Accessible to the Handicapped

APRIL 2012



Community Unitarian Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
Founded 1909

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere
Interim Minister

Annie Gonzalez
Religious Education Coordinator

Liliana Keith
Church Administrator

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

Susan King
Bookkeeper

For more information
about CUC:
www.cucwp.org
Email: info@cucwp.org
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline for
May Edition:
Sunday, April 22

Submit information to
Emily Economou, Editor
emily.economou@gmail.com

In the Interim ...

I once knew a wise minister named Harry Scholefield. Harry was a proponent of spiritual hygiene. He would ask, "Did you brush your teeth today? Of course you did! Did you brush your mind?"

Harry said that each morning we wake with a prayer. We may not be aware of it, but it has to do with our willing and wishing.

That prayer can be revealed with physical gesture. Do we greet the day with our arms up defensively, as if we were warding off blows, or are our hands and arms open in a welcoming gesture?

How do we greet the day? With a groan of protest? With a hoot of joy? With a headlong rush into the next moment, without considering what we bring or what we want from this day? With grim resignation, as if this day is something to slog through, somehow?

Thich Naht Hahn suggests writing the word, "*smile*" on a piece of paper and taping it to the ceiling over your bed.

Aldous Huxley suggested that our prayer for the day be "*pay attention.*"

There is a Buddhist prayer that goes,
"*may no one who encounters me ever have an insignificant contact.*"

In Hinduism, the Rig Veda contains this:
"*Lord, awaken us in a happy mood and give us knowledge.*"

Harry's prayer was as follows:
"Help me to affirm the gift of life
in myself and others
and to know myself affirmed."

May we be aware of our prayers.
May our prayers for the day —
may our willing and wishing —
reflect our best sense of ourselves in the world.
And may our prayers be answered and fulfilled
in each thought, each word, and each deed. AMEN.

Yours in faith, Benjamin

APRIL SERVICES 2012, 10:15 A M

April 1. ***What's So Funny?***. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. On April Fool's Day we'll consider the value of humor.

April 8. ***Practice Resurrection***. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. On Easter Sunday our children and choir will join us in celebration of a rebirth of wonder.

April 15. ***Unsolving the Woman Problem***. The Rev. Dr. Holly Horn. Feminist theological reflection on currents within Unitarian Universalism. Reverend Horn is Benjamin's wife and currently serving the First UU Brooklyn congregation as interim minister.

April 22. ***Our Good News***. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere and The Rev. Dr. Holly Horn. A celebration of what UUism offers the world.

April 29. ***RE Sunday***. Celebrating our religious education teachers and volunteers.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Search & Giving: A Tale of Two Conversations

We began 2012 with two congregational conversations, the first to build our Search Committee and the second to coordinate the CUC Annual Giving Campaign. In February members and friends took the time to help us identify which people would best serve us in helping to find a settled minister. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee I thank Erin Foster and her committee for the outstanding job they did organizing this.

CUC's time and effort has been well rewarded and your voice has been heard. I am pleased to announce the official Search Committee Slate: Diana Echevarria, Emily Economou, Ted Kuczinski, Al Rocchi, Lori Saccardi, Janice Silverberg, and Jeff Tomlinson.

From the pulpit during March, Benjamin and several members of the congregation spoke of the need to recognize the important work of the church and to understand that as much as we would like it to be, the spiritual cannot be divorced from the financial. As we wind down the 2011/2012 year, our 2012/2013 campaign is well underway (our fiscal year begins on July 1). While we have already received many pledges, in many ways this will only be a successful fundraising effort if there is 100% participation from each of you. Last year only 65% of members and friends pledged and we were unable to meet our ongoing expenses without going significantly into our endowment. Next year, as we complete the second year of Search there will be additional, but unavoidable expenses.

As your Board of Trustees we have a fiduciary responsibility to CUC. ***Without a substantial increase in meaningful participation in this year's Annual Giving Campaign, we are preparing to recommend considerable and painful cuts to next year's operating budget.***

Join us in one of our conversational circles after services either on March 25th or April 1st. Listen to what CUC means to others and think about what it means to you. And give financial expression to that meaning so we can minimize the changes we are currently anticipating for the next fiscal year.

Then join us on Sunday, April 22 as we bring these two conversations to a close. After services that day, we will hold a brief special congregational meeting to hold an up-and-down vote on the Search Committee Slate. (Remember that you must be a legal member to participate in this vote.) Then everyone, members and friends, who has participated in the Giving Campaign, is invited to join us for brunch. Nothing would thrill the Board of Trustees more than to have the room brimming with excitement and joy as we mark the successful conclusion of both these congregational conversations.

~ *In Community,*
Janet Press, Board Chair

Official Notice

The Board of Trustees calls a Meeting of the Congregation following the service on **Sunday, April 22, 2012** for the purpose of

- voting on the Ministerial Search Committee slate presented by the Nominating Committee

Nominees for the Search Committee are:

Diana Echevarria	Lori Saccardi
Emily Economou	Janice Silverberg
Ted Kuczinski	Jeff Tomlinson
Al Rocchi	

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NOMINEES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE IN EARLY APRIL

NewMembers

We are pleased to announce, and welcome, the following people as legal members of Community Unitarian Church at White Plains since Fall, 2011:

Charlotte Blatt	Jay Pacitti
Deborah Mawhinney	Lara Campbell
Alan L. Marasco	Julia Wells
Christopher Clouet	Anne Hintermeister
Aleksi Suvanto	Michael N. Basso
Elizabeth Suvanto	Kristin Zisson
Joan Eskenazi	Alex Zisson
Nina Hanlon	Kate Breault
Ron Hanlon	Chris Breault



Although perhaps long-time friends of CUC, these legal members are now offered voting and leadership opportunities and responsibilities for our church sustainability. For more information about legal membership, contact Reverend Benjamin.



CARING & SHARING

The Family of Louis Eskenazi

“Thank you all for your notes, cards, visits and expressions of support and sympathy during Lou’s illness and death.”

- *Church Member Joan Eskenazi*

Caring & Sharing Committee

Contact Nicky Klemens at 967-4419 or Janet Giewat at 617-2137 if you, or someone you know, is in need of help from the Caring & Sharing group. This includes home visits, help getting to doctor’s appointments, help with food shopping if one is home bound, etc.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Council

Happy spring, RE families! It is hard to believe that we are in the last few months of RE already, with many of the programs entering their home stretch.

The 4/5th grade class has been preparing to lead the Children's Worship service on March 25. They will be presenting an interactive telling of the Good Samaritan story.

You may have noticed the Coming of Age students at the pulpit during the chalice lighting and call to worship. They are getting practice speaking before the congregation in preparation for presenting their credos in May.

The PreK-5th grade cereal drive continues in April. The congregation gave generously during March, and a first delivery has been made to the Ecumenical Food Pantry of White Plains already. Please continue to buy an extra box or two of a healthy cereal (no larger than 14 ounces) during your regular grocery run, and bring to the collection box in the RE lobby.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 29 - RE Sunday. This service is the congregation's special opportunity to thank the RE teachers and other volunteers for the time they have given to CUC's children and youth this year.

Finally, thank you to the Youth Group for their thought provoking service on March 4 about social networking and community, and for hosting the delicious pancake brunch on March 18!

- *Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair*



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

UU District of Metro NY 2012 Annual Meeting

Please join **Denice Tomlinson, Mary Cavallero, and John Cavallero** in attending the **UU District of Metro NY 2012 Annual Meeting, May 4-5th in nearby Stamford CT**. This meeting is open to everyone. There are opportunities for worship, music, 29 different workshops (Friday night and Saturday day). Many of the workshops will have a Social Justice focus. This year Rev. Stefan Johansson will be the keynote speaker "Golden Opportunities, Concrete Realities, and the Future of Liberal Religion". For more information go to the UU District of Metro NY website. <http://www.uumetrony.org/am12/index.htm>. If you have questions or are interested in attending as a delegate, email me at denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com.

General Assembly 2012

General Assembly 2012 will take place on June 20-24 in Phoenix Arizona. Those attending General Assembly will return grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to CUC. For more information go to the UUA website <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. If you have questions or are interested in attending as a delegate, email me at denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com. Can't go to General Assembly? Stay tuned for the schedule of live streaming from CUC.

Submitted by Denice Tomlinson

EVENTS

COFFEE HOUR CIRCLES

So what are those Coffee Hour Circles About Anyway?

Your opportunity to listen to what CUC means to the people you know, and the people you don't know!

March 25th or April 1

Each participant will be asked to respond to 1 or 2 questions:

1. Think back over your entire experience at CUC: when were you most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement? What made it exciting? What was going on? How were you involved? Who else was participating? Describe what you felt. In what ways was it important to you then?

or

2. Consider your current connections to CUC. What draws you back? What do you value most about congregational life? What activities or ingredients or ways of life are most important? What are the best features of this church?





CUC CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm

An Evening with Cole Porter

The CUC Choir, directed by Lisa N. Meyer and accompanied by Georgianna Pappas, invites you to a concert of music by America's great 20th century songwriter.

Enjoy a nostalgic evening of solos, duets, and choral arrangements, including Let's Fall In Love, It's De-Lovely, and Anything Goes!

Admission is a donation of \$20, \$10 for Seniors and Students. For more information, call CUC at 914-946-1660, ext. 8.



**Lisa Meyer, 10 Years
with CUC**

The choir and Music Committee members are honoring Lisa Meyer for her 10 years of service at CUC on **Sunday, April 1st** during coffee hour.

Meditation - Method & Practice

Sundays, 9:00 am

April 8, April 29, May 13, June 3



Have you ever been curious about meditation, but are not sure how to start? This class is for you. We will talk about some different meditation theories and practices. But the main objective is to get everyone started with their own practice by practicing as a group. Even the most experienced or advanced meditators can benefit by practicing in a group setting. Please join us at 9:00 on the following Sundays: April 8, April 29, May 13, June 3. Please arrive promptly (by 9:15) to sit with the group. We will conclude each session with a brief discussion of what we experienced. Taught by Jennifer Lewis.



CUC and the Coachman Center



In February we brought a session on Women's Health issues to a small group of very enthusiastic Coachman residents. The women were bursting with previously unanswered questions for Nurse Janet Wafer (think OWL for adults!). The session was so appreciated that the Coachman staff asked us to come back and do a repeat session for the teens in residence, which we are doing on March 22nd.

At the same time, we worked with a very eager group of about eighteen children making valentines crafts with doilies, foam stickers and tin foil.

Future volunteer opportunities:

To learn more, or to be included on the e-mail list for future events, please contact:

Johanna Bauer 636-1047

johbauer@msn.com **or**

Karen Schmitt 921-3647 schmitt8@verizon.net

COFFEE HOUR

Host a Coffee Hour! Now is your chance!

The following dates are available for coffee hours:

April 8
May 13 (mother's day)
May 27
June 3

Sign up in the church lobby or contact Liliana Keith at 946-1660 x2 or at cucoffice@gmail.com.

The CUC 2nd Annual Congregational Read

Discussion on the UUA Congregational Read, Acts of Faith

Led by Rev Benjamin

Sunday, April 15th, 11:30



THE GREAT RE CEREAL DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

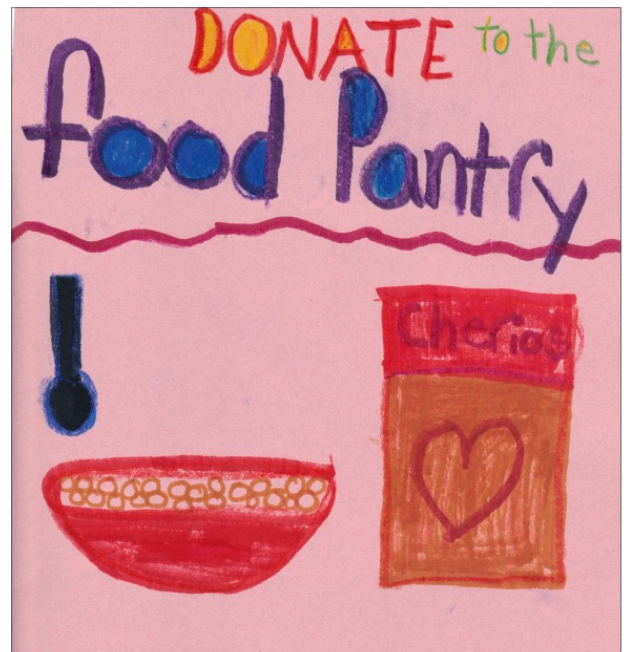
Our cereal drive to benefit the White Plains Ecumenical Food Pantry has been a huge success so far. Many thanks to all of you who have remembered to buy an extra box or two of cereal each week - believe it or not we have already collected 60 boxes of cereal for the White Plains Ecumenical Food Pantry! That means 60 children will be eating healthy breakfasts for at least a week this spring, thanks to us. Let's keep the momentum going! The Food Pantry has a vital need for cereal, let's all step up and help meet that need.

When you do your food shopping each week during the months of **March and April**, please purchase an extra box or two of cereal and drop it off in the collection box located in the RE lobby.

Guidelines:

- Cold, boxed cereal is preferred
- Good examples- Rice Krispies, Cheerios, Corn Flakes, or any healthy cereal
- Avoid cereals with too much sugar or additives .
- Boxes should be NO LARGER than 14 oz.

Thank you for helping to make the world a little bit better for a family in need!



Sanctuary Flowers

Share your cherished occasions. Flower donations at CUC are for you to honor loved ones. A birthday? An anniversary? A new family member? A remembrance day? The bouquet will adorn the sanctuary and the occasion will be mentioned in the Sunday Order of Service. To make a flower donation, contact Liliana Keith at 946-1660 x2 or at admin@cucwp.org. The cost is \$65.

Dates Available For Flower Donations:

April 29
May 6
May 27
June 3
June 10



CUC SPRING CLEANING!!!

Church Directory...need one?

Is your church directory dog-eared and missing pages? Have you never had a church directory?

Church Directories are available at the church office, with updated congregant names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers. Contact Liliana Keith at 946-1660 and she'll leave one for you on a Sunday. Or ask a Welcome Committee volunteer or an usher on Sunday.

What's *Our* Email?

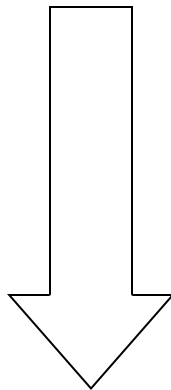
For Church Administrator Liliana Keith, please use: cucoffice@gmail.com or admin@cucwp.org. The "juno" email account is no longer active.

What's *Your* Email?

Do you wish to receive updates on events and committee progress via email? If you are not receiving emails from us, perhaps your information needs updating. Contact Liliana Keith at cucoffice@gmail.com to update your records.



April Calendar



~ April 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed & Children's Service 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour (SANC) 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir Rehearsal (R24) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH) 11:15a-12p Giving Campaign (FH)	2 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	3 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	4 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	5	6	7
8 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-9:45a Meditation--method & practice (R11) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour (SANC)	9 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH)	10 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	11	12 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	13 6p-9p Dress Rehearsal Spring Choral Concert (SANC\,FH\,KTCH)	14 7p-9p Spring Choral Concert (SANC\,FH\,KTCH)
15 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed & Children's Service 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-1p The Congregational Read (FH) 11:45a-12:45p Fun Facts (SANC)	16 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	17 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	18 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	19	20 6p-10:30p 6th OWL Retreat (FH\, KTCH\, 41)	21
22 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 10:15a-10:40a Family Service (FH) 11:30a-1:30p Giving Campaign Brunch (FH)	23 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 7:30 -9:30p Play Reading Group (41)	24 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	25 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	26 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	27	28 6p-7p CoA Planning Retreat (maybe an overnight)
29 5:30a-6:30a RE SUNDAY 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-9:45a 6th OWL Parents (41) 9a-9:45a Meditation--method & practice (R11) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed & Family Service 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee	30 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)					