

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ Evil ~

Is there really such a thing as evil? Certainly, there is such a thing as harm. People do sometimes do harm to others. And there are such things as oppression and, more generally, injustice. If we have the concepts sociopathy, negligence, malicious intent, damage, oppression, and injustice, do we really also need a concept named “evil?”

The argument for dropping “evil” out of our conceptual repertoire – the way that 18th-century scientists dropped “phlogiston” from their conceptual repertoire – would include taking note of the harm the concept does. “Evil” masquerades as an explanation. By calling something evil, we cast the illusion of having explained it and thereby undermine calls for real explanation. Moreover, labeling a person or institution “evil” strongly suggests that the only feasible response is to destroy it. Usually, a more nuanced response will work better.

So maybe we would do well to drop the concept “evil.” This would change nothing about the world’s myriad and deep suffering, but it would compel us to invoke different – and probably more helpful – concepts for thinking about that suffering.

Maybe.

On the other hand, when I recall what I know of Dachau and Treblinka, when I remember the photographs taken in the early years of the 20th-century of the smiling white faces and apparent party atmosphere at lynchings, I doubt whether any term but “evil” can intimate the moral horror I feel. When I feel that revulsion and grope to understand it, I remind myself to look into my own heart. There is no evil out there that isn’t also inside me. There is no human greed, fear, or obliviousness of which I do not also share a measure. For me, then, the quest to understand evil begins with Alexandr Solzhenitsyn’s observation:

"If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?"

Good question, Alex. Let us begin there.

Faithfully, *Meredith*

Community Unitarian
Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660
www.cucwp.org



October 2013

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OCTOBER SERVICES 10:15 AM

October 6

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Evil and Sociopathy

On the subject of evil, one proposal is to treat it as a disease or condition called sociopathy. It's a proposal with a number of advantages.

October 13

Bruce Knotts

UU-UNO

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

October 20

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Wicked

Fiction – such as Gregory Maguire's *Wicked* – offers important avenues for understanding and coming to grips with the nature of good and evil.

October 27

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Why Not Be Evil?

Given to human proclivity toward evil, why aren't all of us evil all the time?



INSTALLATION

On **Sunday November 10, at 4:00pm**, Rev. Meredith Garmon is to be officially installed as the sixth settled senior minister of the Community Unitarian Church at White Plains. A grand ceremony with a number of visiting speakers and a gala bash in celebration is planned. All members are particularly urged to attend for, in accordance with Unitarian Universalist polity, the act of installation is performed only by the congregation.

Susan Donham to be Ordained Sunday, October 6th



Susan Donham was the 2010-11 ministerial intern at our church. Since completing her internship with us she has finished two CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) residencies and will soon begin serving as a Palliative Care chaplain at an outpatient clinic of George Washington University Hospital.

Susan will be ordained by the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore and will become that congregation's affiliated community minister. The ordination is set for **October 6 at 4pm**. All members of CUC are invited to attend. If you plan be there, please RSVP to ordination@firstunitarian.net or [410-685-2330](tel:410-685-2330).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fall Beginnings....

It's the time of the fall Equinox and we have all gathered, sharing both joys and sorrows. We marked the completion of the kitchen at the In-Gathering on September 8, (which passed its final inspection over the summer) with an acknowledgement of the contribution of time, effort, talent and financial support of many, and with special recognition of Ted Kuczinski, who went the extra mile many times to guide the project to completion.

The Board of Trustees had its annual fall retreat in September, and has begun identifying goals for the year, which we wanted to begin to share with you. With Meredith's help, we have begun to think of the church as having four major areas of ministry: 1) Worship, 2) Justice/Outreach, 3) Pastoral/Inreach and 4) Religious Education. In discussion, we recognized that while we have organized ourselves so that we are somewhat active in each area (i.e. Worship- worship, music committees; Justice/Outreach – Midnight Run, In the Spirit of Truth; Pastoral/Inreach – Welcome committee, Caring and Sharing; and RE- the RE Council) we also have major effort

devoted to the "infrastructure" work: annual giving campaign, buildings and grounds, auction committee, etc. While we need to obviously continue that important work, we are hoping that as a congregation we can begin to put more effort into the work of our ministries.

With that in mind, the Board has identified the following goal for this coming year: 1) Complete the mission statement; 2) Begin a program of small group ministry or "ministry teams"; 3) Decide on a direction for revitalizing our social justice initiatives; 4) Create a membership development path; 5) Grow our youth ministry. The Board will be reaching out to you in various ways in the coming weeks to seek your input and help in accomplishing these goals. As always, we welcome your outreach to us at any time as well.

I am looking forward to entering a time of excitement, rejuvenation and growth for our congregations and hope that you will be encouraged to join in with your time and talents.

***Yours in community,
Ginny Strand, Board Chair***

Help Wanted

We're looking for members or friends of CUC for short-term help:

1. We need an IT person to consult with about our internet and computer connection
2. We could use someone with marketing/publicity experience.

If you can help, please see
Rev. Meredith Garmon

SOCIAL MEDIA



Please "like" the "Community Unitarian Church" Face-book page. (Then mouse hover over the "liked" button, and, from the menu that pops up, select "Get Notifications" and "Show in News Feed" ~ then select "Settings . . ." and choose "All updates.")

Additionally, if you aren't already a Facebook "friend" with our minister, Rev. Meredith Garmon, he would welcome your "friend invitation."

On Twitter, follow "CUCWP."

How To Form a Ministry Team

The members and friends of CUC are encouraged to form Ministry Teams for organizing and leading the programs and ministries of the church. Ministry teams are invited to form for:

- Direct, hands-on assistance projects such as "Midnight Run";
- Bringing CUC's support to important external organizations such as the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee), and worthy but non-UU organizations such as perhaps Amnesty International or the Sierra Club.
- Programs of enrichment open to the wider community, such as a Play Reading Group or Spanish Classes.

In order to be recognized as a Ministry Team (MT) of CUC, the team needs:

- (1) At least five members
- (2) A brief Team Description -- less than one page -- which is updated every summer if the MT wishes to continue.

WHY FIVE?

Some UU congregations have a dedicated Social Justice Coordinator on staff. The combined experience of these staff and ministers through years of working with their congregants bears out that five people is a threshold. One person is a lone voice in the wilderness with little connection. Two people can have a conversation. Three people may be able to pull something off for a little while -- but they'll run out of steam to keep it going. Four people is getting close. They can certainly hold regular meetings for a while, though they are likely not to be fully connected to the congregation. But five people can represent the broad-base of the congregation. Five people with hearts and minds set on it can change the world. Also, in a team of five, if one or even two people miss a meeting, the team is still large enough to continue its ministry.

Margaret Mead told us: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." We might add: "Small, yes. But it does take at least five."

THE TEAM DESCRIPTION

The Team Description, about one page, covers seven items; the first three quite simple, and the last four calling for some thought as the MT clarifies its drive and strategy.

1. Name. The Ministry Team needs a name for itself that clearly identifies its intentions and activities.
2. Purpose. The Ministry Team needs a one- or -two-sentence statement of its purpose. What does the team do to help heal our world? Include whether the MT:
 - (a) is an ongoing effort;
 - (b) plans/organizes a one-time-event (in which case the MT disbands after the event); or
 - (c) plans/organizes one annual event (an MT that plans/organizes more than one annual event would count as "(a) is an ongoing effort").
3. Members. List the five or more members of the Ministry Team. These are the people who are making a commitment to the MT's purpose. For MTs that are an ongoing effort, the commitment is for one year at time. For MTs for one-time or annual events, the commitment is through the completion of the event.
4. Theological motivation. In a couple sentences (three at most), express how the MT's "service is our prayer." Think about: why does the team's purpose belong in a faith institution? What is the spiritual reason for doing this? What in your heart inspires you to devote yourself to this ministry? What motivates you? In your own words, from your heart (not using the seven principles as a crutch), why is this ministry important? Articulating your theological motivation can be a wonderful adventure in intentional faith development. Learning to articulate this, and how to translate that theological motivation into justice, is a blessed journey. Rev. Meredith can help your Ministry Team articulate it's theological motivation.

Continued on page 5...

Continued from page 4...

5. Mission fit. Every ministry of CUC needs to fit into CUC's mission. Each Ministry Team needs one sentence saying how its purpose advances the CUC mission. (Suggestion: until a new mission is developed use the "Listen, Open, Serve" mission: "Healing spiritual disconnection by helping each other LISTEN to our deepest selves, OPEN to life's gifts, and SERVE needs greater than our own.")

6. Timeline and goals. Some ministry teams may form to organize a one-time event -- in which case, that event is its goal, and the team needs to sketch a timeline toward its goal. Other ministry teams have an ongoing ministry -- in which case, it needs to determine annual goals each year, and a timeline toward meeting them. How often will the team meet? Will the team hold events? What subsidiary goals will be reached by what dates? All goals should be worded in a way that you will know whether you have reached them or not. Does the team need a budget? How much and why? What other resources do you need?

7. Engaging the congregation. How will your ministry team engage all of CUC in its ministry? A team of five people doing good work together does not a congregation make. A team of five people bringing more congregational members into active participation in healing our world -- now that's ministry!

REVIEWING AND RENEWING

Each year, during the stretch between Fathers' Day and Labor Day, the ongoing and annual-event MTs review the year past and make plans for the year ahead.

Celebrate the victories! Have fun!

Make new timelines with new goals.

Discover new ways to engage the congregation.

Review the MT's membership. Are all five members still active? Have new members joined the team? If the membership falls below five, the team will need to recruit new member(s) to remain a recognized ministry of CUC.

Has the team's theological motivation changed?

Has the congregation's mission changed?

Consider collaboration possibilities. Is there another Ministry Team at CUC you can partner with (either as part of "goals" or as part of "engaging the congregation")? Is there a ministry at another congregation you can partner with as part of your goals?

CAN YOU SMILE AND SAY GOOD MORNING?

If you can answer "yes" to the question above, we need you to greet at least one Sunday during this church year.

At CUC we are a welcoming community. We want to invite everybody in and help them to feel comfortable-that begins when they walk up to our doors. So please check your calendars and pick one or more Sundays when you can join us to greet at 9:45, before services.

Please email or call Jane Dixon (Welcome Committee chair) at jrdixon@optonline.net or 914-949-5919.



“How Are the Children?”



The Masai tribe of Kenya is comprised of the most fearsome and intelligent warriors in existence. Interestingly, the traditional greeting used between Masai warriors is, “Kasserian Ingera,” which, in Swahili, means, “And how are the children?”

The traditional response to the question is, “All the children are well.” This response means that life is good, peace and safety prevail. It means that the priorities of protecting the young are in place. It acknowledges the great value that the Masai society places on the well-being of their children.

Rev Patrick T. O'Neill, Minister of First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware told this story in a sermon, and he posed thought-provoking questions: How might it affect our consciousness of our own children's welfare if in our culture we took to greeting each other with this daily question: “And how are the children?” Would it begin to make a difference in the reality of how children are thought of or cared for in this community?

What if every adult among us, parent and non-parent alike, felt an equal weight for the daily care and protection of all the children in our community? Would we then be able to say without any hesitation, “The children are well”?

Our Sunday program strives to create an environment in which all children are well cared for and protected. This year our youngest children will continue to learn about how Unitarian Universalist values apply to their lives. They will celebrate with food, stories and holiday customs from around the world. Our older elementary grades will learn about the Bible and will explore connections between biblical events and UU principles and values.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) will be offered to our 7th to 8th graders. The curriculum delves deeply into aspects of sexuality beyond anatomy: gender identity, dating, decision making, sexual orientation and responsibility. The 9th Grade Coming of Agers will explore theology, spirituality, and history of Unitarian Universalism.

In Religious Education, we encourage everyone in the community to do their part in the care of our children and youth. Our goal is to help children feel safe, affirmed and appreciated, so that they continue to grow, learn, and thrive.

We still need volunteers in the classrooms. Please consider giving at least one Sunday per month to keep our children's program strong.

STARTUP WORKSHOP

Saturday October 26

9 am to 4 pm, at CUC

The District Executive of the Metro New York District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Andrea Lerner, will be in White Plains on Saturday October 26 to facilitate a "Ministerial Startup" workshop. **Ministerial startups are typically offered in the second to fourth month of a new minister's settlement.** These workshops are typically six hours long and generally involve an array of lay leaders and congregants, including members of the Board, Committee on Ministry, some staff and other key leaders.



All CUC leaders -- and any other interested members -- are urged to attend.

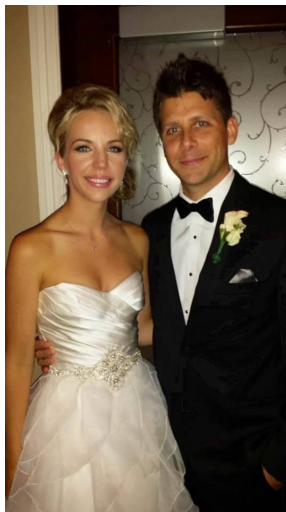
The goals of ministerial startup workshops are to:

- Help surface patterns in the congregation's relationship with ministers, and the resultant expectations of new ministry
- Articulate structures and boundaries necessary for effective ministry
- Reach a common understanding of the goals of the shared ministry, as well as its dimensions and challenges.

The workshop uses a combination of group exercises and discussion to explore the history of ministry in the congregation and asks participants to identify patterns in the relationships between ministers and the congregation. The workshop facilitator will invite participants to brainstorm important priorities for the first year in the new ministry and to explore areas in which shared ministry between the congregation and its new minister needs clarification and focus. It concludes with the minister offering concrete information about the logistics of his or her work (office hours, Sundays off, staff supervision, etc.), and what aspects of congregational ministry most excite and challenge him.

Joys Among Ourselves...

Lauren Taylor and Richard Cardinali happily announce the marriage of their son, David, to Lindsay Jenkins, daughter of Nancy and Thomas Jenkins of bayside Queens on Saturday, September 7th. Surrounded by friends and family, they exchanged vows under a gazebo in front of a glorious sunset and were blessed by a non-denominational minister.



Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout September contact **Janet Giewat** at 617-2137 or bean1a2@aol.com or Robert Youngman at 948-2973 or robeau44@yahoo.com.



CHOIR NEWS

**Sunday, October 6th
Choir Open House,
11:30p -12:30pm in the Sanctuary**

Find a new way to connect with the spirit and enjoy fellowship through singing and music! Sit-in with the CUC choir following Coffee Hour on Oct. 6 and take advantage of the opportunity to experience the joy of making music with others and how we do it. We will sing together through a great variety of repertoire including rounds, spirituals, world music, and UU favorites.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ MUSIC TO PARTICIPATE! Anyone from 12 years of age and up is welcome. At the end of the event we will enjoy some light snacks and fellowship. For more information, contact Choir Director Lisa Meyer at 516-299-2475, 9am to 5pm or any-time at choir@cucwp.org. We hope to see you there!



Sat., Oct. 12, 6-9 pm
Choir fundraiser; "Celebrating the 60s and 70s"
Dinner and Sing-along

An event for the whole family – join us for an evening of nostalgia and journey back to the 60s and early 70s through the music of such amazing artists as the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul & Mary, Pete Seeger, the Turtles, and many others.

Enjoy a scrumptious buffet dinner while listening to some classic Folk and Pop songs performed by Lisa Meyer as well as a few by the Choir. After dessert, then join them in an exciting sing-along that will include such favorites as “Yellow Submarine”, “Puff, the Magic Dragon”, “Blowin’ in the Wind”, “Where Have All the Flowers Gone”, “Happy Together”, “Penney Lane” among others.

Admission is \$30, \$15 for Seniors and Children under 12 which includes dinner and music. Tickets will be available for purchase at Coffee Hours. Proceeds will benefit the Music Program at CUC. For more information or reservations, please contact Choir Director Lisa Meyer at 516-299-2475, 9am to 5pm or anytime at choir@cucwp.org, or speak with any choir member on Sundays.

Saturday, November 16, 2013
is not just another Saturday night...it's

Midnight in Madrid

CUC's fabulous night of auctions, food and fun

Save the Date

Preview at 5:30; Auctions start at 6:00

*To donate items, for tickets or for more information call
914.948.1660*

*A fundraiser for the Community Unitarian Church at White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue*



**We need you
to help make the
Annual Goods & Services Auction
a success.**

Volunteer on the auction committee: it's a fun group and a short term commitment. There are a variety of thing we need help with: ticket sales, decorating, food or set-up.

Donate: We request that any tangible item being donated from your home have a value of at least \$50 and be either new or in mint condition. Donation forms are outside the church office. Please fill out a form for *each* item being donated. Donation forms are being accepted now and tangible items can be dropped off in the church the week before the auction. And remember to ask your local merchants – they are usually happy to donate. Donation request letters are available outside the church office

Attend: the auction on November 16th @ 5:30pm for a fun filled evening with a wide variety of goods and services in all price ranges. Tickets on sale during coffee hour. Need a ride? Let us know and we will match you up with a neighbor attending the auction.

Please contact Ann Marie Damashek 835-7593 scottam@verizon.net or
Catherine Kortlandt 834-7112 cemk_99@yahoo.com

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) ~ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

The UUA has announced this year's **Common Read** *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman. The book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions – discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary conditions affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables. Start reading- book discussion will be scheduled in a few months.

Guest at Your Table – this program supports the good work of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC): Start a coin jar. Encourage every family member and guest to your home to help fill the jar. Then when we launch the program you will have lots of coins to give us. Also don't forget to join UUSC. <http://www.uusc.org/> This is the organization that benefited from the Pete Seeger Concert we hosted last May. UUSC does incredible social justice work. Donations of \$100 or more eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by Shelter Rock

WE need you! Adults and Youth please consider attending these District Events

Senior High Youth Advisor Training, October 12, 2013, Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, Morristown NJ, 9:30am-4:00pm

Youth Adult Committee (YAC) meeting also October 12, Morristown NJ- senior high youth and their advisors encouraged to attend. http://uumetrony.org/events/Sr_Youth%20Advisor_Workshop%20Flier_oct_2013.pdf and to register <https://fd7.formdesk.com/uiforms/SrYAWOct12>

Defying Gravity...Wonderful Ways to Worship - Leading your congregation from the edge of awe.

Saturday November 9, 2013 9am - 4pm

UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, 48 Shelter Rock Rd, Manhasset NY, 10030

Leadership in a congregation can feel like a heavy responsibility. Come to the Defying Gravity Leadership Day and find out how to ease your mind, lighten your heart, and inflate your soul. This multi-track conference will provide specific skills instruction tailored just for you, uncovering the link between leadership and your personal spiritual growth. Future leaders welcome. Youth leaders are encouraged to attend. Registration fee is only \$30 and scholarships are available. To car pool contact Mary Cavallero – marycava4@gmail.org Daycare is also available.

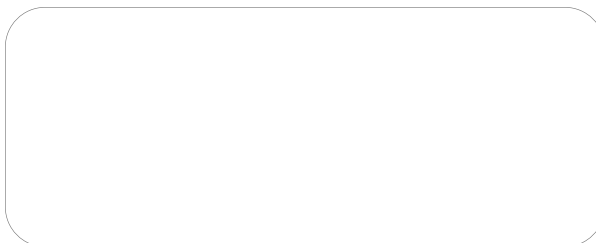
http://uumetrony.org/events/Defying_Gravity_2013_flyer.pdf and to register <https://fd7.formdesk.com/uiforms/DefyingGravity>

Denice Tomlinson, Denominations chair, denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com

~ October 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30p-9:30p Program Council	3	4	5
6 8:45a-10a Choir 9a-11:30a Nursery Care 10a-11:30a RE Classes 10:15a- 11:30a Worship/Coffee 11:30a-12:30p Auction Cmt 11:45a-12:45p Choir Open House - Coffee hr 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth	7 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi	8 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees	10 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality	11	12 6p-9p Choir Fund Raiser
13 9a-11:30a Nursery Care 10a-11:30a RE Classes 10:15a 11:30a Worship/Coffee	14 Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi	15 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18	19
20 Communitarian Deadline 9a-11:30a Nursery Care 10a-11:30a RE Classes 10:15a- 11:30a Worship/Coffee 11:30a-12:30p Inside the Music 11:30a-12:30p Auction Cmt	21 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi 8p-9:30p Finance Committee	22 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30p-9p RE Council	24 10a-11a COMMUNI- TARIAN mailing 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality	25	26 9:00a-4:00p Start Up Workshop
27 9a-11:30a Nursery Care 10a-11:30a RE Classes 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee	28 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi	29 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	30	31 Halloween		

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



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Communitarian Deadline for
September Edition:

Sunday, October 20

Submit information to
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