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the QUARTERLY

COMMUNITARIAN NEWSLETTER

Meredith's Musings

Grace and mercy were our themes for Feb and Mar, and compassion and joy are our themes for Apr and May. With grace, we look at the blessings that come to us unearned, undeserved, and often unexpected.



Mercy is related to grace, but with a particular emphasis on the practical wisdom to judge when adhering to rules serves the greatest good and when lenience about rule enforcement is called for. The questions of mercy, then, relate to the broader question of compassion, for skillful compassion sometimes calls for knowing when to stick to principles (an "ethic of justice") and knowing when the unique needs of the situation outweigh the principles (an "ethic of care").

These are questions to which there is no formulaic answer—yet they are vitally important questions. I often say "live the question" or "live into the question." More important than having an answer is holding the question before us with openness and curiosity. Your life is the answer—not any articulation.

And that brings us to the theme for May: Joy. Happiness has some strong connection to joy—joyful people tend to be happy—but there are some differences. For instance, focusing on your own happiness can be self-defeating, while the intentional cultivation of joy is likely to be less self-centered.

Deepening our exploration of these themes promises to be both interesting and enriching. I am looking forward to walking these next stages of the path with you!

Yours,
Meredith

Chair's Report

To all CUUC members and friends:

Your Board of Trustees, the CUUC staff, and our members have been deeply engaged in services, RE, and programming with great dedication and success.

2016–2017 Focus: Growth. At the BOT retreat last October we focused on growth and came up with several immediate objectives to work on:

- ~ Neighborhood circles/dinners
- ~ Be better greeters & welcomers
- ~ Use "Our Congregation" segment to encourage all to be welcomers (start with one)
- ~ Invite the congregation to Board meetings
- ~ Explore mentoring congregation - Westport or Morristown
- ~ Tweak social media and website - mobile
- ~ Facebook ads
- ~ Employee assessment - end of November
- ~ More "Caring & Sharing" to parents of young children
- ~ Tabling in sanctuary after service
- ~ Street fair presence
- ~ Sunday Service thematically consistent and contemporary

These are perhaps not what one might call "blockbusters," perhaps more incremental, but taken together, and followed by longer term objectives, we believe can make a difference.

Financial: With the help of our Finance Committee and Treasurer Chris Kortlandt we are monitoring closely and addressing our financial situation. Rentals from our two major tenants are current, although our extra income from film productions rentals has been minimal so far this fiscal year. We are fortunate to have a very substantial endowment as well as several separate dedicated funds for certain activities and programs, all of which puts us in an overall beneficial financial posture. We enjoyed a very successful auction for additional revenue.

We are mindful of the continuing needs of our aging physical plant and systems, and continue to evaluate them from operational and financial perspectives. We have had an assessment by CMIT Solutions of our computer and IT communications systems, with recommendations; a comprehensive energy audit [see below]; and we have engaged a private company to assist Buildings and Grounds with routine maintenance and repairs on a cost-effective basis.

Visioning Committee: We will implement our identification and community assessment of our needs, goals, and objectives, and come up with proposals for how to finance them. Our well-attended Searching for the Future visioning sessions in March were a first step in this process.

Repaving: Our major repaving project last summer finished within budget. Many thanks to Karen Schmitt for facilitating the project and for its successful and handsome completion.

Programs: Our Social Justice Teams continue to be active and effective, with good congregational participation in several areas:

- The *Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity* program was successfully led by Adine Usher and Jeff Tomlinson;
- Involvement continues in the Westchester Refugee Task Force for the resettlement of refugee families in Westchester;
- A very successful forum on economic inequality with Prof. Richard Wolff in October filled Fellowship Hall to capacity. Many thanks to Pat Lavin and Alan Trevithick;
- The Environmental Practices Group arranged for a comprehensive energy audit of our main building and parsonage, which will be reviewed by the BOT and shared with the congregation;
- The LGBTQ social justice team held a well-attended educational forum "Trans 101" with Rhyrus Falcone. The presentation is part of CUUC's re-certification as a UUA Welcoming Congregation. Thanks to team chair Tony Arrien;
- Black Lives Matter was honored in Adam Kent's November piano concert focusing on African-American composers and themes.

We are most fortunate to have an extremely dedicated and hardworking Board and staff, not to mention the many volunteers from the congregation, all moving CUUC in a very positive direction. Please feel free to contact any of us directly if you have any questions or concerns about what we have been doing and where we are headed.

In community,

Tom Wacht

Board Chair

Where Is the AED (Automated External Defibrillator)?

Too often the answer is, "We don't have one." Sadly, the same research that demonstrated a nearly five-fold increase in survivability (from 5% to 24%) when an AED is used, also showed that an AED is available only 2% of the time. Well, CUUC now has an AED! We hope never to have to use it, but it is there if we do. It is located in a marked cabinet at the coat rack area nearest the main entrance. Once the unit is turned on, it gives voice instructions so even untrained individuals can operate the unit. To see a brief demonstration of how to use the ZOLL AED Plus visit [youtube.com/watch?v=AthCTidepsw&t=17s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AthCTidepsw&t=17s).



Religious Education

CUUC RE SCHEDULE 2016-2017

Colors designate:

Class day	Special Sun	Multigen
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<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Happenings Before / After RE</i>	<i>Lesson or Special Topic / Service</i>
Apr-2	Compassion	Sanc/Class	Music for All Ages; Child Dedication; Canvass Brunch	Regular Classes
Apr-9	Compassion	Sanc		MULTIGEN ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE
Apr-16	Compassion	FH/Class		EASTER EGG HUNT & ACTIVITIES
Fri Apr-21-23			Metro NY Youth Con (Shelter Rock)	XXX
Apr-23	Compassion	FH/Class		EARTH DAY
Apr-30	Compassion	FH/Class	Helping Hands Project	Regular Classes
May-7	Joy	Sanc	Pancake Brunch	MULTIGEN FLOWER SERVICE
Sat May-13		Sanc	Variety Show (5:00p)	
May-14	Joy	FH/Class		Regular Classes
May-21	Joy	FH/Class		Regular Classes
May-28	Joy	Sanc/FH		FUN SUNDAY
Jun-4	Freedom	Sanc/Class	Music for All Ages; Affirmation Ceremony	Regular Classes
Jun-11	Freedom	Sanc	Bridging Ceremony; Barbecue	RE SUNDAY SERVICE
Jun-18	Freedom	FH		FUN SUNDAY

Religious Education



Looking Ahead...

Sun May 7 - Don't flip! Pancake Brunch is coming... May 7 after the service, hosted by the CUUC youth. Support their social justice fundraiser. \$5/adult, \$3/child, \$15/family.

Sat May 13, CUUC Variety Show, 5:00–7:00pm. Share your talent and raise money for a social justice cause. Decide how you want to participate - will you perform? Contact Liz Suvanto at elizabethsuvanto@hotmail.com. Will you bake? Contact Irene at irene.cox@gmail.com. Will you create a piece of art? Contact Rhonda at rhondagmiller@gmail.com.



UU Summer Camps & Retreat Centers

Whether you are looking for a place to go as a family or somewhere for your kids to experience a fun camp, there are many amazing Unitarian Universalist summer destinations:

Ferry Beach is oceanfront in ME. ferrybeach.org

The Mountain is atop the Blue Ridge Mountains in NC. mountaincenters.org

The Rowe Center is in the Berkshire Mountains in MA. rowecenter.org

Sophia Fahs RE Camp is one week in August on Shelter Island. liacuu.org/Fahs

Star Island is a 46-acre island off the NH coast. starisland.org

Unirondack is in the NY Adirondacks. unirondack.org

Murray Grove is a Universalist retreat center nearby in NJ. murraygrove.org

UUMAC Retreat is one week in July at DeSales University in PA. uumac.org

Ministerial Intern

I can't help but think of my time with you since I arrived last summer as one long theme and variations on "*Getting to know you*" – the 1951 Rodgers and Hammerstein classic. In its original context in the musical "The King and I," the newly arrived teacher sings the song to the children in the classroom, hoping to set a warm tone and win their affection. It's no surprise, then, that the tune inspires activities that mark the beginning of time together and creating a loving community in schools, churches, and community organizations. Is it any wonder that it's become the background music to the past months I've spent with you?

Now I'm not going to change the lyrics, as UUs are wont to do at times, but I will take a different spin on the original. For me, CUUC, a unique gathering of members & friends, visitors, and staff, is the living text of my studies, and *you* are my teacher. I suspect, though, that I am only one of many committed learners here!

These past months as your ministerial intern have indeed flown by quickly! I've been *Getting to know you, getting to know all about you* – the people you are, as individuals, on committees, and in teams. Getting to know the passions you have and the many ways you practice generosity. Getting to know the many faces of love and across-the-board dedication that nurture our children's spiritual and personal growth.

I've been *Getting to like you* – in the ways you tend to your spiritual needs, and in the care you show for one another, in times of need, sickness, and personal and societal grief. Getting to like the ways you direct your energies and compassion to minister to the greater community, the way you extend a welcome and hospitality to all who come through the door, and work to welcome and settle a refugee family seeking safety, security, and a new start. Getting to like the ways you work to meet the practical needs of neighbors in need and work for systemic economic and racial justice. Getting to like the ways you work to tread more lightly on our sacred Earth and engage with environmental and climate justice issues.

Bit by bit, I've been *Getting to feel free and easy when I am with you, sharing your tears and your laughter* – as we engage in one-on-one and group conversations and as we worship together in music and words from different theological viewpoints. Getting to feel easy with you as we discuss and appreciate the ways in which we are called to be good leaders and stewards in serving the greater good.

I've been getting to feel free and easy *Telling you my dreams, getting to feel that you're with me* in my ministerial formation. And for that, I am grateful for your warm welcome and the wisdom and guidance you share that helps shape my future ministry. I look forward to what the next months of deepening our *Getting to know you* will reveal. I wonder how it is that we will rise to meet the challenges of living into our UU values, honoring our covenant, and taking our life-affirming mission out the doors to an aching and waiting world.

Cindy Davidson



Economic Social Justice Team

Our Social Crises Fall Under One Leaky Umbrella: The Inequality of our Economic System About a year ago I volunteered at a community dinner held at CUUC and was captivated by the unpretentious beauty and openness of the space itself. It didn't feel like any religious space, church, or temple I had ever experienced. Paradoxically, it was that very feeling of OPENness that drew me in. I returned on a Sunday morning and was captivated by the music, the warmth, and the welcome of the congregation. I heard about Social Justice Teams, and that you didn't have to be a member to join. So... did!

The Economic Social Justice Team engaged economist, Professor Richard D. Wolff to speak here at an event last fall that included the Westchester county community at large. We had over 100 attendees and actually ran out of chairs! No one wanted to leave, including the Professor! Who knew a talk about economics could be so much fun... and so enlightening! He arrived at 11:30 and at 3:30 he was still hanging out, chatting and answering questions! The following are some of Prof. Wolff's words following the presidential election:

Now the nation confronts its fundamental problems after so many were swept under the rug by the "major candidates" in this election's long exercise in mass distraction. The time lost, like the campaigns' billions, could better have gone toward solving those problems. Only when massive oppositions of the people get aroused do they relearn the first of the great old lessons... that ultimate power resides with the people. When that happens, the question arises: will the people relearn the second of the great old lessons... that the power of the people becomes effective when it is organized? I believe we have already begun. Our task is to help inform, focus, and, above all, organize an aroused and rising people."

It was incredibly invigorating visiting the Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains; it is always great to be surrounded by a unified community ready and willing to stand up for social, racial, and economic justice. I thank the congregation for inviting me and being exceptionally warm, welcoming, and hospitable."

As a co-chair, along with Alan Trevithick, of your Economics Social Justice Team, I would like to give my profound thanks to CUUC for affording me the privilege of initiating and organizing the event. It was a life-enhancing and expanding opportunity! I highly recommend it to all our congregants. Get involved! And to all of you who did have a part in creating the event that, I was told, was an education and inspiration to many who attended, I am so impressed and grateful! We are considering future events, and invite you to join us!

Enthusiastically yours,
Pat Lavin (patlavin@optonline.net), co-chair with
Alan Trevithick (dramt1960@gmail.com)



Environmental Practices Group

Introducing the UUA Green Sanctuary Program

The Environmental Practices Group is undertaking a UUA Program called Green Sanctuary. Environmental issues are in our faces constantly: deforestation, climate change, contaminated drinking water, just to name a few. The UUA has developed a program to help congregations address some of these concerns. That program is called Green Sanctuary.

What is the Green Sanctuary Program? The program is a multi-year program that provides a structure for congregations to examine their current environmental impact and to move towards more sustainable practices consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. Upon successful completion of the program, CUUC will be certified as a Green Sanctuary.

There are four focus areas: **Worship and Celebration** – As we work together towards a cleaner, more just and sustainable world, worship enables us to stay connected to each other and to celebrate the work we have accomplished. **Religious Education** – RE shapes more than just minds, it shapes attitudes and practices. **Sustainable Living** – Requires us to treat the world more gently by using fewer resources and being mindful of the choices we make. **Environmental Justice** – Acknowledges that marginalized communities are often hit first and hardest by environmental crisis. By working in solidarity with these communities we are able to address human and environmental needs at the same time.

Within each of these areas, we will undertake projects to raise awareness about environmental issues across all ages at CUUC, and collaborate with groups and organizations within and beyond the congregation to have a positive impact on our environment.

The first phase of the Program was a series of assessments in each of the four focus areas. For sustainable living, members of our committee interviewed staff and reviewed our current practices, and we have completed an energy audit of our building and the parsonage. For environmental justice, we plan discussions with other social justice teams, congregants, and outside groups.

We will next develop a multi-year action plan with projects in each of the focus areas, plus a major environmental justice program that will include collaboration beyond the congregation walls. The plan will respond to the findings from our assessment. Because the environmental justice project is a major focus of the Green Sanctuary Program, we will be consulting with members of the congregation and congregational leadership before moving forward.

We are excited to have begun on this project and hope you will be excited as we move forward. If we have piqued your interest and you would like more information or would like to become actively involved in some aspect of the program, please contact Charlie McNally (McNally@pobox.com) or Janet Bear (jsbear1@gmail.com), co-chairs of the Environmental Practices Group.

Women's Issues Social Justice Team



Hunger & Homelessness

The Hunger & Homelessness team has been partnering with HOPE Community Services to deliver dinners to feed 150 of our neighbors who cannot afford a good meal each day. HOPE (Help Our People Eat) is a not-for-profit, non sectarian organization with a spiritual ecumenical dimension that serves the disadvantaged of New Rochelle and surrounding communities. Unlike many kitchens, HOPE not only provides food but allows its clients to maintain a sense of dignity while enjoying community in a friendly atmosphere. The HOPE kitchen feels less like a charity and more like a family. Now the largest emergency food program in Westchester County, HOPE is supported by a network of volunteers who make it possible to serve more than 600 meals a week in the soup kitchen and distribute more than 1,200 bags of groceries a month from the food pantry. In addition to combating hunger, HOPE has become a great community resource to connect people in need to a variety of support services in New Rochelle. It deserves our support and our thanks!

~ Jane Dixon (lilrhodie@gmail.com), chair



LGBTQIA Social Justice Team

The LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Asexual) Social Justice Team has been engaged in renewing and recertifying CUUC's long time Welcoming Congregation status (learn more at uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program). Since it has been over 10 years since we did this process, there have been a lot of new developments in the LGBTQIA community that are worthy of exploring during the recertification. We finished our assessment phase and are now planning and presenting educational events this year and next for our congregation, such as fora, PowerPoint presentations, guest speakers, and integration with Religious Education. The team sponsored a Transgender Day Of Remembrance (TDOR) service last November for congregants, friends, and allies. The ceremony, held after coffee hour, served to honor and memorialize the Transgender lives lost through violent means over the previous year, with a bell tolled for each name of the deceased as it was read. The service included a comment period prior to the close of the ceremony.

The first of our Welcoming Congregation recertification programs was "Transgender 101" and was held on Feb 5 after service. The educational forum was well attended with over 60 people gathering in Fellowship Hall to hear featured speaker Rhyrus Falcone. The program was recorded and the video is scheduled to be rebroadcast at CUUC on Sat Apr 29 during Days in Place, and will also be available to neighboring congregations.

The LGBTQIA Social Justice Team typically meets on the second Sunday of the month at 9:00am. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved can contact Tony Arrien, chair (arrien@optonline.net).

Refugee Resettlement

The CUUC Refugee Resettlement Team has grown to 51 members. We have teamed up with other congregations in the White Plains/New Rochelle area to form a "cluster group" called the Interfaith Council for New Americans (ICNA) working under the supervision of HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), one of the 9 agencies approved by the State Department to resettle refugees in the US.

Because the Executive Order halting admission of refugees is currently stayed by the courts, a limited number of refugees are already being resettled in Westchester. WE ARE NEXT IN LINE!

The ICNA cluster is expected to raise up to \$30,000 for each family that we resettle, to be disbursed over a year's period. The CUUC portion is \$5,000. The CUUC board has approved a \$3,000.00 grant and we have been given the plate share for May 2017 for this effort. If more is needed we will revisit this in the fall. THANK YOU, CUUC, FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT!

CUUC volunteers attended a general volunteer training sponsored by HIAS in February. They also conducted a more comprehensive training session for "core volunteers" who will have direct contact with the refugee family.

ICNA has formed cross-congregational committees based on the expected needs of new refugee families (healthcare, education, employment, etc.). The committees are currently scheduling planning meetings.

Our team is also working with Perry Montrose, our DLRE, and Chandeerah Davis, our Youth Program Coordinator, to encourage our youth to become involved. STAY TUNED, WE SHOULD HAVE EXCITING NEWS VERY SOON!

~ Barbara Lowney (bjgaube@gmail.com), Paula Meighan (paula.meighan74@gmail.com), chairs.

Racial Justice / In the Spirit of Truth

The Racial Justice Team meets on the first Sunday of every month, after service. The team meeting has primarily operated as a forum to report on racial justice events in the community. Some members of the team have participated in the Westchester Coalition on Police Reform, Interfaith community events, and CUUC's "Beloved Conversations" workshop series.

The team will host a screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary "13th" after service on Sunday, April 23. The film title refers to the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which freed slaves and prohibited slavery unless as punishment for a crime. This boldly honest film by director Ava DuVernay ("Selma") explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States." There will be a discussion after the movie facilitated by Rev. Meredith and Deb Margoluis, with special



Racial Justice / In the Spirit of Truth

guest Mayo Bartlett, prominent civil rights lawyer from the team that represented the family of Kenneth Chamberlain Sr in White Plains.

The Racial Justice Team will also offer a book discussion on Sun May 21 after service on *Tears We Cannot Stop* by Michael Eric Dyson. The NY Times Book Review called it “[an] urgent book...[that] should take its place in the tradition of Baldwin’s *The Fire Next Time*.” New suggestions for taking action are always welcome. Contact: Jeff Tomlinson (jefftomlinson8@gmail.com).

For general questions about the CUUC Social Justice Teams, contact our coordinators, Jeff Tomlinson (jefftomlinson8@gmail.com), Mary Cavallero (marycava4@gmail.com), and Pamela Cucinell (pamelajcny@gmail.com). Watch your weekly E-Communitarian newsletter and Order of Service for the latest information on meetings and activities.

Neighboring Congregations & Community

The battle is and always has been a battle for the hearts and minds of White people in this country. The fight against racism is our issue. It’s not something that we’re called on to help People of Color with. We need to become involved with it as if our lives depended on it because really, in truth, they do.

— Anne Braden, civil rights activist

The Westchester UU Anti-Racist Committee has joined forces with a new chapter of the national organization **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, or **SURJ**. SURJ’s role is to be part of a multi-racial movement to help build a racially just society by working from an accountability model, which means being in relationship with organizations led by people of color and accountable to communities of color. SURJ monthly meetings are held at various locations throughout Westchester. They invite those in the greater Westchester community who want to become involved in education and action for social and racial justice.

Next SURJ meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 7:00pm, at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester (UUFNW), 236 South Bedford Rd, Mt. Kisco. Learn more at showingupforracialjustice.org and facebook.com/SURJWestchester. Contact: SURJWestchester@gmail.com.



Neighboring Congregations & Community

Up & Up Action Initiative: A Community Meeting To Unite In Action

January 16, 2017 by “q-tip” (from an article on the Watch Croton blog, watchcroton.com)

On the eve of MLK Day, with standing room only and a line out the door, a gathering of close to 300 concerned communities members joined with leaders from local organizations and political offices at the Unitarian Universalist Sanctuary in Croton as part of a national day of action less than one week before the presidential inauguration.

The goal of this event was to motivate and give direction to citizens determined to stand up for progressive values and fight for justice and equality... Leaders and community members broke out into issue-focused groups to collaborate and work in unison to devise goal-oriented plans for action surrounding Racial Injustices, Discrimination Protection, Healthcare, Local Politics, the Environment, and Best Strategies to Impact the Administration.

“Rather than try and reinvent the wheel, we agreed to be foot soldiers following the lead of human rights advocacy groups like WESPAC, taking the issues to our local communities, face to face, to raise awareness, and effect change,” said Eve Hartman, facilitator of the Discrimination Protection Group...

“The varied energy and diversity around the Impacting the Administration group was amazing... Facilitator Liisa McCloy-Kelley described the experience as: “There were at least 45 people in our group with everyone clamoring to be engaged and heard and throw out ideas. It came fast and furious.”

“It was great to meet so many neighbors concerned about the direction of local government, whether that be the state, county, or school districts... My takeaway from this is that ‘regime change’ begins at home and we have to work diligently... to ensure that our elected officials reflect our values,” said Maria Slippen, Local Politics group facilitator.

The crowd was inspired in an opening speech by meeting organizer Jack Bergman in which he declared, “In the weeks months and years ahead we will remain a constant presence in and beyond our community... We WILL change things—because we are more powerful and wiser when we work as a unit; and when we stand together, we cannot be broken.”

The event was organized by Up & Up Action Initiative (Uuai), a bridge-building organization committed to uniting communities and established groups who strive to preserve our nation’s integrity and strengthen our values of equality and progress towards diversification.

Uuai meetings are held at the UU Congregation of the Hudson Valley (UUCHV), 2021 Albany Post Rd, Croton-on-Hudson. Learn more at facebook.com/UUAAction.





Caring & Sharing Circle

What We Do

Some people in our congregation, especially the newer members, may not be familiar with our group, so we'd like to tell you a little about what we do.

The Circle consists of 12 monthly caregivers who work with our congregation and the minister to coordinate support and care for members and friends of our community.

We provide the following services when and as needed:

- Putting out get well or sympathy cards for congregants to sign on Sunday mornings
- Making hospital or home visits and delivering flowers
- Calling sick congregants and asking if they need any help
- Delivering meals to the homebound
- Shopping for food or other essentials
- Providing transportation to local medical appointments and Sunday services
- Providing babysitting in an emergency
- Providing holiday baskets to shut-ins
- Assisting at memorial services
- Providing other appropriate emergency assistance as determined by the monthly caregiver

We provide these services on a temporary basis until a permanent or long-term solution can be found.

We invite you to become a Caring and Sharing Circle member or a volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Astrid Rogers at 914 949-0294 or astridrogers@aol.com.

PLACEKEEPING AT CUUC

2017 Days in Place: April 29, August 5, and November 4

There is a new opportunity for spiritual practice at CUUC: PlaceKeeping, which entails extending our worship outside the walls of our building, to encompass the 8.5 acres of hillside, wetland, and woodland that are ours to nurture and learn from. One goal of this practice is that CUUC will become an exemplar of the stewardship of the property it is ours to care for. Another goal is to establish a reliable rhythm of days where our place is celebrated, observed and thanked.

Our landscape is part of the uplands of the Mamaroneck River Watershed, which feeds into the Long Island Sound Estuary and thus into the Atlantic Ocean. We are responsible for the quality of water that flows off our hillside and into the river and the Sound. CUUC occupies one of the last significant relatively natural privately owned open spaces in White Plains.

Our PlaceKeeping practice recognizes our whole landscape as a sacred precinct, a public sanctuary. This work is rooted in the 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. This practice offers us a practical way to express our respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

PlaceKeeping is also an opportunity for sustained Citizen Science efforts which will, over time, create documentation of the flora, fauna and geography that inhabit this Place.

All are welcome to become PlaceKeepers. Your practice can take many forms:

- Participation in Days in Place, our quarterly day of worship, recreation and collaboration on grounds projects.
- Becoming a PlaceKeeper of an aspect of our landscape. A keeper of our springs, of our pathways, of our stream, create a meditation place in the landscape . . . either with a friend, family or solo.
- Help us offer pathways for walking meditation – realizing the vision of a path which connects the variety of places which surround our building.
- Help produce Citizen Science programs like a wildlife census, a water testing program, a tree and plant census.

Our Days in Place are the most active events in the PlaceKeeping Calendar, however approved PlaceKeeping projects can be done at any time. We need teams and families to mobilize and commit to this work. Or else— it won't happen. If you are moved to become a PlaceKeeper, contact any of the CUUC PlaceKeeping leadership for more information or to join our efforts.

~ Bice Wilson, Pamela Cucinell, Tim Lynch,
Kate Colson, Max Templer, LoraKim Joyner

The Roaring 20s

CUUC's Jazzy Night of Auctions, Chance, and Stylish Dining

The annual goods and services auction held this past November was THE most successful to date. and friends enjoyed the evening. Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who gave tremendously toward the three Ts—Time, Talent, and Treasure! The auction committee is comprised of a number of subcommittees where much time and talent was spent creating a beautiful, engaging, delicious, and smooth-running event. And of course special thanks to all who donated goods and services, and the close to 140 members who spent a fun evening bidding on hundreds of choices. We raised nearly \$45,000 toward the CUUC operating budget. Watch for next year's date and theme!



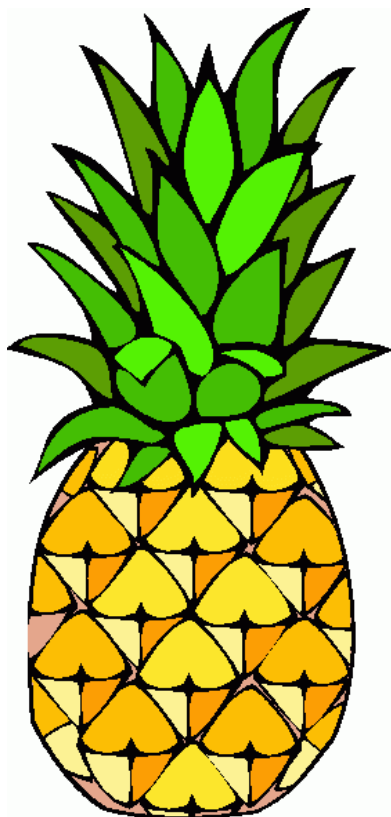


Committee on Ministry

Each year the Committee on Ministry undertakes a review of one of the four areas of ministry at CUUC: Worship, Religious Education, In-reach/Pastoral Care, or Outreach/Social Justice. The purpose of this assessment is to take the “pulse” of the congregation and answer the question, “How are we doing?”

This year the Committee on Ministry is reviewing Worship, with a special focus on the Sunday worship service and the journey groups. We want as broad a representation as possible in order to be sure that we have heard from all, so we began with a survey to all Members and Friends followed by one-on-one interviews. We have also been hosting “Community Chats” this year with the purpose of obtaining feedback about how we are doing.

The Committee is made up of six former Board chairs, each of whom has a three-year term. The members are: Emily Economou, Anne Majsak, Randy Marshall, Charlie McNally, Ginny Strand (chair), and Claire Kuczisnki. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or comments.



Welcome Committee

WE SHOULD ALL BE GREETERS!

How would you feel if you were a newcomer and no one was at the front door to say good morning when you arrived?

How would you feel if you were a visitor and had to stand around during coffee hour holding your cup with no one to talk to?

We are all part of the CUUC community and we each play a part in how welcoming this congregation is perceived to be. As a congregation, we are only as strong as the connections we make with one another and we need to be connecting with visitors and newcomers as well.

Please pick up a pineapple pin (a symbol of hospitality) from the Welcome Table, to wear on a Sunday morning and make it your mission to reach out and make our visitors comfortable.

MUSIC AT CUUC CONCERT SERIES

presents

Jazz Fest! Sat May 20, 8:00pm

Jazz legend Valerie Capers returns to CUUC with her incomparable trio for an evening of standards transformed by the ensemble's inimitable creativity. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of America's musical treasures in the intimate setting of CUUC's sanctuary.



Tickets: suggested donation of \$20, \$10 for seniors/students, \$5 for kids 13 & under. Maximum family price \$45. Tickets can be purchased online, at the door, or reserved by phone. Free childcare with advance reservation. 914-946-1660 x6. cucwp.org/concert-series

UU Roots Conversations

An introduction to being well grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith. This discussion is for visitors, newcomers thinking about their path to membership, as well as members who want to learn more about our faith. Next meeting Sunday, April 30 at 11:15am. Contact: Jane Dixon (lilrhodie@gmail.com)



How are we doing?

Please join the
Committee on Ministry for a

Community Chat

Sunday, May 7, 11:30am
after service

Help us reflect on our
congregational life. Bring your
coffee – we'll have some cookies!

Contact: Anne Majsak
(amajsak@verizon.net)

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



Contacts

Staff

Minister: Rev. Meredith Garmon - minister@cucwp.org, 914-946-1660 x3
Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Perry Montrose - dlre@cucwp.org, 914-946-1660 x4
Community Minister: Rev. Deb Morra - community-minister@cucwp.org, 914-830-1509
Community Minister: Rev. LoraKim Joyner - amoloros@gmail.com, 914-948-1696
Ministerial Intern: Cindy Davidson - intern@cucwp.org, 781-710-1640
Director of Youth Programming - Chandeerah Davis - dyp@cucwp.org
Music Director: Adam Kent - music@cucwp.org, 212-595-7280
Choir Director: Lisa Meyer - choir@cucwp.org
Congregation Administrator: Pamela Parker - admin@cucwp.org, 914-946-1660 x2
Bookkeeper: Diane Pearson - cuucwpbookkeeper@gmail.com, 914-946-1660 x5

Board of Trustees

Board Chair: Tom Wacht - tjwatchesq@aol.com, 914-949-5741
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