

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim ...

On Saturday January 19th we hosted the Rev. Robert Latham who led a productive and potentially transformational workshop on mission and vision. The hundred plus participants from the UU Metro New York District included twenty or so CUC church leaders. It was an opportunity to talk about the purpose of religion and of religious institutions in general and of their congregations in particular.

On February 2 we'll hold a leadership workshop to continue the conversation and plan the annual giving campaign. And we'll continue the conversation as part of the campaign.

One of my goals as an interim minister is to support and encourage these discussions about congregational identity and purpose. You need some clarity for yourselves and for the sake of the holy work you are engaged in. And you need it so that a potential candidate for ministry with you will know what s/he is getting into. A mutual excitement about your dreams for your ministry together will bode well for your success.

Yours in faith,
Benjamin

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FEBRUARY SERVICES 2013, 10:15 AM

February 3. ***It's Never Too Late to Have a Happy Childhood.*** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Coming to terms and moving on.

February 10. ***Who Do We Say He Is?*** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Further Adventures in Unitarian Christology.

February 17. ***More than Numbers.*** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Some of the ways congregations grow.

February 24 ***Animal Rights?*** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Do animals have them? Should they?

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees 2013-2014

Nominees Requested

The Nominating Committee welcomes your suggestions for members of the congregation whom you believe would be worthy candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Please discuss your suggestion(s) with one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Clair Kuczinski, Tim Lynch, Cynthia Roberts, John Saccardi and Ray Schmitt. We are looking for candidates who are actively involved and who have a commitment to CUC.

If you prefer to do this by e-mail, you can write to the Nominating Committee at: jsaccardi@vhb.com.

MISSION COVENANT

CUC was fortunate recently to spend a full weekend with Reverend Robert Latham, who is currently the Interim District Executive for the Pacific Central District. A UU minister since 1969, Rev. Latham has served in numerous congregations, both as a settled and interim minister. Also, he has gained some renown within our faith for his book, "Moving on from Church Folly Lane," which examines the pastoral to program shifts and congregational size transitions. Rev. Latham's focus at CUC was on the critical importance of mission covenants to the growth and vitality of all UU congregations (or any other denomination for that matter). The Board had a dinner with Rev. Latham on Friday night, he led a district-wide workshop on Saturday, and then he preached in our pulpit Sunday morning.

In each venue, Rev. Latham preached that an effective mission covenant can be truly transformational for a congregation, and that without one, UU congregations are adrift and prone to "navelizing," as in putting your nose in your belly button! With his Southern drawl, self assuredness, humor, and active gesticulating, Rev. Latham was passionately convincing with audiences both large and small. The mission needs to be the congregation's reason for being/purpose/charge/mandate; and the covenant is an agreement on how a group relates to each other in order to achieve its mission. The mission statement is ideally twenty words or less, and it should be clear, concise and compelling. An effective mission should be the driving force for a congregation's passion and energy, and it will compel resources, energy, and creativity to get the message out there.

The workshop had over 100 attendees from over 10 congregations in the tri-state area. While we separated into our different congregations for the several hands-on exercises, there was ample time at the breaks and lunch to meet fellow UU's and welcome them to CUC. After Rev. Latham led us through an hour

and a half of PowerPoint slides about effective mission statements as the path to growth and vitality, we worked with our congregation groups to answer a couple of questions, starting with imagining ourselves in the Stone Age and answering what need was society trying to fulfill when it created religion? Each group shared their answer with the whole room, and my favorite was: "Who am I, who are we, and what's up with all these animals?" The final group exercise was developing a mission statement for your congregation. Our group came up with: "Encouraging spiritual growth, building community, and enriching our world." Rev. Latham lays out a detailed six to nine month process for developing a mission, but the forty minute exercise gave us a taste of the challenges and excitement involved.

Reverend Latham gave an inspiring sermon on Sunday (made all the more inspiring by Adam's ragtime piano playing!). He started with a humorous and insightful reading from Robert Fulghum, and went on to share how humans are like all life on our planet, made up of star dust or "cosmic compost." He emphasized that we UU's – building especially on our first and seventh principles – must work to transform the human culture before it self-destructs, having been built on greed and consumption. It was a dramatic call to action that effectively summed up his weekend message on the importance of mission covenants as a source of transformational power for UU congregations. Stay tuned for CUC's efforts to develop our mission covenant this spring.

~ In Community,
David Schuler, Board Chair

“Shalom Chaverim” (Peace, My Friends)

To fulfill requirements for his Cub Scout faith badge, fourth grader, Zack, came to see me. We discussed his beliefs and understanding of Unitarian Universalism. He described ways in which he feels he has lived according to his religious beliefs. Then we began to plan activities that might help draw him nearer to God.

“When I sing, it makes me feel closer to God,” Zack shared. He is enthusiastic about singing in the children’s choir. Recently, he and the other choir members went to a professional studio to record songs for a children’s CD. He is also learning to play piano and the trombone. Inspired, I took out my ukulele and taught Zack how to play a simple Israeli folk song called, *Shalom Chaverim*. Within minutes, he was strumming like a pro.

The Hebrew word “shalom” is understood around the world to mean “peace.” However peace is only a small part of the meaning. It is commonly used to both greet people and to bid them farewell. It conveys a feeling of contentment, completeness, well-being and harmony.

Shalom is one of the words that the 2nd/3rd grade class learned when they were discovering the many ways to say “hello” in different languages. The class has been exploring our sixth principle: working for a peaceful, fair and free world. They shared examples of how we might experience peace and fairness in everyday lives -- on the playground, at school, with siblings and in doing charitable work.

An on-going theme in the 4th/5th grade class is *Faith-in-action*. The children have been discussing social injustices that they would like to see remedied. Among the issues the class has identified are: dictatorships, nuclear weapons, nuclear energy, animal rights, and banning irritating fragrances from public spaces. Over the next few weeks, the children will be writing simple, short letters calling for action which will be mailed to the appropriate parties, most likely congressmen and United Nations committees.

May we continue to support one another in bringing peace to the world.

Shalom,
Lily Rappaport, Acting Director of Religious Education

The UU District of Metro New York Junior High Con 2013

for UU youth grades 6 through 8

9:00 am Saturday March 9th through
8:00 am Sunday March 10th
at CUCWP

The cost is \$60 per person.
Scholarships Available

For online registration go to:

[https://www.formdesk.com/uuforms/
JrConMarch2013](https://www.formdesk.com/uuforms/JrConMarch2013)

RE Calendar/Events

- Feb 10 Chinese New Year Brunch
- Feb 17 Special Sunday– Movement
class led by Alvin Ailey teaching
artist
- Feb 24 Chili Brunch (6th/7th Grade)
- Mar 9 District-wide Junior High Con
- Mar 17 Youth Group Service



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



PRE-CANDIDATING WEEKENDS UNDERWAY

At this point in the search process, the search committee is pleased to report that three ministerial candidates are participating in pre-candidating weekends. These weekends are the culmination of months of work articulating our own congregational priorities and reviewing the profiles of many ministerial candidates in order to identify CUC's next settled minister. In brief summary, we first developed our Congregational Report, based on the input offered by the congregation in Cottage Meetings and the Survey, which was available through the UUA to ministers in search. Then we reviewed Ministerial Records posted with the UUA by ministers in search who expressed an interest in CUC. We conducted in-depth telephone interviews with ten candidates with whom we had exchanged informational packets providing more in depth information. Our review included listening to podcasts and reading transcripts of sermons, and conducting in-depth reference checks. Finally, we winnowed the field to four potential pre-candidates, one of whom decided not to pursue candidacy at CUC.

Pre-candidating weekends conform, as does the rest of the search process, to a format developed by the UUA. During an intense three day visit, each CUC pre-candidate tours the church and parsonage, participates in a 2-3 hour interview with the full committee, meets with two members of the committee about the proposed ministerial agreement, and preaches at a "neutral pulpit" in the area (typically delivering two sermons) on Sunday. There is considerable time to socialize and for the committee to get to know the candidates as individuals, as there is a "pot luck" dinner on Friday evening at a member's house, lunch following the interview at another member's house, dinner at a restaurant on Saturday, and lunch after the Sunday service. Certainly, the committee gets a good sense of how candidates deal with a busy schedule and lots of people interaction!

Again pursuant to UUA format, a congregation can extend an offer to a final candidate on a specific date in mid-March, and, assuming there is a match, the final candidate will visit the congregation in April or May. Each congregation is presented with one final candidate for a vote. Pre-candidates do not preach at the churches at which they are interviewing, to preserve the confidentiality and integrity of the process. Congregations don't vote among candidates – it is the search committee's charge to identify one final candidate to present to the congregation. If at least 90% of the congregation votes "yes," a final offer will be extended to the candidate, who will join the congregation as settled minister in August 2013.

We are thrilled to have three strong candidates proceed to pre-candidating weekend, and look forward to presenting a final candidate to you. As has been true throughout the process, we appreciate your support and discretion.

~ Ministerial Search Committee



Come Dream with Us By the Fireside

Join us for the opening conversation as we share our vision for the future of CUC and plan the 2013-2014 Giving Campaign.

Saturday Morning February 2 – 9:00-12:00

RSVP – Jane Dixon at jrdixon@optonline.net or at 949-5919.

Our thoughts are with Joe & Anne Majsak and their extended family. Joe's father, Walter Joseph Majsak, passed away on December 27th at the age of 86.

Caring & Sharing... If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout February contact Ingrid Hartmann at 946-2026, or Astrid Rogers 949-0294.



"2013 Year of the Snake"
Join us for our Chinese New Year
Brunch

Sunday, February 10th, 11:30
\$10 per person / \$25 per family

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
BY FEBRUARY 3RD**

Sign up in the lobby or contact Jane
Dixon jrdixon@optonline.net
949-5919.



**Cold Weather?
Come have some Chili!!!**

The Super Bowl is past,
Valentine's Day is past, February
vacations are over!

So stay at CUC for some wonderful
Chili and other food.

Sponsored by the 6th & 7th grade
for their social action projects:

**Sunday, February 24th
11:30 AM**

Cost: \$5 per
Adult, \$3 per
child, \$20 per
family



Concert Series

ENCORE!

Saturday, February 23 at 7:30 PM

Mary Lane Cobb will perform audience favorites from ten years of Cabaret Evenings.

Georgianna Pappas at the piano. Cameo appearances by CUC youth Jenny Neuman and Rev. Deb Morra.

Suggested Donation: \$20 (\$10 for seniors and students), (\$40 seniors/students).

This is a rescheduled concert from November 10th, 2012 due to power outages.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Long time CUC member **Karen Schatzel** was awarded a \$10,000 grant to be used by the League of Women Voters of Westchester to further promote informed citizen participation in government.

From the League of Women Voters newsletter:

"Irvington Resident Karen Schatzel, Vice President and Housing Committee Chair of the League of Women Voters of Westchester, was the recipient of the 2012 Circle of Giving Award from the Westchester Community Foundation at its recent holiday annual recognition event. The award – the first to be given to a volunteer -- included a \$10,000 grant to the LWV Westchester for its on-going work as the coordinating body for the 10 local Leagues within the County.

The citation stated that 'Ms. Schatzel has demonstrated courage and leadership in guiding the League's efforts to push for compliance with the 2009 housing settlement entered into between the County and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Through Ms. Schatzel's efforts, the League continues to call for all parties concerned to put confrontational politics aside and to work together toward the goal of promoting fair and affordable housing in Westchester. The League's long tradition of nonpartisanship ensures that it will continue to be a trusted resource on this contentious issue.'"

Inside

Sort Your Stuff!!!

Sitting here on a cold early winter afternoon it's hard to imagine the warm spring Saturday morning when CUC's doors will fling open to hundreds of shoppers looking for bargains. It's never too early to start thinking about the formerly-loved- but -outdated, too small, too large, not-my-hobby anymore items you can set aside for CUC's bi-annual tag sale. We welcome gently used clean clothing, books, bric-a-brac, jewelry, art, housewares, small appliance, children's (intact) games and toys, sports equipment.



Community Tag Sale – Saturday May 4th, 2013

Look for details in the coming weeks. Any thoughts, questions, suggestions call Paula Meighan at 914 834-6454 or email paula@changingplaces.info

Outside

Grounds Day

Saturday, February 9

8:30 am—2 pm

Come get some fresh air and friendship. Light grounds work—clearing paths, collecting wood for the fireplace, and more.

Tools, snacks, and beverages provided.

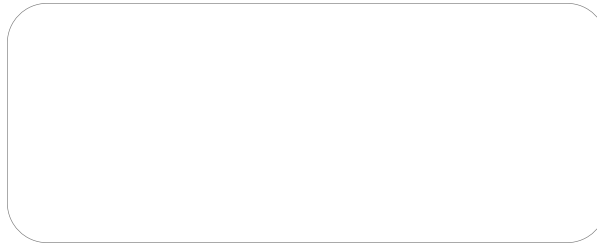
For more information contact David Shuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com or Ted Kuczinski at tadex@optonline.net.



~ February 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9a-2p Leadership Retreat Giving Cam- paign (FH,FAI,Ktch)
3 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	4 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Span- ish (R44)	5 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	6 7:30p-9p Pro- gram Council (41)	7 7:30p-9p Search Com- mittee (R43)	8	9 8:30a-2p Grounds Day 9a-12p Giving Cam- paign-Steering CMT Meeting (R41)
10 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc/R24) 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-1p Chinese New Year Brunch (FH)	11 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Span- ish (R44) 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group43	12 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	13 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trus- tees (41)	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41) 7:30p-9p Search Com- mittee (R43)	15	16
17 Communitarian Deadline 10a-11:30a Religious Education/Special Sun- day (FH/Classrooms) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:30a-12:30p Fun Facts about Music	18 <i>President's Day</i> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	19 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p-9p Wor- ship Assoc. Committee (41)	20	21 10a-11a COM- MUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 7:30p-9p Search Com- mittee (R43)	22	23 4:30p-9p CUC Con- cert (7:30p)
24 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc/R24) 10a-11:30a Religious Education (FH/ Classrooms) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Chili Sunday (FH)	25 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Span- ish (R44)	26 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	27 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	28 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41) 7:30p-9p Search Com- mittee (R43)		

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468 Rosedale Avenue
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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write 'refused' across your address and return it unopened. No postage is required.

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Communitarian Deadline for
February Edition:

Sunday, February 17

Submit information to
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emily.economou@gmail.com