

# THE COMMUNITARIAN

## COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

SEPTEMBER 2011



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

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere  
Interim Minister

Lara K-J Campbell  
Director of Religious Education

Liliana Keith  
Church Administrator

Adam Kent  
Music Director

Lisa Meyer  
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra  
Community Minister  
in Association with CUC

### *In the Interim ...*

Hello, I must be going. (Always wanted to use Groucho's old line.) I'm here during this transitional period to help you prepare for your next settled ministry; to improve the odds that it will be long and successful.



This is a time to look back on what the church has been, to come to terms with your history, both good and bad. It is a chance to assess where you are now, and to take steps to address your particular challenges. And it is an opportunity to look ahead, to what you want the church to be.

As someone outside the system, I will see some things that you don't. As someone with experience in several different UU congregations I have a sense of how others do things, and we'll be making some changes and trying some new approaches.

Most of all, I want to help CUC be the best congregation it can be. During our two years together, the work of the church will go on: to nurture our spirits, to deepen our connections, and to reach out to help heal our world.

*Yours in faith, Benjamin*

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES 2011, 10:15 AM

### September 4

*Loving, and Hating, Education*, Alan Trevithick. Followed by coffee & bagels and an opportunity to meet. Rev. Benjamin.

### September 11

*Welcome Home!* The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. Join us in an intergenerational celebration of a new church year. We will commemorate the ten-year anniversary of 9/11. Also, please remember to bring some water from your summer journeys for our water communion.

### September 17

*Who You Are; What You Do*. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. Living with authenticity.

### September 24

*Compassionate Confrontation: Margaret Sanger*. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. Remembering a pioneer in the struggle for women's reproductive rights.

For more information  
about CUC:

[www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)

Email: [info@cucwp.org](mailto:info@cucwp.org)  
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline for  
October Edition:  
**Sunday, September 18**

Submit information to  
Emily Economou, Editor  
[emily.economou@gmail.com](mailto:emily.economou@gmail.com)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### *We're counting down the days!*

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm, that the Board of Trustees prepares to welcome back members and friends-old and new -to our Ingathering Service on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting and greeting our new interim minister, Reverend Benjamin Maucere. We will celebrate the beginning of a new church year at a brunch immediately after the September 11th service.

The year ahead of us is going to be a rewarding one for our congregation. With Rev. Benjamin it will be a year in which we begin the process of **looking inward** to learn more about who we are, as well as **looking forward** to develop a picture of who we want to be.

As promised, your BOT was busy this summer. Here are some of the highlights:

- Preparing the way for Benjamin as interim minister at CUC. Mary Cavallero and Janet Bear will be leading a five person transition team to work with Rev Benjamin for the next two years. The remaining three members of this team will be selected in the fall.
- The congregation has had the opportunity to welcome Benjamin at the end of August at a number of small gatherings.
- In response to the change in the marriage laws in NY State, The LOFT sponsored a wedding expo on Friday Evening, Aug 26th at the Radisson in New Rochelle. CUC had a table and Deb Morra represented us. We hope many couples planning to marry will make us part of their plans. And as a part of a more focused effort to reach out to this community, CUC is supporting GLAAD (The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation).
- The Kitchen committee has continued its work over the summer. Their plans are complete and are being put out for bids as this column is being written. Once the plans and costs are approved by the Board of Trustees, a time line will be determined for construction.

The lazy days of August are fading away and the summer is winding down. That “new start” feeling of autumn, which still we remember from our school days, is upon us and CUC is going to be bursting with the energy of a new church year. I hope you will be joining us on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> for our Ingathering Service, followed immediately by a brunch. Between now and then, consider reaching out to others who might want to join you and bring them along!

*In Community-*  
*- Janet Press, Board Chair*



**Sunday, September 11**  
**10:15 AM Services**

Bring water from your travels or your tap,  
and join us for the annual Water Communion.  
This is our Ingathering Intergenerational Service.



After services, bring your appetite for brunch.  
This is another opportunity to meet interim minister, Rev. Benjamin Maucere.



## *Tips for Starting the Church Year....*

There is always a mixture of excitement, anticipation and anxiety that comes with the new school year. This also applies to starting Religious Education. Here are some thoughts on how you can have a fulfilling church year.

1. Make a commitment to regular attendance now. Kids who attend regularly feel more connected to each other, their teachers and to CUC. Set your schedule now with the understanding that you will be attending weekly.
2. Be a role model for your children by volunteering at CUC. Kids are pretty aware and can sense your level of investment. We can always use more teachers.
3. Set the expectation early. By making it clear that attendance at RE is not an optional activity, it will show your children that this is something you value.
4. Remind them of the things they enjoyed last year. Have a conversation with your children about fun things at CUC.
5. Encourage connections outside of Sunday morning. Talk with other parents and set up times for your kids to see each other during the week.
6. Do the same thing for YOU! Attend the Auction, dinners, concerts, Day in Place and a host of other fun stuff happening at CUC.
7. Get to church early on Sunday. It is helpful for kids to have some time to transition. Give them, and yourself, the time to get parked, up the hill and into the building before joining the other children or youth.
8. Stick around for all the fun things that happen after church. This is an ideal time for your kids to become more relaxed and engaged in the community.
9. Share what you love. Invite friends and family to come be part of your CUC family. There is always room for more.
10. Bring your ideas. CUC is venturing into a new phase, some things are going to change, and others are not. Keep an open mind and heart and share your thoughts.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the intergenerational water communion service on 9/11/11 and at the first RE class Sunday on 9/18/11.

*- Lara Campbell, DRE*



## Religious Education Council: Who we are, What we do

As the summer draws to a close, the RE Council looks forward to welcoming back all the RE families this September. Please note that the first service of the year on Sunday, September 11, is an intergenerational service with everyone in the Sanctuary. The first RE classes will be held on Sunday, September 18 starting at 10 am.

For those of you who are not familiar with the work of the RE Council, we meet monthly throughout the church year to set RE policies as needed and to coordinate many of the RE activities. Our members greet you in the RE wing each Sunday, plan activities for holiday weekends when there are no regular RE classes, coordinate children's activities for several church events during the year, and lead the children in their selection of and fundraising for a social action cause.

This year, the RE Council members are: Pam Cucinell Pardillo, Diana Eschevarria, Joe Magnus, Sophie Major (youth rep), Bennett Rink, Robin Rocchi (Chair), Giselle Shelley, Amy Swiss, Kevin Sullivan, and Cyndi Tillman (co-chair). Please feel free to approach any of us with any questions or concerns.

See you in September –

**- Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair**



## AMONG OURSELVES

### Thoughts With...

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hans Jr. who's father and CUC church member Hans Elsevier, Sr. died on July 10th

You may send condolence cards to the family in care of Desiree Elsevier 506 Kings Hwy., Sparkill, NY 10976. In lieu of flowers, Hans would have wanted donations made to The Salvation Army, World Service Office, 615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA. 22313. On the memo line, please write "In Memory of Hans Elsevier, Sr. - For Salvation Army Jamaica WI/Institute for the Blind."

Our thoughts are with the following CUC members & friends who also lost loved ones this summer:

#### July:

Bill Johnson's father, James Johnson Jr, passed away.

Ann Marie Damashek's mother, Carol Ebersold, passed away.

Nancy Marothy's father, Albert C. Cibelli, passed away.

#### August:

Karen Dreher's father, Sam Morrison, passed away.

### Caring & Sharing...

*If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout September contact Liz Laite at 366-4211 or Gail McLeod at 235-8212.*



### ***Habla Español con nosotros!***

Spanish Conversation Circle

4 years and going strong!

Come join a small group of friendly adults and refresh your Spanish with a native Spanish speaking teacher. No pressure, just fun!

**Mondays**

**Starting September 19<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30-8:45**

10 sessions for only \$100 (fee pays for instructor). Call Jane Dixon (949-5919) or email [jrdixon@optonline.net](mailto:jrdixon@optonline.net) with any questions or to register.

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Attendees at General Assembly (GA) this year represented 596 congregations across 49 U.S. states and three Canadian Provinces. Total attendance was at 4,082 including 167 youth. Of the attendees 2,589 were delegates and an additional 40 were off site delegates. This year I applied and was chosen to be an offsite delegate.

General Assembly has something for everybody who can afford to go. There were workshops, celebrations, worship, music, protests and of course business meetings.

As an offsite delegate I was able to vote from room 41 at CUC. This year my votes did not count because the By-laws had to be changed to allow offsite voting, but next year my vote will count. The GA tech planners hope that in the near future at least half of the GA attendees will be from home. Not half of 4,000 but half of 8,000 or more here and there.

I have been watching videos from GA for the past 5 years but most were after the week was over. But this year their technology and our technology at CUC were the best yet. No glitches. All together I watched 26 hours of Live stream most of them with Tom Rosenbaum and an hour or two with Jef Gamblee and Jeff Tomlinson. After watching 26 hrs of live stream from CUC I felt totally exhausted at the end. But also in the end I have never felt more empowered and connected with Unitarian Universalism as I do now. I encourage all of you to try it next year from home or with me at CUC.

**- Denise Tomlinson,  
Denominational Affairs**

### **UU Weekend at Silver Bay: Oct. 14-16**

The 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this weekend on Lake George in the Adirondacks, hosted by volunteers from UU congregations in the St. Lawrence District. Children's programming all weekend, workshops, outdoor activities, a talent show, worship, dancing and more. More information about the Silver Bay Resort and Conference Center at [www.silverbay.org](http://www.silverbay.org). To register or for a tentative schedule, visit [www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org).

For more information contact CUC representative Matt Shelley at [matthewbshelley@gmail.com](mailto:matthewbshelley@gmail.com).

**- Matt Shelley**

**CUC Choir News:**  
**Messiah and Cole Porter – Sing with us!**

With another great season behind us and the end of a restful summer close at hand, I look forward to another great year of choral music with a group of people with whom I thoroughly enjoy making music.

Along with our bi-monthly church services, The CUC Choir will be including a performance of Handel's great masterpiece, Messiah (Part One) on Sat., Dec. 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and a review of the songs of the great Cole Porter on Sat., April 14, 2012 also at 7:00p.m. I look forward to conducting both of those concerts and would like to extend an invitation for any of you who would like to join us, even if you cannot commit to being a full-time member of the choir. Rehearsals for the *Messiah* will begin the middle of October, so please contact me or any choir member for more information if you would like to sing that amazing and historical work with us.

Another event to remember for this fall is:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Choir Dinner and Sing-along featuring the music of Lerner and Loewe on Saturday, October 15 from 6-9pm in the Sanctuary.

Mark it down in your calendar and please join us for an evening of wonderful food and great songs and help support the CUC Choir and the Music at CUC Concerts Series. It will be a great deal of fun.

Here's how easy it is to join us!

- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ MUSIC!
- All voice parts are welcome.
- You just have to be able to match pitch - we'll help you learn the rest!
- Dedication is needed – you only make progress if you attend rehearsals each Tuesday night from 7:30pm to 9:15pm, but with only two Sunday services to participate in each month, the commitment is very doable.
- If you cannot join long-term, sing with us for special events, like the *Messiah* concert!

Experience the camaraderie and special joy that comes from being a part of a choral ensemble. Enjoy the fun that we have in rehearsals along with the sense of accomplishment that one feels once a piece of music has been learned and polished. Feel the wonderful exhilaration one has after having given a great performance. Come and sing with us!

If you are interested in joining the CUC Choir, whether full-time or part-time, please feel free to contact me at 516-299-2475 during daytime hours, or anytime by email at [lisa.meyer@liu.edu](mailto:lisa.meyer@liu.edu). The first two rehearsals for this season, due to scheduling issues, will begin with Wednesday, Aug. 31, and Friday, Sept. 9 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Our first Tuesday rehearsal will be on September 13, same time and place. I look forward to seeing you there.

***Lisa Meyer, Choir Director***

~ September 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 6p-10p RE Council Retreat (Off site)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10a-11:30a Child Care 10:15a-11:15a Worship 11:15a-12:30p Coffee Hour welcome for Rev. Benjamin 11:45a-1:15p (FH) In the Spirit of Truth	<b>5</b> Labor Day Offices Closed 7:30p-9p (43) Play Reading Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	<b>8</b> 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	<b>9</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> INGATHERING  WATER COMMUNION  8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (SANC)  10a-11:30a Child Care  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour  11:45a-1p In the Spirit of Truth (41)  11:45a-1:15p BRUNCH	<b>12</b> 6:30-7:30 pm Tai Chi	<b>13</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	<b>14</b> 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> BOT Retreat (Off Site)
<b>18</b> Communitarian Dead- line  10a-11:30a Rel. Ed  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour  11:15a-11:45a New to CUC  11:45a-12:45p Wel- come Committee  11:45a-12:45p Fun Facts	<b>19</b> 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)  8p-9:30p Finance Com- mittee (43)  6:30-7:30 pm Tai Chi	<b>20</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	<b>21</b> 7:30p-9p RE Council (44)  7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	<b>22</b> 10a-11a Folding Party (FA)  11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality (FA)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:45a-9:45a Choir  10a-11:30a Rel. Ed  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour	<b>26</b> 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)  6:30-7:30 pm Tai Chi	<b>27</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	





## Upcoming Community Projects



### October 1st: Furniture Sharehouse

Bring furniture to CUC on this date. Donated furniture is distributed to Westchester families in need.

### October 7th: Midnight Run

Distribute clothing and food to the homeless in Manhattan.

Details for the furniture drive and midnight run will be in next month's communitarian, or watch for information at CUC.

### Coachman Center

**Get ready to join CUC's new partnership!** A team has worked throughout last year to come up with great outreach projects we will be offering to the residents of the Coachman next year. This project is in the early planning phases, and we hope you will be able to join us. Projects include enrichment activities for children related to field trips, and a school supply "canteen". For adult residents, we will provide selected educational workshops. The Coachman center is a homeless shelter in White Plains, serving area families. Stay tuned to hear more about opportunities to get involved! Learn more from Johanna Bauer at [johbauer@msn.com](mailto:johbauer@msn.com) and Karen Schmitt at [schmitt8@verizon.net](mailto:schmitt8@verizon.net).

**Thank you for opening this September Newsletter.**

**We have been sending electronic versions of the newsletter for about two years.**

Should you have any feedback regarding content, layout, or distribution, please feel free to contact Emily Economou at [Emily.economou@gmail.com](mailto:Emily.economou@gmail.com). You are also invited to share feedback at the Program Council meetings, or with staff members.

**The following two pages include a form for **Opportunities to Serve** at CUC. Please consider printing this form and providing your response at CUC in the coming weeks.**

**"Opportunities to Serve" is followed by updates on the Goods and Services Auction.**





## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

(check each item for which we may call on you)

- \_\_\_\_\_**AUCTION DINNER:** Advance work or just help the "night of." sell tickets, shop, decorate checkout. (November 19<sup>th</sup>)
- \_\_\_\_\_**CUC BRUNCH:** Shop, cook, serve at one of the Intergenerational church brunches (monthly)
- \_\_\_\_\_**BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** Handy with tools? Love to garden?(ongoing, as you are able)
- \_\_\_\_\_**CARING AND SHARING:** Support church members by transporting to doctor, cooking a meal or visiting the homebound (ongoing)
- \_\_\_\_\_**COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT at the Coachman Center!** Projects include: Field-trip related activities for children (such as nature centers), a school supply "canteen" and, for adult residents, selected educational workshops.(ongoing as you are able)
- \_\_\_\_\_**CRAFTS FAIR:** Assist in organizing, setting up, or manning a table after services first weeks in December
- \_\_\_\_\_**CUC FAMILY BARBECUE:** Shop, set up, grill, clean up at our year barbecue (June 10<sup>th</sup>)
- \_\_\_\_\_**DAY IN PLACE:** Help preserve the CUC grounds. Projects vary (ongoing as you are able)
- \_\_\_\_\_**FURNITURE SHARE:** Help is need to distribute flyers in advance of the event and on the day of the event volunteers are needed to greet donors and assist with paperwork. (Sat, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>)
- \_\_\_\_\_**GREETING SUNDAY MORNING:** Welcome members and visitors as they arrive at church. Speak with visitors during coffee hour. (Ongoing as you are able) (9:45 -11:00)
- \_\_\_\_\_**HOSTING COFFEE HOUR: Sign up for a Sunday,** shop, set up, serve, clean up. Instructions provided. Optional: Choose your date now\_\_\_\_\_

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Name\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_**MIDNITE RUN:** Help pack up the food, clothing on Friday evening and/or go on the run to feed and clothe the homeless in NYC. Open to older youth and adults. () This is a late night event held several times a year.
- \_\_\_\_\_**Monthly Family Nights:** Help plan, set up, or clean up during one of our monthly family nights.
- \_\_\_\_\_**MUSIC:** Join the CUC Choir; help with the music programming for religious education; join the Music Committee to help structure CUC's music programming for the year; assist with the Concert Series -setup, providing refreshments, publicity and box office. (ongoing as you are able)
- \_\_\_\_\_**OPPORTUNITIES for HOLIDAY GIVING:** At holiday time, requests are made to purchase holiday gifts for children in local shelters, as well as for the children of inmates at Bedford Correctional Facility. The congregation is asked to also purchase extra toiletries and related items for shelter residents including men, women and children. Members of the CUC Sunday School help collect and prepare these items for holiday giving.(Nov, Dec)
- \_\_\_\_\_**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Many ways to volunteer in the classroom (weekly or occasionally)
- \_\_\_\_\_**SHOP RIGHT for Shelter Residents:** Purchase much needed toiletries, underwear, bedding and other basics for shelter residents. See flyer in lobby for more info (ongoing as you are able)
- \_\_\_\_\_**USHERING:** Assist in collecting offering during service or hand out Order of Service or help with sound system (ongoing as you are able).

**PLEASE LEAVE THIS COMPLETED FORM AT THE CHURCH OFFICE,  
OR DESIGNATED SPOT ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, November 19th**

**The CUC 2011 Goods and Services Auction**

**CARTOONS AND CAPES....**

**FAVORITE CHARACTERS AND SUPER HEROES FROM CARTOONS, COMICS AND THE SILVER SCREEN**



## **WHAT IS THIS AUCTION THING ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?**

If you are new to the church or have never attended an auction like ours, you may have a lot of questions. Some questions I have heard...

### **IF I COME, AM I EXPECTED TO SPEND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY?**

**NO!** You can come to the auction and just enjoy the delicious dinner, drinks and dessert that are included in your ticket price. Or, if you want to participate on a small scale, you can spend as little as \$25 to purchase a sheet of Grab Bag tickets, and then use those tickets to try to win all sorts of prizes - from new, custom-made jewelry to gift cards for your favorite local stores. All are welcome to come and socialize with other church members in a festive atmosphere, and spend as little - or as much- as they want.

### **I HAVE NEVER BID DURING A LIVE AUCTION. DO I HAVE TO DO THAT?**

**NO!** The live auction is just one small part of our evening. We also have a silent auction, a Bid and Bump Board, and a Grab Bag table - something for everyone.

### **WHY DO WE HOLD THIS AUCTION? I ALREADY MADE A PLEDGE.**

The Auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year, second only to the pledge drive. Pledges alone do not fully cover our budget. All the money earned from the auction is used to cover our operating expenses, including the ministers salary, the RE program, our music program, etc. Auction income funds approximately 6% of our operating budget.

### **I DON'T KNOW MANY PEOPLE AT CHURCH YET. WHO WILL I SIT WITH?**

Our seating is open, in long continuous tables, with everyone mixing at each table. I have attended many auctions and I still often meet someone new at the auction during dinner. No one sits alone and everyone mingles. This is a fun way to meet new people in our community.

### **JUST WHAT IS THIS BID AND BUMP BOARD I HAVE BEEN HEARING ABOUT?**

The Bid and Bump Board is a creative and very entertaining event that allows people to bid on tickets to dinners and other social events held throughout the year by our members. The Bid and Bump dinners are often themed and include both casual and fancy dinner themes, with a wide range of prices. Some examples of themes include a wine tasting event, a poker night, a sunset dinner on the river, or an evening of high-cuisine from France or Italy.

### **IS THIS EVENT FOR ADULTS ONLY?**

Yes. Experience has shown us that this event works best if it is adults-only. There will not be childcare available in the nursery, but if you need a babysitter, we may be able to find a member of our youth group to help - let us know and we will try to facilitate that.

### **WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?**

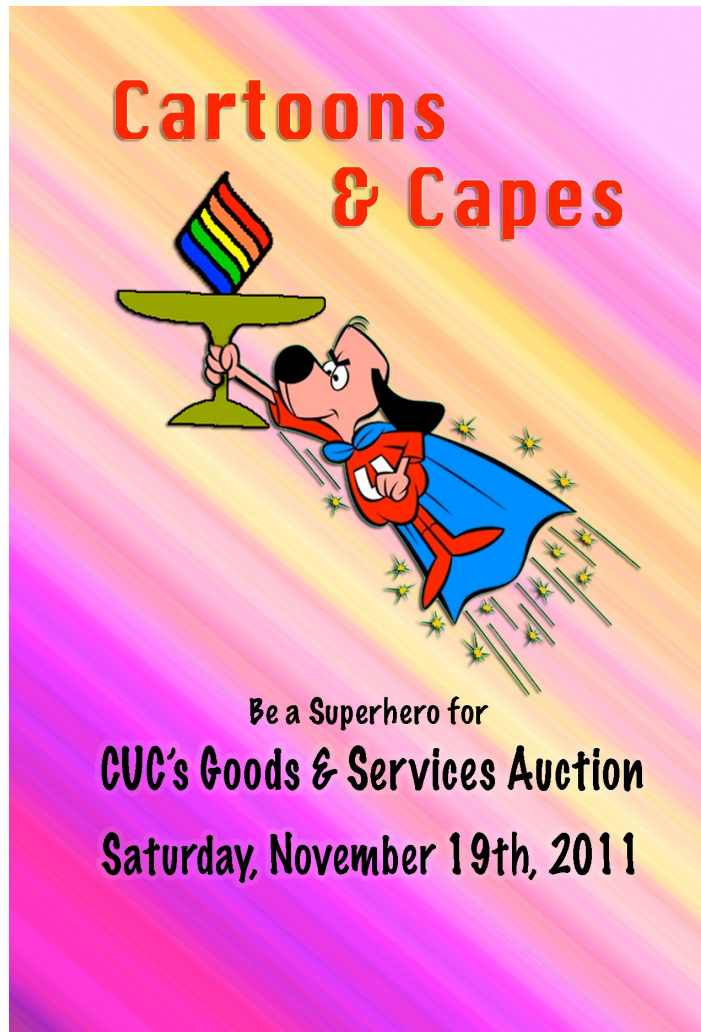
Everyone can get involved. We need help with all aspects of the auction and we have all types of jobs, big and small. If you would like to get involved, even if it is just to help out with a small job the night of the auction, please let us know. If you have any other questions, please drop me a note! **Amy Swiss - AmySwiss@aol.com**

# **BE A SUPERHERO FOR CUC!**

Help us prepare for the Auction by asking

## **JUST 1 QUESTION**

It is easy to do! Simply walk into your favorite restaurant, salon, shop or golf course and say "Would you be willing to make a donation to support a very worthy cause?" Merchants are happy to support their regular customers and to receive the free promotion we give them at the auction.



For more information, please contact Amy Swiss at [amyswiss@aol.com](mailto:amyswiss@aol.com).

We need everyone's help to make it a success.

Even if you cannot come to the auction, you can help.

All you need to do is ask

***Just 1 Question.***