

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

Summer Sunday Services 10:15 am Accessible to the Handicapped

July / August 2010



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

The Rev. Carol A. Huston
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

Susan Donham
Ministerial Intern

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

Communitarian Deadline
for September Edition:
Sunday, August 22

Submit information to
Emily Economou, Editor
Email:
em_boo@yahoo.com

Minister's Moment...

This has been a challenging spring, and I am looking forward to the "Sabbath" of my annual vacation, which I will take July 11-31, and August 20-27. As is usual for us, I will be out of contact with you during that time, leaving church matters in the able hands of our new Church Administrator, Liliana Keith, and with area UU ministers (we always cover for each other during vacations). Of course, in the event of serious illness or death of a member, I will expect Liliana to contact me.

The remainder of July and August is largely a time for study and reading, and I want to do some of that study with you. I have been asked to write a paper on "Violence in Popular Culture" for the Minister's Study Group that I attend annually. As I begin the paper, I want to watch two recent films with all of you who are interested – films I like in spite of (or, maybe, gulp, because of???) the level of violence in them. On Sunday, August 8, at 7:30, we will watch Martin McDonough's dark, dark comedy "In Bruges," and on Sunday, August 29, it will be the South African alien genre /political critique, "District 9." Come to the parsonage, 466 Rosedale, to see these films (much better climate control than at the church).

My reading goals are small this summer, although I do intend to pick up some new books while I am at GA, including something called *What Thoreau Really Meant*. Our Science and Spirituality Group is reading *The Evolution of God* by Robert Wright. This group is so dedicated to the joy and value of these discussions that they will continue to meet during the summer: the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, 11:30 to 1:00, at CUC. I will be there with them when I am not on vacation, and the group would welcome anyone who wants to come and talk about this fascinating book.

I am writing this just before setting off for our annual ministers' meetings and General Assembly, in Minneapolis. Look at the CUC website for BLOG posts about these sessions, and the UUA website, www.uua.org, for live streaming and recorded broadcasts of many of the events. Of course the best part of these gatherings is seeing old friends and meeting new ones. And at GA I will meet our new ministerial intern, face to face, for the first time. You all may begin to meet her, in print at least, in the letter on the next page.

A happy summer Sabbath to all.

- Rev. Carol

P.S. You have been asking about the **Adult Coming of Age Class** that Lara and I are planning to begin in the fall. It will be modeled on our fine youth program, with all the elements of study of Unitarian Universalism, cooperation on group projects, presence in the pulpit, and definition of your personal theology. We will begin with monthly meetings in the fall, and then meet more often as we move toward a Coming of Age service in the spring. Please send me a note or an e-mail (revcarol@earthlink.net) if you want to know more or if you are ready to be part of the group.

MINISTERIAL INTERN INTRO

Hello!



My name is Susan Donham, and I look forward with joy and excitement to serving as your ministerial intern this fall. My call to the professional Unitarian Universalist ministry weaves together my understanding of the cycles of nature from farming, and my values developed in a UU family; the creativity and questions of the artist,

and the reason and curiosity of the scientist; my joy in poetry and metaphor, and my love of working with seniors. My personal theology combines religious humanism and natural theism, with a love of exploring faith traditions.

Other experiences I bring include 15 years as a modern dance choreographer, development work with arts organizations, and my current year-long internship as a chaplain.

I am drawn to the courage and vision the CUC congregation is currently demonstrating as you both look within yourselves and ask for help from outside sources in finding or re-finding the congregation's resources for hope, courage, and faith. I am excited by the possibility of working with you as you develop plans for the future and work to fulfill them. Through the internship, I hope to develop the knowledge of what it means to be a minister with a congregation, working together to embody our beliefs.

- Susan Donham

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Some words about Denominational Affairs –

It is my job to bring you news from the District and UUA, to encourage you to become involved and use the resources from the District and UUA to help CUC to be the best that it can be. There are all sorts of workshops, trainings and retreats for adults and Cons for Junior and Senior High held throughout the year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. These events help us in church life and most importantly we make connections with other UUs who live nearby. If you have questions about events in the district email me at ptmom@prodigy.net.

- Denise Tomlinson

The UU District of Metro NY –

September 24th-26th – Homecoming at Murray Grove – details for this event are at- <http://murraygrove.org/Homecoming2010.pdf>.

October 2nd - Save the date for Leadership Day held each year at the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock. Last year there were workshops for ministers, presidents and other board members, treasurers, social justice, membership, worship, RE, finance and canvass chairs, young adult, music, nominating and growth committees. And of course youth were there. So join me this year in attending this event.

General Assembly (GA) 2010 was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 23-27. If you were not able to attend GA through live streaming video you can still watch videos online on the UUA website. It will still be there for you to view. You can also purchase CDs or DVDs of events at GA.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

My Internship—

I am spending the summer doing a CPE (clinical pastoral education) internship at St. Johns Riverside Hospital in Yonkers. In addition to getting to work with talented staff I have a beautiful view of the Hudson River from the intern office window. Being a chaplain is one of the requirements for becoming a UU minister, one that I have looked forward to since I first explored my call to ministry. I am assigned to general medical/surgical and oncology units right now. This may change as the summer progresses. The hospital is considered an acute care facility, so the patients tend to be older. It is certainly a different population than the Sunday school kids. I have been able to meet with patients, their families and friends. I am sure that the skills I am learning will be of use in congregational life.

Since I will be at the hospital M-F during the day, my work at CUC will take place in the evenings and on weekends. Feel free to email me at dre4cucwp@yahoo.com. I will be checking my work account when I return home in the evening. I am grateful for the support you all are showing me as I continue on my journey towards UU ministry.

- Lara Campbell
Director of Religious Education

Thank you—

I'd like to use my final Communitarian as CUC Co-Chair to thank our DRE Lara Campbell. Her dedication and leadership are evident in all of her work with our children. In recent weeks, I saw the children and youth participate in the church in vital ways, on many levels - from the fifth graders leading Children's Worship to our high school seniors bridging to the world beyond. Each event was moving and inspirational.

Also, a huge thank you goes out to my Co-Chair Kate Colson, who will be leading the RE Council in the coming year. Kate has served as an RE teacher for quite some time and has a great handle on the needs of the children. The other members of the RE Council this year included Daniel Tillman, Robin Rocchi, Joe Magnus, Diana Echivarria, Bennett Rink, Timothy Lynch, Donna Vought, and our youth representative Nick Cutsumpus. Each has made important contributions to making CUC's RE wing such a warm and welcoming place.

As the church moves forward into new challenges, I think that we can all gain by remembering some of the things that we teach in RE. I'm paraphrasing Unitarian minister Robert Fulgum from his iconic essay, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. "Live a balanced life... Play fair... Say you're sorry when you hurt someone... and ... No matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together."

Have a peaceful summer,
Erin Foster, Co-Chair
RE Council

Spanish Conversation Circle to Continue This Fall **Monday Evenings in October**

No need to dust off the old textbooks. Come refresh your memory, build on what you HAVEN'T forgotten! This small group is relaxed and has fun learning together under the direction of a certified native Spanish speaking teacher. The cost is minimal and we have fun!

Contact Jane Dixon 914-949-5919 or jrdixon@optonline.net.

Fall

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Repair and Refresh...

What a wonderful year-end BBQ we had last Sunday! Many thanks to Scott Damashek for organizing the event. It is always dangerous to list people for fear of leaving someone out, but here goes, with thanks also to those I haven't mentioned: Chris Kortlandt, Sergio Torriente Jr. and Sr., Johanna Bauer, John Schwam, Drew Swiss, Al Rocchi, and John Saccardi. And of course thanks to all who brought salads and desserts! I for one thought it worked well having the event on Sunday as Saturdays in June tend to have lots of activities vying for attention. Great Job! Great Event!

July and August mark a more relaxed summer mode for many of us – school is out, vacations are planned, the beach is beckoning. Our church also switches gears to a slightly slower pace – note the word slightly - for there is still tons of activity at 468 Rosedale. Summer services take place every Sunday at 10:15 and the nursery is open to welcome children of all ages. Lots of work gets done on the building and grounds as well as in the classrooms. Closets get cleaned out and supplies get ordered. Perhaps most importantly, planning for a new church year kicks into high gear. The Board and Rev. Carol continue to work on building a solid foundation for the next year and fill two new committees: the Worship committee and the Guest Speakers committee. If you are interested in serving on either one, please speak to me or Rev. Carol.



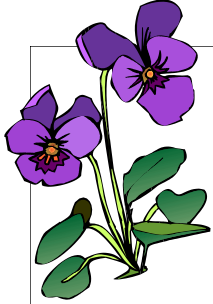
The Board is also committed to completing some improvements to the building. This work was started last year with several groups scoping out work that the congregation prioritized in last fall's Buildings and Grounds Survey. I remind you that the results of this survey may be found on our website. Click the "Our Community" and then the "Capital Campaign" buttons. The top priorities from the survey directed that we look at the bathrooms, main lobby and kitchen. Having lived through several home renovation projects, I know how timelines get extended and things take longer than expected. So I don't promise completion, but we are hoping to work on these areas over the summer. The bathrooms will be spruced up and lobbies refurbished. In addition, there is a group looking closely at the kitchen to see what updates can be made in a cost effective manner without moving walls. We are continuing to collect bids on paving portions of the parking areas. I do hope you have noticed the fine repaving job completed on the lower part of Sycamore Lane!

I hope everyone has a great summer. Be sure to join us on Sunday mornings for some wonderful services led by our fellow congregants, complete with lemonade and childcare.

Anne Majsak, Board Chair



AMONG OURSELVES



Thank you

Thank you to everyone for such a wonderfully warm goodbye. All the cards, emails, and calls are so appreciated. The words spoken, the gifts given, and the lovely coffee hour at the June 13th service -- I'll remember always.

My best wishes to you all —
Louise

Caring and Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, contact:

July

Astrid Rogers 949-0294 Or Bobbi Collins 761-5280

August

Carole Mehta 234-6294 Or Robert Youngman 948-2973

Congratulations to the following!

CUC young adults who finished high school or other courses of study this spring:

Nick Cutsumpas
Alexis Ehrlich
Remy Gautreau
Erica Gold
David Majsak
Zachary Morrice

Several families have celebrated college degrees:

Lisa Cavallero

Received a degree from SUNY New Paltz.

Raymond Cardinali

Lauren Taylor's son, received a degree in mechanical engineering from Manhattan College.

Benjamin Thombs

Matthew Thombs

Both sons of Petra and Bernie Thombs received degrees: Benjamin from Westchester Community College, and Matthew from Northeastern University.

Anniversary Mizmaze Update

We are pleased to report that 18 months after planting, and 12 months after its dedication, the Anniversary Mizmaze is flourishing. Carved out of the woods behind CUC's RE Wing, the 60' diameter maze garden was planted with over 2,000 4-6" plugs of over 40 different native plants, comprised of roughly one-third grasses and two-thirds herbaceous perennials. The plants are in 4 primary colors, red, yellow, purple and white, and planted in a pin-wheel color scheme. At the start of its second summer season, the plants are growing into full maturity with some over waist high. The Mizmaze is a living work in progress, with the current work emphasis on clearly delineating paths from beds, as well as considering enhancements such as art for the center space and as a backdrop on the slope behind the garden. Serving many purposes, the Mizmaze has become popular with kids letting off excess energy after RE, as well as with folks catching a contemplative moment on the beautiful CUC grounds. Stop by this summer to walk the ever-changing paths as the Mizmaze develops.

David Schuler, Grounds Committee

Volunteers!!!

If you:

- Love the outdoors
- Are excited about growing green and wonderful things
- Would love to be part of beautifying our grounds
- Wish to provide an important service to our church
- Want to help the church save money

You can accomplish all this and much more while getting fresh air, exercising, burning calories, getting a tan, improving your gardening skills, experiencing camaraderie, and having a super feeling of giving serious service to our church...by simply joining our grounds committee. ...

For summer working plans, please contact me at tadex@optonline.net. We'll add you to our email communications. Hope you will join us! -

Ted Kuczinski, Grounds Chair

Summer

Summit Music Festival

Music Director **Adam Kent** can be heard in several events at the Summit Music Festival this summer at Manhattanville College in Purchase. On Thursday, July 29 at 8 PM, Adam will offer a lecture/recital entitled "Schubert's Swan Song: The Sonata in Bb Major," and on Saturday, July 31st at 8 PM he will perform solo works by Debussy and Albeniz as well as Brahms' Violin Sonata in A Major with violinist Elena Peres. Tickets are \$20 (\$16 students and seniors). For directions or more information see www.summitmusicfestival.org or call (914) 747-2020.

CUC Choir News *A New Start For This Fall*

Fall

Why is the CUC Choir so small? That was one of the questions that was a part of the survey that was conducted last April. I have to say that I have asked that question myself several times over the past year, and have been hard pressed to answer it. From the many compliments that choir members and I receive on a regular basis, I figure it is not the repertoire or the sound of the choir that prevents people from joining. Indeed, I asked those that interviewed the members of the congregation if anyone had mentioned that intimidation kept them from joining the choir - they said that no-one had mentioned it, for which I was grateful. So, what is the answer to that question?

It was mentioned by several that Monday nights were simply too full of activities and events to choose from on a consistent basis. That, coupled with holiday weekends and the economy, may be the reasons that prevent people from making the commitment to becoming a CUC Choir Member.

With that in mind, the current members, Georgianna Pappas (our esteemed Choir Accompanist), and myself have agreed to move Choir rehearsals to Tuesday nights when there is much less occurring at CUC. We are doing this in the hope that those of you who have been thinking of joining, but have been prevented by other Monday night obligations, will come and sing with us. All voice parts are welcome and we will begin the new season on Tuesday, August 31 at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Remember, you do not have to read music to be a Choir member, just be able to match pitch. While previous choral experience is helpful, it is not required.

With Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with harp planned for December and the music of Johnny Mercer and Jerome Kern planned for the spring, along with the two Sundays of service music, next year promises to be another enjoyable year. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me at lisa.meyer@liu.edu at any time or at 516.299.2475 during the day. As always, you are welcome to attend or observe a rehearsal anytime. Enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall (hopefully at a rehearsal!).

- Lisa Meyer, Choir Director

For latest news and updates go to our website at www.cucwp.org.
The Communitarian is now available on our website. To stop receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and to start receiving email announcements instead, please send an email to admin@cucwp.org.



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“Come together, right now.....”

-John Lennon, 1969

**...to support CUC for the 2010 Goods
and Services Auction!!**

- The Auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year.
- We need everyone's help to make it a success.
- Even if you cannot come to the auction, you can help.

We need each and every friend and member to do something this summer - ask **Just 1 Question** to help support the church.

It is easy to do! Simply walk into your favorite restaurant, salon, shop or golf course and ask “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. We'll be mailing you a reminder in July along with a formal letter from the church for you to give the vendor. For more information, please contact Carole Mehta at carole.mehta@gmail.com.

We need everyone to “Come Together” and help make the auction a success! This summer please do your part and ask

Just 1 Question.



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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.

SUMMER SERVICES 2010

Services are led by CUC congregants on Sundays at 10:15 AM unless noted otherwise.

JULY 4

Rev. Carol Huston

National Identity and The World Cup

JULY 11

Rev. Jeff Gamblée

The T-Word

JULY 18

Youth Advisor Rachel Long

*Discussion Service: What is the center of Unitarian
Universalism for me?*

JULY 25

Dr. Cynthia Heller

Mental Health and Our Community Church

AUGUST 1

Youth Advisor Rachel Long

TBD

AUGUST 8

Hunt/Maguire Family

*"Hello muddah, hello faddah" -- The Spirituality of
Summer Camp*

AUGUST 15

*Discussion Service: What do I worship? What (if anything)
should I worship?*

AUGUST 22

Jerry Stoeffhaas

What We Can See In Detective Genre Films

AUGUST 29

Dr. Anne Gooding

What will be your legacy?

SEPTEMBER 5

Rev. Carol Huston

Work and What It Means