

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim . . .

Several people spoke to me about my prayer during the service on February 17:

What a winter! Cold, Grey days, one after another, another power outage! Really? And still a month and a half until spring? And did I mention that it's been really cold? And while we do our best to keep our spirits up during this time, I'm talking to people with more serious depression, with illness or mourning the death of loved ones. I'm sure some of you are too.

It reminds me of a story about King Solomon. For some reason he decided to humble his most trusted minister who was named Benaiah. So Solomon told Benaiah that he'd heard of a ring with certain magical powers: if a happy person looks at it, she becomes sad. If a sad person looks at it, she becomes happy.

Actually, Solomon just made the whole thing up. Knowing that no such a ring existed, Solomon gave his minister six months to find it, saying that he wished to wear it for the autumn festival of Sukkot. Spring passed, and then summer, and still Benaiah had no idea where he could find the ring. On the day before Sukkot, he took a walk in one of the poorest quarters of Jerusalem. He passed by a merchant who had begun to set out his wares on a shabby carpet. Benaiah asked the man, "have you by any chance heard of a magic ring that makes the *happy* wearer *lose his joy* and the *broken-hearted* wearer *forget her sorrows*?"

He watched the old man take a plain gold ring from his carpet and carefully engrave something on it. When Benaiah read what was written on the ring, his spirits were lifted and his face broke out in a wide smile.

That night the entire city welcomed in the holiday of Sukkot with great festivity. "Well my friend," said Solomon, "have you found what I sent you after?" All the ministers laughed and Solomon himself smiled. To everyone's surprise, Benaiah held up a small gold ring and declared, "Here it is your majesty!" As soon as Solomon read the inscription, the smile vanished from his face. The jeweler had written three Hebrew letters on the gold band, "gimel, zayin, yud," an acronym for the words, "Gam zeh ya'avur: "This too shall pass."

These are the words that make happy wearer lose his joy and the broken-hearted wearer forget her sorrows. And reading this, Solomon realized that all his wisdom, wealth and power were but fleeting things, for one day he would be nothing but dust.

Winter, too shall pass. Let us weather it with prayers for one another and the world, and with the outstretched hands of love and compassion. Amen.

Yours in faith,
Benjamin

Community Unitarian
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March 2013 Inside this issue:

	Page:
From our Interim	1
Sunday Worship	2
Board of Trustees	2
Religious Education	3
Ministerial Search	4
Money Matters	5
Events	7-10
Calendar	11

MARCH SERVICES 2013, 10:15 A M

March 3.

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *The Challenge of a Liberal Faith*. What does our faith require of us?

March 10.

Joann Prinzivalli and Petra Thombs. *A lay led service*.

March 17.

Youth Service. *An annual joyful worship service presented by our youth group*.

March 24.

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *Who Do We Say He Is? Adventures in Unitarian Christology Part 4*. Our saga moves to England.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“Shaking the Doldrums”

The period at the end of January and the beginning of February often seems full of the mid-winter blues, when living in the Northeast can be a slog through the snow, sleet, slush, or worst of all – “wintry mix.” A few weeks ago, our congregation seemed a little stuck in the doldrums, but I think we’ve shaken off the post New Years hangover. One of the key turning points was our recent Chinese New Year celebration, which started with coffee hour entertainment including Chinese songs and a tai chi demonstration. After the entertainment, we enjoyed a delicious take-out Chinese luncheon in Fellowship Hall. With over 80 folks – young and old – in attendance, we joined in convivial fellowship to celebrate the year of the snake. Kudos to Jane Dixon for organizing the event.

Moreover, we have a slew of events in the next month that should help keep the positive momentum rolling:

Saturday, February 23rd– Mary Cobb Evening Cabaret

Sunday February 24th – Chili Sunday hosted by the 6th and 7th graders as a fund raiser for their social service project

Friday March 1 – a Midnight Run to help feed and clothe the homeless in NYC

Saturday March 9th – a Jr High Con is being held at CUC, with dozens of middle schoolers joining us from nearby UU congregations

Weekend of March 15-17 – photos will be taken for a new and long-overdue photo directory

Saturday March 16th – a concert with the CUC choir and guests performing Beatles music

Also on the horizon, the Giving Campaign will kick off in early March and carry into April with Living Church talks from the pulpit, small discussion circles after services, and a celebratory brunch on Sunday April 21. And last – but far from least –we will soon take the next steps in the ministerial search process, which will hopefully culminate with a candidate coming to visit the congregation for a week sometime in April.

So mark your calendars. As the days grow longer and the first blooms start to appear, it’s going to be a busy spring at CUC. I look forward to seeing you!

~ In Community,
David Schuler, Board Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Let Your Light Shine

In February, I attended the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Winter Retreat at the Murray Grove Retreat Center in Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey. Established in the early 1800's Murray Grove is known as the birthplace of Universalism in America. In the main lodge, over the crackling fire-place, there's a plaque with the words of Universalist minister, John Murray, ***"You may possess only a small light but uncover it. Let it shine, use it in order to bring more light and understanding to the hearts and minds of men and women."***

In Religious Education we come together to worship, to uncover our light and to let it shine with understanding in our hearts and minds. Children and youth in every grade light candles and share joys and concerns. We light candles to honor the spirit of life that exists within each of us. Often we find ways to nurture our creativity through the arts: music, dance, painting, writing, etc.

Last week, five-year-old Charlotte who is in our K-1st *Discovering Year* class, inspired us with a display of her combined passions for singing and learning Chinese. Charlotte and her mother, Enid Press, teamed up with youth group member, Elain Liu, an exchange student from China. The trio entertained us with some delightful tunes during the Chinese New Year celebration.

On Special Sunday, the children enjoyed creative movement in a class taught by Latoya Wigfall, a teaching artist from Alvin Ailey Dance Company. The enthusiastic children and adults explored movement, dance and self-expression in a high energy, interactive and fun-filled environment.

Recently, the Religious Education Council met with children and youth from all the classes regarding the annual Social Action initiative. After a presentation they voted to support *Kids in Crisis*, a local organization which provides free, round-the-clock crisis counseling and temporary shelter for children and families of all socio-economic levels dealing with any type of crisis, including abuse, neglect, mental health issues, divorce, substance abuse and more.

In order to generate donations for the charity, we decided that we will have a talent show this spring. By showcasing our individual talents, we hope to help those in need and to inspire positive actions in our community.

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>

RE Calendar/Events

March 9 – District Junior High Con
March 10 – Daylight Savings begins
March 17 – Youth Group Service
March 24- – Special Sunday
March 31 — Multigenerational Easter Service

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



REFLECTIONS

Last month we reviewed the Search Committee's year long journey. Starting last spring, we developed our Congregational Record, reviewed Ministerial Records, selected ministerial candidates to interview, and finally narrowed the field to three pre-candidates. We are now at the end of the series of pre-candidate weekends, during which committee members and ministerial candidates have asked, probed, listened, laughed, shared, discussed, debated, and sized up our mutual "fit."

At the end of March the committee will announce the results of the search. We hope that we will (with appropriate fanfare!) announce a final candidate to the congregation. That candidate would then visit for a week in April or early May, culminating with a full congregational vote to be called to CUC.

Although we are not quite there yet, this is the moment, as we reach the culmination of our year's work, to thank you for giving us a great gift. We on the Search Committee have been inspired by a group of ministerial candidates who embody the best of our faith tradition. We've engaged with men and women who relentlessly hold us to our spiritual center, ceaselessly call us to walk the walk of social justice, and passionately advocate for the importance of the UU mission and vision in this world. We will, hopefully, tender an offer to one candidate on behalf of this particular congregation, given its unique goals and aspirations, and have that candidate joyously accept the invitation to be our next settled minister.

We look forward to the continuation of our journey together, knowing we have indeed been more than blessed by your trust.

~ Ministerial Search Committee

Board of Trustees Nominees Requested **2013-2014**

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.

MONEY MATTERS

CUC Money Matters: Halfway through the Church Year

This article summarizes where we were financially as of half way through the church year, or December 31, 2012. So far, this year has gone well, with significant improvement from last year. Here are the numbers:

	Actual @ 12/31/12	Budget @ 12/31/12	Actual @ 12/31/11
Expenses	215,581	230,108	256,552
Total Revenue	320,869	274,595	300,712
Pledges Collected	222,165	198,120	163,731

So the above chart shows the following:

Pledges are up year over year – so THANK YOU for your ongoing commitment to the financial health of the church.

We have spent 6% less than our budget and about 16% less than we spent for the same time period in 2011. Staff and building maintenance have been slightly less than budgeted, which is a welcome surprise and also reflects the church's good luck in not needing repairs from Superstorm Sandy.

Contributions for use of space are also up over this time last year, due primarily to one time movie rentals in the fall.

So far, we have not had to take money from the Endowment to supplement expenses this year.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was up \$45,000 or 5% for the first half of this fiscal year or between July 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. This is due largely to the climbing stock market.

Kitchen

The kitchen renovations were expected to cost \$168,000, of which \$105,000 was covered by donations from CUC members (Kitchen Fund). The kitchen renovations have gone more slowly than originally hoped. Not surprisingly, extra time indicates unexpected work and so higher expenses. Early on, the contractor ran into difficulties related to the age and design of the building, and Con Edison required an update in the wiring from the street. Further, the City of White Plains had to perform various inspections which were not always done promptly, especially in late fall when White Plains' building department diverted resources to expediting inspections and work relating to Hurricane Sandy repairs. Most recently, the hood over the stove had to be modified as it was too low to accommodate tall cooks. At this point, the entire project is still expected to cost about \$250,000 as mentioned in the November newsletter; the extra costs will be paid from the building fund portion of the Endowment. This will offset more than the 2012 investment gains.

Giving Campaign

As you can see, this year has been a good one financially so far. Our continued financial health depends on your generosity in pledging. So thank you for your support this year and please participate in the upcoming annual giving campaign supporting our Church life next year.

Want to know more? Ask Nicky Klemens at nsklemens@optonline.net or Chris Kortlandt, kortlandtbunch@verizon.net.

Do you dream in color or black & white?

ANNUAL GIVING
CAMPAIGN

The theme for the 2013-2014 CUC Annual Giving Campaign is “Funding the Dream.”

March is the month in which we think about the stewardship of this congregation. What an exciting time! We are nearing completion on our major renovations, we are expecting a new settled minister this spring, and we are back on the road toward a sounder financial plan. Through all of this, we have preserved the essence of this congregation...a community which cares about each other and the wider world.

Earlier in February, on a Saturday morning, a number of you joined Benjamin and the Steering Committee by the fireside to dream of what CUC might look like at its very best. This coming month you will be asked to participate and think about your dream for the life of the congregation, not only next year, but beyond.

The Giving Campaign will officially begin on Sunday March 3rd with a special service. As the service draws to a close, you will be invited to join one of several small circles in the sanctuary to share your dreams for CUC. To make the time to talk together, there will be no benediction or postlude and coffee hour will begin a bit later than usual. On March 24th you will have another opportunity to join a circle discussion group, this time during coffee hour.

During the month of March you will also hear personal journey stories during the Living Church portion of the services. The combined sermons, Living Church speakers, and circle discussions will illuminate our dreams. Your voice is critical in helping to create a longer term vision for CUC. And your financial support is just as critical. ***What does the congregation look like, that you want to be a part of? Are you willing to help fund that vision?***

We want to be pro-active, not reactive. Stewardship implies taking care of our church in a thoughtful and loving manner. ***Let us not be afraid to dream in color.*** Let us surround ourselves with the glowing colors of the rainbow... citron... magenta... cobalt. Let us envision CUC at its best and let us work together to understand that it is “spiritual giving” that will help get us there.

~ Janet Press, Steering Committee



The New CUC Photo Directory is Coming!!!!!!

We are pleased to announce that we will be producing a new pictorial directory of our church families. A directory is a very valuable tool that helps everyone to place names with faces and enhances the sense of fellowship.

We have invited Lifetouch Church Directories to produce both a printed and an online directory for us. They produce high quality, color portraits, and will provide each family with a complimentary portrait and church directory. Additional portraits will be available for purchase.



We are aiming for 100% participation!

Whether you are a single, couple, or family with children, please help us out by sitting for a portrait!

Portraits will be taken at CUC on the following dates:

Thursday Mar. 14th 2:00 pm - 8:40pm
Friday Mar. 15th 2:00 pm - 8:40pm
Saturday Mar. 16th 10:00 am - 4:40pm
Sunday Mar. 17th 11:30 am - 4:40pm

Please go to CUC's website and sign up now!

www.cucwp.org

Or, you may signup in church on Sunday March 3rd or 10th.

You are important to CUC, so be sure to schedule your appointment, and encourage your CUC friends to do the same!
 Thanks for your support.

Questions call: Karen Schmitt 914-921-3647



In Memory...

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Rev. Benjamin** who's father passed away on February 5th. Benjamin Arthur Maucere was 84 years old, and lived most of his life in the San Fernando Valley, California.

Caring & Sharing... If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout March contact **Astrid Rogers** at 949-0294 or AstridRogers@aol.com or **Carole Mehta** at 914-234-6294 or carole.mehta@gmail.com

Concert Series

Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 7:00 pm

BEATLES

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the iconic Beatles and join us for a memorable evening of solos, duets, and choral arrangements of some of the Fab Four's greatest, including songs from each member's solo career. Performers include the CUC Choir, directed by Lisa N. Meyer, and Georgianna Pappas on piano.

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

March 17, Sunday

PANCAKE BRUNCH



\$3 children, \$5 adult, \$15 per family
Sponsored by the Youth Group

Peek in your closet.

MEN'S CLOTHING

We are collecting men's clothing for both Open Arms, a men's shelter in White Plains, and Midnight Runs, where we distribute food and clothing in Manhattan. Please consider collecting and donating:

Pants—(jeans, sweats, etc.) in sizes 36 - 46
Shirts—(tees, collars, short and long-sleeved) in sizes XL - XXXL.
Sweatshirts & Jackets-XL or larger
Sneakers & boots - gently worn
Backpacks or small luggage bags
Belts, hats, gloves, blankets

We have provided socks, underwear, hats, gloves, etc. at holidays, but now the need is for casual, large men's wear. If you have any questions about Open Arms, please call Ray Messing at 592-4497. We'll be collecting all items in the front lobby, near the food and toiletries collections.

MIDNIGHT RUN

**Friday, March 1
8 PM**

Help feed the homeless in Manhattan. Provide clothing. Help with food preparation. This well organized event is a great way to help others and work with other CUC members and friends, from our youth to our grandparents.

For more information contact David Schuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com or 831-5605.

Community Tag Sale – Saturday May 4th, 2013

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.



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

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

SAVE THE DATE! April 7, 7 PM

Singer Songwriters Pete Seeger and Jim Scott
.....At CUC!



The opportunity has arisen for us to host an historic musical event right here at Community Unitarian Church. The legendary PETE SEEGER and our own UU composer and guitarist Jim Scott (Gather the Spirit) have offered to perform a benefit concert for the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (U.U.S.C.)** in our sanctuary on Sunday evening, April 7 at 7PM. Pete is 93 and not playing many concerts, so we expect a large audience from the community. His anthems, such as “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”, “Turn, Turn, Turn”, and “If I Had a Hammer” are part of our national heritage and known around the world. Pete and Jim will be joined by several musical guests, including our own choir, to raise the spirit and celebrate peace, justice, and the earth in song.

The Music Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in organizing and facilitating this event. We need people to assist with ushering, ticket sales, a post-concert reception, etc. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting opportunity, please contact Music Committee co-chairs Thomas Wacht or Liz Laite at tjwachtesq@aol.com or em.laite@verizon.net respectively, or CUC Music Director Adam Kent at ask185@aol.com.

New on the UUA website – check out the following links:

Interfaith Immigration Coalition – is a partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform. The UUA has joined the Breaking Bread and Building Bridges Campaign. It is a campaign to strengthen the movement for just and humane immigration reform. <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/campaigns/breaking-bread-and-building-bridges/>





Moderator Videos – Congregations will be able to vote for moderator at the June UUA General Assembly in Louisville, KY. The moderator, a six year term, presides at the General Assembly and UUA board meetings and represents the UUA at functions throughout the year. Delegates from our congregation would love input from the congregation on how to vote. <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/moderator/index.shtml>.

Save the dates

Annual meeting of UU Metro District of NY- May 3-4 Hyatt in Morristown, NJ. Keynote address will be given by Annette Marquis who serves the UUA as the LGBTQ and Multicultural Ministries Program Manager. <http://uumetrony.org/am13/index.htm>. We invite everyone to attend. For more info ask Mary Cavallero or Denice Tomlinson.

UUA 2013 General Assembly (GA) in Louisville, KY June 19-23. Registration opens March 1st. <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. We invite everyone to attend. For more info ask Mary Cavallero or Denice Tomlinson.

~ March 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8p Midnight Run	2
3 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-12:15p Giving Campaign Conversations (FH) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	4 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA)	5 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	6 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	7	8	9 Jr high CON (All Rooms)
10 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	11 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group43	12 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	13 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	14 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41) 12p-8:30p Directory-Picture Studio (R44), 43) 	15 6p-7p CUC's Choir dress rehearsal 2p-8:30p Directory-Picture Studio (R44), 43) 	16 7 pm Beatles Concert, CUC Choir 10a-4:30p Directory-Picture Studio (R44), 43) 
17 St Patrick Communitarian Deadline 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:30a-12:30p Fun Facts about Music 11:30a-12:30p Pancake Brunch 11:30a-5:00p Directory- Picture Studio  11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee	18 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	19 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	20	21 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA)	22	23
24 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-12:15p Giving Campaign Conversations	25 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	26 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	27 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	28 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter 10a-11:30a Religious Education/Special Sunday 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)						

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White Plains, NY 10605



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Communitarian Deadline for
March Edition:

Sunday, March 17

Submit information to
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