

# THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education  
10:00 am

Sunday Services  
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

## *In the Interim . . .*

Let us give thanks:

*For the sun and stars that float in the open air,  
for the apple-shaped earth and we upon it;  
for the wonder we all see in everyone else we see,  
and the wonders that fill each minute of time forever . . .*  
(Walt Whitman)

November invites us into the spiritual discipline of gratitude.

Most of us are grateful for an abundance of good food to eat and clean water to drink, warm clothing and dry homes. Let us give thanks even as we respond to those in need.

Let us give thanks for our friends and our families; for all those who brighten our lives with their presence.

Let us give thanks for our companions in this religious community who affirm and promote the comfort and challenge of our free faith.

We ask that our hearts may be opened wide at this time to embrace this life, with all its painful disappointments and its quiet triumphs.

For all this and more, may we give thanks.  
AMEN

*Yours in faith, Benjamin*

## **THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS AMONG US....**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mary and John **Cavallero**. John's father George Cavallero died on October 12. He was 95 and lived at Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Elissa **Schuler** Adair and David Schuler. Elissa's aunt Lucretia Rita Mancuso died on October 19 at Calvary Hospital. Ms. Mancuso lived most of her life in the Bronx, but was most recently living with the Schulers.

Community Unitarian  
Church  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605  
914-946-1660  
[www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)



## **November 2012 Inside this issue:**

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**November 4.** *It's Never Too Late.*

The Reverend Benjamin Maucere.  
A meditation on coming to terms with growing up.

**November 11.** *Who Do They Say I Am?  
Adventures in Unitarian Christology.*

The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. This is the first of a series to examine the development of Unitarian views on Jesus.

**November 20.** *For All That Is Our Life.*

The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. Join us in an intergenerational celebration of Thanksgiving, including a traditional Unitarian Universalist Thanksgiving Communion.

**November 27.** *Lay Led Service*

Petra Thombs and friends of CUC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Kitchen Update**

I want to update you on CUC's kitchen renovation.... I take it back, I want to update you on CUC's brand new, state of the art, green kitchen, because the project is much more than a renovation. If you've stuck your head in to the kitchen on a recent Sunday, you'll have noticed that it's come a long way from the holes in the ground and bare cinder block walls that we started with in September. And having been there yesterday, the project makes visible progress almost every day. We are still very optimistic that the kitchen will be ready for the Auction, which is just over three weeks away.

The recent progress is certainly good news about the project. The bad news is that the cost of the project is significantly higher than initially estimated. The most recent estimate puts the total project cost at \$250,000. The project design was reviewed for months and we had expert opinion both from church members and outside firms. However, not unexpectedly, once we started opening up our 50+ year old building, we found unanticipated problems and repairs that needed to be made while we had access. Also, to provide the additional electricity for the new appliances – as well as the new furnaces on the roof, which are part of a different project – we had to upgrade the power coming in to the building. To meet Con Edison's requirements, we had to do much more work than originally designed, including building deep trenches to run the wires from Sycamore Street up the hill to the building. As someone who's done a lot of digging on the CUC grounds, I can attest to the rockiness of our soil.

At the Annual Meeting in June of this year, I told the congregation that the preliminary project estimate was \$168k, so we're looking at an increase of \$82k. Thanks to the Kortlandts' fundraising efforts, we raised \$104k for the kitchen, which means we will draw \$146k from the Building Fund. With the strong stock market performance this year, we will still have approximately \$140k left in the Building Fund after the kitchen is complete.

The bottom line is that we will soon have a brand new wonderful kitchen that will serve us and future generations for decades to come. It has cost more than we expected, and it should serve as a useful reminder that making changes to our old building can be an expensive undertaking. But as you remember our old kitchen with drawers full of dull knives, dangerous burners that didn't light, and plenty of room for tight quarters, you'll agree that it was time for an upgrade! And finally, I want to thank Ted Kuczinski for his time, wisdom, leadership and good cheer in basically single handedly managing this challenging construction project for us all. Bravo Ted!

~ In Community

David Schuler, Board Chair



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### “Our Spiritual Home”

Our religious education programs include more than classes. It incorporates opportunities for social justice, worship, fellowship and fun. We strive to provide opportunities for children and youth to explore their understanding of spirituality as they develop their own beliefs.

When 8-year old Nadia was asked what it meant to be a Unitarian Universalist she replied: *I am Unitarian. I don't care if people say it's not real. If you are Jewish and your husband is Catholic it's where you both want your children to be. It's coming together; make peace not war. And no person should say I'm better than you.*

Through our programming we encourage our youth to seek answers about what it means to be a UU and to explore big picture issues like death and loss, right or wrong, God and a higher power. We explore what it means to create a sacred community, a spiritual home.

Last week in Children's Worship, we told a story about three old men named Wealth, Love, and Success who were waiting outside of a family's home. The family was allowed to invite only one guest into their home. As they contemplated which one to invite, I posed the question to the children, “Which one should the family invite into their home?”

“Love,” called out a girl sitting in the front row, “They should invite Love into their home!”

The family in the story did invite Love into their home, only to find that Wealth and Success followed him. The old men explained, “If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would've stayed out, but since you invited Love, wherever he goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success!”

In our loving community, may we all experience the wealth and success that will follow. With helping hands and loving hearts, we gather to learn, listen, tell stories, ask questions, have fun and grow together in faith.

**In Faith,  
Lily Rappaport**

*Continuing the theme of gifts and talents, Amy Swiss shares how she makes stained glass art with 6th/7th grades.*



# MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

At the end of October, the Search Committee proudly posted CUC's Congregational Record ("CR"), based on the participation and input of the members and friends of CUC, on the UUA website. The CR incorporated the findings of the congregational survey and cottage meetings, as presented to the congregation in the Report Out on September 30. The final product was truly a team effort, in which all seven members of the Search Committee participated.

Now, ministerial candidates in search will have the opportunity to review our CR and send us their ministerial records if they are interested in exploring a potential match. The next step will be deciding who of this first group we want to learn more about, and exchanging packets with those candidates.

We are in the process of completing CUC's packet, which is a larger, more expansive document than the CR. It will include welcome letters from current and past staff members, community organizations with which we partner, and the chairs of the BOT and RE Council, sample Orders of Service and Coming of Age Credo, pictures of our lovely building and grounds in all seasons, more detailed descriptions of our committees and group projects as well as fun events, such as the auction. Pictures of members and friends of CUC – singing, talking, reading, cooking, weed-pulling - will be a very important part of the packet.

**Please send any pictures you have of CUC in action to Diana Echevarria** via the Church office or electronically to [dechevarria1@verizon.net](mailto:dechevarria1@verizon.net), and let us know if you have any ideas for the packet. As always, you can speak directly to any of us, or e-mail the committee at [cucministersearch@gmail.com](mailto:cucministersearch@gmail.com).

~ Ministerial Search Committee

## BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING REPORT

On October 14 approximately forty members and friends of CUC attended a program called Beyond Categorical Thinking. This is a program recommended by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations in search of a minister. Our facilitators, Jacqui C. Williams and The Rev. Dr. Michael Tino led group discussions and our Search Committee members facilitated small group activities. On an individual basis, we filled out a survey asking us to think about both the concerns and benefits that we might experience should we call a minister with a different identity than prior ministers - consideration was given to various racial/ethnic identities, disabilities, various sexual orientation/gender identities, and other identities such as age or class. We later discussed the results of those surveys. In small groups we considered various problems that could arise during the search process. We realized that if our congregation were to call a minister who identified him/her self as a minister of color or as a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender minister then there are curricula available that we could explore as a congregation that would better position us to welcome a new minister and go forwards into a successful ministry.

As a group, we discussed our institutional culture – naming rules and customs that we know, but rules & customs that someone from outside would not know immediately. We also discussed regional differences such as how New Yorkers tend to deal with conflict more directly and non-personally than people from other parts of the country.

In summary, The Beyond Categorical Thinking program created opportunities for conversations and reflection for the attendees to consider - issues related to identity. In the process, we explored some of these biases, learned more about the search process, and began to think about next steps, such as further consultation, education, or training beyond the BCT program with the help of the UUA.

This was a valuable program. I want to thank the Search Committee for providing us with this opportunity. I also want to thank those people who provided us with a wonderful lunch: Jane Dixon, Paula Meighan, John Saccardi, Maxi Feldman, Johanna Bauer, Joan Traber, Claire Kuczinski, Benetta Barnett, and Enid Press. Apologies if we neglected to include anyone.

~ Submitted by  
**Mary Cavallero and Anne Majsak**



## IMMIGRATION DETENTION

On Saturday October 13th and 20th, I had the opportunity to attend the presentation on immigration detention prepared by Denice Tomlinson.

Saturdays are busy and the weather was beautiful, but this is an important issue for many people living in the United States. We were able to watch the Ware Lecture from the UU General Assembly, given by Maria Hinajosa, as well as view the documentary she worked on for PBS called "Lost In Detention."

The main point of the film is that a Federal program aimed at targeting and removing undocumented people who had committed serious crimes, has somehow morphed into a much wider dragnet that has a goal of deporting 400,000 people a year. Another main focus is the punitive conditions to which picked up individuals are subjected. Although they are not in the criminal justice system, but in "detention" they are treated as if they are incarcerated.

Those of us who watched this film could not help but be moved by families torn apart when mothers, fathers, or other relatives are picked up and held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. When a mother is deported and separated from her American born children because she was speeding, it makes us sad to think that this could be happening in America. No matter what your views are on immigration reform, this provided a stimulating platform for discussion of how we treat human beings in our country who are not US citizens.

As UU's we take pride in standing on the side of love. I hope that we at CUC continue to explore this issue, and that those of us who feel strongly about this policy will look towards the next step of how we put our beliefs about social justice into action.

~ Submitted by Jane Dixon



## EVENTS

### Values Clarification Workshop

#### **Saturday November 3, RSVP to church office today!**

In your experience, what does CUC do best? What are the strengths you see, and the religious values they represent? Join Rev. Benjamin on Saturday November 3rd from **10 am -2 pm** for an exploration of how these strengths and values relate to the identity and purpose of CUC. This work will be important preparation for the Mission/Vision workshop led by Robert Latham set for January 19th. **RSVP to Liliana at the church office at [cucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cucoffice@gmail.com) or 946-1660 ext. 2. Also, let us know if you need childcare.**

### *Brunch for Newcomers*

**What:** Meet others who are fairly new to CUC and learn about our community programs.

**When:** Sunday, November 4th, 11:45 am.

**Where:** At the home of Jane Dixon.

12 Persimmon Lane, White Plains.

Childcare provided.

RSVP [jrdixon@optonline.net](mailto:jrdixon@optonline.net) or 949-5919



### *Concert Series ENCORE!*

**Saturday, November 10, 2012 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), or \$80 for a subscription to 5 concerts (\$40 seniors and students).

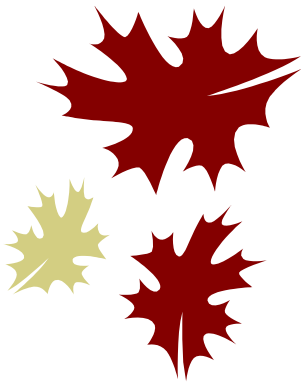


### **MIDNIGHT RUN**



**Friday, November 16  
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](mailto:davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com) or 831-5605.



### **Annual Arts & Crafts Fundraiser**

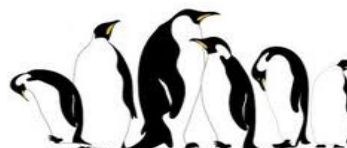
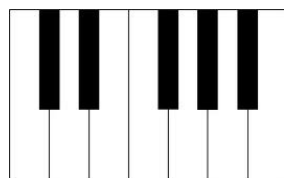
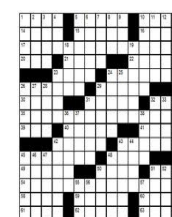
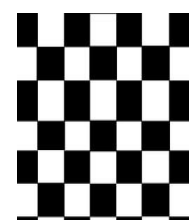
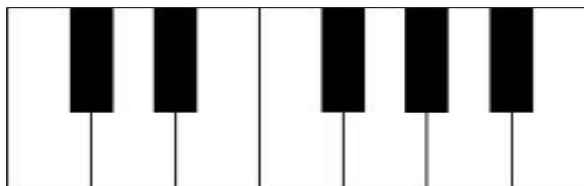
**Sunday, December  
9 & 16**

Following service. If interested in selling your craft, please contact Barbara Youngman at 914-948-2973.



### **Caring & Sharing Committee—We're here to help you.**

Contact Claire Kuczinski 437-9195 or Liz Laite 366-4211 if you, or someone you know, is in need of help from the Caring & Sharing group. This includes home visits, help getting to doctor's appointments, help with food shopping if one is home bound, etc.



Join us!

**Saturday, November 17th**

**The CUC 2012 Goods and Services Auction**

It will be

# Black and White and Fun All Over!

**Volunteer!** Everyone can help! 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.

**Donate!** We request that any tangible item being donated from your home have a value of at least \$50 and are either new or in mint condition. Donation forms are outside the church office. Please fill out a form for each item being donated. Donations forms are being accepted now and tangible items can be dropped off in the church the week before the auction. And remember to Ask *Just 1 Question* of your local merchants - they are usually happy to donate. Donation request letters are available outside the church office


**Attend!** the auction on November 17th<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm for a fun filled evening with a wide variety of goods and services in all price ranges. Tickets on sale during coffee hour. Need a ride? Let us know and we will match you up with a neighbor attending the auction.

For more info, contact Ann Marie Damashek [scottam@verizon.net](mailto:scottam@verizon.net) or

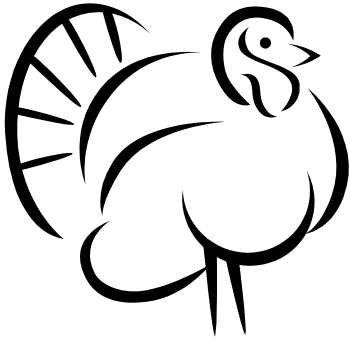
Catherine Kortlandt [cemk\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:cemk_99@yahoo.com)



~ November 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7:30p-8:30p Search CMT (R41)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10a-2p Values Clarification Workshop (FH)
<b>4</b> 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Auction CMT Meeting 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir 11:45a-12:45p Newcomers Brunch 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	<b>5</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	<b>6</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	<b>7</b> 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	<b>8</b> 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4:30p-9p CUC Concert (7:30p)
<b>11</b> 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Auction CMT Meeting 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir 11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee Meeting (R41)	<b>12</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group43 (43) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	<b>13</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	<b>14</b> 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	<b>15</b> 7:30p-8:30p Search CMT (R41)	<b>16</b> 8p-8p Mid-Night Run	<b>17</b> Mid-Night Run CUC's AUCTION 
<b>18</b> Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 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	<b>19</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	<b>20</b> 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee	<b>26</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	<b>27</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	<b>28</b> 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605



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*Founded 1909*

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Communitarian Deadline for  
December Edition:

**Sunday, November 18**

Submit information to  
Emily Economou, Editor  
emily.economou@gmail.com