

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:00 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ Meredith's Musings ~ Freedom The Half-Won Blessing

*"Bring out the festal bread and sing songs of freedom.
Shout with the slaves who fled, and sing songs of freedom.
Chains still there are to break; their days are not finished.
Metal or subtle-made, they're still not diminished."*

- Hymn #220

Our April theme is "Freedom," which aligns with the Passover celebration. We celebrate the freedom we have – while also reflecting on the "chains still there are to break."

Passover this year begins at sundown on Monday April 14. The celebration of freedom continues eight days, until the evening of Tuesday April 22. The first two days and the last two days are full-fledged holidays: the middle four days are semi-festive. The first two days commemorate the 10th plague, when the mystery beyond naming killed all the first-born of Egypt, but passed over the Israelites: hence, "Passover." At this, Pharaoh released the Israelites from bondage. They immediately fled. Pharaoh changed his mind and went chasing after them. A week later came the episode of the parting of the Red Sea, commemorated by the last two days of Passover.

Celebrate, then, and reflect on the blessing of freedom. In parts of the world, full-scale slavery is still going on. None of the members of CUC are enslaved in that full-scale way, and none ever have been. Even so, I would guess that there has been a metaphorical land of Egypt in your past in which you were bound and from which you now are free. Bring out the festal bread, and sing songs of freedom.

Yet freedom is the half-won blessing. Modern pharaohs live unchallenged. Chains still bind us – whether "metal or subtle-made." Resentments, small or large, constrain us. A further Exodus awaits us still. And further truth, bright as a burning bush, cries to become known. We (we who are not under an unrelenting grind of oppression, not consumed wholly with mere survival) stand midway between full-scale slavery and full-scale liberation. The unfinished work of freedom lies before us. So bring out the festal bread and sing songs of freedom.

Yours Faithfully,

Meredith

Community Unitarian
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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660
www.cucwp.org



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OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 1, 2014 for the purpose of

- receiving Annual Reports;
- voting on the Board of Trustees slate presented by the Nominating Committee;
- the election of members to the Nominating Committee;
- voting on CUC's operating budget for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015;
- voting on CUC's capital expenditures for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

NOMINATING FOR Board of Trustees

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 suggestions with one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Creighton Cray, Erin Foster, Cynthia Roberts, and Ray Schmitt. We are looking for candidates who are actively involved in our community and have a history of service to CUC. If you prefer to do this by email, you can write to the Nominating Committee via schmitt790@verizon.net.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Spring is here – although it doesn't quite yet feel like it – but bask in the warmth of our restored heated church! All is well with our heating system and we are now preparing for additional repairs. Yes, there are still leaks in the hallway BUT now that the snow has melted we are in the process of getting estimates to fix the roof. Once that is done it will be a short time before the office, kitchen and hallway ceilings are repaired. Thanks again to Tim Lynch and the Building and Grounds committee for all their work on our behalf.

As noted last month, our new Committee on Ministry has been launched – they are charged with keeping us on track in bringing our mission to life, so don't be surprised if before too long you are asked your opinion about how we are doing in our four areas of ministry - worship, religious education, social justice/ outreach and pastoral care/inreach. Thanks again to six of our former board chairs, who have answered the call to serve on this committee – Steve Bear, Creighton Cray, Ted Dreher, Anne Majsak, Charlie McNally and Janet Press.

In keeping with our goal of starting small group ministry (CUC “Journey” groups) Rev Meredith will focus on the process in his **sermon on March 30**, followed by an opportunity to discuss in more depth the advantages and opportunities that a small group ministry can provide. Our hope is to get the program organized this spring for groups that can start up in the fall.

Changes are also afoot in our Religious Education ministry. As you know, Lily Rappaport has served us faithfully as an Acting Director of Religious Education but will be leaving us at the end of this church year. Stay tuned for further information about what the future holds - both for her and for CUC.

April will bring not only our on-going Mission Possible giving campaign – ending with a celebratory **brunch on April 27** (thanks again to Bennett and his committee for all their efforts) but also an opportunity to begin a discussion of the direction CUC may want to go in fulfilling its social justice ministry. Watch for Meredith's sermon and small group discussion during one Sunday in April.

Want to get more involved? The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the Board of Trustees. Please consider serving or nominating someone who you would like to see in a leadership position at CUC. Ray Schmitt or any members of the committee are the contact – see information on page two and in the weekly gazette for details.

Two other important dates -

First, the Board of Trustees is suggesting a number of changes in our by-laws. Before these changes will be voted on at the annual meeting in June, they will be discussed at a forum on Sunday, April 13, 11:30 am.

Second, as we usually do, we'll have a forum to discuss the upcoming budget for 2014-2015. This meeting will be on Sunday, May 18th, 11:30 am. Mark your calendars if you would like to have input.

*Yours in community,
Ginny Strand, Chair, Board of Trustees*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SPRING CELEBRATIONS

By Lily Rappaport, Acting Director of Religious Education

For many around the world, spring represents a return to life and family. It is often a time to reconnect with others and with nature through celebrations and spiritual practices. In our Sunday program children learn about numerous holidays from many different religions and cultures.

Last week, the third grade class celebrated the Persian New Year, *Noruz*, which means “New Day” in Persian. This important holiday is celebrated in countries around the world, including Afghanistan, Albania, India, Iran, and Turkey. During the holiday, families and friends visit each other. Traditionally people go into streets and alleys to build bonfires, and then jump over them singing a special song about chasing away the fear and paleness of the winter spirit and bringing in the warmth of spring.

Noruz is also a time for spring cleaning, buying new clothes, visiting friends and relatives and renewing bonds. One ritual the children learned was tossing sprouts into a special “stream” to make amends and give their apologies for any hurtful words or deeds made in the past year.

The month of April will provide numerous opportunities to celebrate holidays of rebirth and renewal. For Easter, children will explore symbols associated with the holiday as well as learn about the life and death of Jesus. For Passover, we’ll share the story the ancient Jewish festival of freedom. And for Earth Day we will learn how we can continue to care for our planet.



Zach, Violet, Trent, Kate, Tanner and Ellis dispense green sprouts in a "stream" to symbolize ridding oneself bad luck.

For the Persian new year, third graders take turns leaping over three "fires" while making a special wish.



GIVING CAMPAIGN

MISSION: POSSIBLE

CUC ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

The CUC Annual Giving Campaign is underway!

Thank you to everyone who has already made their pledge of support for the 2014-2015 church year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

So far, we have raised \$97,000 in pledges. This is good progress but we still have a way to go to reach our goal of \$400,000 – a 10% increase over last year's total.

If you haven't already made your pledge, please take a moment to do so. You can make your pledge online at <http://www.cucwp.org/annual-giving-campaign>, or print the pledge form from the website and mail it or bring it in to CUC. *If possible, please consider increasing the amount of your pledge over last year to help us reach our goal.*

This is an invigorating and inspiring time to be part of the CUC family and we need everyone's support to fully realize our new mission: **Nurture Spirituality; Foster compassion; and Engage in Service.**

A successful giving campaign will give us the "lift-off" we need to launch this new era for CUC.

Thank you and I look forward to celebrating with everyone at our Giving Campaign Brunch on Sunday April 27.

Yours in community,

Bennett Rink, 2014 Giving Campaign Chair



EVENTS

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout April contact Liz Laite or Eleanor Herman.

Liz: 366-4211, em.laite@verizon.net
Eleanor: 937-1213, elroherm@verizon.net.

Memorial Service....

A service will be held on Saturday, April 26th at 11:00 am honoring the lives of long time CUC members **Jean Rosalie and Lester Louis Brown**. A light lunch and gathering will follow.

Introducing the Aesthetics Committee

At Reverend Meredith's request, a new committee has been formed to oversee the overall design of the sanctuary. I am honored to be co-chairing the Aesthetics Committee with Lori Saccardi and a group of passionate CUC members committed to creating a cost effective plan to refresh our beloved sanctuary in order to better reflect our current congregation. The committee's goals are to:

- Honor our building's iconic 50's architecture
- Enhance the intent to bring nature into the sanctuary
- Make a statement about who we are and what we believe
- Create a contemplative focus of reflection in the design of the focal area
- Bring a cohesive look and feel to various elements of the sanctuary including the fireside area
- Incorporate the four seasons into the design

Please note, we are not overhauling the sanctuary. With other more pressing projects on the horizon as overseen by the Building Committee, our intent is to edit, reconfigure and brighten our space, while evaluating the current color palette and the usefulness of existing statement and furniture pieces. We aim to have the work completed during the summer months.

We want and value your input and so we will be hosting a survey in the coming weeks so we can better understand the larger community's thoughts and desires. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Finally, as we move forward, all changes and additions to the sanctuary will need to be brought to the committee for review and approval. With a new mission, new minister and renewed energy at CUC, we believe now is the perfect time to make some needed changes that will inspire us all. Should you be interested in joining the committee, please email me directly at david@bowenandco.com.

With affection,
David Bowen, Aesthetics Committee Co-Chair

**REGISTRATION FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2014-2015**

Online registration



Registration for next year's RE program has begun. Our goal is for all families to register children/youth by the end of this month.

You can register by visiting the church website (cucwp.org) and clicking on the link, "Register for RE" on the right hand side of page.

**RE Special Sunday
April 13 at 10 am
Fellowship Hall**

Please plan to join us for this special program. A guest from the Auction Committee will explain what the Auction is, its purpose, and all the many things that are required to make the day a success. Children will participate in this important fund raising endeavor for our church by making a special craft which will then be donated to the next year's Auction.



Bird/Nature Walk at CUC

**Easter Sunday
April 20, 8:30 am
(meet behind the parsonage)**

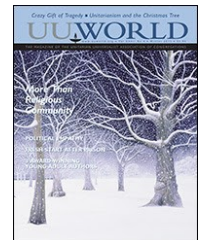
For a full report on the last walk go to:
<http://cucmatters.blogspot.com/>
Led by Rev. LoraKim Joyner,
DVM. If you have any ques-
tions, you may contact her at
amoloros@gmail.com.



**Adult R.E.: "Around the UUWorld"
Brown Bag Lunch**

**Wednesday, April 16 -- noon
Fireside Area of Sanctuary**

Bring your lunch and join
Rev. Meredith to discuss a
recent article from our de-
nominational magazine, the
UUWorld.



SPRING CLEANING?

Issan House, a 35-unit SRO facility in Yonkers for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, is in constant need of gently-used or new:

Bed Linens, Blankets, and Towels.

Many residents come directly from rehab centers, jail or homeless shelters, and the small efficiency units are supplied only with a single bed, a chair and minimal kitchen equipment. (Meals, health services and a day program are available on the site.) Single sheets and pillowcases are particularly needed, but double or queen-size sheets can be used in a "fold-over" arrangement. Bath-size towels are also prized, but NO used pillows, please. And don't throw away the Spiderman or Cinderella sheets; as long as they're clean and useable, someone will be grateful!

Contributions can be brought to CUC and marked "Issan House" or put my name on the bag. And if a pick-up is needed, I will gladly come to your residence.

– Karen Schatzel [\(914\) 591-6576](tel:9145916576)



Compassionate Communication: Nurturing Our Lives, Relationships, and World

A workshop open to anyone seeking more deeply meaningful and peaceful relationships.

Saturday, May 10th, 9:30 -3 p.m.

Community Unitarian Church
468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, NY

Compassionate Communication, also known as Non-Violent Communication or NVC, is a transformative practice that enriches our relationship with ourselves and others. This workshop will give an overview of NVC as well as opportunities to practice dealing with conflict more effectively and nurture our spirits more fully.



Presenter: Rev. LoraKim Joyner, D.V.M., is a Unitarian Universalist minister now serving as a community minister in Multi-species Ministry and Compassionate Communication (Nonviolent Communication). Among her current positions, Rev. Joyner serves as Right Relations Consultant for the UU Metro NY District, is a Certified Trainer in Nonviolent Communications and works as an avian veterinarian in Latin American conservation.

Registration: **Registration by May 5th is required.**

Fee is \$15.00 to cover costs (includes lunch). Send checks, payable to Community Unitarian Church, to: Jane Dixon, Compassionate Communication Workshop, 468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605. For more information contact Jane at: jrdixon@optonline.net or [914-949-5919](tel:9149495919).

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) ~ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Upcoming scheduled webinars from the Central East Regional Group (CERG)

April 9: Volunteer Recruitment and Enrichment <http://www.cerguua.org>

Registration is open:

The UU United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar for Adults and Youth is scheduled for April 3-5, 2014. The theme is Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with keynote speakers the Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President, and Vyda Ng, Interim Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council. <http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar/>

Being a Healing Presence: A Training in Pastoral Care Lay Ministry: April 19, Central Unitarian Church, Paramus NJ. For a flyer: http://uumetrony.org/events/Pastoral_Care_2014_flyer.pdf
To register: <https://fd7.formdesk.com/uiforms/PastoralParamus>

The 2014 District Annual Meeting will be held May 2-3, 2014, at the Hyatt Morristown in Morristown NJ. Attend Friday and /or Saturday. This meeting is open to everyone. There are opportunities for worship, music, workshops and this year Carey McDonald UUA Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will be the keynote speaker in addition to the annual business meeting. For more info and to register: <http://uumetrony.org/am14/index.htm> or contact Denice Tomlinson for questions denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com

The 2014 General Assembly will be June 25-29 in Providence, RI. Theme for 2014 GA: "Love Reaches Out". <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. Registration is open.

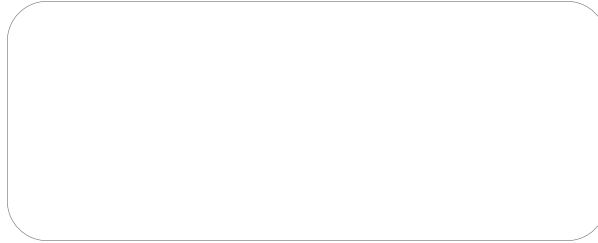
General Assembly Voting opportunities – This year delegates will be voting on a new Congregational Study/Action issue (CSAI). The congregational study action issue that is selected will have 4 years of study, reflection and then action. There are five CSAIs proposed this year and each delegate will be able to vote. Congregations are encouraged to meet and discuss these topics and suggest to the delegates which CSAI should be supported. This year the 5 issues proposed are *Empowerment: Age and ability Reconsidered*; *Ending the War on Terror*; *Escalating Inequality*; *Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue*; and *Renewing and Securing Our Democracy*. You can read each proposal on line. Delegates and congregation members will meet sometime in May or June to discuss which statement our congregation should support.
Homework: Here is the link: <http://www.uua.org/statements/current/index.shtml>



Virtual General Assembly: If you can't attend consider being an offsite delegate or watching GA from your home computer. For more info go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/index.shtml> or contact Denice Tomlinson for questions denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com.

~ April 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	2 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	3 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	4 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	5 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
6 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 9a-10a COA Mentor/Mentee Meeting (R11) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Canvass Brunch Meeting (R41) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	7 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	8 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-10p RE Council (R41)	9 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	10 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (R24)	11 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	12 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 3p-3p Open Arms Shelter (FH)
13 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Special Sunday (FH) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p CUC Forum-By-Laws (FH)	14 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	15 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	16 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 12p-1p Around the UUWorld Brown Bag Lunch (FH)	17 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	18 Good Friday 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	19 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 3p-3p Open Arms Shelter (FH)
20 Easter Communitarian Deadline 8:30a-9:30a Bird/Nature Walk (Parsonage) 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Inside the Music (Sanc)	21 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	22 Earth Day 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7p-8:30p Worship Associates (R43) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	23 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:30p Program Council (R41)	24 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	25 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7p-9p COA Pulpit Skills 2 (Sanc) 7:30p-9p Our Story Our Faith I (Parsonage)	26 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 11am Brown Family Memorial Service
27 9a-10a COA Mentor/Mentee Meeting (R11) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12p UU Roots (R 12) 11:30a-2p Campaign Brunch (FH), Ktc)	28 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	29 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	30 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))			

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White Plains, NY 10605



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Communitarian Deadline for the next edition:

Sunday, April 20

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