

# THE COMMUNITARIAN

## COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

January 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

Louise Jacono  
Church Administrator  
Newsletter Editor/Design

Adam Kent  
Music Director

Lisa Meyer  
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra  
Community Minister  
in Association with CUC

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For more information  
about CUC:

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

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

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Communitarian Deadline  
for February Edition:  
Sunday, January 24

Submit information to  
Louise Jacono  
Email: [admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org)  
Fax: 914.948.2603

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### *Minister's Moment...*

I am writing this with the full plate of holiday activities still ahead of me, but I hope that you will be reading it with a head cleared of some of those stresses and ready to look forward to a new year of hope and possibility.

We can help you with that transition in our January 3 service, in which the Rev. Deb Morra will offer you the time to think about and write down all that you want to leave behind you as the new year begins and burn it in the CUC fireplace. Then she will ask you to consider your hopes for the future and seal them in a letter which will be mailed to you at some time in the year.

Please plan to attend that service, and all the Sunday services through the month, when our theme will be "RESISTANCE." As usual, a list of resources is included in this newsletter (see following page). If you read or watch nothing else from the list, I hope that you will read "Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street," a short fiction by Herman Melville, for which you can find the text on-line. We will have a conversation about that work after services on January 24.

My goal for the New Year is to make sure that we all learn more about the Unitarian Universalist congregation in the village of Doldol on Negros Island in the Philippines. We have been on the road to a healthy and interesting mutual partnership with this congregation, and I hope that we will take that step officially, through a congregational vote next June. You will have the opportunity to learn about the UU Church of the Philippines in our service on January 31, which will provide a good final installment for the theme of Resistance. The UUCP was founded by Toribio Quimada, who died a martyr's death in 1989. There will also be a forum on that Sunday.

And how would you like to go to the Philippines to meet the members of our potential partner in person? Along with a group from 5 or 6 other American UU congregations, I will be making the trip from March 7 through March 16. At least one youth, Zach Morrice, will also be on the trip, becoming one of the first youths to travel to a Philippine partner church. There are still some open places on the trip, but please contact me promptly if you want to go.

I hope that your holidays have been happy and that there was peace and quiet along with joy and activity in the mix. Be well, and be with our community as we begin 2010.

*Rev. Carol*

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**January's Theme**  
**-- Resistance --**  
**Resource List**

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**Books**

*Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall-Street* by Herman Melville; text available on-line and in many editions.

*On Civil Disobedience* The classic work by Henry David Thoreau

*My Experiments with Truth*, BN Publishing; 2008.  
The autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi.

*An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum*, Henry Holt & Co.; 1996. Diary of a Dutch Jew who lived in Amsterdam during World War II.

**Children's Books**

*Wings* by Christopher Myers. This children's book reworks a traditional Greek myth. Here, Icarus becomes Ikarus, a boy of color, who learns to fly in spite of the society in which he lives.

Biographies of Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Whitney Young, Harriet Tubman and other leaders, available at a variety of reading levels.

**Films**

*Star Trek: First Contact* (1996) "Resistance is futile." But not really.

*I Am Sam* (2001) Sean Penn as a developmentally disabled man fighting for custody of his daughter.

*Good Night, and Good Luck* (2005) Against the threat of Communism and McCarthyism, Edward R. Murrow (David Strathairn) and Fred Friendly (George Clooney) of CBS News found the courage to take a stand against fear.

*The Secret of NIMH* (1982) To save her ill son, a field mouse must seek the aid of a colony of super-intelligent rats, to whom she has a deeper link than she ever suspected. (Family)

*Amazing Grace and Chuck* (1988) The top pitcher of the little league team decides to quit playing little league until nuclear weapons are disarmed. Can one kid's act of resistance make the world listen? (Family)

*This is the last of a series about some interesting incidents from CUC's hundred years of history, reflecting who we are and who we've been.*



***Did You Know?***

Did you know that in 1947 the local YMCA asked our minister to support a fund-raising drive? The problem was that one-third of the funds were meant for a building to be used exclusively as a "colored" branch.

Our minister, Clifford Vessey, exclaimed that "a Jim Crow 'Y' in White Plains is not Christianity in action. It is a pathetic and costly way of avoiding putting Christianity into action."

He fought the fund appeal vigorously in pulpit and newspaper, and the news services reported his protest to the nation and world. Soon the "Y" announced it

was shutting down its drive well short of its goals.

As Vessey later wrote, "at least one small battle was won."

This fact and more like it are highlights of two new illustrated histories of CUC: *Freely United* covers the first fifty years and *A Religion of This Age* covers the last fifty.

A limited supply of both books are available for purchase at the church. Contact Rev. Carol. They also can be ordered at Amazon.com for \$12 and \$16, respectively.

*Charles Selinske*  
*CUC Historian*

### ***“I have a dream...”***

The theme of our January worship services is resistance, and this theme is exemplified by the life and by the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King outlines his principles of nonviolence in his brilliant book *Stride Toward Freedom*. First, resist evil without resorting to violence. Second, do not humiliate your opponent but befriend him. Third, evil, not the people committing evil are to be opposed. Fourth, nonviolence requires the willingness to suffer. Fifth, nonviolence means not resorting to physical and spiritual violence against your opponent. Sixth, nonviolence requires faith in the future<sup>1</sup>

King's life is a tribute to the power of nonviolent resistance. In 1955 his leadership was pivotal in the successful boycott to end segregation on the buses in Montgomery, Alabama. The boycott lasted over a year, and Dr. King endured arrest and the bombing of his home, but ultimately the United States Supreme Court ruled that the laws requiring segregation were illegal.

In 1963, Dr. King challenged segregation in Birmingham. Again, Dr. King's efforts were met with violence. Bull Connor the police chief of Birmingham fought King and the protestors with fire hoses and attack dogs. Ironically, this brutality helped end segregation as Connor was fired, restrictions on African-Americans reduced and the protests spurred the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 1963, over a quarter of a million people came to Washington to demand jobs and freedom. They and a national audience that watched on TV heard Dr. King give his famous “I have a dream” speech. Through brilliant oratory Dr. King summoned up all his faith in the future when he said:

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold

these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood”<sup>2</sup>

Dr. King's faith in the future was with him even as he continued to resist injustice and risk death. In 1968, Dr. King went to Memphis to protest the wages and treatment of black public employees. There had been a bomb threat on the plane that he took to Memphis and it was clear to Dr. King and his supporters that he was in grave danger. The day before his assassination he delivered his “I've been to the mountaintop” speech. He told the audience that although he wanted to live a long life, he was not concerned with longevity because:

“I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land.”<sup>3</sup>

That deep faith in the future, even in the face of death enabled Dr. King to resist injustice. That faith in the future changed our nation, and that faith in the future is an inspiration to us all.

Steve Bear, Chair  
Board of Trustees

<sup>1</sup>[http://mlkpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc\\_nonviolent\\_resistance/](http://mlkpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc_nonviolent_resistance/)

<sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_Luther\\_King,\\_Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.)

<sup>3</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_Luther\\_King,\\_Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.)

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### **Suggestions Requested for Nominees to the Board of Trustees**

The Nominating Committee for the Board of Trustees 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: Mary Cavallero, Ray Messing, Karen Cutsumpas, Claire Kuczinski and John Saccardi. We are looking for candidates who are actively involved and/or who have a history of service to CUC. If you prefer to do this by e-mail, you can write to the Nominating Committee at [jmlmwp@aol.com](mailto:jmlmwp@aol.com).

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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## *The R.E. View*

Well, the time has arrived. As of December 28 I will be on sabbatical for a month. I am really excited and honored that the congregation is in support of me taking this time off. You can guarantee that I will be keeping busy, but am also planning to take some time to rest. My first week I am planning to relax! At this point I don't have anything planned, and intend to keep it that way. The second week I will be up at Andover Newton Theological Seminary outside Boston, MA for an intensive course on young adult and campus ministry.

From there I head off to a weekend knitting retreat at a bed and breakfast in upstate NY. I have a number of knitting projects that I intend to work on. Once home I am sure much of my time will be finishing up on the assignments from the class and working on the other course I am taking on stewardship at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Jay and I are planning on spending one of the weekends away before I return on January 27.

I am confident that Erin Foster, the RE Council, Rev. Carol and I have come up with a plan to cover all the bases while I am gone. I will not be submitting a February newsletter article, but look forward to sharing with you some of my adventures in the March newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact Erin or Rev. Carol if you have any questions, concerns or issues. I am only able to leave knowing that the program, you and your children are in such good hands.

*Lara Campbell*  
*Director of Religious Education*

## *A New Year Begins*

January brings us Lara's brief absence due to a much-deserved sabbatical. The RE Council has been working hard to ensure that all aspects of the Religious Education program continue to run smoothly while Lara is away. I think we're up to the challenge -- but only for a little while, I wouldn't want Lara to go away for too long. ☺

We will continue to have all our normal activities, including RE Social Action Day on January 3, Chili Sunday (put on by the fabulous 7<sup>th</sup> grade team) on January 24, and regular children's worship on January 10 and 17. Please contact me at eefoster@aol.com if you have any questions or concerns about the RE program while Lara is away.

And as always in the winter, on any Sunday where weather is an issue, please consult the snow-closing guide (see page 6) and check whether RE classes are being held.

Stay warm,  
*Erin Foster, Chair*  
*Religious Education Council*

On **Sunday, January 3**, the K-5 RE classes will meet in Fellowship Hall to discuss and choose this year's RE Social Action projects. They will learn about local organizations which help children, animals, and the environment. After discussing the choices, the children will vote to select their projects for the year. Look for the children and their fundraising efforts in the coming weeks.

— Robin Rocchi

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## **Chili Sunday**

**- the day you've all been waiting for -**  
**Sunday, January 24, 2010**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for fun, fellowship and a variety of chilis - brought to you by the chili connoisseurs of the 7th grade class. This is a fundraiser for one of the class's projects.

Adults: \$5/bowl
Children (8th grade & under): \$3/bowl

[Snow date: January 31]

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## **ADULT RE**

### **HABLAMOS ESPANOL AQUI!**

*The Spanish Conversation Circle at CUC* will continue in January on Monday nights from 7:30-9. Anyone with a little bit of Spanish is welcome to join. Tuition is \$100 for 15 classes (to cover the cost of the instructor). You can't find a better deal anywhere! For more information or to sign up, please call or email Jane Dixon at 949-5919 / jrdixon@optonline.net.

# Sing for the New Year!

The New Year can be about new beginnings, fresh ideas, and adventure. The CUC Choir would like to invite those that love to sing to begin the New Year with music and song with us. Along with two church services each month, the CUC Choir will be performing Mozart's *Requiem*, one of the greatest choral works ever written, on April 10 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. If you enjoy creating, collaborating, and learning, singing with the CUC Choir is a grand and rewarding activity. Reading music is not a requirement, just the ability to match pitch and lots of enthusiasm!

Rehearsals begin again after the holidays on Monday, January 11 and new singers are welcome to begin with us any time through February 8. Join

us for our Monday night rehearsals from 7:30-9:15pm, (or, to sing just for the *Requiem*, - rehearsals will be the first portion of our weekly Monday night rehearsals from 7:30-8:45pm). Practice CDs and scores are available for all voice parts.

If you wish to share your voice and start something new, please sing with us on Monday, January 11 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. For more information and to schedule a time for us to meet to get vocally acquainted, please feel free to contact me at 347-278-3187 or by email at [Lisa.Meyer@Liu.edu](mailto:Lisa.Meyer@Liu.edu). We wish you a Happy New Year and we hope to hear you soon.

Lisa Meyer  
CUC Choir Director

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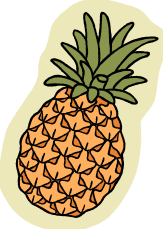
## Pineapple Pins are Back

Our congregation wants everyone walking through our doors (first-time visitors and long-time members alike) to feel welcome. By taking a pineapple pin from the felt banner hanging at the sanctuary doors and wearing it during the service and at coffee hour, you identify yourself as a go-to person for visitors, newcomers and other members looking to learn more about our congregation and to expand their circle at CUC.

On those Sundays you choose to wear a pineapple pin, we ask you to seek out and introduce yourself to others at coffee hour, be they visitors, newcomers or long-time members. Creating opportunities for people to connect easily with others is as simple as putting out your hand and saying, "I don't believe we've met." We promise you a fun and interesting coffee hour.

Please consider wearing a pineapple pin one Sunday every month and help CUC become the congregation we aspire to be!

Annie Thurow  
The Welcome Committee



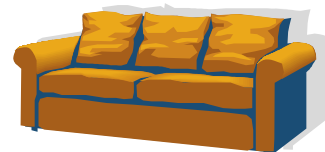
*Projects of the Heart* is sponsoring a Furniture Drive with Furniture Sharehouse, on Saturday, February 6 at their warehouse at the County Airport. Volunteers are needed both before the event and on the day of the event.

- Spread the word in your community, schools, etc., that donations are needed
- Greet donors and assist with donation forms
- Able-bodied people to assist unloading donations from cars



Morning and afternoon shifts available. We MUST have a minimum of 10 volunteers in order for the event to take place!

For more information about the drive or Furniture Sharehouse contact Ann Marie Damashek 835-7593 or [scottam@verizon.net](mailto:scottam@verizon.net) or visit [www.furnituresharehouse.org](http://www.furnituresharehouse.org).





# ACTION FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS

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## *Many, Many Thanks*

### ***Thank you from the Food Pantry!***

CUC donated \$2,351 to the Ecumenical Food Pantry following our pre-Thanksgiving appeals. Sincere thanks to all who gave so generously.

### ***Thank you for the Winter Coats and Sweaters***

Thanks to the many people who donated to our coat drive in November. The clothing was donated to the Midnight Run and women and children in the Coachman.

### ***Thank you for all the gifts***

Thank you from all the children who receive those gifts, both the wrapped and the unwrapped. And thank you from all the adults who get warm gloves or a furry hat. Thank you for an entire year of toiletries. There is no way to keep track of the many gifts that CUC makes possible to various local shelters during the year, but in December alone, the many gifts made possible by CUC is astounding. Thank you.

### ***January plate collection and Jan.10 forum***

The Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence in White Plains works to promote an understanding of the value of human diversity and brings together groups and individuals to promote social justice and racial harmony. Among its projects are a library, free and open to the public, that focuses on peace, anti-racism, Dr. King and other great peacemakers; and teaching Dr. King's six principles of non-violence to youth who then write hip hop lyrics based on those principles. ASC has selected the Institute to receive 25% of the plate in January. The Executive Director of the Institute, the educator who guides the youth in the hip hop project, and CUC members Barbara Mair and Bill Johnson who are on

the library committee, will present the ASC Forum on January 10.

### ***Special Film Series***

CUC is cooperating with other UU congregations and with a group called Transition Westchester to present a series of three documentaries on the issue of energy alternatives and climate change. The films will be shown from January to March 2010 at both our UU congregation in Mt. Kisco (UUFNW) and at CUC on the following dates. All films begin at 7:00pm and a time of discussion follow each screening.

#### ***January: A Crude Awakening***

Sat, the 16th at UUFNW; Sun, the 17th at CUCWP

A 90 minute documentary on the planet's dwindling oil resources. Wonder why gasoline is still nearly \$3.00 per gallon in the worst recession since WWII?

Compelling, intelligent, and highly entertaining, the film visits with the world's top experts and comes to a startling, but logical conclusion. Our industrial society, built on cheap and readily available oil, must be completely re-imagined and overhauled.

#### ***February: The End of Suburbia - Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream.***

Sat, the 20th at UUFNW; Sun, the 21st at CUCWP

#### ***March: The Power of Community -How Cuba Survived Peak Oil.***

Sat, the 13th at UUFNW; Sun, the 21st at CUCWP

Go to the Transition Westchester website for more information on the Transition Westchester Winter Film Series ([www.transitionwestchester.org/calendar.htm](http://www.transitionwestchester.org/calendar.htm)).

## **THE PLAY'S THE THING ...**

CUC's **Play Reading Group** is open to all.

We meet first Mondays at 7:30pm.

If interested, call Ken Kessler at 589-1450.

Upcoming topics:

January 4

*Rock and Roll*

by Tom Stoppard

February 1

*All the King's Men*

by Robert Penn Warren

## **Snow Closing Guidelines**

Sunday service is never cancelled ... but meetings, events, and Religious Education can be cancelled due to bad weather.

**You can find out if activities have been cancelled by:**

- \* Going to the homepage of our website at [cucwp.org](http://cucwp.org), where closings will be posted.
- \* Checking the church's main line greeting at 946-1660.

**Information will be available at these times:**

- \* By 7 am for Sunday morning activities, including Religious Education.
- \* By 1 pm for Sunday afternoon and evening events.
- \* By 3 hours before the event for Saturday activities.
- \* By 3 pm for weekday evening meetings and special events.

# January 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Happy New Year!					1 Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed
3 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:45a Spirit of Truth	4 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Spanish Conversation 7:30p Play Reading	5	6 7:30p Program Council	7	8	9 9:00a Reading Emerson
10 8:30a ASC Meeting 9:00a 1st grade parents 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship/RE 11:45a ASC Forum	11 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	12	13 7:30p Board of Trustees	14 10:00a Transitions Group 11:30a Science & Spirituality	15	16 9:00a Reading Emerson
17 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Newcomers 11:45a Welcome Comm.	18 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation  Martin Luther King Day Church Office Closed	19	20	21 7:30p Parents of Teenagers	22	23 9:00a Reading Emerson
24 <b>Communitarian Deadline</b> 9:00a Partner Church Comm. 9:00a PreK parents 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Chili Sunday 11:45a Fun Facts About Music 11:45a Book Discussion	25 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	26	27 7:30p RE Council	28 10:00a Folding Party 10:00a Transitions Group 11:30a Science & Spirituality	29	30 9:00a Reading Emerson
31 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a CoA Pulpit Skills 11:45a Partner Church Forum	<p><i>If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring &amp; Sharing Circle: throughout January call Robert Youngman at 948-2973.</i></p>					

For latest news and updates go to our website at [www.cucwp.org](http://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](mailto:admin@cucwp.org)

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605

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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.

## JANUARY SERVICES

Services are led by the Rev. Carol Huston on Sundays at 10:15 am unless noted otherwise.

JANUARY 3

*The Past and the Future*  
The Rev. Deb Morra

JANUARY 24

Family service  
Guest Speaker

JANUARY 10

*What's to Resist?*

JANUARY 31

*A Religion for the Future  
of the Philippines*

JANUARY 17

*A Service for Martin Luther King Sunday*  
CUC Choir will sing

25% of this month's Sunday offerings will be shared with The Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence in White Plains. See page 6 to learn more about this worthy organization.

## FINAL NOTE ↗ JANUARY FORUMS

At 11:45am in Fellowship Hall unless noted otherwise

JANUARY 3

*In the Spirit of Truth*

JANUARY 10

*ASC Second Sunday Forum*  
See page 6.

JANUARY 24

*Fun Facts About Music*  
with Adam Kent  
in the sanctuary

JANUARY 31

*Partner Church*