

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

September 2009



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
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Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

For more information
about CUC:

www.cucwp.org
Email: info@cucwp.org
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline
for October Edition:
Sunday, September 20

Submit information to
Louise Jacono
Email: admin@cucwp.org
Fax: 914.948.2603

Minister's Moment...

I am so looking forward to September. I have missed seeing and talking with many of you this summer and look forward to greeting you as we resume "full-service Sundays," with religious education, great music, and your friends there to greet you. Come, but don't come empty handed this month. On the first Sunday, when we light all the classroom chalices for our religious education program, please bring, if you can, a gently used lamp with you to donate to Furniture Sharehouse, reminding us that it is a light of learning, love, and service that we share. And then on September 20, please bring a small vial of water, symbolic of a place that gave you spiritual nourishment in the past year. We pour these "holy waters" together in our annual Water Ceremony.

Each month during this congregational year will have a monthly theme attached to it. As I prepare the service during the month, this particular theological quality will be in my mind. By the end, I hope that all of us will have new and clearer ideas about what the word implies. So that you can join me in this train of thought, I have listed some resources below. I don't promise to use all of them in my preaching, but I will refer to some of them, and if these are books and films that you know, perhaps they will help you focus on the theme and offer you a basis for conversation with me, and with each other.

I appreciate responses, questions, and counter arguments to my sermons and other writings. Please write, e-mail or talk to me about anything in relation to this theme, or the challenges and the joys of life around us.

September Theme: UNITY

Written resources:

"The Tower of Babel," Genesis 11

Yes to a Global Ethic: Voices from Religion and Politics (Hans Kung, ed.)

Assembled brief essays on the principles drawn up at the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions

The Wordy Shipmates (Sarah Vowell) An insightful and often amusing story of the Puritan colonies in Massachusetts

The Plague (Albert Camus) A novel about the extremes of suffering, madness, and compassion that come to a small coastal town.

Film and other media:

"The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill and Came Down a Mountain" (1995) A family comedy in which the whole village responds to disappointing news.

"Norma Rae" (1979) Sally Field stars in this film about union organizing.

The situation comedies "Friends" and "Seinfeld"

Rev. Carol

Good News! I want to make sure that all of you know that Lara Campbell is engaged to marry Jay Pacitti. They have not decided on a date or location for the ceremony, but we are sure that this wonderful change in Lara's life will not require her to leave CUC or her theological studies. Best wishes, Lara and Jay!

AMONG OURSELVES

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle: throughout September call Claire Kuczinski at 949-6619.

Two of our members died this summer.
Our condolences to their families:
Martha Grossi died on June 23.
R. Harcourt Dodds died on July 12.

This is one of a series of 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 for our church's first seventy years or so women were not allowed to usher at Sunday services?

In 1963 the Board of Trustees rejected a proposal to allow women to serve as ushers because "the women of the church have many opportunities to participate in church activities during the week, and... ushering at Sunday Services is one of the few areas the men are able to take an active part."

It was assumed that women did not have careers

outside the home. In 1967 the Board reaffirmed its position despite a new minister's recommendation. Warren Ross notes that it was not until the 1980s that women began to "infiltrate" as ushers.

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. Both books can be ordered from our website at www.cucwp.org for \$12 and \$16, respectively.

*Charles Selinske
CUC Historian*

LET'S GET STARTED WITH THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR . . .

You must be the change you wish to see in the world
- Gandhi

September often feels like the start of the year... we come back to CUC refreshed, school begins and many of us pick up activities that we left for the summer. Perhaps you are looking at the coming year and thinking about how you can schedule opportunities to serve. On September 20 the theme of the coffee hour will be *Serving Within and Reaching Out*.

Opportunities for community service will be highlighted and contact information available. No matter what your personal schedule, there are a variety of short and long term opportunities, as well as opportunities to meet new people or to work as a family.

Please plan on spending some time learning about the ways you can be part of a ministry of service.

Jane Dixon

CRUISE

to CUC'S Goods & Services Auction

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Preview at 5:30 pm / Cocktails begin at 6:00 pm

Come dressed for a cruise (or come as you are)

A buffet of auction items including:

- Use of vacation homes
- Professional sports tickets
- Performing arts tickets
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Golf outings
- Fine wine

... look for more items at www.cucwp.org

Live Auction
Silent Auction
Bid & Bump Board
Grab Bag Auction

Tickets \$35

Welcome back...

In June, I wrote about the summer as a chance to recharge our batteries whether by travel, a new experience, or just the opportunity to relax in the hammock. Hopefully you've arrived back at CUC refreshed, reinvigorated and ready for a great, new Church year.

What can each of us do to have a great year? I learned one way to get more out of the church experience while attending summer services. Everyone who led a service taught it to me. Each person who led a service made church a better place for those of us who came to church – that's no surprise. Importantly, however, when I talked with those volunteers I realized that they made church a better place for themselves. Getting involved at church is a remarkable thing; when you make the church a better place for others you make it a better place for yourself.

The thing about getting involved is that, as Paul Simon said, there are "at least fifty ways" to get involved at CUC. Some are small commitments, some are big commitments, but they all strengthen our community and make you feel great about being at CUC. So here are a few of the fifty ways...

Join a Midnight Run and distribute food and clothing to the homeless. You'll be amazed at how good it will make you feel. Volunteer to host a coffee hour, it's a great way to meet people. Support the music program. Come to an evening concert or audition to sing with the choir. Have a dialogue with a newcomer about the Sunday worship service, listen to a new point of view and share yours. Join

in one of the small group discussions or movie sessions sponsored by Reverend Carol. This year they will build on the themes from her Sunday sermons and give you the opportunity to make those sermons come alive.

How about joining a committee? You can help the Welcome Committee greet those coming to church or support the work of the Caring and Sharing Circle when they provide transportation to doctor's offices. Need something more active? Then help the grounds committee in their efforts to maintain our incredible gardens.

Religious education always has opportunities to get involved. You can volunteer as a teacher or attend an Adult RE class. Are you more of an entrepreneur than a teacher? Well, how about getting involved in the October 24th goods and services auction? More of a cook than a businessperson? Maybe being a chef at the Church barbeque fits your style.

How about working on the Church canvass (the first five people who call or email me to volunteer to help me with the canvass will get a special prize, but you have volunteer to find out what it is). If fundraising is not your style then be an usher on a Sunday morning or attend *In the Spirit of Truth*, a monthly dialogue about race and diversity.

I could go on and on, but I think you get the point. There is a lot to do at CUC and the best way to really become part of the community is to get involved with the community. Choose an activity, a group, or a project and participate. You'll be happy you did.

*Steve Bear, Chair
Board of Trustees*

Pulpit Editorial Policy of Community Unitarian Church

Section IV.B. of the *Policy on Political and Social Advocacy*

Adopted by the Board of Trustees – April 14, 2004

Members of the Church have the privilege to speak from the pulpit during worship services on matters of conscience. To encourage such expressions and to facilitate continuing conversation on the subjects so chosen, the following procedure must be followed:

- The consent of the senior Minister in attendance will be obtained and s/he will be informed of the subject matter. The Minister's decisions as to the appropriateness of the subject in terms of the permissible standards set forth in [the Policy on Political and Social Advocacy], and as to the date of the pulpit editorial, are final.
- The statement will not be more than four minutes in length (two double-spaced typewritten pages) and will be made available after the service to all who are interested.
- The opinions expressed will be clearly announced as those of the speaker alone; no assumption of agreement shall be made by the speaker.
- The speaker will announce at the beginning of the editorial that s/he will participate in a discussion of the subject at the conclusion of the worship service.

This portion of the policy on Advocacy will be published in *The Communitarian* in September of each year, and a copy of it shall be given to each person requesting time for a pulpit editorial.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The R.E. View

I was glancing through the Unitarian Universalist Association web page and came across a resource that I had been aware of but just “RE-discovered”. It is on the Church of the Larger Fellowship page and called *Between Sundays*. <http://clf.uua.org/betweensundays/>

This website is designed to help parents and other adults answer religious questions raised by children and youth. Lessons and activities to address specific questions at different ages are adapted from curricula published by the UUA, by independent authors, and by the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Some lessons and activities are suggested for a single age level; others are recommended for all ages.

You can browse the site by age level or subject category or search by key words. In addition, a Resources section provides informative material just for adults using the site. Don't be concerned about your own level of knowledge or depth of personal understanding. Learn along with your kids, explore religious concepts together – model the “search for truth and meaning” in an open and loving environment.

Because religious education happens more than on Sunday morning!

Lara Campbell
Director of Religious Education

A New Program Year Begins

I'd like to introduce myself as the 2009-2010 Religious Education Council co-chair. This is my third year on the RE Council and my sixth year attending services at CUC. My husband Jeff Blatt and I have three daughters, Charlie in 8th grade and twins Josie and Louisa in 5th grade. There are always exciting things going on in the RE wing of CUC. I'm honored to be a part of it.

As always, the religious education program at CUC only functions with participation of the dedicated people working with our children. These are our teachers, mentors, advisors, and assistants who lend their time and talent to creating a warm, nurturing, and yes, fun, environment for our children to explore their UU values. Some of these individuals are the current RE Council members: my co-chair Kate Colson along with Diana Echevarria, Tim Lynch, Joe Magnus, Bennett Rink, Robin Rocchi, Daniel Tillman, Donna Vought and our fabulous youth group representative Nick Cutsumpas.

I'd like to extend our thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to work with the CUC children this year. Truly, thank you! We do have a few teaching teams that need additional members. If you've ever thought about teaching at CUC, even if you don't currently have

children here, we'd love to tell you more about the program. You can speak with DRE Lara Campbell or any member of the RE Council. You can recognize us by our yellow nametags. The time commitment is minimal and the rewards are priceless.

There have been a few RE changes in the works over the summer. To better accommodate some issues of class size and dynamics, the 8th and 9th grade classes will be combined this year. This means that they will be completing the Coming of Age curriculum together. I'm looking forward to hearing their credos in the spring. On the physical plant side, there are new exterior doors leading from the parking lot to the RE lobby. This will improve safety, security, and the heating situation in that area. There is also a new storage room to hold shelter and Midnight Run donations, making these activities run more smoothly and with minimal impact on the classrooms.

I hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready for another great year of RE.

Erin Foster, Chair
Religious Education Council

September Adult RE

Sunday morning (before worship service) **Monthly Meditation Session**

9:00 – 9:45am **9/27, 10/11, 11/15, 12/13**

Led by Persephone Zill, Marcia Bean, Marianne Milizoff and Lorri Ovryn

Come learn how to relax and stay centered and focused through the practice of meditation. *Note: September and October's sessions will be walking meditations through CUC's new Anniversary Mizmaze.*

Educational Series - Reading Pema Chodron

9:15–10:00 am **9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/8,**

Led by the Rev. Deb Morra **11/22, 12/6, 12/20**

Pema Chodron is a female American Buddhist nun, whose popular writings speak to the human condition and to the Buddhist aim of addressing the cause of suffering in the world. We will read together one of her powerful books, When Things Fall Apart. This wonderfully affirming book has something to offer anyone who struggles with the day-to-day challenges of being human in an uncertain world. Note: Please look on the Adult RE Bulletin Board for which version of When Things Fall Apart will be read.

Late Breaking News

Resuming Monday, September 21

Conversational Spanish

**Contact Jane Dixon at jrdixon@optonline.net
to sign-up or for more details.**

CUC CHOIR NEWS – A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS



The Community Unitarian Church Choir has plans for an exciting year with new partnerships, concerts, and a season of music comprised of new works and old favorites.

We invite anyone interested in participating in the Choir to join us Monday evenings, 7:30-9:15pm, in the sanctuary. All voice parts are welcome. Feel free to drop by and observe, or dive in and work those vocal chords. We begin Monday, August 31. New singers are welcome to join any time through Monday, October 26, and then again after the holidays. The choir participates in two services each month and two concerts each year. The only requirement to join is the ability to match pitch. No formal training is needed and the ability to read music is not necessary – just the desire to collaborate and enjoy creating beautiful music.

Sadly, choir accompanist Becki Advocate has resigned in order to pursue other opportunities. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck with her future endeavors. And so we begin the year with a new partnership. I am delighted to announce that Ms. Georgianna Pappas is joining us this fall. Georgianna comes to us with a very experienced background in both classical and theater repertoire and has a distinguished career as a soloist as well as an accompanist. We look forward to working with Georgianna.

This program year we look forward to:

- ♪ *CUC Choir Italian Dinner Night and Sing-A-Long*, Saturday, September 19, 6-9pm. Last year's was such a success that many asked us to do it again. See the Dinner article on this page for more details and be sure not to miss it!
- ♪ collaborating with the choir from the Ethical Culture Society, November 1 at CUC and November 15 at the Society;
- ♪ our annual Winter concert, Saturday, December 19 at 7pm;
- ♪ and our Spring concert featuring Mozart's *Requiem*, Saturday, April 10 at 7pm.

For an informal audition to join the choir, or if you are interested in participating in any choir activity, get in touch with me at 516.299.2475 during daytime hours or by email at Lisa.Meyer@liu.edu.

I hope you will join us for as many of our events as you can and we thank you for your continued support of the CUC Choir and the music program.

Lisa Meyer
CUC Choir Director

Saturday, September 19 from 6 to 9pm
Instead of going to the movies or to the same old restaurants, take the family out to our

2nd Annual Italian Dinner Night & Sing-a-Long Fundraiser

Enjoy home-cooked Italian favorites made by members of the CUC Choir, with light background entertainment during dinner, and end the evening with a sing-a-long of popular folk songs, theater songs, and rounds. A truly fun evening.

Admission to the dinner/sing-a-long is \$35 per adult, \$15 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be on sale during coffee hours or contact Lisa Meyer.

Proceeds from this event will be used to subsidize the full orchestra for the Spring Choral Concert featuring Mozart's *Requiem*, Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 7:00pm

THE PLAY'S THE THING ...

CUC's **Play Reading Group** is open to all — We welcome newcomers. We meet on first Mondays (except September when we meet on the second Monday) in room 43 at 7:30pm. If you'd like to speak to someone about this group, call Ken Kessler at 589-1450.

Upcoming topics:

September 14
The Prisoner of Second Avenue
by Neil Simon

October 5
Joe Turner Has Come and Gone
by August Wilson

November 2
Monologues



This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let It Shine

Projects of the Heart

... is undertaking a new initiative with the Furniture Sharehouse (www.furnituresharehouse.org).

The Sharehouse collects gently-used and new furniture and redistributes it free of charge to clients referred by member social service agencies, ensuring that it goes DIRECTLY to those who truly need it.

Recipients include:



- ★ those moving out of homeless shelters into permanent housing
- ★ battered women and children escaping domestic violence
- ★ working families struggling to stay above the poverty line
- ★ young adults aging out of foster care
- ★ victims of fires or other natural disasters



CUC will be conducting a LAMP DRIVE on three Sundays in September: Sept. 13, Sept 20 and Sept 27. You can help by bringing a gently used lamp to CUC on the appointed days. Table lamps, bedroom lamps, desk lamps and more.

We relight our chalices and our sense of community in the fall.
Bring with you a light that can help others as they put together a new life.

Please contact Ann Marie Damashek with any questions.

scottam@verizon.net or 914-835-7593



News About General Assembly

This was the first year I was able to take the time to watch GA from my computer. I continue to explore the UUA website and watch events that were streamed from GA at www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2009/141864.shtml. Also, DVDs and CDs of most of the workshops and events are sold at www.softconference.com/uua/slist.asp?C=2994.

During GA the delegates elected a new UUA President. Rev. Peter Morales is the first Latino elected to serve our denomination. Adopted Action of Immediate Witness resolutions are ➤ Advocate for Pending Legislation Toward Clean, Honest, and Fair Elections in the U.S., ➤ U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, ➤ support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, ➤ support Bolivian UUs Struggling for Justice and Human Rights, ➤ A Call for a Commission of Inquiry on U.S.-Sponsored Torture, ➤ Oppose Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity-Based Violence in Iraq. The final Action of Immediate Witness joins our voices to those of other religious people in the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

GA launched a new public advocacy campaign called *Standing on the Side of Love* (www.standingonthesideoflove.org) In an act of public witness in solidarity with immigrants who are the victims of racial profiling, GA participants joined people of other religious traditions to call for comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform.

Next year General Assembly 2010 is in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 23-27.

Denice Tomlinson

The Things You Will See, And the Essentials You May Have Missed

You may have noticed the new Memorial Garden stairs and the refurbished Garden, the weeding and cleanup of the church entrance, the cleanup of the patio area, the interior triangle gardens' renovations, the refreshed garden at the bottom of the parking lot stairs and the wonderful Anniversary Mizmaze. They are all the highly visible work of the volunteers of the Grounds Committee, or the "Crew".

But those visible improvements are the tip of a mountain of less noticeable, but essential work, done or overseen by the Crew, in the last few years. Retaining walls and drains have been added and paving work done. Erosion control and the removal of invasives in the woods are ongoing. Paths have been cleared, trees professionally pruned, dumping cleaned up, stairs repaired, lighting increased, benches and signs renovated, and much, much more.

So when you see a member of the Crew, thank them! They are: Ted Kuczinski, chair; Bob Frommer, chair emeritus; David Schuler; John Schwam; Anne Hintermeister, Yvonne Lynn, Lucille and Warren Ross.

If you are interested in joining the Crew, or even if you can only commit to an hour of work, contact Ted at 949-6619.

Carol Selinske

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Aug 30 10:15a Worship	31 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	1	2 7:30p Program Council	3	4	5
6 10:15a Worship	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed	8	9 7:45p Board of Trustees	10 10:00a Transitions Group	11 8a-6p sanctuary open for prayers and meditation 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12
13 8:30a ASC Meeting 10:15a Worship/RE	14 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Play Reading	15	16	17	18	19 6:00p 2nd Annual Italian Dinner Night & Sing-a-Long
20 Communitarian Deadline 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a Religious Education 10:15a Worship 11:30a Newcomers 11:45a Fun Facts	21 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 8:00p Spanish Conversation	22	23 7:30p RE Council	24 10:00a Folding Party 10:00a Transitions Group 11:30a Science & Spirituality	25	26
27 9:00a Monthly Meditation 10:00a Religious Education 10:15a Worship 7:30p Yom Kippur Service	28 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 8:00p Spanish Conversation	29	30	Oct 1	2	3 9:00a Reading Emerson

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

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
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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.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

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

SEPTEMBER 6

Last service of Summer Reflections
Recharging Your Batteries
Anne Gooding

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 8AM-6PM

*Sanctuary available for
prayer and meditation on this anniversary.*

SEPTEMBER 13

Ingathering Service
Family Service / CUC Choir will sing
Homily: Soup or Salad?

SEPTEMBER 20

Water Ceremony
Reverse Family Service
Dialogue Homily: What's Best for All?
Rev. Carol and Dr. Becky Kurth

SEPTEMBER 27

Forgiveness Journey

SEPTEMBER 27 AT 7:30PM

Yom Kippur Service
CUC Choir will sing

FINAL NOTE ↻ SEPTEMBER FORUM

SEPTEMBER 20 AT 11:45 AM

in the sanctuary
Fun Facts About Music with Adam Kent