

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

May 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
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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 June Edition:
Sunday, May 16

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

Minister's Moment...

May and June bring our end-of-year services. In the coming weeks we will be together for a Child Dedication on Mothers' Day, for Coming of Age (16 youth this year!), the Flower Festival, and the Service of the Living Tradition. These services round out an unusual church year. Many of you have told me that you were inspired by and learned from our experiment in theological structure. Like many other UU congregations, we have organized some of each month's worship and religious education around a theme, such as "Vocation," "Gratitude" or "Prayer." I have enjoyed offering a variety of service formats, such as dialogue sermons and discussion Sundays. We also took the initiative in making contact with the UU movement in the Philippines, and learning about their ambitions, their challenges, and their religious culture.

But participation has been down on some Sunday mornings, and at events at other times of the week. The general energy level seems low. The Board and I would like to know what is going on in the minds and hearts of our congregation's members. What do you hope for from CUC, what might energize you and help you to meet the challenges of the new decade?

Some of this, I am sure, is related to the general malaise in the economy. We've all, in the community and in the nation, become cautious and a bit suspicious. We're tending to hunker down and hold on to our own rather than dream of what could be. I would appreciate hearing what we could do to help you with the strains and stresses of these times.

And some of this may be the accumulated fatigue from initiatives here within CUC: the capital campaign took a lot of energy from a lot of people and then had to be set aside; and the congregation worked hard to cover the first staff sabbaticals CUC has ever granted. But what more is there? We want to know. The Committee on Ministry worked with other church leaders to develop a survey which will probably be used in the near future. And the face-to-face interview technique, brought in from the UU District, can be an exciting opportunity to find out where we are and where we should now be going. I hope that you will all take part.

The theological theme for May is "Courage," something that we all need in these challenging times. Let us pursue our dreams together, courageously.

Rev. Carol

PS. Many of you know from my announcement in the April 11 service that I was hospitalized briefly in the past month. All is well with me now, but if you want to know the details of my TGA episode, please look at my BLOG on the CUC website.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*“Courage is going from failure to failure
without losing enthusiasm.”*

—Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Great Britain who led his nation to victory during the Second World War, embodies the ability to fail and to rise up from that failure to achieve glorious success. As a child Churchill spoke with great difficulty. He could not pronounce the letter S, and he spoke with a lisp, yet he found the courage to persevere. He worked at his speech until he had no impediment, and Churchill became one of the great orators of the twentieth century.

At the start of World War I he was appointed the First Lord of the Admiralty. He proposed an attack on Turkey to open a second front in the war. This attack, known as the Gallipoli campaign, was a disastrous failure which led to 44,000 allied soldiers killed and another 97,000 wounded. Churchill was demoted from his position and eventually left the British government in disgrace. Suffering this failure might have ended Churchill’s career, but he summoned the courage to persevere.

In the 1920s Churchill returned to Parliament and ultimately became Chancellor of the Exchequer (similar to Secretary of the Treasury). In this capacity he oversaw Britain’s disastrous return to the gold standard which resulted in deflation and unemployment. Churchill considered this the greatest mistake of his life, yet he found the courage to persevere.

In the 1930s he spoke against the danger of Germany’s rearmament; almost no one listened, yet he found the courage to persevere. After the outbreak of World War II he was again appointed as First Lord of the Admiralty and when Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned in disgrace

Winston Churchill became the Prime Minister of England. Although there was public sentiment for an armistice with Germany, Churchill refused. The young man who suffered from a speech impediment used rhetoric to rally the British nation and ultimately gain victory.

“I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears,
and sweat

“We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the
seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing
confidence and growing strength in the air, we
shall defend our island whatever the cost may
be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight
on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the
fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the
hills; we shall never surrender.”

When Germany surrendered he told an adoring London crowd that “This is your victory” and they shouted in return “No, it is yours.” Despite this he was defeated in the first post-World War II election, yet he found the courage to persevere. Ultimately Churchill became Prime Minister again, serving his nation in that capacity from 1951 to 1955.

Winston Churchill, a young man who spoke with a lisp used his great oratory to help preserve freedom and rally his nation to victory in World War II. In a touching tribute to his courage and his ability to persevere he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953 for his mastery of biographical description and for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values. Churchill’s life was truly a testament to his belief that “Courage is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.”

*Steve Bear, Chair
Board of Trustees*

CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT

The last two years have been challenging for the CUC community. We have all been affected by the recession and CUC has seen declines in attendance and pledging. To help revitalize our community The Board of Trustees jointly with Reverend Carol Huston has asked the UUA to conduct a congregational assessment of CUC. Using face to face confidential interviews, the assessment will explore the overall health of the congregation including the relationship of the congregation to the Minister, Director of Religious Education, and Music Staff with the goal of gathering and sharing information that assists our leadership to strengthen the congregation.

The assessment will take place on May 7, 8 and 10. Interview times will be Friday May 7 from 10 am to 8 pm, Saturday May 8 from 9 am to 4 pm, and Monday May 10 from 10 am to 3 pm. Interviews will be conducted by two experienced UU district representatives and will take approximately fifteen minutes per person or per couple. On Monday the UU district representatives will share the results of the assessment with the congregation at a meeting in the sanctuary at 8:00 pm.

Sign up sheets for the interviews will be posted beginning on Sunday, April 25. We hope that all friends and members 16 and older will participate in the interview process and will share their views about CUC. Your voice can shape our future. If you have questions about the assessment process, please speak with a member of the board or with our minister.

Thank you for your support of this process and for your support of CUC.

Board of Trustees and the Reverend Carol Huston

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

In the spring 2010 issue of *UUWorld*, there is an article by Donald E. Skinner called “*Congregations benefit from camp experience.*” — *Retreating and camping is a growth opportunity for Unitarian Universalism.* His article encourages us to think about how we can grow spiritually together as a congregation or individually through attending one of the many UU camps and conferences across the country. Go to www.cu2c2.org for a link to a website that features many of the camps. I encourage you to explore the idea of attending one of these camps this year or in the coming years, as an individual or as a family.

In honor of Earth Day’s 40th anniversary, the *Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice* core team from the

UUA has proposed that congregations and individuals make a commitment for 40 days and pledge a 40-day lifestyle change, for the sake of the Earth. You can learn more on the website www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/environmentaljustice/159611.shtml. Our family plans to try composting for 40 days and hope to make it a permanent lifestyle change.

Don’t forget about **General Assembly 2010** in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 23-27. Registration and Housing is open. Please contact Rev. Carol if you would like to be a delegate.

*Denice Tomlinson, Chair
Denominational Affairs*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The R.E. View

Spring is always a joyful time for me. I love to see and feel the earth coming alive, fresh and new for the year. While I love the excitement and energy that spring brings, there is always a bit of anxiety for me. I am never really sure if all the flowers planted will come up, nor do I know exactly which trees have made it through the winter until I see their buds. It is, in many ways, a spiritual practice. The practice of patience and faith. Spring ends up being a time for me to take stock of my proverbial garden. To evaluate what has worked, what has not, and to discover some possible new directions.

It seems only fitting that the congregation is undertaking an assessment this spring. A chance to evaluate the nature of the relationships with the minister, DRE and music staff. I am not exactly sure what will come out of these discussions, just like in the garden. But I am confident that the congregation and staff will be able to address any issues that may be brought forward. This process is a spiritual practice.

Lara Campbell
Director of Religious Education

All are invited to the
Coming of Age Ceremony
Saturday, May 22 at 3 pm
in the Sanctuary.

This is our opportunity to hear the faith statements of our 8th & 9th graders and support them in the culmination of their religious education experience.

They will also conduct the Sunday, May 23 worship service.

The Busy Month of May

May is big month for milestones in Religious Education at CUC.

On May 2, we will be presenting scholarship awards to some of our high school seniors. These funds will help them a bit as they make their big transition off to college. On May 16, the 5th grade class will be conducting the Children's Worship service. This marks the coming end of their Children's Worship participation.

And the weekend of May 22/23 will see our Coming of Age class of 8th and 9th graders present their credos to family, friends, and the congregation. All are welcome to attend the special Coming of Age service on May 22 at 3:00 pm, or you can hear an abridged version of the presentation at our regular Sunday worship on the 23rd.

Also, please join us on May 30 for our last RE Special Sunday activities of the year. See below for details.

Enjoy the spring.

Erin Foster, Chair
Religious Education Council



Spring is here!

K - 5 kids and families:

Join us for spring planting on the grounds of CUC on Sunday, May 30 at 10am. (No regular RE classes.) If you have gardening tools and gloves, please bring them.

ADULT RE

Conversations with the Bible

Sundays at 9:15a, continuing weekly through May 23
Led by Rachel Long, youth advisor

Through conversation and creativity, we will engage texts from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Participants will learn what the texts meant in their original context and interpret them for the present moment. Each session will focus on a different text – feel free to come to every session or just one.

**Look for the Registration Form for the 2010 / 2011 program year on our website: cucwp.org.
Register early so we can make our plans for next year's classes.
Forms will also be available in our lobbies.**

Music at CUC presents
PIANIST ADAM KENT IN
SONATA
MASTERPIECES

Sunday, May 16 at 3:00 pm

Pianist and CUC Music Director Adam Kent performs two of the greatest masterpieces of the 19th-century piano repertoire: Franz Schubert's Sonata in B-flat Major, Op. Posth, and Franz Liszt's Sonata in b minor. The Schubert sonata is the composer's final large-scale composition and a work of subtle thematic connections and emotional complexity. The Liszt Sonata is a revolutionary work in one large-scale movement, which presents an ever-evolving web of themes in overwhelmingly dramatic style.



Admission: \$20, \$10 seniors/students
www.cucwp.org 914.946.1660 ext 8
Reserve free childcare by 5/9.

THE PLAY'S THE THING ...

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

Contact: Ken Kessler at 589-1450.

Final play of the program year:

Monday, May 3 at 7:30 pm

Auntie Mame

by Robert E. Lee and Jerome Lawrence



**Midnight Run
Friday, May 7**

To volunteer for a run see sign-up sheet near church office or contact Alan or Zachary
Morrice: amorrice@asanteglobal.com,
zachary1092@aim.com, 997-5629.

Sunday, May 30, 2010 at 2pm

**A Musical Tribute to
Eef / Ava Elsevier-Schimmel
longtime CUC member and Sunday School teacher**

**Featuring members of the
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and friends**

Voice - Korliss Uecker, soprano

Violin - Nancy Wu
Associate Concertmaster
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Violin - Annamae Goldstein
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Viola - Désirée Elsevier
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Viola - Katherine Anderson
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Cello - Jeremy Turner
Ass't Principal Cello
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Cello - Marian Heller
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Bass - Leigh Mesh
Associate Principal Bass
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Horn - Patrick Milando
Principal Horn
Lion King

Harp - Barbara Allen
Principal Harp
American Ballet Theatre

Piano - Kevin Murphy
Director of Music Administration
City Opera NY

All are invited to join the Elsevier family for this very special afternoon. (No admission fee.)

Among Ourselves

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

Our thoughts are with **Bevin Maguire, Craig, Neassa, Sinead and Aine Hunt**. Bevin's mother, Maureen Maguire, died on April 6.

Food Pantry Reminder:

Donations made to the Food Pantry by the end of April will qualify for a proportional matching grant from the Feinstein Fund. The more money raised, the greater the percentage the Food Pantry will receive. See Vicky Van Wert or mail checks directly to: Ecumenical Food Pantry, PO Box 2037, White Plains 10602. The Food Pantry welcomes donations throughout the year.

On May 2 we will celebrate membership and members old and new.
If you are considering signing the membership book, please speak with Rev. Carol.

SHARING THIS MONTH'S OFFERINGS

Each month CUC shares 25% of its plate offerings with outside organizations in need. In May we will share our offerings with The Loft, an advocacy and support organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

May's Theme -- Courage -- Resource List

Books

When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times by Pema Chodron

The Courage to Be by Paul Tillich A classic in theology

The Courage to Teach by Parker Palmer Inspiration for those who teach and who learn.

The Strength to Love by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In short meditations, Dr. King articulates his commitment to justice and to intellectual, moral, and spiritual conversion.

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane. A classic narrative meditation on the dilemmas of war.

Children's Books

Courage by Bernard Waber. A picture book with examples of courage in a child's life.

Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are by Maria

Dismondy Another picture book,

The Harry Potter Series by J. K. Rowling.

Courage is a major component of these books.

Films

Stand By Me (1986). A group of young boys set out on the adventure of their lives. And they sure find it, with courage, in one another.

Silkwood (1983) Meryl Streep stands up to the nuclear power industry.

The Seven Samurai (Kurosawa, 1954) Studies as kinds of courage as Samurai gather to save a village from outlaws.

The Quick and the Dead (1995) Sharon Stone as (sort of) the fastest gun in the West. Violence warning.

MAY 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 8a-2p Day in Place
2 9:00a Minister's Colloquium 9:00a Bible Class 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Children's Choir 11:30a Music Committee 11:45a Spirit of Truth	3 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Play Reading 7:30p Spanish Conversation	4	5 7:30p Program Council	6	7 10a-8p Assessment 6:00p CoA Overnight 8:30p Midnight Run	8 9:00a Reading Emerson 9a-4p Assessment
9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30a ASC Committee 9:00a Bible Class 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship	10 10a-3p Assessment 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation 8:00p Meeting with Congregation	11	12 7:30p Board of Trustees	13 11:30a Science & Spirituality	14	15 9:00a Reading Emerson
16 Communitarian Deadline 9:00a Bible Class 9:00a Safety Task Force 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Newcomers 11:45a Welcome Comm. 3:00p Music at CUC Sonata Masterpieces with Adam Kent	17 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	18	19	20 10:00a Folding Party 7:30p Parents of Teenagers	21 6:00p CoA Rehearsal	22 9:00a Reading Emerson 3:00p Coming of Age Ceremony
23 9:00a Bible Class 9:00a Partner Church Comm 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship	24 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	25	26 7:30p RE Council	27 10:00a Transitions Group 11:30a Science & Spirituality	28	29
30 10:00a RE Special Sunday 10:15a Worship 2:00p Musical Tribute to Ava Elsevier	31	<p>For latest news and updates go to our website at www.cucwp.org.</p> <p>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</p>				

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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.

MAY SERVICES

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

MAY 2

Membership Sunday
Belonging to a Congregation, aged 101

MAY 9

Mother's Day and Child Dedication
Family Service / CUC Choir will sing

MAY 16

A Birthday Party for
Our Transcendentalist Ancestor Margaret Fuller
CUC Choir will sing

SATURDAY, MAY 22 AT 3PM

Coming of Age Ceremony

MAY 23

Coming of Age Service

MAY 30

Many Kinds of Courage

FINAL NOTE ↗ MAY FORUM

MAY 2

At 11:45am in Fellowship Hall
In the Spirit of Truth