

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

April 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

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Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
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914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline
for May Edition:
Sunday, April 18

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

Minister's Moment...

At this writing I have been back from the Philippines for five days. Jet lag was less of a problem than I feared it might be, but still it's taken some hard work to get back to the normal swing of things, including the preparation for a wonderful Canvass Sunday. I had some photos to show you as the service began yesterday, (March 21), and Zach and I gave some initial impressions. I hope that you will plan to stay after services on April 11 when I will have my ideas together to give you a full impression of our congregations on the other side of the world.

But one conversation from the Philippines is in my mind this morning. As some of you already know, our UU Principles are an important part of the core theology that is developing in those Philippine village congregations. With that in mind, I urged the leader of our potential partner to engage the youth and adults of the congregation with our 5th Principle, in which we "affirm and promote. . . the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large," before the national elections in early May. People in the Philippines have a jaded view of their elections. Graft and bribery are everywhere; government hand-outs flow freely in the build-up to an election and then immediately disappear. What will it mean to them that their religious institution enshrines "democracy"? That should be an interesting discussion.

And what does it mean to us that our religious institution holds democracy sacred? I think you already know that I am very relieved that a health care reform bill has passed. In my BLOG I have worried that it would be another 20 years before anything would be done about our sorry system. But like most of you, I am not thrilled with the bill we got, and the process has been agonizing to watch. How can we remain fans of democracy, if it brings us results like this? Perhaps we must simply hold democracy as an inaccessible ideal, like perfect justice, perfect truth. The Philippines may always have bribery and graft, just as we have votes based on the dollars they bring. And I fear that we will never agree on the common good. Democratically crafted laws will always be pragmatically balanced compromises that no one will truly love. But I hope that we can celebrate the idea that something was done about our health care system. As my colleague Rosemary Bray McNatt posted on Facebook this morning: "The perfect did not become the enemy of the good." Democracy will not bring perfect solutions, but if we can find a way to move forward, that is a blessing.

Rev. Carol

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your legacy...

In April, Reverend Carol will preach on immortality, so this month I will share a few thoughts about leaving a legacy.

There are many ways that we can leave a legacy. We can give time, we can give money, we can give of ourselves. We can make a difference in the lives of our children, in the lives of our family and in the lives of those in our community.

For me, the concept of legacy is embodied in the life of a man I never met, but that I admire, Dr. Randy Pausch. Three years ago, I was looking for a way to improve my teaching skills, and I found the website of Dr. Randy Pausch, a remarkable teacher and man. Dr. Pausch was a professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon. He was a respected academic who created revolutionary ways to teach computer programming. He was a gifted teacher who inspired his students and served as a role model for many teachers.

In September of 2006 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and told he had just months to live. As a father with young children he wanted to leave them a legacy, a way to remember him and to share some important lessons from his life. This inspired Dr. Pausch

to give a last lecture to the students at Carnegie Mellon. It was a lecture for his students, that was recorded as a way of preserving a bit of himself for his children. During the lecture, he talked about achieving his childhood dreams, and working as a teacher to enable the dreams of others. He also shared lessons he had learned about life. He talked about overcoming obstacles, and never giving up. He told his audience that “brick walls let us show our dedication.” He made the point that you need to have fun in everything you do, and “you need to live life to its fullest because you never know when it will be taken from you.”

Randy lost the battle with pancreatic cancer in 2008. There are many remarkable aspects to Randy’s life. One that truly touches me is the impact Randy had by striving to leave a legacy for his family. In his effort to leave something of himself for his children, Randy was inspired to give a lecture and record a video. That video found its way to YouTube and over six million people have watched his message. Randy also created a book from his lecture that became a NY Times best seller. By striving to leave something for his children, Randy touched his students and millions of others who have been inspired by his message. That is truly leaving a legacy.

*Steve Bear, Chair
Board of Trustees*

Sunday Forums

April 11 at 9am and April 18 at 11:45am

The Committee on Ministry and Board of Trustees are planning to issue a survey to the congregation in May. The purpose of the survey is to identify ways to improve the current programs / offerings over the next five years.

We are in changing, challenging times and the Board of Trustees and Committee on Ministry want to ensure the programming meets the needs of the congregation.

In preparation for the survey, there will be two forums held — April 11th at 9 AM and April 18th at 11:45 AM — to obtain feedback on key areas of importance to the congregation, thus ensuring the survey covers key areas of importance for the congregation.

METRO DISTRICT NEWS

Upcoming District events - 2010 District Annual

Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Morristown (NJ) April 30-May 1. Registration and Hotel info is on the Metro UU website. <http://www.uumetrony.org/am10/index.htm>. There are some amazing workshops this year that cover all aspects of church and UU life. Did you know you can visit UUtopia in Second Life, a computer accessed world? Neither did I, so I plan to attend that workshop to find out more. We will need members from our congregation to attend the annual meeting as delegates. Please contact Denice Tomlinson or Rev. Carol if you are interested.

11th Annual Anti-Racism Conclave - Saturday, May 15 - 9:00a-4:00p at Community Church of New York UU. For more info see the UU metro website or contact Rev. Michael Tino at mtino@uuma.org

General Assembly 2010 is 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

The R.E. View

“...when we ask one another what we truly love, what we truly value, what we care about more than anything else in life, something amazing happens. We don’t argue. We listen. We connect. We discover that we love and want the same things.” Peter Morales, UUA President (UU World, Spring 2010, pg. 7)

So what do I truly love, that is, what keeps me here at CUC as your DRE? My love of this community, of you as individuals and as a group. Wondering through the pledge brunch, I was delighted to hear the buzz and laughter that comes from true investment in a community. It is exciting and energizing to see folks of all ages interacting over a good meal.

Community is a rare thing to find nowadays. In a world of online social networking, back decks rather than front porches, and packed schedules running us from here to there, finding a place where we can truly be a community is a blessing. That is what CUC means to me - a place in our lives, our minds, and our hearts where we can invest in others and find people that invest in us.

If you have not already done so, take a moment to log onto our website, www.cucwp.org and “share your views” in the CUC Forum Topics. Tell us what you truly love and value about this community and where you would like to see it go in the future.

“In our congregations there is love, idealism and energy waiting to be released. When we release these, when we really let our people go, we transform lives and change the world.” (Morales)

Lara Campbell
Director of Religious Education

On Sunday, April 4th
there will be a special
Spring has Sprung arts and crafts program for
Grades K - 5 in Fellowship Hall.
Bring your creative spirit and join the fun.

Spring Begins

I saw my first daffodil of the season this morning. What a welcome sign of cheer to signal the end of such challenging winter weather.

As the season changes, spring activities at CUC are now upon us. April 4 brings our Easter Special Sunday. Please feel free to bring any friends or family members you may have with you. Also, Easter is often a time when new families go “church shopping,” so if you see any unfamiliar faces please stop, say hello, and make them feel welcome.

Our social action coin collection will begin again on April 11. The children are gathering funds to donate to *Guiding Eyes for the Blind* and the *Riverkeeper* organization.

Mark your calendars for April 25, which is RE Sunday followed by the Youth Group hosted brunch. This is the day that we honor all the fabulous teachers that volunteer their time to work in the classes with the children. They truly deserve our appreciation.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Erin Foster, Chair
Religious Education Council

ADULT RE

Conversations with the Bible

Sundays at 9:15a, weekly from April 18 to 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.

The Religious Education K-5th grade Social Action activity will resume fundraising on April 11, and continue through the end of April. Children will be collecting spare change to support their two charitable causes, *Riverkeeper* and *Guiding Eyes for the Blind*. Please help them in their efforts.



Help us fill the baskets on Easter.

Please bring canned goods to CUC on Sunday 3/28 and/or 4/4. We will be “hiding” them in the sanctuary on Easter for when the children join us in the sanctuary. Collection boxes will be in the Sanctuary and RE lobbies. Questions? contact Lara at dre4cucwp@yahoo.com

Music at CUC presents . . .

Requiem

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**Saturday, April 10, 2010
7:00 pm**

The Community Unitarian Church Choir
Lisa N. Meyer, conductor
Georgianna Pappas, pianist
and the CUC Chamber Orchestra
with soloists: Rebecca Axelrod, soprano
Serafina Martino, mezzo-soprano
John Davey, tenor, Mark Sullivan, bass

Admission \$20, \$10 for seniors/students
www.cucwp.org 914.946.1660 ext 8

Damocles Trio & Friends

Sunday, April 18 at 3pm

WQXR radio personality Robert Sherman hosts a program of chamber music for children of all ages.

The Damocles Trio (pianist Adam Kent, violinist Airi Yoshioka, and cellist Sibylle Johner) will be on hand for perennial favorites by Haydn and Mendelssohn.



The trio will also team up with clarinetist Pavel Vinnitsky and Mr. Sherman in a performance of Margarita Zelenia's newly composed *The Lion Who Couldn't Roar*.

Admission: \$20, \$10 seniors/students
www.cucwp.org 914.946.1660 ext 8

Connections Are the Core of a Spiritual Community

On Sunday, March 21, 2010, in her sermon, Rev. Carol alluded to the importance of connections in keeping a spiritual community strong. At CUC, we have grown from a smaller congregation where the minister can be closely in touch with all families, to a midsize congregation, where we each need to build those connections with each other, to keep the congregation strong.

A new initiative at CUC is being developed in an effort to build that network of connections. CUC Neighborhood Connection Groups will be loosely organized and responsive to the interests of its members. It is hoped that they will help to make new members of the congregation, living in their neighborhood, feel welcomed and will provide another way to keep people updated about CUC news and events. Depending on the group's interests, CUC Neighborhood Connections

might keep in touch by web social networking, promote a social activity, community service project, or a spiritual/educational event.

Although the program will be starting in the fall, facilitators will be recruited and will begin to meet with Rev. Carol this spring to begin the planning process.

We hope you see the creation of CUC Neighborhood Connections, as an exciting way to build community at CUC. The energy generated within each of these groups will surely be carried back into our spiritual home on Rosedale Ave.

Please share any thoughts you might have in helping us get started!

Jane Dixon
949-5919

jrdixon@optonline.net

The ASC forum originally scheduled for Sunday, March 14, (and cancelled due to the storm) has been rescheduled to April 18.

The forum will be about Iraqi refugees. Mustafa Kareem Ahmed is able to attend Manhattanville College because of the Iraqi Student Project, a non-profit organization that tutors Iraqi refugees in Syria and Jordan and depends on activists like Andrew Courtney and local donors to provide the tangible support that Mustafa and other Iraqi refugees attending college in the U.S. need. Andrew will show a powerpoint of images from his interviews with Iraqi refugees in Damascus and Amman. Mustafa will speak about his experiences as a refugee and a college student. We will end with your questions for Mustafa and Andrew.

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:

April 5

Othello

by William Shakespeare

May 3

Auntie Mame

by Robert E. Lee and Jerome Lawrence

Pride in the Pulpit

Hudson Valley Pride in the Pulpit meetings are held monthly at the LOFT. This group continues to work promote the passage of GENDA (Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act) and marriage equality by June of this year. If you have questions or would like to attend the Pride in the Pulpit meetings, please contact Denice Tomlinson at ptmom@prodigy.net

Believe Out Loud is a new website that supports individuals and churches in their efforts toward LGBT inclusion. Check it out <http://www.believeoutloud.com/>

And as always, visit <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/> on a regular basis to see the important social justice work in which many UU congregations across the country are participating.

The White Plains Library Foundation presents

The Clarice Wilson Memorial Concert 11th Anniversary

Sunday, April 25 at 2:30 pm

**at the White Plains Public Library
100 Martine Avenue, White Plains**

Featuring the AM Duo (violin and guitar) performing works by Bach, de Falla, Piazzolla and more.

Admission is free. Reception to follow.

All are welcome to this concert honoring Clarice, who had been a longtime member of CUC.

**Mark your calendars — and save the date for
A Concert on Sunday, May 30, 2010
at 2pm**

In memory of Ava Elsevier,
longtime CUC member and Sunday School teacher

Featuring Desiree Elsevier and husband Patrick Milando along
with colleagues from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

CUC members and friends are invited. 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 April call Carole Mehta at 234-6294.

Our thoughts are with **Isabel Valencia** and her family, on the death of her stepfather.

We have learned that **Ethel Heitz** died last month. She had moved to Atlanta, Georgia in recent years. Her presence and volunteer work here will be well remembered.

Baby & Child Dedications during the service on

Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day)

If you would like to have your baby or child dedicated during this service, please call Rev. Carol at 946-1660 ext 3 no later than April 25.

SNOW ANGELS AT CUC

Did you ever wonder who shoveled out the emergency exits to class rooms, or cleared the Memorial Garden stairs, or opened the roadside drains so that Sycamore would not flood when it snows? Who is responsible for the cozy, inviting fire in the sanctuary? It's our own version of snow angels – the Grounds Committee, or “The Crew” as they call themselves. Even when there are no weeds to pull they take care of CUC.

With the end of snow, grounds cleanup and gardening will start. Interested in helping? Everyone is welcome. Contact Ted Kuczinski at (914) 949-6619 or tadex@optonline.net.

Carol Selinske

April's Theme -- Immortality -- Resource List

Scripture

- A Buddhist Story “Mustard Seed Medicine”
- Jewish Scripture The Covenant with Abraham, Genesis 12-13.
- Christian Scripture The Easter story, Mark 16:1-8

Books

- Love and Death by Forrester Church. A moving and sensitive response to the idea that life ends.
- Life, the Universe, and Everything by Douglas Adams. Images of immortality from an ironic perspective.
- Twilight by Stephanie Meyer. This is the first book of a series on vampires, currently very popular among teens and young adults. Other vampire fiction also deals with idea of immortality.

Children's Books

- I Miss You: A First Look at Death by Pat Thomas
- Finding Grandpa Everywhere: A Young Child Discovers Memories of a Grandparent by John Hodge. Both books emphasize the importance of memory after a loved one has died, and both are available in paperback from Amazon.

Film

- The Fountain (2006) Hugh Jackman in interlocking stories about mortality and immortality.
- Heaven Can Wait (1978) A football player dies before his time.
- Wings of Desire (1987) In German, but with Peter Falk playing himself.

April 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Sunday, April 25 -- Join us for Brunch Proceeds to benefit the Youth Group Program				1	2	3 9:00a Reading Emerson
4 <i>Easter</i> 9:00a Minister's Colloquium 10:00a RE Special Sunday 10:15a Worship 11:45a Spirit of Truth	5 4:00p Choir Rehearsal 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Play Reading	6	7 7:30p Program Council	8 10:00a Transitions Group 11:30a Science & Spirituality	9	10 9:00a Reading Emerson 7:00pm Music at CUC Requiem
11 8:30a ASC Committee 9:00a Committee on Ministry/ Board of Trustees Forum 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship/RE 11:45a Partner Church Forum 11:45a Safety Task Force	12 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	13	14 7:30p Board of Trustees	15	16	17 9:00a Reading Emerson 9:30a Parents of Teenagers
18 Communitarian Deadline 9:00a Bible Class 9:00a Coming of Age Mentor Check-in Option 1 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Newcomers 11:30a Coming of Age Mentor Check-in Option 2 11:45a Committee on Ministry/Board of Trustees Forum 11:45a Fun Facts 11:45a ASC Forum 3:00p Music at CUC Damocles Trio and Friends	19 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	20	21	22 10:00a Folding Party 10:00a Transitions Group 11:30a Science & Spirituality	23 6:00p 6th Grade OWL Retreat sessions 2-4	24 9:00a Reading Emerson
25 9:00a Partner Church Comm. 9:00a Bible Class 9:00a Youth/Mentors 10:00a RE Sunday 10:15a Worship 11:30a Youth Group Hosted Brunch	26 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	27	28 7:30p RE Council	29	30	May 1 8a-2p Day in Place 

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

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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.

APRIL SERVICES

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

APRIL 4

Easter Sunday

Reverse Family Service / CUC Choir will sing

APRIL 11

Yom Hashoah Service

APRIL 18

Immortality

Discussion Circle Service / CUC Choir will sing

APRIL 25

Religious Education Sunday

Director of Religious Education

Lara K-J Campbell preaching

Reverse Family Service / CUC Children's Choir will sing

FINAL NOTE ↩ APRIL FORUMS

At 11:45am in Fellowship Hall unless noted otherwise

APRIL 4
*In the Spirit of
Truth*

APRIL 11
9:00am
in room 41
CoM & BoT
See page 2

APRIL 11
Partner Church

APRIL 18
Fun Facts
About Music
with Adam Kent
in the sanctuary

APRIL 18
in room 41
CoM & BoT
See page 2

APRIL 18
Action for Social
Concerns
See page 5