

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

MARCH 2011



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

Liliana Keith
Church Administrator

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

Susan Donham
Ministerial Intern

For more information
about CUC:

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

Communitarian Deadline for
April Edition:
Sunday, March 20th

Submit information to
Emily Economou, Editor
emily.economou@gmail.com

Minister's Moment...

Susan and I, along with 375 other UU ministers, attended an educational retreat, February 7-11 on Monterey Peninsula in California. I joined a seminar, with two fine leaders of our denomination, Rebecca Parker, president of Star King Seminary, and former UUA president, John Buehrens, on the sources of hope in our tradition. Susan worked with Union Seminary professor Gary Dorian on social ethics. The week was filled with interesting music, inspiring sermons, and, of course, the opportunity to share meals with people I have known in the ministry for many years.

Through all of it, five words are at the top of my memories of the retreat. **“Ministry is impossible: start there.”** One of the preachers said that those words had come to her from a mentor early in her ministry. The words resonated with me and with many if not most of my colleagues, and as this congregation looks toward new ministry, I want you to think about them.

Ministry is impossible: start there. People come into ministry because they are called to its unique balance of intellectual, aesthetic, and interpersonal activity. I was so called, and I still am, but the reality of ministry is much more than anyone expects. In this calling, especially in the UU faith, we minister to people with many backgrounds and hope that they will all be able to hear us. In this calling we are asked to lead a congregation in joy and inspiration, but at the same time stand ready for fears and sorrows that we can't fix. Deaths and memorial services demand all our energy when they come. Preaching is a balancing act. We call it success when we preach on political matters and get back anger from both conservative and liberal sides of the congregation.

Ministry is impossible: start there. A lot of my colleagues are having trouble with congregations. The economic downturn is a big part of it. My roommate was among those who used the time to consult with UUA representatives about a difficult situation. Other ministers who had made seemingly smooth transitions to different congregations admitted that they had probably gotten out just in time – before a ministry turned sour.

Ministry is impossible: start there. And with humility and hope, we ministers stay with the calling. In this time of polarized views and stress and too much busyness, the world needs liberal ministry more than ever before. But we all need to recognize the impossibility of the work. We ministers need to accept our inevitable short-comings. And congregants need to be kind to future ministers, by giving them open communication and understanding that they are called to do the impossible. Start there.

– Rev. Carol

For latest news and updates go to our website at www.cucwp.org.
To stop receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and to start receiving email announcements instead,
please send an email to admin@cucwp.org.

Scriptural Sources

Numbers 20:2-13

MARCH Resource List Brokenness

Books

Finding Beauty in a Broken World, by Terry Tempest Williams. Develops the image of the mosaic as a metaphor for healing.

Repair: the impulse to restore in a fragile world, by Elizabeth V. Spelman. What is in our toolbox for social and psychological repair?

Broken for You, by Stephanie Callos. A novel about the way that two women come to terms with the brokenness of their past and present lives.

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. The classic novel of broken society in the Depression.

Children's Books

The Broken Cat by Lynne Rae Perkins (ages 5+) A family conversation while waiting for the vet to look at an injured cat.

Good Answers to Tough Questions: Trauma by Joy Berry. A picture book for parents to read with school age children. Trauma here includes broken legs, getting glasses.

Old Turtle and the Broken Truth by Douglas Wood (ages 8 through adult). A picture book which asks questions about the brokenness of society.

Films

Mystic River (2003) (R) Clint Eastwood film about life on the neighborhood streets of South Boston. This is a brutal classic.

The King's Speech (2010) (PG-13) Struggles around a stuttering problem and the British class system

The Visitor (2008) (PG-13) A man unexpectedly finds himself confronting our broken immigration system.

Frozen River (2008) (R) An unrelenting look at issues on our north border.

BLOGs

<http://blogs.rj.org/reform/2010/03/dvar-torah-the-holiness-of-who.html>

http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/religions_buddhism.htm

http://www.uuse.org/html/past_services/2010/031410.html

<http://archive.uua.org/news/2003/iraq/pasjohnson.html>



Pledge Brunch
Sunday, March 20, 2011
"Bring a Pledge and Enjoy Brunch"



Pledge from your heart.

Make your pledge and join our community for a fabulous brunch. Your pledge form is your admissions ticket.

Where Your Pledge goes:

Worship services

The religious education of our children

Maintaining our buildings & grounds

Adult education programs

Music programs

Social action programs

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Last week's 60 degree weather was so very welcome! It provided a much needed battery recharge and snow melt. The Grounds crew led by Ted Kuczinski has been doing amazing behind-the-scenes work to keep the fire burning and the snow cleared – from sidewalks, stairs, roofs and parking lots - as much as possible. There have been many unscheduled work parties moving snow and trying to provide more parking spaces. Thank you Ted and crew for all the hours and sore muscles you are contributing to the church.

The Nominating Committee has also been hard at work, preparing a slate of new Board of Trustee Members and Officers (Secretary and Treasurer) to be presented at the June 5th Annual Meeting. Please contact John Saccardi, committee chair, if you have a suggestion for a candidate, including yourself! (JSaccardi@VHB.com or 914-761-2179 evenings)

The mail will bring two important congregational letters in the coming month which really need your attention. First is a letter inviting you to our church-wide Pledge Brunch on Sunday March 20 which kicks off the annual canvass cycle. Each year we reach out in various ways to our legal members and friends asking for their financial support in the coming fiscal year. Conducting the canvass "early" helps the Board put together a budget for the coming year which will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June. We are bombarded daily with government budgets showing huge deficits, friends out of work and store fronts for rent. We all know the economy has not yet rebounded. Our own religious community is not immune to these pressures either. We too, are under financial stress. We face a transition through an Interim Ministry, before

calling a settled minister who will be well-suited to nurture our spirit and lead us forward. Please help and support our church to the best of your ability. Board of Trustee members (wearing blue names tags) are always available to answer questions about the church budget. But please mark your calendars for the March 20th Brunch! Your completed pledge form will be your ticket to the brunch.

The second letter will follow towards the end of March and talk about how we are moving forward toward a new ministry and the hiring of a two-year Interim Minister. A taskforce of Board members is working hard at putting together a plan for communicating with the congregation as we head into this transitional period. It is imperative we communicate openly and frequently throughout the coming months. We hopefully will find a vehicle that reaches everyone: the Communitarian, website, eblasts, announcements, bulletin boards, "Pulpit Service Announcements", small group discussions and anything else we can think of to keep people informed and engaged. Please do your part and find a way to stay connected and informed. The Board is always available to answer questions, but we are also available to hear your ideas and suggestions. Please talk with us...blue name tags!

- Anne Majsak
Chair, Board of Trustees

AMONG OURSELVES

In Memory...

Our thoughts and prayers are with Johanna Bauer and her family on the death of her mother on February 21. A memorial service is being planned in her mother's UU congregation in Hartford, CT.

We also hold Nancy Scollard in our thoughts. Her sister Jean Demuth died earlier this month.

Baby & Child Dedication...

At CUC we hold services of dedication on the Sunday nearest the beginning of spring (March 20) and/or Mothers Day (May 8). If you have a baby or a child whom you would like to have dedicated, please talk with Rev. Carol.

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout March, contact Gail McLeod, 235-8212.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The following is an excerpt from an essay submitted by Henry Halff, a member of Community Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, Tex., about how to create a multigenerational church. Halff includes a story about his own experience as a parent of a child in a religious education program:

In 1976 I dragged my son, Larry, then about to turn six, over to the First Unitarian Church of Arlington, Virginia, and enrolled him in RE. I was met at the door of the RE building by one Norma Veridan. [The late Rev. Veridan served five UU congregations as religious educator and was the first district religious educator in the Massachusetts Bay District.] The first thing she asked me was this:

“What are you going to do?”

“Do?”

“Yes, ‘do.’ Teach? Work in the office? Children’s worship? What are you going to do?”

“I’m awfully busy, and I’d really like to go to church.”

“Wouldn’t we all. If your child is here, you’re here.

That’s the rule.”

All of us parents bowed to the rule. I started as a teacher, worked my way into the children’s worship program, then the RE Council, and finally board member and liaison to RE. By that time, Larry was in college. The Veridan rule had the effect of building a strong, well-staffed RE program, but that was not its most important effect. Its most important effect was that of forging a community of parents. Because we were all in it together, we got together socially; we brought food to meetings; we put on extracurricular stuff; we developed strong personal ties to the church, or at least to RE. What Norma knew was that if you build a community of parents, the children will be taken care of. And, incidentally, you’ll have a multigenerational church.

For those who continue to “do”, thank you. For those who have not yet – “what are you going to do?”

Lara Campbell, DRE



Arts & Crafts Sale for Social Action!

On **Sunday, March 6th**, there will be an Arts and Crafts Sale in the Sanctuary featuring items made by our very own K-5 youth to raise funds for their 2011 social action projects: Riverkeeper and Kids For World Health.*

This is our main Social Action fundraiser for the year so please help us by supporting it - especially if your child has items on display!

* In addition to the arts and crafts already made in class, we encourage youth to bring in their own self-made items from home - especially 6th – 9th graders who would like to contribute to the show. These items can be dropped off at the Welcome Table with the artist’s name clearly labeled and they will be stored at CUC prior to the sale.

RE Council—

I type these words from Micanopy, Florida, where blooming red bud trees offer proof of Spring, and attendant signs of rebirth. In contrast, the 4 inches of snow in White Plains confirm that CUC members face more wool socks, shoveling snow and the threat/reward of snow days.

DO NOT despair, for the March CUC calendar offers several events to restore the batteries and spirits and chase away winter blues and cabin fever. Starting with the Friday night, March 4th, 6:30 pm Game Night, CUC members—big kids and little—can munch on pizza and popcorn while playing bingo, twister or Pictionary. On Sunday, March 6th, colorful and inspired works of art by CUC kids will be available for purchase at the Social Action Art Sale.

Other events include a concert, a congregational read, and adult RE classes where you can raise your voice to call for the brighter and sunnier days of Spring, just around the corner. Finally, RE Sunday on March 27th, is a good opportunity to enjoy a multigenerational service, which never fails to bright my day, no matter how cold and wintry.

- Kate Colson, RE Council Chair

MINISTERIAL INTERN

In a world, a country, a town that is filled with different aspects of brokenness, where does one begin to heal the world? Recently, in reading *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*, I was struck by Sharon Welch's hypothesis that members of privileged groups, when faced with choices regarding broken systems, usually choose what is accomplishable, what can be fully completed. Unfortunately, goals that are readily completed also usually maintain the status quo, leaving the irresponsible attempts to "the young and the terminally idealistic." In contrast, she writes, members of groups facing oppression will consider choices for which there is little or no likelihood of a positive outcome, but which take into account need, risk, self-respect, and dignity. "Risks are taken, both risk of immediate harm and risks that what is done will provide the foundation for victory later on." This does not mean those facing oppression are martyrs or pragmatists, although they may combine elements of both. What are we willing to risk? What are we willing to risk for? And in situations where we are allies of those facing oppression, are we willing to consider need, self-respect, and dignity in our understanding of the situation?

During the service at CUC on February 13, Rev. Carol asked members of the congregation to name ways in which the congregation stands on the side of love, and there were many. On Thursday, the Community Project Committee moved forward in developing partnerships through which the congregation can serve the community and work towards social justice. But I'm struggling with how we can work on systemic changes such as the growing disparity between the rich and poor, and where those intersect with other oppressions. For example, a bill that will cut funding for employment services, meals, and housing for senior citizens will differentially hurt women (2/3 of the elderly poor are women) and racial and ethnic minorities.

Yesterday, two Libyan fighter pilots literally flew "under the radar" in order to defect so that they would not have to fire on protestors. What will we risk to bring healing and justice to our communities here at home?

- Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Green Covenant, Meeting at CUC

Green Covenant: Living in Right Relationship with Earth

Saturday, March 19th

Sponsored by the NY Metro District and UU Ministry for Earth
at Community Unitarian Church at White Plains.

Green Covenant Workshops Include:
Garbage + Composting: There Is No "AWAY"
Food and Racial Justice
Transition Towns: An Introduction to What's Next
Our Environment Exposed
Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience
Becoming a Religious Environmental Leader
Teaching Stewardship
Natural Gas Drilling + Hydrofracing
Climate Change: More than the Basics



Keynote Address

Rev. Fletcher Harper,

Executive Director of GreenFaith, award-winning spiritual writer and nationally-recognized preacher on the environment, Rev. Harper teaches and speaks at houses of worship nationwide about the moral, spiritual basis for environmental stewardship and justice.

Fee is \$25. To register - <https://www.formdesk.com/uiforms/Green>

Annual Meeting, Metro District

Registration for the UU District of Metro NY 2011 Annual Meeting is now open. The meeting takes place May 6-7 at the Hyatt in Morristown, NJ. Attend Friday and /or Saturday. This meeting is open to everyone. There are opportunities for worship, music, workshops and this year Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be the keynote speaker in addition to the annual business meeting. For more info go to the UU District of Metro NY website. <http://www.uumetrony.org/am11/>. If you have questions email me at ptmom@prodigy.net - **Denise Tomlinson, Metro District Affairs**

EVENTS AT CUC...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 4th, Friday night 6:30-9 PM

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!



Big kids and little—come munch on pizza and popcorn while playing bingo, Twister, Pictionary, or more. Bring your favorite game, volunteer to help as "games keepers," or just show up. This event is FREE. If interested in providing side dishes and/or desserts, please contact Kate Colson at kathryn.colson@mssm.edu or 646-483-9430.

April 10th, Sunday

SUNDAY PANCAKE BRUNCH

May 6th, Friday night 7-9

ACTIVITY TO BE ANNOUNCED



Our "Common Read" is here!



CUC takes on immigration

This year our congregation is participating in the UUA sponsored "Common Read" of the book *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands*. This book explores international migration from the perspectives of Latino/a migrants, Border Patrol agents, Arizona residents, humanitarian volunteers, religious leaders and others.

Come to one or more of our March events, to learn more about these difficult issues and to share your impressions and feelings!

Sunday March 6th 8:30 am - 10:00 am, Room 41 *The Death of Josseline* Discussion Group

Sunday March 13th 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Room 41 *The Death of Josseline* Discussion Group

Sunday March 20th 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Movie Screening: *The Visitor* (2007)

“Can’t Help Lovin’ That Man of Mine...”

“The Way You Look Tonight...”

“I’m Gonna Love You, Come Rain or Come Shine...”

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

7 PM

CUC CHOIR PRESENTS

Songs of Jerome Kern & Johnny Mercer along with other favorites. Solo, duo, and choral arrangements performed by CUC Choir members, directed by Lisa N. Meyer and accompanied by Georgianna Pappas.

Tickets: \$20, (seniors & students \$10)

ADULT RE

Taoism and Hebrew Wisdom Literature

Comparing & contrasting
theology and metaphor
Taught by Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern
Sundays 8:30am
4 classes, can come as drop-in
March 27, April 10, April 17, May 15

Unitarian Universalism 101

A two hour introduction to our faith for people considering membership in this congregation.
Taught by Rev. Carol & Susan Donham
Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 am

PLAYREADING GROUP

All Readings are at CUC at 7:30 PM on the first Monday of the month.

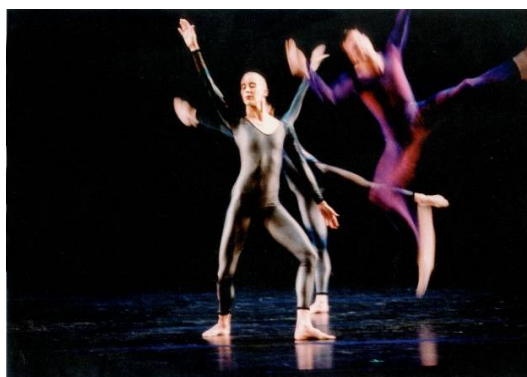
March 7th, “The Devil’s Disciple” by George Bernard Shaw, led by Ken Kessler.

April 4th, “The Rose Tattoo” by Tennessee Williams, led by Ken Kessler.

May 2nd, “A Member of the Wedding” by Carson McCullers, led by Charles Selinske.

For more information
contact Ken Kessler
at
newrocken@aol.com
or call the church
office.





Danza Contemporaneo de Cuba ¡Si Cuba !

Welcome Cuban artists to New York this spring, during this special cultural arts extranagananza.

“...audiences will have the extraordinary opportunity to experience the company's vibrant fusion of Spanish and Afro-Caribbean styles with classical European ballet.”

May 15th Sunday 2pm

Joyce Theater, Group rate: \$35

CUC has a block of tickets for this event. **Tickets must be reserved by March 17th**

Sign up in the lobby or call or email Jane Dixon (949-5919)/ jrdixon@optonline.net



Save the Date.....CUC Tag Sale

Yes...you've been asking and it's happening on
Saturday, April 2

start putting aside your....books, clothing,, toys, gamescollectibles, jewelry, purses...house wares, art work ...sports equipment, etc.

Items can be delivered to CUC
beginning

Sunday Afternoon March 27th and
Mon-Thurs Evenings 3/28-4/1 from 6:30-9:00pm

Volunteers are needed for publicity, sorting, selling, cashiers and bake sale. Sign-up sheets will be posted at CUC, or you may join us for a meeting on Sunday, February 27th at 11:30 am.

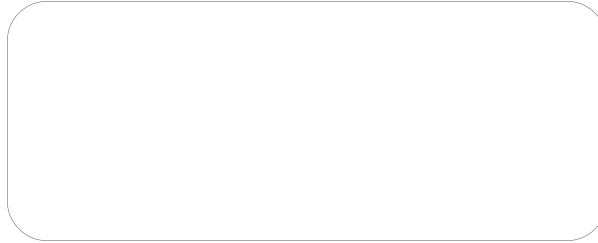
For questions or information call Paula Meighan at 914 834-6454

*** Sorry, due to storage limitations we cannot accept items prior to March 27th. We cannot accept any items over 50 pounds; TVs, computers, air conditioners or other hazmat items; encyclopedias, magazines, exercise equipment or typewriters.**

MARCH 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
27 8:45-9:45am Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee 3:00p Damocles Trio	28 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30p-9:00p Adult Coming of Age Class	1 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30p-9:00p Program Council	3	4 6:30p-9:00p Family Game Night	5 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
6 8:45-9:45am Choir 8:30-9:45am Congregational Read 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee 11:30 Kids Social Action Art Fair 11:45a-1p Spirit of Truth 11:45a Music Comm.	7 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9p Spanish 7:30p-9p Play Reading	8 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30-9 pm Board of Trustees meeting	10 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	11 6:00-10:00p 6th Grade OWL Retreat	12 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10:00a One Year To Live Class
13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 8:30a-9:45a Adult Coming of Age Class 9:00-10:00a 2nd/3rd Parents' Meeting 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:45a Congregational Read	14 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30p-9:00p Adult Coming of Age Class	15 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30-9:00PM Worship Associates Committee	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 8:30-5:00p District Environmental Justice Workshops 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
20 COMMUNITARIAN DEADLINE 8:45-9:45am Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:30 Newcomers 11:30 Canvass Brunch 11:45a Fun Facts with Adam Kent 4:00 PM Immigration Movie	21 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 8p-9:30p Finance Committee	22 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30p RE Council	24 10:00a Folding Party 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	25 6:00p-9:00p Choir Rehearsal	26 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10:00a Unitarian Universalism 101 7:00pm Choir Concert
27 8:30 Taoism & Hebrew Wisdom 8:45-9:45am Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee	28 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	29 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	30	31	1	2 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson TAG SALE

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write 'refused' across your address and return it unopened. No postage is required.

MARCH SERVICES 2011

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

MARCH 6
"The Mosaic of Our Lives"

MARCH 13
"Broken at the Border "
Annie Gonzalez, Youth Advisor
Choir will sing

MARCH 20
**"Community Sunday,
Finding What We Value Here"**
Choir will sing

MARCH 27
Religious Education Sunday
DRE Lara Campbell