

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim . . .

We are entering the home stretch of our time together. In early May I'll know where I'm going next. As for you, I know that you're eagerly anticipating your next minister. The Search Committee has talked to some excellent people and knows there is light at the end of the tunnel. Over the years, I've talked with a lot of ministers seeking congregations, and I have a good idea of who they are and what they are hoping for.

Your new minister will find much to appreciate. You are a congregation of people who have a great deal of skill, energy and a deep commitment to CUC activities and programs. Some of these are highly developed and successful, and your next minister will be relieved to discover that. You will have the continuity of another year (and maybe more!) with Lily Rappaport, a talented and enthusiastic religious educator. You have a dedicated and capable administrator in Liliana Keith. Adam and Lisa and Georgiana offer their skills and hard work to enrich the worship services with excellent music. All the staff get along and are loyal to the congregation. Many things go well here that do not go as well elsewhere. So there are good reasons for this candidate to choose CUC.

You should know this, however. Your next minister will come from a congregation where they do things differently—probably very differently. Your next minister may feel that s/he has some ideas that would work better for CUC than the way things happen now. I'm sure there will be some resistance, but my hope is that you will keep an open mind.

Very possibly, your new minister will be met by four different reactions to suggestions to change. 1. We can't do it. Someone will object if we do. 2. We tried it before and it didn't work. 3. We shouldn't do it because CUC is unique and this is the only way that works for us. 4. It ain't broke so why fix it.

In response to "Someone will object" may I humbly suggest that someone will always object to anything. The congregation does not deserve to be held hostage to a vocal minority. In response to number 2, there's no quicker way to squelch creativity. Don't go there! Number 3, "CUC is unique," I would suggest that yes you are in a way, but not as unique as you think. Some things that have been tested and work well elsewhere would improve things here. Finally, number 4, if it "ain't broke" it might not need to be fixed, but don't be so sure it isn't in need at least of retooling. Keep an open mind. It's the best way of getting off to a good start with your new minister. (*Adapted from an article from my colleague John Nichols.*)

Yours in faith,
Benjamin

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APRIL SERVICES 2013, 10:15 AM

April 7. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *Message in a Bottle.* In honor of National Poetry Month, we'll consider the power of a poem.

April 14. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *My Moments of High Resolve.* A look at the life and legacy of Howard Thurman.

April 21. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *Bringing the Mind Back Home.* Some hows and whys of meditation.

April 28. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *Adventures in Unitarian Christology Chapter Five.* The rise of Unitarianism in England.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"Spring has Sprung"

In spite of today's forecast of a "wintry mix" and our upcoming ski vacation in Montana, Spring is in the air. I can't quite smell it yet, but it's coming - the days are definitely longer, lacrosse practices are beginning, and there's plenty of matzo on the super-market shelves. And at our house, Spring means flowers. For the past seven years or so, we've planted a couple of thousand bulbs each fall. We plant a wide mix of flowers - including crocuses, hyacinths, and alliums - but most of all, we plant our favorite tulips and daffodils.

The ritual begins early in the fall as we plan the next year's collection with our gardener friend Orlando. He shows us his myriad catalogues (aka "flower porn" - though definitely of the soft and artful variety), and we mix and match some of our old favorites with new colorful varieties. Then later in the fall, usually around Thanksgiving, Orlando returns with crates and crates of Holland's finest. Taking a break from raking leaves, we follow him around the beds as he drills 4-5" inch holes with his electric augur. Planting multiple bulbs in each hole, our well oiled family machine can get all two thousand or so planted in a couple of afternoons' work. Then it's sit back and wait through the winter; and with the first sign of early Spring, the green shoots start to appear. As the days get longer and warmer, the blooms appear, with a colorful bounty gracing our garden and vases through all of April and well into May. It's a joyful and satisfying gardening ritual we happily go through every year.

And I feel like we do our share of gardening at CUC. However, unlike bulbs, which just need to be plopped in the ground waiting for the calendar to

turn to the right time, our gardening takes true nurturing, with just the right mix of water, sunshine, and nourishment provided. I was reminded of this during the Youth Service, proudly watching our high schoolers, some of whom I taught in RE years ago. Oh how they've blossomed! And I thought of this in our recent conversation circles during service, where we took turns talking about our dreams for CUC's future, planting seeds to help grow in the coming years. Finally, stretching the metaphor just a little more, our Ministerial Search Committee has been busy all year seeking a "head gardener" to partner with us in cultivating our minds and spirits, nourishing our souls and children, and germinating more love in our hearts and the world beyond. Let the flowers bloom!

~ In Community,
David Schuler, Board Chair

David & Orlando with many bulbs to plant...



TALENT SHOW TO HELP KIDS IN CRISIS

On March 3, while the adults were having conversation circles to discuss their values and dreams, the children and youth had a similar opportunity to discuss their own thoughts and feelings about Religious Education.

We started with a Visioning Exercise: *Imagine your church/RE program in your mind. What do you "see"?* The children called out words such as: friends, community, the chalice, snacks, laughter, fun, faith, and learning about religion,

Then the children were asked, *"What is the most important thing at church?"* Their answers included the following: the seven principles, preparing for the future, talking about things, fundraisers; lighting the chalice, being loving, helping others; making new friends; caring for our world, and participating in social action.

In February, during a children's worship service, Religious Education Council representatives, Kevin Sullivan and Liz Suvanto, presented ideas for the annual Social Action initiative. The participation and enthusiasm from all the children was inspiring! Three different charities were presented and after a short discussion, the children voted to support **Kids in Crisis**.

Founded in 1978, Kids in Crisis provides free, round-the-clock crisis counseling and temporary shelter for infants, children and teens. The organization is located in Cos Cob, CT, and offers help to children and families of all socio-economic levels dealing with any type of crisis, including abuse, neglect, family conflict, mental health issues, divorce, substance abuse and more. We anticipate talking more about the Kids in Crisis charity with the children, during future children's worship services. If you would like to know about the organization please visit their website: <http://www.kidsincrisis.org/>.

The children were then presented with two ideas for generating donations. It was put to a vote and decided that we would hold a talent show to help raise funds for this charity.

The Talent show will take place on **Saturday, May 11th**. Please save the date; more details will follow. The signup sheet in the R.E. Lobby is filling up fast with the names of enthusiastic and talented young folks who are eager to share their gifts for this worthwhile cause. We hope you will encourage your family's participation and support our efforts to raise funds for Kids in Crisis.

Lily Rappaport, Acting Director of Religious Education

...lighting the chalice, being loving, helping others, making new friends, caring for our world...

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Voting for a New Minister

A congregational meeting to vote for the next settled minister is scheduled tentatively for Sunday, May 5th. Only legal members are eligible to vote for the ministerial candidate, and our bylaws require that one must be a member for at least 30 days for voting eligibility.

Therefore, if you are considering becoming a member of CUC, please see Rev. Benjamin to discuss, sign the membership book, and make a pledge, no later than Friday, April 5th. Rev. Benjamin is available after services on Sundays or by appointment.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



The metaphorical “white smoke” arose from the committee meeting room on Sunday, March 17. After much careful listening, discussion and debate over the course of several meetings, the committee reached accord. On the UUA prescribed date, we will make an offer to a ministerial candidate to be the next settled minister for CUC. Assuming the candidate accepts both the offer and the terms of the proposed ministerial agreement, the candidate’s name will be announced. Then the congregation and the final candidate will participate in Candidating Week, currently proposed for Saturday April 27 through Sunday May 5. The final candidate will conduct services on two Sundays, and participate in a variety of events, ranging from informal dinners to committee meetings on the weekdays. There will be many opportunities for members and friends to meet the final candidate during that week.

Then the decision moves to the CUC congregation. Following service on May 5, there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on whether to call the ministerial candidate as settled minister to CUC. The process will be complete only if legal members vote overwhelmingly in favor of calling the candidate (95% is the norm) – unless there is this level of support, the final candidate may not accept the call.

So, the committee’s decision is the beginning of the final phase of the search. The candidate must accept our offer, reach agreement with the negotiating committee, participate in Candidating Week, receive a definitive favorable vote from the congregation on May 5, and then accept the call to be the next settled minister at CUC.

We seven committee members approach the end of our mission with optimism and continued faith in the search process. We are excited about the upcoming events that will unfold quickly, and we urge you to watch for detailed information about Candidating Week. The vote is up to you.

Thank you all for your continued support of our efforts.

~ Ministerial Search Committee

FUND YOUR DREAM WITH A CLICK

CUC'S Annual Giving Campaign is underway!

It's time to make your pledge.

With a click by going to the CUC website at www.cucwp.org

(left side column, home page)

or by filling out a your pledge form (also available at church)

SAVE THE DATE:

GIVING CAMPAIGN BRUNCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST



Photo Directory Update

Many thanks to the 110+ families

who gave of their time to come to CUC and sit for a portrait to make our new directory a success! This is truly a community effort, and we all came through and showed our dedication to CUC. *Lifetouch*, the company who provided the portrait service, was truly impressed by our commitment in that we had a 99% show rate for all scheduled appointments.



Photo Make-up Day: Sunday, April 14th

If you were unable to sit for a directory portrait, we are running a make-up day on Sunday, April 14th, from 1:30pm-6:30pm.

You may schedule an appointment by going to CUC's website, and clicking on the link in the upper right hand corner. When scheduling, please keep in mind CUC's tango concert that afternoon from 3-5pm! Your photo session should take no more than one hour.

Or, contact Karen Schmitt to schedule an appointment at either [914-921-3674](tel:914-921-3674) or schmitt8@verizon.net.

Order Tickets Now! This will sell out.

Singer Songwriters Pete Seeger and Jim Scott....at CUC!

April 7, 7 PM

In a benefit concert for UUSC, the legendary Pete Seeger will join composer/guitarist Jim Scott and musical friends in a celebration of peace and justice featuring some of Seeger's most loved songs. The children and adult choirs of Community UU will add vocal backing, and the rhythm section includes Jose Pienasola on bass and Eric Galm on percussion.



Tickets:

Patrons: \$100 (\$70 is tax deductible)

General: \$30

Children: \$15 (under 18 accompanied by an adult)

Order Tickets Online:

<https://fd7.formdesk.com/uiforms/SeegerConcertUUSC>

Childcare:

Childcare will be available at no extra cost. All childcare requests must be made no later than April 1. To reserve a space please contact Gary Press at gary_press@yahoo.com or on (347) 229-2264. Space is limited.

We hope you can join us for this wonderful evening of music!

Sincerely,

Gary Press, Adam Kent and Tom Wacht
Concert Coordinators

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. For more information, visit uus.org.

Artist Bios:

Pete Seeger has composed and performed songs to teach peace and embrace the struggles of working people for many decades. *If I Had a Hammer* and *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* are fixtures of folk repertoire; *Turn, Turn, Turn* got Seeger enshrined in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Seeger formed the Weavers in the late 1940s and had several hit songs before being blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee. He continued to compose memorable songs and champion civil rights causes, opposing the Vietnam War, and his campaign with the Sloop Clearwater that helped bring about the cleanup of the Hudson River. And in light of what he feels is most important, Seeger likes nothing better than to get everyone singing, and that is perhaps his greatest gift.

Jim Scott has been an activist with his music for many years, known for *Gather the Spirit* and other songs in UU hymnals. He tours the country as a solo artist and constantly adds to a growing line of choral music. As a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Scott was co-composer of their *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass* and sang the eco-anthem *Common Ground*. He's arranged many Pete Seeger songs for choir. Scott helped create the *Green Sanctuary* program and received a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism to compile and arrange the *Earth and Spirit Songbook*, an anthology of 110 songs of earth and peace by many contemporary composers.

Concert Series

Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 3:00 pm

Master bandoneonist and composer JP Jofre teams up with CUC Music Director Adam Kent and other guest artists for a sizzling afternoon of tango music, including original compositions as well as perennial favorites.

Suggested Donation: \$20 (\$10 for seniors and students), (\$40 seniors/students).



In Memory...

Our thoughts and prayers are with **John Economou** and the Economou family. John's father, Leon S. Economou, passed away on March 6th.

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout March contact **Carole Mehta** at 914-234-6294 or carole.mehta@gmail.com or **Eleanor Hermann** at 937-1213 or elro-herm@verizon.net.

What? You don't have any antimacassars or zydeco CDs to contribute for the Saturday, May 4 Tag Sale?

That's OK. Start sorting now. How about bread boxes, books, zithers, toy trucks, alpenhorns, dresses, woks, afghans, children's equipment, records, art, dishes or...?

Recycle
Convert castoffs to \$ for CUC

The first drop off at church is on the afternoon of Sunday, April 28.

Sorry, we **cannot** accept: any item over 50 pounds, TVs, computers, air conditioners or other Hazmat items, encyclopedias, magazines, exercise equipment, shoes or typewriters. Questions? Carol Selinske, 939-7805.



Bereavement Group Forming

A special bereavement group is being formed for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one and for whom grief remains painful and unresolved, whether the loss occurred recently or in the past.

The bereavement group will be small, comprising approximately 8 participants and is expected to meet for 6 weekly sessions during the early spring of 2013. We will engage in a mutual exploration into the growth to be achieved and wisdom to be gained through the experience of loss and bereavement. We will also explore what the humanist point of view and the congregational community can contribute to the experience – does it offer comfort and support, or is it not relevant? Participation will be an opportunity for reflection, growth and enrichment through sharing one's own experiences and learning from those of others. It can also serve to develop new programs and practices to help others undergoing this universal life experience.

The group will be facilitated by Richard Koral in connection with his studies towards a Doctor of Ministry degree in the interfaith pastoral counseling program at the Hebrew Union College in NYC and is under the supervision of the College. Richard is in training for Clergy Leadership in Ethical Culture and the pastoral counseling degree program is a part of his Leadership training.

Please call to register your interest in the bereavement group no later than April 25, 2013. Richard can be reached at (914) 260-2214 or at RichardLKoral@optonline.net.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

CUC hosted the **UU MetroNY District Jr youth Con** March 9- 10th. The con was a huge success with 110 6-8th graders, high school staff and adult chaperons attending. We were proud to have 3 of our high school youth serve as leaders for the event and 9 of our 6th, 7th and 8th graders attend. CUC was the perfect site for a con of this size. During the con participants attended workshops, youth worship and performed for each other at a coffee house event. They ate lunch and dinner and slept overnight in the classrooms. A fun time was had by all.

Help send youth and young adults to General Assembly 2013. Congregations and individuals are asked to contribute to the Phoenix Witness Project scholarship fund via special offering plate collections and online through Paypal (link at UUmetro.org). Checks can be made out to UUDMNY with "Phoenix Witness Project" in the memo line, and mailed to Ira Lerner, Phoenix Witness Project, 1507 Windmill Lane, Breinigsville PA 18031. The Phoenix Witness Project scholarship fund began with General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix, and we are continuing to honor that spirit by retaining the name. To apply for a scholarship <https://ohiomeadville.wufoo.com/forms/m7z5s7/>.

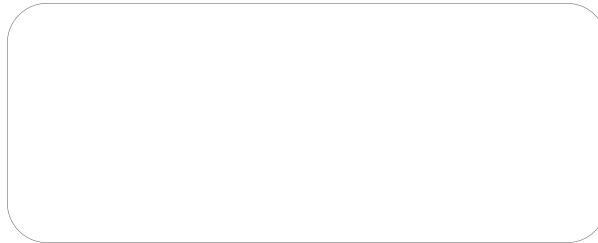
Save the date

Annual meeting of UU Metro District of NY- May 3-4 Hyatt in Morristown, NJ. Keynote address will be given by Annette Marquis who serves the UUA as the LGBTQ and Multicultural Ministries Program Manager. <http://uumetro.org/am13/index.htm>. We invite everyone to attend. For more info ask Mary Cavallero or Denice Tomlinson.

UUA 2013 **General Assembly (GA)** in Louisville, KY June 19-23. Registration opened March 1st. <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. We invite everyone to attend. For more info ask Mary Cavallero or Denice Tomlinson.

~ April 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish	2 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	3 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	4	5	6
7 10a-11:30a Religious Education (FH/Classrooms) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-12:15p Giving Campaign Conversations 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (41)	8 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group43 (43)	9 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	10 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	11 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	12	13
14 10a-11:30a Religious Education (FH/Classrooms) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-12:15p Giving Campaign Conversations 3p CUC Concert	15 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	16 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	17	18	19	20
21 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc/R24) 10a-11:30a Religious Education (FH/Classrooms) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation (Study) 11:30a-12:30p Fun Facts about Music 11:30a-1:30p Giving Campaign Brunch	22 Earth Day 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA)	23 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	24 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	25 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	26	27
28 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc/R24) 10a-11:30a Religious Education (FH/Classrooms) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p TAG SALE DONATIONS	29 11:30a-12:30p TAG SALE DONATIONS (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA)	30 11:30a-12:30p TAG SALE DONATIONS (FH) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal				

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468 Rosedale Avenue
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Founded 1909

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Communitarian Deadline for
March Edition:

Sunday, April 21

Submit information to
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