

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

JUNE 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
July/August Edition:
Sunday, June 19th

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



Minister's Moment...

Like all UU ministers, Clinical Pastoral Education was part of my educational preparation. In this usually very intense experience, you work part time as a chaplain in a hospital or other institution. The rest of the time is spent interacting with an advisor and other students about how you find the strength and demeanor to be with ill and grieving people. One of the other students in my CPE group was a young man from a very conservative Lutheran background. He and I disagreed on many (most?) things, but we kept our distance from each other most of the time until one day when I was talking about a visit with a patient. Suddenly the work of chaplaincy had come together for me, and I knew in that instant that I had helped the patient. I called it a moment of grace. The Lutheran student stopped me: "Wait a minute. You can't use the word grace. You can't possibly know what grace means. You are not a Christian." I don't quite remember what happened next, but we had a hearty confrontation, and that others in the class joined in.

That moment left its mark on me. It made me realize that particular words should not have fences and "keep away" signs around them. Maybe that is the reason that, throughout my ministry, I have refused to abandon words like "God," "worship," or "prayer." Words are metaphoric and malleable, and if we carefully embed clarifiers and definitions around them, they can be used by all.

Just as the word "grace" can be used by all, I wouldn't want to hold a faith that did not have some concept of grace. It is, of course a significant word in Protestant theology. People are saved by the grace of God, and my Lutheran colleague wanted it limited to that. But I think we UUs can feel grace, those sudden moments when the world gives you a gift of beauty, or insight, or love, when, for no particular reason, the path feels natural, when things make sense. Grace is the theme for this month, and you will find The Wizard of Oz on the resource list. I think that Dorothy and her friends found grace in those closing moments of the film when they realized that they already possessed the gifts they were seeking, and life suddenly became easy.

I hope that the theme of grace will permeate this last month that we have together as minister and congregation. I hope that we will remember past times with satisfaction. I hope that we will recognize the strength inside ourselves to move to a wonderful future. And I hope that each day, as it comes, will be filled with grace, and its synonym, joy.

— Rev. Carol

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Interim Minister, Reverend Benjamin Maucere

We are very pleased to announce that we have chosen an interim minister, Reverend Benjamin Maucere (*mah-chair-ah*). He and his wife will move into the parsonage in August and serve through June, 2013. Reverend Benjamin provided the following biographical information:

“I discovered Unitarian Universalism in the mid-70’s and served in various capacities as a lay-leader. Sometime in the mid-nineteen eighties, I realized that I felt most alive and best utilized in my church work, and decided to pursue ministry. In 1988, I enrolled in Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley California.

I completed the M. Div. program and was called to the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia in 1992. My wife, the Reverend Dr. Holly Horn joined me as co-minister in 1998. We left in 2005 and since then I’ve served as interim minister to congregations in a suburb of Houston and in Iowa City. I received the Accredited Interim Minister designation in 2010.

I enjoy collaborative problem solving. I value the liminal aspect of the interim period, both looking back at what the congregation has and has not done, and helping them look forward to future possibilities. I look forward to working with CUC to help you lay the groundwork for a successful settled and shared ministry.”



Interim ministers are specially trained to help congregations through transition periods between longer term settled ministers. Much more than just place holders or seat warmers, the interim ministers help congregations reflect on where they are coming from, focus on their particular mission and strengths, and re-energize as they look to the future in calling their next settled minister. The UUA increasingly recommends that congregations have two-year interim periods, both because the search for a settled minister is a nine-month process but also because of the valuable experience of going through the interim period with an experienced leader.

Reverend Benjamin brings the energy, experience, and wisdom to help guide us through this next exciting phase in CUC’s history. You can learn more about him and his ministry, including full sermons and prayers, at his interim website, revbenj.wordpress.com.

- Board of Trustees

Official Notice

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 5, 2011 for the purpose of

- receiving Annual Reports;
- voting on the Board of Trustees slate presented by the Nominating Committee;
- the election of members to the Nominating Committee;
- voting on CUC’s operating budget for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012;
- voting on CUC’s capital expenditures for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SLATE

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following members of *Community Unitarian Church at White Plains* as nominees for the Board of Trustees, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 5, 2011.

For a 1 year term as Treasurer:

Drew Swiss

I have worked for Montefiore Medical Center for the past 22 years as VP Finance. I have been responsible for all aspects of the hospital and clinical revenue cycle, and managing care negotiations and the investment portfolio and other financial operations. I have also been a trustee for the 1199 National Pension Fund since 1993 and serve as a member of the Audit and Investment Committees of the Fund. I have been a member of CUC since September 1996 and Treasurer since 2007. I have served on the strategic planning committee, which made recommendations for implementing the Comprehensive Plan, led a financial review of CUC and currently attend monthly Finance Committee meetings. I have four children in the RE program, and I am an avid runner.

For a 1 year term as Secretary:

Jane Dixon

I have been a member of CUC since 2000 and secretary of the Board of Trustees for the past two years. I served on, and chaired, the Adult Religious Education Committee and the Welcome Committee. I helped start the Spanish Conversation Circle three years ago and have also been a member of the Ministerial Intern Committee during the internships of Catherine Torpey, Nathan Walker and Jef Gamblee. Additionally I have helped out on the Auction Committee and act as the Board liaison to the Program Council. My latest project has been to develop the monthly Friday night inter-generational social events. As a former special educator and administrator, I hope my ability to listen and find common ground will continue to be a benefit to the Board.

For a 3 year term as Trustee:

Russell Gold

Since 2004 I have been a proud member of the CUC community. During this period I have enjoyed serving with my fellow congregants on the Auction Committee and Grounds Committee. I have served as mentor with the Coming of Age Program and have just become acquainted with the Program Council by way of my coordinating CUC's involvement with the Saturday Night Open Arms Sheltering Program for the past 3 years.

I have been active with the Westchester County Volunteer Water Monitoring Program for the past three years, and currently I am in the 1st year of a two year term on the City of Rye Mayors Advisory Committee for Rye Town Park. Professionally I have enjoyed a long career in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Robert Smith

I formally joined CUC in 2004, but our family has been attending service since the fall of 2000. During this period, I have taught sixth and seventh grade for several years in the RE program and most recently have become a member of the Grounds Committee. My eldest child, Zachary, recently completed his coming of age during the spring of 2010. My wife Alisa and I live in White Plains with our two children; one of whom, Ashley, is still participating in the RE program.

Privately I have volunteered for the past ten years as part of the White Plains Little League organization and for the last seven of those years as a member of their Board of Directors. I have coached both my son and now daughter through a decade of spring, summer and fall baseball and softball. Professionally I have enjoyed a twenty four year career as an Information Technology Executive, Chief Information Officer and Director. Most recently I joined an organization in the education sector overseeing all information technology in North America.

Virginia Strand

I have been a member of the CUC church community since 1994. My daughter was three at the time we joined, she was happily raised in the church, and members of the congregation have been an enduring source of support, motivation, friendship and fun for our family for 17 years. I served as a classroom teacher for seven years, as a member of the Comprehensive Planning team, chair of the Strategic Planning group, and am currently a member of the Welcome Committee.

Professionally I work as a Professor of Social Work at Fordham University. I am very honored to be nominated for the board and hope to bring my dedication to the church community and respect for this institution to my service as a board member.

The Nominating Committee thanks everyone who expressed interest in this vital function of our church.

Mary Cavallero, Clare Kuczinski, Ray Schmitt, and John Saccardi

MINISTERIAL INTERN

What is grace?

Other than a characteristic of some athletes and dancers or a brief blessing said before dinner? In "A History of Christian Theology," William Placher defines grace as: "God's unmerited love, poured out on the undeserving." One "can only be saved by unmerited grace." Historically, the Universalists spoke of God's love saving everyone, without exceptions.

For me, salvation is not a concept central to my theology. But love is.

So I have found myself wondering if, for me, grace is the experience of unmerited love, or perhaps more the experience of love without having had to earn it. I think along with love I'd also throw in forgiveness, joy, and friendship – those times when these come without expectations, sometimes without even knowing where they come from.

I officiated at my first wedding on Saturday – a wonderful occasion, with the bride and groom glowing with happiness. From meeting with them, I know they've put a lot of work into this relationship and pledged within the ceremony to continue to work together on it. But there is also an element in the midst of that day, from both of them, of love given "freely and without reservation." Love simply given, not in response to something received, or earned, or due to a

particular qualification, but simply given.

The gift of grace may be found in an unexpected moment of joy – driving by a cascade of purple wisteria, pink dogwoods, and white dogwoods on Weaver St. in New Rochelle, welcoming the brilliant orange oriole that found something tasty in the bush outside my window this week. I wonder how one could practice being open to receiving grace – to receiving love, or joy, or forgiveness that wasn't due to accomplishment or merit. If we were more open to it, would we also be more ready to give grace, including to ourselves?

I touched on grace, although I didn't name it that, in my thank you to the congregation on Sunday. The matches between congregation and intern come from a lot of hard work on the part of the intern committee, the minister, and the intern. The relationship between congregation and intern builds over time, with welcoming, patience, experimentation, effort, and learning on all sides. I am very thankful for the relationship that we have developed together. And the elements of grace would be those moments where it worked out even better than we might have hoped or sought. I know I have felt many. I hope that you have experienced some as well.

Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

AMONG OURSELVES...

Rev. Deb Morra

Deb Morra is pleased to announce that her new band, Wreckless Abandon, is playing two debut shows, Friday June 10 at 9pm at Bar East/The Underscore on the upper east side, and Friday, June 24 (time to be announced) at The Bitter End in Greenwich Village.

For more info contact Deb at getreal714@verizon.net, or check out the band's Facebook page (Wreckless Abandon - NY).

"Reach out and touch someone..."

...by joining our Caring and Sharing Circle.

Any "Caring & Sharing" work is collaborative and very rewarding. We provide a temporary vital service to congregants who have fallen ill or are otherwise incapacitated. We take them to medical appointments (local only) if they are unable to drive. We cook and deliver meals if helpful. Should individual needs become a permanent situation, he or she is encouraged to apply for "Meals on Wheels" and for transportation to Westchester Para-Transit. Flowers or Fruit will be taken to those who have been hospitalized with a serious illness.

We keep in touch with shut-ins either by phone or writing a short note. We assist at Memorial Services by greeting and serving refreshments. Mostly, we just lend a sympathetic ear and perhaps a shoulder to cry on. Any expenses we might have can be reimbursed out of our limited budget. For more Information, please contact the caregiver of the month.



Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout June, contact Ingrid Hartmann at 914-946-2026.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wow, I can hardly believe we are at the June Communitarian. This year has been an unprecedented one in that many of my newsletter articles have had more to do with me. Have you ever had a time in your life when the words “thank you” just didn’t quite seem adequate to describe your appreciation?

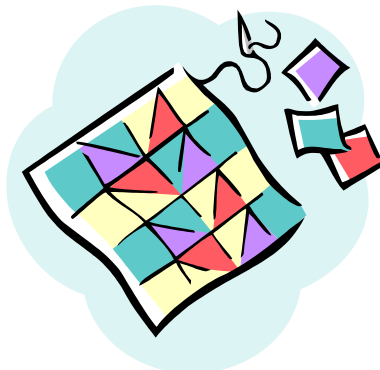
With that in mind, I wanted to take a moment to publically thank those that helped with the wedding toast on May 1st. Karen Dreher (and Ted), John Cutsumpas, John Economou, Johanna Bauer and the RE Council hosted a beautiful coffee hour. We are grateful to Rev. Carol for the very touching toast.

Jay and I thank all who contributed fabric and financial support to the making of our quilt. The pieces that you contributed made us both laugh and cry. We are very moved by your thoughtfulness. Now that the wedding is over, we will begin the process of finding a quilt designer and having it made. We will share photos upon completion.

There have already been pictures, and some videos, posted on Facebook from our wedding on Saturday May 14th. When we get the official photos and video we will post them so you can see them. The wedding was a glorious day, with just a touch of rain for good luck. We were blessed to be in the company of our family and friends whose love surrounded. We could not have asked for more.

As we move into the summer and the many coming transitions I look forward to strengthening and deepening my relationship with CUC. Thank you all for your love and support over this past year.

- Lara Campbell, DRE



Flower Festival
Remember to bring one flower per
person for the Flower Festival.

Sunday, June 5th

(You will leave your flower(s) by
the sanctuary before service and
then as part of the festival will get a
different flower to take home.)

RE Council—

Looking back on May’s flurry of RE activity, feels we all deserve a rest to prepare for summer and the final month of the official CUC calendar. I’ll have my own rest in a few short weeks, as I end my three-year term on the REC and pass the baton of Chair to Robin Rocchi for 2011-2012.

May was filled with many joyous celebrations for our community, including awards to two special graduating high school seniors and two special Adult Coming of Age events. And of course, younger and more “seasoned” CUC members, one and all honored the marriage of Lara and Jay—which will surely be documented as the most feted unions in recent CUC history!

June brings more rites of passage, which Lara, RE Council members and I urge you to join. During the June 5th Affirmation Ceremony, 2nd and 3rd graders will show off their new-found knowledge of UU Principles. On June 12th, please help send off our high school seniors with love and support during the Bridging Ceremony that day. June, of course, is when we bid a special farewell to Rev Carol, as she moves on to other worthy ventures.

On behalf of the RE Council, I’d like to express warm thanks to Rev Carol for her unwavering support for and involvement in CUC’s RE program. It’s been an honor to observe and experience her commitment to lifelong pursuit of learning and spiritual growth on one’s own terms. Happy Trails, Rev Carol!

- Kate Colson, RE Council Chair

Saturday June 11, 2011 at 6 P.M.
An Evening Dinner
To Honor Rev. Carol Huston and Hollis Huston



The Community Unitarian Church of White Plains
468 Rosedale Ave.
White Plains, N.Y. 10605

Ticket Price: \$35.00

RSVP and payment by May 27th.

Ticket purchase may be left at the church office or given to Maxine
Feldman on Sundays.

(Checks Payable to Community Unitarian Church.)

If you are interested in helping with the plans for the event please contact:

Maxine Feldman at feldmanmaxi9@gmail.com

914-835-0541

[Donations](#)

Monetary contributions are being accepted as part of gifts to the Hustons. Please mark your submission with "Huston Gift." Donations can be left with Liliana Keith at the church office or given to Maxine Feldman.

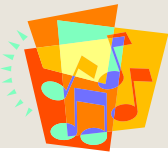
EVENTS AT CUC...

¡Iberia!
CUC Pianist Adam Kent
plays Isaac Albéniz's ¡Iberia!

Saturday, June 4th at 7 pm

A crowning masterwork of Spanish keyboard literature, these twelve "impressions" of the Spanish peninsula combine quintessentially Hispanic rhythms and melodic formulae with the sensuous sound world of contemporary French music and extravagantly virtuosic late-Romantic keyboard writing.

Excerpts from Albéniz's popular Suite Española and Cantos de España round out the program.



Save the Date
Saturday
November 19th, 2011



**Goods & Ser-
vices Auction**

Annual End-of-Year BBQ
Sunday, June 12th

11:30 am

Steaks, hot dogs, chicken and
other good food will be served along
with lots of fun!

A sign-up sheet will be posted
in the church lobby.

\$6 adults / \$4 children



**NATIONAL MARROW
DONOR PROGRAM**

Sunday, June 12th
After Services

On Sunday June 12th, we will be holding a "Be the Match" bone marrow registry drive after our Sunday service.

Inspired by the challenge that one of our members is currently facing in his search to find a marrow donor (to aid in his fight against leukemia), we hope to sign up at least 7-10 potential donors, using a simple cheek swab test.

We are also seeking several volunteers to help with this drive (being run by the New York Blood Center - Be the Match Registry). We are seeking financial donations towards this effort (e.g., a \$25 donation per registered potential donor is suggested by the organizer to offset the \$100 expense to process each test).

Please contact Matt Shelley at matthewbshelley@gmail.com or (917) 868-2112 to volunteer or for further information on the age and physical requirements to become a potential bone marrow donor.

JUNE
Resource List

GRACE

Scripture

Genesis 32:24-32
Psalm 23

Books

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy
Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather

Films

Wings of Desire (1987) An angel in Munich breaks through the barriers of angelic convention, so that love can triumph.
E.T. The Extra Terrestrial (1982) A child finds a way to go home.
The Wizard of Oz (1939) When Dorothy and her friends stop looking for what they want, they find they already have it.

**DENOMINATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

General Assembly

Viewing at CUC

Denice Tomlinson will be our off-site delegate. Come help her vote. Everyone is invited. Attend one, many or all sessions. We will watch the sessions at CUC.

Questions? Call Denice at 914 310-0244.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Opening Celebration and Plenary I
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Plenary II
8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Service of the Living Tradition
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. (video streaming only)

Friday, June 24, 2011

Plenary III
8:30 - 10:15 a.m.
New Epiphany Revival and Synergy Worship
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (video streaming only)

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Plenary IV
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Plenary V
2:45 - 6:00 p.m.
Ware Lecture
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. (video streaming only)

Sunday, June 26, 2011

Sunday Worship
9:00 - 10:15 a.m. (video streaming only)
Plenary VI
10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Plenary VII
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. (video streaming only)

Thank you
CUC donated \$4,320 to the Food Pantry during April's food drive. All donations will qualify for a portion of the Feinstein Fund. Thanks to all who donated, but especially to a few extremely generous donors.



~ June 2011 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30p-9p (off site) Program Council	2	3	4 9a-10a (Study) Reading Emerson  7p-9p Adam Kent Concert
5 8:45a-9:45a Choir 9:20a-9:50a Children's Choir 9:30a-11a 8th/9th Parents/youth session 10a-11:30a RE 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour, Flower Festival & Affirmation 11:15a-11:45a ANNUAL MEETING 11:30a-12:15p Dance Rehearsal w/Susan D. 11:30a-12p Children's Choir rehearsal 11:45a-1:15p In The Spirit of Truth 11:45a-2:30p Choir Annual Picnic	6 7p-8p (FH or 24) Tai Chi 7:30p-9p (43) Play Reading Group	7 7:30p-9:15p Choir	8 7:30p-9:30p (41) Board of Trustees	9 11:30a-1p (FA) Science and Spirituality	10	11 9a-10a (Study) Reading Emerson 10a-12p (41) One Year to Live 6p-9p Dinner Event Honoring Rev. Carol Huston 
12 8:45a-9:45a Choir 9:20a-9:50a Children's Choir rehearsal 10a-11:30a RE 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-1:30p ANNUAL BBQ 12:15p-12:45p Children's Choir	13 7p-8p (FH or 24) Tai Chi 	14 Flag Day	15 7:30p-9p (41) W'shp Assoc.	16	17	18 9a-10a (Study) Reading Emerson
19 Father's Day Communitarian Deadline 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12p New to CUC 11:45a-1:15p Fun Facts About Music	20 7p-8p (FH or 24) Tai Chi 8p-9:30p (43) Finance Committee	21	22 UUA General Assembly	23 UUA General Assembly 10a-11a (FA) Folding Party 11:30a-1p (FA) Science & Spirituality	24 UUA General Assembly	25 UUA General Assembly
26 UUA General Assembly JUNETEENTH 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30		

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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.

JUNE SERVICES 2011

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

JUNE 5

Flower Festival

&

2nd /3rd grade Affirmation

Children will join us for the end of the service

The choir will sing

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JUNE 12

Service of Living Tradition

&

High School Bridging Ceremony

Children will join us for the end of the service

The choir will sing

JUNE 19

FIRST SUMMER SERVICE

"Well, I suppose Father knows best..."

Bevin Maguire

JUNE 26TH

Reflection on Juneteenth

Petra Thombs

&

In the Spirit of Truth

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.