

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

JANUARY 2012



Community Unitarian Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
Founded 1909

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere
Interim Minister

Lara K-J Campbell
Director of Religious Education

Annie Gonzalez
Religious Education Coordinator

Liliana Keith
Church Administrator

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

Susan King
Bookkeeper

For more information
about CUC:
www.cucwp.org
Email: info@cucwp.org
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline for
February Edition:
Sunday, January 22

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

In the Interim ...

Resolutions

Make ‘em and break ‘em. Isn’t that how it usually goes? Vowing to make radical changes in our lives is usually just setting ourselves up for failure. And it’s nothing new. Four-thousand years ago, the Babylonians were making New Year’s resolutions. They believed that what one does on the first day of the year has an effect on the year to come. This suggests a fairly gentle approach to change. Rather than torture ourselves with *all* our shortcomings, we are invited to tend to the quality of the day itself!

I’ve also read that it is much easier to develop a beneficial habit than to change a negative one.

This year, my approach is to celebrate and continue good habits I’m already cultivating. Reading more scripture, for example, like the *Norton Poetry Anthology*. I read, a little at a time, first thing in the morning. It began with Caedmon’s “Hymn” and Beowulf, and in only a few years I’ve made it to Adrienne Rich:

I came to explore the wreck.

The words are purposes

The words are maps.

*I came to see the damage that was done
and the treasures that prevail.*

Exercise is another good habit I’ll continue. It’s hard to work it into my day, but I feel so much better when I do!

I plan to persist in the habit of saying “thank you” — upon awaking, when I see or hear something that feeds my soul — light on the water, the laughter of a child, the wind in the trees, a dog looking up at its human companion with love and devotion. I vow to see more clearly; listen more intently, and love more fully.

I wish you and everyone at CUC a stellar 2012!

Yours in faith, Benjamin

P.S. If you are interested in becoming a Legal Member of CUC please contact Rev. Benjamin (minister@cucwp.org).

JANUARY SERVICES 2012, 10:15 AM

January 1: *Faith in a New Year*

Jeff Tomlinson, Jennifer Lewis and Petra Tombs.

January 8: *The Gospel According to Elvis*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Observing the 76th anniversary of his birth, we'll consider Elvis and his legacy.

January 15: *40 Acres and a Mule*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. On this Martin Luther King Sunday, we'll look at the case for reparations.

January 22: *Diversity in Community*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Is theological diversity a value here at CUC? We'll explore the topic and hold a meeting after the service for further discussion.

January 29: *New England Roots*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. The story of early Unitarianism's emergence and development in America.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"Turning a Page"

Very shortly we will be turning the page as we begin 2012. As we begin the new year, each of us will be asked to participate in two very important conversations.

February will begin the first conversation. We will be asked to share our thoughts during the month of February with representatives from the nominating committee and the Board of Trustees, and identify those individuals who have the qualities needed to serve on a ministerial search committee. Who in the congregation works well with others? Who can represent the **whole** congregation well? Who knows the history and culture of the church? Who is, or has been, active in the church? The final and most important question being, ***"Who do you trust to represent you on the search for a new minister?"*** (Note: you must be a legal member to vote for the minister.)

March will begin the second conversation. We will join in a church-wide conversation in March about giving as a spiritual practice when we kick off our annual "Giving Campaign" in March (Formerly known as "The Canvass"). The goal for this year is to make meaningful strides in recovering our former level of giving. A successful campaign would mean that 100% of our members and friends would recognize the importance that the congregation has in his/her life, and make a contribution as he/she is able.

I hope that through your participation in these conversations, the fabric of our congregational community will be more tightly woven and that we will go through the coming year together, stronger than ever.

~ In Community, Janet Press, Board Chair

Caring & Sharing.....

Contact Bobbi Collins at 914-761-5280 if you, or someone you know, is in need of help from the Caring & Sharing group. This includes home visits, help getting to doctors' appointments, help with food shopping if one is home-bound, etc.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The multigenerational service on Sunday December 18th is one of the highlights of my time at CUC. It was wonderful to see the mixture of children, youth, young adults, and adults worshipping together. I am humbled by your love and support. While during my homily I got to thank you for the gifts you have collectively given me, and to share with you the gifts I wish for you, I did not get a chance to thank the people that have made my time at CUC so memorable.

First and foremost, I want to thank the RE council members, past and present. Without the vision of this dedicated group of individuals the RE program would not be the success it is today. To the members Committee for the DRE, past and present, thank you for your wisdom and guidance. To the RE teachers, who make RE happen every week, your commitment is overwhelming. Thank you to those who have been mentors in the coming of age program; your support to the youth has been invaluable. To the many other volunteers that provide service large and small, your dedication is treasured.

To the Board of Trustees, past and present, thank you for your belief in the value of religious education. It shows the strength of CUC's continued commitment to children and youth. To the committees that sustain so many of the ministries of this congregation, thank you for your interest in working with RE. It is vital to a successful program to have the full support of the members and friends.

To Adam, Lisa, Georgianna, the choir and other musicians, thank you for all the beautiful music that we are privileged to hear. It has moved my spirit. To the RE staff Diane, Justine and Annie: Thank you for your hard work and dedication. I see how much your love for the kids pays off every time I interact with them. I have enjoyed being your supervisor. To Liliana, Susan, Deb, and Benjamin, and in the past, Carol : Thank you for all that you have done to support both me and the RE program over the years.

To the parents, I so appreciate your devotion not only to your own children but to other children. I am honored to have you in my life.

To the entire congregation: thank you so much for the beautiful chalice and the contribution towards a new computer. Every time I use them both I will remember the fabulous people who gave them to me.

And last, but certainly not least – to the children and youth at CUC: I have learned so much from you all, more than you will ever know, and you will forever be in my heart. It is because of you that I am becoming a minister.

I hope that I have been able to make even a fraction of the impact in your lives that you have made in mine. Thank you all!

~ Lara Campbell, DRE

Religious Education Council

When everyone returns from the holidays in early January, there will be plenty going on in RE! Lara will be leading her last Children's Worship service on January 8. It also will be Lara's last Sunday at CUC, so make sure to wish her well after the service if you did not have the opportunity to do so at the congregational farewell on December 18.

Annie Gonzalez, our youth advisor, will be adding the role of part-time RE Coordinator for the remainder of the church year upon Lara's departure. The RE Council will be taking the lead with the Children's Worship services. If anyone in the congregation has an interest in leading one of these services, please contact me or Pam Cucinell Pardillo for further information. Cyndi and Dan Tillman will be coordinating the Coming of Age program in conjunction with the CoA teaching team, Annie, and Rev. Benjamin. Thank you to everyone stepping up to fill these critical roles.

The next CUC community brunch will be Chili Sunday on January 22 run by the 6th/7th grade class. There are OWL orientation sessions for 1st grade parents on Jan. 22 at 8:30 am and 6th grade parents on Jan. 29 at 6 pm. There are CoA pulpit skills classes on Jan. 22 and Jan. 29 after the service (students will attend one of the two sessions).

Finally, thank you to everyone at CUC for supporting the children's RE Social Action cause - the Wolf Conservation Center. Your calendar purchases and generous contributions helped us exceed our fundraising goal! Look for further information in this space next month about a wolf ambassador visit in February!

- Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair

Snow Closing Guidelines

Sunday service is never cancelled ... but meetings, events, and Religious Education can be cancelled due to bad weather.

You can find out if activities have been cancelled by:

- * Going to the homepage of our website at cucwp.org, where closings will be posted.
- * Checking the church's main line greeting at 946-1660.

Information will be available at these times:

- * By 7 am for Sunday morning activities, including Religious Education.
- * By 1 pm for Sunday afternoon and evening events.
- * By 3 hours before the event for Saturday activities.
- * By 3 pm for weekday evening meetings and special events.

It will be chilly!

So come have some chili!

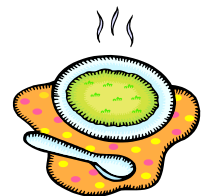
Sunday, January 22nd

Join us in Fellowship Hall for fun, fellowship and a variety of tastes—brought to you by the chili connoisseurs of the 6th & 7th grade class.

This is a fundraiser for one of the class's projects.

Adults \$5/bowl

Children \$3/bowl
Family \$20 max.



MONEY MATTERS

Sustainability

Sustainability is the current buzzword. It refers to day to day practices which do not exhaust resources. Sustainability can encompass financial matters. At CUC, the sustainability question is: Are we taking in as much as we spend and, if so, can we expect that to continue? So for the first column of the new year, here's a look as to whether or not we can sustain our current spending and "earning" practices.

What income do we have?

We have the following primary income sources: pledge/plate/donations (us), use of space (Montessori and other rentals), events (auction/concerts) and endowment transfers. Below is how these stack up against our spending:

Percentage of Spend from Different Sources

Fiscal Years	Annual Spend (\$)	Donations	Use of Space	Events	Endowment
2007-2009	\$477-498,000	76-79%	9-10%	6-8%	0-8%
2010	\$470,113	74%	7%	7%	1%
2011	\$513,646	66%	8%	8%	6%
2012	\$510,421	61%	7%	7%	23%

Note: shortfalls in a given year are frequently covered by endowment transfers at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

What are our current spending v. income practices?

The above chart shows three disturbing facts:

- First, annual donations and event participation by CUC members has **never** covered all CUC operating expenses.
- Second, the proportion we pay as a congregation has dropped far and fast.
- Third, projecting out, for 2013, if CUC expenses stay flat and donations and event income stay flat, CUC member support will cover only sixty percent of our expenses.

Is this sustainable?

For 2013, if we had to cover 25% of expenses from the endowment again, we could. But we can't continually cover our operating shortfalls from the endowment. In fact, continued endowment withdrawals (absent new gifts) reduce investment principal, which reduces investment income, so that there is even less to draw from the following year.

What can you do?

Please think about how to make CUC financially sustainable. Talk to any Board member about your ideas.

Thank you, Catherine Kortlandt

Annual Coat Drive

Please bring gently used coats and sweaters to CUC this January. We will distribute them at Midnight Runs or other White Plains locations.



Midnight Runs

January 13 & February 3rd

Please provide coats, pants, shoes, boots, sweaters, etc. Help with food preparation and the run itself. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby or contact David Schular @ davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com.

MINISTER SEARCH

One of the Church's main projects this winter is to create the search committee that will be charged with finding our new settled minister. Finding a minister that fits our needs is, obviously, significant and important work. To undertake this task, we require a search committee that is diligent, intelligent, fair, and unbiased. And we need YOUR help to identify these members of our community who can best represent us in this ministerial search. In the coming weeks, every member and friend of the church will be asked to spend about 15 minutes of his or her time to give input into the search committee selection process. This is a major opportunity for you to influence the course of the search.

Some of the questions you will be asked to consider include: Who among us is a good representative of the congregation as a whole? Who accurately understands the strengths and weaknesses of our community? What are the qualities you feel are necessary to work well on a ministerial search committee? Who has demonstrated active and responsible leadership in the congregation?

Please give some thought to this topic. We're grateful to have your input.

We will contact each of you within the next few months to get your suggestions.

Best,

**Erin Foster
Board of Trustees**

*The
Charles
Selinski
History
Box...*



CUC & Consumer Reports

Consumer Reports magazine is the bible of shoppers for everything from automobiles to chocolate chip cookies. But who would ever guess that the concepts of setting performance standards and comparison testing of household products were germinated in our church?

The date was March 23, 1926, when we held services in our building at the corner of Maple and Longview Avenues in White Plains. The occasion was a meeting of the Men's Discussion Club and the topic was "More and better goods through standards; some of the remarkable gains to be made in the purchases of every day life through standards of performance and efficiency." The speakers were Frederick Schlink, a member of this church and industrial quality control expert, and Stuart Chase, an engineer and consumer protection advocate.

The discussion that night was so effective that on the next day the Club's chair appointed Schlink the head of a new committee to develop a "procedure by which reliable information regarding the relative value of commodities may be made available." As a result Schlink started a "Consumers Club" that provided product information, published a ratings guide, and in 1929 was incorporated as Consumers' Research. This organization in turn developed into Consumers Union in 1936, the publisher of the Consumer Reports magazine that we have today.

PLAYREADING GROUP

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



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

Announcement:

Like the Chinese, celebrate the Lunar New Year with your extended CUC family.

2nd Annual Chinese New Year Banquet
Intergenerational-Family/Singles Friendly
Friday, January 20th 6:30-8:30

Dinner- Activities for Kids-Music
Fellowship Hall

\$25 per family, \$10 for individuals

The **Spanish Conversation Circle** invites anyone interested to join the group for its 2012 session:

Monday nights 7:30-8:45 January 9-April 30th

Fee: \$110 for 15 sessions (to cover the cost of the instructor)
Please contact Jane Dixon (JRDIXON@OPTONLINE.NET/949-5919) for more information.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Environmental Justice Council—A new metro event for all Saturday, January 21st

The Metro NY District is starting our first Environmental Justice Council. The primary purpose of this Council is to educate UU leaders in global, regional, and local environmental justice issues. By gathering and training members of each congregation, we hope to concentrate our efforts at community organizing and begin to impact the critical issues of our day. The Environmental Justice Council will have its first meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at the First Unitarian Society of Westchester in Hastings on Hudson NY at 10:30 am. We are asking every congregation to send at least one representative to this meeting. The Council will meet three times in 2012; one of those sessions will center on the nationally acclaimed GreenFaith Environmental Justice Tour in the Ironbound section of Newark.

If you have questions, please contact either Dr. Frances Sink at frances.sink@gmail.com or the Rev. Peggy Clarke at pclarke@uuma.org. RSVP before January 10. Or contact CUC member John Schwam jgschwam@gmail.com.

Feel free to contact me anytime at about UUA matters: Denise Tomlinson ptmom@prodigy.net.

- Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs

Community Action: Coachman Family Center

Volunteer Opportunities:

*Dec. 29th 2pm – **chaperones** for kids' trip to Greenburgh Nature Center.*

*Jan 10th 6:30pm – **accompanist /snack provider** for adult education session on Saving and Budgeting, and members of **kids' craft team**.*

To be included in future updates or to volunteer please contact:

Johanna Bauer 636-1047 johbauer@msn.com

Karen Schmitt 921-3647 schmitt8@verizon.net

THANK YOU!

THANKS FOR BRINGING HOLIDAY CHEER TO THE FAMILIES AT THE COACHMAN FAMILY CENTER!

Every year, CUCers open their hearts and their wallets to buy gifts to help make the holidays a little brighter for homeless children temporarily housed at the Coachman Family Center in White Plains. This year, the list of young residents swelled to over 300 - our biggest challenge to date! When we saw that our list was longer than our line of generous souls at the table in the lobby, we sent out an email appeal for more gift-givers.

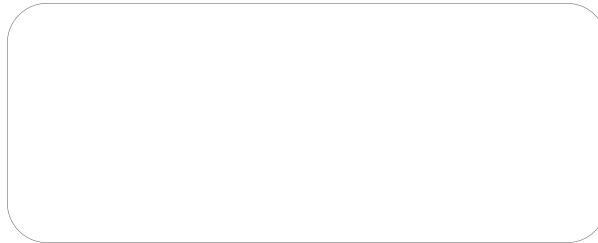
And, to no one's surprise, the response was wonderful! Families came forward to "adopt" additional children to buy gifts for, members solicited donations from their friends, families, and co-workers, and people dug deeper into their own limited holiday resources to help those less fortunate. We were able to meet our goal of one gift per child, with a little cash to spare! After discussion with the center's director, it was decided to use the remaining funds toward a joint gift for the families there - a new karaoke machine to replace the well-used one that just recently went 'kaput'. Hopefully it will be installed in time to have Christmas Carol sing-a-longs!

May your spirit of generosity make this holiday season, and 2012, even more wonderful!

~ Ray Messing and Lori Saccardi

~ January 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour , child care available.	2	3 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	4 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	5 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group	6	7
8 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-10a CoA Teachers mtg (11) 10a-11:30a Rel Ed 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:30p 1st Teachers mtg (21) 11:45a-1p In the Spirit of Truth	9 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH)	10 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	11 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	12 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	13 Midnight Run 8p-2a (FH\,KTCH)	14
15 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10a-11:30a Rel Ed 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:15a-11:45a Membership meeting (Study) 11:45a-12:45p Fun Facts	16 Martin Luther King Jr Day 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	17 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	18	19	20 6p-9:30p Chinese New Year Diner	21
22 Communitarian Deadline 8:30a-9:30a 1st OWL Orientation (41) 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10:15a-10:40a Family Service (SANC), followed by children to class 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:30p 8-9th CoA Pulpit Skills 11:30a-1:30p Chili Sunday Brunch	23 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-9p Play Reading Group (11)	24 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	25 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	26 10:30a-11:30a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	27	28
29 8:30a-9:30a 2-3rd Teachers mtg (23) 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p 8-9th CoA Pulpit Skills 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee (43)	30 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	31 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)				

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.

LOOKING FOR LEADERSHIP FROM CUC FOR THIS YEAR'S COMMON READ

If you would be able to take the lead on this activity, please contact Jane Dixon at jrdixon@optonline.net /949-5919



UUA's 2011-12 Common Read is 'Acts of Faith'

Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation, a memoir by Eboo Patel, is the 2011–2012 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. The Common Read project invites Unitarian Universalist youth and adults in all congregations to share a common reading experience, and to engage in reflection and action about that book.

In *Acts of Faith*, Patel shares his faith journey as an American Muslim who comes to believe in religious pluralism. Patel founded the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), a nonprofit focused on building an interfaith youth movement. Patel invites those who believe in religious pluralism to support young people, helping them ground themselves in a faith that can equip them to work across faiths to make the world a better place.