

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim ...

I hope you had a good summer. Holly and I arrived at our home in Southeastern Ohio just in time for the *derecho*—the land hurricane that created power outages from Indiana to Virginia. Ours was out for only three days—others had it much worse. Heat in the triple digits continued for over a week. Things finally returned to normal and we had a great time.

I return rested, rejuvenated, and excited to be beginning a new church with you, a year that holds great promise for the future of the Community Unitarian Church!

What are our tasks for this coming year? This second transitional year?

This is a year of discernment. A year when you face the questions. Who are we, where do we want to go? And who might walk that path with us?

What is the purpose of a congregation? What are we doing here together? One theologian puts it this way: “The religious community exists by *mission* as *fire* exists by *burning*.” Stephen Carver, in his book, *Boards that Make a Difference*, speaks simply of mission. “How would the world be different,” he asks, “if your mission were being fulfilled?” How will you, CUC, and the world be different as you are more successful in working together as a religious community?

I hope that we will come together even more profoundly to deepen and clarify our faith. Why are we Unitarian Universalists? What does our faith mean to us individually? And what does it mean to this diverse congregation? This is a multi-faith congregation, as are most UU congregations, made up of atheists, non-theists and theists, Christians and pagans, the certain, the confused and the questing.

We don’t agree on everything – we’re not creedal. But we are covenantal. What do we want to do together? I’ll be leading some workshops on this topic, and will work with the Ministerial Search Committee as they endeavor to create a profile to share with ministers in search. And I look forward to working with you in this important year in the life of CUC.

Yours in faith, Benjamin

Community Unitarian
Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-046-1660
www.cucwp.org



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SEPTEMBER SERVICES 2012, 10:15 A M

September 9. **Welcome Home!** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. An intergenerational celebration of our return to this beloved community.

Remember to bring water from your travels for the Water Communion!



Sept. 16. **Days of Awe.** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. The Jewish High Holy Days offer an opportunity to consider the past and make “course corrections.”

Sept. 23. **Jazz Theology.** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. How can Jazz inform the practice of Unitarian Universalism?

Sept. 30. **An Altar for the Unknown God.** The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. A consideration of the hows and whys of prayer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

What did you do this summer?

I sit here pondering the “dog days of August,” wondering about its derivation. Alas, I cannot google it since our puppy, Talulah, chewed through the Fios cable yesterday for the second time this summer. Before I go digging for my dog-eared copy of Bartlett’s quotations, let me fill you in on some of the comings and goings at CUC this summer:

- Lily Rappaport joined us at the beginning of August to serve as our Acting DRE for the next 2 years. She brings enthusiasm, experience and new ideas to the challenge of following Lara as DRE. As with Rev. Benjamin, she will help the congregation through the interim process, reflecting on our RE program’s history and strengths while considering changes for the future.
- The kitchen renovation is under way and progressing well under the very able leadership of Ted Kuczinski, Lori Saccardi, John Cutsumpas, and Janet Press. The project, however, was delayed by permitting and design issues in June and will not be finished by September. The lack of a kitchen may make hosting coffee hour a little more challenging in the fall but it will make us appreciate our new kitchen all the more when it is complete.

- The Search Committee (SC) has been busy all summer, compiling the results of the congregational survey and cottage meetings and preparing the informational packets that will go to prospective ministers in the fall. The Board has met with the SC twice this summer to discuss the findings, which will be presented to the congregation in September.

- Finally, we’ve rented out the church three times this summer for film crews making TV shows in the area. The crews rent the parking lot and indoor space for the day, filling the lot with cars and catering trucks to feed the hungry actors and extras. The latest rental was for a new show starring Kevin Bacon. I am not sure whether he came by CUC at all, but I’m sure it puts us several steps closer in the Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon parlor game.

It has been a busy summer at CUC, of course, including some thoughtful lay led summer services on Sunday mornings. The start of the new church year is right around the corner, and I’m looking forward to us all gathering again in community to worship and share our fellowship. The In Gathering service is on September 9th, see you there.

~ In Community

David Schuler, Board Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Getting to Know You

At seven years old, I was cast in the role of Princess Ying Yaowalak in a summerstock production of *The King and I*. The lines that I delivered in the play are even more meaningful to me as I write now:

“Dear Friend and Teacher, My goodness gracious, do not go away! We are in great need of you! We are like one blind. Do not let us fall down in darkness. Continue good and sincere concern for us, and lead us in right road.”

In this time of transitions we need to share the light of learning and lead each other down the right road. We will be friends and teachers to one another as we do this.

The Rogers and Hammerstein musical is based upon a true story drawn from the memoirs of Anna Leonowens, governess to the then King of Siam. It was the King’s plan to modernize his country and connect to western world views. In a time of transitions, the story touches upon social reform and justice issues we address as Unitarian Universalists today: antislavery, women’s rights, overcoming oppression and prejudice. It reflects on how to create change with respect and honor for the complexities of the people involved.

In many ways, the cultural exchange reminds me of the story of my own life. My family history is the integration of two very rich and different cultures – the mix of European and Korean heritages. Through my father I learned about the history and culture of Judaism and how his family escaped the Holocaust. My mother told stories of the struggle to survive during the war and the ability to rebuild after terrible devastation.

One of my favorite songs from the play is “Getting to Know You.” It celebrates the joy of learning about others and developing meaningful relationships. That is precisely my cup of tea!

I look forward to learning about your backgrounds and experiences, as I begin “*getting to know you, getting to know all about you.*”

Lily Rappaport
Acting Director of Religious Education

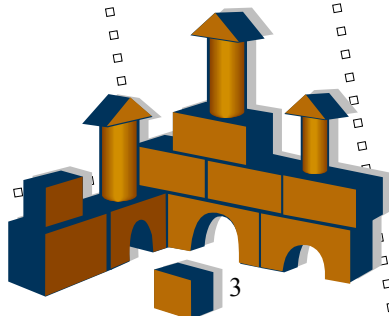


Teachers:

Please remember to return your curriculum binders from last year’s teaching!

Everyone:

Our preschool room at CUC would appreciate gently used dolls, puzzles, books, cars, trucks or blocks appropriate for young children in the nursery.



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



Phase One Almost Complete

The Search Committee has been gathering information from the members and friends of CUC for the past four months. We encouraged, reminded, exhorted and occasionally nagged everyone to complete the Survey and participate in one of the Cottage Meetings, and indeed you did. There were 164 responses to the survey, and more than 50 people joined the cottage meeting discussions. Together, the survey and meetings provided both specific information and reflective thinking about who we are as a congregation, what we believe, what our priorities are, and how we see CUC's strengths and challenges. They also addressed our vision for our next minister, setting out the personal qualities, leadership style and theological orientation that are most important to our congregation.

There is one last opportunity to have your voice heard.

FINAL COTTAGE MEETING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16 - after coffee hour

As the Search Committee will be on hand hosting Coffee Hour on that date, we will be able to accommodate as many people who wish to participate in cottage meetings. Remember, you do not have to be a formal member of CUC to join a cottage meeting discussion. All friends of CUC are welcome to join.

REPORT-OUT ON THE SURVEY AND COTTAGE MEETINGS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30 - after coffee hour

The Search Committee will summarize the information you provided in the survey and cottage meetings, and discuss the major points and themes. This meeting will officially mark the end of Phase One of the Search.

Phase Two begins

As the Search Committee enters Phase Two, we shift our focus from gathering information from the congregation to using this information in the ministerial selection process. The first task of this phase is transforming your input into profiles of our congregation and of our ideal next minister. These profiles will be key parts of the Congregational Record, available through the UUA in October to ministerial candidates. At that time, the Search Committee will be able to access the Ministerial Records submitted to the UUA by ministerial candidates looking for congregations, and begin the actual selection process. The end result will be the presentation of a final candidate to the congregation in April or May of next year.

You will receive a letter from the Search Committee early in September, detailing the timeframe and steps in the search process. Also look for the Ministerial Search Timeline at coffee hours beginning in September. In addition, we will provide updates in the Communitarian each month.

Many of you have offered us words of encouragement and expressed your confidence in the work of the Search Committee. Thank you. As always, please feel free to approach or contact any of us with questions – we'll continue to wear the little searchlights on our nametags.

MONEY MATTERS

How did we do for the year?

First, why are we talking about “how we did for the year” in the middle of the year rather than the end? It’s because CUC runs on a fiscal year which ends June 30th to line up with the church year.

Second, how did we do? Better than expected but not perfect. “Better than expected” because we withdrew far less from the Endowment than initially anticipated. “Not perfect” because our income (excluding endowment withdrawals) was twelve percent (-12%) less than actual expenses.

Here are the numbers:

	Actual @ 6/30/12	Budget for 6/30/12	Actual @ 6/30/11
Expenses	489,386	512,921	513,646
Revenue, w/o Endowment Withdrawal	429,984	395,150	431,627
Endowment Withdrawal	58,638	117,771	30,000
Pledges Collected	304,298	290,000	302,596

So the above chart shows the following:

- Our expenses were unexpectedly and thankfully lower than budgeted by over \$23,500. While we started the fiscal year with significant, unplanned expenses for furnace and building repair, these were offset by avoided expenses for snow removal and utilities related to the warm winter and by reduced staff expenses.
- Pledges came in about five percent higher than expected and slightly surpassed 2011! Plate collections were nearly twenty percent more than budget! So a huge thank you to all of you for your generosity in the face of the financial concerns we faced.
- Contributions for use of space were up over \$16,000, due primarily to a one time movie production rental.
- The savings in expenses and the increased revenue combined to significantly reduce the endowment transfer required. Instead of withdrawing the budgeted \$117,771, we withdrew just \$58,638, a savings of about \$49,000. Given the financial results as of 3/31/12 [For April Article: <http://www.cucwp.org/money-matters>].
- , this improvement is a terrific outcome.
- Still on a long term basis, CUC’s financial goal (like that of any family or business) should be to finance its ordinary expenses solely from revenue, leaving the Endowment to grow and to support exceptional expenses such as physical improvements and major repairs.

On a people note, you may know we welcome a new treasurer, Nicky Klemens. We are lucky to have such a long time and experienced CUC member at the financial helm. And we owe a huge thank you to Drew Swiss for his many years of service as treasurer. If you want to know more, ask Nicky Klemens, nsklemens@optonline.net or Chris Kortlandt, kortlandtbunch@verizon.net.

Submitted by Catherine Kortlandt

COMMITTEES & EVENTS

Caring & Sharing Committee—We're here to help you.

Contact Howard Garson at 684-1908 or Gail McLeod at 235-8212 if you, or someone you know, is in need of help from the Caring & Sharing group. This includes home visits, help getting to doctor's appointments, help with food shopping if one is home bound, etc.



MIDNIGHT RUN

**Friday, September 28
8 PM**

Help feed the homeless in Manhattan. Provide clothing. Help with food preparation. This well organized event is a great way to help others and work with other CUC members and friends, from our youth to our grandparents. For more information contact David Schuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com or 831-5605.

HABLA ESPAÑOL? (DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH?)

Spanish conversation class . Led by Native Spanish Speaker. Small, relaxed, group setting. No pressure, just fun.

**Monday Evenings at CUC
First class September 24th
7:30-8:45 PM**

\$100 FOR 10 CLASSES

For more information contact: Jane Dixon at 949-5919 or jrdixon@optonline.net.



KITCHEN UPDATE:

Due to many additional unforeseen issues uncovered as the project progressed, both the cost and the timeframe of the kitchen renovations have increased. Ted Kuczinski is pressing hard to get the project completed by Opening Sunday, but there is the potential that we may be without a kitchen for some time in September. We promise that the wait will be well worth it! Coffee hour may have a different flavor - iced tea and lemonade instead of coffee and hot tea -but the CUC spirit will be there, robust and warm!

And - a special thank you to all of those who contributed to the Kitchen Construction Fund. The \$102,750 has allowed us meet the increased cost of the project without taking any more monies from Church coffers.

*~ Lori Saccardi
Chair of
Kitchen Renovations*



***Can you name this CUC
activity?***



Answer in next month's newsletter.

***Send more CUC photos to: Diana
Echevarria at dechevarria1@verizon.net.***

***The Search Committee needs them!!!
The website needs them!!!***



LIFE LINE SCREENING OFFERED AT CUC

Sign-Up: Now in CUC lobby

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Participant Cost: \$129

(and \$10 is donated to CUC)

Protect your health by finding out your risk of having a stroke by participating in the Life Line Screening that will be at **Community Unitarian Church at White Plains** on **Wednesday, October 10, 2012**. Through ultrasound, the carotid arteries can be evaluated for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke. Register today for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package by either calling the special Helping Hands registration number or by signing up thru the provided registration sheet. By signing up for this health event, not only will you be able to receive \$10 off any package of \$139 or more, but Community Unitarian Church at White Plains will also receive a \$10 donation for every member who signs up and attends this Life Line Screening event. The Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm Package includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. To schedule your appointment and to receive this special offer, please sign up on the sheet provided by Community Unitarian Church at White Plains. For more information visit: www.lifelinescreening.com. Join in the fight against vascular disease!



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Denominational Affairs – I must finally admit that I am a General Assembly groupie. Once again I watched and witnessed 22 hours of live streaming and demand video of General Assembly or GA for short. So much of my viewing was at CUC. This year I found a more comfortable chair and I had 6 CUC members join me in viewing GA from CUC. I also was an offsite delegate for this congregation and this year I was able to vote at the plenary and my vote counted. In the upcoming months I plan to write about the many experiences I had at GA even though I never left White Plains. If you missed my summer service on GA you can still watch GA videos on the many worship services, plenaries and social justice issues brought to the forefront at GA. <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml> It will still be there for you to view. You can also purchase CDs or DVD of events and workshops at GA. If you would like to contact me or join denominational affairs email me at denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Denice Tomlinson

CUC Choir – A Great Year Ahead!

by Lisa Meyer, CUC Choir Director

Being a part of academia at a university for so many years, September has always been the start of my New Year instead of January first - when the down-time of summer is over and a new focus and energy begins with autumn.

I would like to invite you to take some of that new energy and sing with the CUC Choir. Reading music is not a requirement, just the ability to match pitch and an enthusiasm for collaboration and singing. All voice parts are welcome. The choir rehearses Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:15pm and usually sings 2 Sundays each month. If a commitment of every Tuesday is difficult, please speak with me and we'll see what is possible.

The CUC Choir, with pianist Georgianna Pappas and I, will be holding a **Choir Open House** on Sunday, September 23rd following Coffee Hour in the sanctuary from 11:45am -12:45pm. Anyone is welcome to sit in, ages 12 and up. This is a great way to see what it is like to sing with the group, see how we rehearse, and what it is like to work with me. We will be enjoying some rounds, folk songs, and spirituals together and then have some munchies and camaraderie afterwards. Even if it's just for the day, come and join us for a fun and rewarding hour of music.

Other Choir events to note in your schedule:

Saturday, October 13 - **“Fun Family Film Extravaganza”– Choir Fundraiser 6:00-9:00pm**

Venture back to the old days when a night at the movie theater included a cartoon and short films along with the featured film (Disney's *Fantasia*, 1940) with a brief pre-movie talk by Lisa Meyer. A supper of hot dogs and other movie-type fair is included with admission. All ages are welcome. Admission is \$25, \$15 for seniors and children under 12.

Saturday, December 15 - **It Came Upon A Winter's Song, 7:00pm**

Join us for an evening's serenade of holiday favorites including *Sleigh Ride*, *S'vivon*, and *The Christmas Song*, among other new and traditional arrangements of other beloved standards. Admission is \$20, \$10 for seniors and students.

Saturday, March 16 - **Beatles Classics and More!, 7:00pm,**

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the iconic Beatles and join us for a memorable evening of solos, duets, and choral arrangements of some of the Fab Four's greatest, including songs from each member's solo career.

Singers who are interested in participating in the concerts, rather than each Sunday, are also welcome. I would like to encourage some of our youth, ages 12-18, to join us for the concerts – rehearsals for younger people can take place on Choir Sundays from 9:15-9:45am in room 24. Please contact me, director Lisa Meyer, at 516-299-2475 during the day or at lisa.meyer@liu.edu at any time, for more information. I look forward to another great year at CUC.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Let's Build a Stronger Community and Develop Friendships by Working Together

Here are some ways you can participate as we work to keep our congregation vibrant.

This form will be available at the beginning of the church year, or you can contact Jane Dixon now to learn about any of these activities. Jane can be reached at: 949-5919 or jrdixon@optonline.net.

GENERAL

- _____ Host or assist someone hosting a coffee hour (shop, set up, serve and clean up).
- _____ Greet at the door as part of a team on a Sunday morning before and after service. (9:45/11:15)

MUSIC

- _____ Join the CUC choir.
- _____ Help with the music programming for religious education.
- _____ Join the Music Committee to help structure CUC's music programming.
- _____ Assist with the Concert Series - setup, provide refreshments, sell tickets and help with publicity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- _____ Volunteer with the Religious Education program for children and youth.
- _____ Play music for children's worship.
- _____ Help on a "non-teaching" RE special Sunday.
- _____ Help in the nursery on a Sunday.

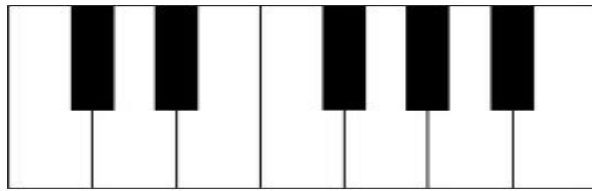
EVENTS

- _____ Auction: Help with our major fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, Nov 17. Multiple volunteer opportunities exist prior to the event and the evening of the event.
- _____ Help with Winter Holiday gift drives by staffing a table in the lobby on Sunday mornings to assist donors who want to buy gift certificates for children in the homeless shelter in White Plains. Dec. 2, 9 & 16. Great activity for a family with children in grades 6 and up. (CUC also supports children of inmates and residents of shelters.)
- _____ Help out with "Deck The Halls" holiday brunch and party, Sunday, December 2.
- _____ Help with Chinese New Year Brunch, Sunday, February 10.
- _____ Help with CUC's Passover Seder, Saturday, March 23. Be part of a team of UU's of various faith backgrounds.
- _____ Work on the CUC tag sale Saturday, May 4. Help is needed to sort through donated items the week before the event, and to sell and clean up at the event.
- _____ Help out with the Sunday, June 9 barbecue after service.

ONGOING PROJECTS

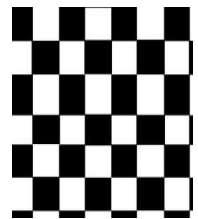
- _____ Go on a Midnight Run on a Friday night with a group from CUC. Bring donated food & clothing to homeless people in NYC. This event is appropriate for youth in the 7th grade and older. Younger members can help with the food preparation and packing.
- _____ Grounds Day- help preserve the CUC grounds by working on the chores that need to be done. Saturdays: October 13, Feb 9, May 11 from 8:30am-2pm.
- _____ SHOP RIGHT for Shelter Residents - This is a program to purchase needed toiletries, underwear, bedding and other basics for shelter residents.
- _____ Furniture Sharehouse at Westchester County Airport. Help is needed to greet donors and assist in completing donation forms. Muscle is needed to help donors unload furniture from their vehicles into the warehouse. Saturday mornings 9:30am-1130am. Wednesday and Thursday mornings volunteers are needed as shopping assistants to help clients select furniture.
- _____ Shop for church events
- _____ Cook for church events.
- _____ Bake for church events
- _____ Help get out church mailing once a month (Thursday mornings)

Thanks for your participation.



Join us on Saturday, November 17th for
The CUC 2012 Goods and Services Auction
It will be

Black and White and Fun All Over!



Help us prepare for the Goods and Services Auction by asking

Just 1 Question

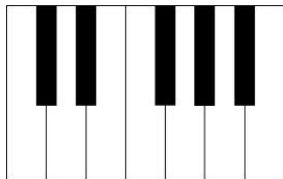
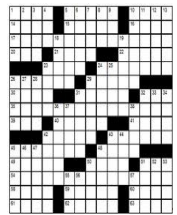
It is easy to do! Simply walk into your favorite restaurant, salon, shop, coffee shop, golf course or other merchant and ask:

“Would you be willing to make a donation to support a very worthy cause?”

Merchants are happy to support their regular customers and to receive the free promotion we give them at the auction. For more information, and to receive a formal letter from the church for you to give a vendor, please contact

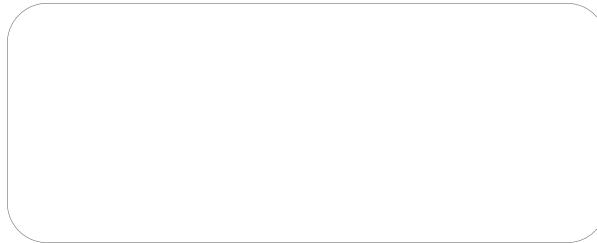
Ann Marie Damashek at scottam@verizon.net.

The Auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We need everyone's help to make it a success. Even if you cannot attend the auction, you can help. All you need to do is ask **Just 1 Question.**



~ September 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4	5 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	6	7 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	8
9 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15 INGATHEING Worship Service followed by coffee hour	10	11 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	12 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	13 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	14	15
16 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 10:00 a Religious Ed 10:15 Worship followed by coffee hour 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:30a-12:30p Fun Facts about Music 11:30a-12:30p Cottage Meetings	17 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	18 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	19	20	21	22
23 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 10:00a Religious Education 10:15a Worship followed by coffee hour 11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee 11:45a-12:45p Choir Open House (Sanc)	24 7:30p Spanish Classes	25 7:30p-9:15p Choir Re- hearsal (SANC/R24)	26 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	27 10a-11a COM- MUNITARIAN mailing (FA)	28 8pm Midnight Run	29
30 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship followed by coffee hour 11:30a-12:30p Presenting Congregational Survey						

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.

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Communitarian Deadline for
October Edition:

Sunday, September 16

Submit information to
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emily.economou@gmail.com