

# THE COMMUNITARIAN

## COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

OCTOBER 2011



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

Liliana Keith  
Church Administrator

Adam Kent  
Music Director

Lisa Meyer  
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra  
Community Minister  
in Association with CUC

### *In the Interim ...*

The interim period between settled ministers is a great opportunity. It is a time to look back on what the church has been, to come to terms with your history, both good and bad. It is a chance to assess where you are now, and to take steps to address your particular challenges. And it is an opportunity to look ahead, to what you want the church to be.

To begin with where you've been, we've scheduled a couple of small group meetings called "An Honest Backward Look."

They will be in the format of a sharing circle, allowing for speaking from the heart and listening respectfully without discussion or feedback. We plan to use this time together to share the joys and sorrows of church experiences as we come to see CUC's history from many perspectives.

Please join us on **Tuesday, October 25 from 7:00 to 9:00 or on Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 to 12:00 in Fellowship Hall.** As we want to keep the setting small and intimate, please email Liliana, the Office Administrator at [admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org) and R.S.V.P. if you can attend. We will schedule more meetings if there is need, so everyone who wishes will be heard.

*Yours in faith, Benjamin*

### OCTOBER SERVICES 2011, 10:15 AM

#### **October 2 Joann Prinziwalli.**

Becoming an Instrument of Peace.

#### **October 9 The Reverend Benjamin Maucere.**

Atonement. Inspired by the High Holy Days, we are invited to examine our lives in the light of our best intentions.

#### **October 16 The Reverend Benjamin Maucere.**

Growing Our Faith. On Association Sunday we will consider why the UUA matters.

#### **October 23 The Reverend Benjamin Maucere.**

100 Ways to Kneel and Kiss the Ground. Strength for the spiritual journey.

#### **October 30 The Reverend Benjamin Maucere.**

Hallows, Saints and Souls. A celebration of a magical time of the year.

For more information  
about CUC:

[www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)

Email: [info@cucwp.org](mailto:info@cucwp.org)  
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline for  
November Edition:  
**Sunday, October 23**

Submit information to  
Emily Economou, Editor  
[emily.economou@gmail.com](mailto:emily.economou@gmail.com)

### MORE THAN FALL COLORS AT CUC

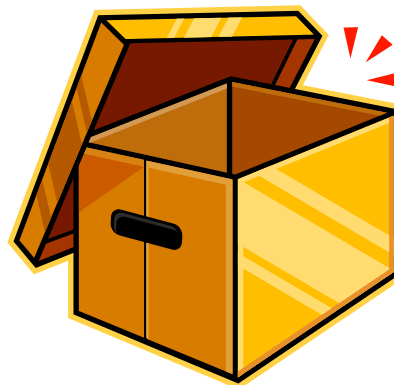
I think of colors as I write this month's Communitarian column. Our church opening had assorted hues of color. The parsonage was refreshed with the colors of summer-beige and light sand, soft and gauzy. The palette began to deepen as Reverend Benjamin arrived and we moved towards In Gathering – in my mind it was the color of cobalt blue. During September, we filled the sanctuary with the warm colors of reuniting with friends not seen during the summer and the bright colors of energy as we begin a new church year!

There is challenge in a world that for many right now seems dark grey and difficult to navigate. We recognize that change brings with it a certain amount of discomfort, uncertainty, jagged pieces - and our church hopefully provides a safe space to retreat to, while we examine our relationship to each other and the world around us. We honor our place to meditate and contemplate, as we work through this change together.

This month we began to get to know Benjamin through the welcome parties and our Program Council Meeting. His opening words at that meeting serve as a reminder to all of us. **“Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive” (Howard Thurman).** What is it that makes you feel alive? I hope you will think of that if you have not already filled out and returned the “Opportunities to Serve” sheet.

As we take this journey together in the next two years, I have some words, as well, that speak to me. Here is the poem by *A.R. Ammons*, an American poet:

don't establish the  
boundaries  
first,  
the squares, triangles,  
boxes of preconceived possibility,  
and then  
pour  
life into them, trimming  
off left-over edges,  
ending potential:



*In Community-*  
*- Janet Press, Board Chair*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### The rituals of others...

I have been thinking about the issue of cultural (mis) appropriation again lately. This probably stems from a few different sources. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be exploring the celebrations of different cultures with a curriculum called "Holidays and Holy Days" and the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be learning about world religions with the "Neighboring Faiths" curriculum. And, on top of that, I am taking a graduate class on World Religions at Union Theological Seminary this semester.

The challenge of how to learn about other cultures and religions while being respectful of their beliefs, values and practices has always troubled me.

Jacqui James writes, "Since we as Unitarian Universalists seek to promote justice, equity, peace, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we must look at how the integration of rituals, symbols, and ideas of other traditions may be affecting those whose traditions are being 'borrowed.'"

It is important that we learn to differentiate between drawing from the wisdom and appropriating rituals, artifacts, and other elements of the spiritual traditions of other religions."

I don't have any easy answers, there are for sure times that I can clearly articulate when an activity crosses the line. But there are other times that it is not so clear. The UUA has put forth a list of some things to consider. Which can be found at <http://uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction/misappropriation/23371.shtml>

This list addresses many different aspects that I think can be useful. I would encourage you to check the list out, think about the questions of respect and appropriate usage, and challenge yourself before using material, music, imagery, words or movement from a culture other than your own.

*Lara Campbell, DRE*



## Religious Education Council

### *The RE wing of the building is back in full swing!*

Lara distributed three important documents via email in mid-September to help guide you through the RE program this year: calendar of events, parent handbook, and curriculum brochure. The calendar is also available on the CUC website and hardcopies are available in both the main and RE lobbies. Please take a moment to look them over.

With the RE classes just getting under way, there are many parent meetings scheduled for the coming weeks. Please check the RE calendar for your child's class meeting and plan on attending. This is an opportunity to hear about the curriculum for the coming year, meet other parents, and ask any questions.

The first "special" RE event of the year will take place on October 30 – the popular Stone Soup brunch hosted by the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade Coming of Age (CoA) class. On a related note, Lara will soon be looking for CoA mentors for this large class, so please see her if you are interested in volunteering for this important role.

*- Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair*

## MONEY MATTERS

*By Catherine Kortlandt, CUC Treasurer 2005-06*

In response to questions from June's annual meeting, here is a basic summary of CUC finances. People wanting more detail can ask Drew Swiss, CUC's treasurer, or Chris Kortlandt, Finance Committee Chair. Monthly financial statements are available on the bookshelf outside the Church office, usually about two weeks after the end of each month.

There are four sources of "funds":

**Income**, projected to be \$395,000 for this fiscal year, which is derived primarily from pledges (76%), auction proceeds (7%), Sunday offerings (4%) and rentals (12%).

**"Endowment Fund"**, which is an account of about \$825,000, derived from gifts and bequests over the years. The Endowment Fund is invested in a combination of stocks, bonds and interest bearing accounts. Withdrawals from the Endowment Fund require Board of Trustee approval.

Income from the Endowment Fund is generally used to support CUC's ongoing operations. Principal from the Endowment Fund covers CUC emergencies and major repairs, such as replacing furnaces or roofing. Endowment Fund moneys may be used to cover pledge shortfalls. In this year's budget, aside from the budgeted \$30,000 annual endowment withdrawal, the budget shows a shortfall of \$95,000, which means that this coming year \$125,000 will be withdrawn from the Endowment Fund. If pledge income is in fact higher, less will be withdrawn.

**"Building Fund"**, which is an account of about \$250,000, was established initially with a bequest from Joe Hartog, a long time CUC member who was instrumental in acquiring the site and building the current church. This fund also holds money collected in connection with a major renovation we had contemplated in 2008. The money is to be used for capital improvements and is invested in a conservative manner, in CD's and in a short term Federal Fund.

**"Music Fund"**, which is an account established from a bequest of Hans Hopf, another longtime CUC member. The income from the fund supports the Sunday morning music program. This fund is currently about \$50,000, and is invested in a similar manner as the Endowment Fund.

While not a ready source of cash, it is important to note that CUC has two significant assets: the church building and the parsonage.

Each year in late spring, the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee put together the budget that is presented for the Congregation's approval at the June annual meeting. The budget is based on the pledges and rentals expected for the budget year. Any gaps between the projected operating expenses and the projected income need to be filled either by cutting a program(s) or by taking income and/or principal from the Endowment Fund. The anticipated Endowment Fund transfer to operating moneys is a line item in the budget and is approved by the Congregation as part of the budget process.

The Church's operating expenses this year are expected to be about \$520,000. They consist primarily of compensation for our terrific and dedicated staff, church, parsonage and grounds maintenance and programming such as Religious Education, the concert series, Action for Social Concerns and all the other programs we enjoy. A complete copy of this year's budget is available on the shelf outside the Church office.

You may be wondering how to help. To be blunt, the main way we can assist with CUC's finances is to make and keep generous pledges. As the above shows, CUC's income for this year will only cover about 76% of projected expenses. Bookkeeper Susan King can answer questions about your financial contribution. Maintaining and growing member participation is essential. Further, as we embark on a search for a new minister, member participation and pledge levels will be a key factor for any candidate's consideration. Financial stability and strength will make our pulpit a more attractive opportunity.

In addition, you can get involved. If you are interested in financial matters, please volunteer your expertise to the Finance Committee, which oversees investment of the Endowment Fund, the Building Fund and the Music Fund, or to the Audit Committee. Born to fundraise? Try the Canvass Committee or Auction Committee. While there are no financial guarantees, it is a sure thing that you will meet some great people. For further information on these committees, contact Chris Kortlandt, [kortlandtbunch@verizon.net](mailto:kortlandtbunch@verizon.net).

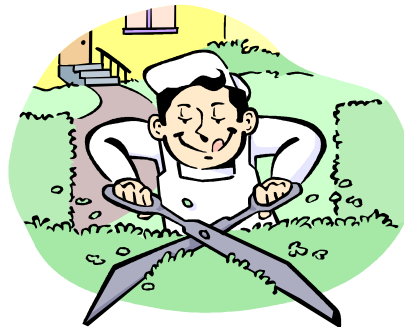
*Thank you, Catherine Kortlandt*

## AMONG OURSELVES

### Caring & Sharing...

*If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout October contact*

Eleanor Hermann at 937-1213  
or Gail McLeod at 235-8212.



### ***Habla Espanol con nosotros!*** Spanish Conversation Circle

**Mondays**  
**Starting September 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30-8:45**

#### **NEW! 2 levels**

Come join a small group of friendly adults and refresh your Spanish with a native Spanish speaking teacher, or start new with other beginners. No pressure, just fun!

10 sessions for only \$100 (fee pays for instructor). Call Jane Dixon (949-5919) or email [jrdixon@optonline.net](mailto:jrdixon@optonline.net) with any questions or to register.

### **DAY IN PLACE**

**Saturday, October 29, 2010**  
**8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

At the mid-point of each season, we mark the height of the current season and turning towards the next with a day on the grounds of CUC. Please join us working on the grounds, helping to maintain their beauty and build our church community. Come for as long as you can, and all ages are welcome. We'll provide the tools and will have different tasks for varying interests and energy levels. There will be refreshments and a celebratory bbq at the end. If you have any questions, please contact David Schuler at [davidbf\\_schuler@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com) or 914 831-5605. Hope to see you there!



### ***EMPTY YOUR DRAWERS!***

Please bring loose change to CUC over the next couple of months. We turn your cash into cards. We buy gift cards and raise more funds at the church auction.

Skip the coin machine! Let us do the work!

Look for coin jars in the main lobby and RE lobby.

### Music Events

Saturday, October 5, 6 pm at NJCU

Saturday, October 30, 3 pm at NJCU

#### Adam Kent

Music Director Adam Kent can be heard in two performances at New Jersey City University this month. On Wednesday evening, October 5th at 6PM, Adam joins violinist and violist Frank Foerster in works by Brahms, Couperin, Vieuxtemps, Vitali, and Foerster. On Sunday afternoon, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 3PM, Adam presents an all-Schubert recital as part of the university's *In Real Time* series. Admission to both events is free. NJCU is located at 2039 Kennedy Blvd. in Jersey City, NJ. [www.njcu.edu](http://www.njcu.edu).

### Saturday, October 15 6-9pm, Sanctuary Annual Choir Dinner

Join us for an evening of wonderful food and great songs featuring the music of Lerner and Loewe and help support the CUC Choir and the Music at CUC Concerts Series. It will be a great deal of fun. Admission is \$35, \$15 for children under 12.

### Saturday, October 22 8 pm, Sanctuary Show Songs & More

Mary Lane Cobb & guest soprano Patricia West, accompanied by pianist Georgianna Pappas, present an evening of cabaret. Suggested donation \$20 (\$10 for Seniors and Students).

### **"An Honest Backward Look."**

A Sharing Circle with Rev. Benjamin

**Tuesday, October 25 from 7:00 to 9:00**

**or**

**Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 to 12:00**

**Fellowship Hall**

**RSVP with Liliana at the church office or via**  
**[admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org). See page 1 for details.**

### **Stone Soup Sunday**

**October 30**

*In Fellowship Hall*

Our Religious Education's traditional fundraiser.

Come for food and fun.

\$5 adults / \$3 kids

Money raised benefits the 8th and 9th grade Coming of Age class.



### **PLAYREADING GROUP**

All Readings are at CUC at 7:30 PM.

For more information contact Ken Kessler at [newrocken@aol.com](mailto:newrocken@aol.com) or the church office. Come read, or just listen.

**October 24** "St. Joan" by G.B. Shaw, led by Charles Selinski

**November 31** "Ghosts" by Hendrik Ibsen, led by Barbara Dunne

**December 12** "Driving Miss Daisy" by Alfred Uhry, led by Heidi Anderson.





# FURNITURE DRIVE

Saturday, October 1st, 2011

9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Community Unitarian Church

Please donate your gently-used furniture directly to needy families!

## Why Donate?

By donating your gently-used furniture, you help provide basic furnishings free of charge to families affected by homelessness, domestic violence, fires, floods and other personal disasters.  
(tax receipt will be provided)

## How?

Bring items to the lower parking lot of CUC. Check [www.furnituresharehouse.org](http://www.furnituresharehouse.org) for a list of accepted items. To volunteer, or if you have any questions, please call 914-834-1294 or e-mail us at [info@furnituresharehouse.org](mailto:info@furnituresharehouse.org).

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

**Ethical Eating – Food and Environmental Justice** - Some of the most important work that delegates do at the General Assembly plenary is to vote on the Statement of Conscience and Actions of Immediate Witness. These statements allow the UUA and congregations to work in our behalf on current issues. At this past GA a Statement of Conscience was passed for: Ethical Eating – Food and Environmental Justice. A copy of the full statement is available on the UUA website <http://www.uua.org/statements/statements/185320.shtml>. The statement includes a call to action, including next step guidelines for individuals and congregations. To learn more about the call-to-action for ethical eating, please visit the website, look for information in the church lobby, or contact Denise Tomlinson.

**Upcoming District Events:** For more information visit <http://www.uumetrony.org/>

**October 15, Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee hosts- Conclave 2011- “Solidarity as Practice”** Saturday October 15 – 9am - 4pm at Community Church of New York 40 E 35<sup>th</sup> St NYC

**November 5, The 6th Annual Leadership Day: Defying Gravity will take place** at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (Manhasset NY).

*- Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs*

## UU Weekend at Silver Bay: Oct. 14-16

The 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this weekend on Lake George in the Adirondacks, hosted by volunteers from UU congregations in the St. Lawrence District. Children's programming all weekend, workshops, outdoor activities, a talent show, worship, dancing and more. More information about the Silver Bay Resort and Conference Center at [www.silverbay.org](http://www.silverbay.org). To register or for a tentative schedule, visit [www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org). For more information contact CUC representative Matt Shelley at [matthewbshelley@gmail.com](mailto:matthewbshelley@gmail.com).



## BE A SUPERHERO FOR CUC!



### COME TO A MEETING!

**October 2nd, after services.** Come learn the many ways you can get involved in the auction. Help a few days before or help during the event, whatever suits your busy schedule.

Contact Emily Economou at [Emily.economou@gmail.com](mailto:Emily.economou@gmail.com)

## PLEASE DONATE!

In addition to the auction donations we receive from outside vendors, we rely on our membership for donations. If every family donates just one item, we would have an additional 200 items up for bid. When you know what you would like to donate, simply fill out a donation form in the church lobby, outside the office.

Questions? Contact Amy Swiss at [amyswiss@aol.com](mailto:amyswiss@aol.com).

## Cartoons & Capes



Be a Superhero for  
**CUC's Goods & Services Auction**  
**Saturday, November 19th, 2011**

Here are some **donation ideas** - but the possibilities are endless! Use your imagination!

- \*Homemade Desserts or Breads
- \*Theatre, Opera, or Concert Tickets
- \*Artisan, Designer or Fine Jewelry
- \*Professional Sports Tickets or Ski Lift Tickets
- \* Gift Certificates to your favorite restaurant, book store or coffee shop
- \*Themed Dinners, Parties or Social

events for the Bid and Bump Board

- \*Spring Cleaning Assistance
- \*Gift Basket of Best Sellers
- \*Use of Vacation Homes
- \*Wine or Liquor
- \*Golf Outings
- \*Day on your Boat
- \*Plant a Garden
- \*Crystal

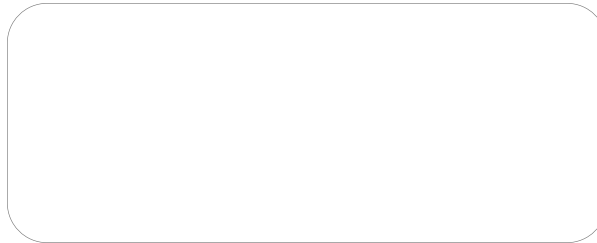
\*Themed Day Trips

- \*Pet/House Sitting
- \*Babysitting
- \*Museum Membership
- \*Spa Gift Certificate
- \*New Designer Accessories
- \* Professional Services such as accounting, massage, organizing, counseling, corporate coaching, photography, podiatry, chiropractic, interior design, financial advisor



~ October 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 9a-1p Furniture Drive
<b>2</b> 9a-10:45a 1st, 8-9th Parent mtg. 10a-11:30a Rel. Ed  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour  11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH) 11:45a-12:45p Auction Committee Meeting	<b>3</b> 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH)  7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle & new Beginners Group  7:30p-9p Past Presidents Meeting (Fireside Area)	<b>4</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Midnight Run 8p-2a	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 10a-11:30a Rel. Ed  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour	<b>10</b> 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH)  7:30p-8:45p Spanish (43 & 41)	<b>11</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	<b>13</b> 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6p-9:30p <b>Choir Fund Raiser Dinner</b> & Sing-along (6p) (SANC\,KTCH)
<b>16</b> 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 9a-9:45a 4-5th Parents  10a-11:30a Rel. Ed  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour  11:15a-11:45a New to CUC (Study)  11:30a-12:30p <b>Coachman Ctr. Project 1st Meeting</b> (43)  11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee	<b>17</b> 7:30p-8:45p Beginners -Spanish (43)  7p-8p Tai Chi (FH)  7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)  8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	<b>18</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 4p-9:30p <b>Evening of Cabaret (M. Cobb)</b> (8pm) (SANC)
<b>23</b> <b>Communitarian Deadline</b> 9a-9:45a 2-3rd Parents  10a-11:30a Rel. Ed  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour  4p-6p <b>UNO UN Day Program</b> (D. Finch)	<b>24</b> 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH)  7:30p-8:45p Beginners -Spanish (43)  7:30p-9p Play Reading Group (41)  7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	<b>25</b> 7p-9p <b>Rev Benjamin's workshop- An Honest Backward Look</b> (FH)  7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	<b>27</b> 10a-11a Folding Party (FA)  11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9a-12p <b>Rev Benjamin's workshop-An Honest Backward Look</b> (FH)  8:30a-2:30p <b>Day in Place</b> (Grounds)
<b>30</b> 9a-9:45a PreK-K Parent mtg. (41)  10a-11:30a Rel. Ed  10:15a-11:45a Worship/ Coffee Hour (SANC)  11:30a-1:30p <b>Stone Soup Brunch-RE host</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)  7:30p-8:45p Beginners -Spanish (43)  7p-8p Tai Chi (FH)					

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605



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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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### Upcoming Community Projects



Saturday October 1st, 9 am-1 pm at CUC: **Furniture Sharehouse**  
Bring furniture to CUC on this date. Donated furniture is distributed to Westchester families in need. See page 7 for details.

Friday October 7th, 8 pm starting at CUC: **Midnight Run**  
Together we feed the homeless in Manhattan and provide much needed clothing. Volunteers needed in advance or on the run itself. See sign-up sheet near church office or contact Alan Morrice at 997-5629 or David Schuler at 831-5605.



Sunday October 16th, 11:30 am at CUC: **Coachman Center Project**  
**Get ready to join CUC's new partnership!** The Coachman center is a homeless shelter in White Plains, serving area families. We hope you will be able to join us at our first meeting of the year as we develop partnership projects including enrichment activities for children related to field trips, and a school supply "canteen." For adult residents, we will provide selected educational workshops. Learn more from Johanna Bauer at [johbauer@msn.com](mailto:johbauer@msn.com) and Karen Schmitt at [schmitt8@verizon.net](mailto:schmitt8@verizon.net).

For latest news and updates go to our website at [www.cucwp.org](http://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](mailto:admin@cucwp.org).