

# THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
AT WHITE PLAINS

*Religious Education*  
10:00 am

*Sunday Services*  
10:15 am

*Accessible to Handicapped*

## **Hello!**

I'm writing from Louisville, Kentucky where the 2013 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association has just concluded. Though I'm a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, I never attended our annual GA until I was nearly 40. That was in 1998, still several years before I began planning to enter the ministry, and I was immediately sorry I had waited so long. This year was my 13th GA.

I am reminded, again, that we do not grow in isolation. We need each other. We need relationships in which we stand accountable -- in which we give accounting of ourselves -- to one another. In many ways, we know who we are by creating ourselves, and we create ourselves in our accountings to others. I think each of you implicitly understand this, and that is why you have joined CUC. In congregational life we both learn about ourselves and create ourselves more fully.

But just as we as individuals need each other, so, too, congregations need relations with other congregations. Through relationships of accountability with other congregations, we learn a lot -- including who we are. What is this thing called "Unitarian Universalism" that we say we represent? Only through our connections with the 1,000 other Unitarian Universalist congregations do we develop our understanding of who we are, what we're about, and why it is so vitally important.

We can't be isolated and expect to grow. We won't grow in terms of our religious and spiritual depth and maturity. We won't grow in terms of our institutional best, or at least better, practices. And we won't grow in terms of our membership or budget numbers. I know it's a difficult thing in our busy lives to set aside a week for General Assembly, and it can be expensive to fly the family to the other side of the country -- as would be required for GA 2015 in Portland, Oregon. GA 2014, however, is in Providence, Rhode Island. You can make that, can't you? It'll be June 25 - 29, 2014. Please mark your calendar now. I promise you'll find it an amazing, beautiful, stunning experience. You'll be moved, and you'll be changed. More than that, you'll return as a vital agent of change for CUC.

*Yours in faith, Meredith*

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468 Rosedale Avenue  
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## **Summer 2013 Inside this issue:**

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### SUMMER SERVICES 2013, 10:15 AM

June 30. **Jennifer Lewis.**

*"Pierre Teilhard de Chardin -- A Scientific Mystic for the Digital Age."*

July 7. **Randy Marshall**

*"What Does It Mean to be Healthy? What Does It Mean to be Well?"*

July 14. **Denise Tomlinson**

*General Assembly is more than the annual business meeting of the Association. The myriad of programs, worship events, witness and service opportunities, and exhibits not only provide a rich experience to the thousands of UUs who attend each year, they also give participants a renewed sense of energy, up-to-date information, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities. Come experience a little of General Assembly right here in White Plains.*

July 21. **David Bowen.**

*"What Do I Do Next: Facing Life Transitions with Grace."*

July 28. **David Schuler.**

*"Moving On."*

August 4. **Rev. Meredith Garmon.**

*"Anti-Barbies."*

August 11. **Joann Prinzivalli.**

*"Making Assumptions."*

August 18. **Rev. Meredith Garmon.**

*"Mission Possible."*

August 25. **Rev. Meredith Garmon.**

*"Beatnik Celebration."*

September 1. **David Finch.**

*"UUA -- a global initiative."*

Summer is upon us and for many it is a time of relaxation, of personal reflection and for reconnection with valued family and friends. We have had a remarkable successful year on many fronts, and thanks to everyone again for their contribution of time and talent which helped make the year so rewarding, but especially to our Search Committee. We have had a successful ministerial search, and while we have had to bid good-bye to our interim minister, Benjamin Maucere, we look forward with great hope and anticipation to welcoming our new minister, Rev Meredith Garmon. He and his spouse, LoraKim, will move into the parsonage July 10, 2013. Meredith will spend the rest of July settling in, but will be in the pulpit **starting August 4, 2012**. Thus will begin a new era for us at CUC, where we will have our minister in the pulpit for three of the four Sundays in August.

Other good news – again, thanks to your generous contributions - for the first time in many years we have ended the fiscal year with a balanced budget, and did not need to draw down funds from our Endowment. We have also completed the renovation of our kitchen – a major success. We will be hiring a youth advisor over the summer, so look forward to welcoming that person in the fall.

A sad note is that CUC will be saying good-bye to **David Schuler**, our Board chair for 2012-2013. He and his family – **Elissa, Susanna and Cassia** – are moving to Oregon! Elissa has had a job offer that was too good to turn down and they will have moved by August 1, 2013. This all happened rather suddenly, so feel free to reach out to them to say your personal good-byes.

I'm looking forward to a summer of rejuvenation and I hope that will be true for you all. We have an exciting year ahead, so rest up and come back to church refreshed – and come back early!

***Yours in community,  
Ginny Strand, Board Chair***

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Friends, Families, RE Council & Volunteers,

THANK YOU to all of you who volunteered, brought children and youth, and shared a welcoming smile and kind words during the year. It has been a growing and joyful experience, and I've appreciated the gift of each person I've met. In particular, I wish to express deep gratitude to Cyndi Tillman, outgoing RE Council Chair, for her enthusiastic can-do attitude and her devoted work in RE and youth group.

Religious Education has had an exciting year filled with all sorts of engaging activities, including the talent show, social action projects, worship services, special Sunday projects, and youth cons, to name a few. Over Memorial Day Weekend, the children cleaned up a patch of land near the playground and planted a beautiful flower garden.

The 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Action class raised a total of \$525 through selling their chalice plaques and chili. The funds were donated to AFYA Foundation in Yonkers, an organization which provides medical supplies and community outreach to international health clinics. According to AFYA's Executive Director, Danielle Butin, the donation will be used to purchase the supplies needed to create birth kits for midwives working in rural areas throughout Africa. Each kit contains umbilical ties, blades and directions for their use. These kits have had a significant impact on maternal and infant mortality.

On Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our recognition for Religious Education teachers and volunteers as well as the bridging ceremony for the high school seniors, celebrating the transition from youth to young adulthood. Best wishes to our bridging seniors Jillian, Julia, Michelle and Elain.

During the summer we do not offer our traditional religious education program. Our nursery provider is available every Sunday to ensure that all children are cared for. We encourage children and youth (5<sup>th</sup> grades and up) to attend services in the sanctuary.

Have a healthy, happy summer!

~ *Lily Rappaport*, Acting Director of Religious Education



Dig, dig, dig....



6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders presents a check to AFYA

## EVENTS...

### **Caring & Sharing...**

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout July contact **Ingrid Hartmann** at 946-2026 or [wwwingrid@wtv.net](mailto:wwwingrid@wtv.net), or **Howard Garson** at 646-1908 or [hsgsrnmd@optonline.net](mailto:hsgsrnmd@optonline.net).

### **Pastoral Care...**

Community Minister Rev. Deb Morra is available for pastoral care as needed through July. [914-830-1509](tel:914-830-1509).

## **August Summit Music Festival**

Music Director Adam Kent can be heard at the Summit Music Festival at Manhattanville College in Purchase this summer. On Friday, August 2 at 6PM, Adam presents a lecture/recital on mutual influences between Spanish and French piano music. On Monday, August 5 at 6PM, Adam teams up with violinist Elena Peres in Robert Schumann's Violin Sonata No. 1 in A Minor, and on Tuesday, August 6th at 8PM, he joins violinist Emanuel Borok and a cellist tbd in Brahms's Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major. Admission to all events is \$25 (\$20 seniors). Visit [www.summitmusicfestival.org](http://www.summitmusicfestival.org) for more details and updated information.

### **Come Sing with the CUC Choir!** **Rehearsals begin on Tues., August 27, 2013**

The CUC Choir is looking for new members:

- **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ MUSIC!**
- **All voice parts are welcome.**
- **You just have to be able to match pitch - we'll help you learn the rest!**
- **Dedication is needed – you only make progress if you attend rehearsals each Tuesday night from 7:30pm to 9:15pm, but with only 2 Sunday services to participate in each month, the commitment is very doable.**
- **If a weekly commitment is not possible, we can work with those that can only attend the Tues. rehearsal before Sundays in which the Choir performs.**
- **If you cannot join long-term, sing with us for special concerts and holiday events.**
- **Ages 12 and up are welcome.**
- **You do not have to be a member of CUC to sing with us.**

We perform a variety of repertoire including world music, American spirituals and folk songs, Christian and Hebrew anthems, and contemporary pieces relating to family, nature, and the challenges and joys of life. There is always something for everyone.

Please contact Choir Director Lisa Meyer at 516-299-2475 during the day, 347-278-3187 after 7pm, or at [lisa.meyer@liu.edu](mailto:lisa.meyer@liu.edu) at any time, for more information. If you wish to observe or sit in on a rehearsal to see what it's like, please do – all are welcome! I look forward to a great season next year and to meeting and working with you!



## **Beatles and Seeger and Scott, Oh My!**

by Lisa Meyer, CUC Choir Director

The CUC Choir had a very challenging and exciting year that was met with great dedication, fortitude and enthusiasm by its members. The fall brought some sadness with the relocation to Indiana of tenor Alan Morrice due to employment opportunities as well as the retirement of long-time member and soprano Rebecca Axelrod who left after the Winter Concert in December - they have been greatly missed. Luckily, we were joined by our first-ever choral intern, Nick Errico, who proved to be a very versatile (he actually sang in the alto section a few times) as well as talented singer and conductor. It was a great pleasure to coach him during the past year, and for us all to watch him grow as musician and conductor. I owe him many thanks for his assistance and dedicated work, both administratively and musically. Janet Wafer, who sang with us for the first time at a Choir Open House the previous February, joined us again in the fall and has been a good asset to the alto section. Trudy Katz joined us again, this time singing tenor in the lower section of the choir and helped to round out that area – yay Trudy! December ended with a beautifully performed concert of a variety of holiday music that was enjoyed by all who participated and attended.

In January, rehearsals began for the spring concert of Beatles music, a genre of repertoire that was very different for all concerned to learn and perform. Nick Errico was able to take a couple of selections and arrange them for choir and piano in a way that suited our current makeup. The arrangements were enjoyable and enabled us to perform a couple of important pieces that otherwise would not have been possible. A few weeks before the Beatles Concert in March occurred, composer and folk singer Jim Scott approached CUC regarding holding a benefit concert with the legendary Pete Seeger in early April. Singers, Music Committee members, and many other volunteers took on the challenge to make such a huge event happen so successfully in such a short period of time. Many thanks to Gary Press for all of his guidance and coordination in heading up the administration of such an immense event. I thank the choir and Georgianna Pappas, our choir pianist, as well for all of their efforts and flexibility with learning and performing the music for that concert in such a short period of time. The sold-out performance was an amazing event - rehearsing and performing with Pete, and collaborating with Jim Scott on some of the most meaningful folk music of the age was a once in a life-time experience that will never be forgotten.

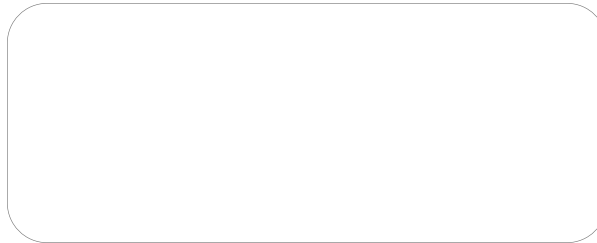
The coming year already has some exciting events scheduled involving the Choir:

Our first **Choir Open House** will take place Sunday, Sept. 22 from 11:45am-12:45pm following Coffee Hour in the sanctuary. If you've been wondering what it is like to sing with the CUC Choir, join us for a fun-filled hour of rounds, folk songs, and spirituals followed by some camaraderie and munchies. Ages 12 and up are welcome. For more information, contact Choir Director Lisa Meyer at 516-299-2475 during the day or at [lisa.meyer@liu.edu](mailto:lisa.meyer@liu.edu) at any time.

Next spring, the CUC Choir will be collaborating with several other New York UU congregations in a spring concert on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 7pm at CUC. Details are still taking shape, but the event promises to be exciting and rewarding for all involved and for those that attend. We hope that you can join us!

Many thanks to the Music Committee, Music Director Adam Kent, and all that have been so supportive with their time, compliments, and assistance. I look forward to seeing you all in the fall and hope that you can join us for some singing next season.

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468 Rosedale Avenue  
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Communitarian Deadline for  
September Edition:

**Sunday, August 18**

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