

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

January 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
December Edition:
Sunday, January 23rd

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

Minister's Moment...

Justice is the theme for January. The Worship Associates and I agree that it is a big topic, but it is one that is central to many religions, mostly especially our Unitarian Universalism. "Justice" is the only substantive word that appears more than once in our Seven Principles: it is in both the second and the sixth. Back in the 1990s I asked about 25 ministerial colleagues what holidays they truly celebrated with their congregations. More than Easter, more than Mother's Day, almost as much as Christmas, we UUs celebrate Martin Luther King Day. Justice is at our core.

Unitarian Universalists were marching with the African American groups who organized for Civil Rights of the 1960s. And we have been active since the 1970s in all the fights for Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender rights. As you may remember, most of the ministers who officiated at same sex marriages in New Paltz were UUs. It was a personal joy to see one milestone in that area a few days ago, with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." UUs have worked on these GLBT issues in the ways we always work for justice: both demonstration and quiet negotiation. We will talk about these efforts in January.

But I would like you to think about the more personal ways in which we seek justice in our daily interactions with other people. Have you ever gone to bat for a workplace colleague who was being unfairly treated? Have you ever helped a neighbor sort out a sticky matter with government or business? Have you encouraged your children to stand up to unfairness at school? We work for justice in these small, individual ways as well. If you have a story to tell about helping someone find justice, or receiving help yourself, please send me the story. revcarol@earthlink.net.

And I would like to hear your stories about something else, too. If you have ever served on a jury, what stories can you tell about that? What did you learn from jury duty? If you would be willing to speak briefly about that in a service toward the end of the month, let me know.

True justice is elusive. The scales are never exactly level. And maybe they shouldn't be. Do people deserve mercy? Do people who have been unfairly treated deserve more than fairness now?

Happy New Year to all of you. And may 2011 be just and merciful for you.

— *Rev. Carol*

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.

AMONG OURSELVES

In Memory...

Our thoughts are with Anne Hintermeister on the death of her father.

Also our thoughts are with Craig Hunt and the Hunt-Maguire family on the death of Craig's father, Roger Hunt.

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout January call Carol Mehta at 914-234-6294.

Thank You!

We are so grateful to all of you for providing toiletries, gifts, hats, mittens, gloves, and so forth to so many men, women, and children in need in our neighborhoods. To give and to receive....all volunteers also received the gift of knowing how much of a community effort we created.

Ray Messing

Suggestions Requested for Nominees to the Board of Trustees

The Nominating Committee for the Board of Trustees welcomes your suggestions for members of the congregation whom you believe would be worthy candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees. Please discuss your suggestion(s) with one of the members of the Nominating Committee: John Saccardi, Bob Smith, Ray Schmitt, Claire Kuczinski or Mary Cavallero. We are looking for candidates who are actively involved and/or who have a history of service to CUC. If you prefer to do this by e-mail, you can write to the Nominating Committee at jmlmwp@aol.com.

Scriptural Source

Luke 10:25-37

Books

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and the other books in the Stieg Larsson trilogy.

Children's Books

Lucretia Mott: Friend of Justice by Kern Knapp Sawyer (K – 3rd grade)

Freedom on the Menu: The Story of the Greensboro Sit-ins by Carole Boston Weatherford (K- 4th grade)

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by Kathleen Krull (grades 3-6)

When Justice Failed: The Fred Korematsu Story by Steven A. Chin (grades 3-6) The story of a man who resisted Japanese internment.

The Cow of No Color: Riddle Stories and Justice Tales from Around the World by Nina Jaffe (grade 4 and up)

Films & Plays

The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

12 Angry Men A play and also a film from 1957, about how a dissenting juror changes the direction of a jury.

Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989) PG-13 Woody Allen's rumination on justice short-changed.

Atonement (2007) R One event that changed the lives of many.

January
Resource List

Justice

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Church energy is on a high going into this dark, cold time of year. At the December Board meeting, we lit a whole grouping of Lara's chalices to signify light, warmth, hope and the newly emerging UU celebration of Chalice*. The Adult Coming of Age class is studying hard; a new Community Action Project is being discussed and planned; the Buildings and Grounds crew has been winterizing the outside, building fires inside and replacing RE stair tiles; the Auction Committee did a magnificent job and is now resting; the choir was in full voice for its holiday performance and many, many holiday presents were collected for those in need. As we approach the midpoint of this church year, planning has already started for the next year.

To quote our denomination's web site: "A congregation in transition calls for a transitional ministry" Our denomination provides a program for congregations moving between ministries called an Interim Ministry. We will be using this program over the next one or two years as we prepare for, and subsequently search for a new full-time, settled minister. It is the function of an Interim Minister to help a transitioning congregation figure out who they are and where they are headed. Interims are trained in helping congregations access their strengths, weaknesses, goals and priorities. They are skilled at working with the congregation to process emotions related to the departing minister and to help examine structural strengths and visions as the congregation moves forward into the search process for a new minister to be formally called by the congregation. I urge everyone to invest 15 minutes in the future of our church by watching the video on the UUA website entitled

"The Interim Opportunity"

http://www.uua.org/videos/legacy.php?movie=mpl/interim_opportunity.mov or search for "The Interim Opportunity" in the box on the home page (top-right) of UUA.org.

The selection of an Interim Minister is a streamlined process of matching that takes place in early May for all churches and Interims searching for late summer positions. Our process started at the October Board of Trustees meeting with the passing of a resolution to hire an Interim Minister for a one or two year period starting August 1, 2011. The application will be submitted to the denominational office in Boston shortly and a subcommittee of the Board is being formed to handle the task of putting together a packet about our church and reviewing the resumes and packets of potential ministers. The Board then hires the Interim Minister for the August start date.

Again, please take the time to watch the video. If you can't access it at home, catch me after service and I would be glad to start the video on one of the office computers.

**- Anne Majsak
Chair, Board of Trustees**

*Chalice is seven days long and begins on the first Monday in December. Each day represents a different Unitarian Universalist Principle; a chalice is lit each day and actions/gifts/volunteering may be given and received. From www.facebook.com/UU.Chalice
Also see www.uuworld.org/news/articles/153582.shtml

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY.....DUE JANUARY 18

Off and on over the years, many different people at CUC have talked about orchestrating a church wide community project.

The time has comeThe process has finally begun !!!! Several meetings have been held, tossing around ideas, locations, topics, needs and opportunities. We need to get input from YOU !!!!

We've talked about helping at The Coachman in White Plains, working with LGBT youth in NYC, orchestrating projects for Centro Hispano in White Plains and neighboring communities, doing additional in-depth work with Furniture Share house, to name a few of the ideas.....

We would like ALL friends and members of CUC to give us their input, their interest, availability and thoughts. In order to have your voice heard, please complete the short survey that can be found by going to the homepage of our website at www.cucwp.org.

To complete the survey [click here](http://www.cucwp.org), or go to www.cucwp.org.

New

The deadline for submission is Monday January 18, 2011. If you prefer a written paper survey, copies are available at CUC.

With the survey results as a basis for moving forward, we will refine our project ideas, speak in depth to potential project partners and recommend a project for the community to undertake over the next 12 to 18 months. Let's roll up our sleeves and help out in our community !!! I'm in, are you?

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Nicole Klemens at nsklemens@optonline.net or 914-967-4419.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Paradise...

In preparation, or what some would call procrastination, of writing a paper for my theology class I ran across a book that immediately sparked my interest. *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of this World for Crucifixion and Empire.* By Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker (Beacon Press, 2008).

I have long struggled with what I have seen to be the contradictions with the teachings of Jesus and the actions of those considered to be Christian. The authors state “the needs of empire—and theologies that justified and then sanctified violence and war—transformed Christianity and alienated Western Christians from a world they had once perceived as paradise.” I was fascinated to learn that images of the crucified Jesus did not appear until the tenth century.

Our Universalist heritage has long embraced the life-affirming images of Jesus and the belief that all souls are saved. Currently, our seven principles call us to action to create heaven on earth for all of its inhabitants.

As UUs we have an important message to share with this world. We are called “to embrace life’s aching tragedies and persistent beauties, to labor for justice and peace, to honor one another’s dignity, and to root our lives in the soil of this good and difficult earth.” May we MAKE it so in 2011.

Lara Campbell, DRE

A COMMON READ FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS:

New

THE DEATH OF JOSSELINE: IMMIGRATION STORIES FROM THE ARIZONA BORDER- LANDS

This year the UUA has suggested *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Border*, by Margaret Ryan, as a congregational common read, the first to be done in a number of years.

With the support of Rev Carol, DRE Lara, Board of Trustees and the Program Council, CUC will be participating along with many other congregations in this project. Copies of the book are being sold and dates for intergenerational discussions will be announced soon.

Gail Forsyth-Vail, the Unitarian Universalist Association’s (UUA’s) Adult Programs director, explains: “The book ‘begs for ‘processing’ in a trusted community, as these stories are not easily held alone. Touching the soul and the heart as well as the mind, they call us to the religious act of bearing witness to brutality and despair, and extraordinary courage and commitment. We need a faith community to experience these stories together and to discern how we will respond and act.”

Individuals who are interested in offering leadership should contact Jane Dixon (jrdixon@optonline.net).



RE Council—

Of the many RE activities in December, one of the most successful by almost any measure was our 2nd Annual Deck the Halls on December 5th. The most tangible evidence of this engaging event is on display in the sanctuary. Big kids and little kids alike—armed with glue, glitter, construction paper, beads and any other colorful thing around—joined in a creative frenzy making ornaments to adorn our halls for the month. Saint Nick made an appearance and bravely and cheerfully endured tough scrutiny and questioning from our kids, who put into practice already well-honed truth seeking skills.

Children’s Choir was back in full force again, too, helping us all to celebrate the season with music and carols. We may even be able to boast of another season with more than one boy in the choir!

To kick off 2011, K – 5th Graders will select worthy Social Action projects, so start saving that loose change for some of our CUC more diminutive members. If your spirits lag a bit a few weeks into January...fight those blues by coming in good and hungry on the 23rd for Chili Sunday sponsored by the 6th and 7th graders. This is always a reliable way to prepare body and soul for the depths of winter.

Thanks to CUC families for supporting our children and youth so enthusiastically this year—in all RE activities and ventures. It’s a pleasure and an honor to be part of a congregation so committed to raising strong, healthy and engaged young people.

Kate Colson, RE Council Chair

MINISTERIAL INTERN

A Brief Reflection on Social Justice and Education

I stand amazed at the outpouring of gifts brought in for families at Coachmen and Bedford, a profusion of generosity from the congregation during this season of giving. Yet, in the midst of the holidays and in the midst of discussions with congregants about possible social action projects, I find myself wondering what am I doing now so that next year there may be fewer people who are in need? In different areas of social justice, how do we work on both immediate and individual relief and on systemic changes?

As I began working on this article, my husband Chris graded final exams for his 11th grade Advanced Algebra class, so my theoretical ruminations intersect with the reality of public education. I hear frustration in Chris' voice, and under the frustration, heartache. For many of his students, the finals demonstrate a lack of understanding of basic math: drawing a parabola when asked to draw two lines, saying the square root of 160 is 160, ...

Chris recognizes part of his role in this as a second-year teacher, still learning about classroom management and continuing to try to learn how to connect with the students, both about the subject and across cultures. At the same time, I know that last year he taught an honors class in the same school in which the students mastered the subject well, and that he brings dedication and hard work to the classroom. Another teacher, more experienced in teaching Advanced Algebra, has one class that is averaging 50% on exams and one that is averaging 80%. How do you evaluate that teacher's work if you are judging only by the numbers? How does a student remain engaged when they are already lost in the material or do not know how it could be applicable to their lives?

The students themselves, teachers, parents, administrators all have roles that contribute to the results of the exams Chris is grading, but there are many systemic problems as well. One can see them in today's headlines about the education system. The San Francisco Chronicle shouts "Brace for Pain, Educators" on the first page, explaining "Gov.-elect Brown says state's public schools better get ready for more cuts, probably deep ones." Closer to CUC, the New York Daily News declares "Education Department's special-ed help mostly goes to the city's rich." Budget debates during the upcoming year will effect our children's education and their future lives. Beneath the education system's problems, or more accurately intersecting with them, justice issues of economic disparity, prejudice by race, gender, sexual orientation, language barriers, and other continua of privilege affect students' experiences and the outcomes.

As the new year begins, may we strive to change the systems that lead to inequality, keeping the focus on justice alive all year.

- Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE...WHO ARE WE?

Ministerial Internship Committee

Who We Are and What We Do

The Ministerial Internship Committee is composed of five members: Janet Bear, Anne Hintermeister, Marianne Milzoff, Tom Rosenbaum and Jeff Tomlinson. We meet monthly with the Ministerial Intern, Susan Donham, to help orient, advise and provide a source of support as she develops her personal and professional skills of congregational ministry.

We encourage each member of the congregation to get to know Susan and provide feedback directly to her. However, this committee is responsible for completing a mid-year and end of year evaluation of the work of the intern, as required by the Unitarian Universalist Association. So, we also welcome your comments. We will be hosting the coffee hour on January 9th, so please stop by and chat with us.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY...WHO ARE WE?

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry meets each month to help support our minister, Rev Carol Huston. We also provide her feedback on ways she can improve her ministry and best support the congregation. If you have any feedback/suggestions for the Committee on Ministry, please feel free to contact any of the members. The committee members and their respective emails are listed below.

Creighton Cray – Char. creighton.Cray@jpmchase.com

Maxi Feldman. feldmanmaxi9@gmail.com

Andy Block. andy.block@twcable.com

Karen Schatzel. KSchatzel@earthlink.net

Jim Cobb. jamescobb@optonline.net

EVENTS AT CUC...

PLAYREADING GROUP

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

January 10th, “The Good Doctor” by Neil Armstrong, led by Anita Marlin.

February 7th, “Radio Golf” by August Wilson, led by Heidi Anderson.

March 7th, “The Devil’s Disciple” by George Bernard Shaw, led by Ken Kessler.



April 4th, “The Rose Tattoo” by Tennessee Williams, led by Ken Kessler.

May 2nd, “A Member of the Wedding” by Carson McCullers, led by Charles Selinske.

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

Chili Sunday

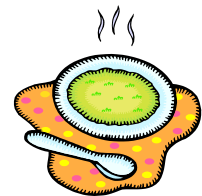
– the day you’ve all been waiting for –
Sunday, January 23, 2010

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
(8th grade and under)



Odyssey Sunday January 30th

New

At various times in the past we have invited members of the congregation to talk with us about their lives and views. Sometimes we have captured these sessions on tape or CD to form a library of memories.

The time has come to collect Odysseys again, beginning with an after-service program on Sunday, January 30. On this day we will show some parts of Sumi Koide's Odyssey, collected a few years ago. Sumi will be present to answer questions or expand on those memories.

Would you like to talk about your life journey some time this winter or spring? If so, please contact Rev. Carol, 946-1660 x3.

A
S
C



Social Action - January 11th

The Action for Social Concerns committee welcomes all members new and old that would like to express their ideas and participate in social action, locally and nationally. Please join us on Tuesday January 11th at 7:30PM and tell us how you would like us to reach out to our community and what causes and neighbors in need we should reach out to.

Spanish Continues...

Spanish Conversation Circle, invites new members for their next set of classes beginning Jan 10. Small classes with native speaker. 15 classes for \$100. Please call or email Jane Dixon jrdixon@optonline.net /949-5919

Midnight Run Friday, January 21st



On Midnight Runs we provide food and clothing to the homeless in Manhattan. Your participation can range from

- providing gently used clothing, hats, gloves, blankets, and scarves. In addition we accept new men's underwear and socks
- Providing food in advance such as bread, cold cuts, fruit, or hard boiled eggs
- Preparing food the evening of the run by making sandwiches and coffee at CUC, starts at 8:30 PM
- Attending the run itself which runs from Friday night to about 2 AM.

Look for the sign-up sheets in the CUC lobby. For more information contact Alan Morrice at 997-5629 or at amorrice@asanteglobal.com.



Film Night

Sunday, January 23
7:30 PM at the Parsonage

12 Angry Men

A film from 1957, about how a dissenting juror changes the direction of a jury.



Community Project.....Join in!!!

Take the survey.

To complete the survey [click here](#), or go to www.cucwp.org. The deadline for submission is Monday January 18, 2011. If you prefer a written paper survey, copies are available at CUC.

For more information, see the article on page 3.



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.



METRO DISTRICT NEWS

Chalice Lighters Call

What is Chalice Lighters? In the UU District of Metro NY, Chalice Lighters continues the centuries-old Unitarian practice of congregations supporting each other.

In our UU district this year, **three** congregations with **two** projects come to you under **one** banner: "Growing our Spaces and our Spirits" The Mount Kisco NY, Lincroft NJ, and East Brunswick NJ congregations all share a goal of growth. We aspire to grow in size, to grow in sustainability and to grow in spirit. The UUDMNY Chalice Lighters Call in the fall of 2010 asks you to help our three congregations grow our spaces and our spirits. Our projects were chosen by the district as ones that would best contribute to our district's strength and values. CUC or (preferably) directly to Bill Slezak

In November we raised over \$500 towards the growth project at the Mount Kisco congregation.

To further support Chalice Lighters, you may make checks payable to CUC with "Chalice Lighters" in the memo line, and we will forward it accordingly. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your contributions!

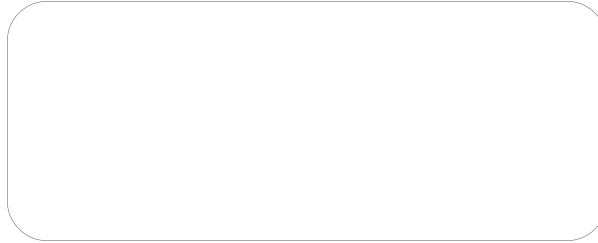
Please contact Kathleen Judd at 914-428-1948 for more information about Chalice Lighters.

**- Denise Tomlinson,
Metro District Affairs**

JANUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee 12n-4pm Boxing Day at parsonage	27 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	28	29 2:00p Kwanzaa Celebration at Slater Center	30 Offices Closed	31 Offices Closed	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Offices Closed
2 10:15a Intergenerational Worship Service/coffee 11:45a-1p Spirit of Truth	3 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9p Spanish 7:30p-9p Play Reading 7:30p-9p Amnesty International	4	5 7:30-9 pm Program Council	6	7	8 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10 am-12n, One Year To Live Class 10a-11a UU Theology
9 8:30a-9:45a Adult Coming of Age Class 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:45a Welcome	10 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	11 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p ASC Committee Meeting	12 7:30-9 pm Board of Trustees meeting	13 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	14	15 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
16 8:45-9:45am Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:45a Fun Facts with Adam Kent 11:45 Music Comm.	17 MLK DAY 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 8p-9:30p Finance Committee	18 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	19 7:30-9:00PM Worship Associates Committee	20 7:30-9:00pm Community Project Committee	21 6:00pm-midnight 8th/9th Grade Retreat 8:30pm Midnight Run	22 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 6:00pm-midnight 8th/9th Grade Retreat
23 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:30a-1:00p Chili Sunday 6p-9p 6th grade OWL parents' meeting 7:30p Movie Night COMMUNITARIAN DEADLINE	24 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30p-9:30p Adult Coming of Age Class	25 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	26 7:30p-9:30 RE Council	27 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	28	29 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
30 8:45-9:45am Choir 9a-10a 1st/K parents' meeting 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship	31 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	1 Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	2 7:30-9 pm Program Council	3	4	5 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson

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.

JANUARY SERVICES 2011

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

JANUARY 2

"Tomorrow's Just a Future Yesterday"
An Intergenerational Service for the New Year

JANUARY 9

"Welcoming Thoughts in the Wake of D.A.D.T. "
Susan Donham, Intern

JANUARY 16

A Service for Martin Luther King Day
The choir will sing

JANUARY 23

"Perfection, Imperfection, Sin & Grace"
Rev. Lora Brandis

JANUARY 30

"What I Learned from Jury Duty"
Dr. Randy Marshall & Others
The Choir will sing