

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

MARCH 2012



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

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere
Interim Minister

Annie Gonzalez
Religious Education Coordinator

Liliana Keith
Church Administrator

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

Susan King
Bookkeeper

For more information
about CUC:

www.cucwp.org
Email: info@cucwp.org
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline for
April Edition:
Sunday, March 18

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

In the Interim . . .

Like many Unitarian Universalist congregations, CUC donates from the collection plate to outside agencies who serve those in need. It wasn't long after I arrived here that I received my first request for funding the "agency of the month." When I asked about the procedure for selection, I was told "oh, the minister just chooses them."

Since then I've said yes to every request. We have agencies scheduled through April. We've supported the Furniture Sharehouse, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, the Food Pantry, our Community Outreach work with the Coachman Family Center, Disaster Chaplaincy Services and Midnight Run. This month we're supporting the Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for Nonviolence and next month it will be the Pinwheel Project that provides gifts to hospitalized children. The amounts we send are in the 300-400 dollar a month range.

But why am *I* deciding which groups receive *your* financial support? Shouldn't you be involved in this?

This brings up two questions. One is logistics—how does the congregation decide? Could you nominate an agency and make a brief statement about their work in the newsletter? Could you vote in a special meeting, or by email ballot?

And the deeper question has to do with the criteria for selection. With so many groups doing good work in the community, are there reasons we might select one over another?

Involvement by our members and/or other UUs might be a factor. Congruence with the UU Principles certainly. In my experience in many UU congregations, our work in social justice strives for the following components: direct hands-on work, education, and advocacy. Might we consider these categories in the projects we support?

Please talk to me or drop me an email if you have ideas!

Yours in faith, Benjamin

MARCH SERVICES 2012, 10:15 AM

March 4 Youth Sunday, Virtual Community through Social Networking

The CUC Youth share their thoughts and inspirations with you on this Sunday. The entire service is planned and presented by the 10th-12th graders.

March 11 Walking Together

Why should we invest in Community Unitarian Church at White Plains?

March 18 Building our Own Theology.

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. It's not easy being in a religion that expects us to come up with our own answers to "life's persistent questions." But it is our sacred task as UU's.

March 25 Elissa Schuler Adair

Topic to be announced.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Velvet Mat

It was 1913, and All Souls Church of White Plains had moved its worship services out of the homes of its members and into a series of rented quarters.

Bertha Harker remembered some of those locations:

"At one time we met in the second floor of a new building on Mamaroneck Avenue. It was called the "Mammoth Garage" To emphasize its name I suppose; the owners had placed, high up on the front (by our windows), two huge heads of elephants sticking right out over the street – an odd sign for a church! This was the largest and most comfortable space we had, as yet, found.

It was here that some members became much disturbed over the passing of the plate for contributions. They said it was too mundane a matter, though necessary, to intrude upon the high level mood in which we were supposed to be, at that stage of the service.

So a wooden box was provided at the exit where one could inconspicuously drop his money as he was leaving, and no sound of 'filthy lucre' could be heard. But alas! The amount grew less and less to an alarming degree, so very sadly the passing of the plate was resumed. In those days more silver than paper was given, so a velvet mat was provided to cover the metal plate."

As a church we have historically had an uncomfortable relationship with money. Today, more than 100 years later, we are moving through another financially challenging period but a velvet mat won't due the trick.

The church is a significant part of our lives, promotes our spiritual growth and for many of us, it is central to our identity. Giving generously is a way of living out our spiritual principles and ensuring that in the future others may have the opportunity to do the same.

I look forward to sharing thoughts with you as we gather in community during one of the Giving Campaign Coffee Hour Circles on March 11, 25 and April 1.

~ *In Community,*
Janet Press, Board Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Council

\$1,000 raised for Wolf Conservation Center

Before we look ahead to the highlights of our March activities in RE, I want to take the opportunity again to thank the congregation for your support of the PreK-5th grade social action project this fall, the Wolf Conservation Center. Through your generosity during the calendar sale and WCC's visit on February 12, we raised over \$1,000 to support their conservation activities! Well done RE kids and their leaders, Pam Cucinell Pardillo and Amy Swiss. The visit from Atka, the ambassador wolf, was a unique and exciting experience as well!

Next Project, Ecumenical Food Pantry

And, they are not done yet... During March and April, the PreK-5th graders will be collecting cereal for the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Please bring your donations of healthy cereals to the donation box in the RE lobby. See the separate notice in this issue of the Communitarian for further details.

Pancake Brunch

Not to be outdone, the older youth have a busy month ahead as well. The first 6th grade OWL class has its first retreat on Friday, March 2nd. The Youth Group will host its annual Pancake Brunch on Sunday, March 18. Special note to all Coming of Age students and mentors - there will be a special section set up at the brunch for you to gather.

Service Led By Youth Group

One of the special worship services we all look forward to each year is the one run by the Youth Group. Their service in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 4 will lead us through an exploration of the positives and negatives of building virtual community through social networking. The Coming of Age students will host the coffee hour.

Children's Worship and Interim DRE Search

We have one last open spot to run a children's worship service on May 20. Please contact Annie Gonzalez if you are interested in this opportunity. She can provide you with an outline and resource suggestions as well.

Finally, I want to update you on our progress toward hiring an Interim DRE for the next two years. A search committee has been formed, and includes David Schuler and Michelle Reichman from the Board and Kevin Sullivan and me from the REC. We accepted applications in January and have been interviewing candidates in February. We hope to be able to have someone selected by early spring. We will keep you posted.

- Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair

EVENTS...

Midnight Run Friday, March 9th

Join youth and adults as we go to Manhattan and provide food and clothing for the homeless (8 pm until after midnight). Or join us for the prep work before we hit the road (8 pm to 10 pm). Or supply food or clothing in advance of the run.



Sign-up sheets are in the lobby, or contact David Schuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com.

Men's clothing can be dropped off at CUC anytime.



GIVING CAMPAIGN
COFFEE HOUR CIRCLES

What are your current connections to CUC? What draws you back? What do you value most about congregational life? What activities or ingredients or ways of life are most important? What are the best features of this church?

Please choose one of the Sunday coffee hours listed below to join us in a thoughtful conversation circle about the true meaning of our Giving Campaign as we seek to understand the words of Rev Benjamin: "Our congregations are not charities, they are crucibles of charity."

MARCH 11 (11:15-Noon)

MARCH 25 (11:15-Noon)

APRIL 1 (11:15-Noon)

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Sign up sheets will be around in the lobby March 4th and 11th or contact Jane Dixon at jrdixon@optonline.net or 949-5919.

March 18, Sunday

PANCAKE BRUNCH

\$3 children, \$5 adult, \$15 per family
Sponsored by the Youth Group



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
NOMINATIONS

Thank you all for giving your input into the process of choosing a Ministerial Search Committee. The Search Committee will be charged with one of the most important tasks of the congregation: finding the best minister for our community. Given the weighty nature of the task, the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee would like to have ample time to consider all relevant information prior to assembling the slate of candidates for the Search Committee.

In order to do this, we will not be taking committee nominations from the floor during the Committee election. Instead, congregational conversations took place on February 10-12 and 18-19 where many of you voiced your ideas on potential search committee members. If you missed one of those opportunities, you still have until March 5th to contact Erin Foster at ee Foster@aol.com to make a nomination.

Congregants may also self nominate via an application form. If you would like an application form or have any questions, please contact Erin Foster at 914-725-6262 or ee Foster@aol.com. Self-nomination forms are due by noon on March 5. Please return forms to Erin Foster's box in the CUC office before noon on March 5.

We're On Our Way

Presenting the Children's next Social Action Project:

A Cereal Drive

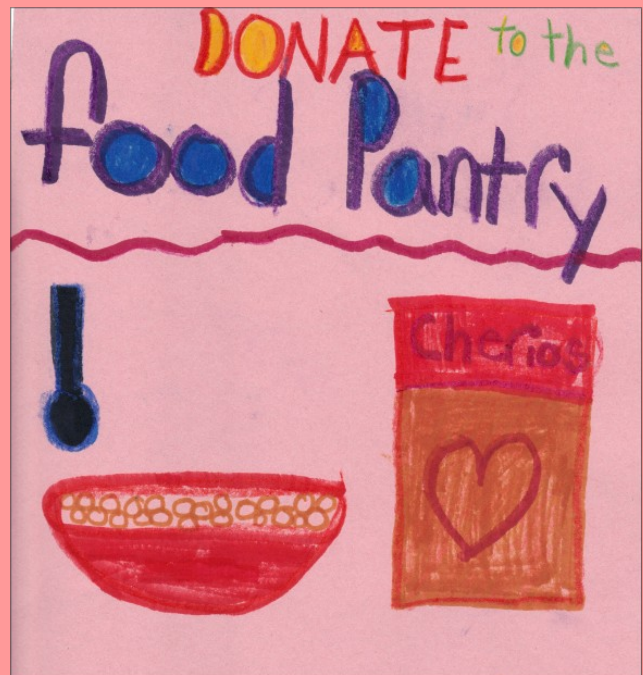
To Benefit the White Plains Ecumenical Food Pantry

Please join the children of the congregation as we all pitch in to help the many hungry families in our community. The White Plains Ecumenical Food Pantry distributes food to nearly 200 families each week. Their biggest need is CEREAL. When you do your food shopping each week during the months of March and April, please purchase an extra box or two of cereal and drop it off in the collection box located in the RE lobby.

Guidelines:

- Cold, boxed cereal is preferred
- Good examples- Rice Krispies, Cheerios, Corn Flakes, or any healthy cereal
- Avoid cereals with too much sugar or additives.
- Boxes should be NO LARGER than 14 oz.

Thank you for helping to make the world a little bit better for a family in need!



The CUC 2nd Annual Congregational Read

Discussion on the UUA Congregational Read, Acts of Faith

Led by Rev Benjamin

March 19th 12-1:30

(Bring your own brown bag lunch)



*March Family Fun Night
St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner*

Friday, March 16, 7pm-9:30 pm

Bring a traditional or non-traditional food item or beverage to share

Basic menu: Corned beef , cooked cabbage and potatoes, cole slaw, green salad, bread and condiments for corned beef sandwiches, Irish soda bread, iced tea, lemonade, beer, coffee, desserts

Free

Board Games for Kids

PLEASE RSVP

Sign up sheets in lobby, or email Mary Oliansky at maryoliansky@yahoo.com

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

On March 1st registration for the Annual Meeting of UUA of Congregation or General Assembly (GA) will open. This year's GA will be held in Phoenix Arizona June 20-24. Going to GA is always an expensive proposition so if you are planning to attend you need to start planning now. Airfares from NY are \$390 roundtrip and hotel from \$125 per night. There are opportunities for room sharing and they are working on housing at Arizona State University. If you need help planning to attend GA please give me a call or email me at denice.uu@att.net.



Help Send More Youth to General Assembly

It is most difficult for youth and young adults to attend GA. There are scholarships available and other ways to make GA more accessible for youth and young adults. If you want to help with scholarships, follow the link for more info. <http://blueboat.blogs.uua.org/ga2012/>.

The **Phoenix Witness Project** is a scholarship fund intended to help more youth and young adults attend the Justice General Assembly in Phoenix AZ June 20-24, 2012. We can support the Phoenix Witness Project through individual and congregational contributions. The Paypal link is as follows:

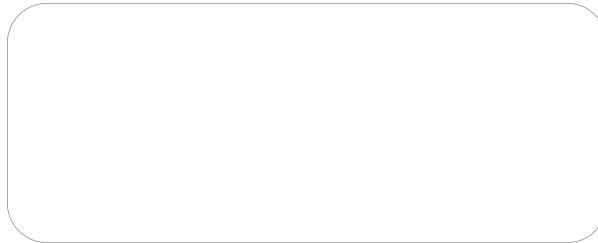
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=JYR4NFB BX683J

Submitted by Denice Tomlinson

~ MARCH 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6p-10:30p 6th OWL Retreat	3
4 8:45a-10a Youth Group Rehearsal 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10:15a-10:40a Family Service 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth	5 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	6 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	7	8 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	9 Midnight Run 8p-2a	10 9a-12p Search Committee
11 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-10a CoA Parent Meeting 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:15a-12p Giving Campaign 11:30-12:15p Children's Choir	12 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	13 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	14 7:30-9:30 p Board of Trustees	15	16 6p-10:30p 6th OWL Retreat 7p-9:30p St. Patrick's Family Dinner	17 
18 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-10a 1st grade OWL Parents Mtg 10:15a-11:45a Family Service 10:15-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:15a-11:45a New Comers Orientation 11:15-1p Pancake Brunch 11:30-12:15p Children's Choir 11:45a-12:45p Fun Facts	19 12p-1:30p Annual Congregational Read 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	20 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	21	22 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA)	23	24
25 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:15-12p Giving Campaign 11:30-12:15p Children's Choir 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee	26 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 7:30p-9:30p Play Reading Group (41)	27 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	28 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	29 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	30	31

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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.

CARING & SHARING

If you, or someone you know, is in need of assistance from the caring and sharing circle, contact Ingrid Hartmann at 946-2026 (wwwingrid@webtv.net) or Nicky Klemens at 967-4419 (nsklemens@optonline.net).



Sanctuary Flowers

Share your cherished occasions. Flower donations at CUC are for you to honor loved ones. A birthday? An anniversary? A new family member? A remembrance day? The bouquet will adorn the sanctuary and the occasion will be mentioned in the Sunday Order of Service. To make a flower donation, contact Liliana Keith at 946-1660 x2 or at admin@cucwp.org. The cost is \$65.

Dates Available For Flower Donations:

March 18
April 8
April 15
April 29
May 6
May 13 (Mother's Day)

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.