

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

March 2010



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

Louise Jacono
Church Administrator
Newsletter Editor/Design

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

For more information
about CUC:
www.cucwp.org
Email: info@cucwp.org
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline
for April Edition:
Sunday, March 21

Submit information to
Louise Jacono
Email: admin@cucwp.org
Fax: 914.948.2603

Minister's Moment...

As most of you know, Zachary Morrice and I will be on our way to the Philippines by the time you wake up on Monday, March 8. We will join a tour organized by the UU Partner Church Council, and visit Unitarian Universalist village churches on Negros Island. Zachary will meet with youth in several parts of the Island, and he and I will both talk with leaders of the UU Church of the Philippines, including the Rev. Rebecca Sienes who is the daughter of the martyred founder of the UU Church of the Philippines, Toribio Quimada. The CUC website has material about Quimada's life and work.

Sunday, February 28, Richard Ford, who has done livelihood assessments in Philippine villages including our potential partner Doldol, will be with us to speak about his perceptions of the Philippines. And on March 7, we will be collecting notes and questions that you might want to send to adults and children in Doldol. We would also gratefully receive any contributions you might want to make to defray the expenses for Zach's travel. And if anyone would like to contribute a used laptop in good working condition, we would joyfully take that to the leaders of the Doldol congregation.

I am not sure how often Zach and I will find internet connection, but when we can, we will be in touch. I will post to my BLOG on the website, and both of us will put messages on Facebook. But even when we are not in touch, you can think about us as we make the following progress:

Monday, March 8 Flight to Manila, via Seoul, Korea
Tuesday, March 9 Flight to Dumaguete, Negros Island, and time to rest there
Wednesday, March 10 Visiting congregations in Nagbinlod, Caican, and Banaybanay
Thursday, March 11 Bus to Culipapa and the beach at Hinobaan
Friday March 12 Travel to Doldol to see the village and meet people.
Saturday, March 13 RE workshop, with Doldol teachers in Malingan
Sunday, March 14 Worship in Cabiguhan and then to Nataban and San Carlos City
Monday, March 15 Aquino, Canlaon City, and back to Dumaguete for the night
Tuesday, March 16 Return to the US, via Manila and Seoul, jet-lagged, but happy!

We will be back in services on March 21, and I will look forward to seeing all of you on that day, which is also the Canvass Brunch. The theme for the month is Truth, and I am excited to think that my sense of truth will be a bit deeper because I have seen our UU congregations across the Pacific.

Be well. I'll see you soon.

Rev. Carol

March's Theme
-- Truth --
Resource List

Scripture

Buddhist Adana 68-69 The Parable of the
Blind Men and the Elephant
Christian John 18: 33-38 "What is truth?"

Books

Angels and Ages: A Short Book about Darwin,
Lincoln, and Modern Life by Adam Gopnik
(2009)

Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the
Conflict Between Faith and Reason by
Russell Shorto (2009)

Children's Books

Old Turtle and the Broken Truth by Douglas
Wood

The Honest-to-Goodness Truth by Patricia C.
McKissack

Film

The Apostle (1997) The story of a charismatic
but troubled Pentacostal preacher, starring
Robert Duvall, also written and directed by
him.

A Beautiful Mind (2001) A brilliant economist
seeks truth through the fog of mental illness.
Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connolly star.

The Invention of Lying (2009) Ricky Gervais
imagines a society which cannot lie. The
concept is stronger than the film, but still
interesting

Rashomon (1950) Kurosawa's classic
exploration of the multiplicity of truth

AMONG OURSELVES

*If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle:
throughout March call Ingrid Hartmann at 946-2026.*

Our condolences to the family of
Elaine Lapidus. A former longtime
member of CUC, Elaine died on
February 5 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where
she lived near her family. A memorial
service will be held at CUC in the future.



Baby & Child Dedications
during 10:15am services on
Sundays, March 21 and May 9 (Mother's Day)

If you would like to have your
baby or child dedicated during either of these
services, please call Rev. Carol at 946-1660 ext 3.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On March 21, my wife Janet has promised to make me a wonderful brunch with gourmet salads, bagels, lox and cream cheese, scrambled eggs, and frittatas. Better still, she has promised to make that brunch for you as well! You see, Janet is part of the team of wonderful people that are preparing the pledge brunch, and all we have to do to enjoy the brunch is make a pledge and join in a wonderful community event.

I have the date marked on my calendar not only because I know how good the food will be and how much I will enjoy being with my friends, but also because pledging makes me feel good. Pledging makes me feel part of this community and that's important to me. Pledging is also a chance to give back to CUC for the contributions it has made to me and my family.

I first came to CUC in the 1980s when Janet and I were looking for a place that would help us teach our children more about ethics, values and religion. My kids' years at CUC had a tremendously positive impact helping both of them develop into wonderful, caring people. Sure there were the usual Sunday battles to get them out of bed and to CUC, but today they both say that CUC had a big, positive impact on their lives. Surprisingly, while they were in the RE wing I found

that CUC was also having a positive impact on my life. I made some great friends at CUC and met a lot of people with whom I enjoy spending time. I found that the Sunday services offer me a chance to meditate and reflect on what is important in life. I enjoy the music and I benefit from the worship services. For me, Sunday is a chance to slow down a little and put some balance in my life. CUC is a big part of that.

So why does pledging make me feel good? First, it is a chance to give back. People that joined CUC before me, like Harry Moore, both taught my children and pledged the money to CUC that helped it thrive. Now I feel it is my turn to make a similar contribution. Secondly, I care about this community. I benefit from it and I want it to flourish, and that's why I feel good about making my pledge.

In the weeks leading up to the pledge brunch I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on what CUC means to you. I hope you will consider the role CUC plays in your life and the contribution it makes to you and your family. Then please make your pledge and join us at the brunch to celebrate this community.

*Steve Bear, Chair
Board of Trustees*

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Many UU congregations across the country participated in special events to re-imagine Valentine's Day as Standing on the Side of Love Day. You can visit the website or the blog and scroll down to see how Sarah Palin inspired Nate Walker to write his sermon on his hand.

<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/>

Upcoming Dates to remember-

The UU United Nations Office (UUUNO) will hold its 2010 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, *A Climate of Change; Head, Heart and Hands*, **April 7-10**. Youth and adults will gather in New York City to gain a deeper understanding of a topic on global concern.
<http://uu-uno.org>

Junior high youth from all over the District will gather **April 17-18** at the Morristown (NJ) Unitarian Fellowship for the spring Junior Youth Con.
<http://uumetrony.org>

2010 District Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Morristown (NJ) **April 30-May 1**. Rev. Carley will speak on *What Binds Us Together?* focusing on how we might understand our center as a people of faith and

deepen the quality of our spiritual bonds. The a cappella group Olympia's Daughters will be performing. We will need members from our congregation to attend as delegates.

General Assembly 2010 is in Minneapolis, Minnesota **June 23-27**. Registration and Housing will be open March 1. There will be changes in the programming this year. Workshops will be held on Thursday and Friday and plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday with Worship and lectures on all days. As in the past few years, there will be live streaming. You can subscribe to the GA Blog, listen to Audio Podcasts (which, by the way, are already starting up), follow GA on Twitter, and become a fan on Facebook. I still haven't caught up on the 2009 event coverage which is still available at the UUA website.

Call or email Rev Carol or Denice Tomlinson if you are interested in attending either of the annual meetings. Contact Denice at 310-0244 or ptmom@prodigy.net.

*Denice Tomlinson, Chair
Denominational Affairs*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The R.E. View

Hans Elsevier, Sr. sent me a gem in the mail — a copy of **re: R.E. an Occasional Paper** written for CUC by Rev. Betty Baker and published in March 1975 (Vol. 4, No.4).

In this issue Rev. Baker tackles a common problem of her day, and of ours. “Why can’t Johnny tell about his church?” At that point in our UU Religious Education our curriculums were not very well developed. Rev. Baker spoke of compiling a series of sessions for each of the grades on Unitarian Universalism. While I found the outlines of the sessions interesting, I was most struck by the second part of her essay.

Rev. Baker states that she believes, and I agree, “Johnny needs to hear about his church at home. Most of his questions and experiences arise during the week when he is at home and have to be answered and explained there.”

I understand that in the non-stop, over programmed world of today, the idea of teaching children about our faith can seem overwhelming. I want to reassure you that we, the staff, the members, and friends of CUC, are here to support you. We have great books you can borrow, web pages you can search, and adult education classes you can attend.

This is the place for you as parents to question, to wonder and to explore. A place where you too can learn to grow your spiritual selves.

Lara Campbell
Director of Religious Education

Building a Spiritual Foundation

Like many of you, I first came to CUC looking for a religious education for my children. I feel extremely fortunate to have happened upon this oasis of caring, compassion, and good sense. I know that when my children look back at their time at church they will have a solid foundation with which to consider the issues of the world. This is a vivacious and vital religious education program if there ever was one.

As tacky as it may sound, a vital religious education program requires money. The RE program needs money for the obvious things like building expenses, salaries, and crayons for the classrooms; and also for the not-so-obvious things like *Our Whole Lives* leader training and special guest teachers on Special Sundays — the things that make us run and the things that make us fun.

We do not charge families fees at CUC. The funding for the RE program comes from the general canvass. The philosophy of our church is that the religious education of our young people is the responsibility of the entire congregation and likewise, the fiscal health of the congregation is part of the responsibility of the families who use the religious education program.

When the canvass contacts you in the coming weeks, I urge you to think about the importance of a spiritual foundation in the lives of your children and your family and give accordingly.

Thank you,
Erin Foster, Chair
Religious Education Council

March Adult Religious Education Sunday Mornings

9:00am March 7

Minister’s Colloquium

with the Rev. Carol Huston

An opportunity for discussion on the monthly theme, current events, theological matters. On first Sundays.

9:15am March 7, 14, 28

Reading Pema Chodron

with the Rev. Deb Morra

Pema Chodron is a female American Buddhist nun, whose popular writings speak to the human condition and to the Buddhist aim of addressing the cause of suffering in the world. We are reading together *When Things Fall Apart*.

CUC ANNUAL
COOPERATIVE PASSOVER SEDER
TRADITION WITH A UU TWIST

Saturday, March 20 at 6 PM

\$15 adults / \$10 children and seniors / Child care provided

**See sign up sheet outside church office or talk to a
Matzoh Mama:**

**Lori Saccardi (761-2179) ✧ Karen Cutsumpas ✧ Julie Gans
Bobbi Collins ✧ Amy Swiss ✧ Maxi Feldman
Claire Kuczinski ✧ Nicky Klemens**

Tips For Being a Guest at CUC's Volunteer-Run Functions

READ THE EVENT'S DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY.

- Will child care be provided? If not, then check to be sure it is a family and not “adults-only” event.
- Is there a schedule to the festivities? Be sure to arrive in time so as not to miss out on anything.
- Is certain dress suggested? A theme, perhaps? Have fun and add to the festive atmosphere by dressing up.
- Is there a fee to be collected at the door? Try to have a check or the exact amount in bills ready.

SIGN UP IN ADVANCE. “Just one (or two) last minute additions” doesn't seem like it will matter much. However, it's likely there are several other people thinking the same thing. Added guests could require another table to be set up, another tray of food to be added, another bottle or two of wine to be purchased...and several last-minute trips for the event's volunteer planners.

Conversely, PLEASE CALL IF YOU SIGNED UP BUT FIND OUT YOU CAN'T MAKE IT. This allows other add-ons to be accommodated more easily. If you were contributing food or another item/service to the evening, it allows time for a replacement to be found.

ARE ANY NON-MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED? If it's a gift (e.g., for our holiday Opportunities for Giving), please note any wrapping and/or labeling requirements. If it's an item of food, please see next tip.

IF YOU ARE BRINGING FOOD WITH YOU, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- BRING FOOD FULLY COOKED/PREPARED.
- BRING HOT FOOD HOT. Remember, we are down to one oven in our kitchen!
- NOTE IF SPECIAL SERVING DISHES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED, THEN BRING YOUR FOOD IN ONE (e.g., our Cooperative Seder). We provide these specially sized pans to fit into our warming trays, which allows us to circumvent the limited oven space problem.
- BRING COLD OR ROOM-TEMPERATURE FOOD IN DISPOSABLE PANS, OR BE SURE TO TAKE YOUR DIRTY DISH HOME WITH YOU. Having everyone take their own dish home to wash, lightens the load of the clean up crew.

And, lastly, THANK THE EVENT'S ORGANIZERS at the end of the evening. Volunteers one and all, they will be glassy-eyed and exhausted, but they will appreciate knowing that all their hard work was noticed. And they will probably tell you that they are ready and willing to do it all again. (The best way to say “thank you” is to volunteer to help next year!)

ACTION FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS

The ASC forum on Sunday, March 14, will be about Iraqi refugees. Mustafa Kareem Ahmed is able to attend Manhattanville College because of the Iraqi Student Project, a non-profit organization that tutors Iraqi refugees in Syria and Jordan and depends on activists like Andrew Courtney and local donors to provide the tangible support that Mustafa and other Iraqi refugees attending college in the U.S. need. Andrew will show a powerpoint of images from his interviews with Iraqi refugees in Damascus and Amman. Mustafa will speak about his experiences as a refugee and a college student. We will end with your questions for Mustafa and Andrew.

Each month CUC shares 25% of its plate offerings with outside organizations in need. In March we will share our offerings with the Iraqi Student Project.

Barbara Mair

Our film series collaboration with *Transitions Westchester*, continues in March with *The Power of Community - How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*. The showings will take place in:

Northern Westchester –

Time: Saturday, March 13; 7:00-9:30pm

Place: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester, 236 South Bedford Road, Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Southern Westchester –

Time: Sunday, March 21; 7:00-9:30pm

Place: Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Ave. White Plains, NY 10605

There will be discussion after the film. Admission is free, although small donations are welcome to help offset licensing costs of the series. For more information go to: www.transitionwestchester.org/calendar.htm.

THE PLAY'S THE THING ...

CUC's **Play Reading Group** is open to all.

We meet first Mondays at 7:30pm.

If interested, call Ken Kessler at 589-1450.

Upcoming topics:

March 1

Monologues II

April 5

Othello

by William Shakespeare

May 3

Auntie Mame

by Robert E. Lee and Jerome Lawrence

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.

Don't forget!
Daylight Saving Time begins
March 14
Turn your clocks ahead

MARCH 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation 7:30p Play Reading	2	3 7:30p Program Council	4 10:00a Transitions Group	5	6 9:00a Reading Emerson
7 9:00a Minister's Colloquium 9:00a 4/5th grade teachers 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship/RE 11:45a In the Spirit of Truth	8 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	9	10 7:30p Board of Trustees	11 11:30a Science & Spirituality	12	13 9:00a Reading Emerson
14  Daylight Saving Time begins 8:30a ASC Meeting 9:00a 6/7 grade teachers 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:45a Forum: Action for Social Concerns	15 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	16	17	18 10:00a Transitions Group 7:30p Parents of Teenagers	19	20 9:00a Reading Emerson 6:00p Annual Cooperative Passover Seder
21 Communitarian Deadline 9:00a CoA parents 9:00a Youth/Mentor meeting 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Pledge Brunch 11:30a Newcomers 7:00p Documentary Film Series	22 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	23	24 7:30p RE Council	25 10:00a Folding Party 11:30a Science & Spirituality	26	27 9:00a Reading Emerson
28 9:00a Partner Church Comm. 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:45a Fun Facts About Music	29 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	30	31	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pledge Brunch Sunday, March 21 Bring a Pledge and Enjoy Brunch</i></p>		

For latest news and updates go to our website at www.cucwp.org.

The Communitarian is now available on our website.

To stop receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and to start receiving email announcements instead, please send an email to admin@cucwp.org

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605

In this issue:

Minister's Moment	1
March Theme	2
Among Ourselves	2
Board of Trustees	3
Denominational Affairs	3
Religious Education	4
Passover Seder	5
Action for Social Concerns	6
Play Reading	6
Snow Closing Guidelines	6
Monthly Calendar	7
Sunday Services & Forums	8

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write 'refused' across your address and return it unopened. No postage is required.

MARCH SERVICES

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

MARCH 7

Truth or Dare
CUC Choir will sing

MARCH 21

Rev. Carol returns for
Canvass Sunday and Child Dedication
Family service / CUC Choir will sing

MARCH 14

Health Care and the Cost of Community
Hollis Huston speaking

MARCH 28

The Stones Would Shout Out
Rachel Long speaking

FINAL NOTE ↘ MARCH FORUMS

At 11:45am in Fellowship Hall unless noted otherwise

MARCH 7

In the Spirit of Truth

MARCH 14

Action for Social Concerns
See page 6.

MARCH 28

Fun Facts About Music
with Adam Kent
in the sanctuary