

# THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
AT WHITE PLAINS

*Religious Education*  
10:00 am

*Sunday Services*  
10:15 am

*Accessible to Handicapped*

## *In the Interim . . .*

The days grow shorter and light is less; the winter holidays are upon us. The outdoor decorations come out, the air is scented with pine and baking, and music everywhere invites memories and yearnings.

This is also the time when a million seductive images attest that this time is all about spending and getting and having *things*. May we see beyond them. May the true spirit of this time be awakened in our hearts.

With Solstice, the most ancient of the holidays, may we celebrate this time of darkness and renew our wonder at the turning of the seasons.

Hanukkah, the miracle of lights, reminds us of the struggles of oppressed people for liberation. May we pray that contemporary Jews and Palestinians be liberated from hatred and violence.

With Kwanzaa, we are reminded of the ongoing American struggle against the oppression of racism. May this holiday affirm for us all the value of the individual in community.

And from Christmas, may we be reminded that the holy breaks through in unexpected ways, in the most ordinary times and places.

May this be a time when we reach out to one another through the cold and the darkness; a time when we are more aware of the needs of the poor; a time for the comforts of home and the pleasure of friends.

Do something special! Do something for yourself. Do something for someone you love. Do something for someone you don't even know!

Let us all do something to awaken within us the spirit of the holy, manifested in love, hope, peace, and joy. Let us keep that spirit alive, and may it carry us safely through the holidays and throughout the New Year.

Happy Holidays,  
*Benjamin*

Community Unitarian  
Church  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605  
914-946-1660  
[www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)



## **December 2012** **Inside this issue:**

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## DECEMBER SERVICES 2012, 10:15 AM

**December 2.** *Applying Compassion and Wisdom in Daily Life.* Changzhai Shi of the Chan Meditation Center.

**December 9.** *Who Do They Say I Am? Adventures in Unitarian Christology.* The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. This is the first of a series to examine the development of Unitarian views on Jesus.

**December 16.** *Give Your Soul Away.* The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Or else, what's a soul for?

**December 23.** Join us for an intergenerational service with the return of the "No Stress No Fuss" Christmas Pageant!

**Monday December 24<sup>th</sup>.** *Christmas Eve Services. 5:30 PM.* The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Join us for the warmest service of the year, brightened by candles, readings, carols and special music.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sandy was the name of our beloved yellow lab growing up, and I can easily picture her with a red ribbon tied on as an early Christmas present when I was about 7. After the last few weeks, the name Sandy no longer has such positive connotations for me. We live in White Plains, and we were without power for 10 days. It was certainly inconvenient and often uncomfortable, but every time (well almost every time) I felt like complaining, I remembered the many, many folks in our nearby communities in much worse shape.

However, I'm generally an optimist, and I'd like to recount the positive things that came from Sandy:

- We had lots of good quality family time together. We played almost every board game in the house, looked at many old photo albums, and picked up downed branches together.
- It gave us the opportunity to clean out and scrub down our 2 fridges and freezers. With Elissa's mom in town, we threw very little away, and the girls were in awe how their "MeMe" could make delicious soups out of almost anything.
- We got to know some of our neighbors better, whether kvetching about the absence of ConEd; or helping our neighbors clear a downed tree with some extra saws and elbow grease; or making a daily trip with our 5 phones to the family that had power, trailing our charger cords behind us.
- It will always be easy to remember Obama's re-election, as we were nestled in bed, trying to stay warm and awake, and listening to the battery powered radio with a coat hanger for an antenna.
- Since Sandy hit, I've walked our dog at Saxon Woods a half dozen times or so. The devastation of dozens of fallen trees makes it much harder to get around the trails, but I look forward to watching nature recover and rejuvenate over the years to come.
- Finally, there were some positive CUC moments in Sandy's aftermath. While we lost about eight big trees on the property, two Sundays of RE, and two weeks of work on the kitchen, we also got to share a couple of special Sunday services, with an intimate feel of spiritual communion.

Many of our regional neighbors will take a long time to recover from Sandy, and I hope we will continue to remember them with our charitable giving. But as Benjamin reminded us in his sermon on gratitude last Sunday, "For All That is Our Life." Happy Thanksgiving.

~ In Community, David Schuler, Board Chair

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Youth Con at Stony Brook

On the weekend of Oct. 26-28, I accompanied three youth to *CONger Games*, MetroNY District's first youth conference of the year. The event was a weekend-long retreat for UU youth in grades 9-12 and adult advisors. It was a great experience for both myself and the youth.

The conference theme was based on the movie "Hunger Games." It was held in Stony Brook, Long Island and there were over eighty UU youth from around the New York/New Jersey area in attendance.

Cons are created and organized by the young people themselves and offer a variety of activities: small group activities, coffeehouses, lots of food, and plenty of social interaction. Some of the workshops for this con included improvisation, drumming, a labyrinth walk, guitar playing, cupcake making, and ultimate Frisbee, bow-and-arrow making.

"I really enjoyed the henna body painting," said Susanna Schuler. "I also went to the workshop on Sexuality and Media – the discussion we had was so intense."

Worship is an integral part of the con experience. Catherine Thomson helped to plan one of the services. "I really love to work with others to help plan worship. The theme we chose was 'forgiveness.' We designed a worship which allowed people to share stories, sing together, and exchange loving words and hugs."

"For me one of the best moments happened during the Saturday night worship," said Susanna. "I was feeling sad and a girl I didn't know gave me a hug and comforted me. I didn't even know her name, but it made me feel better."

CONs are a safe place where youth can express who they are without fear of judgment, allowing the walls of classification to crumble. People who would normally not even talk become the best of friends.

"In the beginning I was a little reserved," Sofia Pardillo noted. "I learned that to make friends, it is important to start by going up to people and say, 'Hey, what's up?'"

"The best part was bonding with people," said Catherine. "The environment was so loving and warm. It wasn't cliquish, you can go up and sit with anyone and not feel like you were imposing on a group of people. I made three close friends from that con. I already miss the people."

## *Lily Rappaport*

Acting Director of Religious Education

### **RE CALENDAR - December**

Dec 2 - RE classes; Deck the Halls after Service

Dec 9 - RE classes (Hanukkah)

Dec 16 - RE classes

Dec 23 - Family Holiday Service w/ Pageant (multigenerational)

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service

Dec 30 - NO RE



*Sofia and Susanna create henna body art at the con.*

# MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



December will be one of the most exciting months so far for the ministerial search committee. Our Congregational Record is online for ministers to review, and searching ministers are choosing to send us their Ministerial Records (“MR”s). We are poised to begin reviewing the MRs we receive. As a first step, the committee members will separately review all of the MRs submitted. Then as a group we will determine a shorter list of possible candidates. We will conduct in depth group telephone interviews with each candidate we decide to pursue. Topics for discussion will include worship services and sermons, theological orientation, engagement with congregation and community, experience with RE programs and music programs, track record in helping congregations transition from pastoral to program church model, and, generally, personality, professionalism and presentation. If we consider a candidate to be a viable possibility after the telephone interview, we will conduct extensive reference checks, again involving the entire committee in these steps.

Candidates invited for telephone interviews will be sent more information about CUC via our “packet.” The packet, near completion, includes expanded sections on church history, committees, the surrounding community, church activities, sample coming of age credos, and welcoming letters from Rev. Benjamin, Rev. Debra Morra, Adam Kent and Lisa Meyer, Lily Rappaport, as well as staff of the community outreach programs in which CUC participates.

As stated previously, we welcome any photos you have. They can still be added to the packet. Please send them to [cucministersearch@gmail.com](mailto:cucministersearch@gmail.com)

We all wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday season. Your continued support of our efforts is much appreciated.

~ Ministerial Search Committee

### **Got Purpose?**

*(If you don't know where you're going  
you're liable to end up anywhere.)*

### **Mission/Vision Workshop**

**Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

details to follow

Led by the Rev. Robert Latham, author of *Moving On from Church Folly Lane* and expert at helping congregations find purpose and direction.

*Don't miss this exciting event  
in the life of CUC!*

## EVENTS

### Opportunities for Giving

'Tis the season to give thanks for what we have been fortunate to receive and to give generously.

#### THE FOOD PANTRY

##### **DECEMBER, ONGOING**

The food pantry provides food to needy families year round and distributes special food for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Cash and food donations are accepted on an on-going basis. Checks may be sent to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, P.O. Box 2037, White Plains, NY 10602. We always have a bin in our lobby for donations of non-perishable food items. Or contact Vicky Van Wert at 937-4758.

#### TOYS FOR CHILDREN OF INMATES :

##### **December 2 Deadline**

#### **BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

##### **DECEMBER 2nd, UNWRAPPED**

Please buy an appropriate gift (for children of all ages) and bring it unwrapped on **December 2**. The children's wish list includes: Dolls (dolls of color appreciated), Infant & Toddler Toys and Clothing (size newborn and up), Board Games, Arts & Crafts kits and supplies, Teenage Items, sports equipment, etc. We may not accept: Clothing in blue, black, orange or gray, toy guns, knives, or any other items that promote violence.

#### TOILETRIES, SOCKS, MEN'S UNDERWEAR

##### **DECEMBER, ONGOING**

The 4th & 5th graders will help collect items all through December for deliver to local shelters. Underwear should be new sized L or XL.

#### GIFTS FOR CHILDREN :

##### **December 16 Deadline**

#### **AT THE COACHMAN FAMILY CENTER IN WHITE PLAINS**

##### **DECEMBER 2nd sign up, 9th sign up, 16th deliver to CUC, WRAPPED**

Information indicating age, gender and choice of gift for each child will be available **December 2 and 9**. Please sign up for a family group, buy appropriate gifts and bring the wrapped gifts to the church **by December 16**. Mark gifts clearly with room number and child's name.

#### THE MITTEN TREE:

##### **DECEMBER, ONGOING**

New Mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for all ages and in all sizes will be collected through December.

#### MIDNIGHT RUN MEN'S CLOTHING:

##### **DECEMBER 21, USED ITEMS**

Used men's clothes are needed. Jeans, sneakers, boots, sweaters, shirts, belts, hats, gloves, and blankets. Items can be placed in room 14 in the red-pod RE wing area. The next run is December 21st.



**DECK THE HALLS**  
**Sunday Dec 2**  
**following the service**

The holidays are fast approaching!  
Join us after the service and help  
decorate our Sanctuary for the season.

We'll make decorations and take them  
to the Sanctuary.



**Annual Arts & Crafts  
Fundraiser**

**Sunday, December  
9 & 16**

Following service. If  
interested in selling  
your craft, please  
contact  
Barbara Youngman at  
914-948-2973.



*Poinsettias —*



**December 7th**

In December the Focal Area of our sanctuary will again be decorated with poinsettias given in gratitude for happy occasions in our lives and in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to contribute toward this beautiful display (plants are \$10 each), send your check to the church by **December 15**. Checks should be made out to the church with the memo "poinsettia." Please add a note indicating the person or occasion you want to honor or remember. For more information, contact Church Administrator Liliana Keith at [admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org) or 946-1660 ext 2.

## Concert Series

### *It Came Upon A Winter's Song*

*Saturday, December 15, 7 pm*

Join the CUC Choir, directed by Lisa N. Meyer, and pianist Georgianna Pappas for an evening's serenade of holiday favorites, including Sleigh Ride, S'vivon, and The Christmas Song, along with new and traditional arrangements of other beloved standards and carols.

Suggested Donation: \$20 (\$10 for seniors and students).



## MIDNIGHT RUN

**Friday, December 21st  
8 PM**

**MEN'S CLOTHING DRIVE  
WE NEED CLOTHES TO DISTRIBUTE**

**Please provide gently used:**

**Men's jeans  
Sneakers  
Shoes  
Boots  
Sweaters  
Shirts  
Sweatshirts.**

**Also blankets, hats, gloves, belts, & backpacks or duffle bags** Items can be placed in the closet at CUC in the RE wing—Red pod, room 14.

Help feed the homeless in Manhattan. Provide clothing. Help with food preparation. This well organized event is a great way to help others and work with other CUC members and friends, from our youth to our grandparents. For more information contact David Schuler at [davidbf\\_schuler@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com) or 831-5605.





### **Dinner, Saturday, December 1st Network for Police Accountability**

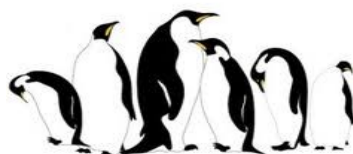
A year ago Kenneth Chamberlain, a retired policeman and an ex-Marine, was killed in his apartment by White Plains policemen after Mr. Chamberlain's medical alert bracelet set off a series of actions culminating in a police presence there.

This event was one of a series of similar tragedies that have occurred in Westchester County during the last few years.

The Community Unitarian Church at White Plains, having been the first church to create a platform for Mr. Chamberlain's son and his lawyer to relate the tragic story to a Sunday morning congregation, is one of several

organizations, churches, and other groups that comprise The Network for Police Accountability. The group meets regularly to chart a course toward a just solution to this problem of police judgment while in action.

Mr. Chamberlain, Jr. and the Network for Police Accountability, in an effort to expand our community of cognizant supporters, have announced a dinner to be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM, at the Knights Of Columbus Mansion, 139 North Broadway, White Plains. Admission is \$75.00 per person. You may reserve seats by mailing your check to the Martin Luther King Institute for Non-Violence, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605. For more information contact Jim Cobb at 631-1317.



### **A Huge THANK YOU to the CUC Auction Committee**

Bravo to all of you for another splendid auction! Despite no kitchen, the ravages of Sandy and a dark cold church for two weekends running, we had another terrific auction. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the food was terrific. The sanctuary looked FANTASTIC -- the little lights were magical and the bows were perfect. Best of all, checkout and results tracking has been vastly improved by the newly networked computers. Thank you, thank you for all of your efforts, especially in the wake of the storms.

The Auction produced great results as well. Subject to final computations, we grossed approximately \$31,950. Not all expenses are in but based on what we know about, we estimate they ran about \$3500, so we netted \$28,450.

**And thanks to all the guests -- The Auction would not have been a success without all of you!**

The Auction Committee Members were

Catherine Kortlandt and Ann Marie Damashek, Co-Chairs

Claire Flowers (Chair, Decorations), John Saccardi (Chair, Food), Carole Mehta (Chair, Donations)

Operations:

Jane Dixon, Chris Kortlandt, John Economou, Karen and Ray Schmitt, Joe Majsak, Janet Bear

RE Baskets: Elissa Schuler-Adair

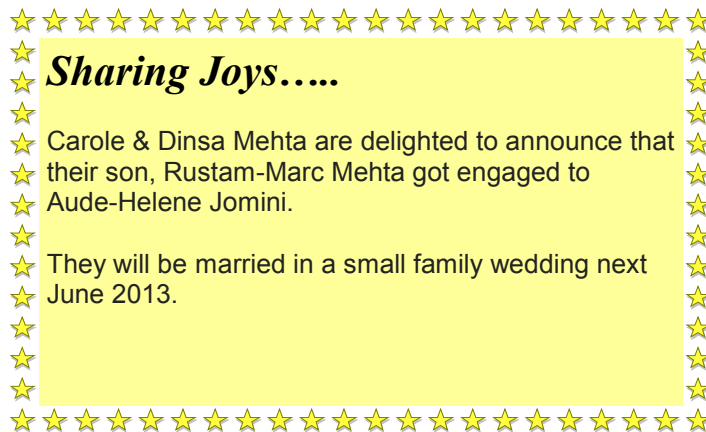
Auctioneer:

Scott Damashek

Indispensable:

Nicki Klemens, Lauren Taylor, Joan Traber, Enid Blount, Bobbi Collins, Krista Smith, Aimee Katz, Russ Gold, Dinsa Mehta, Al Rocchi, Robert Youngman, Ted Dreher, Ginny Strand, Deb Morra





## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

PrideWorks support: CUC member John Cavallero, Barbara Caplan, and Rev. Michael Tino



## SANDY RELIEF FUNDS

**Central Eastern Regional Group (CERG) UU Disaster Relief Fund** - To aid our UU congregations and members who have been affected by this tragedy, the CERG leadership has set up the fund to collect donations to assist fellow Unitarian Universalists with storm damage clean up and members' immediate needs and in the rebuilding efforts. You can donate online at <http://cerquua.org/>.

## UUA MODERATOR CANDIDATES

**The UU Congregation of Princeton (NJ) will host Tamara Payne-Alex and Jim Key, the two candidates for the position of UUA Moderator, on January 20** starting at 3 pm, to talk about their vision for Unitarian Universalism and how they would lead if elected at General Assembly 2013. The UUA Moderator is the chair of the UUA Board of Trustees and the presiding officer at each General Assembly. He or she is the Chief Governance Officer of the UUA, just as President Peter Morales is the Chief Executive Officer. The 90-minute program will include a question and answer period and will be followed by a reception. All are encouraged to attend.

## AFGHANISTAN TROOPS MINISTRY

**The UU Congregation at Rock Tavern (NY) continues to collect donations** for purchasing special etched inspirational stones (\$2. each) to send to the Rev. Chris Antal, on leave from Rock Tavern while serving as Chaplain in Afghanistan, to distribute to the troops. This has been a very successful ministry to the troops. More than 600 stones have been distributed, and more are needed. Donations should be made out to the UUCRT, PO Box 502, Washingtonville NY 10992. Please specify in the memo section that the check is for the stones.

## OUR SUPPORT OF PRIDEWORKS



Photo: Lara Campbell, Ministerial Intern, Mount Kisco;  
Rev. Jef Gambleé, Minister, Mohegan Lake;  
Rev. Michael Tino, Minister, Mount Kisco;  
Denice Tomlinson, DRE, Pomona;  
Nicole Tomlinson, member CUC White Plains;  
Barbara Caplan, member Hastings on Hudson;  
John Cavallero, DRE, Hastings on Hudson, NY.

### UU's in Westchester and Rockland Support PrideWorks for Youth

The six congregations of Westchester and Rockland counties in NY joined forces to support a conference for BLGTQ youth and their allies. Over the past year the congregations each held a fundraiser – from a bake sale by the youth group to share-the-plate. On November 16, UU's were a "Rainbow Circle" supporter, recognized prominently and provided with a display table to provide supportive material to youth. Many of the UU attendees wore their Standing on the Side of Love shirts.

Each year, there have been protesters outside the conference. This year their message was one of change – not for themselves but suggesting that our youth change their sexual orientation. This has bothered our UU attendees every year as it's the first thing that the youth see as they arrive with their GSA's in school busses. This year there was a new greeting – UU's with a Standing on the Side of Love banner, which youth appreciated enthusiastically.

Participating Congregations  
**Mohegan Lake, Croton on Hudson, Mount Kisco, White Plains, Hastings on Hudson, Pomona**

~ December 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir rehearsal 11:45a In the Spirit of Truth 11:30 Deck The Halls/Mitten Tree	<b>3</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	<b>4</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24) 7:30p-8:30p Giving Campaign-Steering CMT (41)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Poinsettia Decoration (SANC)	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir rehearsal	<b>10</b> 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group43 (43)	<b>11</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	<b>12</b> 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	<b>13</b> 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	<b>14</b> 6p-9p CUC Choir dress rehearsal (Sanc)	<b>15</b> 4p-9p Holiday Concert (7p) 
<b>16</b> <b>Communitarian Deadline</b> 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir rehearsal 11:30a-12:30p Fun Facts about Music	<b>17</b> 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	<b>18</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	<b>19</b> 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	<b>20</b> 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA)	<b>21</b> 8p-8p Mid-Night Run (FHI, KTC)	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	<b>24</b> 4p-5p Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25 Christmas</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b> 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee	<b>31</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON</b>					

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

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Communitarian Deadline for  
December Edition:

**Sunday, January 16**

Submit information to  
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