

# THE COMMUNITARIAN

## COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

December 2009



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](http://www.cucwp.org)  
Email: [info@cucwp.org](mailto:info@cucwp.org)  
914.946.1660

---

Communitarian Deadline  
for January Edition:  
Sunday, December 13

Submit information to  
Louise Jacono  
Email: [admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org)  
Fax: 914.948.2603

---

### *Minister's Moment...*

For the third time in my ministry, I have attended a Convocation of Unitarian Universalist ministers, a calling together of us all, from across the continent. These gatherings occur about every seven years.

My first Convo was in 1994 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where we struggled (yes, struggled) to define the core of our faith. In 2002, we met in Birmingham, Alabama, to consider our social justice impulses in a place where many of our UU colleagues joined the civil rights effort.

This year in Ottawa, Ontario, we met to experience the way that “story” teaches us and brings us together. Prior Convocations have been larger, gathering about half of our ministry. This time it was more like a quarter of our ministers. Many were deterred by issues of cost, some deterred by the border to be crossing (transgender ministers without valid passports were in this category). But it was good to be in Canada, so that our Canadian colleagues could remind us that they are still part of our ministry, even though the Canadian Unitarian Conference is now separate from the UUA.

A smaller gathering, yes, but many of my closest long-term colleagues were there, and the Colleagues Choir (which I love to sing with when I go to General Assembly) was enormous and took the leisure of almost five hours of rehearsal to prepare a remarkably difficult piece, which we managed to float through fairly well in the closing worship.

Thomas Moore, therapist, theologian, and author of Care of the Soul, was our keynote speaker. Although he avoids strict definition, “soul” for him is that what grounds us, that which brings warmth and reality to our existence here on earth. And when he listed the central requirement for the growth of the soul, it was *friendship* that he mentioned first. I felt that at Convo where I saw old friends, and made some new ones.

And as I return to celebrate the year-end holidays with you, I want to bring that reminder to you. Friendship is essential. In the bustle of this season, save time and energy for friends.

The theme for December is peace, and I hope that you will find peace in friendships around you.

*Rev. Carol*

# AMONG OURSELVES

---

*If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle: throughout December call Gail McLeod at 235-8212.*

Our condolences to . . .

**Hans Elsevier, Sr. and Hans Jr.** Long-time CUC member **Ava Elsevier** died on November 13.

**Timothy Lynch, Cynthia Heller and Jacob and Lauren** on the November 8 death of Tim's mother, Mary Jane Lynch. She was 88.



Congratulations to new grandparents **Carole and Dinsa Mehta**. Their grandson Jayhan Asher Adhi was born on November 6 to their daughter and son-in-law, Farah and Praveen Adhi.

*Reaching Out to Others by  
Sharing Our Sunday Plate Offering*  
Each month 25% of our Sunday plate offerings goes to outside organizations in need.

In December we will share our plate offerings with  
**SHORE**

(Sheltering the Homeless is Our REsponsibility)

The core mission of SHORE is to provide  
permanent housing for families  
in the shelter system in Westchester County.

We were sorry to hear about the death of Jerry Davidoff on November 8. He was a member of our Westport congregation, and an active volunteer in Unitarian Universalist circles. His wife Denny has served the UUUA as Moderator. Denny and Jerry had accepted an invitation to be with us for our Anniversary Celebration last spring, but a hospitalization then kept them from attending.

## *Poinsettias*

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 2. 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 Louise Jacono at [admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org) or 946-1660 ext 2.



*This is one of a series of some interesting incidents from CUC's hundred years of history, reflecting who we are and who we've been.*



## **Did You Know?**

Did you know that when our congregation moved into the present building in 1959, smoking was permitted almost everywhere indoors except in the main area of the sanctuary?

A notice in the newsletter said, "The upper level around the fireplace is set aside for smoking after services and during meetings. Smokers are asked to wait until they reach this area before lighting cigarettes."

A short-lived newspaper, *The Sunday Scope*, produced by Religious Education students in 1964, interviewed adults about their reaction to a recent federal report on the dangers of smoking. One man admitted "I don't have the

guts to stop. It's just a nervous habit." A woman said she smoked a pack a day. "I'm trying to stop. Now that you're going to put it in the newspaper, I'll have to stop." The Religious Education Director, Minister Betty Baker, who dearly loved her cigarettes, said "No comment".

This fact and more like it are highlights of two new illustrated histories of CUC: Freely United covers the first fifty years and A Religion of This Age covers the last fifty. A limited supply of both books are available for purchase at church. They also can be ordered at Amazon.com for \$12 and \$16, respectively.

*Charles Selinske  
CUC Historian*

***“All we are saying is give peace a chance”<sup>1</sup>***

What do Mother Teresa, Linus Pauling, and Albert Schweitzer have in common? If you need another clue then add Barack Obama, Aung San Suu Kyi, and the Dalai Lama to the list. The answer is that each of these leaders has won the Nobel Peace Prize. The prize is given annually to the individual who, during the preceding year, has “done the most for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”<sup>2</sup>

I began thinking about the Nobel Peace Prize, because our theme for the month of December is peace. I find it fascinating that many scholars believe that Nobel created the Peace prize as a way of compensating for his invention of dynamite, and for turning his iron company Bofor into a cannon manufacturer. As I read about the Nobel Peace Prize I was drawn to another prize that made an even greater impact on me – the International Children’s Peace Prize.

The Children’s Peace Prize is awarded annually “to an exceptional child whose courageous or otherwise remarkable acts and thoughts have made a difference in countering problems which affect children around the world.”<sup>3</sup> The prize was created by the Dutch organization KidsRights and was launched in 2005. If you want to be filled with hope for peace and with belief in the future, then focus on the remarkable accomplishments of the young people who have won this prize.

The 2007 winner was Thandiwe Chama from Zambia. She won the prize for advancing children’s rights to education. Thandiwe sees education as the key to the future. When only **eight years** old her school was closed and she led a group of 60 children on a march to find a new school. As a result of her protest the children were granted permission to attend a new school. Since then she has led a number of initiatives to improve education in Zambia including generating community and government support to build new schools.

In 2008 Mayra Avellar Neves from Brazil won the prize. Mayra has worked to combat violence in the favela where she lives in Rio. When only **fifteen** she led a march to protest the police patrols of her community during school hours which prevented children from attending school. Since that successful march, she has led other protests to “improve human rights in particular the rights of children as the future generation.”

These young people are obviously remarkable for their hope, and their courage. They demonstrate the capacity of a single person to make a difference by inspiring others, and the power of belief in the future.

Steve Bear, Chair  
Board of Trustees

1 John Lennon Give Peace a Chance

2 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel\\_Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize)

3 <http://www.childrenspeaceprize.org/>

## RESOURCE LIST FOR DECEMBER THEME: PEACE

### **Biblical**

Hebrew Scripture: Micah 4

### **Books**

***Find a Quiet Corner; Inner Peace: Anytime, Anywhere***  
Nancy O'Hara presents insights and suggestions for everyday spirituality.

***I'd Rather Teach Peace*** by Colman McCarthy. This inspirational and prophetic work consists of journals the author kept during one semester of teaching peace education in six schools from Georgetown University Law Center to a juvenile prison.

***Freedom From Fear*** by Aung San Suu Kyi. Fighting for democracy in Burma since 1988, this Nobel Peace Prize winner is still under house arrest, still fighting for freedom, justice, peace, and the rights of the people of Burma.

### **Children's Books**

***The Peace Book*** by Todd Parr (Little, Brown and Co., 2004) Preschool picture book.

***Shalom, Salaam, Peace*** by Howard I. Bogot (out of print, but Amazon has some copies)

***The Big Book of Peace*** Ann Durell and Marilyn Sachs (ed.) (Dutton, 1990) Good stories and pictures.

***Secret of the Peaceful Warrior*** by Dan Millman (Starseed Press)

### **Films**

***The Bishop's Wife*** A Christmastime angelic intervention brings peace to a troubled household. The 1947 version starred Cary Grant; the 1996 remake, ***The Preacher's Wife***, starred Denzel Washington.

***Close Encounters of the Third Kind*** (1977) Filmmakers imagine a peaceful first meeting with aliens.

***Pomegranates and Myrrh*** (2009) In Palestine's West Bank city of Ramallah, free-spirited Kamar rediscovers her passion for dance. A gripping meditation on love and repression screened at the Sundance Film Festival.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

---

## ***The R.E. View***

Did you know that as UU's we have our own holiday? CHALICA! is an unofficial holiday in the Unitarian Universalist tradition that celebrates each of the faith's Seven Principles - one a night, for seven nights. The celebration begins on the first Monday of December, and is marked by the lighting of a chalice each day (or evening). Gifts that reflect the particular day's principle may be given, but the focus tends to be more on mindfulness and action. Someone even wrote a fun song to celebrate Chalica! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGBQyqwCr38>

This year Chalica starts on December 7. Here are some ideas how we can celebrate.

Monday: We light our chalice for the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

- a thank-you card celebrating differences
- words of forgiveness / apology
- help someone in need

Tuesday: We light our chalice for justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

- donate clothes to a worthy organization
- display kindness and care to those around you
- take part in a political demonstration at city hall

Wednesday: We light our chalice for acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

- a chalice / book / hymnal
- extend words of peace or forgiveness to a fellow Unitarian whom you may have hurt / not understood in the past
- offer / take part in an event at your church / with your congregation

Thursday: We light our chalice for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

- offer / take part in an event that celebrates another religion / tradition
- teach someone something you know and love
- learn something new from someone else

Friday: We light our chalice for the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

- write your government
- help a committee at church
- host a dinner / party to celebrate democracy

Saturday: We light our chalice for the goal of world peace, liberty and justice for all.

- write a letter for amnesty international
- help your social justice committee hold a fundraiser

- donate to a cause such as UNICEF, Doctors without Borders, etc.

Sunday: We light our chalice for respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

- start a compost
- recycle bottles and cans and donate the money to an environmental / animal aid society
- rescue an animal from a shelter

Happy Chalica everyone!

(Contributed by: Daylene Marshall  
<http://www.uuidentity.com/chalica>)

Lara Campbell  
Director of Religious Education

## ***News from the RE Council***

I love to sit in the RE lobby after services and watch the children come bounding out of their classes. The artwork is interesting and the discussions are engaging. I always find I'm reenergized then, their enthusiasm is so infectious. And there is much to be enthusiastic about in December.

Please join us for the *Hanging of the Greens* after services on December 6. All are welcome to participate in decorating the sanctuary for the winter holidays. In the past we've had not only lovely greens, but also many creative ornaments made from recycled items. So festive!

Also on the agenda is the new RE Pageant that will be part of worship service on December 20. The children have been busy learning songs and movement under the skillful direction of Children's Choir Director Jean Young.

Another wonderful event is the candlelight Christmas Eve service on December 24. This is my absolute favorite event at CUC. The words, music, and beautiful flowers are so joyous. Plus, as my daughter tells me every year, the sanctuary smells like a birthday party when all the candles are blown out. See if you think so too.

As an additional note, the RE Council has been working with Lara and Rev Carol to make sure that the RE program continues to run smoothly during Lara's brief absence in January for her sabbatical. Everything is falling into place nicely. We think this is a wonderful opportunity for Lara to get some well-deserved R&R.

Enjoy the nip in the air!

Erin Foster, Chair  
Religious Education Council

# ACTION FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS

## Opportunities for Giving

'Tis the season to give thanks for what we have been fortunate to receive and to give generously to those who have not been as fortunate. ASC is once again organizing a number of holiday collections this year.

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.

TOYS FOR CHILDREN OF INMATES AT THE BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY. Please buy an appropriate gift (for children of all ages) and bring it unwrapped on December 6. The children's wish list includes: *Dolls* (dolls of color appreciated); *Infant & Toddler Toys and Clothing* (size newborn and up); *Board Games* (Scrabble, Trivia, Bop-It, Song Burst, etc.); *Teenage Items* (backpacks, wallets, photo albums, diaries, DVDs, gift cards (for The Gap - Radio Shack - CDs, etc.), basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, computer games, CD travel cases, etc.); *Children's Books* (in Spanish). 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 (large and x-large), MITTENS, GLOVES, HATS, SCARVES will be collected all through December. The 7th grade will help collect, sort and package the items for delivery to local shelters.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AT THE COACHMAN FAMILY CENTER IN WHITE PLAINS. Information indicating age, gender and choice of gift for each child will be available December 6 and 13. Please sign up for a family group, buy appropriate gifts and bring the wrapped gifts to the church by December 20.



Mark gifts clearly with room number and child's name.

THE MITTEN TREE - mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for all ages and in all sizes will be collected until New Year's.

✧ Ray Messing

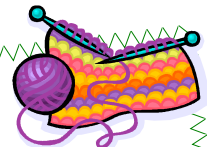


### *The Hanging of the Greens*

*Sunday, December 6*

*following the service*

The holidays are fast approaching! Join us after the service and help decorate our sanctuary for the season. After a light brunch in Fellowship Hall, we'll make decorations and take them to the sanctuary. We should be finished about 1:30 with time for singing and perhaps a special guest or two . . .



*Annual  
Holiday Arts & Crafts Fundraiser Sale  
Sundays, December 6 and 13  
following the service*

*Featuring inexpensive teacher and hostess gifts  
as well as many other beautiful hand-crafted items  
that make perfect holiday gifts.  
Be sure to tell your family and friends*



Music at CUC presents  
the 7th annual  
**Winter Choral Concert**

**Saturday, December 19 at 7:00pm**

**DING DONG,  
MERRILY  
ON HIGH!**

The CUC Choir, directed by Lisa N. Meyer and accompanied by Georgianna Pappas, will present a joyful concert of holiday music. Solos, duets and trios will be performed amid exciting choral arrangements of seasonal favorites and new works.

Suggested donation: \$20, \$10 for seniors and students

***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](http://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.

**Standing on the Side of Love**

[www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org) - Remember to check the site often for events in our area. Adam Gerhardstein the Campaign Manager for *Standing on the Side of Love* is launching new events every day. You can sign up for email updates on the website. And while you are there, view Rev. Nate Walker's video on the Charter for Compassion. You can read about the Charter for Compassion at [www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org).

**Marriage Equality Bill**

NY State Senate Leadership made a commitment to vote on the marriage equality bill in the next four weeks. This is the time to call your State Senators and tell them your story of how **marriage inequality** affects you, your family and friends as an Ally or as a member of the LGBT community.

Denice Tomlinson  
*Denominational Affairs*

**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.

December 7

*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

**Save the Date**

**Wednesday, December 2 from 1:30-6:30pm**  
CUC's Projects of the Heart  
in cooperation with the American Red Cross  
will sponsor a Blood Drive.

**Donate Blood** 🩸

In December blood levels are often quite low.  
Questions? Contact Ann Marie Damashek at  
835-7593 or [scottam@verizon.net](mailto:scottam@verizon.net)

***Holiday Stocking Stuffer Ideas from Adam Kent***

The Damocles Trio's new recording of piano trios from Brazil is finally out on Claves Records! The 2-CD set includes the complete piano trios of Heitor Villa-Lobos as well as the world premiere recording of Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez's "Trio Brasileiro." See Adam after services to purchase a copy of "Trios Brasileiro," the Damocles Trio's earlier release of Joaquin Turina's complete piano trios, or one of Adam's solo CDs of Ernesto Halffter's and Edvard Grieg's piano music.

# December 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2 1:30-6:30p Blood Drive 7:30p Program Council	3 10:00a Transitions Group	4	5 9:00a Reading Emerson 10:00a Sustainable Celebration
6 9:00a Minister's Colloquium 9:00a PreK parents 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship <b>11:15a Crafts Fair</b> <b>11:30a Hanging of Greens</b> 11:45a Spirit of Truth	7 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation 7:30p Play Reading	8	9 7:30p Board of Trustees	10 11:30a Science & Spirituality	11	12 9:00a Reading Emerson
13 <b>Communitarian Deadline</b> 8:30a ASC Committee 9:00a Monthly Meditation 9:00a 5th grade parents 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship/RE <b>11:15a Crafts Fair</b> 11:30a Mentor Orientation	14 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	15	16 7:30p RE Council	17 10:00a Folding Party 10:00a Transitions Group	18	19 9:00a Reading Emerson 9:30a Parents of Teenagers <b>7p Ding Dong! Winter Choral Concert</b>
20 9:00a Youth/Mentors 9:00a K parents 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Newcomers 11:45a Fun Facts About Music	21 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 <b>5:30p Candlelight Service</b>	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26 <b>- noon - Kwanzaa at the Slater Center in White Plains</b>
Church Office Closed Dec 24 thru Jan 3						
27 10:15a Worship	28	29	30	31		
Church Office Closed Dec 24 thru Jan 3						

For latest news and updates go to our website at [www.cucwp.org](http://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](mailto:admin@cucwp.org)

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605

In this issue:

Minister's Moment	1
Among Ourselves	2
Did You Know?	2
Board of Trustees	3
December Resource List	3
Religious Education	4
Opportunities for Giving	5
Hanging of the Greens	5
Arts & Crafts Fair	5
Even More News!	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.

## DECEMBER SERVICES

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

### DECEMBER 6

*Peace Be with You*  
Reverse Family Service

### DECEMBER 13

*For Hanukkah and Human Rights*  
CUC Choir will sing

### DECEMBER 20

*Solstice Service*  
Reverse Family Service  
CUC Choir will sing.  
Pageant performed by the CUC Children's Choir  
& K-5th grade classes

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

AT 5:30PM  
*Traditional Christmas Eve*  
*Candlelight Service*

### DECEMBER 27

*Kwanzaa Service*  
in the Fireside Area  
Intergenerational Service

## FINAL NOTE ↻ DECEMBER FORUMS

### DECEMBER 6 AT 11:45AM

*In the Spirit of Truth*  
in room 41

### DECEMBER 20 AT 11:45AM

*Fun Facts About Music*  
with Adam Kent  
in the sanctuary