

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:00 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ January Theme: Justice ~

Meredith's Musings: Justice

What is justice? "Giving what is owed," answers one character in Plato's *Republic*. "The art which gives good to friends and evil to enemies," answers another. "Justice is nothing else than the interest of the stronger," proclaims a third. For Socrates, none of these will do. Establishing an objective, ahistorical, transcultural definition, though, is perhaps not what is of most interest. How shall we act today, within our particular context, to ease suffering and promote flourishing, by the lights we now have? How shall we carry out our mission to "engage in service to transform ourselves and our world"?

We have programs for contributing, during the holiday season, toys for children, and needed clothing and toiletry items for all ages. We have folks who organize members' support for an ecumenical food pantry. A few times a year, we house homeless men in our building for one night. What else might we do? And what would involve more of our members in more meaningful ways?

- Host a dinner once a month free to all in the community
- Focus on being more welcoming and supportive of people with mental disorders.
- Expand and strengthen our "welcoming congregation" status
- Prepare to mobilize in greater numbers for marches that represent UU values
- Advocate for more community-oriented policing and reduced racial profiling
- Address climate change and environmental justice
- Develop a prison ministry
- Prepare ourselves to respond to natural disasters
- Explore ways to deepen our reverence for life and expand compassion to nonhuman animals
- Get training in restorative justice and make ourselves a community resource for restoration
- Organize support for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Join Westchester United and team up with other faith organizations on issues of shared importance
- Work closely with the local chapter of Planned Parenthood to advance access to birth control, sexuality education and information, and abortion services.

These are just some of the possibilities. Which of these would you like to see at CUC? What others might you like to see us take up in our mission to engage in service to transform ourselves and our world? For which of them might you be willing to be on the team that leads the project?

Got thoughts about that? Let me know. We have formed a Social Action Planning Team to lead the work on developing a strategy for carrying out the transformative service part of our mission. The team consists of Emily Economou, Barry Litcofsky, Ginny Strand, Jeff Tomlinson, Perry Montrose, and myself. If you have thoughts, let any of us know.

Community Unitarian
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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY
10605
914-946-1660
[Wwww.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)
Established 1909



January 2015

Page:

Rev. Meredith	1
Sunday Worship	2
Board of Trustees	3
Religious Education	4
Events	5-8
Calendar	9

JANUARY SERVICES

10:00 AM

January 4

3rd Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Service to Transform

Our mission at CUC includes "engage in service to transform ourselves and our world." How are we doing at that? How could we do better?

January 11

4th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

The Spirit Level

Inequality of wealth is a fact of all cultures above bare subsistence. But when that inequality becomes extreme, it tears at the fabric of the social contract. We lose the sense that "we're in this together."

January 18

5th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

The Spirit of Truth

How speaking our truth as we know it, plainly and authentically -- and being heard -- is essential to our growth. This is generally true, and also true when it comes to understanding race dynamics today and moving together to reduce oppression.

January 25

6th Sunday of winter

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Welcome to Liberal Religion

Bring a Friend Sunday

How liberal religion saves lives -- and maybe the world.

Caring

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout January contact Liz Laite, 914-366-4211, em.laite@verizon.net, or Robert Youngman 948-2973, robeau44@optonline.net.

& Sharing...

"I would like to thank Barbara Mair, Johanna Bauer, Alan Marasco, Astrid Rogers, Jane Dixon, Paula Meighan, Emily Economou, Pinar Tanrikovur, and Mary Donch for all of the help and kindness this fall.

Thank you all so much."

~ **Cindy Borows Gazis.**

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.
- ❄ Checking your emails from CUC & Facebook.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the Chair's Chair

Sitting in the audience at *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with a light snow falling gently outside I was moved by the emotional impact and coherent quality of the Holiday production. The packed house was gratifying and the audience was appreciative. Particularly pleasing were the heartfelt and mature performances by our own Carla Fisher in the part of Amahl and our neighboring UU congregant Cynthia Reynolds as his mother. What fantastic voices and acting! The dancers Remie and Zara Savanto and Kate Zipkin were a charming addition to the group scene, and the choir represented themselves beautifully as the chorus of Shepherds and Villagers. I have to say I never pictured Ted Kuczinski as the Nomad type, but he appeared quite comfortable in his robes and head-dress. Catherine Rocchi played her flute beautifully to accompany Georgianna Pappas on the piano and set a beautiful musical backdrop for the performers. Hats off to Lisa Meyer for her hard work and skill in producing a wonderful CUC community event!

Amahl followed another very successful brunch prepared by the highly dedicated kitchen team. Everyone was thrilled with the food selection and good company. Congratulations to all involved as well!

After Amahl I thought about the story-- a miracle story in the Christian tradition: inspiring, and certainly appropriate for the spirit of Christmas. As we move on to a New year, however, it behooves us to think concretely about how we can make an impact on our own world. No miracles are likely to reverse a long history of racial discrimination in our cities. No magical kings are likely to patch relations between warring factions in the Middle East, fund solutions to escalating economic inequalities, or stabilize our planet's climate. Those jobs are going to fall to all of us in little and big ways. So as we move into the month of January look for some opportunities to think about Justice -- this month's worship theme -- in new ways. With a small committee just formed to work with Meredith, we will start to generate ideas over the next months about how CUC can best make its voice heard in the world for social justice, both close at hand in our own community of White Plains and more broadly across the region, and the country.

Enjoy the frosty weather of January! See you at CUC!

Yours in Faith,

Randy Marshall, Chair, CUC Board of Trustees



Photos:

Left, the brunch crew

Below, Musicians for Amahl (Lisa N. Meyer, Georgianna Pappas, Catherine Rocchi, Tomoko Uchino)

Bottom Left, Amahl choir and cast



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Perry's Ponderings...

There was a shared Facebook post going around just before the holidays that attempted to recognize the complex emotions that can come up for people during that time of the year. It said, "Some of us have problems during the holidays and some of us are overcome with great sadness when we remember the loved ones who are not with us. And many people have no one to spend these times with and are besieged by loneliness." It asked people to post the thought "to give a moment of support for all those who have family problems, health struggles, job issues, worries of any kind and just need to know someone cares." I appreciated the sentiment and its importance.

For many reasons, the holidays can be a difficult time, even when they are also filled with great joy. Our first month of the year is named after the Roman God of transition, Janus, who has two faces, one looking back and one looking forward. It would have been fitting if December had been connected with the drama masks of the ancient Greek Muses, Thalia (comedy) and Melpomene (tragedy). As people move through the season they often feel compelled to wear these dichotomous masks.

I found myself thinking often about my sister who passed away a year ago August, as many people think about lost loved ones all the more during family gatherings. Her three children hold the blessing of life she gave them and the tragedy of her absence from their lives. I am amazed by them and other children who cope with losing a parent way too young. I marvel at their ability to rise to new heights, while carrying such a burden.

We are all forced to be resilient again and again in our lives. While the passing of the old year gives us pause and causes us to take stock, the New Year somehow gives us permission to reinvent ourselves. This is often not an instantaneous transformation, but a subtle intention that helps us take one more step in a new direction of healing and movement.

In the New Year may each of you find that next step into who you are becoming and may we endeavor to hold each other in the precious space of where we have been and where we are going. Our journey is authentic when the two faces of comedy and tragedy are held by one hand and seen for the wholeness they create together.

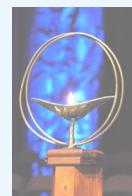
RE Extraordinary Sunday for All Ages, January 18 at 10 am



The Justice RE Support Team is planning a special justice project for MLK Weekend. This will be a great opportunity for children and youth to engage in the racial justice and equality issues facing our society.

Be a Family Chalice Lighter

Each week that our children join us in the sanctuary, one family will come to the chancel, read our chalice lighting words, and light the chalice.



Would you like your family to participate?
To access a calendar of available dates:
[click here](#).

Contact amyswiss@aol.com for more information.

EVENTS

The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee

Seeks Input for the Nomination of Members for our Board of Trustees

Do you know someone who would make a great addition to the CUC Board of Trustees? Are there qualities or skills you think should be taken into consideration when selecting Trustees? The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee is charged with identifying nominees for the election of CUC Trustees at our Annual Meeting in June each year. We invite you to participate in the process.

Eleven church members sit on our Board. Nine serve for a three year term and the Treasurer and Secretary each serve for a term of one year. We are seeking your suggestions as to who you believe would be worthy candidates.

We have developed a new process by which nominee suggestions can be submitted. Please fill out a Nomination Application form in order to propose a CUC member for consideration by our committee. The form requests information such as a member's participation at CUC and demonstrated leadership. One can propose oneself.

We encourage you to discuss your suggestions and any questions or comments you might have with any of the six members of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee: Erin Foster, Cynthia Heller, Joe Magnus, Cynthia Roberts (Chair), Ray Schmitt, and Drew Swiss.

The Nomination Application form is available on the church website at CUCWP.org and in the pamphlet boxes across from the sanctuary door. Please turn in Nomination Application forms to the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee mailbox in the church office. You can also turn in a Nomination Application to any committee member. If you prefer to send the nomination application by e-mail, send it to: CynthiaVroberts@gmail.com.

All Nomination Application forms are due by January 31, 2015.

Thank you for your participation in this important process.

---The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee



Virguna : Movie and Discussion

**3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 10, 2015**

One of our community ministers, Rev. LoraKim Joyner, will host this movie and discussion about the literal fight to save the mountain gorillas of the Congo. The New York Times reports that the movie showcases, "the best and the worst in human nature." Conservation indeed compels us to reflect upon what it means to be human in a multispecies world, for we are both the cause and cure for what threatens this earth and her beings. How are we to engage in the complexity of change given the hardships and

challenges for conserving other species, including ourselves? Let us gather together and find a way, the Conservationist's Way, where we save ourselves and the world. This movie guides us along the path, as does LoraKim as she brings to the discussion over 28 years of front line conservation work in Central America. Bring movie snacks and beverages to share.



What's in A Name?

Since 1972, we have officially been called:

"Community Unitarian Church at White Plains."

Over the past 20 years, the thought has surfaced and resurfaced numerous times as to whether our current name continues to reflect who we are as a congregation.

This fall, our Board of Trustees appointed the What's in a Name? Committee to engage our members in a process for group consideration of our name. The goal of the What's in a Name? Committee is to get input from every single member and friend through this process.

We have met with several committees and groups to date and are now ready to schedule small group meetings for members and friends who have not had the opportunity yet to complete a survey on our current name and alternative options.

Meeting dates and times are scheduled as follows:

Sunday, January 4th, at 11:40 in room 41.

Sunday, January 18th, at 9:30 AND 11:40 in room 41.

THESE MEETINGS WILL NOT TAKE MORE THAN 20 MINUTES as our mission is simply to gather information from you. Child Care will be provided. Grab your coffee and come on over.

It is important that you read the short, informative packet before completing a survey at one of the meetings. The packet can be accessed from the website home page or call the main office to receive a copy.

If you have any questions, please contact any one of us on the committee. We look forward to meeting with all of you.

Karen Dreher, John
Cavallero, Karen Schatzel
Scott Damashek, Adine
Usher



Radical Hospitality On Our Doorstep



CUC continues to live up to it's reputation of being a welcoming congregation. Our visitors often comment on how welcomed they felt the first time they came. Many of you signed up to greet through our Doodle Poll, and others of you just stepped forward when you saw we were short handed. Now that the holidays are over, we are asking you to **choose some Sundays** when you can offer "radical hospitality" to all who walk through our doors by greeting them with your very warmest smile.

New in January: There will also be an additional sign up slot for people who are generous enough to "donate" their coffee hour to chat with new visitors in a location to be determined. Think back to when you were new and you'll remember how nice it was when someone came over to you to say hello. Now you can help someone else to feel more comfortable during coffee hour.

Please use the link: [Click Here](#) to sign up or call/email Jane Dixon 949-5919/jrdixon@optonline.net

Winter Wonderland Brunch

January 18, 11:30 AM

If you would like, bring a green salad, cold veggie dish, bread, or dessert.

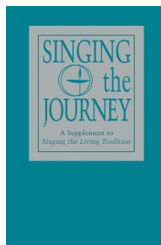
The brunch gang will provide the hot entrees.

Suggested donations:
\$5 adults, \$3 children, \$15 families.

Hymnals

We'll be adding to our hymn repertoire and singing out of the new hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey*!

Please think about gifting CUC one or several of these hymnals. For \$18 per hymnal, we'll put a bookplate inside the cover acknowledging your gift or dedicating the hymnal in honor of, or in memory of, someone. Contact the church office, or complete an envelope at Sunday Service.



Bird Walks



January 25th A **tentative** bird walk is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, 8:30 a.m. at the Parsonage (lower grounds of CUC at house on Rosedale Avenue). Following Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend we will be reflecting on justice in a multispecies world. Check CUC matters and Gazette for further updates, or email LoraKim at amolo-ros@gmail.com to see if the bird walk will go on as planned!

Led by Rev. LoraKim Joyner.

STITCHING IN SPIRIT

CUC Adult RE Workshop

Sunday, February 1st

at 11:45 a.m.

Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason, Community Minister



For millennia, fiber arts and handicrafts have figured significantly in people's communal and spiritual lives. This has been especially true for women, historically, although these interests now hold very broad-based appeal. Today we see the resurgence gaining ground in the "maker movement" and crafting circles. Come join a affiliated minister and avid crocheter Kelly Murphy Mason in this exploration of what it might mean to our faith community to be "stitching in spirit."

Please feel free to bring with you any handicrafting projects you might have underway – or else just bring an open and inquiring mind. Written materials will be provided at the workshop, but companion volumes to our conversation will include Peace Fibres: Stitching a Soulful World, The Knitting Goddess, Contemplative Crochet, The Knitting Sutra: Craft as Spiritual Practice, Anonymous Was a Woman, and The Prayer Shawl Ministry, Vols. 1-2. Everyone with any degree of interest is welcome to this event. There is also a possibility that the class may become an ongoing CUC group, given sufficient commitment.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nurturing Our Congregation through Compassionate Communication

Saturday, January 24, 2015

9a.m. - 3 p.m.

UU Congregation at Shelter Rock

This is a workshop facilitated by one of our Community Ministers, Rev. LoraKim Joyner, DVM, who also serves as the Metro NY Right Relations Consultant.



All congregations in the area are invited to attend, especially members of Committees on Ministry and those in other leadership positions. Focusing on the tools of Compassionate Communication, we will discuss how to promote and deepen our faith and congregational relations when we come together to worship, play, and work (e.g. committee, board and congregations meetings.) We will practice strategies for becoming role models for effective communication, vibrant relationships and inspirational leadership.

Pre-registration is required. Register with Sharyn Esposito at 516.472.2960 or seposito@uucsr.org or www.uucsr.org in the Events Calendar.

~ January 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
4 8a-9:30a RE Council (R41) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (SANC & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:40a-12:40p ITSOT (FH) 11:40a-12:10p What's In A Name? CMT (R41)	5 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	6 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	7 3:30p-7p Roxbury Farm CSA pickup (FA) 7:30p-9:30p Program Council (R41)	8 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality (R24)	9	10 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 3p-6:45p Virunga - Movie and Discussion (FH)
11 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee (R41) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group A (R12) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group N (R22)	12 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	13 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	14 1p-2p Calendaring Meeting (Study) 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	15 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group F (off site) (Irvington) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group G (off site) (New Rochelle)	16	17 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
18 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Extraordinary Sunday (classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Winter Wonderland Brunch (FH) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group H (R12) 11:40a-12:10p What's In A Name? CMT (R41) 5p-6p Journey Group I ((off site)) 5p-6p Journey Group I (off site) ((off site))	19 Martin Luther King OFFICE CLOSED 11a-12p Journey Group B (off site) (Harrison) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group C (off site) (Harrison) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	20 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group E (off site) (Rye)	21	22 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	23	24 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 3p-4p Journey Group L (off site) (New Rochelle)
25 8:30a-9:30a Bird Nature Walk (Starts - back of Parsonage) 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group M (R12) 11:40a-12:40p UURoots Conversations for visitors & newcomers (R41)	26 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 8p-9p Journey Group J (off site) (New Rochelle)	27 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group D (off site) (Scarsdale)	28	29	30	31 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
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Communitarian Deadline for
Next Edition:

Sunday, January 18

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

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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Founded 1909

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