

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

September 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

Liliana Keith
Church Administrator

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

Susan Donham
Ministerial Intern

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

Communitarian Deadline for
October Edition:
Sunday, September 19

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

Minister's Moment...

September is almost here, a September after a long hot summer and following, for some of us at CUC, an uncomfortable spring as well. But as I keep saying to all of you who ask about how things are with me (and thanks to all who have been asking), I have high hopes that we can have a good year -- a time to heal, to prepare for change, and to deepen and rediscover our traditions.

This September's theme is "forgiveness." Forgiveness regularly comes around as a fall theme because Yom Kippur, a holiday that focuses on forgiveness, usually occurs in September. I preached last year in this season on the process of personal forgiveness, and that sermon will be available in print again this year. But now let us take some time to focus on forgiveness of self and others in the context of a community. Look at the resource list on page 4, and let it guide your thinking.

As for Yom Kippur itself, the music staff and leaders for the evening service have decided to hold it as the Sunday morning service just after Yom Kippur, so that the whole community can experience it. The music is rich and emotional, the liturgy is true both to Jewish tradition and to UU values. The Rev. Harris Riordan, who was at CUC in the eighties, was part of a group of UUs who created the liturgy. Please join us on Sunday morning, September 19.

The other two services of the month will be both traditional and innovative. At the Ingathering on September 12, we will meet our Intern Susan Donham and other new people, and each RE class will light its own chalice from the sanctuary's chalice. At the Water Ceremony on September 26 we will pour together vials of water that each of you will bring to represent places that have nourished you spiritually. Members of the vigorous and newly reconstituted Worship Committee will participate in these services and others as the year goes on.

Adam Kent has been at CUC for 20 years now, and we will honor this amazing contribution on September 26. I leave it to you to imagine how young he must have been when he started his tenure with us, but please be there and thank him for all he gives us. And please be present as much as you can this fall, to honor what we contribute to each other. We can offer each other the joy, the comfort, the forgiveness that we all need in life.

— *Rev. Carol*

P. S. The theme in October will be "vision." I invite you to start thinking about that one too.

See page 4 for the resource list on Forgiveness. Join us on Friday, September 19th at 7:30 PM for the film *The Straight Story*. This film from 1999 is based on a powerful actual story.

AMONG OURSELVES

Thoughts With...

Our thoughts are with the family of **Martha Bennett Moore**, who died peacefully on August 15, following an illness of several months. Martha was a long-time member who had moved to California to be near one of her children. There will be a memorial service for Martha at CUC on **Sunday, September 12, at 1 p.m.**

Some members here will remember **Mort Weisbard** who died in July. Rev. Carol officiated at his funeral, as she had for the funeral of his son, James, in 2003. Mort and his family were active members at CUC in the 1970s and early 1980s.

And our thoughts are with **Barbara Mair** on the death of her nephew in August.

Celebrations....

Matthew Dee, **Carole & Dinsa Mehta's nephew** who works for United Nations World Food Program and is based in **Nairobi, Kenya** has been presented with a rare award for achieving outstanding success in the application of Humanitarian Logistics in Somalia.

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, contact Carole Mehta 234-6294 .

Notice

Pulpit Editorial Policy of Community Unitarian Church

Section IV.B. of the *Policy on Political and Social Advocacy*

Adopted by the Board of Trustees – April 14, 2004

Members of the Church have the privilege to speak from the pulpit during worship services on matters of conscience. To encourage such expressions and to facilitate continuing conversation on the subjects so chosen, the following procedure must be followed:

- The consent of the senior Minister in attendance will be obtained and s/he will be informed of the subject matter. The Minister's decisions as to the appropriateness of the subject in terms of the permissible standards set forth in [the Policy on Political and Social Advocacy], and as to the date of the pulpit editorial, are final.
- The statement will not be more than four minutes in length (two double-spaced typewritten pages) and will be made available after the service to all who are interested.
- The opinions expressed will be clearly announced as those of the speaker alone; no assumption of agreement shall be made by the speaker.
- The speaker will announce at the beginning of the editorial that s/he will participate in a discussion of the subject at the conclusion of the worship service.

This portion of the policy on Advocacy will be published in *The Communitarian* in September of each year, and a copy of it shall be given to each person requesting time for a pulpit editorial.

UU DISTRICT OF METRO NY

The UU District of Metro NY – upcoming workshops and events:

September 24th-26th – Homecoming at Murray Grove
<http://murraygrove.org/Homecoming2010.pdf>

October 2nd - Leadership Day held each year at the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock. Check the Metro NY website mid September for more info www.uumetrony.org. Last year there were workshops for Ministers, Presidents and other board members, Treasurers, Social justice, membership, worship, RE, finance and canvass chairs, Young adult, music, nominating and growth committees and of course youth were there. So join me this year in attending this event.

October 8-9th – 4th Annual Queens Revival - www.uucq.org – check the website mid September for more info - Friday and Saturday night from 6 to 9:30, experience the exciting power of Unitarian Universalism at its very best. Two preachers will bring the good word each night and then Matt Meyer and Markus Hauck will bring Revival music as only UUs can. It will be a really fun night of laughter, singing and liberal religion.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend these events. If you have questions email me at ptmom@prodigy.net

...continued on page 3...

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

What we did this summer...

Another action-packed summer has flown by and fall is fast approaching. Perhaps the summer months led you down some less-traveled paths where you found pleasant pastures at their ends. Or better yet, a source of summertime water brought you back for our September 26th Water Ceremony!

During the summer respite, the church likewise shifted down a gear but remained quite busy! Hopefully your found time to sample our Sunday lay-lead services - a vast array of topics was covered by our talented and creative congregants. Thank you to all who led these services. The conversations and sharing of responses to these unique religious expressions were thought-provoking -- and enriching!

Equally important and valuable were the informational and personal feedback opportunities that occurred on two hot Wednesday evenings in July around the subject of Rev. Carol's ministry here at CUC. On the first evening the Board listened carefully to those of you who shared your concerns. Of the 60-plus people attending, 20 people expressed their views and feelings on Rev. Carol's ministry and her resignation. There were comments in support of her ministry, in support of change, questions about the process the Board took and questions about the future. The Board then met in the ensuing week to discuss this feedback and to develop a response for the follow-up meeting a week later. At the second session, again approximately 60 members and friends attended. The Board described the history of the actions taken by the Church and

process used this spring, and addressed the concerns raised as thoughtfully and respectfully as possible. Much time was devoted to looking forwards with discussion about an interim minister and the search process to find a permanent minister.

Much has been accomplished over the summer to improve the building and the use of our space. You will enter in September to an inviting and newly reconfigured main entrance with expansive glass doors, new flooring and new wall covering. All the restrooms received a face lift and the adult restrooms were transformed into unisex / family restrooms. This improvement was designed to reduce lines and make the process run a bit more smoothly. (Yes, habits can be changed!) Thank you to Ted Kuczinski, Lori Saccardi, Nicky Klemens, and Erin Foster for all the hard work they put in on this project over the summer!

Throughout the summer days, we dealt with parking lot lighting failures, parsonage AC meltdowns, and office computer crashes. Ellie Trelstad was hard at work sorting supplies and replenishing our RE classrooms – thank you !

And into this fall...

Also watch the halls for our new ministerial intern, Susan Donham, joining us from California. Please help me in welcoming her warmly. So it has been a busy summer. And it will all come together in a glorious Ingathering on Sunday, September 12th.

See you in September... ***Anne Majsak, chair***

New

Help Wanted

We need volunteer folks with some financial experience to undertake an audit of the church financials - as required by our bylaws. With several people working together, the work can be divided and accomplished in short order. A work plan will be provided. Please contact Rev. Carol or Anne Majsak (amajsak@verizon.net, 328-7909) if you can help with this important project. Thank You!



UU Metro NY and UUA...continued from page 2...

General Assembly (GA) 2010 – I encourage you to view the videos and resources posted.

www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2010/index.shtml There are workshop handouts, PDFs, videos and transcripts. I encourage you to view presentations from some of the breakthrough congregations who were recognized for their growth and revitalization. There is something for everyone so take your time, explore and enjoy.

Become a Facebook friend of Standing on the Side of Love or check the website for up to date news
www.standingonthesideoflove.org

Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fall is just around the corner and we are getting ready to be back in action in the RE end of the building. While Lara was doing her internship at the hospital, Ellie Trelstad, one of our amazing youth, was hard at work getting all the classrooms ready for the fall. She had made sure all the markers are working and the glue bottles are full. Thanks Ellie for your hard work this summer.

When we compiled the registrations it became clear that we were going to need to make some changes for the coming year. In order to make sure our classes are vibrant and engaging places to learn and grow we are combining grades for the church year.

Nursery: 0 to 3 years

PreK: 3 and 4 year olds

K-1st: the Welcome year (hospitality/Our Whole Lives)

2nd-3rd: the Affirmation year (UU identity)

4th-5th: the Toolbox year (UU identity)

6th-7th: the Action year (social action focus)

8th-9th: the Our Whole Lives year (sexuality education)

10th-12th: the Youthie years (youth group)

If during the course of the year a class grows in size, we can have a number of creative options to address the growth.

We have mapped out the program to make sure that over the years kids will participate in all the same content over their RE experience that kids have in the past. If you are interested in seeing the “curriculum map” please email Lara at dre4cucwp@yahoo.com and she can send it to you.

We are excited about this arrangement and believe it will work well for the children, youth, teachers and families.

WELCOME ANNIE!

We are excited to welcome **Annie Gonzalez** to the CUC RE staff as our paid youth advisor. Annie is a second year student at Union Theological Seminary and a life long UU. She will be with the youth most Sundays but you will also see her in the sanctuary from time to time.

On the other end of the age spectrum we are so happy to have **Diane Keller** back in the nursery and **Justine Vaccaro** teaching PreK. These three, in addition to all the numerous volunteer RE teachers, are sure to make it another wonderful year in RE.

So Welcome Back!

Lara Campbell, DRE

Kate Colson, RE Council Chair

Scriptural Stories

Genesis 22 — “The Akedda,” the traditional text for Rosh Hashanah **and** Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal)

Books

No Future Without Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu, Image Books 1999

A Little Book of Forgiveness: Challenges and Meditations for Anyone with Something to Forgive by D. Patrick Miller

Saint Maybe by Ann Tyler

Children and Youth Books

What If Nobody Forgave and Other Stories by Colleen McDonald (all ages)

Red Blue & Yellow Yarn: A Tale of Forgiveness by Miriam R. Kosman (early elementary age)

The Year the Swallows Came Early by Kathryn Fitzmaurice (upper elementary age)

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson (middle school youth)

Movies

The Straight Story 1999 (PG13) A lovely story of a man who drives 300 hundred miles on a ride-on mower in order to reconcile with the brother from whom he is estranged.

A Long Night's Journey Into Day (2000) A brilliant documentary about the truth and reconciliation process in South Africa.

Inception 2010 Within this futuristic action story is a vivid picture of the process of self-forgiveness.

September

Forgiveness

Resource List



**"OPENING
SUNDAY"**

New

**Please plan to
stay for our**

Welcome Back Brunch

Enjoy special

**breakfast treats and
conversation with old
friends and new! Sept. 12**

Hail all ye CUC lovers of nature !!!

*****Many thanks to Eleanor Herman and to Scott and Ann Marie Damashek for donations of plants for the church grounds.*****

The grounds Committee still has some openings for:

* designers of flora - all areas open for input ...* movers & shakers
- always opportunities in these areas - interpret this as you will ... *
vine removers ...* arborists ... professional & amateurs ...* those
who are prayerful ... we need all the help we can get !!!* those
who worship sun, fresh air, our verdant surroundings, and so much more...!!!

Call Ted Kuczinski (552-2452) or Bob Frommer (813-1769) ...

Partners in grime (well, there is that) !!!

DAY IN PLACE

Saturday, October 23, 2010 – 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

PLAYREADING GROUP

All Readings are on Mondays once a month starting at 7:30 PM

September 13 "Mrs. Warrens' Profession," by George Bernard Shaw, led by Ken Kessler

October 4 "Buffalo Gal" by A.J. Gurnie, led by Charles Selinski

November 1 "Doubt" by John Patrick Shanley, led by Barbara Dunne

December 6 "Born Yesterday" by Garson Kanin, led by Heidi Anderson.

For more information contact Ken Kessler at newrocken@aol.com or call the church office.



**Saturday
September 25th
9-2 PM**

Join other CUC community members as we help collect furniture for those in need. For more information see www.furnituresharehouse.org or contact Anne Marie Damashek at scottam@verizon.net

Please donate gently used furniture to: Furniture Sharehouse, Building 3, Westchester County Airport, White Plains



Social
Action
Outreach
Program.

New

Adult Coming of Age Class Begins Monday, September 27

**Meets twice a month, 2nd and 4th Monday evenings.
Class Facilitators: Rev. Carol, DRE Lara,
and Intern Susan Donham.**

Have you ever wished YOU had the chance to do Coming of Age like our youth? This year, you do!

This interactive and engaging program will include dialogue and introspection about the individual life journey and how we can answer deep questions about life and death, divinity, ethics, good and evil. There will be teaching and discussion about UU history, theology, and spiritual practice. The year will culminate in a group service project, a Seven Principles art project, and the creation of individual credo statements to be shared during a May Sunday morning service. The group may take a trip to Boston in March.



Dinner with Rodgers and Hammerstein **Saturday, September 25 6-9 PM**

Come join us for a smorgasbord of delicious cuisines representing the great Broadway musicals such as *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *The King and I*, *State Fair*, *Cinderella*, and *Flower Drum Song*. Then, sing along with the CUC Choir on many of the beloved and fun songs from those shows – *My Favorite Things*, *Oh, What A Beautiful Morning*, and *You'll Never Walk Alone*, among many others. During dinner, vocalist Lisa Meyer and pianist

Georgianna Pappas will provide some light entertainment of tunes from those great musicals as well.

This event is sure to be an enjoyable evening for all. Families are encouraged.

Admission is \$35, \$15 for Seniors and children under 12. Admission supports the 2010-2011 concert series at CUC. Tickets will be available at Coffee Hour after Sunday service and at the door. Talk to any choir member or call Lisa Meyer at 347-278-3187 for more information and tickets. We hope to see you there!

Saturday, October 30th, 2010 At 3 p.m.

**We will have a service for
Acknowledging the Matriarch**

Inviting Women of a Certain Age-60 +
(And those who love them)

To a special ceremony to honor the wisdom of
Those who have been there and done that!

(This is an ancient ritual made new for our times.)

Anyone interested in helping to produce this service, contact Petra Thombs
pthombs@optonline.net

New

"A Year to Live"

An Adult Education Class

Facilitated by Rev Carol and Hollis Huston

Begins September 25th

Imagine you have just been told that you have a year to live. What changes would you make in your daily life and in your spiritual being? What practical decisions would you need to make? How would you challenge yourself -- how would you care for yourself and others as the year goes by?

Come to the first meeting on Saturday, September 25, at 10 a.m., ready to enter into the idea that this is the last year of your life and meet a group of friends who will share this imaginative journey with you. The group will meet once a month, 10 a.m. to 12 on Saturdays, beginning September 25, October 15, and then on the second Saturdays of each month through June 11. Activities and discussions will be loosely based on "A Year to Live: How to Live the Year As If It Were Your Last" by Stephen Levine. The book is available from Amazon if you want to look at it in advance.

Several other UU ministers have led this process and I've been wanting to do it. This is the year! **--Rev. Carol**

New

Choir

**Now rehearsing on
TUESDAYS from 7:30-9:15pm**

**New
Evening**

The CUC Choir is beginning its new season with some exciting changes and events. Now rehearsing on TUESDAYS from 7:30-9:15pm in the sanctuary, we are welcoming new choir members to join us for a year of great music. Rehearsals begin on Tues., August 31 and new members can join us any Tuesday through the end of October.

We will be performing Benjamin Britten's wonderful holiday work, "A Ceremony of Carols" performed with harp this December along with other songs of the season.

Only a commitment of one weekly Tuesday rehearsal and two Sundays per month is needed.

If you are interested in participating, whether as a regular member or an occasional one, please contact **Choir Director Lisa Meyer** for an informal appointment at 516.299.2475 during the day and 347-278-3187 in the evenings, or by email at lisa.meyer@liu.edu. The ability to read music is not required, just the ability to match pitch and the love of making music. Previous choral experience is helpful but not necessary. It is a significant commitment to be a part of the Choir family, but the enjoyment and rewards are truly worth it. Feel free to attend, participate in, or observe any Tuesday night rehearsal. We look forward to meeting you!

SEPTEMBER 2010

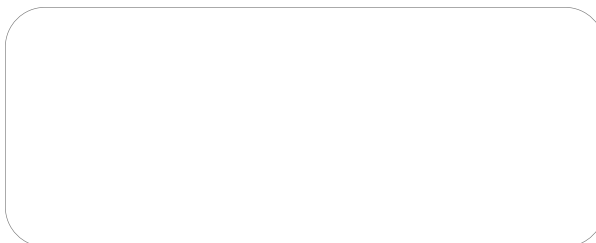
| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----|---|
| | | | 1 Program Council 7:30p | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:15a Summer Worship/refreshments | 6 Labor Day—Offices Closed | 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30p | 8 Rosh Hashana Begins 7:30p Board of Trustees | 9 11:30a Science & Spirituality | 10 | 11 Sanctuary open 8a-noon |
| 12 9:00 a Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Ingathering Worship Service 11:30a Brunch 11:45a Welcome Committee 11:45a Music Committee | 13 7:30p Play Reading | 14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30p | 15 7:30pWorship Associates Meeting | 16 Yom Kippur Begins | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Communitarian Deadline 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Yom Kippur Worship/coffee 11:45a Fun Facts with Adam Kent 7:30p Film Night The Straight Story | 20 8:00p Finance Committee | 21 Choir Rehearsal 7:30p | 22 6:00p-10:00p RE Council Retreat | 23 10:00a Folding Party 11:30a-1:00p Science & Spirituality | 24 | 25 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10:00a –noon “One Year To Live” class 9a-2p Furniture Sharehouse CUC project 6p-9p Dinner and music @ CUC |
| 26 9:00a Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee Water Ceremony | 27 7:30p-9:00p Adult Coming of Age Class Begins | 28 Choir Rehearsal 7:30p | 29 | 30 | | |

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.

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White Plains, NY 10605

In this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Minister's Moment | 1 |
| Among Ourselves | 2 |
| UU Metro NY | 2 |
| Board of Trustees | 3 |
| Religious Education | 4 |
| September Resource List | 4 |
| More Community | 5/6 |
| Calendar | 7 |
| Services Calendar | 8 |



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

SEPTEMBER SERVICES 2010

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

SEPTEMBER 5

**Rev. Carol Huston
Summer Service**

Work and what it means

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

8 AM—NOON

*Sanctuary available for prayer and meditation
on this anniversary*

SEPTEMBER 12

Ingathering Service

Family Service

CUC Choir will sing

We welcome everyone back from summer and begin
religious education.

SEPTEMBER 19

Yom Kippur Service

Led by Dean Silverberg, Claire Kuczinski,
and Rev. Carol

*Music by Adam Kent, Sibylle Johner (cello), and the CUC
Choir*

**There will be a special program of works by
Jewish composers, including Max Bruch's
"Kol Nidre". This special musical offering is
sponsored by a generous gift from CUC
member Hans Hopf.**

SEPTEMBER 25

Water Ceremony

Family Service

Bring a small vial of water, symbolic of a place that
has nourished your spirit this year.