

# THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education  
10:00 am

Sunday Services  
10:00 am

Accessible to Handicapped

## ~ May Theme: Transcendence~

Meredith's Musings

In Christian theology, God is both immanent (manifested and present in the material world) and transcendent (outside of and independent of the material world). These theologians, in their way, were wrestling with something real in human experience. Every situation we encounter is immanent (the objective and matter-of-fact descriptions of just what is there, filtering out our tendency to judge and evaluate) and transcendent (full of hidden possibilities for what it may become; manifesting and exemplifying the one-ness or integral whole of all; a window into wonder and mystery).

In Unitarian history, the Transcendentalist movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was a reaction against the dry intellectual abstractions of early Unitarian preaching. (This intellectualism was itself a reaction against the hyperemotionalism of the "First Great Awakening" [1730-1743] and, especially, the "Second Great Awakening," [late 1700s to mid-1800s] – periods when large and highly emotive religious revival gatherings swept the colonies/young nation.) The transcendentalists, led by Ralph Waldo Emerson, himself a Unitarian minister until leaving the ministry in 1832, sought a more heartfelt and less intellectualized religious expression. Emerson's 1838 Harvard Divinity School Address shocked his audience with radical claims that: moral intuition was more reliable than religious doctrine; all humans have a divine nature; belief in the historical miracles of Jesus is unnecessary; and scripture must not be used to deny us our firsthand revelations of every day miracles. "Historical Christianity," Emerson said, "dwells with noxious exaggeration about the person of Jesus. The soul knows no persons. It invites every man to expand to the full circle of the universe."

In his *Journals and Miscellaneous Notebooks*, Emerson would refer to the "icehouse of Unitarianism" (1842), and "corpse-cold Unitarianism" (1846). He sought a more poetic, less reason-bound, truth, and invited us to imagine/perceive an underlying unity which transcended duality or plurality. He called this an "over-soul" and described it as "that great nature in which we rest . . . within which every man's particular being is contained and made one with all other; that common heart."

Transcendentalism emphasizes lived experience, the here and now, the natural world – that is, the immanent – but it emphasizes the transcendent qualities of this immanent reality. For Transcendentalism, *the immanent is the transcendent*.

Unitarian Universalism continues to this day to develop in the interplay between what might be called the truths of reason and the truths of poetry. We explore truths of reason in the insights of the natural and social sciences (both empirical findings and large-scale theories). We explore truths of poetry when we speak of oneness, all-embracing unity, and when we share words to evoke the mystery, awe, and wonder that is ultimately ineffable.

*Yours in Faith, Meredith*

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



***Nurture Spirituality  
Foster Compassion  
Engage in Service***

## May 2015 Inside this issue:

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## MAY SERVICES 10:00 AM

### May 3

7th Sunday of spring

#### **Youth Service**

A worship service designed, written, executed, and led by CUC Youth.

### May 10

8th Sunday of spring

#### **Rev. Meredith Garmon**

#### ***Direct Experience of Transcending Mystery and Wonder***

Plumbing the meanings of the first of the sixth sources of the living tradition we share.

### May 17

9th Sunday of spring

#### **Rev. Meredith Garmon**

#### ***What Has Queer Theory Done for You Lately?***

A framework for LGBT issues, and insights for all of us from the "queer theory" front.

### May 24

10th Sunday of spring

#### **Rev. Meredith Garmon**

#### ***UU Buddhism***

Why Unitarian Universalism and Buddhism are good for each other.

### May 31

11th Sunday of spring

#### **Coming of Age service**

A worship service designed, written, executed, and led by the 9th Grade Coming of Age students, including their credo presentations.

### **Caring & Sharing...**

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout May contact Carole Mehta at 234-6294 or [carole.mehta@gmail.com](mailto:carole.mehta@gmail.com) or Adine Usher at 328-2307 or [adineusher@verizon.net](mailto:adineusher@verizon.net).

### **Gratitude...**

**Thanks!**

Many thanks to Christine Haran and Aimee Katz Zipkin for bringing back our Passover Seder in the UU tradition! We ended up with almost fifty attendees, and a great time was had by all. Thanks to Christine and Aimee for all their hard work organizing, and for the help of many other volunteers who pitched in.

### *Online Directory*



Get up to date Member Contact Information on the Online Member Directory!

Go to: [ONLINE DIRECTORY](#)

If you need a login ID, please contact Karen Schmitt at [schmitt8@verizon.net](mailto:schmitt8@verizon.net).

May Theme Packet: [Transcendence](#)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### *From the Chair's Chair*

We are entering a new phase, undergoing a transition, a transformation. At the small group discussions during the April 12th service we set on a new course of looking outward instead of just looking in.

What does it mean for us to shift in this way? Our congregational life is based on three main pillars -- worship, community, and service. Our mission statement, which tells us what work we are here to do, has one pillar looking inward -- to nurture each other in our spiritual journeys -- one pillar looking both inward and outward -- to foster understanding and compassion within and beyond our community -- and one looking predominantly outside of our community -- to engage in service to transform ourselves and our world. Since before Meredith arrived, and up until now we have, appropriately I believe, focused inward. By strengthening our ties to one another and in working toward making our congregational life a caring and spiritual community, we have strengthened ourselves and our congregation. With worship services, with music, and with the journey groups we have successfully advanced the first two pillars of our mission. Transformation in these first two areas will continue to be forward-looking to keep us vibrant, interested, and hungry for more.

Yet it is greatly satisfying to be working toward an outward focus now. Engagement in service has been something that has lagged behind the other pillars in the last several years. It is understandable and appropriate to feel the need to "put our house in order" before looking outward to see how we can make a real difference in the world. We can now work outward from a position of strength. This is perhaps why the plans of the social action planning committee seem to have occurred just at the right moment.

At the April 12th service the sanctuary was buzzing with energy. The nine options for involvement in social action were, amazingly, all filled with a quorum of congregants exchanging ideas in conversation circles, each excited about moving forward with action on an important concern: economic reform, education, the environment, LGBT issues, helping the hungry and homeless, gender and racial injustice, crime, and interfaith collaboration. The timing was right. The Zeitgeist is here. We are ready

to lift up the third pillar of our mission -- to engage in service -- and allow ourselves the privilege and honor of transforming ourselves and our world!

This new direction was brought to us by the hard work and organizational skills of the social action planning committee -- Ginny Strand, Emily Economou, Jeff Tomlinson, and Barry Litcofsky, DLRE Perry Montrose, and Rev. Meredith Garmon.

Speaking of transformation in another sense, your Board of Trustees has been hard at work putting together a budget for the upcoming year. On June 7th, at the annual congregational meeting, the congregation will vote on the annual budget, elect new members to the Board and the Nominating Committee, and vote on the name change referendum. Remember that only CUC full members can vote on the name change and the nominations. So if you have not become a member yet, and wish to vote, see Meredith before May 7. You need to have been a member for 30 days to vote. One large budgetary item for consideration will be the repair of the lower parking lot (everything below the stairs). This is estimated to cost \$75,000. The potholes speak for themselves. We also periodically host rentals that bring heavy trucks on our property, another reason to get this job done right.

We will see you all at CUC soon. Enjoy the Spring that finally seems to have arrived in earnest!

**Yours in Faith,  
Randy Marshall, Chair, CUC Board of Trustees**





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### *Perry's Ponderings...*

*I hear; I forget. I see; I remember. I experience; I understand.* This rang true for the high school youth who got to play the bells in the tower at Arlington Street Church on the Coming of Age Unitarian Universalist Heritage Trip to Boston. It was more than the music that resounded in their minds as they experienced the historic sites.



The day began at Walden Pond where the youth met Henry David Thoreau (character played by historian Richard Smith). Thoreau's thinking, the social times, and the revelations of his experiment of solitude came alive through our questions and walk along the pond. At the original site of the cabin, the youth each placed a rock that "had spoken to them" on the cairn built up by years of visiting Coming of Agers.



Next in Concord the youth shared their interpretations of quotes from Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson at their gravesites. The souls of those who provoked a Unitarian Universalist sense of justice left their mark on the youth. With Emerson's unique gravestone as a backdrop, I relayed the transformative thoughts from Emerson's Harvard Divinity Address of 1838. "A more secret, sweet, and overpowering beauty appears to [us] when [our] hearts and minds open to the sentiment of virtue...this sentiment is the essence of all religion...[It] is an intuition. It cannot be received at second hand. Truly speaking,

it is not instruction but provocation, that I can receive from another soul."

From Concord we headed to downtown Boston. Arlington Street Church held the first gay marriage in the nation and was also the place a Vietnam War draft card was burned for the first time. In that historic sanctuary, the youth climbed the stairs to the imposing pulpit where they each read a part of William Ellery Channing's famous sermon, "Unitarian Christianity," that implored the use of reason when reading the Bible, tolerance for varying religious views, and a focus on deeds more than words.



Crossing the Boston Common we stopped at the relief of the first black regiment in the Civil War, led by Unitarian Robert Gould Shaw. It is a striking reminder of the sacrifice for justice. In front of the statue of Unitarian minister and author Edward Everett Hale, the youth made a connection to the words he lived by, "I am only one. I cannot do everything. Still, I am one. I can do something and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do." Those words were especially poignant coming before the youth viewed the haunting Holocaust Memorial near Quincy Market.

The Kings Chapel tour held history below our feet and over our heads. The youth saw the last, but "sweetest," bell cast by Paul Revere, as well as the church crypt holding those honored and those cast aside but finding a final resting place in the Strangers' Tomb. Even a secret, illegal, Catholic burial was held in the tomb for a Frenchman, fitting for the first U.S. congregation to purport Unitarian views. The youth shared their amazement at the striking differences between the congregations and how different they both were from CUC.

We arrived home with a deeper appreciation of our Unitarian Universalist roots and our religious home in White Plains.



### Children's Drawings Needed



Children of all ages are invited to create drawings that will become the covers of the teacher thank you cards. Please submit thank you drawings (4.25x5.5-half of an 8.5x11 page) into the box in the RE foyer by Sunday, June 1.

### College Scholarships for High School Seniors



Each year CUC offers two scholarships in the amount of \$250 for our graduating seniors. One scholarship is given in honor of Sylvia Schnall-Pierorazio and the other Rev. Betty Baker, both former CUC Religious Educators.

Please send a short essay on your contributions and leadership at CUC, with a brief explanation of how the scholarship will be used and the names of two CUC references to [dlre@cucwp.org](mailto:dlre@cucwp.org) by **May 15**.



### EARTH DAY

Children and youth cleaned out and began redesigning the inner atriums at CUC. Take a look at their remarkable work when you are at CUC.



Thank you to all of the adult leaders – Tim Lynch, Steve Miller, Bice Wilson, Dan Vought, Rhonda Miller, Maria Prieto, Lizabeth Redfearn, Brett Redfearn, John Economou, Gail Johnston, and Andrew Svarre.



# CUC's

# VARIETY SHOW

## Fantastic Fundraising Event

Saturday, May 9th, 2015

4:30-6:30pm

\$5 per person at the door

Join us for an evening of fun!



**PERFORMANCES! • ART SALE! • BAKE SALE!**

Raffle prizes too!

**Community Unitarian Church**

468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605

All proceeds benefit **THE SANCTUARY FOR ANIMALS**, a family-run organization dedicated to providing a safe haven, for over 600 exotic and domestic animals, most of which have come from situations of neglect and abuse.

**SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE!**

For information, please email: [elizabethsuvanto@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethsuvanto@hotmail.com)

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 7, 2015 for the purpose of

- receiving Annual Reports;
- voting on the Board of Trustees slate presented by the Nominating Committee;
- the election of members to the Nominating Committee;
- voting on CUC's operating budget for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016;
- voting on CUC's capital expenditures for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
- voting on the name change for Community Unitarian Church at White Plains

Only members can vote on the name change, nominees for the Board of Trustees and nominees for the Nominating Committee. The deadline for becoming a member in order to vote at this meeting is May 7th, 30 days prior to the meeting.  
*See Rev. Meredith Garmon if you wish to become a member of CUC.*

### BUDGET FORUM

**Sunday, May 3rd**  
**Fellowship Hall, After Services**



This is an opportunity to understand and ask questions about the operating budget for 2015-2016.

Come learn about repaving the lower parking lot, and other important budgeting for programs and worship.

### *From Russia With Love*

*Sunday, May 3rd*  
*at CUC, 3:00 PM*



A bear-hug of a recital by CUC Music Director Adam Kent, featuring classics of the Russian piano repertoire by Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Rachmaninoff, and others. Suggested donation: \$20 (\$10 seniors or students)

### Coming of Age Service on May 31



A worship service designed, written, executed, and led by the 9th Grade Coming of Age students, including their credo presentations.

Come hear what our youth believe and support their growth as Unitarian Universalists. Reception with cake after the service.

**STITCHING IN SPIRIT:**

**THE CUC MONTHLY CRAFTING CIRCLE**

*CUC Adult RE Program*

***Sunday May 3rd at 11:45***



*in Youth Room, RE Wing*

*Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason, Community Minister*

Fiber arts and handicrafts have figured significantly in people's communal and spiritual lives for millennia. 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 craze. Come join affiliated minister and avid crocheter Kelly Murphy Mason in this ongoing group exploring what it might mean for those in 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. Anyone with any degree of interest is welcome to join at any point, and newcomers are always encouraged to attend!



**Bird Walk**  
**Sunday, May 24th,**  
**8:30 am**  
Behind Parsonage

With readings and bird searching we will be reflecting on transcendence. Check CUC matters and Sunday news for further updates, or email LoraKim at [amoloros@gmail.com](mailto:amoloros@gmail.com) for more information.

*Led by Rev. LoraKim Joyner.*

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION (UUA)  
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

**The 2015 District Annual Meeting** will be held May 1-2, 2015, at the Hyatt Morristown in Morristown NJ. All Adults and Youth (9<sup>th</sup> -12th grade) from congregations are encouraged to attend. Childcare for 4 and under. Children's Programming: 4-12 years old on Saturday. [READ MORE](#)

**The 2015 General Assembly will be June 24-28 in Portland, Oregon.** Theme for 2015 GA: "Building a New Way." Ware Lecturer will be Dr. Cornel West.

**Social Justice**  
**Focus:**  
**Hungry & Homeless**  
Sunday, May 17th at 11:35 am



"How can CUC be in Community with the Hungry and Homeless?" If this is an area of interest to you, please join us for an exploratory discussion on how CUC can have a positive impact on the issue of hunger and homelessness.



~ May 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
<b>3</b> 8a-9:30a RE Council (R41) 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee All Ages Worship (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Budget Forum (R43) 11:30a-12:30p COA rehearsal (Sanc) 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee (R41) 11:40a-12:40p In The Spirit Of Truth (FH) 11:45a-12:45p Stitching In Spirit (R14 (Youth Room)) 3p-5p Adam's Concert (Sanc)	<b>4</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:30p Database Mtg (R24)	<b>5</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	<b>6</b> 7:30p-9:30p Program Council (R41)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:30p-9:30p Variety Show Rehearsal (Sanc!, Ktc)	<b>9</b> 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 4:30p-6:30p Variety Show (Sanc!, Ktc)
<b>10</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 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 A (R12) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group N (R22)	<b>11</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	<b>12</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	<b>13</b> 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	<b>14</b> 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality (R24)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
<b>17</b> 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 H (R43) 11:45a-12:45p UU Musicians' Group (SANC) 12:30p-1:30p SJ- Hunger & Homeless team Mtg (R41) 5p-6p Journey Group I (off site) ((off site))	<b>18</b> 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)	<b>19</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group E (off site) (Rye)	<b>20</b> 7:30p-8:30p Worship Committee mtg (Parsonage)	<b>21</b> 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group F (off site) (Irvington) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group G (off site) (New Rochelle)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 3p-4p Journey Group L (off site) (New Rochelle)
<b>24</b> Communitarian Deadline 8:30a-9:30a Bird Walk (Parsonage) 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Fun Day (FH) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:40a-12:40p Journey Group M (R12) 11:45a-12:45p Stitching In Spirit (R14 (Youth Room))	<b>25</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED 8p-9p Journey Group J (off site) (New Rochelle)	<b>26</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-8:30p Journey Group D (off site) (Scarsdale)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	<b>29</b> 6p-9p COA Rehearsal (Sanc!, FH)	<b>30</b> 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 5p-7p New member and visitor spring gathering (Parsonage)
<b>31</b> 9:30a-12p Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee COA worship for all ages (SANC) 11:40a-12:40p UURoots Conversations for visitors & newcomers (R41)						



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605

Communitarian Deadline for  
Next Edition:

**Noon Tuesday, May 26**

Submit information to  
Emily Economou, Editor  
[emily.economou@gmail.com](mailto:emily.economou@gmail.com)

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

**Minister**

The Rev. Meredith Garmon  
[minister@cucwp.org](mailto:minister@cucwp.org)  
914-946-1660 x3

**Director of Lifespan Religious  
Education & Faith Development**

Perry Montrose  
[dlre@cucwp.org](mailto:dlre@cucwp.org)  
914-946-1660 x4

**Church Administrator**

Liliana Keith  
[admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org)  
914-946-1660 x2

**Music Director**

Adam Kent  
[music@cucwp.org](mailto:music@cucwp.org)

**Choir Director**

Lisa Meyer  
[choir@cucwp.org](mailto:choir@cucwp.org)

**Community Minister  
in Association with CUC**

The Rev. Deb Morra  
[communityminister@cucwp.org](mailto:communityminister@cucwp.org)  
914-946-1660 x6

**Community Minister  
in Association with CUC**

The Rev. LoraKim Joyner  
(352) 375-8531  
[amoloros@juno.com](mailto:amoloros@juno.com)

**Community Minister  
In Association with CUC**

The Rev. Kelly M. Mason  
(347) 497-3741  
[rev.kmmason@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kmmason@gmail.com)

**Bookkeeper**

Lisa Sommer  
[bookkeeper@cucwp.org](mailto:bookkeeper@cucwp.org)  
914-946-1660 x7

**Board of Trustees**

**Chair,** Randy Marshall  
914-633-3115  
[rmarshra@gmail.com](mailto:rmarshra@gmail.com)

**Treasurer,** Nicky Klemens  
914-967-4419  
[nsklemens@optonline.net](mailto:nsklemens@optonline.net)