

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

FEBRUARY 2012



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

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere
Interim Minister

Annie Gonzalez
Religious Education Coordinator

Liliana Keith
Church Administrator

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

Susan King
Bookkeeper

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

Communitarian Deadline for
March Edition:
Sunday, February 19

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

In the Interim ...

In addition to the regular shared responsibilities of ministry, we have a particular set of goals during this interim period. These goals are commonly agreed upon by many denominations, including the UUA. Since we're six months into our time together, a review is in order. How are we doing with these?

1. *Claiming and honoring the past and healing its griefs and conflicts.*
2. *Illuminating the congregation's unique identity, its strengths, its needs and challenges.*
3. *Encouraging new leadership to emerge.*
4. *Renewing linkages within and beyond the UUA.*
5. *Enabling the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest.*

These don't happen in a linear fashion, and may not be perfectly completed during the interim period, but it is clear that progress in these areas improves the odds of a successful relationship between the congregation and settled minister. I invite you to think on these things, to talk about them. If you have ideas that would further any of the above, please tell me or one of the Transition Team members, Mary Cavallero, Janet Bear, Howard Garson, Al Rocchi.

Yours in faith, Benjamin

Newcomers Orientation

**New to CUC? Questions about activities, who we are,
membership, and more?**

**Sunday, February 19th
11:15 am
Minister's Study**

February 5 *It's Only Change.*

The Rev. Craig Hirshberg. Transition is always hard and especially when it affects the life of the congregation. This Sunday, the UU Metro District Ministerial Settlement Rep will be here to explore change, transition and how the congregation searches for new ministerial leadership. The congregation is invited to a Q & A immediately following coffee hour.

February 12 *The Way the Night Knows Itself with the Moon.*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. A celebration of love in its many forms.

February 19 CUC Member Petra Thombs.

Topic to be announced.

February 26 *Welcoming the Stranger.*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. The spiritual dimensions of providing hospitality.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

You are reading this a few days before your conversation with the Search/Nominating Committee representative. Have you begun to think about who you would like to see on the Search Committee? This committee of seven needs a wide range of skills. These people need to be individuals who work well with others, reflect a good representation of the congregation, who know the history and culture of the church, who have been active in the congregation and demonstrated themselves to be responsible leaders and responsible participants.

It is important that this group understand CUC so that they can present our congregation to potential candidates in the most honest light:

- a congregation that is aware of its strengths and weaknesses
- what we are like at our best
- what we are like at our worst
- what we are like on autopilot on an average day.

Who do you trust to work on behalf of the congregation?

On another note, let's talk about emails. They are an efficient way to share information and that is how they are often used. However, sometimes they are also used to have a conversation about meaningful, but complicated issues. When the emails are about issues rather than announcements, let us all take a moment to think carefully before we press "send." And, when it is a long thread of important conversation, don't be afraid to suggest we move that conversation into a small group some Sunday after services or one evening during the week.

~ *In Community,*
Janet Press, Board Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Council

Welcome to Annie Gonzalez who has expanded her role at CUC from Youth Advisor to RE Coordinator, replacing Lara on a part-time basis for the remainder of the church year. Should you need to reach her, you may do so at the usual RE email address: dre4cucwp@yahoo.com. On a related note, thanks to everyone who helped give Lara a warm send off from CUC on Dec. 18 and Jan. 8. She appreciated the events in the sanctuary and at the last Children's Worship.

Thanks also to the 6th/7th grade class for hosting a delicious Chili Sunday brunch on Jan. 22, complete with solar system theme and background music by the Blatt sisters. The spicy chili was the perfect thing to warm us on that chilly, snowy morning.

Mark your calendars for February 12 when CUC will have a visit by a wolf from the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC), the PreK - 5th grade students' social action cause this past fall. Thanks to everyone at CUC who supported this project, benefiting the WCC and earning us this visit.

Also in February: OWL gets underway for 1st graders on Feb. 5, the 6th graders and their parents have a joint OWL session on Feb. 12, and a dancer from Alvin Ailey will be at CUC on the Sunday of President's weekend (Feb. 19) to work with the children as there are no regular RE classes held that day.

Finally, Children's Worship will be lead by CUC members for the remainder of the church year. If you are interested in leading a service, please contact Annie at dre4cucwp@yahoo.com. She is available to support your planning, including suggestions for themes, readings and music.

- Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair

CARING & SHARING

Caring & Sharing.....

Our thoughts are with....

Our thoughts are with Dan Vought and his family. Dan's mother, Helen Vought, passed away on December 31st.

Sharing our joy with...

Six year old Shane Swiss is home after a car accident in January. He is recovering beautifully surrounded by his parents Amy & Drew Swiss, and their three other children. As the family heals at home, we are still collecting donations to provide further means for rest and recuperation. To help, please contact Emily Economou, Carole Mehta, or Lori Saccardi. Our requested deadline is January 29th.

Contact Carole Mehta at 234-6294 if you, or someone you know, is in need of help from the Caring & Sharing group. This includes home visits, help getting to doctors' appointments, help with food shopping if one is home-bound, etc.

Dr. George J. W. Pennington 1925-2012

Many congregants remember Dr. Pennington as the husband of CUC's Rev. Shannon Bernard. Dr. Pennington passed away at home on January 10, 2012.

Born in Salem, Massachusetts, Rev. Pennington held a B.A., S.T.M., M.A., and D.D., from Tufts University. He was ordained in to the Universalist Ministry in 1947 and served churches in Norwell, Mass., Wakefield, Mass., Arlington, Mass., Springfield, Mass., and Montclair, N.J. Rev. Pennington was in full ministerial fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to CUC, per the request of the Pennington family, or to the Unitarian Universalist Society, in Springfield, MA, or the Baystate VNA & Hospice in Springfield.

George at one time wrote: "I would not want to live out my life defending bridges, fighting assailants, real or imagined, or climbing every mountain. Yet, I do wish to experience myself clearly in my thinking, unmistakably in my feelings, committed to an identifiable process of worth beyond myself, that nurtures and dignifies my life." GJWP

MONEY MATTERS

CUC Money Matters: Halfway through the Church Year -- Taking Stock

January is the time for taking stock in life as well as in finance. So where do we stand as of year end, 2011? Year end is halfway through CUC's fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2012. As of the halfway point, our pledge collections are down from what we CUC members promised ourselves and our community and unfortunately our expenses are higher than projected and than last year. Here are the numbers:

	Actual @ 12/31/11	Budget	Actual @ 12/31/10
Expenses	\$256,552	\$248,069	\$224,979
Total Revenue	\$300,712	\$322,259	\$275,886
Pledges Collected	\$163,731	\$179,771	\$187,568

So the above chart shows the following:

- We have spent 3% more than our budget and about 10% more than we spent for the same time period in 2010. This is close to budget and is not so bad considering the unanticipated expenses for roof and parsonage repairs last fall.
- We have taken in about \$22,000 or about 7% less than the revenue budgeted, including the transfers from the Endowment Fund.
- In terms of the year over year comparison, at this time last year, our revenue included just \$8,000 from the Endowment Fund; this year's year to date revenue includes a withdrawal of \$51,000 from the Endowment.
- Last, our pledges collected are \$26,000 less or 9% less than budgeted following last year's canvass, and are down about \$24,000 from pledges collected for the same period in 2010.

How can you help?

If you are among those who have not yet completed your pledge payments, please take the necessary steps to do so. And as the Giving Campaign for next year gets underway, please think carefully and realistically about your financial contribution to our community.

Want to know more? Ask Chris Kortlandt, kortlandtbunch@verizon.net.

Prepared by Catherine Kortlandt

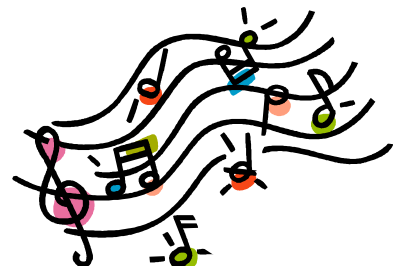
EVENTS...

CHOIR OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

After Services

Join us for the Choir Open House – Sing and Snack! From 11:45am to 12:45pm, join the CUC Choir in the sanctuary and see what singing with them is all about. Enjoy light refreshments along with singing rounds, spirituals, and folk songs. All are invited and the ability to read music is not necessary!



CUC and the Coachman Center

We recently ran two successful events at the Coachman Center, and we'd like to thank all of our CUC volunteers for making this happen!

Over the school vacation week, seven CUC'ers and fourteen Coachman children went to the Greenburgh Nature Center. The onsite naturalist showed them a chinchilla, a turtle, an albino boa constrictor, and a bearded lizard to which they fed crickets. Outside we saw hawks, owls, eagles, turkeys, sheep, goats, and a rooster. While some of the children were at first skittish, by the end of the session all were enthralled, and most ventured to touch the animals.



Separately, we ran a craft session for about ten children, who happily made snowmen and beaded snowflakes. Unfortunately, our concurrent adult chat session did not draw any attendees. We are working with the Coachman to see how we can improve the effectiveness of the adult program.

Stay Tuned for Future Volunteer Opportunities...

We are in the planning stages for upcoming events. If you like to organize, and would like to help plan a children's trip, please let us know!

To be included in future updates or to volunteer please contact:

Johanna Bauer 636-1047 johbauer@msn.com

Karen Schmitt 921-3647 schmitt8@verizon.net

The CUC 2nd Annual Congregational Read

Perfect for those wintry days when you're home with the gift of time.

"Acts of Faith" by Eboo Patel

A remarkable account of growing up Muslim in America

On sale now at the Welcome Table: \$13.00

Review Publishers Weekly - April 23, 2007

"This autobiography of a young activist captures how an angry youth can be transformed—by faith, by the community and, most of all, by himself—into a profound leader for the cause of peace."



CUC Play Reading

Monday, February 27th, 7:30 PM

Ginger Bread Lady by Neil Simon



Grounds Day

Saturday, February 4

8 AM—2 PM

(or when you can arrive in that time frame)



Come join us for time outdoors, doing whatever the weather asks of us. Trimming, moving brush, etc. Tools provided. No experience necessary. This is a great opportunity to get some fresh air, spend time with congregants, and give back to CUC.

Questions? Contact David Schuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com or 831-5605.

BABES IN BUNKO LAND

Game Night for 25 Lucky Women!

February 3rd, 7 to 10 PM
Fellowship Hall

What better way to pass an evening. This event, hosted by Joni Ehrlich and Mary Oliansky, will include the game Bunko and light food. Enjoy the camaraderie of other CUC ladies on February 3rd.

This event was offered as a “class” at the CUC auction in November. Therefore over 12 people have already signed up, but there is room for up to 25.

Grab a seat before they fill up!
Cost is \$25.

RSVP

with **Joni Ehrlich** at
jwe910@yahoo.com or
967-8482 or

Mary Oliansky at maryoliansky@yahoo.com
or **462-6765**.



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Last November, I attended Prideworks (a conference for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender youth and their allies) at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown. This was my fifth year attending but what made it different was that we (a member of the Hastings congregation and myself) attended as UU's, wearing Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts and displayed info about UU at a booth table. I was astonished at the number of adults and youth who visited the table and had either heard about UU or identified as UU. We encouraged them to find a local congregation or come to our congregations but many nodded their heads and moved on. I often wonder why, if so many identify as UU's, why do our churches have such difficulty filling their sanctuaries on a Sunday morning.? Then I read the article written by UUA President Rev. Peter Morales, *Congregations and Beyond*, <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/officers/president/moralespeter/192145.shtml>. I encourage you to read this article. He encourages those who attend a congregation, and those who don't, to become more involved in our UU faith through congregational life and also connecting with the many resources available in our districts, regions and the UUA. Here are just some of the places you can connect with Unitarian Universalism through articles, blogs, online courses, webinars.


www.uumetrony.org – UU District of Metro NY - <http://uumetrony.org> – check the calendar, join their facebook page.

<http://cerguua.org> – Central East Regional Group – all kinds of resources on church life, podcasts, webinar, blogs and articles

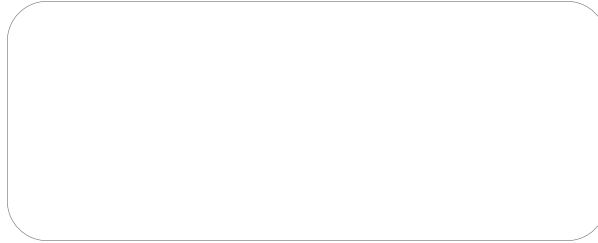
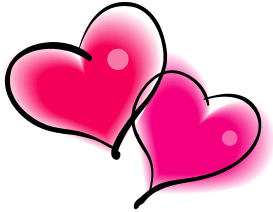
www.uua.org – Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations – info on UU, links to blogs, articles, listserv, RE materials for home use for adults, children and families, and many more resources. <http://www.questformeaning.org> – Quest for Meaning – also known as the Church of the Larger Fellowship – Has a mobile app for smartphones, light a chalice, view a livestream worship service Sunday nights at 7pm, 9pm and Monday 1:30 pm, resources for individuals, children and families, podcasts and classes.

Submitted by Denice Tomlinson

~ February 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	2	3 7:00p-10:00p Bunko Night (FH, KTCH)	4 8a-2p Grounds Day
5 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-10a 6-7th teachers mtg (41) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10a-10:30a Children Service (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth	6 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	7 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	8 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	9 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	10	11
12 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-10a 4-5th teachers mtg (44) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:45a-1:15p 6th OWL Parent/Child 11:30a-12:30p YG teachers mtg (14) 9a-10a CoA Youth & Mentor meeting	13 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	14 Valentine's Day 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24) 	15	16	17	18
19 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Special Sunday (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:45a-12:45p Fun Facts (SANC)	20 President's Day 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	21 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	22	23 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	24	25
26 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-10a Pre K-K teachers mtg (22) 10a-11:30a Religious Ed 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee 11:45 a Choir Open House	27 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 7:30p-9:30p Play Reading Group (41)	28 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	29 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)			

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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



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SAVE THE DATE

**Friday Evening
March 16th**

Family and friends. Join us for an evening of St. Patrick's Day food and events.



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