

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

JULY/AUGUST 2011



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

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Communitarian Deadline for
September Edition:
Sunday, August 21st

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



Minister's Moment...

The events at the end of the year put a positive closing to my ten-year ministry with you, and I am grateful for all the words and gestures of appreciation that came my way through the year. Individual notes will come to your mailboxes, but I want to thank publicly the people who put together the Saturday evening celebration. As I understand it, the organizational and creative work was done by Creighton Cray, Maxi Feldman, Karen Schatzel, Andy Block, Petra Thombs, Carole Mehta, and Jim Cobb (He also gave a once-in-a-lifetime vocal solo!). There were probably others, but since they worked in secret, I don't know who they are.

Groups in the congregation gave me memberships to the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Natural History, appropriate gifts at a time when I will be living in Washington Heights and not beginning a full time position, at least not right away. When other financial gifts – coming from so many of you – were presented, I was told to use the money for fun. I will, I promise, and I am even keeping a ledger of the plays, the exhibitions, and the travel that your gifts will allow me to enjoy.

On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, Creighton listed some of some accomplishments of our time together. At the top of the list was our development into a substantial and respected Teaching Congregation with four interns and three field education students to our credit. Creighton also mentioned our evolution as a Welcoming Congregation, with a growing advocacy presence. Those are high points, and I would add others. You learned how to grant sabbaticals to your minister and also to your Director of Religious Education. You joined me for two years of Theme Ministry, a new structure in many of our congregations. Lara and I developed rites of passage for Affirmation and Coming of Age, and even created an Adult Coming of Age. It was also good that you found so much energy to put into the capital campaign for redesign of the center of the building. Although with the economic downturn the specific project was set aside, CUC now has a building fund for the first time, and you are improving the building and keeping the grounds healthy. All of these were done in collaboration between staff and congregation, and I value my part in these efforts.

As my time with you began ten years ago, I worked with you to figure out how to minister to each other in the wake of 9/11, which occurred two days after my first ingathering service. My thoughts will be with you this fall when you gather on the tenth anniversary of those attacks. Of course we have all changed. After twenty years of parish ministry I'm exhausted. I need time to recharge my batteries, and to recover the sense of calling that brought me to you a decade ago. But CUC will always remain in my heart.

– Rev. Carol

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“Then followed that beautiful season..... Summer.....Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as new created in all the freshness of childhood.”

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This is my first Communitarian column as your new chair of the Board of Trustees. I look forward to working closely with the congregation and Rev Benjamin, as we move forward together. It is a monumental job, but a gift of service to a congregation that is a very important part of my life. I hope that I can count on your support and your honest feedback.

During these languid days of summer, we all have a little more time to enjoy the scent of the blossoms, the singing of the cicadas, and the changing light of a sunset. Maybe you can't hear the buzzing in the hive, but the doors of CUC are still open during July and August and there are worker bees present already getting us prepared for an exciting fall.

- Summer services have begun and they are a way of being within your self or with others, in a small and personal setting. When individuals offer to lead a service, they share their passions, beliefs, and areas of expertise with our community, and we are given a chance to build connections.
- Reverend Benjamin will be arriving at the beginning of August, and we are making every effort to prepare a welcome that will show him the best of all that is CUC.
- Within the building, kitchen planning continues to move forward; and the parsonage is being painted and getting new carpeting.
- At our annual meeting the congregation passed a resolution, to “go green” within our church as well as within our personal lives. During the summer this is a commitment that will be taken from words on paper towards implementation in all facets of church life.

May your summer days provide you with the chance to be with family and friends, to enjoy a “stay-cation” or “vacation” and to find moments of spiritual contentment.

- Janet Press, Board Chair

SUNDAY OFFERING

Thank you!

Greetings friends at CUC -

The LOFT: The LGBT Community Center and our entire community want to thank the wonderful congregation of the Community Unitarian Church of White Plains for your generous donation.

Located in White Plains, New York, The LOFT is a not-for-profit, community-based organization serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community of the Lower Hudson Valley. Your donation helps us to keep offering over thirty programs, services, and special groups. The LOFT works to further the cause for inclusion, diversity and pride through education, advocacy and celebration.

Again, many thanks,. - David Juhren, Executive Director



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A craft here, a theme there....uncovering the spiritual in the transitions...

Summer is the time of year when I catch up. We clean out the RE classrooms, restock the supplies, organize, and generally put things back in their place or better yet find places for the things that have accumulated over the church year.

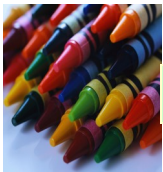
Even with the able and enthusiastic assistance of our youth (this year Blair Sabol & Kelsey Schmitt), at times this task can seem mundane and even boring. However, sometimes these types of tasks can be an amazing spiritual experience. It can be refreshing to gather up the old, to sort through it, determine what needs to be kept and what needs to go.

It is fun to relive some of the things that happened during the year as I go in and out of each classroom. The youth working with me reminisce when they run across the remnants of a craft activity left behind. And I get to find out about the things that were important to them in RE.

After everything has been removed and sorted, we get to begin the process of restocking the classrooms. There is such hope and excitement as we engage in this preparation. The possibilities and the promises for the coming year abound.

So, while we may not have RE classes over the summer, know that lots of physical and spiritual work is being done in anticipation of our first service on September 11th.

- Lara Campbell, DRE



Chalices, Home, Affirmation, Tool Boxes, Actions, OWL, Youthies...

RE Council—Thank you! Summer's On!

As we close out the religious education year at CUC, I would like to thank Kate Colson, the outgoing chair of the RE Council, for her great enthusiasm and leadership this past year. Also many thanks to Tim Lynch, who is completing two terms on the REC and has been one of the regulars greeting us all at the RE Welcome Table, and Lexi Sabol, our REC youth representative who is off to college.

Over the summer, there is no formal RE program. However, child care is always available for those families wishing to attend summer services. Lara will also be busy getting the classes organized and ready for our return on Sunday, September 11. To that end, please send in your RE registration form if you have not already done so – it helps us plan the class groupings and teacher assignments. Registration forms are accessible on the website – look for the RE tab on the left side of the home page.

And, speaking of teachers, we are looking for a few more volunteers who are interested in teaching RE next year. The time commitment would be to lead a class approximately once a month. Please contact Lara as soon as possible if you are interested in this opportunity to make a difference with our children.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the chair of the REC for the coming church year. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you in September.

Have a fun summer!

- Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair

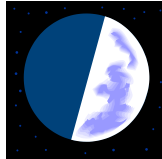
MINISTERIAL INTERN

**“Moons and Junes and Ferris wheels
The dizzy dancing way you feel
As ev'ry fairy tale comes real
I've looked at love that way”**



During this time of beginnings and endings, as the church year ends, and summer services begin, and I pack boxes to head back to California, Joni Mitchell's song "From Both Sides Now" has been going through my head. In it she looks at clouds, at love, and at life from different sides, and on these sunny June days so do I, although I draw a different conclusion than she does. In the warm summer sun, what do you want to bring with you from the past and what changes are you dreaming about for yourself, for this religious community? There are so many possibilities: from big, external changes to a small internal shift that opens a whole new way of seeing. Take the time to imagine the possibilities.

**“But now it's just another show
You leave 'em laughing when you go
And if you care, don't let them know
Don't give yourself away”**



I understand that love has its ups and downs, hellos and good-byes, but I disagree with Joni's solution. Instead, there is a need to acknowledge the grief, the pain, to "give yourself away" for there to be honesty, for future decisions to be based on truth. In a year, I came to care very much about CUC as a congregation and about all of you. The good-byes hurt, as does the requirement of no contact for a year, even though I understand the need to provide space for new ministers and future interns to serve the congregation. But I also know I will be carrying with me so much friendship, love, and wisdom: from the children who went so quickly from talking about giving things to giving love when I taught them "From You I Receive, to You I Give;" from the 8th and 9th graders who risked sharing from their hearts; from the dancers who dared to try something new; from my committee who supported me every step of the way; and from all of you for the journey we shared together this year. Thank you all very much.

**Joni continues with:
“I've looked at love from both sides now
From give and take, and still somehow
It's love's illusions I recall
I really don't know love at all”**



I wonder if the depth of sharing is why my conclusion is different than hers. This past year feels very real: the learning, the growing, the struggles, the joys. At the end of the Honoring the Matriarch service, Edith Kates improvised a ritual, asking me to take her candle, the last one still burning. She said, "I give this candle to you as a symbol of all that I have loved about this church. It is yours now to carry forward." Now I will carry that flame forward with me into my ministry. I also give it back to each of you at CUC: "We light this chalice of understanding in our hearts..."

- Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

AMONG OURSELVES

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout July contact Astrid Rogers at 949-0294, and for August contact Robert Youngman at 948-2973.

Bone Marrow Registry Update

Thank you!

We are pleased to report that our bone marrow donor registration drive (held on Sunday June 12th following the last service of the year) was a resounding success. We were hoping to register 5-7 CUC members (using a simple cheek swab test) for inclusion in the nationwide pool of potential bone marrow donors and ended up signing up 20 people by the end of the event! Further, we more than covered the suggested \$25 per donor contribution (used to offset the \$100 cost per kit) by raising \$830 in direct contributions from CUC members, with another several hundred dollars expected from the 25% share of June's Sunday collections earmarked for this initiative.

Thanks to Matt Shelley who spearheaded and organized this drive, to Reverend Carol and all of the volunteers who made this event possible, and especially to those of you who registered and/or donated!

For further information about this event or the Be the Match program, please contact Jim Thomson (jim@splashesquities.net) or Matt Shelley (matthewbshelley@gmail.com).

TO SUMMER AND BEYOND!



BE A SUPERHERO FOR CUC!

This summer, help us prepare for the 2011 Goods and Services Auction by asking **JUST ONE QUESTION.....**

HOW? It's easy! Simply walk into your favorite restaurant, salon, shop or golf course and say "Would you be willing to make a donation to support a very worthy cause?" Merchants are happy to support their regular customers and to receive the free promotion we give them at the auction. We'll be mailing you a reminder in July along with a formal letter from the church for you to give the vendor. For more info, contact Emily Economou at emily.economou@gmail.com.

Remember.....The auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We need everyone to **BE A SUPERHERO FOR CUC! ~~ ASK JUST 1 QUESTION THIS SUMMER!**

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 19th -
The CUC 2011 Goods and Services Auction**

**CARTOONS AND CAPES....favorite Characters and Super Heroes
from Comic Strips and the Silver Screen**

SUMMER MUSIC—ADAM KENT

Music Director & pianist **Adam Kent** can be heard at the Summit Music Festival in several events this summer:

Thursday, July 28 at 8PM: “Beethoven’s Sonata No. 28 in A Major, Op. 101: Cold Pastoral”—a lecture/recital on one of Beethoven’s late piano works.

Monday, August 1 at 8PM: “The Lion Who Couldn’t Roar” by Margarita Zeleniaia, with clarinetist Julian Milkis and narrator Robert Sherman from WQXR Radio.

Concerts are at: **Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase Street, Purchase, New York 10577.**

Call **(914) 747-2020** or visit www.summitmusicfestival.org for ticket information and directions.

CUC Choir News – Come and Join Us This Fall!

This past year was challenging and exciting for the CUC Choir and I want to thank personally each member for all of the hard work and dedication. I also want to thank Choir Accompanist extraordinaire Georgianna Pappas for her talents and all that she does.

The 2010-2011 Season

Our successes included:

- Our Choir Fundraiser - Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein with lots of great food.
- Two excellent concerts - December and April.
- Two events collaborating with the Chorus from the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester.
- Regular Services Twice a Month - New pieces and old favorites.

Thank you again for such an enjoyable and rewarding year.

The 2011-2012 Season

Tuesday, August 30

Rehearsals for next season will begin on Tuesday, August 30 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. Enjoy the camaraderie and special joy that comes from being a part of a choral ensemble – there is nothing like it! Our season next year is shaping up beautifully, but what would make it even better than last year is to have you join us!

- All voice parts are welcome.
- YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ MUSIC!
- You just have to be able to match pitch - we’ll help you learn the rest!
- If you cannot join for regular rehearsals/services, join us for concert rehearsals only.

Saturday, October 15

The 4th Annual Choir Dinner and Sing-along featuring the music of Lerner and Loewe on Saturday, October 15 from 6-9pm in the Sanctuary. Mark it down in your calendar and please join us for an evening of wonderful food and great songs.

Saturday, December 17 – Handel's “Messiah”

Plans for next year include performing part one of Handel’s “Messiah” with chamber orchestra. Rehearsals will begin for this work in October from 7:30-8:45 pm each Tuesday, and this is a great opportunity to see what singing with the choir is all about and participate in a performance of one of the greatest works of all time.

If you are interested in joining the CUC Choir, whether for a concert and/or services, please feel free to contact me at 516-299-2475 during daytime hours, or anytime by email at lisa.meyer@liu.edu.



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS



Where are you going this summer?

This summer don't forget to visit a UU church while on vacation or college tours. It is a great experience to visit another church while away and you never know who you might run into. Last year while visiting the UU church in Amherst MA I reunited with past members of CUC. Visiting a new church can be an opportunity to bring home new ideas and ways of welcoming newcomers. It also exposes children to the UU world outside of CUC.

General Assembly (GA) 2011

GA was held in Charlotte, NC June 22-26. If you were not able to attend GA through live streaming video you can still watch videos online on the UUA website. It will still be there for you to view. You can also purchase CDs or DVD of events at GA.

Save the Date -The UU District of Metro NY

September 24-26 – Homecoming at Murray Grove-details mid-summer at www.murraygrove.org

October 8, 2011 - Small Group Ministry Training at UU Congregation of Shelter Rock.

October 15 - 13th Annual Anti-Racism Conclave - Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan).

November 5th – 6th Annual Leadership Day held each year at the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock. 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.

Murray Grove News Update

Murray Grove: peaceful, affordable space – perfect for retreats and family reunions

Drum and Dance Fest, July 15-17, 2011: *Express yourself creatively and spiritually!* All levels welcome! LEARN Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, African Dance and Belly Dancing, plus Drum/Dance Jams, Facilitator Performances. Drum under the full moon around our fire circle. Come for the whole weekend, or day-pass. Visit murraygrove.org or call for the details.

Heritage Week at Murray Grove, July 31-August 5, 2011 - Workshops conducted by **Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Strong** – 2010 winner of the **Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education** – on Universalist, Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist Religious Education History and General History with **Rev. Carol Haag, Director of Sacred Worship** and **Rev. Dr. Carol Taylor, Director of Sacred Nourishment**. Attendance at Heritage Week will qualify as a structured learning experience for the “Philosophy of RE – UU” competency, and as a significant structured learning experience for the credentialed level. In your free time, rest and relax, and have fun at Murray Grove! Walk the labyrinth, enjoy a pool party and live entertainment, sing around the fire pit, go to local beaches, lakes and creeks, walk the nature trail, play games and enjoy arts and crafts. \$375 per person, double occupancy, including meals; \$350 early bird before July 1, 2011. Limited single occupancy \$125 extra. Call to register.

For information and registration: murraygrove@murraygrove.org or website www.murraygrove.org.

- Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs

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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605

**SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER
19TH**

*The CUC 2011 Goods
and Services Auction*

**CARTOONS AND
CAPES.... FAVOR-
ITE CHARACTERS
AND SUPER HE-
ROES FROM CAR-
TOONS, COMIC
STRIPS AND THE
SILVER SCREEN**

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

JULY/AUGUST SERVICES 2011, 10:15 AM

JULY 3

On the occasion of the Fourth of July
Joan Prinzivalli

JULY 10

Reflections on G.A. (UUA General Assembly)
Denise Tomlinson

JULY 17

The Need for Magic in an Age of Depletion
John Bell

JULY 24

Reflections on Happiness
Elissa Schuler Adair

JULY 31

The Carbon Cycle: Element of Life
John Schwam

AUGUST 7

Oh God! Let's Scare the Second-Graders:
Exploring the Shadows
Kathleen Judd

AUGUST 14

Little Resurrections
Gail McLeod

AUGUST 21

Where do we go from here...How do we get there?
Dr. Anne Gooding

AUGUST 28

Topic TBA
Pastor Jef Gamblee

SEPTEMBER 4

Loving, and Hating, Education
Alan Trevithick

For latest news and updates go to our website at www.cucwp.org.
To stop receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and to start receiving email announcements instead, please send an email to
admin@cucwp.org.