

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

October 2009



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

Louise Jacono
Church Administrator
Newsletter Editor/Design

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

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

Communitarian Deadline
for November Edition:
Sunday, October 18

Submit information to
Louise Jacono
Email: admin@cucwp.org
Fax: 914.948.2603

Minister's Moment...

I am delighted with the quality of interaction and feedback I heard from you about our first month of thematic structure. You gave me a lot of new twists on the meaning and challenges of “unity,” and even some additional film resources.

October's theme will be “vocation or calling.” This has a special meaning in religious circles, and even our more humanistic UU ministers have a healthy respect for the idea that they were somehow “called” to this complicated profession. But as we talk about the theme this month, I want you to think about your own personal vocation. Everyone is called to do something or be something in this life. What is that for you?

Sunday morning services will advance the theme, and it will also be present in three special programs. At 7:30pm Sunday, October 4, we will watch the powerful film *Priest*, and on Sunday, October 18, at 2pm, we will discuss a book called *The Sparrow*. The October resource list tells you a bit more about this film and novel. On Sunday, October 11, at 7pm you will have chance to talk with Jim O'Brien, a former priest, now an active UU, who was a long-time member of this congregation before moving to Wisconsin. Yes, there's a Catholic twist to all of these programs, but believe me, they will offer deep nourishment and inspiration for all of us.

And there's a Catholic background to our *Blessing of the Animals*, but it is definitely a UU ritual, emphasizing the blessing that animals bring to us. You do not need to bring your pet – many people prefer simply to bring a picture, and we will demonstrate how you and your children can carry the blessing home with you. But if you do bring a pet, you will be able to keep it with you through the morning in the fireside area or in the RE lobby. Or you can take it back to the car if it is restless. Fortunately St. Francis had the foresight to establish his “day” in the fall when the car won't be too hot!

The October 18 service will be a “Bring a Friend” service. The sermon and the morning as a whole will stress what we offer as a community and as a faith. If you have been thinking about inviting a friend or neighbor to sample CUC, this would be a good time to do so. You can also invite them to come along to the auction. . .

It's good to be back with you this fall. My sabbatical ended last January, but I think the post-sabbatical burst of energy is finally hitting me now. I'm glad to be busy again with all the activities at CUC.

Rev. Carol

AMONG OURSELVES

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle: throughout October call Anne Gooding at 997-2215.

Our condolences to the family of **Marjorie Willbach**. Marje, who along with her husband Mel had been a longtime member of CUC, died September 2. A memorial service will be held at CUC on Saturday, November 21 at 2:00pm.

Our thoughts are with the **Cavallero family - John, Mary, Lisa and Michael**. John's mother, Nina Cavallero, died September 6.



Come hear CUC Music Director Adam Kent in a solo concert at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on Sunday, October 18 at 7pm.

Sponsored by the Spanish Consulate and the Foundation for Iberian Music, *Spanish Music*

Through the Centuries includes works by Mompou, Scarlatti, Soler, Anna Cazzura, Rodolfo and Ernesto Halffter, and Isaac Albeniz.

Tickets are \$25 (\$15 students and seniors) and are available from Carnegie Charge (212) 247-7800 or at www.carnegiehall.org.



Exciting music news from CUC's **Ricardo Gautreau**. He has completed a CD, "Music Island," available at Digstation.com/ricardogautreau. Digital downloads are also available. Ricardo's songs have won commendations from the Billboard Songwriting competition and have been published in *Sing Out!* magazine and other publications.

This is one of a series of some interesting incidents from CUC's hundred years of history, reflecting who we are and who we've been.



Did You Know?

Did you know that our church once adopted a refugee family from Southeast Asia and arranged for its resettlement in America?

In 1980 the congregation voted to sponsor the Pathammavong family, Kham and Khanhkham and their son Oth. They had escaped Laos by making a perilous river crossing into Thailand, knew little English, and were not in the best of health.

They lived for a time in the church building until a CUC family took them into their home for six weeks. Members found them an apartment, painted it, signed them up for English lessons, and collected household goods and clothing, and helped introduce them to such

perplexities as the local bus routes. The Sunday school kids took up a collection to buy Oth a bicycle. Eventually the family moved to Rhode Island where other Laotians had settled, and they felt more secure. As a final bit of support, church members paid their moving expenses.

This fact and more like it are highlights of two new illustrated histories of CUC: Freely United covers the first fifty years and A Religion of This Age covers the last fifty. Both books can be ordered from our website at www.cucwp.org for \$12 and \$16, respectively.

*Charles Selinske
CUC Historian*

Your vocation ...

The theme of our services in October is vocation. Vocation is Latin for “calling.” The term originated in the Roman Catholic Church, but it now also has a secular meaning – that of an occupation to which a person is drawn or for which they are especially well suited.

Several years ago I was burned out on my job, so I leaped at the opportunity to attend the Center of Creative Leadership (CCL) in Greensboro, North Carolina. CCL is an outstanding program that strives to develop leaders for business and for non-profit organizations. I spent a week away from the office with a group of fantastic people who were all committed to develop their leadership skills. At CCL we thought a lot about our vocation, and there were two exercises in particular that we did to help us get in touch with our “calling”.

First, with quiet music playing in the background, our instructor asked us to imagine that we had died, and that we were watching our own memorial service. We were then asked to imagine our friends giving our eulogies, and to look into the eyes of our loved ones. Next we were challenged to think about the things we hadn’t done while we were alive. What were our regrets? As my heart and my head filled with recognition of the things I hadn’t done, our instructor said: “Ok, snap out of it. If you have any regrets, anything you wish you had done, well then go do it because you are still alive!”

The second exercise was to write a personal vision or

mission statement – an expression of whom you want to be. We were challenged to make a list of everything we could think of that related to the way we wanted to live our life. What relationship we wanted with our family, our friends, our community and our work. We were then asked to focus on the top two or three things – the things that were most important to us, and to create a mental image of being that way. Then we wrote up a short paragraph that captured this wish for our future – our personal mission statement. Having written a short mission we tried to identify a couple of action steps that would help us achieve our goal. When we left the program, we left with the charge to share the mission with a trusted person and ask for their help in achieving our mission.

My mission was about learning and helping others to learn. It shaped my relationship with my family and changed the way I approached my job. Now it has led me to go back to school, and to be an adjunct faculty member at Iona College.

What’s your vocation?

This month’s services mean a lot to me. Hopefully you feel the same way, and you’ll have the opportunity to think about your vocation. Maybe the message of our Sunday services and our moments of meditation can be the start of strengthening your vocation or finding your calling.

Steve Bear, Chair
Board of Trustees

OCTOBER’S THEME – RESOURCE LIST

Vocation (Calling)

Bible

Exodus 3 Moses at the Burning Bush

Books

The Sparrow Science fiction novel by Mary Doria Russell. When sentient life is discovered on a nearby planet, the Jesuits are the only institution on earth with the will and resources to undertake the journey.

The Alchemist Paulo Coelho writes about destiny, dreams and the individual “Personal Myth”. Our mission on Earth, he says, is to find “God”, meaning happiness, fulfillment, and the ultimate purpose of creation.

How Starbucks Saved My Life Michael Gates Gill writes his memoir about how he lost his job and found his peace at Starbucks

Children’s Book

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney, a children’s book about one woman’s determination to make the world a more beautiful place.

Films

Priest (1994 R) Struggle between religious vocation and personal calling.

Billy Elliot (2000 R) A boy follows his yearning to be a dancer. A good film for middle schoolers and older.

Big Night (1996 R) Trying to be true to your vision in a restaurant.

The Lord of the Rings trilogy (books or films, which are PG-13j) Individuals are called away from their daily lives to take on a great mission.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The R.E. View

As the church year gets into motion I want to encourage everyone to engage in an important spiritual practice and to celebrate those that already do this. I realize that for many of us, our cultural/religious upbringing make this a very difficult thing to do. For many of us, there are co-conspirators that constantly work against us in our efforts (kids, partners, cars, etc). For many of us, our own biorhythms make this a very difficult practice (I myself, am not a morning person). So what is this all-important spiritual practice that I am talking about? It is the spiritual practice of being on time.

While I understand that getting families out the door is a very difficult process, I want to urge you to consider the benefits of being on time for Sunday services and RE.

Here is my top 10 list of benefits of being on time:

10. You may get a better parking space.
9. You can settle all your kids into RE/children's worship before going to the sanctuary.
8. Your kids don't miss important things in class.
7. You can greet old friends and meet new ones.
6. You can take your time coming up the hill.
5. You can take a breath after the hustle and bustle of getting out the door
4. You get to hear beautiful music in the sanctuary.
3. Your kids will get to have social time with their friends.
2. You will actually hear the announcements in the sanctuary
1. We will all build a caring and supportive community together.

Remember: Religious Education starts at 10 am.

I look forward to us all engaging in this spiritual practice as a family and a community.

Lara Campbell

Director of Religious Education

Things To Look Forward To

The Religious Education program has gotten off to a great start this year. My favorite part of the new RE year has been reconnecting with old friends and seeing new faces at CUC.

There have been some recent adjustments to the RE program schedule. As you get settled in, please look for these on the RE calendar. The calendar is posted at church and is available at cucwp.org.



One upcoming event to look out for is **Stone Soup Sunday on October 18**, directly following services. The soup is always warm and wonderful, as is

the company. The Coming of Age class will prepare and serve the meal, with proceeds going toward funding some of their CoA activities. Your children's teachers will be asking you to bring in an ingredient to add to the soup, please look out for notices about this.

Another aspect of the Coming of Age year is the mentoring process. We have a large class this year. Please consider becoming a mentor. This is the perfect way to make a significant contribution to the RE program, without having the ongoing commitment of being a classroom teacher.

You can also support RE by coming to the CUC Auction on October 24. A fabulous event is in the works. I can't wait to see you there.

*Erin Foster, Chair
Religious Education Council*

October Adult RE

*Chaired by
Persephone Zill*

Sunday morning (before worship service)

Resuming This Month

Minister's Colloquium

9:00 – 9:45am

10/4, 11/1, 12/6

With Rev. Carol Huston

A chance for discussion with the minister on the monthly theme, on current events or crises, or on theological matters. October's theme is "Vocation."

Continuing ...

Monthly Meditation Sessions

9:00 – 9:45am

10/11, 11/15, 12/13

Led by Persephone Zill, Marcia Bean, Marianne Milizoff and Lorri Ovryn

Educational Series - Reading Pema Chodron

9:15–10:00am

10/4, 10/18, 11/8,

Led by the Rev. Deb Morra

11/22, 12/6, 12/20

Additional Adult RE

New This Month

Sunday Night Film

7:30–10:00pm

10/4

Led by Rev. Carol Huston

Priest is a 1994 British drama directed by Antonia Bird. The film focuses on a Roman Catholic priest as he struggles with two different issues that precipitate a crisis of faith.

(Continued on page 5)

All Hands On Deck

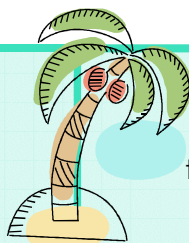
Saturday, October 24th

Donations Needed

Use your imagination and consider the possibilities of goods or services you can donate to the Goods & Services Auction – from your home, to your business, to your favorite local businesses. Donation forms are located in the church lobby, and information is available under “our community” at www.cucwp.org.

Volunteers Needed For Smooth Sailing

Please volunteer your time for this fun and worthy event. Help a few days before or help during the event, whatever suits your busy schedule. Sign up sheets are located on the church bulletin board, or contact Emily Economou at em_boo@yahoo.com or call 914-633-4455.



CRUISE

to CUC'S Goods & Services Auction

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Preview at 5:30 pm / Cocktails begin at 6:00 pm

Come dressed for a cruise (or come as you are)

A buffet of auction items including:

- Use of vacation homes
- Professional sports tickets
- Performing arts tickets
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Golf outings
- Fine wine

... look for more items at www.cucwp.org

Live Auction ★ Silent Auction

Bid & Bump Board ★ Grab Bag Auction

Tickets \$35

(Continued from page 4)

Articulating Your UU Faith

7:30-9:00pm Wed's - 10/14, 10/21, 11/4, 11/11

Led by Rachel Long (also our Youth Advisor)

What do you say **after** you say

“I’m a Unitarian Universalist?”

Many of us struggle to describe our religion adequately to others. The focus of this workshop is on articulation – practicing how and what to say in various settings in which you might be called upon to declare yourself religiously or illuminate some angle on this liberal religious movement that has touched and changed so many lives for the better. This workshop provides hopeful inspiration and resources, plus the opportunity for meaningful connection with fellow UUs at CUC. A course developed by UU Ministers Barbara Wells and Jaco ten Hove.

Book Discussion Group

2:00-4:00pm

Sun., 10/18

***The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell**

Overview of “The Sparrow” from Publisher’s Weekly - An enigma wrapped inside a mystery, *The Sparrow* is about first contact with an extraterrestrial civilization. The enigma is Father Emilio Sandoz, a Jesuit linguist whose messianic virtues hide his occasional doubt about his calling. The mystery is the climactic turn of events that has left him the sole survivor of a secret Jesuit expedition to the planet Rakhat and, upon his return, made him a disgrace to his faith. Suspense escalates as the narrative ping-pongs between the years 2016 and 2060. A vibrant cast of characters who come to life through their

intense scientific and philosophical debates help distract attention from the space-opera elements necessary to get them off the Earth.

Sustainable Celebration: Really Enjoying the Holidays

10:00am-noon

Sat’s - 10/31, 12/5

Led by Rev. Carol Huston

Come by yourself, or bring the family to talk about how you can celebrate Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year’s Eve in a responsible, sustainable fashion, not spending more time, money, or energy than you can afford, but still enjoying renewal in the season. During the first session we will set priorities about what can make the holiday season alive for you. The second session will give you an opportunity to see if you are holding to those priorities.

Resuming ...

Reading Emerson

with Rev. Carol Huston

9:00-10:00am

Sat’s starting 10/3

We read at our own pace through Emerson’s Essays, following the words and thoughts wherever they lead us. No preparation necessary. Each session ends promptly so that you can go about your Saturday activities.

Spanish Conversation Circle

7:30-9:00p

Mon’s through 12/14

CUC’s popular Spanish Conversation Circle, a fun way to freshen up your Spanish, will continue this fall. A fee of \$100 is being charged to cover the cost of the instructor for the 14 sessions, payable in two installments.

Action for Social Concerns Forum

Sunday, October 11 at 11:45am

The ASC Committee is pleased to welcome Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) guest presenter to our October ASC Forum. Inspired by Unitarian Universalist principles, the UU-UNO is committed to peace, freedom and environmental responsibility, as well as social, civil and economic justice for all.

Mr. Knotts will present a slide show on the UU-UNO efforts to promote UU values at the UN and will update us on the UU supported programs.

He has worked for Raytheon in Saudi Arabia, the World Bank in Somalia, for the Department of State and as U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Gambia. Bruce has had diplomatic assignments in Greece, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sudan and Cote d'Ivoire where he served as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for West Africa covering all 16 nations of West Africa, as well as in the conflict areas of Sierra Leone, Liberia and others.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall following coffee hour for this sure-to-be enlightening forum. Light sandwiches will be served following the presentation.

John G. Schwam, ASC Chair

UU Metro NY Workshops/Conventions

— anyone can attend

The Anti-Racism Alliance is sponsoring a three-day workshop to dismantle institutional racism and enlarge the circle for anti-racism community organizing. The training will be held at the Westchester Campus of Fordham University from Thurs. **Oct. 1** thru Sat. **Oct. 3**. The cost is \$350/scholarships are available.

The New York State Convention of Universalists holds its 2009 Annual Meeting on **Oct. 16-17** at the First Universalist Church of Rochester NY in Rochester NY.

The Morristown Unitarian Fellowship is sponsoring a day-long workshop, *Speaking Peace -- Transforming Conflict* **Oct. 17**. Participants will focus on learning how to "build peace and partnership at home and in the world." Dian Killian, certified trainer in nonviolent communication, will lead the workshop. Registration is \$70-\$90 per person (sliding scale)

Leadership Day at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (Manhasset NY) on **Nov. 7**

Singers Welcome for the Winter Choral Concert

The CUC Choir invites singers to participate in the Winter Choral Concert, taking place on Sat., Dec. 19 at 7pm. We will be performing a variety of holiday music including such favorites as The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting), Christmas Time Is Here, Carol of the Bells, and Chanukah Days, among many others.

Rehearsals begin on Mon., October 14 from 7:30 to 8:45pm for the concert music. Dress rehearsal is Friday, Dec. 18 from 7-9pm. All voice parts are welcome.

Anyone interested in participating on a regular basis with the choir, including the two Sunday services each month, are also welcome to join us through October, and then again in January. For more information or to make an appointment for an informal audition, contact Choir Director Lisa Meyer at 516.299.2475 during the day or by email at Lisa.Meyer@Liu.edu.

From RC to UU: Spiritual Journey of a Young Priest And You?

Explore process of movement from an ancient, dogmatic, patriarchal, conservative, ritual-framed religious practice to a vision and practice quite different. Using memoir material and personal anecdote, former diocesan priest (and former CUC member) **Jim O'Brien** will share stages of his spiritual journey and invite participants to share theirs. Humor, dialogue, the search for insight and some edible treats should mark the experience.



Our next Midnight Run Friday, October 9

Volunteers needed.

See sign-up sheet near church
office or contact
Alan or Zachary Morrice
at 997-5629.

THE PLAY'S THE THING ...

CUC's **Play Reading Group** is open to all. We meet first Mondays at 7:30pm. If interested, call Ken Kessler at 589-1450.

Upcoming topics:

October 5



Joe Turner Has Come and Gone, by August Wilson

November 2

Monologues

Looking for artisans and crafts people within our congregation to participate in CUC's annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Fundraiser Sales which will be held Sundays, December 6 and 13. If interested in participating, contact Barbara Youngman at 948-2973.

October 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Seventh Grade Car Wash – Sunday, October 11 Reservations will be taken at coffee hour on October 4 Proceeds will go toward the 7th grade's social action project. Drop off your car in the lower parking lot before the 10/11 service.				1 	2	3 9:00a Reading Emerson
4 9:00a Colloquium 9:00a Auction Comm. 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:45a In the Spirit of Truth 7:30p Sun. Night Film	5 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation 7:30p Play Reading	6	7 7:30p Program Council	8 10:00a Transitions Group 11:30a Science & Spirituality	9 Midnight Run	10 9:00a Reading Emerson
11 Car Wash 8:30a ASC Meeting 9:00a Monthly Meditation 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship/RE 11:45a ASC Forum 7:00p Jim O'Brien Book Reading	12 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation Columbus Day Church Office closed	13	14 7:30p Board of Trustees 7:30p Articulating Your UU Faith	15	16	17 9:00a Reading Emerson
18 Communitarian Deadline 9:00a CoA parents 9:15a Reading Pema Chodron 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Newcomers 11:30a Soup Sunday 11:45a Auction Comm. 11:45a Welcome Comm 2:00p Book Discussion	19 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	20	21 7:30p Articulating Your UU Faith	22 10:00a Folding Party 11:30a Science & Spirituality	23	24 9:00a Reading Emerson Goods & Services Auction 5:30p preview 6:00p Cocktails
25 9:00a 7th parents 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship	26 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Spanish Conversation	27	28 7:30p RE Council	29	30 	31 8:00a-2:00p Day in Place 9:00a Reading Emerson 10:00a Sustainable Celebration

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

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605

In this issue:

Minister's Moment	1
Among Ourselves	2
Did You Know?	2
Board of Trustees	3
October Resource List	3
Religious Education	4
Goods & Services Auction	5
Action for Social Concerns	6
Denominational Affairs	6
Even More News!	6
Monthly Calendar	7
Sunday Services & Forums	8

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

OCTOBER SERVICES

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

OCTOBER 4

Family Service / CUC Choir will sing

Blessing of the Animals

Rev. Carol and Jim O'Brien

Being Called

Rev. Carol Huston

OCTOBER 11

Buddhist leader Susan Ji-on Postal and

Rev. Carol Huston leading the service

OCTOBER 18

Reverse Family Service / CUC Choir will sing

Bring a friend!

Unitarian Universalism: Now and Forever

OCTOBER 25

All Around the World

25% of this month's Sunday offerings will be shared with the UU-UNO.

See page 6 to learn more about this worthy organization

FINAL NOTE ↪ OCTOBER FORUMS

At 11:45am in Fellowship Hall

OCTOBER 4

In the Spirit of Truth

OCTOBER 11

ASC Second Sunday Forum

with Bruce Knotts, Exec. Dir. of the UU-UNO

See page 6.