

# THE COMMUNITARIAN

## COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

November 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

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For more information  
about CUC:

[www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)  
Email: [info@cucwp.org](mailto:info@cucwp.org)  
914.946.1660

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Communitarian Deadline for  
December Edition:  
**Sunday, November 14**

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

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### *Minister's Moment...*

Faith. What is your emotional response to that word? I know that a lot of you cringe when you hear it – when you hear me or someone else refer to our Unitarian Universalist faith. I have searched in recent years for another word to put into that phrase. Our UU movement? Too political. Our UU tradition? Closer, but it has a backward-looking ring. Please tell me if you have other suggestions, but for now, let's talk about what it means to be part of a "faith." That word is our theme this month.

I am not talking about blind faith, or knee-jerk submission when I use the word faith. My meaning is more in the direction of grounding or trust (hey, maybe we could be the UU Trust!). In that context we can have faith in people or ideas, not just in a religion. On the resource list this month you will find the film "Little Miss Sunshine" The image of faith that I carry with me much of the time is the look on the face of the little girl in the film as she waited for her strange (untrustworthy?) family to come back and get her after they drove off from a truckstop without her. Perhaps it was irrational for her to know absolutely that they would find her again, but had faith in their love. They did come back.

"Glory," another film on the list, shows us how faith, both Christian and Unitarian/Transcendental, can work on a battlefield. We will watch this film about the first African American regiment to go into battle in the Civil War on Sunday evening, November 21.

Also on November 21, immediately after the service, there will be a lunch to raise money for our partners in faith (or trust or tradition), the UU Church of the Philippines. At that lunch, John Cavellero will be with us to share his impressions of our partners in faith in Transylvania. He traveled among these 400 year old Unitarian churches in September.

What is the content of our UU faith? What common grounding makes it possible to say that the congregations in Transylvania, the Philippines, and the US share a faith? And what is your personal faith? What do you trust, possibly irrationally, that gives you the will and the energy to go forward? We all need a faith of some kind (look at Lara's article for a reminder that our UU faith can be life-sustaining). There is a good level of dialogue and sharing going on in classes and coffee hours this fall. I hope that it will continue around these questions.

– Rev. Carol

### *Plate Offering*

25% of the weekly offering in November will be donated to the UU District Chalice Lighter call, benefiting our neighbors in Mt. Kisco to support an intern and complete small capital projects.

# AMONG OURSELVES

## Thoughts With...

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of **Hans Hopf**. A long time member and one of the pillars of CUC, Hans died peacefully at his home on September 27. Although he has been living at a distance from us in recent years, he has remained involved with CUC, and last spring he made a gift which will allow us to have more frequent musical guests on Sunday mornings for years to come. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested donations to the Arts for Youth Fund at the Fairfield County Community Foundation "in memory of Hans Hopf", 383 Main Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851 or online at [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org). Donations may also be made in his name to the Mad River Glen Ski Patrol, PO Box 1089, Waitsfield, VT 05673.

We have learned about the deaths of two other members or former members that occurred in recent weeks.

**Babbette (Bobbie) Newman** died in the late summer. She had been a member of CUC for at least 20 years.

We have also learned that **Kay Wilbur** died this summer. She and her husband Marty were both very active leaders here from the late 50s though 1989 when they moved to Pennsylvania. Marty died a few years ago.

We have an Animal Blessing service every year or two, and as part of it, we have a moment to remember pets who have died in the past year. This year some of you wrote down the names of pets who have died. Here are some of the pets that CUC families are missing this year: Boots, Kitty Fluff, Jenny (a dog), Fish, Simming, The Petester, Patrick, Polly, Stinky Rabbit (1998-2008), B. J., Willie.

## Celebrations....From Anne Gooding:

My deepest thanks and appreciation to Carole and Dinsa Mehta who opened their home and hearts to give me the most exciting 75th birthday party, ever! Thanks to members of my CUC Family for sharing in this joyous celebration. State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins attended and issued a proclamation, naming the day: "Anne Gooding's Day".

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

## Scriptural Stories

1 Samuel 17 (David and Goliath)

## Books

*A Passage to India* by E.M. Forester

**Faith: Stories: Short Fiction on the Varieties and Vagaries of Faith** by C. Michael Curtis. A collection of stories about faith reflecting a wide range of religious traditions and beliefs--including Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu

## Children's Books

**UU & Me!: Collected Stories**, Editor: Betsy Hill Williams

Fact and fiction, historical and modern, mythical and real-life, these stories have the power to spark imagination and stimulate reflection on how our faith informs our real lives.

**Unitarian Universalism Is a Really Long Name**, Author: Jennifer Dant

In this fully-illustrated introduction to Unitarian Universalism, the simple text and lively full-color art combine to offer youngsters useful and accessible answers to questions like Who Are We?, What Do We Believe? and Do We Pray?

**Tales of Faith & Wonder: Stories of Christian Faith from a Master Storyteller [Hardcover]**

This is a special Christian collection of Hans Christian Andersen stories where you will find all your favorites plus more.

**Faith**, Authors: Maya Ajmera, Magda Nakassis, Cynthia Pons

Celebrate faith around the world in its many expressions: praying, singing, learning, caring and more. Discover the common thread that brings people together in reverence and joy. Ages 4-7.

## Movies

**Big Fish** (2003) PG-13 Director Tim Burton crafts a magical realism story about a son trying to learn more about his dying father by reliving stories and myths his father told him about himself.

**Little Miss Sunshine** (2006) R A family determined to get their young daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant take a cross-country trip in their VW bus, and discover what is most important in life.

**Glory** (1989) R See page 6 of this newsletter for details.

**November**  
Resource List

Faith

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### **Treasurer's Report Fiscal 2011 First Quarter Review**

This report will give an overview of the Church's financial operations and its current fiscal condition. The church funds are organized into four main funds, the Operating Fund, the Endowment Fund, the Building Fund and the Music Endowment with a few smaller accounts holding monies used for restricted or specific purposes. We are currently receiving contributions for major improvements/renovations through our new Building Fund.

#### Long Term View

The Church's Endowment Fund is still healthy and is invested in several different no-load mutual funds managed by The Vanguard Group. By using eight different mutual funds, the Endowment Fund is diversified by security type and maturity. The Finance Committee, led by Chris Cortland, has done an excellent job of managing these funds with a conservative asset allocation. During the five year period ended September 30, 2010, the Fund has earned 4.9% on annual basis and 11.2% for the last year. This strategy has somewhat protected our fund during the period of market unrest. The current balance is about \$895,000 as of October 15, 2010. The Board and Finance committee agreed to maintain a minimum Endowment Fund level of one year of operating expenses or about \$500,000.

In the spring, Hans Hopf made a generous donation of \$50,000 to create an Endowment Fund to use the earnings to support the

Church's music program. The Fund has been invested in a conservative way to preserve the principal. The current balance is about \$52,528 as of October 15, 2010

The Building Fund is currently invested in a Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund (about \$117,000) and three \$50,000 laddered Bank CDs (about \$150,000) maturing in one, two and three years and is about \$267,000. These funds include a large bequest from Harry Moore and other payments received.

#### Our Current Year Situation

So far our pledges through September 30, 2010 are running about \$20,000 below the original budget of \$300,000 and about \$30,000 behind prior year. As you may recall, our 2010/2011 budget that was approved by the congregation in May 2010 anticipated that we would need about \$71,000 of Endowment Fund support. This is about \$41,000 more than we typically need.

We need your help to try to complete the canvass we began last spring to close this significant budget gap, which will allow us to continue to provide all the services you have come to enjoy and appreciate about our church. Please look out for a letter asking that you pledge if you haven't already and review your current pledge for reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Drew Swiss, Treasurer**

## MINISTERIAL INTERN

Looking back at the past month or so, I find myself reflecting on how we build relationships. As a newcomer to the congregation, I have had many reminders that often simple interactions, combined with the willingness to speak and listen, build community. One of the most basic rediscoveries was carpooling. Recent trips shared to RE trainings, the NY Metro conference, and to classes and events at the church led to long discussions, sometimes on the surface, sometime deep. I certainly learned a lot about my fellow riders, and they about me during rides back and forth. I also rediscovered the satisfaction of labor and good company during the Day in Place, with the crew that weeded, trimmed, mulched, and planted. Classes such as the Adult Coming of Age and One Year to Live provide opportunities for discussion and sharing.

Perhaps one of the stronger bonding experiences was the Our Whole Lives (OWL) training. OWL was created by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United

Church of Christ, and many of the participants spoke of their pride in the program and in their congregations for offering it to different age groups in RE. The topic itself led people to risk sharing deeply while still maintaining safe boundaries. We also developed into more of a team as we learned about how to teach the topics, based on the values within the UU principles.

The risk, the courage, and the team-building brought to mind a quote from Harry Potter, "There are some things you can't share without ending up liking each other, and knocking out a twelve-foot mountain troll is one of them." (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone) Putting the violence of the quote aside, shared experiences can bring people together. I invite you to look at all that is happening at CUC this month and find something that calls to you.

**- Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern**

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## *2 to 3 times more likely...*

By now I am sure you have heard the statistic “2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than other youth”. The recent deaths of Gay youth and young adults have weighed heavily on my heart.

In a show of solidarity, I wore purple in honor of dignity and pride for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender youth on Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>. I have marched, educated, served on advisory committees and been an ally in the LGBT community my whole life. This is one of the byproducts of having been raised as a Unitarian Universalist for me.

While I realize that many folks find UU in their adulthood, I believe the work that we do in Religious Education and as a Welcoming Congregation can and do make a difference in the lives of Gay teens.

I can vividly recall being at a youth event when the all too common statement of “that’s so gay” was uttered. My heart sank. Why, at a UU event, was that happening? But the response that came reassured me. Almost before the young person finished saying the words there was an uproar among the other youth. They were not attacking her, but calmly,

concretely and compassionately sharing their feelings. They made it clear that they were distressed with her statement and that the use of homophobic comments were not acceptable in “their community”. I sat there, silently, tears rolling down my face. THEY GOT IT.

It is critical, that our UU churches be places of safety, security, and spiritual growth for all LGBT youth and adults. And the rash of suicides makes it even more important than ever that we take a stand, challenge the hatred. We can show the world that we are a faith community that lives our 1st principle, honoring the inherent worth and dignity of ALL human beings.

For the 8<sup>th</sup> time I will be attending the annual “Prideworks” for LGBT youth conference on November 16th at the Westchester County Center. If your middle or high school youth is interested in attending, I will gladly sponsor them. Please have them contact me to discuss details.

**Lara Campbell, DRE**



### **A Special RE Sunday!**

On Sunday, November 28, 10-11:30am, there will be a special visit from the Greenburgh Nature Center for grades K-5. (There will be no regular RE classes that date.) A specialist from the Nature Center will bring small animals for a fun, interactive class. Come and enjoy!

### **RE Council—**

October was a busy month for RE families!

Directly supporting October’s Vision theme, our 6th & 7th graders sent 45 sparkling clean cars (AND crystal-clear windshields) out on the roads, raising \$450 in the process. The Youthies prepared and shared fresh apple crisp made from apples snared during a great day of apple picking. K-5th graders began considering various Social Action projects this month. Stone Soup was a terrific success with ingredients provided by all RE classes...a little butter here, a bag of carrots there.

Five CUC members completed “Our Whole Lives” training and will soon help teach this curriculum to 6th graders and the 8th & 9th grade class.

RE parent meetings are well underway, with 8th/9th grade class parents scheduled to meet on November 14th at 6pm. The night before (Nov 13th) attend this year’s Goods & Services Auction for a little night of peace and love and... auctioning fun!

**- Kate Colson, RE Council Chair**



















## Auction!

### Saturday, November 13th

6-10pm (5:30-6 preview)

**Donate items and services yourself.** Donation forms are available at CUC. Or go to [www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org) for suggestions and to email the text for what you can donate. *New* (Go to "our community" on website.)

**Buy your tickets.** Get ready to for some Peace, Love and Rock and Roll at CUC! Tickets will be available at coffee hour, or you can email Chris Kortlandt at [kortlandtbunch@verizon.net](mailto:kortlandtbunch@verizon.net).

**Enjoy your evening.** Groovy 60s themed food (with some healthy food added), lots of time for conversation, browsing, and bidding. Join newcomers and CUC veterans committed to this important fundraiser.

**"Bid and Bump"**  
Dinners and Parties hosted by fellow CUC members – from casual barbeques to themed food events.

**Grab Bag Items**  
We have a wide variety of items on our grab bag table in EVERY price range. Find the perfect gifts for teachers, co-workers or friends. Gift certificates, jewelry, liquor, movies, books, games, toys, wine, gift baskets - and much more!

**Silent Auction & Live Auction**  
vacation homes, gift certificates, designer purses, jewelry and perfumes, A wide range of personal and professional services Including gift certificates for car washes, day spas, hair salons, yoga classes, photography sessions, karate lessons, and flower shops. Tickets to an Alvin Ailey Dance Production, Nutcracker Tickets, and Concert Performance Series Tickets.....Join us!



## *Cabaret*

**Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 7:30 PM**

**Mary Lane Cobb sings the music of Stephen Sondheim, accompanied by Georgianna Pappas. Guest appearances by DeForest Raphael, baritone.**

Suggested donation: For each concert \$20 (\$10 for seniors and students).

Subscription: All 5 concerts, \$80 (\$40 seniors/students).

Call 946-1660 ext. 8, visit [www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org) or e-mail [info@cucwp.org](mailto:info@cucwp.org) for more information.

### **PLAYREADING GROUP**

All Readings are at CUC at 7:30 PM on the first Monday of the month.

**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](mailto:newrocken@aol.com) or call the church office.

### **Spanish Class....or.....Viva La Classe De Espanol !!!**

Livia Carvajal is our new Spanish instructor. Classes run on until December 20th on **Monday evenings, 7:30-9:00 pm**. Classes are \$10 per session, or \$75 for those who pay in full by the end of October.



### **Film: GLORY**

**Sunday, November 21 7:30 PM at CUC**

(1989) R Loosely based on the letters of Union commander Col. Robert G. Shaw (Matthew Broderick), this film follows the first group of African-Americans to serve in combat during the Civil War. The heroics of Shaw's volunteer regiment of black soldiers -- including a fugitive slave (Denzel Washington) and a grave digger (Morgan Freeman) -- help turn the tide of the war. Col. Shaw was raised as a Transcendentalist/Unitarian, and the effect of that faith is apparent in the film.



### ***Social Action Meeting*** ***Monday, November 1st, 7:30 PM***

Join us as we continue to explore our social action projects and look to maximize our efforts for meaningful results.



Social Action Project

### ***Bowl & Board !*** ***Wednesday, November 10th*** ***6:30 PM***



Join board of trustees members for a bowl of soup and the sharing of ideas, before the regular monthly board meeting that begins at 7:30.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale

**December 5th & 12th**

Have crafts, art items, and gifts to sell?  
Contact Barbara Youngman at 914-948-2973 to participate in this holiday sale.  
Some proceeds support CUC programs.

**Save the date.**

### A Ceremony of Carols in Concert

**Saturday, December 18, 2010 at 7 PM**

Experience Benjamin Britten's beloved *A Ceremony of Carols* for choir and harp, along with seasonal favorites by Victoria, Guaraldi, and others. CUC Choir Director Lisa N. Meyer conducts the choir and guest musicians. Accompanied by Georgianna Pappas.

## Opportunities for Giving

'Tis the season to give thanks for what we have been fortunate to receive and to give generously to those who have not been as fortunate.

### THE FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry provides food to needy families year round and distributes special food for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Cash and food donations are accepted on an on-going basis. Checks may be sent to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, P.O. Box 2037, White Plains, NY 10602. We always have a bin in our lobby for donations of non-perishable food items. Or contact Vicky Van Wert at 937-4758.

### TOYS FOR CHILDREN OF INMATES : December 5 Deadline BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Please buy an appropriate gift (for children of all ages) and bring it unwrapped on **December 5**. The children's wish list includes: Dolls (dolls of color appreciated); Infant & Toddler Toys and Clothing (size newborn and up); Board Games, Arts & Crafts kits and supplies, Teenage Items, sports equipment, etc. We may not accept: Clothing in blue, black, orange or gray; toy guns, knives, or any other items that promote violence.

### TOILETRIES, SOCKS, MEN'S UNDERWEAR

Items will be collected all through December. Underwear should be L or XL. The 6th/7th grade will help collect, sort and package the items for delivery to local shelters.

### GIFTS FOR CHILDREN : December 19 Deadline AT THE COACHMAN FAMILY CENTER IN WHITE PLAINS

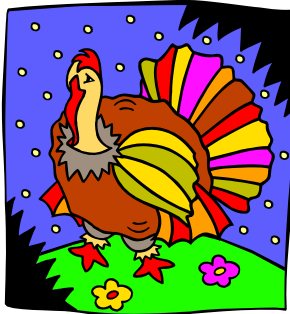
Information indicating age, gender and choice of gift for each child will be available December 5 and 12.

Please sign up for a family group, buy appropriate gifts and bring the wrapped gifts to the church **by December 19**. Mark gifts clearly with room number and child's name.

For latest news and updates go to our website at [www.cucwp.org](http://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](mailto:admin@cucwp.org).

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605



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

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## NOVEMBER SERVICES 2010

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

NOVEMBER 7

**The Dance Above the Abyss**  
Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

NOVEMBER 14

**"Managing Your Holiday Generosity"**  
David Finch and others  
*The Choir will sing*

NOVEMBER 21

**Thanksgiving Harvest Communion**  
The children will join us at the end of the service  
*The choir will sing*

NOVEMBER 28

**Discussion Circles:**  
"Where do I place my faith and trust?"  
  
For the Children, special Religious Education  
Sunday with visitors from the Greenburgh Nature  
Center in Fellowship Hall




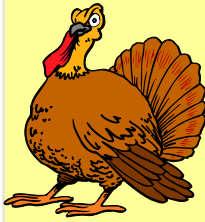
**November 21st, Partnership Church Brunch**

Following services, come for updates about our partnership with the UU Church of the Philippines. John Cavellero will provide insight on other partners in faith.

*New*



# NOVEMBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 7-8:30 pm Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30-9pm Play Reading 7:30-9pm Social Action Meeting	<b>2</b> ELECTION DAY Choir Rehearsal 7:30p 	<b>3</b> 7:30-9 pm Program Council	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 7:30p-9p CABERET CONCERT 
<b>7</b> 8:30-9:45a Adult Coming of Age Class 9-9:45a 2nd/3rd grade parent mtg 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/coffee 11:45a-1p Spirit of Truth	<b>8</b> 7-8:30 pm Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	<b>9</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Soup with the board of trustees 7:30-9 pm board of trustees meeting	<b>11</b> VETERAN'S DAY 11:30a-1:00p Science & Spirituality	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10 am-12n, One Year To Live Class 5:30p-10p GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION 
<b>14</b> 8:45a Choir 9a-9:45a 45h/5th grade parents mtg. 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/coffee 6p-9p 8th/9th parents <b>COMMUNITARIAN DEADLINE</b>	<b>15</b> 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30-9 pm Worship Associates Mtg 8p-9:30p Finance Committee	<b>16</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>17</b> 7:30p-9p RE Council	<b>18</b> 10:00a Folding Party	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
<b>21</b> 8:45 a Choir 9a-9:45a Youth Group Parents Mtg 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:45a Fun Facts with Adam Kent 11:45a-12:45p Music Committee 11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee 11:45-1p Partnership Philippines Brunch 7:30p Film Night, Glory	<b>22</b> 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	<b>23</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> THANKSGIVING 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
<b>28</b> 10:00a Special RE Sunday 10:15 am Worship/coffee	<b>29</b> 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	<b>30</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>1</b> <b>Hanukkah begins at Sundown</b> 7:30-9 pm, Program Council	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson