

# THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education  
10:00 am

Sunday Services  
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

## ~ Covenant & Democracy ~

The themes for November are **Covenant and Democracy**. These are the themes at the center of our way of being together.

Covenant. While we acknowledge and respect faith traditions in which members connect and bind themselves together through a shared creed, we are also clear that this is not the Unitarian Universalist way. We are a people of covenant, not creed, and it is covenant rather than creed by which we are connected and bound together. The content of the covenant is expressed in various ways, one of the most prominent of which is our seven principles: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, **covenant** to affirm and promote..." Our principles don't declare that we *believe* any particular doctrine or creed – we just covenant to affirm and promote them. The seven principles, however, are fairly recent in our history: they were produced in the mid-1980s. Before the seven principles, we had other ways to articulate our covenant. And if CUC adopts a mission statement then that, too, will be a covenant. Ultimately, however, the idea of covenant goes beyond any words that we might choose to express it. Beyond one or another articulation there is simply a covenant to walk together.

While "covenant" has a legal meaning in some contexts (as for instance, in property law, where it refers to conditions tied to the use of land), in our faith tradition, covenant is not a legal term. A covenant is not a contract. In a contract, if one side breaks the contract, the other side doesn't have to continue to keep its side of the bargain. A covenant, however, is a promise that continues to hold, however often broken. No matter how many times you or I fail to support one another in the ways we have promised to do so, the covenant continues to exist, calling us back to repair the relations damaged, to honor anew what has been dishonored, to recommit to walking together in a relationship made sacred by our promised intention that it be so.

Democracy. Our fifth principle is "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." We do our best to respect the rights of conscience for those who may be outvoted. Still, the fact remains that sometimes opinions are divided and only one of them will prevail. The great spiritual lesson of democracy is humility. We're all sometimes outvoted, and the system depends upon our ability to let go of our attachment to our own opinions enough to allow the majority-supported policy to go forward. Here there are (at least) two dangerous temptations to avoid. First, don't try to undermine the policy because you're so sure it's wrong....

Continued on following page

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



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Remember that you might be the one who's wrong, and if you truly can't take that possibility seriously, then console yourself with the thought that allowing them to make this mistake will be the best way for the majority to learn their error. Second, don't assume that, just because the majority has outvoted you, you "haven't been heard" and are "excluded." Neither being heard nor being included requires that a majority agree with you. These are tough lessons, and wherever too many of the citizens are too deficient in that humility, democracy falters. Churches and other voluntary associations are the essential workshops where we learn the democratic skills. When a populace loses interest in showing up to hash out decisions at church committees, or PTA, civic club, or party chapter meetings the strength of its democratic virtues (listening to others, accommodating diverse viewpoints, understanding how good people may disagree, etc.) wanes – with predictable results.

*Faithfully, Meredith*



## NOVEMBER SERVICES 10:15 AM

### November 3

**Rev. Meredith Garmon**

*The Interdependent Web of Covenant*

We are a people of covenant, not of creed. How did we get that way, and what does it mean to us today?

### November 10

**Rev. Meredith Garmon**

*The Meaning of Life is Democracy*

Seeing how you're different from others is what makes you who you are. Negotiating those differences, including the disagreements, so that we can move forward together is what gives life meaning.

### November 17

**Rev. Meredith Garmon**

*Spiritual Practice*

I'm not sure that wisdom, joy, and inner peace are to be found particularly at Carnegie Hall. But the way to get there is the same: Practice, practice, practice.

### November 24

**Rev. Meredith Garmon**

*Mission: Mission*

By this date, we expect to have one or more specific candidates for CUC's new mission. We'll reflect on them, what they would mean for us. During the last part of the service we'll break into small groups to discuss. Then we'll come back together and hear further suggestions from the floor. A follow-up congregational meeting on December 8 will, if all goes well and the members reach accord, give final approval to a new mission.



## INSTALLATION

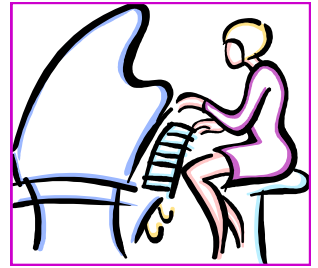
On **Sunday November 10, at 4:00pm**, Rev. Meredith Garmon is to be officially installed as the sixth settled senior minister of the Community Unitarian Church at White Plains. A grand ceremony with a number of visiting speakers and a gala bash in celebration is planned. All members are particularly urged to attend for, in accordance with Unitarian Universalist polity, the act of installation is performed only by the congregation.

## JAZZFEST!

**Saturday, November 23rd, 7 pm**

Top up-and-coming combos from SUNY Purchase and L.I.U. Post with pianist Marie-Fatima and legendary saxophonist T. K. Blue delight us with their special take on jazz standards in contemporary arrangements.

Suggested donation \$20 (\$10 seniors & students)



### Update on 'Ministry Teams'

Concepts Update on 'Ministry Teams' -

Concepts evolve. The idea "Ministry Teams," described in the last issue of *The Communitarian*, has been discussed at a Board of Trustees meeting, where the consensus was that a specific focus on Social Action was called for. Accordingly, the "Ministry Teams" are renamed "Social Action Ministry Teams".

The new focus allows us to highlight the importance of Social Action for what it means to be a UU. The guidelines for team formation are all about making that social action more meaningful and effective.

Unitarians and Universalists, throughout their respective histories, have insisted that our faith must be lived. Our faith calls us to engage our world, not retreat from it. If it is this life, not some future life, that matters, then we must embody love and justice right where we are. Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to compassion for those in need. Further, our faith calls us to the work of building and reforming institutions in order to make justice, fairness, and peace the reality of life for all.

As people of compassion, we want to meet needs that arise. As people of intelligence and awareness, we also want to advocate for reforms to prevent needs from arising. To carry out both kinds of social action -- the work of charity and the work of justice -- Social Action Ministry Teams can spearhead our efforts and provide crucial guidance, direction, and coordination of the congregation's energies.

Our congregations' social action efforts have too often suffered from fragmentation and incoherence. We need an approach that is more effective in organizing our energies -- and that makes our social action an integrated aspect of our spiritual growth. One or two people may have an idea that the congregation should be a part of, or contribute to, such-and-such community project. Without at least five people spearheading the effort, it's probably not something the congregation really wants to do -- the effort is then half-hearted and fails to be a part of either truly meaningful assistance or a part of the spiritual growth of our members. Without forethought about the project's grounding in our UU theology and the congregation's mission, the project will likewise fail to be a meaningful and integrated part of members' faith development. *Saving the world and saving ourselves are not two things, but one. Our efforts outward will be most effective for others when they are also most transformative to ourselves.*

For more on "Social Action Ministry Teams," see [www.cucmatters.blogspot.com](http://www.cucmatters.blogspot.com).

~ Rev. Meredith

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### ***Mission, Ministry, Governance...***

We are well into the fall and energy in CUC is building. Meredith is more than half way through his house meetings and hopefully you are enjoying these and finding that it is not only a good way to get to know Meredith, but also to connect with others in your neighborhood. Before the next Communitarian comes out, we will have held our major fund-raiser – the fall auction – and I hope to see many of you there for what should be a great evening. A footnote here – come even if you do not plan to spend money – we need your spirit as much as your dollars, and would rather have your participation in what is usually a thoroughly enjoyable social event than have you stay home!

The Board of Trustees has been busy over the last month. One item that we wanted to bring to your attention is that the Board has reinstated the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This will be for Meredith to use to respond to requests for emergency support from those within our congregation as well as requests from the larger community, should there be any. Should you ever be in need, this is a confidential fund, administered solely by Meredith, supported by events such as the craft fair at holiday time and individual gifts.

As reported last month, we are looking forward to a year where we finalize our mission statement and begin to build programming that supports the vision captured in the mission statement. Please plan to attend church on November 24 when we will be reviewing at least two "final statements" as consideration for our mission statement.

Our social justice ministry teams, elaborated elsewhere in this issue of the Communitarian, are one concrete initiative to enhance our outreach to the community. The Board plans to host a forum after the first of the year, and other meetings as needed, to begin a conversation with the congregation about the shape, form and scope of revitalized social justice outreach activities.

The Board is seriously reviewing the current governance structure and will be making suggestions this year for some strengthening and some revisions. As a heads up, we have asked our Nominating Committee, which has responsibility for identifying candidates for the Board of Trustees and some of its own committee members, to explore the possibility of assuming responsibility for leadership development activities. As a congregation, we have not had a purposeful plan in place to either identify or develop leaders, and the Nominating Committee is going to begin to address this, so watch for news regarding new opportunities for training and development.

As a follow-up to some of the ideas introduced by Robert Latham when he was here last January, and as reflected in his book "Moving on From Church Folly Lane", the Board is considering a move toward establishing a Committee on Ministries. This would replace our older structure of a "minister's committee" and reflects an important investment for us. The main purpose of the committee will be to allow us to regularly take our pulse on how well we are doing in the four areas of ministry – 1) worship, 2) outreach (social justice), 3) inreach (taking care of each other) and 4) religious education.

As a reminder, Board of Trustee meetings are open to the congregation, and Board members are always glad for feedback, individually as well as at the meeting. Best wishes for an on-going healthy and rejuvenating fall season.

***Yours in community,  
Ginny Strand, Chair  
CUC Board of Trustees***



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – The Fahs Collaborative

*By Lily Rappaport,  
Acting Director of Religious Education*

Last weekend, I attended the Liberal Religious Educators' Association (LREDA) conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. At the heart of the conference was an initiative called, *The Fahs Collaborative for Leaders in Faith and Learning*. Named after the innovative educator, Sophia Fahs, the Collaborative is a holder of the Unitarian Universalist tradition of religious educational models that fosters spiritually rich, inclusive, socially conscious and empowered lives.

At the conference, I, along with fellow religious educators from all over the continent, was able to experiment with spiritual practices designed to expand human potential for deeper learning. In a large conference room there were tables set up along the perimeter. The tables were filled with art supplies, games and activities that allowed for reflection, wonder and creativity. Each table was a “play station.” We were invited to play.

On the “Welcome Station” we wrote down obligations and responsibilities that needed to be put on

hold for the weekend. The slips of papers went into an envelope with our names and placed in the basket for safekeeping. The envelopes and obligations could be retrieved at the end of the weekend.

On one table there were prayer candles that we decorated with colorful tracing paper and permanent markers. On another there was an array of Soul Cards with beautiful and obscure images that we could use to answer questions or challenges that we might be facing in our lives. At another station, we created charm necklaces that would be gifted to an unknown recipient. Another station invited us to write a faith formation haiku or poetry.

One of my favorite stations was the “Ball Pit of Questions”. Several folks would sit inside a swimming pool filled with colorful plastic balls that had thought-provoking questions. Each person would choose a ball, read the question and then share an answer. Some questions: *What do you want to be remembered for? What do you like most about yourself? What is the best gift you ever received?*

The Play Stations provided us with ways to create, to explore faith identity, and to simply have fun. Afterwards, we processed what we learned and how we could bring the experiences to our congregations. It is my hope to bring back the collaborative spirit, joy, and passion into our multigenerational programming for us all to experience together.

### Stone Soup

Our traditional RE fund raiser.  
Delicious Community Soup  
& other goodies

**Sunday, November 17**  
**After services**

\$5 adults/\$3 families





## TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Purchase tickets at coffee hour, or contact  
Chris Kortlandt at  
kortlandtbunch@verizon.net.  
\$35 in advance/ \$40 at the door



**Saturday, November 16th**  
*is not just another Saturday night...it's*

**Midnight in Madrid**  
*CUC's fabulous night of auctions, food and fun*

**Save the Date**  
Preview at 5:30; Auctions start at 6:00

Tickets \$35

A fundraiser for the Community Unitarian Church at White Plains  
468 Rosedale Avenue

**Midnight in Madrid**  
CUC's Bountiful Goods and Services Auction  
Live Auction, Silent Auction, Bid & Bump Board,  
Grab Bag Auction

- Use of Vacation Homes
- Professional Sports Tickets
- Performing Arts Tickets
- Restaurant Gift Cards
- Golf Outings
- Artisan, Designer & Fine Jewelry
- Fine Wine

look for more items at [www.cuc.org](http://www.cuc.org)

**Don't miss this spectacular night of chance, fun,  
wine and food.**

To donate items, for tickets or for more information  
call Catherine Kortlandt: 914-834-7112 or  
Ann Marie Damashek: 914-835-7593

## Annual Goods & Services Auction

**Donate:** We request that any tangible item being donated from your home have a value of at least \$50 and be either new or in mint condition. Donation forms are outside the church office. Please fill out a form for *each* item being donated. Donation forms are being accepted now and tangible items can be dropped off in the church the week before the auction. And remember to ask your local merchants – they are usually happy to donate. Donation request letters are available outside the church office

**Attend:** the auction on November 16th @ 5:30pm for a fun filled evening with a wide variety of goods and services in all price ranges. Tickets on sale during coffee hour. Need a ride? Let us know and we will match you up with a neighbor attending the auction.

Please contact Ann Marie Damashek 835-7593 scot-tam@verizon.net or  
Catherine Kortlandt 834-7112 cemk\_99@yahoo.com

## Blue Jeans Drive

CUC's 5th & 6th grade RE students are collecting gently used blue jeans (adult sizes only) for distribution to NYC's homeless through Midnight Run. Please put blue jeans in the lobby blue box labeled  
BLUE JEANS DRIVE.

Cash/check to CUC with "blue jeans" in the memo line also accepted in an envelope on the CUC office door.

Some stores (e.g. Costco) carry new jeans for as low as \$20.00. Consider adding a pair or two to your cart.

**DRIVE ENDS NOVEMBER 17**

Thank you!

## *Caring & Sharing...*

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout November contact Robert Youngman at 948-2973 or robeau44@yahoo.com.



Annual Arts & Crafts Fundraiser Sale

**Dec 8th and Dec 15th**

Following service. Gifts for Family, teachers and friends.

**CRAFTERS NEEDED**

If Interested please contact Barbara Youngman [914-948-2973](tel:914-948-2973).

Proceeds go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. See page 4 for more information on this fund.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Don't miss the December issue of The Communitarian when we will give you all sorts of Opportunities for Giving--- from our traditional Mitten Tree to gifts for children living at the Coachman Family Center and children of the inmates of the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Full details and dates will be available as the holiday season nears.

We will be collecting:

- \* Toiletries for residents of local shelters
- \* Mittens, hats, scarves, etc. for children and adults
- \* Food and money for special holiday dinners provided by local food pantries

Please share this opportunity to share with others. For further information, please contact Ray Messing at 914-592-4497.

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) ~ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Denominational Affairs – What's happening in the greater UU World

### Defying Gravity...Wonderful Ways to Worship

Saturday November 9, 2013 9am - 4pm

UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, 48 Shelter Rock Rd, Manhasset NY, 10030

Leadership in a congregation can feel like a heavy responsibility. Come to the Defying Gravity Leadership Day and find out how to ease your mind, lighten your heart, and inflate your soul. This multi-track conference will provide specific skills instruction tailored just for you, uncovering the link between leadership and your personal spiritual growth. Future leaders welcome. Youth leaders are encouraged to attend. Registration fee is only \$30 and scholarships are available.

To car pool contact Mary Cavallero – [marycava4@gmail.org](mailto:marycava4@gmail.org)

Exciting, free children's programming is also available for elementary and middle school children. Nursery care will be provided for preschool children. The deadline to register for children's program is Monday, Oct. 28

[http://uumetrony.org/events/Defying\\_Gravity\\_2013\\_flyer.pdf](http://uumetrony.org/events/Defying_Gravity_2013_flyer.pdf) and to register <https://fd7.formdesk.com/uufoms/DefyingGravity>



### TWO UU organizations that deserve our support:

UU-UNO engages in the work of the UN to advance a peaceful, just, sustainable and pluralistic world community that promotes human rights. Many of you heard Bruce Knotts on Oct. 13 describe the work of the UU-UNO. If you are interested in being part of a Climate Action Team that Bruce described, contact [marycava4@gmail.com](mailto:marycava4@gmail.com) For more information and to join visit: [www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org)



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

UUSC – is the organization that benefited from the Pete Seeger Concert we hosted last May. UUSC does incredible social justice work. They are promoting a raise in the minimum wage for workers in the United States. Donations of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by Shelter Rock. For more information, to sign a petition to raise the minimum wage, and to join visit: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

The UUA has announced this year's **Common Read** *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman. The book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages on America and how poor working conditions – discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary conditions affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables. Start reading- book discussion will be scheduled in a few months.

**Upcoming CERG webinars** for everyone: <http://www.cerguua.org/events/cergwebinars.html>

November 6: We Covenant to Affirm and Promote

November 14: Developing a Healthy RE Committee

November 20: Pleased to Meet You: Training Greeters

December 12: Ministry to Families: Managing Learning Differences in an RE Program

Respectfully submitted by Denice Tomlinson & Mary Cavallero



~ November 2013 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 All Saints Day	2 9a-1p UU Roots Part I (Study)	
<b>3</b> 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Auction Cmt (R43) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	<b>4</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	<b>5</b> <b>Election Day</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	<b>6</b> 7:30p-9:30p Program Council (R41)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b> 8:45a-10a Choir (Sanc) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Auction Cmt (R43)  <b>4 pm Rev. Garmon's Intallation</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans' Day</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	<b>12</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	<b>13</b> 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	<b>14</b> 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	<b>15</b> Auction set up (Sanc, Ktch) 	<b>16</b> <b>Auction 2013</b>	
<b>17</b> Communitarian Deadline 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Inside the Music (Sanc) 11:30a-12:30p <b>Stone Soup Brunch</b> (FH) 	<b>18</b> 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	<b>19</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7p-9:30p CUC Jazz concert 	
<b>24</b> 8:45a-10a Choir (Sanc) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10:15a-11:30a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12p Newcomers Orientation (Study)	<b>25</b> 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	<b>26</b> 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>	

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605



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

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Communitarian Deadline for  
the next edition:

**Sunday, November 17**

Submit information to  
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