

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:00 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ Meredith's Musings ~

Mercy

In Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, Antonio offers a pound of his flesh closest his heart as guarantee of a loan. When the loan is not repaid, and Shylock claims his pound of flesh. Portia tells Shylock he must be merciful.

Shylock retorts, "On what compulsion must I? Tell me that."

Portia replies, "The quality of mercy is not strained; / It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven / Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; / It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

"Not strained" means we cannot be constrained to be merciful. Mercy can't be compelled. If it's compelled, it isn't mercy. Mercy just happens, the way gentle rain falls on the ground. And when it does, it blesses both giver and receiver.

In this way, mercy is related to grace. "Grace" is a name for the fact that much of what is good in life is "free" – that we are rich in blessings not earned, deserved, or expected. If a blessing comes to you when you didn't deserve it, that's grace. If a punishment is lifted or consequence averted from you that you did deserve, that's mercy. We all deserve worse than we get, as Portia goes on to say: "in the course of justice none of us should see salvation."

Mercy reminds us that justice and fairness – as important and necessary as they are – are not enough. Love and forgiveness take the name mercy when they, as they sometimes must, intervene to countermand the dictates of justice.

There are times when it is better not to save others from the consequences of their actions. Overprotectiveness is a misapplication of mercy. As Shakespeare tells us in a different play (*Timon of Athens*), "nothing emboldens sin so much as mercy." It takes wisdom to choose well when to let justice prevail and when, and how much, to temper justice with mercy. There are formulas for retributive justice and better formulas and methods for restorative justice, but no algorithm for the wise application of mercy (that's what makes it mercy – it goes beyond formula or right).

.....continued on page two.

Community Unitarian
Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660
www.cucwp.org



May 2014
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Mercy....continued from page one.

Still, we can learn from good examples. When apartheid ended in South Africa, their Truth and Reconciliation Commission wisely chose mercy over justice alone. The Commission granted amnesty to perpetrators who committed violence and crime during apartheid if those people shared the truth about what they had done. Mercy and truth, in that situation, was more important than justice to their country.

In the Middle East, so many wrongs have been committed by so many people, that there's no way to punish all who have acted violently. If justice is a prerequisite for peace, we may never have peace in that region. Peace will require some justice – and a lot of mercy.

Questions: What role has mercy played in your life? When have you most memorably received it? When have you given it? When have you wished you'd given more of it?

Yours Faithfully,

Meredith

MAY SERVICES 10:00 AM

May 4: 7th Sunday of spring

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Justice vs. Mercy. When Virtues Collide

May 11: 8th Sunday of spring - Mother's Day

Rev. Meredith Garmon

Feminist Theology

May 18: 9th Sunday of spring

Coming of Age service

May 25: 10th Sunday of spring

Joann Prinzivalli

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 1, 2014 for the purpose of

- receiving Annual Reports;
- voting on the Board of Trustees slate presented by the Nominating Committee;
- the election of members to the Nominating Committee;
- voting on CUC's operating budget for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015;
- voting on CUC's capital expenditures for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.
- voting on CUC's by-laws changes.

NOMINATING FOR Board of Trustees

The Nominating Committee welcomes your suggestions for members of the congregation whom you believe would be worthy candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees. Please discuss your suggestions with one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Creighton Cray, Erin Foster, Cynthia Roberts, and Ray Schmitt. We are looking for candidates who are actively involved in our community and have a history of service to CUC. If you prefer to do this by email, you can write to the Nominating Committee via schmitt790@verizon.net.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Spring has sprung and we are also growing! New initiatives are underway in many areas. The leaders of Journey Group are meeting in preparation for the launch of this important dimension of our church life next fall. The Giving Campaign is drawing to a (hopefully) successful close, to be celebrated with a grand brunch on April 27. Thank you to all who have worked tirelessly to make these developments possible.

We look forward to welcoming our new Director of Religious Education – Perry Montrose. He will begin work on July 1, 2014. We welcome him to our congregation and look forward to working with him in the coming years

The church will not only have a new roof next month, but the Board of Trustees has also approved repairs to the steps in front of the building, the handicap ramp, the sidewalk next to that and the long steps coming up from the parking lot. The winter was hard on our building and property but with spring coming into bloom all is well.

Please plan to attend the annual meeting on June 1. We will have a number of items to vote on, including the budget for the coming year. (In preparation for that meeting, please attend the budget forum on May 18, 2014 if you want to review details and discuss the rationale for budget line items.) At the annual meeting we will also vote on up-dated bylaws (thank you to those who turned out for the by-laws forum on April 17 to discuss changes), on candidates for the Board of Trustees, and on candidates for the Nominating Committee.

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

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout May contact Eleanor Herman or Astrid Rogers.

Eleanor: 937-1213, elroherm@verizon.net.
Astrid: 949-0294, astridrogers@aol.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

***I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you – nobody – too?***

These words by Emily Dickinson, are so simple and hold such powerful meaning. One of the most famous details of her life is that she was utterly unfamous during her lifetime. She lived a reclusive life, and though she wrote nearly 1,800 poems, she published only a few of them.

There is a fine line between being a “nobody” and being a “somebody,” and who understands that struggle better than a teenager? This year’s ninth grade class consists of a beautiful spectrum of “nobodies” and “somebodies” coming together, growing together, and learning together about who they are as a group and as individuals.

This year, through research, discussion, mentorship and reflection, these youth have deepened their understanding of themselves and their spiritual and Unitarian Universalist identity. Their year culminates in a special Coming of Age service which will feature the youth reading their statements of personal belief (credo statements) to the congregation.

In the past months the youth have been writing and developing their personal statements of belief. Naturally in the process of figuring out the answers to life’s big questions, they are able to get closer to discovering deeper meaning and to finding purpose in life.

Below is a sneak preview of who the youth are and what they have to say:

I wonder which one comes first: the egg
or the chicken.
I am smart and forgetful.
I understand sports.
I pretend to love church.
I say the ball is in life’s court.
I wonder if God exists.
I want people to like me.
I say things I don’t mean.
I understand everything about darkness.
I wonder what I should write.
I wonder where I will be in 10 years.
I cry about growing up, leaving home.
I hope I will have a positive impact on
the world.

For a more detailed look into the complexities of their thoughts and lives, please join us for the Coming of Age services on May 17 at 3 pm and May 18 at 10 am.

**By Lily Rappaport
Acting Director of Religious Education**



EVENTS

Donations to Issan House

A sincere "Thank You!" to all – known and unknown – who contributed bedding and towels for the residents of Issan House, the Yonkers facility for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

A full carload of new and gently-used items was delivered during Passover/Easter week, and the residents asked me to convey their heartfelt thanks for the wealth of needed supplies received.

That said, they also immediately asked if we have any **clothing** for them! And how could I say "no" to such an urgent plea? The men and women who come to Issan House often arrive from a housing shelter, rehab facility or jail with only the clothing they're wearing. Like those we have assisted at other shelters in the past, they lack the essentials, including underwear, socks and outer garments of all types. Coats and seasonal heavy clothing are not a present need, but men's pants and t-shirts and women's blouses and shirts are always in short supply. If you can help, please put aside such items in the next few weeks so a collection can be organized in early June, and arrangements can be made for donations to be brought in or picked up. And again, thank you from the residents of Issan House.

– Karen Schatzel

Adult R.E.:

Our Story. Our Faith.

Friday, May 2nd and May 9th

-- 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

Parsonage

*"Around the UU World" Brown Bag
Lunch*

Wednesday, May 21 -- noon

Fireside Area of Sanctuary

Bring your lunch and join Rev. Meredith to discuss a recent article from our denominational magazine, the UUWorld.

George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue Performed by Adam Kent



Saturday evening May 3 at

8PM

at Iona College in

New Rochelle

Hear Music Director Adam

Kent in George Gershwin's Concerto in F, Rhapsody in Blue, and Variations on "I've Got Rhythm" with the Westchester Chamber Symphony conducted by Barry Hoffman.

Tickets are \$50 (\$35 seniors, \$15 students with I.D.)

Visit www.westchesterchambersymphony.org or call (914) 654-4926 for more info.

**PERFORMERS, ARTIST
AND BAKERS**

WE NEED YOUR TALENT

**Social Action Variety Show on
Saturday, May 10 at 3:00 pm**

- ☐ A Talent Show
- ☐ Plus a Bake Sale
- ☐ Plus an Art Sale
- ☐ Yes you can do all 3
- ☐ Sign up in the RE Wing

Proceeds to benefit Riverkeeper

Bring your friends.

Good times are better with friends.

For more info contact Liz Suvanto or Chris Breault
elizabethsuvanto@hotmail.com or
chrisbronext@gmail.com

**Calling all BAKERS:
We need your talent!**

The children of CUC will be hosting a yummilicious Bake Sale as part of the Variety Show this year and WE NEED YOUR TALENT! We need all manner of culinary delights – your secret-recipe cookies, your fruit-filled pies, your delicious breads and your decadent bars. Whatever you like to make: we want it! Please help make the Variety Show fundraiser a spectacular success – and help feed the TALENT in the process. Drop off will be Friday May 9 any time or Saturday May 10 before 3pm.

Contact AmySwiss@aol.com
to let her know what you can contribute.

***Compassionate Communication:
Nurturing Our Lives, Relationships, and
World***

*A workshop open to anyone seeking more
deeply meaningful and peaceful relationships.
Adults and high school youth welcome.*

Saturday, May 10th, 9:30 -3 p.m.

Community Unitarian Church
468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, NY

Compassionate Communication, also known as Non-Violent Communication or NVC, is a transformative practice that enriches our relationship with ourselves and others. This workshop will give an overview of NVC as well as opportunities to practice dealing with conflict more effectively and nurture our spirits more fully.



Presenter: Rev. LoraKim Joyner, D.V.M., is a Unitarian Universalist minister now serving as a community minister in Multi-species Ministry and Compassionate Communication (Nonviolent Communication). Among her current positions, Rev. Joyner serves as Right Relations Consultant for the UU Metro NY District, is a Certified Trainer in Nonviolent Communications and works as an avian veterinarian in Latin American conservation.

Registration:

Registration by May 5th is required.

Child care provided.

Fee is \$15.00 to cover costs (includes lunch). Send checks, payable to Community Unitarian Church, to: Jane Dixon, Compassionate Communication Workshop, 468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605. For more information contact Jane at: jrdixon@optonline.net or [914-949-5919](tel:914-949-5919).

Beyond the Golden Rule.

CUC is hosting this UU District Workshop for thinking about how we can foster authentic diversity.

May 17, 8:30am-4pm

To register go to:

<https://fd7.formdesk.com/uiforms/intercultural>

For more info go to:

<http://cucmatters.blogspot.com/>

And click on site index.

Each of us has culture--conscious and unconscious ways of being in the world.

To become a truly multicultural faith, Unitarian Universalist congregations need leaders who can build relationships effectively across difference including ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender, and more.

Come learn about a model of understanding cultural competence which will help you learn these skills.

This is a similar training to that offered to ministers through the UUMA called "Who Are Our Neighbors".

This training is ideal for both congregations that have racial and ethnic diversity and congregations who perceive themselves to be homogenous. This framework will be helpful for all leaders including, Religious Educators, Ministers, Board Members, Music Directors, Social Justice committee members, and more.

BUDGET FORUM

May 18

Following services on Sunday, May 18, join us to discuss next year's operating budget. There will be information helpful to all voting on the budget at the June annual meeting.

Bird/Nature Walk at CUC

**Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11**

8:30 am

(meet behind the parsonage)

For a full report on the last walk go to:

<http://cucmatters.blogspot.com/>

Led by Rev. LoraKim Joyner, DVM. If you have any questions, you may contact her at amoloros@gmail.com.



Nurturing Our Nature

Practice group for compassionate communication

Saturday, 12 - 1:15 p.m., May 17 and June 14

at the Parsonage
(meditation room
around the back by
garage).

Led by Rev. LoraKim Joyner



COMING OF AGE

Our ninth graders begin a year-long journey to examine and reaffirm their own values and beliefs and make their own choices about their social and religious commitments. The year culminates with a Coming of Age ceremony in the spring.

Please join us to celebrate the Coming of Age Class of 2014

Saturday, May 17, 3-5:30 PM
Reception Follows

All Credos will be presented Saturday.

A few Credos will be presented at the morning service, Sunday, May 18.

Josie Blatt
Louisa Blatt
Robert Economou
Jason Ehrlich
Lauren Lynch
Richard Magnus
Zoe Marshall

Max Oliansky
Emerson Rhoads
Andrew Rocchi
Sahalie Sullivan
Robert Swiss
Moises Tera
Alex Trevithick



On Saturday evening **May 31 at 7PM**, Music at CUC presents Music Director Adam Kent in “À La Française”, a program of solo piano music by French composers, including Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Francis Poulenc, and others. Suggested donation is \$20 (\$10 students and seniors).

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout May contact Eleanor Herman or Astrid Rogers.

Eleanor: 937-1213, elroherm@verizon.net.
Astrid: 949-0294, astridrogers@aol.com.

How are we doing??

Please join the Committee on Ministry

Community Chat Sunday May 4th

After service in Fellowship Hall.
Help us reflect on the past year of renewed mission and energy.

Bring your coffee -
we'll have some cookies!

See below for information about the
Committee on Ministry.

Community Supported Agriculture Aka CSA.....Coming to CUC

Roxbury Farm is a community supported farm. They will be using CUC as their White Plains distribution point for produce shares starting in 2014 June. Pick-up at CUC (Fireplace area) will be every Wednesday for 23 Wednesdays, starting Wed Jun 11 and going through Wed Nov 19 (except Wed Nov 12) -- between 3:30p and 6:30p.

There are still a few shares available. You can sign up for a "farm share": \$618 for 23 weekly bags of biodynamic veggies. You can, additionally, sign up for a "fruit share" -- \$80 for 20 weekly allotments of fruit, starting Wed Jul 2. Also available are "Winter shares": \$125 for a total of 90 lbs of storage vegetables, delivered in 30-lb increments on Wed Dec 3, Wed Jan 7, and Wed Feb 4.

To sign up and learn more go to: www.roxburyfarm.com.

CUC Committee on Ministry

The Board of Trustees has appointed a Committee on Ministry. Its members include: Stephen Bear (sebear100@gmail.com), Creighton Cray (cecray@aol.com), Ted Dreher (Ted.Dreher@citi.com), Anne Majsak (amajsak@verizon.net), Charlie McNally (mcnally@pobox.com), and Janet Press (jpress2@optonline.net). The committee on Ministry's scope of responsibility will include:

Mission. Help the Church fulfill its mission by making recommendations to the Board of Trustees and Minister. Be attentive to the mission and to the covenant among the church members membership of commitment to that mission.

Feedback. Carry out the on-going review of the Minister and CUC's four areas of ministry: Worship, Justice, Education and Pastoral (Congregational Member) Care.

Make recommendations from feedback

Communicate key recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the congregation

Education.

Make the congregation aware of the church's mission

(brochures, orientations, newsletter editorials, worship services).

Make the congregation aware of the responsibilities of the COM.

Consultation. Consult with the minister and leadership of the congregation:

Encourage minister to establish annual goals.

Make recommendations to the ministers in respect to enhancing the quality of their leadership.

Ordination of Ministers. Make recommendation on ordination of prospective UU ministers and authorization of certain members to represent CUC in officiation of weddings and memorial services.

Conflict Management. Initiate and oversee processes of reconciliation when there are conflicts between a CUC member and another member, a CUC staff member or the minister. The COM does not do conflict resolution but manages it.

In terms of near term objectives for the committee, the Committee will be hosting a Community Chat following the service on May 4th. This is an opportunity for all CUC members and friends to provide input and ask questions to the Committee on Ministry. Over the next few months, the Committee on Ministry will be collecting feedback on our minister and overall ministry and will be making recommendations to the Board of Trustees and Congregation.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) ~ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Denominational News:

Come and join the Great UU Revival in Providence, RI.

GA will never be closer!!

General Assembly is more than the annual business meeting of the Association. The myriad of programs, worship events, witness and service opportunities, and exhibits not only provide a rich experience to the thousands of UUs who attend each year, they also give participants a renewed sense of energy, up-to-date information, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities.

“**Love Reaches Out**” is the theme for this year’s GA. We believe that our faith provides a path for each of us to unlock our transformational capacity to serve the world with love. We will gather to help our association live into a future where “Love Reaches Out” – to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations’ walls.

Come be part of the experience of UUs essentially taking over a compact downtown. Providence is a vibrant Renaissance city, known as “The Creative Capital”. Here you’ll find history, natural beauty and vibrant culture wherever you turn. GA is June 25 to 29. More info: <http://www.uua.org/ga/>



General Assembly Voting opportunities –

This year delegates will be voting on a new Congregational Study/Action issue (CSAI). The congregational study action issue that is selected will have 4 years of study, reflection and then action. There are five CSAIs proposed this year and each delegate will be able to vote. Congregations are encouraged to meet and discuss these topics and suggest to the delegates, which CSAI should be supported. This year the 5 issues proposed are *Empowerment: Age and*

Ability Reconsidered, Ending the War on Terror, Escalating Inequality, Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue, and Renewing and Securing Our Democracy. You can read each proposal on line. **Homework:** Here is the link: <http://www.uua.org/statements/current/index.shtml>

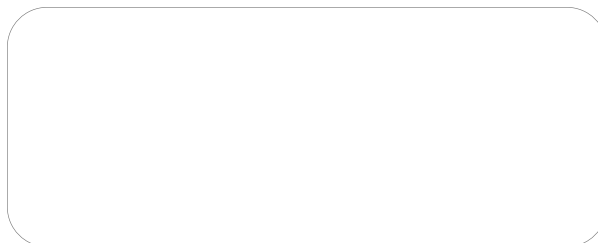
Virtual General Assembly: If you can’t attend consider being an offsite delegate or watching GA from your home computer. For more info go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/index.shtml> or contact Denice Tomlinson for questions denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com

Upcoming scheduled webinars from the Central East Regional Group (CERG)

May 8 and May 9: Making the Most of Technology in Religious Education <http://www.cerguua.org>

~ May 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	2 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7p-9p COA Pulpit Skills 3 (Sanc) 7:30p-9p Our Story Our Faith II (Parsonage)	3 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
4 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Community Chat (FH) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (R41)	5 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi	6 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	7 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:30p Program Council (R41)	8 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (R24)	9 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 4:30p-9:30p Talent Show set up & rehearsal (Sanc) 7:30p-9p Our Story Our Faith III (Parsonage)	10 8:30a-3:30p NVC workshop (FH, KTC) 3p-8p Talent Show (YG) (5pm) (Sanc)
11 Mother's Day 8:30 am, Bird Walk, Parsonage 8:45a-10a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 12p-2p COA Pulpit Skills 4 (Sanc)	12 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	13 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-10p RE Council (R41)	14 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 1:30p-2:30p Calendaring Meeting (R43) 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	15 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	16 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6p-9p COA Rehearsal (SANC) 7:30p-8:30p Worship Committee (Parsonage)	17 Armed Forces Day 8:30a-4p The Golden Rule? (FH) Noon—1:15 Nurturing our Nature, Parsonage 2p-7p COA (3pm) (SANC), Kitch, FH (3pm))
18 Communitarian Deadline 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 10a-11a COA (SANC) 11:30a-12p UU Roots (R 12) 11:30a-12:30p CUC Forum-Budget (FH)	19 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	20 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	21 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 12p-1p Around the UUWorld Brown Bag Lunch (FA)	22 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	23 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	24 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))
25 9a-11:30a Nursery Care (32) 10a-11:30a RE Classes (FH & classrooms) 10a-11:15a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	26 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FH)	27 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance)) 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	28 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	29 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	30 7:30a-8:30a Zen Meditation (Parsonage (basement entrance))	31 CUC Concert (7pm) Adam's French concert (Sanc), Ktc) 10a-11:45a Zen Service (Parsonage (basement entrance))

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.

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

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Acting Director of Religious Education

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Church Administrator

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212-595-7280

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Lisa Meyer
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516-299-2475

Community Minister in Association with CUC

The Rev. Deb Morra
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bookkeeper@cucwp.org
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Communitarian Deadline for the next edition:

Sunday, May 18

Submit information to
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