

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

NOVEMBER 2011



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

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere
Interim 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

In the Interim . . .

Let us give thanks:

*For the sun and stars that float in the open air,
for the apple-shaped earth and we upon it;
for the wonder we all see in everyone else we see,
and the wonders that fill each minute of time forever . . .* (Walt Whitman)

November invites us into the spiritual discipline of gratitude.

Most of us are grateful for an abundance of good food to eat and clean water to drink, warm clothing and dry homes. Let us give thanks even as we respond to those in need.

Let us give thanks for our friends and our families; for all those who brighten our lives with their presence.

Let us give thanks for our companions in this religious community who affirm and promote the comfort and challenge of our free faith.

We ask that our hearts may be opened wide at this time to embrace this life, with all its painful disappointments and its quiet triumphs.

For all this and more, may we give thanks.
AMEN

Yours in faith, Benjamin

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

Communitarian Deadline for
December Edition:
Sunday, November 20

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

NOVEMBER SERVICES 2011, 10:15 A M

November 6 *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. How can we continue to struggle for justice in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds?

November 13 *Wicked Pleasures*. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. A consideration of the seven deadly sins.

November 20 *For All That Is Our Life*. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. Join us in an intergenerational celebration of Thanksgiving.

November 27 Petra Thombs and Others



Shorter Days But More Light at CUC!

Fall is often the time of year when we begin to feel let down by the shorter hours of daylight, but here at CUC we are challenging that assumption, because now that we've begun our journey towards a new settled minister, there is already more light around us!

Now into the beginning of our interim years (the two years we spend in reflection of ourselves as the congregation we are and the congregation we want to be), the Board of Trustees will be taking the lead on two conversations that will give form and direction, and yes "illuminate" our future. Those are **canvass and search**.

We will ask. One of the consequences of this significant period of change that we have undergone is that our pledging income has declined. We intend to begin to bend the curve back this year with a new approach. Talking about money can be difficult for some, but what if we think of it as the financial expression of our mission? Then it might be seen as a concrete act of community action or a personal ministry. In the past we have canvassed the congregation through personal visits, telephone calls and letters. This year, hoping to promote increased opportunities for dialogue, the BOT and the canvass committee are asking: How you would like to be canvassed? With a personal visit? A phone conversation? As part of a small group?

We will begin, as well, the process of putting together our search committee. We will reach out to every family in the congregation to gather the input necessary to present a slate of congregants (the committee) who will be able to best represent you and the congregation as a whole in finding your next settled minister. This committee will be seated by the beginning of June, 2012 so it can work over the summer and early fall. The committee's first task is to put together the necessary documents due at the Boston UUA office no later than Oct 31, 2012. The UUA

staff will review our package and suggest several candidates that meet our criteria. Your search committee will spend the rest of 2012 and the early part of 2013 moving the process to its conclusion in the spring of that year.

We recognize, and have long recognized, the need to upgrade and enhance our building. It was difficult to see our way, until this fall, when we realized clearly that we have to relocate the furnaces across from the bathrooms for safety reasons. Moving the furnaces, which should be completed before Thanksgiving, will be the first step in getting ready for our new kitchen. One of the benefits of the furnace work will be to providing some **air conditioning in Fellowship Hall** during the summer months – giving us the opportunity, when all is completed, to attract more rentals which equates to more operating budget income.

We will continue our process of self examination. Why are we here? What does our faith demand of us? What might our future look like? How can we make a difference in our world?

As a community we will work on embracing the **"possibility"** in each of these challenges, and together we will light the way into a bright future together as a congregation.

In Community-

Janet Press, Board Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First of all, thank you to all of you who have stopped me in the halls, sent me emails, and called to express your thoughts and feelings about my resignation effective January 14th, 2012. I am so touched by your honesty, thoughtfulness, and kindness.

I wanted to share with you some additional things about my decision to leave CUC. After I registered for classes this fall, it became apparent that I only had four classes left to finish my Masters of Divinity. They are all required courses, and all four are only offered in the spring semester. Thus, I was faced with the decision to either leave CUC mid year to finish my degree or to delay my graduation for another year.

To choose between leaving the community that I care so deeply about and completing my degree was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make. I am sad that I will not be able to finish out this church year as there are so many milestones that I was looking forward to being part of with you.

I am confident in your strength, ability, vision and leadership to bring these milestones to successful completion. There is great leadership in RE, on the RE council, in the teaching teams, and in the children and youth of this church.

I look forward to being with you over the next 2 ½ months. It is my commitment to this congregation to support the RE program until the end of my employment. My role and relationship with CUC will be changing after that. But no matter where I go, or what I do, you will always be in my heart.

I have been blessed to work for and with such amazing people over the past 8 ½ years. I cannot begin to express my gratitude for all I have learned.

Lara Campbell, DRE

A Special RE Sunday!



Sunday, November 27

10-11:30am

There will be a special fun activity for grades K-5.

(There will be no regular RE classes that day.)

Religious Education Council

The leaves are falling and change is in the air, including here at CUC with Lara's announcement that she will be leaving us in early January. We certainly will be sad to see her go, but she has laid a strong foundation upon which we have built a strong and vibrant RE program. The classes, teaching teams, and curriculum are already in place for the year. The RE Council is working with the Board of Trustees and former RE Council chairpersons to determine the best course of RE leadership for the remainder of the church year. We will keep you informed as plans are developed.

In the meantime, the RE wing remains as busy as ever. The PreK/K-5 classes have selected their social action causes for the year – the Wolf Conservation Center and the Ecumenical Food Pantry of White Plains. Stay tuned for more information about their fundraising efforts. The 6th/7th grade class has begun visiting other houses of worship as part of their study of world religions. The 8th/9th grade Coming of Age class will be hosting the Stone Soup brunch on October 30 and will be matched with mentors on November 6 and 20. Please see Lara as soon as possible if you are interested in serving as a CoA mentor this year.

- Robin Rocchi, RE Council Chair

November Food Pantry Offering

The White Plains Food Pantry will be the recipient of 25% of the offertory collection in November. In addition, a collection will be requested for the Food Pantry following the service on November 20th. Money raised will provide special Thanksgiving food for Food Pantry clients. Donations are down, but client numbers are up. Please plan to contribute as generously as possible. Meanwhile, please buy an extra non-perishable food item when you shop, for deposit into the Food Pantry collection box in the reception area. Cereal is particularly needed. Other useful items are corned beef hash, canned beef stew, peanut butter, and tuna fish. For further information, contact Vicky Van Wert.

MONEY MATTERS

How did we fare during our first quarter?

As you may know, CUC's fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30. This means we just finished the first quarter of the 2012 fiscal year.

So how did first quarter go?

In a basic way, we are on track in that (i) we are one quarter through the year, (ii) we have spent about one quarter of our budget, and (iii) we have received just under one quarter of the anticipated revenues. Nonetheless we are likely to be over budget before the fiscal year is out. Here are the details.

On the expense side, we spent \$124,823 during this quarter, which is 24% of the \$512,921 budget for the entire year. As we are 25% through the year, our actual expenses look on target with our budget but they are not. Historically, we spend less than one quarter of our budget in the first quarter because there is no church programming during July and August. This year we unexpectedly spent more money than budgeted on maintenance for the church building primarily due to water issues from Hurricane Irene and the many storms this past summer. Building expenses will also be higher in the winter due to snow removal and heat. So even though we are a quarter through the year and a quarter through the budget, we are likely to run over budget.

On the income side, THANK YOU! Pledge payments are on target: we expect to receive \$290,000 in pledge income and we have collected 24% or almost \$70,000.

Our remaining income is primarily auction proceeds and payments for use of space by the Montessori school. The auction is November 19th, so come, have a great time a support the church.

In an ideal world, our pledges would meet or exceed our budget, but we are not in that position. The difference between our budget and income is drawn from the Endowment Fund. We have withdrawn \$25,000 which is a little under one quarter of the planned transfer for this year. The budget calls for a total withdrawal from the Endowment Fund of about \$118,000 for this fiscal year. Aside from the withdrawal, the poor performance of the financial markets from July 1-September 30, 2011, have brought the values of our Endowment, Music and Building Funds down about nine percent (9%).

Last, an administrative note: you may wonder why we run July 1-June 30 instead of a calendar year. The reason is that this timing allows us to hold canvass and to plan budgets in the spring, after we have a substantial portion of the current church year behind us. When we ran on a calendar year, we found ourselves fundraising in the fall, just as we were coming back to church. This made canvassing difficult to get off the ground.

How can you help? Come to the auction! Join a committee! [See last month's article for details at <http://www.cucwp.org/newsletters>].

Want to know more? Ask Chris Kortlandt, kortlandtbunch@verizon.net or Drew Swiss, dswiss@montefiore.org.

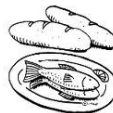
Thank you, Catherine Kortlandt

Looking for CUC'ers for Coachman!!!!
Who can co-lead a one hour discussion group?



Budgeting and saving money

Healthy cooking



Healthy snacks



Making sure kids get exercise



Communicating and expressing emotions

Our Coachman Center Adult Education program needs you! We are looking for people to co-lead the above discussion groups for a small group of Coachman residents. We had a great first session on First Aid, and are now planning a session on preparing for the G.E.D. exam. We're looking to round out the schedule for the balance of the year.

Please contact us if you can help: Johanna Bauer 636-1047 johbauer@msn.com
Karen Schmitt 921-3647 schmitt8@verizon.net.

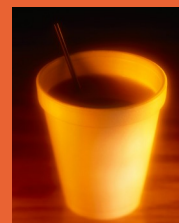
Are you new to CUC?
Want to meet some other people?
Sunday November 20th

Would you like to get to know us better? We strive to welcome all visitors and newcomers and include them fully in the congregation. Please join us after service on Sunday November 20th for a brunch hosted by Lori and John Saccardi, 36 Wyndham Close, White Plains, NY 10605 (less than 10 minutes from CUC). It's a great way to meet some CUC folks and get to know a little more about the congregation. Rev. Benjamin Maucere will be there and will provide some information about the path to membership at CUC.

Please RSVP to Liliana at the church office at (914) 946-1660 or by email to admin@cucwp.org Any questions feel free to call Paula Meighan at 914 834-6454.

It's FUN!
It's EASY!
It's a great way to
SAY HELLO
to a lot of people at once!

Sign up for coffee hour. Ask a few people you know, find people from your committees, from the kids' classes, from your area of residence.Provide some goodies, pour the coffee, help us welcome everyone!



Dates Available: Nov 20, Nov 27, Dec 25.
Sign Up Sheet in the Lobby.
Easy Instructions Found at www.cucwp.org.

Caring & Sharing...

The Caring and Sharing Circle thanks everyone who signed up to be a volunteer. Your willingness to help us in our worthwhile endeavor is greatly appreciated.

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout November contact Claire Kuczinski at 949-6619 or Bobbi Collins at 761-5280.

Flowers for the sanctuary

Please join us in our worship and consider a donation of flowers for Sunday's services.

Your floral donation may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one, to recognize special occasions, or simply to celebrate our congregation.

We currently need donations for every Sunday service in November. You can sign up on the bulletin board outside of the office or call the office at 946-1660.

Suggested donation is \$65.00 to cover our cost.



PLAYREADING GROUP

All Readings are at CUC at 7:30 PM.

Come read, or just listen.

November 31 "Ghosts" by Hendrik Ibsen, led by Barbara Dunne

December 12 "Driving Miss Daisy" by Alfred Uhry, led by Heidi Anderson.

Love to Sing?

*We've heard you on Sundays.
We know you're out there!*

*The Choir rehearses on Tuesdays at
7:30 and sings in the services twice a
month.*

*We'd love to add your voice to the
mix!*

*Contact Lisa Meyer, choir director, at
Lisa.Meyer@liu.edu.*

CUC FRIEND PENS DEBUT NOVEL

Sallie Lundy-Frommer (spouse to member Robert Frommer and daughter-in-law to member Vivian Frommer) is pleased to announce the release of her debut novel "Yesterday's Daughter." Yesterday's Daughter is about the search for identity of a young woman who thinks she may be a vampire amidst a background of action and romance. Available in print and Kindle format from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Statement of Conscience – Last month I shared the Statement of Conscience that was voted in this past General Assembly (GA, June 2011). This month I would like to call your attention to the Actions of Immediate Witness that were also voted in at GA. These statements allow the UUA and congregations to work in our behalf on current issues. Actions of Immediate Witness are submitted by individuals by October 1st and developed by groups of UU's across the country who are interested in working on that topic; to develop an action of immediate witness to be presented at the following GA. Three Actions of Immediate Witness were passed:

Protest Representative Peter King's Hearings on "Muslim Radicalization,"

Support Southern California Supermarket workers' struggle for decent wages and benefits,

Oppose citizens united – support free speech for people. Copies are also on the back table.

The plenary discussions on these topics were very engaging and can still be viewed on the UUA website. You can read the final text through the following link. <http://blogs.uuworld.org/ga/2011/07/22/final-texts-2011-actions-of-immediate-witness/>. If you would like to have input on next year's Actions then tune in on November 15th to the following link <http://www.uua.org/statements/process/index.shtml>. There will be working groups on each issue and the top six proposals will be selected by Congregational Poll and presented at 2012 General Assembly.

Feel free to contact me anytime at about UUA matters: Denise Tomlinson ptmom@prodigy.net.

- Denise Tomlinson, *Denominational Affairs*

MUSIC

Adam Kent, November 12, 8 pm

CUC Music Director Adam Kent performs Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 in c minor, Op. 35, and works by Mahler and Janacek with the Westchester Chamber Symphony. Murphy Science Building, Iona College. Tickets \$50 (\$15 students, \$40 seniors).

Adam Kent, November 30, 8 pm

Adam returns to Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall for his sixth annual all-Spanish concert. Adam will be presented with the Spanish government's Medalla al Merito Civil by order of King Juan Carlos I of Spain. Clarinetist Pavel Vinnetsky will collaborate in the US premiere of Octavio Vazquez's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano. Adam also presents the world premiere of a piano work by Cuban composer Tania Leon. And works by Granados, Montsalvatge, Balada and Surinach. Tickets are \$25 (\$15 students and seniors).

Handel's Messiah, December 17, 7 pm

CUC Choir & Chamber Orchestra
at CUC



It's a bird! It's a plane! No! It's the CUC 2011 Goods and Services Auction!

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Preview: 5:30 PM

Cocktails and Dinner: 6:00 PM

Tickets available at all coffee hours, or contact Chris Kortlandt at kortlandtbunch@verizon.net.

Tickets: \$35 per person.

Raffle Tickets: \$20 for the 50/50, silent auction items, live auction items, grab bag items, bid and bump events. Can't come to the auction? Consider donating items and buying raffle tickets.

Dress in style for cartoons, comics, or super heroes, or simply dress for a nice night out.



So What Is There?

“Bid and Bump”

Dinners and Parties hosted by fellow CUC members – from casual barbeques to themed food events. Bid on the event of your choice.

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.....and lots more...Join us!



DONATIONS

Donating Tangible Items, Services, Gift Certificates, Dinners, Classes, Etc.....

WHEN? DONATION DEADLINE IS **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13.**

HOW? Complete a Donation form (church lobby or at www.cucwp.org). Tangible items can be dropped off at the church during the week before the auction. Gift certificates can be for any amount, large or small. In addition to larger ticket items, we are seeking new, small dollar items for our Grab Bag section. 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.

WHERE? Tangible Items can be left in room 23 between now and November 13. Donation forms and other paper documentation can be left in the church office, or the lobby on Sundays.

WHY? Because the auction is really fun. And because the success of the auction depends on the hundreds of donated items and dozens of bid-and-bump dinners. Meeting the deadline of November 13th ensures complete information in the evening printed program.

~ November 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30p-9:15p Choir	2	3	4	5
6 CLOCKS BACK  8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-9:45a CoA Mentor match 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10a-11:30a Rel. Ed 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:35a-12:35p Caring & Sharing 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth	7 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-9p Play Reading Group (11) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	8 ELECTION DAY 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	9 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	10 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (FA)	11 VETERANS DAY	12
13 8:45a-9:45a Choir 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-11:30a Rel Ed 10a-10:25a Children's Service (FH) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour	14 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	15 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	16	17	18	19 AUCTION 6 PM 
20 HARVEST COMMUNION Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-9:45a Choir 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 9a-9:45a CoA Mentor match 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:30p New to CUC Brunch- 11:35a-12:35p Mentor-Orientation 11:45a-12:45p Fun Facts (SANC)	21 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44) 7:30p-9p Play Reading Group (41) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	22 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	23	24 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	25 1p-3:30p Hans Elsevier-Family Memorial Concert (2p) (SANC)	26
27 8:45a-10:15a Child Care (32) 10a-10:25a Kids Special Sunday 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:30p Welcome Committee	28 10a-11a Folding Party (FA) 7p-8p Tai Chi (FH) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish Conversation Circle (44)	29 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC\,24)	30 7:30p-9:30p RE Council (41)			

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.

LOOKING FORWARD...

Annual Arts & Crafts Fundraiser Sale

Dec 4th & 11th
Following service.
CUC Artisans Needed.

Please contact Barbara
Youngman at
[914-948-2973](tel:914-948-2973)
no later than

November 23rd.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

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 of all sorts and sizes 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.

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