

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim . . . Resolutions

Make 'em and break 'em. Isn't that how it usually goes? Vowing to make radical changes in our lives is usually just setting ourselves up for failure. And it's nothing new. Four-thousand years ago, the Babylonians were making New Year's resolutions. They believed that what one does on the first day of the year has an effect on the year to come. This suggests a fairly gentle approach to change. Rather than torture ourselves with *all* our shortcomings, we are invited to tend to the quality of the day itself!

I've also read that it is much easier to develop a beneficial habit than to change a negative one.

This year, my approach is to celebrate and continue good habits I'm already cultivating. Reading more scripture, for example, re-reading favorite poets and discovering new ones.

Newest for me is Jack Gilbert, whose *Collected Poems* was published in 2012, also the year of his death.

*The birds do not sing in these mornings. The skies
are white all day. . . . Now the rains
and soon the snow. . .
. . . Time to be
what we are getting ready to be next. This loving,
this relishing, our gladness, this being puts down
roots and comes back again year after year.*

Exercise is another good habit I'll continue. It's hard to work it into my day, but I feel so much better when I do!

I plan to persist in the habit of saying "thank you" — upon awaking, when I see or hear something that feeds my soul — light on the water, the laughter of a child, the wind in the trees, a dog looking up at its human companion with love and devotion. I vow to see more clearly; listen more intently, and love more fully.

I wish you and everyone at CUC a fabulous 2013!

Yours in faith,
Benjamin

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JANUARY SERVICES 2012, 10:15 AM

January 6. *Spiritual but Not Religious?* The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. What's the difference?

January 13. *Who Do We Say He Is? Adventures in Unitarian Christology.* The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. Part two of the series.

January 20. *Frolicking In Mystery.* The Rev. Robert Latham. A sermon that offers a view of reality we humans must embrace if we are to survive our insistence on genocide...a view of spirituality that makes sense and how humanists can commit as well as everyone else.

January 27. *Our Education's Common Core.* Petra Thombs.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Joy of Giving

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." – Amy Wilson- Carmichael

When looking for an apt quote about giving, there was a multitude to choose from. This is a time of year when giving is expected, fully part of the holiday season no matter your religious or cultural persuasion. As a parent of (now teen) children, it's hard to get the right balance between the joy of giving presents to loved ones without totally surrendering to our culture's crass commercialism. But remembering my own excitement as a child seeing what Santa had left under the tree helps to restore the joy that comes from giving gifts.

"For it is in giving that we receive." – St. Francis of Assisi.

Of course, there are so many ways to give beyond wrapped presents. A central aspect of my involvement and commitment to CUC is in opportunities to give through social service. My daughter Susanna and I organize our Midnight Runs into Manhattan to help feed and clothe the homeless. As well as giving out necessary goods, we give of our time and offer smiling faces and listening ears to those truly in need. We have fellow congregants that help our Midnight Run in many ways, from making soup or hard boiled eggs, to donating used sweaters and shirts, to helping make the bagged lunches and sorting clothes, to going on the runs and handing out food, clothes and kindness.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill

Thanks to Ray Messing and others, there are many ways around the holidays at CUC to give to those in need. One of our big causes is buying gifts for the children at the Coachman Family Center in White Plains. Like 2011, CUC committed this year to buying for all 300 kids at the shelter, which works out to a sizeable \$7,500 donation. This is the first year in many that, unfortunately, we came up short in folks volunteering to buy presents for these vulnerable children. Thankfully, we were able to ensure that no child went without because we are fortunate to have the resources to make up the \$1,000 shortfall from the Henry Mertens Fund. Henry was a long time member of CUC, who coordinated community service projects and grants. He passed away in 1998, but remembered CUC in his will with a generous gift partially restricted for social action projects. In the words of someone who knew him, he would have been thrilled to know that his estate's gift was buying presents for Coachman kids today. Let us all be grateful for the gifts from our members, both current and past.

So enjoy giving and receiving gifts this season, and thanks to so many of you who give of yourself not just to those you love and those in need but also to us here at CUC. Happy Holidays!

~ In Community,
David Schuler, Board Chair

Caring & Sharing... If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout January contact Bobbi Collins 761-5280 or Ingrid Hartman 946-2026.

Our Thoughts and prayers
are with the family of CUC long-time member Barbara Sanders. Barbara of Dobbs Ferry, NY, and North Rochester, MA, died peacefully at home after a brief illness December 4, 2012.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

“Children’s Worship”

Each week children gather to enjoy music, hear stories and learn valuable lessons during worship time. We mark this sacred time with some familiar elements: a chalice lighting, singing, an offering and a meditation. In December, we experienced an inspiring array of music and storytelling that brought to light the joys and meaning of the holiday season.

Enid and Gary Press delighted the children with a clarinet and tuba duets as well as beautiful harmonized singing. Their daughter, Charlotte, a singer in the Children’s Choir, stood in front leading us in singing some familiar songs about dashing through the snow, sleigh rides, laughter and bells that jingle. We had great fun singing carols and learning that some of the well-known tunes were written by Unitarians.

The Children’s Choir performed for us one Sunday and entertained us with *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella*, which they sang both in English and French. We were all invited to sing *Deck the Halls* while the choir accompanied us with a variety of percussion instruments.

The holidays are also the perfect time to celebrate the divine spirit within each of us and to deliver a message of peace. Chris Clouet graced us with his wonderful guitar playing and then read the story of *Ferdinand the Bull*. Set in 1930s Spain, this classic tale of individuality is about a bull who doesn't want to fight like all the other bulls. The children were captivated as they followed the story about this peace-loving bull who would rather smell the flowers than fight. Afterwards, Chris led us in a charming sing-along-version of the story. As the song moved along, the children’s shouts of “Olé!” grew in volume and enthusiasm.

Naturally, music and storytelling is an important part of worship. They allow us to experience the season of generosity, gratitude, and the joy of connecting in peace and love.

Lily Rappaport
Acting Director of Religious Education

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



Identifying Pre-Candidates

At the end of October, in accordance with the UUA's time line, the Search Committee posted CUC's Congregational Record. In response, more than twenty ministers in search expressed an interest in learning more about CUC, and shared their Ministerial Records (MRs) with us. There followed an intense month of reading, considering, evaluating and discussing these MRs, and narrowing the group down to ten potential candidates who seemed to best meet our ministerial profile.

The next step (slightly delayed by Hurricane Sandy) was exchanging packets with these ten ministers. Our packet includes expanded descriptions of CUC's programs, committees and activities, welcome letters from our interim minister, current and past staff, and community organizations with which we partner, as well as information and links on a variety of aspects of our church and the White Plains community. **The CUC packet can be accessed at www.ministerpacket.cucwp.org.** We extend a very special thank-you to Jennifer Lewis, Margaret Gold, and John Economou for getting our packet "up and online!" We have received positive feedback from ministers reviewing our packet. The ministers' packets included links to sermons, as well as articles, blogs and newsletters, more information about their backgrounds and families, professional goals and accomplishments and outside interests.

We have an impressive group of ministers—men and women from the Northeast, the Midwest, the South and the West; life-long UU's and those whose spiritual journeys more recently brought them to our denomination; several for whom the ministry is a second career. We are now completing telephone interviews and first-round reference checks with this group, in order to again narrow the field to four pre-candidates. This has been an intense experience for all seven of us on the committee. We endeavored to assess the strengths each potential candidate would bring to our congregation, how each would meet our congregation's need for stimulating sermons and spiritual leadership and how well equipped each would be to lead us forward through the next phase of our congregational development. Although committee members did not always agree on various matters (as expected - we are UU's after all), we all appreciated the unique opportunity to learn about these ministers. We discussed with these ministers pastoral care and program church governance, various ways of incorporating children into worship services, covenant groups and lay ministry, and social justice initiatives. Given the number of sermons we have watched, listened to and read over the past two weeks, it is fair to say that committee members are fairly steeped in UU theological perspectives!

We will extend pre-candidate invitations to four ministers. Of course, it is possible one or more may decline our invitation, but we fully anticipate having at least three people to seriously consider during pre-candidate weekends scheduled in January and February, and will report on this process next month.

We haven't been very visible these past few weeks, but you've let us know you appreciate our work, and understand our need to maintain complete discretion about the potential candidates and the process. Thank you.

~ Ministerial Search Committee

EVENTS

Start off the New Year with the CUC Choir !

What better way to begin the New Year than to create music with others. Join the CUC Choir and learn musical skills, expand your exposure to new pieces, and enjoy singing familiar works as well. The CUC Choir will begin rehearsing music on Tuesday evening, January 8th for the spring concert on **Sat., March 16, 2013 entitled *Beatles Classics and More***. This program will feature standard Beatles songs as well as some of the songs from the individual post-Beatle careers of John, Paul, George, and Ringo. Opportunities for solos and duets are available along with choral arrangements.

I would like to invite the youth of the Congregation to participate and talk to me about solos as well as joining in with the choir. Twice monthly, I will have Sunday rehearsals from 9:15-9:45am before Religious Education classes begin so young people can participate without an extra trip to CUC on Tuesdays. Since the Beatles are so inter-generational, I feel this is also a great opportunity for family members to participate in the concert together. Sunday rehearsals will begin on Sun., Jan. 20, 2013.

Please contact me, Lisa Meyer, Choir Director, at 347-278-3187 after 7pm, or 516-299-2475 from 9am to 5pm – or by email at lisa.meyer@liu.edu for more information, or simply attend a Tuesday evening Choir rehearsal at 7:30pm.

Youth!

All you need is love...
and a few extra hours
on Sunday morning.

Spanish Conversation Circle

Everyone welcome-Native Spanish speaking instructor

Starting January 7th
Mondays 7:30-8:45

15 sessions for \$100
please call or email Jane Dixon for more information
(949-5919), jrdixon@optonline.net

MIDNIGHT RUN

**Friday, January 25th
8 PM**

Please donate used men's clothing to CUC.
Jeans, sweaters, jackets, boots, shoes, belts,
bags, hats, gloves...all can be left in room 14.

Help feed the homeless in Manhattan. Provide clothing. Help with food preparation. This well organized event is a great way to help others and work with other CUC members and friends, from our youth to our grandparents.

For more information contact David Schuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com or 831-5605.



Come Dream with Us By the Fireside

Join us for the opening conversation as we share our dream for the future of CUC and plan the 2013-2014 Giving Campaign

Saturday Morning February 2 – 9:00-12:00

RSVP – Jane Dixon at jrdixon@optonline.net or at 949-5919.

There is no greater power than a community acting on its dreams...

Former board chair, Janet Press has already met with a steering committee to begin planning for this year's Annual Giving Campaign. Last year the theme of the campaign was:

"Why is CUC important in our lives?"

When the new settled minister arrives in August, CUC will have the unique opportunity to create and plan for the future. This year the campaign will ask you to look towards that future and think about your dreams for CUC . What will CUC look like when we are fulfilling our potential?

Many of us give so much time to this congregation. We know that our sense of caring is increased because we spend time doing what we love. Our love for the CUC community radiates out in many directions-music, religious education and service to the wider community. During this giving campaign we hope to encourage more people to find the same sense of caring and connectedness through increased involvement.

We may see all our hours of service to CUC as our contribution, but sadly-unfairly-time doesn't replace money. We need to fund our dreams.

Starting with the new year, and over the next several months we hope to engage more congregants more fully. The more you are a part of our community the more you will get out of it.

What is your vision for our congregation?

Plan on joining us in the many opportunities to articulate a shining future for Community Unitarian Church at White Plains.

~ Steering Committee

How to Grow Whether You Want to or Not!

(A Conversation About Religious Mission)

January 19, 2013 9:30am-4pm

Community Unitarian Church at White Plains

Join Rev. Robert Latham, Interim District Executive for the Pacific Central District, for an **interactive workshop** designed to create a definition of religion and its mission that works for **every** congregation. The process will be grounded in questions that provoke small group conversation and conclusions. Behind all the process questions stand this larger one:

“Why did society invent religion and why did they give it that name?”

Starting points:

- ☐ *The mission of religion is not up for grabs.*
- ☐ *A commitment to religious mission will effectively address every issue a congregation might face.*
- ☐ *If you are doing your mission you can't stop growing.*

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The cost is \$25, which includes continental breakfast and lunch.

To register, visit <https://www.formdesk.com/uiforms/howtogrow>.

For more information <http://uumetrony.org/events/events.htm>, or call the church office.

About Rev. Robert Latham: A native Texan, Rev. Latham grew up in the Southern Baptist tradition. He began preaching at age 13 and was ordained at age 18. He has a BA from Baylor University in Waco TX and two Master of Theology degrees. A challenging educational experience in seminary and an equally shattering experience in Vietnam transformed his religious and cultural perspectives. On the wake of these transformations he discovered Unitarian Universalism and officially entered its professional ministry in 1969. His engagement as a minister has ranged from such varied experiences as a prolonged battle with the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina during the 1960s and serving the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada districts as International Minister at Large in the 1980s. He created the Committee On Ministry concept and had what is now called a Worship Associates program back in the late 1970s. He has been the settled minister for UU congregations in Davenport IA, Fort Worth TX, Milwaukee WI, and Golden CO, and he has been an Interim Minister for UU congregations in Plano TX, San Francisco CA, Oakland CA, Princeton NJ, Tucson AZ, and Wilmington DE. Since 2007 Robert has been head of Phoenix Consulting that provides a variety of services to liberal congregations and organizations. Presently he is the Interim District Executive for the Pacific Central District.

His published works consist of *The Unitarian Universalist Extension Manual* (1985), *Moving On From Church Folly Lane* (2006), *A Tale of Boxes* (2009), and a brochure entitled *Lessons From Vietnam: Why Nothing Has Changed* (2011).

Snow Closing Guidelines

Sunday service is never cancelled ... but meetings, events, and Religious Education can be cancelled due to bad weather.

You can find out if activities have been cancelled by:

- * Going to the homepage of our website at cucwp.org, where closings will be posted.
- * Checking the church's main line greeting at 946-1660.

Information will be available at these times:

- * By 7 am for Sunday morning activities, including Religious Education.
- * By 1 pm for Sunday afternoon and evening events.
- * By 3 hours before the event for Saturday activities.
- * By 3 pm for weekday evening meetings and special events.



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Want to take some UU seminars online without leaving your home? Check out the CERG website <http://www.cerguua.org>. There are both webinars and on demand learning opportunities.

Upcoming events –

How to Grow Whether You Want to or Not! (A Conversation About Religious Mission): January 19, 2013. See page 7 for details.

The District Environmental Justice Council will meet on February 9, 2013, from 10:30 am-1:30 pm. Location to be determined. For more info www.uujusticeweb.org/

Save the date -

2013 District Annual Meeting , May 3-4, 2013, Morristown NJ

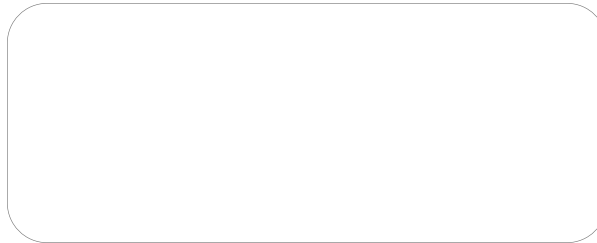
General Assembly 2013 a meeting of congregations, June 19-23, Louisville, KY

Despite Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center's being battered by Hurricane Sandy, no one was hurt and the facility came through with only moderately severe damage. Once power was restored, the facility was immediately made available as emergency housing for volunteer recovery workers and displaced persons. Although damage assessments are still being determined, a preliminary estimate of \$12,000 in uninsured expenses is anticipated. An emergency fund raising drive called the Sandy Restoration Appeal has been launched to help Murray Grove get back to normal operation. Contributions can be made by check to the Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center, PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor NJ 08734 or by making an online donation at <http://www.murraygrove.org/>.

~ January 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 7:30p-9p Program Council (41)	3	4	5
6 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir (R24) 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth (FH)	7 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	8 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	10 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality	11	12 9a-12p Giving Campaign CMT Meeting (R41)
13 9a-10a RE Teacher Breakfast-RE Council 10a-11:30a Religious Education 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir (R24) 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	14 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group43 (15 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee	16	17	18	19 Metro NY District Mission/Vision Workshop with Robert Latham (FH)
20 Communitarian Deadline 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc/R24) 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:30a-12:30p Fun Facts about Music 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir (R24) 11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee Meeting	21 Martin Luther King OFFICE CLOSED 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	22 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	24 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	25 8p-8p Midnight Run (FH, KTC)	26
27 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc/R24) 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30a-12:30p Chili Sunday (FH)	28 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	29 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	30	31		

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
468 Rosedale Avenue
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Communitarian Deadline for
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Sunday, January 20

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