

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:00 am

Accessible to Handicapped

~ Meredith's Musings ~



GOO

In spring, butterflies emerge from the cocoons into which they went, as caterpillars, about a week before. If you were to open a cocoon midway through that week, you would find it filled with whitish mush. I do not recommend this, because it kills the butterfly-to-be. Still, I recall as a child that I did once open a cocoon. The mush inside is not a caterpillar, nor is it a butterfly, nor is it some in-between half-caterpillar-half-butterfly. There is, in fact, no recognizable portion of anything alive. It's just unpromising goo.

You might have thought that some logical and orderly transition was going on inside that cocoon: that the caterpillar's body was becoming sleek and segmented and wings were sprouting out of its back. But no. The caterpillar dissolves away entirely into goo. I imagine it wondering, in some dim gooey way, whether it should have remained a caterpillar.

From the undifferentiated goo, a butterfly begins to form. The transition's logic and order, if it has any, are invisible mysteries.

Transformation requires this courage: to let what you have been melt into a sticky puddle. To get from the caterpillar that we now are to the butterfly that we may become sometimes requires a goo phase: some time spent being nothing at all except a mushy mess.

I'm not suggesting that you consider deliberately deciding to be a mushy mess for a while. This is not a matter of intentional choice. Rather, we simply find that through no power of our own the life we have known has dissolved, and we along with it have become undefined and shapeless: an indeterminate mystery of limitless possibility.

If you happen to be in a goo-ish time right now -- or if you know someone who seems to be -- just keep in mind that, even though it seems that nothing is happening, quite likely, something is cooking. Inside the chrysalis, molecules rearrange themselves, following a DNA recipe far beyond the ken of caterpillar or butterfly. Inside us, too, in times when our lives seem to be goo, imperceptible rearrangement is occurring, beyond the ken of our understanding. Out of the opaque mysterious soup, a new life is forming. Have faith.

~ Faithfully, Meredith

Community Unitarian
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468 Rosedale Avenue
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www.cucwp.org



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SUMMER SERVICES

10:00 AM

Summer services are lay-led except where noted.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| July 6 | Denice Tomlinson
Report from General Assembly. About the activities of the Unitarian Universalist denomination. |
| July 13 | Pamela Cucinell
The Art of Re-Membering. Who are we without our memories? What I learn from the journey with my father in his severe dementia: a work in progress. |
| July 20 | John Bell
Bargaining. The practice of environmental activism. |
| July 27 | David Finch
The Bhikkhu's Newspaper. Having lived in Buddhist and Muslim countries (in addition to our "Christian" one) and traveled to another thirty, David will share some of his cultural and spiritual experiences and insights. David has served on the board of the UU UN Office and currently serves on the UUA's International Funding Panel. |
| August 3 | Jacy Good
Jacy Good, Safe Driving Advocate. After having her life turned upside down by another driver's decision to use his cell phone while driving, Jacy Good created the program "Hang Up and Drive". The program was created to facilitate face-to-face discussion about the reality of the irreparable damage caused by distracted driving. It is designed for groups of people of all ages, and shows us all, that as individuals, we wield the power to eliminate distracted driving and ultimately save lives. |
| August 10 | Rev. Meredith Garmon
Topic to be announced |
| August 17 | Dr. Anne Gooding
Adversity is My Forte: With Apologies to Shakespeare, Managing the "Slings and Arrows" of Outrageous MIS-fortunes. |
| August 24 | Rev. Meredith Garmon
Topic to be announced |
| August 31 | Alan Trevithick
The Rights of Labor in the UU Tradition. Examination of the attitudes and actions of UU figures concerning the labor movement. |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Greetings Fellow Congregants and Friends of CUC,

I am thrilled to be taking over as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the coming year. My immense gratitude goes out to my predecessor, Ginny Strand, for her stalwart leadership over this past year, as our congregation welcomed in a new minister, created a new Mission Statement, renovated a kitchen, kicked off a successful Giving Campaign, and bounced back from 3 simultaneous weather-related building calamities. So many in the congregation pitched in to make the year a success, it is gratifying to have such an active, conscientious, and thriving community. Thanks also to outgoing Board members Russ Gold and Bob Smith. Carole Mehta, Tom Wacht, Julie Gans, and Scott Damashek are stepping in as new Board members.

In the month of June many of you enjoyed a wonderful barbecue with delicious food and sparkling conversation. On that day two of our youth participated in the bridging ceremony, in which they were welcomed into the adult community, and sent forward into their next phase of life. Also in June will have been the UU General Assembly, taking place at the end of the month in Providence Rhode Island. We should have an excellent turnout this year – 13 at last count – including Meredith, our two new Community Ministers, and two of our youth. Five of us will be official delegates who will get to vote on national UU policy.

As the Church year winds down in its usual activities and summer calls us like a Pied Piper --“Come, frolic, have fun, vacation, enjoy the weather, catch up with friends, the kids are out of school!” -- life at CUC continues. There will be lay-led services throughout the summer, and many of us will be meeting, planning for the fall and beyond. Journey Group facilitators have been trained, and are preparing to start up their small group meetings in September. See page 7 for more information on Journey Groups. Our congregation will also be moving forward with discussions about how to focus our Social Action / Social Justice efforts for the upcoming year. Look for announcements about this topic toward the end of the summer. And our new Director of Religious Education, Perry Montrose, will be starting officially July 1, 2014, gearing up for a renewed RE Program. Many thanks to Lily Rappaport for all her efforts as Acting DRE over the past two years.

Enjoy your summer! Feel free as to contact me by email (rmarshra@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in Community,
Randy Marshall, Chair, CUC Board of Trustees

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Goodbye, my friends, and thank you!



It has been an honor and a privilege, to serve as your Acting Director of Religious Education these past two years. It has been a rewarding experience to help you in the process of calling Meredith as your settled minister and to join in the efforts of welcoming Perry as the Director of Lifespan Religious Education and Faith Development.

And now, there are two things I would like to say. One is goodbye and one is thank you.

First, Goodbye.

The hardest challenge of going through an interim period is saying “goodbye” so soon after saying “hello.” This is the last time I will see many of you for a while. And because I’ve come to value our relationship, I cannot leave without saying goodbye.

It has been a privilege to walk with you during this time of transition. It has been a joy to witness the incredible amount you have accomplished these past two years. It has been delightful to reflect upon the difference you have made in my life, in each other’s lives, and in the community. You have taught me well and have made me a better person.

Because of this special connection, you will always remain deeply embedded in my heart and will remain in my fond memory.

Secondly, Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your children. Thank you for all the wisdom I was able to share and was able to gain. Thank you for letting me share my gifts with you. You are a wonderful congregation and I’ve been proud to have served here. You have let me challenge you to change, to grow, to reconnect to whatever it is that brought you here and keeps you here. You have let me be part of the community and that is the most precious gift you could have given me.

I wish I had more time to thank each of you for the incredible gifts you have given me. There are no words to explain how grateful I am for your help in discovering how we were able to work together in making religious education a fun and meaning experience for our children. I am overwhelmed with gratitude.



In closing, I share the words of poet Wendell Berry:

*What we owe the future
is not a new start, for we can only begin
with what has happened. We owe the future
the past, the long knowledge
that is the potency of time to come.*

Blessings to you on your journeys,
Lily Rappaport,
Acting Director of Religious Education

CUC Choir – Next Season’s News

By Lisa Meyer, CUC Choir Director

This past year was exceptionally great for the CUC Choir and as I reflect on all that took place, I am also excited about the coming year.

As you may have noticed, the Choir membership grew this year. Along with the need for the Choir to stand in two rows to sing during services, I enjoyed the fuller sound and the joy that everyone felt from that benefit.

The **Choir Festival** that took place in March at CUC was undoubtedly the highlight of the year for us with four UU church choirs coming together for fellowship and performance for the first time. It was memorable for all involved, and further collaborations between the congregations will take place in the future as a result of the great success and enjoyment that all experienced. The Choir also enjoyed singing for and with the children in the **RE program in December**, performing a piece about international Christmas carols that was both educational and fun for all. Our Choral Intern, **Alex Arellano**, was a great addition to the choir and along with many thanks for his assistance, I am proud of the work that he did and how much he learned and grew as a conductor this year. We wish him well as he now goes on to graduate school to obtain his M.A. degree in Music History. I want to thank the Choir members, and pianist Georgianna Pappas, for their time and devotion that helped to make the year so wonderful and successful.

Next year promises to be exciting and I hope that you will wish to be a part of it. The plans include a semi-staged production of the opera “**Amahl and the Night Visitors**” by Gian Carlo Menotti. This 50 minute opera, that was composed for children to view and which aired on television in the 1950s, includes:

Choir (and we need a large group of people, all ages, including some children)

6 principle characters (Amahl, the Mother, the 3 kings, and the Page)

3 dancers

Hopefully some instruments along with piano

This is a Christmas miracle story, and the performance will be on Sun., Dec. 21, 2014 at 1pm in the Sanctuary. There will be two dress rehearsals on Fri., Dec. 19 and Sat., Dec. 20. All other rehearsing will be done following church services twice per month, and choir parts rehearsed on Tues., night rehearsals. This is an ambitious work, but the Choir and I feel that we, and many other talented individuals in the congregation, are up to the challenge. It will be a great deal of fun for all ages. If you are interested in viewing the opera, the original television performance can be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzx-s46vjpY>. It is short and very sweet, yet powerful.

Auditions will be held in September for the principle characters. Prepare a theater song of your choice that shows off your voice, or a classical piece if you wish. For those looking to audition, please email me at choir@cucwp.org and I will mail you a score of the opera so that you can look at the part that you wish to portray. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have.

As always, we are looking for more people to join the CUC Choir. You can never have too many. While we are on hiatus for the summer, we begin rehearsals again on Tuesday, August 26 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Come and check us out any time – all are welcome to observe or just dive in and sing with us. Enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you again all in the fall.

Music Festival

Music Director **Adam Kent** can be heard at the Summit Music Festival at Manhattanville College in Purchase in several events this summer. On Wednesday, July 30 at 8PM, Adam teams up with cellist Emanuel Gruber in Cesar Franck's Sonata in A Major. On Friday, August 1 at 6PM, Adam offers a lecture/recital entitled "Claude Debussy and the Senses", and on Tuesday, August 5 at 8PM, he can be heard in Johannes Brahms's Piano Quartet in A Major. Tickets are \$25 (\$20 seniors). For directions and additional information, please visit www.summitmusicfestival.org.

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout July contact Bobbi Collins or Claire Kuczinski. In August contact Ingrid Hartmann or the main office.

Bobbi: 761-5280, bbicllns@yahoo.com.
Claire: 949-6619, tadex@optonline.net
Ingrid: 946-2026, ih63053@gmail.com

URGENT APPEAL FOR YOUR BEST CUC PHOTOS

CUC is updating it's website and we are looking for photos that represent our mission and the best of who we are. You don't have to be a "social media" expert.

Just send your VERY BEST photos,- as an attachment to - Emily.economou@gmail.com. Best photos will scroll across the home page website and make appearances on Facebook!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION(UUA) ~ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Denominational Affairs – This summer don't forget to visit a UU church while on vacation or college tours. It is a great experience to visit another church while away and you never know who you might run into. It's also an opportunity to bring home new ideas and ways of welcoming visitors. Visiting another UU church exposes children to the UU world outside our congregation

General Assembly (GA) 2014 was held in Providence RI June 25-29. If you were not able to attend GA through live streaming video you can still watch videos on online events and workshops on line at any time on the UUA website. <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2014/index.shtml>. It will still be there for you to view. You can also purchase CDs or DVD of events and workshops at GA.



In May Rev. Lara Campbell was called to First Parish Unitarian Church of Kennebunk, ME. She begins on August 15th.
Find the church at: <http://www.uukennebunk.org>.



Sign-ups have begun for Journey Groups!

The Journey Groups for 2014-15 will each meet 10 times -- once a month for 10 months, Sep through Jun. Each meeting is scheduled for 90 minutes.

The Themes or 2014-15 are:

Sep: Faith
Oct: Death
Nov: Forgiveness
Dec: Hope
Jan: Justice
Feb: Love
Mar: Brokenness
Apr: Transformation/Resurrection
May: Transcendence
Jun: Presence/Mindfulness

Questions?

Q. What will happen at the Journey Group meetings?

A. For the details on how the groups works, see:
<http://cucmatters.blogspot.com/2014/03/journey-groups.html>

Q. Should Spouses/Partners be in the same group or in different groups?

A. We're letting each couple decide for themselves. You're welcome to sign up for the same group, but you may also want to sign up for different groups (so you can "compare notes").

Q. Can youth participate in the Journey Groups?

A. Absolutely! The Youth Group is invited to use the Monthly Packet and, once a month, conduct their Sunday Youth Group meeting as a Journey Group. In addition, those youth that would like to sign up for one of the Journey Groups listed above may do so.

Q. Who do I speak to with more questions?

A. Rev. Meredith

How do you join a group?

Step 1

Pick the day/time and place that's convenient for you. Locations are indicated by city and ZIP code. Please pick a FIRST CHOICE and a SECOND CHOICE.

(A). 2nd Sundays (Sep 14, Oct 12, etc.), after service,* at CUC, room 24.

(B). 3rd Mondays (Sep 15, Oct 20, etc.), 11:00am, Harrison 10528.

(C). 3rd Mondays (Sep 15, Oct 20, etc.), 7:30pm, Harrison 10528.

(D). 3rd Tuesdays (Sep 16, Oct 21, etc.), 10:30am, Scarsdale 10583

(E). 3rd Tuesdays (Sep 16, Oct 21, etc.), 7:30pm, Rye 10580.

(F). 3rd Thursdays (Sep 18, Oct 16, etc.), 7:30pm, Irvington 10533

(G). 3rd Thursdays (Sep 18, Oct 16, etc.), 7:30pm, New Rochelle 10804

(H). 3rd Sundays (Sep 21, Oct 19, etc.), after service,* at CUC, room 24.

(I). 3rd Sundays (Sep 21, Oct 19, etc.), 5:00pm, White Plains 10605.

(J). 4th Mondays (Sep 22, Oct 27, etc.), 7:30pm, New Rochelle 10804.

(K). 4th Thursdays (Sep 25, Oct 23, etc.), 7:30pm, White Plains 10606.

(L). 4th Saturdays (Sep 27, Oct 25, etc.), 3:00pm, Hartsdale/White Plains.

(M). 4th Sundays (Sep 28, Oct 26, etc.), after service,* at CUC, room 24.

*In the event of a brunch or other congregation-wide activity immediately after the service, the Journey Group will meet after the brunch (or other activity).

Step 2

Email or phone the CUC Administrator, Liliana Keith (admin@cucwp.org, 914-946-1660), with:

Your FIRST CHOICE group

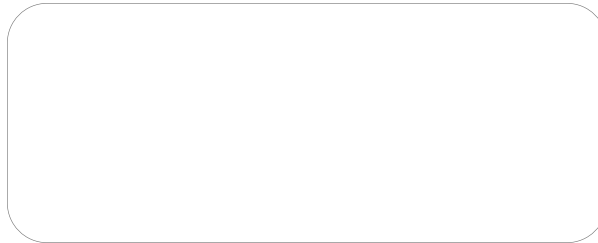
Your SECOND CHOICE group

Your e-ddress (email address) -- or, if you don't have email -- preferred mailing address.

Step 3

Await notification. We need to hear from as many people in order to determine which groups have filled up, who gets their first choice and who gets their second choice. We expect to let people know by Aug 15 what Journey Group they're in, and any further specific information about the group.

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Community Unitarian Church
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Founded 1909

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Communitarian Deadline for the next edition:

Sunday, August 24

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