

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

APRIL 2011



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

The Rev. Carol A. Huston
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

Susan Donham
Ministerial Intern

For more information
about CUC:

www.cucwp.org
Email: info@cucwp.org
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline for
May Edition:
Sunday, April, 17th

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

Minister's Moment...

For all who see God, may God go with you.
For all who embrace life, may life return your affection.
For all who seek a right path, may a way be found. . .
And the courage to take it, step by step.

Every time I use this benediction, two or three people ask for a copy of it, and so here it is for all of you. Actually it is in the hymnal, number 700. I sometimes say it a little differently, but I am blessed with the memory of hearing it a number of times from the voice of the one who crafted it, the Rev. Robert Doss, now retired from the ministry of our large congregation in Wilmington, Delaware.

These lines are the reason that I became a Unitarian Universalist. There they are, inviting the theist, the pantheist, and the ethical humanist, to find what they need here and to be together. Or some other batch of labels (Buddhists talk about the Way) – the labels don't really matter. In this faith, each of us can find, if we look, that which we most need.

Celebrations from different traditions come together this year, and almost as late as they can possibly be. I'm sorry that there was not the energy for a Passover Seder this year. It is really one of my favorite holiday observances, -- such a satisfying balance of teaching a tradition and celebrating it. This is the first year in 20 that I won't be sitting at a Seder, led by cultural Jews, and enjoyed by UUs. I hope and trust that this tradition will return to CUC in future years.

Susan and I will lead a Maundy Thursday service, something that is familiar to me from my liberal Christian background. We will gather in the fireside area at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, to listen to the stories of betrayal that mark the pre-Easter season. We will also share a non-traditional communion, both as an act of remembrance for the courage of Jesus, and a sign of community with other souls. Communion and community do come from the same linguistic root.

Our Easter service is also not traditionally Christian. It will give us a chance to celebrate the expected miracle of spring (I hope that it is here by then!), but we will also recognize, as we have in other years, the unexpected miracles, the ones that come when you have no hope of a miracle. This is really the essence of the Easter season.

April 28-30, I will be in New York City, helping with the UU United Nations Office's Spring Seminar. The theme this year is Empowering Women Around the World, a theme close to my heart, and close to the hearts of many of you. Adults and youth are invited for the three day conference. Go to the website www.uu-uno.org for information and to register. And talk to me if you would like scholarship funding to attend.

Happy spring to all of you. It will be here soon.

– Rev. Carol

Books

Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor

Forgotten Girls: Stories of Hope and Courage by Kay Strom and Michelle Rickett.

Vignettes about women's struggles around the world.

Children's Books

Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan by Mary Williams (Gr. 3-6)

Eliza and the Dragonfly by Susie Caldwell Rinehart (K-3)

Here You Are by Mayke Beckmann Briggs (K-3)

Films

Big (1988) (PG) A boy wakes up and finds himself in an adult body.

The Wizard of Oz (1939) (G) Characters are transformed by the resources within them.

Schindler's List (1993) (R) A greedy factory owner finds himself transformed into a humanitarian.

Gandhi (1982) (PG) Nonviolence transforms a society.

The Bucket List (2007) (PG – 13) Personal transformation in the face of Death

APRIL Resource List TRANSFORMATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hearth and Hearts...

Snow on the first day of spring – bah humbug! But it won't dampen the spring energy unleashed by a couple of warm days. We had a gorgeous day for our Annual Pledge Brunch and Fellowship Hall was bursting at the seams. A huge thank you goes out to Top Chef Scott Damashek and his crew. It was a wonderful affair. But the pledge season isn't over until ALL have pledged! So please, if you were not at church for the brunch, do make the effort to send in your pledge form. It is a lot of work for your friends and fellow congregants who volunteered to help with canvass to track down all the forgotten pledge forms. So please do your part, and send in your form.

If you missed brunch, then you probably also missed our surprise thank you to Ted Kuczinski – our unsung hero of buildings and grounds. We took the time to honor and thank Ted for the many hours he had given cheerfully over the years to nurture both our physical and fibrous plants. Recently this has included the renovation of the front lobby and rest rooms, dealing with the ice and snow of the parking lots, clearing plugged downspouts, installing energy-efficient light bulbs, and tending the magnificent coffee-hour fires. But this is all secondary to the inclusive and motivational mind-set that Ted leads with when recruiting members and workers. His enthusiasm is contagious and it reaches out to offer friendship and fellowship

as all the hard physical work gets accomplished. Ted was presented with a plaque that reads "In honor of Ted Kuczinski, recognizing his talent for starting fires - both in the hearth and in our hearts." Please thank and congratulate Ted when you see him!

So no more fires in the hearth, but the arrival of spring means it is time for the Tag sale – Saturday April 2nd. Donations will be accepted starting Sunday March 27th. Look for more details on other pages. Time to clean out your basements and closets! And time to spend some quality hours at church sorting and pricing! Lots to be done, but it is a fun, hectic time around CUC. Please sign up to bake for the bake sale and take a shift on Saturday. And don't forget the frenzied pricing party Friday evening, complete with pizza!

April will also bring some conversations about remodeling the kitchen. Long over due you might say. So please come and share ideas on Sunday April 10th, 9:15 am. Yes, I realize before service is tough for some, but the calendar is getting extremely crowded. This will be an important discussion on what kind of kitchen will best meet our needs going into the future. Please join us.

- Anne Majsak
Chair, Board of Trustees

Thanking Rev. Carol for Her Services

As many of you know, Rev Carol will be leaving the Community Unitarian Church at the end of July this year. The Board of Trustees and Committee on Ministry are planning out events to celebrate and thank Rev Carol for her services as minister of our congregation. If you are interested in assisting with the coordination of celebrating Rev Carol's services, please contact Creighton Cray at cecray@aol.com or at 914-830-0987.

Thanks for your help.

- Creighton Cray, Committee on Ministry

MINISTERIAL INTERN

Spiritual Injury and Healing

As I write, the United States has been bombing Libya for two days. I think of how long the wars have been going on in Iraq and Afghanistan, how many people have suffered and died. I wonder about all the damage we will do to the people of Libya and what damage would have happened to them if we did not try to create a no-fly zone. I also wonder what damage we do to ourselves when we participate in violence, what damage we do to ourselves if we sit by and do nothing, and if there are ways we could help without turning to violence.

My grief and confusion leads me to think about the concept of spiritual injury. My father, Dr. Oscar C. Stine, in his retirement has been working with Veterans Administration chaplains in West Virginia on spiritual injury in veterans, particularly veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and drug or alcohol addiction. As a working definition, he defines spirituality as the relationship one has with oneself, with other people, with nature, and with a Higher Power. I would change the last to "with what one considers holy" to open up the possibilities of what is holy. A spiritual injury occurs when any of these relationships is damaged.

War provides many possibilities of spiritual injury. Within this framework, a soldier's understanding of himself as a good person may be torn if he is ordered to do something that in civilian life he was taught was wrong. A soldier's relationship to the holy may be damaged when a fellow soldier is

killed by an IED if she believed God is all powerful. How does our own understanding of our relationship to ourselves change as the wars drag on and we do not know how to stop them?

Spiritual injury does not only happen in war. Some of those who come to Unitarian Universalism from other traditions come because of growth or change, but others tell stories of spiritual injury and the need to find new ways to create meaning and purpose, to ways to form spiritual relationships. Nor is our own movement free from broken relationships in need of healing. Day to day life can hand us situations that injure ourselves between outside expectations and our conscience.

Healing spiritual injury includes both identifying the injury and rebuilding the relationship. As with Rev. Carol's story of the broken cup, rebuilding does not necessarily mean rebuilding the relationship exactly as it was before it was damaged. It can also mean building the relationship in a new form or even rebuilding the capacity for relationship. This idea bridges the themes of March and April: spiritual injury is a form of brokenness and its healing is a form of transformation.

- Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

➤ METRO NY ANNUAL MEETING

Don't forget to register for the **UU District of Metro NY 2011 Annual Meeting, May 6-7 at the Hyatt in Morristown, NJ**. Attend Friday and /or Saturday. This meeting is open to everyone. There are opportunities for worship, music, workshops and this year Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be the keynote speaker in addition to the annual business meeting. For more info go to the UU District of Metro NY website. <http://www.uumetrony.org/am11/>. If you have questions email me at ptmom@prodigy.net

➤ GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011

GA 2011 will take place on June 22-26 in Charlotte NC. Registration and housing requests are now open. General Assembly 2011 will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. The opening ceremony on June 22 will feature a celebration of that anniversary. Anniversary events later in General Assembly will include a lecture on the past and future of Unitarian Universalism, a panel discussion on UU social justice history, and a "New Epiphany Revival Show," led by UU song leader, composer, writer, and performer Nick Page. Members of the UU Musicians Network will also lead a "big sing" Saturday night before the Ware Lecture given by Karen Armstrong. To learn more <http://www.uua.org/ga/>. If you are interested in going to GA, speak with Rev. Carol.

➤ WEBINARS

offered by staff of the Central East Regional Group (CERG) are open to all UUs in the Metro NY District. Look for upcoming topics at <http://cerguua.org/calendars/cergwebinars.html>.

- Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Easter Is...

Every year at this time parents ask me “how do I explain Easter to my kids?” For many years I have advised making the connection to Spring. What I would call the nature focused approach. Talking about how there is rebirth coming from the ground or how it is a time of growth and renewal of the earth.

This year, I find myself searching for something more. Something that addresses what so many Christians find to be the most significant part of Easter, the resurrection.

Malcolm Tatum says “Easter for many Unitarian Universalists is an opportunity to reflect on the teachings of Jesus, and to remind oneself that even as all must come to an end, the potential for the good to live on and bring hope and peace to those who follow is ever present with us. To that end, all of us may experience an end (death) to that which holds us back, and embrace a future (resurrection) that will bring hope and happiness to ourselves and those around us.”

So how do we translate this for kids? We can talk about hope. That at Christmas we focus on the hope that a new baby brings into the world. And at Easter we talk about the hope that the life and teachings of Jesus, the man who was once a baby, will live on forever. I encourage you to open up that conversation with your kids, to see what they think, and to further explore what you believe.

Lara Campbell, DRE

RE Council—

It is with great relief that I pen this entry on the 1st official day of Spring. What a winter it's been! RE kids and youth have queued up many bright, colorful and flavorful events to welcome Spring with open arms and hearts.

- Get the month off to a great start by signing up in the Main Lobby to help with the Annual Tag Sale on April 2nd.
- Come support future Top Chef participants on April 10th by eating a light breakfast that morning. After the service that day, the CUC Youth will host a scrumptious Sunday Brunch. Plenty of vittles can be had that morning after the service for the following reasonable prices: \$3.00 for children, \$5.00 for adults and \$15.00 per family.
- On April 24th, we'll have a repeat performance of the annual Easter “Parade” for a Special Sunday event. Children and adults, alike, are welcome to adorn themselves in colorful garb and headwear to celebrate this holiday. Please note that instead of RE classes on the 24th, kids will make hats for this festive event.
- Lastly, thanks to all of you for purchasing artwork and crafts made by K-5th graders in March. We'll have the final tally of revenue for the two sales events, which will go towards this year's Social Action cause.

- Kate Colson, RE Council Chair



On behalf of the **AFYA Foundation** our 6th and 7th graders will be collecting and sending **medical and humanitarian supplies** to help residents and refugees in Japan, Haiti and African Nations. Please look for the collection boxes In the lobby areas.

Haiti, African Nations, Japan

Deadline: SUNDAY, MARCH 27th
for a field trip Sunday, April 3rd.

Personal Care Items: Bars of Soap, Bug Spray, Diapers (Baby & Adult), Hand Sanitizer, Sanitary Pads, Shampoo
Medical Care Items: Bandages, Band-Aids, Cotton, Gauze, NonSterile Gloves, Topical Antibiotic
Needed Supplies (New/Gently Used): Coloring Books, Pens, Pencils, Shoes (closed toe), Sneakers, Socks
Needed Recreational Supplies (New/Gently Used): Hacky Sacks, Jump Ropes, Shin Guards, Soccer Balls, Tennis Balls

To make a donation or learn more:
www.afyafoundation.org

EVENTS AT CUC...

TAG SALE

Donations

Items can be delivered to CUC
**Beginning Sunday After-
noon March 27th**

All day & evening

**Monday, March 28th—
Friday, April 1st**

The more items you donate, the more income CUC receives and the more spring cleaning you get done. Bring us your...books, clothing,, toys, games, collectibles, jewelry, purses, house wares, art work, sports equipment, etc.

New in 2011

Have a large item? Heavy furniture? If you provide a photo (digital or hard copy) of the item for sale, we will promote the item for you at the tag sale. Shoppers who are interested could leave their name and be connected with you (the seller) for a possible sale. Proceeds would go back to CUC.

Please do not donate...

We cannot accept any items over 50 pounds; TVs, computers, air conditioners or other hazmat items; encyclopedias, magazines, exercise equipment or typewriters.

Volunteer Times

**Monday March 28th
to Thursday March 31
evenings 6:30-9:00 pm**

**Friday Evening, April 1st
6:00-9:00 pm**

The final push!

Join many others to sort items and determine pricing. *Pizza, beverages, and lots of camaraderie provided.*

Saturday Various Shifts

Volunteers are needed for publicity, sorting, selling, cashiers and bake sale. Sign-up sheets are posted at CUC. For questions or information call Paula Meighan at 914-834-6454 or email paula@changingplaces.info.



THE EVENT Tag Sale Saturday, April 2

9:00 am — 3:00 pm

The more friends you tell, the more things you buy, the more income CUC receives. It's a win-win event!



Kitchen upgrades? Finally?

Long overdue, most of us would say. Join the Kitchen Renovations Committee for a Q&A on **Sunday, April 10 at 9:15 AM**. Tell us what your priorities are.

The Kitchen Crew: Scott Damascheck, Ted Kuczinski, Nicky Klemens, Lori Saccardi, John Schwam. For more information contact Carol Selinske at flaherty555@optonline.net or 939-7805.



EVENTS AT CUC...

April 10th, Sunday

PANCAKE BRUNCH



\$3 children, \$5 adult, \$15 per family
Sponsored by the Youth Group



Easter Special Sunday

Children—Join us for a fun filled hour to create decorations for an Easter parade.
4/24/11

Help us “Fill The Baskets”

Donate canned goods for the
Easter Sunday Service
4/24/11



ADULT RE

Taoism and Hebrew Wisdom Literature

Comparing & contrasting
theology and metaphor

Taught by Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern
Sundays 8:30am

4 classes, can come as drop-in
March 27, April 10, April 17, May 15

Immigration Discussion

Wish you'd read *The Death of Josseline* or had time to catch *The Visitor*? Come continue our conversation around immigration with Melody Cooper, a member of the Hastings UU congregation, and a screenwriter. She has spent time on the U.S./Mexico border researching immigration detention centers and is continuing her research here on the east coast with the hopes of making a documentary.

Led by Youth Advisor Annie Gonzalez
Sunday April 17th 11:45 am

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout April, contact Ingrid Hartman at 946-2026.

PLAYREADING GROUP

All Readings are at CUC at 7:30 PM on the first Monday of the month.

April 4th, “The Rose Tattoo” by Tennessee Williams, led by Ken Kessler.

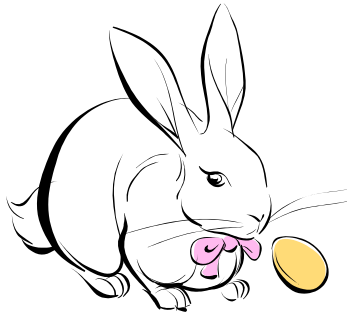
May 2nd, “A Member of the Wedding” by Carson McCullers, led by Charles Selinske.

For more information contact Ken Kessler at newrocken@aol.com or call the church office.

APRIL 2011

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 27 8:30am Taoism/Hebrew Wisdom 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee 11:45 Ministerial Intern Committee Tag Sale Donations Accepted, afternoon | 28 6:30-8:00p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30p-9:00p Adult Coming of Age Class Tag Sale Donations Accepted | 29 7:30p Choir Rehearsal Tag Sale Donations Accepted | 30 Tag Sale Donations Accepted | 31 Tag Sale Donations Accepted | 1 6pm-midnight 8th/9th Grade OWL Retreat Tag Sale Donations Accepted | 2 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 9 am-3 pm TAG SALE  |
| 3 8:30am Adult Coming of Age Class 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee | 4 6:30-8:00p Tai Chi 7:30-9p Spanish 7:30p-9p Play Reading | 5 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 6 7:30p-9:00p Program Council | 7 | 8 6:00-10:00p 6th Grade OWL Retreat | 9 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson |
| 10 8:30a-9:45a Taoism/Hebrew Wisdom 9:30am Kitchen Comm. 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:30 Pancake Brunch by Youth Group 12:30 Adult Coming of Age Class | 11 6:30-8:00p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30p-9:00p Adult Coming of Age Class | 12 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 13 7:30-9 pm Board of Trustees meeting | 14 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality | 15 | 16 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10:00am-noon One Year To Live Class |
| 17 COMMUNITARIAN DEADLINE 8:30 Taoism/Hebrew Wisdom 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:30 New to CUC gathering | 18 6:30-8:00 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 8p-9:30p Finance Committee | 19 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 20 7:30p-9:00p Worship Associates Meeting | 21 10:00a Folding Party 7pm-8pm Maundy Thursday Service | 22 | 23 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson |
| 24 EASTER  10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee | 25 6:30-8:00 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish | 26 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal | 27 7:30p RE Council | 28 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality | 29 6:00-10:00p 6th Grade OWL Retreat | 30 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson |

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.

APRIL SERVICES 2011

Services are led by the Rev. Carol Huston on Sundays at 10:15 AM unless noted otherwise.

APRIL 3

“Whose Am I?”

Rev. Carol Huston

APRIL 10

“Whose Are You”

A time for discussion with others.
The children will join us for the last part of the service.

APRIL 17

“Cheering Crowds and Shouting Mobs: Positive and Negative Spirals”

Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

APRIL 21

**Maundy Thursday Service in the Fireside Area
7:00 pm**

APRIL 24

A Service for Easter

The Choir will sing
The children will join us in an “Easter Parade” in the last part of the service.

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.