

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

February 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
March Edition:
Sunday, February 20th

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

Minister's Moment...

I am writing this from Berkeley, California. The temperature was 53 when Susan and I arrived last night, having left all of you with a fresh prospect of snow this week. No, we didn't come here just to escape winter-weariness. We are here for a meeting of interns and supervisors at Susan's seminary, Starr King School for the Ministry. There will also be an educational retreat for UU ministers out here in early February. Susan will be back between the two events. I will stay on the west coast, visiting friends and relatives, and then return with Susan on February 11.

I am sorry to miss a couple of Sundays, particularly the service about jury duty, something I've wanted to plan for years. I was called for jury duty three times when we lived in Missouri and served on two juries for civil cases. They were both stories of mistakes and disappointments. In one, a working class family sued a used car dealer for fraudulently getting them into a lease and then repossessing the car. In the other, a plastic surgeon sued an insurance company for libel because their letter denying benefits seemed to say that the doctor had not done what he said he would do. No Perry Mason cases, these, with the "truth" out there waiting to be discovered. The truth was murky, angry and sad, with no clear answer that the jurors were happy to deliver. I learned that juries often must make messy judgments. I hope that Worship Associates Randy Marshall and Jennifer Lewis will lead you through other stories on January 30th.

I am also sorry to miss our annual Youth Sunday, but I did check in with the Youth Group before I left. They are making fascinating plans for February 6. Please plan to be there that day for a service that never fails to challenge and inform. After that Sunday I will be back, ready to think about the larger issues of love and particularly about the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love campaign, which enfolds local initiatives around with racial justice, gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender rights, and immigration. You might want to Google "Standing on the Side of Love" prior to the February 13 service.

I will be back in mid-February, rested, I think, and ready to work on matters of transition – mine and the congregation's. Technically I am on sabbatical in the time between the meeting and the retreat. Please call Rev. Deb Morra if you have pastoral needs, but in line with the usual sabbatical agreement, I will be called if there is serious illness or death in our community.

I'll see you soon. I'm hoping – I'm sure we are all hoping—that winter will be letting go of us by then.

– *Rev. Carol*

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.

Biblical Source

1 Corinthians 13

Books

The Way to Love by Anthony De Mello

Into the Garden edited by poets Robert Haas and Stephen Mitchell

The Wisdom of Love: Toward a Shared Inner Search by Jacob Needleman

All About Love by Bell Hooks

The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi by William C. Chittuck

February

Resource List

Love

Children & Youth Books

Love among the Walnuts by Jean Ferris, Grades 7 and up

I Love by Bridgette Minne. K – 4th grade

All the Places to Love by Patricia Maclachlin K – 3rd grade

Movies

A Simple Twist of Fate (1994) PG-13 Michael McCann's (Steve Martin) life was emotionally closed off from the world, until an orphaned baby showed up at his house.

What Dreams May Come (1998) PG-13

Robin Williams and Anabella Sciora expand the famous poetry from Hamlet into an artistic adventure beyond imagination. Annie (Sciora) is a painter who finds herself alone in life. Through her painting, she reaches beyond this world into the next.

Up (2009) G A young Carl Fredrickson meets a young adventure spirited girl named Ellie. They both dream of going to a Lost Land in South America. 70 years later, he remembers the promise he made to her.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT . . .

The Surveys are in...Come hear the results

New

February 17th

Please join members of the congregation on Thursday Feb 17th at 7:30PM, as we continue the conversation about potential community projects. We will be reviewing the results of the recent survey, (Thanks to everyone that completed it on-line or at coffee hour!!!), incorporating the results with possible project particulars as well as new ideas. Our plan is to refine several ideas and to present to the congregation more than 1 project from which we will either choose 1 or more.

Ultimately it's up to all of us to decide how, when, and where to be of service to our community. Its exciting to see the various ways we can help !!

Everyone is welcome to be part of this planning process. All those with Action for Social Concerns committee (ASC) interest or experience are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Nicky Klemens at 967-4419 or nsklemens@optonline.net.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This month I will touch upon several topics the Board has been discussing as of late. We spend quite a lot of time working on the nuts and bolts of running the church. But it is the discussions about who we are, where we are going and how to nurture our faith community that gets the most passionate debates.

Communication...

The Board is wondering if our lines of communication are open and flowing. Are people reading this Communitarian newsletter? It remains our main method of dispersing information to the congregation. We will be making more hard copies available at Church and you may always contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you. The electronic version is great – it gets to everyone quickly, is extremely cost effective, and back issues are always available on the web site. But, it is no longer laying around the kitchen for a quick read and I bet a lot fewer refrigerators have the monthly calendar posted. How many people give it as thorough a read on-line as when it arrived by mail?

A Hallway to...

Another topic frequently discussed is how to unify the two ends of the church. It is a persistent issue and the Board continually tries to uncover ways to better understand and act on the concern. We all point to the physical attribute of the long hallway yet our Youth Representative on the Board spoke of loving the long hall – enjoying the brief separation from her parents followed by the excitement of starting down it after Sunday school. Likewise, I enjoyed the brief separation from my children. Is there some other divide? I have never felt one in all my years in or post RE. Our whole-church functions (brunches, holiday parties) are widely attended by all ages and generally given top marks. We even have a small group planning more! Hopefully each month will offer at least one opportunity for all to come together. The more we talk with each other and get to know each other, the stronger the church will be.

Co-op...

One idea that has been floated is that of viewing the church as a spiritual “co-op”. Everyone needs to participate and is responsible for the health of our church. Coming to Sunday morning services is most definitely participating, but could we expect more of ourselves? Should there be something more substantial? A co-op needs a variety of resources: spiritual, financial and human. Everyone bears the responsibility for the fun, the community building, the new friend and yes, responsibility for the committees, the meetings, and the work. Many hands make light work. Please join in the fun!

Retreat...

The Board is planning a retreat at the end of January – weather permitting! I am sure these topics will continue to be discussed as well as how to get started on reviewing our mission and vision statements. Who are we and what do we stand for? -- very basic questions that need to have current answers as we look forward and prepare for a new ministry. We will need to develop a timeline and goals for the upcoming year.

Interim Opportunity...

But in the meantime, as mentioned last month, we are in the planning process for our interim minister. Please take 15 minutes and watch the video on the UUA website titled “*The Interim Opportunity*.” http://www.uua.org/videos/legacy.php?movie=impl/interim_opportunity.mov or search for “The Interim Opportunity” in the box on the home page (top-right) of UUA.org.

- Anne Majsak
Chair, Board of Trustees

Parking Update

We have learned that through the current snow emergency, we cannot tell you to park on Rosedale -- you may get a ticket if you do. We hope that the snow piles will be smaller on future Sundays, but if not, you might want to get to CUC early to find a good parking space. And remember that we are always prohibited from parking on Sycamore Lane.

Snow Closing Guidelines

Sunday service is never cancelled but meetings, events, and Religious Ed. 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.

A personal update-

It is very uncommon for me to spend an entire newsletter article talking about myself but there are a couple of things that I would like to share.


First, a number of people have asked when Jay and I are getting married. I apologize for not letting everyone know that we had set a date. We are getting married on May 14, 2011 at the UU church in Westport, CT. Jay and I both feel very strongly about marriage equality issues, so we opted to hold our ceremony in a state that will legally marry all of our friends and family.

Second, I want to share something about my health. Just before Christmas my ENT found some lumps on my thyroid. After having an ultrasound of my neck and a few of the lumps biopsied, there is concern that one of the lumps is potentially cancerous. Even if any of the tissue is in fact cancerous, from what I have learned, thyroid cancer is one of the easiest to treat and has excellent success rates. The treatment, including surgery, causes minimal disruption to a patient's life, and does not involve chemotherapy.

I have scheduled surgery for February 16th and I anticipate needing about a week for recovery. I am letting you know about this health news not to alarm you, but to let you know what is happening and that I am in excellent hands.

I am confident that the RE Council will keep things moving smoothly during my short recovery from surgery. Jay and I are grateful to Rev. Carol, Susan, Liliana, the CUC staff, Board of Trustees, RE Council and congregants for the support we have been shown.

Lara Campbell, DRE



Youth Service
Sunday
February 6

RE Council—

On behalf of the RE Council, we're joining the rest of the congregation in supporting Lara in her upcoming surgical journey. The RE Council is at the ready to forge ahead with all scheduled RE activities and help ensure all our kids are safe and happy in Lara's brief absence. We will follow her consistent example of excellence.

Lately, in addition to what felt like historic levels of snow, January 2011 brought with it creative and culinary successes for CUC kids. Only one week into the New Year, several dozen K-5th graders (and parents) produced art for a March 6th silent auction to support this year's social action project. Look for upcoming notices about this event. Proud parents, grandparents and discriminating buyers and agents scouting for future Andy Warhol's and Edward Hoppers should mark your calendars now. Signed originals from budding and promising Matisse's will be available for the highest bidders.

CUC 6th -7th graders have been exceptionally busy, too, first with a field trip on January 16th to hear Colin Bevins, the "No Impact Man," speak at the Ethical Culture Society. The following weekend, the same gang hosted the annual Chili Sunday, netting over \$500 for at least one charity still to be confirmed.

In February, be sure to attend the Chinese New Year dinner, closely followed by the Sunday, 2/6 Youth Group Service. On February 20th, a Special Sunday is on tap for families not fleeing town for the long President's Day weekend.

- Kate Colson, RE Council Chair

MINISTERIAL INTERN

Love...

As we go into February, we will be exploring many aspects of love. For one of the roots of our movement, Universalism, love forms the theological core. Counter to Calvinism's ideas of predestination, where a select few would go to heaven and the rest of humanity would go to hell, Universalists believed that a loving God would not condemn anyone to hell for eternity and that salvation would be universal. (They did debate amongst themselves whether people went to hell temporarily in response to wrongs committed on earth – consider January's discussions of justice and mercy.) In the Articles of Faith developed at the Philadelphia Convention of Universalists in 1790, Universalists affirmed "We believe in One God, infinite in all his perfections; and that these perfections are all modifications of infinite, adorable, incomprehensible and unchangeable Love."

Critics of Universalism railed that without the threat of hell humans retained no reason to be good or just. Universalist minister Hosea Ballou countered that if heaven was the state of being in continual relationship with divine love, a person would seek to embody love in their interactions with other people, because

then they would actively experience salvation on earth. Clarence Skinner, in his 1915 work The Social Implications of Universalism, brought the focus even more to this world. A person did not receive salvation, but rather achieved it. A person needed to achieve it not only individually, but by working to make the world a better place for all people, because "he [sic] is enmeshed in a world of humanity from which he can by no means wholly disentangle himself." (Remember he was writing in 1915, some 60 years before the U.U. principles are written). For Skinner, this belief in the possibility of universal salvation in this world "provides a mighty, all compelling incentive for the organization of the social forces of a community for a radical attack on the social conditions which breed vice and crime."

What could we accomplish if we found for ourselves "a mighty, all compelling incentive" for a "radical attack" on all that can make this world a living hell? And what could we accomplish if we could call upon an empowering and driving love within us to lead to action?

- Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

In 2010 the Metro District became part of CERG. CERG stands for Central East Regional Group and is a cooperative regional group of four districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association who share resources and staff to better serve our congregations. I encourage you to go to the CERG website at <http://cerguua.org>. On the site there are some fantastic articles, blogs, podcasts and webinars. I have taken two of the webinars and it is easy to sign up and the technology is fairly simple. The free webinars are offered to all four districts so you have a chance to talk to and learn from a variety of congregations and discuss topics relevant to church life from the comfort of your home.

Save the Dates

Metro NY District Annual Meeting May 6-7

GA – Charlotte, NC June 22-26

- Denise Tomlinson,
Metro District Affairs

EVENTS AT CUC...

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY STRONG

During the past several months, we have noted again and again, that our name, COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH, truly represents who we are – a strong, beloved community that cares for and about one another. We are in a period of transition and keeping our community strong will be our *responsibility*, more than ever. One of the ways by which we can do that is to create more opportunities for us to be together.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Starting in February, we plan to offer monthly family friendly, intergenerational church-wide events. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. You are the “glue” that keeps us together!

February 4th, Friday night 7-9,

CHINESE NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATION
(\$25 Per Family, \$10 individuals)

March 4th, Friday night 7-9

FAMILY FRIENDLY
INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY TO BE ANNOUNCED

April 10th, Sunday

SUNDAY PANCAKE BRUNCH

May 6th, Friday night 7-9

ACTIVITY TO BE ANNOUNCED

Adam Kent in Concert

Westchester Chamber Symphony

Saturday, February 12 at 8PM

Pianist and CUC Music Director Adam Kent performs Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 19 in F Major, K. 459 with the Westchester Chamber Symphony conducted by Larry Hoffman at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. Also on the program emceed by WQXR’s Robert Sherman are Mozart’s Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, his Symphony No. 29, and Leopold Mozart’s Toy Symphony. For tickets and more information call (914) 654-4WCO (4926) or visit www.westchesterchambersymphony.org.

Damocles Trio at CUC

Saturday, February 27 at 3PM

The Damocles Trio (Adam Kent, piano; Airi Yoshioka, violin; Sibylle Johnner, cello) offers popular favorites by Fauré and Dvorák, along with Laura Kaminsky’s imposing “Vukovar Trio,” written in commemoration of the composer’s 1997 visit to war-ravaged Croatia.



Xīn Nián Kuài Lè

(Happy New Year)

2011 is the year of the rabbit.

Come celebrate with a Chinese Dinner at CUC!

Friday night, February 4, 2011

7:00 PM, all ages invited



New

\$25 per family, \$10 per individual.

Sign up with Jane Dixon (jrdixon@optonline.net) or in the lobby by January 30th.

Day In Place

**Saturday,
February 5**



**8:00 AM-
2:00 PM**

CUC Alert for All Outdoors Persons !!!

CUC is offering another opportunity to provide service to our Church Community while communing with mother nature !!! Join us in the spirit of camaraderie and help us further improve the beauty and viability of our extended sanctuary ... namely the grounds!

We will provide tools, guidance, food and drink appropriate for all ages!

Depending on weather conditions: we will address drainage, wood gathering, wood cutting, wood splitting, wood stacking, surveying the property, path maintenance and whatever else we discover,

Our goal will be to know each other better & have fun while providing a serious service to our church !!! Y'all come !!!

Let us know if you plan to come, or just show up. Contact David Schuler at 914-831-5605 or at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com

We hope to greet many at this occasion ... With thanks & appreciation ...

The Grounds Committee

PLAYREADING GROUP

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

February 7th, "Radio Golf" by August Wilson, led by Heidi Anderson.

March 7th, "The Devil's Disciple" by George Bernard Shaw, led by Ken Kessler.

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.



Odyssey Sunday February 13th

DATE CHANGE

At various times in the past we have invited members of the congregation to talk with us about their lives and views. Sometimes we have captured these sessions on tape or CD to form a library of memories.

The time has come to collect Odysseys again, beginning with an after-service program on Sunday, February 13. On this day we will show some parts of Sumi Koide's Odyssey, collected a few years ago. Sumi will be present to answer questions or expand on those memories.

Would you like to talk about your life journey some time this winter or spring? If so, please contact Rev. Carol, 946-1660 x3.

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout February call Carol Mehta at 914-234-6294.



A COMMON READ FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS:

THE DEATH OF JOSSELINE: IMMIGRATION STORIES FROM THE ARIZONA BORDER- LANDS

This year the UUA has suggested The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Border, by Margaret Ryan, as a congregational common read, the first to be done in a number of years.

With the support of Rev Carol, DRE Lara, Board of Trustees and the Program Council, CUC will be participating along with many other congregations in this project. Copies of the book are being sold and dates for intergenerational discussions will be announced soon.

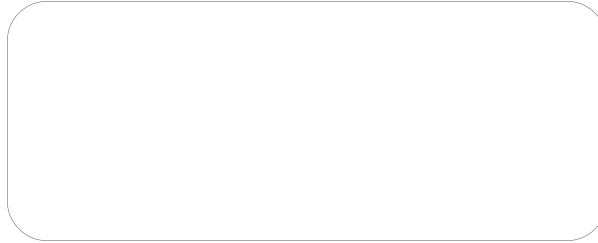
Individuals who are interested in offering book discussion leadership should contact Jane Dixon (jrdixon@optonline.net).



FEBRUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30 8:45-9:45am Choir 9:00a-10:00a K/1st Grade Parents Meeting 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee	31 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	1 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30p-9:00p Program Council	3	4 7:00p-9:00p Chinese New Year	5 8:00a-2:00p Day In Place
6 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee 11:45a-1p Spirit of Truth	7 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9p Spanish 7:30p-9p Play Reading	8 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30-9 pm Board of Trustees meeting	10 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	11 6:00-10:00p 6th Grade OWL Retreat	12 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10 am-12n, One Year To Live Class 8:00p Adam Kent @ Iona College
13 8:45-9:45am Choir 8:30a-9:45a Adult Coming of Age Class 9:00-10:00a 8th/9th Parents' Meeting 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:45a Welcome Comm. 11:45a CUC Odyssey	14 7-8:30p Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 	15 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30p-9:30 RE Council 7:30-9:00PM Worship Associates Committee	17 7:30p-9:00p Community Action Project Meeting	18	19 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
20 10:00a Special RE 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:45a Fun Facts with Adam Kent 11:30 Newcomers COMMUNITARIAN DEADLINE	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICES CLOSED 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 8p-9:30p Finance Committee	22 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	23	24 10:00a Folding Party 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	25	26 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson
27 8:45-9:45am Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 3:00p Damocles Trio Concert	28 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:00p-9:00p Adult Coming of Age Class	1 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30p-9:00p Program Council	3	4	5 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.

FEBRUARY SERVICES 2011

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

FEBRUARY 6

Youth Service

Service Led by the Youth Group
Reverse family service

FEBRUARY 13

“Speaking on the Side of Love”

Rev. Carol and Others
Speaking about the UUA's social justice initiative
Choir will sing

FEBRUARY 20

“Breaded Fish Fillets”

Susan Dunham, Ministerial Intern

FEBRUARY 27

“Loving & Knowing”

Petra Thombs & Rev. Carol
Choir will sing