

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim ...

Many members of UU congregations tend to say what they value most is the sense of community. But *what's the community for?*

Why are you here as a religious community? What difference are you here to make in the world, and for whom? How would the world be different if CUC was more effective in fulfilling its purpose?

These are questions that seek to identify mission, vision, purpose, direction. On **Saturday January 19** we'll host the Metro NY District for a Mission/Vision workshop. It will be led by the Reverend Robert Latham, author of the book *Moving On from Church Folly Lane*, which discusses these issues. You'll be hearing more about this as we approach the date.

I'd like to suggest some preliminary exploration to prepare for this work. This will entail seeking to identify and articulate your religious values, and the values that underlie the past and present activities of CUC.

I'll offer two workshops on values clarification, on **Saturday October 27** and **November 3**, from 10 to 2:00, with lunch and childcare available if needed. RSVP to Liliana at the church office by October 15. Minimum 10 participants.

I look forward to engaging with you in this holy work.

*Yours in faith,
Benjamin*

Community Unitarian
Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660
www.cucwp.org



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OCTOBER SERVICES 2012, 10:15 AM

October 7. The Reverend Benjamin Maucere. *Our Gandhi*. A celebration of his life and impact.

October 14. Jacqui C. Williams and Michael Tino, UUA facilitators. *Beyond Categorical Thinking*. As part of the search process, we are asked to think about expectations of the profile of a new minister.

October 21. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *To Save or Savor the World*. How do you choose?

October 28. Jim Scott. Jim Scott has brought his contemporary and multicultural music to more than 500 UU Churches over 27 years. As song-leader he lifts joyous participation from congregations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Retreating to Move Forward

This past weekend our Board of Trustees held a strategic planning retreat. The retreat was facilitated by a UUA professional and the Ministerial Search Committee (SC) joined us for the afternoon session. We spent the day considering where CUC is today, where we want to be in the future, and how we get from here to there. It was good to gather away from church with time to think and speak freely, and though the six hours passed quickly, it was affirming to be reminded of the love and commitment to our church.

Much of our discussion was framed by the ideas in a book that's been on the Board's reading list for several years, Moving on from Church Folly Lane by Rev. Robert Latham. Latham lays out four different size churches with distinct characteristics and cultures, and his main emphasis is on the transition from Pastoral to Program size churches. In Latham's model, Pastoral congregations have attendance of 51-150, while Program congregations are between 151-700. Like other denominations, UU congregations often struggle to make the Pastoral to Program transition and they get stuck in a plateau zone between them. CUC's attendance history suggests that we are and have been on the "stuck plateau" for years.

So what is the difference between Pastoral and Program? As Latham describes it, in a Pastoral congregation, "membership is accessed by relationship with the minister" and congregational life revolves around the minister at the center. In contrast, in a Program

congregation, "membership is accessed via its programs." The strength and vitality of the congregation is provided by the quantity and quality of its programs, and the minister is a partner and facilitator working with the laity and staff. The Pastoral to Program transition is challenging. To be most effective in fulfilling its purpose, each size category of church requires different types of ministers and relationships with that minister, a different type of church governance structure, and different models of programs and ministries.

At last week's retreat, there was a consensus that despite CUC's many strengths, there is a pressing need for change, as church life has become static and perhaps, some ventured, even stale. Over the next few months, the Board, other lay leaders and Rev. Benjamin will work to educate the congregation about the Pastoral to Program shift, as well as lay out our specific goals for the short and medium term. A successful transition will require shared work and commitment, open communication and feedback, oak-like fortitude and resilience, and acceptance of the discomfort and loss that accompanies real transformation. Our united goal is to position CUC and our community to welcome a new minister who will help us build innovative, vibrant and enduring programs that offer more and better ways to nurture our souls and positively impact the world.

~ In Community

David Schuler, Board Chair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Interim Year in Religious Education

Our Religious Education program has a unique opportunity this year as it participates in the congregation's interim process. This interim time provides a chance to examine changes within the program, consider its benefits, and to make sure that we are managing it in a healthy way. It is my commitment to inspire and support this congregation's religious education ministry and its existing healthy programming.

In his article *Unconventional Wisdom: Whither Interim Ministry*, Dan Hotchkiss, a Unitarian Universalist minister and senior consultant for the Alban Institute, talks about the opportunity inherent in interim work: "opportunity to rethink everything: program, leadership, strategy, and purpose."

This may all seem like a lot to think about as we continue to provide high quality religious education for all our members. It may also seem like a lot of hard work; however, the task is enjoyable and fulfilling. It will serve to illuminate the congregation's unique religious education identity:

its strengths, needs and challenges. I look forward to getting people excited about the journey that awaits us.

In the course of the next few months, we will take time to appreciate the many accomplishments of the leaders, previous leaders and participants of our RE program, and recognize the stumbling blocks encountered along the way. With this history in mind, we can find ways to support our current RE leadership as well as build leadership for the future.

This congregation has made a conscious choice to embark on the interim journey, one that should yield a healthy, strong RE program as well as a clear and inspiring vision for the future of our congregation. It is my endeavor to help the congregation gain a new understanding of itself as a lifelong learning community and to nurture the vision of our RE ministry. I look forward to a productive and exciting collaborative experience.

Lily Rappaport
Acting Director of Religious Education

And More For The Adults.....

News from the UUA - The 2012-2013 COMMON READ

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander is the 2012-13 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read. The UUA Bookstore sells copies.

New from the NY District –

The District has launched a new - UU Justice Website - designed to educate, build community, connect faith to action, and inspire us to live UU Principles in the world. The site offers resources (which will be updated regularly) of all kinds, but the most important aspect of the site is the "Your Voice" pages. Check out their link <http://www.uujusticeweb.org/>

Save the date: Saturday, November 10 – Our UU district will be holding its annual Defying Gravity workshop at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY. This is a worthwhile workshop with something for everyone. More info to come.

Want even more? News from General Assembly -

The UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) is a formal collaboration of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Its mission is to increase the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to catalyze justice. The UUCSJ assists Unitarian Universalist congregations to harness collective power for change through trips and programs that provide an exciting, hands-on experience for current leaders and future activists of any age. **Check out their link <http://www.uua.org/college/index.shtml>.**

Submitted by Denise Tomlinson

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



PHASE 1 COMPLETED

Thank you, members and friends of CUC! We have now completed “Phase One” of the Ministerial Search Process, which consisted of gathering information. Over the past five months, 164 of you completed the congregational survey, and over 60 of you participated in one of 8 “cottage meeting” group discussions. The responses to the specific questions on the survey provide an overview of our congregation: not only our demographics) but also our backgrounds, beliefs, and aspirations for the congregation. This information forms the basis of our congregational profile. The open-ended survey questions and the four questions discussed at the cottage meetings (What are CUC’s strengths? What are its challenges? Where should we be in five years? What qualities are most important in our next minister?) will contribute to the congregational profile, and will also inform our description of the ideal candidate to be our next settled minister.

PHASE 2 UNDERWAY

By the end of October, the Ministerial Search Committee will have completed the Congregational Record (CR). In addition to the profiles of our congregation and desired ministerial candidate, the Congregational Record will include information regarding the history of our congregation, the community we serve, weekly attendance, finances, lay leadership, ministers and staff. This “CR” will be accessible through the UUA to ministers in search during November, after which the candidates’ names are made available to the Committee. We will describe the month-by-month process in future Communitarians. There is a time-line of the entire search process posted in the sanctuary and on the lobby bulletin board. The search will end with calling our next settled minister, in the spring of 2013.

REPORT OUT TO YOU

Sunday, September 30

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Childcare will be available in the nursery and room 41

On this date, the Ministerial Search Committee will “report out” the results of “Phase 1” at 11:45, in Fellowship Hall. The “report out” will summarize the survey and cottage meeting results. All are encouraged to attend.

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 14

11:30 am-3:00 pm, including lunch, Fellowship Hall

Childcare will be available in the nursery and room 41

RSVP to Emily.economou@gmail.com

The UUA “Beyond Categorical Thinking” program is designed to help us identify our concerns and expectations, and promote inclusive thinking in the search process for a new minister. Please participate with the search committee in this workshop which runs from 11:30 to 3:00 pm, including lunch. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Emily.economou@gmail.com in order for us to plan lunch and workshop materials.

PARTICIPATE, ENGAGE, ENJOY...

MUSIC AT CUC!

Saturday, October 13

6:00-9:00 pm

Fantasia!



“Fun Family Film Extravaganza”

Venture back to the old days when a night at the movie theater included a cartoon and short films along with the featured film (Disney’s *Fantasia*, 1940) with a brief pre-movie talk by Lisa Meyer. A supper of hot dogs and other movie-type fair is included with admission.

All ages are welcome. Admission is \$25, \$15 for seniors and children under 12. This is a fund raiser in support of the CUC concert series.

CUC Learning More About Immigration

Follow - up from General Assembly on Immigration Issues

Saturdays, Oct. 13 & Oct. 20

10:30 am – noon in Room 41

Join us for one or both of these events.

Saturday, October 13

This June, Maria Hinojosa from NPR, gave a keynote speech at General Assembly. She talked passionately about immigration & the conditions in the tent city in Phoenix where undocumented workers are detained indefinitely. Come watch the June speech and talk with others. This is a very moving and enlightening talk that will generate an interesting discussion.

Note: Oct. 13 is also Grounds Cleanup Day - so come to the meeting and stay to work on the grounds. Or come early, work on the grounds and then come to the meeting.

Saturday, October 20

Join us to watch and discuss PBS Frontline - Lost in Detention, which examines the current U.S. immigration enforcement system and stories of hidden abuse in detention centers.

Do you know someone who has a green card & who thinks they are safe – come and learn why they are not safe.

If you would like to contact me or join denominational affairs email me at denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Denice Tomlinson



GROUNDS DAY
Saturday, October 13
8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

At the mid-point of each season, we mark the height of the current season and turning towards the next with a day on the grounds of CUC. Please join us working on the grounds, helping to maintain their beauty and build our church community. Come for as long as you can, and all ages are welcome. We'll provide the tools and will have different tasks for varying interests and energy levels. There will be refreshments. If you have any questions, please contact David Schuler at davidbf_schuler@yahoo.com or 914 831-5605. Hope to see you there!

What will the new minister look like? Sound like? Act like?

Does it matter?

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 14

11:30 am-3:00 pm, including lunch, Fellowship Hall

Childcare will be available in the nursery and room 41.

RSVP to emily.economou@gmail.com or call the church office at 946-1660.

Both the Sunday Service and a Workshop will be led by UUA district facilitators Jacqui C. Williams and Michael Tino. Please participate with the search committee in this workshop which runs from 11:30 to 3:00 pm, including lunch.

As we move along in the search process, every one of us creates a mental picture of what that “ideal minister” is like. We may unintentionally exclude candidates categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation. The UUA “Beyond Categorical Thinking” program is designed to help us identify our concerns and expectations, and promote inclusive thinking in the search process. The program is also another opportunity to think about our community and the aspirations for CUC with a new minister.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.



Please RSVP to Emily.economou@gmail.com (or call 946-1660) in order for us to plan lunch and workshop materials.

Hello, Empty-Nesters

I would like to start an Empty-Nesters support group for those who want to share thoughts and ideas about the changes at home after children have moved out or gone to college.

If anyone is interested, please call me.
Cindy Gazis - [914-636-4869](tel:914-636-4869).

WELCOME!

The Welcome Committee is looking for new participants. We have meetings once a month on Sundays after coffee hour. Our primary role is to welcome visitors before and after service and to assist those considering membership with questions and concerns they may have. We host a brunch once or twice a year at which new potential members can meet one another.

Please call Paula Meighan ([914 834-6454](tel:914-834-6454)) or Maxi Feldman ([914 835-0541](tel:914-835-0541)) if you are interested.

**Or come to our next meeting at 11:30:
October 21st.**

What's your last name?



Caring & Sharing Committee—We're here to help you.

Contact Howard Garson at 684-1908 or Gail McLeod at 235-8212 if you, or someone you know, is in need of help from the Caring & Sharing group. This includes home visits, help getting to doctor's appointments, help with food shopping if one is home bound, etc.

CUC's "Uncoffee" Coffee Hour -

(It's all about Community)

No kitchen ".....No problem!

Because of the renovation being done to the kitchen, coffee hours this fall need to be simplified. One easy way to do this is to assign a coffee hour alphabetically by last name. (families with two last names- pick which ever one you'd like!)

Bring juices, lemonade, ice tea etc to be served straight from the container or bring an edible on trays that can be taken home or be disposed of. CUC will supply the paper cups and napkins.

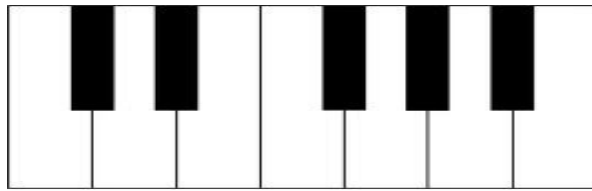
Folks who need that extra caffeine, are invited to bring a travel mug for themselves.

Please make a note on your calendar to bring something on your assigned Sunday. (There will be reminders in the order of service)

10/7 If your last name begins with...**A-C**
10/28 **D-G**
11/4 **H-K**
11/12 **L-M**
11/18 **N-R**
11/25 **S**
12/9 **T-Z**
12/16
12/23 CONGREGATIONAL COOKIE
SHARE

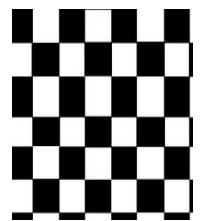
If you can help pour that week, please go back to the tables during the last hymn of the service.

Questions can be addressed to Jane Dixon at jrdixon@optonline.com or 949-5919. If you can let Jane know what you are providing in advance, please contact her. Thanks!



We need you to help make the annual
Goods & Services Auction a success. It
will be

Black and White and Fun All Over!

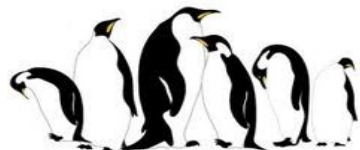
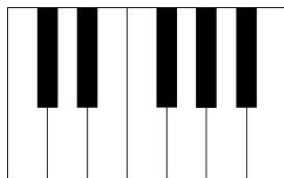
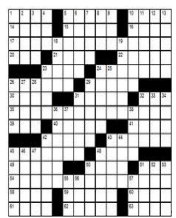


Volunteer! Everyone can help! We need help with all aspects of the auction and we have all types of jobs, big and small. If you would like to get involved, even if it is just to help out with a small job the night of the auction, please let us know.

Donate! We request that any tangible item being donated from your home have a value of at least \$50 and are either new or in mint condition. Donation forms are outside the church office. Please fill out a form for each item being donated. Donations forms are being accepted now and tangible items can be dropped off in the church the week before the auction. And remember to *Ask Just 1 Question* of your local merchants - they are usually happy to donate. Donation request letters are available outside the church office

Attend! the auction on November 17thth @ 5:30pm for a fun filled evening with a wide variety of goods and services in all price ranges. Tickets on sale during coffee hour. Need a ride? Let us know and we will match you up with a neighbor attending the auction.

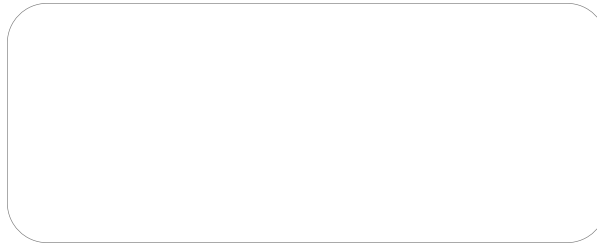
For more info, contact Ann Marie Damashek scottam@verizon.net or
Catherine Kortlandt cemk_99@yahoo.com



~ October 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	2 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	3	4 7:30p-8:30p Search CMT (R41)	5	6
7 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal (Sanc) 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee 11:45a-1:15p In the Spirit of Truth	8 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi 7:30p-8:45p Spanish 7:30p-8:30p Play Reading Group43 (43)	9 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	10 7:30p-9:30p Board of Trustees (41)	11 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	12	13 8:30a-2p Grounds Day 10:30a-12p Denominational Affairs Committee (R41)
14 8:45a-9:45a Choir Rehearsal 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee 11:30a-12:30p Auction CMT Meeting (41) 11:30a-1:30p Search Committee ("Beyond Categorical Thinking" program)	15 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	16 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24) 7:30p-9p Worship Assoc. Committee (41)	17	18 7:30p-8:30p Search CMT (R41)	19	20 10:30a-12p Denominational Affairs Committee (R41)
21 Communitarian Deadline 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:30a-12:30p Fun Facts Music 11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee Meeting (R41)	22 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA)	23 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	24 7:30p-9p RE Council (41)	25 10a-11a COMMUNITARIAN mailing (FA) 11:30a-1p Science and Spirituality (41)	26	27 10a-2p Values Clarification Workshop (FH)
28 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee 11:30a-12:30p Auction CMT Meeting (41)	29 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	30 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal (SANC/R24)	31			

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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



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Community Unitarian Church
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Communitarian Deadline for
October Edition:

Sunday, October 21

Submit information to
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