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THE COMMUNITARIAN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Meredith's Musings

For October, November, and December our themes of the month will be: Awe, Evil, and God. By design, each year's themes duplicate many of the themes from three years before—allowing for returning to important themes and exploring them in more depth, and from the different vantage point at which we find ourselves after three years. "Evil," and "God" were themes from autumn of 2013. Back then, however, we had not yet begun Journey Groups for exploring these themes.



Through our theme-based programming—sermons and Journey Groups, mostly—the aim is to help our members develop what we might call "religious competence." Religious competence means having resources for dealing with challenges, tragedies, crises—as well as all the day-to-day minor annoyances. It also includes the skills for finding deepening joy in simple, ordinary life.

We can't wait until crisis is upon us. A spiritual life and an understanding of the most important concepts for living cannot be created in a day—particularly when one is in the midst of dealing with a major life crisis. We have to work now to develop, expand, and deepen our understanding of themes like evil, faith, grace—and all of the other themes we cover at CUUC. It's easy to think we have a handle on these topics—but continual deepening in our appreciation of them is a life-long enterprise. Committing to take that path seriously prepares us to meet life's travails with greater integrity, gracefulness, and acceptance.

"Awe" raises association with wonder—a pleasant sensation mixing curiosity, gladness—among other things, perhaps. But awe also has associations with trembling fear. Is that a good thing? Why does that happen? What place does that have in a full and rich life?

"Evil" has long been a difficult topic in the history of Western thought. Why do people do bad things? Why do I do bad things? Certainly, we know that there are sociopaths. We know, also, that we are all subject to greed, anger, and ignorance that leads us make

mistakes that hurt others and often ourselves. Is “evil” a catch-all basket for greed, anger, ignorance, and psychological conditions like sociopathy? Or is “evil” something more than these other things?

For December, the theme is “God.” Unitarian Universalists have many views on this, and most of us remain open to reflecting on what the word might mean, and how it might intersect with reality, as we know it. “God” is often taken to refer to a personal (i.e., person-like, having knowledge and desires) entity. Is there a—perhaps playful—place for such a conception in your heart/mind? Or, if or when not, what meanings for God that leave out knowing and desiring might nevertheless be helpful?

These are but a glimpse of some possible beginnings of reflections on these important topics. It’s good to be on the journey together.

Chair’s Report

To all CUUC members and friends,

Welcome to an active and vigorous CUUC! I am delighted to be able to send you this initial column as Board Chair. I feel most privileged to serve in this capacity, and am very enthusiastic about the coming CUUC year, working with an extremely capable and committed Board of Trustees and professional staff.

We also welcome back Meredith and Perry, and we welcome to our fold Pamela Parker, our new Congregational and Communications Administrator, and Cindy Davidson, our new ministerial intern for the next two years. Both are off to a great start.

Our BOT has been very busy over the past few months and I’ll highlight several areas it has been and will be addressing:

2016–2017 Focus: Growth: This has many potential components: financial, membership, programs, spiritual, physical plant and facilities, among others. The BOT held a retreat October 1 where Growth was the subject of our attention. More to follow...

Financial: We have not quite met our canvass target for the prior fiscal year, and shall be following up with members and friends to try to close the gap. Please be receptive to any communication you might receive in this regard, as our ability to remain a vigorous and stimulating congregation does require a strong financial commitment from all.

This summer we extended the leases of our two major tenants, Montessori and WCSPP, on favorable terms; and last fiscal year received very substantial rentals from film location companies, which the BOT has applied and will continue to apply to our capital improvement needs. We cannot predict from year to year, however, how much revenue we may derive from this source; and thus we cannot become complacent about its availability.

We are very fortunate to have a substantial endowment, far more than most local congregations, which our able Finance Committee continues to monitor with very positive results.

Visioning Committee: The BOT has taken note of the importance of defining the long-term goals of our congregation, both as to programming and also addressing the continuing and future needs of our aging physical plant. Under the leadership of Creighton Cray, and with the input of an experienced consultant, a Visioning Committee has been formed. This process will require a great deal of initial study and analysis, as well as eventual congregational input, to define our needs, goals and objectives, and to come up with some proposals how to finance them. We anticipate this process will be at least a two year effort.

Repaving: We finalized the repaving contract and had the repaving of the lower lots completed before September 11. We planned for alternate parking arrangements but ultimately they were not needed. The upper lot will remain as is, other than the installation of a barrier on the hill.

Programs: Our Social Justice teams continue to be active and effective, with good congregational participation in several areas. Our summer services were very well attended, with diverse speakers and topics. The *Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity* program has been initiated thanks to Mary Cavallero and Jeff Tomlinson, with the participation of a facilitator and a Retreat scheduled this month. In late July, CUUC hosted a well-attended meeting under the aegis of the Westchester Refugee Task Force for the resettlement of refugee families in Westchester. A CUUC Refugee Resettlement Team has been formed. Future meetings involving other congregations and organizations will be held in other Westchester locales. Thanks to Barbara Lowney for taking the initiative in this venture. In Religious Education, Perry and the REC report that our volunteerism continues at a high level, and all our teaching teams are full.

Before I close, a word of thanks and deep appreciation to Karen Schmitt for her service as prior Board Chair. During her tenure Karen dedicated herself to the many facets of CUUC 24/7, and was instrumental in moving us forward in so many important areas of CUUC governance, operations and interest.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we look forward to an exciting, energetic, and fulfilling year at CUUC, and we welcome your input and participation. Please feel free to contact any of us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

In community,

Tom Wacht

Board Chair



Religious Education

Perry's Ponderings

Barbara and I are in awe as our daughter, Nora, changes in leaps and bounds (sometimes literally since she started walking and climbing) before our eyes. Summer is particularly a time that these changes happen for all children, as we notice when we gather back to CUUC in September. It seems that playing in the sun and water increases their growth remarkably. This is mirrored by an emotional and spiritual growth we see during the year in Religious Education. The RE curricula plant the seeds of reflection that blossom in the warmth of our community.

We leave the space for each child's unique path, but intentionally plan a curricula rotation that focuses on the main areas of learning at various stages of development. The lesson topics reinforce and build upon discoveries made in wonder at a young age. The important realizations that children and youth make about themselves and their connection to the world around them have a lasting effect.

There are some classes in Religious Education that mark a rite of passage in Unitarian Universalist faith development. This year, the 2nd–3rd graders explore the meaning of our UU Sources and Principles during their Affirmation Year, culminating with a special ceremony in June. Eighth and ninth graders hone their life decision-making skills during the Our Whole Lives (OWL) relationship and sexuality education program. In OWL they develop empowerment that carries into young adulthood and helps them create healthy relationships throughout their lives.

Adults at CUUC often remark that they want some of the same opportunities for learning and growth that the children and youth receive. The form of our Adult Affirmation program will continue to take shape this year. We invite you to delve into your own inner journey in UU community through offerings relating to theology, world religions, UU Sources and history, life topics, and spiritual practices.

Our Water Ceremony on Sept. 11 symbolically began another year of our coming together for worship, social justice, supportive community, spiritual growth and learning. Our services, classes, events and activities create the context for the moments when we bask in each other's presence and see the pronounced, as well as subtle, shifts within us that flow on in endless song.

Child Dedication – Sunday, Oct 16

A Unitarian Universalist ritual honoring your family's connection to the congregation and a promise by the congregation to support and nurture your child. For a further description of our ceremony and UU Child Dedications, [CLICK HERE](#). Sign up with Perry by email at dlre@cucwp.org.



CUUC Religious Education Schedule - Fall 2016

September (monthly theme is *Covenant*)

<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
11 Sun 8:15 am	FH	Teacher Orientation
10:00 am	Sanc	Wonder Box Story; MULTIGEN WATER SVCE
12 Mon		Youth Application Due for Oct 7–10 Youth Con
14 Wed 10:00 pm		Youth Application Due for Sep 17–18 Jr Retreat
17 Sat 9:00 am	Patterson, NY	Metro NY Fall Junior Retreat starts
18 Sun 8:00 am		Metro NY Fall Junior Retreat ends
18 Sun 10:00 am	Sanc/Class	Music for All Ages; RE Kickoff/Teacher Covenant; Regular RE Classes
11:30 am		OWL Orientation
24 Sat 5:00 pm	Westport	Metro NY Cluster Youth Event
25 Sun 8:45 am	FH	Parent-Teacher Meeting
10:00 am	FH/Class	Regular RE Classes
30 Fri		Adult Application Due for Oct 7–10 Youth Con

October (monthly theme is *Awe*)

<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
2 Sun 10:00 am	FH/Class	SPIRITUAL PRACTICE SUNDAY
7 Fri 8:00 pm	Youngstown, OH	CER Regional Youth Con starts
9 Sun 10:00 am	FH/Class	ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE SUNDAY
10 Mon 10:30 am	Youngstown, OH	CER Regional Youth Con ends
15 Sat 9 am–5 pm	CUUC	MNY Adult Advisor & Youth Leadership Training
16 Sun 10:00 am	Sanc/Class	Music for All Ages; Child Dedication; RE classes
23 Sun 10:00 am	FH/Class	Regular RE Classes
28 Fri 7:00 pm	Summit, NJ	Metro NY Youth Con starts
30 Sun 8:00 am	Summit, NJ	Metro NY Youth Con ends
30 Sun 10:00 am	FH/Class	Day of the Dead Children's Worship; Halloween Event; Regular RE Classes
30 Sun 12:30 pm	FH	Teacher Development

November (monthly theme is *Evil*)

<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>
6 Sun 10:00 am	Sanc/Class	Music for All Ages; Wonder Box Story; Regular Classes
13 Sun 10:00 am	FH/Class	Regular RE Classes
19 Sat 5:00 pm	Mt. Kisco UU	H.I.P.H.O.P. Youth Event
20 Sun 10:00 am	Sanc	MULTIGEN THANKSGIVING SERVICE
27 Sun 10:00 am	FH	FUN SUNDAY (Deck the Halls Craft)

Religious Education



Stone Soup

Our traditional RE fundraiser sponsored by the 6th–7th Grade to support their social justice projects

Delicious Community Soup & Other Goodies

Sun Nov 6

After services

\$5 adults/\$3 children

\$15 maximum for families

Adult Advisor and Youth Leadership Training

Sat Oct 15, 9:00am–5:00pm

CUUC hosts an all-day Metro NY Cluster training for adult advisors and senior high youth in the Westchester area. Youth interested in leadership in all its forms are encouraged to attend this training.

Metro NY Youth Event

Sat Nov 19, 5:00–10:00pm

UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester, Mt. Kisco

An evening of live music and discussion with Highly Intelligent People Healing Our Planet (H.I.P.H.O.P.). RSVP dlre@cucwp.org or 914-946-1660 x4.

Curious about teaching but don't know where to begin?

Please contact Perry about easy ways to engage in your own faith development while supporting the growth of our children and youth
dlre@cucwp.org



UU Happenings

UU Metro NY is now part of the **Central-East Region** (CER). Explore the new website <http://www.uua.org/central-east>. This is where you can find local events, regional events, youth events, and webinars.

UU Common Read: *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement* by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016) has been chosen as the 2016–2017 Unitarian Universalist Common Read.

News from General Assembly: General Assembly was an exciting place to be this year. I hope some of you were able to view portions on General Assembly online. If you are still interested you can view <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2016> or even easier on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=uua+general+assembly+2016. You can view the general session meetings, Morning Worship, Synergy Worship, Service of the Living Tradition, and the Ware Lecture delivered by Krista Tippett.

2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue: Engage in study and action related to *The Corruption of Our Democracy* at <https://www.uua.org/statements/current/corruption-of-our-democracy>.

2016 Actions of Immediate Witness:

- Build Solidarity with our Muslim Neighbors
- Some Guns, All Guns: Legislating Appropriate Restriction
- Stop the Hate: Protect and Support our Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Family

Business Resolutions (<http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2016/business>):

Passed – Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered: The resolution asks for UU congregations to enter into dialogue with local Native People and asks for a time of truth and reconciliation for all Americans, including Native People, during the years 2016–2021 leading up to the 400th anniversary in 2020 of the arrival of the Mayflower.

Not passed – Screening Out Investments in Corporations Complicit in Violation of Human Rights Including Palestinian Rights: This resolution did not pass because the UUA's committee on Socially Responsible Investing had already divested from those corporations with its new Human Rights screen.

Responsive Resolution: Reaffirmation of Commitment to Racial Justice

Upcoming Events:

September 20 - PBS Television will air **Defying the Nazis: Sharps' War**, a new documentary directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky. The film explores the lives and work of the Sharps, a young Unitarian minister and his wife, who left their children and family behind and joined the effort to rescue Jews, dissidents, and refugee children from Nazi-occupied Europe. <http://www.uusc.org/defying-the-nazis-the-sharps-war/>.

November 12 - **Dawning Future**. Leadership workshops and more at Shelter Rock, Long Island. Save the date.

UU Happenings

Upcoming Youth Events (<http://www.uua.org/central-east/youth> or contact Denice Tomlinson denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com)

September 24 - Junior Youth Retreat – 6–8th grade overnight Camp Herrlich, Patterson, NY

October 7–10 - Central-East Senior Youth Con – Youngstown, Ohio

October 28–30 - Senior Youth Social Con - Summit, NJ

December 3–4 - Senior Youth Racial Justice Con – Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

Local UU Happenings:

We have established better communication among the other four UU congregations in Westchester and are inviting each other to participate in local actions and events. In particular, First Unitarian Society of Westchester in Hastings has a well-established system for Midnight and Breakfast Runs. Rather than scheduling runs at CUUC, we are invited to join them and combine our resources to benefit those in need. The next Breakfast Run will be on Sunday, Oct 9. Children and youth are welcome. Contact Art Lowenstein at 914-844-4189, 845-424-3638, or arthur.lowenstein@gmail.com.

Ministerial Intern

HELLO CUUC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS! It is such a pleasure and an honor to be joining you as your ministerial intern. My hope is that we will have a very fruitful shared ministry over the next two years, and I am excited to see how this journey will evolve. In beginning to get to know you, a few of you have asked to know more about my background and about what to expect during my internship with this congregation.

I grew up in western Pennsylvania in the Methodist tradition and moved away from that theological viewpoint when I moved to New York City to study French horn at the Mannes College of Music. I worked in the arts management field for several years, then in non-profit management, before marrying and starting a family. We lived in Durham, NC, and Paris, France, before settling in Lexington, Massachusetts about twenty years ago. The marriage faltered and dissolved, but I'm happy to say the four children are doing well in young adulthood. (Perhaps having each taken OWL has something to do with that!) My sons live in Arlington, VA, St. Paul, MN, and Concord, MA; my daughter lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with her husband. Between them we have an engineer working at NOAA, a high school teacher, an instrumental rock guitarist, and a student navigating the college journey. The nest is empty but the ties that bind us are strong. Two of my brothers are in NY and MA, my third brother and my parents live in FL.

It was in Lexington that I had the good fortune to discover Unitarian Universalism—and the first woman minister I had ever heard preach! I quickly became involved at First Parish in lay activities and leadership by serving on the Board, chairing the Music Committee and coordinating its concert series, singing alto in the choir, joining and chairing the Social Action committee, and being a member of the Worship Associate Team. Most of all, it was my experience co-chairing the Green Sanctuary Committee and

working towards UUA certification that planted the seed of a calling to seminary studies and ministry. The first class I took, *Ecology and Theology: Nature, Community, Ministry*, both set the tone for and still sums up the primary orientation of my emerging ministerial identity and dreams for the future. This is the calling, too, that lead to my lay activities as a GreenFaith Fellow and a UU Ministry for Earth board member.

I am entering the final two years of my studies to earn a Master of Divinity degree at Meadville Lombard Theological School. In addition to much course work, I have completed my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Beverly Hospital (MA), where my assignments included regular visits to the mixed, pediatric-adult, surgical unit, the intensive care unit, and the emergency room and also serving as the chaplain at an 88-unit assisted living facility. To meet my community-based “field ed” requirement, I interned with the Community Day Center of Waltham (MA), a drop-in center for the homeless and needy. Both of these placements have been marvelous learning experiences that helped broaden my own understanding of ministry in various settings and serving diverse populations and needs.

During my internship with you, I will, of course, be working closely with Meredith, AKA my “teaching pastor.” The internship committee will also work with me regularly to offer feedback, support, and guidance in the coming weeks. I will be working with them to set my goals, objectives, and plan for learning to meet the UUA’s Ministerial Fellowship Committee’s expectations of basic competency in seven areas: pastoral care, prophetic outreach, teaching, practical arts, worship, self-care, and spiritual practice. Some of the areas of congregational life I hope to learn more about while here include children’s RE and youth ministry, multicultural/multiracial justice work, community organizing, and strategic planning and staff development.

Some weeks you will find me in Sunday worship along with you. Other weeks, I will be sitting in on religious education classes as part of my preparation for the January intensive portion of my class on Religious Education for a Changing World. And you’ll see me observing meetings and joining in other church activities. My twenty hours a week will fill up quickly! There will always be time, however, for a conversation, for an answer to your inquiry, or for a visit to discuss your joys or concerns. My office hours will likely vary from week to week. The best way to reach me is by email at intern@cucwp.org or by cell phone at (781) 710-1640. I look forward to getting to know you!

Cindy Davidson

DID YOU KNOW... Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love’s power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcome to join. Find out more at standingonthesideoflove.org.



Community Ministry

From Rev. LoraKim Joyner

Nurturing Nature: Loving Animal Nature through Multispecies

Intelligence - Online Webinar, Tuesdays, October 4 & 11, 7:00 pm
by Co-Directors of One Earth Conservation, LoraKim Joyner and Gail Koelln

Multispecies Intelligence is the ability to understand and use emotional intelligence, communication, and behavior across species lines for the mutual benefit of all. It requires understanding species needs, behavior, motivations, and interconnecting relations with others and their habitat. In our time together we will reflect upon the paradigm that all beings have inherent worth and dignity, and are interconnected in beauty so that we can live more deeply connected to all life. Facilitated by CUUC Community Minister Rev. LoraKim Joyner. Register at: register, go to eventbrite.com/e/nurturing-nature-loving-animal-nature-through-multispecies-intelligence-tickets-22062826508.

Preview YouTube video Nurturing Parrots in Honduras - Part 1: Nurture Nature episode #8 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAT7WmHXDrc>

Stay tuned for our other upcoming webinars in this series:

Ecological Intelligence: October 25, November 1, 2016 (Tuesdays 7:00 pm)

Spiritual Intelligence: November 29, December 6, 2016 (Tuesdays 7:00 pm)



***“Life is a journey,
not a destination”***

Journey Groups are forming...

The core purpose of Journey Groups is to create formative space for individuals, a space of acceptance and safety in which group members can explore their deepest values and inner voice without judgment or coercion. Groups meet each month to discuss monthly themes, and there are a variety of meeting times and locations to choose from. Contact the congregation administrator to sign up. More at cucmatters.org.

The Caring & Sharing Circle

We work with our congregation and minister to support and care for members and friends of our community. If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver, contact our volunteers:

October: Liz Laite (914 366-4211, em.laite@verizon.net) or Paula Meighan (914 834-6454, paula@changingplaces.info).

November: Paula Meighan or Claire Kuczinski (914 949-6619 or tadex@optonline.net).

Social Justice Teams

Our Social Justice Teams – Opportunities for you to engage in service

The third part of our mission statement is to “engage in service to transform ourselves and our world.” The teams are structured with at least five core members. When an action is called for, we are all encouraged to participate. *This is an invitation, not an obligation, to participate as you are able and as your time allows.*

Here is a report of what’s been happening with most of the teams, with names and e-mail addresses of contact people for the teams. Which team is the one that interests you? Send the contact person your e-mail and get involved!

The **Economic Social Justice Team** has invited Richard D. Wolff to come and speak with us at CUUC on Sunday, October 23, 2016. Professor emeritus from U Mass Amherst and author of several books including *Democracy at Work* and *Capitalism Hits the Fan*, Dr. Wolff has made his mark more recently as a spokesperson for liberal economic theories on his weekly radio show. We are pleased to have him part of the service that Sunday, and present an interactive forum afterwards. He will address gender and racial aspects of income gaps and how current economic structures foster inequality. We expect to have a good crowd on hand, with invitations also going out to neighboring congregations. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved with other economic social justice activities, please feel free to attend our next ESJT meeting. Contact: Alan Trevithick (dramt1960@gmail.com) and Pat Lavin (patlavin@optonline.net).

Last spring, the **Environmental Practices Group** focused on recycling. We created a bulletin board (across from the coat racks) that provides information about items that can and should be recycled, and where you can recycle. We also hosted a coffee hour with a recycling quiz, provided recycling information during an Our Congregations segment and led the children’s RE classes for a morning, in conjunction with Earth Day. This fall, we will be introducing the congregation to the UUA Green Sanctuary Program. This multi-year program provides a path for congregational study, reflection, and action in response to environmental challenges. The program provides a structure for us to examine our environmental impact and to move towards more sustainable practices in ways grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles. We welcome your participation as we plan our activities for the year. Our meetings are announced in the weekly e-mail newsletter. Come join us! Contacts: Janet Bear (jsbear1@gmail.com) and Charlie McNally (mcnally@pobox.com)

The **Hunger and Homelessness** Social Justice Team has a busy year coming up preparing and serving meals to the homeless at HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle, supporting CUUC’s role in refugee resettlement in Westchester, as well as our traditional Holiday Giving Opportunities. New team members are always welcome. Contact: Jane Dixon (lilrhodie@gmail.com). The CUUC **Refugee Resettlement Team** has been functioning under the umbrella of the Hunger and Homelessness SJT. We have joined the Westchester Refugee Task Force (WRTF), an advocacy group coordinating Westchester congregations and organizations that are looking to support refugee families that will be resettling in Westchester County.

Social Justice Teams

CUUC hosted a meeting July 28 that featured a panel of groups that specialize in settling refugees. They explained the process of refugee settlement, and how communities can organize to welcome and support refugee families. Two refugee resettlement agencies, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and Catholic Charities, are planning, with the US State Department, to resettle refugees in Westchester during the coming fiscal year (Oct 1, 2016–Sept 30, 2017). They hope to resettle a family later in 2016 in the White Plains area. CUUC is looking to team up with other congregations in the White Plains area to welcome and support a refugee family, and we will be in touch with them shortly.

HIAS has presented their model for how volunteers can support Syrian refugee resettlement in Westchester County. They have also provided a long view of the next few months in terms of community involvement as they move forward with the Westchester resettlement process. The Westchester Refugee Task Force has also been meeting to discuss their new mission, their affiliation with member organizations, and their communication mechanism.

If you are interested in joining our CUUC Refugee Resettlement team, or would like to learn more about our activities, contact Barbara Lowney (bjgaube@gmail.com) or Jane Dixon (lilrhodie@gmail.com).

The **LGBTQIA Social Justice Team** has formed an assessment committee to work on Welcoming Congregations Refresher. Its goal is to help CUUC recommit to inclusive practices and to take the next steps in deepening our welcome. They are using their usual monthly meeting time for this purpose. Contact: Bennett Rink (brink@alvinailey.org).

The **Racial Justice Team** was active this summer. Several members participated in marches and rallies in White Plains and New Rochelle to support the Black Lives Matter movement. Both marches were done in cooperation with the local police departments. As Mary Cobb reported, *"I was amazed at how two miles seemed to melt under my feet as I walked in the middle of a crowd chanting 'Justice, justice now!' How invigorating it was to be literally part of a movement, even in such a small way."*

Members also attended the "Evening with Rev. Daniel Buford: What is Arbitrary Punishment?" on August 4th. The event was co-hosted by the Westchester Coalition for Police Reform and the Greenburgh Human Rights Commission, and held at the Thomas H. Slater Center. The event discussed the importance of utilizing a perspective of human rights violations when we address cases of illegal police actions. Rev. Daniel Buford is the new Executive Director of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute.

Several members of our team have been busy planning Beloved Conversations on race. Contact: Jeff Tomlinson (jefftomlinson8@gmail.com) or Adine Usher (adineusher@verizon.net).

Last spring, the **Women's Issues Social Justice Team** raised funds for Operation L.I.P.S.T.I.C.K. (Ladies Involved In Putting a Stop to Inner-City Killing), an organization that empowers women to say no to purchasing guns for significant others. Contact: Julie Gans (julieagans@gmail.com).

Social Justice Teams

For general questions, contact the Social Justice Coordinating team: Jeff Tomlinson (jefftomlinson8@gmail.com), Mary Cavallero (marycava4@gmail.com), and Rev. Meredith Garmon (minister@cucwp.org)

Watch your weekly E-Communitarian newsletter and Order of Service for updated information on the CUUC social justice teams.

Welcome Committee



How do you know you have found your way to CUUC? One way is the payoff for climbing those stairs: you are greeted with a warm and welcoming smile and the words "We are happy to have you with us this morning." It is such a small thing but it is a visitor's first introduction to our spiritual community. Standing at the door on a Sunday morning doesn't take much: arrive at 9:45 and bring your smile. You are done in time to attend the service. We need 80–100 greeters during the course of the congregation year. Please help us fill the slots by signing up at doodle.com/6ikqnmsu9p9rx8xu or at the "Be A Sunday Greeter" link on the right-hand side of the CUUC homepage cucwp.org. If you have used the Doodle poll in the past, choose a Sunday (or Sundays) by editing your name. If you haven't, please add your name at the bottom. *REMEMBER TO SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER TO SAVE YOUR ENTRY.* In community, ~ Jane Dixon, Welcome Chair

How are we doing?

Please join the
**Committee on Ministry for a
Community Chat**
Sunday November 20 after service
11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Help us reflect on the start of our
new year together. Bring your coffee
– we'll have some cookies!
Contact: Anne Majsak
amajsak@verizon.net

Do You Enjoy Coffee Hour? If Yes, We Need Your Help!

We are looking for someone to coordinate coffee hour hosts each week. This is a great way for someone with limited time to help out—and you can do it at your convenience from home! Contact Ann Marie Damashek at scottam@verizon.net for more information.





Days in Place

Next Days in Place is Saturday, November 5
Come enjoy and steward our sacred grounds

Even in the heat of August, our community gathered to tend and love our grounds for Days in Place. Our meditation paths continue to emerge; one connects to the upper spring (dry this summer). We kept in mind that when the spring is active it runs down the hill. A slightly higher walking path may allow nature its flow. Come walk it and see how it feels to you.

Not all the work is done on the Day itself, so "*placekeepers*" are welcome any time to lay out wood chips and maintain the paths. Committee members are listed below—contact any of us to join the tending.

Stewardship is not just four days a year, although our Days in Place mark the pattern of nature quarterly.

In August we finished by midday, but still enjoyed ceremonial check-in, bird watching, good work, and camaraderie. We are grateful for all attendees especially our youth, Robby Swiss and Max Templar, for their herculean efforts.

Poison ivy thrives in our lush woods so keep your children on the paths. If you work our grounds, we recommend wearing long sleeves and pants and giving yourself a thorough wash-up when finished. We have plenty of garden gloves to share!

You can find pictures of our Day's activities on the Facebook CUUC Forum.

Please join us for our November 5 Day in Place when we hope to enlarge the pond on the hill and dig a canal for it to feed into the lowlands stream. Our autumn Day will include a tour of our grounds where you may find a Place that you want to keep and tend. We are open to your ideas and enthusiasm. A full agenda will be posted closer to the date.

It is an absolute joy to spend a Day at CUUC! For more information, please connect to any of us on the Day in Place Committee: Bice Wilson (bicewilson@gmail.com), Pam Cucinell (pamelajcny@gmail.com), Kate Colson (kac1161@gmail.com), and LoraKim Joyner (amoloros@gmail.com).

~ Submitted by Pamela Cucinell

Citizen Scientists Wanted

to document the biology of this hillside where we worship. No Experience Necessary. Contact Bice Wilson if interested.

~ Bice C. Wilson, AIA, 917.319.3512

Gratitudes

Many thanks to our Summer Services Worship Committee: John Cavallero, Joann Prinivalli, and Tom Rosenbaum, working together with Rev. Meredith. They coordinated a wonderful worship experience in our air-conditioned Fellowship Hall this summer with many inspiring speakers. Also thanks to the rest of the team who made it all happen: Music coordinator Kim Force and performers Barbara Orwick, Emily Economou, Liz Laite, Georgiana Pappas, Kim & Chris Force, Laura Sedehva, Wesley Miller, Adine Usher, Josie Blatt, and Louisa Blatt; Worship Associates Mary Cobb, Carole Mehta, Tony Arrien, Petra Thombs, and Pam Cucinell; Presenter of the Ware Lecture video from General Assembly Denice Tomlinson; and all those who greeted and helped with snack, setup, and logistics.

Stitching in Spirit

Join Us on the Last Sunday of the Month at 11:45 a.m. in Youth Room 14

Fiber arts and handicrafts have long figured significantly in people's communal and spiritual lives. This has been especially true for women, historically, although these interests now hold very broad-based appeal. Today we see the resurgence gaining ground in the "maker movement" and crafting circles. Come join CUUC stitchers Sabrina Cleary and Rhonda Miller to share in our circle of "stitchers in spirit." Please feel free to bring with you any handicrafting projects you might have underway—or else just bring an open and inquiring mind. In Fall 2016, the Stitching in Spirit circle is scheduled to meet on October 30, Saturday November 5 (for Days in Place), and November 27. December Sundays to be announced. Anyone with any degree of interest is welcome to join the circle at any time, though you may not want to miss the lighting of the chalice which begins at 12:00 noon. Always feel free to contact either Sabrina or Rhonda for additional information. For further reading: *Peace Fibres*, *Stitching a Soulful World*, *Contemplative Crochet*, *Knitting Sutra*, and *Craft as Spiritual Practice*. Contact: Sabrina Cleary (clearytheory@gmail.com) and Rhonda Miller (rhondagmiller@gmail.com).



Music at CUUC Concert Series

Take advantage of a variety of world-class musical offerings right on your doorstep here in Westchester!

Sun Nov 6, 2016 1:00 pm - African-American Musical Traditions

CUUC Music Director and acclaimed musician Adam Kent performs solo piano works by composers of African descent as well as compositions inspired by African-American musical traditions from composers of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Come hear rarely programmed compositions by R. Nathaniel Dett and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, as well as popular favorites by Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, Claude Debussy, and others. Also on the program are several works by the Cuban-American Tania León, including *Homenatge*, written for Adam Kent in 2011. The concert begins with a family-friendly Music for All Ages presentation.

Sun Dec 18, 2016 1:00pm - A Crooner's Christmas Choral Concert

The CUUC Choir will present holiday classics from the 40s, 50s, and 60s that were made famous by such iconic artists as Bing Crosby, Andy Williams, Judy Garland, and Nat King Cole. Directed by Lisa N. Meyer and accompanied by pianist Georgianna Pappas, this concert of classic solos, duets, and choral arrangements of some of the most beloved holiday songs will end with the audience joining in on a few popular carols. From *Jingle Bells* to *Do You Hear What I Hear*, there will be songs for all ages and backgrounds.

Sneak Peek at 2017 – dates to be announced:

Winter 2017 - Friends of CUUC

Our annual concert of collaborative music-making with CUUC Music Director Adam Kent and favorite musical guests. Beloved chamber and vocal works featured – stay tuned for more details!

April 2017 - Let's Go To the Hop with the CUUC Choir!

A fun time for all ages, get out your poodle skirts and leather jackets and join Lisa N. Meyer and pianist Georgianna Pappas with the CUUC Choir, soloists, duos, and trios for a concert full of popular Rock 'n' Roll from the 50s and 60s Sock Hop era. A free dance lesson will take place before the concert so everyone can dance along.

May 2017 - JazzFest!

Jazz legend Valerie Capers returns to CUUC with her incomparable trio for an evening of standards transformed by the ensemble's inimitable creativity. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of America's musical treasures in the intimate setting of CUUC's Sanctuary.

Free childcare is available for all concerts with advance reservation.

For more information, visit www.cucwp.org/concert-series

Singing - for Joy and for Good Health

It is a documented fact that singing, especially in a group, is not only a joyful experience but also an activity that improves physical and psychological health in people of all ages. I recently read several articles by respected health organizations from around the world that have done studies to support these facts: people who sang in choirs were happier, enjoyed more camaraderie with others, experienced improved physical stamina and energy, and had less stress in their lives. Many doctors have compared the mental benefits in choral singing to those achieved by those who practice yoga on a regular basis. While I find this interesting and exciting, I am not really all that surprised by it.

Over the past fourteen years as Choir Director at CUUC, I have had many choir members confide that singing in the choir has improved their life. Many talk about the joy of creating music together, of the camaraderie that is experienced among the members. But people have also told me of other ways it has benefitted, and sometimes changed their life: getting rid of the stress of difficult times that they are going through; helping them cope with and conquer an illness; how the breathing and vocalizations have brought them more physical energy; how learning a new piece and performing well in a service or concert brings them such a wonderful feeling of accomplishment and joy that it lasts for many days afterward.

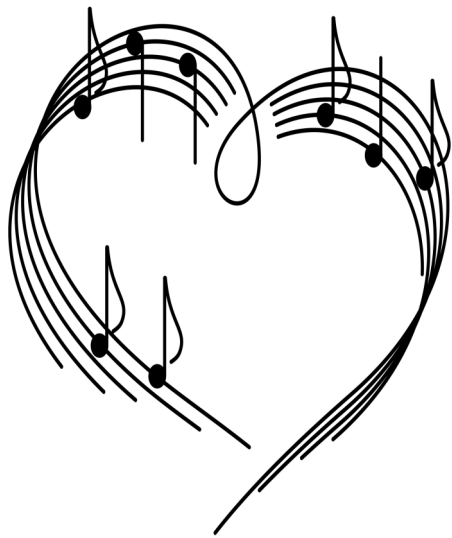
I could go on, but I think you understand what I mean. Creating music together, and singing together, is a magical experience that does a body (and the mind) good.

If you would like to see and experience this phenomenon for yourself, please sit in or observe a CUUC choir rehearsal. The CUUC Choir rehearsals are held in the sanctuary and take place every Tuesday from 7:30–9:15pm. It is not necessary to be able to read music, you only have to be able to match pitch. The choir sings two Sundays each month, so there are plenty of opportunities to be involved in other activities at CUUC in addition to singing in the choir. All are welcome any Tuesday.

For more information about the CUUC Choir please feel free to contact me at choir@cucwp.org or at 516-299-2475 during the day. Come sing with us for joy and for health!

Lisa Meyer
CUUC Choir Director

Music Lovers! Consider Joining CUUC's Music Committee



The Music Committee supports music-making at CUUC and serves as a liaison between the congregation and the church's music staff. The committee also manages CUUC's concert series, which brings a wide range of performances to congregants and the community at large. The committee meets several times a year at CUUC following Sunday morning worship services and also communicates internally via e-mail. If you love music and want to help CUUC's music program thrive, becoming a member of the Music committee is an easy way to share your enthusiasm. Feel free to contact Music Committee Co-chairs Janet Bear (jsbear1@gmail.com), Kim Force (kim.force@yahoo.com), Christian Force (force2k1@yahoo.com), or Music Director Adam Kent (music@cucwp.org) for more information.

Flowers Say it All

But they can't... if they're not present!

If you love flowers during Sunday services and special events, please donate an arrangement by signing up in the lobby or calling the congregation office. The cost is \$65. You can also bring a bouquet from your garden to share—we have plenty of vases in the kitchen. Let Mother Nature "show off her stuff" on our chancel at all of our gatherings!

*It's going to be the bee's knees, so get dolled up and join us at the secret spot
(we'll let you know the password) to celebrate...*

The Roaring 20s

CUUC's Jazzy Night of Auctions, Chance, and Stylish Dining

A fundraiser for the Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains

Saturday, November 19, 2016

Preview 5:30 · Auctions start at 6:00

Tickets \$40

Success Comes From Your Help

Donate: Ask your favorite merchants for goods and services—they are usually happy to donate. Or offer a good or service of your own!

Buy Tickets: Buy one, or a table of ten, or any number in between. Your ticket buys you appetizers, salad, a catered dinner, wine or other beverage, and a night of fun, costumes perhaps, and laughter. Childcare is available with advance registration.

Prepare to Have Fun: Plan your costume (if you are so inclined). Will you be a fella or a flapper? Not sure how to bid? Look for a friendly face and we'll teach you the basics!

Questions? Contact Julie Gans (julieagans@gmail.com), Bevin Maguire (bevinmm@gmail.com), or Nicky Klemens (nsklemens@gmail.com).

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation
468 Rosedale Avenue
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