

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

MAY 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
June Edition:
Sunday, May 15th

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

Minister's Moment...

Transformation and Transcendence have occupied the April and May positions on our list of themes for the year, but the theme of Transformation found a particular resonance at the UU Minister's retreat I attended in February. The Rev. Jane Rzepka, one of the senior voices in our ministry, noted that this particular retreat had been marketed to ministers as an opportunity to "Come and be Transformed!" Jane's response to that mandate in her sermon was: "I don't want you to be Transformed. I like you the way you are, all of you." She went on to question whether Transformation (or at least the capital-T kind of Transformation) fit with our theology, which calls us to meet each other as we are, in our fascinating diversity. Her statements rippled through the whole conference. We asked ourselves, in what sense do we, as individuals and as a faith community, need to be transformed? How can we call out transformation in others? Or does our UU theology, in a deep sense, direct us to learn to accept each other, without asking others to be born again or convert themselves to something else?

Because you so kindly joined with me in a vital discussion of "Whose Are We?" at the beginning of April, I may let the Transformation theme spill over into May a bit. It's a good consideration for me as I am starting to envision a life next year, living in the City without the responsibility of a congregation. And it is important for CUC as well as me – what do you want – what do I want -- on the continuum from a bit of change, to transformation and ultimately to TRANSFORMATION? And how do we balance our own preference and needs with others – my family in my case, and in your case, all of your fellow parishioners?

In May we will also consider Transcendence, which by some definitions, is another notch above big-t Transformation, but it will also give us a chance to talk about the Transcendentalists (Emerson, Fuller, Thoreau) and their mixed response to the title that became attached to them. Be with us in May: our sanctuary is always transcendent in the spring, with a changing vista from the windows every week.

On May 1, we will have Manye (Mother) Esther with us to offer a vision of the program directs in Ghana, which our UU-UNO Office sponsors, and of course we will toast Lara and Jay on their up-coming marriage. On Mother's Day, Susan and I preach the sermon that Catherine Kortlandt bought at auction last fall. And on May 22, we will be with our first-ever Adult Coming of Age Class, as they lead the service, talking about the transformations and transcendences of their lives. This will be a good month.

– Rev. Carol

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

...the kitchen is the heart of any home...

Our church home started dreaming of renovations to our 50 year old building as early as 5 years ago. And a kitchen renovation was in those dreams from the very beginning. Our main lobby and rest rooms have been freshened and RE floors have been upgraded. We still continue to nurture this dream of a revitalized kitchen. Thanks to a Kitchen Design Team that has been meeting throughout the year, we are beginning to flush out what a new kitchen would look like and how we might proceed. The design of the kitchen is tricky as it must accommodate two functions at once: preparation for Sunday coffee service and the frequent times we are also preparing a Sunday brunch – for us or others. Without changing the footprint of the kitchen, storage and work space for these functions have been considered along with safety precautions – i.e. keeping people from walking through the kitchen to and from Fellowship Hall when food preparations are going on. The Kitchen Design Team has a plan in mind and is actively seeking professional help to draw the detailed plans.

The design of the kitchen has been fairly well scoped out at this point. During this work, a very fundamental question arose that sparked great debate among Design Team members and then the Board of Trustees: Will this be a “green

kitchen? Let me rephrase the question: Are we ready to live our values? Are we ready to change our way of being? Can we, as a congregation, stop using paper cups and plates and disposable plastic utensil at all our church events? A “green” commercial dishwasher would have a 3 minute cycle and plates and cups would be stored in the same racks they are washed in. OK so far. Coffee service is minor compared to a meal where each person has a complete place setting. Clean up becomes much more time consuming. To repeat, are we ready to live our values?

Have you and your family mastered the recycling of plastic and metal? Do you remember to take your CUC “Waldo” sea turtle reusable bags to the grocery store? (I have even learned the scanning gun and can get through the store and self-checkout in record time unless I meet a fellow CUCer to chat with.) Does your programmable thermostat reduce your energy consumption at night or when you aren’t home? Are you willing to join a “social group” in the kitchen after a function and WASH DISHES? Can we learn a new way of being? A new culture of caring for our planet earth? I know our children will say yes. The Board of Trustees has said yes. I say most emphatically that we can. Would you please give it some thought?

**- Anne Majsak
Chair, Board of Trustees**

MINISTERIAL INTERN

Choices...

Choices matter. Or so I choose to believe. It is a belief that fights against apathy and indifference, against short-sightedness and random chance, against numbness and despair.

Last week, Rev. Carol, Lara, Annie (CUC’s Youth Advisor), and I went to Albany to speak with members of the state senate and assembly on issues related to reproductive health, particularly connected to women. I discovered my teaching of Our Whole Lives, the sexuality education curriculum with the 8th and 9th graders, gave me the ability to articulate my beliefs about reproductive health in terms of our Unitarian Universalist principles: I believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, and that that worth and dignity gives people the right *and* the responsibility to make choices.

In OWL, we study decision-making, relationships, and values, not simply anatomy and physiology. The youth explore what it means to be in relationship with others while respecting both the other person’s worth and dignity and their own. They practice the process of making decisions. The steps recommended for decision-making are as follows:

Define the problem.

Identify your choices.

Figure out the possible results/consequences of each choice.

Consider the risks.

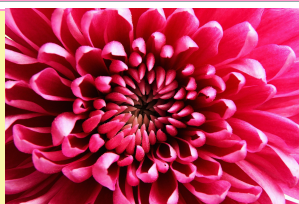
Make your decision.

The steps seem very basic and straightforward. Yet, I wonder how many times, in relationships, in politics, in all sorts of areas, we skip steps or at least cut them short. We may throw our energy into solving the wrong problem, miss possible solutions, ignore obvious consequences, or forget to calculate in the risk of our choices. If we believe our choices matter, we need to make them carefully and consciously.

Budget battles ask us to choose what we value and where we will put our resources. Personally, I believe the recent arguments over funding Planned Parenthood and other related arguments decrease a woman’s autonomy with regards to her healthcare, and create injustice by decreasing the availability of such care to lower income women and their families. And by making preventative care less available, healthcare costs increase in the long run. I recognize many of you agree with me, but we need to choose to make our voices heard.

Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

AMONG OURSELVES...



HONORING REV. CAROL

Dinner Event

See page 8 for details of the **June 11th** event.

Memory Album for Rev. Carol Huston

As part of Rev. Carol's farewell gifts we are creating a memory book of her ministry at CUC. We invite you to be a part of this project by submitting a letter expressing your thoughts, stories, or well wishes (together if possible with a photo/s).

Deadline for submission: **Tuesday, May 10th**

Submit your photo/text: Church office - "Memory Book" envelope located in the "Caring & Sharing" box.

Questions: Carole Mehta: Tel: 914-522-3482 (cell) or email: carole.mehta@gmail.com

Donations

Monetary contributions are being accepted as part of gifts to the Hustons. Please mark your submission with "Huston Gift." Donations can be left with Liliana Keith at the church office or given to Maxine Feldman.

The Wedding Toast

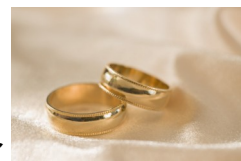
Lara Campbell and Jay Pacitti

Please join the DRE Relations Committee in extending sincere and best wishes to Lara Campbell and Jay Pacitti on their upcoming wedding on May 14! Rev. Carol will make a toast at coffee hour following the service.

**Sunday, May 1st
at Coffee Hour**



Lara & Jay are having a wedding quilt made. They are asking for **fabric pieces**, contributed by all of us, by **May 1st**. A basket will be available during coffee hour for you to leave your piece of fabric. There will also be adhesive-backed labels there for you to write your name and stick on your fabric donation if you would like Lara and Jay to know which piece of fabric you have donated.



The following is text from Lara Campbell:

"The weekend we became engaged, we came up with an idea to include the community in our new life together: we are asking you to help us make a quilt. The size, color, or type of fabric is not important. It can be fabric that makes you think of us, that is meaningful to you or to us, or just something you like. The fabric pieces will be hung up in the sanctuary and integrated into the ceremony. We are going to commission a quilt maker to take all the scraps and create a wedding quilt. That way, we will have your thoughts and support with us in our home.

Bring your fabric to CUC on May 1st for the "Coffee Hour Wedding Toast". If you will not be at CUC on May 1st, and would still like to be included, you can drop fabric off at CUC or mail it to Lara at home: 30 Fleetwood Avenue, #3H, Mt. Vernon, NY 10552 by May 7th, 2011.

Our hope is to collect enough fabric to have a queen size quilt made - - the more scraps, the better! "

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Spring holds so many meanings, opportunities and possibilities.

“As we all consider the many Springs of our lives, the new beginnings... I hope we will take one good look at the passingness of things, the precious fragility of everything. A single blade of grass, a much loved coffee mug, a fading photograph, a quick kiss; all speak of the wonder and transitoriness of life and death within the interdependent web. There is beauty and wonder in this existence. And as hard as it can be to face, the simple truth is this very moment is the only place we will find life and love and meaning. I think of this and realize it is time to kiss my child, to pack a lunch and take a walk, to have that conversation I've been putting off. Perhaps we all should take the opportunity to do some such thing. This is a new season, a new beginning. Hope is with us, hope reigns, so long as our blood pounds through our bodies.”

—excerpt from the sermon *Already Broken: A Buddhist Perspective on the Season of Spring*,
by James Ishmael Ford

How will you honor the spring?

Lara Campbell, DRE



RE Council—

“April showers” ushered in Passover and Easter last month, as is commonly the case, but failed to dampen the spirits and energy of CUC children and youth. The Youth Group whipped up a well-attended Pancake Brunch early in the month and the fourth and fifth graders expertly led Children’s Worship. Sixth and seventh graders were especially busy (again!!), with a large group visiting AFYA and then doing an amazing job sprucing up the grounds the morning after that evening of torrential rain and dramatic wind.

Courtesy of our sixth and seventh graders, in fact, you may want to take a leisurely stroll on a newly enhanced foot path on our grounds, to bring some balance to the flurry of RE activity slated for May. Brace yourselves....

Start the month off on May 1st with the joyous CUC toast to Lara and Jay. (Speak to me for more information on ways we’re contributing to this happy occasion.) On May 8th, we’ll present scholarships to several special high school seniors. On May 15th, the Youth Group take their turn leading Children’s Worship, while the Sixth/Seventh graders visit the New Rochelle Humane Society.

As reminders that one is never too old to come of age, on May 21st and 22nd, respectively, there’ll be a special Adult CoA ceremony and an Adult CoA Service. And, finally... *whew...* we’ll close the month with a Special Sunday (probably another day of tending our grounds) for stalwart families joining us over the Memorial Day weekend.

- Kate Colson, RE Council Chair

New Rochelle Humane Society May 15

6th & 7th Grade Social Action Project

Please donate used sheets, towels, and blankets to make the animals comfortable at the Humane Society. You may also donate dog & cat food.

Your donations can be brought to the bins in the RE Lobby.

Deadline: 9 AM, May 15th



EVENTS AT CUC...

Food Pantry Matching Donations Deadline, April 30

Donations provided to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in White Plains through April will be matched by funds from the Feinstein Foundation. The more money provided by us, the greater funds overall for the food pantry. How to donate funds?

- This Easter Sunday, Vicky Van Wert will be at coffee hour accepting cash donations or checks made payable to the Ecumenical Food Pantry.
- Checks payable to the Ecumenical Food Pantry can also be mailed to P.O. Box 2037, White Plains, NY, 10602. Please indicate the funds are part of a CUC donation towards the matching funds program. April 30th is the deadline for matching funds.

Adult Coming of Age Ceremony

Saturday, May 21 at 3 pm

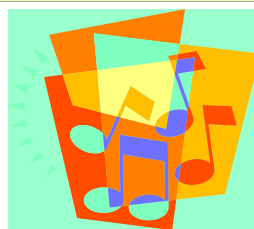
In the Sanctuary

This is our opportunity to hear the faith statements of our first ever Adult Coming of Age class and support them in this important right of passage in their continuing religious education experiences.

They will also conduct the Sunday, May 22 worship service.

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout April, contact Eleanor Herman at 937-1213.



Sing-A-Long

**Friday, May 6th
6:30-8:30 pm**

Pot Luck Dinner and Sing- A- Long

Led by our own Lisa Meyer

Beatles, show tunes, camp songs, family songs etc.

All ages welcome

Free (donations gratefully accepted at the door).

Please sign up in lobby or email Jane Dixon with what you are going to bring

jrdixon@optonline.net



Day In Place

**Saturday, May 7
8 AM—2 PM**

Come help the grounds crew with spring cleaning of our beautiful 8+ acres at CUC!



Tools provided, food provided, lots of fresh air and friendship.



PLAYREADING GROUP

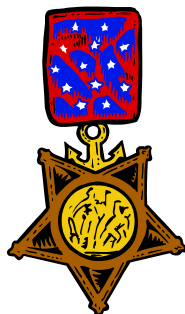
All Readings are at CUC at 7:30 PM on the first Monday of the month.

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.

EVENTS AT CUC...

Honors for Adam Kent



King Juan Carlos I of Spain has designated CUC Music Director Adam Kent recipient of La Orden al Merito Civil in recognition of his dissemination of Spanish music and culture. Adam will receive this medal at a special event organized by the Consulate General of Spain in New York.

Damocles Trio

On Saturday May 14, The Damocles Trio (Adam Kent, piano; Airi Yoshioka, violin; Sibylle Johner, cello) performs Heitor Villa-Lobos's Piano Trio No. 1 at Symphony Space (95th and Broadway) as part of the Sonidos Festival, an all-day celebration of Latin-American music. Concerts begin at 11AM, and the Damocles Trio is estimated to appear at 5:30PM. For more information on this free event, visit <http://www.symphonyspace.org/event/6500-wall-to-wall-sonidos>.

ADULT RE CLASSES

Taoism and Hebrew Wisdom Literature

Taught by Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern

Comparing & contrasting
theology and metaphor
Sunday, May 15 8:30 am

"Authenticity in Your Life's Call"

Taught by Susan Donham, ministerial intern

Join a class exploring how one can find authenticity and authority in many of life's callings, especially in the context of the UU ministry where our traditions include both a professional ministry and the idea that all can be part of the ministry.

Tuesday, May 24 7 - 9 pm, Rm. 41

Official Notice

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 5, 2011 for the purpose of

- receiving Annual Reports;
- voting on the Board of Trustees slate presented by the Nominating Committee;
- the election of members to the Nominating Committee;
- voting on CUC's operating budget for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012;
- voting on CUC's capital expenditures for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

In order to vote on the Board and other non-financial matters at the Annual meeting, you must be a signed member of the congregation no later than May 4. Please speak with Rev. Carol about how you can sign the membership book.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following members of *Community Unitarian Church at White Plains* as nominees for the Board of Trustees, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting following the service on Sunday, June 5, 2011.

For a 1 year term as Treasurer: Drew Swiss

For a 1 year term as Secretary: Jane Dixon

For a 3 year term as Trustee: Russ Gold, Bob Smith, & Ginny Strand.

More information about the nominees will be provided in the June Communitarian.

MAY Resource List Transcendence

Scripture

Genesis 28:10-17, John 14:6-12, The Bhagavad Gita, Tao Te Ching 25

Books

Nature by Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis

The Grand Design by Stephen Hawking

Etty Hillesum: An Interrupted Life and Letters from Westerbork, the diary and letters of a vibrant, articulate and artistic young woman writing in Nazi occupied Amsterdam.

Children's Books

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Arrow to the Sun: A Pueblo Indian Tale (ages 4-8) by Gerald McDermott. A boy goes on a quest to the sun, the source of life for the Pueblo Indians.

Father, We Thank You (ages 4-8) by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Mark Graham (illustrator) words and pictures work together to reflect the transcendence of nature.

Mr. Emerson's Cook (ages 6-10) by Judy and Judith Byron Schachner. How an Irish cook came to understand the imagination of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

George's Secret Key to the Universe (grades 4-8) by Stephen and Lucy Hawking. Space travel imaged by the great physicist and his daughter.

The Little Prince (grade 5 to adult) Antoine de Saint-Exupery, classic story of the interplanetary journey of the Little Prince.

Films

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)

Finding Neverland (2004) PG Starring Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet, this is the story of J.M. Barrie's friendship with a family who inspired him to create Peter Pan.

Tokyo Story (1953) An old couple comes to the big city to visit their children, who are more irritated than pleased by this interruption of their lives, which are scarcely glamorous. This movie patiently, wisely explores the universal tensions between the generations.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS



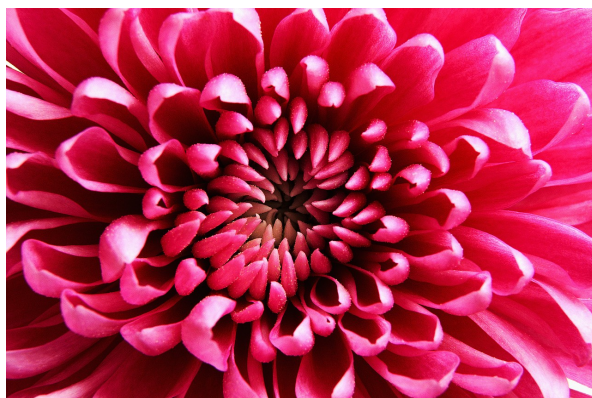
General Assembly 2011 will take place on June 22-26 in Charlotte NC. Registration and housing requests are now open. To learn more go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/>. If you are interested in going to GA, speak with Anne Majsak or Rev. Carol.

GA Offsite- Are you interested in viewing GA events at CUC? You can email me at ptmom@prodigy.net or call me 914-428-8032 and we can form a group to attend GA steaming live at CUC. I also have applied to be an offsite delegate and if picked we can observe the plenary sessions live and participate from White Plains. This is a test year so our vote will not count but it will be exciting to be a pioneer for real offsite voting in future years.

- Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs

Saturday June 11, 2011 at 6 P.M.

*An Evening Dinner
To Honor Rev. Carol Huston and Hollis Huston*



At
The Community Unitarian Church of White Plains
468 Rosedale Ave.
White Plains, N.Y. 10605

Ticket Price: \$35.00

RSVP and payment by May 27th.

Ticket purchase may be left at the church office or given to Maxine
Feldman on Sundays.


(Checks Payable to Community Unitarian Church.)

If you are interested in helping with the plans for the event please contact:

Maxine Feldman at feldmanmaxi9@gmail.com

914-835-0541

~ CUC May 2011 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 8:30a-9:30a ADLCOA 9a-10a 2nd/3rd Parents 10a-11:30a Rel. Ed 10:15a-11:45am Reverse Family Service & Coffee Hour 11:15a-12:15p Congregational Toast-Lara & Jay 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir 11:45a-1:15p In The Spirit of Truth | 2 7p-8p (FH or 24) Tai Chi 7:30p-9p (43) Play Reading Group 7:30p-9p (44) Spanish  | 3 7:30p-9:15p (SANC/24) Choir | 4 7:30p-9p (41) Program Council | 5 | 6 6:30pm-8:30p Pot Luck dinner & sing along  | 7 8a-2p Day In Place (Place) 9a-10a (Study) Reading Emerson 5p-6p (FH) Satellite Shelter (R. Gold) |
| 8 Mother's Day 10a-11:30a Religious Ed & Family Worship Service 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:45a-12:45p Music Committee | 9 7p-8p (FH or 24) Tai Chi 7:30p-9p (44) Spanish | 10 7:30p-9:15p (SANC/24) Choir | 11 7:30p-9:30p (41) Board of Trustees | 12 11:30a-1p (FA) Science and Spirituality | 13 | 14 9a-10a (Study) Reading Emerson 10a-12p (41) One Year to Live |
| 15 Communitarian Deadline 8:30a-9:45a Taoism/Hebrew Wisdom 10a-11:30a Rel. Ed 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12p New to CUC 11:45a-12:45p Welcome Committee 11:45a-1:15p Fun Facts About Music | 16 7p-8p (FH or 24) Tai Chi 7:30p-9p (44) Spanish 8p-9:30p (43) Finance Committee | 17 7:30p-9:15p (SANC/24) Choir | 18 7:30p-9p (41) RE Council | 19 10a-11a (FA) Folding Party | 20 6:30p-9p (SANC) ADL-CoA Rehearsal | 21 9a-10a (Study) Reading Emerson 3p-5p Adult Coming of Age Ceremony  |
| 22 8:30a-9:30a ADLCoA Service Rehearsal 10a-11:30a Rel.Ed 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir | 23 7p-8p (FH or 24) Tai Chi 7:30p-9p (44) Spanish | 24 7:30p-9:15p (SANC/24) Choir | 25 7:30p-9p (41) W'shp Assoc. | 26 11:30a-1p (FA) Science and Spirituality | 27 | 28 9a-10a (Study) Reading Emerson |
| 29 10a-11:30a Rel Ed, Special Sunday 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee Hour 11:30a-12:15p Children's Choir | 30 Memorial Day Church Offices Closed | 31 7:30p-9:15p (SANC/24) Choir | | | | |

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.

MAY SERVICES 2011

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

MAY 1

“Transformation and Transcendence”

Manye Esther from Ghana & Rev. Carol Huston
The children will join us for the last part of the service.

MAY 8

“Coming in from the Margins”

Dialogue sermon:
Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern
and Rev. Carol Huston
The Choir will sing
The children will join us for the last part of the service.

MAY 15

“Embodiment”

Susan Donham, Ministerial Intern
The Choir will sing

SATURDAY, MAY 21

**Adult Coming Of Age Celebration
3:00-5:00 PM**

Hear all the Cremos from the Coming of Age adults

MAY 22

Adult Coming Of Age Service

MAY 29

A Service for Memorial Day

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.