

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

June 2010



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

Louise Jacono
Church Administrator
Newsletter Editor/Design

Adam Kent
Music Director

Lisa Meyer
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra
Community Minister
in Association with CUC

For more information
about CUC:
www.cucwp.org
Email: info@cucwp.org
914.946.1660

Communitarian Deadline
for July/August Edition:
Sunday, June 20

Submit information to
Email: info@cucwp.org
Fax: 914.948.2603

Minister's Moment...

On June 13 we will be offering our thanks to Louise Jacono who has been Church Administrator here for more than 15 years. She has worked with 10 different ministers (counting Rev. Deb, associates and interns), 14 board chairs, 5 or 6 religious educators, depending on how you count them, 5 bookkeepers. . . and all of you. She has been at the center of the professionalization of the office here, as we moved from what is called a pastoral-sized to a program-sized congregation. Her calm demeanor and sensible judgment have allowed us to face change and development.

As spring began, Louise told me that she would give us only one more season of her worklife. The temptation to spend time and travel with her husband John, already retired, and to be more available to her gardens and books and four grandchildren had become too great. And so her last day with us will be June 15. Ever responsible, she gave us good notice, and her knowledge and duties are being turned over to others who will try to replace her.

This has not been a secret, and many of you have been giving Louise your best wishes for her retirement. But all of you, please plan to be here for our June 13 *Service of Living Tradition* so that we can let her know how much we appreciate her skill and her dedication. We will miss you, Louise!

I have been working with the Board, the Committee on Ministry, and others to process the material from the assessment. At this writing thoughts and plans are still in process, but please know that we are all working hard to be responsive to what we learned and responsible about changes. You will hear more soon.

I have just e-mailed off to Arman Pedro, the leader of the Doldol Congregation in the Philippines, the words we use for our annual *Flower Festival Service*. When we do that service on June 6, we will be able to imagine ourselves celebrating with people on the other side of the world! Please bring a flower with you for every member of the family when you come to services on June 6.

The theme for June is Sabbath. The resource list is shorter this month. I hope that you will simply receive this theme as an invitation to Sabbath rest.

Rev. Carol

Resources for the theme Sabbath

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 The first of two creation stories in Hebrew scripture
The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man by Abraham Joshua Heschel
Keeping the Sabbath Wholly by Marva J. Dawn
The Cloister Walk by Kathleen Norris

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Americans work more hours than medieval peasants...

We are a society that suffers from chronic overwork. American workers spend an average of nine full weeks more on their jobs than do European workers. From 1973 to 2000, U.S. workers added 199 hours of work per year. Mandatory overtime is at record levels and we have the shortest amount of paid vacations in the world. Equally insidious is that our children have given up play time and unstructured outdoor time over the past two decades. Structured sports time has doubled and the number of meals at home have declined¹.

What is the impact of extra work and packed schedules? Americans are twice as likely as Europeans to suffer from anxiety and depression. One quarter of Americans are overwhelmed by their work and one third of those that feel overworked report being highly stressed. In 1980 America ranked 11th in the world in longevity, we are now 42nd. Overwork can lead to lack of sleep, lack of energy, and the overproduction of stress hormones that can contribute to anxiety and high blood pressure².

Thomas Meton a trappist monk wrote a warning that seems especially pertinent to Unitarian Universalists. He argued that activism and overwork can have insidious consequences.

“There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence to which the idealist... most easily succumbs: activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence.”

“To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence.”

“The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.”

What are our options as a society and as individuals or families? There are no easy answers. There may be no way to have it all, but we have to ask ourselves what is most important in our lives? That is where CUC can help. Unitarian Universalism emphasizes the importance of the Sunday service. At CUC we offer moments of meditation, periods of reflection, the opportunity for friendship and community, beautiful grounds, and a rich spiritual tradition.

This month as we get ready for summer and the end of our congregational year, perhaps we should take the opportunity to think about the balance in our lives. How much work is enough work? How can CUC be a place of reflection, respite and inspiration?

*Steve Bear, Chair
Board of Trustees*

¹William Doherty *Let's Take Back Our Time* and *Take Back Your Time* web site.

²Take Back Your Time web site.

Official Notice

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 6, 2010 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, 2010 to June 30, 2011;
- voting on CUC's capital expenditures for July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The R.E. View

At RE Sunday we make a point to thank our teachers for their dedication and commitment to the RE program. The majority of them are not professional teachers. They volunteer for many reasons – they are committed to CUC, they are grateful for those who have taught their kids, they think UU kids are the best, or they realize that RE won't happen if there are not enough teachers. They are truly an amazing group of individuals.

The results of the congregational assessment were clear – people like the RE program and want to see it more integrated in the church's larger community. The primary way that we can make this happen is to have more volunteer teachers.

The RE Council has decided to implement the teaching team model for the Kindergarten and up classes. This will reduce the burden on parents to assist in the younger grades.

Our goal is to put 6-8 people on each team. If we get full teams it will mean that teachers will be teaching once a month and assisting once a month. The rotation would not be more than one time a month in the classroom.

However, it is going to take all of us to make this happen! Parents, non-parents, and youth will all be needed to fill the necessary 70 spots.

Email me at dre4cucwp@yahoo.com to discuss what team you would like to teach on.

Please step up and volunteer to teach in RE. Your generosity might make a difference in the life of a child, youth – or even in you.

A special note: Thank you Louise Jacono for all your hard work for RE at CUC. You have been a delight to work with and I wish you well in your retirement!

*Lara Campbell
Director of Religious Education*

Our Plans as We End Another Program Year

Thank you to all the RE families that participated in the recent church assessment process. There was some helpful feedback about RE that came out of the assessment evaluation. Among the highlights were extremely strong support for the RE program as a whole, but with possible areas of improvement in multigenerational programming and in system enhancements for communication and responsibility when Lara is required to be away from Sunday service.

On a related note, Lara will be undertaking part two of her sabbatical this summer. This should have minimal impact on the classrooms. However, it would be incredibly helpful if as many people as possible turned in their RE registration forms before the end of this church year.

We are in the process of winding up the year in Religious Education, but we still have a few more events and milestones before we finish up. On June 6 we have the Flower Festival, which is always a big hit with the children. Please remember to have all members of your family bring in a flower to share with the congregation. On June 13 we will have our Bridging Ceremony in which we officially send our high school seniors off into the world. I personally find this to be one of the most moving occasions on the church calendar. Even if I don't personally know the youth who are moving on, I find great warmth and inspiration from seeing the community bid farewell in such a caring and supportive manner.

Enjoy the sunshine,
*Erin Foster, Chair
Religious Education Council*

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

The UU District of Metro NY Annual Meeting was held April 30-May 1 in Morristown, New Jersey. CUC registrants included Rev. Carol Huston, Linnea Huston, John Cavallero and Denice Tomlinson. Congratulations to Zachary Morrice. He was one of only three district youth chosen to receive a District Scholarship.

General Assembly (GA) 2010 will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 23-27. Did you know that you can connect with GA via blogs, podcasts, facebook and twitter? Many of the events at GA can be viewed streaming live, or video. In the next few weeks there will be more information about events at GA and how to view them from

home. I have been attending GA from my home computer for the past few years.

Standing On the Side of Love. Have you purchased your lawn sign yet? You can let others know that you Stand on the Side of Love for immigrant families by displaying a lawn sign. They come in packs of 12 so many of us at CUC may want to order together. Contact me at ptmom@prodigy.net and I will organize the ordering. Check them out along, with bumper stickers and tee shirts and stand on the side of love. www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/signs-of-love.

*Denice Tomlinson, Chair
Denominational Affairs*



Thank you

CUC donated \$3,950 to the Food Pantry during April's food drive. This is in addition to \$336 from sharing our April plate collections with the food pantry. All donations will qualify for a portion of the Feinstein Fund. Thanks to all who donated, but especially to a few extremely generous donors.



Theme:
The 60's, Peace, Love, and Rock & Roll

Interested in helping with the auction?
 You can volunteer the night of, the day before, or with advance planning . . .
 Whatever works for you.

The next meeting is Thursday, July 15th.
 Contact Emily Economou at
em_boo@yahoo.com or 914-633-4455.

Pride in the Pulpit

Hudson Valley Marriage Ambassadors, GENDA Advocates, Dignity enthusiasts and progressive people of faith come together to plan upcoming events, share information, and build the movement for equality and justice. This group meets monthly at the Loft. Email ptmom@prodigy.net if you would like to join me attending these meetings.

Now is the time to pass GENDA (Gender Expression Non Discrimination Act)! People of faith throughout New York State have championed transgender equality by urging our State Senate to pass GENDA this year. As the legislative session approaches its end in June, we need everyone who cares about transgender equality to voice support and encourage our State Senate to do the right thing.

Upcoming event –
 All faith groups invited and encouraged to attend
 Temple Israel of New Rochelle Marriage Equality Rally
 Sunday, June 13th, 1000 Pinebrook Boulevard, New Rochelle
 – Denice Tomlinson

Open your home to an international student and share our community for four weeks this summer! EF's Homestay Program (www.efhomestay.org) is a non-profit organization bringing students from Spain to the Lower Westchester area to study English and experience our American culture. Students will arrive July 1 and stay until July 27 and will attend classes each morning and organized activities in the afternoon. If you are able to provide a room, meals, and, most importantly, a loving and caring environment, you have what it takes to be a host family. Contact MaryEllen at 914-384-0846 or peke@optonline.net

For all Congregational Leaders

**UULTI by-the-sea
registration in open!**

UU Leadership Team Institute

August 26-August 29, 2010

Ocean Grove Retreat Center, NJ

UULTI by-the-sea is a 3-day residential learning experience that seeks to renew and deepen our understanding of the call to leadership and to equip individuals and congregational teams with practical tools and powerful ideas that can transform their congregation. For more information contact Denice Tomlinson at ptmom@prodigy.net.

Reminder

Sunday, May 30, 2010 at 2pm

**A Musical Tribute to
Eef / Ava Elsevier-Schimmel
longtime CUC member and Sunday School teacher**

**Featuring members of the
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and friends**

Voice - Korliss Uecker, soprano

Violin - Nancy Wu
Associate Concertmaster
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Violin - Annamae Goldstein
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Viola - Désirée Elsevier
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Viola - Katherine Anderson
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Cello - Jeremy Turner
Ass't Principal Cello
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Cello - Marian Heller
Member
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Bass - Leigh Mesh
Associate Principal Bass
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Horn - Patrick Milando
Principal Horn
Lion King

Harp - Barbara Allen
Principal Harp
American Ballet Theatre

Piano - Kevin Murphy
Director of Music Administration
City Opera NY

All are invited to join the Elsevier family for this very special afternoon. (No admission fee.)

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 6, 2010.

For a 1 year term as Treasurer:

Drew Swiss has worked for Montefiore Medical Center, an integrated delivery system with \$3 billion in revenues, for the past 21 years as VP Finance. He has been responsible for all aspects of the hospital and clinical revenue cycle, managed care negotiations, managing the investment portfolio and other financial operations.

Drew has also been a trustee for the 1199 National Pension Fund (a \$6.5 billion fund) since 1993. He also serves as a member of the Audit and Investment Committees of the Fund.

Prior to Montefiore, he was a Senior Manager with the New York Office of E&Y for 8 years.

Drew has been a member of CUC since September 1996 and Treasurer since 2007. He has served on the strategic planning committee, which made recommendations for implementing the Comprehensive Plan, led a financial review of CUC and currently attends monthly Finance Committee meetings. He and wife Amy have four children in the RE program.

For a 1 year term as Secretary:

Jane Dixon has been a member of CUC since 2000. She has served on, and chaired, the Adult Religious Education Committee and the Welcome Committee. She helped start the Spanish Conversation Circle three years ago and has also been a member of the Ministerial Intern Committee during the internships of Catherine Torpey, Nathan Walker and Jef Gamblee. Additionally she has helped out on the Auction Committee and is the Board liaison to the Program Council.

As a former special educator and administrator, Jane hopes her ability to listen and find common ground will continue to be a benefit to the Board.

For a 3 year term as Trustee:

Erin Foster has been attending CUC for six years. She has been a member of the Religious Education Council for the past three years, serving as RE Council co-chair in 2009-2010. She is also a member of CUC's Safety Committee.

Erin has been actively involved in community volunteer activities in Scarsdale. She has been a member and secretary of the Board of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, has chaired numerous PTA committees, and is currently a member of the Scarsdale School Board Nominating Committee. Erin is a librarian by training but has worked most recently as a freelance writer.

Erin and her husband Jeff Blatt have three daughters in CUC's RE program: Charlie in the 8th grade Coming of Age class and twins Josie and Louisa in 5th grade.

Anne Majsak has been a member of CUC for about 20 years. She has previously served on the Board of Trustees as Treasurer for many years during which time the financial books were moved from a hand ledger to a computerized system. She has also served on the Ministerial Relations Committee, the Religious Education Council, as well as several auction committees and the Caring & Sharing Circle.

Anne has an MBA in Finance and, after many years in the corporate world, she stayed home to raise children. She is currently on the Board of Westchester Arc, recently finishing a term as President and continues to volunteer with AARP preparing income taxes in local libraries. She and her husband Joe live in White Plains and their three children are "graduates" of our Religious Education program.

David Schuler formally joined CUC in 2007, but was married in the church in 1994 and has been involved in church activities since soon after his family moved to the area in 2001. His wife Elissa grew up attending the church, and their two daughters are active in RE and the Children's Choir. David has been an RE teacher for five years, and he has been a contributor to the Midnight Run program. He has also been a member of the Grounds Committee for several years and in charge of Days in Place for the last year. He and his wife donated the Anniversary Mizmaze garden as part of CUC's 2009 celebrations.

Professionally, David works in finance in the energy field, currently as the controller for a small private equity fund in Greenwich, Connecticut.

The Nominating Committee thanks everyone who expressed interest in this vital function of our church. Mary Cavallero, Chair; Karen Cutsumpas, Claire Kuczinski, Urania (Ray) Messing, and John Saccardi

JUNE 2010

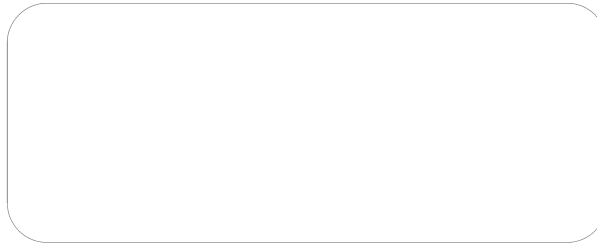
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Program Council (off-site)	3	4 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00a Reading Emerson 6:00p 6th grade OWL retreat sessions 5-7
6 9:00a Minister's Colloquium 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship Following the service: Annual Meeting of the Congregation 11:45a Spirit of Truth	7 7:00p Tai Chi 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	8	9 7:30p Board of Trustees	10 11:30a Science & Spirituality	11	12 9:00a Reading Emerson 6p Annual BBQ 
13 8:30a ASC Committee 10:00a RE 10:15a Worship 11:30a Choir Picnic	14	15	16	17	18	19 7:30p Parents of Teenagers
20 Communitarian Deadline 10:15a Multi-age RE Class 10:15a Worship	21	22	23	24 10:00a Folding Party	25	26
General Assembly in Minneapolis						
27 10:15a Multi-age RE Class 10:15a Worship: Juneteenth service <div>GA ends</div>	28	29	30	If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout June call Liz Laite at 366-4211.		

For latest news and updates go to our website at www.cucwp.org.
The Communitarian is now available on our website. To stop receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and to start receiving email announcements instead, please send an email to admin@cucwp.org

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write 'refused' across your address and return it unopened. No postage is required.

JUNE SERVICES

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

JUNE 6

Flower Festival

(Bring a cut flower for each member of your family)
Reverse Family Service / CUC Choir will sing

JUNE 20

A Father to Me

(Bring pictures and thoughts about someone
who has been a father to you)

JUNE 13

Service of Living Tradition

& Bridging Ceremony for our Young Adults
Reverse Family Service / CUC Choir will sing

JUNE 27

Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Guest speaker Lois Bronz

FINAL NOTE ↻ JUNE FORUM

JUNE 6

At 11:45am in Fellowship Hall
In the Spirit of Truth