

THE COMMUNITARIAN



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH
AT WHITE PLAINS

Religious Education
10:00 am

Sunday Services
10:15 am

Accessible to Handicapped

In the Interim . . .

A few years ago, an article in the *New York Times** reported the results of a survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life: *70 percent of Americans said that they believed religions other than their own could lead to eternal life!* When evangelicals protested that the respondents must have misunderstood the question, Pew conducted the survey again.

“Sixty-five percent of respondents said — again — that other religions could lead to eternal life. But this time, to clear up any confusion, Pew asked them to specify which religions. The respondents essentially said all of them.

“And they didn’t stop there. Nearly half also thought that atheists could go to heaven — dragged there kicking and screaming, no doubt — and most thought that people with no religious faith also could go.”

When asked what they thought determined whether a person would achieve eternal life, “nearly as many Christians said you could achieve eternal life by just being a good person as said that you had to believe in Jesus.”

Let us permit ourselves a few high-fives in celebration of our Universalist victory over Calvinism! Yay! Then what?

Then perhaps we recognize that we have no patents on the use of reason in religion or respect for other religious paths. Leaving aside the question of “eternal life,” it seems that most folks put a high value on how we live *this* life.

We might wonder if we’ve become too comfortable with our status as a tiny minority religion and the low expectations that go with it.

We might be inspired to take up the practice of speaking about our faith to friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. We might accept this as a challenge to let our light shine—to reach out to those who are ready to hear our message of “Not hell, but hope and courage.” Many will be surprised to learn that such a faith exists. And some will be grateful to find a religious home with us.

Yours in faith,
Benjamin

[*Charles Blow, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/27/opinion/27blow.html?r=2>]

Community Unitarian
Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660
[Www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)



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MAY SERVICES 2013, 10:15 A M

May 5. The Rev. Meredith Garmon. Precandidate for settled minister. Service followed by congregational meeting. "*How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Spirituality*." I did not go for "spirituality" – did not use that word for my experiences. Nor did I think in terms of sacred, divine, transcendent. Wasn't so keen on awe, mystery, or wonder either. It was several years after college before, very slowly at first, I began to find a place – to want a place -- in my life for transcendent love, inner peace, "all-rightness," acceptance, awe, beauty, wonder, humility, gratitude, a freshness of experience; a feeling of plenitude, abundance, and deep simplicity of all things.

May 12. The Rev. David M. Horst. *My Mother's Words*. Rev. Horst will invite you to contribute to the sermon. David M. Horst has served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Boston, Malden, and Nantucket, Mass., since 1999. He is a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School.

May 19. The Rev. Benjamin Maucere. *Who Do We Say He Is? Adventures in Unitarian Christology Part 5*. Boston.

May 26. Joann Prinzivalli, *War and Remembrance*. We'll be exploring the idea that a peaceful people will not only remember our own war dead, but the loss of all the innocents who may be viewed as "collateral damage" - and further, to also honor, remember and respect the memory of enemy (and former enemy) war dead can bring us closer to harmony within the seven principles. When we recognize the humanity of an enemy, how can we wage war?

Candidating Week

Meet Rev. Meredith Garmon

Attend Any Of The Events Below.....

Sunday, April 28 - **Sunday service 10:15, followed by expanded coffee hour with a Q & A session 11:30 am-1:00 pm**

Wednesday, May 1 - **RE Families and teachers open house evening 5:30-7:30 pm** (dinner and dessert) followed by RE Council meeting

Thursday, May 2 - **Afternoon tea 3:30-5:30 pm** hosted by Caring and Sharing committee
Evening All Church Open Forum 6:30-9:00 pm with wine, juice and cheese

Friday, May 3 - **Evening Youth pizza party 6:30-9:00 pm** and prep for Midnight Run & Tag Sale

Saturday, May 4 - **Church Tag Sale**
All community minister open house 11:00 am -1:00 pm
Social Justice and Community Service conversation 4:00-5:00 pm

Sunday, May 5 - **Sunday service, followed by congregation meeting and vote**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Board of Trustees calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on Sunday, June 2, 2013 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, 2013 to June 30, 2014;
- voting on CUC's capital expenditures for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

“Coming up Roses”

Sticking with the flower theme from my April column for this month's title, CUC is on a roll recently with everything coming up roses. It started with the Pete Seeger concert in early April, continued last weekend with the Giving Campaign brunch using our new kitchen, and hopefully will culminate with the upcoming Candidating Week. All three are successes that came after hard work from dedicated folks, and all are well worth celebrating.

The Pete Seeger concert was one of the best events in my ten plus years at CUC (second only to my wedding eighteen years ago!). At 92, Pete can still command an audience, and his singing – and even drawing – inspired, amused and moved folks of all ages. The concert's 300+ tickets were all sold, and it raised about \$6,000 for the UU Service Committee. Gary Press led the organization efforts for CUC and deserves lots of praise for his organizing skills, motivating emails, and good cheer. But as is usually the case with successful events at CUC and elsewhere, Gary had a whole team of helpers and people pitched in as their time and talents allowed, whether Jean Young creating flyers or Christopher Clouet providing the parking team with reflective orange vests borrowed from his fifth grade crossing guards. It was a testament to the power of community collaboration.

Similarly, the Giving Campaign had a dedicated leader in Janet Press, who had a team of motivated helpers. The campaign continues but it has already raised pledges of over \$300,000 from the congregation. The delicious brunch to celebrate the campaign was also the first chance to use our brand new kitchen. Scott Damashek and the cooking crew made enough scrumptious scrambled eggs on our new stove for over 100, and the new dishware got favorable reviews. Ted Kuczinski almost single handedly provided the project oversight for over nine months. Kudos to Ted for sticking with the project through thick and thin and for calling in helpers as needed, whether John Cutsumpas providing architectural expertise, John Schwam playing the “bad cop” with contractors, or Nicky Klemens ordering all the kitchenware. The seeds planted many years and months ago by so many of us have finally come to fruition just in time for spring: the kitchen is a true testament to our combined perseverance and patience.

And finally, the Search Committee devoted themselves to the long and very involved process of finding a candidate to be our next minister at CUC. After surveying the congregation and preparing material about CUC, they started with a list of over twenty potential candidates. From there, they interviewed ten candidates, met three as pre-candidates, listened to sermons, read informational packets, and after careful deliberation, winnowed the list to one candidate. That candidate – Rev. Meredith Garmon – arrives on Saturday for eight full days of getting to know us and vice versa. April has been a month of blossoming success for CUC, and here's hoping that the roll continues with Candidating Week and the congregational vote on May 5th!

~ David Schuler, Board Chair

NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES...

Ingrid Hartmann

Ingrid has been involved with CUC for about 20 years. She was raised Lutheran, but was always plagued with doubts. She was convinced that she was a Unitarian when she attended a Memorial Service (officiated by The Rev. Shannon Bernard) for a friend of the family. She feels deeply connected to CUC and is honored to be asked to serve on the board.

Ingrid finds her Caring & Sharing Circle involvement both rewarding and heartbreaking. She has also been involved with the Welcoming Committee. Ingrid and her sister Astrid have jointly hosted auction dinners from the onset. The first one, an after Church Brunch. The people who bid on that have become their closest friends. CUC is Ingrid's home away from home.

Ingrid was born in Germany. She came to the US in 1953 and has been married to her husband Manfred for almost 56 years. They have 3 grown children and two grown grandchildren. She worked for Lufthansa German Airlines as a Teletype Operator and in later years for White Plains Hospital in the Admitting Office. She retired from WPH after 35 years.

"Exciting times are ahead. I am proud to be part of it."

Barry Litcofsky

Barry and his wife, Tricia, were married at CUC and began attending in 1980. Their children, Kevin and Kaitlyn, attended RE from infants to Coming of Age, and are both now in the early stages of their own careers. Barry has been a Finance Committee member for over 20 years, with the main focus of managing the Endowment Fund. Additionally, he served a three-year term on the BOT in the late 1990's and several years on the Canvass Committee. Professionally, he has been with Merrill Lynch for 25 years and works in White Plains as a Financial Advisor.

Barry is looking forward to being a member of the Board of Trustees, as CUC continues to evolve and move forward in defining and achieving our Mission.

Karen Schmitt

Karen embraced Unitarianism in 2004, shortly after moving from New York City to Westchester. Since then, she has served many years as a teacher in the RE program, co-chaired the Community Outreach program, served on the pledge committee, and most recently managed the process to create CUC's new photo directory.

Karen has been actively involved in the Rye public schools, serving on various Parents' Organization Boards as Treasurer and Vice Chairman. She has also served as a Girl Scout troop leader for seven years.

Prior to Karen's move to Westchester, she worked in financial services at Merrill Lynch for twelve years. She holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, and a BS in computer science from MIT.

Karen enjoys traveling, and recently journeyed to Yellowknife, Canada to see the Northern Lights. Her teenage daughters Kelsey and Emma have gone through the complete RE program at CUC. Karen follows in her husband Ray's footsteps by volunteering to join CUC's Board of Trustees, and looks forward to working towards a bright future at CUC with our new minister.

Recording Secretary

1 year term

Johanna Bauer

Johanna began attending the First Unitarian Society in Hartford, Connecticut in 1962. In 1995 she was looking for a place for religious education and worship for herself and her four children and found CUC. At that time they were living in the Bronx and have subsequently moved to New Rochelle. Her youngest son completed his Coming of Age in 2006.

Service to the CUC community has included seven years as an RE teacher, two stints as a Coming of Age Mentor, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, from 2006 to 2009, co-chair of the Community

Action Project and is currently Secretary to the Board of Trustees as of last year.

Johanna works as an investigator with the US Department of Labor enforcing the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Treasurer

1 year term

Nicole Silton Klemens

Nicole (aka Nicky) is a life long UU who grew up here at CUC. She has served in numerous capacities over the last 20+ years, including serving on the Religious Education board, the audit, auction, long term building/planning, kitchen, safe congregations, caring& sharing committees, various community outreach projects as well as a 3 year term on the Board of Trustees, including 1 year as Board Chair. This past year, she has served as Treasurer, member of the Finance committee, as well as Auction and kitchen projects.

In her professional life, Nicky owns her own business, Let's Get Organized LLC, a daily money management and organizing firm that serves elderly, busy professionals and small businesses. Previously, she worked for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines in various positions in Sales and Reservations. She holds a BA in Psychology from Harpur College, State University of New York at Binghamton, NY.

Nicky's 2 sons, Dan and Rob completed their religious education at CUC. Both are away at (different) colleges in Connecticut during the school year.

She looks forward to continuing being part of the BOT as CUC moves towards congregational growth and financial stability.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Making a Difference in the World

*When we look and we see things are not what they should be,
God's counting on me, God's counting on you.*

When Pete sang those words, an audience of over 300 voices, young and old, sang along with him. *"When there's big problems to be solved, let's get everyone involved. God's counting on me..."* At ninety-three years-old, Pete Seeger is still singing strong. He captivated his audience here in April and continues to inspire us to make the world a better place.

As Unitarian Universalists we live out our faith in our actions, not just our words. One goal in Religious Education is to help our children to develop a sense of social responsibility. Children are taught that they can make a difference in this world.



This year, the 6th/7th grade class has been focused on issues of social justice and social action. Recently they went on a service trip to AFYA Foundation in Yonkers where they bagged, sorting, and counting medical supplies. AFYA, which means "good health" in Swahili, provides medical and community outreach supplies to international health clinics.

"There were literally mountains of medical supplies on big metal tables," reported Zoe Swiss. "Sorting was tedious! It took a long time because we had to match everything perfectly."

"We boxed all sorts of medical supplies," added Samantha Dandridge. Supplies included dental floss, sutures, saws, razors, masks, syringes and gauze. "We began to work as a team: Someone would shout, 'I'm collecting this' and then we begin counting and subdividing materials together." The medical supplies, along with wheelchairs, walkers and electric computers like EKG machines, were being sent to Africa. Cole Sheeley shared a story he learned about a Haitian man who had use of only one arm and who desperately needed a wheelchair. To get him a wheelchair, an AFYA representative faked a leg injury. She pretended to need a wheelchair so she could take it onto the plane, and then into Haiti. Impressed, Cole remarked, "It was the only way to bring the chair to the man who needed it."

As Pete's song reminds us, *"What we do now you and me will effect eternity. God's counting on me, God's counting on you."*

Lily Rappaport, Acting Director of Religious Education



CUC's *got Talent*

Talent Show Fundraising Event

Saturday, May 11th, 2013

5pm-7pm

\$5 at the door

Community Unitarian Church

468 Rosedale Avenue

White Plains, NY 10605

Join us for an evening of fun, and enjoy the many talents of the CUC children and their family members.

Acts will include: singing, dancing, gymnastics, comedy, flash mob and much much more!

Raffle prizes too!

Refreshments following the finale.

All proceeds benefit **Kids In Crisis** of Cos Cob, CT - an organization providing emergency shelter, counseling and educational programs for children dealing with a wide range of crises.

STILL ROOM FOR MORE ACTS!

For information, please email:
elizabethsuvanto@hotmail.com

WHY?.....OUR MISSION

Update on forming a MISSION Statement

One of the goals of the BOT this year is to form a mission statement.

The latest step in that process was listening to you. Over the last few weeks, in our conversation circles, we listened to 96 of you share your values and your dreams. I am so grateful to the 13 people who facilitated and who were scribes in these circles. I'm also grateful that we got to hear from so many of you.

The notes from those circles were typed up and Joe Majask has analyzed most of the data. It's now in the form of a very detailed Excel spread sheet.

Randy Marshall, from the BOT has volunteered to join Joe & me as we continue the process. Stay turned. We'll have an update with more information shortly.

Mary Cavallero



Our indoor "tree"

There's a "tree" in the sanctuary on one of the glass doors. After every conversation circle, things you've said about why you like to attend CUC were written on post-its and became the "leaves" of the trees. Visit the tree and see if you can find one of the things that you said.

A bar graph on the doors in the fireside area?

During each conversation circle we asked you to choose which of the seven principles was your favorite. The results are displayed on the doors in the back of the fireside area. Many of you said that you could not decide – that all the principles were important. Some of you split your vote. Here are the results:

Principle #1 – The inherent worth and dignity of every person. This was the overwhelming favorite with 22 votes.

Principle #7 – Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. – 16 votes.

Principle #3 – Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. – 13 votes

Principle #4 – A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. – 9 votes.

TAG SALE

We are having a Bake sale as part of the Tag Sale. We are looking for donations of home-made baked goods, pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, breads, whatever you like. If you can help with this, bring your donation to church on Friday night (May 3) or Sat morning (May 4). Questions regarding the bake sale, please contact Johanna Bauer at johbauer@msn.com or (914) 636-1047 or Christine Major at Christine@lanzainsurance.com



THE EVENT

Tag Sale

Saturday, May 4th

9:00 am—3:00 pm

Donations

Items can be delivered to CUC
Sunday 4/28 through the RE entrance & Mon-Fri 4/29-5/3 through the Main Entrance.

Volunteer times

All Evenings April 28-May 3 6:00—9:00 pm

Friday Evening, May 3rd, the final push!

Join many others to sort items and determine pricing. Pizza, beverages, and lots of camaraderie provided.

Saturday, May 4th

Volunteers are still needed to help guide customers during the tag sale, and to clean-up from 3-6 PM. This is an easy, great volunteer opportunity. Contact: Paula Meighan at 914-834-6454 or email paula@changingplaces.info. Or just show up for the times listed above.

Caring & Sharing...

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle, throughout May contact **Eleanor Hermann** at 937-1213 or elroherm@verizon.net or **Gail McLeod** at 235-8212 or gail.w.mcleod@gmail.com.



Through April 30th, the Feinstein Foundation is matching all donations to the White Plains Ecumenical Food Pantry. There is still time to send donations to take advantage of the matching funds. Please send donations to PO Box 2037, White Plains, NY 10602. Mention CUC with your donation.

For more information, contact Vicky Van Wert at 937-4758. Thank you.

Sanctuary Flowers

Share your cherished occasions. Flower donations at CUC are for you to honor loved ones. A birthday? An anniversary? A new family member? A remembrance day? The bouquet will adorn the sanctuary and the occasion will be mentioned in the Sunday Order of Service. To make a flower donation, contact Liliana Keith at 946-1660 x2 or at admin@cucwp.org. The cost is \$65.

Dates Available For Flower Donations:

May 12
May 26
June 2 and June 9

MONEY MATTERS

**Sunday, May 19th
11:30-12:30 in Fellowship Hall**

Presentation and discussion of draft 2013-14 budget.

Please join the board of trustees and have your questions heard and hopefully answered prior to voting on June 2.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

General Assembly (GA) 2013 “From Promise to Commitment” will take place on June 19-23 in Louisville, Kentucky. Registration and housing requests are now open. To learn more about GA go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/>. If you are interested in going to GA, speak with Mary Cavallero or email Denise Tomlinson at denice.tomlinson@yahoo.com.

Can't go to General Assembly?

Did you know that the UUA now offers at least 20 hours Live-streaming of General Assembly and can be viewed from the comfort of your home computer or mobile device? Did you know that Denominations has offered viewing of all 20 hours at CUC for the past 2 years? Did you know that you can vote and be an offsite delegate if designated by the Board of Trustees?

I will be signing up in the next few weeks to be an offsite delegate for the White Plains congregation. This will be my third year as an offsite delegate. As an offsite delegate I have a delegate card and will vote on any actions at the GA business meeting. I would like your help in voting this year. I would like you to do a little research on some of the actions that I will be voting on and add your voice to the vote. You can email me your opinions on the topics and/or in June if you can, I would like you to join me in viewing GA and be there for the vote. I know that June seems so far away but I would like you to start doing some homework...

Voting opportunities - <http://www.uua.org/documents/gaoffice/tentativeagenda.pdf>

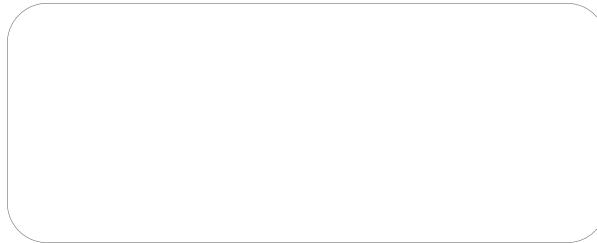
We will be voting on the Statement of Conscience - Immigration as a Moral Issue and Bylaw Amendments. We will also be electing a moderator who presides at UUA Board of Trustees meeting, executive committee and the plenaries at GA and serves as the Chief Governance Officer of the Association. There are two nominees for the 6 year term and we will be voting for one of them. For information on the candidates go to <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/moderator/index.shtml>

~ Denise Tomlinson

~ MAY 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Tag Sale Prep 6 pm RE Families with minister 7:30 RE Council	2 Tag sale prep 3 pm Caring & Sharing 6:30 open house with minister	3 Tag sale prep Midnight Run Youth pizza with minister	4 9-3 pm Tag Sale 11-1 pm Open House with minister 4 pm Social Justice meeting with minister
5 8:45 am Choir 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:30 Congregational Meeting	6 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44)	7 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	8 7:30 pm board of trustees	9 11:30 science & spirituality	10 4 pm RE Talent Show Rehearsal	11 8-2 pm Grounds Day 5 pm Talent Show
12 8:45 am Choir 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	13 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (FA) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi	14 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17	18
19 Communitarian Deadline 10a-11:30a Religious Education - Affirmation Sunday 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC) 11:15a-11:45a Newcomers Orientation 11:30 Budget Forum 11:45 am Welcome Committee	20 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA) 8p-9:30p Finance Committee (41)	21 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Worship Associates	22 7:30 RE Council	23 11:30 Science & Spirituality	24	25
26 10a-11:30a Religious Education 10:15a-11:45a Worship/Coffee (SANC)	27 7:30p-8:45p Spanish (R44) 6:30p-7:30p Tai Chi (FA)	28 7:30p-9:15p Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31	

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468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



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Community Unitarian Church
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White Plains, NY 10605
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Communitarian Deadline for
March Edition:

Sunday, May 19

Submit information to
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emily.economou@gmail.com