

The WINTER COMMUNITARIAN

Meredith's Musings

Our December theme, "Embodiment," asked us to explore the wisdom of our bodies. From there, we move to January and "Resilience." We'll look at our fragility – including the privilege that may engender it – and how to build the resilience we need to sustain well-being and the strength to keep building a better world. Embodiment, it turns out, lays a good foundation for developing greater resilience.



Resilience in January takes us to Love, the February theme – for when we are ourselves resilient we can bring to our world a greater and more steadfast love. "Love" is a grand abstraction – perhaps the grandest. We can take a step toward concrete realities by considering love's kinds and types – and here the Greeks are helpful. Eros (sexual passion), philia (deep friendship), agape (generalized spiritual connection and care) are perhaps the best known. Others worth attention include, storge (love of children and parents), xenia (stranger love – hospitality to the other and different), ludus (playful love), pragma (longstanding love), philautia (self-love).

In March, we'll wander on to "Wandering." I'm reminded of words by the great Universalist, Rev. Lewis B. Fisher, almost a century ago: "Universalists are often asked to tell where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move." And so we do – wandering to new places, new activities, new ideas. Some wandering is unavoidable – we cannot help but move along into each new day. Other wandering is chosen. In the former case, wisdom is in the noticing and attending to the differences the world brings us, willy nilly. In the latter case, wisdom is constituted by wise discernment of whether "staying put" or "moving on" is what is called for. Additionally, "wander" connotes a certain aimlessness – a moving on without any clear conception of what we want to find. Aimlessness can be overdone (as parents of 18 – 25 year olds often feel), yet there is also an important place in life for episodes of openness to whatever may come – stepping into new contexts without preconceptions of what they might offer or what we want to get from them.

Embodying resilient love, we wander forth!

Meredith

Board of Trustees Report

Happy Holidays to CUUC members, friends, and welcome visitors!

As the saying goes, time flies, and here we are at year-end with an eye towards CUUC 2018.

The Board of Trustees participated in a wonderful retreat in October, graciously hosted by board member Al Rocchi and co-facilitated by Rev. Meredith, Perry Montrose, and our ministerial intern, Cindy Davidson. Our topic was Leadership Development, looking to the future of our congregation. We learned a lot from our co-facilitators as well as each other and we have set goals we will be working on in the coming year that will help us identify and develop new leaders at CUUC.

Our Social Justice Teams continue to thrive and expand. A new social justice team for animal advocacy has been added and the members are already actively working at protecting animal life.

Sunday Neighborhood Socials were held in October where members and friends could get to know one another in a more intimate setting. These socials were well attended and will be offered again in January so watch for the date in the new year and mark your calendars.

A big shout out to our Refugee Resettlement Social Justice Team. I am very happy to report that in November they welcomed a long-awaited refugee family of five from Afghanistan. Housing was set up for them in White Plains and the family is now settling into the community. How great is that!

Congratulations to our auction committee for yet another successful fundraising event on November 18. The committee's hard work, dedication, and creativity were evident that evening, where good food, laughter, fun, and a sense of community were all in abundance.

Looking towards the holidays, our Arts & Crafts Fair is here to help you find that "perfect gift" for your loved ones, and support our Minister's Discretionary Fund. We will also once again be offering a holiday concert featuring the talents of our CUUC members and musical staff, and last but not least, an evening service on Christmas Eve, to which many members look forward, will be offered once again.

On the RE front, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Perry Montrose, is expanding programming and developing opportunities for youth – including the youth group – and families, to meet on one Friday night a month. See the ad for "Wisdom Fridays" in this magazine, and keep your eyes and ears open for more details from Perry in the new year.

Our Strategic Planning Committee, created this fall, is working hard to formulate goals to implement the vision that was approved at last June's annual meeting.

The Committee's five areas of focus are:

1. Welcoming Community/Diversity & Inclusion
2. Social Justice/Action/Outreach
3. Nurturing Each Other/Our Community/Belonging
4. Spiritual Offerings/Ministry/Worship/Intellectual Development
5. Stewardship/Resources/Placekeeping/Engagement

The committee is interviewing committee/council/board members across the congregation to identify goals. To date, the committee has interviewed 30 people and will work in early December to consolidate the results from the interviews. In January, the committee will review the goals with the congregation to get feedback.

Board Treasurer Chris Kortlandt offers this financial report for Sept-Dec: Our income minus expenses shows a \$9000 increase in surplus compared to last year's surplus for the first 4 months. Collections of pledges have been slightly better when compared to the same period last year. Our expenses have been pretty much where we expected them to be. The building rentals by film and TV productions extended past the summer and into September. The generated income has been deposited into the Building Fund, to replenish it after a portion was used for our recent parking lot repaving.

Rev. Garmon has shared with us that the five Westchester UU congregations are planning a joint worship service this spring, on April 22, 2018, at Maryknoll in Ossining. This is an exciting opportunity for us to explore new ways to support and engage with our UU neighbors and help grow our faith.

The board looks forward to a productive and energizing 2018 for our congregation. Happy holidays, and a happy and healthy New Year to all!

Best,

Karen Morrison Dreher

Vice Chair



Religious Education

Perry's Ponderings

"There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind." – Hannah Senesh

As the rabbi at Trudy Katz's graveside service expressed, we lost one of those stars when Trudy passed away, but we continue to see and feel her light. Trudy exuded warmth and kindness, thoughtfully taking time to share words of affirmation. During her service at the family cemetery on Long Island, the stories shared by her wife, Joann, and others close to her were about kindness, humor, and activism that made a difference in people's lives. In this season of hope, peace, joy, and love, Trudy's life stands as a testament to those values.

In RE, the 2nd–3rd grade class focused on those same values, represented by the four Advent candles. Children looked at the connection between our 7 Principles and the meaning of the Advent season. In regard to Principle #2, *be just and kind in all you do*, they were asked, "How can we do more good and seek more justice in the coming year?" For Principle #4, *search for what is true*, the question to the children was, "What is most meaningful to you in this season?" The class sang "O Come O Come Emmanuel" with Lyra, our Children's Music Director. Then special guest Betsy Walkup shared her Advent practices with the children and showed them the beautiful calendars she sends to her grandchildren, keeping the meaningful tradition alive through the generations.

We all celebrate various family holiday traditions; yet, we are connected by our desire to bring more joy into the world and our hope for a more peaceful future. The inner lights that we shine into the world are amplified in their connections. Coincidentally, several of my relatives were buried in the same cemetery as Trudy was last week. In visiting their graves, I discovered that my Great Aunt Flo was born on Christmas Day in 1907. As a Jew, this probably had little meaning to Florence, but when it comes to a birth bringing hope, peace, joy, and love into the world, it could not have been more fitting. Like Trudy, Aunt Flo was the life of the party with her humor and everyone's favorite aunt who exuded kindness.

The rabbi ended Trudy's service with Judy Chicago's "Merger Poem." It begins with the lines that speak of the world that will come when we continue to shine Trudy and Florence's lights:

*And then all that has divided us will merge
And then compassion will be wedded to power
And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind.*

Trudy and Florence never knew each other, but they share a resting place and pieces of their lights were joined when they each shared their rays with me. Our holiness is composed of those who have touched our lives. In this holiday season and the coming year, may all the inner lights shared with you be particularly bright and light the way when the night is dark, so all your days may be brighter.

Perry

Religious Education

CUUC Religious Education Schedule - Winter 2017–2018

Fri Dec 1–Sun Dec 3

Metro NY Youth Justice Con

Sun Dec 3

10:00am Music for All Ages
10:25am Wonder Box Story
10:30am RE Classes
11:30am Deck the Halls/Craft Fair

Sun Dec 10

10:00am Children's Worship
10:30am RE Classes

Sun Dec 17

10:00am Christmas Pageant - Multigen
11:30am Holiday Brunch
12:30pm Winter Choral Concert

Sun Dec 24

10:00am RE Christmas Sunday
5:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Sun Dec 31

10:00am No RE (Childcare Available)

Sun Jan 7

10:00am Children's Worship
10:30am RE Classes

Fri Jan 12–Sun Jan 14

Metro NY Youth Con

Sun Jan 14

10:00am MLK Justice Sunday

Sun Jan 21

10:00am Music for All Ages
10:25am Wonder Box Story
10:30am RE Classes
11:30am Chili Brunch

Sun Jan 28

10:00am Children's Worship
10:30am RE Classes
4:00pm Neighborhood Gatherings

Sun Feb 4

10:00am Children's Worship
10:30am RE Classes
11:45am Teacher Enrichment (with lunch)

Sun Feb 11

10:00am Wonder Box Music for All Ages
10:30am RE Classes
11:30am Winter Brunch
12:30pm Spring Concert

Sun Feb 18

10:00am Fun Sunday

Sun Feb 25

10:00am Alvin Ailey Dance Sunday

Sun Mar 4

10:00am Music for All Ages
10:25am Wonder Box Story
10:30am RE Classes
11:30am Canvass Brunch

Sun Mar 11

10:00am Variety Show Vote
10:30am RE Classes

Sun Mar 18

10:00am Youth Service (K-5 start in sanc)
10:30am RE Classes

Sun Mar 25

10:00am Children's Worship
10:30am RE Classes
11:30am Oxfam Hunger Banquet

Ministerial Intern

I am so grateful for your dedication to being a teaching congregation and serving as the “primary text” of my ministerial internship. Parish ministry is a generalist profession, for which seminary studies provide an adequate grounding across several basic, required competencies. The practical application of the knowledge and skills from the classroom setting to the congregation is where the “real,” experiential learning takes place. While I work within the specific storylines, characters and forces at play in the past, present, and envisioned future of this congregation, I also learn through the exchange of insights and challenges with faculty and classmates serving other congregations. From the collective, I learn as much about parish ministry in these “case studies” as I do about what aspects of ministry best suit me and where I have “growing edges.”

We all have “growing edges” – as do our good institutions. Some are more easily identified than others. As you continue the visioning and strategic planning process currently underway, I encourage you to acknowledge your “growing edges” even as you recognize and build upon your strengths and what seems to be working well. You have revealed yourself to me to be as much a learning congregation as a teaching one, which I believe will serve you well. I see here a culture that encourages newcomers and all to embrace the “free and responsible search for truth and meaning” through worship and music, Journey Groups, religious education and other learning opportunities. I also see how you learn to engage a range of social injustices collectively, or share your caring and support for one another in times of challenge, loss or grief. Careful stewards that you are, I see your openness to new understandings and best practices for taking care of the “business” of congregational leadership and governance, using resources wisely, and fine tuning how you care for this building and keep these grounds. I’m excited to see how you will move forward in the strategic planning process, becoming the “sanctuary without walls” congregation you have called yourself to be!

As winter sets in, my time and energies will be focused on supporting the Young Adults group and preparing a presentation on the history of this congregation for one of my classes. I feel so fortunate that there exists already a well-documented written history and filing cabinets full of old documents here, and archives at the Meadville Lombard seminary which I will also consult. A part of the “real” learning and understanding for me comes from the conversations we have here. I wonder... What pieces of the congregation’s history have been most formative for you as a Unitarian Universalist, personally? Collectively? What are you most proud of? Wished had gone differently? Where have you seen “growing edges”?

I will be with you here through the Christmas eve service here and then will be visiting with family nearby and in Florida through the New Year. January is my time of study and intensive Leadership Studies and UU History and Polity classes in Chicago at Meadville Lombard. Then, I return to Florida to spend a week learning alongside 336-plus ministers and seminarians at the UU Ministers Association’s CENTER Institute for Excellence in Ministry retreat. I’m looking forward to learning how to “Think Like a Filmmaker” and design sensory-rich worship. Doesn’t that sound fun?! I return to CUUC on January 30th to start my last semester of studies and will be serving you through June 17th. Until then, I wish you, too, the joys of learning!

Cindy

Religious Education

Children's Choir

Rehearsals: Sunday, December 10, 9:30am and 11:30am

Performances: Winter Choral Concert on Sunday December 17 & Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm Sun Dec 24

All ages invited! Contact: Perry Montrose (dlre@cucwp.org).



The No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17, 10:00am

As the story unfolds, you become Mary, Joseph, goats, sheep, cows, horses, angels, shepherds, and wise folk. Costumes provided – just bring a joyful spirit! All ages invited!

Chili Brunch

Sunday January 21, after Worship

The heat of chili and the warmth of community.
Hosted by our 6th-7th grade RE class to support their social justice projects.



Teacher Enrichment

Sun Feb 4, 11:45am-1:15pm

Enjoy some brunch and then join us. Childcare will be available.
Lunch and Program. An opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together.
Contact: Perry Montrose (dlre@cucwp.org)

Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee's mission is to welcome visitors to CUUC and to invite them into our congregational family. One of the ways we do this is to host a "UU Roots" conversation once a month for visitors and newcomers, to introduce them to our congregation and our faith. Our visitors come with their own spiritual journey stories, so these conversations are always thoughtful and meaningful. We recently welcomed two new members into the congregation, Mary Van Hoomissen and Jared Economou, who is the Youth Liaison to our Board of Trustees. The Committee also works to ensure we are doing all we can to support our existing membership, and Carole Mehta has been personally reaching out to almost 100 congregants to get feedback about ways CUUC can enhance their experience here. The Committee is always grateful for new volunteer greeters, a simple way to extend our ministry of hospitality. You may sign up at our homepage, cucwp.org, "Be a Sunday Greeter." To learn more, contact: Jane Dixon (lilrhodie@gmail.com).

Thanksgiving Hosts for International Students

In November, 21 families throughout Westchester, including 6 from CUUC, made room at their Thanksgiving dinner tables for 55 international guests, as part of the *One to World* program (one-to-world.org). These students, from all parts of the world, were able to enjoy traditional (and not so traditional) American dishes in a friendly sharing of cultures and hospitality. Thanks to the number of families that signed up, the Westchester Country geographic area was the largest hosting group this year! Many thanks to all who participated. Contact: Jane Dixon (lilrhodie@gmail.com).

The Caring & Sharing Circle

The Caring & Sharing Circle works with our congregation and minister to support and care for CUUC members and friends of our community. If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver, contact our volunteers: **December** - Barbara Mair (914-769-7186, barbara.k.mair@icloud.com) or Claire Kuczinski (914-949-6619, tadex@optonline.net). **January** - Claire Kuczinski (914 949-6619, tadex@optonline.net), or Johanna Bauer (914 636-1047, johbauer@msn.com). **February** - Johanna Bauer (914 636-1047, johbauer@msn.com) or Carole Mehta (914 234-6294, Carole.Mehta@gmail.com).



Social Justice Teams

Our Social Justice Teams – Opportunities for You to Engage in Service

As we prepare for a new year, this may be a time for you to think about joining a Social Justice Team. Now more than ever, we need to advance the values that we share. Our involvement also supports the part of the mission of our congregation, which is to “engage in service to transform ourselves and our world.” Each team has at least five core members who wear buttons with their team’s name, so that they will be easily identified. You can speak to them on Sundays to find out more about their teams or you can email the co-chairs.

Special congratulations to the Refugee Resettlement team who welcomed an Afghani family to White Plains. This is an on-going effort requiring a lot of coordination and our entire congregation has supported this effort financially.

Here are reports of what’s been happening or planned with the teams, with names and e-mail addresses of contact people for the teams. Which team is the one that calls you?

Animal Advocacy

Introducing the Animal Advocacy Social Justice Team (AASJT)! Animal Advocacy is Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation's newest social justice team. The AASJT's mission is to foster understanding and respect for the community and experiences of all species, and to open ourselves and others to greater compassion and kinship with all animals. This mission is consistent with UU's 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Since our inception in June 2017, the AASJT has been a hive of "busy bees," swarming with projects and activities! In October we participated in the Youth RE skit concerning the many animals affected by natural disasters. We were able to collect \$2,202 for the October plate share—which includes a generous matching grant from an anonymous couple in our congregation. These funds have been donated to the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to help animals (pet, shelter, farm, and wildlife) all over the world who have been adversely affected in the aftermath of natural disasters. This noteworthy accomplishment was made possible through the efforts of the AASJT, RE Youth, and CUUC, and we are grateful for their remarkable outpouring of support.

We have recently acquired and decorated our new bulletin board space at CUUC! Our hope is the content will be educational, enlightening, and thought provoking. Be sure to stop by and take a look—and give yourself time to take it all in. We promise you will find it to be worthwhile. We are also working on a logo for our team and expect to have it ready within the next few weeks.

A number of our AASJT members have recently adopted a space on the property that will be dedicated to the animals of CUUC. We will be nurturing and maintaining this area



Social Justice Teams

(located behind the north end of the building) to make it a welcoming place for meditation and reflection. Please visit it often to watch the space evolve with the seasons.

As proposed by the AASJT to the Board of Trustees, a new task force consisting of members from Animal Advocacy, Environmental Practices, and Buildings & Grounds is forming. This task force will come together to research and recommend alternatives to the current pest control program that will be compassionate and ecologically friendly—and consistent with our UU Principles.

AASJT is considering the engagement of speakers to help address changing current attitudes toward animals, the environment, food choices, and health. We've also discussed hosting movie screenings and vegetarian brunches. These are just some of the many ideas we've been formulating and hope to bring to fruition over the next year—so stay tuned!

As AASJT becomes active participants in efforts to bring about respect and compassion for all species, our hope is that our journey of discovery will nurture our spirits and transform us and our congregation to a new way of thinking and acting. We welcome all to join us on this journey. Contact: Doreen Rossi (doreenrossi@hotmail.com).

Economic Social Justice

The Economic Social Justice team is working on our congregation's response to the UUA Statement of Conscience on Escalating Economic Inequality (uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality/escalating-inequality) that was adopted at the UUA General Assembly last June. ESJ Chair Pat Lavin says "it was my passion around this issue and the opportunity that CUUC gave me to work on it that convinced me to become a member." Contact: Pat Lavin (patlavin@optonline.net).

Environmental Practices Group

Reduce the Waste Stream – Compost Food Scraps! The Environmental Practices Group (EPG) is focused on reducing the waste stream. On Sunday, January 28, following the service we will be holding a forum on the topic of food scrap recycling (also known as all-food composting).

We will have two guest speakers, Michelle Sterling and Ron Schulhof, local residents who were active in the introduction of a voluntary all-food composting program in the Scarsdale community. Michelle and Ron have been working with communities throughout Westchester County to educate them about the environmental and financial benefits as well as logistics of starting a program. In addition, we will be showing the movie "Racing to Zero," about the work being done in San Francisco to reduce their waste stream to zero. We hope you will join us to learn how each of us can help the environment by reducing our food waste.

If you would like to participate in our environmental justice work, please join us at a future EPG meeting. Generally we meet on the second Sunday of the month, either

Social Justice Teams

before or after services. Meetings are announced in the weekly e-mail newsletter. Or you can reach out to the co-chairs, Janet Bear (jsbear1@gmail.com) or Charlie McNally (mcnally@pobox.com).

Hunger & Homelessness

The winter season is always a busy one for the Hunger and Homelessness Social Justice Team. Hoping to make the holiday season a little brighter, we once again collected gently used toys and books for the Ecumenical Food Pantry and new, unwrapped gifts for the children of women at the Bedford Correctional Facility. In December we are asking for gift cards for children at the Coachman Family Center, and toiletries for Samaritan House and Open Arms shelters. Coming this spring our first OXFAM Hunger Banquet – an opportunity to understand the problem of hunger both locally and worldwide. Contact: Jane Dixon (lilrhodie@gmail.com).

LGBTQIA Social Justice

The LGBTQIA Social Justice Team has had a very busy fall! In September, we hosted a film screening of the documentary "Gender Revolution: a Journey with Katie Couric," followed by a moderated discussion. In October we held "Trans* 102" with Rhyrus Falcone, followed by an LGBTQIA Social Justice presentation and visioning session. In November, we held our second annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service in the sanctuary. Next year we will finish up the paperwork for our recertification as an LGBTQ [Welcoming Congregation](#), and plan a special celebration. We also plan to put together a packet (both physical and electronic) of DVDs and supporting materials for other UUs to use it as a template for their own certification/recertification process. We will be discussing events for 2018 including our third annual Transgender Day of Remembrance in the fall, possibly a Transgender Day of Visibility in March, and other events that were discussed at our social justice visioning session. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 14th, at 9:00am. Contact: Tony Arrien (arrien@optonline.net).

Racial Justice / In the Spirit of Truth

The "Reframing Westchester's Housing Crisis" program was a great success. Speaker Alexander H. Roberts of Community Housing Innovations gave a thought-provoking talk that was attended by congregants and the community, including a crew from News 12, which reported the event. The team is now talking about how to bring the conversation about race relations to a CUUC worship service. On Wednesday, December 27th, the 15th annual Kwanzaa celebration will be held at the Slater Center in White Plains. This event was first created by In the Spirit of Truth, and Petra Thombs and Barbara Mair continue to plan and champion it, with the help of Heather Miller, Executive Director of the Slater Center. We urge the congregation to attend and join the fun, supporting this important CUUC tradition and outreach to the community. Racial Justice contact: Jeff Tomlinson (jefftomlinson8@gmail.com); ITSOT contact Barbara Mair (barbara.k.mair@icloud.com).

Social Justice Teams

CUUC Refugee Resettlement

The CUUC Refugee Resettlement Social Justice team is pleased to announce the arrival of an Afghani family in White Plains! The SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) family of five arrived November 15 at JFK airport, met by HIAS, an interpreter, Jane Dixon, and Jeff Swarz, who are co-chairs of ICNA. ICNA, or Interfaith Council for New Americans, is the group of six congregations in White Plains and New Rochelle, including CUUC, that is working with HIAS to resettle the family. ICNA volunteers, including several CUUC folks, were busy prior to the family's arrival, donating, collecting and moving furnishings, buying toiletries, linens and food, and preparing the apartment for them.

While this is the culmination of almost one year of effort, it is really only the beginning. The family has left everything and everyone behind, so all of our volunteers will be their support system for the next months.

The family has been quite busy for the past couple of weeks, settling in, shopping for food and warm winter clothes, and attending appointments with several agencies, as necessary to start them on the road to becoming new Americans. ICNA committee members, including several folks from our CUUC team, have been busy, under the direction of HIAS, providing transportation to those appointments and shopping trips.

The father is fluent in English, having completed 2 years of college in Afghanistan, and having worked for several years for US organizations. HIAS and the ICNA Employment Committee are helping him prepare a resume. He will be seeking an office job and hopes to continue his education and complete a 4-year degree.

English is new to the mother and children, so she has begun ESL training. The two older children will be enrolled in elementary school once they have completed their medical exams. Their third child is pre-school age.

Thanks to all who have been working, or will soon be working, to welcome and support this family. And thanks to the entire CUUC congregation for your ongoing support for this work. May our efforts help ease the way for this lovely family over the next few months!

Women's Social Justice

The Women's Social Justice Team met on Sunday, December 3rd, and voted to affirm support for a woman's right to contraception coverage. You'll find the full text on the next page. The team will be holding discussions about a potential congregational vote supporting this important advocacy issue, in the face of continuing threats to women's healthcare access. The team is looking at a few more issues for action this year, and will report on these as we move further along on specifics. We will plan to next meet in January. Contact: Karen Schmitt (schmitt8@verizon.net).



Social Justice Teams

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation (CUUC)
Women's Social Justice Team
Affirmation of Support for a Women's Right to Contraception

In October, the Trump Administration issued a rule that would allow employers to refuse to cover contraception in their health insurance plan based on a "sincere religious or moral objection." Under this rule, any employer anywhere can refuse insurance coverage of any method of contraception, for almost any reason.

We, the Women's Social Justice Team (SJT) of CUUC, believe this rule is an attack on women's moral agency and bodily autonomy. It is rooted in the misogynistic belief that women cannot be trusted to make their own decisions about their reproductive lives. A person's healthcare coverage should not be determined by the religious or moral beliefs of their employer.

Our faith teaches us to care for those who are most vulnerable. It teaches us that every person has inherent dignity and worth, and to treat others as we wish to be treated. By privileging under the law one limited religious view of sexuality, this rule violates the religious freedom of millions of people who hold contrary views, and harms people who need healthcare that some employers will choose to prohibit.

The current administration has launched consistent and coordinated attacks on sexual, gender, and reproductive justice—while using religion as a justification. Not only are these attacks immoral and unjust, they are an abuse of religious belief. People of faith and conscience will not allow our sincerely held religious beliefs to be used as a smokescreen for discrimination and injustice.

We hereby affirm our belief in a women's inherent right to comprehensive contraception coverage through health insurance.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Day of Action

Join the CUUC Women's Social Justice Team and hundreds of supporters of Planned Parenthood as we descend on Albany to show our support for family healthcare.

For general questions about the CUUC Social Justice Teams, contact our coordinators, Jeff Tomlinson (jefftomlinson8@gmail.com), Mary Cavallero (marycava4@gmail.com), and Pamela Cucinell (pamelajcny@gmail.com). Watch your weekly e-Communitarian newsletter and Order of Service for the latest information on meetings and activities.

Opportunities for Giving

The Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry

Cash donations are especially needed this time of year. Send checks to Ecumenical Food Pantry, PO Box 2037, White Plains, NY 10602. Questions? Contact: Vicky Van Wert (victoriavanwert@gmail.com).

Personal Items for Shelter Residents

New socks, men's underwear (L & XL), and toiletries will be collected throughout December for residents of local shelters. Posters from our 4th–5th grade RE kids help spread the word. Contact: Ray Messing (raymessing@gmail.com).

Gift Cards for Coachman Family Center

Help a family at the Coachman by signing up to purchase a \$25 gift card for their school-age children. We will have the age and gender of the children plus the type of card they prefer. Please box and wrap the gift cards, tag with the child's name and room number, and bring in by Sunday, December 17. Contact: Ray Messing (raymessing@gmail.com).

The Mitten Tree is Here!

Help us decorate it by donating mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages and sizes. Share the gift of warmth! We will be collecting until Sunday, December 31.



Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Fundraiser

**Sunday December 3 & 10
following Worship**

Unique gifts for family, friends, teachers,
and everyone on your list.

Proceeds help support the
Minister's Discretionary Fund.

If interested in selling your crafts,
please contact

Barbara Youngman
bvy1948@yahoo.com

CUUC Facebook Forum

Get in the Conversation—Join the Facebook CUUC Forum! This is a group open to CUUC members and friends where you can share opinions, photos, social actions, or just offer a lovely thought for the day. To join, go to facebook.com/groups/cucforum, or search for “CUUC Forum” in Facebook. Select the group and click “Join.” An administrator will send you an approval within 24 hours. Questions? Contact Julie Gans at julieagans@gmail.com or Karen Schmitt at schmitt8@verizon.net.



Poinsettia Memorial Donations

In December the chancel will again be decorated with poinsettias given in gratitude for happy occasions in our lives and in memory of loved ones. If you would like to donate to this beautiful display, send a check for \$15 per plant to CUUC by Wed Dec 20. Include the memo “poinsettia.” Please add a note with the name of the people or occasion you want to honor. Contact administrator Pam Parker at admin@cucwp.org or 914-946-1660 ext 2.



Community Kwanzaa Celebration

Wednesday, December 27, 2016
2:00 pm, Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains, New York - Free!

Traditional Drumming by Kofi, Sankofa Dance and Drum Ensemble, White Plains Youth Bureau dancers, White Plains High School Steppers, and more. Karamu Feast following the program provided by our friends at ShopRite. Contact: Petra Thombs (pthombs@optonline.net) or Barbara Mair (barbara.k.mair@icloud.com).

Our Kwanzaa Collaborative - The Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains • The Thomas H. Slater Center • The Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Library • The White Plains Housing Authority • The White Plains Housing Authority Residents Council • White Plains School District • White Plains Public Library • The White Plains Youth Bureau



CUUC Strategic Plan

Last spring, workshops were held to create a vision for CUUC, and the vision from the workshops was approved by the congregation at last June's annual meeting. The approved vision is: "Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains will be a sanctuary without walls that promotes diversity, fellowship, spiritual growth and inspiration, while committing to people and the planet through social action and service."

As a next step, the Board of Trustees created a Strategic Planning Committee. The purpose of this committee is to create a set of goals to implement the vision. Creighton Cray is the chair the committee and its members include: Russ Gold, Laura Goodspeed, Nicky Klemens, Joe Majsak, Charlie McNally, Audra Russell, Steven Prince, and Lori Saccardi. The committee is focusing on five key areas:

- *Welcoming Community/Diversity & Inclusion*
- *Social Justice/Action/Outreach*
- *Nuturing Each Other/Our Community/Belonging*
- *Spiritual Offerings/Ministry/Worship/Intellectual Development*
- *Stewardship/Resources/Placekeeping/Engagement.*

The committee is interviewing key stakeholders across the congregation to identify goals. To date, the committee has interviewed 30 people and will work in early December to consolidate the results from the interviews. In January, the committee will review the goals with the congregation to get feedback. This is exciting and important work. If you have any questions, please reach out to Creighton Cray (creighton.cray@gmail.com).

Wisdom Friday

Friday, January 19, 2018

The Wisdom RE Ministry Team invites you to an Adult RE experience facilitated by Rev. Meredith.

- 6:30 Pizza dinner
- 7:15 Spiritual Centering
- 7:30 Programs that include...

Faith Like a River explores the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage. What lessons do the stories of our history teach that can help us live more faithfully in the present? What lessons do they offer to be lived into the future?

Youth Social and Movie Night

Hang out in the Youth Room for a special night of fun. Gnomes welcome.

Family Journey Group

Parents gather to discuss the theme of resilience (facilitated by Barbara Montrose), while children have their own group with activities and discussion based on the theme (facilitated by Perry Montrose, DLRE). Adults without children are invited to participate in the adult group.

Music at CUUC Concert Series

All concerts begin at 12:30pm, following a CUUC Brunch

Sunday, December 17, 2017 – 12th Annual Winter Choral Concert

The CUUC Choir, under the direction of Lisa N. Meyer, will be performing the festive Baroque classic work *Gloria* by the great Antonio Vivaldi, along with Favorite Songs of the Season. There will also be an appearance by the CUUC Children's Choir, under the direction of Lyra Harada, Children's Choir Director. Pianist Georgianna Pappas will accompany the choirs. Holiday favorites will include *Carol of the Bells*, *We Need a Little Christmas*, and *Ding, Dong Merrily On High*, among others.

Sunday, February 11, 2018 – Jazz with Antoinette Montague

American Jazz and Blues singer Antoinette Montague returns to CUUC for a special Valentine's Day weekend show that embraces the power of Jazz history while maintaining the excitement of the present. Her repertoire of swing, blues, bebop, storytelling and explosive excitement promises to entertain and captivate everyone! You can learn more about Antoinette at: www.antoINETTEMontague.com.

Save the Date – Final Concert of the 2017–18 Season – Sunday, May 6, 2018

Mezzo-soprano Anna Tonna returns to CUUC in a program of sultry Spanish and Latin-American favorites, followed by the CUUC Choir with the music of Harold Arlen.

Start the New Year with Singing!

The CUUC Choir is beginning to learn new music after the holidays and welcomes anyone that would like to start off the New Year with a new venture and join the Choir. We will be learning arrangements of the songs of Harold Arlen (he composed the score of the Wizard of Oz and many other songs that you know) and some new pieces for Sunday services along with some long-time favorites.

We sing just two Sundays each month, rehearse every Tuesday night from 7:30-9:15pm, and ***you do not need to be able to read music.*** We enjoy our rehearsals as much as our performances and have great fellowship. If you cannot attend every Tuesday rehearsal, attending twice per month, the Tuesday before we perform in a designated service, is doable. All voice parts are welcome!

For more information, contact Lisa Meyer at choir@cucwp.org or call 516-299-2475 (daytime).



Auction Committee

Our Night in Havana was a great success! The sanctuary was absolutely transformed into a wonderland of color and festivity, thanks to our decorating team. The food was delicious, the bidding was lively, and a great time was had by all. The Auction Team made a concerted effort this year to expand the types of offerings available, allowing increased participation at all price levels, and this was one of our biggest successes. The Wheel of Chance, one example of a new addition this year, created great energy and was fun for all who participated. Everyone who played went home with a prize. Our auctioneers were highly entertaining, creating a lively atmosphere for bidding on new and unique items. Our Bid & Bump Boards were a huge part of the fun, and these dinners have successfully created 20 additional opportunities in the coming year for social gatherings, community building, and friendships. Several Bid & Bump dinner seats were also made available through our Grab Bag, and those lucky winners will also join one of our most popular dinner parties this year. The evening was very well attended, and our preliminary results point to a record breaking fundraising event, with net income for the evening well over \$48,000! The Auction team wishes to extend their deep and sincere appreciation to all the attendees, volunteers, and congregants who supported this event and our team over the past several months. Your support, assistance, and encouragement make this event possible!



MUSIC AT CUUC



presents

The 12th Annual

Winter Choral Concert

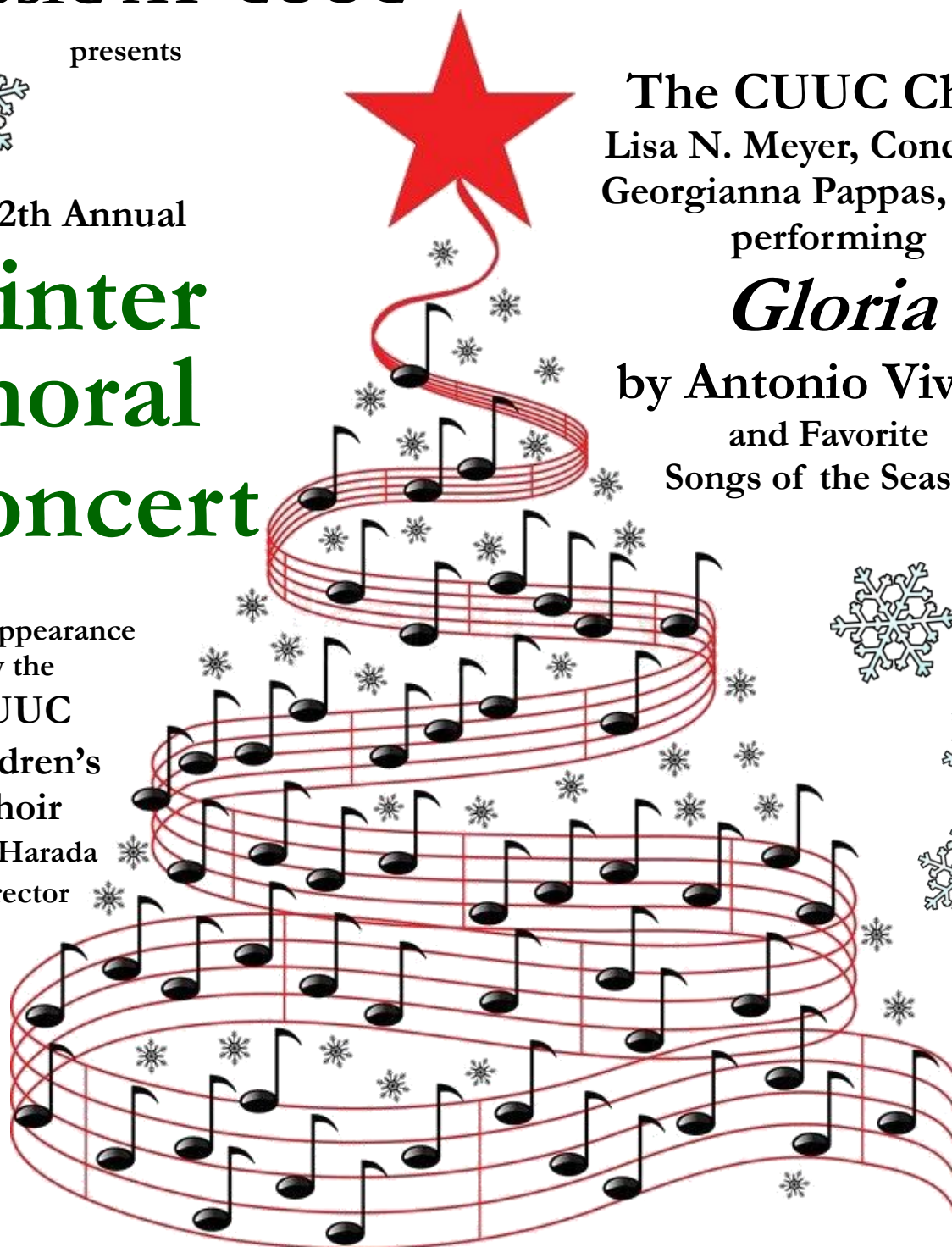
Guest Appearance
by the

CUUC

Children's
Choir

Lyra Harada

Director



The CUUC Choir
Lisa N. Meyer, Conductor
Georgianna Pappas, Piano
performing

Gloria

by Antonio Vivaldi
and Favorite
Songs of the Season



Sunday, December 17, 2017 • 12:30 p.m.

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601

For more information call 914.946.1660 or visit cucwp.org

\$20 - Suggested Donation; \$10 - Students/Seniors; \$5 - Children 13 & Under

\$45 - Maximum Family Donation

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605



Contacts

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Board of Trustees

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