

THE COMMUNITARIAN

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

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

July / August 2009



Community Unitarian Church
468 Rosedale Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
Founded 1909

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Communitarian Deadline
for September Edition:
Sunday, August 23

Submit information to
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Minister's Moment...

One of the joys I find in ministry is the unconscious way that the topic of the upcoming sermon hovers my mind through the week. Through that lens, relevant events strike me, and my thinking becomes richer. You might enjoy this way of looking around as well, and to that end we are going to initiate a program that several other UU congregations have in place. Each month we will announce in advance a theme that will be woven into the adult worship services and also reflected in other areas of our life, including children's worship. The themes for the first four months of the congregational year will be:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| September | Unity |
| October | Vocation (calling) |
| November | Gratitude |
| December | Peace |

As the month begins we will publish a short list of books and films which could deepen your considerations. If you would like to help me create the resource list for a particular topic, please let me know.

I write this from Salt Lake City, where UUs are gathering this year. I have responsibility for program planning during Ministry Days, and roles in three programs during General Assembly itself. I am on workshop panels on UU grant funding and on the International Women's Convocation, and I am part of a worship service which I think will be live-streamed on Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m. (Eastern Daylight time). These are busy days here at our national gatherings. I look forward to some rest when I get home.

I usually publish a list of books that I intend to read over the summer. Those lists have been too long in the past. This year I want to be easy on myself and on those of you who try to read along. Just a few items:

[A Community of Equals](#) by Owen Fiss (America as a nation of immigrants)

[Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict between Faith and](#)

[Reason](#) by Russell Shorts

[Summer World: A Season of Bounty](#) by Bernd Heinrich (our "Science and Spirituality" group is reading this)

[The Sparrow](#) by Mary Doria Russell (science fiction with substantial theological themes). Actually, I have read [The Sparrow](#) before and found that interesting discussions could flow from it. I will be scheduling a time for such a discussion in October (yes, it is relevant to "vocation.").

Enjoy the summer!

Rev. Carol

AMONG OURSELVES

If anyone knows of another among us who is in need of a caregiver from our Caring & Sharing Circle: throughout July call Astrid Rogers at 949-0294; throughout August call Bobbi Collins at 761-5280.

Our thoughts are with **Maxi Feldman** whose mother, Veronica Heiligman, died on June 5.



Congratulations to **Claire and Ted Kuczinski** on the June 7 birth of their granddaughter **Remi Kuczinski**. The proud parents are Karin and Stefan Kuczinski.

Kay Wilbur, formerly a long-time member of CUC, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 5 in her retirement community in Haverford, Pennsylvania. Her party, hosted by her daughter, was attended by, among others, relatives from Virginia, Seattle and New Zealand. Congratulations Kay!



And congratulations to **Mary and Jim Cobb**. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21.

This is one of a series of some interesting incidents from CUC's hundred years of history, reflecting who we are and who we've been.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the "Spirit of Truth" – the pulpit or reading desk in our sanctuary – is a memorial to a young mother who was killed in an automobile accident?

Mrs. Isabelle Levy had been struck as she was walking with her family on the Post Road in White Plains. The lectern was designed by Warren Wheelock and was presented to the congregation in May 1925. Mrs. Levy's daughter, Elizabeth, served much later on the Board of Trustees.

Did you also know that the hymn "Spirit of Truth", which we sing at the start of every Sunday worship service, was written for and is unique to our church?

It was the custom when our building was located on Maple Avenue to hold the last Sunday service of the spring outdoors. The first time the "Spirit of Truth" was sung was at a service in a

member's garden on June 6, 1943.

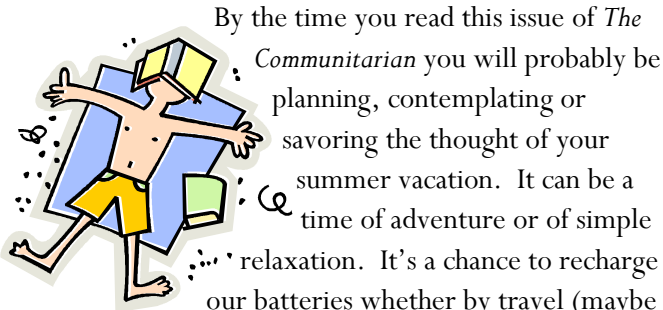
A congregant named Edna Buttolph adapted words from a poem by a well known poet of the time, Evelyn Underhill, and set them to an arrangement of Jean Sibelius's "Finlandia". Its theme complements the title of the lectern in our sanctuary.

The hymn's current reference in the second line to "the marts of earth" has gone through several variations since 1943 in response to changing understandings of political correctness.

This fact and more like it are highlights of two new illustrated histories of CUC: Freely United covers the first fifty years and A Religion of This Age covers the last fifty. Both books can be ordered from our website at www.cucwp.org for \$12 and \$16, respectively.

Charles Selinske
CUC Historian

What to do on your summer vacation...



By the time you read this issue of *The Communitarian* you will probably be planning, contemplating or savoring the thought of your summer vacation. It can be a time of adventure or of simple relaxation. It's a chance to recharge our batteries whether by travel (maybe a trip abroad?) a new experience (waterskiing anyone?) or a chance to relax in the hammock. For me the planning is almost as much fun as the doing, so I thought I would share some thoughts about things to do this summer.

Some of us have exciting travel planned, but if your time or budget doesn't permit a safari there are still lots of great things to do. For example, you can make a fabulous trip right here in New York. What about going to the NY Botanical Garden to see exotic plants from South America, or a trip to the Bronx Zoo to see those ferocious lions and tigers? It's not only fun, but on Wednesdays the Botanical Garden is free and the Bronx Zoo is admission by donation.

How about beating the heat in one of New York's great museums? When was the last time you visited The Met or the Natural History museum? Perhaps a smaller, more intimate museum is more to your liking – so try the Cloisters. Again, there are some great bargains – MOMA and the Guggenheim have pay-what-you-wish hours – check their web sites for details.

Perhaps the answer is a new twist on your old favorites. How about a Hawaiian barbeque? Besides

putting some pineapple on those burgers think about some great games. Go down to the basement and find your old hula hoop, or try some pineapple bowling. The recipe for pineapple bowling is simple – the pineapple are the pins and the bowling ball is a coconut. It's harder than you think and you can use the pineapple as part of a fruit salad at the end of the game.

What about something more contemplative? Try a great book in your hammock. Mix it up. If you normally read biographies try some fiction, if you read fiction get a great biography. I am currently reading *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope* by Jonathan Alter. It makes you feel better about the state of our current economy and reminds you of our resilience as a people.

Finally, I've got to recommend coming to church for a summer service. (I bet you were wondering what this column had to do with CUC). Rev. Carol has created a great set of services this summer from the Juneteenth Service which took place on June 21st, to the experience of General Assembly, to the Christian and Jewish sources of Unitarian Universalism, to learning from films – just to name a few. These services are fantastic because they are intimate, thought-provoking and different. Rev. Carol and fellow members of CUC take turns leading the services. (See the listing on the last page of this newsletter.) Stretch yourself, think some big thoughts and make time for mediation before your barbeque. See you on Sunday.

*Steve Bear, Chair
Board of Trustees*

LARGER MINISTRY

The American Cancer Society sponsored a 12-hour Relay for Life overnight June 20-21 at White Plains High School. I joined them at 6 am for an interfaith closing to the event.

It was a large event and very powerful. I

hope that next year those of us at CUC whose lives have been touched by cancer (and that's most of us, isn't it?) can join this effort.

Rev. Carol

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The R.E. View

I recently had the opportunity to do some volunteer work for a local non-profit called *Get Your Guts in Gear*. The bicycle ride is 210 miles in 3 days and brings awareness and funding to programs that support people with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. More information about the ride can be found at www.ibdride.org

While doing the route marking for day one, I began to think how similar it was to spiritual growth and development. First of all, I had to get involved. I had to give up a portion of my time (in this case a day) and I had to ask for help (former CUC intern Catherine Torpey was my trusty partner in this endeavor). I could not do the route marking by myself.

The ride director supplied me with the tools for the marking (staple gun, zip ties, a variety of different arrow signs, directions, etc.) But, even with a binder full of maps, directions, and suggested strategies, we still had to figure out many aspects for ourselves. Things like how many signs for each turn, which telephone polls should the bright pink arrows go on, and how high or low do we place the signs.

There were a number of times that we had to stop and turn around ... times when we thought we were further along the route than we actually were ... one time, where if not for the assistance of the park ranger, we would have directed the bicycles into the maintenance building rather than the pavilion for lunch.

Over all, it was an absolutely delightful day. Catherine and I talked, enjoyed the breathtaking views and laughed. I was reminded that sometimes, it is in the moments we least expect that we learn the most about ourselves.

*Lara Campbell
Director of Religious Education*

Transitions

We had 2nd Grade Affirmation and welcomed the children into RE. We had the Bridging Ceremony for our High School Seniors, and sent them off to the outside world. We buried our time capsule, with music provided by our Children's Choir and accompanying student musicians (plus RE Council member Kathryn Colson).

These ceremonies, all very moving, though in quite different ways, marked the end of this RE year, but already we are looking ahead to the next. We held a productive meeting with current 7th and 8th grade parents to discuss next year's anticipated class sizes and what that might mean for their curricula. A new RE Council is in place under the very able direction of Erin Foster, Chair, and Kathryn Colson, Vice-Chair. And registration is well underway.

My best wishes to all for a healthy and safe summer and if you haven't already registered your children, please do so. A great year is behind us and another great one lies ahead.

*Alan Morrice, Chair
Religious Education Council*

2009 Summer RE at CUC for K-6th grade

Dr. Seuss and the UU Principles

Continuing June 28th July 12th July 19th July 26th — 10:15-11:25 am

Why use the stories of Dr. Seuss in Unitarian Universalist congregations? These stories are fun and engaging. But even more important, they are based on life situations and experiences and give us a way to reflect, to talk about things that are part of our lives.

★we all sleep, ★we all get lost, ★we all are afraid sometimes, ★we all meet people who are on -- and sometimes in -- our way, ★we all like adventure in various ways, ★we all struggle with what is right and what is not.

Lisa Cavallero: CUC alumni, former PreK teacher and RE Council member, and all around amazing young adult is teaching the classes for us this summer!

Diane Keller will be in the nursery every Sunday for children under 5 years of age.

One parent is needed to be the assistant each week – no preparation required!

Please contact Director of Religious Education, Lara Campbell at dre4cucwp@yahoo.com or 914-946-1660 ext. 4 if you have questions.

ACTION FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS

We continue to share ...

ASC has started to plan out who we would like to share 25% of the collection plate with next year. We've decided to select in advance recipients for about half of the months next year, and leave the remaining months open for suggestions from the minister, other committees and the congregation at large.

In September we will start by donating 25% of the plate to SHORE, specifically for their 2-family residence for formerly homeless families that is being built in Ardsley as we speak. October will be the UU-UNO, November will go to the Food Pantry, January will support the MLK Institute, March will again go to the Food Pantry and April will go to an environmental group to be selected, possibly the Westchester Land Trust again. In addition to the groups ASC has selected, the February recipient will again be selected by CUC's *In the Spirit of Truth* in honor of Black History month.

Sharing the plate is one of the primary ways CUC supports worthwhile nonprofits whose work we identify with and support, so please give generously at collection.

The Food Pantry has moved ...

The Ecumenical Food Pantry has moved to the Slater Center on Fisher Court in White Plains. This site is centrally located, near the library, the court house, the Galleria and a housing development.

There has already been an increase in the number of clients needing food, a trend that is likely to accelerate.

Please remember the Food Pantry during the summer months. Checks may be sent to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, Box 2037, White Plains 10602. Non-perishable food will continue to be picked up at church.

A change in our leadership ...

Finally, Al is stepping down as Chair of ASC this month and John will be taking over. This article as well as this month are something of a baton passing. Al authored the first part of this article, and the balance is John's thoughts about where ASC will go next. Please welcome John as the new Chair and come join us next year in any way you can, whether attending a forum, donating to a group or coming to one of our meetings.



John writes: "I am pleased to be the new chairman of your Action for Social Concerns Committee. It is my goal to help the ASC become a vibrant source of change and education for our community. I look forward to helping to expand the scope of our participation in, and knowledge of the changes and challenges we face in this new millennium. We'll be presenting interesting and provocative films and discussions in our second Sunday presentations beginning in the fall. I

look forward to seeing more of you there. I hope you'll continue to support ASC in its ongoing efforts to support The Food Pantry and organizations that reach out to the less fortunate in our community. I also look forward to your support for extending our assistance and outreach to other organizations that address the many environmental and social concerns we face as the world changes around us. I invite you all to attend our meetings, join our committee or simply express your opinions or concerns and tell us how your ASC committee can better represent and support our community and shared UU values."

*Al Shehadi, Outgoing Chair
John G. Schwam, Incoming Chair*

CUC Bulletin Board

♪ Notes from Adam Kent ♪

Music Director Adam Kent can be heard in a number of concerts in Westchester this summer:

- ♪ On Friday, July 3 at 7PM in the New Rochelle Public Library (1 Library Plaza), Adam will share the stage with the Westchester Chamber Orchestra in a free Fourth of July concert. Adam will present a solo program of works by American composers, including MacDowell, Gershwin, Bolcom, Gottschalk and others, and then join the Westchester Chamber Orchestra conducted by Barry Charles Hoffman in a performance of Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring. For more info, call the orchestra at (914) 654-4926 or visit www.westchesterchamberorchestra.org.

Adam can also be heard in several events at the Summit Music Festival in Manhattanville College in Purchase:

- ♪ On Monday evening, July 27, Adam will present a lecture/recital on Franz Schubert's Sonata in C Minor, Op. Posth.
- ♪ On Wednesday evening July 29, Adam will team up with violinist Elena Peres and cellist David Krieger in Brahms's Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, and
- ♪ Wednesday evening August 5 he joins cellist Bongshin Ko in Brahms's Cello Sonata No. 2 in F Major.
- ♪ Finally, on Saturday evening August 8, Adam can be heard in a performance of Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor with violinist Sergiu Schwartz and cellist Bongshin Ko.

All concerts start at 8PM, and tickets are \$20 (\$15 seniors). Concerts take place in the Creative Arts Center of Manhattanville College (2900 Purchase Street, Purchase, New York). For more information, call (914) 747-2020 or write to info@summitmusicfestival.org.

A Change is Coming Our Way

This change will help us cut back on postage, paper and printing costs. It will enable limited staff resources to focus on other essential tasks. It will be kinder to our world.

Beginning with the September issue, *The Communitarian* will be sent via email.

If you do not have email access and wish to continue receiving our monthly newsletter via the post office, please call Church Administrator Louise Jacono at 946-1660 ext 2.

If you have any doubt that we have your correct email address on file, please email Louise at admin@cucwp.org. Put "verifying email address" in the subject line. Email or call Louise with any questions.

Help Wanted

At coffee hours from mid-September to mid-June our three serving tables are covered with white tablecloths.

For the past three years Liz Laite has laundered the cloths and made sure we've always had a clean supply. Liz will be relinquishing those duties and we now need someone to take over that task.

If interested, contact Louise in the church office at admin@cucwp.org or 946-1660 ext 2.

And thank you Liz!

CUC Bulletin Board

POLISH POSTER EXHIBIT AT MOMA


These are like the ones in Ted Kuczinski's private collection!

Where: Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53rd St., NY, NY 10019
212-708-9400
Architecture & Design Galleries, third floor
When: from now until November 30th, 2009

In the Cold War era the vitality of the Polish Poster School attracted international attention and admiration. Although state controlled, the posters – which are characterized by sophisticated imagery and surreal tendencies – often carried powerful, oblique commentaries on the designers' political surroundings. This exhibition presents a selection of posters from MoMA's collection that typify the striking look and bold spirit of Polish poster design from the 1940s through the 1980s.

Although small (25 pieces) and tightly displayed, it gives a fair example of the type & style of this poster art. The exhibit is complete with biographies of the artists and a great historical film.

Ted's collection of approximately 1,000 posters includes themes such as opera, theater, politics, movies, Judaica, jazz, and circus. Two juried exhibits were mounted at SUNY Purchase as well as at various ethnic fairs. He has been traveling to Poland and collecting, every year since 1985. He is also meeting with curators at MoMA who are reviewing his collection.



S.H.O.R.E.
Midsummer Dinner & Auction
Honoring
The Hon. Lois Bronz
Westchester County Legislator

Westchester Hills Golf Club
Ridgeway Ave, White Plains
Wed. July 15

6:30p Cocktails (cash bar) &
Silent Auction
7:30p Dinner followed by Live
Auction and raffle

For more information, contact
Rev. Carol at 946-1660 ext 3, or
revcarol@earthlink.net.

S H O R E
Sheltering the Homeless
is Our Responsibility

CUC Book Exchange

If you're looking for summer reading material, don't forget that CUC has a book exchange in Fellowship Hall. The books include a wide range of topics, reflecting the wide range of interests among our congregation's members and friends.

You can take books you think you'd enjoy and/or leave books for someone else to enjoy. You're not required to leave a book every time you take a book, although we always like to see new additions. Children's books are also available.



THE TRANSITION MOVEMENT

Learn more about this rapidly growing, inspirational, global movement.

Monday evening, July 20 in CUC's sanctuary

Speaker Tina Clark, Northeast Coordinator for TransitionUS

The Transition Movement is a grassroots process for building community resilience in the face of such challenges as climate change, peak oil, and economic crisis. Together we can make the transition to ways of life that are more abundant, fulfilling, equitable, sustainable, and socially connected. Since emerging in Ireland in 2005, the Transition Movement has spread across the UK and beyond, with hundreds of Transition initiatives now underway. Visit www.transitionus.org for more information.

For latest news and updates go to our website at www.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.

SERVICES IN JULY & AUGUST

Services are lay led by CUC congregants on Sundays at 10:15 am except where noted

THIS SUMMER'S SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

June 28

Lara Campbell, Denice Tomlinson
Windows on General Assembly

July 5

Bill Johnson
On Democracy

July 12

Dave Finch, Kathleen Judd,
Rev. Carol Huston
Experiences of General Assembly

July 19

Persephone Zill
Spiritual Disciplines

July 26

Rev. Carol Huston
*Christian and Jewish Sources of
Unitarian Universalism*

August 2

To be announced

August 9

Bevin Maguire
*The Spirituality of Facebook
and Social Media*

August 16

Elissa Schuler Adair
Faithful Habits

August 23

Jerry Stoeffhaas
Learning from Film

August 30

Rev. Carol Huston
*Humanist Sources of
Unitarian Universalism*

September 6

Anne Gooding
Recharging Your Batteries

