

# The Old Man's News

Mt. Sinai Congregational, United Church of Christ  
233 North Country Road, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766, Office- 631-473-1582,  
Fax- 631-474-0556, Website: [www.mtsinaichurchli.org](http://www.mtsinaichurchli.org), email: msccl1@optonline.net

## September 2011

### Music Ministry Opportunities at Mt. Sinai

#### Music Ministry for Children and Youth (MMCY)

Listen carefully . . . It may be timid at first, but you'll hear it . . . It's the sound of church school children singing on Sunday mornings and youth on Thursday evenings. Emma Apsel and Brittney Puglissi will bring their fresh enthusiasm and skilled leadership to this dimension of our church's music ministry. Give yourself a blessing and shower this endeavor with your prayers, your presence and your gifts. When you see them, welcome Brittney and Emma to our staff and thank them for their work. Let them know you value what they are doing and watch this ministry grow.

Be sure you put October 1, 7:00 pm on your calendars and bring your families and friends to our first gala music fundraiser to support the youth and children in our church and our community. Help us Move on Down the Road by showing up and filling our church. You will hear lots of fun music, have a chance at great raffles and enjoy refreshments after the show. Tickets will be on sale starting September 4.

#### Chancel Choir

If you like to sing and have even a small amount of experience in choral singing, please join our Chancel Choir. Adults and youth who have been confirmed are welcome to sing. Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 8 from 7:30-9:00 pm. We will begin preparing for performing in the fundraiser, Move on Down the Road. Come see what's in store!

Seasonal Singers, those of you who cannot make the weekly commitment for the year, may join us in early November to prepare for Advent and Christmas season. Start planning for your participation NOW!

#### Harbor Bells

If you have some music reading skill and an interest in an ensemble like no other, please join us in ringing handbells. Youth and adults welcome. First rehearsal is Thursday, September 8 from 5:30-7:00 pm. Bells, too, will begin to prepare for Move on Down the Road fundraiser and, of course, music for worship.

See you at church. Keep on making music.

Rev. Elaine

**From our Records... Baptism**

Ava Gerontianos-Panasci and Olivia Gerontianos-Panasci were baptized on August 7<sup>th</sup>, *their loving parents are* Melissa Panasci and Elisa Gerontianos.

**Our Generosity Corner- September News...Sneak Preview of the Gen Team's Fall Plans**

Fall is just around the corner, and your Generosity Team is planning ways to share our vision relating to the annual financial support activities that will culminate at Thanksgiving—a very appropriate target, we think. First, we are asking each board and committee to “Think Big”- to forget financial constraints and make a Wish list- NOT for the proposed budget, more as long-term goals for ways to grow their particular aspect of our shared congregational life. Whether it is for improved audio/visual equipment so sermons and music can be recorded and shared with absent members, or funds to install an elevator to improve physical access, or a capital campaign to install a modern, green, heat pump system for heating AND COOLING our space, or underwriting for travel and fees so everyone who wants to participate in mission trips can do so, or an increased commitment to particular mission projects... (what's *your* hope for this congregation?). If you are not on a committee or board, you also will be invited to share your hopes. Let's all get inspired about the new wonderful things we'll be able to do when we listen to God's urging to re-vision [or revise] our commitment of our personal resources—which are, after all, not ours at all, but God's.

Then we'll be asking folks to reflect on their experience with this past year's increased giving—many families thought and prayed about their past patterns of “bringing back to God” and realized it was time to grow in their spiritual investment. Other families have experienced financial setbacks this year, but even so have managed to give a larger percentage than they were giving previously, even though the amount is smaller. Both of those are wonderful examples of spiritual growth! People with concrete examples of how to make practical sacrifices will be invited to share what they have learned so others can take heart and try their own variation on the growth theme.

There is a lot of doom and gloom dominating the news lately, but we don't have to succumb to the negative. Jesus gives us a message of hope, and en-courage-ment to live in the light, not the dark. Each of us has the power to make a statement with our attitude and our actions, and every day we choose to live generously, or not—in all aspects of our lives. Let's choose the pathway of Love.

**Kathy Robinson, Generosity Chair**

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**From the Dream Fund...**

On October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm we will be holding an estate planning meeting at the church. Janet L. O'Hanlon Esquire will be speaking. All are invited to attend, please call the office if you are considering attending so we can have an idea on how many to plan for.

submitted by: Rich Winkler, Chair, Lynn Jordan, Dennis Murphy, Kathy Robinson and Donna Rodman

### From our Sunday School Coordinator- Ms. Caroline LaVopa...

September 18th is Rally Day. On Rally Day we return to two services (9am and 11am) and kick off our Sunday School at the 9am service. There will be childcare available at both services. The registration form is up on our website, see the front page for the Internet link.

#### Youth Group News...

Youth Group will resume on September 22<sup>nd</sup>; letters will be sent out shortly, we will also be adding information to our Youth Page on our Website.

The Youth Group is open to youth from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> and meets Thursdays from 6:30pm-8:00pm. It is a safe place for our youth to explore their relationship with God and each other.

#### Calling All Musicians (youth)

Do you love to sing? Play an instrument? Come and meet Ms. Emma and Ms. Brittney and make some music! Call the church office if you are interested and want more details.

#### Board of Christian Outreach...

Each year, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,600 CROP Hunger Walks. CROP Hunger Walks help to support grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

This year CROP Hunger Walks will share almost \$4 million with food banks, pantries, community gardens, and other local efforts across the U.S. We hope you will consider either walking or supporting this year's walkers to help end hunger.

The Board of Christian Outreach would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to our school supplies drive for Brighter Tomorrows. Brighter Tomorrows is our local shelter and counseling center of victims of domestic abuse. Thanks to your efforts we were able to give backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils- and many other necessities to local families in crisis.



Volunteer Opportunities

#### Audio/Visual Needs at the Church

To everyone ages 15 and up- if you are interested in volunteering to be on our media team please contact Mary Larson layministrymscc@optonline.net or 631-473-1582. The time commitment can vary from one hour a month to around 4 hours. The work would entail either assisting during service (operating our audio visual equipment) or in designing slides, you can also volunteer to assist on our website.

#### Caring Ministry

Our Pastoral Care Support is made up of staff and volunteers, which make up our Caring Ministry Team. We have also started a new group, which assists in providing food for those in need. If you would like to join our new group please contact Mary Larson at the office 631-473-1582.

Island Heart Food Pantry- We have volunteer opportunities to fit just about everyone's interest and time. They vary from volunteering 2-3 times a year, subbing and doing pickups at Traders Joes and Island Harvest Pick up sites. You can leave message at the office (631) 473-1582.

**Join us for A Day of Peace and Remembrance with The Heritage Park Trust**

Below are some of the activities planned for the day. Mt. Sinai Congregational, UCC is going to take part in this event, if you are interested in attending or taking part give Mary Larson in the office a call.

At noon on Sunday, September 11, 2011, the Boy Scouts of Troop 384 will conduct a Memorial Service honoring those we lost on September 11, the heroes of September 11 and the veterans who have served to keep our country free. Afterwards, until 4 pm, we have many activities planned such as:

Indoors: Tables for making peace flags, doves, rainbows, quilts, rocks, coloring books.

A Stage area, (mike and seating) for the recitation of poems, talks, skits about peaceful solutions to conflicts, bullying, what peace means to each of us, honoring America's patriots, music, choirs, sing-alongs, poetry readings from Mattie Stepanek's Heartsongs, etc.

Outdoors: People enjoying the walking trails, painting, sketching, reading stories, enjoying nature, relaxing on benches and blankets, flying kites, playing and listening to music.

**Four Smooth Pebbles  
Temple Beth Emeth  
September 11, 2011**

**Time: 4:00pm**

"Go out and share my story....you are the last generation who can bear witness to the stories I have told you, so these terrible things I have spoken of will never happen again."

These are the words of Marion Blumenthal Lazan, Holocaust survivor, who in the last 30 years has addresses more than half-a million students.

Trapped with her family in a Nazi concentration camp when she was a young girl, she now devotes her life to sharing this nightmare and passing on life's lessons of hope and compassion, tolerance and kindness.

Marion's memoir, "Four Perfect Pebbles", recounts the Blumenthal family's shattering odyssey from a happy life in Germany to refugee camps and Bergen-Belsen.

I have hosted Marion and her wonderful husband, Nathaniel at my home, having arranged for her to speak with the students at Rocky Point during three separate occasions. She will be coming to Beth Emeth on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> to speak once again and share her belief that "out of darkness, can come light".

I urge you to mark your calendar and go and meet this remarkable woman; listen to what she has to say and then "go out and share her story with your family and friends". She made a difference in me and in the many students in my classes. She will make a difference in your life. By Patrice Perecca

**To reserve a seat at this important event please contact Mary Larson at the church.**

**Caring Ministry**

If you or a family member are: home-bound , in the hospital or struggling with the pressures of the world , call on the Caring Ministry to help and they are available to visit. Contact Mary Larson or speak to one of the caring ministers (they wear red and white name badges). We are here for you.

**Welcome Sunday and Serenity Services resume September 25th**

On the last Sunday of the month we have "Welcome Sunday," a spirited service for people of all different abilities. Friends from local group homes join us for a multi-media and accessible worship experience. Join us for a less "traditional" Sunday morning!

Our Serenity Service is held the last Sunday of the month at 5pm. This is a service for those in recovery and their family and friends. Everyone is welcome! Contact us in the office (631)473-1582 for more information.

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**ADULT FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS -----**

**All are Welcome to Join Us!**

A list of suggested events is posted in the Voorhees Hall. We have scheduled events through September; however, we are still looking for "helpers" for some of the fall and winter events. If you are interested in assisting with any of these events, please leave a message for Patti Texeira at 473-1582, or sign your name on the list in Voorhees Hall. Thank you!

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>DAY/DATES/TIMES</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>ORGANIZERS</u></b>
SEPT.	Sun, Sept. 18	Wine/Garden Party	Patrice & Jim Perreca
OCT.	TBA	Note/Scavenger Hunt by car	
NOV.	TBA	Vanderbilt Museum	Linda Marzano
DEC.	TBA	Progressive Dinner	
JAN.	TBA	Square Dance	

Dear Church Friends,

After 30 years of teaching, Rich and I are retiring to our Vermont home in Mt. Holly. We have spent so many weekends there over the years, and now we will be living there full time. I must say, the air smells very sweet from the front porch and everywhere you look, your eyes behold verdant shades of green. Vermont is called the green state for a reason!

Our church away from home, Grace Congregational, is a beautiful place to worship. It is an historical building in the heart of Rutland, and boasts having the tallest steeple among the many churches in the entire area. With all its cathedral-like beauty, a part of my heart will always be with you.

It has been a privilege to have served with you and worshiped with you. Together, we have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit that flows through the music, the prayers and the sermons. My beautiful church will never be forgotten.

If you find yourself near Okemao Mountain to ski or just love to tour the sights of New England, please plan to visit.

You would be so welcome. Email us at [vtlady11@yahoo.com](mailto:vtlady11@yahoo.com)

Until we meet again, our warmest wishes to you all,  
Jane and Richard Jones

### From Island Heart Food Pantry

This summer we have seen a steady increase of people visiting our food pantry. We are low or out of a lot of foods including: tomato sauce, peanut butter, jelly, rice, canned ravioli, chili and juices. You can drop off food at the church office Monday through Friday from 10am-3pm or on Sunday in the Narthex before service.

#### Island Heart Food Pantry Fundraiser-

We will be having our annual Harvest Dinner Dance to benefit the food pantry on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Miller Beach Surf Club. There will be a full buffet, open bar, dancing, music and raffles. Why not put a table of 8-10 together of family and friends. Pre-sale tickets are \$55.00 and \$65.00 at the door.

This month we will continue upgrading our pantry with help of a Ridge Girl Scout Troop who will be making renovations to the pantry. Thank you to everyone who has made this summer a success in helping feed the hungry.

With Blessings,  
Margaret and the volunteers at the Food Pantry



Every Saturday from 9am to 2pm, we will be having a Yard Sale out of our Red Barn. All proceeds from this weekly sale will go directly to the church's general fund. Donations can be dropped off on Saturday's during the sale.

Please do not leave any items in front of the church doors or the red barn doors. If you have any questions or need any more information, please call the church office.

**Save the date!** Our Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 19th from 9am to 3pm. Stay tuned for more information.

**Adult Fellowship Garden Party,** Join Jimmy and Patrice Perreca at their home on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> -2pm-5pm.

**Parish Resource Center News...**

**NEW THIS FALL WEBINARS**

**All webinars begin at 7:00 pm EST and will last approximately 1 hour  
Pre-Registration is required to receive your password**

Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry  
September 20, 7:00 pm

**High Impact Community Ministry Series**

Outreach Isn't Optional: Why Community Ministry is Essential to Your Congregation's Future  
September 27, 7:00 pm

Meet the Neighbors: Ten Easy Ways to Get to Know the Community Around your Church  
October 4, 7:00 pm

Designing your Community Ministry Program:  
Seven Creative Models  
October 11, 7:00 pm

Out of the Pew, Into the Community: Getting Church Members Engaged in Community Ministry  
October 25, 7:00 pm

Register by calling 631-821-2255 or e-mail [info@prcli.org](mailto:info@prcli.org)

**Member of a Subscribing Church, \$15**

**Member of a Non-Subscribing Church, \$20**

Joy Skjegstad, author of *Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry* (Alban Institute 2007) and *Starting A Nonprofit At Your Church* (Alban Institute 2002), is a national speaker and consultant on nonprofit management and ministry development. She has more than 20 years of experience starting and growing nonprofit organizations, including serving as the Executive Director of the Park Avenue Foundation at Park Avenue United Methodist Church and as the founder of the Institute for Ministry Leaders, a university-based training program that builds the management capacity of churches and other ministry organizations. She also served as the President of Sanctuary Community Development Corporation and has held a variety of other leadership positions with nonprofits in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

# September 2011

## **10am Church Service and Sunday School through September 11<sup>th</sup> We return to two services on September 18<sup>th</sup>**

### Communion Services

Held on the first Sunday of every month. Sensitive to people with food allergies, we offer gluten free wafers in addition to bread. Out of respect for those who cannot drink alcohol, we use grape juice for the blessed cup of Communion. Everyone is welcome to the communion table.

### **September 4-10**

4	Sunday	Communion Sunday	10:00am
5	Monday	Office Closed	
6	Tuesday	Board of Christian Outreach	6:30pm
7	Wednesday	Men's Breakfast at Rocky Point Diner	7:30am

### **September 11-17**

11	Sunday	Worship- Memorial in Heritage Park Four Smooth Pebbles- Call office to RSVP	10:00am 12:00pm-4:00pm 4:00pm
12	Monday	Friendly Circle	7:30pm
13	Tuesday	Trustees- Conference Room	7:00pm
14	Wednesday	Lunch Bunch- contact office for where to meet Caring Ministry- Conference Room	12pm 7:00pm

### **September 18-24**

18	Sunday	Rally Day, Worship- Return to Two Services Garden Party at the Perrecas New Members Brunch	9:00am/11:00am 2:00pm-5:00pm 10:00am
19	Monday	Board of Christian Education Friendly Circle	7:00pm 7:30pm
20	Tuesday	Board of Deacons	7:00pm
21	Wednesday	Men's Breakfast at Rocky Point Diner	7:30am
22	Thursday	Youth Group Begins	6:30pm-8:00pm

### **September 25-Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**

25	Sunday	Worship Welcome Sunday Serenity Service	9:00am 11:00am 5:00pm
26	Monday	Friendly Circle	7:30pm
27	Tuesday	Executive Council- Conference Room	7:00pm
1	Saturday	Music Ministry Fundraiser	7:00pm