

Round Hill
Community Church

The News Letter

September 2009

Catching the Spirit of Round Hill

Embracing the Coming Season as a Church Family

We are soon going to be entering into the season of fall, my favorite time of the year. I'm not sure why I feel more refreshed when it comes to the month of September, but somehow the emerging colors of yellow and orange and red, the increasing coolness felt in the breezes that begin to dislodge the leaves from the trees, the sunsets that appear earlier and more vibrant at dusk . . . all these signs of the coming season serve to fill me with a hopeful anticipation of the coming days. Change is in the air. And ours is the beckoning call to prepare ourselves to embrace that which is to be.

As a young person growing up, I always was excited by what the new school year would bring – the classes and the discoveries I would be making; what the new teachers would be like and my “hungering to grow,” which they would seek to nourish; how the sports teams would do on the various fields of play and whether the new year would bring more thrills of victories than agonies of defeats. And certainly because my father was the minister of my church, but also because of the spiritual questions rumbling about inside me, I would look forward to a new Sunday School class and worship experiences and youth fellowship times that all held the promise of self-discovery and of coming to grow closer in my relationship with God, who almost always seemed a bit distant and removed. “Maybe this will be the year,” I would think, “when God grows nearer to me as I seek to grow nearer to God.”

My hope is that all the members and friends of our church family will share in the excitement that comes at the beginning of a new programmatic year here at Round Hill Community Church . . . when

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Message from the Chairman



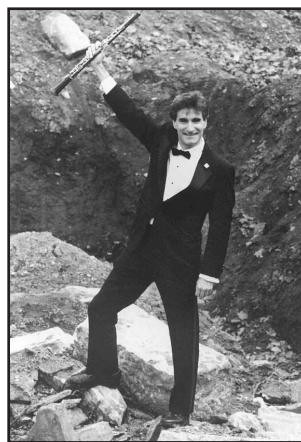
Art Landi

In light of Bob's recent announcement of his desire to seek a new pastoral position with the Presbyterian denomination, I want to share some thoughts with you as Chairman of the Board.

As you know, the Board of Trustees met in August and Bob shared with us in a personal way his intention, and we were able to convey our appreciation for his ministry in our midst for the last ten years. We will miss Bob and appreciate the years he has guided us in our spiritual journey together. He has been inspirational from the pulpit and a great comfort to so many of us during trying times. With classic consideration, Bob has given us his full commitment and ample time to

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Rally Day Features Oboist Gerard Reuter Sunday, September 13



After the summer break, the full complement of choir and soloists will return for Rally Day with the virtuoso oboist Gerard Reuter. Reuter, a Church favorite, has performed all over the world and is regarded as one of New York's finest instrumentalists. He is perhaps best known as the oboist in the acclaimed Dorian Wind Quintet. He will perform the

Bach Concerto in F Major, and Telemann's Presto from the F major Trio Sonata.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

“A child is not a vessel to be filled but a lamp to be lit.”

Registration for 2009-2010

As the summer comes to a close and children return to school, it is time to prepare for our **Church School** program. Registration forms have been mailed to families. If you have not received yours, call Tom Mahoney. Please complete the form and return it to us by Rally Day – Sunday, September 13 – the first day of our program. Forms may be mailed or dropped off in the Church Office.

Rally Day Magic Show

September 13 will be the first day of our 2009-2010 Church School program. We will launch the day with some community building exercises followed by a one-hour magic show with the well-known magician **Mr. Abracadabra**. Come join us for a fun, exciting, and entertaining Rally Day.

Mission/Outreach

Making Meals and Animal Cookies

Our mission project this year will be to cook a meal or bake cookies for the guests at **Pacific House** – a shelter for the homeless in Stamford – every four to six weeks. This initiative will be led by Roland Kistler, who led the very successful Gingerbread House project. During our summer school session, Roland taught

three cooking classes. Children made chocolate chip cookies – mixed the ingredients, rolled out the dough, and sampled one or two cookies. On another Sunday morning they made 60 turkey sandwiches, 60 ham sandwiches, cooked 60 ears of corn, and baked macaroni and cheese. On September 20, Roland will teach the children how to make dog biscuits – which will be distributed the following Sunday at the **Blessing of the Animals**. Parents who would like to assist with this effort are asked to contact Tom or Roland.



Blessing of the Animals

This popular annual event is scheduled for Sunday, September 27. Bring your pets – large and small – to the Community House to receive a special blessing from Bob or Shannon. Let's celebrate the love and joy of God's creatures.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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insure a smooth and successful transition. I know I speak for the entire congregation in wishing him well.

Of course, with Bob's announcement, we now need to prepare for a new ministry, and it is in this regard that the Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of a Search Committee to be chaired by Charles Lee and Nancy Mazzoli. If you have any information that may be valuable to the process please get in touch with either of them.

On another note, fall always marks an exciting time at our church and as you will see in the report from the Capital Campaign Committee, we have made significant progress with projects for the Church and the Community House. There are many people to thank for the design and building process, but we espe-

cially thank our members who gave so generously to make this all possible. There is still more work to do and more money to be raised, but the results, thus far, are remarkable. The new handicap entry at the upper lot facilitates access to the front door and makes for a more inviting approach for all. Improvements to the Community House give this grand old building an improved comfort, function and aesthetic, both on the exterior facade and interior space.

Although we would like to invite you into the building on Rally Day, we may need some more time for that, but not much more.

– Art Landi
Chairman, Board of Trustees



BEACH DAY 2009

In a summer of so much rain, we were awfully happy to be greeted by a glorious bright sunshiny day at Tod's Point on Tuesday, August 25. Roland and Alison Kistler again had everything beautifully organized. Patiently, we volunteers awaited the arrival of families from Little Sisters of the Assumption in Harlem, NYC.



Hooray, those big yellow school buses pulled in. Families piled off with strollers, swimsuits, and children in tow – 65 guests of Round Hill Community Church. Grada and Bill Herrick handed out frozen popsicles before Roland guided everyone up to the picnic area for snacks and a welcoming speech.

The picnic area was filled quickly with colorful blankets and excited children. More excitement came with the distribution of many wonderful beach toys, again so generously given by Hadi Hajjar. The children eagerly explored their new toys and relished playing in this bucolic setting.



We all watched with wonderment at how everyone reacted to this special place. With encouragement from Roland, Alison, and our volunteers, some of the families ventured down to explore the beach, some unsure of walking on sand, some curious about the water, some content to just play under the trees in the shade. Everyone was having a wonderful time.

Interacting with precious, well-behaved little ones, sharing a lunch, getting to know their names, and talking to the parents brought us all closer together. Moment after moment we were presented with so many photo opportunities. Faces, wonderful faces! Situations, wonderful situations! Families, lovely families!

To our complete delight, a three-year-old little girl with adorable expressions and hand gestures stood in front of us and kept repeating “There’s the ocean. Where’s the boats?”



Après lunch, Julia Boyson returned with three large, juicy, perfect summer watermelons, followed by cold ice cream sandwiches.

This could not have been a better “RHCC Beach Day” thanks to Roland and Alison’s outstanding leadership and the thoughtful and helpful volunteers: Becky Jaspersen, Julia Boyson, Brook Calkin, Bob Culp, Helen Dixon, Gloria Fitzsimmons, Christine Gerli, Marilyn Hammond, Grada and Bill Herrick, Regina Repenning, George Shaddock, Matt Minella, and Alicia Hartwell.

– Helen and Hooker O’Malley
Benevolence and Outreach



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Welcome back from summer vacation! The Center for Faith Development is gearing up for a full fall schedule of activities designed to encourage and deepen your faith and exploration.

September programming kicks off with our series of Meditations with Joel Baehr on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m..

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 13

Come celebrate the official beginning of the Church School calendar and visit with friends at the Rally Day picnic following worship. Be on the lookout for the Center's **Fall at a Glance** brochure, which outlines out fabulous offerings in Adult Education.

Peace Vigil and Labyrinth Walk for International Day of Peace

September 21

7:30 p.m., Church Lawn

Come join us for this fourth annual event. All ages are welcome; no RSVP required.

Blessing of the Animals Service

September 27

10:00 a.m., Community House

Shannon White preaching

All species are welcome!



Thich Nhat Hahn

“Building a Peaceful and Compassionate Society” October 9 and 10

Beacon Theatre, New York City

The New York Times has written, “Among Buddhist leaders influential in the West, Thich Nhat Hanh ranks second only to the Dalai Lama.” He has published more than 100 books. Thich Nhat Hanh has addressed audiences at the White House World Summit Conference on HIV and AIDS, the Gorbachev World Forum, and the World Economic Summit in Davos, Switzerland. He has led retreats on mindful living for Vietnam veterans, prison inmates, ecologists, businessmen, police officers and members of Congress. In 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr. nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Please contact Shannon White as soon as possible if you are interested in attending either or both sessions (slight discount for both).

Series on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction

Thursdays, September 3, 10, 17, 24

White Plains, NY, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

Topics: The Disease of Addiction, Co-Dependency, Treatment, and Family Dynamics. Check the flyer on the Center bulletin board for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 20

Sanctuary, 11:15 a.m.

In response to Bob Culp's decision to begin a new phase in his professional life, the Board of Trustees has approved the formation of a Transition Committee, to be chaired by Charles Lee and Nancy Mazzoli. There will be a congregational meeting in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 20, at 11:15 a.m. to review the transition plan, take questions and comments, and discuss how to develop prospective candidates. Please join us for this important meeting.



CENTER FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Women's Gathering

We are looking forward to this new season. Our first gathering will be on Friday, September 25, at 6:30 p.m., and Carrie Finlayson has very kindly invited us to her home for dinner.

Our speaker will be Louise Hoffman. Louise will share her joy in visiting and studying twelfth-century cathedral buildings in France. She says that in returning to school after a hiatus of thirty years she took a course at Manhattanville “. . . about, of all things, the building of the French cathedrals in the 12th century. I was majoring in psychology and this subject seemed such a refreshing and beautiful departure from all those experiments in conformity, social behavior, etc. But actually, as I learned, the building of the cathedrals was all about social behavior, involving nutty myths, goofy stories, politics, and competition.”

It should be a very enjoyable evening. Save the date and invite your friends, neighbors, and new church members to join us. Look for your invitation with details in the mail in early September.

– Grada Herrick and Jan Ziemba

RHCC Book Club

This summer the women's book club met to talk about *Ladies No. 1 Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith. Lyn Harmon wore her photo safari outfit and the snakes were provided by Hayley and Leia Wilson.



On September 22 we will be meeting at Edie Wilson's home to discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winner. All are welcome. If you are interested in coming please contact Edie Wilson or Kerri Ann Hofer.

LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY

Works by well-known Cos Cob-based graphic designers Jonathan and Elsebeth Timm will be on display from September 6 through October 14. The Timms are the owners of Northeast Signs & Graphics and have created some of the most memorable commercial signs in the Greenwich area, such as those for the Mill Pond Shopping Center, Spectacles, the Whitby and North Street schools, Fjord Fisheries, and many others. Recently they opened the Benton Bear Gallery to showcase their art.



Squantz Pond
by Jonathan Timm

Jonathan is versatile, working with equal ease in oils, acrylics, and watercolors. His paintings are highly polished and inspired by the beauty of nature, which he transposes onto the canvas with the accuracy of a Renaissance painter. He explains that his style is “a combination of details and impressions conveying a feeling of serenity and solitude.”



Egret by Elsebeth Timm

Elsebeth's paintings belong to a different spectrum. They are more frivolous, very colorful, and exude a sense of happiness. “I enjoy painting in bright colors, with animals and nature being my primary focus. My paintings are done in a whimsical, imaginative style. The absolute joy and love in my life have been our dogs. I enjoy depicting my Labs together in fun settings. I truly hope that my paintings bring happiness to others.”

– Mirella Hajjar, Gallery Curator



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

The Food Program at St. Luke's LifeWorks

Each month on the third Monday, people gather to cook a meal for approximately thirty-five residents of shelters in Stamford. These are under the auspices of St. Luke's LifeWorks. Members of the Round Hill Community Church have been meeting in this way for more than fifteen years. The cooks and servers change, the kitchens we cook in change as well as the menu, but the mission has stayed the same.

We cook and serve meals to the twenty women residing at the Women's Housing Program. In addition we serve the men and women living at two other residential programs located at the same "campus" as the Women's Program: McKinney House is home to eighteen adults living with HIV/AIDS and Gilead House is home to sixteen adults recovering from mental illness.

People turn to LifeWorks when crises in their lives take over. There is no one "profile" that would capture a typical resident. There is the single woman, once a Fortune 500 executive who endured a difficult divorce, became depressed, and lost her home and possessions; there is the man who moved to the northeast on the promise of employment, only to find the job offer had disappeared; there is the young man struggling with the voices he hears in his head. There are many more, each with a story.

I have been part of the RHCC effort for thirteen years. Many others join in and stay for a long time, too. It is simple and meaningful work. Carrie Finlayson has taught us to look for bargains when we shop, all to good effect as we are spending very little more than we did more than five years ago. Robin Browning has shared some of her special recipes. Rhona Johnson taught us how to make rice for a large crowd. Kerri Ann Hofer and Jenny Rye come with their kids to serve. One night Mary Ann Debnar and five-year-old Elena baked some cookies and passed them to the delighted residents. Jo Ann Adams, Jean Bergstrasser, Becky Jaspersen, Suzy Simpson, and others join in the effort. We are a merry band and are always open to others who would like to join in. The best way to do this is to let me know and I will contact you to see if you are available for a given Monday.

When I started serving years ago it could be a little

depressing. The room was dark and the residents seemed to shuffle in, get their food, and sit quietly, not talking much. And then St. Luke's turned on some lights and dressed up the tables a little. There was a dramatic change. There now can be a lively exchange between the servers and residents who pass by the table to get their food. The men and women then sit together and talk. They never leave the room without commenting on the food and expressing gratitude. Some nights one of them plays gospels and old favorites on the piano. There is a sense of community.

I'm not sure why anybody else does this, but I know that I look forward to the third Monday. There is the challenge of figuring out what to cook and getting the best price for the ingredients; the fun of gathering to cook and the pleasure of serving others. For me it is a form of meditation and giving thanks.

— Sandy Motland

Work Camp 2009: New York City



The RHCC summer work camp began at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church on East 74th Street. The church occupies a six-story building that is bustling with energy. Although the congregation is small, their ministry with the homeless of Manhattan is astounding.

We headed down to Trinity Wall Street to begin our time with worship. The sermon, appropriate to our experience, centered on how we are changed as a result of being near to Jesus . . . a message that was reiterated many times over the three short days.

We spent the afternoon at Jan Hus transporting winter clothing for the homeless from the first floor to the fifth floor, where the clothing was sorted into bins. Jan Hus staff was grateful for our participation



BENEVOLENCE AND OUTREACH

since the clothing was heavy and plentiful.

We spent the rest of the afternoon in Bible Study considering how who we are influences how we see the Scriptures. We took on different roles and asked if we were a homeless woman, a recently unemployed Greenwich businessman, a Nicaraguan farmer, or Bill Gates, would we interpret passages that speak of God's provision in different ways? We concluded, yes.

We attended an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous where we listened as members shared their experience, strength, and hope as they seek to live full lives in recovery. We were touched by the stories of bravery as well as the laughter.

On Friday we were off to Word of Life International on Prospect Street in the Bronx where we were inspired by the faith of Revs. John and Felicia Udo-Okon, who provide so many with so much from so little. This small storefront congregation has teamed up with many city agencies with the goal of eliminating hunger in the South Bronx. Each week they provide 500 to 600 people with bags of food. They also have an HIV/AIDS education program, children's enrichment and feeding program, health insurance enrollment program, and immigration and legal services.

We unloaded over a dozen pallets of fresh produce from City Harvest for distribution the next day. We also played with the children who were there for the daily program.

We got back to our base just in time to serve a full three-course dinner to 100 homeless people at Jan Hus. We were waiters, and mighty good ones at that! After a couple of hours of rest, we met up with Roland Kistler, who drove a van in from Greenwich for our "Midnight Run." Midnight Run is an organization out of Dobbs Ferry that provides people on the streets of New York with conversation, a meal, toiletries, and clothing three nights of every week. We made five stops through the night and handed out 150 bagged dinners, toiletries, and soup lovingly put together by members of our congregation. We were moved and changed by the conversation with the guests we met who live on the streets.

After a good night's rest (on the floor of the gymnasium at Jan Hus), we went to worship with our host church and gave thanks.

Indeed, it was a time for us to be changed, and one that forever will shape the way we see others. Many thanks to all who helped make this happen.

– Shannon White for Ryan Colleta, Colin Peck-Gray,
Michelle Feghali, Elizabeth and William Green,
Max Nunes (grandson of Christine Gerli),
Casey, Matthew, and Perry Minella
Helpers: Roland Kistler – Midnight Run
Kerri Ann Hofer – Sandwich brigade leader
Rhona Johnson: Soup Brigade leader

COFFEE, TEA, OR . . .



Just a mini **Fall Reminder** to all Church goers, coffee drinkers, and cookie savorers! Many of us fall into these categories, as well as enjoying the opportunity to gather after the Service to exchange greetings, welcome newcomers, and catch up on the week.

The whole experience is immeasurably enhanced by the refreshments provided by members and friends. **With all the busyness of fall schedules, we ask that you find a Sunday when you can bring some "goodies" to our Fellowship Hour, and then sign up for that day on the list in the Parlor.**

We can guarantee that you will benefit from the reassurance you are making your contribution to a time honored Church event, and that all of your fellow parishioners will benefit from your foresight. Given our stringent economic times, the food choices do not have to be fancy; in fact they can be quite simple items – it is distinctly the thought and the variety that counts. We thank you for reading this and for taking action!

– Emily Toohey and Christine Gerli



ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

If you've been to Church recently or just driven by, you will have seen your Capital Campaign pledge dollars hard at work. We are finishing the first phase of the renovation of the **Community House** and some of the major items we have accomplished include:



- a new floor in the main room
- asbestos abatement
- new energy-efficient windows and doors – many in different locations – giving the outside of the building a much more symmetrical look



- a new handicap ramp leading to the front door
- new siding on the front of the building
- painting the side and back of the building
- a new heating/cooling system – the cooling system to be operable next summer



When this phase is complete, the inside main room will look fabulous, be safer, and be more energy- and cost-efficient!



In addition to the work on the Community House, you will see a significant change in the upper parking lot where we have finished a new **Handicapped Parking** area. We have regraded the path leading from the upper lot to the front door of the Church to make the walk easier. We also had the funds to pave half of the upper parking lot and we will finish the other half at a later date – when funds are available.



We are delighted with how much we have been able to accomplish with about \$900,000. But there is still more to do! Some of the **significant projects still to be done** over the next twelve months include:



ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



- repair and prevent the rotting of wood in the main entry to the Church
- even out steps and improve the railing at the front of the Church
- replace Sanctuary windows
- finish paving and striping the upper parking lot and seal and stripe the lower parking lot
- pave the front circle of the Church
- improve outside lighting
- replace flagpole
- install air conditioning condenser in Community House (ductwork has already been installed)
- replace the stage curtains
- redo the ceiling and electrical in the main room of the Community House



For those of you who already have contributed to the Capital Campaign, we again say a big *thank you!* You can see that your contributions are improving our church campus as well as providing an improved space for children's activities and adult events in our community. For those of you who have not contributed yet, we still need your help to accomplish all that needs to be done.

Big thanks go to our hardworking building committee – Dick Bergstresser, Suzy Simpson, Bob Culp, Art Landi, John Lowe, Banks Adams, and Amy Minella, and especially to Helen Dixon, who has done a remarkable job as head of the committee, spending countless hours making sure the construction is being done as planned, on time and within the budget.

As always, thank you for your generous support,

– Banks Adams and Amy Minella
Co-Chairs, Capital Campaign

Pastoral Notes on Campus Construction

It has been a very exciting and challenging summer of construction and renovation projects here on the campus of Round Hill Community Church. On a very regular basis, the church's Building Committee, chaired so ably by Helen Dixon and whose members are so dedicated and faithful, has held numerous meetings, along with a couple of special meetings of the Board of Trustees. As a result, many decisions and adjustments have been made in light of emerging needs, discoveries, and suggestions . . . all to ensure that the project is done well, within our budget, and in as timely a fashion as possible.

Our church's leaders have been very responsible and responsive, have worked well with the architects and project managers, and have given unselfishly of their time in this special project. As this phase of the building project is drawing to a close, all who visit and use our campus and its facilities will notice significant changes and needed improvements, and we are confident that many will be very pleased by all that has been accomplished.

I want to commend our church family for its supportive generosity and vision in attending the needs for capital improvements and renovations on our campus that have been undertaken, as well as those that will be completed in the future, and to express my deep appreciation for all those who have served on the Capital Campaign and Building Committees. With the financial support and encouragement of all within our loving congregation, we have made a wonderful beginning, and we are excited about what still lies ahead!

– Bob Culp



PASTORAL MESSAGE

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the promise is for us all “to grow nearer to God as God grows nearer to us.” I know that the members of the staff and various committees are working hard in their plans for a rewarding and meaningful year ahead, a year that will be accented by:

- dynamic and vibrant worship and music experiences
- exciting and meaningful Sunday School experiences for our children
- youth fellowship gatherings on topics of interest and special outreach projects
- diverse and timely adult forums on Sundays following worship
- continued and expanded support for Benevolence and Outreach, with opportunities for hands-on ministries in touching the needs of tender souls, both near and far away
- creative initiatives to attract new members and to open fulfilling avenues for the investment of our members’ gifts and talents
- new programs under the auspices of our church’s Center for Faith Development, as well as the continuation of favorite activities
- special events such as our Blessing of the Animals Service, our traditional Harvest Supper, our annual Christmas on Round Hill, a Night at the Opera, our family and traditional Christmas Eve Services, and much more.

And all of these ministries and events will be highlighted on our church’s website, which is kept up to date with all the latest church news and information . . . including the sermons and services, which can now be heard online.

There is so much for us as a church family to experience together! And I look forward to serving all of you with all the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love that the Lord grants me. My hope is that all our leaders and members will dedicate themselves anew in becoming involved in our church’s life and ministry, attending and participating in our services and programs on a regular basis, investing their talents and skills in helpful and joyful ways, and working faithfully to fulfill the mission God gives us as a unique interdenominational and independent church in the Greenwich area.

– Bob Culp, Pastor

WORSHIP

Last year at the request of RHCC members and Trustees, the Worship Committee drafted a revised Communion Liturgy that incorporates parts of our original liturgy and also includes segments of services used by other mainstream denominations. The Board of Trustees has approved using this revised Communion Liturgy for a trial period. Its first use was on Sunday, August 16. Our next Communion service will be held on World Communion Sunday, October 4.

The Worship Committee, chaired by Marion Piro, will meet every other month beginning in September. We welcome your feedback on the new Communion Liturgy and your thoughts on any other issue pertaining to worship.

On September 27, Blessing of the Animals will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Community House.



Christmas on Round Hill

Preview Party

Friday, December 4 6 to 9 p.m.

Drinks • Appetizers and Buffet • Live Music
Silent Auction • Treasure Trove,
Fabulous Food • Living Greens • Unique Gifts

Traditional Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 5 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Magic Shows • Photos with Santa
Train Rides • Shopping

All made possible by a large cast of
volunteers . . . please contribute your
time and talent to help make
this year’s fair the best ever!



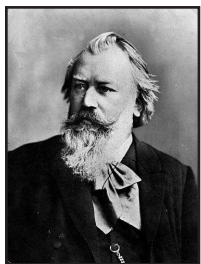
MUSIC ON ROUND HILL

Trip to the New York Philharmonic

On Saturday, September 26, members of the Church family and their friends will enjoy an evening of great music and conversation. The trip includes a three-course dinner with wine at the acclaimed Josephina's restaurant across from Lincoln Center as well as a very fine seat in the orchestra for the concert. The program includes the monumental Brahms Violin Concerto and Schoenberg's lush post-romantic *Pelléas and Mélisande*. If you wish to attend, please send a check for \$90 per person to the office by September 18.

Violin Concerto (1878)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)



Young Johannes Brahms and Hungarian violin virtuoso Joseph Joachim, who was just two years older, met in 1853 and immediately became friends. And when, years later, Brahms decided to compose a concerto for the violin (an instrument he didn't play) for Joachim, he sought comments and technical help from his colleague, asking him to "mark those parts which are difficult, awkward or impossible to play." Joachim obliged, and Brahms responded, "It is a good thing your name is on the copy, as you are more or less responsible for the solo violin part."

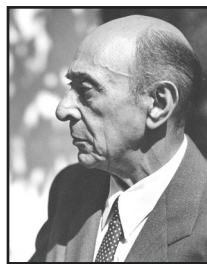
Joachim was the dedicatee and soloist at the work's premiere in 1879. Its nearly symphonic proportions and technical challenges have inspired the admiration and awe of concert audiences for well over a century, though at the time opinions were expressed that now strike us as silly. For example, conductor Hans von Bülow said that this is not a concerto for violin, but rather "a concerto against the violin." In response, violinist Bronislaw Huberman quipped that it is "neither against the violin, nor for the violin with orchestra. It is a concerto for violin against orchestra – and the violin wins."

The work has long since become one of the pillars of the concerto repertoire, with all criticisms forgotten, and audiences have embraced it enthusiastically. It demands extraordinary skills from the soloist – though it is never showy for its own sake. The concerto encompasses tender lyricism, brilliant vigor, and – as a tip of the hat to the dedicatee – Hungarian folk rhythms that Brahms himself so loved.

The News Letter is edited by Nancy Mazzoli,
Claire McKean, Lawrence Sterne, and Lynda Kinney

Pelléas and Mélisande (1902-03)

Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)



Maurice Maeterlinck's (1862-1949) haunting 1892 drama, *Pelléas and Mélisande*, has lived longer in the musical creations it inspired than in its original form: the Symbolist play motivated Sibelius's and Fauré's incidental music, an opera by Debussy, and the present symphonic poem

by Schoenberg. Composed in his ultra-Romantic, pre-twelve-tone phase, it envelops the listener in the same voluptuous aura of sound as his *Gurrelieder* and *Transfigured Night*. Though composed in one movement, the musical progression suggests a four-part conception – not unlike movements of a symphony – that generally follows the play's plot.

Though Schoenberg had also considered composing an opera on the Pelleas/Melisande theme (and wasn't aware that Debussy had already written one), he never followed through. He later said, "The symphonic poem helped me, in that it taught me to express moods and characters in precisely formulated units, a technique which an opera would perhaps not have promoted so well. Thus my fate evidently guided me with great foresight." Schoenberg uses brilliant, gigantic orchestral forces to portray this timeless story of doomed love – shrouded in shadow...elusive...mysterious.

– Christopher Kabala

Check the calendar on our website
roundhillcommunitychurch.org
for the most current information on
events at RHCC. Click on Calendar.
Then click on an event for times and details.

The News Letter

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Visit our website, roundhillcommunitychurch.org to view more pictures, read past sermons, learn about the activities and history of RHCC, and check the monthly calendar.

SEPTEMBER 2009 AT ROUND HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LES BEAUX ARTS GALLERY: PAINTINGS BY JONATHAN AND ELSEBETH TIMM		1	2	3	4	5
			Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom			
6 Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Fellowship, 11 a.m.	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 Meditation 7 p.m. Trustees' Meeting 8:00 p.m.	9 Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom 6 p.m. Christmas on RH mtg.	10	11	12
13 RALLY DAY! Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. Picnic and fellowship, 11 a.m., Front lawn	14	15 Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom 6 p.m. Membership Mtg., Parlor	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	18	19
20 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Worship and Church School, 10 a.m. CONGREGATION MEETING, 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary	21 Cooking for St. Luke's Fiction Writing 7 p.m. Peace Vigil and Labyrinth Walk 7:30 p.m.	22 Book Club Fiction Writing 2 p.m. Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom	23	24 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m.	25 Newsletter Deadline Women's Gathering 6:00 p.m.	26 Trip to N.Y. Philharmonic
27 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 10 a.m., Community House	28	29 Fiction Writing 2 p.m. Christmas on RH Workshop 2-5 p.m. Classroom	30	WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE		