



# CEDAR LANE NEWS

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
9601 Cedar Lane • Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Volume LV III, No. 5

November 29, 2011

## **December 4, 2011, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

### **“Food For the Journey”**

*The Rev. Susan Davison Archer, Minister of Religious Education*

This will be my last opportunity to lead adult worship on Sunday morning at Cedar Lane. At this transition time in my life I will invite us to reflect on what sustains us throughout the chances and changes of our lives. The children, youth, and teachers will join us towards the end of our time together for some mutual “good-byes.”

## **December 11, 2011, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

### **“Waiting For Greatness”**

*The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Senior Minister*

The Christian season of Advent - the weeks preceding Christmas – is a time of reflection and expectation. Do Unitarian Universalists also live in expectation? Of what?

## **December 18, 2011, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

### **“Religion of Freedom”**

*The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Senior Minister*

Many Unitarian Universalists take great pride in the freedom our religion offers. What does this freedom mean, and what does it actually give us? Children and youth will join the service for the first 20 minutes.

## **December 24, 2011**

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary**

**4:30 p.m.** A 45-minute service, ideal for young children.

**6:00 p.m.** An hour service for older children & adults.

**10:30 p.m.** Join us for a candlelight service.

## **December 25, 2011, 10 a.m. in the Chapel**

### **“Our Stories Beneath the Silence”**

*The Rev. Heather Janules and Nancy Pellegrini*

Children are welcome but there are no religious education classes or child care.



Additional Information about Christmas  
Eve and Christmas Day Services  
on Page 2.

### **The Time Is Here!**

After more than a decade at the helm of Cedar Lane’s Religious Education Program, the Rev. Susan Davison Archer will retire at the end of December. She will be moving to Greensboro, NC, to be near her family. To show our appreciation of her strong leadership and loving care to our families, there will be a special program during both worship services on Sunday, December 4, and cupcake parties in the lounge. Help us send her off with a generous retirement gift by contributing; checks can be made out to CLUUC, with ‘Susan’ in the memo line, and sent to the church office. Write a note to Susan on a card at the front desk. We have all benefitted by having her in our lives, so, most importantly, join us on Sunday, December 4, to say ‘Thanks,’ and be part of the joy.

The **Sunday Morning Forum** meets from 10:10 – 10:55 a.m. in the Chalice House. Coffee is served in 100% compostable hot cups.

**December 4:** *Current Immigration Law and Policy* from an Objective Point of View with immigration attorney Don Mooers

**December 11:** *Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)* with FINRA representative and Tracey Stein, Forum committee

**December 18:** *“American Emporer: Aaron Burr’s Challenge to Jefferson’s America”* with David Stewart, author and attorney

## Notes from the Ministers

### *Evan Keely*

The holiday season is a time of festivity and mirth. It can also be a time of stress and disappointment, augmented by the sense that we're supposed to be jolly.

It is a season of sensuous delights: splendid decorations everywhere, holiday music, and the sumptuous smells of delicious treats. It can also be a time of sensory overload, tasteless kitsch, and overindulgence that can easily veer from merely benign extravagance into danger: a friend of mine once worriedly visited his doctor in early January, concerned about his elevated pulse rate; "Ah," the physician sighed knowingly, "holiday heart!"

This season is a time to gather lovingly at the hearth with family. It can also be a time of being confronted with upsetting and painful family tensions, or of having to be reminded of losses; the empty chair at the holiday table can throw an acutely tender spotlight on grief. Even Charles Dickens understood this, and articulated it through a memorable character whose bah-humbag attitude, it turns out, is a desperate effort to cloak the internal anguish of the memory of a mother never known, a father's rejection, a sister's death and a fiancée's abandonment.

The holiday season is a time of spiritual renewal, when themes of compassion, courage, hope, and peace on earth are sounded. It can also be a time in which a mawkish pseudo-religiousness is put to the service of vapid and naïve cheerfulness and crass commercialism.

Yet if there is any place in the world where we are encouraged and empowered to not only understand and remember the high ideals of this time of year, but to live those ideals, it is the church. For those for whom this year's December is a time of especially sweet joys and undaunted hopes, may the church be a place where those delights and aspirations can be celebrated and strengthened. For those for whom this holiday season is a time of anxiety, sadness, franticness and a search for fulfillment gone awry, may the church help guide those souls back to a place of abundance, humility, courage, thankfulness and peace. And may we, as a people of faith, strive to be that church that gives precious gifts to the world.

### *Nancy Bird Pellegrini*

I had the opportunity this month to attend a ministers' study group retreat in West Virginia. One of the topics we talked about was the question of limits to growth.

We discussed the problem that our world is bumping up against the end of possibilities for growth and what this means for our faith. It was suggested that the way we have done things historically may no longer have any relevance, that our traditional Unitarian Universalist belief in the infinite capacity of the human soul may no longer ring true, and that we need a totally new paradigm for dealing with this unprecedented situation.

Call me an optimist, but I still believe in the limitless possibilities of the human soul and would affirm, as preached by William Ellery Channing, one of our Unitarian forefathers, that the human soul has a character of infinity and that the mind has unlimited potential. I do not think that we should confuse the material and spiritual worlds. Growth of our material world truly is limited and we definitely need to deal with that challenge, but I do not believe this means that our minds and spirits are limited.

I believe that we have the capacity to figure this out, to determine how to survive faced with the limits of our material world. We probably actually already know the answers. The problem is actually a problem of will. We choose not to do what we know is required. Are we willing to make the sacrifices necessary in their personal lives to allow equitable distribution of the world's resources and justice for all? Paul Raszynski in his book *Faith Without Certainty* states, "liberals have historically resisted advocating any form of reform or justice that would require them to give up their own privilege." I would suggest that this is what we need to think about changing and what we should attempt to tackle together.

## Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

**December 24, 2011**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary 4:30 p.m.** A 45-minute service, ideal for young children and everyone who loves to feel excitement of Christmas in young children. Our Children's, Youth and Handbell Choirs will provide music for the service.

**6:00 p.m.** An hour service for older children and adults. We will light candles for the children born or adopted this year. Our, Children's, Youth and Handbell Choirs will provide music for the service.

**10:30 p.m.** Join us for a candlelight service of Lessons and Carols, with an abundance of musical riches from our Adult Choir, Organist, and Brass Ensemble. Music will begin at 10 p.m., with worship to start at 10:30 p.m.

**December 25, 2011, 10 a.m. in the Chapel  
“Our Stories Beneath the Silence”**

*The Rev. Heather Janules and Nancy Pellegrini*  
Children are welcome but there are no religious education classes or child care.

With the joyous sights and sounds of Christmas Eve worship still fresh in our memory, we will gather this Christmas Day for a quiet, reflective service. In the spirit of a Quaker meeting, we will gather in both song and silence to reflect on how the symbols of this day - the beckoning star, an arrival, a celebration - speak to our lives and the life we share together.

**From the Board of Trustees Chair**

**Bonnie Beavers**  
*Board of Trustees Chair 2011-12*

As your Board of Trustees wishes all Cedar Laners a wonderful holiday season, we would also like to update you on our progress in preparations for the congregational transitions ahead.

The Board is pleased to announce that Linda Gianessi has accepted the position of Temporary Religious Education Coordinator. Linda has been a member of the church since 1982 and has served in many leadership capacities including as an RE teacher for 20 years. Linda will supervise the RE Program and its many activities during first six months of 2012 until an Interim Religious Educator can be hired. Linda will be assisted by our ministers, RE Administrators Gale Ginther Luce and Jeannette Wilson, the RE Council, and many capable volunteers. Support for Linda also includes Susan Clark, who will lead chapel services for our kids as she has done on many occasions. We are proud to have so many talented people to draw upon.

Meanwhile, the search for our settled Senior Minister begins by selecting a Senior Minister Search Committee. The Board in consultation with the UUA and the Leadership Development and Nominations Committee (LDNC) has developed a method for soliciting Search Committee nominations from the entire congregation. You will receive a phone call reminding you to be on the lookout for e-mail and paper surveys with thoughtful questions about the Search Committee you would like to have. We hope each and every Cedar Lane member will fill out the survey so that our Search Committee will represent as broad a range of Cedar Laners as possible and work together as a dynamic team. Your input is important. The Board and the LDNC will collect the data and present a slate of seven Search Committee

candidates for election at the Annual Meeting next April.

I am thankful to be working with a terrific group of Trustees and extraordinary leaders in every area of church life who are helping to shape our future. I hope you will participate fully in the process, asking many questions and offering your talents. In this time of focusing on what is most important, let us strengthen our faith community and our support for each other. We look forward to working with you.

**We Care**

The We Care program is a network led by volunteers who reach out to address short-term needs—food deliveries, rides to doctor’s appointments, a listening ear in the event of a loss. The Cedar Lane congregation is organized geographically by “neighborhoods”; each neighborhood has at least one chairperson to coordinate support. Look at your nametag or the map in the church office to find your neighborhood.

Healing wishes are with **Tracy Gipson (Neighborhood 11)** who is recovering at home after rotator cuff surgery and doing well.

Congratulations are with **Mildred Reynolds (N30)** whose years of religious service were affirmed by receiving formal membership in the UU Society for Community Ministry.

Our thoughts are also with **Steve Murphy**, brother of **Barb Warman (N31)** who underwent surgery at George Washington Hospital this week and will be recovering at the National Lutheran Home.

And, as previously shared in our E-news, we send our...

Condolences to...

**Marybelle Feltenstein (N10)** with the death of her brother, Paul, after a long illness.

Hopes for healing to...

**Al Reese (N30)** who is recovering from a fall at his new home at Asbury Methodist Village.

Congratulations to...

**Kate and Bob Harrison (N8)** with the birth of their newest grandchild, Phoebe Elizabeth, born on October 21.

**Anne Fretz (N8)** with the wedding of her son, Nathaniel, to Abbey Shaffer.

**Russ and Judy Parker (N6)** with the arrival of their eighth grandchild, Oona Marie Parker, on November 13.

Should you know of a member of our community in personal need, you are encouraged to reach out to them. If you learn that this person wishes to receive a response from the church, please contact Heather Janules at [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org). All ministers offer pastoral care to our members so you are also encouraged to contact any member of the ministerial team.

### **Clinic Escorts - A Testimonial...**

Submitted by Heather Janules, Associate Minister

A Cedar Lane elder and their spouse have served as regular escorts at Planned Parenthood in support of women seeking reproductive services. They have found that the clients and fellow escorts appreciate having the presence of “grandparents” in this difficult situation.

They write: “If any Alliance members or other grandparents think that clinic escorting would be a possible activity, they can contact the Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force at [www.wacdtf.org](http://www.wacdtf.org) or e-mail at [wacdtf@wacdtf.org](mailto:wacdtf@wacdtf.org). There are sites all over the Metro area, but the Planned Parenthood Clinic on 16th Street – across from the Russian Embassy – needs escorts on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Training is required and is given at MLK Library [Gallery Place Metro] or at GWU [Foggy Bottom] at least monthly. We hope others will think about this need.”

### **Grieving a Loved One Through the Holidays**

At their best, the winter holidays are joyous times with family and other companions. However, the death of a loved one can make the holiday season a difficult time of grief and renewed sadness. As is our annual tradition, on December 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel, there will be a gathering of those who wish to share their thoughts and feelings about the people they miss this holiday season. Contact Heather Janules at [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org) or x204 with any questions.

## From the Music Director

**Music Notes from Dr. Henry Sgrecci -**  
**Director of Music, [hsgrecci@cedarlane.org](mailto:hsgrecci@cedarlane.org)**

**Congratulations to Thomas Guthrie** and all the performing ensembles that participated in the “Halloween Delights” concert! What a great way to start off the Halloween weekend.

**Hurray for Bell Canto!!!** Our Intergenerational Handbell Choir performed its first public concert on Sunday, November 13, for residents of Asbury Methodist Village. Listeners were delighted with the wonderful music. Bravo, Bell Canto!

**December 4** - As Rev. Susan Archer celebrates her last Sunday worship service the Choir sings songs that reflect Susan’s personal “guideposts.” Included are Hal Hopson’s lovely song “The Gift of Love,” the popular spiritual “I Shall Not Be Moved,” and a joyous setting of Aaron Copland’s “Simple Gifts.” Hymns include “For All That is My Life,” “This is My Song,” and “O Life that Maketh All Things New.”

**December 11** - Gruppo Piccolo and Bell Canto offer musical touches of both the Advent and Hannukah seasons. Bell Canto rings a haunting setting of the 17<sup>th</sup> century french carol, “Picardy,” which some know as the hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.” Gruppo Piccolo will sing Renaissance works “O Magnum Mysterium,” “Hodie,” and a setting of the Hebrew song “Ma’oz Tzur” by the Baroque composer, Benedetto Marcello. Hymns will include “Veni, Emmanuel” and “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.”

**December 18** - In this Intergenerational service prior to Christmas our young musicians will be singing familiar and not-so familiar songs of the season. The Youth Handbell Choir will ring a jazzy version of “Go Tell it On the Mountain,” while the Children’s Choir will sing “Born, Born in Bethlehem,” and the Youth Choir will offer the Jamaican tune “Halle, Halle, Halle.” Favorite Christmas hymns will be sung by the Congregation.

**December 24** - The choirs will be out in full force for the Christmas Eve services. The Children’s, Youth, and Youth Handbell Choirs will lead the musical worship in both the 4:30 and 6 p.m. services. Plan on hearing and singing many of your favorite songs (word is that Dr. S might even bring out his trumpet...) The late night service will begin at 10 p.m. with instrumental and choral prelude music interspersed with carol singing. The featured work during the service will be Daniel Pinkham’s “Christmas Cantata” for choir, organ, and brass ensemble.

**It’s not too late to sing or to ring..** We have many opportunities for singers, ringers, strummers, and blowers. **Contact Henry Sgrecci at [hsgrecci@cedarlane.org](mailto:hsgrecci@cedarlane.org).**

## From the Church Administrator

*Sara Deshler*

We have been experiencing intermittent problems with sound projection in the Sanctuary despite two separate attempts to improve the sound with new speakers. Before investing in still another improvement we wish to gather additional information that will allow us to make the best allocation of our scarce resources to change the situation in the Sanctuary, and that is where you come in.

We are requesting help from those who attend services. We will be providing a short survey that will ask for your seat location and experience of sound during the service. We do not want to interfere in any way with your experience/enjoyment of the service, and if you find this in any way distracting please don't feel obliged. We appreciate those who can help, and with that information hope to finally nail down the optimal solution for our sound system so that all may thoroughly enjoy the beautiful music of Cedar Lane.

### EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Susan Archer, Minister of Religious Education  
Vanessa Steck, Coordinator of Senior High Youth Ministry  
Gale Ginther Luce and Jeannette Wilson, Administrators  
For information and to register for classes and programs  
call 301-493-8300 x207 or e-mail [RE@cedarlane.org](mailto:RE@cedarlane.org).

### ***A SEASON OF WONDROUS ACTIVITIES — OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES!***

#### **Upcoming RE**

Saturday, December 3: Holiday Craft Day  
Sunday, December 4: *Susan's Farewell Celebration!*  
Saturday, December 10: Holiday Potluck and Play  
Sunday, December 11: St. Lucia's Day in chapel  
Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services at  
4:30, 6, and 10:30 p.m.

#### **Rev. Susan's Farewell Celebration!**

Susan is retiring, and although she will be with us through Christmas, we will say our official farewell and extend good wishes for her future on Sunday, December 4. After her final sermon as Cedar Lane's Minister of Religious Education, all RE students and teachers will join us in the sanctuary for a special program honoring her 9 ½ years with us, followed by a brief cupcake reception in the lounge. **We are also collecting**

**donations for Susan's retirement gift. Please stop by our table in the lounge after Sunday's service to make your donation and to sign cards!** During the week, cards are at the front desk in the main office, and donations can be given to Sara Deshler.

**Holiday Craft Day:** If you would like to attend, contact the RE office NOW! The fun happens Saturday, December 3, at 10 a.m. Most beloved of all RE events! People of all ages gather to make cookies, wreaths, and other favorites as well as try their hands at new crafts. The emphasis is on having fun while creating gifts for those we care about. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$10/person; \$25/family. Some crafts require an additional materials fee and/or advance sign-up on the day of the event. Bring a picnic lunch for your family. **NEEDED: Wreath Supplies:** Please collect evergreen and holly trimmings from your yard and bring them to church the evening before or the morning of Holiday Craft Day, Saturday December 3. If you plan to make a wreath at Craft Day, you can save money by bringing your own wreath form and pins from home. For questions about wreath supplies, please contact Chris Black at [christineireneblack@hotmail.com](mailto:christineireneblack@hotmail.com).

**And Used Greeting Cards:** Cards with artwork appropriate for crafts relating to Christmas, Chanukah, Solstice, Winter, and Kwanzaa are needed for Holiday Craft Day. Please drop them off by the RE Office door. Thanks!

**For Fun and Fellowship, No Stress Holiday Play:** The Holiday Program and Potluck is on Saturday, December 10, 5-7 p.m. Children are invited to participate in a non-stress fun play. Participants will need to arrive up to an hour early (depending on the part). If your young person/s, in Grades 1– 8, would like to help dramatize this year's play ("Bah Humbug," a reprise of Dickens), please contact Susan Archer by December 4. This production will be "short and sweet." In order to avoid disappointment, we will CONFIRM with you that we have received your information. If you do not hear from us, please call! ALL children who wish to participate will be given a role, although speaking parts will be assigned first to older children who want them. Those with speaking parts will be given their scripts in advance. NO MEMORIZING NEEDED (in keeping with this being a no stress, fun only event)!

And, don't forget to stay for the potluck! Each family brings a dish to serve 10-12 people. Last names A-K: Main Dish (vegetarian dishes welcome); L-S: Salad or Side Dish; T-Z: Dessert. Potluck sign up is through the RE office (301-493-8300 x207; [re@cedarlane.org](mailto:re@cedarlane.org))

**St. Lucia Day:** Sunday, December 11, in chapel at 10 a.m. and 12 noon, for Grades K-6. Brought to us by Grade 3 Festivals classes. Adults welcome! Beautiful music, beautiful children.

**December Intergenerational Service:** Sunday, December 18, 9 and 11 a.m. All ages attend first part of the service in the sanctuary, children and youth then go to classes. Session I Haunting House children process with their animals. Session II Treasure Hunting children also process, with treasures!

### **Christmas Eve Services**

On Saturday, December 24, 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m., and 10:30 p.m., come worship together! The two early services are especially good for families with children. The 4:30 p.m. service will be about 45 minutes long, and the 6 p.m., will be about an hour. There will be music by our children's and youth choirs, youth bell choir, and much singing by all; plus a Christmas story, and, of course, the congregational candle-lighting at both early services. The longer 10:30 p.m. service is aimed at adults and will be enjoyed by teens. The choir will sing and there will be amazing special music.

### **Family Opportunities for Holiday Giving**

**First Sunday Manna Smart Sacks:** Our Cedar Lane family project will continue throughout the year. Sunday, December 4, will be our next collection.

### **Cedar Lane's Week at Community-Based Shelter:**

Families can have a hands-on experience together by helping with meals during our week to support the homeless. We are responsible for the first week in January. Check in with the social justice table in the lounge on Sundays in December to find out if your family can take on a piece of this important work.

**Guest at Your Table:** This is a project of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Boxes for contributions, one per family, have been distributed to classes and are on the counter in the sanctuary. If you need one contact RE@cedarlane.org. The idea is that the box will sit on your dinner table from Thanksgiving through December. At mealtimes, family members, as they are able, put money in the box for others around the world. On each side of the box is a picture of people who are being helped by UUSC. The experience of contributing money can be enhanced by looking at the photos on the box to see how people are helped. This ritual can give families an opportunity to talk about hunger, poverty and world resources, and gives an opportunity to help. Boxes should be returned to the RE Office (or Administrator Desk on Sundays) by January

8. If you prefer to donate by writing a check, please make it out to UUSC but send it to the attention of RE Office, at Cedar Lane.

**Beacon House Gifts for Children and Youth:** Bring new, unwrapped gifts to church to share with children and teens (ages 5-18) at Beacon House. These are kids who will likely not receive much else during the holidays. It is great to involve your young ones in this process. Let them shop with you and imagine what someone else might want! Toys, books, sweaters, hats and gloves or whatever you know youth of a particular age might like are welcome. Donations of gift wrap are also welcome. There will be donation sites on Sundays, both upstairs by the front door and downstairs in the lobby area, until the morning of December 18, which will be the absolute LAST day to bring them.

**Delivering Beacon House Gifts:** An opportunity for a great family experience and much needed help: We need 2 or more families to deliver all the gifts to Beacon House in (NE) DC after 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 18. Please contact Susan if you can help!

### **Youth Notes**

#### **Youth Activity Group (YAG, for grades 7-8)**

Our full schedule is on our website at, [www.cedarlane.org/rep/YouthActivityGroupSchedule.htm](http://www.cedarlane.org/rep/YouthActivityGroupSchedule.htm). Watch your e-mail and mail for additional information on events and permission forms. If you have questions about the group or its activities, contact John Daniel (301-946-5509), or the Rev. Susan Archer.

**Friday, 12/9** Movie and Pizza

**Saturday, 12/24** Ushering at Christmas Eve Services

#### **Senior High Youth Group (SHYG, grades 9-12)**

To go or not to go? You really should join in the upcoming fun!

**Friday, December 2:** Pizza and tee shirts for youth who come to church from 6:30-8:30 for gingerbread house building! RSVP by Nov 28.

**Saturday, December 3:** Holiday Craft Day! Come and help out in the gingerbread house room and enjoy craft day when your shift is over. Free tees!

**Friday, December 16:** Holiday Lock In! Games, secret santa, treats and more. RSVP by December 3. If you are coming, your name will be entered into the Secret Santa hat, names to be pulled December 4!

For information about the SHYG contact Vanessa Steck, Coordinator of Senior High Youth Ministry, at [vsteck@cedarlane.org](mailto:vsteck@cedarlane.org). Please visit our web link at

<http://www.cedarlane.org/srhigh.htm>

## Young Adults (Ages 18-35)

The **UU Young Adults of Maryland (UUYAM)** group plans activities for local UU Young Adults. Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/uuyam> to join the UUYAM e-mail list and view schedule of upcoming events. For resources and information on Joseph Priestly District (JPD) Young Adult events, visit the JPD Young Adult Network at [www.jpduuyan.org](http://www.jpduuyan.org).

## Adult Programs

### Kate's Mom's Flan

Learn to make flan in one session! A list of ingredients will be sent to the participants, in advance, to make the custard at home after the class, with Kate's recipe! And, of course, we will enjoy some already prepared flan! Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m. in the Cedar Lane kitchen. \$5:register in the RE office.

### Yoga for Beginners— New Class

This class is for those new to yoga and those who have been taking the Beginning Yoga classes with Rebecca! The classes will run for ten Tuesdays, January 3 through March 6, 7 to 8:15 p.m. in the Chalice House. You can register for all ten for \$120 or any eight for \$100. This class is not listed in the AP brochure. Register in the RE office. We are also trying to start a Friday class around noon. Please let the RE office know if you are interested.

### Ongoing Weekly Classes:

#### Mondays:

Science and Religion, 10 a.m. in the library.  
Continuing Yoga, 5 p.m. in the Chalice House  
Meditation, 7:30 p.m in the Chalice House.

#### Tuesdays:

Just Sitting, 10 a.m. in the chapel  
Beginning Yoga, 7 p.m. in the Chalice House

Find the Adult Programs Fall 2011 brochure on-line at:

[www.cedarlane.org/ap/REVFALL11.pdf](http://www.cedarlane.org/ap/REVFALL11.pdf)

Download a registration card at:

[www.cedarlane.org/ap/RegistrationCard2011-12.pdf](http://www.cedarlane.org/ap/RegistrationCard2011-12.pdf)

### Sunday Morning Forum

Everyone is invited to participate on Sunday mornings between services, 10:10 to 10:55 a.m., in the Chalice House. Just drop in, there is no registration, and coffee is served! Upcoming topics:

**This Sunday:** *Current Immigration Law and Policy from an Objective Point of View.* Immigration attorney

Don Mooers will attempt to demystify this convoluted subject, clarifying why Congress, the President, and the American public are stuck in the current policy and legal stalemate and laying out the opportunities and pitfalls related to proposed immigration reform plans.

**December 11:** *The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)* is the largest independent regulator for all securities firms doing business in the United States. FINRA's mission is to protect American investors by making sure the securities industry operates fairly and honestly. FINRA oversees brokerage firms, branch offices and registered securities representatives. In today's fast-paced and complex global economy, FINRA is a trusted advocate for investors, dedicated to keeping the markets fair and proactively addressing emerging regulatory issues before they harm investors or the markets. A FINRA representative will offer us information and tools to help us as investors protect ourselves and better understand the basic principles of savings and investing.

**December 13:** *"American Emperor: Aaron Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America."* David Stewart's provocative biography explores the exploits and trial of Aaron Burr (1756-1836). He makes the early-19th century legal opinions and arguments accessible and vital to modern readers. Part adventure story and part courtroom thriller, Burr's complicated saga becomes clear; Stewart also explains the long-term significance of the outcome for individual rights, the judiciary, and the stability of the young nation.

### Connection Circles (CC) Want You

For a full description of all our Connection Circles, please refer to the *Adult Programs Fall 2011* brochure. There is a group for everyone! Questions can be sent to the RE office, or referred to the Rev. Heather Janules, [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org).

To register: complete an Adult Programs Registration card and send it to the RE office. All CC participants register and pay a fee, Pledgers \$15; non pledgers \$20, one time per year.

## Around the Church

**Holiday Craft Day is THIS Saturday, December 3, from 10-3 at Cedar Lane.**

Don't miss the fun of a day of crafting homemade holiday gifts with friends and family. Bring your own picnic lunch for our noon break of eating and singing (refreshments will not be provided this year). There will be delicious treats available for purchase from our 7th graders, and poinsettias from the Campfire group. Preregistration is required (\$10/person; \$25/family),

contact the RE office at 301-493-8300 or [RE@cedarlane.org](mailto:RE@cedarlane.org).

### **Holiday Play and Potluck**

Cedar Laners of all Ages are invited for fun and fellowship to our annual Holiday Play and Potluck, on Saturday, December 10, 5– 7 p. m. This year children will be acting out “Bah Humbug,” based on “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. All ages will enjoy attending, with lots of singing as well as audience participation. The early evening supper will conclude in time for adults still to have a “night out.” Please bring a dish to share at a festive buffet after the program. Dish should serve 10 - 12 people and should be dropped off in kitchen before the program; Last names A-K: Main Dish (vegetarian dishes welcome); L-S: Salad or Side Dish; T-Z: Dessert. Sign up by December 5 through the RE office (301) 493-8300, x 207; [re@cedarlane.org](mailto:re@cedarlane.org).

### **Candles for New Babies/Children**

Once again we will be lighting candles for the newly arrived children or grandchildren (born or adopted since December 24, 2009) of members of our congregation, during the December 24, 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Please let Susan Archer or the church office know of children born or adopted. You need not be present for us to celebrate your babe!

### **Beacon House Donations Needed**

Bring new, unwrapped gifts to church to share with children and teens (ages 5-18) at Beacon House. They can be toys, books, sweaters, hats, and gloves. Donations of gift wrap are also welcome. There will be donation sites on Sundays, both upstairs by the front door and downstairs in the Administration area, until the morning of December 18, which will be the absolute LAST day to bring them.

### **Montgomery County Holiday Help and Relief**

**Resources: An informal information exchange and donation swap event for MC unemployed. 2-4 p.m. on December 5, in the lounge and chapel.** Come learn from Catherine Hogan, M.S., about wide-ranging Montgomery County resources you may not know exist that can provide assistance during troubled times. Also available will be information on employment support and engagement services from the State of Maryland Professional Outplacement Assistance Center (POAC) and Montgomery Works, as well as Manna Food, SHARE, A Wider Circle and many more. Come at 1:45 to bring a unwanted or gently used toy, interview appropriate clothing, stocking stuffer, any other small item(s) you wish to donate to help another and stay after the presentation to swap and pick up something you may

need to brighten your holiday. Additional gifts through donations are being requested and may be available.

Help with the event will be appreciated, help needed:

1. A backup person with a minivan or truck to help transport donated items from the Kensington Armory on Mitchell St. to the church on December 5 around 12:30 just prior to the event.
2. Help between 12:45-2 to help putting out toys, clothing, other donations and handouts on tables, or come thereafter to bag remains,
3. Anyone willing to play piano or guitar at around 3:50/so to end the presentation with a holiday tune or two.

We would be also be grateful for any donations to this event anyone wishes to make. Catherine Hogan, the organizer, may be reached at [hogan.catherine.a@gmail.com](mailto:hogan.catherine.a@gmail.com) or at 240-370-0475.

### **New Orleans Rebuilding Mission --**

#### **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: December 16!**

Sign up now for Cedar Lane’s February 4-11 trip to help rebuild houses in New Orleans. We have a great group of new and returning volunteers already committed. We want YOU to join us!

E-mail our team leader Mike Burski, [mga1960@earthlink.net](mailto:mga1960@earthlink.net) about costs and how to register.

### **December 18, 5 p.m.**

#### **Winter Solstice Vespers Service**

*Organized by Members of Journeywomen and other Connection Circles*

Music Provided by **DUO ATLANTICA**

Carol Ireland, Harpsichord

Margaret Turner, Baroque Blockflote

The winter solstice marks the longest night of the year and the start of the lengthening days. Come join a vespers celebration with music, accompanied by readings of the mystery of darkness and the joy of light. Following the service, seasonal refreshments will be served (no dinner). Optional donations for Beacon House will be accepted - hats, scarves, mittens, unwrapped toys, or cash.

**Snow Date:** Sunday, January 8, 2012

### **Committee Opportunity Available**

The mission of the Planned Giving Committee is to encourage gifts to the Endowment Funds of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church. We hope to accomplish this through educating the congregation about our three Endowment Funds (Endowment Fund, Social Justice Endowment Fund and Memorial Fund) and planned giving and by providing various ways for donors to contribute to the Funds.

The committee is in need of some strategic thinkers willing to work toward those goals. Minimal time commitment is involved for a potentially large and important impact for the church. Please consider joining us. Please contact: Gerry Peterson, at (301)229-0538 [pete7517@verizon.net](mailto:pete7517@verizon.net).

### **The Auction Is Coming! Saturday, March 24**

The 2012 Cedar Lane Spring Auction is coming soon with a NEW THEME and lots of new bidding opportunities. Please mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATE!!

Now is the time to think about all those goods and services you can donate to the auction. Vacation home donations are needed. We hope that if you have a vacation home to offer for a week or weekend getaway, you will let us know as soon as possible, so that we can feature these items and give bidders time to plan their vacations next year. Questions? Please contact Auction Co-Chairs, Mary Beth Nowinski at [mnowin@aol.com](mailto:mnowin@aol.com) or 301-949-9410 or Kate Harrison at 301-652-5018 or [katekathie@gmail.com](mailto:katekathie@gmail.com).

## Social Justice Council

### **Social Justice Spotlights**

The Social Justice Council is sponsoring a series of Social Justice Spotlights, in lieu of an annual fair, to publicize all the various social justice groups at Cedar Lane. The spotlights will be held occasionally in the lounge after Sunday Morning Services prior to Spring B. Each spotlight will focus on a few like-minded groups so that members and friends of Cedar Lane may have an opportunity of learning about the groups in a setting more conducive than the limited time of an annual fair. The missions of the groups will be highlighted and contacts provided for members and friends of Cedar Lane to have the opportunity of participating in the respective group programs.

The series began on Sunday, November 20, 2011, when members and friends learned about the Bethesda House, the Community-Based Shelter, Martha's Table, and the Ethical Eating Movement, including the UU Statement of Conscience now being discussed. The Manna Food Center, in which our Youth Activity Group has a serious service learning project, was featured on Sunday, November 27, 2011. It is appropriate that these food-related groups should be featured following the

recent Kiplinger Lecture when Mark Winne spoke on "The Social Justice of Food."

All the various social justice groups affiliated with Cedar Lane are invited to have their programs featured in a spotlight, which would supplement any other communications the groups might undertake. Please contact Pat Karlsen, 301-654-1110, or Ralph Krause, 301-530-4790, for future scheduling.

### **In This Together from CLARITY\***

#### **Food for Thought:**

"Though this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial we have always been and continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards. Though race related issues continue to occupy a significant portion of our political discussion, and though there remain many unresolved racial issues in this nation, we, average Americans, simply do not talk enough with each other about race." *Attorney General Eric Holder, Department of Justice, February 2009*

#### **Upcoming Events of Interest:**

All Cedar Laners are encouraged to attend "Mapping Cedar Lane's Journey Towards Multicultural Wholeness" Sunday, December 11 after second service in the Sanctuary (12:30-2:30). We will begin with a light lunch – the only December CLUUC community lunch. Paula Cole Jones, Director for Racial and Social Justice for the Joseph Priestley District, will lead us through a workshop and group exercise to assess our congregation's level of readiness to be part of an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural society. After participating in this workshop, Cedar Laners will be in a better position to understand where we are, where we want to be, and to work on planning our next steps - both as individual committees/functions, as well as for our church community as a whole. RSVP to [ariel\\_moral@hotmail.com](mailto:ariel_moral@hotmail.com) or [CLUUC-CLARITY@yahoo.com](mailto:CLUUC-CLARITY@yahoo.com).

The 3rd film in the "Racism Then and Now" series will be "Crash" on Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 in the library. "Crash" was the Best Picture Oscar winner of 2005. Per Roger Ebert's review (May 5, 2005), this film "tells interlocking stories of whites, blacks, Latinos, Koreans, Iranians, cops and criminals, the rich and the poor, the powerful and powerless, all defined in one way or another by racism. All are victims of it, and all are guilty of it." Light refreshments will be served, and the film will be followed by a facilitated group discussion. \$5 at the door if you have not already signed up for the series through Adult Programs.

\* *CLARITY/"Cedar Laners Against Racism – In This Together –Yes!" is one of Cedar Lane's Social Justice groups.*

## **Environmental Task Force**

Please visit our website for updated **[GREEN TIPS!](#)**

## Beyond the Church

### **UUSJ SEEKS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT**

Are you a resource development consultant or know someone who is? Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (in the National Capital Region) has received a modest technical assistance grant from the UUA to help raise money for a UUSJ immigration project. If interested, please contact UUSJ Administrator Rev. Cynthia Snavely at 301-588-1951 or Co-Chair Hal Fuller at 703-207-0440 for additional information.

### **Murray Grove News Update:**

#### **1) Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center: New!**

A completely redesigned website. A new ga-ga court (Israeli dodge ball). A new 8-minute DVD on Murray Grove. Visit [www.murraygrove.org](http://www.murraygrove.org) to check it out, and for more information on these topics and more!

**2) Universalist Convocation - May 18-20, 2012:** The annual gathering held "...to explore and draw from the heritage of Universalist experience and faith to inform Unitarian Universalism today and help light its way toward the future" will be at Murray Grove this spring. Presenters include Rev. Richard Gilbert, Rev. Kalen Fristad and Rev. Rosemary Brae McNatt.

#### **For information:**

Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center  
PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734  
609-693-5558

[murraygrove@murraygrove.org](mailto:murraygrove@murraygrove.org)

[www.murraygrove.org](http://www.murraygrove.org)

### **Pacific Intercultural Exchange, a nonprofit agency, is searching for open minded host families for exchange students arriving in January.**

Students come from many backgrounds and cultures - Won't you share yours with them? Our students are 15-18 years old, speak English, have medical insurance and their own spending money, but mostly a lot of love to give! A volunteer host family provides a room (which may be shared), meals and a caring environment for their student. Students attend the local public high school while on program. There is no such thing as a typical host family! Single-parent families, retired couples, families with young children, no children, as well as those with

teenagers or empty-nesters have all had successful hosting experiences and embrace the opportunity to share their lives.

A local area representative from PIE completes in-home screening and provides support throughout the school year. PIE also has group orientations and enhancement activities. For more information about the program or to become a host family, please contact Pat Littrell at 1-877-534-3144 or e-mail at [patlittrell@pieusa.org](mailto:patlittrell@pieusa.org). Please visit our website at [www.pieusa.org](http://www.pieusa.org).

*Cedar Lane News* is printed monthly.  
The next deadline is Wednesday, December 14 at noon. Please submit to [newsletter@cedarlane.org](mailto:newsletter@cedarlane.org).

*Editor: Sara Davidson Proofreader this issue: Robin Larkin*

# Cedar Lane Calendar for November/December 2011

## One-Time Events - All are welcome!

- December 3** Holiday Craft Day, 10 a.m., Entire Church
- December 4** Rev. Susan Davison Archer's final sermon at Cedar Lane, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, Sanctuary
- December 8** Kate's Mom's Flan, 7 p.m., Kitchen
- December 10** Holiday Play and Potluck, 5 p.m., Sanctuary
- December 11** CLARITY, Mapping Cedar Lane's Service, 12:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- December 11** Second Sunday Signing, after services, Library
- December 18** Cedar Lane Caroling, 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- December 18** Winter Solstice
- December 20** Bethesda Chamber Singers, 7:30 p.m., Chapel
- December 24** Christmas Eve Services, 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 10:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- December 25** Christmas Day Service, 10 a.m., Chapel
- December 31** New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

## Regular Activities

- SUN:** Attitudes Toward Living: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sun 8:30 a.m. Chalice House Covenant Room  
Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sanctuary  
Religious Education: 9 a.m.  
Cedar Lane in 6 Minutes: 10 a.m. Sanctuary  
Second Sunday Signing: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun after services Library  
Sunday Morning Forum: 10:10 a.m. Chalice House Main Room  
Senior Seminar 10:45 a.m. Chalice House Covenant Rm  
Worship Service: 11 a.m. Sanctuary  
Religious Education: 11 a.m.  
Journey Women: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11 a.m. Room 7  
Second Sunday Signing: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun 12 p.m. Library  
Community Lunch: 1<sup>st</sup> Sun 12:30 p.m. Chalice House Main Room  
Grieving a Loved One Through the Holidays: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 12:30 p.m. Chapel
- MON:** Science and Religion: 10 a.m. Library  
Continuing Yoga: 5 p.m. Chalice House Main Room  
Meditation: 7:30 p.m. Chalice House Main Room  
Alliance Jewelry: 1<sup>st</sup> Mon 9:15 a.m. Room 30-31  
Martha's Table Prep: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 7 p.m. Kitchen  
Writing Memoirs: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 1 p.m. Room 1-2  
Sharing Covenant Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 7:15 p.m. Chalice House Covenant Room

- TUE:** Just Sitting: 10 a.m. Chapel  
Quilting: 10 a.m. Quilter's Room  
Bridge: 10 a.m. Library  
Heart to Heart: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tue 2 p.m. Chalice House Covenant Room  
Beginning Yoga: 7 p.m. Chalice House Main Room  
Gruppo Piccolo: 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary  
Partner Church: 1<sup>st</sup> Tue 7:30 p.m. Library  
Personnel: 1<sup>st</sup> Tue 7:30 p.m. Room 1-2  
Facilities: 1<sup>st</sup> Tue 7:30 p.m. Room 30-31  
Finance: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue 7:30 p.m. Library  
Seasons of Loss: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue 7:30 p.m. Chalice House Covenant Room  
AP Book Discussion: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 7:15 p.m. Library  
Board of Trustees: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 7:30 p.m. Room 1-2  
Raised Catholic: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 7:15 p.m. Chalice House Covenant Room  
Philosophy Club: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue 7:30 p.m. Room 12
- WED:** Martha's Table Prep: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 8:30 a.m. Kitchen  
Pastoral Visitors: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 12:30 p.m. Library  
Aging Support: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 1:15p.m. Room 1-2  
Adult Choir: 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary  
RE Council: 1<sup>st</sup> Wed 7:30 p.m. Room 1-2  
Member Services: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 7:30 p.m. Room 1-2  
Adult Programs Committee: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 7:30 p.m. Room 1-2
- THU:** T'ai Chi: 10:30 Chalice House Main Room  
Meaning of Ministry: 7 p.m. Library  
A is for Aging: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thu 9:30 a.m. Library  
Alliance Board Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu 10 a.m. Rm 1-2  
Alliance Film Series: 4<sup>th</sup> Thu 10:30 a.m. Library  
Alliance Luncheon: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thu 11:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Cancer Support Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thu 2 p.m. Library  
Children's Choir: 6 p.m. Sanctuary  
Youth Choir: 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary  
Connection Circles Steering Committee: 4<sup>th</sup> Thu 7 p.m. Room 1-2  
Youth Handbell Choir: 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary  
Stewardship: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thu 7:15 p.m. Room 1-2  
SJC: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu 7:30 p.m. Library  
Kiplinger: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu 7:30 p.m. Room 4  
CLARITY: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thu 7:30 p.m. Chalice House Covenant Rm  
Bell Canto: 8 p.m. Sanctuary
- FRI:** Library Committee: 10 a.m. Library  
Alliance Book Group: 1<sup>st</sup> Fri 11 a.m. Room 1-2  
Living with Mental Illness: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri 1 p.m. Library  
Friday Friends: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fri 1:30 p.m. Library  
Racism: Then and Now: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 7:30 p.m. Library  
Raising the Spirit: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 6:30 p.m. Rm 12, Rm 28-29
- SAT:** Living by Rhyme and Reason: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 8 a.m. Chalice House Covenant Room  
Men's Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 8 a.m. Library  
Grounds: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat 9 a.m. Room 30-31

**NOTE:** Please refer to the calendar on our website, <http://calendar.cedarlane.org>, for changes and updates to the church calendar.

CEDAR LANE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
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***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***

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**The Rev. Evan Keely** *Interim Senior Minister*  
**The Rev. Susan Archer** *Minister of Religious Education*  
**The Rev. Heather Janules** *Associate Minister*  
**The Rev. Kenneth Torquil MacLean** *Minister Emeritus*  
**The Rev. Roberta M. Nelson** *Minister Emerita*  
**Dr. Henry Sgrecci** *Director of Music*  
**Thomas Guthrie** *Organist/Accompanist*  
**Bonnie Beavers** *Chair, Board of Trustees*  
**Sara Deshler** *Church Administrator*  
**Nancy Pellegrini** *Intern Minister*

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

# HOLIDAY CRAFT DAY

**Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

\$10 per person; \$25 per family

For a few "special crafts," an extra \$3 ticket is required and can be bought the day of the event  
Pre-register in the RE office through Friday, December 2, at noon.

This family-friendly event is for all ages and abilities. Spend a day with family and friends making great homemade holiday crafts that can be used in your own home or given as gifts. At noon, everyone takes a break for holiday music and refreshments. Bring a picnic lunch for your family, and remember to bring a box or large bag to take your treasures home.

**Evergreen Clippings Wanted:** Please collect evergreen and holly trimmings from your yard and bring them to church the evening before or the morning of Holiday Craft Day, to the lower level back door. Thanks!

