



CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LIV, No. 11

January 23, 2008

Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m.

January 27, 2008

“Climb the Mountains and Get Their Good Tidings!”

Susan Davison Archer

So said naturalist John Muir. Muir’s words and life resonate with our own UU values which offer up nature as one of the sources that leads us to what is true, meaningful, and ethical in our living. This morning we will look at the UU heritage that encourages these values as we celebrate our connection to nature. This is Susan’s last service before her sabbatical which will focus on finding sustaining spirituality in nature and ways to nurture that in our children.

February 3, 2008

“The Happy Life”

Roger Fritts

Each year I try to look at one of the new books in the positive psychology movement—the effort to study what makes us happy (as opposed to studying what makes us sick). This year I am looking at the work of Dr. C. Robert Cloninger, director for the center for well-being at Washington University School of Medicine.

February 10, 2008

“Patriotism: A Call for a New Public Morality”

Leslie Kee

In their book, “The True Patriot”, Eric Liu and Nick Hanauer make the case for a common sense reclamation of American patriotism. Today’s sermon will explore this idea along with their call for a language of purpose so liberals can once again speak from their hearts about the greatness of our nation.

February 17, 2008

“The Unitarian Presidents”

Roger Fritts

Children five years old and up, attend the entire service. On the Sunday before President’s Day we will look at Adams, Jefferson, Adams, Fillmore, and Taft, and ask the question “Could a Unitarian Universalist Become President in the United States Today?”

Our service will feature music from the DC Labor Chorus. The chorus is a singing collective of union members, community activists, and professional musicians committed to the cause of social and economic justice for all workers. Susan Clark and Steve Jones of Cedar Lane are members of the chorus. Their music for this service will include “Voice Still and Small,” by Mary Darne, “Peace Now,” by Steve Jones, and a medley of civil rights songs.

Sunday Forum at 10:10 a.m. in the Chalice House

- 1/27** *Biofuels: the Big Picture* with Dr. Robert Fireovid, National Program Leader, Bioenergy, Agricultural Research Service, USDA.
- 2/3** *What’s on Center Stage for the Maryland Legislature in 2008?* with Cedar Laner and Maryland State Senator Rich Madeleno.
- 2/10** *One Nation Under the Constitution: Morality, Faith, and Politics in American Life* with Maryland State Senator Jaime

All are welcome to join us for **Newcomer Talks** every Sunday after worship services.

Become a member of Cedar Lane UU Church at a **Second Sunday Signing** after services, or by calling Kristin Grassel, Membership Coordinator, at 301-493-8300 ext. 305.

Notes from the Ministers

Leslie Kee, Intern Minister

One of the concepts we have been exploring in the class Rev. Janules is teaching, “Building the World We Dream About,” is the nature of white privilege. Since January 15 was Martin Luther King’s real birth date, my thoughts about my own privilege have been swirling. The other thing that has fueled my ruminations is the recent incident of a television sportscaster whose statement about Tiger Woods and lynching was given a slap on the wrist by the station’s executives; unlike Don Imus who was fired for his racist remark.

On paper, racism is a relatively simple concept to define, but its insidiousness makes it one of the most elusive to understand. I want to believe the majority of folks, those of color and those of us who aren’t of color, don’t hate because of skin color. I also want to believe that racism is being routed out of America’s institutions. But wanting to believe something doesn’t make it a reality.

Take Dr. King’s birthday for example. It wasn’t until 2000 that the last state, South Carolina, made Martin Luther King Day a paid holiday for state employees. Until then, employees could choose between it and three confederate holidays. In a handful of other states, like Wyoming, MLK Day isn’t even called MLK Day. I never have figured out why so many folks object so strongly to formally recognizing a man of peace who was martyred for his beliefs, especially when so many of them, most likely, have no trouble recognizing and celebrating the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth.

Racism is insidious because many times its roots are invisible and most always run deep. Perhaps this is why the Caucasian female sportscaster could casually suggest those who weren’t as good golfers as Tiger Woods should lynch him in an alley. This remark is in-your-face racism. It reflects an internalized prejudice this particular individual chose not to be aware of which, in my opinion, there is no excuse for.

Despite his economic and social privilege, the great Unitarian minister, William Ellery Channing, was prophetic when he opposed racism manifest in slavery on religious grounds. He maintained that

the deliberate withholding of freedom goes against God because it is a violation of the natural right of the individual to grow and thrive. For the individual to grow into their fullest creative, intellectual, and religious potential is the will of God and it is the charge of being human.

I believe the day will come when children are not taught hate. Until then, it is each person’s responsibility to examine and understand those deep roots of prejudice and irrational fear that may be invisible but become apparent when examined through the lens of race and class privilege. And until then, we must never fool ourselves that racism is a thing of the past, just turn on your radio or television and pay attention.

We Care

We hold **Vicky Taplin** (Neighborhood 10) and her family in our hearts as they mourn the passing of her sister, who died from pancreatic cancer shortly after New Year’s.

Healing in good company: Cedar Laners **Millie Mader** (N11) and **Margy Wright** (N21) have both transferred to the Hebrew Home in Rockville to recover from their hip surgeries. Between physical therapy appointments, they have been able to visit one another as their rooms are on the same floor. Other visitors are welcome too.

Best wishes are with **Eric Metzger** (N30) who was admitted to Holy Cross Hospital with pneumonia. He anticipates being discharged soon. Hooray!

If you know of someone in need of care, a visit, a phone call, good thoughts or a prayer, please notify Heather Janules, Minister for Pastoral Care, at ext. 204 or hjanules@cedarlane.org.

Aging Support Group - Come Join Us!

One of Cedar Lane’s Aging Support Groups has openings for new members. Meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 1:15-3:15 p.m. in the Library, the group shares life experiences with one another—about the gifts and challenges of aging and everything under the sun.

If you wish to join this group of friendly, supportive, accepting and wise men and women, please contact Heather Janules, Assistant Minister, at ext. 204 or hjanules@cedarlane.org.

Religious Education

Religious Education Notes

Holiday Craft Day plates and cups have been delivered. Pick-up at the administration table on Sunday or in the R. E. Office during the week.

Teacher Renewal Is Coming! All teachers, teaching assistants and youth group leaders are invited to our annual time of renewal, learning, sharing and visioning, not to mention GREAT FOOD! Come on Sunday, January 27 from 3 to 6:30 p.m. We start off with a workshop on compassionate communication (see description below, as we have opened up the workshop portion to others in the congregation as well) until 5 p.m. Then we will share questions, concerns and imaginations about our R.E. program - particular issues and big picture items are all invited into the mix. At 5:30 we will enjoy a cozy, midwinter supper and get home in time to spend an evening with our families. Let Glenis know whether you are coming at gbellais@cedarlane.org or 301-493-8300 x 207.

Special Workshop: Beyond Right and Wrong: Communicating Compassionately with Children and Adults. January 27, 3 -5 p.m. Parents and other adults are welcome to join our R.E. teachers in this special opportunity with outstanding consultant Inessa Love from the DC cluster group of North America Nonviolent Communication, a group used by many of our UU communities. This workshop is for our R.E. teachers as part of their "Teacher Renewal." Parents and others are welcome to attend and learn how to practice this constructive way of being with one another and getting to deeper communication. \$5 each for non-teachers; pre-registration is required through Glenis Bellais at gbellais@cedarlane.org or 301-493-8300 x207.

Spring "B" is Coming and the R.E. Council is Planning! We need your ideas for classes and leaders.

We are also wondering if there are Cedar Laners who would be happy to lend their expertise in the

following areas: calligraphy, drawing, sketching, cartoons, map design, Chinese brush painting, bread baking, cooking, CPR/First Aid, photography.

Please be in touch with Susan Easterly at 301-681-4852 or Glenis Bellais at 301-493-8300 x207.

Susan's Sabbatical Begins on February 1. R.E. families will be getting a letter from her about upcoming R.E. opportunities as well as where to turn if you have questions about your children's religious education or any other questions you might normally bring to her. If you wish to speak to Susan about any current concern or wondering, please give her a call before January 31.

Remember our Awesome Sock Hop? Slippin' and a-slidin' away with friends and family of all ages, great DJ, and fun music. Ages 1-99 are welcome! Saturday, February 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Don't miss it! Watch for more information..

Youth Notes

Junior High Notes This group is open to youth in grades 7 and 8. John Daniel and Megan Renner are the advisors.

Record Number Go on Ski Trip: The annual youth group ski trip attracted a record number of skiers and chaperones. Sixty-six youths and adults made the trip to Wisp Ski Resort in Western Maryland, topping last years total of 50 ski trippers. We had many first time skiers who quickly mastered the slopes and were making runs on the most difficult trails before the trip ended. A big thank you is owed to Maggie Brodnick, our ski trip coordinator, who once again made the trip a treat for all. We also had a number of first-time ski chaperones whose active participation with students made the trip possible. Participating in her first Cedar Lane youth ski trip, Archene Turner, Coordinator of Youth Ministry and provider of bountiful snacks for youths and adults, called the trip a success. Indeed, the trip was so successful that Maggie and Cedar Lane's youth group coordinators have already set the date for the 2009 trip—January 9, 10, and 11—put it on your calendars.

New Junior High Activities: JH youth group activities this year so far have included the ski trip,

a weekend caving trip, our annual retreat at Camp Tockwogh, rafting on the Shenandoah River, hiking on the Billy Goat Trail, movies at the mall and Manna food packing.

The next event is more Manna food Packing on Tuesday, January 29. Packers will receive an announcement soon. We meet at Kensington Pizza and Kabob (next to CVS) on University Blvd) at 5:30 p.m., depart for Manna at 6:45 and return to Kensington around 8:30. MCPS service credits are available to all packers.

The Upcoming Winter/Spring Schedule will include a sleep-over with the Sharks at the Baltimore Aquarium, the annual New York city Sight-seeing Trip, another evening of Manna Food packing, and possibly a spring fling at Camp Tockwogh. If you have ideas for future Junior High youth group activities, call one of the youth coordinators: John Daniel at 301-946-5509 or Megan Renner at 301-807-4963.

Senior High Notes

Senior High Youth Group activities are open to young people in grades 9-12, and meet the second session during R.E. time in Chalice House on the second Sunday of the month. Special Senior High Youth Group activities happen at non-Sunday morning times. Watch for information by e-mail and snail mail. If youth are not receiving e-mail notification and would like to, please send addresses to Archene Turner at 301 493 8300 x 205 or aturner@cedarlane.org.

On other Sundays, second session 11-12th grade youth continue senior high "Our Whole Lives," on January 27 10th graders will start the spring sessions "Change the World" and 9th graders continue "Coming -of-Age." In "Change the World," we have many adult leaders coming to talk about the topics they are involved in and how this action helps to make a better world.

Coming Up:

January 25-27: JPD-YSC WinterCon at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church. The conference has a social justice unit and it would be great if many of our Senior High Youth Group participate and our adults chaperone for this event.

February 11: Senior High Youth Group has been invited to join other Maryland UUs to go to lobby day for marriage quality in Annapolis. We will

meet in the Cedar Lane parking lot at 3:45 p.m. and travel by bus. This is an off-site excursion; we will need signed permission forms. There is a small fee to cover the cost of the bus trip: \$15 per youth.

Young Adults (Ages 18-35)

The UU Young Adults of Maryland (UUYAM) group plans activities for local UU Young Adults. Visit uuyam.uuyan.org to join the UUYAM e-mail list and view schedule of upcoming events, or call Megan Renner with questions at 301-807-4963. For resources and information on Joseph Priestly District (JPD), Young Adult events, visit the JPD Young Adult Network at www.campus.org.

Join other Young Adults for Brunch on the second Sunday of each month. Meet in the vestibule at the back of the sanctuary 15 minutes after the end of the 11 a.m. service. We will car-pool to a local restaurant for lunch or brunch food and fellowship.

Adult Programs Notes

The Sunday Morning Forum meets from 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. in Chalice House.

January 27: Dr. Robert Fireovid, National Program Leader, Bioenergy, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, will teach us, among other things, about the present and future conversion efficiency of biomass to fuel; present and future energy requirements for the conversion; environmental impact of the new distribution of land use; and what percent of US energy consumption could be provided by biofuels.

February 3: *What's on Center Stage for Maryland Legislature in 2008?* Maryland State Senator and Cedar Laner Rich Madaleno will speak about the challenges that confront the Maryland General Assembly as it convenes to deal with budget deficits, marriage equality, health care, and capital punishment. Recently named Vice Chair of the Budget and Taxation Committee's Subcommittee on Health, Education and Human Resources, Rich is a recognized expert on budget and taxation.

February 10: *One Nation Under the Constitution: Morality, Faith and Politics in American Life.*

Maryland State Senator Jamie Raskin, a constitutional law professor at American University, will analyze the complex interplay of religion, politics and government in the United States today. Focusing on Gov. Romney's recent address, Senator Raskin will try to recover the true meaning of the

separation of church and state. A member of the Senate's Judicial Proceedings Committee, he has written several books, including the bestseller "Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People and We the Students."

The Winter/Spring Bright Pink Adult

Programs Brochure was mailed to the congregation on Monday, January 14. Additional copies are available on the church literature table and in the R.E. Office. You may also access the brochure from the web site. Register for classes in the R. E. office by mail or in person or at the church after both services on Sunday January 27.

Classes beginning soon:

Saturday, January 26

Spiritual Cinema: Part C: Growing and Taking Risks meets 7 - 9 p.m. Come for an evening of film viewing, popcorn and discussion.

FEE: Pledgers \$2; non-pledgers \$5

Monday February 4

Liberal Religious Look at the Hebrew Bible with Kristin Grassel meets for three Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m.

FEE: Pledgers \$15; non-pledgers \$20

Science and Religion, with Dick Menzer, Jim Weiffenbach and Willis Foster is an on-going group which meets on Mondays at 10 a.m. New-comers welcome.

FEE: Pledgers \$15; non-pledgers \$20

Continuing Yoga with Kathleen Thomas meets for twelve Mondays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

FEE: Pledgers \$200; non-pledgers \$210

Wednesday, February 6

Evening T'ai Chi with Judith Duerk meets for nine Wednesdays. Beginners at 7 - 8 p.m.; Advanced Students at 5:45 - 6:50 p.m.

FEE: Pledgers \$70; Non-pledgers \$80.

Thursday, January 7

Daytime T'ai Chi with Judith Duerk meets for nine Thursdays. Beginners: 10 -10:55 a.m. Advanced Students: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

FEE: Pledgers \$70; non-pledgers \$80

Coming Up:

Spiritual Cinema: Is it Ever Too Late to Follow a Dream? on February 16

Meditation Class, February 18

The Book Discussion Group, February 19

Covenant Groups meet regularly to share experiences, reflect upon them, and support one another in developing meaningful lives.

"I always look forward to meeting my covenant group friends. Their reflections on their experiences help me find meaning and values in my own life". -

Ann Gillespie

Register for covenant groups on your adult programs card, attach your check and mail to the R. E. Office, or call Glenis Bellais at 301-493-8300 x207

FEE: Pledgers \$15; non-pledgers \$20

What's Going On Here? What Calls You to Action? with Kathleen Reedy meets on alternate Wednesdays 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Connections with Nancy Janssen meets on the first and third Sundays at 12:15 to 2 p.m.

Attitudes Towards Living with John Gubbings and Pat Karlsen meets on the second and fourth Sundays, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Journeywomen with Barbara Gressman meets on the first and third Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Crones with Coralie Adler meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Living By Heart I with Perry Seiffert meets on the first and third Saturdays, 8 to 10 a.m.

Living By Heart II with Frances Dearman and Ellie Goodwin meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m.

Living By Heart III with Bob Harrison meets on the second and fourth Saturdays, 8 to 10 a.m.

The Sharing Group with Len Adler meets monthly on the third Mondays, 7:15 to 9:00 p.m.

Living Alone, Living with Loss with Catharine Kaufman, Maury Merkin and Heather Janules meets on the first and third Sundays, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Register for all the above classes and Covenant Groups with Glenis Bellais in the R.E. Office at 301-493-8300 x207 or gbellais@cedarlane.org.

Around the Church

Celebrate Cedar Lane!

**Mark your Calendars for April 13, 2008
Celebration Sunday**

The theme for this year's pledge drive is Celebrate!, and on April 13, we will celebrate

Cedar Lane with the music of Olympia's Daughters, plus a church-wide brunch buffet after each service. Please plan to join us—it's going to be a great day.

We have a lot to celebrate at Cedar Lane. This community takes joy in its stewardship of our beautiful building and grounds, in our privilege of providing a religious education for some wonderful children, in creating good music, and in turning our belief in social justice into good work. We have ministers that inspire us, covenant groups we connect with, topical speakers that inform us, and a vibrant congregational life that makes our lives richer in hundreds of ways.

Olympia's Daughters is an exciting women's *a capella* group. Cedar Laners who have heard them at General Assembly and at other venues look forward to hearing them again.

Our Celebrate! theme for our pledge drive emphasizes our community and our stewardship of it. Rather than focusing on the need of the church to receive, we will be concentrating on the desire of members to pledge for their own sense of fulfillment. We think all of us can make our financial commitment as an act of worship and community in a church service.

No one will call on you at your home for a pledge. We will be contacting you personally to secure your commitment to attend a Celebration Sunday service and the festive meal after the service.

Mark your calendars for April 13, and join us to celebrate!



How Does Cedar Lane Look to You?

Do you have some digital photos you could share? The Pledge Drive Committee is looking for your photos of life at Cedar Lane: services, the building, the grounds, the Labyrinth, Holiday Craft Day, RE, Spring B, music, busy ministers and staff members. We have so much here, and we know that many of you have great pictures. We're planning PowerPoint presentations, and maybe a photo exhibit, and would love to use your work.

We especially need pictures of people, and would really like digital pictures from child dedications, weddings or ceremonies of union, and memorial services. Please e-mail your favorites to

Kristin Grassel, kgrassel@cedarlane.org, or to Susan Clark, songsue@aol.com, or bring them to church on a CD, by February 15. Thanks!

Celebrate Cedar Lane In Your Own Words

What do you celebrate about Cedar Lane? What in our church and congregational life helps you, makes you think, or brings you joy? Write and tell us. This year's pledge drive theme is Celebrate! We would like your words and thoughts to be part of our celebration, to be used in a presentation or as part of a sermon.

Please e-mail your thoughts to Ed Moot, edmoot@verizon.net, or mail them to the church, to the attention of the Pledge Drive Committee, by February 13, 2008. We look forward to hearing from you. *The Pledge Drive Committee: Susan Clark, John Daniel, Ralph Krause, Ed Moot, Nancy Janssen (ex-officio)*

Afghan Benefit Dinner For Women's Rights and Literacy in Afghanistan

Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at CLUUC

Featuring:

- * Authentic Afghan dinner
- * Silent auction of Afghan and Indian crafts
- * Tracy Wessler's Afghanistan through a slide show
- * Nasrine Gross: Report of Activities
- * Dinner tickets - \$ 40 per person
- * Raffle tickets - \$10 each

Proceeds will support couples literacy classes in Afghanistan. Nasrine is an Afghan-American woman who has been working on Afghan women's rights since 1996 and has been living in Afghanistan since 2001. Tracy Wessler is an engaged American who spent two weeks traveling around Afghanistan last year.

Deadline for reservations: Thursday, February 14, 2008 Make checks out to "Kabultec" (a tax-exempt, non-profit, 501 (3) © US organization).

Mail checks to: Eleanor DePaola
7941 Inverness Ridge Rd.
Potomac, MD 20854-4010

Questions? Call Eleanor at 301- 299- 6236

The January 26 Getting Started Class has been cancelled

But . . . All visitors and
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new members are invited to the Newcomer Lunch on Sunday, January 27, 2008.

Discover Cedar Lane at the first of many Newcomer Lunches after the 11 a.m. worship, from 12:15-3 p.m. in the library. Kristin Grassel and Senior Minister, Roger Fritts, will host a delicious lunch, good conversation, and short talk about the Unitarian Universalist Principles and the history of our church and faith. We'd love to see you, even if

you can only make it for lunch! Please call or e-mail Kristin, Membership Coordinator, if you would like to attend, or if you have any questions. She can be reached in person at the church, 301-493-8300 ext. 305, and kgrassel@cedarlane.org. Kristin would love to hear from you.

Adult Programs Committee - Looking for New Members

The Adult Programs Committee is looking for new members to join us in developing program ideas to meet the spiritual, educational and fellowship needs of Cedar Lane's adult congregation. Come share your life experience, avocations, and interests with this dynamic group of Cedar Laners. The A.C. offers about 30-40 classes in Fall and Winter/Spring sessions covering the topics of spiritual search, social, economic and political issues, personal development; and arts, literature and hobbies. We also sponsor the Sunday Morning Forums, Labyrinth, Kiplinger lectures, and Covenant Groups. Look over our new Winter/Spring 2008 Adult Programs brochure and consider becoming part of this important and very enriching activity of Cedar Lane UU church. Participation extends beyond the immediate congregation helping us to reach out to the greater community. Our dedicated group meets once a month to share ideas and camaraderie. If you would be interested in serving as a member of the Adult Programs Committee, we are now looking for Cedar Laners to fill some vacancies. Let us know if you might be interested. Contact: Julie Offer at 301-562-8281, e-mail: jjoffner@comcast.net.

Cardboard!

We have contracted with Waste Management to now accept card board for recycling. Please place any card board in the blue bins marked for paper recycling.

New DVD Player

We have purchased a DVD player that can be used with the rear screen projector system so that movies can be shown more easily in the main sanctuary. Please contact me if you are interested in learning how to use the system, with the DVD player or a laptop. We are looking for volunteers to help out with using the system for church services and other events. Sara Deshler; sdeshler@cedarlane.org.

Social Justice Council

Community Based Shelter - 2008

A Big Thank You to the 70+ Cedar Lane members who volunteered their time, food, and money to support the CBS Shelter during the week of Sunday January 6 - 12. We estimate CLUUC volunteers spent over 175 hours and over \$775 during the week (see their names on the bulletin board). The Social Justice Council provided an additional \$462 to buy supplies and additional food. We should all be proud of a successful week and significant service to our community. Several members have expressed interest in Cedar Lane volunteering for an additional week this year (perhaps in May); watch the Newsletter. Thanks!

Join the Social Justice Council E-mail Listserv

SKC has created a moderated e-mail Listserv to send out one, occasionally two, messages per week consolidating short announcements of events, meetings, volunteer and advocacy opportunities on social justice issues in which the Cedar Lane community is involved.

You can join the list to receive e-mails by sending a message to socialjusticebulletin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you have information for the Social Justice Bulletin, please send it to socialjusticebulletin-owner@yahoogroups.com by Friday for posting by Monday. Brief "list ready" text most welcome. (We may edit lightly, but prefer not to.) Feel free to include a website link or contact person for more information, and try to select the one or two most important items on your issue each week. We think "less is more" and hope to entice people to the list by making it a quick and easy read. Questions and comments welcome at socialjusticebulletin-owner@yahoogroups.com.

LGBT Task Force Activities

You are invited to join our February 11 “Lobby Day” for Marriage Equality in Annapolis. This promises to be a controversial legislative session which will see “Civil Marriage is a Civil Right” marriage equality legislation introduced, as well as other LGBT equality legislation. Please add your voice and your presence to those who seek justice and value all families in our state. Cedar Lane’s Social Justice Council and our LGBT Task Force have chartered a comfortable bus (strengthens friendships, reduces our carbon footprint, and eliminates parking trouble). We plan to leave from the Cedar Lane parking lot at 4 p.m. on Monday, February 11, join the rally at Thurgood Marshall Square at 5 p.m., and will have appointments with our elected state representatives beginning at 6 p.m. We plan to depart from Annapolis at 7:30 p.m. and enjoy snacks and good company on the way home, arriving around 8:30 p.m. We especially welcome our seniors and our youth for some multi generational citizen activism. Tickets are \$20 for one and \$35 for two, and \$15 for youth under 18 — bring a friend and save some money! Tickets can be purchased at the SKC ‘Lounge Lizards’ Table on Sundays or by contacting Mike Benefiel, mike@persuasiveinformation.com, Stephen Colgan smcolgan@hotmail.com, or Marge Dimond, margeryjd@aol.com. Keep a lookout for relevant letter writing campaigns and materials at the SKC table. Further information for Lobby Day is available at www.equalitymaryland.org. Don’t wait, tickets are going fast!

Save the date: **February 2 is bingo night** for Cedar Lane LGBT families from 6 - 9 pm. Bring your kids and have a good time! for more information, contact Celia Nathan or Stephen Colgan.

For further information about these or other LGBT activities at Cedar Lane, please contact Marge Dimond (301-933-2877; margeryjd@aol.com), or Stephen Colgan (240-381-7386; smcolgan@hotmail.com).

♻️GREEN TIPS♻️

Environmental Task Force

How to Re-program Your Self to Eschew Plastic Bags

It takes some will-power and foresight to:

- at home hang newly emptied reusable bags on a hook with one’s purse (a sac-like handbag is useful to stuff small items into from small stores.)
- pick up the lot on the way to the car
- lay them together on the seat
- carry all into the supermarket

- inside, lay the reusable bags in the bottom of the basket—plastic one(s) on top
- then pile the lettuces, cabbages, kiwis, etc. on the bags—all in a heap—no little plastic bags for each bunch.

If several reusable bags are plastic, the plastic ones do nicely for the drippy veggies or even the potentially drippy meat packages .

At the check out if one empty bag is sent down just ahead of the groceries, the checkers usually get the idea that it should be filled. One should also say, “No plastic bags, please.”

Cashiers vary in their acceptance of this new routine. Some have grumbled about the difficulty of packing new kinds of bag. Bags with shelf-like bottoms and stiff sides are the easiest for them. Canvas works well for this. It is best to pack oneself with bags made of netting or limp materials.

In the end, there is the satisfaction of having had the green “moral edge” as well as the three to five cents rebate several stores offer for bringing one’s own bags.

Beyond the Church

LGBT Related Activities

Rainbow Youth Alliance—A Safe Place for GLBTQ Teens (14-18) and their Allies in Montgomery County. Sponsored by the UU Church of Rockville. Meetings 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month 4-6 p.m. For further information check the rainbow youth section of www.uucr.org.

UUA Conference for Large Congregations

From Perspiration to Inspiration: Spiritually Grounded Leadership for Large Congregations, March 13 - 16, 2008; Louisville, Kentucky

Conference for large congregations provides an inspiring context for shared learning grounded in the accomplishments of the largest Unitarian Universalist congregations. It is an opportunity for building strong relationships among those congregations and their leaders. **Registration deadline: Feb. 11;** see full info at www.uua.org; contact nancyjanssen@peoplepc.com; 301.588.1488 for financial support and other information.

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The Cedar Lane News is published biweekly from September to June and monthly in July and August by the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church,

9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814.

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We request copy be sent via e-mail to newsletter@cedarlane.org.

Next deadline is **noon, Wednesday, January 30, 2008.**

Editor this issue: Robin Larkin



Donate by February– Let It Shine March 8

Saturday, March from 6 to 10 p.m. is on your calendar – yes? And we have ALL your donations – no? Well, don't wait – donate! Forms can be downloaded from the CLUUC website: <http://www.cedarlane.org/announce.html>.

Thinking ahead to what YOU want to purchase? Among the great items received so far:

- 1. Up to 5 days in a 3-bedroom home in Celebration, FL, close to Disney World*
- 2. Bed & breakfast for 1 week at Redondo Beach, near the beach and L.A. attractions*
- 3. Weekend for 6 in June, Sept. or Oct. at Chincoteague, VA, near the abundant natural wonders of Assateague National Seashore.*

In addition to all the great shopping you can do at the silent and live auctions, there'll be a NEW feature this year: The “Nifty Thrifty” room, an upscale cash-and-carry offering of new or unused (not a rummage sale!) valued at \$5 to \$25.

This is the perfect opportunity to “re-gift” those new earrings, knick-knacks, housewares, and other small items and benefit the work of Cedar Lane! Nifty Thrifty donations will be accepted during the auction intake hours. More details about Nifty Thrifty will be on the website's auction page, and in a future newsletter.

Raffle tickets will go on sale in February in the lounge. Our quilt-makers have taken a well-deserved break, so this year's auction will feature two new and exciting raffle prizes. Details on both items will be available soon.

So save the date, donate, and participate! We need your help to make the auction a success. Sign up at the auction table in the lounge on Sundays to. Pick up a donation form, find those nifty treasures, and watch for ticket and raffle sales starting February 3. LET IT SHINE!

- The Auction Committee