



# CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LV, No. 16

March 10, 2009

## Sunday Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

**March 15, 2009**

### “The Origin of the Theory”

*Roger Fritts*

The Unitarian Church in Shrewsbury, England, has a memorial tablet: “To the Memory of Charles Robert Darwin, Author of ‘The Origin of Species.’ Born in Shrewsbury, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1809. In Early Life a Member of and Constant Worshiper in this Church.” Two hundred years after his birth, the sermon will look at the life of Charles Darwin.

**March 22, 2009**

### “The Gift of the Ordinary”

*Roger Fritts*

My title is from a Meditation Manual by The Rev. Charles Stephen, Jr. published in 1985. The sermon will suggest that our stress over the economy can be relaxed by finding beauty and joy in ordinary, free or almost free, experiences.

**March 29, 2009**

### “New Conversations about the Death Penalty”

*Pam Gehrke*

Years ago, I made up my mind that the risk of human error makes capital punishment untenable. But what about public safety? What about victims’ families? What about justice? Anticipating Good Friday and Easter, I lift up stories and statistics to explore some of the issue’s complexities.

**The Sunday Morning Forum meets 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. in the Chalice House. Coffee is served.**

- 3/15** *Whatever Happened to Separation of Church and State?* with **Rev. Barry W. Lynn**, Executive Director, Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- 3/22** *Human Rights in Israel and Palestine: Why a Rights-Based Guideline is Needed*, with **Mitchell Plitnick**, Director of USA Outreach for B’Tselem
- 3/29** *Legalizing Marijuana: The Implications* with **Ed Jurith**, Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy
- 4/5** *The Delicate Balance: Business and Society-Can We Harness the Business Beast?* with **Judith F. Samuelson**, Executive Director, Business and Society Programs, The Aspen Institute

### **Need a Ride to the Cedar Lane Auction? The Auction Committee Can Help!**

This year’s annual auction on Saturday, March 21, promises to be better than ever. You’ll be sorry if you miss all the fun. This year we are offering rides for those who need them. If you would like a ride to and from the event, contact me:

Brian Belanger

Home: 301-258-0708

E-mail: [radiobelanger@comcast.net](mailto:radiobelanger@comcast.net)

We also need volunteer drivers! If you are willing to drive a neighbor, also contact me. I will strive to match each person needing a ride with a driver who lives nearby.

## Notes from the Ministers

### *Roger Fritts*

Each year at the end of February, I attend a gathering of Senior Ministers of the largest Unitarian Universalist Churches, a group that our former minister Ken McLean started back in 1981. This year we talked about something called “Facebook.”

Facebook became available to anyone with a computer and an internet connection in September 2006. By the summer of 2007, bars in London experienced a drop in business because people were staying home in the evenings to talk to each other on their computers using Facebook. According to Wikipedia, Facebook is the most popular social networking site in several English-speaking countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom. In the United States, it has thirty-six million users compared with MySpace’s seventy-three million.

“E-mail and blogs are old-fashioned,” a colleague told me. “Facebook is now a center of communication.” Churches have Facebook sites, and people become “fans” or “group members.” Both the Unitarian Universalist Church in Dallas and the one in Atlanta are trying to get their members to be fans of the church Facebook site. They each have about three hundred people signed up. Their ministers see this as a very effective way to communicate with the congregation. I looked at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Facebook site and found that fifty-two people have joined our group.

So I signed up. In the first week twenty-eight of you have sent me e-mails saying that you want to be my Facebook friend. Thank you. I am thinking about it.

I am not sure that I want to be part of all this. I like the fact that computers correct my spelling and that I can conduct research on the internet, but I am not sure about this social networking stuff.

I am interested in hearing your experiences. Send me an e-mail, or better, talk to me at coffee hour.

### *Heather Janules*

When I lived in Chicago, one thing I cherished about my neighborhood was the wild parakeets. These bright green birds, called “Monk Parakeets” for the white feathers on their head, resembling a hood, are dramatic creatures. Their distinctive squawk is more defiant than musical. They build massive nests in trees and electrical equipment that would make any architect envious. And

the brilliant green of their feathers against the urban grey brings a touch of the exotic to this flat, Midwestern city.

No one is quite sure how the Monk Parakeets came to call Hyde Park home. Maybe it was a crate of parakeets that broke open at Midway Airport, maybe some caged birds that found their way free.

As I stood at the top of a tall ladder, painting the trim of a New Orleans home terribly damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, I was surprised and delighted when I heard the Monk Parakeets’ familiar squawk. A little internet research that evening confirmed what I suspected: New Orleans is also a home to these non-native birds.

While I know the dangers that non-native species can bring to an ecosystem, I am inspired by what Monk Parakeets symbolize to me – beauty, resilience, an affirmation of one’s presence in the world. The way New Orleans residents are returning and rebuilding their homes after the storms mirrors the strength I see embodied in these enterprising birds (who also had to rebuild when their shelters were destroyed.)

I wish to share too many experiences from my work trip to New Orleans for the space in this column. Let it suffice to say that the work was hard yet deeply satisfying, the company diverse, warm and enthusiastic and the communities we visited incredibly welcoming.

I will share more of my experiences, what I understand as one Unitarian Universalist’s expression of faith through service, in worship on May 3. Kristin Grassel will also share reflections from visiting and working with communities on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Our Music Director, Henry Sgrecci, is already exploring some special music for this service. I invite you to come with open minds and hearts to learn more on that Sunday.

I also bring to your attention that Rebuilding Together – Montgomery County has plans to go back to New Orleans next year. The tentative dates for this work trip are January 31-February 6, 2010. Cedar Lane Mike Burski – who went in 2008 and inspired me to go in 2009 – was delighted that the Cedar Lane representation went up 100% with this most-recent trip. He and I hope that we can continue this trend by bringing even more of our friends from our faith community into this rewarding work.

But you don’t have to wait until then to meet some of the wonderful volunteers in Rebuilding Together. RT used to be called “Christmas in April;” the organization still

completes a big project on the last Saturday of April each year. Both skilled and underskilled workers are welcome and encouraged. **Please contact Mike Burski ([mga1960@earthlink.net](mailto:mga1960@earthlink.net); 301-215-8359) if you wish to participate in the Cedar Lane work team, to join the rest of RT – Montgomery County on Saturday, April 25.**

Beauty, strength and affirmation of life. These lessons from New Orleans will live with me for years to come. I invite you to join me in reflecting on this movement of renewal and – next year – to help rebuild homes and lives, one by one.

## We Care

Our hearts go out to **Dick and Mary Darne** as they mourn the death of Dick's mother, Elizabeth Darne, who died on February 21. Condolence cards may be sent to 6312 N 36th Street, Arlington, VA 22213. The family invites memorial donations to be given to the Washington Animal Rescue League.

Christmas came a day early for life-long Cedar Lane member **Jedd Narsavage** and his wife, Sadie. Their son, Jack Everett Narsavage, was born December 24. Cedar Lane friends **Paula and Dave Narsavage** are now happily doting grandparents.

We extend heartfelt condolences to **Andy Streich (Neighborhood 1)** as he and his family mourn the death of his father, who died after a long illness.

Our own **Jane MacFarlane (N25)** was awarded Best Actress recognition at the WATCH (Washington Area Theatre Community Honors) awards ceremony for her performance in the play "Doubt." Hooray!

It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Ken Takemoto**. Both Ken and his wife Alice had been long-time, active members of Cedar Lane. A Service in Celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, March 15 at 3 p.m. at Cedar Lane.

Congratulations to **Alice Wahl (N29)**. The Tate Gallery at Christ Congregational Church has hung seven of her "picture poems" as part of their current display.

Friends of **Ellie Chrisman** are invited to join her family in a brunch to remember her and celebrate her life. The brunch will be held at the Hyatt Arlington (1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209) at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 16.

If you know of anyone in need of a pastoral visit, a call or a prayer, please contact Minister for Pastoral Care Heather Janules at x204 or [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org).

## Support Group for People Living with Mental Illness

A new support group is forming at Cedar Lane for people who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. The format will be casual; the group will likely meet twice a month during a weekday afternoon. To participate, one must also be under the care of a therapist or psychiatrist.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Minister for Pastoral Care Heather Janules at x204 or [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org).

## Music Notes From the Interim Director of Music

### *Who is this person named Gruppo Piccolo?*

Well, you won't find the term as a proper name in any musical dictionary. This name is associated with our small CLUUC chamber choir that sang Maurice Durafle's *Ubi Caritas* so tenderly on Sunday morning, March 1, then switched gears and sang a bouncy doo-wop rendition of *Stand By Me*. We also enjoyed inspiring instrumental music during the prelude, offertory, and postlude, from clarinetist Kenneth Kreider and pianist Aglaia Koras. Actually Gruppo Piccolo is Italian for "small group" and it is the name given to our vocal ensemble by its founder, Ariel Mora. Look for Gruppo Piccolo to perform during the Labyrinth Spring Equinox Celebration on March 22.

On March 8 the Adult Choir sang Ralph Vaughan Williams's motet *O Taste and See*, the resounding *Gloria* from Antonin Dvorak's "Mass in D, opus 86," and *Let this Place Be a Symbol to the World*, by Rhonda Sandberg. Our hymns were #189, Light of Ages and of Nations, and #1045, There is a Balm in Gilead. Thomas Guthrie performed the organ preludes "There is a Balm in Gilead" by Charles Callahan and *Trio on "In Babilone"* and concluded the services with "Allegro molto-allegro breve" by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

On March 15 the Handbell Choir will perform a spirited rendition of the tune *Lobe de Herrenm*, which will also be our opening hymn (Praise Be to God, the Almighty). Our anthems couple poetry with a sermon about Charles Darwin. The Youth Choir will sing *A Quiet, Patient Spider*, based upon Walt Whitman's poem, *A Noiseless, Patient Spider*, and the Adult Choir will sing *The Heav-*

*ens are Declaring* by Ludwig von Beethoven and *Choose Something Like a Star* from “Frostiana” by Randall Thompson, his song cycle based on poetry by Robert Frost.

The call to worship by the Adult Choir for March 22 will be *Laudate*, “O Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye people,” by the Norwegian composer Knut Nystedt. During the offertory the Choir will sing the hymn *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*, to an accompaniment by Hal Hopson. Our anthem will be *Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee* by Johannes Brahms with text by the seventeenth century poet, Paul Flemming.

**Did you know “All God’s critters have a place in the choir?”** Yes, you too can participate in CLUUC Music. The Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings and the Youth and Handbell Choirs meet on Thursday evenings. For more information call 301-493-8300 or e-mail [hsgrecci@cedarlane.org](mailto:hsgrecci@cedarlane.org).

## On Board

At the Board of Trustees’ meeting on February 17, our belief in angels was renewed by Treasurer Tom Nixon’s report of the receipt of an unrestricted bequest of \$64,000 by long-time member John Skinner. We know that a major gift to the Endowment is also forthcoming from the estate of Angie Skinner. Both John and Angie gave and gave to Cedar Lane during their lives and now give again, not knowing how much it will matter in these challenging times.

We were also pleased to hear from Susan Clark, Chair, that the Pledge Drive has met two-thirds of our goal in the opening weeks of the campaign. Many Cedar Laners have responded with extra generosity in these lean times. If you have—or can and will, thank you! Some cannot, so you help them and our treasured but vulnerable church.

Seeking to promote success by encouraging donations and participation, Vicky and Paul Strella, Auction Committee Chairs, won board approval to allocate any funds raised above their ambitious \$40,000 goal to the Manna Food Center. Thus, both the budget and social justice will be served.

Molly Hauck and other members of the Environmental Task Force reported that they will seek congregational approval at the Annual Meeting on April 19 to go forward with their application for Green Sanctuary certifi-

cation from the UUA at General Assembly in June. They are working on their final requirement now, a social justice project at Beacon House. They hope to engage members in specific activities toward greater greenness and agreed to work with board representatives to revise a survey that will enable the congregation to select and commit to priorities.

We were happy to receive from the Leadership Development and Nominations Committee its excellent slate of proposed new Trustees and to learn that the quest for a permanent Music Director is underway, overseen by the Personnel Committee and guided by a search committee co-chaired by Ardene Shafer and Michael Murray.

For details and other pending matters, please see the board’s posted minutes or query a BOT member. Swing into Spring!

*Dian Belanger, Chair, Board of Trustees,*  
[dobelanger@comcast.net](mailto:dobelanger@comcast.net)

## Religious Education Notes

**Easter Sunday:** The many miracles of new life are a great reason for all of us to worship together. This year there will be two services:

The **9 a.m. service** will be most enjoyed by adults. It will be our normal 60 minutes and will have extraordinary music. Child care for ages 5 and under will be available.

Our **11 a.m. service** will be enjoyed by all ages. It will have the same music as enjoyed by our 9 a.m. attendees, but the service itself will be 45 minutes long and will be enjoyable for all ages, full of celebration, story and shared amazement about and gratitude for life. Child care for ages 5 and under will be available.

**Egghunt Following Second Service!**

**All Church Retreat:** May 29 - 31 (week AFTER Memorial Day) at Camp Tockwogh. To see site go to [www.ymcade.org/branches/tockwogh](http://www.ymcade.org/branches/tockwogh). Registration forms coming soon.

**MANY THANKS to RE Council members** Herma Dupre and Maria Dinger, whose planning and hard work brought together the efforts of many others to say thank you to our teachers at their annual Appreciation Dinner on February 27. The theme was “A World to Dream About.” It was amazing—delicious food, beautiful decorations, and graced by wonderful entertainment from our children and youth choir (accompanied by Susan Easterly), and musicians Steve Jones, Donna

Messersmith-Jones, Chris Mauro and Henry Sgrecci. A night to remember!

**Bending the World Towards Justice:** Our kids are at it again! Throughout the year many classes make a difference. Two recent examples:

**Grade 7, Session II:** Yard work to benefit Water for All People: youth have been selling work slots in the lounge to raise money to help this important cause. They have been learning about this critical need and chose this as a major project for this year. Hire your yard workers now!

**Grade 4, Session I:** They have been learning about the Chesapeake Bay watershed and are taking a field trip to explore one of the creeks which drains into the Chesapeake via Rock Creek park and the Potomac River. Watch for more about what they learned in the next newsletter!

### **Teacher recruitment for next year is underway!**

Have you ever thought of spending time with our kids? We have spots in groups from Babies to High School, so please think about this. Cedar Lane is known for its commitment to its children and youth, but that reality can only happen as we connect with them, one by one, in their RE classes, and in our youth groups. That is the major way in which they experience our faith community. I may be a bit prejudiced, but in my 28 years as a religious educator I have never known a nicer group of kids than the ones right here at Cedar Lane. Sooo . . . please don't hold back. Contact me and I'll be happy to give you the low-down! Or check out the teacher recruitment table in the lounge on Sunday! It's an investment in our young ones right now, in the future of our faith and world, and it may well bring you a kind of satisfaction you don't find elsewhere!

Susan Archer, Minister of Religious Education  
[sarcher@cedarlane.org](mailto:sarcher@cedarlane.org), 301-493-8300 x 206.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**March 15 (Sunday):** *Teacher and RE Leader Recognition* during our intergenerational beginning in the sanctuary for all ages, 9 and 11 a.m.  
*Teacher Recruitment* in the lounge.

**March 22 (Sunday):** *Growing Up Year Celebration* by our 6th graders during the first part of the service in the sanctuary; leaders for each RE class will decide whether to take their classes; GUY siblings are encouraged to attend with parents; all children who come will adjourn to classes after the ceremony concludes.

**March 29, April 5 (Sundays):** Spring "B" Registration .

**May 29-31 (Friday - Sunday):** *All-Church Retreat at Camp Tockwogh*

## **Youth Notes**

### **Junior High Plans Weekend Activities**

The Junior High Youth group is open to youth in grades 7 and 8. This weekend will be busy for the Junior High Youth Group as they have two events planned.

**Saturday, March 14** – the Group will go to Uno Chicago Grill on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda to eat and then attend a movie at the adjoining movie complex. This will be a fixed price event to cover the cost of dinner and the movie.

**Sunday, March 15** – we will leave after the second session RE classes for Wheaton Regional Park for an orienteering adventure. On the way, we will stop for lunch at a fast food emporium (there are several to choose among). Orienteering involves teams of youth, using maps, compasses and their intelligence to find check-in locations around the park. The competition is to see who can complete all the check-ins in the shortest time.

*An announcement with more of the details about timing for the two events should reach all the Group members by Monday. Get your forms and money in early. These will be fun activities.*

**Tuesday, March 31** – we will pack Manna Food. A separate announcement will be mailed for this activity. We will meet in Kensington, 5:30 p.m., at the Pizza and Kabob restaurant, eat pizza together, and then travel to Rockville for packing. We should return to Kensington about 8:30 p.m.

Should you have any questions, call JHYG Coordinators John Daniel 301-946-5509 or Kimberly Clarkson 301-587-3051. Questions?

### **Senior High Notes**

Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) activities are open to young people in grades 9-12, and activities happen at non-Sunday morning times as much as possible. 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 x205 or [aturner@cedarlane.org](mailto:aturner@cedarlane.org) or [archene@gmail.com](mailto:archene@gmail.com)

**Upcoming events:** If interested in any of the events please contact Archene ASAP so chaperones can be arranged.

**March 10** – An Evening of Wii 7:30- 9 p.m. This class will help our adults understand why we have sooo much fun with Wii.

**March 12** – Join Archene at the movies! 7 p.m. at International Student House. Senior high youth are invited to join Archene for “Bhutan: Taking the Middle Path to Happiness” a part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Film Festival. Youth will meet there and see the movie together. This movie is free so we need to get there early (6:45 p.m.) to get a good seat. Youth should have received a flyer in class.

**March 13-14** – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Lock-in to plan their Coming of Age worship service. We’ll start with pizza at 6:30 p.m. and go from there!

**March 13-15** – Lepre-CON @UU Church of Delaware County, Media, PA. This is a district event for senior high youth.

**March 17** – Youth Summit planning meeting in Rm 30-31, 6 – 9 p.m. Come help plan this one day event SHYG is hosting on April 18 for youth in Anne Arundel, Prince George’s, Howard and Montgomery counties.

**March 19** – Join Archene at the movies again! Gather at 6:45 p.m. at the National Museum of Natural History. Senior high youth are invited to join Archene for “Wild Ocean” a part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Film Festival. Youth will see the movie together. This IMAX movie requires tickets (\$13), so purchase your tickets ahead of time at [http://residentassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/reserve.aspx?performanceNumber=217219&utm\\_source=RAad&utm\\_content=FEauto&utm\\_campaign=featevent](http://residentassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/reserve.aspx?performanceNumber=217219&utm_source=RAad&utm_content=FEauto&utm_campaign=featevent).

**March 20** – “Everything gAy to Z,” 8 p.m. at Lisner Auditorium. This concert by the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington is FREE for HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH, but you have to register at <http://www.gmcw.org/youth/youthgtzregform.php>. This concert is open seating so meet Archene there at 7 p.m., and we’ll see the concert together!

## **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, or call Tama Yarina with questions at 906-281-2537 or [tryarina@gmail.com](mailto:tryarina@gmail.com).

For resources and information on Joseph Priestly District (JPD) Young Adult events, visit the JPD Young Adult Network at [www.jpd-uuyan.org](http://www.jpd-uuyan.org).

**Join other Young Adults for Brunch:** 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 and fellowship.

## **Adult Programs Notes**

### **Upcoming Adult Programs**

“Absolutely wonderful presentation, thank you for arranging this!” One of many compliments received after the first of three in the “Meet the Artist” series, this one on oil painting. It truly was a magical evening for those in attendance, for artists and non-artists alike. It was an amazing feeling to watch and hear Alejandra Hucek’s artistic process as she painted and described the classical style she has utilized over the last 24 years.

SAVE THESE DATES for the second and third in the *Meet the Artist* series:

**Thursday, April 2** (7-9 p.m.): with Marie Ringwald who constructs unique architectural sculptures with wood, rubber, glass and sheet metal. She will discuss her artistic path, share her fascination with utilitarian buildings, such as warehouses and factories, as embodiments of “hopefulness, possibilities, history and mystery.” Marie has exhibited in many galleries and museums. She is a former chair of the Foundation Department and a full professor at the Corcoran College of Art and Design. \$5 Pledgers/ \$10 Non-pledgers

**Thursday, May 7** (7-9 p.m.): Anna Glodek completes our series of *Meet the Artist* evenings. From her North Potomac studio, she creates vibrant flower and figures compositions in watercolor and oil. Her works have been described as falling “somewhere between realism and abstraction, with an expressive use of color and texture.” Ms. Glodek will conduct a watercolor demonstration and talk about watercolor techniques. \$5 Pledgers/\$10 Non-pledgers.

### **Also Coming Up:**

#### **Social, Economic and Political Issues**

*Menu for the Future*, March 11 (7 sessions) \$15/20

*How Safe is Our Produce?*, April 7 (1 session) \$5/10

*Beyond the Beltway: Montreal*, May 15 (1 session) \$5/10

#### **Personal Development**

*Olive Oil Tasting*, May 1(1session) \$5/10

## Arts, Literature and Hobbies

*An Evening of Wii*, March 10 (one session) \$5/10

*Introduction to Chinese Characters*, March 31

(1 session) \$5/10

*Spring Bird Walk*, May 9 (1 session) \$5/10

*Hiking at Little Bennett Park*, May 16 (1 session) \$5/10

*Kayaking on Little Seneca Lake*, June 6 (1 session)

\$5/10

For complete information on these and more Adult Programs, please visit our website [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org). To register for a class, complete a registration card, attach your check, and mail or bring it to the RE office. Use the registration card mailed with the brochure, pick one up at the church, or download one from our website. For additional information contact the RE office by calling 301-493-8300 x207, or e-mailing [re@cedarlane.org](mailto:re@cedarlane.org).

You'll be glad you did!

**The Sunday Morning Forum.** meets in Chalice House on Sundays, 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. Everyone is welcome. No registration is required.

**March 15:** *Whatever Happened to Separation of Church and State?* The Reverend Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, discusses the unending battle to keep government out of religion and to keep religion out of government. As a national authority and spokesperson on the Constitution's religious liberty provisions, Rev. Lynn, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, with a degree in theology from Boston University and a law degree from Georgetown University, appears frequently in the major media and recently co-authored a citizen's Guide to Protecting Religious Liberty and the Separation of Church and State available from Beacon Press (2008).

**March 22:** *Human Rights in Israel and Palestine: Why a Rights-Based Guideline Is Needed.* Our speaker is Mitchell Plitnick, Director of USA Outreach for B'Tselem, an Israeli organization that monitors human rights in the occupied territories. He will discuss the human rights conditions in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, explore the rights and responsibilities of all parties to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and discuss why human rights are central to any progress in the region, whether or not diplomatic efforts are bearing fruit at that time.

**March 29:** *Legalizing Marijuana: The Implications.* Is it any more dangerous than alcohol or nicotine? Ed

Jurith is the current "Drug Czar" in the Obama Administration and an expert on policy and political considerations surrounding this issue. He will discuss the complexities of current laws as governing marijuana's medicinal and recreational use and the implications of changing those laws.

**April 5:** *The Delicate Balance: Business and Society—Can We Harness the Business Beast?* with Judith S. Samuelson, Executive Director, Business and Society Program, The Aspen Institute. Our country's history is closely intertwined with commerce; business and entrepreneurship is central to our self-image and success—so how did we arrive at a point that is so precarious and where business seems to be creating more harm than good for society? A quick dive into the history of the corporation, discussion of what is needed to restore the delicate balance between business and society, and why it is so important to do so.

## Labyrinth "Spring Equinox Celebration"

On Sunday, March 22, 2 – 4 p.m., there will be a labyrinth walk at Cedar Lane with *live choral music*. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated. For more information contact Chris Mauro at 703-847-5820 or [chris.mauro@baesystems.com](mailto:chris.mauro@baesystems.com)

## Connection Circles

Look for the updated pamphlet for Connection Circles on the counter under the name-tags at church!

A Connection Circle is a small group that meets regularly. It is led by a trained facilitator, includes an opening ritual, a check-in time, discussion of a topic, and a closing ritual. The group chooses and performs one service program between Fall and Summer.

There are currently 10 Connection Circles. Group descriptions and facilitators are listed in the Adult Programs brochure and on our website. For more information, please contact Heather Janules at 301-493-8300 x204, or [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org). To join a group, register through Adult Programs.

## Around the Church

**KEEPING SAFE!** We have sadly had a few thefts around the church in the past few weeks. This seems to be similar to the experience of several other faith communities in the tri-state area. Please keep your valuables with you. If you are holding meetings (e.g. workshops, cooking in the kitchen, working on the grounds, or other activities where personal belongings are cumbersome) and wish to have a locked room for pocketbooks and such, please contact the office in advance to make arrange-

ments. Times are hard for many folks in our world right now and it is best to take precautions when we can.

### **Teacher Appreciation Dinner**

On Friday, February 27, 2009, the RE Council hosted the annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner. It was an evening where the teachers, assistants and teen helpers were able to enjoy a dinner out and entertainment by some talented Cedar Lane Musicians. Dinner was catered by Through the Kitchen Door and desserts were baked by Cedar Lane members. Florence Tan prepared a wonderful spread of Asian appetizers. The musical entertainment started with the Youth Choir under the direction of Dr. Henry Sgrecci with Susan Easterly at the piano. This was followed by the music of Steve Jones who was accompanied by his wife Donna Messersmith-Jones, Chris Mauro on drums, and Dr. Henry Sgrecci on trumpet.

The evening came together with the many helping hands of Cedar Lane volunteers. We would like to thank Cindy Meredith, Isabel Marbury-Mauro, Linda and John Daniel, Jane and Tony Janotta, Susannah Vesey, Mary Farrar, Jenna Lordo, Jo Ellen Bilanin, Sharon Timko, Carolyn Leonard, Emily Mellgren, Nancy Manning, Beth Boa, Alyson Krogh, and Bill King and his clean up crew. A sincere thanks to Silvia Balderas-Saari and Philippe Saari who organized the servers from the Growing Up Year Class. Thank you to all young servers who came and served. A special thank you to Carolyn and Herb Grassel who took all the class photographs. Jed Dinger contributed his expertise with the design of invitation and program. We could not forget the hard work of Gale Luce and Jeannette Wilson in the RE Office, Mickey Sigsbee for kitchen and auditorium set up, Rich Clark and Warren Thompson for audio. With all your help and cooperation we had a memorable evening for all. Thank you.

*Herma Dupre and Maria Dinger*  
Co-Chairs Teacher Appreciation

**Civility is Part of Ethics?** Yes, civility is a subset of ethics, but Choosing Civility treats it “not as a philosophical abstraction but as a code of decency to be applied in everyday life.” These words come from P.N. Forni, author of the book underlying the two-week class to be held at 2 p.m. on April 26 and May 3. Sign up now--(\$10 pledgers and \$15 non-pledgers)--and COME!

**Chuck Wooldridge to Speak at CLUUC about the UUA and GA on March 29.** Chuck Wooldridge is the Joseph Priestly District’s representative on the UUA Board; hence he represents us somewhat analogously to a member of Congress. He has kindly accepted

the Denominational Affairs Committee’s invitation to meet with us at Cedar Lane on Sunday, March 29, at 12:15 p.m. in the chapel, to share the latest developments in the UUA and JPD, and to give us a heads-up on what the key issues at this year’s General Assembly are likely to be. This is a “don’t miss” event for anyone planning to attend GA this year, as well as DAC members, but all Cedar Laners are encouraged to come to hear what is going on nationally in our movement. The format will be informal, with opportunities for questions and answers.

### **Invasive Plant Removal & Grounds Workday**

Join the Grounds Committee after their meeting on March 14 to help remove invasive plants or help out with some mulching. We hope to get an early jump on the Japanese Honeysuckle, English Ivy, and other alien invasives that crowd out native species and eliminate the natural diversity of our woodlands. We also have plenty of fresh chips from tree work to mulch paths. Workers of all ages are very welcome. We’ll wrap up our meeting at 10 a.m., then get to work and finish before lunch. Look for us in Rm 30-31, unless you arrive a bit late.

**Chips and Mulch** Think of Cedar Lane for your mulching needs this spring. We had some tree work recently that left us plenty of fresh chips for paths, and we are especially eager to share chips from last year’s work – more suitable for plants. You will find piles of mulch alongside the lower Culver Street parking lot and also near the clothing bin in the RE lot.

**Can’t make it to services on Sunday?** Sermons have been added to the web for the past few months. Visit [www.cedarlane.org/sermons.html](http://www.cedarlane.org/sermons.html) to search for the one you missed. You can also borrow a CD recording of the entire service from the Library.

## Social Justice Council

### **Breaking the Silence: LGBT and Allies Youth Summit**

Cedar Lane is hosting an LGBT Youth Summit. We are inviting 9-12 graders in Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, as well as adults active in supporting our youth to gather for the purpose of identifying needs and to begin to make plans to provide support, services, safe spaces, community and connection for youth around sexual orientation and gender identity. Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda.

Cedar Laners are invited to donate their time and talent to help make this event a success, please contact Rev. Archene Turner ([archene@gmail.com](mailto:archene@gmail.com); 301-493-8300 x205) or Stephen Colgan ([smcolgan@hotmail.com](mailto:smcolgan@hotmail.com); 240-381-7386) *Participation is free, but please RSVP.*

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**✿GREEN TIPS✿**

*Cedar Lane's Environmental Task Force*

**Study: Conventionally Grown Vegetables Have Significantly Lower Nutrient Value Than Organics:**

“The February issue of the *Journal of HortScience* reports the average vegetable found in today’s supermarket is anywhere from 5% to 40% lower in minerals than those harvested just 50 years ago. As Davis points out, more than three billion people around the world suffer from malnourishment and yet, ironically, efforts to increase food production have actually produced food that is less nourishing. If you’re still not buying the whole “organic-is-better” argument, this study might convince you otherwise...” For the source of this study, visit: [http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_17026.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_17026.cfm) *Organic Bites, February 28, 2009, Issue #163*  
Organic Consumers Association

**GW IPL was the offertory recipient for the March 1 50/50 split earning a total of \$385.**

Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GW IPL) is a non-profit initiative that helps congregations, religious institutions and others in the Washington, D.C. area work for a more just, sustainable and healthier creation by reducing the threat of global warming. GW IPL is a part of a network of Interfaith Power and Lights across the country mobilizing a national religious response to global warming. Allison Fisher, GW IPL’s hardworking, dynamic Program Director, helps congregations become more energy efficient, and will go out to congregations to assess their needs.

GW IPL offers carbon offsets with 0% overhead to congregations and members for clean power from either wind or land-fill gas.

Cedar Lane is a founding member, and Molly Hauck is the UU rep on the GW IPL Steering Committee. For more info, go to [www.gwipl.org](http://www.gwipl.org) or contact Allison Fisher, at [allison@gwipl.org](mailto:allison@gwipl.org) or Molly Hauck at [mollyhauck@verizon.net](mailto:mollyhauck@verizon.net).

## And Beyond Cedar Lane

**DAVIES MEMORIAL INVITES LOCAL UU CONGREGATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS SPRING SEMINAR:**

***THE CHALLENGES OF SINGLE PARENTS***

To be held at Davies Memorial UU Church  
7400 Temple Hill Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748  
Saturday, April 11, 2009, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Child Care is Provided.

Members of local congregations are invited to participate in this seminar as:

- a) presenters – see topics below
- b) regular attendees

Potential presenters who are single parents are especially encouraged to participate. Persons who are not single parents but who have special familiarity with single parenting are also welcome to present.

This seminar is sponsored by the Singles Circle at Davies as an outreach to the larger community. The seminar will be in panel format and each presenter will speak for 20 minutes. A question and answer period follows the presentations. We welcome your input to refine the topics identified or to bring a selected topic into closer alignment with a presenter’s specific content.

Topics:

1. Being Mother and Father/Father and Mother to your Son/Daughter
2. Time Demands and Time Management to Provide for personal Space and Spiritual Growth
3. Finding a Partner
4. Keeping your Family in the Zone of Economic Viability (routinely and in the environment of economic meltdown).
5. The Political Visibility of Single Parents

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***Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church***  
***9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda MD 20814***  
***Tel 301-493-8300***

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[newsletter@cedarlane.org](mailto:newsletter@cedarlane.org)  
Next deadline is noon, Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
Editor: Corinne Woodward  
Proofreader: Robin Larkin

**It's Almost Time to . . . Swing Into Spring!  
Cedar Lane's Gala Auction is Saturday, March 21**

**FUN FOR ALL, SOMETHING FOR EVERY BUDGET!**

**6:00 p.m. - Doors open for Silent Auction, Dinner buffet, wine & beer cash bar**

**6:00-7:30 p.m. - Nifty Thrifty in the Chapel**

**6:00-8:30 p.m. - Silent Auction - Lounge & Auditorium**

**8:30 p.m. - Live Auction in the Auditorium**

**PURCHASE ADMISSION TICKETS:** \$30 in advance –  
\$35 at the door. Buy tickets Sunday in the lounge after services, or call the  
CLUUC office. Includes free childcare in the Chalice House, by reservation  
only – contact [maryefarrar@verizon.net](mailto:maryefarrar@verizon.net)

**FIND GREAT BARGAINS:** Vacations, getaways, and B&Bs in great  
locations ~ Dinners at popular area restaurants ~ Tickets to plays, operas,  
cruises, sports events ~ Services and classes for home, health, garden,  
entertaining ~ Gift certificates and unique and uplifting gifts for all ages ~  
Catered meals and home-baked goodies from Cedar Lane chefs

**TAKE HOME A TREASURE:** Visit Nifty Thrifty in the Chapel to buy  
new or gently used treasures for \$25 and under. If you have items in good  
or new condition to donate to Nifty Thrifty, bring them to the Chapel on  
Friday, March 20.

**PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS: \$15 each, Sunday in the lounge or at the door, and you could win:**

- Beautiful “Flights of Fancy” quilt handsewn by the Cedar Lane Quilters
- “50-50 CLUUC Bucks” - split the pot with the church - value getting higher every day! (Last year’s winner took home \$1,000!)

**Please help us make the 2009 Auction a resounding success: If funds raised through the Auction are in excess of its target, the excess will be donated to Manna Food Center. Then you’ll be supporting Cedar Lane’s operating budget and helping our neighbors struggling to meet basic needs. With social-help organizations facing increased demand for food and services during these challenging times, it’s a great way for Cedar Lane’s Auction to do double duty in our community.**



## Adults, Children, and Youth: A New Face for Spring "B"!

Spring "B" is our amazing 5-week period of classes for all ages, allowing young ones, teens and elders to intermingle as they wish, or join with peers, in an amazing array of offerings! Once again, everything from baseball to crafts, bell playing to dramatics, in-depth discussions and much more will be offered.

We are trying something new this year! In order to give people the opportunity to attend Spring "B" AND Sunday worship, we have a new schedule, so that you may choose both experiences if you wish! Our worship services will be from 10 – 10:45 a.m. using themes accessible to all ages, with lots of music. We will end worship in time to see friends in the lounge and get to Spring "B" classes, which are from 11 a.m. – 12: 15 a.m.

Come, learn something new or renew old pleasures! Either way, you'll have the opportunity to explore and to grow, with a bonus of deepening Cedar Lane friendships!

### Spring "B" 2009 Schedule

**10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Worship** together for all ages; child care for 5 and under available.

April 19 – Senior High Service: Our graduating seniors will lead the service and share their unique perspectives on life and on their experiences here.

April 26 – Led by Rev. Roger Fritts. Earth Day!

May 3 – The Rev. Heather Janules and Kristin Grassel will share their experiences; helping to rebuild New Orleans and working with communities on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

May 10 – Led by Rev. Roger Fritts

May 17 – Led by Pam Gehrke

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.** – Spring "B" classes

**May 17 – 12:15 p.m.** Our Annual All-Church-Picnic, complete with homemade ice cream, performances and demonstrations from several of our classes

CEDAR LANE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
9601 CEDAR LANE, BETHESDA, MD 20814-4099  
301-493-8300 fax: 301-897-5713 e-mail: office@cedarlane.org  
web site: www.cedarlane.org

**The Rev. Roger Fritts** *Senior Minister*

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

**The Rev. Heather Janules** *Associate Minister*

**The Rev. Archene Turner** *Coordinator of Senior High Youth Ministry*

**The Rev. Leslie Westbrook** *Community Minister in Pastoral Counseling*

**The Rev. Kenneth Torquil MacLean** *Minister Emeritus*

**The Rev. Roberta M. Nelson** *Minister Emerita*

**Dr. Henry Sgrecci** *Interim Director of Music*

**Dian Belanger** *Chair, Board of Trustees*

**Sara Deshler** *Church Administrator*

**Kristin Grassel** *Membership Coordinator*

**Pamela Gehrke** *Intern Minister*

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