



CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LV, No. 19

April 21, 2009

Sunday Services at 10 a.m.

April 26 , 2009

“A Few Words from Transylvania”

The Rev. Endre Nagy and Cedar Lane Ministers

Through words and pictures, children and adults will learn that Transylvania is not just the pretend home of a Muppet character on Sesame Street. It is a real and wonderful land. Today there are 175 Unitarian Churches in Transylvania. One of them is our partner church in Dicsöszentmárton (pronounced Dee-cha-szent-marton) or in Romanian, Tîrnaveni. Our visiting partner church minister will tell us what life is like today for Unitarians in Transylvania.

May 3, 2009

“Service is our Prayer”

Rev. Heather Janules and Kristin Grassel

So often, the spiritual life is defined by quiet reflection and intellectual engagement. But service to others is often a spiritual act, making values of compassion and respect tangible experiences.

This worship service includes stories and images of “service pilgrimages”—helping to rebuild homes in New Orleans and working with American Indians on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota—plus special music arranged by our music director, Dr. Henry Sgrecci. Come hear stories of hope and learn about opportunities to put our Unitarian Universalist faith into action.

May 10, 2009

“A Mother’s Day Hymn Sing”

The Rev. Roger Fritts

19th century Universalist women campaigned for women's suffrage, for temperance and for world peace. They wrote beat hymns with simple tunes about the causes they supported. In honor of Mother’s day, we will worship by singing a few of these hymns.



Our Partner
Church

Unsung Heroes

It's time to remember the "unsung heroes" among us who deserve to be acknowledged for their unrecognized, but exceptional, contributions to Cedar Lane. Every year, the Board of Trustees recognizes one or more individuals whom we recommend as "unsung heroes." Honoring the winners also is a symbolic thank you to all Cedar Lane's unrecognized volunteers who help create our dynamic congregation.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, May 11.

To nominate an unsung hero, please contact board member Dusty Kreisberg at 202-966-0165 or, preferably, by e-mail at Fsoret1@aol.com or Terry Hoffeld at 301-770-4489 or hoffeld@erols.com. Explain why you believe that person should be recognized. Your nominee(s) should not have been a prior honoree during the past five years, nor have received compensation for the services to the church for which he/she is being honored.

The Board of Trustees will vote on the nominees at its May 19 meeting, and the unsung heroes will be honored at the Sunday service on June 14.

Notes from the Ministers

Roger Fritts

Two candidates are running for President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. One will be elected at the June meeting of the Association, which will be held in Salt Lake City. The winner will serve for four years, with the option of being reelected to serve a second four-year term. Our congregation can cast 18 votes, and the ministers each also get a vote.

The Candidates: After a successful career as a teacher and church administrator, **Laurel Hallman** was called to be the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas in 1987. In the 20 years she has been in Dallas, the church has adopted policy governance, doubled in size to 1,100 members, started two Sunday services and increased its annual budget to \$1.9 million.

After a successful career as a newspaper publisher, **Peter Morales** was called to Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado (a Denver suburb) in 1999. "JUC" was then a church of about 400 members. Jefferson Unitarian Church began to grow rapidly. Peter was asked to become the UUA's director of district services. After two years at the UUA, Peter returned to JUC. Since his return, JUC has grown to a membership of 775.

Laurel is more the "Establishment" candidate. One of her greatest strengths is her ability to raise money. The average pledge in her Dallas church is one of the highest of any church in our association. Fundraising is one important role of a Unitarian Universalist President.

On the other hand, Peter is more the "shake up the establishment" candidate. One of his greatest strengths is that as a successful former publisher, he knows how to run a successful business. Leading our association is much like running a business, and Peter will bring that skill to the position.

Both candidates are excellent. I hope we will have 18 members going to the meeting in Salt Lake. However, if we do not, the Board will decide how to cast our absentee votes. It will not be an easy decision.

Heather Janules

For the past couple years, I have been studying Hungarian. When I went to Transylvania for the first time in 2006, I was amazed that our hosts—who spoke Hungarian at home and Romanian in public—also spoke a lot of English. As Cedar Lane has a long-term partnership with a Hungarian-speaking community, I wanted to meet our

partners half way by learning some of their native language. In one lesson, my teacher Ildiko introduced the phrase for "welcome"—"Isten hozott." Like all phrases of good manners, this was a helpful phrase to learn. However, I was moved when Ildiko also shared with us the literal translation of "Isten hozott"—"God sent you here."

Those who know even a little history of the Hungarian people know that this culture endured countless invasions and foreign regimes. For a people who have suffered at the hands of strangers to define a newcomer as a messenger from God suggests a hospitality that is inspiring. To greet a visitor with "God sent you here" reminds us that each person we encounter is a gift, not a threat or even someone to ignore. Learning this phrase was a lesson in social graces, but also a lesson in spiritual hospitality.

By the time you read this column, we will have welcomed some very special guests at Cedar Lane. A delegation from our partner church community in Dicsőszentmárton arrived on April 17 to experience life in our congregation, the American Unitarian Universalism approach to faith and the community that we call home.

The Rev. Endre Nagy (Nagy Endre in Hungarian) serves the Dicső congregation and is also a Dean in his district, meaning that he provides support and leadership to a number of other churches in his area. Dodi Nagy, his wife, is the music director and primary leader of religious education in Dicső. Dodi and Endre's son, Endre Jr.—a minister in his own right and also a musician—will be with us for a time, along with his wife Eva. Endre Jr. is currently the Francis Balazs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. Also coming from Dicső is Sandor Kiss, a long-time leader in the congregation. Along with being talented religious leaders, our guests are stewards of Transylvanian Unitarianism, the tradition from which American Unitarian Universalism descends.

After we introduce the delegation to the congregation in worship and at the Annual Meeting on April 19, Cedar Laners will have many chances to meet our partners—the Board of Trustees meeting, the Coming-of-Age service on the 25th and the worship service on April 26, where Endre Sr. will preach a sermon about life in Transylvania. On the afternoon of the 26th at 3 p.m., there will be a special tea with our visitors. (An auction event, this gathering requires tickets—\$15 apiece. Many are still available; contact Sara Deshler to purchase.) A number of

other groups and committees are in conversation about how to connect with our visitors.

Having met all of our guests in Transylvania, I know that their presence among us is a tremendous gift. Whatever one calls the sacred, their journey to Cedar Lane reflects something greater than international travel and sharing religious best practices. Their visit speaks to the possibility of building relationships across the barriers of distance, language and culture. The graciousness of our companions speaks to the resilience of the human spirit and long-cherished religious truths.

I invite all of us to share the best of our homeland with our visitors and to listen to their stories of life in Erdèly (Transylvania). I invite us to greet our delegation in the spirit of "Isten hozott," as gifts from beyond ourselves. With their visit, we are nothing short of blessed!

We Care

Our hearts go out to **Gregory McHugh (Neighborhood 9)** and his young daughters **Mia** and **Liv** as they mourn the death of their wife and mother **Sonja McHugh**; her struggle with cancer ended April 6. A Service in Celebration of her Life was held at Cedar Lane on April 17.

Hooray for Samuel Warman, son of **Barbara** and **Tim Warman (N31)**, who graduated from the Ohio State University on Sunday, March 22.

We celebrate with **Wif** and **Aimee Petersberger (N99)** as they welcome their son Nicholas David Petersberger, grandchild to **Helen and Ralph Petersberger (N26)**. Congratulations to all!

Housewarming wishes are with **Marjorie Melton** who recently moved to Ingleside at King Farm in Rockville.

Our own **Carol Zachary (N26)** was featured in a front-page article of the April issue of *The Beacon*, "Everyday Heroes to the Rescue," for her disaster-response work with the Red Cross.

And **Carole (Hollander) Bianchi (N31)** has a photograph featured at the VisArts exhibit (155 Gibbs Street, Suite 300, Rockville) "How You See It." The show will be up until May 10. Congratulations!

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.

Music Notes From the Interim Director of Music

"Thank You" to all who brought their "Messiah" scores and sang with full voices on Easter Sunday. Even if you had no score and simply sang with the spirit, the collection of massed voices produced a glorious "joyful noise" unto the Lord.

Gruppo Piccolo wants you! CLUUC's vocal chamber group has vacancies for alto and bass singers. If you enjoy singing music ranging from Renaissance to Pop in a chamber setting, please consider singing with Gruppo Piccolo. Auditions will be held in early May. For further information contact Dr. Henry Sgrecci at 301-493-8300 or hsgrecci@cedarlane.org.

April 26 is Partner Church Sunday, and we will mark the occasion with special music from the recorder ensemble Kokopelli, led by Cedar Lane member Carole Rogentine. For a Prelude the ensemble will perform *Paduana* and *Galliard* by the Renaissance composer Nicholas Gistou. During the Offertory, Kokopelli will perform two selections from the "Capriol Suite," Peter Warlock's 20th century interpretation of dances from the Renaissance era. The Adult Choir will sing the Hungarian dancing song *Tambur* and the American tune *Healing River* composed by Fred Hellerman, founder of the Weavers folk group.

On May 3, Pastor Heather Janules will be speaking about assisting in the rebuilding of a flood ravaged home during her work trip to New Orleans. You won't want to miss Gruppo Piccolo's premiere of the jazz inspired spiritual "Workin' On a Buildin." The ensemble will also sing the a capella Renaissance song *Now Is the Month of Maying*.

On May 10, Mother's Day, we will honor all mothers with a morning of hymn singing. If hymns are your favorite part of the worship service then you'll want to come early and find a good seat for this special morning when we sing of women's suffrage and the love of Mothers everywhere.

Religious Education Notes

Upcoming Events:

April 25 (Saturday), 5 p.m., Service by our 9th graders as we honor their "Coming of Age." All-church potluck dinner follows.

May 17 (Sunday), 12:15 p.m., All-Church Picnic follows the last day of Spring "B." Bring a lunch for

your family. Beverages and home-made ice cream will be provided.

May 29-31 (Friday – Sunday), All-Church Retreat at Camp Tockwogh. Registration due by April 24.

Youth Notes

Junior High Notes

Junior High Youth Group (JHYG) activities are open to young people in grades 7 and 8. Information is sent via e-mail and snail mail. Should you have any questions, call JHYG Coordinators John Daniel 301-946-5509 or Kimberly Clarkson 301-587-3051.

Upcoming Event:

May 16–17, New York City Trip. Always a highlight of our year! Information will be coming in the next few weeks.

Senior High Notes

Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) activities are open to young people in grades 9 through 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 or archene@gmail.com.

April 25, Maryland Day. We will travel to the University of Maryland for their open house to learn about colleges and universities. 9th Grade Coming of Age Service at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. Followed by a potluck dinner.

April 26, Earth Day on the Mall. We will travel down to the Mall after Spring “B” classes via metro to participate in a local event for Earth Day.

May 29-31, All -Church retreat to Camp Tockwogh. Everyone is encouraged to attend with their families.

June 24-28, General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah. Every year Cedar Lane helps a youth go to General Assembly as a delegate. If interested, please contact Archene.

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. For resources and information on Joseph Priestly District (JPD) Young Adult events, visit the JPD Young Adult Network at www.jpduuyan.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

There are many great programs coming up to finish out our Winter/Spring session:

April 26, *Choose Civility* (2 sessions) \$10/15. This class, sponsored by the Kiplinger Committee for Ethics Education, will explore the book *Choosing Civility*, by Professor P.M. Forni, one of the nation’s leading authorities on the issue of civility and founder of the Johns Hopkins University Civility Initiative. Then, we will learn about the program that his work inspired: The Civility Project in Howard County. Participants will need to purchase the book. *Kelli Shimabukuro*, librarian, Howard County Public Libraries, Howard County, Maryland, and Director of the Civility Project will lead the group.

May 1, *Olive Oil Tasting* (1 session) \$5/10. The class will cover what makes an olive oil an “extra virgin” olive oil and what to look for the next time you are shopping for olive oil. Participants will taste and compare the four broad flavor categories of real, extra virgin olive oil— mild and delicate, fragrant and fruity, olivey and peppery, and leafy green and grassy—and learn how to match the right olive oil to whatever dish you are cooking. The leader will be *Keith Voigt*, a fixture at the Saturday Kensington Farmers’ Market, who enjoys sharing his love of real, extra virgin olive oil.

May 9, *Spring Bird Walk* (1 session) \$5/10. This is your chance to see a Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Cooper’s Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, and a Blue-grey Gnatcatcher to name only a few of the possibilities. During last year’s bird walk, we spotted 39 species; maybe this year we’ll find 40! Bring water; dress for the weather; bring your own binoculars. Meet at the Wild Bird Center at 1776 East Jefferson Street, Rockville at 8 a.m.

May 9, *Dinner Discussion Express B* (potluck, 1 evening). What everyday human-made things do you marvel at? What makes you say “Wow, how is that done?” It can be as ordinary as V8 juice: How does it not separate despite sitting on the shelf for months? Or it can be extraordinary, such as intricate artwork or elaborate architecture. Look around you; come and share your ideas.

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

May 16, *Hiking at Little Bennett Park* (1 session) \$5/10.
May 21, *Planning and Leading a Worship Service* with

the Rev. Roger Fritts. (4 sessions) \$15/20.

For complete information on Adult Programs, please visit our website www.cedarlane.org. To register for a class, complete a registration card, attach your check, and mail or bring them 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.

Connection Circles

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 following groups are currently accepting new members:

- Connections meets the 1st & 3rd Sun, 8:30 a.m.*
- Attitudes Towards Living meets 2nd & 4th Sun, 8:30 a.m.*
- Journeywomen meets the 1st & 3rd Sun, 10:45 a.m.*
- Crones meets 2nd & 4th Tues., 9:30 a.m.*
- Living by Heart I meets 1st & 3rd Sat., 8 a.m.*
- Living by Heart II meets 2nd & 4th Tues., 7 p.m.*
- Living by Heart III meets 2nd & 4th Sat., 8 a.m.*
- The Sharing Group meets 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.*

If you have questions about joining an on-going group, please contact Heather Janules at 301-493-8300 x204, or hjanules@cedarlane.org. To join a group, register through Adult Programs.

Around the Church

Winter's Over!

The closet in the office hallway has a plethora of unclaimed outerwear! If you are missing a coat, jacket, hat, mittens or an umbrella, please stop by the office and look for it here. On June 1, we will donate all unclaimed items to The ARC Thrift Shop in Wheaton, which supports people with disabilities and their families.

Join the Music Committee!

Want to help nurture and expand the CLUUC Music Program? We are looking for some CLUUC members/friends who are not currently in the music program to join the Music Committee starting July 1. Some current committee members will be leaving. We have a team that works well together and encourages creativity and forward thinking. Here is a great opportunity to work collaboratively with others and make real contributions to our church community. The committee meets

every two months, or as needed, and the term of membership is three years.

Our mission: The Music Committee, in conjunction with the Director of Music, actively supports and facilitates the operation of all aspects of the CLUUC music program, as well as overseeing long-term goals and direction. The Committee promotes communication among the congregation, choirs, ministers and the Board of Trustees (BOT) regarding the role of music in our worship and congregational life.

If you are interested or have any questions, contact Ariel Mora, Committee Chair ariel_mora1@hotmail.com

Newcomer Lunch

Sunday, April 26 from 12:15-2:15 Chalice House

After family worship and Spring "B" classes, join other Cedar Lane newcomers and some of the ministers for lunch and lively conversation. Whether you are a visitor or a new member, visited worship or a class, are new to Unitarian Universalism or just new to this congregation, this is a great opportunity to make new connections. The ministers will lead discussions that explore the Unitarian Universalist faith and the many opportunities for service and spiritual growth at Cedar Lane. Also, everyone will have a chance to share their own faith journeys and ask questions.

If you would like to attend, please contact Kristin Leigh Grassel, Membership Coordinator by Thursday, April 23. Please also let her know if you need childcare or have dietary restrictions. Kristin can be reached in person at the church, at kgrassel@cedarlane.org or 301-493-8300 x305.

Graduation News?

Do you have someone graduating from high school, college or anywhere else? Please let us in on the details and what comes next for them! We're not really a nosy bunch at Cedar Lane, but we do thrive on good news from our faith community and would like to share your's in the newsletter! Send info to RE@cedarlane.org!

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK Dinner!

If you have never been to one, please consider coming to this one! It follows the Coming of Age Service recognizing our 9th graders, Saturday, April 25, at 5 p.m. Come and celebrate with our young people and stay to enjoy one another and shared food. Bring something to share for 8 to 12 people according to your last name: A-M brings a main dish; N-Z brings salad or side dish. Beverages and dessert will be provided. **YOU NEED TO SIGN UP** so we will know how many to plan for: 301-493-8300, leave your name and number attending.

"Our Renewable Nation, a Cross-Country Eco-Video Adventure" for kids, families, and all ages (Grades 4 and up recommended) Friday, May 8 7:30 p.m. in the Chalice House Main Room

Nine-year-old Carrick and his family are UU's from Massachusetts with a mission: to cross the U.S. to film an eco-video series for kids about renewable energy and sustainable living. In May and June they'll be driving their vegetable-oil powered VW Beetle from coast to coast, filming their eco-video series that they plan to distribute free to schools nationally, with the mission of inspiring and empowering kids to create a renewable and sustainable future. They'll be staying in Washington D.C. for several days and will be giving a presentation on May 8 at the church, where they'll be showing a selection of their nationally award-winning eco-videos and talking about their cross-country eco-video project. Please visit their website for more information about their exciting project, and come see them on Friday, May 8! (www.OurRenewableNation.org)

This is for families and people of all ages. Questions: Call or e-mail Susan Archer (sarcher@cedarlane.org) or Molly Hauck (mollyhauck@verizon.net) or 301-949-0178.

From Glenis: Thank you Cedar Lane!

*Enter, rejoice, and come in!
Enter, rejoice, and come in!
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in*

Sunday, January 25, was indeed a joyful day. It was a day of celebration, warm words, music and pictures; faces from the past and present; food beautifully and elegantly presented à la Kate Martin and Linda Daniel. It was Cedar Lane at its very best as high energy, love, pride and grace filled our sacred space. It was a day to remember and to cherish—for you and for me.

Alicia has given me my memory books—not one but two books—in which she and Bannon have mounted words, stories, poems, wishes and memories written by adults, teens and children, artfully arranged and interspersed with poems and little fun additions. My quilt has been backed and is now being quilted. I was able to have the patch-worked top in my home for a night. I spread it out and matched each block to the name chart. I found a north star, a pukeko (a New Zealand native bird), a letter, a friendship block, a tea cup; many blocks, lovingly hand stitched and sewn into a beautiful quilt by Herma, Connie and JoAnne. These hand crafted gifts are a gift from the heart. I treasure them. I thank each and every one of you who stitched, wrote notes and shared.

My laptop computer and all that came with it—a printer, a wireless mouse, cartridges, a three year contract—is a new toy and a new joy in my life. I now have the internet and a working e-mail address, glenisbellais@verizon.net. I am delighted. My previous home computer was from the dark ages. The laptop and the check are a continuous reminder of your generous hearts.

Thank you also to

- the speakers who spoke kindly about me: Dian Belanger; Heather; Ken MacLean (read by John Daniel); Amanda (my neighbor, R.E. student and now R.E. teacher); Roger; Bobbie Nelson; and R.E. teacher of many years, Diana Thompson.
- the teens of Cedar Lane. I value the junior high youth group Lifetime Membership presented to me by Anne Chernikoff, and the small sweet key ring with an engraved chalice from the senior high group presented by Margie Renninger.
- John Daniel and Rich Madaleno who arranged for a Maryland State Senate Resolution honoring my 38 years of service to the Cedar Lane R.E. program. I was astounded. "Is this for real?" I asked John!
- the Call Girls who baked those delicious cupcakes for the luncheon.
- Sara, Lyn and Lucy who have programmed my new computer and have been most patient in helping me learn how to use it.
- the many volunteers who served, poured, moved furniture, set tables, decorated and hung banners; did kitchen duty and carried "clouds" in the service. A special thank you to Mickey.
- the Glenis Celebration Committee, which planned and implemented the day: Linda Daniel (food), Lyn Peters (photo montage and laptop), Jeannette Wilson (invitations, order of service and publicity), Holly Parker (decorations), Vanessa Steck (pictures), Dianne Seiffert (logistics), Frances Dearman (memory book and poetry) and Sara Deshler (administration and laptop). What a talented, creative and special group!
- Henry with his trumpet, Tom on the organ, the talented Cedar Lane choir and instrumentalists for the unusual rendition of "Now is the Hour;" and to organizer, Kathie Bryant, and the gifted church musicians who presented a special program of music during the luncheon reception.
- Susan Archer who gathered the committee, masterminded the overall direction and tone, planned and lead the service—and made it special.

I ended my New Zealand trip in Auckland at my niece's home. Natasha and Ramon took me to Cornwall Park (the photograph on the cover of the order of service). Natasha came with me to the Sunday service at the Auckland Unitarian Church, which Roger served during his sabbatical, and where we were greeted at the door by a teacher from my high school days! One evening after dinner on the waterfront we walked to the original wharf, the wharf from which I departed in February 1961 at age 22, leaving behind my family, friends, career, all that I had known, to start a new life in a foreign land. As the Orsova pulled away from the wharf, we sang "Now Is the Hour" and threw paper streamers down to those standing on the dock; the streamers unrolled in our hands until they dropped into the ocean breaking our last tenuous connection with New Zealand.

I have made a new life here, found friends and work that I loved; I have an American family. Here at Cedar Lane I found another family, a family of open-minded caring and delightful people who accepted me with my accent and strange spellings; who took the young "me" in, guided and advised me, supported, loved and trusted me. On Sunday, January 25, we joined together with Henry, the choir, the drums, the trumpet and organ, to sing "Now is the Hour" sending me on my way once again—this time into retirement—bringing my life full circle and connecting my two countries.

Now I must learn to be amongst you in my original role—that of a congregational member. Ric Marsten's words resonate with me:

*Let it be a dance we do; May I have this dance with you?
Through the good times and the bad times, too; let it be a dance.*

It has been an honor and a privilege. I feel so blessed. Let us continue to dance!

I love you,
Glenis

Social Justice Council

Don't be "AIM-Less" - Important Updates:

In early 2009, AIM (Action in Montgomery) voted to join its sister organizations in Baltimore (BUILD) and Howard County (PATH) to form a joint group called MD IAF. This gives the three organizations state-wide power to work together for a voice in how federal stimulus dollars are spent in Maryland. Governor Martin O'Malley's response to MD IAF's demands to restore cuts to Maryland schools is a victory for this new group! Governor O'Malley also reversed his decision to alter education spending formulas that would have resulted in un-

dermining the Thornton legislation, which strives to provide adequate and equitable funding for all students.

At the March 10, 2009, AIM budget Action with County Executive Leggett (attended by 28 Cedar Laners), County Executive Leggett committed to \$19 million in operating dollars toward affordable housing, to double the funds for summer jobs for youth, to increase funding for people without health insurance, and to create a plan of action for next year's budget (2011-2012) for public financing of two years of post-high school education for all who otherwise cannot afford to attend. The final fate of these commitments rests with the County Council. AIM members are lobbying Council members to ensure these items remain in the budget. Check the Lounge Lizard table on Sundays and join the online Social Justice Bulletin (socialjusticebulletin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) to find out how you can be part of that ongoing effort. Questions: contact Helen_Strang1@verizon.net

Global Warming Forecast Worsens

"An assessment of dangerous climate change, updating the IPCC reports, appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences discussing five areas of concern. Unique and threatened systems such as endangered species, rare ecosystems, coral reefs, indigenous groups and inhabited islands are at risk. The increase in the severity and frequency of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, heat waves, forest fires, and floods are of concern. The disparate impacts to rich and poor pose problems of aid and equitability. The aggregate damages from climate change will affect hundreds of millions if not billions of people. Tipping points or large scale discontinuities could occur such as the collapse of the Amazon rain forest ecosystem or the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. Dr. Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University said, "The more we learn about the problem, the more severe the risk becomes and the nearer it looms."

What can you do?

Reduce, then stop fossil fuel use for transportation and home heating. Reduce the indirect use of fossil fuels by eating less meat and limiting consumer purchases. Help start up transition initiatives in your town, community, or neighborhood to prepare for global warming and peak oil. We must both mitigate global warming and adapt to climate change where we can."

From a post on the *UUA Globalwarming Digest*, Vol. 50, Issue 3

Green Day Festival on Saturday, May 9 in Kensington. We will have a wide range of activities, including a home energy audit company, a solar panel

company, a green home hardware store, a water barrel landscaping company, Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection will have reps to discuss home composting (with free compost bins), and rainscape landscaping AND MUCH MORE. Please join us and help spread the word.

Abolishing the Death Penalty: Exploratory Meeting Tues. May 12, 7:30 p.m.

Thanks to Pam Gehrke for a moving and thought-provoking sermon on "New Conversations on the Death Penalty." We know that many were inspired by her words and may want to explore the issue further.

As discussed at January's Empowerment workshop, the Social Justice Council (SJC) is prepared to support emerging interest and leadership on new issues such as this one, through an "issue incubator" process. In that spirit, we offer to create a space for anyone interested in discussing what more Cedar Lane might do on this issue by:

- Arranging a first gathering of Cedar Laners on abolishing the death penalty
- Providing spiritual support (Pam has agreed to join us)
- Facilitating the meeting (and providing snacks!)

The goal of the meeting would be to decide whether this is a good time for Cedar Lane to do more on this issue, and if so, what the first step would be. This first step could include inviting another speaker, monitoring and sharing information about advocacy opportunities, forming an electronic community, convening a new task force or any other idea that emerges from the conversation. SJC is prepared to offer support for emerging leadership (including shared and rotating leadership) with advice, communication opportunities, seed funding, etc. And we understand that the meeting might also lead to a decision that it is not the right time for Cedar Lane to do more on this.

If you are interested in this issue, please plan to come to a meeting at Cedar Lane on May 12, 7:30 p.m. Let us know if you are coming or that you are interested but can't make the meeting by e-mailing newsocialjusticeidea@cedarlane.org.

Free "Rainbow Raffle" for LGCW's June concert

Register in the "Rainbow Raffle" to win 2 free concert tickets! Each winner will receive a pair of tickets for a **June 21 concert in DC by the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington (LGCW)**—the group that delighted Cedar Laners with their music as a part of our February 1 worship services. The LGCW will be joined by the **All**

Souls UU Jubilee Singers, and a spaghetti dinner will follow the concert. Proceeds will benefit Hannah House—a transitional facility for homeless women and their children in DC. The LGBT task force will take raffle registrations (no fee!) in the lounge on Sundays, April 26, May 3 and May 10, at 10:45 a.m. (after the service and before Spring B). Three names will be drawn on Sunday, May 17, and winners will be notified; you need not be present to win. **For more information, check the LGBT Task Force page of the church website, or contact Candice Haaga:** chaaga@aol.com. If you are unable to register for the Raffle in person, e-mail Candice your full name and phone number before May 17, and we will register for you.

LGBT Task Force News: Upcoming Film Event On Saturday evening, May 16 from 6:30-9 p.m., the LGBT Task Force will be hosting "Family Film Night: Movies for all Ages" at Cedar Lane. This event will include films for young children, teens, and adults. (No R-rated movies.) Board/card/table games will be an additional choice. Pizza and popcorn will be provided, but families should bring their own soft drinks. \$5 per person/children under 5 free. Parents must be present, this is not a drop-off event. For further information, contact Liz Quinn at 301-537-0163 or lizquinn07@gmail.com

Beyond the Church

Saturday, May 2, 6 to 10 pm. The Latin American Spring Fiesta is an annual celebration for all ages at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, which includes entertainment, dancing, a craft sale, a delicious Latino meal and a silent auction. The Latin American Taskforce Network, the event's sponsor, supports economic and educational development in Santa Marta, El Salvador as well as other local Latino groups. Adults: \$30, Youth: \$15, Child: \$10, Patron: \$100. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD www.ruuuc.org 301-229-0400.

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**Last Chance to Sign up for the
ALL-CHURCH RETREAT
at Camp Tockwogh!**

A time for Cedar Laners of all ages to spend time together in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. We haven't had an all-church retreat for many years! This one will have a few structured opportunities for those who wish to participate and lots of choices for other activities or for simply relaxing in a pretty, natural setting, alone or with excellent company as your soul dictates! Registration materials are on our website and in the church office. Questions? Call Susan, Jeannette or Gale at the church office, 301-493-8300.



We need to confirm reservations by May 1 so please let us know ASAP!

CEDAR LANE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
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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*
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