



CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LV, No. 21

May 19, 2009

Sunday Services at 10 a.m.

May 24, 2009

“A Moral Equivalent to War”

The Rev. Roger Fritts

On Memorial Day we will remember those who have died in our nation’s wars, and we will dedicate our children, welcoming babies into the world and into the fellowship of our religious community. The sermon will dream about a future without war. I will derive the ideas in the sermon from the hopeful (but not naive) writings of Gene Sharp and his “Albert Einstein Institution,” which is committed to the defense of freedom, democracy, and the reduction of political violence by using nonviolent action.

May 31, 2009

“The Joy of Flowers”

The Rev. Roger Fritts

Bring a flower to church, and at the end of the service take a different one home. (If you forget to bring a flower, we will have extras.) The flower communion was designed for both children and adults at the Unitarian Church in Prague in 1923, and today is a tradition in Unitarian Universalist Churches across the United States.

June 7, 2009

“A Unitarian Universalist Gospel of Love”

Heather Janules

In the novel, *Written on the Body*, Jeanette Winterson observes that the word *love* is one of the most common, overused words people say, but also the one that most of us desperately want to hear. We talk a lot about *love* in our congregations. But what does *love* mean in our faith tradition, really? Love our enemies? Love the stranger? Love donuts? At the invitation of the 2008 Auction Sermon winner, I will explore what *love* means from our liberal religious perspective.

ANNUAL NAMEPLATE DEDICATION

Please join us as we dedicate the next group of name plates to be installed on our Memory Wall on Sunday, May 24, immediately following the 10 a.m. service. Name plates will be dedicated for the following people:

Peter R. Barton
Wilmer D. (Will) Confehr
Mary Noyes Eliot
Alice Chase Gibson
Sam T. Gibson
Stephen Chase Gibson
Florence Rimel Isackson
Carole C. Kreider
Gladys Marie Marquardt
Fumiko S. Nishi
H. Harold Nishi
Virginia H. Roudebush
Warren T. Roudebush
Truman W. Stelle

WHILE AT CHURCH, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VALUABLES UNATTENDED

Wednesday evening, May 14, someone took cash from a church member’s wallet. While setting up for a church event, she had left her purse unattended in the library, the chapel, and the kitchen. This is our sixth robbery in seven months, mostly cash and credit cards taken from women’s purses. Two have occurred Sunday morning, four at other times. The police have given us two photos of a woman using a credit card taken from the church. You can see the photos in the church office.

Notes from the Ministers

Roger Fritts

On June 3, a statue of Ronald Reagan will replace a statue of the Unitarian Universalist Thomas Starr King in the United States capital.

Why is Starr King important? In the Presidential election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln received only 32 percent of the votes in the state of California. A crucial question was whether California would join the Confederacy, delivering its immense gold resources into the hands of the new Confederate Government.

In 1860, at the age of 36, Starr King accepted a call to serve the Unitarian church in San Francisco. In the summer of 1861, a member of his congregation, Leland Stanford, became the Republican candidate for the governor's office in California. Stanford was a slow-speaking man who always read from a prepared text. Reverend Starr King joined Stanford on speaking tours across the state. The result was the election of Stanford, ensuring that California would remain with the Union and not desert to the Confederacy. Starr King is the person most responsible for keeping California in the Union during the Civil War.

The young minister lived only three more years. Infected with diphtheria, he died March 4, 1864. He was only 39 years old.

In Golden Gate Park, city leaders placed a larger than life statue of Reverend Starr King. A mountain in New Hampshire is named Mount Starr King. A granite dome in Yosemite National Park is named Mount Starr King. A Unitarian Universalist seminary in Berkeley is named after Starr King. And in 1931, a statue was placed in the United States Capital.

However, as time goes on memories fade. If we could bring him back from the grave, how would Starr King feel about being replaced by Ronald Reagan? Shortly before he died, friends urged Starr King to run for the United States Senate. He said, "I would swim to Australia before taking a political post."

Perhaps Starr King would not be too upset about having his statue removed from the Capital. On the other hand, he would be pleased to know that mountains in both New Hampshire and California bear his name. He loved mountains. In his sermon "Lessons from the Sierra Nevada," he said, "Breathe the air that is freshened on their heights. Drink the streams that flow fresh from the channels in their sides. And in every season of doubt, temptation, or despair, lift up thine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh thy help."

Susan Archer

One of the hallmarks of Unitarian Universalism is the recognition of the depth and breadth of human capacity, including the capacity for imagination!

Last week, I attended a retreat of our local chapter of the Liberal Religious Educators Association. Something always happens for me when I attend events with my colleagues who share a passion for the array of ways we of all ages learn and grow. I learn. I change. This time was no different.

Last week's time together was modeled in some ways after the Hebrew Midrash tradition, a way of exploring meaning in the stories of scripture. What was different in that exploration was the way in which we expanded what might have stopped at exposition or even discussion or dialog to include imagination through role play? As educators we often use role play as a learning technique but our workshop leader opened up some very moving ways to make the most of it. We happened to use a story from the Bible, but we might well have used a Hindu myth, a folk tale, a news article or any story as a starting place. We put ourselves into the story to act out the roles of those who might have been part of it, to explore our feelings, thoughts, anxieties, hopes and dreams. What might we have been thinking, worrying about, hoping for? How were we feeling about ourselves and the others in the story? Did we change during the interchange? Did new possibilities emerge? The purpose of our doing this was to take us to deeper and more textured layers of meaning in the story, some of which had not been immediately evident. It worked! We moved quickly away from the only intellectual into deeper layers of memory and aspiration and possibility—and a much richer dialog. It allowed us to bring our own life experience into the particular story. It was another way of pursuing truth, another lens that affirms that for Unitarian Universalists "revelation" never has to be sealed in one time or one thought but can always be emerging in fresh ways to add richness to our lives.

So . . . while I could say that last week I had the opportunity to learn a new slant on the already-familiar educational technique of role-playing, it was really much more. It was a reminder of the possibility in each moment of awakening awe, compassion and a sense of connection at ever-deepening levels. It was a reminder that imagination is part of the fuel for our Unitarian Universalists faith. May we all give ourselves the gift of using it often!

We Care

Healing thoughts are with **Mimi Grimm (Neighborhood 10)** as she leaves the Adventist Rehab Center in Rockville for home after recovering from a fall.

Best wishes are with **Don Cleary (N1)** as he travels to Ukraine as part of his humanitarian work with FOCCUS – Friends of Chernobyl Centers, US.

This just in from our former intern minister, **Leslie Kee**: Leslie was ordained by Third Unitarian Church of Chicago on March 29. She is currently serving as a student minister with the Open Circle Fellowship in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Leslie graduates from Meadville Lombard on May 17 and will begin serving as a Chaplain to a women's correctional facility in her home city of Lusk, WY on June 1.

Congratulations to **David Stewart (N9)**, whose new book *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy* reached bookstores on May 12.

We are proud to report that **Claire Bergey (N3)**, **Nell Quinn-Gibney (14)** and **Miranda Lingenfelter**, all Cedar Lane 8th graders, had National History Day projects that advanced from the County level to the State National History Day competition. Hooray!

Graduation is an important rite-of-passage. Here are some of the graduations in the Cedar Lane community:

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS – An update on the three grads who created a wonderful Senior Service for us on April 25: **Margaret Renniger**, graduating from Montgomery Blair High School, will attend Beloit College. **Hadrien Haber-Sage**, soon-to-be graduate of the French International School in Bethesda, will attend Colorado State University. **Claire Hernandez** is graduating from Sherwood High School and will attend Salisbury University. Also, **Catherine Hope Bianchi** is graduating from Magruder High School on June 5. She has accepted admission to the University of California at Santa Barbara, with plans to major in chemistry and minor in instrumental music. Catherine is also the recipient of many awards. **Kevin Haaga** is graduating from Richard Montgomery High School in June. Next fall he will attend The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. His plans include environmental studies and ultimate frisbee. Kevin is son of Candice and Dave Haaga. **Charles Rosenthal**, grandson of Helen and Alan, will graduate from the Shady Side Academy (Pittsburgh) in June and attend in the fall Carleton College in

Minnesota. Kudos to **Jenna Simon**, who is graduating from Gaithersburg High School and will attend the University of Maryland in the fall, where she plans to study Nursing. **Julia Stratton**, daughter of JoAnne King and Bill Stratton, is graduating from Montgomery Blair High School and will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall. **Sandy Wilson** is graduating from Thomas Wootton High School in June. In the fall she will be attending Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. Sandy is looking forward to attending the UU Church of Meadville.

COLLEGE GRADUATIONS - **Julianna Stoll Allen**, daughter of Deborah Stoll and Ken Allen and granddaughter of the late Becky and Julius Allen (founding members of Cedar Lane), will graduate May 24 from Vassar College with majors in Drama and Psychology. **Evelyn Myers** proudly reports that her grandson, **Charlie Ballard**, graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, on May 15. **David Westbrook-Fritts**, son of the Revs. Roger Fritts and Leslie Westbrook, is graduating from Montgomery College. Diane and Bill Wallenmeyer are proud grandparents of: **Jaclyn Maria Starling Wallenmeyer**, graduating with University Honors from The Johns Hopkins University on May 21, 2009, with a double major in Science Writing and French, each with Honors, and a minor in Voice from the Peabody Conservatory of Music as a coloratura soprano.

Special good wishes to our Intern Minister, **Pamela Gehrke**, will be graduating from the Starr King School for Ministry with a Master of Divinity degree on May 21. Her family is very proud of her, says husband Wayne! Ditto for all of us!

Did we miss you or someone in your family? Please contact Susan Archer (sarcher@cedarlane.org) and we will be very pleased to have a second installment of graduates!

Should you know of a member of our community in personal need, you are encouraged to reach out, through practical or emotional support. If you learn that this person wishes to receive a response from the church, please contact Heather Janules at x204 or hjanules@cedarlane.org. All ministers offer pastoral care to our members so you are also encouraged to contact any member of the ministerial team.

Music Notes from the Interim Director of Music

On May 3, Pastor Heather Janules and Membership Coordinator Kristin Grassel led worship with a message

about service to others. Gruppo Piccolo presented its brand new arrangement of the traditional song “Workin’ On a Buildin’” by Dr. Henry Sgrecci.

On May 10 we honored mothers with a special morning of hymns composed or inspired by great women of the Suffrage Movement. Selections included “Touch Not the Cup,” “A Hundred Years Hence,” My Soul is Full of Whispered Song,” “One Sweetly Solemn Thought,” and “The Motherhood of God.” The Choir was recognized by Duncan Ferguson and Roger Fritts for its musical leadership and inspiration to the Congregation.

May 17 marked the final worship service for Intern Minister Pamela Gehrke. The Choir welcomed back oboist Lazo Momchilovich to assist with two lovely songs by American born composer Stephen Chatman; “There is Sweet Music Here” and “Piping Down the Valleys Wild.”

On May 24, the Choir will celebrate the ninetieth birthday of American folk singer Pete Seeger! To mark the occasion, the Choir will sing Seeger’s beloved songs “Turn, Turn, Turn,” “Guantanamera” and “If I Had a Hammer.”

May 31 marks the Congregation’s annual intergenerational flower service. The Choir will sing Felix Mendelssohn’s “The Primrose” and Robert Sanders’ “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom.”

Religious Education Notes

Spring “B” a Raging Success! We had 278 children, youth and adults participate in 25 classes! Many adults have expressed satisfaction with the new schedule enabling them to go to worship and participate in Spring B. We were regaled at our fun picnic with many exhibitions and mini-performances. The ice cream was superb as usual—the best in the state! The annual event takes many hands, creativity and good will from many dozens of people. Very special thanks to our RE Council Spring B Coordinators, Silvia Balderas-Saari and Sarah Kobrin. Well done indeed!

Summer RE

Summer RE for Rising K-5th Graders is a special time for the kids who attend, providing a relaxed, multi-age experience with a UU focus. Our amazing summer Religious Educator, Dawn Steinfeld, creates a friendly and fun environment that encourages friendships and new experiences. Summer RE begins on June 7, offered concurrently with the 10 a.m. worship service.

A Middle School Hangout may happen if enough rising 6th to 8th graders express interest (contact Susan). Most summer services are appropriate for Middle Schoolers and older youth.

Childcare will be available for children ages 5 and younger.

Upcoming Events:

June 7 (Sunday), Summer RE begins for grades K to 5.

Youth Notes

Junior High Youth Group

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

Manna Food Packing needs you on June 30! We would also like to invite our Jr. High Alumni (those moving on to Sr. High) to join us for this always popular event. Watch snail mail and email for details.

Senior High Youth Group

For information on the Senior High Youth Group contact Archene Turner at 301-493-8300 x205 or aturner@cedarlane.org or archene@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events:

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.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

The Adult Programs Committee is working hard on developing programming for fall classes which are promising to be fun, educational and will promote spiritual growth. Watch for the brochure due out in August/September!

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 *Connections* group meeting on Sunday mornings is not continuing. The Connections Circle Committee plans to start a new, short-term group in the late fall for new members and Cedar Laners seeking new connections. If you have questions about joining an on-going group, please contact Heather Janules at 301-493-8300x204, or hjanules@cedarlane.org. To join a group, register through Adult Programs by calling 301-493-8300 ext 207 or email re@cedarlane.org

Around the Church

Please Take Chips!!

We're drowning in wood chips again! Please help yourself to the large piles of chips at the end of the lower Culver Street parking lot for your mulching needs this spring.

Cedar Lane Stage Presents "Tartuffe"

The Cedar Lane Stage invites you to a high-quality, low-cost production of Moliere's TARTUFFE. A satirical comedy, written in 1669, Tartuffe is a classic play, which has been performed for 300 years. Tartuffe is a fraud who insinuates himself into a wealthy family; he captures the respect and devotion of the head of the house while he tries to seduce his wife and marry his daughter. He nearly gets away with it!

There are five performances left over two long weekends including one matinee.

\$15, seniors \$13, Students \$10. Thursday evening, May 21 performance is pay what you can.
301-949-3685, www.CedarLaneStage.com

"Any wrongful act may be redeemed by purity of intention."

— *Tartuffe*

Got Heroes? Our service on Sunday, June 21, will focus on heroes. Heroes can be any gender or age; persons who have been models for our lives; have given us courage, insight or knowledge; have mentored us, in-

spired us, or loved us in such an extraordinary way that we remember them still. I invite you to remember someone in your life and write or speak to me about that person and how they influenced you. Thanks in advance for sharing your memories of these special folks. Some of these may be shared anonymously during the service. Susan (sarcher@cedarlane.org).

The Grounds Thanks You!!

To everyone who made the Plant Sale so successful, the Grounds Committee would like to extend a big Thank-you! Many people donated precious perennial plants and eager buyers snapped them up. The committee cleared about \$700 to re-invest in caring for the church grounds.

Many thanks as well to Joanne Sheffield who donated a young beech tree to honor Marj Melton on her 90th birthday. (We got it planted a little late, Marj is 91 now...) It will take some time before it grows as big as the beech it is replacing behind the Chalice House on Culver Street.

Finally, thanks to those who have relieved us of some of the chips at the end of the Culver Street parking lot. Please continue to help yourselves to more chips!!

Thank you to our Sunday Teams!

We had a wonderful, smooth-running season with our faithful Sunday Teams of ushers and coffee servers for both services and during Spring B. Please take a moment to say thanks when next you see one! Sundays would not be the same without them.

If you, too, would like to be a Pillar of the Church, summer is a great time to give ushering and coffee service a try. It's easy, it's fun, you'll make new friends, and provide important outreach. Please contact Bonnie Beavers, bbeavers@bbeavers.com.

Social Justice Council

Musical Benefit for Rainbow Youth Alliance at UUCR

The Baltimore Men's Chorus will sing at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville on **Sunday, June 7, at 3 pm**. They will perform a cabaret of favorite songs with one-word titles or composers, "The Big One." Proceeds will support the RYA, a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning teens and their allies. Matching funds will be provided by the UUA. Suggested donation: \$15 for adults, \$5 children. See www.uucr.org for directions to 100 Welsh Park Dr.,

Rockville, MD.

2009 Capital Pride in Washington DC

This year's Pride celebration in DC will run for 10 days—**Friday, June 5, to Sunday, June 14.** 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the New York City "Stonewall Inn Riots," which have come to symbolize the beginning of the gay liberation movement in the United States. The theme for DC Pride this year is "Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember—Stonewall at 40." Traditional highlights of the Pride celebration will be the Annual Parade on Saturday evening, June 13, and the Annual Street Festival on Sunday, June 14. A full calendar of 2009 DC Pride events is available at www.capitalpride.org.

♻️GREEN TIPS♻️

Wind Energy on the Cheap from Clean Currents—HURRY!

If you are a Pepco or BGE customer, you have a chance right now to purchase wind energy at rates cheaper than coal-fired electricity. All it takes is a click of a button, your Pepco or BGE account number, and about five minutes. Clean Currents is a sustainably operated clean energy company based in Rockville that is offering 50% or 100% wind power through their "Chesapeake Green" program. By taking advantage of current market conditions, which have caused wind and the overall electricity market to dip, Clean Currents was able to lock in lower rates than the utilities. By signing up with Clean Currents today, you have the chance to lock into those lower rates too! Making the switch is easy. Simply go to <https://www.cleancurrents.com/index.php/C-green-over-view> and follow the instructions. You will need your Pepco or BGE account number to process your application.

And Beyond Cedar Lane

Still making summer plans?

A week on Star Island—10 miles out from Portsmouth, NH—is an affordable and beautiful vacation for both single adults of all ages and families. Kids five and under pay no room and board. Meals, kids activities, open workshops on contemporary topics of interest to [UUs or UCC], and the best sunset in the Northeast—all included.

"May Madness!" Auction

Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists invites you and your Congregation to "May Madness!" our

silent and live auctions and catered dinner, with cash bar, on Saturday evening, May 30, 2009, at the UU Congregation of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive in Rockville. Please go to our website at www.scuu.org for details. We would love to share this wonderful event with you—come meet new friends or greet old ones. For details, please contact Samantha Porter at 301-515-2893 or e-mail her at missinglinks@verizon.net.

Looking for a place to stay:

Karen Carnabucci, a member of the Olympia Brown UU Church in Racine, Wisconsin, is interested in finding a place to stay when she comes for periodic training at the Hellinger Center on St. Elmo in Bethesda. She is seeking lodging other than at a hotel and wonders whether any of our church members offer lodging to other UUs who are visiting Bethesda, for a donation to the church. The dates she will be coming for training are: June 12-15, September 11-14, and December 18-21. She will not have a car so she needs to be within walking distance of a metro station, bus, or Bethesda. Her contact information is **Karen Carnabucci, MSS, LCSW, TEP** 262-633-2645 or karenc@wi.rr.com.

Crime or Punishment: Should Bush Officials be Investigated?

Are there moral and legal obligations to investigate the members of the Bush Administration? Would investigations irresponsibly divert us from addressing critically urgent national issues? Please join us as two leading proponents of each side debate this current topic at the SPARK Speaker series. Wednesday, June 10 at 7:15 at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. DC. \$15 and \$12 for Seniors.

wes.rsvp@gmail.com

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Tel 301-493-8300

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Proofreader: Nancy Derr

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

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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*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Child Dedication Ceremony May 24

What is child dedication? Most faith traditions have a way to welcome young ones into the community. In Christian circles the rite of Baptism cleanses the child of sin and purifies them. We do not have that meaning in our Unitarian Universalist ceremonies when welcoming our babies and young children. We affirm that a baby arrives without sin or shame, as a whole and good person. Our service of *child dedication* allows us (parents, family, friends, congregation) to promise to the child and to each other that we will love and nurture her or him and that we will teach the best of what we know. We are not dedicating the child to any belief or cause but are instead dedicating ourselves to this responsibility of raising a child. On Sunday, May 24, we will take time for our dedication ceremony within the regular worship service (10 a.m.). If you wish to be part of this, please contact Susan Archer (sarcher@cedarlane.org) with the name of child, the date of birth, and names of siblings, parents, and grandparents.