



CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LV, No. 22

June 2, 2009

Sunday Services at 10 a.m.

June 7, 2009

“A Unitarian Universalist Gospel of Love”

Rev. 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.

June 14, 2009

“Joy and Sorrow”

Rev. Roger Fritts, Loren Westbrook-Fritts and our Adult Choir

Using words and music, the service will explore the life of Spanish Catalan cellist Pablo Casals (1876-1973). Cellist Loren Westbrook-Fritts has performed at the Kennedy Center and will be one of the “Artists in Residence at Strathmore” in 2010.

The Board of Trustees will honor our Unsung Heroes at this service.

June 21, 2009

“Worthy Dreams and How We Got Them”

Rev. Susan Davison Archer

On this Father’s Day, we will honor fathers and all those of any gender or age who have been models for our lives, who have given us courage or insight or knowledge, who have mentored us, inspired us, or loved us in such an extraordinary way that we remember them still. We will also reflect on the roles of such people in maintaining a strong society and a hopeful future. If you remember such a person in your life, I invite you to write or speak to me about that person and how they influenced you

(sarcher@cedarlane.org). Some of these may be shared anonymously during the service.

Pledge Drive Ends June 15!

When it looked as though the Pledge Drive this year would fall far short of its goal, the congregation decided to hold a supplemental pledge drive in an attempt to reach our goal of \$890,000. At the time of the congregational meeting, the drive was more than \$120,000 short of the goal; at the time this newsletter went to press, we were less than \$40,000 short of our goal. If you would like to help us meet this goal, to avoid laying off staff, you have several choices:

- 1) If you have not pledged, please do so. Please be as generous as you can.
- 2) If you have pledged, you can raise your pledge. If everyone gave another \$20 per month, or \$240 per year, we would make our goal. If you can raise it by more than that, you can make up for someone else who cannot.
- 3) You may give a one-time gift. Many Cedar Laners have chosen to do so.

We will close the Pledge Drive on June 15; on June 16 the Board of Trustees will approve the 2009-2010 budget based on our pledged income at that point. Our goal amount would keep Cedar Lane staff and programs at current levels. If you think those programs are worthwhile, please keep that in mind as you decide about your pledge or your gift.

The Pledge Drive Committee

A Wider Circle Needs Your Help!

As a congregation, we will be collecting personal hygiene items for the clients served by A Wider Circle. AWC provides furniture and other basic household items to families coming out of homelessness, as well as residents of public housing facilities in the region. These items are difficult for their clients to obtain. Trial sizes are fine but full size items are even better! Deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream and other items are much needed by these families. So add another item when you shop and drop it in the box marked “A Wider Circle” by the Social Justice table in the lounge on Sundays! Many thanks! For questions, call Anne Thompson 301-461-1332.

Notes from the Ministers

Roger Fritts

It is always a loss for a minister when good people move away. An example is Robert and Nancy McClusky. Bob and Nancy will soon be heading to Ohio to live in a community near Oberlin College, where they both went to school. Over the years I have greatly appreciated their hard work, wisdom and kindness. Both have been outstanding leaders on our Partner Church Committee and Nancy has been a leader in our music program. Bob and Nancy, I will miss you.

On the other hand, it is always exciting for ministers to have good, published writers in our congregation. For example, I am reading the new book by Cedar Laner David Stewart: *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy*. It is an absorbing account of a critical period in American history that I know little about. I recommend it for your summer reading, along with all the good writing by Cedar Lane members.

Want to vote on who will be the next UUA President? Right now we have the possibility of seven absentee ballots. (This number could drop if more of you decided to go to the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Salt Lake City.) Denominational Affairs Committee members will have first consideration for the absentee ballots. If there are still any remaining, the Committee invites members of the congregation who do not plan to attend GA, but who would like to cast absentee ballots, to provide their names to the committee. If there are more names submitted than absentee ballots available, the committee will decide who will cast the absentee ballots. I will lead a discussion about the candidates after service, June 7, in the church library.

So we have endings, beginnings and meetings. Beloved members move on to start a new chapter in their lives. A member writes a book worth reading. And some of us gather to play a role in deciding our association's leadership. We are part of a rich, interesting, constantly changing community.

Heather Janules

Driving down Lamb's Meadow Road on the Eastern Shore, I received a great gift, a gorgeous sunset - the clouds like thin strands of cotton stretched across the horizon, delicate shades of rose and blue, the sky bright with its soft light. I have seen beautiful sunsets before and I know I will see them again. Yet, this sunset was so

spectacular it has stayed with me long after the sun went down and the dark of that night began.

I saw this sunset as I was driving to the All Church Retreat at Camp Tockwogh. Now, looking back at this special time together, I realize that this sunset was only the first of a number of sensory experiences that moved me. With my fellow Cedar Laners, I smelled the sweetness of honeysuckle blooming all around me, I saw a herd of deer running across a field with the precision and elegance of dancers, I touched the soft fur of the horses that live at Tockwogh. I also had a new experience – kayaking. The pleasure of smoothly gliding over the surface of the bay suggests that this first experience in a kayak will not be my last.

The All Church Retreat was also wonderful for the opportunity it offered – to spend time with the members of our congregation outside of regular church life. There were no committee meetings, no business to do and – besides meals, the campfire and a short, Sunday morning chapel service – nothing scheduled. The time was for us to explore this natural sanctuary, to participate in outdoor activities and to do these things together, as a faith community. Another joy of this weekend was putting faces to names and getting to know people we already knew in a different, deeper way.

I closed our worship service at the retreat by saying “may the joy and beauty of our time together stay with us for the rest of today and for all the days to follow.” While I hope that these words do prove to be true, I know that many of our fellow Cedar Laners could not attend the retreat.

I hope this brief account reflects the sense of connectedness – to the earth and to one another – that I discovered at the retreat and invites all of us to imagine these connections in the midst of whatever challenges may come. And I also hope that this year's retreat is the first of many to follow so many more may see the beautiful skies, smell the sweet flowers, laugh and play with friends, old and new. May it be so.

We Care

We Care: A Ministry of Neighborhood Support

The We Care program is a network led by volunteers who reach out to address short-term needs – food deliveries, rides to doctor's appointments, a listening ear in the event of a loss.

The Cedar Lane congregation is organized geographically by “neighborhoods”; each neighborhood has at least one chairperson to coordinate support. Look at your nametag or the map in the church office to find your neighborhood.

We hold in our hearts **Liz, Allen, Sam and Owen Brinker (Neighborhood 31)** as they mourn the death of Liz’s uncle, Robert Safley.

Vivienne Patton (N37) is full of good news about her family: “[My son] **Andrew Patton** graduated with a BA from McGill University in Montreal in 07. He married Itzel Rodriguez Rosales, another McGill grad. They now have a daughter, Kaira, who just turned one. They live in Montreal. [My other son] **Alec Patton** received his PhD in 08 from Sheffield University in England. Alec and Briony Chown married on April 4, 09. They live in London.” Hooray!

We send our condolences to **Ros Hiebert (N33)** with the passing of her sister, Evelyn Hastings.

We are happy to report that two Cedar Laners have returned to the area. **Hiltje Irausquin** and **Phoebe Pfahler** have both moved to Springhouse on Battery Lane in Bethesda (**N6**.) Hiltje from a rehab facility in New Jersey and Phoebe from ManorCare in Potomac. Welcome back!

And it is with sadness that we report the death of **Ann Steele-Wright**, a former Cedar Lane member. A Service in Celebration of Her Life will be held in September at the church.

The list of graduates continues! Here are some more graduations in the Cedar Lane community:

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS – Karen Bernstein is graduating from Paint Branch High School. She will attend Tulane University where she plans to major in psychology or global health. **Alina Pechacek**, granddaughter of **Bob and Helen Pechacek** will graduate from Phillips Andover in June and attend Oberlin College in Ohio.

COLLEGE GRADUATIONS - Jenny Gressman is graduating from the University of Denver with a degree in Molecular Biology as well as minors in Math and Chemistry. After traveling to South Korea to visit her birth family she will pursue job possibilities, perhaps in epidemiology, public health or with Americorps. **Alexander Leslie Kain**, grandson of **Esther and Morton Foxe**, received a B.A. with honors in American Studies from Yale on May 25. Alex will be working on a research vessel in the Beaufort Sea. **Peter Valente** re-

ceived his undergraduate degree at Earlham College. A music and math major, Pete will teach for a year on the Pacific island of Pohn-pei, Micronesia. His mother, **Nina Koltnow**, grandparents **Dot and Pete Koltnow** and brother **Nick** are enjoying Pete's company before he leaves for his assignment with World Teach.

And **Michael and Elizabeth Benefiel** are proud to report that their daughter, **Rebecca Benefiel Bijour**, will receive a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School on June 4th. She will then serve as the Sabbatical Minister for the UU Congregation of Stowe and Acton.

Congratulations to all our graduates and their families! **Is your graduate missing?** We will have one more listing in the next edition of the newsletter. If you already sent some info which is not included, please send it again as a computer crash deleted some email communications from last month.

Should you know of a member of our community in personal need, you are encouraged to reach out to them. If you learn that this person wishes to receive a response from the church, please contact Heather Janules at 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.

On Board

In a long, thoughtful, eventful, amazingly good-humored (given the “long”!) meeting on May 19, the Board dealt with multiple issues that left us feeling positive about the state of our beloved community despite continuing challenges.

We learned of a heartening response to our supplemental Pledge Drive. With pledges still coming in, we are now within \$40,000 of our budget goal—a far less worrisome place than we were in just a month ago. With your help, we might even reach our goal. Thank you for not only voting to give again, but for stepping up to do it.

Meanwhile, the Finance Committee is preparing multiple scenarios to cover a range of revenue, with options for making it stretch, including if necessary a one-time (board-approved) dip into the endowment draw, and ways to chip and shave and cut with the least onerous consequences.

Everything stopped (including my breathing) when Ardene Shafer and Michael Murray, co-chairs of the Music Director Search Committee, trooped in, accompanied by the entire Personnel Committee who had just

approved their recommended candidate. From a sizable national pool of talented, accomplished applicants, the one who (sur)passed their thorough scrutiny was—Dr. Henry Sgrecci. Congratulations, Henry! Welcome. We hope you feel already at home.

We also approved a new charter for our devoted Music Committee and supported their request to send representatives, especially our Music Director, to the annual professional conference of the UUMN (Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network). For our reactivated Denominational Affairs Committee, we approved their new charter, their recommended delegates to 2009 General Assembly (it's not too late if you'd like to go), and their recommended procedure for Cedar Laners wishing to vote absentee in the UUA presidential election (a new option to give each congregation its full potential voting strength).

We heard an excellent presentation on the Personnel Committee's proposed new Personnel Policy Manual, which adapts a widely used UUA model. The board will take up final approval in June.

Research on a possible cell phone tower on our grounds continues, with an able ad hoc committee doing field studies, assembling documentation, and asking tough pertinent questions. Stay tuned.

Dian Belanger, Chair, Board of Trustees,
dobelanger@comcast.net

Music Notes from the Director of Music

Dear Friends of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church,

The past seven months have produced a most extraordinary journey for me as I have met you, sang with you, made music with you, and been cheerily welcomed as a part of the Congregation. I am very proud of the good things that we have accomplished in these few months and am encouraged by the wide range of possibilities that lie ahead.

I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the various committees who have had a hand in bringing me to Cedar Lane and in extending to me the opportunity to remain as Director of Music. All of those individuals took their charge seriously and worked diligently to ensure that due process was served. I am honored to have been selected for the position and pledge that I will use all my energy to bring a joyful noise to CLUUC.

As summer approaches...

This is a great time to take stock of your own personal involvement in music at Cedar Lane. Have you been on the sidelines too long and are now feeling an urge to join in? It's never too late to start.

What is available now? The Adult Choir will be meeting on Sunday mornings throughout June and July to prepare music for the 10 AM service.

What about the fall? Beginning in September Gruppo Piccolo, our chamber ensemble, and the Adult Choir will meet on Wednesday evenings. The Youth and Youth Handbell Choirs will meet on Thursday evenings. We are interested in establishing a beginning Children's Choir and an Adult Handbell Choir. Gruppo Piccolo is looking for an additional alto and bass to join the group.

What if I can't sing very well and don't have a lot of time to learn? Not a problem- help is on the way. We are considering the formation of an "Ad Hoc" Choir that may meet once a month and sing familiar hymns and "E-A-S-Y" songs. This group will gather for the joy and fun of singing with others. Maybe we will sing during worship, maybe not. That answer will be determined by the makeup of the group.

Do you have other musical skills that you would like to share?

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church is here for you. Your contributions make it what it is and what it can become. Give me a call to discuss your involvement or that of your child. Office- 301/493-8300. E-mail - hsgrecci@cedarlane.org

Again, thank you for your support and for the privilege of being your Director of Music!

Sincerely,
Henry Sgrecci

Religious Education Notes

Time to Register! It may seem that our "regular" RE has just ended but we are busy planning for September. Families who have had children in this year's program should receive registration instructions in early June by e-mail unless you have requested them by snail mail. Registration materials will also be available on the counter under the nametags in the sanctuary and in the church office or on the website. Contact Gale or Jeannette if you have questions (301-493-8300 x207; RE@cedarlane.org).

Summer is Coming and so is RE!

June 7–September 2: We are happy to tell you that we will once again offer Summer RE for children entering grades K–5 in the fall. This is a multi-age class taught by Summer Religious Educator, Dawn Steinfeld.

Watch for more details about content and activities! Childcare will be provided for children ages 5 and younger. Some years we have offered the “Middle School Hang-Out” for youth entering grades 6–8. If you have a child in this age range who would like to come on Sundays to reconnect with friends and play games, listen to music and hang out together, please let Susan Archer know (sarcher@cedarlane.org) by June 5. We will only offer this if there are several young people who wish to come. Most summer services are also enjoyable for older young people.

WANT TO SWAP SNAIL MAIL FOR E-MAIL? In our efforts to be leaner and greener we will be more regularly using e-mail for communication with our RE families. However, **IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE RE INFORMATION REGULARLY BY SNAIL MAIL**, please let us know and we will make that happen! We don’t want to miss anyone in the communication loop! Also, if you wish to receive e-mail at more than one address (e.g. for two parents, or at work and at home, etc.), please let us know by listing them on your RE registration materials when you return them or contact re@cedarlane.org.

RE Teachers for 2009-2010 are Still Needed: Our teachers and youth advisors are our most direct communicators of the loving and supportive faith community we want to provide for our children. Please consider this as a venue for your service to Cedar Lane and as a fun and meaningful experience for yourself. We have opportunities at both sessions for most ages, from babies through teenagers. Please contact Susan Archer to explore what is entailed in teaching RE. Please know that there are many supports in place for our teachers, including subs when needed, consultations with staff, “master teachers”, and as always, a team approach. Many thanks for giving serious consideration to this possibility.

Upcoming Events:

June 7 (Sunday), Summer RE begins for grades K-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 e-mail 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 e-mail 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.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

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

As a service project the Living by Heart II Connection Circle has established a special place in the church library for a collection of books, poems and other inspirational writings for the special, though not exclusive, use and enjoyment of Connection Circle members. The books and poems in the collection were donated by Circle members. The books can be checked out and the poems can be easily copied.

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. 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 by calling 301-493-8300 x207 or e-mail re@cedarlane.org

Social Justice Council

A BUDGET VICTORY for AIM

Action in Montgomery (AIM) won a huge victory on May 21 when the County Council approved a budget for Fiscal Year 2010 that contained \$57.8 million to fund new affordable housing, rental subsidies, and programs for the homeless.

AIM's victory is the result of organizing work that began in the fall with a campaign of house meetings to discover how the economic downturn was affecting members of its member congregation. With the information from 103 house meetings (Cedar Lane's AIM team held 3 meetings), AIM leaders developed a list of items it wanted protected in the 2010 budget.

On March 10 2009, at a public Action attended by 550 AIM supporters, including 30+ members of Cedar Lane, the County Executive agreed to increase the Housing Initiative Funding (HIF), which finances affordable housing, from \$30 million in the 2009 budget to \$60 million. Because the County Council must approve the executive's proposed budget, AIM understood that it needed to monitor the Council's budget deliberations to protect its priorities, especially the HIF money.

In addition to having a significant presence at Council budget hearings, AIM organized to collect 3,072 pledge cards in support of continued HIF funding. Cedar Laners signed 214 cards and knocked on doors to collect signatures from 75 residents of housing supported by the HIF.

During their deliberations, the Council cut \$3.6 million from the HIF funds. AIM and Cedar Lane thank Nancy Floreen who not only did not vote for that cut but also was able to restore \$600,000 of that money.

In a year in which most programs suffered substantial cuts, AIM celebrates having won a huge victory.

The Cedar Lane AIM Team

Musical Benefit for Rainbow Youth Alliance at UUCR

The Baltimore Men's Chorus will sing at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville **this 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 the church.

2009 Capital Pride in Washington DC

This year's Pride celebration in DC will run for ten 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.**

Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington Spring Concert--Sunday, June 21 at 4 p.m.

The Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington will present a concert on June 21, 2009, 4 p.m., **Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church**, 4th and Independence Avenue SE, **to benefit Hannah House**, a DC nonprofit organization that provides structured, caring homes and supportive services for homeless women with and without children. The concert ("*From Broadway to Hollywood and In-Between*") will feature a musical coast-to-coast trip and will be followed by a **free spaghetti dinner for the audience**. **Special guests at the concert will be The Jubilee Singers of All Souls Unitarian Church**, who will be sharing musical selections from their own repertoire. Additional concert information (ticket purchase and transportation) are available at www.lgcw.org.

And Beyond Cedar Lane

Looking for a summer UU experience, for adults and for families?

Check out UUMAC – The UU Mid-Atlantic Community – which meets July 19-25 on the campus of DeSales University, near Allentown, PA. UUMAC is an “intentionally happy, thoughtful, and open place,” a spiritual retreat, a family summer camp, and institute for learning and exploration, a weeklong party, a meeting of kindred souls! Something for all ages. Try it, you'll like it! Check out this year's activities and program, “The Creativity-Ecology Connection” by Jim Scott (“wonderful UU musician and story-teller,” – S. Archer) at www.uumac.org, or pick up a brochure under the nametag rack!

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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 *Director of Music*
Thomas Guthrie, *Organist*
Dian Belanger *Chair, Board of Trustees*
Sara Deshler *Church Administrator*
Kristin Grassel *Membership Coordinator*

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

**The Environmental Task Force Would Appreciate Help With The Recycling Project at Beacon House.
Can you help?**

1. Participate in the field trips that we have planned for the Beacon House Camp on Wednesdays, July 1, 8, and 15.

July 1: Visit the Prince George's County landfill and recycling centers, and go to the National Arboretum.

July 8: Visit the Earth Conservation Corps center on the Anacostia, which they, with the help of local teens, have cleaned up so beautifully that the bald eagles have returned to it.

July 15: Listen to a woman from the Alice B. Ferguson Foundation talk about trash and help lead a cleanup of the area around Beacon House.

Participating in these field trips will get you out of the world of Cedar Lane, and let you enjoy these kids as they react to learning about reducing, reusing, and recycling.

2. Buy stainless steel water bottles in the lounge to raise money so we can donate water bottles to kids in the Beacon House Camp.