



CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LV, No. 23

June 16, 2009

Sunday Services at 10 a.m.

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.

June 28, 2009

“Unitarian Universalism: Everything That’s Wrong With It”

John Kelly, Washington Post Metro columnist

We Cedar Laners come to Unitarian Universalism for many reasons, but probably chief among them is that it’s the best fit for us. But no religion is perfect and here’s what’s wrong with ours.

July 5, 2009

“Independence Day Jazz Concert and Service”

Rev. Roger Fritts and the Capital Focus Jazz Band

At Cedar Lane we celebrate the Fourth of July week-end with our annual Jazz worship service. Join us! Stay for the Partner Church Committee benefit brunch following the service.

Pledge Drive Success!

It’s been a roller coaster ride for the pledge drive. We started off setting a modest goal, knowing economic realities. Then we had training for visiting stewards, and they pledged very generously. Mark Morrison-Reed’s sermon was wonderful, and Pledge Drive Sunday was a great success. Then in the spring, economic reality set in; people have lost jobs and income from investments has been low. The congregation decided that, rather than cut staff, we’d have a supplemental pledge drive. As of a week ago we still didn’t know if we’d make our goal. Some very kind anonymous donors agreed to match any pledge increase up to \$500 and to double any new pledge we receive for the last week of the pledge drive. That has done it! We’ve not only made our goal, but surpassed it, so thank you for all your support, and the hard work of our committee, and of course, our benefactors.

Susan Clark, Pledge Drive Chair

Unsung Heroes Sung!

It was with great pleasure that this past Sunday, the Board of Trustees introduced the Unsung Heroes for this year, Ellen and Warren Thompson. There are many significant contributions they have made over their past 40 years with us here. Ellen works as a Call Girl (receptionist), makes flower arrangements for the Sanctuary and Chapel, helps with Memorial Services, and has been active with the Alliance, having served 4 terms as President. On Sundays you will see her managing the Alliance Book Corner in the Lounge.

Warren has ushered and done security, and has worked to organize both. He is part of the Audio/Visual Committee managing the sound and video for services. Warren spear-headed the effort to clear a minefield in Afghanistan and galvanized the area UU community to assist. With the Alliance he helps with A/V needs and has served as Program chair. The Thompsons hosted Ukrainian children and their translator the summer that the Friends of the Chernobyl Centers children came to stay. They both readily make themselves available at short notice to answer their community’s needs. As Roger has expressed it, theirs is a service of love.

Notes from the Ministers

Roger Fritts

Along with several Cedar Laners, whom I spotted in the crowd, I attended the graduation ceremony at Montgomery College.

The “Board of Trustees Scholars” each spoke. I liked the talk by Douglas Baldwin, who was completing a four-year apprenticeship program as an HVAC technician. He had learned a useful, practical skill, and we were all celebrating his accomplishment, which is a good thing to do. I think we need to do more celebrating of the people who do the work we depend on for our comfortable lives.

Two talks by African women, Ms. Germaine Y. Nendah, from Cameroon, and Ms. Awa A. Drame, from the Ivory Coast, stole the show. These graduates both plan to be medical doctors. The stories they told in their brief talks left most of us in tears. Looking around at the audience, I saw the traditional dress of Sikhs and Buddhists, of Africans and South Americans.

The Commencement Speaker was Suzanne Malveaux a White House correspondent for CNN. She gave a fine speech, although she had (I think) six points. A retired Episcopal minister said “I don't want 7 points nor 5 points, nor even the classic 3 points—just one distinct point.”

It was a long event. Garry Trudeau said that “Commencement speeches were invented largely in the belief that outgoing college students should never be released into the world until they have been properly sedated.” I was glad when it was over. But I was also glad I had attended.

Susan Archer

We of late have been pummeled by reports of shootings in our nation, incidents fueled by hate, actions done by those wishing to create terror. The list is long this year. Among these tragedies are our own congregation in Knoxville where brave laypeople stopped a gunman and saved the lives of many others at a cost of their own; the shooting of a doctor who performed abortions, murdered in his own house of worship; and only yesterday, the shooting at the Holocaust Museum, where a security guard lost his life. Sadly, there are others.

Violence abounds, hearts break, ours among them. In

thinking about the museum it is hard not to take note that the place itself is, like a house of worship, a sacred one. Its contents document not only the presence of hate in our world but also of amazing sacrifice, not only of unspeakable inhumanity, but also of courage and strength beyond imagination. The message is powerful, and one we need to keep before us. Likewise, as UUs, our own messages of tolerance, of justice, of democratic process, of love need to be nurtured in all our communities, taught through our actions and words to our children. Our world needs this. We have a role to play. But what we do is part of a long process in this arc that bends slowly to the better. For one thing, we know we have to be “in it for the long haul!”

There remain things we can do right now. I am thinking particularly about work to limit access to guns. I know that gun laws might not have prevented all of the recent acts of violence, but more legislation would most certainly have slowed violence on many fronts in our country. Acts of domestic abuse, gang violence, hate crimes of many sorts might be lessened. I am saddened that Eleanor Holmes Norton has been forced to choose to encourage legislators to vote down access to democratic process for District residents, rather than accept a rider to the legislation that would eliminate all local gun laws. And I applaud her for making such a choice. I look forward to hearing more from her in the days to come, and I expect to connect with my own legislators about this turn of events. I encourage all of us to make our own opinions known. It is potentially an immediate matter of more lives at stake throughout our area, including the many young people who are most often the victims. Perhaps you have alternative ideas. Let them be known!

However each of us chooses to act, let us acknowledge that we can make a difference, whether it be through the education of our children, the change over time of cultural norms, or through direct action in the political process. I believe, as Margaret Mead once wrote: *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.* 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 name tag or the map in the church office to find your neighborhood.

Our hearts go out to **Marjorie and Steve Rynas (Neighborhood 30)** as they mourn the sudden death of their son, Chris Tobey.

We rejoice that three Cedar Lane couples have become grandparents for the first time (and two of these new-borns are children of Unitarian Universalist ministers):

Miriam Elizabeth Bijur, granddaughter of **Michael and Elizabeth Benefiel (N13)** was born on May 31.

Abigayle Jean Lerner, granddaughter of **Karen and Harvey Lerner (N22)** was born on June 1.

Marjorie Lillith Feingold Thoryn, granddaughter of **Pat Phillips and Michael Thoryn (N12)** was born on June 6.

Healing wishes are with **Marjorie Melton (N31)** as she recovers from a second hip surgery at the Hebrew Home in Rockville.

We send our congratulations to **Joe and Laverne Havelka (N24)** as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 13.

Good wishes are with **Frances Martin (N5)** and her family as they celebrate the wedding of her granddaughter, Lindsay Martin, to Geoffrey Cline at Lake Tahoe, CA on June 20.

More Cedar Lane graduations! HIGH SCHOOL: **Jessica Michek**, daughter of **Catherine McKeon and Richard Michek (N29)**, will graduate from James Hubert Blake High School and attend Oberlin College in the Fall. **Jessica Jones**, granddaughter of **Frances Martin**, will graduate with honors from Thomas Downey High School in Modesto, CA. She will attend UCLA, majoring in double bass classical performance. COLLEGE: **Anahita Karimi**, daughter of **Mary and Hamid Karimi (N4)** graduated May 17 from Franklin Olin College of Engineering outside Boston with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. She is currently working as a business analyst with Censeo Consulting in downtown DC. **Rebecca Cisin**, granddaughter of **Frances Martin**, graduated from Mills College in Oakland,

CA, with a major in Philosophy. **Wylie Burge**, son of **Lucy and Tom Burge (N31)** and grandson of **Jackie Burge (N23)** graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a degree in Jazz Guitar Performance. After traveling to Thailand, Australia, and New Zealand in July and August, Wylie will continue teaching and performing. **Carrie Shaw**, daughter of **Betsy and Sandy Shaw (N1)** graduated from the University of Florida on May 3 with a BA in religion and French. She will be returning to the area at the end of summer to search for a job.

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.

Music Notes from the Director of Music

For many, summer represents a time of change. For Nancy McClusky and her husband, Robert, this summer represents big change as they prepare to leave their home in Bethesda to take up retirement in Oberlin, Ohio. Nancy has been a member of the ALTO section of the CLUUC Choir since 1981. She joined the Choir as a diversion from the myriad responsibilities of motherhood. Having served in the R.E. program during her children’s formative years, Nancy said she relished the chance to move “upstairs” into the Choir loft to resume making music.

Nancy had studied both piano and french horn through her teen years. She played horn in the orchestra at Oberlin College, where she earned her Bachelors degree in English, and then took up singing in Gilbert and Sullivan community productions during her early years as a junior high school English Teacher. In her early years here in Bethesda she sang with the Choral Arts Society of Washington.

Nancy takes with her a host of musical memories from CLUUC. She has always appreciated the great diversity of music that has been presented by the Adult Choir. “I really love Baroque music,” she remarked, pleased to have been invited to join the newly forming Gruppo Piccolo a few years ago, where the motets and madrigals of Palestrina, sung unaccompanied, are common fair. Nancy particularly enjoyed those late night Christmas Eve services when the Adult Choir would perform masterpieces in their entirety.

We wish Nancy and Bob well in their transition to retirement in Oberlin, Ohio. Nancy leaves us with a well-spring of love, and the knowledge that her folder will be awaiting her return at any time.

A special thanks to those who have responded with interest about enjoying an Ad Hoc choir experience and thoughts about special concerts and special talents. I enjoy hearing from you and welcome your inquiries. Office - 301-493-8300. E-mail- hsgrecci@cedarlane.org

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 name-tags 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: If the weather is good, we will be outside for most of our lively Summer RE program for children entering grades K-5 in the fall. This is a multi-age class taught by Summer Religious Educator, Dawn Steinfeld. Loving and fun childcare will be provided for children ages 5 and younger by Vanessa Steck and other wonderful Cedar Laners. Older children and youth should find most of our summer services enjoyable! Don’t stay home, make summer sizzling good for families at church!

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 R.E. 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 commu-

nicators 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 for most ages and at both sessions, from babies through teenagers. Please contact Susan Archer to explore what all of this might entail. Please know that there are many supports in place for our teachers; subs when needed, consultations with staff and “master teachers,” and as always, a team approach. Many thanks for giving serious consideration to this possibility.

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, an institute for learning and exploration, a week-long party, and a meeting of kindred souls! There is something for all ages. Try it, you’ll like it! This year’s activities include the program “The Creativity-Ecology Connection” by Jim Scott (a wonderful UU musician and story-teller.) For details, visit www.uumac.org, or pick up a brochure under the name-tag rack!

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.

Teens and Young Adults Can Make a Difference!

See article under Social Justice Council and visit www.freedomsummer.us

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

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 ongoing 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.

Around the Church

Kiplinger Committee Announces New Members

The Kiplinger Committee welcomed 5 new members at its June 4 meeting: Nancy Bliss, Dick Crout, Ken Jones, Ralph Krause, and Rich Madaleno. "We are delighted to have these folks join our committee," said Betty May Cleary, committee chair. "We'll miss the retiring members but look forward to another year of meaningful work." The Kiplinger Committee sponsors various events dealing with ethics, the most notable being the November lecture.

Social Justice Council

50/50 Collection for Special Care Fund

The Cedar Lane offering on June 28 will be shared with the **Special Care Fund** of the Primary Care Coalition (PCC) of Montgomery County. PCC, a 501-C3 non-profit under contract with the county and with private donations, coordinates ten free clinics (at 21 locations) that provide primary healthcare to 20,000 low income county residents who do not qualify for Medicaid or other programs. There are between 80,000 and 100,000 such people in our community.

The **Special Care Fund** covers emergency care not covered by the county. Things such as extracting a child's abscessed teeth, setting and casting broken limbs, dealing with construction site injuries, even something as simple as an eye exam and glasses. Please give generously.

Alternative Giving Program Highlights Projects

Each holiday season, Cedar Lane offers an Alternative Giving program. The newly constituted International Concerns Committee (previously Global Task Force), a subcommittee of SJC, is highlighting some of the projects identified so far this year for support. Pueblo a Pueblo is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports children in the highlands of Guatemala. To see a video of the program and meet some of the sponsored children, go to <http://www.puebloapueblo.org/> and choose *1-to-1 Sponsorship*. For more, contact Nancy Derr at derrne@aol.com.

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

The Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington (LGCW) will present a concert on June 21, 2009, 4 p.m., at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th and Independence Avenue SE, to benefit Hannah House, a DC nonprofit organization that provides structured, caring homes and support 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 (including specifics about ticket purchase and transportation) are available at www.lgcw.org.

♻️GREEN TIPS♻️

Environmental Task Force

Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) Could Reduce CO2 Emissions by up to 50% within 21 Years

About 20% of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions associ-

ated with buildings in the United States and the United Kingdom are related to indoor lighting. New LED lights at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel's conference rooms use 10% of the CO2 creating electricity of the fluorescent lights they replaced. As well, maintenance costs are far lower: A fluorescent bulb might last 3,000 hours while an LED fixture lasts more than 100,000 hours.

– Elisabeth Rosenthal and Felicity Barringer
The New York Times
Science Section, May 30, 2009

Opportunity for Teens and Young Adults to Make a Difference: Cedar Laner Amanda Pollack (Amanda is a now a college student) is passing on this opportunity which may “call” to some of you! See her persuasive description below:

Freedom Summer '09: The goal of the project is to create the moral equivalent of the original Freedom Summer, when more than a thousand college students risked their lives to register black voters in Mississippi in the summer of 1964. Today the issue isn't civil rights. It's global warming, severe poverty overseas, weak communities and struggling families in the U.S. As President Obama says, it's up to our generation to remake the world. We'd better get started or it could be too late.

Our goal next year is to get thousands of college and high school students working in low-income communities around the country. This summer we'll test the idea in the DC area. Students will be organized in small teams. We'll go door-to-door and talk to people about their needs and what we can do to help. We'll create a dialogue and get people talking together. By mid summer, we hope to have projects in place in each neighborhood. It could be building a playground, helping senior citizens, planting trees. Almost anything is possible.

What's the best way to make a better world? We will have a leadership seminar organized around this theme. Short readings—no homework—and interesting discussion. Maybe some writing on your experiences. That's the goal. This first year will be an experiment. If you are serious about building a better world, we hope you will join us. Find out more at www.freedomsummer.us.

And Beyond Cedar Lane

"In Ancient Times" Class in July

The long-awaited update of the popular UU curriculum, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven," is being used for an Adult Enrichment offering at River Road UU Congregation. The course, "In Ancient Times," introduces female

religious heritage through the stories of ancient goddesses, weaving them together with concerns of women today.

The convener is Helen Popenoe, a leader in the UU Women and Religion movement. The class will meet at 7:30 p.m. on all Mondays in July plus Aug. 3rd at RRUUC, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD, www.rruuc.org/Directions.html. The remaining slots are being offered to members of nearby UU congregations, as well as a chance to join the waiting list for the next go-round. To register, please contact: Helen Popenoe at hpop@verizon.net by June 29.

The session themes are:

- The Sacred Female
- In the Name of the Mother and the Daughter
- Womanpower
- The First Turning--from Goddess to God
- Reclaiming Women's Heritage of Peace

Come find kindred spirits with the other women in this engaging summer course.

SAVE THE DATE! - Saturday, October 3, 2009

Announcing New Social Justice Committee Formation for the JPD! 10am to 4pm, First Unitarian Church of Wilmington. The Joseph Priestley District is creating a District Social Justice Committee consisting of a steering committee from Social Justice/Advocacy Networks already working in the district and two social justice representatives from each congregation who would like to participate. These representatives would be chosen by the congregation and would be accountable to the congregation and also supported by the congregation to further the cause of social justice, in a *partnership way*, within the congregation and the community at large in the name of the congregation.

If you would like to become a part of the District Social Justice Committee contact Rev. Dr. Om Prakash John Gilmore, Director of Racial and Social Justice john@jpduua.org.

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The Rev. Leslie Westbrook *Community Minister in Pastoral Counseling*
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

50/50 Collection for Special Care Fund

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