



CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LV, No. 24

June 30, 2009

Sunday Services at 10 a.m.

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 weekend with our annual Jazz worship service. Join us! Stay for the Partner Church Committee benefit brunch following the service.

July 12, 2009

“New Directions for Youth Ministry”

Rev. Archene Turner

Recommendations have been made to the UUA Board on improving ministry to our youth. Archene is a member of the group that developed recommendations for the UUA Board on improving youth ministry. Come and hear her reflections.

July 19, 2009

“Something Fishy About You”

Robert “Mac” West, PhD

Creationists (people who want the Bible taught in science classes beside evolution) say that evolution has errors because we do not have all of the “transitional species” evidence from single cells to us. Mac has worked on and directed some of the projects that fill the gaps. He has been a professor, a museum director and an active member and current officer of the primary organization (National Center for Science Education) that fights putting religion into science classes.

July 26, 2009

“Is There Life After Death?”

Rev. Alida DeCoster

In every spring garden I see blossoms opening and blossoms dying at the same time. This makes me realize how interwoven life and death are. How does death impact our living? How can we make peace with it?

August 2, 2009

“The Great Promise of Environmental Justice”

Rev. Terry Ellen

It’s been over a year since Van Jones woke us up at General Assembly. What have we learned in the meantime? How does this ethical stance provide a template for a sane, even beautiful, path into the future? If ever there was a time for us to exalt the common good and take an environmentally responsible approach to progress, while simultaneously strengthening the economy, it is now.

August 9, 2009

“Transitions and Transformations”

Rev. Leslie Westbrook

Unitarian Universalists are often heard to say the mission of our denomination and churches is to work for social change, for transformation of our world. Whether on the microcosm of the individual life, or in the larger world, we say our mission is to “save a broken and hurting world.”

August 16, 2009

“Living in an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive, Multicultural World”

Rev. Archene Turner

I say frequently, “I am a coalition of one,” since I bring many identities into a room when I enter. But, are there places where such difference does not mean marginality? What will it take for us to live in such a world?

August 23, 2009

“We Are of the Stars”

Rev. Bobbie Nelson

“Out of the stars in their flight, out of the dust of eternity, here have we come, Stardust and sunlight, mingling through time and space ...” (Excerpt of “We Are of the Stars,” by Robert T. Weston)

Notes from the Ministers

Roger Fritts

I spent last week at the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, held this year in Salt Lake City. At the meeting we tell each other stories about what is working in our congregations. We take each other's good ideas back home so that we will better meet the needs of the people in our communities.

This year we elected a new President of our Association, Rev. Peter Morales. Peter is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, where I also graduated and where I now serve on the board. The outgoing Unitarian Universalist President, William G. Sinkford, is also a Starr King graduate.

Peter has served as minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. He has also worked at the UUA in Boston, MA, as Director for District Services and served as a member of the UUA Board of Trustees. Before entering the ministry, Peter was a newspaper editor and publisher in Oregon. He and his partner, Phyllis Morales, have been married 41 years. They have two children, Miguel and Marcela.

Peter hopes to grow our movement. Of course, this has been the goal of previous UUA Presidents—yet our national membership has held steady at about 157,000 adults and 61,000 children. Given the decline in mainline Protestant denominations, the fact that we have held steady is a significant success. (People calling themselves mainline Protestants have dropped to 13 percent of the U. S. adult population, down from 19 percent in 1990.) Still, most of us would like to see us grow. I hope that Peter's experience in running and growing a successful newspaper business will help us move from stability to growth.

As the meeting came to an end, I felt optimistic about our future as a religious movement. I was reminded that we have something very important and special to share with the world. In the words of one speaker at the meeting: "Unitarian Universalism is a unique faith, embracing as it does both the wisdom of science and the mystery of the spirit."

Heather Janules

There is no reason for me to complain about my flight. I arrived at the airport in plenty of time. The staff was efficient and courteous. The plane took off and landed safely. No luggage was lost. All in all, my journey to Salt

Lake City was everything one could hope for in plane travel.

Yet, it is so hard, sitting pressed between two strangers, with little opportunity to stand or move around for hours. And my discomfort is not just physical. Even when I bring a book with me, I end up leafing through everything in the seat pocket in front of me as my mind becomes as restless as my body.

There is, of course, the little card illustrating the emergency exits and what one should do in the event of a water or land evacuation. Ever since I heard that those who read the emergency information are more likely to survive a crash landing than those who don't, I have taken the time to read it. (Although I wonder how researchers know this as the dead cannot say whether they paid attention or not.)

Then there is the Sky Mall magazine, a catalog offering an amazing array of unusual gifts and tools. When I look through the Sky Mall catalog, I am fascinated by how their products could solve problems I never knew I had.

During this flight, I also read the airline's complimentary magazine. On one page, there was a brief notation of "the quietest place in America," a spot on top of a mountain in Oregon. In order to reach this corner of absolute silence, one has to hike a long, treacherous trail. "Why," I thought, "do we have to go so far, have to work so hard, to find quiet?" The thought of flying across the country and climbing up the side of a mountain to enjoy silence seemed a little silly to me.

But then the irony struck me: Here I am, with nothing asked of me but to sit still for a few hours and I can't settle down. Using the language of meditation, with my serious case of "monkey mind," I was in no position to suggest that there was anything strange about going out of our way for quiet.

As I write this, I have been at Ministry Days and General Assembly for two days. The time here – reconnecting with colleagues, learning new things, celebrating our faith in worship – has been wonderful, but anything but silent.

I hope, that as the long, hot days of Summer unfold, I will find at least a little quiet, in mind and body, to create some balance to the noise we live with every day. May it be true for all of us.

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.

Our hearts go out to **Eloise Adams (Neighborhood 5)** as she and her family mourn the death of her sister Elaine after a long illness.

We rejoice that The 2009 Maryland Author Award was presented to **Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (N30)** on May 14 at the Maryland Library Association's annual conference. Hooray!

Healing wishes are with **Chris Cavett (N24)** as he recovers from surgery to remove an acoustic neuroma, a benign tumor.

We also hope for a speedy recovery for **Keith Amberman (N31)** as he recovers from hip surgery. His wife April writes, “He is bedbound for the next 6-8 weeks at our home... Cards, funny e-mails, and/or DVD suggestions would be most welcome from the congregation. His favorite movie genres are comedy and foreign anything.” All are invited to reach Keith at keith.amberman@inova.org.

We misspelled the name of one of the new additions to the Cedar Lane Family. **Marjory Lilith Feingold Thoryn**, granddaughter of **Pat Phillips** and **Michael Thoryn (N12)** was born on June 6.

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

Wow! What an ending to an uncommonly challenging, uncommonly gratifying church year.

June is budget-adoption month for the Board of Trustees, and we have been girding up for painful choices in these difficult times. Then *you* stepped in, to tell us with your awesome generosity how much you value, appreciate,

and love this place we call Cedar Lane. Thank you! Thank you, especially, Mystery Matchers (as John Daniel dubs you), for your offer to double new pledges and match increased pledges during the final two weeks. You put us over the top and then some. Thank you, Susan Clark, Pledge Drive Chair, and your dedicated committee, for your creative leadership and tireless efforts to see this supplemental campaign through to success. Thank you, Finance, Personnel, Facilities, and other committee leaders, for crunching changing numbers literally until the clock ran out. I hope, Jack Rodgers, that you will not be permanently glassy-eyed from the myriad scenarios you prepared.

Thanks to all of you Miracle Makers, the board passed operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2010 that will allow us to meet our commitments and move forward. We will not need to impinge on our endowment draw per the backup plan. We will be able to move Rev. Heather’s salary toward proper Associate Minister range and hopefully reward staff with modest bonuses. At the same time, please be assured that our prudent, vigilant money managers are taking every possible step to get us and keep us on sustainable footing for future years, for example holding back one-time gifts for use against future deficits.

In other business, the trustees approved the Personnel Committee’s new Personnel Policy Manual, which adapts for our specific situation a proven UUA model. While our previous manual fully complied with recommended guidelines in the field, this one expands and clarifies and puts us in sync with our denomination.

The Cell Tower Study Group presented a thorough, illustrated report on its research and findings to date, concluding that they see “no compelling reason for not leasing space for a T-Mobile cellular telephone tower in the rear of the church property and believe that the lease income could be sufficiently beneficial to warrant entering into such a lease.” The board authorized the group to pursue additional information, enter into preliminary negotiations with T-Mobile, and consult a local sculptor on possible ornamentation of the structure so that we can bring a more fully developed plan to you, the congregation, for your consideration. To be good neighbors we will also be communicating with nearby residents. No irrevocable decisions have yet been made or authorized.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during this year of years. I am richer for it. Please welcome our new Board of Trustees chair, Duncan Ferguson, and the new board. We are in good hands!

Music Notes from the Director of Music

The months of June and July bring some very unique sounds into the Sanctuary. On June 21, Father's Day, we enjoyed hearing the French horn of Michael Sgrecci, both as a soloist and in a duet with his dad. Michael performed Camille Saint-Saëns *Romance* for French horn and piano.

On June 28 clarinetist Kenneth Kreider and pianist Aglaia Koras contributed to the worship service. They performed the "Allegretto Grazioso" from Johannes Brahms' *Clarinet Sonata in F major* and *En Priere* by Gabriel Fauré.

On July 5 Senior Minister Roger Fritts will welcome the Capitol Focus Jazz Band for our traditional Independence Day Jazz Concert and Service.

On July 12 the CLUUC Intergenerational Handbell Choir will lead the worship service, contributing during hymns and ringing selections that the ensemble learned during Spring B. The women of the Adult Choir will also sing the anthem during this service.

On July 19 pianist Barbara Wing will contribute selections from Mozart's *Piano Sonata*, K. 545, and Chopin's *Nocturne in E major*, op. 62, no. 2. The Congregation will open the service by singing the hymn "Where is Our Holy Church?" Our anthem will be Randall Thompson's *Choose Something Like a Star*, sung by the Adult Choir.

On July 26 the Adult Choir will sing portions of Fauré's *Requiem* and the anthem *On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand*. We will conclude with the hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

Enthusiasm is high for the formation of an "Ad Hoc" Choir. This musical group will probably begin in the fall and meet once a month on Sundays, after church. All that will be required to join is the *desire to sing*. We will teach you the songs and tunes. We will also introduce hymns that will be sung during worship in the coming months, so that you can be prepared to sing them on Sunday mornings. Stay tuned to this newsletter for further details.

Want to sing with a great group of musicians? Consider joining the Adult Choir! Contact Henry Sgrecci at 301-493-8300 or hsgrecci@cedarlane.org.

Education For All Ages

Religious Education Notes

RE Registration is up and running!

Thank you to all the families who have already turned in all their RE forms, your registrations are complete! Thank you to all of you who have responded to the RE e-mail, the **first** step in the registration process. Thank you to everyone for your patience as we turn over the database to the new year, with all the possible glitches!

That said, only 30 families have registered, and we KNOW there are many more families out there! That means many of you either haven't received the e-mail or haven't responded. If you haven't received the e-mail, we don't have a working e-mail address for you. Call us at 301-493-8300 x207 and let us know a correct address and we'll resend it. Even better, go onto the church website, www.cedarlane.org. click on the RE registration button, print out the forms (including the registration card), fill them in and mail them, and your registration will be done! If you received the e-mail and haven't responded, now's the time. Respond to let us know if there are any changes in the information, or no changes, and the first step is done. Then print the forms, fill them out, send them in, and your registration will also be complete! Couldn't be easier! If you'd like to pick up the forms at church, they are on the counter under the nametags. We also have copies of the RE brochure there if you'd like one. We'd like everyone to respond by July 10, so we can get a better picture of needs for next year.

Join the fun—Summer RE, June 7–September 2:

Loving and fun **childcare** will be provided for children ages 5 and younger by Vanessa Steck and other wonderful Cedar Laners. **Children entering grades K–5** will meet outside on the playground (Rms 32-35, if raining) with Dawn Steinfeld, summer Religious Educator. **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 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 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.

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.

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.

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 2009-2010 Adult Programs Committee co-chairs are Helen Worth and Donna Runyan. Along with Susan Archer, they led a retreat for the committee on June 13. New members, Sarah Bever, Abe Brody, Tom Bryant, Betsey Haddad, Dick Haddad, Judy Miller, John Novak, Kathleen Novak, Dennis O’Keefe, Stephanie Simpson and Carolyn Steele were welcomed. Many of the new members to the committee are also new members to the church! The committee worked on brainstorming ideas for the Winter-Spring 2010 course offerings.

Preparation for the Fall Adult Programs are well underway. The exciting new courses include: Sacred Feminine, Beyond the Beltway: Belize, Media Training, and the Underground Railroad Experience Hike. Watch for the brochure in September!

The Connection Circles Steering Committee welcomes new members: Marilyn Hathaway, Erika Morphy, Ardene Shafer, Tracey Stein, and Dianne Tesch. The Steering Committee is committed to “strengthening community through small groups which create firm supportive connections among members in a safe and caring environment.” They do this by spreading the word about small group ministry, inviting everyone to join a group, and supporting new and current groups.

Most Connection Circles are continuing to meet during the summer and welcome visitors and new members. Visit our website at www.cedarlane.org and click on “Connection Circles” for general information about small group ministry. Click on “Spring 2009 Catalogue” for a description of individual groups. 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.

The **Labyrinth Committee** held a Summer Solstice walk on June 21. Look for information on future walks in this newsletter, on our website, church bulletin boards, and the counter under the nametags.

Around the Church

Attention Library Users!

Please check your shelves for overdue books and return them as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Library Committee

It's Not Too Early! Mark Your Calendars Now!

Sunday, November 21, 2009 - 2 p.m. at the church - what is it? It's the 2009 Kiplinger Lecture.

This year's lecturer will be Paul Rasor, Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Virginia Wesleyan College. Rasor is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister with a strong background in law and music as well. Plan now to hear him on November 21!

Social Justice Council

In Search Of: Ten tutors (homework help mostly), Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School, starting this fall. This is an expansion of last year's successful start-up program! Contact nancyjanssen@peoplepc.com or call 301-588-1488.

♻️GREEN TIPS♻️ **Environmental Task Force**

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle via E-mail

The Freecycle Network™ is a grassroots network and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving up (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns- all done via e-mail. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer. Membership is free. There are many groups in our local area (e.g. Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, Olney, Rockville, Silver Spring, etc.) To read their FAQs and/or sign up, go to <http://www.freecycle.org>.

And Beyond Cedar Lane

Mark Your Calendars! Announcing the 5th Annual Joseph Priestly District Anti-Racism Conference!

Multicultural Families
Saturday, October 17, 2009
Programming from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis
333 Dubois Rd
Annapolis, MD 21401

Information about the keynote speaker, workshops, meals, local hotels, and home hospitality availability are in development and details will soon be available on the JPD website at www.jpduua.org.

Murray Grove Homecoming: A Mid-Atlantic UU Celebration

Saturday, September 26, 2009 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Unitarian Universalist Evangelist, Storyteller and Musician
New interim minister at Princeton

Music • Workshops • Fellowship • Fun
Under the big white tent!

Pre-Homecoming Concert featuring **Rev. Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood**
Friday, September 25, 2009 - 7:00 pm

Post-Homecoming Service Party
September 26-27, 2009

Wind down from the excitement of Homecoming, in fellowship and service, together with others of like mind and heart.

FAMILY GET-A-WAYS at Murray Grove – get back to simplicity!

Enjoy a mini-vacation at your Mid-Atlantic UU retreat center in the peaceful NJ Pine Barrens, on the site where Universalism began: available mid-weeks; comfortable and affordable; fun: pool (in season), athletic fields, nature walks, barbeques, fire circle; near beaches, boardwalks, Six Flags, canoeing, restaurants and parks

Support your UU retreat centers!

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Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*
Duncan Ferguson *Chair, Board of Trustees*
Sara Deshler *Church Administrator*
Kristin Grassel *Membership Coordinator*

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

We will now be going to monthly issues of *Cedar Lane News* for July and August. The deadlines for those are July 22 and August 26, respectively. If you have been having trouble figuring out when the deadlines are, they are conveniently posted on the Cedar Lane website. You can find the deadlines for the rest of the year at <http://www.cedarlane.org/newsletter-schedule.pdf>.

Deadline	Publication	Alliance Newsletter Included
July 22	July 28	
August 26	September 1	September
September 9	September 15	
September 23	September 29	October
October 7	October 13	
October 21	October 27	November
November 4	November 10	
November 18	November 24	December
December 2 (Holiday)	December 8	
December 16	December 22	January