

CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LVI, No. 1

July 28, 2009

Sunday Services at 10 a.m.

August 2, 2009

“The Great Promise of Environmental Justice”

Rev. Terry Ellen

It's 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?

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)

August 30, 2009

“Yes to Life!”

Glenn Farley, Ministerial Student, Starr King School for the Ministry

Reflections on growing up at Cedar Lane and what Unitarian Universalism offers. And just what are UUs called today?

September 6, 2009

“The Grim Reaper in Uniform: Chasing Death ... and Meaning on the Battlefield”

Bob Steck, educator, consultant, writer

Our views of death in some ways determine how we view and fight wars, and our experience of war shapes our views of death. I see these issues in a context of meaning, ethics, and political philosophy.

September 13, 2009

“Water Ceremony”

Don't forget to bring back water from your travels this summer. We will return to 2 services- 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. this Sunday.

The Cedar Lane News is published semimonthly from September to June and monthly in July and August by the
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
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Bethesda MD 20814
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We request copy to be e-mailed to newsletter@cedarlane.org
Next deadline is noon, Wednesday, August 26, 2009
Editor: Corinne Woodward
Proofreader this issue: Nancy Derr

Notes from the Ministers

Susan Archer

This year I, our other ministers and several more Cedar Laners trekked off to Salt Lake City to partake in our yearly national UU meetings – the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

General Assembly is often for me a tender time. I arrive at wherever it is being convened – like many religious professionals – physically, emotionally and even a bit spiritually exhausted, the completion of the regular congregational year barely behind me. The year end's questions creep into my consciousness: Where have I been, what have I done, why am I doing what I do, does it make a difference? These questions are compounded by those about the congregation: Where have we been, have we done the worthy work we aspired to? All good questions. I would worry if I did not ask them!

As I arrive for pre-GA professional days, I re-connect with friends and colleagues from around the continent and find that most are similarly exhausted, and, as am I, in that state in which they just give themselves over to the experience that is GA. This was the first year in many that I have had only minimal leadership responsibilities, and I was truly able to let all the connecting, new learnings, inspiration wash over me and do its work of renewal, plant its seeds for “what comes next,” establish connections for resources I shall surely draw upon. This year especially I found new challenges for my own spiritual growth that I am already exploring. I am grateful to have had, once again, this amazing opportunity.

And, I added to it, by taking a few days after GA to explore some of the parklands of southern Utah. There I found another, larger source of sustenance for the year to come. Sitting at dusk in the shadows of some of the amazing rock formations, experiencing true quiet (no engines, no voices, no footsteps) is an experience I will hold onto.

Although I have had cause to connect with many of us this summer, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at summer's end and hearing of the many journeys – inner and outer – on which we have embarked. Many blessings.

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.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Charles Cutler (Neighborhood 15)**, who died on July 1 after a long illness. A Service in Celebration of his Life will be held on August 16 at 4 p.m. at Cedar Lane. All are welcome.

We celebrate that our own **Terry O'Neill (N6)** was recently elected to serve as President for the National Organization for Women (NOW.) Congratulations!

Our hearts go out to **Karla Dobinski, Alexa Freeman** and their daughters **Renci** and **Lina (N1)** as they mourn the death of Karla's father, Sylvester (or Syl,) who died on June 21.

More good graduation news: **Ruth Pritchard-Kelly (N23)** writes, “**Gwyneth Kelly** is off for a 5-year, double degree program (she'll get both a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance and a BA in history) at Northwestern. We're very happy for her!”

Healing wishes are with **Harvey Edward** who is recovering at home after cardiac bypass surgery.

Congratulations are with **Sharon and Frank Adler (N10)** as they welcome their newest grandchild, Allison Laura Breslin, born on June 23 and weighing in at 7lbs, 7oz.

Our condolences are with **Andy Streich (N17)** as he and his family mourn the death of his sister-in-law, Kathy Reinhard, after a long illness.

We wish long-time Cedar Laner **Edith Confehr (N3)** a safe and easy move to her son's home in California. As of early August, her address will be 110 Crystal Court, Novato, CA 94949. She will be missed by many!

Housewarming wishes are also with **Bud Mueller (N26)** who has moved to a larger unit in his building (from 302 to 518; his phone number remains the same) and with

Jeane Robertson (N13) who has moved to Grace House, 3214 Norbeck Rd, Apt 205, Silver Spring, MD 20906. The main number is 301-924-4424. Jeane welcomes visits, calls and cards!

Congratulations are with **Julian Spector (N8,)** whose essay "Religion Versus Spirituality" recently won a national gold medal in the Scholastic Arts and Writing competition. Hooray!

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.

From the Administrator

Technology Update-over the past year the staff has worked hard to move to a new database and is almost ready to invite you to check it out. The new database system will allow you to go to our website and securely sign in to check your personal information, contribution records, make payments, and also to enroll in classes, both for Adult Programs and Religious Education. The new system, ACS, has been used for many years by other large UU churches. The ACS implementation has required extensive setup and testing of data as we have adapted from our old system. We will send out a notification by e-mail once we are ready to go. Should we not have your e-mail address please send it to me at sdeshler@cedarlane.org. If you do not use e-mail the paper systems are available.

Further 'greening' of Cedar Lane will be made possible by this upgraded technology. In the future we will be sending out statements and newsletters by e-mail, again, for those who do not use the internet paper will be available.

On August 2, Terry Ellen will be coming to preach. At that service we will celebrate Kristin Grassel's time with us as Membership Coordinator. Kristin will be the Ministerial Intern at Bay Area UU Church in Houston, starting in August. We will miss her and all the good work she has done. At the time of this writing we are still in the interview process of finding her replacement. We hope you can join us at the service on August 2.

Thanks to the Adult Programs Committee for contributing a lightweight projector and windows based PC lap-

top. We now have 2 projectors available and 2 laptops, one MAC and one PC. Should you wish to use one or the other please let the RE Administrators know if it is for a class, if not, please let Corinne know when you go to schedule an event that you wish to use it.

Music Notes from the Director of Music

Are there any singers in the house.....??? Sure there are, we hear you sing every Sunday! The Cedar Lane Adult Choir would like you invite you to join us in September as we resume "making a joyful noise unto the Lord." For further information contact Dr. Henry Sgrecci at 301/493-8300, ex 314 or hsgrecci@cedarlane.org.

"Ad Hoc" Choir update. We are moving ahead with the formation of our Ad Hoc Choir, a group with little time, minimal vocal training, but a strong desire to sing. Starting in October this group will meet in the Chapel following the second Sunday service. We will sing easy songs and hymns and help you become more comfortable with the common hymns and songs that are sung during worship.

What: Ad Hoc Choir
Where: Chapel
When: 12:30-1:30, First Sunday of each month, October through June.

August Worship Services

On August 2 the Congregation will wish Kristin Grassel good luck as she heads to Houston, Texas, to begin her internship. In conjunction with Rev. Terry Ellen, guest minister, Kristin has selected the hymns "When in Our Music God is Glorified" and "Blue Boat Home." Soprano soloist, Susan Clark will sing the anthem *Here I Am, Lord*.

On August 9 Rev. Leslie Westbrook will preach on "Transitions and Transformations." She has selected music written by the late John E. Giles, III, former Director of Music at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois, during the pastorship of her husband, Roger Fritts. The settings include an arrangement of *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*, *The Forest*, based on text of Wendell Berry, and *Of All the Ages*, based on the poetry of Robert Brueckner. Dr. Henry Sgrecci will be the vocal soloist.

On August 16 Rev. Archene Turner will preach on "Living in an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppressive, MultiCul-

tural World.” Mr. Giuliani Hardy-Gerena, a violin performance major at Stonybrook University on Long Island, will be joined by Thomas Guthrie in performing *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin* by Debussy, *Liebesleid* by Fritz Kreisler, and *Summertime* by George Gershwin.

Rev. Bobbi Nelson returns to CLUUC on August 23 to speak on the topic “We Are of the Stars. Soprano Susan Clark will sing Samuel Barber’s *Sure on this Shining Night* and Thomas Guthrie will perform Hoagy Carmichael’s classic, *Stardust*, at the piano.

On August 30 Aglaia Koras returns to perform piano solos during worship as ministerial student Glenn Farley reflects on “Growing Up at Cedar Lane & What Unitarian Universalism Offers.” We will sing the hymns “Just As Long as I Have Breath” and Wake Now My Senses.”

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! For those who have not, we truly need your forms NOW. It helps us immensely to have accurate information as we plan for the fall.

If you haven’t registered or received an e-mail from us (sent June 11), go to 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 (or bring) them to the church, and your registration will be done! If you’d like to pick up the forms at church, they are on the counter under the name tags. We also have copies of the RE brochure there if you’d like one. If you are having trouble getting the forms, or need any help, please call 301-493-8300 x207 and let us know ASAP, to ensure your children are registered.

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 (Rooms 32-35, if raining) with Dawn Steinfeld and Tod Chernikoff, our summer Religious Educators. 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.

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 (grades 9-12) 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

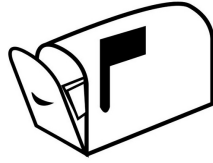
Don’t Blink!

Or you might miss the opportunity to participate in the broad and varied Adult Programs offerings this fall. Classes are starting in September and running all the way into January.

Beginning in late September are, “Eating Lower on the Food Chain” and “A Beginner’s Guide to Celestial Tourism.” October starts with “Exploring Mortality,”

“Theological Wonderings,” and the “Underground Railroad Experience Hike.” And that is only the beginning.

Check your mailbox the **first week of September for the Adult Programs Fall 2009** brochure and registration card. Register quickly!



The **Kiplinger Committee** welcomes new members: Nancy Bliss, Dick Crout, Ken Jones, Ralph Krause, and Rich Madaleno! Along with the rest of the committee they are busy preparing for the fall lecture and researching ideas for a spring offering and the fall 2010 lecture.

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.

Around the Church

FAREWELL TO KRISTIN GRASSEL

Kristin grew up at Cedar Lane. She has been our part-time Membership Coordinator for the past three years while attending the Wesley Theological Seminary. She will be leaving us for the next nine months to go to Houston, Texas, where she will be serving as a Ministerial Intern. If you would like to wish her well on this next step in her professional development, you can do so at a reception in the Lounge, following the Sunday service by the Rev. Terry Ellen on August 2. If you would like to contribute to a cash gift to supplement her minimal support in Texas, checks made out to: CLUUC (with the name, Kristin Grassel on the memo line) can be placed in the mailbox of the Church Administrator in the office area.

Cedar Lane Stage

AUDITIONS for Doubt: A Parable

August 17-18 7:30 p.m., Callbacks August 19, 7:30 p.m.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Casting: 1 Male (30s)
1 Female (Mid-40s-60)
1 African American Female (30s)
1 Female (20s)

90 Second Dramatic Monologue + Cold Readings

Performance Dates: (4 weekends- 9 performances)
Oct. 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 at 8 p.m.,
Oct. 18 Sunday at 2 p.m.

For more information, go to <http://www.CedarLaneStage.org> or e-mail the Director: Aly B. Ettman, mushke@yahoo.com.

Cedar Lane Stage is currently holding its second program of one-act plays. They will be performed on August 1, 2, 8, and 9 in the Chapel at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5.00.

Cedar Lane Stage needs a Stage Manager for its Fall show "Doubt: A Parable" by John Patrick Shanley. The show is about 90 minutes long. There will be 10 performances in October on the weekends. You will NOT be required to attend all shows but share the work load. A great chance to get involved behind the scenes, dust off those old theater skills or learn new skills. Teens welcome. Contact Dick Messalle for details at 301-681-5069 or RMcedarlane@verizon.net.

HAVE YOU MARKED YOUR CALENDAR YET? DO IT NOW!

Be sure your calendar shows November 21, reserved for the Kiplinger lecture. At 2 p.m., in CLUUC's auditorium, Paul Razor will present ideas about resolving national differences without resorting to armed conflict.

Razor will offer his views on the theological and ethical issues raised by the UIUA Statement of Conscience presented to UUs at this year's annual meeting. The General Assembly debated that statement for an hour and then sent it back to the Commission on Social Witness for another year of study and review. Here's your chance to hear a significant discussion of the topic!

Do it now- put Nov. 21, 2 p.m. on your calendar!

The Beacon House Field trip program emphasizing RECYCLING has gone very well.

Reported by Charlotte Brewer and Molly Hauck, Co-Chairs Environmental Task Force. Beacon House Campers have been SO excited about recycling – bottles, glass and cans that the smallish storage space resembles the big "BOUNCE (in plastic balls) CAGE" one sees entertaining little kids at amusement parks. Early reports are that at least 25 campers, counselors and staff have brought in a pound or two of RECYCLABLES at a time. The stainless steel water bottles given for participating are popular.

Visits to the Prince George's Land Fill (impressive, as methane is converted into electricity) and Recycling Center (EXCELLENT, clear presentation) on week # 1 went well though the 5-year-olds needed their sandwiches before we reached the Arboretum, where we drove by their demo plantings of POWER PLANTS like switch grass!

During our visit to the Earth Conservation corps on the Anacostia River, one counselor, Trina, who doesn't swim, decided she'd NOT get into the flat bottom barge to cruise and see the river where fish have returned to its cleaner water. Counselor Trina blessed herself, as did at least one apprehensive first-time-on-water camper, and we ALL cruised the river and its beautiful setting. Only two osprey pairs shrieked a "don't come here" warning. Alas, we did see one belly up catfish, which probably died from tumors caused by bottom feeding where PCPs still lie.

On our third and last Wednesday, Ginny Harris from the Alice B Ferguson Foundation came to "TALK TRASH."

Rev. Don Robinson has said if the Beacon House Management still has NOT provided recycling bins HE will enlist campers' assistance and get the materials collected. WE keep working, together with the D.C. Dept of the Environment toward getting the bins in place.

ETF planning members included Alice Wahl, Anne Suydam and Betsy Hadadd; participants included Charlotte Brewer, Molly Hauck, Nancy Janssen, Bill Michie, Sandy Shaw, Betsy Devlin-Foltz, and Heather Janules.

****GREEN TIPS****

Environmental Task Force

Incandescent Light Bulbs Contain Lead

There is always a lot of talk about CFLs with their mercury and the associated dangers, which is valid and it is good to be careful. But incandescent light bulbs actually contain a significant amount of lead, which is also a potent neuro-toxin, so the mercury drawback of CFLs is not as significant as it may seem.

http://www.countyofdane.com/pwht/recycle/lamps_bulbs.aspx

Beyond the Church

The Importance of Staying Creative and Engaged in Life

Springhouse invites all to attend an open house and interactive demonstration with Art Therapist Emery Mikel Sunday, August 9, 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Springhouse 4925 Battery Lane, Bethesda. Call 301-652-1445 to reserve a space.

Announcing New Social Justice Committee Formation for the JPD

Saturday, October 3, 2009
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington
730 Halstead Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

The JPD 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 in order 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 Om Prakash, Director of Racial and Social Justice and let us know of your interest. For any questions or comments please write to john@jpduua.org or office@jpduua.org.

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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*

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Help the Cedar Lane UU Church Office reduce our impact on both the environment and our budget.

Please consider receiving future *Cedar Lane News* issues solely by e-mail. You will receive an e-mail with a link to the where the newsletter is posted on the Cedar Lane website. You will then be able to read the newsletter in a PDF format. We are researching whether we can send the newsletter in the body of an e-mail so you will not have to click on any links.

If you would like to stop receiving a printed version and read *Cedar Lane News* online, please send Sara Deshler, sdeshler@cedarlane.org, an e-mail indicating you would like to sign up for SaveTheTrees@cedarlane.org, our listserv for those who wish to receive the newsletter only electronically.

Thank you for your help in our efforts to become more environmentally friendly and financially stable.