



# CEDAR LANE NEWS

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

Volume LV, No. 13

January 27, 2009

## Sunday Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

**February 1, 2009**

### “A Heterosexual Tries to Understand People who are Not”

*Roger Fritts*

Equality Maryland has set Monday, February 2, as Lobby Day in Annapolis. It will focus on two issues: ending marriage discrimination against same-sex couples and adding gender identity and expression to the state’s nondiscrimination laws. The day before Lobby Day, the service will explore these issues.

**February 8, 2009**

### “Dragged Kicking and Screaming into Heaven”

*Mark Morrison-Reed*

Mark writes, “Raised in the Unitarian Universalist faith, I was ordained in 1979. With my wife and co-minister, Donna, I served congregations in Rochester, NY, and Toronto. Donna and I raised two children. After serving for 26 years, we retired from ministry in 2005, and since then



Donna is training to become a Jungian Analyst while I devote myself full-time to writing.” Mark was our ministerial intern in 1977-1978.

**February 15, 2009**

### “Lincoln’s Religion”

*Roger Fritts*

On the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, the sermon will look at the religious beliefs of our 16<sup>th</sup> president.

#### ✿GREEN TIPS✿

Environmental Task Force

*I know fluorescent light bulbs are more efficient than incandescents. In terms of overall resource use, however, is it better to replace a functioning incandescent bulb now or wait until it burns out? --Tom (submitted by e-mail)*

Replace incandescents now. The resources used to produce either bulb are a fraction (as little as 1%, according to researchers at the Technical University of Denmark) of the bulb’s overall toll on the environment. Burning the bulb uses far more energy. Incandescent light bulbs consume 4 times the energy a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) would require to produce the same amount of light, and nearly 30 times the energy needed to produce a new CFL. Generating those extra kilowatts-hours for the incandescent with fossil fuel would require the equivalent of almost 3 gallons of gasoline, or 35 pounds of coal. Turn out the lights when not needed—having a more efficient device doesn’t mean you should waste energy. And recycle CFLs, because they contain a small amount of mercury, a toxic metal.

### The Sunday Morning Forum meets 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. in the Chalice House. Coffee is served.

- 2/1 *New Ideas for Old Nursing Homes* with **Beth Baker**, journalist and author of “Old Age in a New Age”
- 2/8 *The Purple Line and Other Current Issues in Montgomery County*, with Montgomery County Council Member and Cedar Laner **Nancy Floreen**
- 2/15 *Restoring Hope and Dignity, One Person at a Time, Serving and Empowering the District’s Homeless and Poor*, **Tracy Monson**, Marketing Manager, So Others May Eat (SOME)

## Notes from the Ministers

*Roger Fritts*

Our *pledge drive* is when we ask you to make an estimate of how much money you can give to support the church in the 12 months starting July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010.

In spite of the national economic downturn, most of you have kept up with the pledges you made for our current fiscal year. When the Finance Committee and the board approved our current church budget last June, they knew that it was a deficit budget. However, we were expecting an unrestricted gift from the estate of Angie and John Skinner (along with a generous gift from the Skinner estate to our endowment). We can use the unrestricted part of the gift to come close to balancing the budget this year.

John and Angie were devoted to this church. After his retirement in 1972, John was Cedar Lane's "fixer-of-everything-broken" until his death in 1986. I have fond memories of going to public lectures in Washington with Angie when I first arrived at the church in 1993. This congregation has so many wonderful people like John and Angie.

Next year we do not expect to receive such a gift from anyone's estate, so the Finance Committee and the board will be making hard choices about the budget. Although we are a liberal religious community, we are fiscal conservatives. I expect that by July 1, 2009, we will have a balanced budget.

In the spirit of leading by example, this fiscal year, I am pledging 6.7 percent of my income before taxes to the church: \$6,600. I hope to give at least that same percentage next year.

If you are out of work, and cannot give as much money as you would like to give, know that we do not care most about your money. We care most about you.

If you are blessed with a steady income, please give generously. That way the church can be there for everyone, whatever their financial situation.

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*Susan Archer*

On January 18, some of our younger children (grades K-3) gathered in our chapel to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. We told stories, sang songs and shared the dreams of the Civil Rights Movement. We talked about our own dreams for the world we now live in. Then we adjourned downstairs, where we drew pictures of the world we dream about so we could send them along with our well wishes to our new president. Some of their

words follow. I have not altered their spelling. They all worked very hard on what they drew and wrote:

- "Stop some wars because people could get hurt. Thank for being our president!"
- "Dear President Obama, I hope you love being president!" (on a beautiful picture of tree, flowers, butterflies and more labeled "Making the World a better place!!!")
- On an amazing picture of Obama, half green, half red in which our new president says "Yes" and "Oui" out of each side of his mouth (great symbolism of a multi-cultural world!)
- "Stop polluting in the ocean because the fish will be killed" with a very happy fish to illustrate the possibility of living.
- "Dear Obama, Hope you have a great life being president. (My B-day is Jan.23.)"
- "Peace" on a picture full of stars and an earth around which many people hold hands.
- "Dear Mr. Barack Obama, Both me and my family are very excited for your inauguration, so is my class. You are a very good speaker, and you will hopefully get our troops out of Iraq soon. You are the first president to represent more than 1 culture because you are African American and caucasian, you have also lived in many places. I'm sure you will make a good president. Happy Inauguration Day!"
- "Dear Mr. Obama, I have a few things: to make the earth better, everybody loving, everybody having houses, peace."
- Dear Mr. Obama, I hope you are a good president.
- (Apparently hoping that the new president will pass this one on) "Dear Sasha, What are you going to name your dog?"
- "Dear Obama, I hope you can make flowers smile and butterflies love. I hope you can change the world."
- "President Obama, I wish the world could be a better place by holding hands!!!!"

There were others as well. I share these with you not because they are cute or sentimental, but because our children are so full of hope and enthusiasm that the world can be a good place and that all of us (including them) can help to make it so. They are unabashedly friendly, encouraging and engaged with the new president and new possibilities. A very religious morning we had!

## We Care

Our love and care go out to **Cathy Knapper** and **John Gubbings (Neighborhood 14)** as they mourn the sudden death of Cathy's mother, Barbara.

Hopes for swift healing go to **Marjory Wiley (N99)** as she recovers from surgery to repair a broken wrist after a fall.

We extend best wishes to **Dolores Acquista (N2)** as she recovers from a fall at Suburban Hospital and prepares for knee replacement surgery.

And we wish a swift recovery to R. E. staff member and friend **Gale Luce** who had an emergency appendectomy on Friday, January 16. Gale is now recovering at home.

If you know of anyone in need of a pastoral visit, a call or a prayer, please contact Minister for Pastoral Care Heather Janules at x204 or [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org).

## Music Notes From the Interim Director of Music

Our January services were extremely uplifting as we sang songs celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King and paid special tribute to Glenis Bellais; bidding her farewell upon her retirement from CLUUC. What a pleasure, to hear the entire congregation singing the Maori farewell song, *Now is the Hour*.

On February 1, CLUUC welcomes as its special guests, the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of Washington (not the Washington Gay Men's Chorus as was reported here earlier). We look forward to the Chorus' contributions to our musical worship on that morning.

February 8 is Pledge Drive Sunday. To help everyone get into the spirit, the Adult Choir will sing the renaissance favorite, *Give Alms of Thy Goods* by Christopher Tye. The Choir will also sing two distinctive works prepared by the noted American choral arranger, Alice Parker; *Come Sunday* by Duke Ellington and the foot-tapping spiritual, *I Got Shoes*.

On February 15, the Youth Choir and Handbell Choir will lead the worship services as we celebrate President's Day.

**Got Voice???** *Think you sound impressive in the shower???* Consider bringing your resonant voice into the choir loft and becoming a part of the Adult Choir. The Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings and sings for both services on most Sundays. Come on up and try us

out. Call 301-493-8300 or email Henry Sgrecci at [hsgrecci@cedarlane.org](mailto:hsgrecci@cedarlane.org) for more information.

## Religious Education Notes

### RE Ministry for Children and Youth

**The Sock Hop Is Coming! Saturday, February 7 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Kick off your shoes, and come to Cedar Lane's Third Annual Sock Hop for all ages, a Vivacious Valentine Venue!!!! \$5/person, \$15 max/family. This fee pays for the DJ, baked goods and beverages. Brought to you lovingly by your R. E. Council! This is a family event, so kids should be accompanied by an adult.

**Parents of Chapel Children (grades K-6):** You may already know that the children have enthusiastically chosen to use their chapel offering money to support animals in shelters and to support two endangered species: polar bears and giant pandas (seems to be a bear year!). They went through a voting process after presenting their ideas of how to help the world. Please encourage them to think about whether they want to bring any of their money to donate on Sunday mornings during chapel. Although we adults are often happy to support the causes they have chosen, the purpose is for THE CHILDREN to give something of theirs. A penny is as good as a dollar. We are hoping to encourage a giving spirit in our young ones and that they will see that their collective efforts will make a difference. Of course, we don't turn down contributions from adults at chapel, but the bigger purpose is for them to think about what they have decided to do and to take ownership of it. Thanks for your encouragement at home!

**Books:** We have several new story books for children related to death and loss. Take a look in the Cedar Lane library children's section for these, for our younger children.

#### (Preschool-grade 4)

*Mending Peter's Heart* by Maureen Wittbold

*Mama* by Eleanor Schick

*Thank You, Grandpa* by Lynn Plourde

*You Hold Me and I'll Hold You* by Jo Carson

*Where Is Grandpa* by T.A. Barron

*Anna's Corn* by Barbara Santucci

*Badger's Parting Gift* by Susan Varley

*Grandma's Shoes* by Libby Hathorn

*If Nathan Were Here* by Mary Bahr

**Holiday Craft Day Plates and Mugs are here!** They are colorful! Look for yours in the RE office during the week or near the Administrator's desk downstairs on Sunday mornings.

## Upcoming Dates:

**February 7** (Saturday) – Intergenerational Sock Hop  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**May 29-31** – Intergenerational family retreat at Camp  
Tockwogh.

## Junior High Notes

Junior High R. E. classes for grades 7 and 8 meet at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The Junior High Youth group is open to youth in grades 7 and 8.

**Another Success!** So many kudos to John Daniel, Maggie Brodnick, and Archene Turner, plus many other adults who made the ski trip for our Junior High and Senior High Youth Groups! No broken bones and many excellent memories for all.

**Jr. High Youth Group Winter/Spring Schedule** (Flyers will be mailed before events):

**February 1** (Sunday) Youth Groups-sponsored Super  
Bowl Party at Church

**February 20** (Friday) – Movie/Pizza at Church

**March 13** (Friday) – Movie@Mall with dinner

**March 31** (Tuesday) – Manna Food Packing

**April 18** (Saturday) – Old Rag Mountain Hike

**May 16 & 17** (Sat./Sun.) – New York City Trip

**June 5 & 6** (Fri./Sat.) – Lock-in at Chalice House

**June 30** (Tuesday) – Manna Food Packing

Questions? Call youth group advisors John Daniel at 301-946-5509 or Kimberly Clarkson at 301-587-3051.

## Senior High Notes

Senior High R. E. classes, grades 10 to 12, meet at 11 a.m. Sunday mornings. Grade 9 R. E. classes meet at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.

**We still need new or gently used coats for girls ages 10 to 13 to go to children at Key Middle School that have none.**

**Senior High Youth Group** (SHYG) activities are open to young people in grades 9 to 12. Activities happen at non-Sunday morning times as much as possible. **Note this is different from last year's scheduling.** Watch for information by email and snail mail. If youth are not receiving email notification and would like to, please send addresses to Archene Turner at 301-493-8300 x 205 or aturner@cedarlane.org or archene@gmail.com.

**Upcoming events include:**

**February 1** – Superbowl Party in the auditorium at

6 p.m. Once again the Junior & Senior High Youth Groups will host a multi-generational gathering to watch football.

**February 2** – Senior High Youth will join other social justice advocates in Annapolis to lobby for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights. We will travel by bus like last year. We need a firm RSVP from youth so that we can reserve a seat on the bus so let Archene (archene@gmail.com) or Stephen Colgan at 240-381-7386 know.

**February 3** – Youth Summit planning meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. in Rooms 1-2. All are welcome to help plan an all-day summit for LGBT & Allies youth on April 18.

## Young Adults (Ages 18 to 35)

The UU Young Adults of Maryland (UUYAM) group plans activities for local UU Young Adults. Visit <http://uuyam.uuyan.org> to join the UUYAM e-mail list and view schedule of upcoming events, or call Tama Yarina with questions at 906-281-2537 or tryarina@gmail.com. For resources and information on Joseph Priestly District (JPD) Young Adult events, visit the JPD Young Adult Network at [www.jpd-uuyan.org](http://www.jpd-uuyan.org).

**Join other Young Adults for Brunch:** Meet in the vestibule at the back of the sanctuary 15 minutes after the end of the 11 a.m. service. We will car pool to a local restaurant for lunch or brunch and fellowship.

## Adult Programs Notes

Register for the adult programs of your choice on your adult programs card, attach your check, and mail or bring it to the R. E. office. For additional information contact the R. E. office call 301-493-8300 x 207, or email to re@cedarlane.org.

**It's bright green! Adult Program (AP) Brochures** have been mailed. We have lots of wonderful classes coming up this first semester of 2009. There will be registration in the church lounge between and after services on Sunday, February 1.

**Classes beginning soon:** For details, please refer to the brochure or visit our website at [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org).

### February

**2** – Yoga

**3** – The Philosophy Club

**4** – Evening T'ai Chi

**5** – Daytime T'ai Chi

**8** – Side by Side: Mothers and Daughters

**11** – Alexander Technique—Free introductory class

**17** – Book Discussion Group

**23** – Meditation

## Around the Church

**The Sunday Morning Forum.** meets in Chalice House on Sundays, 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. Everyone is welcome, no registration required. Coffee is served.

**February 1:** *New Ideas for Nursing Homes.* Beth Baker, journalist and free lance writer, tells of a new generation of visionary advocates and practitioners, who are transforming both the culture of nursing homes and the way we view aging. What changes are being made for residents of nursing homes? Beth reports her findings and reads from her book, *Old Age in a New Age.*

**February 8:** *The Purple Line and Other Current Issues in Montgomery County.* Montgomery County Council Member Nancy Floreen will invite questions from the congregation on issues of concern to them with respect to transportation, developments in White Flint, water main breaks, potential budget cuts, and any other matters of interest. Nancy, a long-time member of Cedar Lane, was elected to the County Council in 2002 and is now in her second term. She serves as Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee and is a member of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee.

### **Connection Circles** (former Covenant Groups)

A *Connection Circle* is a small group of people meeting together to share their lives, explore their spiritual journey together, nurture face-to-face connections, and develop caring relationships. Thus they strengthen the Cedar Lane community while ministering to each other and the larger world. There are currently 10 Connection Circles listed in the adult programs brochure. Take the opportunity to read through them and see what the *Connection* is all about. If you are interested in joining a Circle, contact the R. E. office.

**Compassionate/Nonviolent Communication:** During the past couple of years Cedar Lane has had programs in this peaceful and effective mode of communication. Here are local opportunities for some more skill-building.

**Introductory Training:** "Speaking Peace: Introduction to Compassionate Communication (NVC)," Friday, February 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

<http://www.bloomington.in.us/%7Ejwbrown/pdfs/feb13.pdf> (PDF), or, visit <http://capitalnvc.net/bobjeffintro1>

**Intermediate Training:** "Compassion is an Inside Job: Using the Gifts of NVC to Transform Self-Judgment into Self-Appreciation," Saturday, February 14, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 15, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Designed for people with some previous NVC experience. <http://www.bloomington.in.us/%7Ejwbrown/pdfs/feb13.pdf> (PDF) Or, visit <http://capitalnvc.net/bobjeffworkshop1>

### **Team Inauguration Says "Thank You!"**

Now that the Inauguration has come and gone and our guests have arrived and departed safely, we on the "Team Inauguration Task Force" wish to thank the Cedar Lane Community for your generous offers of service and hospitality that made this fundraiser and outreach to "presidential pilgrims" a success!

We wish to thank all those who offered their homes to visitors (bold names actually got to host people): Millie Mader, **Karen and Harvey Lerner**, Paul and Vicky Strella, **Trudy Morse, Kate Martin and Bill Renniger**, Jane Barton, Carol and Edgard Bertaut, Dian and Brian Belanger, Kathy and Tom Bryant, Susan and Rich Clark, Penny and Bruce Douglas, Eva Feder, Anne Fretz, Laurence Sage and John Haber, Marilyn Hathaway, Emily Holdenried, Ken Jones, Nina Koltnow, Ann McLaughlin, Sue and Jim Mathias, Jean Moyer, Connie and Peter Nissley, Mary Beth Nowinski, Jean and Ralph Richter, Arlene and Jay Schneider, Dianne and Perry Seiffert, Catherine Schuler, Stephanie Simpson and Abraham Broady, Cecile and Michael Taylor, Wanda Van Goor, and **Bonnie Beavers and Peter Mathers**. Special thanks go to **Betsy and Sandy Shaw** for providing VIP hosting to our special guests, Tuskegee Airman Joe Gomer and his wife, Elizabeth.

Others offered to support the special visit of Joe and Elizabeth Gomer and the 30 people who stayed in our Chalice House (and in a conversion van in our parking lot!) We thank Betty May and Don Cleary, Lisa Tunick and Sarah Becker, Andy Streich, Martha Lisle, Susan Clark, Helen Strang, Eva Feder, Amina Hafiz, John and Diane Hopkins, Diane Mahlmood, Annette Scarpitta, John Gubbings, Betsy Wilhelm, Phil Brown, Mary Beth Nowinski, Sandy Shaw, Penny Douglas, Jack Mauro, and Deborah Vollmer. **Special thanks** go to Nancy Janssen, Elsie Durland, and Betty May Cleary who scrubbed the Chalice House to a place of guest-readiness. All of us who use this space will benefit from their hard work for a long time to come!

A number of staff, especially Mickey Sigsbee, Sara Deshler, and Pedro Diaz, went the extra mile to make our facilities accommodating to guests and Inauguration-related programs while also meeting the needs of other committees and groups using our space. *Thank you!*

And, as the convener of Team Inauguration, I thank this small but powerful group: Arlene Schneider and Dianne Seiffert on behalf of the Pledge Committee, Nancy McClusky and Carol Bertaut from the Partner Church Committee, and Mike Benefiel and Cay Scott from the Social Justice Council. Although we all pitched in, Arlene,

Dianne and Nancy were the primary Ministers of Detail and accomplisners. We haven't tallied the income vs. expenses yet, but it looks like we will be able to give between \$400-\$500 to all four of our recipients: a youth work trip to New Orleans, our Partner Church Ministry, the Social Justice Council, and our operating budget of our church. Cedar Lane is a welcoming and generous community, a congregation I am ever proud to serve. Your willingness to say "yes" to hospitality and service is inspiring!

Heather Janules  
Associate Minister and Minister for Pastoral Care

**The Pledge Drive has begun!** It began in a great way, with the first mailing going out on Inauguration Day. Betsy Devlin-Foltz, Mary Gaskill, Pam Gehrke, Barbara Ricketts and Deborah Vollmer pitched in with Pledge Drive Committee members John Daniel, Andy Streich and Susan Clark and staff members Sara Deshler and Lucy Dubinsky to get that first mailing out. You should have received your pledge drive letter, along with a brochure and a pledge card. Please fill out your pledge card and mail it or bring it to church on or before February 8.

**February 8 is Pledge Drive Sunday!** We have a special service planned, with a great sermon by Reverend Mark Morrison-Reed. Mark was an intern minister at Cedar Lane in the late 1970s, and he has since become a denominational leader and a prolific author. Several of his books, including his latest, *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*, will be on sale in our bookstore. Mark's planned sermon is "Dragged Kicking and Screaming Into Heaven," and should be great. On Pledge Drive Sunday, we will also call for people to fill out their pledge cards at the service, if they have not done so already, and bring them forward. Everyone is invited to a brunch after each service to celebrate our community.

**You will also get a call from a Cedar Lane Visiting Steward!** We are expanding participation in the financial stewardship of Cedar Lane, in particular to wider participation in the Pledge Drive. On January 17, we trained 35 Cedar Laners in conducting a brief low-key conversation about Cedar Lane and securing a pledge. Most of those 35 agreed to contact two people or families each. It would be very helpful if you could return your pledge card, or e-mail Church Administrator Sara Deshler with your pledge, on or before February 8.

**The Pledge Drive is Starting Early This Year!** Although the next fiscal year doesn't start until July 1, 2009, we need to know how much money we have to develop the budget, and we need to plan our two major fundraising events, the Pledge Drive and the Auction, so that they do not compete with each other. In recent years, the Auction

would take place before the Pledge Drive, but we kept moving the Auction later so it wouldn't be hampered by inclement weather. Last year's Pledge Drive had to work around the excitement of Easter and spring, and may have suffered as a result. So this year, the Pledge Drive is in February, and the Auction will be in March.

**The Pledge Drive Is Critical to Cedar Lane's Financial Health.** Cedar Lane raises 85 percent of its operating budget from the Pledge Drive, and 85 percent of the operating budget goes to staff salaries. Many of our staff members are paid at a rate far under guidelines issued by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and we have made a commitment to change that. Our goal this year is to raise \$890,000 with our Pledge Drive, an increase of slightly more than 5 percent over last year's goal.

**It Can Be Difficult to Raise Money in These Uncertain Economic Times!** However, we think Cedar Laners recognize that tough times are often the times when people need the church the most. If you have been affected adversely by the recent economic turmoil, you may have to pledge less or stop your pledge altogether—but please stay a part of our community. If you have not been adversely affected, this is a good time to be more generous. A spirit of stewardship nurtures the gifts and spiritual vocation of our community. Many of us recognize the abundance we enjoy in our lives and in our church, and we recognize giving as an act of joy. This year the Pledge Drive Committee includes: Susan Clark (Chair), Mike Brudin, John Daniel, Stew Grubman, Nancy Janssen, Pat Karlsen, Jack Mauro, Ed Moot, Kim Murray, Andy Streich and Michael Thoryn. Ex-officio members include: Roger Fritts, Sara Deshler and Kristin Grassel. Our Board Liaison is Dian Belanger

**Deadline to Order Name Plates for Memory Wall**  
Do you have a loved one whom you would like to memorialize with a name plate on the Memory Wall of the beautiful garden outside the Chalice House? He or she need not have been a member of the church. Orders for nameplates to be dedicated this spring need to be in the church office no later than Sunday, March 1. For applications or information, contact Lyn Peters, Chair of the Memory Garden and History Committee, at 301-881-2872 or [lyneters@verizon.net](mailto:lyneters@verizon.net). A dedication of the newest nameplates on the Memory Wall will take place on Sunday, May 24, after the church service.

**Cedar Lane Stage** celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary here at Cedar Lane in October with the production *The Vertical Hour* by David Hare. We look forward to our May 2009 production of Moliere's *Tartuffe*. Cedar Lane Stage is looking for a publicist to help increase our audiences.

This is a contract position per show. If you are interested please contact Dick Messalle at 301-681-5069.

**Kiplinger Committee Openings** Do you want to promote ethical consciousness? If so, consider joining the Kiplinger Committee. This committee, which sponsors the endowed Kiplinger ethics lecture each November and additional workshop/classes at other times during the year, has openings for new members. Members select topics, recruit speakers and workshop leaders and handle the details for each event. The committee meets on the first Thursday evening of each month. Current members include Susan Archer, Tom Bugenhagen, Betty May Cleary, Jim Hostetler, Harvey Lerner, Bob McClusky, Gerry Peterson, Marion Torchia, Wanda Van Goor, Bill Zellmer and Knick Knickerbocker (liaison from Adult Programs). Committee chair Betty May Cleary welcomes expressions of interest for 1, 2, and 3 year terms, [bettymayc@aol.com](mailto:bettymayc@aol.com); home 301-933-9442). You can also leave a message or questions at the church office.

**Swing Into Spring on March 21 at the Cedar Lane Auction** Consider the countless ways Cedar Lane *enriches* our lives and our community: Religious education, adult programs, worship service, actions for social justice, spiritual community, pastoral care, covenant groups, music, We Care neighborhoods, Spring B, fellowship, and more. The annual Cedar Lane Auction is a major opportunity for this community to gather and celebrate all that we value here, while at the same time raising the funds necessary to maintain, renew and strengthen all that Cedar Lane does. Please join us the evening of Saturday, March 21, for this year's *Swing Into Spring* Auction! A donation form is enclosed in this newsletter for your use. During February after each church service, head to the *Swing Into Spring* Auction table in the Lounge, to drop off forms, for donation questions, raffle and admission tickets, volunteer sign-ups, previews of items to be auctioned and information about reserving childcare and transportation for the evening of the Auction. In the meantime, some answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Auction:

**Looking for value for your money?** Experienced Auction-goers attest that each year's offerings reflect the creativity and vitality of this unique congregation. They say that perusing the range of unique items donated for sale is a large part of the evening's fun. The Auction is a great place to find bargains, buy birthday and graduation presents, and sign up for a wide array of entertaining and educational experiences. Most Auction items sell for \$50 or less, and the Nifty Thrifty Room will be stocked with treasures at \$25 or less.

**Not sure what to donate?** The Auction succeeds because of a full range of donations, large and small. Inserted in

this newsletter is a donation form, with dozens of ideas for donations listed on the reverse. Let your creativity be your guide.

**Feeling lucky?** This year's Auction offers two raffles: a gorgeous quilt handmade and donated by Cedar Lane's quilters and a "CLUUC Bucks" 50/50 raffle where the winner wins 50 percent of the total proceeds of the raffle sales. Raffle tickets remain a bargain at \$15 each.

**New to the church?** Attending the Auction is a great way to meet other members. Volunteering at the Auction is also a great way to immerse yourself in the Cedar Lane community. Most Auction tasks require only a 30-minute commitment, leaving you plenty of time to enjoy the festivities.

**What about the kids?** Free childcare – with pizza, movies and games – will be available in the Chalice House.

**Don't like to drive at night?** Because we want everyone to be able to attend, the Auction Committee will coordinate transportation for those who are uncomfortable driving at night but want to join in the fun.

Be sure to visit us at the *Swing Into Spring* table in the lounge during February, and mark March 21 on your calendar!

*Swing Into Spring Auction Committee  
Vicky and Paul Strella, Co-chairs*

**Save these Dates:**

**January 31** Afghan Benefit Dinner

**February 1** Superbowl Viewing Party

**February 8** Mark Morrison-Reed: Pledge Drive Speaker

**March 21** Auction

## Social Justice Council

**Cedar Laners Give "Life the Shape of Justice" at the Social Justice Empowerment Workshop.** Cedar Laners gave "Life the Shape of Justice" at the January Social Justice Empowerment Workshop. Many thanks! to the more than 120 people who brought life to the Social Justice Empowerment workshop on January 9 and 10. Special thanks to the ministers and members of the Board who turned out in force, to staff members Sara and Corinne for help with logistics and publicity and to Mickey for, among many other things, making sure we had coffee. Thanks to Susan and David for sharing their musical talents, to all who nourished us with gifts of soup, salad, cookies, chocolate and spinach lasagna (*go chef Phillip Strang!*), to the Green Dishwashing Team, and the set-up and clean-up crews and everyone who stepped up in large and small ways we may not even know about! If you attended the workshop, please help spread the word:

- Buy a ticket for the Jan. 31 Afghan Dinner
- Ride the bus to Annapolis for the Feb. 2 LGBT Lobby Day
- Help with Martha's Table or the Community Based Shelter or Beacon House
- Check out annettecedarlane@spamex.com, the new International Concerns Committee (ICC) listserv
- Go to <http://www.cedarlane.org/SJC/index.html> for the SJC home page
- Stop by the Lounge Lizards for Social Justice table after services on Sundays. Let us know about what you're thinking and doing, social justice-wise.

Keep in touch with us about your ideas; we will do the same. We know many were with us in spirit who were not able to be with us in person. We want to hear from you! Together, Cedar Lane can help give life the shape of justice. Sincerely, Co-Chairs,

*Betsy Devlin-Foltz*  
*betsy@devlin-foltz.com, 301-681-904*  
*Sandy Shaw*  
*alexandersha@gmail.com, 301-642-0083*

**LGBT Task Force News: For Equality Maryland's 2009 LGBT Lobby Day in Annapolis--Monday, February 2**, the Cedar Lane LGBT Task Force has chartered a bus to transport Lobby Day participants between Cedar Lane and Annapolis. Bus tickets (\$20 each) are available for purchase on Sunday mornings at the SJC table in the Lounge. Tickets can also be purchased by cash or check through the Cedar Lane office or from Mike Benefiel who can be reached at [mike@persuasiveinformation.com](mailto:mike@persuasiveinformation.com). The ticket cost will cover bus expenses, food for the ride, and a contribution to The Rainbow Youth Alliance (RYA)—sponsored by the UU Church of Rockville. Cedar Laners not able to join the bus excursion but wanting to support RYA are encouraged to purchase *spiritual tickets*. The bus will depart from Cedar Lane at 4 p.m.; return at between 8:30 and 9 p.m. For more information or to register for appointments, see [www.equalitymaryland.org](http://www.equalitymaryland.org). LGBT related issues in focus for the upcoming legislative session will be marriage equality for same-sex couples and the addition of gender identity and expression to the Maryland non-discrimination laws.

**50/50 Collection (February 1) to Benefit Equality Maryland:** Equality Maryland is Maryland's largest LGBT civil rights group. As an advocacy organization, Equality Maryland lobbies in Annapolis and across the state to create equal protection under the law for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Marylanders and their families. Its sister arm, The Equality Maryland Foundation, works to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against LGBT Marylanders through outreach, education, research, community organizing, training and coalition building. As part of its work, Equality Maryland has built

a strong network of citizen voices and a solid coalition of organizations (including Cedar Lane and other local UU congregations), which work together in their shared commitment to fairness and justice. For more information, see [www.equalitymaryland.org](http://www.equalitymaryland.org).

**AIM Works to Preserve State-Wide Education Funding, Annapolis, Jan. 15:** Cedar Laners joined 400 others to demand that state lawmakers make education off-limits in budget cuts needed to close the shortfall. The rally drew principals, teachers, parents, children and Baltimore City Schools chief Dr. Andrés Alonso. The rally was organized by the advocacy group Action In Montgomery (AIM), Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), and People Acting Together in Howard (PATH). The three groups announced the formation of a new organizing network, the Maryland Industrial Areas Foundation (MD IAF). Cedar Lane Church is a founding member of AIM. Besides asking that education be spared cuts, the MD IAF wants a third of any federal economic stimulus funds to be spent repairing and insulating schools and building recreation and community centers. They're also calling on the General Assembly to pass a law allowing mobile home owners in Howard County the opportunity to purchase the land where their dwellings sit before offering it to developers. MD IAF goes to Annapolis again on February 2 to visit state representatives. Contact [nancyjanssen@peoplepc.com](mailto:nancyjanssen@peoplepc.com).

**Community Based Shelter - 2009** A Big Thank You to the 100+ Cedar Lane members who volunteered their time, food, and money to support the CBS Shelter during the week of Sunday January 4 to 10. We estimate CLUUC volunteers spent over 250 hours and over \$900 during the week (see their names on the bulletin board). The Social Justice Council provided an additional \$532.23 to buy supplies and additional food. We should all be proud of a successful week and significant service to our community. Several members have expressed interest in Cedar Lane volunteering for additional service to CBS. There are open times and we are preparing a proposal. Please watch the Newsletter. Thanks!

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## **Swing Into Spring on March 21 at the Cedar Lane Auction**

Looking for a great value? Please plan to join us the evening of Sat., March 21 for this year's *Swing Into Spring* Fundraising Auction. Admission prices remain the same as last year - \$30 per person. What else can you do for \$30 on a Saturday night and get a delicious buffet, live music, childcare, enjoy the lively fellowship of more than 200 community members, peruse and purchase unique and creative gifts and services, all the while raising funds to maintain and strengthen all that Cedar Lane allows us to do and be?

How can you get involved? A donation form is enclosed in this newsletter, along with dozens of suggestions for what you might give, valued at \$50 or more. The Auction succeeds because of a full range of donations, large and small. If you also have gently used or new "treasures" valued at \$25 or less, save them for the Auction's popular Nifty Thrifty Room.

Starting after services on February 1 and continuing into early March, please visit the *Swing Into Spring*

Auction Table in the Lounge. Auction Committee members will be on hand to answer questions, receive donation forms, sell raffle and admission tickets, and recruit volunteers for the event.

Questions about the Auction? Contact co-chairs Vicky and Paul Strella, [strella@att.net](mailto:strella@att.net), or 301-365-4559. And do stop by the *Swing Into Spring* lounge table during February to meet the "Auctionistas," our wonderful Committee members who work hard to make this event an annual financial and social success for Cedar Laners!



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**The Rev. Roger Fritts** *Senior Minister*

**The Rev. Susan Archer** *Minister of Religious Education*

**The Rev. Heather Janules** *Associate Minister*

**The Rev. Archene Turner** *Coordinator of Senior High Youth Ministry*

**The Rev. Leslie Westbrook** *Community Minister in Pastoral Counseling*

**The Rev. Kenneth Torquil MacLean** *Minister Emeritus*

**The Rev. Roberta M. Nelson** *Minister Emerita*

**Dr. Henry Sgrecci** *Interim Director of Music*

**Dian Belanger** *Chair, Board of Trustees*

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