

ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER



Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4099

Lee McNair, *president*

December 2017

Leslie Backus, *editor*

The Alliance of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church is an affiliate member of the church open to all interested women and men. Its purpose is to promote programs and activities of a cultural and community nature that support Unitarian Universalist principles. In furtherance of these purposes the Alliance raises its own funds and establishes its own budget.

Alliance Day

Thursday, December 14, 2017

The Schedule for Alliance Day

- 11:30 a.m.** A relaxed time for socializing
- 12 noon** Potluck lunch. Please bring a main dish, salads, sides or desserts to serve eight. Please identify ingredients for those who are vegan/vegetarians or have allergies (e.g. meat, nuts, wheat, dairy). Please don't bring serving utensils.

1 p.m. Program

Volunteer Assignments:

- Set-Up:** 10:30 Don Woodruff
Lee McNair
- Greeter:** 11:30 Jean Schaible
- Curb Assistant:** ??????
- Receiving Food:** 11:45 Helen Pechacek
- Clean-Up:** 12:45 Harvey Lerner
- Tables:** Marion Torchia
- Serving Tables:** 12:45 Terry Tretter
- Tablecloths:** Joe Merenda
Nancy Janssen
- Bartender:** 11:00 Barbara Ricketts
- Flowers:** Sue Woodruff
Diane Mahlmood

January Newsletter Deadline—Because of the Christmas holiday, the deadline is Tuesday, December 12th. Send any items to backusle@verizon.net.

President's Message

"When we plant seeds of peace, compassion, and love; when we water them with hope, joy, and gratitude, we will harvest flowers of abundance for all the earth and it's inhabitants." Unknown.

In this period, when we are reminded of Thanksgiving, let us be grateful for all the abundance we have been granted. Let us remember to share our time, our talents, and our tithes with family, friends, and the strangers, within and without our door, who be denied the blessings of safety, security, and abundance with which we have been blessed.

Lee McNair

Program: Annual Holiday Sing-Along!!

Our small group of holiday singers will perform an old Christmas song from the Middle Ages. We will follow this with a humorous parody that comments on the busy-ness of the season. Our traditional Holiday Celebration finishes with the Sing Along! This year, the singers are Laura Sailer, Kathie Bryant (unless her grandchild is born first), Kate Harrison (new this year), and Leslie Backus. Susan Easterly will once again, graciously accompany all of us.



Leslie Backus

Something New for our December

Luncheon: Holiday Stories. We are trying something a bit new before our Holiday songs. We want you to bring a holiday memento or picture that has special meaning for you. You will share its story at your luncheon table. We anticipate a treasure trove of wonderful stories.



Sue Woodruff



Alliance Bridge Tuesdays 10 am to noon in the Library

All bridge players are welcome for casual party bridge! No partner needed.

Chicago Scoring. Cost \$3.

Marilyn Hathaway & Mary Beth Nowinski



First Friday Book Club –

11 a.m. in Rooms 1 & 2

The First Friday Book Club welcomes old friends and new. Anyone who is interested in discussing books is welcome! Bring a sandwich and socialize over refreshments at noon.

December 1: *Balzac and the Little Chinese*

Seamstress: A Novel by Dai Sije (2002), 184 pages. **Fiction.** A semi-autobiographic novel about two hapless city boys exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution.

Refreshments: **Holiday Pot Luck!**

January 5: (*The*) *History of Love* by Nicole Krauss (2005). pp. 272 **Fiction** In Nazi-occupied Poland, a young boy writes a book inspired by his love for a village girl named Alma. He loses the girl and the manuscript. In the 1950s, the book, claimed by another, is published in Chile.

Refreshments: Jean Shaible

February 2: *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo (2011), pp. 256 **Non-Fiction** A landmark work that tells the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in one of the 21st century's great, unequal cities.

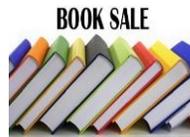
Refreshments: Mary Morse

March 2: (*The*) *Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig (2006), pp. 305. **Fiction** Paul Milliron, is charged with deciding the fate of his state's last scattered rural schools In the hours preceding his meeting to determine those schools' fate, he recalls when he was thirteen and attended his own one-room school in Marias Coulee.

Refreshments: Jean Thompson

Barbara Lewis

Alliance Book & Jewelry Sales



Sales are after both services. Book Corner sales will be December 3rd and 10th after services, and Jewelry sales will



be December 17th.

Mark your calendars! Come and buy some bargains!

Helen Pechacek

Fourth Thursday Classic Film Series—



Because of the holiday season, we will not meet during December (as was the case during November). See January newsletter for information about our next meeting.

Andy Levchenko and John Giovanelli

Medicare Information—

If you or someone you know is looking at Medicare options, go to medicare.gov and search for "Medicare Plan Finder." Using your Zip code, you can get help in comparing plans. If online does not work for you, you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Seniors, their family members, and/or caregivers can find free local help through State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs). Go to shiptacenter.org and select your location. You will get a link to your local program's website and a number you can call.

Lee McNair and Nancy Janssen

Membership Reminder!

All present Alliance members and those interested in joining: Please furnish me with up-to-date contact information and \$15/person yearly dues if you have not already done so for the 2016- 2017 season so that we can publish an accurate new directory in Jan, 2017. Please send the information to: the Alliance membership chair at CLUUC, 9601 Cedar Lane , Bethesda, MD, 20814 or bring it to our next luncheon on Dec. 14, 2017. Email me at lstomier@aol.com, call me at 301-946-2075, or stop by the membership desk at December's luncheon if you have further questions. I look forward to seeing you there! Please encourage any friends or newcomers to join us—there is room at our table(s). Thanks for all your cooperation and good company!

Louise Stomierowski