

# ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER



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

Sue Woodruff, *president*

January 2019

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, January 10, 2019

### The Schedule for Alliance Day

- 11:30 a.m.** A relaxed time for socializing  
**12 noon** Potluck lunch. Please bring a plant based main dish, salads, sides or desserts to serve eight. Please identify ingredients for those who are vegan/vegetarian 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 Jean Schaible  
Terry Tretter
- Greeter:** 11:30 Len Adler
- Curb Assistant:** Janice Krause
- Receiving Food:** 11:45 Helen Pechacek
- Clean-Up Tables:** 12:45 Margaret Levchenko  
Nancy Janssen
- Serving Tables:** 12:45 Don Woodruff
- Tablecloths:** Joe Merenda  
Linda Gianessi
- Bartender:** 11:30 Harvey lerner
- Flowers:** 10:45 Sue Woodruff  
(arrive) Diane Mahlmoood
- Transportation:** Wayne & Dottie Mara

### Next Newsletter Deadline:

**Tuesday, Januyar 22, 2019.** Send items to Leslie Backus at backusle@verizon.net.

*L. Backus*

### President's Message

Happy 2019! I'm always reluctant to make New Year's resolutions because they invariably involve difficult changes. However, I recently read the following by Klaus Schwab "Change can be frightening and the temptation is to resist it. But change almost always provides opportunities to learn new things, to rethink tired processes and to improve the way we work." So this year I decided on a small change. I'm going to try something new at Cedar Lane. There are a myriad of short and long term opportunities to learn and help at our church. Two in particular have come to my attention. First is Beloved Conversations. The Beloved Conversations curricula will give participants a chance to examine how to work for a more racially just world--both in our congregation and beyond. It will begin with a retreat on Friday January 18th. From 6:00 P.M to 9:30 P.M. and continue January 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. Then there will be eight 2 hour sessions every other week of small groups meeting to deepen the meaning of the beloved community. Second, there is the new round of Soul Matters groups beginning this month. Participants meet monthly in small groups and share ideas around a given theme. It is a great way to connect with others in a church as large as ours. January's theme is "possibilities." Contact Reverend Katie for Beloved Conversations, and Tim Atkins for Soul Matters groups. I'm not sure what my "something new" will be, but I'm enjoying the investigation.

*Sue Woodruff*

### Program: Rwena Moms: Unlocking Paths to Success

Join us as Cedar Laner Annette Scarpitta recounts the challenging and rewarding path to serving the marginalized village of Rwenena (Ruh-NAWN-uh) in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Annette will



focus on new and transformational initiatives for "Rwenena Kids" mothers over the last 9 months: instruction in literacy and human rights, and intensive training and practice of permaculture principles. In their new (cont'd)



roles as empowered, environmental stewards, mothers are gaining recognition and respect as they pave the way to better socio-economic opportunities for all.

*Wayne & Dottie Mara*

### Social Responsibility News

We are collecting empty plastic pill bottles with caps to send to Matthew 25: Ministries for inclusion in medical supply shipments to developing countries. They need large and small prescription bottles. Remove labels before leaving them in the drop-off containers at monthly luncheons and at the Sunday Book Corner.

*Dottie Mara*

### In the Lounge Sundays

January 2019 Alliance sales are in the lounge after both services.

Used books: Jan 6, 13 and 27

Please leave donations of used books in good condition in the coat closet at the top of the stairs. Mark them "For Alliance".

We appreciate your donations and please stop by on Sundays and buy.

*Helen Pechacek*



**Jewelry Sale on January 20!** In the lounge after both services. Find a wide variety of classic, Art Deco, New Age, and other styles of inexpensive jewelry. If you have anything to donate, drop it off at the sale or at the church office.



*Judy Laurenson*

### The Alliance Marathon Bridge Group

If you have questions about the group and the on-going marathon, contact Andy Wilson at [caver4@gmail.com](mailto:caver4@gmail.com)



**First Friday Book Club 11 a.m. in Rooms 1-2** The First Friday Book Club welcomes old friends and new. Bring a sandwich and socialize over refreshments at noon.

**January 4:**

**Between the World and Me** by TaNehisi Coates. (2015). N-

F. 152 pp. After the death of Trayvon Martin, Coates wrote this book in the form of a letter to his son. He hoped to impart the wisdom he's gained as a black man in America and to help his son grapple with racial injustice.

**Refreshments: Mary Morse** (cont'd)



**February 1: Snowblind** by Ragnar

Jonasson. (2017). F. 310 pp. Rookie policeman Ari

Thor moves from Reykjavik, Iceland to an isolated former fishing village a job where he's told "nothing ever happens". After an avalanche isolates the village, an author falls to his death and a village woman is found naked and bleeding to death in the snow.

**Refreshments: Dottie Mara**

**March 1:**

**Canada** by Richard Ford. (2012), F. 420 pp. After his parents are arrested and imprisoned for robbing a bank and murder, fifteen-year-old Montanan Dell Parsons is spirited away across the border to Saskatchewan by Arthur Remlinger who, unbeknownst to Dell, is hiding a dark and violent nature.

**Refreshments: Jean Thompson**

**April 5:**

**A River Runs Through It** by Norman Maclean. (1976). F. 217 pp. Based on the author's childhood experiences, this novel vividly describes life along Montana's Big Blackfoot River and blends fly fishing with the troubling affections of the heart.

**Refreshments: Rita Pittallo & Bonnie Tyler**

*Barbara Lewis*

### New Video Series on Caregiving and Dementia

A new video series, "Caregiving and Dementia: Understanding Responsive Behaviors" is available online on YouTube

([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWrNKxwrGh50-wAuGb7vfQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWrNKxwrGh50-wAuGb7vfQ?view_as=subscriber)) to help those who

provide care to individuals living with cognitive impairment. Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services' Caregiver Support Program develops public-private partnerships that support family caregivers and works to increase the availability of resources for caregivers. For more information and additional resources, check the program's website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/caregiver.html>

*Nancy Janssen*

### 2019 Benefit Concert

Our annual benefit concert takes place **January 26, 2019** at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Cedar Lane's Music Ministry and Social Justice Teams are pleased to support the work of the DMV Sanctuary Congregations Network (<http://sanctuarydmv.org/congregation-network/>) which provides help to those who fear being detained, deported, or profiled. Please come donate to this worthy organization and hear the exquisite John Rutter *Requiem* performed by the Cedar Lane Choir and Chamber Orchestra. For more information contact [music@cedarlane.org](mailto:music@cedarlane.org).

*Leslie Backus*