ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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

Connecting/Sharing/Enlightening

Linda Gianessi, *president* **2026 September** Leslie Backus, *editor*

The Alliance of Cedar Lane is a non-profit affiliate of the Cedar Lane UU Congregation. 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, September 10, 2026

The Alliance is open to all who wish to join, even those who are not members of Cedarlane. We meet monthly on second Thursdays for a pot-luck luncheon and lecture.

It is time to pay your dues for the 2026-27 Alliance year. You can pay several ways, just see the directions on the form on the last page. Dues paying members get to vote! And get a hardcopy Directory. If the cost is a hardship, call Beverly Catron at 301-424-6766.

Beverly Catron, membership chair

Below are the volunteers for our next meeting Many thanks to the volunteers, but we need people to set up and clear tables. If there are changes or you're willing to help, contact Don Woodruff (voice or text) at 301-602-7634 or email donwdrff@aol.com. Your assistance makes our renewal of friendships possible! Be well!

Set-Up (arrive 10:30 am)	Don Woodruff
	TBD
AV Setup:	Mike Morse
Greeter (arrive 11:30 am)	Wayne & Dottie Mara
Receive Arriving Food (arrive 11:45 am)	John Gubbings
Clear Luncheon Tables (12:45-1:00 pm)	Barbara Tomar
	TBD
Clear Serving Tables (12:45-1:00 pm)	TBD
	TBD
Tablecloths	Leslie Backus
	Mary Beth Nowinski
Bar Supplies & Setup	Joe Merenda
Bartender (arrive 11:30 am)	Nancy Bliss
Flowers (arrive at 10:45 am)	Jean Schaible

Luncheon Schedule:

11:30	Socializing and set up
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Announcements
1:00	Program Begins

October Newsletter Deadline

Submit items for the newsletter to Leslie Backus (backusle@verizon.net) by **Saturday, September 19.**

President's Message

Welcome back to the Alliance, old members and new potential members! I hope your summers were filled with good times as you avoided the heat and the downpours.

I am writing this column as I drive through the corn and soybeans of central Illinois. The wide expanse of the blue sky is something we don't see in Montgomery County. It is just beautiful.

Your Board is working on some fascinating programs for the coming year. I hope to see you at our monthly luncheons on the second Thursday of each month, September through June. Mark them on your calendars now.

Linda Gianessi, President

September Program

"Becoming Americans: 1774"

In the spring of 1774, ten men from what would become Montgomery County met at Hungerford's Tavern in Rockville to sign historic resolves to boycott all trade with Britain in response to her brutal retaliation against Boston for the "Tea Party" there in December 1773. Join **Sandra Heiler from Montgomery History** as she puts those and other men's actions within the broader context of a transition, as American colonists began to see themselves no longer as Englishmen and women, but ultimately as Americans. The talk will focus on the chain of events that led to the Hungerford Resolves, what they agreed to, why they were historic, and what happened next.

Wayne and Dottie Mara

June Program

After the Alliance of Cedar Lane's Annual Business meeting, we heard Rev. Louise Green, Cedar Lane's

part-time minister for pastoral care speak on her life and ideas for CLUUC. A good time was had by all!
L. Backus

Alliance Officers 2026-'27

We held our CLUUC Alliance elections at our June meeting. Here are the officers for this year:

President:	Linda Gianessi
Vice President:	Helen Pechacek
Recording Sec.:	Robin Larkin
Corresponding Sec:	Jean Schaible
Treasurer:	Doug Hardy
Nominating Committee:	Cathy Knapper
	Helen Pechacek
	Betsy Binckes
Committee Chairs:	
Audio:	Mike Morse
Book Club & Sales:	Helen Pechacek
Bridge:	Robin Larkin
	Mary Beth Nowinski
Jewelry Sales:	Judy Laurenson
Membership:	Barbara Tomar
	Bev Catron
Memorial Receptions:	Don Woodruff
Newsletter Editor:	Leslie Backus
Programs:	Martha Merenda
	Wayne Mara
	Nancy Bliss
Social Responsibility	Dottie Mara

From Norm: Amusement parks can take crystal-clear pictures of you on a roller coaster doing 70 mph, but bank cameras can only deliver blurred pix of a robber standing still.

Tuesday Morning Bridge

We meet for friendly, in-person play every Tuesday, 10 am to noon in the Fellowship Hall (advanced beginner or intermediate level bridge). You do not need a partner, and you are welcome to bring friends! We encourage membership in the Alliance, but it's not required. Please join us. For more information, contact one of our co-chairs: Robin (robinlarkin@comcast.net) or Mary Beth Nowinski (mnowin@aol.com). *Robin Larkin*

June Social Responsibility

We connected our June charity to our Speaker, Rev Louise Green, who expressed an interest in supporting special needs pets. So, the charity we chose was House with a Heart, a residence for senior and special needs dogs and cats who have lost their families and homes through no fault of their own. The Alliance membership donated $119. *Dottie Mara*

Outsmarting the Scammers

(From National Education Association Retired Members Newsletter)

Be wary of online relationships where the person provides little personal info and is vague about critical aspects of their lives.

Get a call from a loved one in trouble? Verify it with a 'safe word' you've agreed on before. AI can do amazing imitations!

Never give money or personal info to solicitors who come to your door. Contribute through the organization's website instead.

Check phone numbers against the official website (be careful!!) of an organization. Don't use links you are given.

Double check email addresses (hover the cursor over the name in the email headings) to make sure it's actually from the right group—a weird address means it's fake!

When in doubt, verify the source!

Summer Correspondence

06-29-26 Happy Birthday card t **Martha Lisle** who turned 92.
Thank You card to **Rev. Louise Green** for her talk at our June luncheon.
08-05-2026 Happy Birthday card to **Bob Harrison** who turned 94! *Jean Schaible, Corresponding Secretary*

Jewelry Sales

Jewelry sales have been quite successful! Watch the eNews for sale dates. **We need donations!** If you have jewelry you no longer wear, bring it to the monthly

meetings or drop it off (labeled!) at CLUUC's offices!

Judy Laurenson

Alliance Used Book Sales

The next used book sale is Sunday, **September 20** in

the Fellowship Hall before and after the service. Please **bring cash**. You may also donate books in good condition during the sale times. We welcome browsing and chatting about books. **We don't sell dictionaries, coffee table books, or textbooks.** Prices are very reasonable. All sales go to Cedar Lane or local charities.
Email helenpechacek@gmail.com if you have questions.

Helen Pechacek

Alliance Book Club

Alliance Book Club the first Friday of every month at 11 am in the library.

Our next meeting is **Friday September 4,** and we will discuss *Clear* by Carys Davis. The novel explores themes of connection, language, and hope, and the setting is a remote island off Scotland. Bring along a bag lunch and stay after to visit with others. Questions? Email Helenpechacek@gmail.com. Welcome to all!

Upcoming books include:

October 2: *Tinkers* by Paul Harding. (Fiction) 2009 (Won Pulitzer Prize in 2010) salesman dealing with epilepsy, and his grandfather. (Kathy Richardson)

November 6 *Drawn Testimony: My Four Decades as a Courtroom Sketch Artist* by Jane Rosenberg. (Nonfiction) 2024 This author offers witty, observant insights into her 40-year career sketching notorious criminals and celebrities. (Examples are Gotti, Brady, Maxwell, Cosby, Weinstein, and Trump.) (Mary Morse)

December 4 *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, (Fiction) 2022, A charming and witty book that traces the friendship between a 70 year old widow and a giant Pacific octopus. The widow cleans at the aquarium near Puget Sound. (Allison Burton)

Helen Pechacek, Alliance Book Club

MoCo Food Assistance Resources

If you need food assistance or want to help others, the Montgomery County Office of Food Systems Resilience (<ctrl click>) connects residents to resources and volunteer opportunities. Together with the Montgomery County Food Council, they have created a map of over 100 food assistance sites across Montgomery County and compiled information about programs such as SNAP, WIC, meal delivery services, programs for seniors, and more. They also have an ongoing list of local food pantries and donation drives (<ctrl click> for those who want to help their neighbors in need.

L. Backus

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ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP DUES 2026-2027 Join now! Dues are $20 per person (Any additional amount will help the work of the Alliance!). Be sure to fill in *all of the information* below. Mail this form with a check, payable to CLUUC Alliance, to: Alliance Membership Cochairs: Barbara Tomar/Beverly Catron, 2400 Birch Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910, *OR* you can drop them off in the Alliance mailbox at CLUUC, *OR* bring them to a monthly meeting! You will receive a directory later. PLEASE PRINT!!

NAME*_____PHONE: _____

FULL ADDRESS: _____

_____

E-MAIL* _____ TODAY'S DATE: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Name_____Phone_____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: _____ ADDITIONAL DONATION: _____TOTAL PAID: _____