

ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER



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

Connecting/Sharing/Enlightening

Linda Gianessi, *president*

🎃 October 2026 🎃

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, October 8, 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 potluck and lecture.

It is time to pay your dues for the 2026-27 Alliance year. You can pay several ways--see the directions on the last page. Dues payers get to vote! And get a hard-copy 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:

[If there are changes, contact Don Woodruff (voice or text) at 301-602-7634 or email donwdrff@aol.com]

Set-Up (arrive 10:30 am)

AV Setup:

Greeter (arrive 11:30 am)

Receive Arriving Food
(arrive 11:30 am)

Clear Luncheon Tables
(12:45-1:00 pm)

Clear Serving Tables
(12:45-1:00 pm)

Tablecloths

Bar supplies:

Bar set up:

Bartender (arrive 11:30 am)

Flowers (arrive at 10:45 am)

Kitchen Cleanup

Unfortunately, we didn't receive the volunteer list in time, so the names aren't here. If you remember you signed up, you might let Don know you will be doing your duties! If you're not sure, check with him! If you didn't sign up, but can show up early to help, then, please do!

Luncheon Schedule:

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

🎃 November Newsletter Deadline 🎃

Submit items to Leslie Backus (backusle@verizon.net) by Saturday, October 24!

🎃 President's Message 🎃

It was great to see so many of you at our September luncheon, kicking off our new year. Our lunch speaker for October is Nancy Soreng from the League of Women Voters of Maryland who will help us understand the various state and local ballot questions on our November ballots. This is a great way to stay informed.

The next Alliance book sales are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Come and browse our used books! Our October 18th sale will include some mystery and poetry books donated by our member, Kathleen Reedy. Thank you, Kathleen!

The Alliance will also hold a jewelry sale in mid-October (check the eNews for details). We're accepting used jewelry donations. Please place your donations in the top left drawer of the reception desk which is marked Alliance Drop off.

Fall is here with a bit cooler temperature. The trees are starting to show some color. Before long some of us will be raking these leaves.

I hope to see you October 8th for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
Linda Gianessi, President

🎃 October Program 🎃



Nancy Soreng will be speaking about the three state-wide ballot questions and a bit about the Special Session and the subsequent court cases relating to Question 3. She may include that the proposed Montgomery County Question did not receive enough valid signatures to appear on the ballot. We can expect a knowledgeable talk on MoCo politics! She was president of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County from 2003-

2007 and was president of the League of Women Voters of Maryland from 2021-2023. Ms Soreng previously served in that capacity from 2009-2013 and from 2015-2017. Since 2023, she has served as chair of the League of Women Voters of Maryland Advocacy Program. A member of the Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organization's Policy Council for more than a decade, she chaired the Montgomery County Charter Review Commission from 2007-2010.

Wayne Mara

🎃 October Program 🎃



Sandra Heiler from Montgomery County History gave an expansive and detailed history of activities leading up to the Declaration of Independence, 250 years ago!

L. Backus

🎃 Tuesday Morning Bridge 🎃

We meet for friendly, in-person play every Tuesday, 10 am to noon in the Fellowship Hall in the main building (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



🎃 September Social Responsibility 🎃

Our charity for September was Montgomery History. This organization serves the residents in our region through its research library, adult programs, educational activities, its publication (THE MONTGOMERY STORY), speakers bureau, exhibits and conferences, since it was founded in 1944. Thanks to

your generosity, we were able to donate \$137.00 to Montgomery History..

Dottie Mara

🎃 September Correspondence 🎃

9-15-26 **Sympathy and celebration of joy to John Gubbings and Cathy Knapper.** John's sister, Joy Dipatri, died on September 7 and his grandson Philip Schwartz and Chelsea McKinney married September 9 in Port Angeles, Washington.

9-15-26 **Thank you card to Sandy Heiler** from Montgomery History who spoke to us about Becoming an American, 1774, at our September Alliance luncheon.

9-17-26 A **Thinking of You** card to **Glenis Bellais**

9-21-26 **Get Well** card to Pat Phillips who had knee surgery on 9/21

9-21-26 **Thank You** card to the Merendas for their generous gift to the Alliance

Jean Schaible, Corresponding Secretary

🎃 Jewelry Sales 🎃

The next Alliance jewelry sale is **October 11!** We have lots of wonderful jewelry, including many artisanal silver pendants with semi-precious stones! Before and after service. Cash preferred; credit and debit cards, and Venmo are accepted. Donations of gift boxes and jewelry bags would be appreciated.



Judy Laurenson

"So, my friend refused to eat beef tongue because 'it came out of a cow's mouth.' I gave them an egg." Anon.

🎃 Alliance Used Book Sales 🎃



The next Alliance Used book sale is Sunday October 18 in the Fellowship Hall before and after the service. You may also donate books in good condition at this time. We have some new exciting books for sale. Please bring cash. Prices are very reasonable. Do stop by and see what you can find. Questions: HelenPechacek@gmail.com

Helen Pechacek

🎃 Science & Religion 🎃

You may or may not know about this group here at Cedarlane! We meet weekly on Monday mornings, 10 am-noon on Zoom. We choose topics to explore—world religions sacred texts, history of the universe since the Big Bang, nature of consciousness, human brain, El Niño, AI, etc.—then listen to audiobooks, DVD courses, member presentations, videos—for about an hour. After that, we take turns commenting on what we've heard. Then, after each has responded, we have open discussions on whatever topics evolve. It's a friendly

group! And we have a wide range of 'science expertise'! If you are interested, contact Marilyn Hathaway at marilhat@gmail.com.

L. Backus

🎃 Book Club 🎃

Alliance Book Club meets the first Friday of every month at 11 am in the library. Our next meeting is **Friday October 2**, and we will discuss *Tinkers* by Paul Harding. He won a Pulitzer in 2010, and it's about a salesman dealing with epilepsy. Questions? email Helenpechacek@gmail.com. Welcome to all!



Upcoming books include:

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. She cleans at an aquarium near Puget Sound. (Allison Burton)

January 8 (the first Friday is New Year's Day) *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn (Historical Fiction) 2021, 656 pages. The story follows three women working as code breakers at Bletchley Park during World War II. (Mary Morse)

Helen Pechacek, Alliance Book Club



🎃 On the Road Again 🎃

Our 2026 trip was like most of our travels over the past 25 years: a road trip in our campervan. This time, however, we decided to take things to a whole new level. We were on the road for four and a half months,

traveling through 23 states, the Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta!

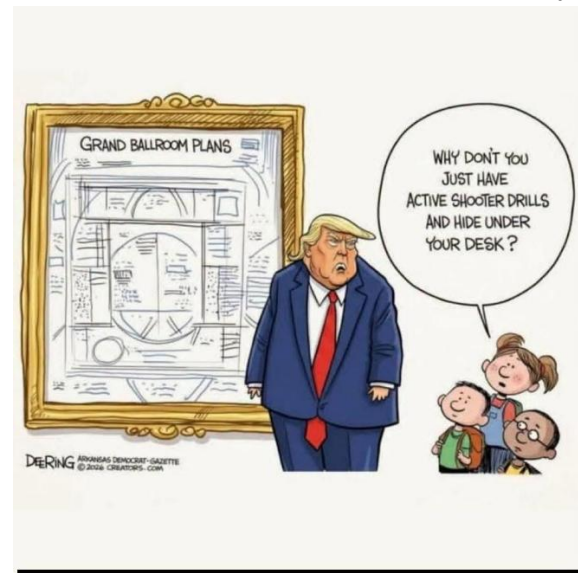
I'm not sure I'll ever take another trip quite this long, but I'm very glad we did it. One of the best parts was finally making it to Alaska. It was also fun to slow down in some of the states that we normally just pass through on our way to somewhere else.

With four and a half months of travel, there were far too many highlights to fit into one article. A few stand out, though. We enjoyed spending time with our camping friends in Arizona, and we especially loved spending a couple of weeks with our daughter and son-in-law as they moved into their first home in Seattle.

We loved Alaska! There was adventure and incredible scenery throughout our time there, beginning with the ferry from Bellingham, WA, to Juneau, campervan and all, through Alaska's Inside Passage. Two highlights were spending a clear, beautiful day cruising in Kenai Fjords National Park and watching 4 humpback whales bubble net feeding. Another memorable day was in Fairbanks at the World Indian-Eskimo Olympics, watching events like the fish-cutting contest, where contestants demonstrated speed and precision while filleting salmon, and the greased-pole walk, which required remarkable balance and strength.

Four and a half months was a long time to be on the road, and while I would definitely love to go back to Alaska, I think next time I'll take a plane and rent a car!

Mary Morse



🎃 Midterm Elections are Coming! 🎃

In case you hadn't heard, there will be an election in November. It is not too early to plan how you will vote!! The League of Women Voters' [Vote411](https://www.vote411.org) website is up & running! It has personalized information for you if you enter your address (you can browse all elections nationwide if



you're reluctant to give them that): how and where to register and vote, deadlines, candidate pix and their answers to LWV's questions.



If you would like to know whom the teachers' union is endorsing, the Maryland State Education Association's statewide recommendations are [here](#). Their recommendations are based on extensive interviews of candidates and their positions on educational issues.

L. Backus

Another beautiful rock painting by Jean Schaible:



🍎 MoCo's Active Aging Week 🍎

The week will kick off on Monday, Oct. 5, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with the signature event, "Go, Grow, and Get Active," at the Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center, located at 13850 Travilah Road. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. From 9 to 11:45 a.m., participants can choose from more than 40 activities/workshops designed to

support well-being through creative expression, exercise, and social connection. Activities will include yoga, tai chi, Wii games, dancing, writing, pickleball, and more.

A resource fair will follow from (11:45 am to 1:30 pm) with more than 23 organizations providing information about services and resources for older adults. Health screenings for bone density, blood pressure, and mental health also will be available.

Registration is required to participate in the Active Aging Week signature event. To register for the event, visit the Active Aging Week [webpage](#).

Visit the Active Aging Week [calendar](#) to view all program dates, times, and locations.



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 Cochair: 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: _____