

# ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER



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

*Connecting/Sharing/Enlightening*

Sue Woodruff, president

 2026 June-August 

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, Sept 10, 2026** 

The Alliance is open to all who wish to join, even those not members of Cedarlane. We meet on second

If you haven't paid your dues for this year, see the last page. Dues paying members get a hardcopy directory and a vote. If it's a hardship, call Beverly Catron at 301-424-6766. *Beverly Catron, membership chair*

## Below are the volunteers for our next meeting:

|                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Set-Up (arrive 10:30 am)             | Don Woodruff<br>Martha Merenda     |
| AV Setup                             | Kathie Bryant                      |
| Greeters (arrive 11:30 am)           | Dottie Mara<br>Wayne Mara          |
| Receive Arriving Food (11:45)        | Doug Hardy                         |
| Clear Luncheon Tables (12:45)        | Barb Tomar<br>Robin Larkin         |
| Clear Serving Tables<br>(12:45-1:00) | Helen Pechacek<br>Robin Larkin     |
| Tablecloths                          | Leslie Backus<br>Moshe Shmuklarsky |
| Bar Supplies                         | Joe Merenda                        |
| Bar setup                            | Joe Merenda                        |
| Bartender (arrive 11:30 am)          | Ellen Duke                         |
| Flowers (arrive at 10:45 am)         | MaryBeth Nowinski                  |
| Kitchen Clean-Up                     | Don Woodruff<br>Don Pechacek       |

## Luncheon Schedule:

|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| 11:30 | Socializing and set up |
| 12:00 | Lunch                  |
| 12:45 | Announcements          |
| 1:00  | Program!!              |

 **September Newsletter Deadline** 

Submit items for the newsletter to Leslie Backus ([backusle@verizon.net](mailto:backusle@verizon.net)) by **Saturday, August 22, 2026**.  
(This is our last newsletter for the '25-'26 CLUUC year)

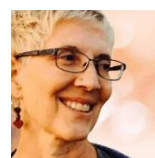
 **Making Alliance Even Better** 

At each Alliance luncheon there are some members who work regularly and some who volunteer from, time to time. A volunteer sheet goes around, and members sign to give their time for the next luncheon. You may not think that's much, but I learned how much it means. At the last luncheon we had our regular helpers with help from the monthly signups. However, we had many people absent. I mentioned at the luncheon we could use some help, and four people went to help. Those four people enabled our regular folks to finish in record time and to enjoy their time at the luncheon much more. It occurred to me that there were folks who come all year to the luncheons and don't give any volunteer time. If you are able to give some time even 2 or 3 times a year, it would make a huge difference for the folks who work every luncheon.

This will be my last President's message, and I want to thank an outstanding Alliance Board, wonderful Committee Chairs, and an excellent Nominating Committee for all they did to make the Alliance happen this year. There is a great slate of officers for next year. Have a super summer! *Sue Woodruff, Alliance President*

 **June Program** 

After the Alliance of Cedar Lane's Annual Business meeting to elect officers for 2026-2027 and the presentation of our Treasurer's Report, we will hear from Rev. Louise Green, Cedar Lane's part-time minister for pastoral care. A longtime UU community minister, spiritual director, and community organizer, Louise has served at All Souls DC, River Road, and as summer minister at UUC Arlington. She lives in DC with her spouse Regina and a house full of animal companions. *Wayne & Dottie Mara*



 **May Program** 

Anameris Sasso, from Senior Planet gave a good introduction to AI: how AI is being used today, what its

current limitations are, and how it will shape the future. The Q & A was a little intense, but the afternoon was interesting and evocative.

### '26-'27 Alliance Candidates

The current Alliance Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2026-2027 Alliance Board. Membership will vote to elect the Board at the June 11<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting.

President – Linda Gianessi

Vice President- Mary Morse

Recording Secretary – Robin Larkin

Corresponding Secretary-Jean Schaible

Treasurer-Doug Hardy

Nominating Committee – Cathy Knapper

Helen Pechacek

Betsy Binckes

*Mary Beth Nowinski, Robin Larkin, Judy Shaffer*

### Seeking Chainsaw Donation

The Grounds Team is seeking a heavy-duty chainsaw to trim downed limbs and dead branches. If you have a chainsaw that you are no longer using, please contact Linda Gianessi at [groundsteam@cedarlane.org](mailto:groundsteam@cedarlane.org). Or stop by the Engagement Corner this Sunday after the service where the Grounds Team members will staff the table.

*Linda Gianessi*

### Elections



#### **VOTE411 NOW OPEN!**

EASY TO USE  
PERSONALIZED FOR YOU  
PRINT YOUR CHOICES  
TAKE THEM WITH YOU TO THE POLLS

Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for candidate information

Be prepared to cast your ballot in the Primary Election, June 23, during Early Voting (June 11-18), or via mail or drop box!

The League invited all candidates on the ballot in Montgomery County to answer questions about issues of interest to voters. The candidates' responses, where provided, are posted in [VOTE411](http://VOTE411) in English and -Spanish. The League does not support or oppose any candidate.

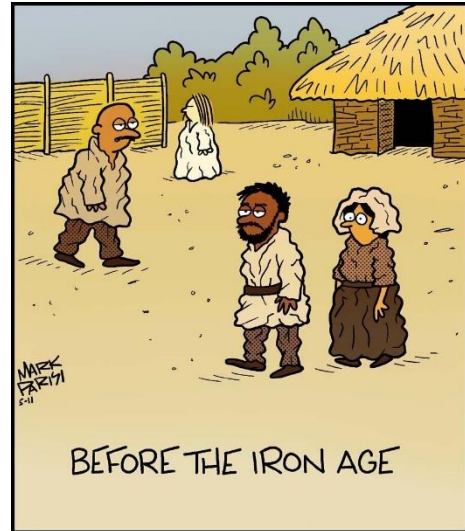
To view a personalized Voters' Guide, visit [VOTE411](http://VOTE411) and enter your address to see only the candidates who will appear on your ballot. The League invites you to read what the candidates have to say in their own words, to help you make your choices. VOTE411 can email you your list of candidate choices to bring with you to the polls.

### 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 Larkin ([robinlarkin@comcast.net](mailto:robinlarkin@comcast.net)) or Mary Beth Nowinski ([mnowin@aol.com](mailto:mnowin@aol.com)).



*Robin Larkin*



### Alliance Used Book Sales

Alliance Used books Sales occurs **every third Sunday** in the **Fellowship Hall**. The next Alliance Used book Sale will be Sunday **June 21** (Fathers' Day!) before and after the service, in the Fellowship Hall. We will accept donations of books\* in good condition then. All sales go to Cedar Lane or local charities.



Thank you for your generous donations! Email [helenpechacek@gmail.com](mailto:helenpechacek@gmail.com) or call her at 339-440-2670 if you have questions. (\*No textbooks or coffee table books!)

*Helen Pechacek*



DAILYSQUAT.COM

**Circuses struggling to find new clowns as top prospects continue to go into politics**

## Alliance Book Club

Alliance Book Club **meets** the **first Friday** of every month at 11 am in the library. Our next meeting is Friday, **June 5**. We will discuss *James* by Everett Percival. Bring a bag lunch and stay to chat after the discussion!



The Alliance Book Club welcomes all members and friends of CLUUC. Please contact Helen Pechacek ([helenpechacek@gmail.com](mailto:helenpechacek@gmail.com)) for more information or questions. Our next upcoming book selections are:

**July 3** *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah (Historical Fiction) 2015 440-448 pages. This is about two French sisters and their different paths of survival and resistance during World War II. It is based on a true story about a Belgian woman who saved many lives. (Helen Pechacek)

**August 7** *On Call* by Dr. Anthony Fauci (Memoir) 2024, 446 pages This book spans his life from his boyhood in Brooklyn, New York, to his caring for critically ill patients, navigating the whirlpools of Washington politics, and behind the scenes advising and negotiating with seven presidents on key issues from global AIDS relief to infectious disease preparedness at home. (Allison Burton)

**September 4** *Clear* by Carys Davies (Historical Fiction) 2024, 208 pages. In 1843, an impoverished Scottish minister is sent to a remote island to evict its last inhabitant during the Highland Clearances. After the minister is injured, a profound bond develops between him and the islander, exploring themes of connection, language, and hope. Available in libraries. (Robin Larkin)

*Helen Pechacek*

## Jewelry Sales

Jewelry sales are over for the 25-26 congregational year—April 26 was the last! Jewelry donations are always accepted, though currently we have plenty of boxes. Please leave donations in the top left drawer of the reception desk in the main office. Thanks! It has been a good year for sales!



*Judy Laurenson*



## April Correspondence



Not having her address, we sent our May speaker Anameris Sasso a **Thank you email** for her talk on Artificial Intelligence.

*Jean Schaible, Corresponding Secretary*



## May Social Responsibility



The charity for May was Shepherd's Table. Located in the Progress Place in Silver Spring, MD, it operates 365 days a year providing professional chef prepared meals, social services, and support to people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity. Additionally, Shepherd's Table offers free eye exams, prescription glasses, a closet with donated clothing, toiletries, and blankets. This organization also has job training in the culinary field. Thanks to your generosity, the Alliance was able to donate \$185.00 to Shepherd's Table.

*Dottie Mara*

"The two prime movers in the Universe are Time and Luck."

*K. Vonnegut*

## ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP DUES 2025-2026

Join now! Dues are \$20 per person (**Any additional amount will help the work of the Alliance!**). Please be sure to fill in your name, e-mail address, and emergency contact. **Mail** this form with a check, **payable to CLUUC Alliance**, to: **Alliance Membership Chair: Beverly Catron, 14601 Drum Hill Court, North Potomac, MD 20878**, or you can **drop them off in the Alliance mailbox** at CLUUC or **bring them to a monthly meeting**. You will receive a hardcopy Directory later in the year. **PLEASE PRINT!**

NAME\* \_\_\_\_\_ TEL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City ZIP

EMERGENCY CONTACT\* \_\_\_\_\_ TEL \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Membership dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 E-MAIL\* \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date of payment \_\_\_\_\_ (\*required)