

# The Beacon

A weekly email newsletter from  
 Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Serving Bainbridge Island and Northern Kitsap County



Volume 10, Issue 29 July 31, 2020

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## Upcoming Services

### Reading as Spiritual Practice

Sunday, August 2, 10:30 a.m.  
 Online Service-Zoom link opens at 10:10 a.m.



**Puget Sound Worship Collaborative  
 for the Cedars, Northlake, Saltwater and Westside UU Churches**  
 Rev. Cynthia Westby, Director of Religious Exploration  
 for Children and Youth, Westside UU Church

Reading helps us live in this world, allows us to explore meaning and truths, and inspires and pushes us to engage in serious reflection about our lives. In this challenging time, reading is a shared comfort for many of us. Our reading can inspire individual or community spiritual practice--powerful and engaging mindfulness practice.

Join **Rev. Cynthia Westby** and **Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee** (Northlake UU Church) and learn about various spiritual practices to use with the books you love.

The Zoom link for every week's Sunday Worship Service through the summer is: [Summer Worship Services](#)

**Coffee Hour:** After the service, those who wish to stay for **Coffee Hour** will be invited into randomized Zoom rooms. These will be small gatherings where you can meet new people; to allow for conversation, there will be between 10-15 in a room. You can decline the invitation by ignoring it, and stay in the larger Zoom room at the end of the service.

Please join the collaborative virtual Sunday Worship Service each week through the end of August.

Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash.



**Cedars UU Church is a  
 Welcoming Congregation  
 and Green Sanctuary**

### Our Mission

Worship with open hearts  
 Nurture a learning spirit  
 Serve justice with compassion  
 Love without judgment



**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

### Cedars Calendar

To view our detailed calendar [click here](#). Then click on the event title to reveal a drop down with more information and an event description.  
**Links to virtual meetings are in the event description.**

*Taking advantage of online options, your Cedars community invites you to share events, get information, enjoy fellowship, and pause for reflection.*

**August 2**  
**10:30 a.m.** Sunday Worship Service (Zoom link open at 10:10 a.m.)  
 See link in *Upcoming Services*.

**August 5**  
**6:00 p.m. (Online)** Cedars Town Hall  
[Cedars Town Hall](#)  
 Pass code: 1956

## Going Nowhere

**Sunday, August 9, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Online Service-Zoom link opens at 10:10 a.m.**

**Puget Sound Worship Collaborative  
for the Cedars, Northlake, Saltwater, and Westside UU Churches**  
**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Cedars UU Church  
and Gracie Bucklew, Worship Associate**

There is a lot that we can learn from leaving our homes and traveling the world. Seeing new sights and having new experiences often broaden our perspective and cause us to approach life in different ways. In this service, however, we will take time to consider the things that we can learn from going nowhere. Join **Rev. Zackrie Vinczen** and **Gracie Bucklew** as they explore how these learnings can be equally transformative.

## Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, August 23, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Virtual Worship Service  
and Blessing of Pets**

On **Sunday, August 23**, please join us to celebrate the *blessing of the animals*. This is an opportunity to honor the connection we have with our beloved pets. It is a time to express our gratitude and warm wishes for the friendship and care they bring to our lives. There also will be a time to honor and remember pets who have died.



We are creating a slide show of members of our congregations with their pets. If you would like a picture included, please send it by e-mail to [minister@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:minister@saltwaterchurch.org) with *Blessing of the Animals* in the subject line. Photos are **due by Monday, August 17**. On August 23rd, we invite you to bring your pets to worship with you, so we can see them and bless them during our live Zoom service!

**-Rev. Kristen Kuriga, Minister  
Saltwater UU Church**

*Photo by April Walker on Unsplash.*

## Water Ceremony

**September 13, 2020**  
**Virtual Worship Service**

If you want to participate in this year's virtual **Water Ceremony**, marking the beginning of our active church year, please take a few minutes to watch these video instructions by **Rev. Zackrie**. Find out how you can participate by submitting a short video clip.



Submissions will be accepted between now and **August 31**. These clips do not need to be perfect! *The goal is connection, not perfection.*

[Water Ceremony Instructions](#)

*Photo by Jamie Street on Unsplash.*

**7:30 p.m. (Online) Choir Practice**

**August 6**  
**10:00 a.m. (Online) Morning Reflection**  
**[Morning Reflection](#)**

Pass code: 1959

Link and pass code can be used each week.

## Pastoral Care Team

### Pastoral Care and Covid-19

In recent discussion within the **Cedars Pastoral Care Team**, **Rev. Zackrie** confirmed that he would appreciate being informed if any member of the Cedars community tests positive for Covid-19. The information will remain confidential if the person so wishes, but **Rev. Zackrie's** awareness could help with contact tracing as well as determining what support and possible services could be offered by Pastoral Care Team members and perhaps the larger Cedars UU community as well.

**-Pastoral Care Team**

## Welcome Cedars Seekers!

**Marvin Evans Reading Group**  
**Tuesday, August 11, 1:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Discussion Using Zoom**

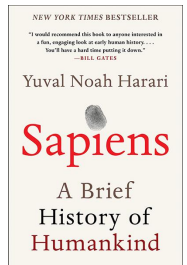
The **Marvin Evans Reading Group** will conclude its discussions of Yuval Harari's fascinating book, *Sapiens, a Brief History of Humankind*.

Harari draws on insights from biology, anthropology, paleontology, and economics to explore how history has shaped our societies, the animals and plants around us, and even our personalities. Have we become happier as history has unfolded? Can we ever free our behavior from the legacy of our ancestors? What, if anything, can we do to influence the course of the centuries to come?

In its final discussion of *Sapiens*, the group will touch upon all the major themes found in this book.

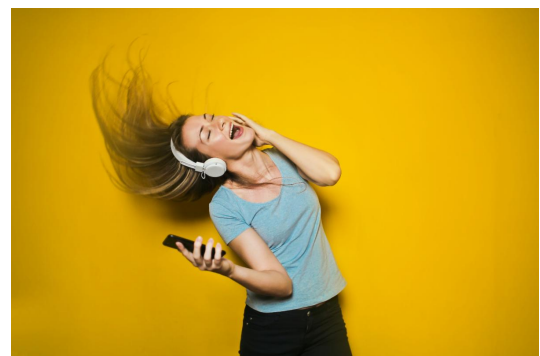
*Please join us*, even if you have not participated in the earlier sessions. The book is an acclaimed and rewarding source of insight into our history and potential as a species.

Contact **Alan Miller** or **Mary Romeo** for more information and a link to the Zoom discussion.



## Come Sing a Song with Us!

**Wednesday, August 19, 7:30 p.m.**



Are you missing singing in church? Come sing with the **Cedars**

## News and Announcements

### From the Board of Trustees

#### Board Begins New Church Year

The **2020-2021 Board of Trustees** met for their first meeting of the new church year last week, electing officers, appointing a replacement for a vacant Trustee position, and setting dates for subsequent monthly Board meetings as well as Congregational Business Meetings.



Officers elected for the new year were: **Heidi Parkington-Thal** as President, **Helen Nissani** as Vice-President, **Kassia Sing** as Secretary, and **John Peck** as Treasurer. Heidi, Helen, and John are continuing in those roles from the previous year.



At-Large Trustee positions include **Herb Hethcote**, **Dawna Kramer**, and **Carol Ann Davidson**. Carol Ann was appointed to fill the position vacated by the recent resignation of Phil Hutcherson. She will add her invaluable perspective as the parent of children currently enrolled in the RE program. **Rev. Zackrie** is an Ex-Officio member of the Board.

The Board will hold regular meetings on the *fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.*, using the virtual meeting Zoom platform until pandemic restrictions are removed. Cedars Members always are welcome to attend the meetings. *Congregational Business Meetings* are scheduled to follow Sunday Worship Services on January 10 and June 5, 2021.

### Morning Reflection-New Day

Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

**Choir!** Everyone in the congregation is invited to the *Choir's Wednesday Evening Sing* on **August 19 at 7:30 p.m.** It is on Zoom, of course.

We will sing hymns with recordings of the Cedars Choir. Or with Chris, Or with a Choir member leading us. Or while watching a musical video. We all will be on mute, so you can sing like a diva, sing off-key, or mangle the words. It's all OK! This is the way the Choir practices every Wednesday night. Now everyone is invited to join on August 19.

The Zoom link is: [Wednesday Evening Sing](#)

Meeting ID: 841 3429 2444

*Photo by Bruce Mars on Unsplash.*

### Cedars Creativity Fair 2020

#### Coping with Social Isolation See What Others Have Been Doing

As first announced several weeks ago, we have organized a Cedars response to the social isolation in which we all now find ourselves. Missing each other, our identity as a congregational community is suffering, although we are coping as individuals.

Our response has been to re-imagine and present a virtual version of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years. Organized to provide opportunities to see and appreciate artful products and demonstrations of the creativity present in our talented and capable congregation, those fairs also helped us get to know each other better.

Now, the **2020 Cedars Creativity Fair** has opened. Presented as an album of photos on our **Cedars Facebook page**, it is open to everyone, but it also is just a beginning. Everyone is invited to share what they've been doing or creating during this time of isolation.

Please join us by sharing what you have been doing, and enjoy the growing show! Use the link below to find the show!

#### [Creativity Fair](#)

**Richard Wilson** and **Bonnie Yocus**  
Facebook Page Administrators

A recent addition to the show:

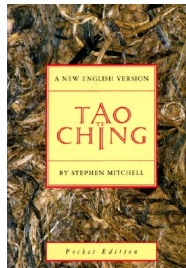


**Skagit Vinczen-Smith** as *Summer Fashion Statement and Family Portrait* (look carefully)

*Photo by Rev. Zackrie.*



Starting on **August 6th**, the weekly **Morning Reflection** will be taking place on Thursday mornings (instead of Wednesdays) at 10:00 a.m. This shift was made by group consensus to accommodate a virtual class that **Rev. Zackrie** will be taking through the months of August and September.



During the **Morning Reflection**, participants will continue gathering to meditate on and discuss Stephen Mitchell's translation of the **Tao Te Ching**.

## Cedars Fundraising Events Cancelled

Based on the recommendation of the **Fundraising Committee**, the **Cedars Board of Trustees** has decided to cancel the Cedars **Fundraising Events** that were scheduled for this year. It was a difficult decision, with an impact on Cedars' operation budget, yet everyone's health and safety come first.

The Fundraising Committee is working on fun ideas for future fundraising events, but first we need to manage the logistics and the financial implications of this cancellation. If you have purchased tickets, you will receive a personal e-mail from the Fundraising Committee offering the following options. You may: (1) *Donate the value of your tickets back to Cedars UU Church*, (2) *Apply the value of your tickets to your Cedars 2020-2021 pledge*, or (3) *Request a refund*.

*Heartfelt thanks to all who donated and purchased events! We know that it is disappointing not to be able to get together at these events in community. Stay tuned for upcoming fundraising opportunities in our 2020-2021 year, when we will offer fun and safe social connections in our new normal virtual world.*

## From the Worship Team

### Join Our Team!

If you would like to give virtual worship design a try, now is the perfect time. The **Worship Team** is looking to expand its membership and add a few new **Worship Associates** as well as people to help with virtual worship **Tech Support** and **Video Editing**. Below is a short list of the responsibilities for these two positions.

#### Worship Associate

1. Provide meaningful spiritual/emotional reflection on worship service themes.
2. Record service elements, such as the Welcome, Offering, and Chalice Lighting/Extinguishing.
3. Coordinate with **Rev. Zackrie** and other members of the Worship Team to set service themes and craft worship services.
4. Help support other worship activities as requested (i.e. Wednesday Morning Reflection, memorial services, etc.)

The ideal candidate for this role would be someone comfortable recording service elements and working with the rest of the team to design and edit worship services.

#### Tech Support

1. Help service leaders produce video clips for Sunday worship service elements (meditations, prayers, readings, etc.).
2. Provide technical assistance to people participating in virtual services (i.e. help record testimonials or create picture slideshows)
3. Add lyrics to recorded hymns.
4. Act as a host for **YouTube Live/Zoom** chat during the worship service and coffee hour.
5. Use software like **Open Broadcast Software**, **Shot Cut**, and **Zoom** to provide technical support to guest preachers. (Some training will be provided by **Rev. Zackrie**.)
6. Help others develop technical proficiency.

## Readers' Corner

### Recommendations for Rewarding Reading

Our pandemic-imposed isolation has led many of us back into personal book collections and deep appreciation of the intellectual journeys and inspiration that can be found there. In recent issues of *The Beacon*, we have been sharing recommendations for rewarding reading from Cedars Members and Friends as well as from the UUA and other sources.

This week, with *Reading as Spiritual Practice* announced as the focus of this Sunday's Worship Service, we have reassembled those previous recommendations into a consolidated list for more convenient reference.

#### Cedars Member and Friend Recommendations:

***Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life*** by Yiyun Li  
***In Praise of Shadows*** by Junichiro Tanizaki  
***Until the End of Time*** by Brian Greene  
***Mink River*** by Brian Doyle  
***Zen in the Art of Archery*** by Eugen Herrigel  
***The Blind Watchmaker*** by Richard Dawkins  
***The Plague*** by Albert Camus  
***Yellow Woman and a Beauty of the Spirit*** by Leslie Marmon Silko  
***The Art of Stillness*** by Pico Iyer  
***Gratitude*** by Oliver Sacks  
***To Speak for the Trees*** by Diana Beresford-Kroger  
***Dry*** by Neal Shusterman (young adult title)  
***The Lyncher in Me*** by (Cedars Member) Warren Read  
***Gilgamesh: A New English Version*** by Stephen Mitchell  
***Dreamland Burning*** by Jennifer Latham (young adult title)  
***A Man without a Country*** by Kurt Vonnegut  
***Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope***  
by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn  
***Summoned by Stroke*** by (Cedars Member) Judy Friesem

#### Member and Friend Recreational Suggestions:

***The Book of Frank Herbert*** (Science Fiction)  
***The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke*** (Science Fiction)

#### UUA Recommendations:

***Yes to Life*** by Viktor Frankl  
***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States***  
by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz  
***On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*** by Naomi Klein  
***The Measure of Our Lives: A Gathering of Wisdom***  
by Toni Morrison  
***How to Love a Country: Poems*** by Richard Blanco  
***The Healing*** by Gayl Jones  
***We Are Water Protectors*** by Carole Lindstrom  
and Michaela Goade (for ages 3-6)

#### Marvin Evans Reading Group Selection for Discussion:

***Sapiens, a Brief History of Humankind*** by Yuval Noah Harari

## A New Home on the Web!

### Cedars Website Gets a New Look

Thanks to some hard work behind the scenes over the past few months, Cedars has a new website! The [cedarsuuchurch.org](http://cedarsuuchurch.org) address has not changed, but what it brings you is completely rebuilt and refreshed.

A small team consisting of **Carolyn Kempkes**, **Arlene Wade**, **Brian Leekley**, and **Richard Wilson** spent many hours updating and enhancing content from our previous site and moving it all into a new website template created and offered by the UUA. The updated and more capable software allows a fresh and more appealing look, as well as easier access to the information it carries for Members, Friends, and Visitors. In addition, the new website is designed to *present well on the small screens* of smart phones.

The ideal person for this role would have some experience with video production and editing--or be eager to learn.

If you are interested in getting involved in the design and implementation of virtual worship services in any of the ways outlined above, please contact **Penny Brewer**.

On the home page, there is a direct link to the Cedars calendar at the right end of the green menu bar, and direct access into the Breeze directory is available for Members and Friends in the line of basic choices just above.

Try it all here: [Cedars Website](#)

## Share the Plate

### Special Collection for August: UU the Vote Partner Organization

In the month of August, our donations will be shared with *the UU the Vote* partner *Center for Common Dreams* and their *Reclaim Our Vote* initiative.

Around the country, Unitarian Universalists are organizing to *#UUtheVote*, working to increase the participation of millions of disenfranchised, eligible voters--especially people of color. *UU the Vote* ([uuthevote.org](http://uuthevote.org)) is a national campaign working with the non-profit *Center for Common Dreams*. The *Reclaim our Vote* initiative is engaging voters who have been prevented from exercising their electoral rights through voter suppression and voter list purging.

Volunteers inform and mobilize voters in the six most affected states. They make sure voters are registered, know how to get a ballot, and know where/how to vote. You can learn more about the campaign at this link: [Center for Common Ground](#)

## Staying Connected

### Zoom Meetings

Some connections are through Zoom. If you are new to Zoom or just unsure about how to use it, here are some helpful tips for [Using Zoom](#).

## Print the Beacon Newsletter

*The Beacon* is available to **print** at home. Newest version is available on the Cedars website after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies also will be available in-person Sunday Worship Services when they resume.

## Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online [Church Directory](#) for contact information. The link is located under the Connection Tab of the [Cedars website](#).

## Connect with Cedars



### Services and Children's Religious Education

Sundays at 10 a.m.  
The Island School  
8553 NE Day Road  
Bainbridge Island

### Cedars UU Center

284 Madrona Way NE, #128  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373

[Parking Hints](#)  
[Guide to Cedars Center Use](#)

### Rev. Zackrie Vinczen, Minister

For an appointment, e-mail  
[minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)  
For an urgent matter, call:  
(360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

### Office Manager:

Kathleen Stearns  
Cedars Office Hours:  
Tue-Fri 9:00 a.m.- noon

Would you like to subscribe to *The Beacon*? Email: [beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org)

Do you have an article, event or announcement?

Send it to [The Beacon](#) by Friday at 11:00 a.m. **ONE WEEK BEFORE** the next Friday's newsletter (7 days in advance). See our [submission guidelines](#).