

# The Beacon

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



Volume 11 Issue 6 February 12, 2021

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## Upcoming Services

### The Last Place You Looked

**Sunday February 14th**  
10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Worship Service

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
Bryan Baker, Worship Associate

We often say we've found something in the last place we've looked, but what happens if we keep looking even after we find what (we think) we were looking for?

### Someone Else's Problem (NOT)

**Sunday February 21st**  
10:00 a.m.  
Virtual Worship Service

**Rev. Deanna Vandiver**  
Penny Brewer, Worship Associate

Join Rev. Deanna Vandiver in a service committed to investigating how white exceptionalism limits our faithful journey towards collective liberation. Let's practice getting free together, beloveds!

Rev. Deanna Vandiver (she/her/they) is a Minister of Love and Liberation affiliated with the Church of the Larger Fellowship Unitarian Universalist.

### Current Week Calendar and Links

*Your Cedars community invites you to participate in services and activities, get information, enjoy fellowship, and pause for reflection.*

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.

**Friday February 12th**  
1:00 p.m. Cross Cultural Book Group  
[Virtual Discussion Link](#)  
Use passcode 2020 if required

**Sunday February 14th**  
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service  
[Virtual Sunday Service Link](#)  
11:00 a.m. Congregational Coffee Hour  
[Virtual Congregational Coffee Hour Link](#)  
Use passcode 1959 if required  
or by phone using 1-253-215-8782

**Monday February 15th**  
7:00 p.m. Knitting/Crafting Circle  
[Virtual Knitting/Crafting Link](#)

**Wednesday February 17th**  
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice  
[Virtual Choir Practice Link](#)

**Thursday February 18th**  
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group  
[Virtual Meditation Link](#)

## News and Announcements

### Belonging at Cedars

**More Stories are Welcome**

As Anita Sands writes,



### Our Congregational Mission

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

"...**diversity** is a fact (the numbers are what they are), **inclusion** is a choice (you decide whether to include someone or not), but **belonging** is a feeling that can be enforced by a culture that you can purposefully create."

At the January 10 congregational meeting, members of the congregation shared stories of experiences that had made them feel they belonged at Cedars, as well as when they felt excluded.

These stories are being gathered in support of a board initiative to make Cedars the most welcoming and inclusive place it can be, and the storytelling will continue during coffee hours after the services on February 14, March 14, and April 11. The process will culminate at the congregational meeting in June with goals and actions that can help us become the congregation we hope to be.

If you are uncomfortable sharing your story in this relatively public forum, feel free to contact Rev. Zackrie, Dawna Kramer or other Cedars board members (Heidi Parkington-Thal, Helen Nissani, Kassia Sing, John Peck, Herb Hethcote or Carol Ann Davison)

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### **Cedars Knitting/Crafting Circle** **Monday, February 15th** **Time: 7:00 p.m.**

Cedars knitters and crafters are invited to join virtual social gatherings on first Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Bring your current project, tea or coffee, and snack for virtual sharing and connection. If you don't have a current project in mind, you can knit for charity with your favorite organization or Knitting4Peace.org.

Contact **Carol Ann Davison** for questions or details.

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### **Meditation**

#### **Cedars Meditation Group** **Every Thursday, 7:00 p.m.** **Virtual Sessions**

Although the zoom format is not the same as meeting in person, it is a step in committing to a regular meditation practice. Each session includes 5 minutes of chanting, 25 minutes of silent meditation and at least 30 minutes of informal group discussion.

For more information or the Zoom link, contact **Dawna Kramer** at raddjk@yahoo.com or via phone number from the Breeze directory.



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### **Movie Essentials**

**Join us for a Zoom**  
**Discussion at 7:00 p.m.**



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



**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

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### **Faith Formation at** **Cedars**

#### **Chalice Lighting as a** **Spiritual Practice**

You may have noticed a number of different folks lighting and extinguishing the chalice in our Sunday services. It's part of an effort to get more people involved and make sure we "see" each other even when we can't meet in person.



Do you want to light the chalice? It doesn't have to be a solo affair either! Families and couples can do this together. We all look forward to seeing you. More information about doing this is available [here](#).

#### **Bridging**

In our Unitarian Universalist faith, the Bridging Ceremony celebrates the transition of our youth from their high school experience into young adulthood. This ritual helps us -- youth and families and all church members -- recognize and honor this important threshold moment. Right now, in these days where school is online and all the traditional trappings of senior year are missing, these rituals are more vital than ever.

Do you have someone in your family who is graduating from high school this year? Are you yourself graduating from high school? Would you help to shape a bridging ceremony at Cedars?

Rev. Zackrie and Kathryn Jay would love to hear from you!

## Friday, February 26th

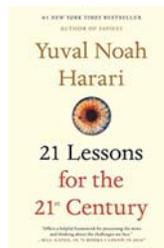
The Movie Essentials Group meets monthly for social evenings and discussion of a selected movie that participants have viewed previously.



In February, the group will discuss the 2005 film ***The White Countess***.

A subtle drama set in pre-war Shanghai and following the modestly romantic interactions of an expatriate American businessman and diplomat disillusioned with the world but achieving a Casablanca-like nightclub dream, and a widowed Russian countess supporting an extended and impoverished exile family hoping to escape a Shanghai slum for Hong Kong, where they imagine their noble lineage can be recognized.

The discussion will begin at 7:00 but the Zoom link will be active by 6:45 to allow social interaction before the discussion. Available for streaming on Prime Video, YouTube and elsewhere. Get the Zoom link by contacting **Jane Martin**.



## Evans Reading Group

**We invite you to join us on March 9th at 1:30 p.m.** Seeking "Salvation by Bibliography" as our late friend Marvin Evans used to say, we meet to discuss books that can intrigue and might enlighten us.

Pushing beyond the highly acclaimed and previously discussed ***Sapiens*** that explored our historic development as a species, author **Yuval Noah Harari** now presents a probing study of today's most urgent challenges as we move into the uncharted territory of the future in ***21 Lessons for the 21st Century***.

How do computers and robots change the meaning of being human? How do we deal with the epidemic of fake news? Are nations and religions still relevant? What should we teach our children?

The book is divided into five sections and our plan is to discuss (via Zoom) the first section on March 9th.

For more information, contact **Alan Miller** of **Mary Romero**

## Amazon Donates to Cedars!

Amazon has a charitable donation program called AmazonSmiles. If you are an Amazon customer, you can register so that Cedars will receive a small donation every time you make a purchase. It is easy to register and costs you nothing!

## An Invitation



Do you know any high school students who would like to explore Unitarian Universalism with other high schoolers?

YUUP (the Young Unitarian Universalists Project) is launching a platform to forge connections, work together, support each other, and find leadership opportunities. It will have a variety of different topics and groups within it for UU youth and recent bridgers across the country.

There are a couple of steps to joining the network: first, the youth must fill out the **[Youth Drop-In Registry for their region](#)** or **[registry for recent bridgers](#)**. Once the registry is filled out and confirmed by a parent and a minister or church administrator, youth will receive a Mighty Network invitation to get on YUUP.

Spread the word! YUUP is for everyone. We hope to see you soon!



## Chalice Circles

Are you interested in meeting regularly with people to listen and learn and to deepen spiritual connections to yourself and your

community? Consider joining a Cedars Chalice Circle!

## What Is a Chalice Circle?

Chalice Circles are groups of 8-10 committed participants who come together with a trained leader to nurture spiritual growth through deep listening and open-hearted sharing. At the beginning of each month, participants will receive a packet of materials with readings, podcasts, spiritual practices, and questions for contemplation. Each participant chooses one spiritual exercise and a deep question to sit with for the course of a month. At Cedars, Chalice Circles will meet twice a month for two months, then monthly after that for an hour and 15 minutes on zoom.

More information is available **[here](#)**

Interested? Use form below or contact Kathryn Jay (faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org) for more information. You do not need to be a Cedars member or Cedars friend to join a Chalice Circle, so if you have a friend who you think might be interested, please let them know. All are welcome.

Use this form to indicate your interest:

**[Cedars Chalice Circles](#)**

**Kathryn Jay**  
**Faith Formation Lead**  
360-559-2381

## Justice Network

If you are an Amazon customer follow the instructions at this [link](#):

If you are already using AmazonSmiles and want to change your charity to Cedars, sign into your Amazon account and

1. Click on Hello (Name)/Account & Lists towards the top right of the page.
2. Click on Your Amazon Smile at the right.
3. On the right you will see "Your current charity" with a button below "Change Charity." Below that button it shows the charity you are currently helping.

In this donation system, Cedars is currently listed as "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bainbridge Island" Location: Bainbridge Island, WA and a renaming request to reidentify us as Cedars is being submitted.

While these donation amounts are relatively minor, every little bit helps, and it adds up over time. Thank you!

### The Cedars Fundraising Committee

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## Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

### See What Others Have Been Doing To Cope with Social Isolation

Our identity as a congregational community has been weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one response has been to re-imagine virtual versions of the several after-service **Creativity Fairs** that were held in Webster Hall in recent years.

Organized to provide opportunities to see and enjoy artful products and demonstrations of the creativity present in our talented and capable congregation, those fairs helped us get to know and appreciate each other better.

Now, that 2020 is behind us, a new 2021 Cedars Creativity Fair will open and the 2020 fair will close (but remain viewable as an album of photos on our **Cedars Facebook page**). Please join us by sharing what you have been doing and enjoy the growing show using the link below!

### Cedars Creativity Fair 2021

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

Recent addition to the show:

## Reform Our Justice System: Targeting the Poor

Banning debt-based drivers license suspensions is a goal of the Kitsap Equity, Race, And Community Engagement Coalition, **Kitsap ERACE**. The organization's criminal justice team added the objective to its list of collective actions after conferring with those working with impacted people.

Your license can be suspended if you can't afford to pay a traffic ticket, and if you can't drive, you can't work, so it's a catch-22!

The Kitsap ERACE team believes that drivers licenses should only be suspended if someone has been driving impaired or recklessly. The majority of convictions in Washington State are for driving with a suspended license.

Please help ERACE make a difference with this goal. Use the online link here to contact legislators: [License Suspensions](#)

Kitsap ERACE is a collaboration of many groups, organizations, and individuals, all striving for racial equity in Kitsap County. More information about ERACE is available [here](#).

Contact Penny Brewer of **Cedars' Justice Network** for further information.

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## Special Collection for Special Needs

Attorney **Jon Zulauf**, representing the **Seattle Clemency Project**, was Cedars' guest speaker on January 17th (his very moving presentation can be viewed [here](#)).

As co-founder of the project, Zulauf described the work being done for immigrants, teen offenders, and those in prison who are ready for a reformed life.

The SCP mission is to increase access to justice by matching reformed individuals with pro bono attorneys to seek early release from prison. Support is then provided for those released, including clothing, food, rent and transportation, as well as counseling to help with work and life skills..

During the coffee hour following the presentation, a special collection to support the SCP organization was discussed. To participate, please send a check to our office with Seattle Clemency Project designated on the check. Our address is: Cedars UU Church 284 Madrona Way NE #128, BI, WA 98110.

### The Cedars Social Action Committee

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## Pastoral Care Concerns

### COVID-19 Symptoms? Get tested now!

Public health officials are urging Kitsap residents to get tested as quickly as possible if



"Will you be my Valentine?" doesn't quite cover the situation troubling Truman Weaver.

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### Cedars Zoom License

Cedars UU Church recently purchased a licensed zoom account through UUA for use by Board members, committees, and affinity groups. This zoom account has screen sharing, polling, breakout rooms, and no time limits on meetings (the time limit for a free zoom account is 40 minutes).

To schedule a meeting using this account, email [herbert-hethcote@uiowa.edu](mailto:herbert-hethcote@uiowa.edu) with the name of the meeting, the host, the date, the starting time, the approximate length of the meeting (you can go over this time length), if it is a weekly or monthly recurring meeting, and your mobile phone number.

Herb will schedule the meeting and send an email to you with the zoom information about the meeting including the link to the meeting and an attachment with complete instructions on being a zoom host. Then you can cut and paste this zoom meeting information into an email to those whom you are inviting.

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### Guidelines for using Cedars Center

The Cedars Board is making the following restrictions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to the few people who must enter the Cedars Center to keep us functioning.

1. Permission from staff or Board Member is required for entry.
2. Sign in when entering and sign out when leaving.
3. Use hand sanitizer when entering.
4. Wear a face mask and practice social distancing.
5. Avoid touching your face.

they have any COVID symptoms, no matter how mild.

More testing information is available [here](#).

**Frank Petrie**, who volunteers at the Bainbridge testing site, has shared this detail:

COVID testing is performed at the drive-through testing site at Bainbridge Island City Hall, Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-4:30. Tests are processed by UW and results are available within 2-3 days. Tests are free.

You can make a reservation on line up to two weeks in advance. In the event you need a test immediately and there are no available reservations, the City does have a limited number of same-day, drive-up openings. When you arrive at the test site without a reservation, the traffic attendant will hand you a slip of paper with a QR code. Scanning the code with your smart phone admits you to a registration page where you provide name, address, birthdate, reason for needing test ("I have symptoms"), and insurance information. Upon completing your registration, you simply enter the queue and you will be tested.

Remember to wear a mask at the test site!

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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.

### The Pastoral Care Team

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### Island School News

Our much-appreciated host facility for pre- and hopefully post-pandemic services and public gatherings has asked that we share news about an upcoming employment opportunity that will follow the retirement of Business Manager Loretta Morgan.

The Island School, a kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school on Bainbridge Island, seeks an accomplished Business Manager to start in summer of 2021. This is a full time position with benefits.

Visit <https://theislandschool.org/our-school/job-opportunities/> to see a detailed job description.

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### Employment Opportunity

Cedars is currently seeking applicants for part-time employment as Office Administrator. The position provides administrative support and

- Please disinfect high contact surfaces when you enter and before you leave: door handles, light switches, computer mouse and keyboard, desks, tabletops, countertops, sinks, toilet, and shared equipment such as pens, staplers, and clipboards.

*Thank you for helping to keep us safe!*



### Join the Worship Tech Team

The Worship Tech Team is looking to add a few more members. Since September, **Rhonda Peacock** and **Tyler Weaver** have been busy each week editing and broadcasting our virtual services. They've done an amazing job with this, but since we are likely to be holding services this way for some time, we are hoping to have more people in the mix to share the workload.

All that is needed to join this team is a willingness to learn new technology and work with the rest of the team to produce our weekly services. If you are interested in joining this endeavor, please contact Rev. Zackrie and let him know of your interest.

assistance with communications and operational needs at our Cedars Center.

Formal Cedars policy does not permit hiring members of the congregation, but members are encouraged to share news of the opportunity with others. More information is available [here](#) and on the Cedars website.

Applications for this position will be accepted until February 15th



### Notes from Rev. Zackrie

The recent United States Supreme Court appointment is worrying to many folks and for many reasons.

If you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community and find yourself suddenly needing to get married for legal protections, contact me. I am willing to officiate small socially distanced weddings in Western Washington.

### Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week. Go to [www.cedarsuuchurch.org](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org). The newest issue is available on the Cedars website under News after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies will also be available at 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

### Services and Faith Formation

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
The Island School  
8553 NE Day Road  
Bainbridge Island

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

Closed during COVID-19 Pandemic

### 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)

**Kathryn Jay, Faith Formation Lead**  
[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org)

**Office Manager**  
Currently volunteer staff  
[office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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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](#).



Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church | 284 Madrona Way NE, #128, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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