

The Beacon

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



CEDARS CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 11 Issue 7 February 19, 2021

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Upcoming Services

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.

Investigation: What Makes Community

Sunday February 28th
10:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship Service

Rev. Zackrie Vinczen & Kathryn Jay
Grace, Worship Associate

Each week when we come together we talk about the importance of community, but what makes a community anyway?

Join Rev. Zackrie and Faith Formation Lead Kathryn Jay as they get to the bottom of what makes community.

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.

Sunday February 21st
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

Wednesday February 24th
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice
[Virtual Choir Practice Link](#)

Thursday February 25th
10:00 a.m. Morning Reflection
[Virtual Morning Reflection Link](#)
Use passcode 1959 if required
6:00 Virtual Board of Trustees Meeting
7:00 p.m. Meditation Group
[Virtual Meditation Link](#)

Friday February 26th
7:00 p.m. Movie Essentials Discussion
[Movie Essentials Discussion Link](#)

Note: Last week's Beacon had an erroneous link for the Sunday Service. Corrections went out by last minute email, but if you missed it, the service can still be enjoyed [here](#).

News and Announcements

Our Congregational Mission



Belonging at Cedars

More Stories are Welcome

As Anita Sands writes, "...**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 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 Davidson)

Belong Together

March is the month for our annual Stewardship campaign.



This year's theme will be "Belong Together" as we continue to explore what Cedars means to each of us and how we can make it a place of belonging for everyone.

You will be invited to a Stewardship Cottage Meeting where you'll hear about the future of Cedars and will have the opportunity to break out into smaller groups to share your dreams/vision.

The cottage meetings are scheduled on the following dates/times. Zoom links will be added in the weekly Beacon and Board e-mail.

Saturday, March 6, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 13, 2:00 p.m.

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



Cedars UU Church is a Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary



Rev. Zackrie Vinczen

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

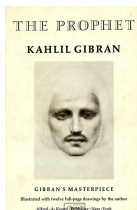
In our Unitarian Universalist faith, the Bridging Ceremony celebrates the transition of our youth from their high school experience into young adulthood. This ritual helps us -- youth and families and all church members -- recognize and honor this important threshold moment. Right now, in these days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

Thursday, March 18, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship will also be featured in the Sunday services during March.

Stay tuned for our grand finale that we are super excited about! Our first opportunity to see each other in person in a safe, fun forum. Stay tuned!



Morning Reflection

**Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Sessions**

During each Morning Reflection Session, which is led by **Rev. Zackrie**, participants are invited for meditation and discussion of brief sections from **The Prophet** by *Kahlil Gibran*.

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.



Movie Essentials

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



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!

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?

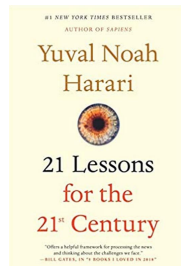
Chalice Circles are groups of 8-10 committed participants who come together with a trained leader to nurture spiritual growth through deep listening and open-hearted sharing. At the beginning of each month, participants will receive a packet of materials with readings, podcasts, spiritual practices, 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.

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. For more information contact **Joan Spencer** or **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** or **Mary Romero**

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

Use this form to indicate your interest:
Cedars Chalice Circles

Kathryn Jay
Faith Formation Lead
360-559-2381

Sad News



Diane McCann

Diane, who, with her husband John, was a member of Cedars for years, died this week on Valentine's Day. They moved from Bainbridge Island to Timber Ridge at Talus in Issaquah several years ago, and Diane was diagnosed with cancer shortly after moving.

She faced her impending death with grace, joy at a life well lived, and knowledge that she still had time to share with those she loved. If you would like to send a card or letter to John, he will continue living at Timber Ridge, 100 Timber Ridge Way NW, Issaquah, WA 98027.

Alex Sanso also lost her father, George, last week after he suffered a fall and several days in hospital before passing away at home in Poulsbo with his family. Sharing the news by facebook, Alex said sadly "I miss him terribly, and my heart is broken for my sweet mama who has lost her husband of almost 59 years. Fly on, Papi."



Pastoral Care Concerns

COVID-19 Symptoms? Get tested now!

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

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

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.

Now that 2020 is behind us, a new 2021 Cedars Creativity Fair has opened and the 2020 fair has closed (but remains 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

Recent addition to the show:

Difference

by Janetmarie Valiga

**Snow difference is very clear
Days later, Chicago snow is dark and dirty,
But in the Pacific Northwest, the melting
Mounds of snow are still white here.**

Winter Haiku

by Donna Moore

**Windy winter weather
Seagulls swoop and soar loving the rush.
Finches? Not so much.**

**Snow covers the deck
pristine except for where birds walked
leaving lace-like patterns.**

Cedars Zoom License

Cedars UU Church recently purchased a licensed zoom account through UUA for

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!

Justice Network

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!

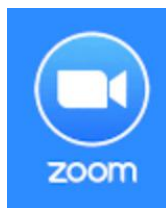
The Kitsap ERACE team believes that drivers licenses should only be suspended if someone has been driving impaired or recklessly. The majority of convictions in Washington State are for driving with a suspended license.

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.

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 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.

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.
6. 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

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

Amazon Donates to Cedars!

Amazon has a charitable donation program called AmazonSmiles. If you are an Amazon customer, follow the instructions at this [link](#) and you can register so that Cedars will receive a small donation every time you make a purchase. It costs you nothing!

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

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.

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.



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. 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
For an urgent matter, call (360) 930-9339 (Pastoral Care)

Kathryn Jay, Faith Formation Lead

faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Office Manager

Currently volunteer staff
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

Would you like to subscribe to The Beacon? Email: 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](#).

[Cedars UU Church \(website\)](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org)



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

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