

# The Beacon

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



**CEDARS CHURCH**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 14 Issue 28 / July 12, 2024

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## Upcoming Services

### Becoming Abolition: Collective Care

Sunday July 14th  
10:00 a.m.

In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Deana Vandiver, Guest Speaker  
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

Abolition begins with choosing each other. Let us begin.

### Current Week Calendar & Links

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

[View the detailed Calendar.](#)

Sunday July 14th  
10:00 a.m.

In-Person Service in Webster Hall

[Live-Stream Link](#)

Coffee and Social Time following

Tuesday July 16th

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

## News and Announcements

### A Time of Transformation

In June, at the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2024 General Assembly, an 80 percent majority of the voting delegates adopted a new statement of seven shared UU values. One of those values is **Transformation**. In the adopted change, the value of **Transformation** is described by these words:

We adapt to the changing world.  
We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

With the departure of Rev. Zackrie and our office administrator, Carolyn Kerns on July 12, our Cedars community will be changed, and we will begin experiencing firsthand, our shared commitment to the value



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

### Our Congregational Mission

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

### Musical Notes

Much hard work and dedication goes

## of Transformation.

Your newly elected Board of Trustees will be meeting on July 16 to begin discussing how our Cedars community can best utilize the days and weeks ahead to guide us through a process of **Transformation** to grow ourselves into something new and different that we haven't even yet begun to imagine. While we don't yet know what that process will look like exactly, we do know that it will require all of us to reflect on what we truly want for Cedars and to engage with each other in some heartfelt discussions.

Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements from your Board of Trustees about how you can be a part of this truly transformational time for Cedars.

**Rod Kempkes**  
**Andrea Barnes**  
**Gregory Cook**  
**Rebecca Kim**  
**Sandy Spears**

**Cedars Board of Trustees**

## Evans Reading Group

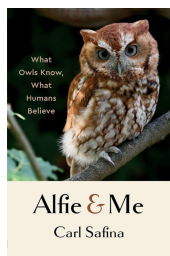
Organized 16 years ago as the Spirituality Book Group, this Cedars reading group assumed a new identity as the Evans Reading Group in 2020 to honor the Rev. Marvin Evans after his passing.

In our time together, the group has read and discussed more than 60 books selected to intrigue and hopefully enlighten us in seeking "Salvation by Bibliography" as our late friend Marvin used to say, and we are pleased to invite your participation with us in our ongoing practice.

Our next selection is ***Alfie and Me***, by **Carl Safina**.

A moving account of raising, then freeing, an orphaned screech owl, whose lasting friendship with the author illuminates humanity's relationship with the world.

When ecologist Carl Safina and his wife, Patricia, took in a near-death baby owl, they expected that, like other wild orphans they'd rescued, she'd be a temporary presence. But Alfie's feathers were not growing correctly, requiring prolonged care. As Alfie grew and gained strength, she became a part of the family, joining a menagerie of dogs and chickens and making a home for



into providing music for our Sunday services. And each week we are grateful for those willing to make music and lead us all in song.

This week we offer special thanks to our Musician Audrey Blair and Song Leader Alan Miller.

### Sunday Hymns:

For the Earth Forever Turning (#163)  
Love is Like a River  
I Release  
How Could Anyone Ever Tell You (#1053)

## Super Supper and Community Kitchen Sign-Ups

Cedars, in partnership with Kol Shalom as members of the Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council, offers Super Supper dinners on the last Tuesday of each month. We have a regular sign-up for you to use each month to provide various dishes and to assist with setup, serving, and cleanup, so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate. Please consider signing up for one or more slots [here](#).

Cedars is also now committed to leading the preparation and serving of a free meal to anyone in the community every other month through the Suquamish Community Kitchen. These meals require many helping hands to prepare, serve, and clean up. Please consider signing up for one of the team member roles on one or more of the upcoming dates (September 11, and November 13) [here](#).

For more information contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725 or [toxman57@gmail.com](mailto:toxman57@gmail.com) or **Rod Kempkes** at [rdkempkes@gmail.com](mailto:rdkempkes@gmail.com)

## Cedars Creativity Fair 2024

Our identity as a congregational community is strengthened by the activities and gatherings we enjoy together, as well as by the ways we can find to know each other better. Please feel free to join an on-going process of sharing news and details about the creative interests and accomplishments of each other as members and friends of Cedars UU Church. If you have something to share, send a photo and description to [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

herself in the backyard. Carl and Patricia began to realize that the healing was mutual; Alfie had been braided into their world, and was now pulling them into hers.

*Alfie & Me* is the story of the remarkable impact this little owl would have on their lives. The continuing bond of trust following her freedom—and her raising of her own wild brood—coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a year in which Carl and Patricia were forced to spend time at home without the normal obligations of work and travel. Witnessing all the fine details of their feathered friend's life offered Carl and Patricia a view of existence from Alfie's perspective.

Join us for an interesting discussion via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. On Wednesday, August 28th. If you would like to be on our email list, let **Mary Romeo** know.

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## Beliefs & Principles

For some perspective on the Article II revision and what it may mean with regard to our ongoing identity and practices, it might be helpful to review the summary of beliefs and principles currently present on the UUA's own website as identified by the late Rev. Dr. Forrest Church:

"In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.

Together, we create a force more powerful than one person or one belief system. As Unitarian Universalists, we do not have to check our personal background and beliefs at the door: we join together on a journey that honors everywhere we've been before.

Our beliefs are diverse and inclusive. We have no shared creed. Our shared covenant (the seven Principles) supports "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Though Unitarianism and Universalism were both liberal Christian traditions, this responsible search has led us to embrace diverse teachings from Eastern and Western religions and philosophies.

Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about important questions:

- The existence of a Higher Power
- Life and Death
- Sacred Texts
- Prayer and Spiritual Practices

We are united in our broad and inclusive outlook, and in our values, as expressed in our seven Principles.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

## At All-Virtual GA, Unitarian Universalists Center Love and Pledge Bold Social and Climate Justice Action

With love centered as a core value of the faith, more than 3,400 Unitarian Universalists from around the country and world gathered for an all-virtual Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly 2024, June 20–23.

The assembly's theme, "Love Unites, Stories Ignite," celebrated the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and divisions..

In that spirit, delegates decisively adopted a new statement of shared UU values that places love at the center. With 80 percent of voting delegates choosing to adopt changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws, the new stated values of the faith are

Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation, centered around Love.

A two-thirds vote to change Article II was required under UUA bylaws; the new statement was approved by 80.2 percent of voting delegates (2,025 votes) to 19.8 percent (499 votes), with 21 delegates abstaining (0.8 percent).

The vote came after a multi-year process of discernment that involved thousands of UUs around the country, including a majority vote at GA 2023 to continue the process to a final vote at GA 2024.

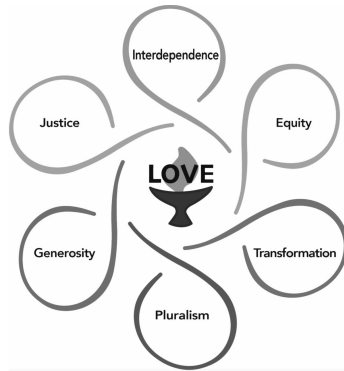
Only one of four proposed amendments to the new statement of values passed, to amend the description of the shared value of Equity to read, "We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion."

Two proposed amendments to incorporate additional values—Peace, and Reason and the Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning—and a proposal for an alternative description of Equity, did not pass.

We are united in shared experience: our open and stirring worship services, religious education, and rites of passage; our work for social justice; our quest to include the marginalized; our expressions of love."

The most significant concern raised by the Article II change proposal has been its apparent disregard for the seven principles and consequently whether it is an acceptable portrayal of who we are as individuals and as a faith community.

Worth noting however, is that the seven words in the proposal's diagram may themselves be seen to represent the seven principles, consequently preserving familiar and meaningful organizational form and purpose.



### 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.

### 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 and [here](#).

### 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  
[office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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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](#))





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