

The Beacon

Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation & Green Sanctuary

Worship & Children's Religious Education: 10:00

Join us for refreshments and conversation after the service

Last Monthly Beacon Edition
Collectors Issue!

June 2011

June 5: "Oh, That's the Church That _____"

Revs. Barbara W. & Jacob B. ten Hove, Co-ministers
Bill Scarvie, Worship Associate

As we honor and introduce the latest new members with an In-gathering ceremony, we'll also explore our Cedars identity as a liberal religious presence in these times. How do we matter? The choir will sing. *The Annual Congregational Meeting follows the service.*

June 12: A New Era Unfolding: Cedars RE Sunday

Revs. Barbara W. & Jacob B. ten Hove, Co-ministers
Beth Rahe Balas, Worship Associate

In this all-ages service we'll celebrate the important dimension of Children's Religious Exploration at Cedars as we portray how this program expands, enlivens, and deepens our congregational life. We'll honor our teachers and high school graduates, and enjoy special music from guest trombonist Bud Parker, and our pianist Chris Smellow.

June 19: On Fathering: Navigating Clutter in the Paternal Storage Trunk

Warren Read, Cedars Member and Guest Speaker
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

My Three Sons, Ozzie and Harriet, Little House on the Prairie. For those of us who grew with these gems, these families on the air were likely nothing like our own, especially if our own father was less than ideal, or even absent. We may have imagined what it would be like to be in those families, perhaps even emulating qualities that we hoped to pass on. So what happens when the shows get canceled, but life goes on anyway and it's nothing like Walnut Grove?

June 26: An Appreciative Understanding of Islam

Imam Jamal Rahman, Guest Speaker
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

Among Americans, Islam is the least understood and most feared of the three Abrahamic religions, yet it shares a common message with Judaism and Christianity: "Love God wholeheartedly and love your neighbor as yourself." Jamal will touch on the essentials of Islam and talk about controversial issues, including Sharia, jihad, and the status of women. Imam Jamal Rahman is a Muslim Sufi, co-minister of Interfaith Community Church in Seattle, co-host of Interfaith Talk Radio, and author of *The Fragrance of Faith: The Enlightened Heart of Islam*, among other works. *See biographical sketch, page 4*

July 3: Creativity for All Ages

Beth Rahe Balas, Cedars Member and Guest Speaker
Jason Cheung, Worship Associate

We'll be mixing it up playfully with poems about creativity, imagery, reminisces about the delights of our beautiful world, and more. Join us for the all-ages service with opt-in participation.

Parting Thoughts

I have been lucky enough to have been webmaster, newsletter editor and Communications chair during some very exciting times in the last ten years. These were heady times in the life of this church. We saw a lot of membership growth, and were showered with subsidies and grants from the district and denomination. In 2001, Rick Koyle, our first part-time minister, was hired. The congregation decided to pursue full-time ministry, and after numerous cottage meetings and town halls, decided to apply to the UUA's Extension Ministry program. We were the last congregation accepted into the program.



While an extension minister wasn't immediately found, we were fortunate to have Rev. Dr. Peter Raible as a one-year interim extension minister in 2002-03. We were his last church. The same year also brought us Jeanne Pupke as our first Intern Minister to assist Peter Raible. Rev. Drew Johnston came as our extension minister in 2003 and was with us until his resignation in 2006. Julie Forest became our two-year Interim Minister in 2006. In 2008, we called Rev. Barbara and Jacob ten Hove as our first settle ministers.

We've changed our name and moved to our third home; we became a Welcoming Congregation and a Green Sanctuary. We've had seven different ministers, and celebrated 50 years as a congregation. The years have been full, with fun and fellowship, trials, trauma, and victories. And after all that, the congregation seems more settled now, so it seems as good a time as any to step aside and give someone else the opportunity to enjoy what I did.

— Frank Mandt, Communications Chair

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Eye on the UUniverse

Rev. Jaco B. ten Hove



On Change and Stability

We all know that one thing we can usually count on is change in our personal lives. It happens to our bodies as we grow. It happens in families as children mature, as siblings enter new relationships, as parents move into new spaces, as elders deal with aging. Change is inevitable, in lots of ways, with lots of angles.

But it's also true, as the old adage reminds us, "The more things change the more they stay the same." We might move into a new house and paint it the same color as the one we left. An annual holiday rolls around and we invite the same friends for a traditional meal together. We get a surprise letter from an old friend (okay, an email!) and realize that she sounds almost exactly the same as we remember her from the eighth grade.



The human journey is a flowing mixture of change and constancy, and congregational life mirrors our own. This spring we're experiencing some significant change as Kim Beyer-Nelson, Director of Children's Religious Exploration since January 2010, left Cedars following her decision to pursue different activities. Also, Frank Mandt, long-time editor of this newsletter, decided to complete his long, dedicated service in that role and now, here we are, writing our last column for a monthly Beacon. (See elsewhere for information on intriguing new methods being implemented by the board's Communications Task Force.)

These are both pretty large changes, and it can feel a bit dizzying to imagine how we will adjust in response to them. But here's the good news. Though change is always present, Cedars is also in a very stable place, with many blessings to count. Our relationship with The Island School is strong and we hope to spend Sunday mornings there for many years to come. We have a nice church office in a garden setting. Finances are improving and our lay leadership is strong, providing a steady hand on the helm and a growing series of fulfilling programs. And as of this summer, your co-ministers will have served Cedars longer than any other colleague.

Because so much at Cedars is stable and resilient, we have significant capacity to move creatively in response to the changes. People are excited about the opportunities to explore new directions in both Children's RE and communication. As Jaco likes to put it, folks are "leaning in" as they realize how much they can both offer to their beloved church and receive in the valuable process of building community together.

How about you? What excites you about Cedars? Where can you "lean in" to make a difference? As the summer begins to unfold, we encourage you to consider how you might deepen your connection to Cedars and augment both the energy of change and the power of stability, bringing greater fulfillment to your life along the way.

Let us know what you think and feel in these lengthening days. We stand ready to support you as we move with excitement and hope toward our fourth year among you.

Fondly,

PS. For the first time, we're offering you the chance to "vote" on bringing back a favorite earlier sermon (or one you regretfully missed), to be preached on three Sundays in August. *Ballots will be available at church on June 5 and 12.*

Co-ministers' Office Hours for the Month of June

Co-Ministers Jaco B. & Barbara W. ten Hove (206-780-0373, ext. 1), E-mail: minister@cedarsuuchurch.org

It's best to arrange ahead for an appointment, although one or both co-ministers expect to be at the church office on most Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings **until June 13**, when they begin their summer schedule without office hours. On **June 21** they travel to Charlotte, NC, for the UUA General Assembly and family visits, returning **July 5**. During this time, Board President Richard Wilson, Vice-president Angie Hoffpauir, Pastoral Care Team Chair Diana Peters, and the office will know how to reach them in an emergency. Otherwise, they can be contacted at home in emergencies, as needed at 206-201-3596.

The Cedar Basket

News of religious education at Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church



Before I knew I was pregnant with Ian, I signed up for my first weaving class. It was like my heart knew I was weaving something into being before my mind realized it. I was paging through all the different scarves, shawls, rugs and blankets I have created over the years. Each one has a story, an embedded memory locked in that lay of warp and weft.

It's much the same at Cedars; as I look over the photos I've taken and lesson plans I've written, each has some special element that will be woven into my heart forever. Here are just a few:

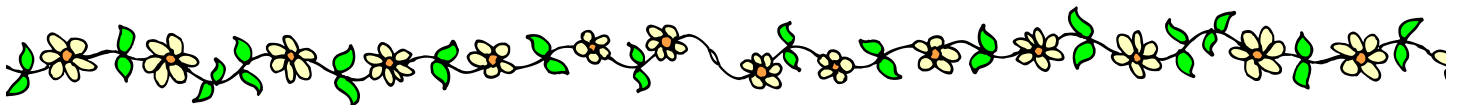


- Children holding their hands over a newly planted garden, bidding it to grow.
- Junior UU's spread over the classroom floor, their eyes closed in meditation as they listen to a long piece of classical music. Then one boy sitting up, smiling, identifies the performer just from the style of her playing.
- Children standing in the center of the labyrinth, saying to one another "we feel blessed that you are here."
- Watching the Children's Chapel kids share their simple (and sometimes not so simple) joys and concerns with a growing honesty and comfort.
- Rejoicing when one young man shows a younger child how to make a yarn shuttle for the great loom by using a bit of tape and a simple pencil.
- Barbara's big smile when two graduating seniors held hands to duck under the cedar boughs that marked their passage from high school to young adulthood.
- Youth gleefully cooking and eating waffles with the whole congregation.
- A young woman standing up during a city-wide baccalaureate celebration, and honoring her chosen faith of Unitarian Universalism with clarity and great insight.
- Families bowing their heads to be blessed and purified by the Kami at a Shinto shrine in Granite Falls.
- The power of the solstice service, as we uncovered the stone chalice and brought the light back into our sacred space.
- The creative energy of Chris and the choir and the occasional presence of Jaco's heartbeat drum helping to take the music down in the bones.
- Preschoolers cradling guinea pigs with nothing short of wonder in their eyes.
- Greeting one another with so much enthusiasm during the service that the worship associate begins to think he may never get the service going again.
- Talking for hours about philosophy, qigong, Emerson, Buddhism, Annie Dillard, dogs, and will it ever stop raining?
- And always laughter, silver and joyful.

I could fill pages like this, but you get the picture. You are all woven into the fabric of my life. Thanks for letting me serve. And many blessings as Cedars continues to go forward as a voice of sanity and compassion in this delightfully crazy world.

Amen.

— Kimberly Beyer-Nelson



The special collection taken in May will go toward buying our yearly farm share from Butler Farms. We donate the vegetables that we buy with our share to Helpline House, which distributes them to families in need. We will pick up vegetables once a week at Butler Farms during the growing season, and are looking for people who would be willing help pick up and then deliver them to Helpline House. If you are interested, please contact Karolynn Flynn at socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org.

The Opportunity Fair was a fun way to share all that Social Action is involved with. We displayed a map of the world with pins indicating all the places that we have helped serve, from Pakistan to Chili; from Japan to Darfur. We appreciate those who signed up to work on special projects. We'll be calling you as things come up.

By the time you read this, the annual Community Service Day at Helpline House, held on May 21 will have been a big success. Each year Helpline House counts on Cedars to do its spring cleaning. They are now in fine form.

— Karolyn Flynn, Social Action Contact

Coming Soon: Cedars' E-mail Newsletter

Starting in July, Cedars is changing how it delivers information. A new weekly e-mail newsletter will combine elements of the Beacon, such as columns, committee updates, and district and UUA news, with service information and announcements from the Sunday bulletin.

While this new weekly e-mail will replace our monthly Beacon newsletter, it won't replace our printed Sunday bulletin or order of service. We plan to make a few printed copies of this newsletter available for guests and for those who don't receive it via e-mail. The deadline for the new e-mail is Tuesday. Send your submissions to beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org, or to Donna Larkin Mohr, larkmohr@comcast.net, or Karen Scarvie, kalena@znet.com.

We hope this change in our communication methods will allow us to get timely information about Cedars issues and events to you in a useful manner. We're working hard to design a newsletter that gives you both a broad view of what's happening at the church and the ability to learn more about what matters most to you.

If you're already receiving the Beacon by e-mail, you will automatically receive the newsletter starting in the first week of July.

Treasurer's Report — April 2011

Pledges	March	YTD	Capital Campaign	
Budgeted:	\$12,692	\$114,225	Pledged:	\$393,000
Received:	\$9,256	\$118,896	Received 3/31/11:	\$186,786
Difference:	(\$3,436)	\$ 4,671	Difference:	(\$206,214)
Operating Fund	March	YTD	Capital Fund Balances	
Income:	\$11,075	\$156,922	Balance 7/01/09:	\$215,260
Expense	\$15,377	\$150,939	Balance 7/01/10	\$220,367
Difference:	(\$ 4,302)	\$ 5,983	Balance 3/31/11:	\$222,818

February 2011 – April 2011: Attendance

Month	Weekly Average			Month Total	Plate Collection	
	Children	Adults	Total		Weekly Average	Special Collection
February	12	93	105	315	\$157	\$ 557
March	5	83	88	354	\$115	\$ 1,235
April	11	88	99	298	\$155	\$ 531

Notice of Congregational Meeting

Cedars' Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 5th, at 11:30** following the worship service and a brief coffee hour in Webster Hall at The Island School.

This is an important meeting and your vote is your voice. If you are a Member, please be sure to come and vote on:

- The Operating Budget for 2011-12
- The Slate of Candidates for Board of Trustee and Nominating Committee vacancies

Brief reports will also be presented on the following subjects:

- Significant accomplishments of the 2010-11 year
- Planned changes in Cedars' communications systems and products
- Religious Education/Exploration program changes and developments

An absentee ballot will be available on request by e-mailing Richard Wilson at president@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Childcare will be available.



Brief Biography of Imam Jamal Rahman

Imam Jamal Rahman is a Muslim Sufi minister originally from Bangladesh, co-founder and co-minister of Interfaith Community Church in Seattle, and adjunct faculty at Seattle University. Jamal travels often, teaching classes, workshops, and retreats locally, nationally, and internationally. He is the author of *The Fragrance of Faith: The Enlightened Heart of Islam*, and a co-author of two new books: *Out of Darkness, Into Light: Spiritual Guidance in the Quran with Reflections from Jewish and Christian Sources*, and *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi, and a Sheikh*.

Cedars UU Church

The Beacon is a publication of Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church, P.O. Box 10175, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Subscriptions are by e-mail and are free. The Beacon may be viewed by visiting our Website: www.cedarsuuchurch.org/beacon.htm. For more information, e-mail the editor at beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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Super Suppers supersuppers@cedarsuuchurch.org
Carol Ann Davidson 206-855-0629

Volunteer Office Manager's Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Friday: 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

Office E-mail: cuucoffice@cedarsuuchurch.org

For church information: info@cedarsuuchurch.org

To rent facilities at *The Island School* for meetings or activities, contact **Vinne Perrone, 206-855-1588** or e-mail rentals@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Our Mission

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

Calendar of Events

June 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Program Assocs, 9:45a Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	2 Auction Committee, 6:00p	3 Knitting/Handicraft, 10:30a Music Committee, 12:00n	4 Dinner Connection, 6:30p
5 Sunday Service 10:00a Congregational Meeting 11:30 a Baccalaureate, 3:00p	6 Social Action 7:30p	7 Leadership Recognition Potluck, 6:30p	8 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p Pastoral Care 2:00p	9	10 Knitting/Handicraft, 10:30a Board Retreat, 6:30p	11 Board Retreat, 9:30a
12 Sunday Service 10:00a Coffee & Tea Sales	13	14	15 Worship Assocs, 7:15p Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	16 Ralph Waldo Emerson, 7:00p	17 Knitting/Handicraft, 10:30a Spirituality Book Group, 7:00p	18
19 <i>Father's Day</i> Sunday Service 10:00a Pick up Coffee & Tea	20 Membership Team 7:30p	21 <i>Summer Solstice</i> Board Meeting 6:30p 	22 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	23	24 Knitting/Handicraft, 10:30a	25
26 Sunday Service 10:00a General Assembly	27	28 Super Suppers 4:45p	29 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p	30		

Notes:

For details on calendar events, please see www.cedarsuuchurch.org/calendar.html.
Events are accurate as of 8:00 pm, May 30, 2011

Cedars Programs & Events

Coffee and Tea Sales Fundraiser

Order Grounds for Change coffee and tea on the second Sunday of each month during the Coffee Hour after the service. We are selling 12 oz. bags of either whole bean or ground coffee for \$10.00 a bag, of which Cedars keeps \$3.50. You can also buy boxes of 20 tea bags of black, green, or herbal tea for \$5.00 per box, of which Cedars keeps \$1.25. Please order and pay for your coffee (with cash or check, sorry, no credit cards) on the second Sunday of the month and pick up your order on the third Sunday of the month. Please see Royce Reid after the service on the second Sunday, or e-mail him at royce.reid@gmail.com for more information.

The Knitting and Handicraft Group meets Fridays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please contact **Shelley Kaurin**, dkandsk@easystreet.net, for locations and directions or to be put on the e-mail list. This is a drop in program: come when you can, stay as long as your schedule permits, no RSVP is required. Beginners are most welcome. There are many who are willing to teach you.

Official Church Calendar

Please consult the official Cedars UU Church Calendar on the church website at www.cedarsuuchurch.org/calendar.html before scheduling events.

Super Suppers

Do you want to help our Social Action team but don't have much time? Are you a good cook looking for an excuse to make brownies? The **Super Suppers** at **Eagle Harbor Congregational Church** needs your help! We team up with **Congregation Kol Shalom** to serve dinner for all comers at Helpline House on the last Tuesday of every month. If you can bring food, help host the dinner with a member of the Social Action Committee, or simply want more information about these dinners, please contact **Carol Ann Davidson** at supersuppers@cedarsuuchurch.org or 206-855-0629.

Cedars Summer Adult Program Opportunities

The summer programs take place August. Register for all programs at <http://tinyurl.com/Cedars2011>. All programs will be held at the church office, 571 Eriksen Avenue NE, Bainbridge Island, unless otherwise noted.

Wounded Words: Building a Vocabulary of Faith: A Lunchtime Conversation

Led by Rev. Barbara ten Hove. Four Wednesdays: August 3, 10, 17 & 24, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Fee: \$10. Each class stands alone; attend any or all.

Together we will explore what important religious words such as God, Prayer, Worship, and Religion might mean for us personally and as Unitarian Universalists. We will read sermons by Barbara and others on the topics and address reasons to use (or not use) religious language in our interactions with others and in our progressive congregation.

Barbara & Jaco at Home: A Drop-In Conversation with Our Co-Ministers

Sundays, August 7 and 28, 3:00 to 5:00 pm at their home (where a cat lives); 654 Madison Avenue N, Bainbridge Island, off Knechtel Way. No registration is needed, just drop in. Contact Barbara or Jaco for parking hints.

Join Revs. Barbara and Jaco ten Hove for a freewheeling, informal conversation on whatever topics seem appropriate to the day.

Ideas for Adult Spiritual and Ethical Programs Requested!

Your Program Associates are looking for suggestions for adult classes to be taught in the 2011-2012 church year. If you have an idea for a class or want to propose doing one yourself, please contact Rev. Barbara ten Hove at: minister@cedarsuuchurch.org.

August Sermons: You Decide!

Revs. Jaco and Barbara ten Hove will preach three of the four Sundays in August. Adapting an idea from our colleague Rev. Bruce Bode in Pt. Townsend, we're offering you the opportunity to "vote" on which earlier sermon you either missed or would like to hear again, selected from previous church years other than this year, 2010-11. Look for ballots with topics to choose from at church on Sundays, June 5 and 12.

Knights of the Round Table
Save the date!

Annual Auction and Dinner
November 5, 2011
Donation forms now available

Interfaith Baccalaureate Service:
Sunday, June 5, 3:00 pm

Grace Episcopal Church

This stirring event has become a Bainbridge tradition: students, parents, clergy, and volunteers organize this spiritual celebration for graduating seniors from Bainbridge Island schools, who participate in their caps and gowns. The public is warmly invited. Rev. Barbara ten Hove is on the Baccalaureate planning committee and Rev. Jaco ten Hove is incoming president of the Interfaith Council.

Announcing a Community Event on Bainbridge Island

Frog Rock Forum: Connections for Community Resilience debuts on Sun., June 19, from 2:00 - 5:00 pm at **IslandWood, 4450 Blakely Avenue NE, Bainbridge Island**. This is a free educational fair of local people and organizations showcasing inspirational projects and activities that encourage ever-greater resilience in our families, neighborhoods, and community. Sponsored by Sustainable Bainbridge, and the brainchild of Rev. Jaco ten Hove, it's a great family event for Father's Day afternoon, which includes tours of magnificent IslandWood, plus a separate Father's Day dinner by the IslandWood chefs at 5:30. See the attached flier and find out more, including how to register for dinner, at www.sustainablebainbridge.org



A Gallery of Newsletters



This format was used from 2001 - 2003



This format was used from 2003 - 2004



This format was used from 2004 - 2005



This format was used from 2006 - 2007



This format was used during 2008



This format was used for our 50th anniversary year 2009-2010

From the President

Reviewing Our Progress, Approaching Our Future

June is an important month for Cedars. It is the last month in our church year, when we look back on our progress or accomplishments and when we also begin to look toward the next year. The latter grows out of the former because there are almost always some unfinished projects or intentions to be carried forward as part of the coming year's planning.

As I write this column, only a few hours have passed since many of us enjoyed Cedars' first annual "Opportunity Fair." It is a sign of our progress as a developing congregation that today's event, which was planned and sponsored by our Program Council, presented a broad range of invitation or participatory opportunity, not just within the well-represented program committees, but also in many of the other activities that bond us together. Cedars enthusiasts at table displays on all sides of Webster Hall shared possibilities for deeper participation in the life of our congregational community, including two reading groups and a knitting group, the choir and music program, our children's Religious Education/Exploration programs and the parenting support group, our beloved annual auction, the consciousness-raising activities of the Green Sanctuary and Social Action Committees as well as the new Program Associates, various activities of our newly re-branded Community Life team (formerly the Membership Committee), the Pastoral Care team, and the budget planning proposal of our Budget Leadership Team. The event was well-attended and the room was filled with buoyant energy and a sense that our coming year will be another one of promise.



This past week I also attended a meeting of the Program Council to discuss the preparation of our second and now traditional Annual Report. This document is the formal record of activities and accomplishments in our church year, and its thoughtful preparation almost necessarily suggests comparison of the year's intentions with the year's success in satisfying them. Last year's report (still available on our Cedars website and at the Welcome Table in Webster Hall) portrayed an active, capable organization that was beginning to look confidently toward its future, and I expect that this year's report will begin to add some of that same sense of energy and momentum that we experienced today.

On June 5, the congregation will hold its Annual Meeting, with an agenda reviewing our current year, discussing intentions and approving a funding plan or budget for the 2011-12 church year, electing candidates to fill elective positions on our Board and Nominating Committee, and for such other business as might be necessary. How we will proceed into the coming church year will be the major focus of that meeting, and I urge all of you to attend as participants in this opportunity to ensure a future of our choosing.

Richard

And in a postscript here, I would like to acknowledge my personal appreciation and deep gratitude to two special individuals who are stepping out of significant roles with Cedars at this time.

As I believe is also noted elsewhere in this issue, Frank Mandt is leaving his trinitarian post as WebMeister, Editor of *The Beacon*, and Chair of our Communications Committee after an exemplary ten years of service in those important roles.

And as is perhaps more generally known, Kimberly Beyer-Nelson is leaving her role as our inspiring Director of Religious Education/Exploration in order to pursue ordination and ministry.

The generous and creative contributions they have each made will remain as special gifts in our personal memories and collective church history.

— Richard Wilson, President

Sustainable
Bainbridge
presents



FROG ROCK FORUM

Connections for Community Resilience

Sunday, June 19th, 2-5 p.m.

at IslandWood

4450 Blakely Ave NE

Come to an exciting fair showcasing local people and organizations helping to create a thriving, sustainable future for our community.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE refers to aspects of a locale that strengthen citizens' capacity to thrive amid change, and creatively utilize environmental, economic and social resources to enhance life, individually and collectively.

For more information: www.sustainablebainbridge.org

Frog Rock Photo by Thomas Fenwick