

The Beacon

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



Volume 9, Issue 11 | March 15, 2019

[Join Cedars](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Religious Education](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Programs](#)

Upcoming Services

Emergent Faith

March 17
10:00 a.m.
The Island School

With **Rev. Deanna Vandiver**, Guest Speaker, and **Penny Brewer**, Worship Associate

What does it mean to live a faithful life amidst constant change? Join Rev. Deanna Vandiver for a worship service centering the emergent nature of our faith, which proclaims that revelation is ever unfolding.

The Reverend Deanna Vandiver made a family-inspired move to the Pacific Region during the summer of 2018, after 18 years in New Orleans. Prior to her move, she served as Co-Director of the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal, whose mission is to service as a catalyst for social, economic, environmental, and racial justice through activism, community engagement, organizing, and transformational learning. Ordained by all 3 member-congregations of the Greater New Orleans Unitarian Universalists (GNOUU) in 2012, Rev. Deanna served as Community Minister for the GNOUU cluster. Prior to ordination, she served in many capacities as a lay leader, including Board President during the Federal Flood of 2005, Annual Pledge Drive chair, Religious Education teacher, and Social Justice team member. Rev. Deanna currently serves on the Committee for Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, and Multiculturalism (CARAOM) for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association (UUMA).

Who is Calling?



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. Thomas Perchlik

Cedars Calendar

March 24
10:00 a.m.
The Island School

With **Rev. Thomas Perchlik**, Interim Minister and **Jenny Weaver**, Worship Associate

Caller ID was once something new that you had to pay extra to get. Now most phones tell you who is calling. We also say that a person is "called" to the ministry, or that a group of people are called to do something. No matter how important the task, we should always ask who is calling us?

Please note that not all events on the calendar are held at the Cedars Center. To view our advanced calendar click [here](#). This link allows you to click on the event title to reveal a drop down of detailed information.

March 15
6:00 p.m. Soup and Sign Event
March 17
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
March 18
6:00 p.m. Search Committee
March 19
5:00 p.m. Worship Associates Meeting
March 20
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice
March 21
5:30 p.m. RE Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Program Council

News and Announcements

Please Welcome our New Office Manager

Kathleen Stearns and her husband, Jim, moved to Bainbridge Island from Seattle in July 2018. Kathleen retired from her position as a school counselor at Mercer Island High School in June 2017. She enjoyed a 40+-year career in education as a teacher (English and mathematics), Admissions Associate Director (Colorado State University), and school counselor. In retirement, she and her husband enjoy reading, swimming, and exploring the beautiful trails on Bainbridge. They also travel frequently to Spokane to visit their 3 grandchildren. Jim and Kathleen have 2 grown children who live in Seattle. Kathleen is excited to have the opportunity to serve the Cedars congregation and to get to know the members and friends.



FUND OUR FLAME!

Ministerial Search News

The Ministerial Search Committee has now completed face-to-face meetings and worship service attendance with three well-qualified pre-candidate finalists and is carefully proceeding toward a ministerial candidate selection judged to best fit the Cedars congregation. Following candidate acceptance of a tentative offer, that individual will be introduced to the congregation in a Sunday through Sunday week of mutual interaction and appreciation in Sunday services, social gatherings, and special meetings. This very active and significant week has been tentatively scheduled to begin on the 28th of April and conclude on May 5th with a special congregational meeting to consider calling the candidate as Cedars' new settled minister.

Cedars Ministerial Search Committee:
Carol Ann Davidson, Betsy Minkoff, Johanna Munson, Vinnie Perrone, Jeff Philip, John Wiens, and Richard Wilson

Affirmation-Rev. Thomas Perchlik

In my last column I made jokes about PNW winter, and then we got mid-west style ice, snow and cold. As Heraclitus said, "change

This year's stewardship campaign has officially launched. You should have received a brochure and a pledge form either after church last week or in the mail this week. Each year Cedars members and friends are asked to review their annual pledge which runs from July 1-June 30. We ask you to reflect on what Cedars means to you. This is an exciting year as we will be calling our new minister. We are sad to see our office administrator, **Sharon Helm**, leave us but we are happy to welcome our new office administrator, **Kathleen Stearns**.



An unexpected expense for this year was that we had to replace some of the office equipment that was no longer working. Additionally, we have goals to incrementally increase the office administrator's salary to UUA guidelines, hire a bookkeeper to relieve our volunteer bookkeeper, **Gregory Cook**, and to ensure that we are financially strong in the coming years.

You may give your pledge form to **Gregory Cook, John Peck** or any other member of the board on a Sunday or you can mail it to the church office or use the form on our website by following this [link](#). We appreciate your careful review of our materials and your generous gifts. We will have a poster in Webster Hall each Sunday indicating how many families have pledged. After you have submitted your pledge, please write your name on a flame and put it up on the board.

is the only constant." On March 22 the sun will be at the equinox, the light and dark of our daily round balanced. It is the iconic center point of a season of change. Speaking of change, for years we have lit our chalice with these words: "As we come together to worship, we remind ourselves to treat all people kindly because they are our brothers and sisters..." Now, because we do want to treat all people kindly, we need to adjust this language.

First of all, not everyone fits into the binary of gender, male/female, boys/girls, brothers/sisters. Today, the majority of UU people who call themselves trans are not transitioning but instead are non-binary; not one or the other, or both-and. Any individual who comes into a UU congregation and hears ritual language that excludes them will likely not be inspired to join that congregation. Depending on their expectations of us, they may even feel harmed. We want to include and honor the experience of trans people; we want to include everyone equally, beginning with each person as they are.

Beyond that, we should also be aware that very few people fit easily or simply into the given gender categories. We want to admit that these "two" things are overlapping categories that make up a whole. Finally, the simple gender binary of male/female has been used to marginalize or oppress women and restrict men for centuries.

The Worship Associates, with encouragement from the Board, have proposed that we change the line to read "because they are part of our human family." Other options are possible. The plan is for us to hold some conversations on the suggested change. The board and Associates will then submit a final proposal to be voted on for approval at our Congregational Meeting in May or in June.

Peace Be Yours,

Thomas

2019 Cedars Sisters Retreat



This year's Cedars Sisters Retreat at Sebeck is scheduled for **Friday, March 22**, and **Saturday, March 23**. Please contact **Betsy Minkoff** for waiting list/late registration.

Watch for upcoming announcements.

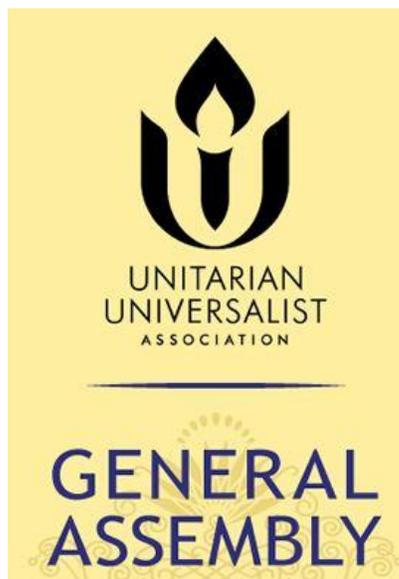
2019 General Assembly

Prepared Cedars

The Prepared Cedars Taskforce is working in various ways to create safe spaces for

The Power of We

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? Our 2019 Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle, and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Please join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.



Distinguished speakers, panel discussion presentations, and educational workshops as well as worship, music, and meditation will enrich the gathering. Book sellers and publishers (such as our own Beacon Press), vendors of various kinds (think UU jewelry, or music and musical instruments), and representatives of UU organizations and institutions will fill an exhibition hall. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry the work on into their own congregations and communities.

This year's General Assembly will take place in our own state at the Spokane Convention Center, June 19-23. These five-day annual national gatherings always bring thousands of UUs together for inspiration, connection, and education, while congregational delegates also discuss and conduct denominational business. For more information use this [link](#) and view the [GA Schedule here](#). Financial aid, registration, and housing reservations are now open.

A Musical Afternoon

16th Annual Interfaith Music Festival

Sunday March 24th, 5:00 p.m.
St. Cecelia's Parish Hall
Bainbridge island

Join us to appreciate and celebrate our diverse faiths through song and dance, with a focus on uplifting music as it strengthens, inspires, and even reveals the spiritual love and faith we all find within ourselves.

Various choirs and performers will be featured, including our own **Cedars choir**, with a final all-singers number written and directed by Rabbi Paul Strasko concluding the festival.

congregants during our events at The Island School and Cedars Center.

We are recruiting for additional safety leaders. If interested and/or for more information, please contact Mike Cox at toxman57@aol.com

Emergency Contact Info: There are three ways that you can ensure that your chosen contacts are notified in case of an emergency:

1. Fill out the card that is available at The Island School
2. Complete your profile in BREEZE
3. Print, complete and carry the wallet card available. Follow [link to TWBS form](#) or pick up a copy at The Island School.

Thank you to all who stepped up during our minor incident on February 17th. An after-service training and discussion is being planned.

Breeze-y News

Who are you Going to Call?

Did you notice that you now (correctly implemented just this week) have the option of entering or editing your personal emergency contacts in your Breeze Profile? While members may spend one hour a week at The Island School where the Prepared Cedars Task Force has emergency contact information on file, many of us spend additional time each week or month in meetings and gatherings at Cedars Center, private homes, or coffee shops where unexpected falls or emergencies can arise at any time.

Members and Friends with Breeze access can use a Breeze app or link to access another member's emergency contact information at any time or on the go if needed. Check out your profile in Breeze to see your options for local and distant emergency contacts. Remember that this function is optional and that you should always ask your emergency contact's permission before you share their information on your profile page in Breeze.

Presented by the Interfaith Council of Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap.

A second event is also a musical possibility for you.

Songs and Stories of Compassion and Comfort
Sunday, March 24, 3:00 p.m.
Grace Church, 8595 NE Day Rd., Bainbridge Island

The Agate Pass Threshold Choir will present an afternoon of calming and compassionate songs that uplift the human spirit and create moments of grace during difficult times.

Learn how the choir serves those with serious illnesses and end-of-life transitions. Experience the power of gentle voices singing simple, sacred songs
Discover how comforting harmonies can ease death and grief. Learn how to request the choir's presence for a friend or loved one.

Please join us for this free event and reception.

For More Information
Visit ThresholdChoir.org or email
Fran Moen, Grace Church,
fmmoen@gmail.com

Sustainable Safety

Sign Up for a Free Presentation

The Bainbridge Island Senior Center will sponsor a free presentation on Accessible Design for a Lifetime on **Monday, March 25** at 4:00 pm at BISC, 370 Brien Drive SE. Learn how to make your own living spaces flexible, safe, and a home where family and friends of all ages and abilities can easily visit, while reducing your environmental impact.

Register today for a talk by Molly McCabe, a local award-winning designer and general contractor. She is the principal designer and co-owner of A Kitchen That Works™ LLC and has published numerous articles and lectured locally and nationally on design and construction.

Call 206-842-1616 to sign up for this free presentation.

Marsha Gladhart, Member
Bainbridge Island Senior Center Resource Committee

Member Directory

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

Cross Cultural Book Group News

May 3, 2019 (a changed date because of Passover)

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Cedars Center, 284 Madrona Way #128
(across from the Pavilion on Madison, Bainbridge Island)

Who we are: Our mission is to further understanding, awareness and knowledge of the "new American mainstream" through literature and other ways. We seek to understand ourselves as we better understand the ways-forced or voluntary migration, enslavement, wars and annexation-that diverse groups have become American. We meet the fourth Friday of every other month with changes made to accommodate holidays and other events.

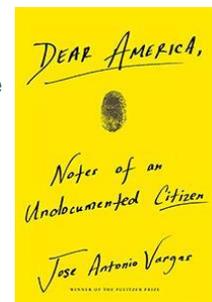
What we're reading:

Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen by Jose Antonio Vargas.

Vargas describes himself as the Filipino Jose.

This book is not about the politics of immigration. The book -- at its core -- is not about immigration at all, or homelessness, not in a traditional sense, but about the unsettled, unmoored psychological state in which

undocumented immigrants like me find ourselves. (paraphrased from the front jacket)



Our facilitator, Betty, will lead us in discussing the book and we will also welcome a local guest. Participation is open to all who choose to read the selection and come to a discussion with an "open mind and open heart".

Books are chosen by participants and can be sourced from a variety of places. We have a selection at Eagle Harbor Books with a 15% discount if you mention CCBG.

If you wish to be added to the email list contact Barbara at ccbq@cuuc.org.

Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is now available to **print** at home. Newest version is available after 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Copies will also be available at each Sunday Service on the activities table.

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

Office Manager:

Kathleen Stearns

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.