

# 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 4 / January 26, 2024  
as corrected

[Website](#) [Faith Formation](#) [Calendar](#) [Our Staff](#) [Contact Us](#) [Join Cedars](#)

## Upcoming Services

### Cloaked in a Thousand Ways

**Sunday January 28th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Nancy Philip, Worship Associate**

The Sufi teacher and poet Hafiz once wrote "cloak yourself in a thousand ways, still shall I know you, Beloved." This line, a description of Hafiz's intimate relationship with God, speaks to an ability to unmask illusions and get at the truth of what is. In this service, we will explore this theme and consider how to find the truth even if it is cloaked in a thousand ways.

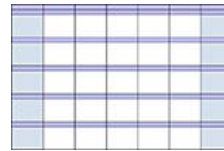
### The Myth of Monoculture

**Sunday February 4th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**

**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**  
**Jenny Weaver, Worship Associate**

The Sufi teacher and poet Hafiz once wrote "cloak yourself in a thousand ways, still shall I know you, Beloved." This line, a description of Hafiz's intimate relationship with God, speaks to an ability to unmask illusions and get at the truth of what is. In this service, we will explore this theme and consider how to find the truth even if it is cloaked in a thousand ways.

### Current Week Calendar & 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 titles for more information.

**Sunday January 28th**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**In-Person Service in Webster Hall**  
**[Live-stream Link](#)**  
**Coffee and Social Time following**

**Wednesday January 31st**  
**Exploring Meditation**  
**5:00 p.m.**

### Host Your Event

We are bringing Hosted Events back again this year! You can choose to be a host for a small gathering, or co-host a larger event with a friend. You determine what is included in the event like food, beverages or music. Tickets will be sold for a small fundraising fee (perhaps about \$20-\$30), and Cedars will be the beneficiary.

Need ideas? Check out these [Examples of Past Events](#). When you are ready to submit your event, go to the [Event Submission Form](#). Please reach out to Jeff Philip if you have any questions.



## Making an Impact on the World

The people at Cedars UU Church give generously to support our small community through annual pledges. Beyond that commitment, you also step up each month at the Sunday collection basket. Once per month we collect specifically for important causes, selected by the Social Action Committee.

Since July, our Special Collections have raised \$2,539 for non-profit organizations large and small, including: Poulsbo Pride, Kingston Cares, Uganda Borehole Project, Crop Walk, NW Hopeful Horizons, and the Alive Shelter. Over \$2,500! That is tremendous!

This Sunday we will be raising funds for the Ukrainian Association of Washington State. I become energized when I reflect on how we step up to make the world a better place.

**Jeff Philip**  
President, Board of Trustees  
[philip.jeff@gmail.com](mailto:philip.jeff@gmail.com)



## UU, Cedars, and You

Following the Sunday Service on **Sunday, February 4th**, Rev. Zackrie and the Community Life Team will be hosting a casual conversation about Unitarian



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*



**Rev. Zackrie Vinczen**

## Musical Notes

Much hard work and dedication goes 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 **Nick Colletto** for music accompaniment.

### Sunday Hymns:

**Be Thou My Vision (#20)**

**This Is the Truth That Passes Understanding (#369)**

**Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire (#34)**

## Children's Faith Formation Needs You

An enthusiastic group

Universalism and our Cedars community for those of you who are curious and would like to learn more.

Great conversation as well as light refreshments will be provided in the Island School Library. We try to offer these opportunities a few times each year so we hope you will be able to join us.

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## January Special Collection

Cedars holds a monthly Special Collection as a way to educate our congregation about the work of various nonprofit organizations that reflect our values and to channel our generosity in support of them.

On Sunday January 28th, the Social Justice Committee will be collecting donations for the **Ukrainian Association of Washington State**. The Association, an entirely volunteer organization established in 1971 by Ukrainian immigrants, has devoted itself to perpetuating Ukrainian culture in the Pacific Northwest and providing support to Ukrainians who live here since that time.

Following Russia's Ukrainian attack, the Association has been directing its energies toward humanitarian fundraising for the country and providing as much assistance as possible to the 20,000 or so Ukrainian refugees who have made their way to Washington State.

**Nena Peltin** will attend and talk about the Association. Nena moved here from Seattle in 2020. In 2021, she joined the Bainbridge Island Rotary Club and has spearheaded a committee to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine as it suffers through Russia's vicious attacks.

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## Somewhere Over the Rainbow

**Somewhere Over the Rainbow** is an LGBTQ+ support group providing education on important matters affecting queer individuals as well as a safe space for connection.

The group discusses a wide range of topics related to the LGBTQ+ community, particularly concerns and challenges affecting the mental health of queer people, and will be facilitated by **Kenny Davis**, a local Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate with Caretta Counseling Alliance, who has volunteered to offer this program for



of parents has begun planning children's programming. Program activities will be scheduled in the Island School library on selected Sunday mornings and the help of other adults will be welcomed.



Seeing an active children's Faith Formation effort getting off the ground again is exhilarating. To volunteer your assistance, please email Jeff Philip at [president@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:president@cedarsuuchurch.org).



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## Writing as a Spiritual Practice

Discover the profound depths within yourself and the world around you through the transformative power of writing. Throughout the centuries, writing has served as a spiritual practice, illuminating hidden truths and connecting us to something greater.

Join the **Cedars Spiritual Writing Group**, a new monthly writing experience facilitated by Rev. Zackrie.

During each of these gatherings, you will be offered prompts that nourish your creative spirit, ignite your inspiration, and invite you into questioning. Moreover, these gatherings will also provide a space for deep reflection, contemplation, and sharing. Whether you choose to attend a single session or embark on the full journey, each gathering will offer the promise of a meaningful exploration of self and soul.

So mark your calendar for the following dates from 5-6 p.m.:

- February 14th: Moments in Between
- March 13th: Allowing Emptiness
- April 10th: Responding to Art
- May 8th: Encounters in the Wild
- June 12th: TBD

Each session will take place at the Cedars Center in Winslow

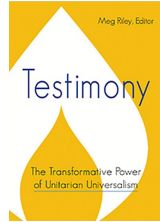
If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**. [minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)  
360-930-9339

Cedars and the wider community.

**The next meeting is February 8th, 7 pm at the Cedars Center.**

**Topic:** Challenging Negative Thoughts

We look forward to seeing all colors of the rainbow in attendance and hope to see you there.



### **Testimony - The Transformative Power of Unitarian Universalism**

Offered by our own Skinner House Press, this illuminating book

shares personal stories from people whose lives have been dramatically transformed by Unitarian Universalism, finding renewed purpose and personal meaning in UU values and through participation in a congregational community such as Cedars. Together these vignettes paint a portrait of the real, felt impact of Unitarian Universalism.

For more information and purchase, see the InSpirit Bookstore at [bookstore@uua.org](mailto:bookstore@uua.org).

## **Cedars Creativity Fair 2023**

### **See What Others Have Been Doing**

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.

In past years we organized occasional Creativity Fairs to share individual interests and capabilities following Webster Hall services, and in response to the more recent pandemic we have shifted to on-line or virtual versions of those fairs.

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.

Continuing that sharing of individual interests and creativity, please join the fun and enjoy the growing show using the link below! If you have something to share, send a photo and description to [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

### **Creativity Fair**

**Walker Willingham's** talent for yardwork and landscape improvement

## **Super Supper**

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, and is now moving toward a similar role assisting the Suquamish Community Kitchen on selected Wednesdays with free meals for those in need.

We now have a regular sign-up for you to use each month so that all in our congregation have a chance to participate. Please consider signing up for one or more slots [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)

## **From the Bookkeeper's Desk**

Once again this year, since we know most taxpayers no longer itemize deductions, we will not be sending out 2023 tax letters to all church members. If you do itemize your IRS deductions and need a letter detailing all of your 2023 contributions, please send an email request to

[bookkeeper@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:bookkeeper@cedarsuuchurch.org). A letter will be sent to you showing all January - December 2023 payments received by Cedars for pledges, non-pledged gifts, and special collections.

Additionally, in January, pledge statements will be sent out. These statements will reflect all pledge payments received from July through December 2023. That time frame encompasses the first half of the Cedars fiscal year, which ends in June 2024.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the address above.

**Mandy Maher**  
**Cedars Bookkeeper**

## **Exploring Meditation**

Join us for a monthly meditation gathering at the Cedars Center (located at 284 Madrona Way #128 in Winslow).

Throughout our session, we will delve into a variety of meditation techniques. As we meditate together, you'll have the opportunity to explore these techniques deeply. As the session draws to a close, there will be a chance to pose inquiries and, if you wish, share your personal meditation experiences

was clearly and necessarily taken well beyond simple lawn-mowing and leaf-raking recently.



with others.

Mark your calendar for the following dates from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

- January 24th
- February 28th
- March 27th
- April 24th
- May 29th
- June 26th

If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**.  
[minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)  
360-930-9339



### 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

### 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)

### Faith Formation Lead

[faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org)

### Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

Available remotely Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
[office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

Would you like to subscribe to The Beacon? Email: [beacon@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto: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)



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

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