

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 19 / May 10, 2024

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Upcoming Services

Stewardship Celebration

Sunday, May 12th (Mother's Day)
10:00 a.m.
Brunch & Banter Service in Webster Hall

David Barnes, Service Lead

Join us for a time of gathering, sharing a meal, songs, and meaningful conversations. Bring your curiosity, questions, and wisdom to share—plus, your favorite Brunch-y dish! Let's connect and celebrate human togetherness.

To Save the World or Savor It

Sunday May 19th
10:00 a.m.
In-Person Service in Webster Hall

Rev. Barry Andrews
Johanna Munson, Worship Associate

The writer, E.B. White once said, "I arise in the morning torn between the desire to save the world and the desire to savor the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

To save the world or savor it—how are we to resolve this dilemma?

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 May 12th (Mother's Day)
10:00 a.m.
Brunch & Banter Service in Webster Hall
No Live-Stream

Wednesday May 8th
5:00 p.m.
Writing as a Spiritual Practice

News and Announcements

A Time to Commit to Cedars

You are what makes this Unitarian Universalist community

thrive. Because we join together each week, each month, and throughout the year, we create something special. We create a place where our ideas and thoughts can be shared. A place where we create friendship. Even a place where we can gather to do some good in the world.



Sometimes I reflect on what makes a UU Congregation different. We certainly have a different approach to religion and faith than most other types of congregations. We create an environment that is welcoming and supportive, and not based on dogma. I treasure that. And we are different than civic organizations because we do base our gathering on values rooted in religion and faith traditions.

That is all to say, we are special. Nancy and I believe that specialness is important to support. We have again pledged generously this year, to keep Cedars strong. Please bring or send your pledge form in this weekend as we wrap up Stewardship Month. **Say yes to Love, Say Yes to Cedars.**

Jeff Philip
President, Board of Trustees



General Assembly 2024

General Assembly (or GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

Although typically organized as a physical assembly of congregational delegates, this year's GA will instead be virtual, with "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" as an organizing theme celebrating love as a profound and binding force transcending boundaries and historical traditions within our faith communities and beyond, while our stories and the power of storytelling can ignite change, inspire compassion, and help us build a more just and equitable world.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually **Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23**, and you can now view the GA schedule to see the lineup of informative workshops,



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 **David Barnes** in dual roles as **both** Musician and Service Leader.

It's Time for the Annual Report!

If you are a Committee Leader, please write a concise report summarizing your committee's activity between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. This can be in either bullet point or paragraph form. Email the finished report to the Office Manager at office@cedarsuuchurch.org. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff at philip.jeff@gmail.com.

Children's Faith Formation Needs You

An enthusiastic group of parents has begun



inspirational worship services, and more!

Article II: Principles or Values?

The UU community is abuzz about the proposed changes to Article II in the UUA Bylaws. That Article outlines some of the core elements of the Unitarian Universalist movement in the United States (Canada and other countries have their own guidance). In June we will vote on whether to change them.

We had an in-person Cedars Center discussion of the proposed changes several weeks ago and plan to continue the conversation in a Zoom session later in the month. For now, here are links to relevant information:

- [Final Proposed Revision to Article II](#)
- [Save the Seven Principles Website](#)
- [UU World Magazine Article](#)
- [Present Text of Article II](#)

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 (May 29, July 10, September 11, and November 13) [here](#).

For more information contact **Mike Cox** at 206-799-3725 or toxman57@gmail.com or **Rod Kempkes** at rdkempkes@gmail.com

May Special Collection

The Social Justice Committee has chosen to collect money for the Super Suppers and Suquamish Community Kitchen Programs as the Special Collection On May 19th.

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.



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.:

- June 12th: Prompt TBD

Each session will take place at the Cedars Center in Winslow

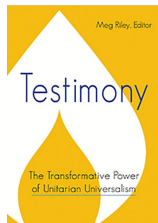
If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**. minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
360-930-9339

Support Southern Resident Orcas and Salmon

Sandy Spears is looking for volunteers to walk in Bainbridge Island's Grand Old Fourth parade (with its typical 18,000

The money collected will be used to offset the costs of purchasing food for the meals.

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with **Super Suppers** in the memo to place in the offering basket on May 26th or send it to the Cedars Church Office by May 31st.



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.

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 with others.

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

- May 29th
- June 26th

If you would like more information, please reach out to **Rev. Zackrie**. minister@cedarsuuchurch.org
360-930-9339

Cedars Creativity Fair 2024

Our identity as a congregational community is strengthened by the activities and gatherings we enjoy

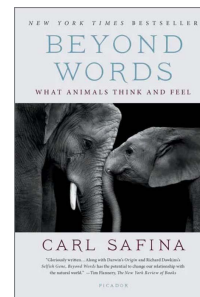
(member audience) to demonstrate support for the protection and continuing presence of the endangered Southern Resident Orcas and Salmon in our local waters.

The walk is one mile, and you can hold a sign or support a walkable orca or salmon float. We will need to be in the Winslow parade's participant assembly area at about 1:00 or 2:00 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Sandy Spears** at 713-705-7924. She currently has only four people, and needs at least 5 more! It's also really fun to be in a parade!

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.

Because we found our recent selection by Carl Safina deeply fascinating and inspiring, we have chosen another book by the same author as our next selection.

Interweaving decades of field observation with exciting discoveries about the brain, Safina's **Beyond Words** explores similarities between human and nonhuman consciousness, self-awareness, and empathy, suggesting that we need to re-evaluate our understandings and interactions with animals. Wise, passionate, and mind-opening, this book is ultimately a graceful examination of humanity's place in the world.

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

Fashion in the Forest

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.

See What Others Have Been Doing

Proud Mom **Heidi** was there for Stuart's graduation into a mechanical engineering career!



The 8th annual **ReFashion Show** is happening on **May 19th** at **IslandWood!** Check [here](#) for ticket information.



ReFashion's committee and community partners are dedicated to bringing you the latest in sustainable fashion on Bainbridge Island and the Seattle area while educating everyone on the environmental impact of clothing choices through speakers, workshops, fashion shows, conferences and web resources.

More information [here](#).



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.

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

Faith Formation Lead

faith.formation@cedarsuuchurch.org

Carolyn Kerns, Office Administrator

Available remotely Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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