

# The Beacon

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



**CEDARS CHURCH**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 17 Issue 8 February 19, 2026

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## This Week At Cedars

**Sunday Service, February 22**  
**10:00 am**  
**The Island School**

**Transformed By Our Care**

**Rev. Deanna Vandiver, Guest Minister**  
**Johanna Munson, Worship Associate**

Join us in co-creating worship that skills us up and roots us sustainably in place for faithful living within the context of the Holocene extinction and the violence of empire.



**Rev. Deanna Vandiver** is affiliated with the **Church of the Larger Fellowship**, Unitarian Universalist, as a Community Minister of Love and Liberation. She is the founder of **Ever Unfolding LLC**, a ministry of spiritual accompaniment and creativity for people, congregations, and organizations on the journey toward collective liberation.

Childcare will be offered for this Service. Click [HERE](#) for details.

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### Thursday, February 19

**Board Meeting**  
**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**Cedars Center**

### Sunday, February 22

**Breeze with Friends**  
**11:30 am - 1:00 pm (right after Service)**  
**The Island School**

### Tuesday, February 24

**Soul Matters Covenant Group**  
**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**via Zoom**

**Super Suppers**  
**4:45 pm - 6:00 pm**  
**Eagle Harbor Congregational Church**

Please see below for more details and take a look at the Cedars calendar [HERE](#).

## Upcoming Services

**Sunday Service, March 1**  
**10:00 am**  
**The Island School**

## The Language of the Roots

**Rev. Tessie Mandeville, Carrie Koehnline and Judith Kaftan, Guest Speakers**

**Su Livingston, Guest Musician  
Nancy Philip, Worship Associate**

Our speakers will share a recently rediscovered story, "Grandmother Waits." They'll reflect, as the elders they are now, on its messages of autonomy, depth, creativity, and what it takes to be a healthy, diverse community. Led by Carrie and Judith, who co-wrote the story more than 30 years ago, and woven together with poetry and songs by Tessie, this promises to be an engaging and wonderful service.



**Rev. Tessie Mandeville** is an affiliated minister at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (BUF), a hospital chaplain (ret.), and an Interfaith spiritual director, who lives in Bellingham with her wife, Lisa.

**Carrie Koehnline** is a journal therapist, artist, writer, and frequent worship leader at BUF who lives in Bellingham with her wife, Dominique.

**Judith Kaftan** is a longtime psychotherapist, artist, and writer who has recently retired. She lives in Seattle along with her wife, Marra.

**Su Livingston** is a former educator, worship celebrant at BUF, and a lifelong musician who lives in Bellingham with her husband, John.

Childcare will be offered for this Service. Click [HERE](#) for details.

## A Message from Reverend Margo



### **Our Voices, Our Values: A Heartfelt Update from Advocacy Day in Olympia**

Last week, six of our very own **Cedars UU Church** members traveled to **Olympia**, carrying our shared values of compassion and justice into the heart of our state's capitol. They joined a vibrant community of **275 voices of faith and conscience**, all standing together with a single, powerful purpose: to **speak truth to power**.

**Rev. Margo** shared that it was *truly uplifting to be surrounded by so many people who share our deep commitment to justice. A highlight of the trip was the time we spent speaking directly with Rep. Drew Hansen, Rep. Greg Nance, and the aide for Rep. Tarra Simmons.* These conversations were both *valuable and encouraging*, reminding us that our local representatives are listening.

By the end of the day, *we were all definitely tired! But as we headed home, we knew it was well worth every bit of time and effort. We felt so proud to stand there as representatives of Cedars, serving as steady voices for the issues that touch our hearts most: a moral budget, environmental justice, immigrant rights, criminal justice reform, housing, and indigenous rights.*

This wonderful day was made possible by the **Faith Action Network (FAN)**, and it was a beautiful reminder of how we put our **Unitarian Universalist** faith into tangible action.

## News and Announcements

### New Map for Cedars Center

The Cedars Center serves as a central hub for the Unitarian Universalist community on Bainbridge Island, providing flexible spaces for gatherings, programs, and collaborative work. You can find a link to the new map on the website [HERE](#).



### Breeze with Friends!

**Sunday, February 22**  
**11:30 am (right after Service)**  
**The Island School stage**



**Breeze** is the software program that Cedars uses to maintain our directory of members and friends and much more. If you'd like to learn the basics of how it works and how you can use it to stay connected with our Cedars community, the **Cedars Membership Team** will be giving a live demonstration of the Breeze program after the Sunday service on **February 22** on the stage at The Island School. Grab your coffee cup and join us!

### Explore the Major Religions of the World

**Sundays, March 1, March 15, March 29**  
**11:30 am–1:00 pm (right after Service)**  
**The Island School (bring a bag lunch)**



Join presenters **Alan Miller** and **David Thomas** as we explore five of the world's great religious traditions through both history and lived experience. Alan is a retired professor of comparative religion, and David is a retired epidemiologist who has traveled the world and experienced many cultures and religious traditions. Together we'll look at:

- Judaism is held on February 1. Reading available [HERE](#)
- Christianity is held on February 15. Reading available [HERE](#).
- Islam is held on March 1. Reading available [HERE](#).
- Hinduism
- Buddhism

Each session focuses on one tradition and blends:

- ✦ Short readings (about 10 pages)
- ✦ Helpful historical and textual insights (Alan)
- ✦ Observations from world travel (David)
- ✦ Conversation and Q&A

Whether you're seeking a deeper understanding of global faiths, curious about how religion shapes culture, or enjoy learning in community, this course offers a thoughtful and engaging doorway in. All are welcome — no prior knowledge required!

Please feel free to sign up by clicking [HERE](#).

## Community Events

### February Special Collection: Faith Action Network

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**  
A Partnership for the Common Good

The Social Action Committee chose to collect money for the **Faith Action Network** (FAN). The FAN is a multi-faith organization with thousands of people and over 160 faith communities across Washington State, partnering for the common good.



More information can be found [HERE](#).

If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please write a check payable to Cedars UU Church with FAN in the memo to place in the offering basket on February 15 or send it to the Cedars Church Office by February 22.

Cedars holds a Special Collection monthly for community outreach to educate our congregation about the work of various non-profit organizations that reflect our values and to channel our generosity in support of them.

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

## Ongoing Programs

### Soul Matters Covenant Group at Cedars Facilitated by Reverend Margo

**Tuesday Feb 24**  
**(ongoing on the fourth Tuesday of each month)**  
**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**via Zoom**



As spiritual analysis without spiritual practice often leaves us unchanged, the exercises in each month's packet invite us to reflect on how the theme shows up in our daily lives.

Each person in the group will receive a monthly packet. Participants are invited to select one of the 5-7 exercises and one of the dozen questions that speak about their lives. Please feel free to sign up by clicking [HERE](#).

In our Zoom meetings, each session will include:

- Check-in
- Spiritual Exercises Reflection
- "You Question" Reflection
- Closing Words.

If you want to know more about the group, contact **Reverend Margo** at [minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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**Cedars Women's Covenant Group**  
**Monday, March 9**  
**(ongoing on the second Monday of each month)**  
**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**Fieldstone Retirement Community**



The Cedars Women's Covenant Group would welcome adding several new members committed to sharing experiences and feelings on a specific topic in a confidential setting. If you are new to Cedars, this is a great way to get acquainted, and if you're a long-standing member, it's a way to deepen your friendships. If interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten**: [Office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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**Cedars Men's Group**  
**Tuesday, March 10**  
**(ongoing on the second Tuesday of each month)**  
**3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**  
**Cedars Center**



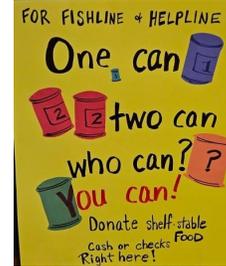
The Cedars Men's Group welcomes any men who would like to consider joining to share experiences and feelings on a specific topic in a confidential setting. If interested or want more information, contact **Herb Hethcote** or **Ed Clemens**. [Office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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**CEDARS Presents: YOU CAN!**

YOU CAN! Donate shelf-stable food, cash, or checks to Fishline and Helpline House every Sunday. Our local food banks continue to serve more and more people.

Please get in touch with **Nancy Dowey** or **Patricia Erdmann** with any questions.



## Super Suppers Volunteers: Super Appreciated!

We have a great team serving Super Suppers each month to an appreciative group of Islanders. For many years, we have teamed up with Kol Shalom to provide this much-needed service on the last Tuesday of the month, at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church in Winslow. However, we need more volunteers!!



- to bring side dishes and help with set-up, serving, and cleanup
- or help warm up the premade main dish, set up, and serve.

We provide side dishes or prepare the main dishes on alternating months.

You can sign up **HERE** for one or more slots, whatever works for you, and your help will be **SUPER APPRECIATED!** Our next opportunity is **February 24**.

For more information, please get in touch with Mike Cox at [socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:socialaction@cedarsuuchurch.org).

## Suquamish Community Kitchen

Every other month, Cedars takes the lead in preparing and serving a free, nourishing meal for anyone in our community through the Suquamish Community Kitchen. These meals require many helping hands to cook, serve, and clean up. Each role plays a vital part in making the evening run smoothly.



We invite you to sign up **HERE** to join the team. Your time and energy will make a meaningful difference.

For more information, please get in touch with Rod Kempkes at [president@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:president@cedarsuuchurch.org).

## Cedars Childcare on Sunday Mornings is Back!

Good news! We offer childcare for families with young children during our Sunday services! If you know a family that hasn't been able to attend on Sundays because of a lack of childcare, please tell them about this. We look forward to welcoming some new faces that otherwise wouldn't be able to be with us on Sunday mornings! For details about how childcare is provided, click **HERE**.

## Thank Our Representatives for Protecting Our Vote

Each week, a different card will be at the back of the service for people to sign to thank our representatives for protecting our vote. Please sign. Our goal is to encourage our representatives who are on the front line of this issue. So far, we have sent cards to Senators **Cantwell** and **Murray** and **Representatives Nance** and **Simmons**. We recently included John Cameron Peavy, a campaign staff worker in Texas. In the coming



weeks, we will also include Senator Hanson. For more information, please contact **Sandy Spears**.

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## Cedars T-Shirts Are Here!

We have Cedars T-shirts available for purchase! Each shirt is \$20 and made from organic cotton. Please contact the office at [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) to get yours!



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## Cedars on Social Media

Did you know that Cedars now has a podcast? We are posting our Sunday Services on **Spotify** [HERE](#), on the **Apple Podcast app** [HERE](#), on **Amazon Music** [HERE](#), and on **iHeartRadio** [HERE](#) for easier access to our audio recordings. Our podcast is called “**Sunday Mornings at Cedars**”.



We are also now on **Instagram!** Find us [HERE](#).

And as usual, find us on our **Church Facebook** page [HERE](#) and our **Community Facebook** page [HERE](#).

**Be sure to “Like”** us and **“Follow”** us on each one!

You can also still find audio recordings of our Services on our website [HERE](#).

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## Beacon Article Deadline

The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, please send it to the Cedars office at [office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org).

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## Cedars Facebook Conversations

If you're on Facebook, there is a Facebook group called Cedars UU Church Community Conversations for members and friends to share events, fun stories, etc. Let's keep the coffee hour going all week long! Join the group [HERE](#).

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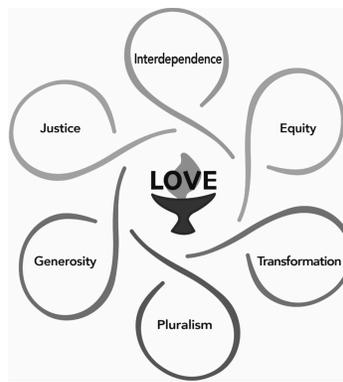
## UUA News and Information

To learn more about UUA values, news, and information, click on the image or [HERE](#). You'll also find a permanent image link at the bottom of each newsletter for easy access.





**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*



#### **Print the Beacon Newsletter**

The Beacon is available to download and print each week [HERE](#) and by going to the Cedars website at [www.cedarsuuchurch.org](http://www.cedarsuuchurch.org) under News.

#### **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](#).

#### **Worship Services**

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
The Island School  
8553 NE Day Road  
Bainbridge Island

#### **Cedars Minister**

**Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister**  
Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
284 Madrona Way, NE #128  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373  
[Minister@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:Minister@cedarsuuchurch.org)

#### **Cedars Office**

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm in office hours  
284 Madrona Way, NE #128  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
(206) 780-0373  
[Office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:Office@cedarsuuchurch.org)

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