
This Week and More at Cedars - July 30, 2026

Cedars UU Church <office@cedarsuuchurch.org>
Reply-To: Cedars UU Church <office@cedarsuuchurch.org>
To: office@cedarsuuchurch.org

Thu, Jul 30, 2026 at 6:03 AM



The Beacon

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

Volume 17 Issue 31 July 30, 2026



This Week At Cedars

Flourishing Together: We Belong to One Another

Sunday, August 2

10:00 am

The Island School

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister

Johanna Munson, Worship Associate



Indigenous author and scientist, Robin Wall Kimmerer tells us that hoarding will never save us, rather all flourishing is mutual. On this Sunday we will explore what flourishing looks like in our personal lives and societal structures.

Reverend Margo Rinehart serves Cedars by welcoming people from diverse theological and religious backgrounds and spiritual beliefs on their journeys to learn from one another, search for truth, and answer the call of love and justice.

Sunday, August 2

Newer to Cedars Conversation
11:15 am - 12:00 pm
The Island School

Tuesday, August 4

SAC Letter Writing Party
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Cedars Center

Wednesday, August 5

Worship Associates
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
via Zoom

Thursday, August 6

Social Action Committee
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
via Zoom

Please see below for more details and use this [link](#) to find the Cedars calendar.



New News

Dahlia Farm Music Festival

Saturday, August 15

1:00 am - 9:30 pm with music starting at 1:00 pm

Suyematsu Farms

13610 Manzanita Rd NE, Bainbridge Island

Look for the Cedars outreach booth at the August 15 Dahlia Farm Music Festival. Please consider buying a ticket and/or helping **Naomi Gary** at the booth! Lots of fun, great music and a lovely way to support our LGBTQA COMMUNITY!

Rolling Bay Music Club (RBMC) is a nonprofit performing arts organization rooted in a deep belief that music has the power to bring people together, spark discovery, and strengthen the communities we share.



Please follow the link for details on the performers and the schedule for the Dahlia Festival.

[Buy Dahlia Music Festival Tickets Here](#)

Letter Writing Party

Tuesday, August 4

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Cedars Center

Join us for a fun, productive gathering to write letters together and help strengthen democracy and protect Voting Rights! This Letter Writing Party is directed to informing young voters in Pennsylvania. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow volunteers, share ideas, and send letters to boost voter turnout in the next election and beyond.

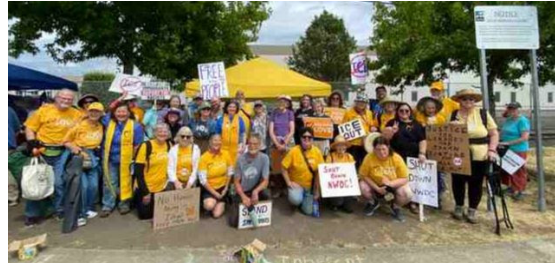
Please see **Sandy Spears** with questions or email her at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.



A Message From Reverend Margo

Siding with Our Neighbors

Last Saturday I attended the **Solidarity Gathering held outside the Immigration Detention Center in Tacoma**. I was asked to speak on behalf of JUUstice Washington, our Unitarian Universalist state social action network. [La Resistencia, a group supporting immigrants hosts a Solidarity Day outside the detention center at least once a month and they have been doing so for over 12 years.](#) On this particular Saturday La Resistencia, the Quakers and JUUstice Washington partnered in this work.



The two-hour program contained updates about immigration issues, stories of success where immigrants were protected or released, speakers from community groups and much music. We are told that the detainees inside the detention center are able to hear the music and singing. The program ends with participants taking a flower over to the chain link fence and gently threading it through so that it can be seen by detainees inside. La Resistencia also provides an ofrenda (altar) for those killed by ICE and those who have died while in detention. Thousands of peace cranes hang from the ceiling shading the altar.

For my part in it all, I told a story about a grandfather and four year old grandson who I often see during my walks at a park. The grandfather is an immigrant but I'm not sure about the grandson. They are a wonderful sight to behold as grandfather teaches the grandson about plants and flowers and birds. How is it that some of the people in this country could look at the same scene and think that they are a danger to our country and need to be separated and then deported? I represented all UUs standing for solidarity with those imprisoned and for their families who so bravely carry on in spite of incredible grief and heavy burdens. There was also a demand for justice for Lorenzo Solgado and Johan Sebastian Guerrero, who were gunned down by ICE in the past few weeks. Lastly, I thanked immigrant groups like La Resistencia for the education they had given us for how we can be better allies.

If we want to do more, we can. Talk with me or with the members of our Cedars Social Action Committee about what support and actions you would like to see Cedars engaged in on behalf of immigrants. **Naomi Gary** is the lead on the committee for immigration concerns.



Upcoming Sunday Service

Depolarizing Ourselves The Braver Angels Way

Sunday, August 9

10:00 am

The Island School

Elizabeth Doll, Cedars Guest Speaker

Nancy Philip, Worship Associate

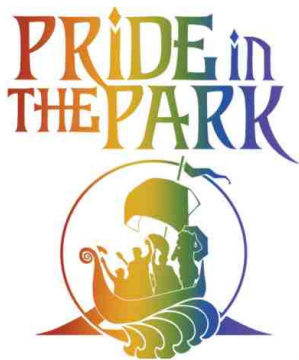


Braver Angels is the nation's largest political depolarization non-profit, and we're run mostly by volunteers all across the country. Transforming the political culture in the country for the better is a tall order, but one that's achievable if we all do our part to love our neighbors and people we perceive as our enemies.

Elizabeth Doll joined Braver Angels in March 2022 as the Director of Braver Politics after four years of volunteering with the organization and many years working in politics in the Pacific Northwest. She began political work as a teen, when, while interning on a Congressional campaign, she became passionate about improving her community through civic engagement. Since then, Elizabeth has consulted for and worked on many state and local campaigns. She and her husband live on Bainbridge Island and when not engaged in politics, she enjoys photography, hiking, and horseback riding.



Social Action



Poulsbo Pride Special Collection

Poulsbo Pride was established in 2023 to create a supportive, organized community in the North Kitsap area for LGBTQ+IA folks. They have grown over the past three years, offering safe spaces for youth and adults in Poulsbo and surrounding communities. This year, their Poulsbo Pride in the Park event will be in **Raab Park on August 22nd**. Cedars will be represented with a booth, and we gladly give to ensure their success.

For more information see [Patricia Erdmann](#) or email your question to office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

Book Donation Request for Poulsbo Pride

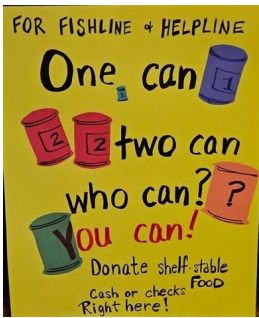
Big thanks to **Jeff and Nancy Philip**, our Free Library at Bainbridge PRIDE was a total people magnet!



Now let's refill it for Poulsbo PRIDE in August. We welcome new or gently used books, and **we especially need kids' books.**

Drop donations at the Cedars Center or on the table with the food-bank items outside our worship space. Please see **Patricia Erdmann** with questions.

CEDARS Presents: YOU CAN!



The growing need for food resources in our wider community is **unmistakable**. Because the most urgent needs are currently across the Agate Pass Bridge, we are currently directing all Cedars food donations to Fishline. Every contribution of cans, boxes, bottles, and more goes straight onto the shelves and is immediately appreciated.

Thank you for giving what you can. **Every bit truly helps.**

For more information about the food drive, see **Nancy Dowey** or **Patricia Erdmann** or email them at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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 to help with one or more slots using this link](#), whatever works for you, and your help will be SUPER APPRECIATED! Our next opportunity is .August 25.

For more information about Super Suppers, please use this [link](#) to email **Mike Cox** at 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 to join the team using this link](#). Your time and energy will make a meaningful difference.

For more information, please email **Heidi Parkington-Thal** at office@cedarsuuchurch.org using this link.

Cedars T-Shirts Are Here!



We have **Cedars T-shirts** available for purchase! Each shirt is \$20 and made from organic cotton.

Use this [link](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) to email the office, office@cedarsuuchurch.org, to get your T-shirt!

Group Meetings

Newer to Cedars Conversation

Sunday, August 2 (ongoing on the first Sunday of each month)

11:15 am–12:00pm (right after Service)

The Island School

If you're newer to Cedars or simply want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, you're invited to join our **Newer to Cedars Conversation**. This is an easy, friendly space to ask questions, meet others who are also getting connected, and enjoy light snacks.

These conversations are relaxed, fun, and usually run **30–45 minutes**, depending on how many of us gather. We'll be hosting them **every first Sunday of the month**, so there's always another chance to drop in.

Cedars Women's Covenant Group

Monday, August 10 (ongoing the second Monday of each month)

2:00 pm - 3:30 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 you are interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#) for more information about the Women's Group.

Cedars Men's Group



Tuesday, August 11 (ongoing 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 or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) for Men's Group information using [this link](#).

Cedars Music Committee



Sunday, August 16 (ongoing on the third Sunday of each month)

11:30 pm - 12:30 pm

The Island School

The Cedars Music Committee welcomes anyone interested in joining to promote, advocate, nurture, and sustain music programs at Cedars.

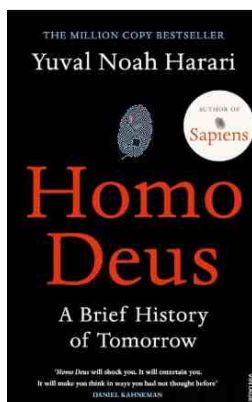
If you are interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#) for more information about the Music Committee.

Cedars Book Group

Wednesday, August 19

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

via Zoom



The Cedars Book Group will discuss ***Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*** by Yuval Noah Harari. If you are interested or want more information, contact **Herb Hethcote** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#) for more information

Yuval Noah Harari, author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller and international phenomenon ***Sapiens***, returns with an equally original, compelling, and provocative book, turning his focus toward the future of humanity, and our quest to upgrade humans into gods.

League of Women Voters of Kitsap: Bainbridge Island Unit

Saturday, August 29 (ongoing the last Saturday of each month)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cedar Center



The League of Women Voters of Kitsap is a nonpartisan political organization committed to educating voters and encouraging them to engage in our community.

If you are interested or want more information, contact **Naomi Gary**, co-chair of the LWV Bainbridge Island Unit, or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#).

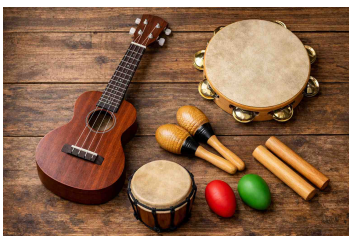
League of Women Voters Website

Ukulele Jam Group

Saturday, August 29 (ongoing on the last Saturday of each month)

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Cedars Center



A new Ukulele Jam Group is taking shape, and everyone in the Cedars community is welcome to join in. Bring your own instrument but we also have plenty to share.

Please think about 3 favorite and easy songs you'd like to play. Send your songs to Rebecca Kim [to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#).

She has the Ultimate Guitar app and projects the chords and lyrics on the big screen. Makes it super fun and easy for us all to JAM!!!

If you are interested or want more information, contact **Naomi Gary**, or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#).



More About Cedars

Cedars Ride Matching Survey

Sharing a ride with someone to our services on Sunday mornings at The Island School is a great way for us to help our neighbors, build community, and take care of the earth at the same time!



Please take a few seconds to answer two simple questions in the survey linked below, and our Cedars Care Team will try to match up folks who are willing to drive and folks who would appreciate a ride on Sunday mornings and live in the same area.

Once a potential match(es) has been identified and communicated to the drivers and those wanting rides, they will be responsible for working out the details with each other. You can also talk to **Susan Shaffer** about this effort to match up potential drivers and riders.

Use this [link](#) to answer the Survey questions.

[View Survey](#)

Members and Friends of Cedars

Do you know someone looking for a calm, welcoming place to work—perhaps for a remote job or small practice? We're seeking a subletter who would feel at home in a space grounded in Unitarian values such as respect, inclusivity, and community-mindedness.



A bright, furnished **8' x 15' office** is available within a quiet, peaceful professional suite just two blocks from the local movie theater. The space includes access to a shared conference room, small kitchen, and bathroom. It features exterior windows, a comfortable two-seat couch, a corner desk, and bookshelves—move-in ready and well-suited for consultants, therapists, or remote workers seeking a thoughtful, values-aligned environment.

Rent is \$700 per month.

Contact **Sandy Spears** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using [this link](#) for more information about renting the space.

Cedars on Social Media

Did you know that Cedars now has a podcast? Our podcast is called “**Sunday Mornings at Cedars**”.

[Use this link](#) to listen to our podcast on **Spotify**.

[Use this link](#) to listen to our podcast on **Apple Podcast app**.

[Use this link](#) to listen to our podcast on **Amazon Music**.

[Use this link](#) to listen to our podcast on **iHeartRadio**.



We are also on **Instagram**! [Use this link to find us on Instagram](#). And as usual, [find us on our Cedars Facebook page with this link](#). 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 conversations group using this link for our Cedars Community Facebook page](#).

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

[Use this link](#) to find **audio recordings** of our Services on our website.

Beacon Article Deadline

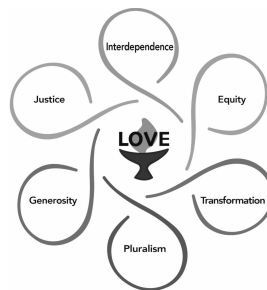
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, [use this link to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at \[office@cedarsuuchurch.org\]\(mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org\)](#).

UUA News and Information

Use this [link](#) or the image to learn more about UUA values, news, and information.



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*

View

Print the Beacon Newsletter

The Beacon is available to download and print each week using this [link](#) to our website.

Member Directory

Members and Friends can easily search our online Church Directory using this [link](#) to our [directory](#) for contact information. The link is located under the Connection tab of the Cedars website and via [this link to our directory](#).

Worship Services

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

[The Island School](#)
[8553 NE Day Road](#)
[Bainbridge Island, WA 98110](#)

[View Map Here](#)

Cedars Minister

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

Cedars Office

Monday thru Thursday 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm in office hours
284 Madrona Way, NE #128
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 780-0373
office@cedarsuuchurch.org

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Do you have an article, event, or announcement?

[Use this link](#) to email it to office@cedarsuuchurch.org for inclusion in our Thursday newsletter (3 days in advance). [Use this link](#) to see our [submission guidelines](#).



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