
This Week and More at Cedars - August 13, 2026

1 message

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

Thu, Aug 13, 2026 at 6:00 AM



The Beacon

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

Volume 17 Issue 33 August 13, 2026



This Week At Cedars

Finding Your True North: Celebrating the Graduation of Gavin Barnes

Sunday, August 16

10:00 am

The Island School

Rev. Margo Rinehart, Cedars Minister

Gregory Cook, Worship Associate



We gather to celebrate the graduation of Gavin Barnes and to take joy in knowing that life's journeys and explorations never end. May we all free our inner navigator and take command of the ship of our lives.

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.

Saturday, August 15

Dahlia Music Festival
11:00 am - 9:30 pm with music starting at 1:00 pm
Suyematsu Farms on Bainbridge Island

Sunday, August 16

Music Committee
11:30 am - 12:30 pm
The Island School

Tuesday, August 18

Care Team Meeting
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Cedars Center

Membership Committee
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Cedars Center

Wednesday, August 19

Cedars Book Group
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
via Zoom

Friday, August 21

Journaling Group
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Cedars Center

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



New News

Dahlia Farm Music Festival

Saturday, August 15

11:00 am - 9:30 pm with music starting at 1:00 pm

Suyematsu Farms

13610 Manzanita Rd NE, Bainbridge Island

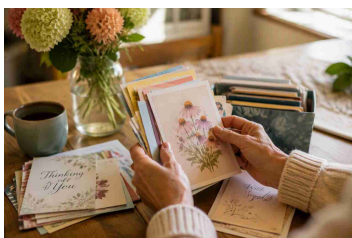
Look for the Cedars outreach booth at the Dahlia Farm Music Festival. Please consider buying a ticket and/or helping **Naomi Gary** at the booth! Lots of fun, great music and a lovely way to support our LGBTQA COMMUNITY!



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.

Greeting Card Donations Needed



The Cedars Care Team is collecting unused sympathy, birthday, holiday, and any other type of welcoming greeting cards. If you have cards tucked away that you'd be happy to part with, we'd love to put them to good use. Donations may be left at the Info Table on Sundays. Thank you for helping us share kindness and care with our community.

If you want more information, contact Naomi Gary, or send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org using this link.



A Message From Reverend Margo

As the three horrendous Spokane Complex fires burn out of control, many of us are wondering how we can help the tens of thousands of people being impacted.

According to The Seattle Times, over 700 homes and structures have been destroyed and over 60,000 people were given “Go Now” evacuation alerts. As of Monday morning, The Seattle Times reported the fires as “0% contained.”



Here are a few ways to support those in need:

The city has set up a fund to accept donations through the city of Spokane H.O.M.E. Starts Here Fund.

The Innovia Foundation, a Spokane-based nonprofit, has created the Spokane Complex Wildfire Response Fund.

American Red Cross Northwest Region is accepting donations.

Catholic Charities Eastern Washington has created an emergency Spokane Complex Fire Support fund to help fire victims.

you can.

We are all in this climate emergency together. Thanks for doing what

— The Third Act Washington (TAWA) team

[Link to TAWA](#)



Upcoming Sunday Service

Moral Courage in a Pressured Democracy: An Interfaith Call to Protect the Vote, Protect Each Other, and Stay Spiritually Connected

Sunday, August 23

10:00 am

The Island School

Chas Malatesta, Cedars Guest Speaker

Johanna Munson, Worship Associate



Together we will explore three pillars:

1. We protect the vote because it protects our people.
2. Community is our antidote to oppression.
3. Staying connected is a spiritual practice.

Chas Malatesta is an educator, equity advocate, and community leader dedicated to celebrating culture and fostering belonging. With over two decades of education experience, she works to dismantle barriers for marginalized communities through education, advocacy, and relationship-building.

A passionate mentor of the Bainbridge Island School District's Ethnic Multicultural Clubs, Chasity has served on the College Board's Equity Strategies Committee, co-chaired the Bainbridge Island School District's Multicultural Advisory Council, and currently serves on the Board at Bainbridge Island Museum of Art & Islandwood. Bainbridge Community Foundation honored her as the 2025 Spark Award winner, and she currently serves as the Secretary of the Bremerton NAACP.



Social Action

Cedars at Poulsbo Pride

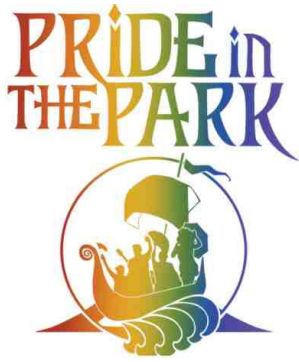
Saturday, August 22

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Raab Park in Poulsbo

Great opportunity to connect with our neighbors and invite them to experience the community at Cedars UU Church. Our booth will include a free book exchange and plenty of fun Pride themed items for people to take with them.

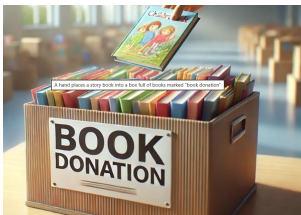
You can sign up to help out by being in our booth for a short time: [Signup Genius Cedars Booth at Poulsbo Pride.](#)



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

Book Donation Request for Poulsbo Pride

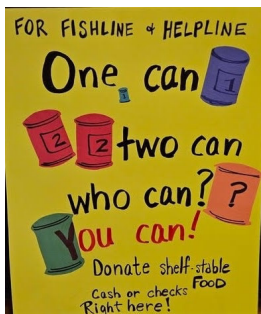
Big thanks to **Jeff and Nancy Philip**, our Free Library at Bainbridge PRIDE was a total people magnet!



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, September 6 (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, September 7 (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, September 8 (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.

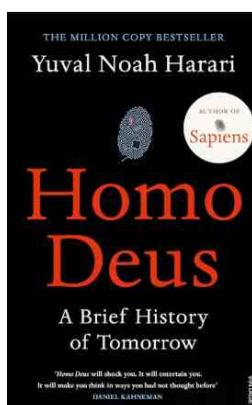
If you are interested or want more information, contact **Fran Korten** or [send an email to office@cedarsuuchurch.org](mailto:office@cedarsuuchurch.org) using this [link](#) for more information about the Music Committee.

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 using this link for more information about the book group.](#)

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](#).

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 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

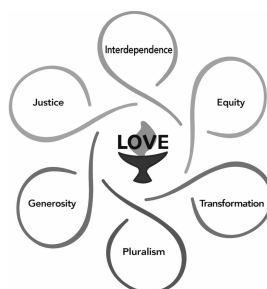
The deadline for submitting content for The Beacon is Monday by the end of the day. If you would like to add an article, [use this link](#) to email your Beacon article to the Cedars office at office@cedarsuuchurch.org.

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*

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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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